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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

GISS music teacher Michelle Footz and SIMS music teacher Keith Ollershaw take funds for their programs from Scrooge, AKA Patrick Cassidy, representing donations from the Ray and Virginia Newman Fund and the Christmas With Scrooge production. See story on page 13.

LAND USE CONTROVERSY

Saturna clear-cuts cause alarm

Consultation urged before more activity

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Timber harvesting on a 146-hectare reserve jointly owned by the Tsawout and Tseycum First Nations on Saturna Island has drawn concern from some of the people accustomed to using the lands.

The elected leadership of Tsawout and Tseycum First Nations contracted Chemainus Forest Products Ltd. for the project, posting notice of the operation on Feb. 26. Logging on the "Fiddler's Cove" reserve started the next day and has already taken down nearly all the trees on a large section called Block A. Residents and members of the Tsawout band who use the land for traditional cultural practices are worried that two other, more environmentally sensitive sections may be next.

The reserve is adjacent to contiguous protected forest lands in the Gulf Islands National Parks Reserve and looks across Narvaez Bay at another area of parkland including a Parks Canada campsite. The dry

Douglas-fir zone includes mature second growth and some areas of older trees. The logging is being done under a permit issued by Indian Affairs, which included an environmental assessment.

According to a press release issued by members of Tsawout First Nation, many people in the two nations feel concerned that extensive logging activity on traditional land will threaten their freedom to practise and expand their traditional activities. The Tsawout First Nation has 955 registered members, more than half of whom live on a small reserve in suburban Saanich.

"The only current standing land on which we can safely practise, celebrate and teach many of our traditional activities is on our reserve land on Saturna Island, activities we have been practising for thousands of years," said Nick Claxton, a member of the Tsawout First Nation. "We currently have no other private, safe, standing land."

Dan Claxton, a Tsawout Nation member who lives on Saturna, added: "The logging

infringes on my Aboriginal rights that are protected in Section 35 of the constitution and also my Douglas Treaty rights to harvest off these lands. I feed my family through these activities and loss of food security for us is huge."

Harvey Underwood, elected chief of Tsawout First Nation, said the band council is facing various pressures from its community with very few resources available to meet them. Mental health needs are one factor. A related issue is the loss of the community's big house or longhouse, a spiritual centre and location for traditional ceremonies and dances that are tied to the people's wellbeing. The last big house burned down in 2009. Plans to replace it have so far not materialized.

"There's not a lot of money in our reserve fund. We have to look at some other avenues," Underwood said.

LOGGING continued on 2

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SD64

Ganges Welcome pole unveiling draws crowd

Figure is first of its kind for school district

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Elders, students, teachers, administrators and community members took part in an unveiling ceremony for the Gulf Islands School District's first welcome pole on March 6, concluding a three-year carving project that involved people from all around the islands.

"It was a pretty momentous day for the Gulf Islands," said Shannon Johnston, Indigenous education coordinator for the Gulf Islands School District. "We were really touched and deeply moved to see so many people who just kept coming and coming . . . It marks a significant time for our schools, for education and for what's generally happening in our province and country."

Students from kindergarten through Grade 12 attended the afternoon ceremony. The event began with drumming and a song by Salish artist Quentin Harris and his daughter Asia. Cowichan Elder Fred George was invited to speak, welcoming the people to the lands and teaching the kids about the pole's significance. After George's talk, Harris was honoured for his contributions to the community by being blanketed, a major honour in Salish culture. Witnesses were also called to recognize the work that had been done on the project.

"The elders from the Cowichan and Tsawout nations helped us go through the plan for the day, to make sure we were following all of the protocols and that we were doing it genuinely and authentically honouring all of the necessary pieces to the ceremony," Johnston said. "We wanted to make sure that we did it well."

A welcome figure represents the link between the past and the present. In welcoming people to that

place, it honours the traditional land of the Coast Salish people, but also gives students a link to the culture, and a place to learn more about the traditions of the land where they go to school. In 2016, Harris had the idea to carve the figure, after working on a similar project in Maple Ridge.

"I got a call from my real estate agent, who said that she had a cedar log on one of her properties and asked me if I wanted it," Harris explained during the ceremony. "I looked at the log and I knew right away that it wasn't for me. I knew that the creator spoke to me and said 'I want this for my children.'"

The log was blessed in a traditional ceremony in March 2016, and the carving project began. Over the course of the past three years, students from all over the islands were given the chance to take part in the carving. Harris held a weekly day where he would be at the school working on the log, and invited classes from each school to come to the project and learn.

"We wanted to make sure that everybody, every hand, every heart had an opportunity to come and participate in the carving," Johnston said. "[Harris] was very generous in that he was sharing the carving with all of these community members and kids of all ages. He of course added his magic to it and after three years it was time for us to put it up."

The process of carving was more important than the end product. The pole is intended to be a focal point of the community, centrally located at the Hydro Field so it is visible and accessible to everyone. The location will also allow for classes to come and learn about Coast Salish history and traditions.

"I think it will also keep it in the place of some reverence and respect," Johnston said. "As the children were working on it, they were taught what it was about. They played a role in it, and they're proud of it. They're going to tell their kids about it and so on . . . We wanted to make sure we were putting it into a proud place."



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Welcome figure is unveiled on the middle school field last Wednesday. Students were invited to contribute to the carving over the past few years. For more photos, see gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

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Decision process questioned

LOGGING

continued from 1

The Tsawout First Nation does get some revenue from economic development projects and leases of its lands, but Underwood said the amount coming from taxes is very small, while Indian Affairs funding is mainly tied to projects. He said the decision to log was even more difficult since the nation is surrounded by a riding that elected a Green MLA and a Green MP.

"Everybody believes we are stewards of the land, and we are, but we have to live too," Underwood said. "That's the difficult part: how do we balance that out?"

The plan's opponents feel there are other potential routes that could mean protecting the forest and receiving federal funds to do so. For example, there are conservation programs now being offered to First Nations to mitigate against climate change through Indigenous Services Canada.

Priscilla Ewbank, a longtime environmental advocate and Saturna Island resident, has walked the reserve land for 30 years with permission from the Tsawout band council office. She describes bluffs, sandstone cliffs and breathtaking views that can include the San Juan Islands in the United States or southern resident killer whales passing by.

Ewbank said the current situation is uncomfortable for many residents who wish to protect the land and also want to engage respectfully with their First Nations neighbours.

"This is a time in our lives when we're looking at reconciliation. This is very awkward for us," she said. "We realize it doesn't belong to us. But it is the type of

land that has the value that reconnects you with its heart. It's such powerful land you can't help but be touched by it."

The question of process is another concern that people have with the operation. Details of the logging, transportation and environmental plans were provided to Saturna residents, and public meetings were held there in 2016. The same consultation was not offered to band members, however. Members of both nations were consulted in 2010 but the idea was then abandoned. No formal community consultation has happened with the members of the bands since then.

"There is due process and as far as I know it has not happened," said Dan Claxton. "We need to hear from leadership that they're going to stop this, even removing the timber from the land, until they've properly consulted with the community."

Underwood sees the situation more as a continuing concern that a succession of leaders have tried to initiate, starting with then-lands manager Earl Claxton Jr. in the 1990s and continuing with Vern Jaks and Alan Claxton. Several times when the band seemed close to getting to action the market price for timber fell and made the plan untenable. He also points out the Tsawout logged the reserve once before in the 1960s in order to put food on tables.

"Now we have a good opportunity for us and Tseycum, who are our neighbours and our family," Underwood said. "The market's up so it would bring a good amount of money to our two communities."

Underwood said given the interest by Saturna residents and band members, the next steps on Block B and C will definitely include consultation and evaluation, by each band council both separately and together.

NEWS BRIEFS

Transit driver salute on Monday

Salt Spring Islanders are invited to say thanks to their bus drivers as part of Transit Driver Appreciation Day on March 18.

BC Transit has collected stories from B.C. communities, including Salt Spring, about bus drivers and produced a video series showcasing some of the hard working-people behind the wheel. The videos are available on the BC Transit YouTube channel. Those wishing to thank their drivers can use the hashtag #TDAD on social media or simply thank their bus driver whenever they are exiting the bus.

Library Hoopla

The Salt Spring Island Public Library is offering a new on-demand digital media service that lets patrons access audiobooks, eBooks, music, graphic novels, movies and TV instantly.

Hoopla provides instant access to the content, and is available for free with a valid library card. Patrons can borrow up to six titles every month using computers, tablets or smartphones. Visit hoopladigital.com and register for an account to begin, or the Salt Spring Island Library for more information.

Gorse busters

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is holding a "Good ol' Gorse Removal" day at Raymond M. Goodall Nature Preserve on Tuesday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and invites the public to join them.

During lunch break, naturalist, writer and educator Briony Penn will give a special talk.

See the natureconservancy.ca website to register.

FOR THE RECORD

- In a story about the Spirit Point Dragons need for a new place to keep their boat, the Royal Victoria Yacht Club was incorrectly called the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. The Victoria club's outstation used by the dragonboat club is on Quebec Drive.

- An article in last week's Driftwood stated a TUP had been issued for a concrete plant on Pender Island. The permit is actually just in the draft stage.

TRANSPORTATION

ICBC stats reveal worst intersections

Strategic safety plan pondered for island

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Where to best focus safety improvements on Salt Spring's dangerous roads is an ever-changing opinion, depending on which intersection a person happens to frequent and/or has faced a close call.

What to do about those hazardous sites forms an equally difficult line of conversation, as evidenced at the most recent meeting of the Salt Spring Transportation Commission. The commission voted on Feb. 25 to advance some areas of concern to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, based on a list of locations brought forward by a member of the public.

Capital Regional Director Gary Holman said he is committed to taking the commission's request to the ministry, but he also feels that more attention could be focused on the overall situation and how to deal with it.

"This is a start, but I think we need to take a broader, more strategic approach," Holman said. "People are approaching the commission with advocacy issues, which is not a bad thing, but over time we need to develop a systematic approach to road safety because, a) resources are thin, and b) you can't tell MoTI to do anything, but you can hold their feet to the fire."

While close-calls and actual road incidents may feel all too frequent for residents, the numbers may not add up to what the ministry considers as warranting action. As well, sites of specific interest to some islanders may not reflect the areas where the ministry might agree to act.

"Safety is our top priority and we are always looking at ways to further improve safety on our highways, roads, bridges and at intersections," the ministry told the Driftwood. "It is important to note that the ministry identifies collision-prone locations based on serious collisions (injury or fatality)."

Prior to 2012, the Central intersection of North End, Lower Ganges, Upper Ganges and Vesuvius Bay roads experienced by far the most crashes compared to other Salt Spring intersections. There were 32 reported crashes during the five-year period of 2006 to 2010. It took a community petition with 700 signatures and a concerted campaign by the transportation commission and other community members to convince MoTI to change the intersection to a four-way stop, following a particularly bad crash on Christmas night in 2011.

Central still has the highest crash rate among island intersections, according to the most recent ICBC statistics covering 2013-2017. However, the situation has improved, with 16 accidents recorded over that five-year period. The next highest are the intersections of Lower Ganges/Rainbow roads at 14 crashes, Lower Ganges/Atkins with 11, and Fulford-Ganges/Cranberry with 11.

According to ICBC statistics, two people died in car accidents between 2013 and 2017: a young child in one case and a male driver over the age of 75 in the other.

Adjusting for accidents that included an injury, the highest-crash locations from 2013-17 are Lower Ganges Road/Crofton/Park (seven crashes), Lower Ganges/Rainbow (six) and Lower Ganges/Atkins (six).

No intersection improvements are currently planned at any of these sites. Pedestrian-controlled crosswalks exist at two of the dangerous corners because of previous community campaigns, both of which included a fundraising component. Despite this, the Lower Ganges/Rainbow intersection's high crash rate remains worrisome as being the major crossing for children arriving or departing from school via water taxi and being within a reduced-speed school zone.

The transportation commission is working on new pedestrian and cycling safety improvements there as part of the North Ganges Transportation Plan, but

changes to how the intersection works are not part of the most recent plan. (The project has been delayed by archeological concerns at the foot of Rainbow Road.)

Holman said the island MLA should be involved in road safety advocacy, since island roads are ultimately a provincial responsibility, but he believes the transportation commission is still the appropriate body to take on the task locally. He would like to revisit some of the work the commission did in the past on speed limits, for example, and to lobby for previously identified road surfacing and repair needs.

"I think it is important to document safety concerns with MoTI and keep reminding them," Holman said. "The fact that we voted 'no' on incorporation to my mind doesn't mean we just throw up our hands and say, 'Okay MoTI, over to you.'"

EMERGENCY preparedness

What does POD mean?

POD refers to a Neighbourhood Emergency Response program on Salt Spring Island. Last month we reached over 400 team members. The program's main goal is to connect neighbours to neighbours specifically for emergency preparedness, mitigation and response. If you would like to be a part of the POD program or find out more information please contact ssiepc@crd.bc.ca or phone 250 537-1220.



<http://www.crd.bc.ca/service/fire-burning/salt-spring-island-fire-and-emergency-services>



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NOTICE OF NOMINATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for trustee (2 positions) will be received between:
9:00 A.M. Tuesday March 26th, 2019
and 4:00 P.M. Friday April 5th, 2019

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

The two (2) Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 29th, 2019 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2022.

The Election to be held on **Monday, April 29th, 2019** at the **Lions Club Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island** from **9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** An **Advance Voting** opportunity will be held at the **Lions Club Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island** on **Wednesday, April 24th, 2019** between the hours of **9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.** Candidates shall be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Fire Hall or from Thomas F. Moore, Returning Officer (250) 472 0059.

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

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

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

Nominees must meet the conditions of paragraphs numbered 1. to 4. above and nominators of a person for trustee must also meet the conditions of paragraphs numbered 1. to 4. above.

Dated at Ganges, B.C.

This 16th day of Feb. 2019

Thomas F. Moore

Returning Officer

FIRST NATIONS

Coast Salish acknowledgement now at library

Artist Sarah Jim unveils work at poetry night

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Public Library has a new and permanent reminder of the provenance of the land's historic stewardship in the shape of a glass plaque with artwork by Sarah Jim.

The artwork depicts two stylized orcas in a yin-yang formation, and acknowledges Salt Spring's past and continuing stewardship by Coast Salish First Nations.

Jim, a University of Victoria fine arts student with Tseycum First Nation ancestry, was on hand to unveil the plaque during a special edition of Poetry Open Mic Night on Thursday. Award-winning poet Philip Kevin Paul of Saanich First Nation was the featured speaker, giving a moving reading that revealed something of the deep connection he feels to his homeland, its rivers, trees and rock, and its people.

The evening also featured special guest Eden Robinson, award-winning novelist and a member of the Haisla and Heiltsuk First Nations.

Speaking at the beginning of the event in the communi-



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Artist Sarah Jim with the artwork she created for a Salt Spring Public Library plaque acknowledging that the library is located on Coast Salish territory.

ty/program room, head librarian Karen Hudson described the reason behind having the plaque commissioned.

"We've been working for a couple of years on Truth and Reconciliation activities in the library, and there's lots of information out there and standards for libraries," Hudson said, adding the library was fortunate to host

some elders last year during events held about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"As a community we're trying to do things, and when events are happening in this room I've long wanted for there to be an acknowledgement of the ancestors that were on this land before we came here."

Hudson said the process of creating the acknowledgement took a while because the library wanted to include all the nations that had history or claim to the island.

"We came up with some words and we consulted with different people, but then we thought 'We want more than words,' and we wanted to put it on a plaque in this room." Hudson said participant groups that use the room now have a choice: They can either read the acknowledgement out before their event, or if they are doing something more active or busy, the plaque on the wall will ensure the acknowledgement is always present.

Hudson located Jim through Instagram and thought her work would be perfect for the project. Jim is a 23-year-old emerging artist from southern Vancouver Island. Her artwork depicts cosmic animals, wanderlust inspired images and surreal landscapes that consist of Vancouver Island iconography such as mountains, ocean, and forests. She has lately also been creating more traditional Coast Salish art as part of her heritage.

celebrating SENIORS

Ways to minimize hair loss

When it comes to worrying about the physical signs of aging, wrinkles and a little extra weight around the middle certainly garner attention, but hair loss is another age-related concern. As people age, their hair changes in several ways. Greying through loss of melanin pigment is the most apparent. MedlinePlus, the health information resource from the U.S. National Library of Medicine, says that strands of hair also can become less dense and smaller through the years. Many follicles also may stop producing new hairs. Regardless of age, it is customary for a person to lose about 100 hairs a day. If those hairs are not replaced as readily

as they once were, patches of thinning and balding hair may appear.

The rate at which hair falls out is largely determined by genetics, but nearly everyone will experience some sort of age-related hair loss. Hormonal changes during menopause can cause noticeable thinning and scalp exposure that may be mistaken for actual hair loss.

There are many ways to mitigate hair loss. Here are some handy tips.

- Try a new cut. Work with your stylist to determine a haircut that can suggest the appearance of thickness and camouflage the loss of density or bare spots. Graduated layers kept close to the face

can help, as can pixie cuts. Men can choose to go entirely bald and bold.

- Treat hair gently. Avoid harsh chemical processes and constant heat styling. Protect fragile hair from damage by pampering it.

- Look for thickening formulas. Many shampoos, serums and conditioners tout volumizing or thickening properties. These can help plump up hair and make thinning less apparent.

- Talk to your doctor. Hair loss may be a result of medication, a skin condition or aging. Doctors may suggest products that can be used on the scalp to reduce hair loss and help follicles produce new hair strands.

TRANSPORTATION

Seaplane regs changed

Mandatory PFD use among Saturna crash recommendations

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Passengers on seaplanes will be seeing some changes in safety regulations, after the federal government introduced new rules for travellers on March 6.

The changes mean all passengers and crew of commercial seaplanes with nine passengers or less are required to wear inflatable floatation devices while on or flying over bodies of water. For seaplanes with 10 to 19 passengers, the devices must be onboard the aircraft, but occupants will not be required to wear them. The new regulations also include mandatory training for all pilots on how to exit seaplanes under water.

Commercial seaplane operators will have an 18-month window to implement the new rules, and 36 months to train pilots in underwater exits.

Changes to the regulations come from recommendations made by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada following the 2009 seaplane accident near Saturna Island, as well as a 2012 accident in Ontario.

Six people died in the 2009 incident, including a mother and her baby. The plane was a single-engine de Havilland Beaver operated by Seair Seaplanes Ltd. that crashed and sank after it stalled on takeoff in Lyall Harbour on Nov. 29, 2009. The pilot and one passenger survived as the doors closest to them had popped open. The remaining exits were jammed as the plane's fuselage was twisted on impact. The jammed

doors prevented the other passengers from escaping.

The TSB report from that crash recommended that the Department of Transport require all new and existing commercial seaplanes be fitted with regular and emergency exits that will make it easier to escape a survivable collision with water. It also recommended that occupants be required to wear personal flotation devices.

The report from the 2012 incident in Ontario also recommended underwater exit training for pilots. In that case, two people were killed in Lillabelle Lake, Ont. after the plane lost control and crashed into the water.

According to the Lyall Harbour report, a number of investigations of water crashes found that the occupants were conscious and able to move around the cabin before drowning. It also found that when people are able to escape, they often do not have time to locate and don a vest before the plane hits the water.

A statement from Harbour Air explained that its fleet meets Transport Canada's PFD guidelines, and that every passenger has access to an approved device while on board.

"We have been working — and continue to work — with Transport Canada to ensure that 100 per cent of our fleet will be covered by the new regulation," the statement reads. "While some aircraft would be exempt, we believe all aircraft should meet this new requirement."

Since 2011, Harbour Air has also had pop-out windows in its Beaver aircraft.

Seair Seaplanes reps were unable to comment before the Driftwood's press deadline.

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ENVIRONMENT

Death cap mushroom spreads through region

Foragers advised to get informed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Health officials have been warned to take note of a non-native mushroom species that has cropped up in Vancouver, Victoria and the Gulf Islands after several cases of poisoning were reported over the past few years.

An article published in BC Medical Journal's Jan-Feb. 2019 issue details the symptoms that doctors should be aware of as well as the clinical response related to *amanita phalloides*, or the death cap mushroom.

"Our main message is to be aware this is growing in our backyards, rural centres and urban centres. It's a very poisonous mushroom and it doesn't take a lot to get quite sick," said Dr. Omar Ahmad, a co-author of the report. "If it's not picked up quickly, it can be very difficult for clinicians to treat."

Ahmad is a physician with Island Health and head of the health authority's critical care and emergency medicine branch. He is also a clinical associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of British Columbia.

Ahmad said the death cap can look similar to items commonly eaten in Asian countries. It can be confused with puffballs or paddy straw mushrooms, but unlike those fungi it contains a powerful toxin. Symptoms of poisoning arise six to 24 hours after ingestion and come in three phases. Dysentery is followed by a false recovery and ends with acute liver failure if not treated in time.

The death cap typically grows from June to November in B.C. The mushroom is the fruiting of a fungus that grows in symbiosis with the roots of certain broad-leafed European trees, imported together into North American nurseries. Many of those trees were planted in urban settings such as city boulevards, but a recent development has seen the death cap adapt to grow in partnership with Garry oak trees as well.

Andy MacKinnon is a forest ecologist, the author of multiple nature guides including *Plants of Coastal British Columbia* and *Edible and Medicinal Plants of Canada*, and a participating scientist with the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society. He said the death cap was the most prevalent large mushroom to be seen in Oak Bay last summer, where city boulevards and backyards were the only places getting enough water for mushrooms to grow.

The mycology society first started noticing the spread of death cap to the roots of native Garry oak trees in Victoria and Metchosin around two years ago. Death caps have not been reported in any other Garry oak areas, but MacKinnon said it's possible they could spread through the range, which is mainly limited to southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

"We haven't seen too much of this spread yet, but it has potential. It's something we're keeping our eye on," MacKinnon said.

Kate Emmings, acting manager of the Islands Trust Conservancy, said the organization received notice in 2014 from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development about death cap mushrooms found on Galiano Island. The conservancy has not had any reports of finds in the protected areas it manages, however. Properties are monitored for invasive species in general on an annual basis.

"If anybody does see anything and wants to let us know, we're always happy to get that information," Emmings said.

With only a few cases reported over the last few years, the death cap's spread is not yet a huge public health risk. Although there was a tragedy involving a young child, MacKinnon points out that was the only person who has died from eating the death cap so the threat is not as large as some media reports have made it appear.

"More people in British Columbia will be killed



PAUL KROEGER PHOTO COURTESY BC CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL

Amanita phalloides mushrooms or death caps have been spreading in rural and urban environments including Greater Vancouver, Victoria and the Gulf Islands.

by lightning than by eating death cap mushrooms. Certainly there are more poisonous plants and more people are eating poisonous plants than have eaten the death cap mushroom," MacKinnon said.

MacKinnon does not wish to discourage anyone from learning the joys of foraging mushrooms. In fact, he says the fear of fungi can be traced to the culture of the British Isles. In other parts of the world from Scandinavia to Asia, the mushroom holds a high esteem in local food culture.

"Most people who forage do it for the table; a lot of people love going out to pick mushrooms and making a delicious meal out of them," MacKinnon said.

As the death cap does pose any danger unless it is ingested, it may be that pets are the most at risk. Ahmad said there have mainly been cases involving dogs, but some horses and cats have also been known to eat the mushrooms and then had to be euthanized.

Those humans who like to forage for food are recommended to take the same precautions they would before undertaking any wild harvest, which is to become as informed

as possible in advance.

"I think if people intend to pick wild mushrooms for food they should take the time to learn the characteristics of the mushroom or plant they intend to harvest, and also the characteristics of other species it could be confused with," MacKinnon said.

He noted that natural history clubs and mycology societies in Vancouver and southern Vancouver Island often offer courses and programs in the field with experts.

If there are any remaining questions as to what has been discovered, the precautionary principle is best.

"If you are not sure don't eat it — just throw it out," Ahmad advised. "[The death cap] is a very hardy toxin. It is not broken down by cooking, freezing or drying. This particular toxin still survives."



Capital Regional District

CRD

Notice of Meeting

Capital Regional District Board 2019 Financial Plan Bylaw Approval

A meeting of the Capital Regional District Board, including budget discussion for 2019, will be held:

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Time: 1 pm

Place: CRD Headquarters, 6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC



Islands Trust



Have your say!

**The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee
invites you to help shape its strategic priorities.**

At this event, you can share your ideas on what land use planning issues should be top priorities for the 2018 to 2022 term.

The meeting will include a short town hall session, table discussions, and an opportunity for written feedback to identify possible LTC priorities.

Friday, March 15, 2019 | 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Please arrive at 2:30 pm to allow for an engaging conversation.

Crofton Room, Harbour House Hotel, 121 Upper Ganges Road

OPINION



2018 CCNA Awards
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



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Eyes on the roads

Efforts to improve safety on Salt Spring's roadways should be applauded in principle, but it only makes sense to undertake them if they solve an identifiable problem.

At their last public meeting, Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission members agreed to ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to examine four island road areas, pick two of them and offer ways to improve safety at those spots.

Three of the suggested are intersections: Southey Point and North End roads; Fulford-Ganges and Beddis/Charlesworth roads; and Booth Canal and Rainbow roads; and the fourth is the Vesuvius Bay Road curve between the churches. The suggested locations were brought to the SSITC by a member of the public last fall.

THE ISSUE: Road safety priorities

WE SAY: Don't distract MoTI with non-essentials

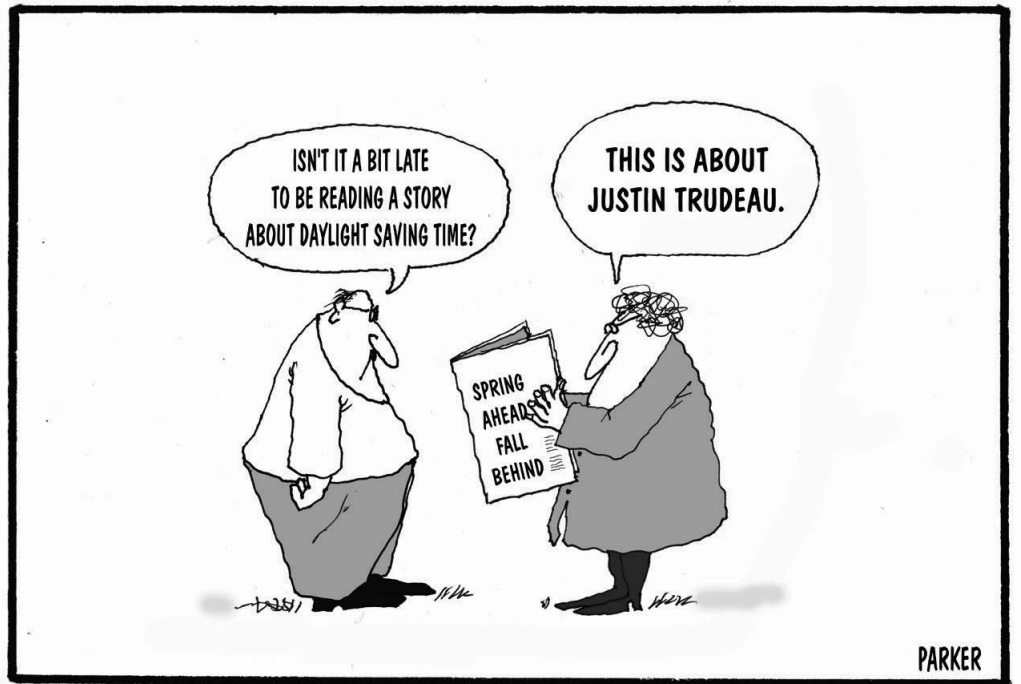
However, a look at official ICBC crash statistics, as detailed in our story on page 3 of this paper, shows that the four areas discussed at the commission meeting do not make the list. Between six and 16 crashes were recorded from 2013 to 2017 at seven intersections in and near the Ganges area, but none at the four raised in the SSITC meeting.

A case could be made to improve any number of intersections or stretches of road on Salt Spring Island, but if there's no documentation to support a need for change, i.e. through accidents occurring in those spots, it seems unlikely that the transportation ministry will give them any consideration.

The ICBC statistics show that installing a four-way stop at Central greatly reduced crashes at that intersection, ironically it is still the area with the highest number from 2013 to 2017.

There should be no harm in the SSITC asking for transportation ministry resources to be spent on investigating the four areas in question, but that isn't the case if more important safety-related projects are delayed as a result. As the McElhanney road condition report done as part of the incorporation study process in 2016 revealed, numerous Salt Spring roads need upgrading and rehabilitation. Trouble spots have only gotten worse since then, and three major washouts have required MoTI attention.

We have enough difficulty wrangling approval for things like road-line paint out of the south Vancouver Island MoTI office without distracting them with proposed new, less critical projects.



PARKER

God and guns assumptions

BY CHRISTOPHER LEVAN

Last year I saw a bumper sticker that read: "GOD, GUNS AND GUTS made America great . . . let's keep it that way."

Apart from whatever that might imply about American foreign policy or the strident bipolarization of U.S. politics, this sign drew a direct line between God and violence, as if belief in both were neither a contradiction nor an embarrassment. According to this version of Christianity, faith in the creator of the universe is intrinsically tied to the necessity and efficacy of guns and, by extension, to the premise that keeping and using weapons is a sign of personhood as well as an advertisement of personal protection.

If we dig a little deeper behind this way of thinking, we uncover an underlying civic theology — found in Canada as well as in other western states informed by Christianity — that God is a fearful deity who sometimes employs tough love, administering punitive retribution with a variety of guns and other destructive means in order to curb reprehensible human behaviour.

At the root of this theology is the proposition that our God occasionally wages "holy war:" the visitation of destruction on people who

VIEWPOINT

deserve punishment. It's not a pretty picture, maybe, but it's a necessary one! Or so the theory goes.

This isn't news. It was precisely this kind of thinking that inflamed Europe at the times of the Crusades. It has been the argument of virtually every empire, Christian or otherwise, that sought to expand its territory over troublesome, resistant neighbours. More recently it's been the dominant theology behind middle eastern terrorism of all religious stripes.

Here in peace-loving Canada and on pristine Salt Spring Island we used that reasoning to expel Japanese Canadians from our communities, to take their land, to call them "evil people." We used the same logic against First Nations; and, alas, a similar dynamic that exists whenever we feel threatened by any group that doesn't look and act like "us." We enlist our sense of the sacred in opposing "them."

And while I know that some of us are embarrassed by the all-too-effortless claim that God and guns go together — that "holy" and "violence" can be found

in the same sentence — it isn't hard to find passages in which our sacred scriptures condone, even invite violence in God's name.

But what if there exists some doubt as to whether that claim — the connection between God and violence — was the original intention of the Abrahamic religions? Isn't it possible that we've been misreading or distorting our sacred texts to suit our political ends?

These are the questions that inspire a public symposium on March 22 and 23 at Salt Spring Island United Church. John Dominic Crossan, the founder of The Jesus Seminar and the foremost Jesus scholar of our time, will address the dilemma of how empires use violent images of God to further their own ends. Is it possible to read the bible and still be a non-violent citizen and Christian?

Crossan's response may surprise you. He contends that within scripture itself there is a fierce debate taking place: Is God's justice retributive or distributive? Just like human nature itself, the bible reveals that the relationship between God and guns is complex and confounding.

The writer is the Salt Spring United Church minister.

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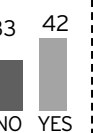
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is it time to scrap the twice-yearly time changes?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Has your view of the Trudeau government been changed by the recent controversies?



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: }

"The fact that we voted 'no' on incorporation to my mind doesn't mean we just throw up our hands and say, 'Okay MoTI, over to you.'"

GARY HOLMAN, SSI CRD DIRECTOR

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What do you think of the NSSWD's strategic plan?

BILL COTE



The water district needs to be a bit more brutal with the people who are asking for something.

BOB PATTERSON



They should go for desalination... that would fix the water quantity problem.

ELIZABETH FITZZALAND



I think it's wonderful that they have a plan and there is more work to be done; especially about the moratorium's effect on affordable housing.

KISAE PETERSEN



I would love to see inclusiveness of affordable housing considered and the potential for new hookups.

RHONAN HEITZMANN



It was good, but it needs more creative thinking about housing solutions.

LETTERS to the editor

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

Radical feminists were right

Only full systemic change will fix the broken social, economic and political world we live in today! Think about it

How are we going to not only recruit but retain good women politicians? Today's headlines are full of good, ethical and ethically consistent women (and men), feeling the cognitive dissonance of being forced to buckle under the claimed "pragmatism" of the men they owe party allegiance to. As we have learned from feminism's theoretical example, legal and legislated equality is not sufficient to fix our broken political system. Only a radical transformation of that system will fix the wrongs that have created the inefficiency, corruption and lack of accountability that infect our world.

We have many strong, good women who are working themselves to the point of exhaustion, eschewing most

of the pleasures of a balanced life, such as Elizabeth May, or being forced out, pretty much ("Jody Wilson-Raybould Rocks The Casbah" podcast) or feels honour bound to support those being bullied ("Jane Philpott Resignation Leaves Some Liberal MPs 'Sad' But Not Surprised"). Or perhaps they are young and still not quite courageous enough to stand up for themselves yet ("Goldie Ghamari, Ontario PC MPP, Asked Constituent To Delete Post About Meeting On Autism Funding"). All this is just now.

We can and must fix this, if our world, physical and social, is going to be a place we can all thrive in. But we have to fully change it, and as Audre Lourde so famously wrote:

"The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house." We need to do things differently!

"When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid." WHO? We need to be strong, fearless and committed.

"Your silence will not pro-

tect you." WHO We must be loud. We must speak not only at the ballot box and on Facebook, we must act, write and do . . . whatever we have the strength and ability to do. Our social environment, our political environment and our physical environment are all in crisis.

SUE SHEANE,
SALT SPRING

DPAs not nasty things

There has been a great political fuss made about persuading the former attorney-general to consider giving SNC-Lavalin a delayed prosecution agreement (DPA).

I thought DPAs were a nasty thing but apparently not. They were explained in a March 2 Globe and Mail article by journalist Yves Boisvert and I summarize here.

When a corporation has done illegal things and is due to be taken to court by the government, a DPA is an alternative. The company

agrees that it has sinned and pays a substantial fine to the government. The court case is "delayed," saving the cost to government (and taxpayers). The company promises to be good from now on and is monitored by the government. If the company sins again, an axe falls and the court prosecution can be revived.

A DPA for SNC-Lavalin would be the first under a new Canadian law. But other countries find them beneficial. The U.S.A. has had 20 to 40 per year and they are used by European countries.

An interesting sidelight is that the German company Siemens operates under a DPA, but Via Rail, a Canadian Crown corporation, has just given them a contract for almost a billion dollars. That is to buy 32 sets of trains to replace its fleet. Apparently this Canadian semi-government agency is happy to work with a company that is under a DPA.

JOHN SPRAGUE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

We are falling, literally, and not in love

"I'm lying on the floor," I said, "and I can't get up." I was phoning my neighbour Angie because I hadn't thought to dial 911. She was by my side in a couple of minutes but, strong as she is, her help wasn't enough.

While waiting for the paramedics, I recounted what happened. The most recent preceding event started with a telephone conversation with my step-daughter Janice about my fall on the ice the previous morning. Suddenly overcome with exhaustion, I remember saying, "I'm really tired. I think I should lie down." I made my way to my bedroom still hanging on to my portable phone, a little voice having told me I might need it. As I sat on the bed, I blanked out. Ten minutes later, I woke up on the floor wondering how I got there. It was around 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

While waiting for my head to clear, I made a half-hearted effort to get up. Not only did it hurt too much, but I had no strength. After a while, I remembered I'd put the phone on the bedside table before soft landing on my bed. I managed to wriggle myself close enough to reach for it.

Without that phone I could have been lying on the floor for hours. That's what happened in 2012 to my 91-year-old mother when she fell in her room after breakfast and broke her hip. If she'd been wearing her lifeline, she could have pressed a button for help. Instead, a care aide arriving with her lunchtime medications found her on the floor. Two years earlier, Janice's 81-year-old mother fell in her apartment bathroom. A couple of days went by before someone heard her screams. When an 80-something friend



Helen Hinchliff
AGING WITH
GRACE

sat down in a patio chair several years ago, it collapsed under him. A couple of days later, he didn't show up for his weekly singing gig at Greenwoods, an event he never missed. Someone drove over to his somewhat isolated house and discovered him all tangled up in his chair. And, only a few weeks ago, another 80-something guy fell in the snow near his own secluded house. He broke his leg. Fortunately, he had a cell phone with him.

I've heard many tales this winter of people taking terrible tumbles on ice and winding up with broken bones and torn muscles. In my own case, I'd been happily pole walking around my Brinkworthy neighbourhood. It was a frosty Tuesday morning, but I'd seen no ice. And then the bootie on my left pole hit a patch of black ice. Instantly, I was sprawled on the pavement, my left ribs landing across the pole.

That's the thing about falls. We're fine one second and then we're down. And, if we're seniors, we could be down for the count. Another thing about these falls is we never seem to think they can happen to us. How many times do I have to fall before I realize this really is happening, again?

Neighbours came to my rescue. Before

trying to help me up, Doug said, "Are you all right? Any broken bones? Should we call 911?" I said, "I'm fine. I'll just walk home. My house is less than 50 meters from here."

After making myself a cup of tea, I sat down for a rest. I needed to phone Jim for some unrelated reason and, thinking I'd best stay home for the rest of the day, I asked whether he might bring me a litre of milk. "No rush," I said. "After lunch would be convenient," he replied.

By the time he arrived three hours later, I couldn't get out of my chair. He guessed maybe I'd cracked a rib or two and took me to Emergency. X-rays showed my ribs weren't broken, but my swollen left ankle was chipped. Who knew? The pain in my ribs was so excruciating it was blocking my brain from feeling any in my ankle.

They prescribed heavy-duty painkillers, but it was a struggle to climb into bed and impossible to turn over. After what seemed like hours of sleepless agony, I finally broke down and took a sleeping pill. I take them occasionally (split in half), and this seemed an appropriate time.

Choosing Wisely Canada says more than one-third of older Canadians take sleeping pills and they're warning us it's a bad idea. They can cause confusion, memory problems and balance issues. And get this: they more than double our risk of falling. Could it have been chemical residue from the sleeping pill, perhaps interacting with painkillers, that caused me to faint?

If you take sleeping pills, maybe you shouldn't. If you feel you must, then have a phone or lifeline nearby.

www.helenhinchliff.com

Let's get creative to solve housing and water crises

BY RHONAN HEITZMANN

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District has released its strategic plan for the next five years and is asking for public feedback.

I have some creative ideas that I hope they will adopt to allow for more affordable housing solutions even while maintaining the moratorium on new hook-ups.

First, I would like to say that it can't be easy being NSSWD. They have to make hard decisions while facing changing-climate patterns and increasing demand from so many new monster homes, as well as tourism and business growth. I understand that the moratorium on new hook-ups and encouraging conservation is an important part of protecting our precious water resources under their management.

I believe the board and staff mean well and are trying to act within their limited mandate. However, as a housing advocate in a time of such a severe housing crisis, I am dismayed that there is no mention of affordable housing and no effort to find creative solutions to help people create essential housing within the constraints of the imposed moratorium.

Indeed, as part of their guiding principles they claim:

"Public interest: working in the best interests of the public and stakeholders, both current and future" and "Innovation: seeking informed and creative solutions to difficult problems."

With adequate rental housing in such short supply, our community is losing valuable assets

such as teachers, nurses, carpenters, building inspectors, farmers, entrepreneurs and other essential members of a healthy community. It is difficult to hire people to fill these positions as there is literally nowhere to live, unless you can afford one of the few houses left between \$600,000 and a million dollars on the market. It is most definitely in the public interest to find and allow for creative solutions to this critical problem.

Affordable-housing advocates I've been working with for the past year have done a lot of thinking about water. Since I also run the Salt Spring Water Company, I guess you could say I've got water on my mind most days. Herewith I humbly present a number of solutions the NSSWD could implement, or work with other bodies like the Islands Trust and CRD to make happen:

Young working-class families are a species at risk on Salt Spring Island.

Distributed storage: The reservoirs of St. Mary and Maxwell lakes are not the only way to store water from our abundant winter precipitation. There is also a concept called distributed storage. This would be to encourage use of storage tanks and ponds throughout the district area. Consider this: If 1,000 buildings each had one 3,000 US-gallon storage

INDEPTH

tank then that would equal three million US gallons of water that would not be drawn from the surface reservoirs during the dry season (about 10 per cent of metered consumption during peak period of July and August).

As an additional bonus, these storage tanks would refill during the occasional summer rains, thus multiplying their value. NSSWD could encourage private installation of storage tanks via an annual rebate on fees, perhaps in conjunction with incentives from the CRD. Of course these benefits could be multiplied as many property owners might want more than one tank. They gain freedom of use for irrigation, perhaps flushing toilets, etc. Win, win! It's a lot cheaper than building a \$3-million concrete storage tank, which is one of the NSSWD's proposed ideas.

Let's take this concept a step further. Legal challenges from not supplying water to some 275 potential new dwellings in the Channel Ridge development loom over the district's head, frankly providing a disincentive to create solutions. We know that the available supply during the summer months when demand is greatest is a distinct challenge for NSSWD, yet there is spare capacity in the annual volume of their licence. Millions of gallons overflow into the sea every winter. What if a proposal was put to the developer of Channel Ridge

to create appropriate affordable housing and the planned little village with some local amenities where storage was built into the footprint of those buildings? This storage could be replenished by NSSWD during the winter months when the lake overflows to the ocean. Supplement this idea with rainwater, ponds for irrigation and potential local groundwater as a backup. The community would gain sustainable housing and NSSWD could be free from a challenging legal situation. Win, win!

Finally, I understand the reluctance to allow for new hook-ups to a housing project even if it is in the public interest due to the constraints of the moratorium. Yet at the same time the aging infrastructure of NSSWD is in desperate need of capital funds, and now loses large percentages of their capacity due to leaks (17 per cent of total withdrawals). Meanwhile, the CRD has a property close to Ganges and plans to build 80 units of affordable housing but lacks the water necessary to proceed. Why can these various levels of government not work together with BC Housing to secure capital funds to fix enough leaks to secure the annual supply needed by the housing project? Win, win, win! I would think that the CRD would be the central player in this case and seek cooperation from NSSWD and BC Housing.

This leads to an important last point. Would it not be in the public interest and the ratepayers' interests to join forces with the

CRD and create an island-wide water authority under the CRD but with express local control of management, decision making, engineering and as much local labour as is feasible? This would open the door for funding options and economies of scale, not to mention integrated island-wide water management, finding solutions for not only surface water but protecting and managing groundwater, and encouraging distributed storage and rainwater harvesting island wide.

Young working-class families are a species at risk on Salt Spring Island. As a community we should support NSSWD and our various levels of government to create innovative approaches to achieving a sustainable, balanced demographic essential to this healthy community. We should not allow fear of over-population to exaggerate the fear of water scarcity as justification for no new housing options.

Instead we should be embracing new solutions and rejoicing at the natural abundance of our annual meter-deep rainfall, allowing for the kind of sustainable population we want to have settle here, not only the wealthy folks seeking a beautiful place to retire, but also hard-working, creative young families, who embrace sensitive lifestyles, respecting the delicate nature of our wonderful and unique ecosystem.

The writer is a member of the Salt Spring Housing Action Committee.

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS - MARCH 19 - MAY 11, 2019

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District. Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Local deer cull supported

We recently read an article that was published in your paper in October of 2017 headlined "Forest ecologist calls for deer cull" by Frants Attorp.

Upon reading this article and analyzing the options available to manage the overabundant black-tailed deer population on the Gulf Islands, we agree with Dr. Tara Martin's opinion that a cull is necessary. We also believe that alongside this solution, there must be education on all the options provided to residents to alleviate the "Bambi syndrome" that appears to be limiting the opinions of deer culling.

We see three possible options for managing the overabundant and ecologically damaging deer population: The reintroduction of native predators, sterilization and culling.

The reintroduction of native predators is not an option for top-down control of deer populations on southern islands like Salt Spring primarily because there are higher human population densities in these regions. Predators pose a threat to the safety of pets, people and their livelihoods (from domestic stocks of sheep and other animals). Unless the community at large is willing to change many large aspects of their lifestyles, this is not a feasible option.

Sterilization is a very effective method

of reducing the deer population, but only for approximately three years at a time. It also requires an enormous amount of funding and manpower to accomplish each time. Despite it keeping the current population alive, it is arguably more stressful for the deer and therefore less humane and ethical than trained sharpshooters culling deer.

We therefore also conclude that a cull is essentially the only option. It is arguably more humane, less expensive and guaranteed effective immediately. This will have an important effect on the plant communities that are at serious risk of depletion and complete loss, which will impact the ecosystem as a whole. In addition, a cull provides needed food for donation to local communities and food banks.

In order to ensure a cull is a lasting solution, we also agree that an increase in bag limits should be considered based on additional post-culling population dynamic analyses. We also suggest the consideration of expanding the hunting allowances to females to better maintain the population.

We appreciate the exposure and education provided in this article for the communities in the Gulf Islands, as the overabundant black-tailed deer populations pose a serious threat to the local ecosystems and must be dealt with immediately.

HANNAH POPOFF, EMILY PURVIS AND DERYNE AWAFO,
BIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS,
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

MORE LETTERS continued on 9



Roses

Following the windstorm of December, we had to deal with the necessary felling of many uprooted trees. We met with two arborists to do the job. We send bouquets of arbutus branches to an arborist extraordinaire, Mike Windsor. Mike is honest, fair, very skilled and would never take advantage of his customers. Thank you, Mike! Eric and Anne

A very big thank you to all the people who came to my retirement send-off celebration. You made me feel very appreciated and have given me a memory that will stay with me forever. All of your kind words and well wishes in emails, cards, phone calls or being stopped in the grocery aisle or parking lot just validates my working ethics in the past 13 years with the CRD. It was a pleasure working with such special people. Sharon Sykes

Public inquiry into money laundering needed for B.C.

On Feb. 26, I and my BC Green Caucus colleagues called for a full independent public inquiry into money-laundering in British Columbia.



Adam Olsen
MLA'S
REPORT

The call came after two weeks of questions in Question Period on the deeply troubling connections in our casinos, real estate market, luxury cars, horse racing, drug cartels and opioid crisis.

Our Attorney General, David Eby, clearly has a handle on this file. With Dr. Peter German's first report opening a crack in the door, and two further reports to come by the end of March, the investigation is well underway.

The constant flow of allegations in the media is really disturbing. It is shocking that this situation has gotten so out of hand.

When I asked Minister Eby about money-laundering in Question Period he responded, "But even more serious than that is when you look at cases like PacNet. PacNet is a firm that was alleged to be involved in laundering the proceeds of lottery schemes in the United States, cheques from seniors written out to various scams and sent up, actually, to Vancouver, allegedly, to be processed. It's listed as one of the top five transnational criminal organizations in the world by the Obama administration. They were actually getting tax credits from Advantage B.C."

These are really explosive allegations. A provincial government entity handing out tax credits to a known transnational criminal organization. That is about as bad as it gets. It's outrageous.

So, we did not jump on this call quickly. We did our work in the Legislature and came to the conclusion that more needs to be done. It is time for a public inquiry.

I am confident that Minister Eby will continue to push for investigations to root out the criminal activity wherever it is.

But, we need an independent public inquiry to look at the systemic issues. Somehow our institutions allowed this rot to grow. We need to make sure it does not happen again.

Confidence in government and our institutions is shaken.

So, we must act to rebuild trust.

MORE LETTERS

Community energy manager required

The following is an open letter to the Islands Trust Council and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

The Salt Spring Community Energy Society and the Transition Salt Spring Climate Action Group are two regional organizations leading the way in local response to the extreme worldwide existential threat from climate change. Over 300 cities and communities around the world, including the Capital Regional District and the City of Vancouver, now officially recognize the urgency of the climate crisis and the narrow window of time for action by declaring a climate emergency in their communities. According to the best and most comprehensive science, as published in October of 2018 by the International Panel on Climate Change, we have only about 10 years to drastically reduce personal, community and national carbon emissions.

We believe there is a very appropriate and cost-effective way to address the critical need for action at the Islands Trust. We urge you to take immediate action, at this week's Islands Trust Council meeting, to establish a position of Islands Trust community energy manager.

There is a tremendous opportunity to have this position partially (up to 50 per cent) funded by BC Hydro through their Community Energy Manager Program.

To quote from the relevant web page: "A community energy manager can:

- Drive development and implementation of community energy and emissions plans that aim to reduce energy (including electricity) consumption and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Lead policy development and implementation to advance energy conservation and efficiency;
- Act as a champion and project manager for key energy-efficiency initiatives;
- Raise awareness about BC Hydro programs and incentives available to residents and businesses in your community.

There is really no time to lose. This is an ideal opportunity to launch us seriously on the 10-year journey to become a low-carbon community and to have it paid for in part by BC Hydro. Please act now, in this year's budget, to establish this position and accelerate our transition to low carbon.

RON WATTS,
CHAIR, SALT SPRING COMMUNITY ENERGY

DAVID DENNING,
TRANSITION SALT SPRING CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

Help set Trust priorities

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee is hosting a special meeting this Friday at the Harbour House Hotel to solicit your input on its land-use planning projects.

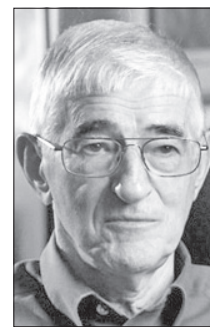
Land use planning on Salt Spring is the result of your LTC making decisions based on input from the community, First Nations and other government agencies through analysis provided by professional planners. On Salt Spring, land use planning is enacted through three documents: the Islands Trust Policy Statement, the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan and the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw. The OCP contains the broad goals, policies and some regulations that help guide preservation and development. The LUB contains the regulations that govern the use and density of the land, as well as other considerations such as setbacks, height, parking, signage, drainage and subdivision. The OCP and LUB are adopted and administered by the LTC.

Changes can be made to the OCP and LUB on a case-by-case basis as individual development applications are considered, or through planning projects. Information from the March 15 special meeting and follow-up survey will help to establish the priority of planning projects. Only those projects deemed the highest priority by your LTC get assigned resources.

At the March 15 special meeting, we want to identify areas of key priorities, or "themes," such as "affordable housing." For each of the priority themes, we want your input on the potential steps that can be taken.

Our OCP and LUB must be changed from time to time to reflect things like climate change and changing demographics. The process to change these documents requires careful consideration. However, where there is a strong community desire and support, the path to change is simpler. That is why we want to hear from you. Please come to the March 15 meeting, 2:30 to 5:45 p.m., at the Harbour House Hotel, and/or respond to the follow-up survey.

LAURA PATRICK,
SALT SPRING LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE TRUSTEE



John Dominic Crossan on Salt Spring Island FIRST ANNUAL SPRING SYMPOSIUM

I SHALL NOT HATE...
*Rescuing the non-violent God
from warring Christians*

Friday, March 22
9am - 4pm • 7:30pm (Friday night keynote address at GISS)

Saturday, March 23
9am - 4pm
at Salt Spring Island United Church
111 Hereford Avenue

\$99 (includes all lectures, snacks and workshops)
To register, email chris.levan4@gmail.com or call the church at 250-537-5812. Ask about group rates, one-day admission and the Friday night keynote address.

expert ADVICE

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Mechanic

If you could save yourself money on gas by spending fifteen minutes every couple of days would you do it?



GYLE KEATING

The answer for most people is yes.

If you could save even more by doing regular vehicle maintenance would you?

The answer should still be yes.

Things as simple as keeping tires properly inflated, engine oil and coolant levels maintained make a significant difference to fuel economy. Checking these things yourself takes only minutes.

Having your car maintained by professionals at regular intervals laid out in your owners manual will also help to get the most out of your fuel dollar.

During regular service your technicians trained eye will pick out developing problems, giving you a chance to do preventative maintenance.

Drive Safe, Gyle



537-2876 • #2-319 Upper Ganges Rd.
Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

Real Estate

How Should I Prepare My House For Listing? Part 1



JAN MACPHERSON

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

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

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

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C.) - GOLD AWARD 2018 (VREB)
STRATEGIC MARKETING SPECIALIST

Direct: 250-537-9894
RE/MAX Salt Spring: 1-800-731-7131
janmacpherson@gmail.com
www.saltspring.realestate



Financial Advice

I invested in an RSP, am I good?



SCOTT HOWE

If you have set some money aside for retirement, good start. However, are those savings set-up to generate the return you need?

After contributing to an RSP, many people don't realize they could be neglecting some long-term benefits. Contributions that languish in a savings account may not grow fast enough to keep up with the cost of living - or reach long-term goals. If you don't want to wind up behind-the-eight-ball, take the next step to choose investments that fit your stage of life and risk tolerance.

The question to ask your advisor is: "How is my RSP contribution invested, and how can I benefit from tax deferred growth?" This simple approach is likely to bring greater control and security to help your retirement plan thrive.

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Home & Garden



Salt Spring



HOME & GARDEN SHOW

March 16 & 17 - Farmers' Institute

Friday, March 15th from 5pm to 8pm:

You are invited to a Salt Spring Home & Garden Show Welcome Reception and cash bar pre-show gathering. There will be a fun, festive atmosphere with music and free food. Meet with the local trades, construction, home services, landscape companies and home décor vendors and mingle with fellow attendees.



Saturday, March 16th from 9am to 4pm & Sunday March 17th from 10am to 3pm:

Join us at the Salt Spring Home & Garden Show and meet with up to 40 vendors who will be showcasing local design expertise, construction services and advice, garden care, water collection and conservation, creative décor and design ideas and special home services that you did not realize were offered on Salt Spring! Invite family and friends who are new to the island or are considering moving here so they know about all of the amazing talent.



Admission to the event is FREE and you could win some great prizes.



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Owners, Andrew & Tracy Little

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An Island Family since 1861 working with the community.

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You're invited!

Salt Spring HOME & GARDEN SHOW

March 16 & 17 at the Farmers' Institute

Welcome Reception
March 15th, 5pm-8pm
Free Food & Cash Bar

Main Show
March 16th, 9am-4pm
March 17th, 10am-3pm

30+ Vendors
Food, Fun, & Free Seminars!

FREE ADMISSION
and you could win some great prizes!

Speaker Line-up

Saturday, March 16th
Building Envelope Energy Efficiency and the Science of Vastu
Shaughn Jensen, Samya Home Contracting & Design, 11am

Home Owners Interested in Grid-tied Solar with Emphasis on Back-Up Power Options with Batteries and Generators
Jeff Chamberland, Bearfoot Renewables, 1pm

Potable Rainwater and Water Storage
Sandra Ungerson, AloPluvia Integrated Water Resource Management Ltd., 3pm

Sunday, March 17th
Potable & Non-Potable Rainwater Collection Systems
How to Size Your System for Household Use & Emergency Use Based on Future Climate Forecasts
Matt Nowell, Rainwater Connection, 11am

Small Off-Grid Systems for Tiny Homes, Cabins and Boats
Jeff Chamberland, Bearfoot Renewables, 1pm

Presented By: Moutat's Trading
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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

SALT SPRING INN

Open for Breakfast every day at 8am
Sunday Brunch served until 2pm
"Where Islanders & Friends Start their Day"

ARTS & MUSIC

Join Will Millar to help celebrate Irish heritage

Irish Rovers founder shares paintings, songs and jokes

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gallery 8 is once again the place to experience a joyful St. Patrick's Day on Salt Spring, with an opening of an exhibition of new paintings by Will Millar on March 15 coming hand-in-hand with music, jokes and cheer.

A founding member of the immensely popular group the Irish Rovers, Millar has in recent years retired from the touring life in favour of a more settled existence near Maple Bay. He's taken the opportunity to return to his lifelong love for the visual arts, painting scenes from his boyhood that still live on in his memory.

Millar's paintings are now represented by five galleries in Canada and Ireland, with a fresh selection of new works to be revealed at

Gallery 8 this weekend that will bring viewers back to a cherished time.

"My art is nostalgia, if you like, and it's an Ireland that doesn't exist anymore," said Millar, who grew up in the village of Ballymena. "It's the Ireland of my boyhood in the '50s, and in the '50s Ireland was a very different country. There were horses and carts on the roads and there was very little traffic."

As a result, horses and cows are regular subjects in Millar's work, as are green fields, scenes of men drinking in pubs, and historic harbours as they once appeared.

"When I'm there doing that, I'm actually in that painting. So it's the best meditation ever," Millar said.

This Friday night will mark the third annual St. Patrick's event at Gallery 8 with Millar, but this year he will be extending the musical part of the opening night with a full sit-down show. Guest musicians playing fiddle and tin whistle

will fill out his trio, and there will be Irish cheer on hand.

Millar observes that celebrations of St. Patrick's Day are quite different in Ireland, where it started out as church holiday. The North American parade tradition started in New York City's slums as a way for the Irish to promote their heritage in their new home and grew from there.

Millar theorizes that St. Patrick's Day has become so popular due to its pre-Christian roots.

"It's nothing to do with St. Patrick or religion. It's the rites of spring. It's the pagan coming out in us, because this is the time in the Celtic calendar the pagans would celebrate rebirth. It was the greening of the country and the greening of the land — so come out to Gallery 8 this year and be pagan."

The opening reception goes from 5 to 8 p.m., with music between 6 and 7.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Will Millar with one of his paintings at Gallery 8 on Monday.

Recycled Art Show

Reception: March 15, 5-8pm
Show Runs: March 15-27, 2019

Organized by Shirley Command in partnership with Salt Spring Gallery -135 McPhillips Ave.

ISLAND MUSICIANS

Show winner Wilson on musical path

Debut album set for June release

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island has produced another budding young singer whose combined talent and drive seem bound to propel her to the next level.

The just-turned 18-year-old Natasha Wilson is putting in the work required to make it in a competitive industry, and she has the voice and songwriting skills to get her there. Wilson was selected as a top-20 finalist for the 2019 Victoria's Got Talent contest and emerged as the winner at the March 2 showcase event. She's now getting ready for the release of her six-song EP called Woven Heart under her artist name Tasha Belle.

Wilson said that winning the contest was thrilling and has sparked her desire to reach an even greater level.

"It's like the first milestone. Now that I've done that I can't help but think 'What's next?' and I want to find the next milestone," she said.

Like other island singers who have gone on to win attention at regional and national levels, Wilson polished her chops at the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts, getting essential training from teachers Bruce Smith and Michelle Footz. Viva Chorale choir director Deb Toole was another early influence.

After an initial exploration, Wilson decided not to pursue music as part of her post-secondary education, and is studying criminology instead.

"I've decided I really want to do music my way and learn from other people in the industry," Wilson explained. "Everyone can make music but you really have to be honest with yourself and with your instrument, in my opinion."

This self-directed path is one that Wilson's album producer Andy Meyers approves of. He's found the young singer to be focused and open to feedback in his Allowed Sound studio, and able to interpret information back into her performance if she wishes to.

"A lot of people these days want to be a singer-songwriter and think, 'I know, I'll go to school,' which is so different from my day," said Meyers, who co-founded the legendary art rock band The Scenics. "Being outside the structural idea of how it works can be a good thing. It's a natural thing for people to do — music is the most natural thing."

Wilson's inspiration as a songwriter comes from her direct life experiences and important people in her life. One of the songs on her upcoming EP was co-written with her good friend Grace Pohl. Another song is about her feelings for her younger sisters. Meyers has



PHOTO COURTESY NATASHA WILSON

Victoria's Got Talent contest winner Natasha Wilson, whose artist name is Tasha Belle.

meanwhile been impressed with Wilson's willingness to include some darker imagery and uncomfortable experiences, adding a mature edge to her work.

"I think the most important thing about songwriting is if you're honest when you write the songs, because it allows people to relate to what you're saying," Wilson said. "And I think music really is the universal language."

Wilson acknowledges that she's been struggling with anxiety recently as the shift from high school in a small community to a much wider world is a bigger one than students sometimes realize.

"That's why it's really great to have the support of friends and family. I'm not afraid to write about the things that I'm upset about as well as the things that make me happy," she said.

Wilson has also attracted support from professionals in the music industry. She met up with Kelowna country music star Ben Klick at the Rock Creek Fair a couple of years ago and he was happy to share advice about everything he knew.

More recently she's benefitted from an old Salt Spring connection in her dad's former high school music teacher Wilf Davis. He's taken Wilson under his wing in Victoria, introducing her to industry people and getting her gigs. His band Southbound and Friends will accompany Wilson at her June album release event.

Despite having a little bit of a leg up, Wilson said that her experience with Victoria's Got Talent has given her more perspective on just how difficult the music industry is to get into.

"You can't just walk in and get a job," she observed. "I'm realizing I really really want my career in music to work, and I'm willing to fight for it."

THE COMIC STRIPPERS
A Male Stripper Parody & Improv Comedy Show

A SHOW FOR ALL GENDERS... 19+ ONLY
WARNING!
No extreme nudity, just extreme hilarity!

March 16, 2019 - ArtSpring
For tickets call: 250-537-2102 • online: www.artspring.ca/boxoffice/

EXHIBITIONS

Recycled art show returns in Tossed & Found

Opening Friday at Salt Spring Gallery

Tossed and Found is back for the fourth annual exhibition of fine art made from found objects and recycled materials, opening this Friday, March 15 at Salt Spring Gallery.

Along with favourite returning artists from past years, this year's show features some new people who bring their own interpretation on the theme.

"It's amazing to see what will inspire artists and how they use their skills to create 'something from nothing,'" said coordinator and curator Shirley Command. "Many of the pieces this year have humour and whimsy in them, as well as the deeper themes that some artists will explore. Of course the underlying theme of the show is always to get people thinking about the environment and how disposable our purchases have become."

The range of materials used are varied, from scrap metal to beach glass, and old clocks to driftwood. Islanders are invited to attend this unique show, find a treasure for their own collection, and get inspired to reuse things that they might find. Many pieces sell on opening night so guests are recommended to come early to avoid disappointment.

Friday's wine and cheese reception runs from 5 to 8 p.m.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY COMMAND

Motorcycle made from beach debris by Tossed and Found artist Braven Rayne.

ARTS EDUCATION

School band programs benefit from Newman fund

Scrooge delivers cheques to music teachers

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Even the most famous miser has a soft spot in his heart for music: Ebenezer Scrooge helped deliver some of the proceeds from this year's Scrooge musical to the Gulf Islands Secondary School and Salt Spring Island Middle School band programs on Friday afternoon.

Scrooge was in fact Patrick Cassidy, who starred in the Newman Family Productions' Christmas With Scrooge show and got into costume to help deliver the cheques to the two band teachers. The funds were part of the Ray and Virginia Newman fund, set up to help the musical programs at the school provide instruments and opportunities for students. The

fund was initially set up after Ray Newman passed away in 1999 and was bolstered by Ray Newman Night fundraisers.

"We did a lot of doling out of the money over the years. Then mom got sick and we stopped doing Scrooge, and the fund just kind of went dormant. It was quietly sitting there waiting to happen again," said Ray and Virginia's daughter Sue Newman, who runs Newman Family Productions.

"We finally got the show up and running again and got the fund going again."

"In keeping with mom and dad's views on not singling out one child for a whole bunch of money, but doing something that would benefit all children, they felt it would be better to make a fund that would go directly to music programs that then all of the students who were interested in the music program would benefit from," she added.

This year funds have helped the middle

school program purchase a new drum kit, as the one at SIMS was literally on its last legs.

"You can see in the before and after photos our drummer with the old kit that was literally falling apart with broken legs," said Keith Ollerenshaw, the music teacher at SIMS. "We've already purchased it and the kids have been using it. It has made a huge difference."

The high school program will also be using their portion of the funding to purchase upgrades to their instruments, but they plan on using it for more diverse things rather than one big purchase.

"We use it a lot to bring in clinicians to work with the students," said Michelle Footz, the GISS music instructor. "In addition to that, it also goes to repairs for instruments, accessories for instruments like strings and basically everything that make instruments work."

ArtSpring Presents

New Orford String Quartet

Wednesday, April 3
7:30pm | bar 6:30pm
\$30.00 | \$5.00 18 & under

Generously sponsored by
Joan Farlinger.

artspring.ca | 250.537.2102

Out + ABOUT

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

Troll Grandfather visit

An acclaimed theatre company visits Salt Spring on Thursday to present its memorable production called The Troll Grandfather.

Vancouver-based Axis Theatre creates original shows, which have earned them two dozen Jessie Richardson Awards, a Betty Mitchell Award and a Drama Desk Nomination for Unique Theatrical Experience.

The Troll Grandfather shows at ArtSpring

at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 14. It is suitable for ages five and up.

The plot is explained by ArtSpring: "Filled with mythology and magic, nine-year-old Sandy Nardini and her grandfather set out on a dangerous journey to claim Sandy's magical birthright, a blessing that could save her mother's life or have dire consequences for their entire family. One night, after being sent to sleep in the study, Sandy uncovers the secret that has kept her Grandpa estranged her whole life — Grandpa is a troll!"

Axis Theatre productions are performed in theatres and schools, enriching curriculum, drawing children into stories and giving them access to ideas in new ways.

Comic Strippers

The award-winning improv comedians The Comic Strippers are back at ArtSpring this weekend with a new show, more moves, and even quicker wits.

The fictitious male stripper troupe, played by a cast of some of Canada's best improvisational comedians, performs a "sexylarious" improv comedy show on Saturday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.

"These guys try to be sexy... it just comes out funny," press material explains.

The explosion of ridiculousness was the smash hit of the Adelaide Fringe in Australia, and won Best live Production at The Canadian Comedy Awards in 2016.

Salt Spring FOLK CLUB
www.saltspringfolkclub.com

Shari Ulrich Trio

Opening:
Fawkes and Hownd

Monday March 25
Fulford Hall
Door 6:15 (Pass holders 6:00)
Show 7:00

Tickets \$25
Salt Spring Books
Catering by Three Blind Mice

Best sound on the Island

St. Patrick's Day All weekend!

Gallery 8 with Will Millar

March 15th-18th

Will Millar led the "Irish Rovers" around the world as he sang his Irish ballads about the rough shod royalty of his youth. Now he brings his remarkable talents to the canvas as he paints his memories of Ireland and the Canada that he loves.

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, March 15th, 2019 • 5pm to 8pm
Exhibition Runs March 15th - March 31st

Grace Point Square • 3104-115 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Salt Spring Island, BC • 250-537-8822 • www.artgallery8.com

what's on this week



Wed. Mar. 13 **Thur. Mar. 14** **Fri. Mar. 15** **Sat. Mar. 16** **Sun. Mar. 17** **Mon. Mar. 18** **Tue. Mar. 19**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Lizzy Hoyt Concert. Award-winning Celtic-folk musician Lizzy Hoyt from Edmonton performs at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Historical Society: Author May Q. Wong. May Q. Wong, the author of the new book called *City in Colour: Rediscovered Stories of Victoria's Multicultural Past*, which contains some Salt Spring stories as well, gives a presentation to the SS Historical Society at Central Hall. 2 p.m. (Doors at 1:45 p.m.) This event was rescheduled from Feb. 13 due to inclement weather.

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

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. Join Nomi and Hannah 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.

Thur. Mar. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Axis Theatre – The Troll Grandfather.

Axis Theatre production sees 9-year-old Sandy Nardini and her grandfather set out on a dangerous journey to claim Sandy's magical birthright, a blessing that could save her mother's life or have dire consequences for their entire family. Suitable for ages 5 and up. ArtSpring. 1 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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.

ACTIVITIES

Deepening Into Aging.

First of four monthly half-day sessions led by Jayalynda Cole at Star of the Sea Centre. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Participants are asked to attend all four sessions. The other three are on April 11, May 16 and June 13 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Register at staroftheseas-si@gmail.com.

Fri. Mar. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Any Day Now.

Rock/dance band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Dan Snakehead.

DJ show at The Local. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

Today's book is *Life by Cynthia Rylant*. Self-led program where participants walk from the library, through Mouat Park, following the story along the path. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Community Lunch.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a community hot lunch, menu choice developed from *The Irish Country Doctors* books by Patrick Taylor. Fulford Seniors annex on the south side of Fulford Hall. Starts at noon.

Salt Spring Home and Garden Show Welcome Reception.

Reception and cash bar pre-show event at the Farmers' Institute. 5 to 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Opening Reception for St. Patrick's Day Weekend With Will Millar.

Opening event for new exhibit of work by Will Millar of Irish Rovers fame at Gallery 8. 5 to 8 p.m. with concert from 6 to 7 p.m.

Opening Reception for Tossed & Found.

Multi-artist exhibit opens at Salt Spring Gallery. 5 to 8 p.m.

Salt Spring Forum: NASA Astronaut Serena Auñón-Chancellor.

Dr. Serena Auñón-Chancellor returned to Earth from the International Space Station in December, after spending 197 days in space. The accomplished engineer-physician-astronaut joins us for a candid discussion about the opportunities, hazards and health science of space travel, as well as the challenges facing women in STEM. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Sat. Mar. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Comic Strippers.

Acclaimed male-stripper parody and comedy show with improv elements for 19+. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Irth, Cozy and Jared Woods.

Three live music acts at Beaver Point Hall. 8 p.m.

Damasco Soul System. Reggae, Afro-beats and more at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Home and Garden Show.

Up to 40 vendors will participate in the show at the Farmers' Institute. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Creative Woodworking for Women.

First day of a two-day workshop exploring the artistic side of woodworking led by Bruce Martens. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info/register: uncom-monfurniture.com

Get Tapping! Emotional Freedom Techniques.

Saturdays in March with Judith Gane at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-registration only at judithgane@sympatico.ca or 250-537-5322.

The Magical Creature Making Workshop.

For ages 10 to 14 led by Cindy Jacobsen at the Salt Spring Public Library. 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Register through the library.

Sun. Mar. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

St. Patrick's Day Double Bill. Buck Dodgers String Band plays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Blanky from 8 to 11 p.m. Moby's Pub.

St. Patrick's Day Concert With Pierre Schryer and Adam Dobres.

Pierre Schryer (fiddle), Adam Dobres (guitar) & Stephanie Cadman (stepdance) at Beaver Point Hall. Doors at 7 p.m. and concert at 7:30 p.m. Authentic Irish fiddle music, energetic Canadian stepdance, spirited island community and locally made treats & refreshments.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Home & Garden Show.

Day 2 of the show at the Farmers' Institute. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Arts Council AGM.

Annual general meeting at Mahon Hall. 10 a.m.

Unitarian Fellowship: Singing Service With Barb Slater.

Family-friendly sacred song circle at Salt Spring Unitarian Fellowship, held at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 10:30 a.m. Children's program and child minding available.

Cuban Afternoon Literary Event.

Features Amanda Hale's new book of Cuban stories, Angela of the Stones, and Cornelia Hoogland's *Cuba Journal: Language and Writing*. Salt Spring Public Library. 2 p.m.

Mon. Mar. 18

ACTIVITIES

Spring Break Adventure Camp.

PARC-sponsored activities and outings every day from March 18-22 (and March 25-29) based from the SS Elementary School gym. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register through ssiparc@crd.bc.ca or 250-537-1402.

Kids' Table Camp.

March 18-22 food and cooking camp for ages 10 to 14 begins today at SIMS home ec room. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. A PARC-sponsored event. Register through ssiparc@crd.bc.ca or 250-537-1402.

Spring Break Tween Crafternoon.

The activity is Quilting with Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild members. For ages 10-13 at the library. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sign up at the library info desk. Info: info@saltspringlibrary.com

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Toastmasters.

Guests welcome to Monday night Toastmasters meetings at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m. (Please plan to arrive at 6:50 p.m. to get oriented and find a spot at the table.)



Tue. Mar. 19

ACTIVITIES

Spring Break Adventure Camp.

See Monday listing. **Salt Spring Probus Club Meeting.**

Topic is the Salt Spring Island Community Bat Program, with one or two local biologists speaking to the club about it. Lions Hall. Doors open at 10 a.m.; speaker starts at about 10:30 a.m.

HOMAGE: Artmaking Inspired by Art World Greats.

First day of three-day workshop for youth aged 10 to 14 and led by Tracy Harrison at Mahon Hall from from 10 am. to 3 p.m. each day. Sponsored by the Salt Spring Arts Council. Info/register: ssartscouncil.com

Spring Break Tween Crafternoon.

Basketry activities led by Salt Spring Basketry Guild members. For ages 10-13 at the library. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sign up at the library info desk. Info: info@saltspringlibrary.com

ACTIVITIES

Sacred Poetry.

Facilitated by Elaina Hyde, Sacred Poetry sees participants share a favourite poem with the group and take time to listen, reflect and consider their impact and meaning for personal journeys in the search for spiritual insight. On the third Tuesday of each month at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's Church). 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Trivia Tuesday.

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

Wed. Mar. 20

ACTIVITIES

Spring Break Adventure Camp.

See Monday listing.

Spring Break Tween Crafternoon.

Activity is Fabric Dyeing with Jennifer LaFlamme. For ages 10-13 at the SS Library. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sign up at the library info desk. Info: info@saltspringlibrary.com

Central Hall Board of Directors Meeting.

In the lower hall of Central Hall. Public welcome to attend. 7 p.m.

Music Bingo.

See last Wednesday's listing.



THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Lego Movie 2** runs Friday, March 15 to Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee show on Sunday. Rated G. 107 minutes.

• **National Theatre: Antony & Cleopatra** starring Ralph Fiennes runs on Thursday, March 14 only with shows at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• **St. Patrick's Day Weekend With Will Millar.** Gallery 8 presents a new exhibit of work by Will Millar of Irish Rovers fame, beginning with an opening reception on Friday, March 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. Millar and guest musicians will perform from 6 to 7 p.m. Millar will be in attendance through March 18. Exhibit runs until March 31.

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com/events/

- **Fourth Annual Tossed and Found** multi-artist exhibition of fine art made from found objects and/or recycled materials. At **Salt Spring Gallery**. Opening reception on Friday, March 15 from 5 to 8 p.m.
- **Draw the Line Art Collective's** exhibit of paintings and drawings called *Faces*, created by artists dedicated to recording images of Salt Spring folk, shows in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room through March.
- **SSI Painters Guild** presents their **Workshop and Drawing Show** in the lobby of **ArtSpring** through March, an exhibit of new works initiated during workshops and drawing sessions hosted by the guild.
- **Double Vision** presents *Questionable*, an exhibit of contemplative photography by **Karin** and **John Millson** at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until March 16.
- **Salt Spring Photo Club** members **Jean, Sylvia, Pat, Fifi** and **Margaret** show photos of women from around the world to celebrate International Women's Day at the **Country Grocer Cafe**.

see horoscope on page 15

Train to be a Butterfly Citizen Scientist
 Session led by Linda Gilkeson at Blackburn Nature Reserve
 Sunday, March 24 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

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ISLAND LIFE

- Remember When
- Chamber Chat
- Star of the Week

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

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



PHOTO BY RAMONA LAM

HUGE HOORAY: Members of Salt Spring's 100+ Women Who Care group gather with their donation cheque following last Tuesday's meeting at ArtSpring. In the front row with the \$17,000 cheque for the Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association resulting from 170 women donating \$100 through the WWC group are, from left, SSTRAs reps Gail Muise, Jacqueline Sutton, Lynn Thorburn and Erika Ponsford. Muise gave the presentation about the SSTRAs, which propelled the winning vote among group members attending. See www.100womensaltspring.org for more information about the group, which held its first meeting in November.

ENVIRONMENT

Eco-friendly initiatives get loans

Water storage tanks for individuals and institutions a major focus

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of a local grassroots co-op are putting their money where their mouths are with a new eco-friendly loan initiative.

The Transition Salt Spring Enterprise Co-op (TSSEC) is made up of nearly 100 islanders who have donated money to help fund green initiatives for homeowners on Salt Spring. The funds are for small loans that go towards reducing the carbon output of the island and helping people become more resilient in the face of climate change. Loans are for amounts up to \$5,000 and can go towards projects like rainwater storage tanks, home-based EV chargers, solar panel installation and energy-efficient heat pumps.

"With individual people's money, we can move more quickly and get something happening," said Darryl Martin, one of TSSEC's directors. "I expect there'll be other government programs come along in the future, but it may take a while. This way we can get some things happening."

The fund's first focus is to help with the construction of water storage tanks. For non-potable purposes, water storage tanks can be constructed without needing a building permit, however, talking with a building inspector before construction is strongly advised. According

to a 2013 guide published by the Islands Trust Fund, during the summer months, up to half of a household's water use happens outside with irrigation, cleaning and fire prevention. Water for these uses does not need to be potable, and can be captured essentially free of charge after the installation of a catchment system.

"There are a lot of people on the island who are really concerned about climate change and are willing to put up their own capital as part of these loans to try and make a positive difference rather than wait for the powers-that-be to do something."

DARRYL MARTIN
TSSEC board member

"Water that is stored can be used for irrigation, or garden watering. For a customer of a water utility, that can reduce the load on that utility and reduces the water shortage of potable water for everybody," Martin explained. "If I use 3,000 gallons to water my garden from a tank, then I don't have to take those gallons out of the storage at the lake. It relieves that."

Other advantages include having water on hand for emergency use. A full water storage tank can be used by the fire department to extinguish any blaze on a property. The stored water can also irrigate the area around a home to create a living fire break. Finally, water stored in a tank can be used in the event of a power outage or water main break.

"If your tank is intact, then you've at least got access to some rainwater that you could use to get by with in an emergency," Martin said. "We lost the power to our house [after the December wind-storm] . . . it meant that we couldn't get any water. If we'd had a tank we could have taken it out of the tank, boiled it on the stove and had water."

Unfortunately, these systems can be expensive.

A 3,000-gallon water storage tank measures around eight feet in diameter, and is about 8.5 feet tall, and the installation and purchasing can cost thousands of dollars. Loans available through TSSEC cover 50 cents per gallon of storage for the tanks, up to a maximum of \$5,000. The loans carry an interest rate of five per cent, and as it is paid back, the money will stay in the program.

"There are a lot of people on the island who are really concerned about climate change and are willing to put up their own capital as part of these loans to try and make a positive difference rather than wait for the powers-that-be to do something. We want to move quickly, because it has become a crisis."

Those interested in applying for one of the loans can contact Martin at 250-537-1295, or can email TSSEC at TSSentEnterpriseCoop@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastrlogy.com | sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com

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

We have officially entered the final stretch of winter. Spring Equinox officially occurs on March 20 this year determined by the Sun entering the Tropical sign of Aries. This is another way of saying when the Sun's light illumines 0 Aries determined by the 365.25-day cycle of the year aligned with the 360 degrees of the Zodiac circle. This 5.25 degree/day discrepancy has long been a source of frustration and confusion for astronomers and astrologers alike. Consequently, the Gregorian calendar and the technology that has gone into measuring the precise algorithm of the of the sun's light on earth was created. In this regard, the solstices and equinoxes mark the exact quarter points but the exact time when they occur are subject to subtle variations linked to a series overlapping elliptical cycles and precession combined with the tilt of the earth on its oscillating axis between 22.1 and 24.5 degrees. This is the science that is behind Western Astrology. This year, Spring Equinox is followed by the Moon at Full in Libra a few hours later. More on this next week...

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Either you totally feel the effects of this Pisces influence or not at all. It is quite possible that it is affecting you subconsciously only. If so, consider yourself lucky. But it is likely that you are fully immersed in it. Positively, you are able to rest, retreat, relax and even escape. If you have to focus on outer realities it may feel like you are caught in a dream and can't awaken.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

When it comes to realizing dreams, the first requirement is to have one. You may be experiencing epiphanies revealing new dreams or the gradual emergence of them into consciousness. On the other hand, with Uranus now in Taurus, you are probably feeling the urge to push through blocks and delays. Yet, you need the right tools and allies.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Contending with various uncertainties in your public and/or professional life is likely now. This has been lingering for a few weeks already but spring will bring about a shift. It will likely be a gradual one, however. So, get ready to ride it out patiently and don't expect things to take off early in the season, in fact, just the opposite.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

For now apparent or logical reason, you may feel like you are wondering aimlessly as through fog. This can prove quite depressing and even frustrating, especially if you are not aware of what is going on. Rest assured that it is not the outer weather alone. Although the cycles of destiny are complex to understand, they are ever unfolding.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

A deep, complex and probably somewhat disturbing cycle continues. Trying to understanding what is happening will prove complicated. Yet, what you may be noticing is that memories of past experiences are coming to the surface to be acknowledged first and then cleared. Trust in the flow and be aware that everyone involved is responsible for their part.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Making efforts to think with your heart and feel with your mind is a likely theme now. This can prove more difficult than it may seem, especially if you are accustomed to processing information intellectually, which is characteristic of your sign. It may come down to faith and forgiveness. Yet, feeling truly happy and peaceful the age-old goal of meditation and spiritual science.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Health can be understood as an umbrella term which addresses our whole self: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. A closer examination of almost any religion reveals an over-riding emphasis on a cultural interpretation and understanding of health. It is directly linked to daily habits and invariably implies lifestyle choices. How are you, really?

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Are you excited to dive into your creativity or are you drowning in confusion and indecision? This type of question emerges from your current astrological portrait. This is generally an expansive time and there are indications that your confidence levels are running strong. Hopefully, you can use this boost to engage and not merely to rise above.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

You have entered waters that you have not experienced before. Positively, you are learning to swim and activate your core strengths. However, it is quite possible that your confidences are wavering. If so, the key is to persevere. Often the solutions we seek are linked to more action and/or focusing to be more fully present with each moment and less analysis.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Are you finding your way or feeling lost? The current line-up of planets could swing either way. Many will be experiencing this dichotomy, so rest assured, you are not alone. Circumstances are pushing you to lay claim to hidden reserves of faith. Prayers and affirmations or positive suggestions can help a lot too. This complex cycle will end, but not yet.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Positively, you are in a place of 'steady as she goes'. Negatively, you are experiencing something of a slippery slope. Moving and shaking may be occurring figuratively, but perhaps literally too. In some respects, this is exciting, while in others, unsettling. You are wise to keep an open mind and be ready for major unexpected turns over the next couple of moon cycles.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Dealing with all the Pisces influences should, in many respects, feel manageable for you more than others. However, you must still contend with it manifesting as a challenge to get focused, stay on top of things and manifest your current round of goals. The best solution is to take it slow and be patient with this cycle. It may take until mid-April before you feel full traction again.

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SPRING BREAK

Keep kids active over spring break

Indoor and outdoor events set for March 18-29

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Parents looking to keep their children busy and engaged over spring break will find a variety of fun possibilities being hosted by local community organizations.

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation has a number of offerings that will suit a variety of age groups' interests and from the sporty to the culinary-inclined.

- Kids' Table Camp for ages 10 to 14 runs March 18 to 22. Kids will learn the important combination "Farm-Cook-Eat," discovering local farms, cooking skills and cultural dishes. It takes place at the Salt Spring Middle School home ec. room from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.

- Parents can book spots by the day or by the week for the Spring Break Adventure Camp, which goes Monday to Friday for both weeks of spring break starting March 18.

Kids ages five to 12 will enjoy games, creative arts, community sports, expeditions and trips to the library and pool. It's based at the Salt Spring Elementary School gym, running from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day.

- The Mini Sport Camp for preschool ages (three to five) runs Monday to Thursday, March 25 to 28. Children will learn the basics of five different sports. Daily activities also include art, music, stories and snack time. At the SSE gym, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

- Squash Camp runs Monday to Friday, March 25 to 29. Kids ages 8 to 14



COURTESY SS ARTS COUNCIL

Artwork by Andy Poystila created at a past youth art program taught by Tracy Harrison, who is leading a spring break workshop at Mahon Hall.

will learn the popular racquet sport from 12:45 to 3 p.m. daily at the indoor squash court.

Registration for all the above camps is through ssiparc.ca or in person at the Rainbow Road Pool.

- Creative types will want to check out some of the events hosted by island organizations such as the Salt Spring Public Library. The Magical Creature Making Workshop is a one-day event on Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Participants will explore the history of theatrical effects, work together to design and perform with objects and characters they create, and go home with a magical creature of their own design.

The workshop is led by Cindy Jacobsen, a producer for StageCoach Theatre School and life-long enthusiast of theatrical special effects and puppetry, and is for ages 10 to 14.

- The Spring Break Camp Crafternoon at the library runs Monday to Friday, March 25 to 29. The popular camp for ages five to nine returns with

a special program built around making crafts and learning new crafting skills, plus lots of books, games, snacks and fun. Runs from 2 to 4 p.m.

- Karima Essa leads a one-day event on Bollywood Dance on Monday, March 25. Essa has been featured on the TV show Canadian Bollywood Dancer. Participants will get to see her perform and learn a few Bollywood dance moves of their own. Two sessions are offered at the Salt Spring Public Library: ages 0 to 8 at 10 a.m., and ages 9 to 13 at 11 a.m.

Advance registration for library events is required at the information desk.

- The Salt Spring Arts Council offers a special spring break workshop for youth with Tracy Harrison called Homage: Art-making Inspired by Art World Greats.

Sessions on painting, drawing and sculpting run at Mahon Hall from Tuesday to Thursday, March 19 to 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (ages 10 to 14) and from 1 to 3 p.m. (ages six to 10).

A selection of work done in the workshops will be included in the youth exhibit at the Easter Art Show from April 19-28. Registration is through ssartscouncil.com.


- Island artist and instructor Lisa Lipsett leads Kids Nature Art Camp from March 25 to 29. For ages seven to 12 years, it's a nature-inspired camp for kids who love to make art. Natural pigments, sun prints, spirographs, swing drawing, group painting, ink play, string drawing, touch painting and creative nature connection art are some of the highlights.

Art is created in the garden, forest and studio at 600 Fulford-Ganges Rd. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

Call 250-537-9785 or email lisa@creativebynature.org for information and to register.

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PERSONAL GROWTH

Aging and poetry events in Fulford

JayaLynda Cole leads first of series

Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living presents two events this week.

At the request of previous participants of a series called Deepening Into Aging, the centre is offering four monthly afternoon sessions with JayaLynda Cole, beginning this Thursday, March 14.

For more than 30 years, Cole has provided professional alternative counselling-therapy and body work, guiding clients to discover and welcome the truth of their being while living in the now.

For more information, visit www.starofthesea.ca or see the story in the Driftwood's Young at Heart supplement, which was published this week.

Then on Tuesday March 19 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Star of the Sea offers the second of a monthly series of evenings titled Sacred Poetry.

The event takes place at St. Mary's Church in Fulford and is facilitated by poet and writer Elaina Hyde.

Participants are asked to bring one or two of their favourite sacred poems to read aloud and share with the group. These may be either their own writing, or those of another, from any tradition.

"We will take time to listen, reflect, and consider their impact and meaning for our personal journeys in the search for spiritual insight," said Hyde.

Participation is by donation and registration is not required.

Poetry evenings are held on the third Tuesday of every month.

Remember **WHEN**

Items from the Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper published this week in years past.

Five years ago

• Nearly 2,000 residents from ferry-dependent communities across the coast gathered in Victoria to oppose the provincial government's planned service cuts and fare increases. Participants arrived by ship and bus from communities across the islands and included approximately 60 placard-toting Salt Spring residents. Chamber of commerce manager Janet Clouston was among those at the rally. She said that "a small change for B.C. Ferries is a huge change to our economy. We're really concerned about the cuts and worried about these fare increases." Transportation Minister Todd Stone stood by the service cuts, asking the Salt Spring Island Ferry Action Alliance to work with him to improve policies.

Ten years ago

• Security around the Olympic Games was expected to cause delays for local flights in and out of Vancouver. Restrictions on airspace around the city meant that all passengers needed to clear security before being allowed to land at the city's airports or seaplane terminals. Since Salt Spring has no established security facilities, it was proposed that all passengers be rerouted to Nanaimo before being allowed to land in Vancouver, doubling the 24-minute flying time and costs associated. The restrictions were scheduled for January to March 2010.

Twenty years ago

• A Sunday afternoon hike on the beach was stopped short when an Isabella Point father and son found a human skull near Drummond Park. Gunther Sandl and his son found the skull lying on the sand about 20 metres from the boat launch. "It was just lying flat on the sand below the high tide mark," Sandl said. Salt Spring RCMP said that the skull was likely part of a First Nations burial, and was to be examined by a member of the provincial government's archaeological branch.

Thirty years ago

• Tree-cutting associated with the development of a Pender Island property prompted a blockade and protest by concerned residents. Protesters temporarily halted a moving company trying to unload two houses from a barge and haul them up to Magic Lake Estates on North Pender Island. The crowd grew to around 50 people, many of whom were curious onlookers. The demonstrators claimed that the company did not have the right to use the beach and criticized the developer for the way he clear-cut two lots near Magic Lake. RCMP ordered the protestors to move their vehicles that were blocking the path of the houses.

Thirty years ago

• The Islands Trust said they would look at village status for Ganges, but would not endorse incorporation. Two island groups were investigating village status, but the question was only whether or not the province was still permitting village incorporation. Trust chair Marc Holmes said, "I want to make it absolutely clear that the Islands Trust is in no way trying to endorse or encourage the incorporation of Ganges as a village." Holmes added that he was "scared that there should be even the suggestion that the Trust is presenting such a thing."

Fifty years ago

• Canada's first Transcendental Meditation teacher Eileen Learoyd came to Salt Spring to explain the practice and its purpose. Learoyd was a journalist who had interviewed the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi on his first visit to Victoria in 1961, and had since embraced the practice. Learoyd was the Canadian spokesperson for the International Meditation Society and had visited the Maharishi in India. Transcendental Meditation seeks to revitalize the church, whether Christian, Hindu or Buddhist, Learoyd explained to the Salt Spring group. She helped dispel some rumours about the practice — like chanting, drugs and that it would "make a great mathematician out of a man who cannot do elementary sums."

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

MARCH 2019 PST Z+8							
DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
13	0251	2.4	7.9	17	0315	3.2	10.5
	0815	3.0	9.8		0834	2.6	8.5
	WE 1553	1.0	3.3		SU 1214	2.8	9.2
				DI 1955	0.6	2.0	
14	0012	2.9	9.5	18	0353	3.3	10.8
	0406	2.7	8.9		0915	2.4	7.9
	TH 0846	2.9	9.5		MO 1337	2.9	9.5
	JE 1651	0.9	3.0	LU 2048	0.6	2.0	
15	0132	3.0	9.8	19	0426	3.3	10.8
	0551	2.8	9.2		0954	2.2	7.2
	FR 0932	2.9	9.5		TU 1454	2.9	9.5
	VE 1754	0.8	2.6	MA 2137	0.7	2.3	
16	0231	3.1	10.2	20	0456	3.3	10.8
	0736	2.7	8.9		1035	1.9	6.2
	SA 1047	2.8	9.2		WE 1606	3.0	9.8
	SA 1857	0.7	2.3	ME 2224	0.9	3.0	

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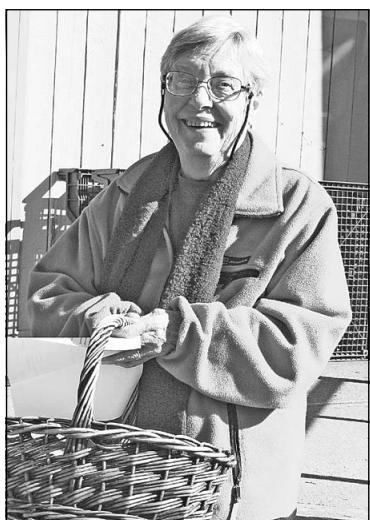
Can you identify what and where this is on Salt Spring? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or send a note to us on Facebook. The first person to submit the right answer gets their name published in this space.



LAST WEEK: Matt Rissling identified the spot as "The future home of BC Ferries' parking lot" in Fulford. We'll accept that answer!

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

Irene Currie



Irene has been a Meals on Wheels delivery volunteer for the past eight years. Her favourite thing about the job is the people she meets and the hugs.

Irene is also a long-time Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary volunteer, serving at the Thrift Shop and visiting people in the hospital.

She is also a member of the Lost Chords seniors choir and has lived on Salt Spring Island for 31 years!

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In Memoriam



Salt Spring Hospice


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In Memoriam

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Obituaries

MARCUS DOWRICH



Marcus Dowrich (1957-2019) died Thursday February 21, 2019 at home on Reynolds Road, Salt Spring Island.

Marcus, suffering from severe depression for some time, took his own life Thursday afternoon. We are deeply saddened by his death, yet comforted that he is finally at peace and suffers no longer.

A true islander, Marcus was born in Trinidad, moved to Toronto Island to start a family, lived in Tobago, and finally settled on Salt Spring in 2002. He loved his islands deeply.

A constant joker with a smile and a laugh that could illuminate anyone's spirit, Marcus was well known for his bright energy, sweet kindness, and loveable character.

A fantastic and passionate chef who nourished many bellies and souls over his life with his amazing Caribbean cooking.

An incredible and integral part of the Salt Spring Island farming community who loved and cared for his animals with such a passion.

An essential family member at Salt Spring Island Cheese Co. for many years.

A staunch Tottenham Hotspur F.C. supporter and a soccer fanatic in general who called any match times his "church" visits.

An avid Weston Lake fisher who always, and annoyingly so, would "out-fish" his son without fail.

A loving and supportive partner to his best friend and sweet sweet love, Lisa.

And, the most amazing father any son could ever hope for. A teacher, a guide in life, who showed me how to be a kind man and encouraged me to lead with passion and love. Who taught me never to do anything "half-assed", and to always give your full effort and attention. A best friend who I shared so many brilliant moments and made so many memories with. And, if not most importantly, to always cook with colour, fantastic music, and a good drink in your hand.

Marcus will be missed dearly by his community, friends, family, his buddy Jana, his mother Dolores, and his son Kyle.

Memorial parties will be announced for Salt Spring Island and Toronto Island when things warm up a little. Marcus never loved the cold.

For those suffering with severe depression and anxiety, there is help out there. Speak to friends or family if you are able and, if not, reach out to your local help line.

It can get better.
 Vancouver Island & Salt Spring Island Crisis Line
 1-888-494-3888
 Canada Suicide Prevention and Support
 1-866-277-3553 (Français) 1-833-456-4566 (English)
 TEXT 45645

Obituaries

A thought of sweet remembrance from one who thinks of you.

Information

What's happening at your Library?
 Find out at the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, March 21, 2019
Community Program Room
3:30 p.m.

All active library cardholders are welcome to attend and are eligible to vote at the meeting.
 Refreshments will be served.

Salt Spring Island Public Library

Information

A healthy local economy depends on you
SHOP LOCALLY

Coming Events

Capital Regional District **CRD**

NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

All meetings will be held in the CRD Electoral Area Office Meeting Room Located at Suite 108 121 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island

Liquid Waste Service Commission -
 Monday, April 15, 2019 from 10 am - 12 pm
Beddis Water Service Commission -
 Monday, April 15, 2019 from 1pm - 3 pm

Fulford Water Service Commission -
 Tuesday, April 16 from 1pm - 3 pm

Highland Fernwood Water Service Commission -
 Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 10 am-12 pm
Maliview Sewer -
 Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 12 pm - 1 pm
Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission -
 Wednesday April 17, 2019 from 2-3 pm

Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission -
 Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 10 am-12 pm
Cedar Lane Water Service Commission -
 Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 1 pm-3 pm

Coming Events

LOCAL MATTERS.



NEWSPAPERS MATTER
 NOW MORE THAN EVER

Coming Events

FABULOUS FLEAMARKET

At Fulford Hall
Saturday, March 30, 2019
 10am - 2pm
 Table Rentals:
 4 ft. - \$15.00 / 8 ft. - \$30.00
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THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

on Wednesday 20th March, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.
PUBLIC WELCOME.

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PROTECT OUR PLANET...



RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

FOODSAFE Level 1
 Monday, March 18 from 8:30am to 4:30pm, \$80.
 Lions Hall 103 Bonnet Ave.
 Call Sheri 537-1883 to register.

Help Wanted

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District HELP WANTED

Permanent Part-time Administrative Data Coordinator

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue is now hiring a part-time Administrative Data Coordinator.

Please see our website for details
 (saltspringfire.com/job-opportunities/).



Help Wanted

STEWARDSHIP

Volunteers tackle gorse invasion

Community help needed

SUBMITTED BY SS CONSERVANCY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As the Salt Spring Gorse Campaign kicks off this week, watch for the "Cut Gorse Now" signs planted beside gorse plants on the island.

Prompted by the very visible spread of gorse here, the campaign is a response to residents' requests for action.

"We've had numerous calls about the dense stand of gorse that's growing on Lower Ganges Road at the south end of the golf course, and others about the gorse in Ganges near the middle school and Mahon Hall," said Jean Wilkinson, chair of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's Stewardship Committee.

"One of our members is mapping the gorse plots along the roadways to get a base line and we've cut and removed gorse in parts of the downtown. But to really stop the spread of this invasive weed, we will have to deal with it as a community."

The group feels that the signs identifying individual gorse plants will help bring them to the community's attention, and lead to their removal.

While the rats like gorse as a protected haven, the plant has some very disturbing properties. At the top of the list are its resins. Like its cousin, broom, the plant is a fire accelerator that is effectively a fire candle, especially in summer months.

"Gorse is highly flammable and it burns rapidly with high intensity. Consequently it poses a serious fire hazard," says Lieut. Mitchell Sherrin of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue. "What makes gorse problematic



PHOTO BY CATHY YOUNG

Close-up of gorse plant.

is that it contains a high concentration of volatile oils and it produces a lot of dead material."

As an introduced species, gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) also chokes out native vegetation, and spreads. It flowers at different times of the year, a good survival tactic in times of climate change. In fact, the yellow flowers visible right now are gorse, not Scotch broom, which will flower later in the spring (and only once). Gorse seeds are picked up by car tires and dispersed along island highways.

How to distinguish gorse from its cousin, *Cystisus scoparius*, Scotch broom? Mature gorse has no leaves, is covered in prickles and grows from the centre outward, leaving a dead shaggy mass in the middle.

How to get rid of it? It's not easy, but James Miskelly of the Saanich Native Plant Nursery says don't give up hope. Gorse is difficult to remove, but perseverance leads to success, he says.

"Gorse can grow from stem tissue but not root tissue," he explains.

The trick is to cut gorse below the root collar. Unfortunately, the root collar is well protected below the soil surface. If you

only cut gorse to the ground surface, or burn it, it will re-sprout.

If one can't get at the root collar below the ground, an option is to stop the stump re-growing by treating it with herbicides, a practice unacceptable to many. Another option is to tie light-blocking material around the stump because gorse does not grow in the shade. And another is to simply persevere and keep cutting the new growth. With no seeds and no sprouts to produce food, the plant cannot reproduce and will eventually die.

Pulling the plant is another strategy. Pulling does disturb the soil and turns up seeds that then sprout. However, monitoring the site every year and removing the new seedlings will eventually eradicate the plant.

There are other tools to prevent infestations of gorse. The plant is listed as a noxious weed under the B.C. government's Weed Control Act. Under this act it is an offence to grow gorse on one's property and local governments have the power to compel landowners to remove it.

Cutting or pulling gorse leads to the question of what to do with it next. This is a broader question for island governments. These plants are not accepted at the transfer station. How can we encourage islanders to remove invasives like gorse when currently there are no disposal facilities?

For anyone interested in disposing of gorse, this spring the stewardship committee volunteers will again be organizing two by-donation broom and gorse drop-offs, with help from the fire department.

For more information, call Jane Petch at 250-537-0880.

BUSINESS

Shopping local powerful



Li Read
CHAMBER
CHAT

Ensure a viable business core

The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, dependent on sponsorships from key businesses, matching grants and membership dues, all with the goal of creating positive outcomes for those entrepreneurs in business.

Who is in business? Anyone providing a service or an item for sale is in business. The chamber exists to support the success of these independent individual endeavours.

So, what about that Shop Local motif? It's a decision to be a buyer in your own hometown. With competition from online shopping options, and from nearby big box locations, one has endless choice. To choose to spend dollars on island is the way to ensure a viable business core. A viable business core means a strong community.

Shop Local means you kept dol-

lars in our community, embraced what makes us unique, created local jobs, contributed to the tax base, supported our local schools, created more choice, took advantage of local expertise, made us a destination, kept businesses viable in the "off season," supported artistic endeavours and encouraged locally produced goods.

Our businesses are competitive with off-island options and can order what you specifically need. It doesn't cost more to buy or to hire "local" and it ensures the integrity of a community. The consumer is the other side of the business equation and to shop local means the local consumer cares about the viability of the community. Shop Local is a very powerful choice.

The chamber welcomes your thoughts and input. Become a member and add to the resourcefulness the chamber works to sustain. Discover the many important aspects of membership, including specific insurance benefits and seminars to discuss shared concerns. Yes, tourism is a part of our community, but it's only a part.

Call into the chamber office and meet with Jessica Harkema, our executive director. "Discover Yourself Here" is the chamber's promise and your membership voice is essential to the well-being of the community. Welcome!

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ADOPT A PET TODAY!

Klee is a social butterfly, who loves attention and cuddles. She would prefer to be the only feline in the house. Klee is set to be spayed on March 13 and will be available after that date for adoption.

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

Keep updated with Legion Facebook

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Royal Canadian Legion branch 92

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SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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



MEN'S SOCCER

Old Boys find ugly way to win and extend streak

Skeena Queen clubhouse proposed

BY FRASER HOPE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Eleven Good Men and True and this reporter collected themselves in the terminal at Fulford and consciously or not formed a "power circle," a tribute the "Nine Worthies" who formed such heroics in last week's inspiring win SCORE against Cordova Bay.

Would the "power" of 11 equal or eclipse the magnificent effort of those proud wearers of the Old Boys shirt versus Castaways in Oak Bay this past Sunday? The only concern was the whereabouts of Cooperman, whose electronic ankle bracelets appeared to have been "hacked" as he was nowhere to be seen. Would his absence break the bonds that bound them in that historic win?

As a form of deflection from pre-match tensions, much discussion centred on the rumoured plans for a Salt Spring United turf field.

Would soccer players on Salt Spring catch up with the rest of the clubs on Vancouver Island and have a floodlit turf field and, more to the point, changing rooms, washrooms for home and visiting teams? "What do we want? Turf fields and washrooms! When do we want them? Now!"

Discussion quickly turned to the concept of an Old Boys clubhouse to be housed in one of the four Skeena Queen passenger lounges with all the appropriate soft drink dispensers, cooler cabinet full of sausage rolls and SS pies and other choice sweetmeat treats. Like airline hospitality lounges, entry would be by invitation only or keyless card entry. An Old Boys player will propose this revolutionary idea to the next Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee meeting.

At kickoff at Carnarvon Park, Old Boys were in the unusual situation of having more players than the Castaways. Under sunny skies the Old boys used their two-man advantage to keep Castaways penned in their own third of the

field for the opening 10 minutes. Such was the pressure that a goal kick fell at the feet of Rainer Funk, who was so surprised that in hurrying to take advantage of this gift, he missed his shot. But fortune favours the brave, with the ball rebounding to Mike McCormick to give the Old Boys a surprising 1-0 lead.

Whether it was the the two-man advantage or the general malaise of the time change, the Old Boys seemed to languish outside the penalty box, finding fellow players with accuracy and consistency but lacking the final killer pass and shot to advance the scoreline. It felt that there was some power hanging over the field providing a defensive shell of nine Castaways happy to defend the penalty box.

Old Boys just seemed to lack the energy to increase the score that their territorial possession deserved. The only moments of note were the few forays out of the Castaways defence that indicated the scouting information on "Wandering Donny Brown" in goal was

now common knowledge in Victoria teams as they tried long shots from within their own half hoping to get Brown off his goal line. Half time came with Old Boys wondering if the lack of goals would come back to bite them where it hurts: Golden Boot Award stats!

Coach Graham Tweddle's tactics to counter the team malaise was to offer David Toynbee as an extra player to Castaways to even up the teams at 10 aside, which he accepted, gladly knowing he would have a roving commission up front with all the knowledge of team tactics and player weaknesses.

Unfortunately, within minutes, Castaways capitalized on a mix-up in defence that allowed Castaways to score the equalizer with a powerful shot that gave Brown no chance of a save.

But after fine moves down the right wing, a cross-field to the far left found Mike Berndt able to not only control the ball but to finish with a fine volley to restore the lead. It was the first goal for Berndt as an Old Boy.

Within minutes of the go-ahead goal, Old Boys fell asleep at the defence and allowed a second tying goal.

In possession of two assistant referees flags, I was busy signalling S.O.S. messages by semaphore to coach Tweddle. It seemed to work as with 10 minutes remaining a fine move from the productive right side of the formation saw Mark Aston provide Mike McCormick an opportunity to use his effective "toe-poke" shooting style to give the Old Boys a 3-2 lead.

As is the case with all the great teams, the Old Boys found a way to win ugly and maintain their winning streak in March. They may have been lucky to escape with a win but are optimistic that the "body clocks" will be synchronized for next week's game at Victor Brodeur in Esquimalt at noon. (If anyone finds Cooperman can they please contact the team help line at 1-800-OLD-BOYS so that we can make arrangements for his safe return.)

YOUTH SOCCER

Spring soccer league blooms

Snow-free games imagined



Malcolm Legg
SOCCER
ROUND-UP

The daffodils are up, the snow is receding and another soccer season is drawing to a close as league play has ended and cup play winds down.

For the Salt Spring United soccer club, the season is not fully over, as once again we are happy to announce our partnership with Windsor Plywood to bring a five-a-side spring league for young and old, boys, girls and adults.

This year the league is tentatively set to run at the SIMS fields in Ganges and will operate every Wednesday from April 10 to June 12.

This year's groupings will be as follows: Boys 7 to 10 year olds, Girls 7 to 10 year olds, Boys 11 to 14 year olds, Girls 11 to 14 year olds and Adult Co-ed, which can include youths 15 and older. We will also have a new group offered, which will be open to women and girls 15 and older, a group designed for those ladies who wish to play but not in a co-ed set-up.

Spring league fees are the same as last year: \$15 for youths, and \$60 for adults for the 10 weeks and include a T-shirt as in previous years.

The program will have youth coaches assisting the youth teams, under the tutelage of technical director Josip Bratanovic, and all games will have youth and adult referees centering the games under the guidance of myself, as well as Daniel Squizzato and Daniel Margolese.

Although we are at the school fields, Maggie will have a partial concession in operation for those looking for food and refreshments.

The league will once again be based around the motto "Soccer is Fun" and follow all FIFA Fair Play concepts.

So get signed up now so we can get the teams put together for another spring league full of soccer action.

Contact me at mallegg@shaw.ca for more info and registration is done through our website at www.saltspringsoccer.com.

In other soccer news, keep an eye out on our website for the following:

- SS United Academy training sessions with the new Pacific FC (of the new Canadian Soccer League) and with Andrew Latham, technical director of LISA.

- Spring break eight-a-side games: game times for players to play some fun soccer over the March 16-31 spring break period.

- The SS United Soccer Classic Showcase on Saturday, April 27 at Portlock Park, where our club will showcase the whole program in our annual wrap-up tourney and fun soccer games.

- An exhibition of walking soccer, which is a new form of playing the beautiful game.

- Registration for the 2019-20 soccer season is available on the website.

- Details of our soccer academy program for 2019-20.

For now enjoy the tail end of our winter season and get yourself pumped for the spring league. I know I am excited for soccer without snow!



Islands Trust

Rezoning and OCP Amendments for Commercial Lands

Bylaws 174 & 175

PUBLIC HEARING

MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What are the bylaws about?

Proposed Bylaw 174 amends policies in the Mayne Island Official Community Plan (OCP), and Bylaw 175 amends regulations in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) for land inside and outside Miners Bay by:

- Creating a commercial core for Miners Bay
- Expanding commercial OCP designations and allowing flexibility between commercial and residential uses in Miners Bay
- Increasing Development Permit Areas (DPAs) in Miners Bay
- Allowing a broader range of uses in some commercial areas
- Allowing increased residential density in some areas
- Removing a small portion of industrial zoning and making minor amendments to home occupation regulations

Monday
March 25, 2019
CIM - 1 p.m.
Public Hearing
to follow CIM

Mayne Island
Agricultural Hall
430 Fernhill Road,
Mayne Island

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by
the proposed
bylaws

Enquires?
Gary Richardson,
Island Planner
g Richardson@islandstrust.bc.ca
250-405-5157

How do I get more information?

A copy of the bylaw and other information is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, March 11 to 22, 2019.

Or visit:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/mayne/CLR

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., March 22, 2019 to:

- Islands Trust, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8 or
- Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca, or
- In person at the Public Hearing