



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

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59th year
Issue 20

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

MOB MENTALITY: Salt Spring's Gretta Hildebrandt, left, and LeeAnn Norgard are seen at the head of a combined Shimmy Mob team from Cowichan Valley and the island as they perform their final flash mob dance of the day on the Ganges boardwalk on Saturday, following five other appearances in Duncan, Crofton and on Salt Spring. The international event raises funds for victims of domestic violence on World Bellydance Day.

VANDALISM

Downtown windows broken again

Four storefronts damaged

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Windows were broken in three Ganges buildings early Sunday morning, with four different businesses affected.

Salt Spring RCMP responded to the Capital Regional District office on McPhillips Avenue, RE/MAX realty and Pod in the Creekhous building on Fulford-Ganges Road, and the Bumper auto parts store on Jackson Avenue.

Some of the businesses have been targeted in the past. The Creekhous building has had multiple instances of vandalism in the past year and the CRD office has also been hit.

CRD parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington told the Driftwood on Monday that no entry had been gained to the office and that efforts were underway to repair

the damage. Ovington said it could be weeks before the repairs were complete.

Police canvassed local businesses in an attempt to get video surveillance of the suspect. One witness described seeing two people fleeing one of the scenes, but was unable to give RCMP a description.

Several organizations in the community have taken notice. The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce has held a few meetings on the subject of downtown security and invited members of the Community Economic Development Commission to attend.

Commissioner Darryl Martin was at two of the chamber events and reported on them at the CEDC's Monday meeting at the library.

"The problem hasn't gone away on its own," he said. "We have fragmented governance, the RCMP are on their own and understaffed."

"This small group is trying to find a vehicle to coordinate these different groups out there . . . to come to some kind of solution to the problem," he added.

One of the suggestions arising from the meetings is for business owners to invest in cameras and motion-activated lights. The CEDC discussed possible funding for some programs to enhance security, including a grant for cameras and lights. The Ganges Visitors Centre has used a CRD grant-in-aid to help fund that equipment. The idea of retaining a consultant to help do some community engagement in Ganges was also floated at the meeting, to be discussed further at a later date.

Anyone with information on this weekend's activities is asked to contact the Salt Spring Island RCMP detachment at 250-537-5555 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Zen Master Wolfgang says:

"Evolutionists have proof without certainty. Creationists have certainty without proof."

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

ORANGE TIDE: Non-toxic *Noctiluca scintillans* has made a return to island waters, with the distinctive bright orange algal bloom seen here at Burgoyne Bay on Saturday. Salt Spring plankton specialist Nicky Haigh says the alga tends to appear following the spring diatom bloom in late April or early May.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Killer whales get new protections

Interim sanctuaries and vessel limits announced

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The federal government has announced enhanced measures to support the recovery of the southern resident killer whales, with a new set of regulations released Friday that will address the threats of prey limitation, physical and acoustic disturbance and contaminants in the marine ecosystem.

Changes that will impact users of critical whale habitat include increased setbacks on whale watching activity, the establishment of temporary feeding sanctuaries and salmon fishery closures.

At Friday's news conference, Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, and Terry Beech, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Transport, noted the SRKW population is small and declining, with only 75 individuals left.

"The Government of Canada has formally recognized that these whales face imminent threats to survival and recovery, and we understand that saving these iconic mammals requires comprehensive and immediate action," they stated in a news release.

The enhanced measures build upon regulatory changes that began last June. They were informed by consultations with First Nations, stakeholders and coastal communities and the work of five technical working groups comprised of First Nations, government, and scientific and stakeholder advisors.

To maximize protections in three key foraging areas, interim sanctuary zones will be created off Pender Island, Saturna Island and at Swiftsure Bank. No vessel traffic will be permitted in those areas from June 1 to Oct. 31, with some exceptions for emergency and Indigenous vessels.

Also as of June 1, vessels will be required to stay at least 400 metres away from all killer whales. Exceptions will be made

for commercial whale watching companies with the Pacific Whale Watch Association, who will be allowed to approach transient killer whales up to 200 metres, with authorization.

Whale disturbance from larger commercial vessels and shipping traffic is hoped to be reduced through a new five-year conservation agreement between the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the Pacific Pilotage Authority, and the Chamber of Shipping of BC, the Shipping Federation of Canada, the Cruise Lines International Association, the Council of Marine Carriers and the International Ship Owners Alliance of Canada. The agreement commits the signing parties to develop and implement threat reduction measures.

Recreational and commercial salmon fisheries will be closed in several key foraging areas to address prey availability issues, along with the pilot implementation of a voluntary bubble in the vicinity of killer whales. The DFO has also committed to releasing an additional one million juvenile chinook annually from Chilliwack Hatchery for five years.

Enhanced regulatory control is being put onto five key persistent organic pollutants (flame retardants, oil and gas repellents) to address marine contamination, while two toxic flame retardants are being prohibited.

The David Suzuki Foundation, Ecojustice, Georgia Strait Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, Raincoast Conservation Foundation and WWF-Canada issued a joint statement saying they commended the new protections. The six organizations have been advocating for urgent and concrete action since January 2018, when they petitioned the federal government to issue an emergency order under the Species At Risk Act.

"The UN's stark report on the world's biodiversity crisis, released earlier this week, made it clear that governments around the world must take transformative action to prevent species collapse. Southern resident killer whales are among the one million species at risk of extinction now. Ecojustice is encouraged by the suite of measures the federal government introduced today, especially where those measures are legally enforceable," said Ecojustice lawyer Olivia French.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Bull elk visits Hedger Road property

Single male spotted

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Roosevelt elk have made another appearance on Salt Spring, with a single young male spotted on Hedger Road over the weekend.

Roy Cronin said he was looking out at his back yard on Friday when he noticed three or four deer that were frozen and staring toward the front yard. When he looked that way he was surprised to see an elk eating leaves from his fruit trees.

"He had the little bumps of antlers just starting," Cronin reported.

Cronin has seen elk before on a golf course in Langford, but this experience was a first. When two Roosevelt elk were seen traversing the south end of the island for a week or so last April, it was the first time the animals had been reported on Salt Spring since the 1950s.

They disappeared soon after.

Cronin said Tuesday morning the elk he saw had returned to his yard several times over the weekend, but not since Saturday.

"I was pretty amazed," Cronin said. "I hope he comes back — it's not something you see every day. Most of the deer can't reach nearly as high as he does, so he has lots to eat."

After last year's visit by two young bulls, the B.C. Conservation Office explained there are several large herds near the Cowichan Valley that may be splitting off. It's possible that elk could swim to Salt Spring through Sansum Narrows.

Hunting elk is not permitted on Salt Spring and would be considered poaching. Roosevelt elk are on the provincial Blue List. Limited numbers of permits for the Vancouver Island herds are released each year through lottery by the Fish and Wildlife Branch.



PHOTO BY ROY CRONIN

Elk seen on Hedger Road property Friday.

The conservation office has requested receiving direct reports from anyone who sees elk or other wildlife on Salt Spring.

Sightings, as well as reports about Wildlife Act violations, can be made to the RAPP Line (Report All Poachers and Polluters) toll free at 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP), or by visiting www.rapp.bc.ca.

Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood** office will be **closed on Monday, May 20 - Victoria Day** and will reopen for usual business hours on Tuesday, May 21.

Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday May 22 edition will be as follows:

Display Advertising deadline:
Wednesday, May 15, 12 noon

Classified Display Deadline:
Wednesday, May 15, 12 noon

Classified Word Deadline:
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NEWS BRIEFS

Island firm among award winners

A Salt Spring-based company was among participants in a project that has received an award of excellence for rural/small town planning.

Fraser Simpson Consulting Inc., led by Jean Simpson, provided services to the Cowichan Valley Regional District's Cowichan Bay Village Vitalization Strategy, among other professional organizations.

Announced on Monday, the award was one of several given to Vancouver Island planning projects by The Canadian Institute of Planners.

According to a press release, the jury said "The focus on 'placekeeping' and the inclusion of planning to manage water-based activities speaks to the innovative approaches adopted in the [Cowichan Bay Village Revitalization Strategy] – an interesting coastal project by a small community. The strategy also had a strong supporting implementation brochure and was effective in identifying immediate steps that can be done with minimal time/effort to improve the area, including estimating budgets and timeframes. The strategy is an excellent example of the power of rural and small communities to find locally relevant solutions."

CIPs awards are the highest level of recognition the institute bestows on professional planning projects. In 2019, 37 submissions were received across 11 categories from across Canada. Projects were rigorously evaluated over three months by the jury, which was comprised of planning professionals from across the country.

BC Ferries meeting on Friday

Salt Spring Islanders are invited to attend the semi-annual meeting of the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee and BC Ferries personnel.

It takes place on Friday, May 17 from 2:15 to 4:45 p.m. at the Crofton Room at the Harbour House Hotel.

The meeting provides an opportunity for BC Ferries to update the community and for members of the public to provide input on ferry-related issues.

For more information, contact BC Ferries public affairs manager Darin Guenette at darin.guenette@bcferries.com.

MARINE RESCUE

RCMSAR assists vessel near Penelakut

Training session leads to hands-on experience

Junior members with Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Unit 25 Salt Spring were pulled into duty unexpectedly during a training exercise last Wednesday.

Coxswain Paul FitzZaland, along with regular crew members Mike Murphy and Paul Zolob, were heading out into Stuart Channel on a training session with junior members Erin Kelly, Kaylee Lapierre and Stella Pingle when they were tasked by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria to



PHOTO COURTESY RCMSAR UNIT 25

RCMSAR members, from left, Stella Pingle, Mike Murphy, Kaylee Lapierre, Erin Kelly and Paul FitzZaland respond to a tasking on Wednesday, May 8. Pingle, Lapierre and Kelly are junior members who were training with regular unit members at the time.

assist a vessel that had run aground in Clam Bay on the east side of Penelakut Island.

The crew arrived on

scene to find a 45-foot sailboat aground close to the shore. The three people on board were not hurt and the vessel

was not damaged or taking on water. RCMSAR 25 was asked by JRCC to stand by until a commercial tow operator

from Nanaimo arrived on scene to help tow the boat out to deeper waters.

The unit's junior members are Grade 11 and 12 students from the work experience program at Gulf Islands Secondary School. They started training to become crew members in February.

"This unexpected tasking was an opportunity for them to experience how a fast-response vessel operates when responding to a marine emergency," said RCMSAR 25 spokesperson Mike Murphy.

A grant from the Salt Spring Foundation makes possible the junior members' training by funding the fuel and equipment for their program.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Dragonfly appeals to NSSWD

Water system ownership discussed at board meeting

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Dragonfly Commons affordable housing project proponents have asked the North Salt Spring Waterworks District to assume control of their project's water system.

Dragonfly Commons project lead Fernando dos Santos explained to the NSSWD board of trustees at their May 9 meeting that the project had hit a snag in the regulatory process. Water issues have plagued the 30-unit development since 2017, when it was discovered that water systems providing five or more hookups require a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the provincial government. The CPCN requires systems to be built to municipal standards and comes with a price tag of between \$500,000 and \$2,000,000. The high costs would have driven the price of the units out of reach of their target demographic.

Dragonfly's model shifted to affordable rentals, which would have solved the water issue, since the Water Utility Act allows an exemption that lets well owners supply water to tenants. However, the developers don't intend to operate the project, planning instead to partner with another organization.

In the fall of 2018, negotiations with potential partners stalled. The high cost of construction combined with a static funding model from BC Housing made the project financially unviable.

"The reason it works as an affordable housing project is that when we sell these units, they will be substantially below the current market level. They're not as cheap as we were hoping, but they are relatively affordable, like three to four hundred thousand per unit ... That works, they would sell very easily," he said.

However, Dos Santos explained that the way forward was to return to the home ownership model, and to ask NSSWD to take over ownership and operation of the water system after it becomes operational.

"It won't work if you just manage it, because the province won't accept that," Dos Santos said in the meeting. "They'll still force us to become a CPCN unless there's a permanent solution and a management contract is not a permanent solution."

"Basically, our project is at a point now that we're hooped," he added. "We're frustrated and tired.

We put a lot of effort into this project and we're just dead in the water, pardon the pun."

The water on the property feels it would not conflict with the NSSWD moratorium on new hookups, since the source of the water is on the property. Tests on neighbourhood wells showed no impact when the Dragonfly wells were running at the required 1,600 litres per unit per day.

"Your biggest problem with expansion right now has to do with the moratorium. Because our water system comes with its own independent water supply, we feel it doesn't conflict with your moratorium," he added.

Other solutions from the district would also be welcome, Dos Santos said. The board voted to refer the presentation to staff to report back on at a later meeting.

Michael McAllister chaired Thursday's meeting, replacing long-time chair Marshall Heinekey, who retired from the board after his last term ended. Newly elected trustee Sandra Ungerson also sat at the board table for the first time.

TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

MAY 2019 HNP Z+8

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
15	0156	3.3	10.8	19	0348	3.1	10.2
	0841	1.4	4.6		1103	0.4	1.3
	WE 1451	2.5	8.2		SU 1858	3.2	10.5
	ME 1951	1.7	5.6		DI 2336	2.5	8.2
16	0225	3.2	10.5	20	0418	3.1	10.2
	0915	1.0	3.3		1141	0.3	1.0
	TH 1606	2.7	8.9		MO 1948	3.3	10.8
	JE 2047	2.0	6.6		LU		
17	0253	3.2	10.5	21	0040	2.6	8.5
	0950	0.7	2.3		0448	3.0	9.8
	FR 1709	2.9	9.5		TU 1220	0.4	1.3
	VE 2142	2.2	7.2		MA 2038	3.3	10.8
18	0320	3.2	10.5	22	0151	2.7	8.9
	1026	0.5	1.6		0519	2.9	9.5
	SA 1805	3.1	10.2		WE 1259	0.4	1.3
	SA 2238	2.4	7.9		ME 2126	3.3	10.8

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HEALTH CARE

Rural medical service honoured

Dr. David Goranson prepares for local practice

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring resident who has spent many years serving rural B.C. Interior communities is looking forward to transferring his practice to the island within the year.

Dr. David Goranson has owned property on Salt Spring since 2010. While some may recognize his face from his stints as a locum or at one of the advanced training courses he's brought to the island, most of his professional time in recent years has been spent in the small West Kootenay community of Nakusp. Last month, Goranson received a Fellowship of Rural and Remote Medicine Award from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada in recognition of his many years of rural service.

Goranson grew up on a farm in rural Saskatchewan



PHOTO COURTESY DR. DAVID GORANSON

Dr. David Goranson with the Fellowship of Rural and Remote Medicine Award he received from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada earlier this year. Goranson has owned property on the island since 2010 and will be establishing his Salt Spring practice with Dr. Ron Reznick next year.

and has deep ties to Canada's socialist approach to medicine: his grandfather was one of the founders of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party and was a cabinet minister in Tommy Douglas' provin-

cial government.

Goranson interned in Edmonton and then worked in Revelstoke and Nakusp in his early career. He and his wife, who is also a doctor, settled in the latter community but

were also in Montreal for some years. Then from 1989 to 2001, the family lived in White Rock so Goranson could take a job in the emergency department at Peace Arch Hospital.

During this time Goranson was also very involved in environmental initiatives, especially those having to do with protection of lakes, streams and rivers. He worked with Elizabeth May and David Suzuki, and founded two organizations.

"I had a very active life in the environmental sphere, but I was badly burned out by everything," he explained.

In his mid-40s, Goranson ended his job at Peace Arch and restarted his career. He brought advanced emergency, trauma and life support courses to Salt Spring, and then took a job back in Nakusp, "partly because they were absolutely desperate."

Nakusp itself has around 1,200 people, but the catchment for Arrow Lakes Hospital is from 5,000 to 7,000. It takes at least three doctors to serve the population and to cover the ER shifts, Goranson said, and the two doctors who were there were so frustrated they were almost ready to walk away.

Goranson was intending to start practising on Salt Spring soon after buying the house, but continued to respond to the smaller community's need. He plans to join Dr. Ron Reznick by 2020. The two have been friends since attending medical school in Saskatoon.

"We're going to hopefully start a pilot as an innovative centre for new health information and technology," Goranson reported.

Goranson actually had a lifelong aversion to computers until 2014, when he was told that he'd have to stop working if he couldn't use the digital records systems. Once he learned how, he took such a shine to it that he developed research on how technology could aid the rural practice.

"It's sometimes hard to keep rural doctors. There are a lot of challenges," Goranson noted. "This research will benefit all Canadian patients, all Canadian providers and physicians. They can have their needs met and have an easier system to work with."

Goranson's practice in Nakusp is team-based, which means sharing information and patient care with an in-house pharmacist, nurse and records clerk. He sees a lot of value in bringing that approach to Salt Spring.

There are also existing aspects of island health care that Goranson is excited about. In addition to the fleet of good doctors and nurses, he pointed to the strong presence of allied health traditions, from naturopathy to massage. He's even interested in shamanic methods practiced locally.

Ultimately, Goranson's medical approach traces a direct lineage from his social Prairie roots.

"I'm a great believer in access for everybody. My main interest has always been to offer service to everyone — all comers, no matter what. That's where I'm from and where Ron's from," he said.

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For more information, please contact:

Harold Swierenga, Chair
Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee
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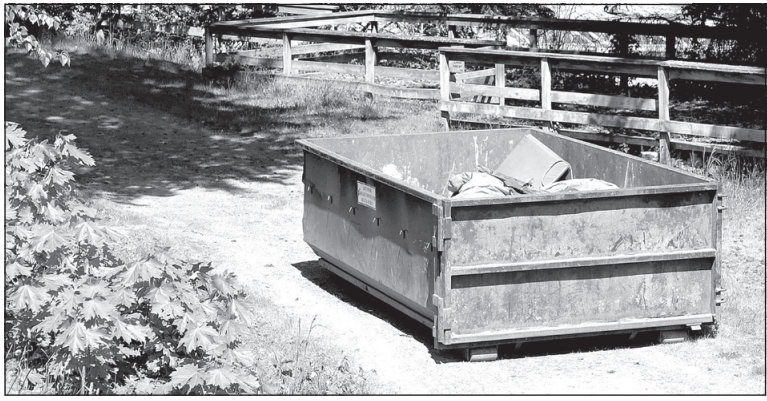


PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Dumpster placed by abandoned Ganges boardwalk on CRD/Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission property holds contents of a recent clean-up effort.

RCMP, CRD and fire department called

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Complaints about people camping, drinking and having campfires near the derelict boardwalk in Ganges Harbour have resulted in an eviction and clean-up by CRD staff.

Parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington explained that the CRD has a foreshore lease in the area near Lower Ganges Road and Park Drive, where a derelict section of boardwalk is built along the shoreline. The upland area is also owned by the CRD and is zoned for

park use. After multiple complaints were received from people about the campers, CRD bylaw enforcement and RCMP officers presented the campers with a 24-hour eviction notice on May 5.

A wooden structure had been built under the boardwalk with tents and a large amount of garbage, said Ovington. Several CRD staff members were called to clean up the mess. A large dumpster was brought to the area after the eviction to help haul out the garbage on May 8.

"These types of clean-ups not only have a significant impact to the PARC budget but pulls our staff away from their regular park and maintenance duties, negative-

ly impacting our other park users," Ovington said.

Salt Spring Fire Rescue had been called to the location in the past few weeks to investigate smoke from the campfire. On all occasions they found the fires to be properly constructed and safe.

"We have responded there quite a few times," said Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George. "When you're driving by it and there's smoke coming from the boardwalk area, it could be concerning to people seeing it and thinking maybe the boardwalk is on fire . . . We actually didn't extinguish the fires and allowed them to continue on."

The campers did not appear to be locals, Ovington said.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

Windsor House to close

Unanimous vote closes school after two months of consultation

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District will close Windsor House School, a school based in Metro Vancouver, after two months of consultation with the community.

Trustees voted unanimously at a special meeting on Monday to close the school at the end of this school year.

"It's not an easy process, of course, and we've been working on it for the last two months to ensure that we get as much information as possible, and move forward in the best way possible," said school board chair Rob Pingle.

A notice of motion to close the school was called at the board's March meeting, which started a 60-day community consultation and feedback period. The motion listed the financial difficulties as well as the challenges in supporting and supervising a school that is outside the district's geographic area as reasons for the closure.

Since March the board has received feedback from parents, students, community members and alumni of the school. A public meeting was held at Windsor

House on April 4 to discuss the changes with those affected by the closure.

More than 60 emails were received through a special email address set up for the consultation. A petition with over 2,000 names was also presented to the board.

"We understand the great difficulty that this has," Pingle added. "It comes back to the ability of our district facing the financial burdens and ensuring that the students within our geographic region are served to the greatest extent."

Windsor House was taken under the mantle of SD64 in 2011 from the North Vancouver School District. In 2015, the school went to a distributed campus model as it was unable to maintain a physical building. Costs of transportation and supervision associated with that model added to the strain.

Windsor House will remain open until the end of the school year. The district will work with staff and families to ensure that the closure has as small an effect as possible.

"We will provide whatever assistance that we can within our School Act obligations to ensure that the students who are attending Windsor House find the best solution for them in September," Pingle said. "We know that's going to be very hard to do, but I have confidence in the staff that they will do their best to deal with this very unique situation."

EMERGENCY preparedness

Emergency Support Services: Take Ownership of your Emergency Resources

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



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Safer travels

Traffic levels have risen with the temperatures this month, reminding us that driving safely is a serious issue on Salt Spring.

May 14 to 20 is Canada Road Safety Week and the perfect time to preach better, safer and slower driving practices.

First the good news: Canadian Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision Statistics note that the number of fatalities per 100,000 population (5.0) in Canada in 2017 was the lowest on record; and that the 9,960 serious injuries from motor vehicle crashes was down 7.4 per cent from 2016. But another 155,000 Canadians are injured annually, if not "seriously," while on roads and in vehicles. Transport Canada estimates the cost to society at \$37 billion annually.

Impaired driving, distracted driving and driving while fatigued are all major factors.

THE ISSUE:
Salt Spring driving safety

WE SAY:
Lower speed limit on Fulford-Ganges Road

Then there is the impact of vehicle speed and challenging road conditions. A few weeks ago, island resident Grant Grayson proposed through a letter to the editor the reduction of the speed limit on the curving parts of Fulford-Ganges Road. A recent crash near the Slegg Lumber site underscored the problem of having an 80 km/h speed limit in that area.

In fact, few stretches of Fulford-Ganges Road between Ganges and Fulford are suitable for 80 km/h travelling. That's especially the case as population and vehicle levels on Salt Spring continue to rise and because the road has not been paved since 1986.

A preliminary attempt to have the Ministry of Transportation reduce the speed limit on the island's main road several years ago was not successful, but it is time to take another run at making a change. Whether through the Salt Spring Transportation Commission, Capital Regional District, Chamber of Commerce or an ad hoc citizens body, the regional transportation ministry office must be contacted about this issue.

Even dropping the speed limit to 70 km/h on our main road would boost safety substantially. Transport Canada estimates that even a one per cent reduction in speed reduces the chance of a fatal collision by five per cent. Let's make the effort for safer travelling.

According to the Road Safety Monitor, almost 27 per cent of Canadian road fatalities in 2015 involved a drinking driver. Drugs other than alcohol are found in 42.4 per cent of tested fatally injured drivers, but ICBC has found that distracted driving now causes more motor vehicle accidents than impaired driving.



The growth conundrum

BY FRANTS ATTORP

When the family heirlooms are put up for auction, it's usually a sign of desperation. But here on Salt Spring, the sale of our collective treasures is being touted as "a creative solution."

There are numerous proposals being presented by housing advocates to address the housing crisis. Some, including projects already underway, make perfect sense and deserve our full support, while others have a huge downside that threatens the rural fabric of this island.

Particularly troublesome are proposals involving density increases on large holdings to allow for "ecovillages" and conservation initiatives. While the intent is noble, offering "financial incentives" (i.e. higher densities) in exchange for amenities may prompt more landowners to cash in on the lucrative real estate market.

There's also the possibility that private citizens, representing special interest groups, will start scouting out properties for their pet projects, and may even approach landowners to see what kind of "deal" can be reached. How many eco-villages can we look forward to — five, 15 or 50? As demonstrated by

VIEWPOINT

recent logging on the island, the Trust needs better tools to govern activities on private land. But we should think carefully before we start trading densities for green space. There are hundreds of acreages on the island that could be classified as ecologically sensitive, and the aggressive promotion of amenity zoning could trigger a new subdivision trend.

If the Trust implements the land acquisition strategies now on the table, it will be an admission that it has failed as a regulatory agency to control growth. Securing pockets of green space while letting the rest go to development is an urban concept that is contrary to the "preserve and protect" mandate.

It is important to note the process by which we arrived at this point. Amazingly, we had an election where not a single candidate ran on an environment-first platform. The focus was almost entirely on housing, with little discussion of the prime role of the Islands Trust which, in its own words, is "to control unbridled development and to preserve and protect the islands."

The "solutions" now being presented to the community are neither modest nor limited in scope; they are broad and sweeping and involve a total remake of the island. Somehow, a major, new template for the future has piggybacked on the housing issue, all without full and proper discussion.

It behooves the Trust to clearly identify "the limits of our environment to absorb continued development," and to ensure the housing situation is addressed within the context of the Islands Trust Policy Statement and our official community plan. While some of the terms in the documents are undefined and open to interpretation, the spirit and intent are crystal clear: environmental protection trumps everything.

Current zoning already guarantees a population of at least 17,000, 40 per cent more than today's 12,000. Given the push for higher densities, that number will have to be revised significantly upwards. The island is clearly entering a new era of growth and deal making that has put our rural landscape up for grabs.

The writer is a Salt Spring Island resident.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the speed limit be lowered to 70 km/h on Fulford-Ganges Rd.? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should the province provide relief for high gas prices? YES NO

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: }

"We put a lot of effort into this project and we're just dead in the water, pardon the pun."

FERNANDO DOS SANTOS, DRAGONLY COMMONS

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

How can we improve security in Ganges?

RICHARD MILBURN



I would say more policing, but broader community services might help, especially if there are people in distress. Besides that, maybe unbreakable glass?

JEAN STEWART



If we had the answer it would have been done by now. Maybe we should have a town hall meeting to find out what can and can't be done legally, and get everyone's ideas on the matter.

ANDREW CROSSLEY



It's hard to tell, it's a conundrum. Perhaps the community will have to band together and figure things out.

MATT DEMERS



Maybe security vehicles could drive around and expand their resources.

WENDY CHARLTON



We need more visible walking officers.

LETTERS to the editor

Shoulder sweeping

I happily applaud the Driftwood's promotion of cleaning up Salt Spring for Earth Day.

One area that has been sorely missed is the shoulders of our narrow roadways and the cycling lanes that remain covered in gravel and sand. This condition adds up to further safety deficits for cycling around Salt Spring, forcing bicycles onto the main roadway and impeding traffic.

My understanding is that Mainroad, the private contractor tasked with our road maintenance, has it spelled out in their contract and gets paid every year to sweep the shoulders when they are unsafe to use, but they rarely bother unless a concerted effort is made by the public to force them to do their job. The last time all major roads on Salt Spring got such a sweeping was just before Velo Village in May 2012.

Given that both Islands Trust and the CRD have declared a climate emergency, it seems obvious to me that we need to create a lot friendlier environment for our cycling partners in order to encourage more folks to get

out of their cars and choose a much healthier alternative, for ourselves and planet Earth.

I would encourage everyone to take a moment to call Mainroad at 250-537-5722 or 1-877-391 7310 (South Island head office) to voice your safety concerns and if you get the typical bureaucratic runaround, try contacting our MLA, Adam Olsen, at 250-655-5600. Thank you!

GARY GAGNÉ,
BAKER ROAD

Just vote no

I have chosen to live on Salt Spring based on the preserve and protect mandate. This has enabled the community to retain a lot of the healthier aspects of rural living.

One of these aspects is that the electromagnetic pollution/radiation is lower than in urban areas, thus a person with sensitivities to this form of energetic air pollution can find pockets of low radiation to live in. I am one of these people.

Locating the large CREST communications tower in a densely occupied area day and night is inviting the cell companies to propose to the Legion to contract to colocate. Doing so would exponentially add to the radiation levels in the area,

which have been shown in many thousands of studies on RF/microwave to negatively impact the health of all living beings.

This would also be an aesthetic blight, as well as a noise and light pollution issue. Towers that would provide coverage need to be located away from where people live, i.e. up the mountain.

DEBORAH CRAN,
SALT SPRING

Residents not contacted

I would like to comment on your front-page article in last week's Driftwood in which CRD director Gary Holman was quoted as saying that he had personally contacted Lady Minto Hospital and Greenwood's Eldercare and was told they are not concerned about the monopole being located nearby.

What was he trying to show with that statement?

If he was suggesting that he had canvassed the neighbourhood, wouldn't he have approached myself, Graham Tweddle, or Will McKitka, who own the adjacent properties?

GRAHAM TWEDDLE,
GANGES

Emergency thanks

In the May 8 issue, the Driftwood provided a good introduction to the new emergency team, as well as recognition of the work done by former Emergency Program coordinator Elizabeth Zook and her deputy Laurel Hanley. I would like to add my personal thanks as well, particularly to Elizabeth.

As the CRD director for seven of the eight years Elizabeth was involved with the CRD Emergency Program, I became increasingly impressed with her passion for the complex task of dealing with supporting the emergency needs of the community and the sometimes frustrating complexities dealing with the CRD and CREST. A special thanks also to Elizabeth for taking on my CREST board of directors duties for several years.

I wish Elizabeth and Laurel well in their new well-deserved greater flexibility in their life choices.

WAYNE MCINTYRE,
FORMER CRD DIRECTOR,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Clean up before it's left for someone else to do

"At first I was trying to be my mother, asking what would she say about this piece of bric-a-brac. Suddenly, I realized I had to be my daughter. She'd be wondering why I'd bought it in the first place!"

We were enjoying coffee recently as one among us was telling us how she's already preparing for the day — sometime this year, she hopes — when Meadowbrook will be telephoning with good news: a suite is now available!

I remembered *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*, published last year, by Margareta Magnusson, a writer who styles herself as being between 80 and 100. Magnusson describes what my friend is doing as "death cleaning," methodically cleaning up "before yourself" instead of leaving it to somebody else to do it after your move or your death.

When I had to place my mother in assisted living, I was amazed to find a book on decluttering at the bottom of a foot of paper in a corner of her kitchen counter. Bless her heart! At least, she'd thought about sorting through her stuff. Sadly, though, her need to cling to everything she owned meant she couldn't follow through. So I devoted months to cleaning up after her, finding good homes for valuable antiques, but also needing a dumpster for what I considered trash.

These days I'm offering myself as a leader in what I'm calling "Eng(aging) Conversations." Two months ago the Ladysmith Maritime Society asked me to lead a chat on when it's time to sell your boat. Last month, I was at the Ladysmith Seniors Centre talking about downsizing our living spaces. It didn't take much talking on my part before the group of 25 were posing their individual



Helen Hinchliff
AGING WITH
GRACE

problems and offering each other possible solutions. Here are some principles we came up with:

Stop buying unnecessary items. Many of us buy way too much stuff; I know I do. I'm my mother's daughter, after all. So if you plunk me down at a garage sale, a silent auction for some fundraiser, or anywhere that's offering a bargain, I'm bound to come away with something I really don't need. If you do the same, maybe we should consciously try limiting ourselves to services, consumables, or tiny items that don't take up much space.

Identify good homes early. Lots of people I know have heirlooms and we want them to remain in the family. I come from a family of painters and have quite a few watercolours dating from as far back as my great-grandfather. I've had them all attractively framed and I enjoy looking at them every day. But I can't take them with me. Nor do I want to burden my stepdaughter with deciding who in my extended family should receive which ones. So I'm doing it now. Last summer I gave three of my grandfather's watercolours as a wedding gift to my nephew Carlo. I missed them at first, but their departure leaves space for something new.

This summer I'm giving two watercolours to Jamie, the son of my cousin Alice, who is also getting married. They seem meant for him, but to treasure them Jamie needs to know the stories they tell. One was painted in Rome in February 1924 just days before the birth of his grandfather (my uncle Carlo) and the other features a Parisian street scene painted that May. Carlo's nanny is pushing his pram while my mother and Aunt Dorette (three and two at the time) are running ahead while my grandparents look on fondly from the windows of their pension.

Be willing to stop clinging. Sometimes the next generation doesn't value our things as we do. For example, over in Ladysmith, Flo was expressing considerable anger and frustration that her granddaughter didn't want her ancient tea set. "But Grandma," she'd said, "we don't use tea cups anymore; we use mugs and I don't have time to polish silver." Someone across the room had the perfect answer: "Don't measure your granddaughter's love by whether or not she wants your tea set. Donate it to the thrift store and let someone else treasure it."

Recently, some people I know were preparing to move but had waited too long to get rid of their excess. Not only did they work themselves to exhaustion but they ran out of time. That meant they had to keep more stuff than they had room for. Too bad they didn't know about Magnusson's plan for methodical death cleaning. Go room by room. Start with clothing and assess each item: Does it fit? Is it fit to wear? Do I enjoy wearing it? If the answer is no, it's time to go. First thing next week I'm going to start cleaning before myself.

www.HelenHinchliff.com

We must accept that NSSWD supplies are limited

BY MAXINE LEICHTER

The Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society supports the North Salt Spring Waterworks District current policy/moratorium that limits new connections to their water supply system.

We ask the Salt Spring Island community to support this policy as prudent given current water supply conditions, while at the same time engaging in discussions about how to get water for affordable housing in and near Ganges.

Such discussions must respect the legal limitations placed on NSSWD. The NSSWD's letters patent granted by the province state that the sole purpose of NSSWD is to provide drinking water to its shareholders and properly maintain the works and distribution system. All of the costs to do this are paid for by NSSWD's customers. These

include residences and businesses in most of the north portion of the island, a portion south of Ganges, and the hospital, schools and other services and businesses in Ganges.

NSSWD water comes from St. Mary and Maxwell lakes but the district can only use that portion allowed by their provincial licence and an amount that can be replenished the following winter. Over half of the water NSSWD is allowed through its licence is lost to evaporation. If, as predicted, climate change brings warmer summers, evaporation will increase.

In past years, some water has still been available at the end of the dry season. However, NSSWD has to hold this remaining supply for those property owners who have been paying a parcel tax to NSSWD for years but have not yet built on their properties.

INDEPTH

NSSWD has commissioned studies, and based on the information received has determined that in order to assure a supply for current and promised customers, they cannot add other customers.

Community members are concerned that more efficient use of existing supplies and/or development of new supplies could theoretically make water available for affordable housing. Looking to the future, changes to provincial regulations could be investigated that would allow water districts to set limits on consumption. But under current legislation, the NSSWD is only able to limit the number of connections and not

the amount of water each connection uses. Therefore the district cannot allow more connections than can be supplied by known water resources.

Consideration of new water sources must recognize that the first responsibility of NSSWD is to its existing customers, who are unlikely to support paying additional costs to make water available for new users. Existing users are already under strict water conservation advisories during the dry season, feel they are conserving all that they can, are paying for the new water treatment plant on St. Mary Lake and may have to pay for a new treatment plant on Maxwell Lake.

Property owners who cannot get a connection to NSSWD are free to utilize rainwater catchment and/or explore drilling a well. This has

been done successfully by currently proposed affordable and seniors housing projects.

Discussion regarding addressing our water shortage must be done with understanding of the above-described financial, legislative and physical limitations. It is possible that, in time, circumstances may change, making it possible to ease the moratorium. But, for now, NSSWD cannot allow more connections than can be sustainably supplied by its known water resources. Therefore, we need to accept that NSSWD water supplies are limited and support responsible planning to equitably distribute the existing limited supply.

This piece is submitted on behalf of the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society board of directors.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Dangerous

The intersection of Stewart and Beaver Point roads has become a very dangerous place.

Stewart Road has a stop sign at the corner. Cars are supposed to stop there and wait until the way is clear before proceeding to the left or the right. Beaver Point Road is the through road. Cars

are NOT supposed to stop on it. Three times in one week recently while driving along Beaver Point Road towards Fulford, cars that have been stopped at the stop sign on Stewart Road have pulled out right in front of me.

I do not know what they were thinking. I did not have my right turn indicator on suggesting I might be going to turn right along Stewart Road. I was proceeding straight along Beaver Point, the through road. One

night, when I went around the bend into the intersection, I even put on my left indicator to indicate I was going straight on but the car stopped on Stewart Road still pulled out in front of me! If I had not been going considerably below the speed limit it is very likely that I would have been hit by these cars cutting across in front of me, but I was able to stop safely.

This is ridiculous as well as very dangerous. Will the people who come down

to the stop sign at Stewart Road please wait until the oncoming traffic has cleared the intersection before pulling out. The cars on Beaver Point Road have the right of way. If you do not wait, and therefore kill somebody, it will be your fault and that would be a very hard thing to live with.

ANNE ZELLER,
FULFORD

abattoir fundraisers, the library staff, and Sweetgrass Food caterers. If you have not received your ticket refund, please take it to Eat, Drink, Ferment as soon as possible.

For those who donated to the Music in the Library "seed money," be assured that the money is designated exclusively for that purpose. You will hear when new plans have been formed.

DEBBIE MAGNUSSON,
SALT SPRING

New plans coming

It was with regret and deep apologies from Jeff Warner that he needed to cancel his performances on Salt Spring last week.

An unforeseen medical situation prevented him from keeping the much anticipated evening at Beaver Point Hall and with students at the Music in the Library debut. Everyone was sorry to hear Jeff was not well enough to come and sent him their best wishes.

Thanks to all the understanding ticket-holders, the teachers and students, the

Ferry follies

Last Wednesday, the 6:25 a.m. Long Harbour ferry departure went as planned.

The elevator from the parking deck was broken so I followed some elderly passengers up the long steep stairs. In the restaurant for breakfast, the two exterior doors were controlled by a ghost and were opening and closing on their own, bringing gulps of fresh air inside.

At Sturdies Bay the front nose cone on the ship refused to operate correctly, so unloading and loading

was not possible. No problem — the Polish ship builders put a spare nose cone on the other end so we just backed out turned around and came in again.

Then came the announcement over the public address system. "Would the owners of the following cars . . . please return to the car deck so we can have you drive off, turn around in the parking lot and reboard."

After a while came another announcement: "Would the owner of the F150 truck with a gigantic dog in the cab please return to the car deck so we can turn the truck around."

After a while we backed out and turned around again. It seemed like Groundhog Day. Then we merrily sailed to Tsawwassen. On the car deck for departure, one side of the ship had all vehicles pointed in the direction for unloading and one side of the ship had all vehicles pointing the wrong way.

It was a beautiful day aboard.

BILL COTE,
SALT SPRING



Islands Trust

Have Your Say

When:
Wednesday,
May 22, 2019
CIM: 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.
Public Hearing to Follow CIM

Where:
Lions Hall: 103 Bonnet
Avenue, SSI

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by
the proposed
bylaw.

Enquires?
Patricia Maloney
Consultant
Planner
ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca
250-537-9144

Bylaw No. 515

Rezoning to Permit an Affordable Supportive Seniors Housing Complex, Service Club, and Medical Office

154 Kings Lane, SSI (Meadowlane)
PID: 003-106-756

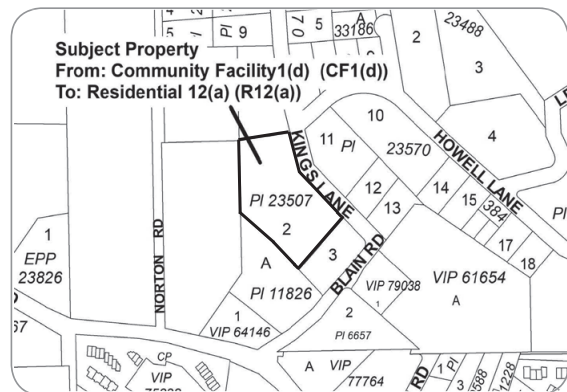
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What are the bylaw changes?

Bylaw No. 515 amends the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw to:

- Change the zoning of the subject property from Community Facility 1 variant [CF1(d)] to Residential 12 variant [R12(a)] which would permit 48 affordable seniors housing units, 2 dwelling units, a service club, and a dental and medical office with up to 12 medical practitioners.



How do I get more information?

Copies of the bylaws and other information is available at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays from May 8, 2019. Written submissions are welcome up until the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

A Community Information Meeting (CIM) to answer any questions about the proposed bylaw amendment will take place at 5:30 p.m. on May 22, 2019. The Public Hearing will commence immediately following the CIM.

Rants + ROSES

Rants

At 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 12 on Salt Spring Way, we were awakened with loud bangs that sounded like gunshots and then a round of firecrackers. Just want the inconsiderate knuckleheads to know that a 12-year-old dog shook uncontrollably and panted for one hour and did not settle down until 4 a.m. Shame on you. A. Muller

Roses

A big hug bouquet of roses to Dave Lewington for "passing it forward," with love from your mother-in-law.

A dozen red roses to the wonderful person who turned my wallet in to Country Grocer on Thursday afternoon. I am so grateful. HW

Sweet-smelling roses to Andy Hickman and his septic crew for their prompt service and getting us up and running. So grateful. Dianne and family

Thanks and armloads of yellow fragrant roses to Trish Nobile for doing such a fabulous job running the Salt Spring Folk Club. You make the final decision on all acts, you book all the acts, you are a fine MC and you then look after all fine details, to bring six great concerts a year to Fulford Hall. Bravo.

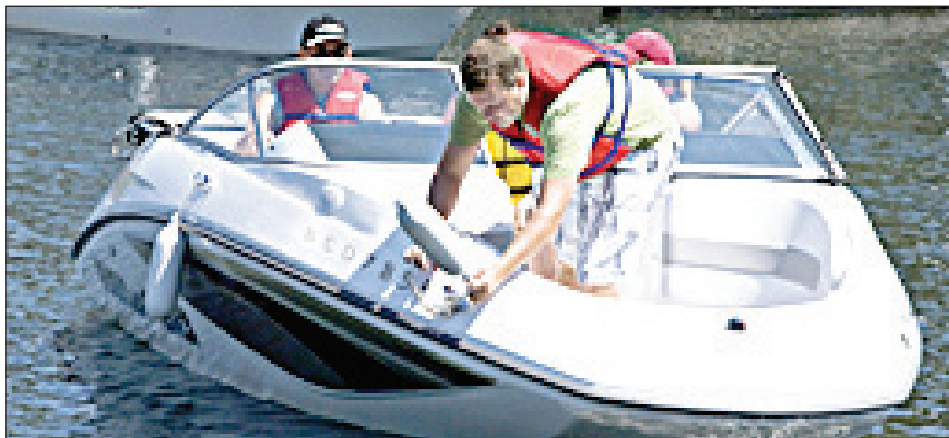
Valdy and Bill Henderson: What a fine Gumboot Gala. We send you pink, white and red roses as a thank you for all your work to organize the concert and then all your talent performing the fine music. You are much loved by your community.

An abundance of wild roses to all the Salt Spring community members that I met and got to know during my seven years living on Salt Spring. You have truly made an impact and helped transform me. I will be forever grateful. Much love, Julian

SAFE BOATING

BOATING

Enjoy the water safely



NEWSCANADA.COM PHOTO

Use of PFDs an essential safe boating practice.

Transport Canada advice

(NC) Enjoying the waterways is a favourite pastime for many Canadians when the weather warms up. Whether you're an experienced boater with your own boat or a novice renting one, it's always a good idea to brush up on key safety tips.

Here are a few essential safety tips Transport Canada wants you to keep in mind:

Prepare a trip itinerary with the route you plan to take, include the time of your return, details about your boat and the people going with you. Be sure to share this plan with someone staying on land.

The law requires all pleasure crafts in Canada to have an approved lifejacket or personal flotation device of appropriate size for everyone on board. Boating tragedies can be avoided by wearing them.

Before leaving the dock, check the weather, water body characteristics, tides and cur-

rents, and your fuel reserve. A good rule of thumb is to have one-third of fuel for the outward journey, one-third for the return and one-third in reserve.

Ensure these safety items are on board: nautical charts, buoyant heaving line, a bailer or manual pump, anchor with rope, manual propelling device (i.e. paddle), waterproof flashlight, first-aid kit, a way of communicating in an emergency (i.e. a cell phone or maritime radio).

Determine a safe speed based on the following factors:

- visibility conditions (fog, haze, rain, darkness, etc.), wind, water and current conditions;
- your ability to maneuver, traffic density, type of boat in the area and their proximity; and
- navigation obstacles, such as rocks.

Find more information at www.canada.ca/rental-boat-safety.

RCMSAR

Local RCMSAR unit has busy year

Taskings, training and service

BY MIKE MURPHY
RCMSAR UNIT 25

The last year was very productive for Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) Unit 25.

We responded to 15 taskings from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre and our average response time was under 20 minutes.

To ensure our unit could respond 24/7, 365 days per

year, our crew members were on pager for just under 30,000 hours in 2018. Our unit conducted 140 on-the-water training sessions which totalled just over 300 hours of time on the water.

These training sessions included joint exercises with other RCMSAR units and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Along with on-the-water training our members participated in another 104 hours of classroom training. This training involved: First aid, collision regulations, navigation, weather, seamanship

and radio communication.

Also in 2018, another 377 volunteer hours were put in by our members for community events, boating education, vessel maintenance, safety checks requested by boat owners, Kids Don't Float program and the junior program at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

None of this would be possible without the financial support of BC Gaming, Salt Spring Foundation, Royal Canadian Legion #92 Salt Spring and the Capital Regional District.

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May 18-24, 2019

SAFE BOATING WEEK

May 18-24, 2019

On the water with Salt Spring's Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue volunteers.



From left, Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 25 members Elvin Letchford, Tim Slaney (at the helm) and Rod Martens convene with Canadian Coast Guard vessel Cape Naden.



From left, RCMSAR #25 members Paul Fitzzaland, Makinsey Shmanka, Elvin Letchford and Christopher Strong.



From left, Salt Spring members Christopher Strong, Rose Bartman and Rod Martens with Galiano Island member Ken Morisette at the RCMSAR-sponsored life jacket loaner station at the Montague Harbour Provincial Park dock on Galiano.



2019 junior members from left are Nadia Sadoski-James, Cassidy Bellavance and Brianna Cudmore. Missing from the photo are Erin Kelly, Kaylee Lapierre and Stella Pingle.

RCMSAR Station 25 Members 2019

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EXHIBITIONS

ArtSpring lobby show charts forest impact

Bernadette Mertens-McAllister and Karin Millson share work

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The impact of the living forest and its destruction on two local artists gets explored at ArtSpring this month, where Karin Millson and Bernadette Mertens-McAllister share the lobby exhibition In/From/Of — The Forest.

Millson's body of work called Fibre Cycle: A Series is mainly focused on the living forest, with multimedia works that capture textures and tones in upcycled materials — a conscious effort not to destroy more trees in the act of revering them. Mertens-McAllister meanwhile provides a heart's cry against the destruction of trees that she personally has known and loved in the forest just beyond her back door.

Millson's methods were as eco-friendly as she could make them, while being conscious the collection forms part of the cycle and the conflict itself in the human use of trees as fibre.

As she explains in her artist's

statement: "This body of work demonstrates a mental struggle that I have. I want to be an environmentally responsible person living respectfully on this planet, yet I know that I can not but have a devastating effect on my immediate surroundings simply by being."

Using the shibori technique of working dye into folded and stitched fibres, Millson creates a thoughtful portrait of cedar bark in some framed panels, where corrugated ridges are brushed with acid green pastel to suggest lichen colonies.

Other works also suggest forest symbiosis; it's difficult to delineate where the tree surface leaves off and the fungi begins in organic blooms of rusty tea on moss green. Millson found paper used in these subtle collages deep in her collection of materials. Some of it was used to separate other items she'd dyed in the drying process.

A couple of colourful works reveal a visually playful side to the series but nonetheless have deep concept behind them. A piece of wooden utility pole bedecked with candy-bright chewing gum speaks to an English tradition for depositing such blobs in specific public places. History of Theatre likewise



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Bernadette Mertens-McAllister plays the recorder in front of her artworks commemorating lost trees at ArtSpring.

depicts another public space where items are thoughtlessly left behind, a pole that's ornamented with colourful threads, staples and tiny bits of bright paper left from event flyers.

Mertens-McAllister presents a multimedia series united by theme but expressed in different modes in each of the five pieces. The theme is wrenchingly sad for anyone who's connected with the natural world,

not just in general or abstract terms but with a specific place. In this case the place is just over the artist's property line, where 40-odd acres of mature trees are in the process of being clear-cut.

"Like any clear-cutting practice, my art displayed here seems to be done with negligence, disrespect and lack of beauty. It expresses my confusion and fear every time I hear the harassing noise of the chain-saw

a breath away from my doorstep," Mertens-McAllister explains in her statement.

To give a sense of how that works in practice, All Dead is a collection of photo images printed somewhat carelessly on regular thin paper. Each one is of a fresh tree stump — and each of the 60-plus photos is all that remains of a different felled tree. The photos are washed with red ink, but Mertens-McAllister leaves the stump faces a jarring white. The damage is further detailed by dangling red thread stitched through the photos.

The backdrop for all of this is a sunny, colourful painting the artist had previously done of a place in the forest that she calls the Heart Grove. The expressive, warm-toned painting is essentially obliterated by the thicket of dead tree portraits.

Another work features a trio of charcoal drawings. The main image depicts a pair of monumental tree stumps, with a crowd of tiny figures spread out at their feet. Accompanying images are darker, with much heavier charcoal. A target with a yellow bullseye sits squarely on the standing forest.

In/From/Of — The Forest can be seen at the ArtSpring lobby through the month of May.

MUSICIANS

Islander deepens Icelandic roots

Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx plays at 100th annual convention

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring singer-songwriter Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx will deepen her ties to two ancestral homelands this week when she travels to Manitoba for the 100th annual convention of the Icelandic National League of North America.

During the convention, Sigurgeirson Maxx will sing a number of original songs that pertain to her Icelandic heritage before leading the crowd in three Icelandic songs. Iceland's president Guðni Th Jóhannesson and his Canadian-born first lady Eliza Reid will be in attendance.

The Salt Spring artist was previously acquainted with the pair when she performed at the Icelandic National League convention in Reykjavik in 2016. During that trip, Sigurgeirson Maxx visited Iceland's West Fjords region for the first time, and saw the location of her great-grandmother's birthplace. On this trip she will visit the places her "lang amma" moved to as a child when her family immigrated to Canada, including the settler enclaves of Gimli, Selkirk and Hecla Island.

"I feel like I'm going on a journey of ancestral discovery. It's almost as strong as when I went to Iceland," Sigurgeirson Maxx said, noting she will be in Selkirk, the town where she was born and her great-grandmother died, exactly 110 years after her ancestor's birth.

Sigurgeirson Maxx explained that although she did not learn the language as a child, she has



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx seen on her 2016 visit to Iceland.

always felt very close to her Icelandic heritage. When she was very young her family lived in her paternal grandfather's house, where Icelandic was regularly spoken by the adults.

Cultural aspects such as food and holiday celebrations were passed on and are still important to her family tradition today. (Sigurgeirson Maxx is actually working on a book about a special Christmas cake that's beloved by Icelandic settler communities all across North America but fell out of style in Iceland over a century ago and is virtually unknown there today.)

Sigurgeirson Maxx has been learning Icelandic since her first trip to the country six years ago, and though a little nervous is happy to be leading the songs for the convention. She has also received strong response from that community to her own songs, written in English, that reflect on her heritage and her ancestors.

"I was pleasantly shocked by how many CDs sold when I was invited to sing at the convention when it was held in Vancouver three years ago," she said. "It just felt like my music was coming home."

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MUSIC EDUCATION

SIMS jazz ensemble collects gold

Individual members also honoured

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A sense that music is a valuable part of the learning experience and excitement about the possibilities are building at Salt Spring Island Middle School, where the program has seen fantastic growth this year under the direction of Keith Ollerenshaw.

The latest evidence of the program's strength came at the West Coast Jazz festival in Nanaimo, where SIMS' senior jazz ensemble competed with high school bands from around the province and came away with the gold medal on May 1. To top off the experience, each Salt Spring student who participated also received individual awards and/or scholarships to summer music camp at St. Michaels University School.

Ollerenshaw said he was not expecting those results when he asked the group to attend the festival, which is held at Vancouver Island University.

"I just wanted them to have

some practice — take them on the road, play a festival. And they did amazing," Ollerenshaw said.

The West Coast Jazz festival is an affiliate of MusicFest Canada, the arbiter of the national-level competition. SIMS band members played jazz standards and were adjudicated by two renowned musicians: Juno Award-winner Ken Lister and drummer/band leader Kelby MacNayr. Winning the gold medal means the ensemble has now qualified for the 2020 national competition in Calgary.

In the individual categories, Salome Cullen won the award for most outstanding drummer of the festival, although stacked up against high school level competitors. Other honours received were: Avery Charles, St. Michaels scholarship and Tapestry Music Award; Ewan Holmes, soloist award; Finnian Lee, St. Michaels scholarship and soloist award; Kai Stenstrom, soloist award; and El Thompson, St. Michaels scholarship.

Ollerenshaw acknowledged the awards are nice to have, but said more importantly, the experience shows what the middle school is



PHOTO COURTESY SIMS

Salt Spring Middle School jazz ensemble members, from left, Salome Cullen, Finnian Lee, Ewan Holmes, Avery Charles, El Thompson and Kai Stenstrom with teacher Keith Ollerenshaw. Band member Elvin Shoolbraid was unable to make the trip.

capable of when it comes to music.

"As a community, we should be really proud their work and excited about what's to come," he said, adding, "The students should be really proud because they worked really hard, but there's still a lot to do. There's always more growth."

SIMS's music program has received strong support from par-

ents and students over the past year. Ollerenshaw said there's a buzz that's reminiscent of past times of strong leadership under teachers Bruce Creswick and Mitch Howard, who both died.

"I'm trying to match the standard that teachers like Mitch and Bruce established," Ollerenshaw said. "This feels like we're headed in the right direction."

LIVE THEATRE

Island girl takes lead role in Matilda musical

Lauren Bowler also stars in Arts Club production

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When the Arts Club Theatre Company opens the curtain on the smash hit Matilda the Musical in Vancouver this Thursday, a Salt Spring girl will be acting, singing and dancing her way across the stage in the title role.

Islanders may recognize 11-year-old Georgia Acken as a tenacious busker at the Salt Spring Saturday Market, where she spent many hours singing last season. She's put that experience into her toolkit, along with classes at Arts Umbrella and other theatre schools, for her very first professional role.

"I'm very very nervous but I'm also very excited," Georgia said about the prospect of opening night.

Based on the beloved book by Roald Dahl, Matilda the Musical is the winner of over 50 major international awards, including 12 for best musical. It won seven Olivier Awards in 2012 — the most ever won by a single show at the time — and then five Tony Awards in 2013.

The musical's heroine is a little girl "with astonishing wit, intelligence, and psychokinetic powers," who sets to rights bad parents and an even worse school headmistress.

"At the core it's about finding the courage and the means to stand up to all the bullies in the world. The hope of the production crew is to communicate that message," Georgia's dad James Acken explained.

Georgia has spent the last month in Vancouver for rehearsals, with her parents switching off between homes in Salt Spring and the city. Those rehearsals have run for eight hours a day, six days a week. It's a huge commitment, but one that Georgia has willingly embraced. Matilda is her favourite musical, which she's been listening to since she was six.

Georgia's dad believes that her experience busking in the Saturday Market may



PHOTO BY MOONRIDER PRODUCTIONS

Georgia Acken as Matilda, in costume by Cory Sincenne.

have been her best preparation for taking a highly visible leading role, since it requires face-to-face interaction with an audience on a weekly basis. It also means making sure she stands her ground and doesn't get elbowed out of the way by other buskers competing for the space.

"I love playing Matilda because with all this chaos in her life she is so strong. She doesn't just let it happen — she stands up to the bullies. And she's magic," Georgia said.

Georgia discovered the Arts Club production when her mom Daniella was looking for audition opportunities on her behalf. When they first looked into it, it appeared the role of Matilda had been filled, but it turned out the production would be using two actresses and still had one space to fill. (The original production in London's West End had four different girls take turns with the part.)

After her first audition Georgia received a call-back for the following day.

"Two weeks later I got a call that I got it, and I freaked out," she said.

"Georgia has been focused on this 110 per cent," Acken said. "Seeing her walk up onto the professional stage for the first time, it was a moment, for sure. There were tears."

Georgia has become best friends with the other Matilda, Thailey Roberge, who got to play the part in the previews this week. Another friendly cast member is Lauren Bowler as Matilda's horrible mother. Bowler, who reprises her role from stagings at Winnipeg's Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and Edmonton's Citadel Theatre, grew up on Salt Spring. She also happens to be the daughter of Sue Newman, one of Georgia's former acting coaches.

The show runs on the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage to July 14. For anyone who's thinking of making the trip to Vancouver to see the show, Georgia feels they won't be disappointed.

"I think they would really like it. It's funny and the kids would really like it. It's very magical," she said.



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What's On
ON PAGE 14



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what's on this week



Wed. May 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Cross.
Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Parent-Child Mother Goose. Free drop-in on Wednesdays for parents, caregivers and young children, birth to 6 years old, to focus on the pleasure and power of sharing rhymes, songs and stories. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bittancourt House Museum. Open Wednesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., until June 28.

Sacred Circle Dance Workshop. Facilitated by Gale Hingston and assisted by Lolla Devindisch, the workshop explores the oldest form of dance known. At St. Mary's Church in Fulford, home of Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice, which is the event sponsor. 2 to 4 p.m. Preregistration required at staroftheseassi.ca.

Central Community Hall Board of Directors Meeting. Meeting at Central Hall. 7 p.m. Public welcome to attend.

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

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

Thu. May 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Rising Appalachia CD Release: Leylines. Island group presents CD release concert at Stowel Lake Farm. 7 p.m.

Vaughn Fulford. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum
See Wednesday's listing.

Early Morning Birding. Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club hosts Burgoyne Bay outings with expert birder and naturalist, Peter McAllister who will lead people through the meadows, forests and out onto the shore of the bay every Thursday through May 23. Meet at 6 a.m. in Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park, parking on the road, near the barns. (Note the return to the earlier time.)



Wildlife of The Salish Sea Islands.

Join travelling naturalist Dave Manning as he shares some of the bountiful wildlife found in the Canadian Salish Sea Islands. Salt Spring Public Library. Co-sponsored by SSI Conservancy. 7 p.m.

Fri. May 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Everyday People. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

El Jose's Long Weekend Cuban Dance Party. Popular band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum.
See Wednesday's listing.

Story Walk. StoryWalk is a self-led program where participants walk from the library, through Mouat Park to the pool, following the story along the path. Third Friday of every month, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee. Public welcome to attend semi-annual meeting with BC Ferries executives. Harbour House Hotel. 2:15 p.m.



Family Movie Matinee. Fridays in May at the library for kids 6 and up. Today's movie is Monsters vs. Aliens. 2:30 p.m.

ART \$500+under Weekend.

Salt Spring National Art Prize fundraiser offers a fabulous line-up of artists offering their art for sale. Mahon Hall. 5 to 11 p.m.

Sat. May 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Duck Creak. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

Pecha Kucha night in support of SSNAP. Artists and other creators give illustrated talks about their passions in 20 slides/20 seconds format in SSNAP fundraiser event. Mahon Hall. Doors open 7 p.m. Presenters start at 8.

El Jose's Long Weekend Cuban Dance Party.
See Friday's listing.

ACTIVITIES

ART \$500+under Weekend.
See Friday's listing, except time is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Salt Spring Saturday Market. Famous market of arts and crafts vendors, food and farmers in Centennial Park every Saturday through October. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Challenge Cup Soccer Tourney. 34th annual event offers divisions in Men's Competitive, Women's Competitive, Men's Rec, Women's Rec. with cash prize for division winners, plus concessions and beer garden. GISS and Portlock fields. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Round Salt Spring Regatta.

Sailing race around the island kicks off at 10 a.m. from Salt Spring Sailing Club.

Sun. May 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Brent Shindell. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

Strangers. Live band at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ART \$500+under Weekend.
See Friday's listing, except time is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Junk in your Trunk. A communal garage sale at Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre Parking Lot. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Challenge Cup Soccer Tourney.
See Saturday listing.

Family Adventures in Nature.

This Sunday's program is Where are the Animals? Animal Signs and Tracks. Fortune teller game and animal stories, orienteering at Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. Drop-in program for ages 6-12 and adult caregivers. 1 to 4 p.m.



Mon. May 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

K-Tones. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

Tue. May 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic with Richard Cross. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Probus Meeting. Guest speaker Bob Rush talks about A History of Ganges and Remaining Old Buildings. Lions Hall. Doors open at 10 a.m. and speaker starts about 10:30. Meeting ends at about 12 noon. Free participation for first three meetings.

LGBTQ+ Coffee Meet-up. Weekly event sponsored by DAISSI. Every Tuesday at Barb's Bakery from 1 to 2 p.m.

Sacred Poetry. Sacred Poetry sees participants share a favourite poem with the group for reflection. The May session honours poet Mary Oliver, who died this year, and will be facilitated by Gyllian Davies and Heather Martin. 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.

Tao Orion. Author of Beyond the War on Invasive Species: A Permaculture Approach to Ecosystem Restoration presents on systems-based understanding of invasive species as a foundation for holistically managing their populations. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

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

Wed. May 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Dan Smith. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Community Information Meeting and Public Hearing. Salt Spring Local Trust Committee holds Community Information Meeting and Public Hearing on rezoning application for 154 Kings Lane - Meadowlane seniors housing. Lions Hall. Info session from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Public hearing to follow.

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

Bittancourt House Museum. See last Wednesday's listing.

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Avengers: Endgame** shows Friday, May 17 through Thursday, May 30, seven days a week at 7 p.m. plus an additional Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. Rated PG. 180 minutes.
- **Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest.** National Theatre Live event shows Thursday May, 16 only with two screenings at 3 and 7 p.m. For more movie info go to www.thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

• Woodturner **Bob McKay** and painter **Chintan Bolliger** have a show at **Kizmit Galeria** this month.

EXHIBITIONS

- **ART \$500+under Weekend.** Show and sale of work by artists in support of SSNAP. Mahon Hall. Fri., May 17, 5-11 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., May 18-19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Anh Le** presents **INSIGNIA**, works exploring the artist's interest in typography, calligraphy and tattoos as insignia, at the **Salt Spring Gallery** until May 29.
- **Karin Millson** and **Bernadette Mertens-McAllister** present **In/From/Of - the Forest** in the ArtSpring lobby for the month of May.
- **The Horses That Were My Teachers**, an exhibit of work by **Susan Gordon**, is at the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room** through May.

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ISLAND LIFE

- Remember When
- Hospice feature
- What/where is it?

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

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BOOKS

Eye-opening reads new at the library

Travel, women and environmental themes

ON THE NEW SHELVES

BY MAGGIE WARBEY
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Readers looking for romance, intrigue and neo-fantasy will love this new novel by acclaimed local writer, Courtney Shepard. **Unbalanced**, the first in her latest series, is the story of four sisters born to fight against a fanatical secret faith. Only through perseverance, strength and control will the sisters reunite to fight for the order against war and suffering. Set in modern times, this is the age-old story of the power of good over the powers of evil, an exciting tale, indeed.

If New Zealand is your travel destination, don't leave until you have explored **New Zealand's Best Trips**, featuring 26 amazing road trips across and around this splendid island country. Whether you are looking for hot springs, alpine experiences, amazing beaches, wine country, natural environments, big cities, rare animals or something else, this book will help you plan your itinerary to get the most out of your travels. Also on the New Shelf, Buenos Aires and greater Argentina, Alaska, camping B.C., and the hottest spots in New Orleans.

The Wizard and the Prophet: Two Remarkable Scientists and Their Dueling Visions to Shape Tomorrow's World is the elegantly presented history of environmental ideas over the past century. This volume is the tale of ecologists William Vogt and Norman Borlaug (the father of the Green Revolution) and their differing visions of how we must change our outlooks and behaviours if we are to avert the coming doom. The debate is between sustainability and innovation and the fundamental challenges that Earth's populations

face if we are to have a future at all. The book is an entertaining and enlightening read that embraces the very essence of human existence.

All too many of us are facing the devastation of ill health, so a book such as **Intelligent Patient Guide to Breast Cancer** is far too relevant. This volume gives readers all they need to know to take an active part in their own treatment. From answering questions about "what is cancer," to "reconstructive surgery" and "practical tips for living with cancer," this useful guide is designed to offer both comfort and knowledge. Also included is information on complementary and alternative therapies. The accompanying photographs and charts are interesting and helpful. The professional reassurance is provided by Canada's leading medical sources.

Wow! **The Woman's Atlas** is a surprise, a delight and a wake-up call, all rolled into one binding. This book presents a global view of the lives of women: where they live, what they do, how they do, how they fare, what they hope for . . . not just in North America but around the world. From statistics and actual accounts of laws, procedures, life realities that affect females, to examining the details of women's roles in so many issues that affect the human condition, this book is a treasure trove of information. Dirty water, sex trafficking, medical procedures, cosmetic use, misogyny, contraception, dress, marriage laws, even child marriage in the U.S. are exposed, along with so many other important issues. A real eye and heart opener.

What is this? Where is it?



Can you identify this spot 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: Dexter Robson was the first of many people to recognize the Vesuvius Beach stairs after we posted this pic on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/gulfislandsdriftwood](https://www.facebook.com/gulfislandsdriftwood).



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

TEAM EFFORT: Salt Spring Middle School Tsunami Circus members Sienna Cowan, left, and Jolene Curran roam the market at Centennial Park on stilts Saturday while selling tickets for their remaining performances. The school troupe offered three shows of their Beyond Time circus program at the middle school gym over the May 10-12 weekend.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastrlogy.com | sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com

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

A series of planets entering new signs will activate a turn of attitude, activity, and focus. This includes Venus entering her own sign of Taurus on May 14 beginning a cycle of harmony and flow contributing to the larger dynamic. Mars in Cancer as of May 16th, on the other hand, is generally a challenging aspect. Yet, when used constructively it can manifest as renovations and other constructive changes. The key to difficult aspects is to be willing to work harder. The work focus can be edgy but the productivity is the reward. The Moon comes to Full in Scorpio on May 18 which will invariably stir passions of both the wanted but also the unwanted sort due to Mars in Cancer and Pluto in Capricorn. By May 21, Sun and Mercury will enter Gemini almost simultaneously. This will bring uplifting and social energy and will serve to catapult the season into high gear. Overall, this energy pattern can contribute to an extra constructive cycle. If projects have been waiting their turn, the time is right to dive into action. The creative process could prove stormy at times but comes with a lot of momentum to get things done.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You are now ready to take what you have established over the past several weeks to a whole new level. This next phase could prove more challenging as it includes some measure of renovation. This could be literal but could also extend to making changes close to home on a more personal, psychological level. Financial considerations are strongly featured.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

You have been steadily pushing ahead and persevering, Taurus style. Yet, you have also been attending to a whole variety of fronts. This momentum will continue but now you are ready to work more collaboratively. Since the slope is about to get steeper, so to speak, you will need and welcome someone on the other end, but both on this side. . .

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Forging ahead without, yet busy behind the scenes has been keeping you busy. Now it is time to get down to business. This includes financial orientations, or at least those that are directly linked to your sense of personal security. A healing process is a likely response. It is important to be willing to consider new perspectives. Clear the way!

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

A busy time establishing new connections and forging friendships continues. Yet, by now you have encountered and are engaged in new ways with the people you were destined to meet. You are eager to plow ahead and you will take an assertive approach. Yet, you will also be happy to slip away behind the scenes for a while more and more as the month progresses.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

A busy time establishing new foundations in your public and professional life is underway. To this end, you have been busy and this trend will continue. In fact, with Mars in Cancer, you will be challenged to really dive deep and confront any fears that are blocking a healthy follow-through process. Fortunately, your ambitions are running strong and this will help.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

A visionary process focused upon expanding your horizons is underway. More than ever you want to achieve financial returns and so are more focused on practical measures. To this end, you will take what some might deem a radical approach. For you, it is about breaking through walls. These can include limiting self-concepts or what you previously deemed possible.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Dealing with financial realities has been keeping you busy. These may be linked to insurance, taxes, inheritances but also investments. It has and continues to be a time of returns. Hopefully, they are of the sort that you want. The results are naturally linked to prior efforts. Now you want to do what you can to get ahead and this includes a training process.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Big changes continue to roll in. Positively, new doors are opening and you are able to stay grounded. Yet, you are about to both push and dig. The effort comes with a revolutionary impulse to literally replace the old with the new. This is not the time to be looking back unless you are going back to the future. Embrace these changes as your destiny.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

You have entered a time of work. Fortunately, your ambitions are taking an upswing. It remains that you may have to confront a few fears. You may also have to contend with an urge to escape. However, there are countermeasures at play which will give you the added strength and courage you need, with a little help from others in positions of authority.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

A big boost of creativity lingers and will so for a few weeks. This will extend to creative approaches to your daily routine. You may, however, be contending with some unsavory interactions on relationship fronts. You could prove very touchy and overreactive in this regard. Get ready for something of a bumpy ride over the coming weeks.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Some big energy is rolling through close to home. Positively, they are stabilized by four planets in Taurus. On one hand, these represent the urge to fortify your foundation. This could amount to acquiring new skills. These may actually signify dreams coming true. The challenge remains and you will have to make extra efforts but doing so will pay off.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

New perspectives on existing realities, some that have been as they are for some time, are required now. At best you feel inventive. Doing so may be necessary and not simply an inspiration. Fortunately, you are entering an extra creative period and your energy levels will be running higher than usual as well. So, focus to make the most of this creative cycle.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Salt Spring Hospice improves quality of life

Free support offered to community

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With National Hospice Week drawing to a close on Saturday, now is a good time to get acquainted with the local island organization that works to provide improved end-of-life experiences.

Having no physical facility of its own, Salt Spring Hospice describes a set of services rather than a location. Its volunteer members and board are perhaps most recognized for their work sitting vigil with those who are dying. But they offer much more than that decidedly valued gift.

"I think the most important thing to understand overall is hospice is really a philosophy of care. It's really about making the end of life as worthwhile as the rest," explained Lisa Dahling, who co-chairs the society's board of directors.

Salt Spring Hospice volunteers are trained to provincial standards to help people deal with end-of-life. They support the people who are dying and their loved ones by sharing time at bedside vigils during the final days, whether that's at the hospital or another location. These services are available for any age group, including children, and are not limited to any one kind of

illness.

Hospice volunteers can also help through a longer period, though, not just when death is imminent. They make visits to people in extended care, the hospital, or at home; offer help with advance care planning; and offer other education through workshops and a lending library.

Services that extend after a death include annual group sessions for grieving people, and one-on-one support. With a new board and a new office in the former Stitches shop downtown, the society also has renewed energy for educating the public about its services. Another priority is to update and strengthen organizational aspects to ensure long-term sustainability.

"There's been quite a bit of turnover over the years. I would certainly hope we can support a more stable administration, and a more stable board as well," said Dahling's co-chair Paul Oliphant.

The other members of the new board are equally enthusiastic. They include secretary Sue Walker, treasurer Paul Roberts, Richard Stetson (partnership development director), Andrea Pixley (organization strengthening director) and Genevieve Martini (director for membership development).

Roberts is the sole continuing director from the previous cohort, but Walker, Dahling and Martini all

have years of experience as hospice volunteers and bring a special perspective to the role. Pixley is a care aide at Greenwoods and Oliphant retired as executive director of the eldercare facility last year. Stetson retired as the Anglican parish minister in 2017. Together they have an interconnected history of working with people who are facing life's end, and their goal is to continue developing partnerships to foster the wider perspective.

The hospice board is also considering factors that may impact how services are offered in the future, Roberts said. Among them are the fact of a population that's heavily skewed toward seniors who may therefore need hospice service, while the island volunteer base is aging at the same time. The legislation that made medical assistance in death legal in 2017 could also impact service requests and volunteer training.

A policy shift from Island Health that seeks to take dying out of the hospital and move it back into the home is another probable change. Martini observed that although dying was medicalized and institutionalized just a few generations ago, bringing it back to the home will require a significant learning period; the associated societal and cultural skills have largely been lost.

"A great number of people choose to retire here but they



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Hospice Society board members, standing from left, are Genevieve Martini, Paul Roberts, Sue Walker, Paul Oliphant, Lisa Dahling and Richard Stetson, with Andrea Pixley seated in front.

haven't brought their children to retire with them," Oliphant said.

There are a number of ways to support the hospice society coming

up, including barbecues at Country Grocer that will help sponsor three local riders for the Cycle of Life fundraising ride.

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Obituaries Obituaries Obituaries Obituaries Coming Events Coming Events Coming Events

Bob Cecill



Bob Cecill died peacefully in the early hours of Tuesday May 7th, in the Lady Minto Hospital, after residing on Salt Spring Island for 34 years.

Bob was born on September 3rd, 1942, in Massachusetts, USA. He was educated at Phillips Academy, Andover, and Colgate University. He trained as a US Marine but worked as a taxi driver, emergency room attendant, and insurance salesman, in Boston.

In 1969 he attended Woodstock with his new wife Bet Ladd and subsequently moved to Montreal, where he worked with troubled youth in the employ of Gale Burford. Thereafter, he and Bet moved to Old Fort, Labrador, an outpost fishing village, where he was the head teacher and hockey coach at the local school. There they fished, hunted, and sailed as part of the local community. Bob then lived in St. John's and on the Southern Shore of Newfoundland from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. He built his first house at Tracy's Pinch and lived there for a dozen or so years. In that time he made lasting contributions to the local Newfoundland arts scene and formed close friendships with Ann Anderson, Scott Goudie, Jana Vannan, and others. In 1980 he and Lynda Laushway welcomed their first son, Christopher, who was followed by Matthew in 1982. In 1984 they moved to Salt Spring Island, BC, where Bob made his home for the rest of his life. He was joined there by his mother's brother, "Uncle Bob" (Robert E. Hooker).

On Salt Spring, he continued his contributions to community life through organizing, coaching, and officiating local youth sports. He also shared time there with Anna Hawthorne and her son John. Along with his close friend, Ronan White, Bob developed, built, and renovated properties on the island. He also purchased land on Lasqueti Island where he created Long Bay Farms with Ronan, Jana, and others. In 1999, Bob and Ronan formed Energy Options, an alternative energy product installer and dealer. They were among the first alternative energy professionals in the Gulf Islands.

In April 2000, Bob's house on Beddis Rd. burned down and he lost his beloved dog, Roger. When he rebuilt, he was joined by Rosemary Ommer, with whom he travelled five continents, as well as sailing on his schooner, Hispaniola II. They also sailed on his second boat, Tin Lizzie, around Haida Gwaii and the Salish Sea.

Bob and Rosemary shared the new Beddis Rd. house from 2000 until his death. Bob had battled failing health in his final years, coping characteristically with dry humour and stamina.

He will be dearly loved and greatly missed and remembered by Chris, Matt, Alex, and Rosemary, and by many friends across Canada and beyond. A celebration of Bob's life, in the company of his friends, will be held from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday, June 2nd. Please join us in remembering him at his home, 1203 Beddis Rd. It will be informal, as Bob would have wanted.

DIANA (Diane) Lynn Nicol

June 10, 1953 – Aug 17, 2018

Diane has passed away after an 11-year war with cancer (the doctors predicted 2 1/2yrs in 2007).

She was well known on Salt Spring as the owner of Boardwalk Greens, the attractive garden décor store that was in downtown Ganges. She also worked for the Federal Government at the Pacific Forestry Center. Diane is survived by her two children Jesse and Melanie, and her husband Bob Patterson. She is also survived by her brothers and sister Chris, Tom, and Tracy and her uncles David, Les and Paul.

A Celebration of Diane's Life will be held May 25, 2019 at the Royal Canadian Legion (upstairs), 120 Blain Rd, Salt Spring Island from 1:00 – 3:00pm.



Betty Marie Hall (nee Jarrell)



Betty left this life at the age of 97 at the Lady Minto ECU on Salt Spring Island on May 5.

Hers was a life loved and well lived. She was born in Port Hope, Ontario on September 28, 1921 to John and Ruby Jarrell and grew up in Oshawa with her siblings Jean and Jack. After marrying her great love, Don W. Hall, she lived first in Etobicoke and then Orillia where she raised her family.

Don and Betty loved to travel and after his retirement they visited every continent except Antarctica. After Don's death Betty spent many happy years at Leacock Estates in Orillia before moving to Salt Spring in 2006 to be closer to her kids.

Betty will be deeply missed by her close family, Doug (Satva), Donna, Chintan, Rick and her lovely grand daughter Alisha. Esta Bolliger and Nirmal Dryden were great friends. Nephew Gerry and the whole Ross clan were a big part of her life.

Many thanks to the crew at Heritage Place, Dr. Catherine Prendiville and the staff at the ECU for their loving care and dedication to Betty during her final years.

Betty was a beautiful spirit who always led with a smile. She managed to see the best in everyone she met. It was a rare gift and a legacy we will all aspire to.

Donations to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation in Betty's memory would be most appreciated.

In Memorium

Salt Spring Hospice

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WHAT'S ON page 14

Salt Spring Recreational Holdings Ltd

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2019 annual general meeting of shareholders of Salt Spring Recreational Holdings Ltd will be held as follows:

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

MANY BENNETTS: Descendants of Jack and Alice Bennett, who first came to Salt Spring 100 years ago, gather at Cedar Beach Resort before having dinner together on Saturday. A celebration of life was held at the Rod and Gun Club the day before for Ellen Bennett, who died last year. Relatives came to the island from several provinces for the reunion. A story about the family appeared in last week's issue of the Driftwood.

Remember WHEN

Five years ago

It was a long drive, but Salt Spring Island Fire-Rescue crews reached a south-end property in time to save a remote log cabin from fire. "That's pretty much as far as we can go," said SSIFR Deputy Chief A.J. George about the site on Holmes Road. A crew of firefighters had just finished a training session and was ready at the Ganges fire hall when the call came in. Fire crews found the cabin filled with smoke. A small fire was in the roof and the residents were holding the blaze at bay when SSIFR arrived on scene.

Ten years ago

A 15-unit affordable housing project owned by the Salt Spring Island Land Bank Society was determined to be too large for the neighbours to handle, according to LTC member Christine Torgimson. "More densities will create impacts for the neighbourhood and I take that very seriously," she said. Trustees discussed the proposal for two hours at a Local Trust Committee meeting, before asking staff to re-examine density options with the

applicant. Barbara Pellerin spoke on behalf of the project, saying, "In the 1960s, all you guys got here and we welcomed you... Well, wake up people. We need this housing."

Twenty years ago

A new recreation facility got a trial by fire with the inaugural Hart Memorial Disc Golf Tournament in Mouat Park. The all-season park was designed by Josh and Jeremiah Hart and named after their father Paul. The event also marked the beginning of the disc golf association, with Dean Crouse as the president. Crouse offered workshops for first time players through the summer months. The park also had its own computer-generated map designed by the winner of a GISS computer graphics class competition. Students used the course's layout and other courses from the internet to map out the facility.

Thirty years ago

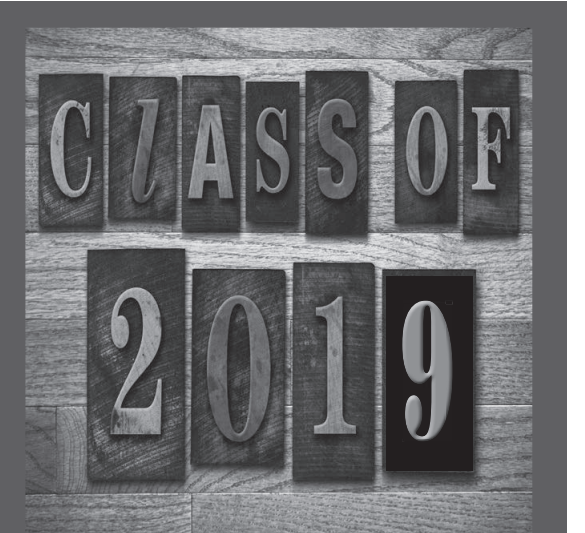
An open car window and a bee were the cause of a single motor vehicle accident on Fulford-Ganges Road. A 30-year-old Salt Spring man was driving near Charlesworth Road when a bee flew in the window. As he attempted to swat it away, he lost control and swerved off the road and into the ditch. The vehicle sustained approximately \$1,500 in damages, and the driver suffered a bee sting.

Forty years ago

A spectator was ordered to leave the Islands Trust meeting when the committee rejected an application for a rezoning. The property would be a new office for Lindal Homes, a construction company. It was determined that the Valhalla Road site was unsuitable for that use. "Brother!" exclaimed Betty Delmonico. They were talking rubbish, she added. "We must have order," called chairman John Rich. "If you interrupt I shall have to ask you to leave." "A pleasure!" replied Delmonico. She was asked to leave, but she got the last word. "This stinks!" she said loudly before vigorously slamming the door. The application was rejected.

Fifty years ago

Vancouver Town Fool Joachim Foikis visited Mayne Island with his wife, children and dogs. He was interviewed by Mary Kline, who reported that the Fool was "looking for a couple of donkeys plus a cart to navigate Vancouver's streets." The Driftwood reported that Craig Gray had a donkey at one time, but had traded it in for something else. Kline also said that the Fool was surprised to hear that Mayne Island had TV... "How does he think we spend our time in the winter?" Foikis received \$3,500 from the Canada Council for the Arts on April 1, 1968 in order to finance his mission to follow the grand tradition of court jesters. He appeared daily at the courthouse square to speak to anyone willing to talk.



2019 Graduation Book will be published on June 19.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

ON PAGE 15

by Michael O'Connor

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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



GOLF

Shopland wins Mouat Cup



PHOTO COURTESY SSGC

Ian Shopland, left, celebrates his Mouat Cup win for low gross with Salt Spring Golf and Country Club men's division captain Kerry Marshall at the club on May 11. Shopland also won the cup way back in 1966.

Last time was more than 50 years ago

BY MARCIA HOGAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The men's division trophy event for the Mouat and Morris Cups was held May 11 with a field of 36 players.

This year's competition was a photo finish with winning scores just one stroke apart, but it was Ian Shopland's day.

Not only did Shopland capture the Mouat Cup for low gross with a two over par score of 74, he did it for the second time! His previous win was in 1966, 53 years ago. This year's win was also the 56th time in Shopland's golf career that he managed to shoot his age or better.

Eric Beamish moved

up from fourth last year to second this year, with a score of 75. Stephen Elwes' 76 was good for third place. Elwes was last year's winner. Fourth was awarded to Mike Horan, based on retrogression of a tied score of 77.

Shopland had the Morris low net cup in the bag until Gary Tremblay matched Shopland's 67. Shopland and Tremblay will play an 18-hole play-off to determine the cup winner. Ted Grand won third place and Charlie Holmes took fourth when both carded a 68 and winners were determined by retrogression.

The third leg of this event is the season-long gross match play competition for the Matson Cup. All players have now been seeded, including the consolation round for the net contingent.

TENNIS

Exciting boys tourney held at tennis centre



PHOTO COURTESY SS TENNIS CENTRE

Tennis players Ivo Nikov from Powell River, left, and Scott Goddard of Salt Spring, who battled it out for third spot in the U14 division with Nikov winning in a third set tie-breaker.

Local player competes in match of the day

The Salt Spring Tennis Centre hosted its third sanctioned boys U12 and 14 two star tournament on April 27 and 28.

Locals Scott Goddard, Sam Barrett, Ronan Wardroper and Nate Kray Gibson all participated in a field made up of competitors from Vancouver Island and Salt Spring.

In the U14 event, Nolan Bur-

ton of Duncan defeated George Murray of Victoria, 7-5 6-2. Charlie Murray defeated Owen Hamm 4-2, 4-1 in an all-Victoria final in the U12 division.

The match of the day was the play-off for the U14 third/fourth place, contesting local player Scott Goddard and Powell River's Ivo Nikov in a baseline slugfest with neither player giving an inch in the battle. Nikov ended up the winner in a third set tie-breaker.

The centre thanked Phil Goddard for his hours of volunteer work spent running the event.



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The **INSIDE STORY**

Advertorial

Mexican cuisine draws local crowds

Quality food and friendly atmosphere main focus at El Loco Taco

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

There's nothing as delicious as a well-prepared taco and a nice cold drink at the local hang-out.

Sitting in the sun near the patio, Tom Boekbinder — the co-owner with his wife Marialyn of the El Loco Taco — waves at a group of customers he recognizes as they come through the door. He sees his restaurant as the perfect hang-out for islanders who are looking for good food, good times and the “local joint” atmosphere.

“This is what I like,” he says. “I want to get to know the people. That's why I'm doing it.”

When Tom took over the business in November 2018, he didn't want to reinvent the wheel. Seeing the potential in a centrally-located taco shop, he wanted to create a restaurant where local residents would want to come to eat again and again. He took the formula and perfected it, with fresh, healthy ingredients and a devotion to the best Mexican food on Salt Spring.

“People want tacos and burritos,” he said. “I want to make everything that we make as good as possible.”

None of the ingredients in the dishes comes in frozen, and meals are prepared

from scratch on the same day. Tom has also improved the vegetarian offerings with the addition of tofu as a protein source. Options for those with gluten sensitivities and other dietary needs have also been considered.

At the centre of the operation is the wood-pellet smoker. The quality is obvious when the smell of smoked meat wafts over the restaurant. Whether it's pulled pork, prime rib, roast beef or pork belly, the smoker is sure to please. One of Tom's favourites is the pulled pork, which has also spawned a few other creations.

“We slow roast it and then we pull it. It's fantastic,” he says. “The flavour is amazing. People love it, but we had a problem. There was all this meat juice. Now we make gravy out of it and offer it on poutine as a pulled pork poutine.”

When people step into the restaurant, they come into the take-out and retail section, perfect for a meal on the beach or in the park across the street. Further into the building is the licensed cantina, bar and patio. Tom kept the original taco truck and moved it inside. All of the prep is still done in the truck, and the familiar facade is a great

nod to the restaurant's history. The spacious dining area doubles with garage doors that open onto the patio, which on a sunny day is hard to beat.

The only thing better than a patio is a patio with a cold drink. The licensed establishment has a range of craft beers on tap, imported Mexican beers, and cocktails like margaritas and mojitos.

Tom does not see any reason the business should not thrive year-round. Staff are planning events through the winter like salsa dancing, Indian food night and other crowd-pleasers.

“We're going to wire this place up for open mic nights. There'll be instruments on the walls, so if people feel like picking up an instrument and getting in front of the mic, they can do that,” he says.

With the new additions created with the local dining crowd firmly in mind, the well-known community hub's status as the go-to restaurant for islanders is assured.

El Loco Taco is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 11 until 8 on Fridays and Saturdays. (It's closed on Mondays.) For more information, see the El Loco Taco Facebook page.



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Top: Tom Boekbinder has turned El Loco Taco into a local hangout. Above: The restaurant features takeout, a cantina and a great patio. Below: Every day is a Fiesta.





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