

inside:



16 Long Harbour pod gets down to FireSmart work



5 Five Salt Spring Islanders among SSNAP finalists!

All About Pets 9
 Arts 13
 Classifieds 18
 Editorial 6
 Letters 7
 Island Life 16
 Sports & Recreation 20
 What's On 14

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT!: Salt Spring Rotary Club member Jessica Harkema points to the fixings for a deluxe crab meal at the club's fourth annual Crab Fest on Saturday, while fellow Rotarian Martin Hoogerdyk puts some crab legs on a customer's plate. For more photos, see page 19.

BC FERRIES

Quinitsa complaints mob meeting

Company looks for ways to ease situation

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fear the BC Ferries vessel Quinitsa won't be replaced on the Vesuvius-Crofton route anytime soon were confirmed last Tuesday evening during a lively ferry advisory committee meeting at the Harbour House Hotel, but executives attending the session agreed to explore suggestions to ease the pain of increased wait times and terminal traffic.

The plan to retire the Howe Sound Queen and put the smaller Quinitsa on the route has been a topic of debate for the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee ever since BC Ferries first broached the topic in public in November 2016. The issue of how that change has impacted customers and the Vesuvius neighbourhood for the worse ended up taking up the full two and a half hours allotted for the July 9 meeting, after the FAC agreed to move the item to the top of the agenda.

Multiple residents shared their frustration

and gave constructive criticism on how to improve things, but for now, the ferry company has not offered replacing the ship as a solution.

"When this was brought up, the FAC had real concerns with the suggestion and we brought that up with the ferry corporation. But Ferries is between a rock and a hard place," FAC chair Harold Swierenga told the meeting, naming fleet availability and marine transport regulations as contributing elements.

BC Ferries executives said traffic had increased at unpredicted rates since the plan was first launched, but repeated the boat will be in place until the Quinsam becomes available in two or three years.

"Every island has been growing lately, okay?" said Mark Wilson, BC Ferries vice-president of strategy and community engagement.

"You do have to realize, you are probably

not unique here," he added later in the meeting, noting the company is hearing many similar themes and challenges from other Gulf Islands communities.

Many people have wondered why the Bowen Queen was not assigned to the route. Peter Simpson, director of fleet operational strategy, explained the ship was sent to the Port McNeill-Alert Bay-Sointula route for the summer because those communities are served by just one ferry and there is much more time between sailings.

"When it's up there in the summer we're dealing with overloads, and when we're dealing with overloads in Alert Bay or Port McNeill, you're looking at three to four hours until your next sailing," Simpson said. "So it's somewhat critical to that community in the busy summer period. Overloads have a much more harmful effect than they do [here]."

FAC continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
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TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

JULY 2019 HNP Z+8

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
17	0311	3.0	9.8	21	0237	2.4	7.9
	1058	0.4	1.3		0604	2.6	8.5
	1918	3.3	10.8		SU 1316	1.0	3.3
WE			DI	2105	3.2	10.5	
18	0016	2.7	8.9	22	0325	2.2	7.2
	0351	2.9	9.5		0704	2.4	7.9
	TH 1134	0.5	1.6		MO 1350	1.2	3.9
	JE 1949	3.3	10.8		LU 2128	3.2	10.5
19	0101	2.6	8.5	23	0411	2.0	6.6
	0433	2.9	9.5		0823	2.3	7.5
	FR 1209	0.6	2.0		TU 1424	1.5	4.9
	VE 2016	3.3	10.8		MA 2151	3.1	10.2
	20	0148	2.5		8.2	24	0456
0516		2.7	8.9	1008	2.2		7.2
SA 1243		0.8	2.6	WE 1501	1.8		5.9
SA 2041		3.2	10.5	ME 2215	3.1		10.2

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NSSWD

Water service study on the way

Outcomes include independent waterworks or CRD centralization

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Water distribution on Salt Spring will be under scrutiny after the Capital Regional District and the North Salt Spring Waterworks District made a joint application for provincial funding for a study on service optimization.

The two districts' boards considered the application at separate meetings on July 10. NSSWD trustees voted unanimously to move forward with the study, and the CRD Electoral Areas Committee also voted to approve it and send it to the CRD Board for final approval.

Two outcomes of the study include either improv-

ing water service delivery while keeping the NSSWD independent, or creating a consolidated service under the control and administration of the CRD based on Salt Spring.

"The study is step one," said NSSWD board chair Michael McAllister in the NSSWD meeting. "If we like what we see and decide to proceed with a conversion with a CRD take-over, that's when the negotiations begin."

Due to ongoing water shortages on Salt Spring as well as a NSSWD moratorium on new connections, the CRD and NSSWD recognize that improving the water service and delivery would benefit residents.

The study will examine ways to improve coordination between the public water service providers on the island. It will look at how the different service providers make decisions about

services, stakeholder and public views, shared goals as well as the two options listed above.

"One theme that was prominent during the 2017 referendum on governance was the need for greater inter-agency collaboration, particularly regarding issues such as the management of water," said Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman in a press release.

In addition to the study, work is being done to scope out a potential CRD Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service for the island. Similar services exist in the Regional District of Nanaimo and in the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

The two groups submitted a joint application to the ministry for \$50,000 in funding to complete the study, which will be undertaken over the coming year. Both options were included in the draft terms of refer-

ence because it was felt they reflected both the CRD's and the NSSWD's interests.

McAllister said he supports the funding request "as it may provide valuable information that will help the NSSWD Board of Trustees make a decision in the best interests of its ratepayers."

"Do I have concerns? Yes. Do board members have concerns? I have no doubt. We are wanting to go ahead and we're open minded to see what results come of this study," he added.

The CRD will be choosing a consultant to undertake the study this summer, and a detailed project schedule is expected in the fall. The timeline in the terms of reference has a completion date of spring 2020 for the final report. Once the report is finalized, the results will be passed on to the ministry and NSSWD from the CRD.

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Meeting dissects ways to mitigate ferry pain

FAC

continued from 1

As well, the Bowen Queen's configuration does not work well for commercial or over-height vehicles, which make up a significant portion of the Route-6 traffic.

"If we were just taking cars on Saturday morning, then the Bowen can carry more cars than the Quinitsa can carry," said marine superintendent Capt. Lewis MacKay. "But if we're taking a combination of cars and commercial vehicles, the Quinitsa can arguably carry more than the Bowen Queen. So it depends on the mix of the traffic and customers."

Executives also quashed hopes of adding another sailing to the regular schedule, or of moving to "shuttling" instead of a set schedule, because the turnaround time is already tight between sailings, and to add another sailing would mean another staffing shift.

MacKay noted the Vesuvius ferry is now running largely on time after years of customer complaints about inability to keep to schedule. He also stressed that in his experience, customers should have no problem getting on their preferred sailing as long as they arrive one hour prior. (Speaking from their experience,

many people in the room disagreed with that, and observed it won't work if everyone does it because of the ship's smaller capacity.)

BC Ferries did seem more open to investigating whether fuelling times could be shifted on both the Vesuvius and Fulford routes to allow the "missing" early Sunday morning sailings to be instated.

Fulford resident Marcie Hogan said the Vesuvius situation is putting pressure on Fulford as people are opting to travel to Vancouver Island that way instead, even if it means a longer drive on the other side. She suggested the company should start looking at overload data in terms of how many cars are left behind each time, rather than just whether they happen or not on a sailing.

Many residents spoke to the need to have flaggers at the Vesuvius and Fulford terminals at all times to help direct traffic. Drivers who are dropping people off at the terminals are often forced to travel down the opposing lane to the harbour when the correct lane is blocked by parked cars waiting to board. Vesuvius residents such as Gaye Gardiner said one accident has already occurred there this year due to the situation.

BC Ferries terminal operations superintendent Monique Turgeon said she had added some staff to the previous unmanned Vesuvius terminal already, and they have recently received the training that allows them to enter the public roadway. She promised to look into increasing staffing time.

Another idea that got traction was having a sign put up at the mark where cars would no longer make it onto the next sailing. Turgeon said a sign like that works well on Gabriola Island. Having cameras installed to help terminal staff assess the situation on the road and help customers with their planning was also well received, and Turgeon agreed to investigate better washroom facilities at Vesuvius, since many seniors are having to wait longer periods. Currently there is just a portable toilet on the dock, which is not accessible for disabled people.

At the end of the session Wilson noted the meeting was not intended to be an open house, but said he was willing to come back for more public events focused on specific issues if need be.

Discussion of assured loading for school buses and medical appointments was addressed, but not did not end up being discussed, along with any other agenda items.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Walker's Hook Road closed again

Walker's Hook Road will be closed to traffic starting Monday, July 22 and is expected to remain so through August for road repair work.

The road was closed to all but local traffic in the 600 and 700 blocks for much of 2018 after a slide took out three sections of oceanside embankment on Jan. 29. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure contractors who started work last August were able to remediate the road and reinforce the bank in two sections. The ministry said last fall that the final section would be completed once better weather returned in 2019.

A slight change to Salt Spring Transit's Fernwood bus route is being implemented to accommodate Walker's Hook traffic during the roadwork. See the BC Transit website for schedule information effective July 22.

Salt Spring Marina work approved

Salt Spring Marina has reported all approvals are now in place to begin rebuilding its infrastructure in Ganges Harbour.

A notice on the marina's website states that dredging work will begin by Tuesday, July 23.

"Our builder, Island Marine Construction, has given us a construction schedule showing completion by Oct. 11, 2019. Our website will show progress live via webcam," the notice states.

The marina replacement project has been underway for over 12 years. The new structure will be undergoing Green Marine certification with the Georgia Strait Alliance, as required by the Islands Trust.

A proposed May 1 re-opening could not be achieved because an amended lease application required further review from the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

The new re-opening date is set for the Thanksgiving Day weekend. Marina manager Lesley Cheeseman will start taking moorage reservations. Visit www.saltspringmarina.com or the Salt Spring Marina Facebook page for more details.

BUSINESS

Slegg outlet closing

Nov. 30 date set

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Nineteen employees of Slegg Lumber's Salt Spring branch will soon be looking for another position, with closure of the local business slated for Nov. 30.

Slegg president Tim Urquhart said the decision was made as the site's current five-year lease is expiring and the company had to determine whether it made sense to renew it for another five years. The economic situation suggested a Salt Spring branch was no longer a viable option.

Urquhart acknowledged the news, which was just announced last week, has been a shock for some staff. Jobs have been offered to every employee, either at another Slegg outfit or through parent company WSB Titan. Some people could conceivably continue to live on Salt Spring while commuting to the Sidney or Duncan branches to work.

"We'd really love it if all of them took a position at another location," Urquhart told the Driftwood. "This certainly has nothing to do with the people. We have a great group there, and they would actually strengthen our other teams if they were to do that."

Ontario-based WSB Titan bought the 67-year-old Vancouver Island company from the founding Slegg family in January 2015. At that time, Titan president Doug Skrepnek said they would review the economics on whether to grow beyond the 12 locations or trim back.

Urquhart could not go into the financial environment that made the Salt Spring closure practical from the company's point of view, although he did say it was not due to any sudden change.

"The economy was a lot better when we bought the business four and a half years ago."

Urquhart said it was a hard decision, especially knowing people's lives are impacted.

COURT

Assault sentences laid out

Tent destruction incident

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A violent altercation that ended with a pickup truck driving over a tent in April has resulted in suspended sentences for two of the people involved, with a trial date to be fixed for the remaining participant.

Dolores Seagrave-Peel and her son Norman Jay Seagrave each pled guilty to charges stemming from the incident during a Ganges Provincial Court session held on Thursday. Seagrave-Peel was initially charged with criminal harassment but the Crown changed the charge to mischief as being more appropriate to the circumstances. Seagrave pled guilty to uttering threats against Roger Comeau, who was also in court Thursday to face charges of uttering threats to cause bodily harm, uttering threats to burn, destroy or damage property and breach of undertaking.

Crown prosecutor Joseph Blazina described the incident that took place on Jackson Avenue, where Comeau was living in a tent on the road right-of-way at the edge of Seagrave-Peel's home. Comeau and Seagrave were drinking heavily and started arguing. This escalated into a physical fight, and Seagrave's mother got verbally involved. She called 911 around 8:30 p.m. Police attended and ordered Comeau not to be near Seagrave-Peel, and arrested Seagrave for uttering threats.

Police were called again at 9:30 p.m. by an employee at Mid Island Co-op gas station next door, who reported that a pickup truck was driving over someone's tent. Police returned and found that Seagrave-Peel had been driving but Comeau was safe in the gas station parking lot. At this point, with police present, Seagrave threatened to kill Comeau and moved in as if about to attack him. RCMP noted Seagrave appeared to be exceedingly intoxicated. He was arrested. Blazina noted there was no indication that Comeau's safety was at risk from the pickup truck. Seagrave-Peel had laid on the horn for a number of minutes before she made the attack.

Comeau was checked by BC Ambulance crews but did not require any medical attention. He was also arrested and held to have charges laid in Duncan court the next day.

Speaking to Judge Susan Wishart on Thursday, Seagrave-Peel said her son previ-

ously had to step in when Comeau threatened to hit her, and that Comeau had also threatened her with a knife. She further claimed Comeau had taken everything he needed for his camp from her yard.

Both Seagrave-Peel and her son apologized to the court for their actions.

"This was an ongoing thing that was happening over three months," Seagrave said, explaining he had eventually lost his temper.

Wishart gave mother and son each a suspended sentence of 12 months probation. Seagrave's conditions include a counselling order and a weapons prohibition.

Comeau made his first appearance for one set of charges on Thursday and indicated he will plead not guilty to everything and will represent himself in court. His next Ganges court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 19.

Assault cases concluded

A number of assault cases were also settled with guilty pleas on Thursday. Robert Koberinski received a \$300 fine and 12 months probation for an assault that took place in Peace Park on Dec. 10, 2018. The court heard that Koberinski had arrived at the park that day wearing a onesie-pajama type outfit and a hood with horns. He attacked another man at the park who asked him why he was wearing a rabbit costume.

Koberinski explained that he was having a hard time coping with the death of his twin brother at the time of the assault, and promised it would not happen again.

Ross Callaghan pled guilty to assaulting his former roommate and received a suspended sentence with 12 months probation. He tried to choke the man after a mental health incident that caused the roommate to call BC Ambulance, as he was worried Callaghan might be having a seizure.

"I don't have a leg to stand on. I'm guilty," Callaghan told the court.

Jesse Hill was served with a peace bond and ordered not go within 100 metres of the Kanaka Skate Park after pleading guilty to an assault that took place there last October. Blazina outlined how Hill had been having words with another person throughout the day before the situation escalated. Hill was apparently concerned for his safety since the other man had a large group of friends. He pulled out a small ceremonial knife and the other person was injured.

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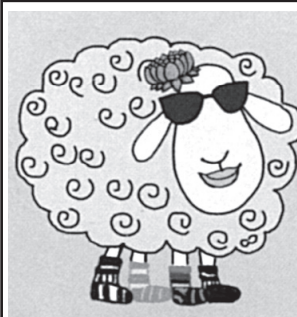
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PART TWO OF THREE-PART SERIES

Stumped

Three islands' attempts to control private land logging

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Twenty years ago, Salt Spring Islanders gave everything they had to stop a massive logging operation, putting their criminal records, bank accounts and modesty on the line to save 770 hectares once slated for clear-cutting by the Texada Land Corporation.

Similar battles were taking place on other islands with more tragic consequences. The name Mike Jenks — who has been identified as British Columbia's largest private land logger — remains anathema to people on Denman after his company removed up to a third of the island's forests in the late 1990s.

Local regulations enacted for environmental protection on Denman were powerless to stop the destruction. The B.C. Supreme Court upheld the rights of the private company to pursue its business and quashed a forest cover bylaw on the basis of jurisdictional over-reach.

"That was really the apocalypse here for us. That was the real struggle, and we really couldn't stop him," said Patti Willis, who won an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award in 2010 for her work with the Denman Conservancy Association.

Considering the current climate crisis and the dwindling trees, she added, "Maybe it's time to try to enact forest bylaws again."

LEGALITIES LIMIT POWERS OF THE ISLANDS TRUST

Clear and enforceable local regulations are needed to maintain the Islands Trust Area's remaining forest, whether the threat comes from large forestry

corporations or new neighbours who prefer a parklike estate to acres of trees. A look at recent history on Salt Spring and islands like Denman suggests that developing such tools requires political will and community support. They also have to be crafted very carefully to meet provincial laws and survive legal challenges.

Linda Adams, who was the Islands Trust's chief administrative officer before retiring in 2016, was the senior planner on Salt Spring for many years. She has decades of expertise working under the Local Government Act.

"One of the misunderstandings I see is that people kind of think because the Islands Trust has this preserve and protect mandate, they can just go and tell people 'Stop tree cutting, right now,'" Adams told the Driftwood. "But the local Trust committee can only tell people to stop tree cutting if they had previously put a bylaw in place that regulated tree cutting on that person's land. They can't just go and tell somebody to stop, and that's the same with any government."

Zoning could be used to establish setbacks that protect trees, for example by requiring that development take place a certain distance from the lot's centre or that it take place in a certain area to keep building sites clustered together. Zoning cannot regulate tree removal by itself, however, because provincial law does not consider it to be a land use, but natural resource extraction.

Local governments, including the Islands Trust, can regulate tree-cutting to some extent with development permit areas, but those areas have to be defined

with mapping in the official community plan. They are also permissive by definition, to be awarded as long as the applicant follows the guidelines, and they can't restrict uses that are allowed by zoning. Another challenge of the development permit area is that it can only be established for specific purposes. The forest cover DPA established on Denman Island failed to hold up in court when challenged by 4064 Investments Ltd., for the very fact that it purported to regulate logging on private lands.

DENMAN ISLAND'S CAUTIONARY TALE

Prior to 4064's purchase, around one-third of Denman had been owned by a forestry company that wasn't actively logging. The public was used to accessing the forest through unofficial community trails. After 4064 Investments bought the land, company officials implemented a business plan based on a rapid clear-cut. They also cleared large portions that had been reserved for covenant under the sales agreement. (A lawsuit by the Denman Island Conservancy eventually led to these covenants being registered at Komas Bluffs and the Railway Grade Marsh — after 80 per cent of the trees had already been removed from the latter site.)

"Now on Denman there aren't a lot of forested lands left, partly because Jenks cut a swath through here. There's really not all that much available to protect relative to what was available," said Des Kennedy, a well-known writer and a former chair of the Denman Conservancy Association. "For years, every ferry that left the island had at least one logging truck on it because it's

such small capacity, so only one truck could go at a time."

In the midst of community uproar, in 1999 the Denman Island Local Trust Committee created a suite of bylaws aimed at environmental protection, including a development permit area for forest cover and sustainable forestry that impacted much of the island. A professional forester was hired to draft the bylaw with community input.

When the bylaw was challenged in court, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Robert Bauman found in favour of 4064 Investments. While Bauman conceded the Local Government Act permits DPAs that "protect the natural environment, its ecosystems and biodiversity," he questioned the Denman LTC's interpretation this could extend to the regulation of tree-cutting on private land.

"On its face, that conclusion seems a considerable reach, indeed it seems a considerable leap," Bauman wrote in his decision.

He stated elsewhere in the judgement, "The fact that the legislature did not expressly give Trust Committees the broad tree-cutting regulatory powers found in [the Local Government Act for municipalities], leads to the further inference that it did not intend regional districts and Local Trust Committees to have these powers."

In puzzling contrast to Denman, Galiano Island has a broad tree-cutting DPA that stretches across much of the island, and which has been in place since 2000. Adams said one reason the case may be different is the authors avoided taking a forestry approach.

"It was very much focused on ecosystems and protection of biodiversity and protection of Coastal Douglas-fir forests. It's more in line with the intent of the legislation," she said.

Meanwhile, after a BC Supreme Court appeal, other environmental DPA bylaws on Denman were upheld, including one that determined a 50-metre setback for tree clearing on Komas Bluffs.

"The take-away from that is when we're doing development permit areas we can still protect ecosystems and biodiversity, but they have to be really defined," said David Marlor, who was Denman Island's planner in 1999 and is now the Trust's director of local planning services. He suggested a narrow focus, such as a DPA where Garry oak stands exist, would be more feasible.

Since the province has moved to protect contiguous areas of Coastal Douglas-fir on some Gulf Islands' Crown lands in the past several years, the case could potentially be made for the ecosystem's wider protection under a DPA. Some trustees suggested during the June Trust Council session on Gabriola Island that Trust-wide protection is in order. But as it stands, the legal precedent is still defined by Denman.

"If the Islands Trust were to argue the CDF is a sensitive ecosystem, that would have to be tried in court, and who knows if a judge would find that a valid argument, or be swayed by the Trust's mandate," Marlor said.

Next week's conclusion to the series looks at the provincial attitude toward forests and the growing call to shift the paradigm on how trees are valued.

Salt Spring's early attempts at forest protection halted

Public feedback to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee over the past year suggests there is community appetite to develop forest protection tools; participants at an open house strategic planning session held in March named regulation of tree cutting among the highest community priorities.

If the LTC does move forward by making forest protection a priority project for this term, it will have to both work within the legal parameters and ensure political will meets the need.

People wondering how the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee failed to enact tree protection tools in the past can look back a couple of decades for the answer. Sensitive ecosystem mapping launched

by the province in 1993 through the Conservation Data Centre catalogued over 100 species at risk and dozens of ecosystems at risk in the southern Gulf Islands, including the Coasta Douglas-fir zone, western red cedar sword fern swamps and coastal savannas.

The Salt Spring LTC incorporated some of the new information when it initiated a major overhaul of the official community plan in 1996. The first draft of the new plan proposed a development permit area for most of the island that restricted tree cutting on many unstable slopes, along the entire shoreline and in an extensive area around all the drinking watersheds and community well-capture zones.

"And that's when the people went berserk," said local naturalist Briony

Penn, who worked on the original mapping. "They went 'No way, you're imposing, you can't impose this on landowners, it's an extra burden we have to care for.' And so it got thrown out."

Salt Spring's former head planner Linda Adams said some of the guidelines were intended to prevent negative impact on neighbouring properties such as had recently occurred when steep lands on the side of Mount Maxwell were logged in 1994-95. But the trustees' will to proceed crumbled in the face of public opposition, which included Driftwood editorials and one heated community meeting attended by 250 islanders.

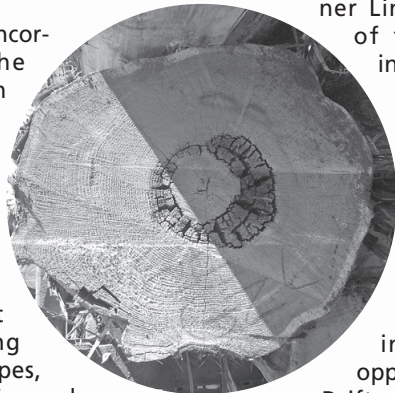
"I think people often agree in principle with some of this stuff, and then when it starts affecting their own prop-

erty, less so," Adams said.

She noted there were also attempts in the late 1990s to protect Garry oak ecosystems on Salt Spring, with equally strong reaction.

"Some of the large property owners that had Garry oaks actually began to cut their trees down. I don't think that bylaw even got first reading. People thought buffers would restrict their ability to develop their properties, so thought they'd just remove them before the bylaw took effect," Adams recalled.

In the end the LTC decided to go with an educational approach and to encourage voluntary protection of Garry oaks because the proposed bylaw was having the opposite effect intended. A similar approach was taken with many of the measures drafted into the OCP. The review ended with much lighter restrictions. Tree cutting was regulated only on the highest-instability slopes and in a setback from the shoreline along just a few highly sensitive stretches.



COMMUNICATIONS

Saturna's internet powered by sun

Internet infrastructure one of leading carbon emitters

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Cars and plastics are on the top of the list of climate crisis contributors, but internet use and infrastructure has quietly grown into one of the biggest carbon emitters in the world.

A Saturna Island-based internet service provider is looking at a greener way forward.

Colin Curwen runs South Island Internet, an internet service company on Saturna Island. On July 10, he made the first step into converting his operation to run off-grid. Curwen's infrastructure is small, with the capacity to provide service to around 300 people. He uses low-watt radio transmitters set up on two towers on Saturna to connect people to the internet using Wi-Fi signals.

"Our goal is to go off-grid fully. We want to be able to run our entire ISP from the sun," Curwen said. "To basically exist within the battery storage is our plan. We switched over on [July 10], and we've been running off the batteries ever since."

No matter who you are, odds are good that you use the internet. Even for people who stay away from the internet, that world still has an effect on everyday life. This article could not have been written without the internet, it was stored on a server and has been distributed online through digital copies of the Driftwood. In fact, every article ever published in the Driftwood is taking up space somewhere on a server, along with everything else ever published online. Humanity's thirst for data has created the need for millions of servers, all running on electricity.

"People don't think about [web] content as electrons, but that's really what it is," Curwen said. "I didn't

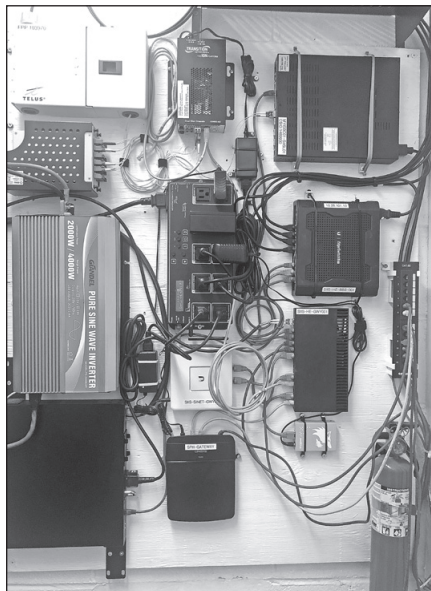


PHOTO BY COLIN CURWEN

Back end of Colin Curwen's South Island Internet operation on Saturna.

really start thinking about that until I started doing this. I was like 'Wow, what am I really using the internet for?' When you tie it into power, that has to be generated and managed."

Most businesses have a server somewhere inside the building. Those servers are often in air-conditioned rooms and are running 24/7 with backup generators ready for any disruption. Bigger companies have entire floors dedicated to server space. Bigger still are the large data centres located everywhere in the world (Canada has nearly 200) that take up entire buildings and use the same amount of power as the biggest countries. Globally, data centres used roughly 416 terawatts (416 trillion watts) in 2016, which is 40 per cent more than the entire United Kingdom did that year, according to Forbes magazine.

Numbers are only expected to continue to rise, especially with the proliferation of mobile and smart devices. Smart devices like smart

homes, cars, transportation and toys all require data to work. Phone apps are nearly all connected to data, even in applications like contacts and settings. Though the numbers can be hard to wrap the mind around, they apply mainly to tech and telecom giants, most of which do purchase some carbon offsets for their power usage.

Curwen's company is much smaller, which makes off-grid operation easier.

"We're pretty small potatoes. I realized that these radios are optimized for the environment out here. They sip power, and a lot of them only run on a couple of watts of energy . . . My system runs between 50 watts and 100 watts per day."

"The big key for me is the fact that I'm in double-digit wattages, not triple or quadruple digit," he added.

"Once you start getting into bigger solutions, it does get more expensive."

Radio-transmitted internet is well suited to the unique geography of the Gulf Islands, Curwen explained, because it allows for the transmission of data across the water from island to island. For a low power output, internet data can be sent from point to point almost instantly without the infrastructure required for traditional wired operations. Saturna Island in particular is difficult to connect to the internet because of the geography of the area. Mountains block signals, which is why Curwen has two repeating towers on the highest points on the island. He can also transmit bandwidth across the water to Mayne and Pender islands.

"Wi-Fi is really the future," he said. "All that [wired] infrastructure requires power. When you have two radios pointed at each other, it makes a huge difference for the amount of services that you can bring for the cost of the power."

Curwen hopes to finish rolling out his solar operation by the end of the summer. He also has plans to expand service through the Gulf Islands.

ACHIEVEMENTS

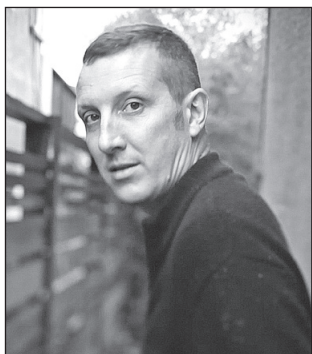
Five islanders make 2019 SSNAP finalist list

John David James sole artist selected for all three exhibits

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The finalists for the 2019 Salt Spring National Art Prize have been announced, and islanders continue to hold a strong place among their Canadian peers with five of the 50 finalists hailing from the local community.

A press release issued by the Salt Spring Arts Council Tuesday morning names Bronwyn Austin, Josephine Fletcher, Krysta Furioso, John David James and Carol Narod as the Salt Spring-based finalists. Their works were selected "blind" by an independent



Photographer John David James of Salt Spring, who is the only artist from across Canada whose work was chosen for SSNAP exhibits in 2015, 2017 and 2019.

jury from among 1,200 submissions.

SSNAP spokesperson and founding director Ronald T. Crawford observed Salt Spring artists continue to measure up against the best

in the country.

"The third biennial SSNAP exhibition exemplifies the best in Canadian art and it's exciting to see a pattern of local artists being among Canada's best," Crawford said. "We're delighted that a diverse and inclusive selection of artists, representing every region of the country, will participate in an exhibition that promises to be as inclusive, diverse and culturally rich as Canada itself."

In an exciting development, James not only represents Salt Spring but is the only Canadian artist to be a finalist in all three SSNAP exhibitions to date. He reported he is thrilled to be able to push the boundaries of his work and continue to create art that is relevant today.

"I always try to make something that is new that I have

never created before. To me I never want to repeat myself, I'm always observing, expanding my skill, and in some ways looking at the history of art and trying to push it forward," James said.

"The calibre of work in the SSNAP exhibition is outstanding," he added. "It's a point of pride to me to be included in new works that are contemporary, fresh and topical; it's our supportive Salt Spring community that makes it possible."

Finalists are eligible to win one of nine awards, six selected by jurors and three selected by public vote. The event's grand prize, the Joan McConnell Award, is worth \$20,000.

The SSNAP finalists exhibition opens Sept. 21, with the award winners announced on Oct. 21.

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BC Ferries' refusal to take responsibility annoys

BY DREW BODALY

I read recently that the beloved satire magazine of my youth, Mad Magazine, will cease publication. My hero, Alfred E. Neuman, (motto: "What, me worry?") would be no more.

But, fear not, I found out recently that Alfred is alive and well in BC Ferries' senior management, and has, in fact, been reincarnated multiple times!

I attended the Ferry Advisory Committee meeting last week. The meeting room was filled with people who were in a pretty surly mood. But, BCF people seemed relatively unconcerned at the messes that BCF has caused in Crofton, Vesuvius and Fulford: multiple overloads, cars backed up onto public roads (necessitating driving against oncoming traffic) and primitive terminal conditions.

The main attitude expressed by the BCF management people at the meeting was to deny the scale of the problem and blame problems on others. Not once did any BCF person say that poor planning on the part of BCF to have a decent-sized ferry for the Crofton-Vesuvius run was a big part of the problem. They were asked many times at the meeting to say this, but it just could not come out of their mouths.

The problem, according to BCF: 1. The provincial government: "the province is to blame, they set our service levels!" When I wrote to Minister of Transportation Claire Trevena, she said that BCF is an independent company over which they have little control.

2. The drivers using the terminals are to blame for the

unsafe conditions caused by cars blocking driving lanes on public roads: "Individual drivers make the decision to drive against the flow of traffic" and "I have seen cars rushing to terminals at a thousand miles per hour to try to make a ferry." Alfred E. would be proud of these statements!

What choice do drivers have when they want to drop people off at a terminal that is clogged with cars, especially if their passengers have mobility issues? Why doesn't BCF put flagging crews at Vesuvius and Fulford? This is easily done; I see commercial companies who provide these services on our island all the time. This would get rid

of safety concerns. "We'll look into it," they said.

3. Things are not as bad as the travelling public are describing, and things have improved on the Crofton-Vesuvius run: "I travel on ferries probably more than anyone in this room, and I never see overloads," said one official, while admitting that 42 per cent of sailings on this route leave cars behind!

Maybe things have improved. Many people at the meeting said they no longer consider taking the ferry on these routes because of the problems.

4. Salt Spring is no worse off than any other of the Gulf Islands. Everyone on every other island is frustrated with BCF because they face similar issues. Is this supposed to make us feel better, hearing that BCF planning and service is lousy everywhere?

We were to hear about plans for Fulford terminal redevelopment. BCF announced this work over a decade ago. Nothing has happened there or at Vesuvius. How do people keep their jobs when they cannot seem to effectively plan and carry out construction projects?

We were told that the Vesuvius route might get two ferries that would work in tandem in the summer. This might happen as soon as 2030. Only 11 more years to go!

So, here I sit at Vesuvius, waiting for the ferry. Had to show up an hour early to ensure I made it on in time for an appointment in Duncan. It is again overloaded, leaving cars behind.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident and ferry user.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

More CRD tax talk

In his June 12 response to my June 5 Viewpoint piece, Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman's statement that "Tax increases in other CRD services more than offset the expiry of the special requisition" is confirmation of the fact tax increases exceeded two per cent for 2019 and that restricted funds of \$250,000 per year from the 2014 transportation referendum were treated as a surplus for 2019, not terminated.

Gary Holman's position that the transportation requisition is terminated because the money is no longer going into a capital account for sidewalks is laughable. Termination means you are no longer taking the money, period. The fact is that the \$250,000 is still being taken in by the CRD but now being used for other purposes, something nobody voted for except Gary Holman at the CRD Board in Victoria.

The CRD Salt Spring Island administration expense increases for 2019 over 2018 actually amount to \$372,765 or 5.89 per cent, and \$250,000 of this amount comes from the continuation of the restricted requisition tax and the \$122,765 balance from an additional 1.94 per cent tax increase. As a comparison, this expense increase is over two and a half times the 2019 increase for

the Islands Trust. The amount of \$250,000 is not in fact less, it is not nonsense, it is a serious amount of money.

What is really needed is an independent audit of this entire affair.

ROBIN WILLIAMS,
SALT SPRING

Not marine conservation

The following letter was sent to Parks Canada and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

I strongly object to the way you have requested "input" from the public on changes to the National Marine Conservation Areas. I have carefully read your background and discussion paper, and you ask only very specific questions about specific aspects of your proposals, with no room for other comments.

The paper contains no maps. The only map available on your website is on a laughably small scale. And allowing only two months, ending July 10, for public response is extremely short – you evidently have no real interest in public "input." Also, your "registration page" does not work.

I live on Salt Spring Island, which is apparently in Zone 4. This means that the Salish Sea will be open to all industrial uses, with

the sole exceptions of bottom trawling, mining, and oil and gas exploration and exploitation. Thus, industrial aquaculture and the anchoring of freighters and oil tankers, among other intrusive uses, will be permitted all through the Gulf Islands.

Your policy objectives include "protect and conserve marine biodiversity," "support the wellbeing of coastal communities" and "foster visits and experiences that build enjoyment of the NMCAs." Fish farms and ocean-going freighters go completely against all these objectives. Fish farms cause pollution, spread diseases and sea lice, and damage the sea floor beneath them. Anchored freighters also damage the sea floor, plus they disrupt island people, wildlife and marine life with constant loud noise, bright lights and fumes.

The islands were used for millennia — and still are — by First Nations, and most of their important sites are near the ocean. The economy of the islands depends largely on recreation and tourism, now that fishing and logging are much reduced, and they are visited by millions of people from around the world each year.

In your revised zoning proposal, you promise "restrictions on activities that negatively impact the seabed," but only in Zones 1 to 3. Why is the seabed of Zone 4 open to damage?

The sensitive ecosystem and historic sites of the Gulf Islands, with miles of bays and beaches, ancient middens, important eel-grass beds, and valuable flora and fauna, are left unprotected. Your proposals in no way constitute "marine conservation."

MARLYN HORSDAL,
SALT SPRING

Cautionary approach better than Bylaw 512

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee could be poised to give third reading to Bylaw 512, which would conditionally approve construction of 401 cottages scattered across the island at specific locations, should the owners or future owners decide to pursue that provision in the future. The intent is to encourage the supply of affordable housing.

Whether or not the cottage is actually used for such purpose is a matter of ongoing monitoring and enforcement.

If a primary residence also provides water to a separate cottage or home-based business it is subject to the requirements of the provincial Drinking Water Protection Act

and regulations, under Island Health. This is not well understood publicly, and begs Islands Trust pre-informing prospective cottage owners of such.

Another concern with Bylaw 512 is that occupancy is not specified nor will water consumption be monitored (i.e. number of occupants times daily consumption limit per occupant, for a total of allowable permitted yield).

Islands Trust depends usually on a "complaint-driven" basis of enforcement, which means when a neighbour's well is impacted who is responsible? Each share the same aquifer. The cost to determine that rests with the complainant, or conceivably the offender, whose additional demand tipped the aquifer's capacity to sustain through certain climatic conditions.

Eventually a "tipping point" is reached where the capacity of any aquifer to continue to meet changing demand and climate conditions is thwarted. History teaches this, yet in our imperfect assumptions we continue to rely on "trial and error" to reinforce our understandings.

The blanket provisions of this short-sighted bylaw point to expensive litigation costs by neighbours, and to dry wells for both parties, conceivably.

The bylaw should be replaced with a more precautionary approach where, for example, onus of monitoring is mandatory, limits of occupancy and per person daily consumption limits set on a conditional, more conservative level until proven by experience over five years of sustainable operation without complaint, and permits should be rescindable should experience, climate or human, teach otherwise.

RON HAWKINS,
SALT SPRING

Dogs running wild

Shame on all the locals who come down to the Cusheon Creek bird estuary and not only allow their dogs to chase the birds but encourage it.

You may think it's entertaining for your dogs but these birds only get a few hours to feed each day. There are also endangered great blue herons that feed there and they are not great flyers. What happens if your dog catches and kills one?

My Lab has been trained to not chase the birds and when we walk down the stairs to the beach the geese get into the water, come over and swim with her. They know that she is not a threat.

Please respect the birds.

BARB GALLOWAY,
BEDDIS ROAD



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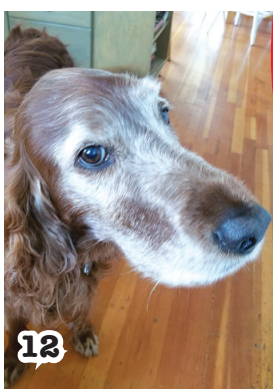
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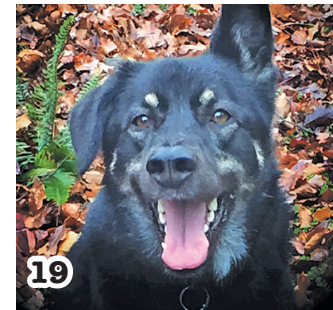
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Aren't They Lovable?

Once again we asked islanders for pictures of their pets, and they responded with wagging-tail enthusiasm. Many photos were accompanied with the owners' expressions of love for their pets, or details about the image. If you missed this year's call for pet photos, stay tuned for the next request in June of 2020. In the meantime, keep on loving the pets now in your household and save some love for those to come in future.



1- April the six-year-old Labrador retriever loves to play football (from David Paine). 2- Baby the citron crested cockatoo (from Lance and Fran Leask). 3- Patrick the Gander & his mate Margaret (from Caroline Hickman). 4- Cheerio is a curious soul (from Cathie Grindler). 5- Lego, age 14, who was adopted by the Niensens at age six (from Viv Nielsen). 6- Mini Australian shepherd Sunshine (from Jim and Sheri Standen). 7- Taylor, an Australian shepherd, during competition (from Ann McPhee). 8- Emma (from Juliana Paul). 9- Chaos (from Alexandria LeBlanc). 10- Ali with Blue Blue and Greeny (from Noor Al Shoykh). 11- Anoushka in the maple tree (from Doreen Palme). 12- Casey, one of three Irish setters in the family (from Sheila Walker). 13- Chip the cat and crested gecko named Cisco with Zach (from Zach Staicesku). 14- Marvin the mini Holland lop (from Kristen Battle). 15- Mickey hangs out with sleeping Cadence (from Carolyn Walkner). 16- Basil (from Sherry Mudrak). 17- Cinnamon the hamster (from Liam Stevens). 18- Cleo (from Jessica Harkema). 19- Bowie (from Chris Abbott). 20- The Amazing Miss Mini, the smile therapist (from Elizabeth Lee).

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PET SPACES

Catios: the best of indoor and outdoor worlds

Pet owners find peace of mind with cat-devoted space

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new word in urban home design that could easily become the rage on the Gulf Islands gives feline friends indoor-outdoor space created with their needs as the guiding premise.

The "catio" is a patio made especially for cats. With screened siding and a roof overhead to protect animals from sun and rain, the catio is increasingly viewed as the best option for giving cats the outdoor time they crave while keeping themselves and other creatures safe.

Salt Spring resident Karen Gray is an early adopter of the system, and since going to work for the local BC SPCA branch she's made sure to spread the word to anyone who comes in to adopt a pet.

"I have two cats and I have a catio. It's made my life a lot less stressful," Gray said.

Gray started looking into the options when she moved from a house to a townhouse a few years back. Her cats were used to going outside, but she wasn't sure how this would work in the new location, especially for one cat who liked to venture further than the deck.

"I was worried because I was just going to let her free-roam and there were other cats in the neighbourhood," Gray said.

With permission from her strata to enclose her porch, the situation resolved perfectly.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Karen Gray in the catio at the Salt Spring branch of the BC SPCA.

Although Gray didn't realize it when she first went to work there, the BC SPCA is another avid proponent of the catio. The organization provides lots of good tips on its website about how to create the space and how to help cats get used to it.

The advantages of having a catio, according to the BC SPCA, include protecting cats from cars, unwanted diseases and conflicts from other's animals. Wildlife such as songbirds can enjoy their habitat more safely without bored predators on the prowl. As well, the organization points out, "Not everyone

loves your cat as much as you do. Catios can help avoid conflicts created when your cat chooses to use your neighbour's vegetable garden as their outdoor litter box."

Catios can be room-sized areas that people can also enjoy, or they can be small enough to extend from a window casement. A very easy option is to just screen in an existing covered area, such as a porch or the area under an outside staircase. Gray is an enthusiastic social media follower of a man named David Murphy, who makes his entire living building catios in Austin, Texas as The Cat Carpenter. Murphy has designed and built everything from screened porches to stand-alone catios that are located at a distance from the house, and are accessed by a tunnel or an elevated walkway.

Suggested building materials are decay-resistant cedar for the framing, and treated plywood or polycarbonate panels for the roof. The sides can be screened with fine mesh if humans are going to be sharing the space and want to keep out mosquitos. Otherwise, any rolled wire fencing will work as long as the gauge is small enough that cats can't hurt themselves trying to slip through.

Access to the indoor part of the house can be done with a cat door, or owners can let their pets in and out with a human-sized door, depending on their situation.

Once the main space is secure and rain-proof, it can be filled with things that make cat life enjoyable. Shelves on different levels, scratching posts, toys and climbing apparatus are a good start. Plants that are safe for cats are also a nice touch, while a water dish is a must. The BC SPCA recommends keeping litter boxes and food inside the house, how-



PHOTO COURTESY KAREN GRAY

View of Karen Gray's catio.

ever, to avoid attracting smaller creatures like rodents and insects into the sanctuary.

Gray applied some of Murphy's ideas to the drawings for her space. She recommends looking there for inspiration, since Murphy has many creative scenarios that cats will enjoy and that can fit the different spaces around one's home. Her own cats enjoy two big lounge chairs and a bench with cushions. She has screens that she can hook on when the sun gets too hot.

"Right now they have access to the catio when I'm at work. They can have access to the air or the breeze," Gray said. "It gives me peace of mind — and it cuts down on the vet bills."

BC SPCA says cats typically take one to two weeks to get used to their catio, but provided there are comfortable places to lounge and fun items to engage them, they should settle in in no time.



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In dogs, allergies can appear as ear infections and can be recurrent and hard to get rid of. Dogs with allergies may also have itchy paws and red skin in their armpits or bellies. Dogs can be allergic to anything people can be allergic to including dust, pollens in the environment and foods. Environmental allergies like grasses and trees can show up as seasonal events. Affected dogs might get itchy for a few weeks every spring or maybe just in the fall. Allergies to food or indoor allergens such as dust tend to bother dogs more consistently and may seem present all year.

People whose dogs need attention should see their veterinarian or a board certified veterinary dermatologist. They can help determine if allergies might be the reason for your dog's discomfort and can offer options to help alleviate the symptoms. Some solutions are short term to bring relief and resolve the smelly, dirty, itchy ears. This usually includes traditional daily at-home ear cleaning or medication for one to two weeks. There are also treatments your vet-

erinarian can administer to your dog in the clinic; these single or double-dose options provide the same type of results as traditional ear medications, saving pet owners the struggle of treating their dog's ears at home.

Part of managing allergies involves determining what the pet is allergic to. This can be frustrating for pet owners but is essential for providing pets with relief. Options like intradermal and serologic allergy testing and/or diet trials may help in this process. Once the cause of the allergy is better understood, control may involve additional options like shampoo therapy, topical, oral or injectable medications or immunotherapy.

For food allergic dogs, diet trials where food intake is limited to a specific diet can help determine which foods are an issue for pets and your veterinary team can provide hypoallergenic, hydrolyzed, novel ingredient or limited antigen options that eliminate these allergens from your pet's diet. Food can also be used to support skin health and alleviate symptoms for dogs with environmental allergies.

The best solution can be different for each pet; pet owners must work with their veterinary team to find the right option for their pet.

SOURCE: Canadian Animal Health Institute



1- Cedar, age 12, adopted from the Salt Spring SPCA (from Karen Gray). 2- Brew, a red collie, black Lab mix (from Ron Patterson). 3- Conan (from Juliana Paul). 4- Tibetan spaniel puppy bred by Trekhond Kennels of Salt Spring (from Ann McPhee). 5. Paris Hilton (from Judy Goodman). 6- Charley is so tolerant of his younger buddy Milo (from Corinne Metcalfe). 7- Xena the Warrior Princess (from Russell Logan). 8- Missy the purebred Yorkshire terrier (from Patti Field). 9- Sadie the Wonder Dog: "Is that even comfortable?" (from Lisa Dahling). 10- Wiggle in her favourite spot (from Karen Gray).

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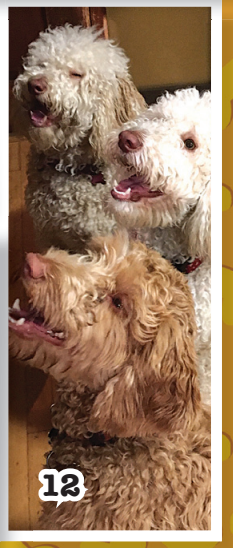
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1- Harley and Jenny (from Deborah A). 2- Gulietta, who was born in Italy 18 years ago (from Elke Lowel). 3- Heidi the chocolate Lab (from Alexandria LeBlanc). 4- Lulu in the driver's seat and raring to go (from Gail Sjuberg). 5- Fergus at the beach (from Chris & John). 6- Harley loves sailing! (from Sacheen Paul). 7- Luna (from the Stevens family). 8- Oceana the Australian Labradoodle (from Pat Campbell). 9- Ollie (from Noel Nielsen). 10- Leia and Luke, sister and brother French lop-eared bunnies (from Ayla and Liam Stevens). 11- Riley the Labradoodle with his pet chick (from Shirley Command). 12- Happy pups Quinn, Gracee and Riley wait for treats (from Shirley Command). 13- Poodle pirate! (from Carol Duncan). 14- Perry Porter, a Solomon Island Eclectus male parrot (from Marian Porter).

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ROOTS MUSIC

Next three PitchFork acts run the genre gamut

Fulford Hall hosts unique performers

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

PitchFork Social is turning up the heat on its 2019 concert series with three shows running in the last 10 days of July at Fulford Hall.

First up on Sunday, July 21 is Willie Watson, who is known for taking traditional folk songs and giving them an original interpretation, "passing along his own version of the music that came long before him," as his website explains.

Watson is a former member of the acclaimed Old Crow Medicine Show, a singer and banjo player who has put out two solo albums — *Folksinger Vol. 1* and *Folksinger Vol. 2* — in the past five years.

"There's so much beauty in this old music, and it affects me on a deep level," says Watson on his website. "It moves me and inspires me. I heard Leadbelly singing with the Golden Gate Quartet and it sounded fantastic, and I thought, 'I want to do that.' I heard the Grateful Dead doing their version of 'On the Road Again,' and it sounded like a dance party in 1926, and I wanted to do that, too. That's the whole reason I ever played music in the first place — because it looked and sounded like it was going to be a lot of fun."

Sam Lewis from Nashville hits the Fulford



PHOTOS COURTESY ARTISTS' WEBSITES

From left, Steve Poltz, Sam Lewis and Willie Watson, who perform at PitchFork Social on July 30, July 25 and July 21 respectively. PitchFork Social and the Driftwood are giving away pairs of tickets for all three shows! Enter the contest by sending your name via email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com by Monday, July 22 at noon, and we will draw winners for each concert.

Hall stage on Thursday, July 25, along with the Dimpker Brothers.

Lewis' artist site bio explains that he's collaborated with everyone from Leon Russell to The Wood Brothers, and that Chris Stapleton dubbed him "a modern Townes Van Zandt." His music is "often labelled with some form of the word 'soulful,' ... [but] Lewis' style meets at a juncture of many different genres. There's something about Sam Lewis that is indescribably different — and with his newest project, he's discovered what most musicians spend lifetimes working for — the place where feel-good music meets vital social commentary."

Lewis' 2018 album *Loversity* was named to Rolling Stone's 10 New Artists to Watch list, with writer Marissa Moss describing the album as sounding like "The Black Keys meandering into '70s psychedelic soul, with a storyteller's eye, a swampy Southern groove and an emotional, political punch."

Then on Tuesday, July 30, the audience will be treated to Steve Poltz,

"[He] is part busker, part Iggy Pop and part Robin Williams, a freewheeling folkie with a quick wit and big heart," wrote the Associated Press. "See him live and wonder why he doesn't fill arenas."

Poltz is a Canadian by birth and lived in San Diego for most of his career, before moving to Nashville a few years ago, where he created the album *Shine On* with producer Will Kimbrough (of Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell fame).

One of his signature songs is "Hey God, I'll Trade You Donald Trump for Leonard Cohen," which gives an idea of what the evening will be like.

All PitchFork concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and doors open at 6 p.m. Food by Mateada is available outdoors from 6 p.m.

ART COMPETITION

Jeannette Sirois named Kingston Prize finalist

Portrait also headed to Sooke Fine Arts Show

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring artist Jeannette Sirois has been named as one of just 30 finalists for the 2019 Kingston Prize, which celebrates Canadian portraiture.

"It's a real honour for me to be a part of the group of Canadian artists that were chosen for the show. I feel very privileged," Sirois told the Driftwood.

Sirois must wait until October to learn whether her work *Bad Hair Day*

#3 earns her the top prize of \$20,000 or an honourable mention award. In the meantime, the same piece, a massive coloured pencil drawing that stretches 47 by 64 inches, will also be eligible for prizes at the Sooke Fine Arts Show.

Art viewers who attended the Salt Spring Arts Council's Easter Art Show "Homage" will recognize the stunning work, which took 900 hours over two and half months to complete.

"I was drawing it right up until the couple of days before the Homage show," Sirois reported.

Despite the immense timeframe involved, she's hoping the piece will be part of an eventual series that

addresses women's mental health and how different women experience their everyday lives.

The Kingston Prize is a Canada-wide competition and exhibition for Canadian portrait painting and drawing. The competition is open to any Canadian artist who depicts a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant in a portrait based on a real life encounter.

In addition to the anchoring exhibition at the Firehall Theatre in Gananoque, Ont., the show will tour for extended periods at the Peel Art Gallery, Archives & Museum in Brampton and Toronto's Artport Gallery at Harbourfront Centre.

TEA A TEMPO

Performer Julie Hampton visits All Saints stage

Next week's recital program

Wednesday, July 24 marks the first-time appearance of singer-songwriter Julie Hampton to the Tea a Tempo stage.

Hampton was a Salt Springer from 2006 until 2012, and now splits her time between Fairfield, Iowa and Cedar, B.C.

The Salt Spring Singers Concert in 2011 featured Hamp-

ton as a tenor and soloist.

She self-released her first album, *Quiet Hours*, in 2016 under the moniker *Electra Day*, which has received some nice reviews.

"Along with the relaxing steadily rolling guitar, the versatility of the vocals and lyrics are as engaging and enigmatic as the landscapes and seascapes she brings to life in songs like *Ferry Song*, *Romance of the Stars* and

October Nights . . ."

The singer's follow-up recording project covers a selection of songs written during the course of extensive travels over the past 11 years: from Berlin to the Mojave Desert, to the Gulf Islands to the High Sierra Desert of Northern Mexico to Iowa.

The performance at All Saints By-the-Sea Church starts at 2:10 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

Singer-songwriter Julie Hampton, who performs at All Saints By-the-Sea on July 24



WILLIE WATSON
Sunday
July 21
7:30 PM • \$25



SAM LEWIS with Dimpker Brothers
Thurs. July 25,
7:30 PM • \$35



STEVE POLTZ
Tuesday
July 30
7:30 PM • \$25



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what's on this week



Wed. July 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Backstage.

Tea à Tempo recital features folk, Newfoundland and gospel music by Adam Huber, Michael Aronoff and Marilyn Walker. All Saints. Music by donation starts at 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.

Levy Line.

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

ACTIVITIES

Mother Goose.

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program is a free drop-in for parents, caregivers and young children from birth to six 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 Sundays at the Farmers' Institute grounds, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through July and August.

Music Bingo.

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

Thu. July 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John Gogo and John Guliak.

Live 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 listing.

Thu. July 18

ACTIVITIES

Treasure Fair.

Three days of silent auction starts today, with items valued at more than \$100,000, culminating in a live auction on July 20. ArtSpring. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer Reading Club.

A drop-in program for ages five to 12, with crafts, games and fun! SS Public Library. 11 a.m.

Art Show Opening: Sophia Burke.

Opening of This is How I Know You by Sophia Burke, a photographic installation about immigration, and the story of her Guatemalan grandmother. Point Gallery, South Ridge Drive. 5 to 8 p.m.

Fri. July 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Marianne Grittani.

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

ArtSpring Presents: Daniel Lapp, Stephanie Cadman and Friends.

Folk, fiddle and more in concert at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Sharon Bailey Band.

Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum.

See Wednesday listing.



Treasure Fair.

See Thursday listing.

Fri. July 19

ACTIVITIES

Quest for the Queen.

Journey to the centre of the Hive to help three lost honeybees on a quest to find their queen. Singing, dancing and sweet nectarous refreshments at the Pollinator Tea Party. At Stonewell Farm, 1852 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Gate opens at 2:30 p.m.

Art Show Opening: Peter McFarlane.

Opening reception for Shiny Steel, a show of new works by sculptor Peter McFarlane. Steffich Fine Art. 5 to 8 p.m.

Karaoke.

At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Sat. July 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music in the Library.

K-Tones perform in first of new series for all ages at the library. 10:30 a.m.

The Fabulous Flakes.

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

Salt Spring Community Radio FUNdraiser.

DJ contest and more at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Blanky.

Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum.

See Wednesday listing.

Quest for the Queen.

See Friday listing.

Salt Spring Saturday Market.

In Centennial Park every Saturday through October. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Treasure Fair.

Final day of silent auction runs at ArtSpring 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live auction starts at 6 p.m.

Sat. July 20

ACTIVITIES

StoryTime in the Park.

Salt Spring Public Library hosts weekly event for ages three to seven in the Gazebo in Centennial Park for a peaceful break from the bustle of the Saturday Market. 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Sun. July 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Alan Moberg.

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

Simone & Mike Lamers.

Jazz and R&B duo at Moby's Pub. 7 to 10:30 p.m.

PitchFork Social: Willie Watson.

PitchFork Social presents the classic folksinger who recorded the Grammy-nominated song "When a Cowboy Trades his Spurs for Wings." Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.



ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum.

See Wednesday listing.

Pool.

Free pool every Sunday at the Legion at 12 noon.

The Kids R STILL Alright!

The Chuan Society presents its second annual block party in downtown Ganges. All ages, all genres, all day, with art, food and music. 12 noon to 10 p.m.

Mon. July 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Simone & Mike Lamers.

Jazz and R&B duo at Moby's Pub. 7 to 10:30 p.m.

Laila Garsey.

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

ACTIVITIES

Darts.

Darts played at the Legion every Monday at 6 p.m.

Tue. July 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic with Richard Cross.

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Meeting.

Regular meetings starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Harbour House Hotel. Public input opportunity on Forsyth Farms TUP offered at 12 noon. Applications heard during afternoon session.

Tuesday Farmers Market.

Food-only market with all homegrown or handmade goods. Runs June through September at Centennial park. 2 to 6 p.m.

An Evening of Quiet Practice.

Drop-in event where people can bring their own their own practice of prayer, meditation, contemplation, writing, or walk in the graveyard. Every fourth Tuesday of the month at Star of the Sea Centre, St. Mary's Church in Fulford. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Trivia Tuesday.

At Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Wed. July 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Julie Hampton.

Singer-songwriter Julie Hampton performs at the Tea à Tempo recital at All Saints By-the Sea. 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea and treats.

Sarah Osborne.

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

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum.

See last Wednesday's listing.



Mother Goose

See last Wednesday's listing.



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- Final shows for **Rocketman** on Wed., July 17 and Thurs., July 18 at 7 p.m.
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For more movie info go to www.thefritz.ca

EXHIBITIONS

- **Shiny Steel**, New Works by Peter McFarlane, opens at Steffich Fine Art on Friday, July 19 with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. (McFarlane was second prize winner in the People's Choice Awards at SSNAP 2017.) The show continues through Aug. 4.
- **The ArtCraft Showcase** exhibition features abstracted studies of nature in paint and basketry by Barbra Edwards and Carol Dodd on the Mahon Hall stage through July 24.
- **Photography by Connie Kuhns** and Jen Holmes shows at Pod Contemporary.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Sophie Burke** shows This is How I Know You, a photographic installation about immigration, and the story of her Guatemalan grandmother. At The Point Gallery, South Ridge Drive, with an opening reception on Thursday, July 18 from 5 to 8 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Gallery** hosts an exhibition called Momentum featuring paintings by Melanie Morris and limited-edition bronzes by Simon Morris until July 31.
- **Iris McBride** shows oil paintings and Louise Goodman has paper poems at Kizmit Galeria and cafe through July. Hours are Thursdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Jeanne Lyons** holds an exhibition called Elemental — sculpture, prints and works on paper — in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room through July.
- **Duthie Gallery** shows Houses, new paintings by Josephine Fletcher, until July 21. Gallery hours are Fridays through Mondays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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ISLAND ARTISTS

Fletcher's landscapes and colour spaces on display

Next Artcraft Showcase exhibition

BY HELEN MEARS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Local places, gardens and fields are the subject of Josephine Fletcher's exhibition — Landscapes and Colour Spaces — Artcraft's third Showcase Gallery presentation of the season, which opens at Mahon Hall next Friday, July 26 with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m.

West coast foliage captured in spring and summer are brought to life. Scenes are chosen from Salt Spring Island: Southey Point, Ruckle Park and Burgoyne Bay. Whether observing dark and dense shrubbery or accompanying vivid colours from the flowering gardens of camellias, magnolias and muscari, Fletcher's confident, rhythmic brushstrokes are deftly applied, resulting in lively expressions of nature. Memory and direct observation are employed; repeat visits to sites, over time, to catch light, to seek out a true and complex image. Raised on Hornby Island, Fletcher grew up in a creative community, amongst writers, draft-dodgers and artists like Wayne Ngan and Jack Shadbolt.

"We lived perched on the sandstone of the island edge looking north

... sleeping often by the sea with our backs to the earth looking up at the myriads of stars with the warm north-westerlies blowing on shore in the evening," she said.

Fletcher was continuously encouraged to paint and had yearly exhibitions at the community hall, going on to study at the Banff School of Fine Arts and Emily Carr University of Art and Design. She took trips to remote places, such as Haida Gwaii, to paint en plein air, capturing colours and light rooted in the region.

From these landscapes, Fletcher moves into abstraction — a separate body of work — within the exhibition. From her representational paintings, Fletcher chooses a series of colours to create "quartets or colour spaces." The outcome is an expressive geometry.

"I love placing colours next to each other within a space. They can complement each other and create wonderful illusions."

Both Fletcher's representational and abstract work results from and are relational to one another, although have starkly different outcomes. Both styles are instinctive and are a record of her beloved natural landmarks; sites discovered by living rurally, immersed in nature that continues to influence her work.

Landscapes and Colour Spaces runs from July 26 to Aug. 21.



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

BUSY TREASURE

ELVES: Preparing the silent auction for the 19th annual Treasure Fair at ArtSpring on Monday are, at top, Leith and Darryl Martin, who make sure a painting is hanging straight, and, at left, from left, Linda Jones and Ellen Mae Simmonds, setting out glasses. The silent auction runs Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the live auction on Saturday beginning at 6 p.m.

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ISLAND LIFE

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FIRE PREVENTION

Escape route a priority for Long Harbour pod

FireSmart grant aids broom-clearing project

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Residents of the Long Harbour/Old Scott Road area have worked hard over the past months to reduce wildfire hazard and tackled an invasive plant incursion at the same time with a broom-clearing campaign.

Long Harbour pod captain Fiona Wolfe-Milner and Old Scott Road neighbourhood leader Jane Petch coordinated the effort, which went full steam ahead receiving a \$500 grant from FireSmart Canada.

Multiple work parties that involved a large number of community members succeeded in clearing Scotch broom patches from nearly two kilometres of roadside on Old Scott Road and Welbury Drive.

"On our road we had up to 25 people working, cutting broom, and it worked really well," Petch said. "It's an example of what people can do when they get together for fire risk."

The Long Harbour pod encompasses over 90 properties. Housing is particularly dense along scenic Old Scott Road, but the narrow seaside lane is also a potential danger. If wildfire were to hit the area, it would be the only road out for many residents. The large broom patches increase the risk as the woody plant is not just highly flammable but can actually act as an accelerant.

The bulk of the project was accomplished by community labour, and those who couldn't help with cutting donated other funds and resources. Making sure the road can be a viable escape route was a project everyone got on board with.

"Most of our area, the people are over 65, and we had people in their 80s doing this," Wolfe-Milner said. "It's an unbelievable effort they put in."

The pod group used some of their FireSmart grant to hire a younger helper who could get at an extra steep bank for a few hours. The rest of it will go to chipping, and a local resident has agreed to take the material.

The exercise had the further benefit of putting the pod's communication system to the test, as the six neighbourhood leaders helped notify residents about the project and its work parties using the same phone tree they will activate in emergency events like a wildfire or an earthquake.

"We'd really like to applaud their effort. Neighbourhood pods can really make a big difference," said Salt Spring Fire Rescue Lt. Mitchell Sherrin, who specializes in fire prevention. He has offered to come back to the neighbourhood for an in-depth FireSmart workshop.

FireSmart provides guidelines for living with and managing for wildfire, particularly in the



Lyle Petch works to clear more Scotch broom from the side of Old Scott Road.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

interface where the urban lifestyle (built structures) meets fire-prone environments (the forest). The national program incorporates seven principles, which range from education and voluntary vegetation management to interagency cooperation, legislation and community planning.

"By choosing to extend our lifestyle and communities further into forested areas, we become more exposed to the danger of wildfire," the FireSmart Canada website observes.

Sherrin said island residents can take some solace in the fact the Coastal Douglas-fir zone is not as volatile as some of the B.C. Interior ecosystems. At the same time, he noted, "Any forest environment is a fire risk, just like people who live in hurricane zones are at risk from hurricanes."

Sherrin said removing invasive plants like broom and replanting with native species will help because the coast's indigenous plants are more fire resistant. He recommends encouraging species like native berries and Nootka rose.

Applying FireSmart wildfire mitigation/prevention principles to the home environment is also recommended, with danger zones broken down from 10 to 30 metres from the house for vegetation control. Sherrin said even small actions to decrease fuel sources can have a big impact in reducing wildfire spread, however. Things like picking up dead branches, keeping firewood and propane away from the house and cutting back tall grass can all improve home safety.

The Long Harbour pod was one of two neighbourhood groups on Salt Spring to receive a Wildfire Community Preparedness Day grant from FireSmart Canada. The Garner Road-Caprice Heights pod had a big broom-clearing work party on May 18.

Wolfe-Milner said she hopes other neighbourhoods and pod groups will be inspired to follow suit.

"If people know about it, maybe they'll think they can do it next year. It takes a lot of organizing, but it was worth it," she said.



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ENVIRONMENTAL LIVING

Eco Living and Home Tour set to inspire

Several homes and properties to explore on July 28

SUBMITTED BY WAYNE TANTON SALT SPRING

Headlines announcing biodiversity collapse and climate catastrophe can feel paralyzing. Even the most committed environmentalists may not know where to turn for solid information on the kinds of innovative — and dramatic — lifestyle changes that experts say will be needed to weather the coming changes.

Salt Spring's Eco Living and Home Tour highlights what some people are doing to reduce their carbon footprint and to prepare themselves for an uncertain future. The tour also offers something that is getting harder to find these days: good news. The innovative event offers inspiring examples of ways that people are taking action to transform their ecological footprint and create sustainable, beautiful homes.

Held on Sunday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the self-guided tour allows visitors to explore examples of off-grid living, tiny homes, container homes, eco building and architecture, renewable technologies, sustainable garden design and other planet-

friendly ways of living.

Visitors will get to talk with passionate homeowners, builders and contractors about their recommendations for energy efficiency, renewable energy, ecological materials for building, and design solutions.

"The Eco Living and Home Tour is one of the least expensive ways to get some great ideas about greening your house, reducing your carbon footprint, or downsizing," said Andrew Haigh, founding member of the ELHT organizing committee whose off-the-grid home has been showcased on the tour. Haigh knows the trials, and joys, of building with the dual considerations of a tight family budget and a minimal carbon footprint: 10 years from inception, he's reaping the rewards of energy self-sufficiency with no monthly hydro bills and landscaping irrigated entirely from household water recycling.

Held every two years, the ELHT is now in its seventh year. It's hosted by Transition Salt Spring, a local group that has been helping islanders reduce their ecological footprints for more than 20 years.

Tickets are on sale online via Eventbrite at <https://ss-ecotour.eventbrite.ca> and at Salt Spring Books.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

HIVE MIND: Leo Guzauskas shows an oversized wasp nest that has been constructed against his Swanson Road home's glassed-in verandah. Guzauskas said he has not seen anything like it before on the property, which he's had since 2001, and that it had grown twice in size during the past month. He added it has been fascinating to watch the action inside at night when shining a flashlight through the window, and he intends to leave it up since the wasps will be gone in the fall anyway.

RADIO

DJ contest entices hosts

Fundraising event set for Legion on Saturday night

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People who have been told they have a voice (or face) for radio have a chance to prove their skills and potentially get a spot hosting a show on the Gulf Islands Community Radio station.

The network will host the event at the Legion this Saturday, July 20, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The event is a fundraiser, silent auction, concert and party celebrating community radio on Salt Spring. One of the main draws will be the DJ auditions, where a lucky contestant will be given a slot on the radio station's schedule and be heard across the Gulf Islands.

"For people who want to have a show on the radio, they can come and pitch their show and play a couple of songs," said GICRS president Damian Inwood. "We'll have a panel of judges and it will be sort of like America's Got Talent. We'll comment on them, and whoever wins, we'll offer them a show."

The winner will be able to join other hosts like Inwood, Scott Merrick, Ben Frey and Dano Hammer in offering an eclectic mix of music and talk on the station.

"We've got some new programs on the air, which we've started in the last few weeks," Inwood said.

He has been hosting a show tracing the lineage of different rock and roll bands through the ages. Frey has a show where he plays a diverse mix of music from his record collection, and Hammer (also known as Dan Miller) hosts a weekly hip-hop show, in addition to Merrick's regularly scheduled weekday morning show.

Local band The Regulars will also play a set at the Legion, followed by a DJ set by Dan Snakehead. A silent auction and vinyl record sale will raise money to help pay for the station's equipment costs.

GICRS submitted an application to the federal government in December for a broadcasting licence. On June 4, Inwood received a letter from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, the regulatory body that looks at the technical specifications associated with the application.

"They got it and they're examining the proposal on the technical end. You have to prepare a very detailed technical brief when you put in an application. It's all about mapping, showing the signal strength and the exclusion areas so you're not infringing on someone else's radio station," he explained. "Once they've done that and it's all okay, they would then pass that on to the CRTC and they would look at the overall submission from that point."

The letter was the first indication from the fed-

eral government that the application had been received. Inwood said while they're waiting for the application to be approved, the station will be raising funds for the transmitters and building their programming so they are ready when the time comes to flip the switch.

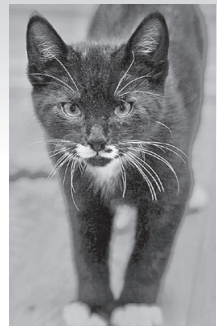
"Transmitters are quite expensive. We have the locations and everything all nailed down, but it's a question of putting up equipment on the towers," he said. "It's probably going to be around \$70,000 for our capital costs."

GICRS currently streams 24/7 online via island-sradio.ca. Besides regularly scheduled shows, other times are filled with computer-generated playlists.

"We've got a big selection of music in our library and the computer takes over. The time slots are all various different types of music," he said. "It'll just pick at random whatever we have to fit those slots. You don't really hear the same stuff over and over again."

GICRS programming details are available on both the group's Facebook page and its website. Those interested in hosting a radio show can contact Inwood at president@gicrs.ca.

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Remember WHEN

Five years ago

• Rabbits, pigs, ponies and chickens joined dogs on the "not-wanted" list of animals at Centennial Park. While dog owners had been banned from bringing their pets to the park for several years after complaints about dog fights and un-scooped poop, other pet owners were getting the message. Saturday Market vendor Roger Brunt was told to remove his rabbit named Big Horse from the lawn, and another islander who offered paid pony rides was told to desist. "Big Horse, the most famous and most photographed rabbit that ever lived on Salt Spring Island, is now branded as a criminal. It would be only sad if it wasn't so pathetic," Brunt told the Driftwood.

Ten years ago

• The U.S. economic downturn put the brakes on plans for a new Salt Spring Island fire truck. A compressed air foam unit scheduled for receipt in the spring of 2008 was delayed as the manufacturer American LaFrance went through bankruptcy protection, restructuring and layoffs. The company was unable to provide an estimated delivery date, prompting fire protection district board chair Michael Schubart to suggest other options. Concerns about rising costs of firefighting equipment were brought up, prompting fire captain Jamie Holmes to say that "[If we place a new order today], we are going to get a lot less truck for the same price." Trustees agreed to keep their order with American LaFrance while they looked at products from other manufacturers.

Twenty years ago

• One of Salt Spring's highest peaks was on the verge of becoming a regional park, though getting there was no easy task. The Capital Regional District purchased the top of Mount Sullivan from the Texada Logging Company for \$278,000. The public was encouraged to leave the park alone for the time being, and at the time no trails existed in the area. "At this point, we're just really excited to have the park reserve," said Kellie Booth, Salt Spring's CRD director and a parks committee member. "We don't want to encourage people to be there right now. While we eventually want to invite the public up there, we certainly don't want them to degrade any of the aspects (by lighting campfires, stomping around and so on)."

Thirty years ago

• Galiano Island residents were firmly against a world-class resort development planned by MacMillan Bloedel for its Galiano holdings. Over 200 people crammed into the activity centre for a public meeting called by Clear Cut Alternatives to seek community input for the Forest and Land Use Council. Jim Finkbeiner, the company's vice-president for taxes, properties and risk management, said that they would "come up with something the community could live with." Finkbeiner added that surveys showed interest in development and logging, and that loggers living on Galiano relied on the land for their livelihood. But Sandy Moodie told the Driftwood that islanders wanted no part of the plan. "The power of the people was being exercised," Moodie said about the meeting.

Forty years ago

• Fishermen from the United States were illegally taking British Columbia salmon from under the noses of Canada's law enforcement agencies, according to a Ganges fisherman. Geoff Howland said that if foreign vessels were more tightly controlled, there would be fewer sports fishermen in the waters south of Active Pass. Howland said that to the foreign fishermen, clearing customs is too much trouble. The high-speed boats would take on supplies before leaving home, race up the coast, do a day's fishing and go back over the border without spending any money in Canada. RCMP at Ganges said they did regularly check foreign vessels in local waters.

Fifty years ago

• The B.C. Telephone Company was taking no chances with sabotage, though no acts had been reported among the island. The company employed the services of Pinkerton's of Canada to send guards to patrol Salt Spring Island. Uniformed private detectives were driving telephone company trucks on island roads, and telephone company staff were fishing in the sun, as an ongoing strike went into its fourth week. The strike was called after the Federation of Telephone Workers of B.C. called for wage increases of 32.1 per cent and reduced working hours to begin in January 1970.

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Obituaries



JOAN WALLS (CAMPBELL)

Joan passed away peacefully, at the age of 87, on May 14, 2019 at the Delta Hospital.

Joan was predeceased by her husband, Harry. Remembering Joan lovingly are her beloved sons; Michael (Edith), Jock, and David (Fiona), her treasured grandchildren; Susan, Richard, Wesley, Christina, Jennifer, and Brandi, and her seven great grandchildren; Jessica, Blake, Sadie, Kate, Siena, James and Hana.

Joan's most precious and beloved place on earth was Sweetwater Farm on Salt Spring Island. Family and friends will gather for a Celebration Of Life at Sweetwater Farm, 310 Toynbee Rd. on Sunday September 1st from 2-5 p.m.

Obituaries

In Memoriam

DAVID H. MASSY
 October 1918 - July 2011
Lovingly remembered by all his family and friends.

In Memoriam

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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 Salt Spring Literacy Society has an opening for a Administrative Assistant. Please see the full posting at www.saltspringliteracy.org for more details.

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In Memoriam

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Career Opportunities

NORTHERN GATEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS requires 3 Full-time teachers at Twilight and Homeland Colony Schools in beautiful rural Valleyview. Successful applicants will instruct grades 4-9 in a small multi-grade colony school. Apply at: ngps.ca/careers.

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WHAT'S ON
 page 14

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4TH ANNUAL Rotary CRAB FEST



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

Doug and the Thugs rock it at Rotary Marine Park for the Salt Spring Rotary Club's annual fundraiser held Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m., which was a great success. Proceeds will go towards replacing the Rotary dinghy dock off the boardwalk.



Rotarian Gilian Taylor makes sure a customer gets a full glass of brew at the refreshments table.



A full house enjoys the crab meal and live music in the park.

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Fall Fair Focus



SECTION 16 PHOTOGRAPHY

This year's Photography Section is having a makeover. New categories and cash prizes available plus the usual Trophy Awards. **PLUS** — enter the 2019 BC Fairs Members Choice Award Programme.



Winner will be taken to the BCAAFC Conference in Victoria this October. See pg. 33 Class 99 for details in the catalogue.

Have fun, and see you at the Fair! Sept. 14 & 15

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastrology.com | sunstarastrology@gmail.com

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

The summer's eclipses have now completed their task of activating those of us destined to receive their particular impulse. At about the midpoint date of the two-week span between them, Mercury turned retrograde (July 7 – August 2) while in Leo and will re-enter Cancer on July 18. Many people are aware that this tri-annual, three-week cycle behaves like something of a storm high in the atmosphere. Communications and the technology are commonly known to produce disturbances during this period, which much more apparent than when it is not retrograde. Some cycles are stronger than others in their effect and to whom, how and where the disturbances are destined to occur can be described as subjective. The scope and degree of the effect can be measured for any given person by a closer look at it when aligned with their birth Chart. This week's Horoscope provides a general overview of how Mercury Retrograde is likely to affect each sign.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Mercury retrograde could prove to have a powerful effect for you. Beyond just outer disturbances with devices and communications mishaps, it could have a psychological effect upon you. It could lead you to second guess your choices and to feel emotionally perplexed for a while. Remember, it is a temporary phase so stay calm.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) Mercury Retrograde, in its first stage while in Leo, is activating your dreaming mind. This could prove quite positive and enjoyable. When it re-enters Cancer, the reality of your situation in the wider sense will come into play. At worst, this could leave you feeling temporarily insecure, especially regarding your professional worth and value.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) This round of Mercury retrograde could actually work in your favor. Due to its changing signs halfway through, we all stand to experience it in rather diverse ways. Positively, it will produce deeper insights and eureka moments even regarding answers desired. The biggest hurdle stands to be the assumption that your subjective perspective is obvious to others.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Who are you now, what do you truly want and where do you belong are questions that will likely surface in your mind over the coming weeks. What is probably clear is that you would like to increase your income flow and perhaps add a tributary to two. On the other hand, you may have to contend with obtaining new knowledge and/or skills.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) You too, stand to experience this Mercury Retrograde cycle positively, especially during the first half before it re-enters Cancer on the 18th. Initially, you could also experience particularly lucid flashes of insights as though a dark room is suddenly illumed by a bright lightning bolt. The challenge later will be to keep an open mind about what you saw and its implications.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Mercury retrograde could coincide with something of a soul searching process. New realities and knowledge may be leading you to a deep internal review. Deciphering who you are and are not and perhaps what you are and are not are possible themes of focus. Are you more than your body, a soul...? What is it all about; what does it mean?

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) The effect of this eclipse for you stands to have a reverse timing compared with your Taurus and Gemini friends. Initially, you could find yourself feeling insular and happy to step back from the world for a while. This could actually prove to be quite positive if you need a break. Then when it re-enters Cancer your focus will sharpen.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) A deep dive into a process of deciphering what is important to you have begun with Mercury retrograde. If you take the time to carefully reflect, you might be surprised by what you realize. Generally, you could be reminded just how important your family is to you. With so many rumors of large-scale change on the airwaves, thoughts about their security are likely.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) If you have projects you hope to complete this month, or at least begin, it will prove helpful to start early in regards to this Mercury Retrograde cycle so you can build a momentum that will see you through the second half which stands to have the effect of plunging you deep into a cycle of dreams, heightened imagination and research.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) Your perspectives are changing, especially those linked to your closest relationships. Your focus is on both your personal and professional life and how they seem to complement or block you. As the cycle progresses, you will undergo a deep critical review of your core beliefs and values. Especially in conjunction with the recent eclipses, the ground is shaking.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) Seeing yourself as with new eyes is an important current focus. Circumstances arising synchronistically are pushing you to consider new perspectives, approaches and, perhaps most importantly, new self-concepts. This can include some form of healing as well. Subconscious beliefs are a good place to focus and do some 'inner work'.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Do you sense a higher calling summoning you? Are you listening? Are you responding positively or dismissing and denying your instincts and intuitions? If so, you will feel restless ill at ease. There is no easy way out except to listen, surrender and take action to answer to what you sense is being asked of you. Observe outer synchronicities and flows for clues or seek guidance.

SALT SPRING Star of the WEEK



Ellen Mae Simmonds volunteers at ArtSpring where she helps people to their seats, or sets up exhibits in the lobby. She can hardly keep track of the different things she's involved in, but some of them include volunteering at the United Church or doing grocery shopping for people who cannot do it themselves. She has also recruited more people to the Salt Spring Seals open water swimming group than anyone else. She likes to call new swimmers "pups" and makes sure they're alright when it's the first time in the water.

Where is this?

Where is this spot on Salt Spring? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or answer on Facebook.

Last Week's Winner: Anthony Matthews identified the Inspired/Mouat's metal building wall.



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



BOATING

Sailboat attracts attention during harbour stop

Superyacht Tamsen anchors in Ganges Harbour

Ganges Marina hosted a rather large sailboat overnight on July 9.

The Tamsen is a 52-metre custom-build superyacht that was built for the California-based Firestone family in 2007. The yacht never stays in the same place for long, and it only stayed one night in the Ganges area before making its way towards Vancouver.

It was built by Italian yacht construction company Perini Navi, which is known for its high-end luxury vessels. According to a New York Times article written about the Tamsen

when it was launched, each Perini yacht costs over \$625,000 USD per metre of length, depending on the level of customization. That puts the Tamsen's construction cost at about \$32.5 million USD when it was built.

The vessel boasts around 128 square metres of cabin space, along with another 111 square metres for the saloon and wheelhouse. In addition, crew quarters add up to another 130 square metres.

The masts of the Tamsen are 52 metres high, high enough that they require red lights to warn low-flying aircraft.

This was not the first time Tamsen has visited Salt Spring. Banana Joe Clemente posted a video of the ship in Ganges Harbour on YouTube in 2016.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

The 52-metre-long Tamsen, right, docked next to Canadian naval vessels at Ganges Marina docks.

THE 19TH ANNUAL
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SWIM TEAM

Stingrays swimmers excel in waters of their 'house'

Top-three finishes and many other highlights

BY JAKE BEYAK

STINGRAYS ASSISTANT HEAD COACH

The Salt Spring Stingrays wrapped up their annual meet this weekend, and it was a resounding success.

In the annual demonstration of community, the club's parents volunteered their time to efficiently construct and take down all of the facets necessary for this meet to run effectively. Local artisans and merchants generously contributed their work and merchandise to the expansive silent auction, with contributions from several local pillars of enterprise and craft.

Coaches from all clubs performed their tasks diligently whilst maintaining an atmosphere of fun throughout the event. And, of course, the athletes of all teams represented their home



PHOTO COURTESY SS STINGRAYS

Stingrays parent Jordy Sharp monitors an open water race on St. Mary Lake as part of the Stingrays Invitational Swim Meet held on Salt Spring over the weekend.

clubs with dignity, with strong swims throughout the weekend.

As far as the Stingrays are concerned, the meet was a highlight of the season so far, as the swimmers performed with passion and demonstrated excellence.

"This is our house," said head coach Brandon Bronson, a statement I believe was resolutely defended by the performance from our team this weekend.

There were many personal best times achieved, not to mention plenty of top-three finishes in both individual and relay events.

To begin, Nina De Roo finished in third place in her 50-metre freestyle.

Zoey Johnson finished first overall in her 100-m butterfly, 100-m backstroke, 50-m butterfly and second overall in her 100-m freestyle.

Rylan Burnett finished third in his 200-m individual medley, second in his

100-m backstroke and second in his 100-m freestyle.

Austin Bisnar finished third in his 100-m breaststroke.

Druehn Pinney finished third in his 50-m butterfly, second in his 50-m freestyle, second in his 100-m freestyle and first in his 50-m backstroke.

Aiden Otsubo-Papp finished third in his 100-m and 50-m freestyle races.

Aramis St. Gelais finished second in 50-m butterfly.

Finally, Joseph Schulze finished second in his 50-m freestyle and third in his 50-m butterfly.

The Stingrays had numerous other top-three relay finishes in addition to the aforementioned individual success. We are eager to see what successes the rest of the season has in store for us.

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