



Driftwood

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PHOTO BY ELEHNA DE SOUSA

NO SWEAT: Carlos Ramirez, free of upper-body covering of any sort, shovels snow from a deck on a Quarry Drive home last Wednesday afternoon when the temperature was -5° Celsius.

WEATHER

Islanders survive first snowfalls

Advanced prep reduces potential strife

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders came through the first blast of winter with few complaints, as prudence, preparation and favourable conditions combined to keep drivers largely out of ditches through last week's snows.

Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George reported the department had very few weather-related calls.

"It was fantastic to see people prepared and not driving on the roads unnecessarily," George said. "I think the advanced warning and weather forecasting along with time of day really helped — it did not catch people off guard unlike other previous winter storms. The snow was a drier snow and less slippery as well, but our road crews did an excellent job keeping up with the heavy snowfall. Good job, Salt Spring."

Bob Elsea is a Dukes Road resident who was impressed with new contractor Emcon Services when he found his road was plowed on Wednesday morning.

"It hasn't happened within the first three days of a snowfall in five years," he said. "Not only had it been plowed but the operator understood the principle of leaving the snow from one lane on that side and the snow from the other lane on the opposite side rather than leaving a four-foot-high pile in front of the driveways on one side of the road . . . You guys rock."

The snow lasted throughout the week but bad conditions peaked in the middle. Last Wednesday was a snow day for all Gulf Islands students and many other people who chose to stay home safe and off the roads. Several businesses on Salt Spring also chose to remain shuttered, including the three financial institutions.

In addition to the snow, wind gusts reaching 70-90 km/h hit parts of the south coast last Wednesday, and hurricane-force winds up to 150 km/h were reported in the Howe Sound area. According to BC Hydro, 23,000 customers lost power that day and more than 16,000 were still waiting for service on the Lower Main-

land and Vancouver Island early Thursday. But although outages took place all around the region from Galiano and Mayne islands to Saanich and Duncan, Salt Spring somehow stayed largely untouched by outages.

BC Ferries took pre-emptive measures and cancelled all major route sailings from 3 p.m. onward last Wednesday, as well as on the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands route. Evening sailings from Salt Spring's Vesuvius and Fulford terminals were also cancelled ahead of the major winds.

"It was a highly unusual situation to cancel all three routes to Salt Spring Island on Jan. 15. However, the storm was that severe that we cancelled for safety reasons. On that day, we cancelled a total of 97 sailings across 12 routes, including Bowen Island and Langdale, which are two routes that rarely see wind cancellations," reported BC Ferries' public affairs director Deborah Marshall.

STORMS continued on 3

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM
ON THE JOB: Emcon Services truck plows and salts Blain Road last Wednesday afternoon as snow continued to fall throughout the day.


TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

JANUARY 2020 PST (UTC-8h)
When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
22	0508	3.4	11.2	26	0728	3.5	11.5
	0936	3.0	9.8		1249	2.7	8.9
	WE 1324	3.2	10.5		SU 1628	3.0	9.8
ME 2124	0.4	1.3	DI 2355	0.6	2.0		
23	0548	3.5	11.5	27	0755	3.5	11.5
	1035	2.9	9.5		1334	2.6	8.5
	TH 1411	3.2	10.5		MO 1714	2.8	9.2
JE 2204	0.4	1.3	LU				
24	0625	3.5	11.5	28	0028	0.8	2.6
	1123	2.9	9.5		0819	3.4	11.2
	FR 1458	3.1	10.2		TU 1419	2.4	7.9
VE 2243	0.4	1.3	MA 1805	2.7	8.9		
25	0658	3.5	11.5	29	0101	1.1	3.6
	1206	2.8	9.2		0841	3.4	11.2
	SA 1543	3.1	10.2		WE 1505	2.2	7.2
SA 2320	0.5	1.6	ME 1905	2.5	8.2		

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TRANSPORTATION

Protesters cause ferry chaos

BC Ferries targetted by LNG pipeline opponents

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Protest action against the Coastal GasLink pipeline proposed for northern British Columbia and its threat to Indigenous sovereignty impacted a busy south coast transportation hub Monday morning when protesters blocked ferry traffic at Swartz Bay.

Led by the activist group Extinction Rebellion Vancouver Island, around 100 protesters stretched across the road to deny access to the vehicle ticket booths at Swartz Bay before the 7 a.m. departure to Tsawwassen. Kayakers in the water near the ferry terminal prompted the company to cancel the 7 a.m. sailing from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay as well. The situation was cleared up and all sailings had resumed by 9 a.m.

Early ferries destined for Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands departed before the protest started, but the Mayne Queen, Salish Raven and Queen of Cumberland were delayed arriving back at Swartz Bay. The Salish Orca was also reported to be 40 minutes behind schedule on its 9:55 a.m. sailing out of Tsawwassen to the Gulf Islands.

"BC Ferries respects the rights of individuals to peacefully express their views, as long as their actions do not jeopardize the safety of themselves, our customers, employees and the general public," public affairs director Deborah Marshall said after RCMP cleared the scene. "We are concerned that our customers and employees have safe and uninterrupted access to our terminals as we provide an essential service to connect communities and commerce."

Extinction Rebellion Vancouver Island stated in a news release that its grassroots protesters had been moved to act "to demand respect for Wet'suwet'en sovereignty and oppose the threat of a violent RCMP invasion." They focused that action at BC Ferries because of its association with the liquefied natural gas industry and its plans to become more reliant on the fuel.

The elected official responsible both for Swartz Bay and the Gulf Islands was meanwhile in the heart of the territory under dispute while Monday's protest was taking place. Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen was visiting Wet'suwet'en lands near Smithers over the weekend in his capacity as interim B.C. Green party leader. He was there at the invitation of hereditary chiefs who oppose the pipeline crossing their tra-

ditional lands, despite sign-off from the elected leadership of 20 First Nations along the pipeline route.

Action by the RCMP to remove protesters from protest camps has concerned many people in the province, and even triggered condemnation from the United Nations. While BC Premier John Horgan stated last week the pipeline will go ahead as planned no matter what, Olsen is calling for another solution.

"We have seen conflicts such as the one currently playing out in northern British Columbia many times throughout the history of this province and country. They are a heart-breaking reminder of the colonial legacy we have inherited. I am committed to writing a new story together," Olsen wrote on Sunday evening after his initial meetings with the hereditary chiefs.

"The legal landscape in our country is complex and includes Indigenous laws. Simplifying this fact does not help us. That is the approach that has failed us for centuries," he added.

"By recognizing the complexity, embracing the challenge and committing ourselves to the difficult job ahead, we ensure that the inheritance we leave all our children is not just a repeat of the past."

TAXATION

Battle continues over rural/urban definitions

Commission seeks CRD advocacy on home owner grant level

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Community Economic Development Commission continues to push back against official designations that lump the island in with Capital Regional District municipalities and thereby deny grants aimed at rural communities.

In the past the commission and local CRD directors have successfully argued that Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands should be allowed to apply for the Rural Dividend Fund, a provincial program for which they were previously not eligible. Now commissioners have their eyes on the B.C. Home Owner Grant for property tax relief. A notice of motion calls on the CRD to advocate for qualified home owners in the two island electoral areas to receive an extra \$200 in grant funding enjoyed by much of the province.

"This is another example of the rural Southern Gulf Islands being penalized by the province for being incorrectly designated 'urban' due to CRD inclusion," the preamble to the motion states. "Correcting this inequity for 2020 and beyond will ensure that the five rural Southern Gulf Islands receive their rightful allocation of the Home Owner Grant due rural homeowners."

The regular grant (also called the basic grant) amount for people under the age of 65 is \$570 in the Capital Regional District, Metro Vancouver Regional District and the Fraser Valley Regional District. For all other areas of the province the amount is \$770. The \$200 differential was introduced by a previous government as the Northern and Rural Home Owner Benefit under Budget 2010.

The grant designation is also at odds with other taxation policy. The B.C. government website explains, "If your property is not located in a city, town, district or village, it is in a rural area," which means the province collects property taxes on behalf of other organizations. Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands are designated as rural taxation zones for this purpose.

The CEDC meeting scheduled for Jan. 13 was postponed due to snow, but support for the motion is expected when the commission meets instead on Jan. 27.

"We'll certainly advocate for that at the Electoral Areas Committee," said Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman. "We'll be taking that forward as we have with similar matters of rural status."

The province may even be sympathetic to the plea. Although the grant program has been set since 2010, there is potentially room for change.

"The Ministry of Finance is always reviewing all government tax programs and considers all proposals and suggestions during the yearly budget process," the ministry told the Driftwood.

Holman acknowledged the economic development commission has been leading the charge on local rural equity issues, but noted the CRD has taken up every request for advocacy so far. He added that in this case, other jurisdictions may also wish to see a review of their grant designations. Areas of the Fraser Valley, for example, are potentially quite rural in nature. Holman said perhaps the division should be between municipalities and electoral areas, or based on population density.

"The definition of rural should be more consistent and more equitable," Holman said. "I guess it goes back to the question of what the rationale is for the two grants."

The rescheduled economic commission meeting will be held at the CRD's building inspection meeting room this Monday starting at 3 p.m.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Swing set for toddlers to be added to park

An additional piece of equipment will be coming to the Centennial Park playground that will provide a place for younger kids to get a chance to play.

The playground is nearing completion and is open to the public. Installation of the historic rocking horse structure as well as the finishing touches to the slide on the embankment are yet to be completed. The Parks and Recreation Commission heard at their Monday meeting about a chance to install a second swing set for toddlers, which would be nearly identical to the existing set, but with bucket-style toddler seats.

A new swing set will cost \$4,500 for the equipment, plus a \$3,800 installation fee and \$2,500 for shipping. The funds will be pulled from \$32,000 left over from phase one of the park project and set aside for any future needs in the park.

The swings will be shipped and installed within nine to 11 weeks, and will be ready for the official opening of the park around the Easter long weekend.

Ferries cancelled due to wind

STORMS
continued from 1

"When we experience these severe weather events, we speak directly to meteorologists at Environment Canada. They use three different models to predict the weather. When all three models align and are telling them the same thing, they have high confidence of the timing, severity and duration that a storm is going to hit. This was the case on Wednesday, Jan. 15 so we wanted to make the call as soon as possible to give customers time to make alternate arrangements."

Marshall noted that in other cases with less certainty to the forecast, the ferry corporation may wait longer to make the call, as there can be a strong possibility that sailings can go ahead.

Winds were again gusting and more snow fell overnight from Friday through the early hours on Saturday, but warming had already started and conditions turned to rain by morning.

CANNABIS

Cannabis products demand caution

Local provider recommends 'whole plant' approach

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The legalization of cannabis in Canada for both recreational and medical purposes has encouraged many novice users who are willing to try new products for old complaints.

One of the biggest trends has been the embrace of cannabidiol or CBD. The compound can be isolated to relieve pain or other conditions without causing the intoxication produced by another cannabinoid, tetrahydrocannabinol or THC. Unfamiliarity with the products and with cannabis in general could bring unintended results, though, and producers in the cannabis industry are still working out how to find the right balance for those who want all the health benefits without entering an altered state.

"For those with little to no experience with high THC products, an unexpectedly high dose can cause anxiety, nausea and severe paranoia," notes medicalmarijuana411.com.

Two people on Salt Spring recently reported similar experiences after purchasing products they believed to be THC-free. Christian Tatonetti bought dried hemp leaf from Gulf Island Organics, intending to make CBD dog treats. He tried it out first and had an adverse effect, so he went back and bought the rest of the jar to prevent the same thing happening to others. The THC content was marked at .003 per cent.

Deanna Fraser bought a bag of CBC capsules for her 18-year-old daughter to address several complaints. Although it went well at first, the final capsule seemed to be THC.

"It was a really terrible experience for her and I just think people should be aware," Fraser said.

Dean Bielert, who owns the Gulf Island Organics store, said he has since spoken with Fraser. Although they can't imagine how it happened, staff are now working to ensure no mix-ups happen again. The store almost exclusively stocks "full spectrum" products that are created by the family business in all steps from seed to sale. Everything they grow has a certificate of analysis provided by MB Labs as to chemical content. The shop stocks CBD capsules made elsewhere due to customer demand.

B.C.'s Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General recommends that for maximum safety, people buy regulated non-medical cannabis products, either from licensed private non-medical cannabis stores, BC Cannabis Stores or the online BC Cannabis Store.

"Consumers should be aware that illicit cannabis purchased from non-licensed/illegal retailers may not comply with Health Canada quality standards and could be contaminated and/or contain unspecified levels of THC. We encourage cannabis consumers to buy safe, tested products from a legal source," an email from the ministry states.

There are currently no retail stores listed on the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch website as licensed or pending licensing on Salt Spring, although the Platinum shop has entered the application process and received a positive referral from the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

Even regulated sources can have mix-ups, however. A woman from Kamloops is suing BC Cannabis Stores after purchasing an oral spray product that was allegedly high in CBD and low in THC. Some bottles were mislabelled and then recalled. Health Canada also issued a recall of Namaste gel capsules in December, which were incorrectly labelled as CBD but were actually THC.

Bielert has been providing cannabis products for 13 years through the Salt Spring Alternative Medical Society, and said he got into it because of the medical benefits he witnessed in family members. He added the business commonly gets thanks from people they've helped.

"We have letters from all these people in their 80s who say we've saved their lives," Bielert reported. "Our primary goal is medicine for the people.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Gulf Island Organics, one of the retail cannabis shops operating in Ganges, recommends against using isolated cannabis compounds for most effective relief.

So many people have been helped by it and we want others to be helped too."

Bielert urges customers to speak with staff at the store to get information on different cannabis strains and uses. When it comes to dividing cannabis into its chemical compounds, though, he recommends against taking CBD on its own, as efficacy is reduced through isolation and the dosage must be exact.

Although he agrees some people can't tolerate any THC at all, and others can't afford to have it show up in drug screenings, he feels the medicinal value of cannabis is best

achieved by not separating the elements.

"When you do full plant, it's 100 per cent effective," Bielert said.

While the provincial government recommends purchasing products from its own regulated stores, Bielert said those products have been "naked," and feels the federal government has done an abysmal job at the entire legalization process. He does feel the legal cannabis market will improve in time. Until then he intends to keep up his work.

"I don't propose that everyone smoke weed, but as far as medicine goes, it's a miracle," Bielert said.



Islands Trust

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Your
Say

When?
Tuesday,
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6:30 p.m.



Where?
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(Meaden Hall):
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Who should attend?
Anyone interested
in, or affected by,
Proposed Bylaw
No. 512.



Enquiries?
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Proposed Bylaw No. 512 Affordable Rental Housing - Cottages

PUBLIC HEARING

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 512 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 512 will rezone approximately 400 properties on Salt Spring Island to permit cottages for full-time residential rental, instead of "seasonal cottages" for temporary use. Proposed Bylaw No. 512 also includes the following regulations in affected zones:

- installation of rainwater catchment systems to provide potable water for new cottages;
- prohibition on using cottages for Bed and Breakfast home-based businesses; and
- registration of a restrictive covenant on title prohibiting subdivision

Proposed Bylaw No. 512 was developed to increase the supply of rental housing on the island in a way that is consistent with Section B.2.2.2.16 of the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan.

What will happen at this Public Hearing?

6:30 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.
SSI LTC chair's welcome and opening remarks

6:40 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Staff presentation about the development and implementation of Proposed Bylaw No. 512

7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing

- This is your chance to share your opinion regarding Proposed Bylaw No. 512 with the SSI LTC

How do I get more information?

For more information on Proposed Bylaw No. 512, visit:
www.islandstrust.bc.ca/SSICottages

Copies of the bylaw and other information are available at the Islands Trust office as of Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

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COMMUNICATIONS

SGL Connectivity hits phase 2

Push now on for improved internet infrastructure in the Southern Gulf Islands

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A project is underway to help bring more internet access and reliability to the Southern Gulf Islands.

The Capital Regional District's Southern Gulf Islands Connectivity Project just finished its first phase of community consultation and a report is being drafted by project staff to be presented in the coming weeks. The project's goal is to build a business case for the improvement of internet infrastructure in the islands, in the hopes of bringing more diverse people to the islands to live and work.

Internet improvements have been a goal of electoral area director Dave Howe for years, and this project will give the district the chance to determine what the unique communities require in terms of internet access, and provide a roadmap to internet service providers looking to fulfill those needs.

"The lack of reliable internet is an obstacle to young families who are relocating to the islands," said project manager Justine Starke. "We're seeing a declining population and an aging demographic and a need for more young blood."



JUSTINE STARKE

An initial phase of the project was a look into the needs of the communities. The CRD held multiple public meetings on the various islands, and reached out to businesses in different sectors to build a full picture of the needs faced by the people living in the area.

"The federal government has identified a minimum standard of broadband connectivity, which is 50 mbps download and 10 mbps upload speed. The Southern Gulf Islands is well below that," Starke said. "Talking to the community, people feel that they can't do what they need to do. Researchers can't upload their data. People needing to access government services online will start filling out a form and the internet will crash and they'll lose their work."

"People felt that they were paying too much for the service they get, that a lot of the businesses and service providers say that they would use much higher bandwidth than they have access to. Currently, the retailers might not necessarily be able to use a debit transaction, because they might not have strong enough internet," she added.

Though residents have shown interest in the project, Starke said its success depends on the ability of the CRD

to drum up interest from the private partners. At this point, it will fall to the CRD to make a business case for improving internet access in the islands.

"The truth is that they would have put in better infrastructure earlier if they thought it was a viable thing to do," Starke said.

"The lack of reliable internet is an obstacle to young families who are relocating to the islands."

JUSTINE STARKE
Southern Gulf Islands manager of service delivery, CRD

The Southern Gulf Islands is not the only community in the province where ISPs have not installed sufficient infrastructure. The Ministry of Citizens Services set up an internet connectivity program calling it a Digital Roadmap, as a way to build stronger cases for internet connectivity in small rural communities.

"Communities that have gone through the legwork of developing a community-based connectivity plan are better positioned to take advantage of infrastructure funding opportunities because they've done the hard part of talking to the community and building the understanding of how better service would improve and support [them]," she said.

The community consultation phase of the project ended in December. Currently the staff are drafting a final report on the consultation, and are reaching out to internet service providers as partners to find out how to actually make the improvements happen. From there, technical plans would be made in conjunction with the private sector. Starke explained that the situation is complicated due to the islands being serviced by different companies and all having different hardware set up to provide internet.

"The CRD is looking to partner with one or more ISPs to help coordinate and help access funding," Starke said. "There are some grants that the federal government has out there, and they favour partnerships between local government and ISPs. The CRD can play a role, we're just not an ISP ourselves."

In all, improving internet access would bring the Southern Gulf Islands up to the level where they can attract more people and boost the local economy.

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FEDERAL POLITICS

May addresses liveboard rumour

Part of multi-faceted community meeting

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May drew her usual healthy-sized house to Gulf Islands Secondary School on Friday, reporting on federal issues and fielding a flotilla of questions from constituents.

First off May confirmed that she will continue to serve her riding and intends to run again in the next election, even though she stepped down as leader of the Green Party of Canada on Nov. 4, 2019.

May prompted applause from the crowd after stating, "I am continuing as your MP, not only for the full term. I intend to run again and to continue to be your member of parliament."

Despite the minority government situation, May said she did not expect to see an election called in 2020.

"Basically this government will fall at the moment that the Liberal strategists, spin doctors and pollsters think they have enough popular support to win a snap election. So it won't be the opposition that brings [Prime Minister Justin] Trudeau down as likely as it will be that the Liberals decide 'this is our moment, let's go now, because a snap election will give us a majority.'"

Once the floor was opened to questions, May was pressed by members of the liveboard community to explain her position about "derelict vessels." She has recently been criticized for remarks she made in the House some time ago when Bill C-64, the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act, was being discussed. On Friday May clarified that her comments were related to the need for secure housing.

"What I was talking about was a very specific concern in that when there isn't adequate shelter, there aren't decent homes available, and affordable . . . that living on derelict vessels represents a threat to the people who have taken shelter there."

She also confirmed that no one



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May holds up her latest newsletter sent to constituents in the mail as part of a community meeting on Friday night at GISS.

presently living on vessels around Salt Spring is in danger of losing their home through Transport Canada actions.

"I know there was a big rumour spreading through the community before Christmas," she said. "I contacted the Minister of Transport and got his absolute assurance that it's not true that they were going to . . . remove people from where they were living. That was not the case. The derelict vessels will be removed, but not by pulling people off of places where they are living."

She suggested that representatives of the ad hoc water dwellers group should arrange to meet with her when she is next on Salt Spring Island for Seedy Saturday on Feb. 8.

Local pharmacist Peter Parker asked what level of consultation had been undertaken with pharmacists about the proposed national pharmacare program. He suggested it would be incred-

ibly expensive to implement and added that B.C. would lose because it already has good software and a sophisticated system in place.

May said she and others in government were relying on the Pharmacare 2020 report created by 1,300 experts in health care and public policy, which was released in June of 2019.

"[A national pharmacare program] is very expensive but over time it will actually make up for the cost of setting it up," she said.

Among other issues May was asked about was the government's unwillingness to strengthen regulations that would protect Canadians from the health impacts of electromagnetic radiation.

"Health Canada has been unwilling to do what European countries do," she commented, referring to protections for worker exposure to EMR and other regulations.

"As a public person and an elected person, I can tell you that when I speak out on this, it is the number-one place to go to be ridiculed, immediately," she noted.

She suggested that because cell-phone and internet service providers like Shaw, Bell and Rogers own many media businesses in Canada, very little investigative reporting is done on the issue, including the potential effects of a 5G network.

While May was critical of the governing Liberals' positions on issues like EMR regulations, the Trans Mountain Pipeline and climate action, she praised their response to the shooting down of the Ukrainian Airlines Flight 752 plane carrying 63 Canadians among its 176 passengers in Tehran and how they have handled tensions between the U.S. and Iranian governments.

"I have a lot of criticisms of Trudeau over many things, especially climate, but in the way that our government has handled this particular crisis, I think they haven't put a foot wrong."

Parliament resumes sitting on Jan. 27.

May's next community meeting will be held in September, although she will be on the island for a number of events before then.

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COURT

Impairment nets fines for two island men

Court verdicts from local docket

Ganges Provincial Court's Jan. 17 session resolved two sets of charges related to impairment and netted fines for each of the men involved.

Anthony Pantaloni-Martirano was ordered to pay fines, including a \$150 cleaning fee, for two uncontested events of excessive intoxication. Court heard that Pantaloni-Martirano was the passenger in a car when Salt Spring RCMP performed an impaired driver check. He reacted by screaming at the constable, which led to him being arrested and taken into the police vehicle.

Further resistance included his spitting on the car's back seat and all over the cell where he was subsequently held at the RCMP station. The RCMP sought restitution for the cleaning fee, noting biohazard clean-up was required.

Pantaloni-Martirano also received a \$200 fee for breaking a condition of no alcohol consumption related to a previous charge. He had been arrested in Chilliwack after being aboard a VIA rail train in an extremely intoxicated state. RCMP intervened after the engineer called to ask for help.

Defence counsel Sarah Hamilton argued that during the impaired driving incident, her client had acted out because the driver was a friend who has some mental disabilities and

Pantaloni-Martirano felt he needed to defend him. She added the previous no-alcohol condition had been setting her client up for failure.

"It's the alcohol addiction that's holding you back and getting you into trouble in a big way," Judge Robert Higginbotham agreed in his judgement, and added he hoped Pantaloni-Martirano would deal with it through the counselling ordered.

"Your motive was noble to help your friend who is disabled, but obviously your actions were triggered by your intoxication more than anything else," he said.

Sebastian Zivny also pled guilty to his charge of driving while under prohibition. He received a mandatory minimum fine of \$2,000 because of his elevated blood alcohol level.

The court heard Zivny had previously received a 90-day roadside prohibition after an impaired driver check. The charges arose after he was discovered passed out at the wheel of his car in the middle of the junction of Booth Canal and Harrison roads. Subsequent testing revealed blood alcohol levels of .190 and .180. He has since sold both his vehicles.

"Mr. Zivny, it seems the best decision you've made was to sell your vehicles, because that's putting temptation away," Higginbotham said, noting alcohol would still be a problem. "You're an extremely dangerous person on the road."

Ganges Provincial Court will have its next sitting on Friday, March 13.

OPINION



2019 CCNA Awards
 Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)
 Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

2019 BCYCNA Awards
 Gold - Best Arts & Culture Writing (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best Environmental Writing (Gail Sjuberg)
 Silver - Best Multimedia Feature (Marc Kitteringham)
 Silver - Community Service | New Journalist of the Year (Marc Kitteringham)



Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Amber Ogilvie
 PUBLISHER
 aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjuberg
 MANAGING EDITOR
 news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan
 PRODUCTION MANAGER
 production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Shirley Command
 ACCOUNT MANAGER
 scommand@driftwoodgimedia.com



JOHANNA WALKNER
 ACCOUNT CO-ORDINATOR
 jwalkner@driftwoodgimedia.com



Elizabeth Nolan
 REPORTER
 enolan@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Marc Kitteringham
 REPORTER
 mkitteringham@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Dennis Parker
 CARTOONIST
 news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



D. W. Salty
 HISTORY REPORTER
 dwsalty@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Ashleigh Gionet
 PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
 agionet@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Stellar grade

A forecast of moderate snowfall issued last week sent the usual waves of terror through Salt Spring Islanders and prompted some predictable questions.

How many centimetres would fall? How long would the snow last? And, perhaps most critically, how bad would the roads be and how long would it take for people to be able to reach Ganges, Fulford or a ferry terminal of choice by vehicle, bus or on foot?

The snowfall was the first test for the new local roads maintenance contractor, Emcon Services, and by all accounts the company passed with flying colours.

THE ISSUE:

Snowstorm road maintenance

WE SAY:

Three cheers for Emcon

Emcon easily impressed one long-time Dukes Road resident — Bob Elsea — who has been justifiably incensed in recent years at the lack of attention given to his road during snowfalls when Mainroad South Island Contracting had the maintenance contract here.

More road maintenance equipment was also visible on the roads both during and before the snowfall. As a result, what was not so visible during and after the storm was the usual litter of vehicles in island ditches.

Islanders can thank an Emcon rep in person — or ask other road maintenance questions — on Friday, Jan. 31, when Andrew Gaetz is a guest at the ASK Salt Spring session in the Thrifty Foods community room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Last week's Driftwood also contained an interview with Gaetz, who is the company's quality assurance manager and road safety patroller.

As Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George pointed out, lots of advance warning and the timing of the major snowfall were also factors in keeping the mayhem to a minimum, so the credit needs to be shared. Island residents heeded the weather forecasts and stayed home in droves, and numerous businesses and institutions did not open on Wednesday so that workers were not compelled to try getting to their workplaces.

We will also repeat chief George's summary of how islanders and Emcon dealt with the storm: "Good job, Salt Spring."



Reading: a truly family affair

BY MARTHA TAYLOR

I firmly believe that reading to our kids, beginning when they were only several months old, instilled a life-long love of reading in our now-adult children.

It helped them excel at school, and reading together helped us bond as a family.

Memories of all the great books we shared with our kids was the main reason why, after relocating to Salt Spring Island in the spring of 2017, signing up to be a One-to-One reading tutor with the Salt Spring Literacy Society was a no-brainer and one of the first things I did.

Each week, I have the pleasure of having three elementary school kids, whom their teachers feel would benefit from added reading practice and the additional attention of an interested adult, read books to me for 30 minutes. As volunteers, we're encouraged to make the time we have together easygoing and fun. A portion of the time might even include a short word game or two.

The experience sparked a text exchange between myself and our 30-year-old daughter in Calgary. "Do you remember Wishbone books? I just read one with one of the kids

VIEWPOINT

Recently, one of the kids I usually work with was away, so the teacher picked another student to come in his place. It just so happened that the substitute student was one I'd worked with the previous year. To my surprise and delight, she'd brought a "chapter book" with her, which is something she wouldn't have had the courage to tackle previously. How far she'd come in such a short time!

Her chosen book was one in the "Wishbone" series — books that place a mischievous Jack Russell Terrier as the central character in classic stories, such as "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Dog" and "Moby Dog." She beamed as she read several pages during our time together and we talked about what was happening in the book.

The experience sparked a text exchange between myself and our 30-year-old daughter in Calgary. "Do you remember Wishbone books? I just read one with one of the kids

I'm tutoring." "Oh heck yes I do! I loooooooved Wishbone! Which one did you read?" "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." "Ooo spooky!" Our texts went on a little while longer, but the glow of the simple connection we'd made, and the memories they'd stirred, brought us both a bit of sunshine on our otherwise gloomy winter day.

Why not celebrate Family Literacy Week — from Jan. 26 to Feb. 2 — by curling up with someone you love and reading one or more books? You can find family literacy resources on the Family Literacy Week part of the Decoda Literacy Solutions website.

It's also a great time to consider volunteering for one of the amazing adult or children's programs offered by the Salt Spring Literacy Society. For more information, go to www.saltspringliteracy.org.

Happy reading!

The writer is a one-to-one reading program tutor and Salt Spring Literacy Society board member.

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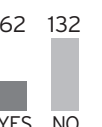
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you feel SSI road maintenance is better with Emcon?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Prince Harry and Meghan move to Salt Spring?



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

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"When I speak out on [EMR issues], it is the number-one place to go to be ridiculed, immediately."

SAANICH GULF ISLANDS MP ELIZABETH MAY

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What do you think will happen during the impeachment trial?*

CHARLOTTE ERLANDSSON



I think a lot of secrets are going to come out into the public.

ERIC JACOBSEN



I really hope Trump gets convicted, and I fear it'll be a long, drawn-out and corrupt process in the Senate.

CHELSEA NEWCOMBE



I think it's going to be a lot of yelling and face-palming.

STEVE SIGURGEIRSON



Hopefully he'll be removed from office.

KATIE KELTIKA



I honestly don't know. I'd like to trust they would put a better leader in power. Someone who cares about the environment would be amazing.

LETTERS to the editor

Chipper

Your Jan. 15 editorial dealt with smoke from the burning of wood waste from logging and land clearing activities.

It suggested that the CRD apply for a grant for a wood chipper, on behalf of Salt Spring Fire Rescue and that it could be either for Salt Spring alone, or a mobile unit that could move through CRD member communities.

Wasn't it the former B.C. legislature clerk who got into trouble for buying a wood splitter with public funds a few years ago and storing it at his residence?

Too bad it wasn't a wood chipper that we perhaps could have borrowed on occasion for use here on Salt Spring.

BOB RUSH,
SALT SPRING

Tragedy of the commons

"Burn piles smoke out neighbours" shouted the front page of the Jan. 15 Driftwood.

As an ecologist it seems to me that this is another example of "the tragedy of the commons." The air we breathe belongs to all of us; it is a commons. The costs or problems caused by a polluter, whether an industry or a private individual, are borne by us all. But the cost to the polluter, in this case a private landowner who hired a commercial logging company to clearcut his property and then burn the slash, is zero. There is no incentive, except for public censure, to stop the burning.

Clearcutting itself is a tragedy of the commons. A forest accumulates a huge amount

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

of carbon over its lifetime. Removing the forest destroys this natural carbon sink, and releases more carbon into the atmosphere from the machinery, transport, waste and burning. Only about a third of the carbon originally stored by the tree ends up in wood for construction and other products. If the forest grows back, which is not guaranteed in our new regime of droughts, competition from invasive plants and munching by the deer, it will be many years before it reaches the same capacity to suck up carbon.

Forests of course have many other values in addition to their importance in the carbon cycle, including holding the precious soil and water, providing homes for wildlife and enriching the lives of our citizens.

These are all things that

have effects beyond a single property. Clearcutting on private land is a situation where the rights of a private property owner currently trump the public good.

Landowners who retain their forests should be rewarded with a tax break. After all, they are providing a net public good. Those who clearcut the forest should be penalized with higher taxes. That might put the brakes on the strip-and-flip modus operandi we see on Salt Spring.

We are not opposed to the forestry industry but there are other ways to remove timber than clearcutting, such as selective harvesting. Clearcutting does not belong on our tiny island home.

SUSAN HANNON,
ISLAND FOREST WATCH

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Ride those brilliant brainwaves while you can

Stop me if I'm boring you, but I'm becoming elderly and thereby given to long and tedious monologues, invariably concerning the misery of actually becoming elderly.

I never planned to get old. In fact, I never gave it a thought, but it's happened and I'm embracing it as I have most of the travails in a travail-filled life, with courage and fortitude.

While any discussion of my creeping senility may be as interesting to you as a debate on the Oxford comma*, it is nevertheless critical to me.

For instance, one of the greatest vicissitudes of advancing years are receding faculties, and while decorum and modesty inhibit full disclosure of which faculties are in fullest retreat I will, however, admit that my memory isn't what it once was.

Now, where was I?

Stop me if I'm boring you but I'm elderly and . . . No, wait! I'm beginning to repeat myself, which runs hand in hand with forgetting where I've left the car or confusing the names of my sons with those of my cats. And don't get me going on losing my glasses!

Actually, DO get me going. They're what I intend this column to be about because I recently had a very brilliant brainwave that is going to make me rich beyond my wildest dreams. If I could just remember what it was . . .

I know it has something to do with losing my glasses because I lost them recently helping my wife find hers, bless her. The thing is I always KNOW when I've lost mine because if I don't know where they are, then they are lost. My wife, on the other hand, will never concede that she has lost them and after first blaming me, will admit only to "misplacing" them.

It was during one of these innumerable fruitless, infuriating searches and then finding them beside her plate on the table that I was struck by



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

the vision of an invention so utterly brilliant it would earn me a fortune that will make Bill Gates look like a shirtless pauper! And because this is Salt Spring and I am the very embodiment of the island's altruism I am prepared to share it with you all. It's this . . . er, it's . . . No, wait, it'll come to me. As luck would have it, I wrote it down, a moment of pure genius to record my moment of pure genius. If I could just find the piece of paper I wrote it on. I know I put it somewhere safe because it's my ticket out of this humdrum life into one filled with the luxuries I so richly deserve. A top-of-the-range mobility scooter, a Stenna stairlift, monogrammed incontinence pants and a Maserati. And that's just a start.

Now, where was I? Right! Me being a genius and us all getting filthy, stinking rich through the brilliant idea I wrote down so that I wouldn't forget it. I have it here, cleverly secreted away in the waste bin . . . "Milk, toilet rolls, onions, eggs." Oh.

Listen, most geniuses are eccentric. Einstein picked cigarette butts off the streets to fill his pipe and Benjamin Franklin would sit naked in the garden taking an "air bath," so you'll excuse me if I seem a little woolly on the details. It goes with the territory. Genius, more often than not, equals barking mad.

Pythagoras was stark, staring bonkers, even for an ancient mathematician, and would go without food

for 40 days just to help him with a difficult sum. He also founded his own religion, which had two principle tenets of faith: that souls are reincarnated and that beans are evil. Not sure about the soul thing, but I'm with him all the way on broad beans.

Anyway, all this maundering isn't exactly lining our pockets, so here's the idea I had . . . a silicon chip in your glasses!

Think about it. If they can stick a computer chip in your dog so you know when it's gone astray, why not a chip in the arm of your spectacles that will bleep when they're lost? How is it, for instance, that they can track a whale halfway around the world while I can't find my glasses on the sofa? Silicon chips, that's how!

See what I'm saying? I intend to call them iGlasses (Eye Glasses. Geddit?) and will make a second fortune selling an app that will also show you on a map where you left them this time. Imagine how smug you're going to be when you phone the library and tell them you've lost your glasses, but that they'll find them in the Astrophysics section.

So I'm just going to Google the Never Lose Spectacle to be certain no one has pipped me to the post, then I'm off to the patents office.

Bugger. Pipped at the post!

* A pedant writes: The Oxford comma is an optional comma that follows the penultimate item in a list of three or more items and precedes the word 'and' . . . The general rule is that it should be used consistently or not at all.

Thus: "This columnist is brilliant, witty, and underpaid" against "This columnist is brilliant, witty and underpaid."

Discuss.

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– Sara

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Straightening the 'full picture'

BY CARA JOY HUGHES

I read Richard Carlin's "Full picture needed" letter in the Jan. 8 Driftwood with some dismay. For someone who never talked with the applicants about the temporary use permit application, he certainly missed the mark. Trustees denied the TUP at their Dec. 17, 2019 meeting, despite the staff recommendation.

Facts: When the previous owner of the subject property, in her 90s, moved off-island to live with her daughter, the main house was rented out to a small family and the cabin tenant (call her "S") continued to occupy the tiny (13'x15') cabin on site.

When the previous owner died and the property was sold to the applicants (call them "J&P"), S continued living in the cabin for three more years. But with the family who were the previous renters, S jointly bought a house on the island, S now having the luxury of a full suite. At no time did J&P ask S to vacate and, in fact they had wanted her to stay on, contrary to implications of at least one objector. S continued a contract with the applicants, including preparation and clean-up after short-term rentals, yard maintenance and generally keeping an eye on things.

INRESPONSE

The applicants provided Islands Trust with an accounting of taxes paid and monies spent on the extensive renovations and remodelling of the house, all materials and labour being obtained on the island, which converted the old farmhouse-style house into a lovely new home. It was their intention to move here in a few years (TUP period) when their last child was through school. The cabin would become the home for P's parents. And after S moved out, J&P began extending and remodelling it.

At no point was there a revolving door of short-term rentals. J&P, P with parents, and other combinations of children, parents and grandparents spend time here quite frequently. Of the close neighbours, six of us sent supportive letters. One objector at the hearing is not a Roland Road resident. In general, up on their high horses the four objectors seem to have the idea that all/any short-term rentals should never be allowed.

I respectfully suggest that not only was this property to be on short-term rental for a short time but also that the TUP is exactly designed for such circumstances where no harm is being done by temporarily allowing occasional, discreetly chosen, short-term renters who thereby help the applicants to pay for the extensive renovations and maintenance of their property in the short-term. No one objected to the renters' presence per se, and I suggest the trustees turned the application down over objections not based in fact.

I am sad I did not anticipate any problems for J&P's hearing, did not hear the hooves of the high horses preparing to canter in, did not attend for that somewhat curt rejection based on these four objectors' views.

The decision having been made, I am confused by this letter from Richard Carlin revisiting the TUP hearing after the fact.

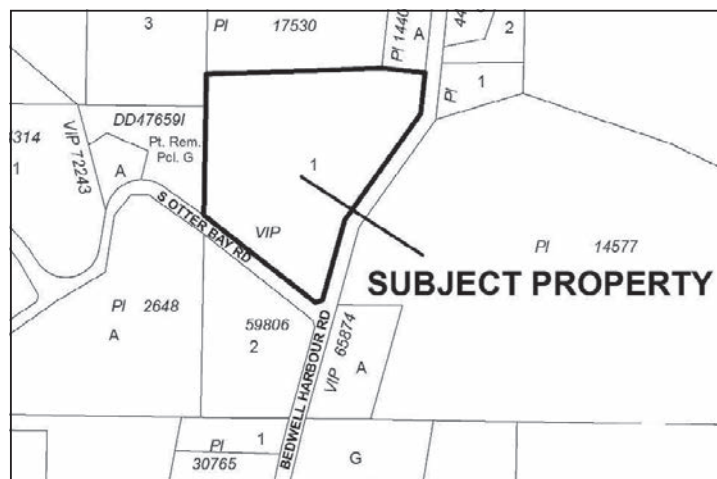
The writer is a Roland Road resident and friend to recent applicants of a temporary use application to use their property for short-term rental purposes.



NOTICE NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE (LTC) TEMPORARY USE APPLICATION – NP-TUP-2018.5

Gulf Excavating Ltd. has applied for a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) to allow a concrete batch plant operation and excavation business on a portion of the property located at 4415 Bedwell Harbour Road and shown in the sketch map below. The property is zoned Rural (R) and the uses would be subject to the conditions in the TUP (attached & online). The TUP is proposed to be issued for up to one (1) year and may be renewed once for up to three (3) additional years.

In order to receive public comment and to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions of the applicant, a Community Information Meeting has been scheduled as part of the regular Local Trust Committee Meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2020, starting at 10 a.m., at the North Pender Island Anglican Parish Hall, 4703 Canal Road, Pender Island.



Copies of background documents and the TUP are available on the Islands Trust website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/north-pender/current-applications/> and at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. and between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding Statutory Holidays, from January 9, 2020 up to and including January 29, 2020. Enquiries or written comments will be received before 4:30 p.m. on January 21, 2020:

- Phil Testemale, Planner 2: (250) 405-5170 or toll free: Enquiry BC
- email: information@islandstrust.bc.ca

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the TUP during the regular business meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2020.

Applications are available for review by the public upon prior request. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Carmen Thiel, Corporate Secretary

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Rare opportunity

For those Salt Springers interested in having their voice heard by their elected officials, there is now a great opportunity available to share a coffee and speak one on one with one or another of our community leaders.

Every Friday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Thrifty's upstairs floral/vitamins department, there is an informal sit-down called ASK Salt Spring, where either a trustee or our CRD director Gary Holman or MLA Adam Olsen, etc., will be there to speak to any and all concerns.

This is an excellent means to let our politicians and community leaders know what is on the minds of their constituents in a safe, respectful environment. There is a notification each week in this newspaper, in the events calendar, as to who will be there that day to speak to whatever issues arise.

RON COOKE,
SALT SPRING

Grand work

The goal of the annual Women's March is to advocate legislation and policies regarding human rights and other issues, including women's rights, immigration reform, healthcare reform, reproductive rights, the environment, LGBTQ rights, racial equality, freedom of religion, workers' rights and tolerance.

Women world-wide responded to this initiative in massive numbers communicating their version of the message that women's rights are human rights. On Salt Spring, women in 2017 chose to create a silent walk as opposed to a march to communicate both their respect for the power of non-violence and their grief for the suffering of women and girls as a result of sexism.

Globally, people from all walks supported this initiative on Jan 18, 2020. However, this new year seemingly came around again faster than ever and we past organizers of the local women's walk/march have found that we need to address our own personal lives and health as a top priority.

This does in no way reflect our desire to assist in the ever-evolving movement forward to address gender inequalities. Ultimately, the grand work begins with each of us as individuals. Self-care begins at home.

We all know this: if we are not well, we can-

not care for others well. As such, each of us has pledged to do what is needed for that wellness to take place.

While we have re-committed to 2021's event, we invite you to do what speaks to you individually on the day.

May we suggest that you connect with your sisters (and brothers from the same or other mothers), and imagine what you would like to see next year? From there, please can reach out and share what that looks like to one of us so that we may begin the process early and with ease. And however you might offer support is joyfully welcomed.

SHARYN CAROLL, SUE EARLE, NOMI LYONNS, KIM TEBBUTT, SAMANTHA SANDERSON, TIFFANY WIGHTMAN AND HELANI DAVISON,
WOMEN'S MARCH ORGANIZERS

Be open to input

In the Jan. 1 issue of the Driftwood, Jim Standen asks me to comment, and I would like to do that here.

Indeed he is correct that thermal expansion of the ocean water is contributing to the sea level rise, and most experts agree that about a third of the rise is due to this thermal expansion, so about seven cm of the 20 cm per year since 1910. He is also correct that the thermal contribution will be higher initially than the actual melting of the land ice, but at some point the melting will take over; all, of course, if we assume that we continue our destructive behaviour.

He is not correct in that he assumes that Timothy Harvey and I disagree about the sea level rise itself. We only disagree about the timing for the B.C. coast and Ganges in particular. If you read my response and the previous letter, I explain why that is. Sea level rise is very complicated and to jump on one (flawed) article is alarmist. The B.C. Ministry of the Environment is much better informed and their personnel take into account geological history, thermal expansion and other factors, and in their maps Ganges is not inundated in 30 or even 100 years. The B.C. coast (except for the deltas) as well as Alaska (south and southwest) are rising 25 centimetres per year and Hudson Bay even a staggering 1.2 metres.

I wish that people would not just react and conclude based on what they read or hear, but instead be open to all scientific input.

I do not know the background of Timothy Harvey, but it seems that he and Jim Standen are not scientists, so I am not going to continue this discussion anymore.

KEES VISSER,
SALT SPRING



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FILM FESTIVAL

Film festival announces opening night pick

The Biggest Little Farm unlocks secrets of biodiversity

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

A crowd-pleasing documentary on the challenges of restoring biodiversity headlines this year's Salt Spring Film Festival.

The Biggest Little Farm – which has already won audience awards and best documentary prizes at over a dozen film festivals – has been selected from among over 100 contenders to headline the opening night gala on Friday, Feb. 28 for the 21st annual celebration of excellence in documentary film.

"This has been a really great year for documentaries," said festival manager James Cowan. "We had an unusual number of very strong films vying for the opening night spot."

Featuring 50 documentaries from around the world and visiting filmmakers from across the country, the film festival continues through the weekend of Feb. 29 to March 1 at Gulf Islands Secondary School. Full festival passes — which include the Opening Gala — are now available online, in person or by phone from the ArtSpring box office.

Shortlisted for the Oscars, The Biggest Little Farm follows two idealistic dreamers on an eight-year odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land. When the barking of their beloved dog leads to eviction from their tiny apartment, filmmaker John



IMAGE COURTESY SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

Film still from The Biggest Little Farm, the Oscar-shortlisted documentary that will headline the Salt Spring Film Festival's Opening Gala on Feb. 28.

"This has been a really great year for documentaries."

JAMES COWAN
Film festival manager

Chester and his wife Molly make a dramatic decision that takes them out of Los Angeles and back to the land, naively endeavouring to build one of the most diverse farms of its kind in

complete coexistence with nature.

Trading city living for 200 acres of barren farmland in the foothills of Ventura County, the Chesters chronicle eight exhausting years of dogged perseverance as they attempt to create the organic utopia they seek. When the farm's depleted soil and drought-stricken ecosystem finally begins to re-awaken, so does the Chesters' hope for the future, as they unlock the biodiversity that provides a vital blueprint for healthier living and a sustainable planet.

Refusing to give up on their ambitious dream despite repeated setbacks, they plant 10,000 fruit trees

and over 200 different crops that attract wildlife of every kind, and capture it all in spectacular high-definition cinematography. This uplifting, informative and optimistic film is an unforgettable testament to the complexity of nature and an invitation for us all to heed Mother Nature's call.

The Salt Spring Film Festival Opening Night Gala is at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, at Gulf Islands Secondary School; doors open at 5:30 p.m.

More information is available at www.saltspringfilmfestival.com.

ADOPT A PET TODAY!

Monroe is ready to find the perfect home. This 5 year old guy with a unique personality would love to find a home where he could be the king of the castle and share his carefree outlook on life.



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LIVE THEATRE

Canadian history romp hits stage

Comedy show comes to ArtSpring

Fans of live comedy won't want to miss this Sunday's ArtSpring Presents show called The War of 1812.

"If only all history lessons were as entertaining as producer Mike Delamont's War of 1812," says ArtSpring marketing manager Diana Lundine.

She explains the premise of The War of 1812: A young boy named David hates Canada until the ghost of Pierre Berton appears to him in his classroom and takes him on a tour of Canadian history — from the tennis ball battlefields of York to a Laura Secord mega musical — all in a birchbark canoe time machine.

"The play's four stars — Delamont, Wes Borg, Morgan Cranny and Rod Peter Jr. — are accomplished showmen with impressive resumes, and to boot they all call Victoria home."

Delamont is a comic, writer and producer. In 2013 he was nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award for his show called Break Out Year. He has performed at



Promotional image for The War of 1812, a comedy featuring award-winning actors and comedians.

the Halifax Comedy Festival, won 18 "Best of the Fest" awards on the Fringe Festival circuit; and is a three-time Canadian Comedy Award nominee. His God is a Scottish Drag Queen play, which came to Salt Spring in 2017, has sold out across North America.

Borg, a War of 1812 co-writer, is formerly of the sketch comedy group Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie. He has appeared on CBC's The Debaters, and presented How the Robots Will Destroy Us at TEDxVictoria in 2015.

Cranny is an actor, comedian, improviser and scientist. He is part of the award-winning sketch comedy group Atomic Vaudeville.

Peter Jr. met Delamont while working at his first and favourite job as a video store clerk. He too is an accomplished performer and theatre creator.

ArtSpring is honoured to have these four talented west coast artists on stage this Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2:30 p.m.

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2019-2020

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Mozart • Debussy • Beethoven
Villa-Lobos • Dvořák

Lorna McGhee flute
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David Harding viola
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vettamusic.com



Lorna McGhee, flute

THEATRE ARTS

All-female team powers next Theatre Alive show

Bren Walker directs
Escaped Alone on
Feb. 5

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Highly respected playwright Caryl Churchill will get Salt Spring exposure on Feb. 5 when Theatre Alive presents a staged reading of her 2016 work *Escaped Alone*.

In a switch from the reading series' first event in January — featuring the classic Victorian comedy of errors, *The Importance of Being Earnest* — this time producer Chris Humphreys is bringing audiences a

modern masterpiece. The Guardian gave *Escaped Alone* five out of five stars after its London premiere four years ago, while the New York Times noted Churchill "is regarded by many as the most dazzling inventive living dramatist in the English language."

"No one in theatre these days is better at exploding and reassembling traditional modes of language and storytelling," the Times said when *Escaped Alone* moved onto Broadway.

For a play that is driven by a powerful cast of older women, Humphreys has located an equally intriguing creative force to be the director to interpret this materi-

al. Bren Walker is an acoustical designer with a background in theatre who has lived on Salt Spring for three years and promises to bring a unique perspective to the material.

Walker grew up in a working poor family in Cleveland, Ohio, with seven people surviving the \$18,000 per year her parents earned as a bricklayer and a domestic. Though poor, education was valued. Walker's mother was a big believer in public libraries, which helped foster an early love of reading.

"If you can't afford a lot of toys, a book is just as good, or even better," Walker observed.

The early interest was further developed when Walker's sister, just 13 months older than her, went to school. Their mother gave Walker all the same school work to ease the pain of being left behind, which meant she was actually ahead when she went to school herself — and she stayed that way. She wound up getting a scholarship to Harvard, where she went intending to focus on chemical engineering.

It was during her time at Harvard that Walker discovered the theatre through a survey class on Shakespeare with a professor named Marjorie Garber. That semester happened to focus on Shakespeare's histories, namely Richard II.

"I was just blown away by how she revealed what the language was really about, as opposed to just being about the plot," said Walker.

She immediately took a turn away from science into studying theatre arts, despite the expectations placed on a smart young woman of colour.

"If you show you're good at science then the more people want to see you go into that arena, because of the lack of balance and diversity, so I was very much pushed toward chemistry and mathematics," Walker explained. "And I loved it, but once I got this exposure to theatre, all bets were



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Bren Walker, who will direct the next Theatre Alive production — Caryl Churchill's *Escaped Alone* — set for Mahon Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

off, and I realized the experience of being at that particular college, for me anyway, was not about what I was going to do with my career. It was about understanding my humanity. And I found the path of understanding who I was as a person through theatre."

Once her university years were over, though, theatre did not occur to Walker as a viable way to make a living, so she went into the music industry. During the 1990s she worked for AM Records, Island Records and Virgin as a talent scout and record producer. In the late '90s Walker transitioned into the tech industry, teaching herself code, working on apps and websites and launching e-commerce businesses.

"It was an interesting time period and it was a lot of fun, but Silicon Valley was not for me," said Walker, who quickly picked up on the insidious underlying nature of social media and its relationship to manipulation.

Her latest transformation was to acoustic design, working with a firm in Chicago designing spaces such as concert halls, theatres and large worship centres so that sound works for the users. As she mostly works with arts clients, Walker's current path marries all sides of her interests: physics and technology plus music and theatre.

Though Walker has not connected to her theatre roots for over 30 years, her varied career may prove the perfect combination of skills to jump back in with *Escaped Alone*.

"It's like a reawakening in some ways. I just turned 54 in December, so to do it at this time in my life, I feel like I could do 20 years or more," she said. "And to bring what I know now to the table is just so much more vast than what I

knew as a 22-year-old."

Churchill's play is set in the present period with notes of a looming dystopic future. Its all-too-contemporary concerns are expressed through the both funny and dark conversations of four senior women over a series of summer afternoons in the garden. Walker is already planning sound design that will cue audience members on the shifting dates through the neighbourhood's ambient noise.

She's also excited about the chance to work with the four local actors who will read the parts. Mary Lowery, Debbi Toole and Lynda Jensen make up the original group of friends, while Vera Algoet is Mrs. Jarrett, the nosy neighbour who soon joins them. This character is the vehicle for taking the audience away from the realist aspect, as she steps out of the action to make a series of bizarre prophecies about societal and environmental collapse to come.

Walker noted that Churchill's writing mimics the way conversation naturally goes, with its many interruptions and shifts in direction. As a staged reading, the audience will be given even more opportunity to take note of those shifts in tack, and the nuances created by layers of thought.

Acknowledging she's had what seems to be a charmed working life, Walker counts the opportunity to direct for Theatre Alive as one more gift.

"I'm blessed to be able to live here and to travel to do my work, and to be living somewhere that can handle this play; to have actors that can handle it and an audience that can handle it," Walker said.

Escaped Alone shows at 7 p.m. at Mahon Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Tickets are at the door or through theatrealive2020@gmail.com.

Have Your Say! 2020/21 Islands Trust Budget

We're putting together the Islands Trust budget 2020/21 with a climate action focus. We want your input!

Please complete our survey and tell us what you think.

islandstrust.bc.ca/budget

The deadline for survey completion is **February 9, 2020**

E: budget@islandstrust.bc.ca

T: 250.405.5151



Islands Trust

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

Spirit of Salt Spring



Viva Chorale! community choir's annual food bank fundraiser concert on Dec. 20 raised over \$1,800 in funds and food for the food bank! From left, SSI Community Services representatives Simone Cazabon and Annika Lund, and Viva Chorale! choir director Caroni Young.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations. First-come, first-served basis as space permits.

CALL DRIFTWOOD EDITOR
GAIL SJUBERG FOR DETAILS.

Driftwood

250-537-9933



ISLAND LIFE

- Remember When
- Star of the Week
- Where is This?

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

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



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

SLIPPERY SLOPE: Salt Spring Middle School students wasted no time turning Kanaka Skate Park into an impromptu sliding park during their lunch hour on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

INTERNATIONAL AID

Kenyan school celebrated

Special event at Meaden Hall on Saturday

People can learn about a Salt Spring woman's passion and vision at an event celebrating the Our Lady of Grace Children's Home and School anniversary on Saturday, Jan. 25.

From 1 to 4 p.m. at Meaden Hall, the registered Canadian charity called Action for God's Love and project founder Rita Balachandran will share the story of the home for orphaned children she established near the town of Marimba in Kenya in 2007, serving only nine girls when it opened.

"Today enrolment has grown to over 150 girls annually and since its inception over 1,000 girls have received an education from

kindergarten to Grade 12," states press material from AFGL. "Aged from two to 16 years, these girls come to the children's home from very vulnerable situations such as human trafficking, prostitution and female genital mutilation."

Four of five trustees on the AFGL board live on Salt Spring Island.

Currently the charity is embarking on a capital project to replace the current classroom, which has a dirt floor, metal walls and no electricity, with one stall block to serve as a kindergarten, computer lab and library.

For more information, contact Erika Ponsford at admin@actionforgodslove.org or at 250-653-9925. To make a donation or volunteer, people can visit the website at www.actionforgodslove.org.

Remember WHEN

Five years ago

• Salt Spring RCMP searched for a do-it-yourself car mechanic who left a toxic mess at the end of Tripp Road over the holiday season. Approximately 10 litres of engine oil and 10 litres of transmission fluid were in danger of running into St. Mary Lake after an unidentified person did maintenance on their vehicle. Local resident Ken Byron and North Salt Spring Waterworks District water quality specialist Meghan McKee along with a NSSWD crew mobilized to contain the spill and prevent an environmental catastrophe, which included removing almost seven yards of dirt from the site. The bill for the district was nearly \$6,000.

Ten years ago

• With only half the funding available to run a full-day kindergarten in the Gulf Islands in the fall, it all came down to a matter of math and equity. The province approved 100 full-time kindergarten spaces but offered funding for 43. Trustees voted to implement full-day kindergarten at Saturna, Galiano, Mayne and Pender schools only, since 40 youngsters were expected to show up for kindergarten, while 56 were anticipated on Salt Spring. If the board had implemented full-day kindergarten on Salt Spring, it couldn't afford to offer it at all four elementary schools with partial funding, causing an administrative nightmare.

Twenty years ago

• Three people were led into a cell at the Ganges RCMP detachment, where they were served a five-course formal dinner with seared scallops, beef fillets and pear tarte. Jenny Bradford, Erin Butler and Jeremy Milsom won the top prize at the Full Mountie raffle, which was a chance to eat a gourmet meal in the island's best-kept-secret restaurant.

Thirty years ago

• A CRD spokesperson said he was firmly against a proposed landfill site on Salt Spring. He also said that a curbside pickup program proposed by the solid waste management group would have to be approved and partially funded by voters. The committee also considered building a larger recycling centre to handle the increased waste generated by the curbside pickup program. The goal was to increase recycling on the island to 50 per cent. At the time it was 10 per cent. However, the operating cost of \$77,000 would be up to the taxpayers to cover.

Fifty years ago

• Critics expressed dismay at the newly cleared deep ditches on Salt Spring Island roads. The Chamber of Commerce heard condemnation of the wide deep ditches on many roads of the island. Roads foreman Hector Gerow said the work was not yet completed. He explained that the next project was "shouldering" the roads. Rumours prevalent on the island that the ditches were to be filled in were based on the fact that the gravel shoulders were being added as well as the fact that the ditching had been suspended until spring.

expert ADVICE

CALL 250-537-9933 TO BE A PART OF THIS POPULAR FEATURE!

Mechanic

Long defog time in the morning is telling you something

If it is taking longer than normal to defog your windows in the morning it is a sign of high humidity inside the car. This time of year every time you get in your car you are bringing in moisture on your shoes and clothing. While newer cars heating and air conditioning systems are set up to get rid of this moisture, it is still more effective to open the windows a bit when the inside of the car warms up. This vents the warm moist air out of the passenger compartment.

If your floor mats have water standing in them dump them out. On a sunny day crack the windows open when the car is sitting in the sun, but make sure they get closed before the interior starts to cool down.

Drive Safe, Gyle



GYLE KEATING

Financial Advice

Questions a financial plan can help you answer

Finances can sometimes keep us up at night. But with proper planning, a financial plan can help you answer some key questions including:

How do I create a budget that fits my lifestyle? Creating a budget is at the heart of any financial plan, and learning to manage it is key to thriving financially. Follow this rule:

- 50% of your after-tax income covers your needs
- 30% covers your wants • 20% is what you save
- Should I pay off my debt or build up my savings? Growing your nest egg is a big reason for why you should start saving as soon as possible. But, not all debt is the same - with credit card debt, it's best you pay that off quickly as the interest rates can be extremely high.
- Am I saving enough for retirement? Make sure to pay yourself first. It's never too early to start planning your retirement and it's never too late to plan what it's going to look like.



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Real Estate

IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?

Often sellers will say to me "I want to wait till my spring garden blooms". Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year.

By listing now, your residence will:

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

Homes that sell in February and March do so in an environment of less competition. It is possible that when the surge of spring listings comes on the market they may not be sold at the same price.

This old adage is really true for real estate:

"Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!"



JAN MACPHERSON

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what's on this week



Wed. Jan. 22

ACTIVITIES

Best of the Fests: Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and The Band.

Salt Spring Film Festival screening of documentary film about The Band. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Yoga Nidra – A Meditation on Deep Rest.

Guided visualization meditation, led by Celeste Mallett Jason at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Participation is by donation and registration is not required.



Rest & Recharge: A 2-hour Restorative Yin Practice.

With yin yoga teacher Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 6:30 p.m.

Insight/Mindfulness Meditation.

A guided session of meditation in the Buddhist tradition by Heather Martin at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Music Bingo.

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

Swing Night.

Swing dancing comes to the Legion every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic & Jam. At the Legion on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.



Open Mic at Moby's Pub.

Every Thursday from 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Public Library Book Club.

Library book club, open to all and free of charge, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. This month is Reader's Choice, Non-Fiction. Read a non-fiction book of your choice and share it with the group. 1 to 3 p.m.

Green Drinks.

Green Drinks is a monthly social and networking mixer hosted by Transition Salt Spring that's open to everyone. Penny's Pantry. 5 to 7 p.m.

Creating Our Renewable Energy Future.

An evening of short videos and discussion, moderated by David Denning. Sponsored by Salt Spring Community Energy, Transition Salt Spring and the Salt Spring Island Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m., free and open to everyone.

Fri. Jan. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Improv Show. GISS Improv teams perform at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 24

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. Neighbours Helping Neighbours Find Answers group gathers at the Thrifty Florist Shop. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chamber of Commerce executive director Jessica Harkema will join volunteers to answer questions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Electric vehicle experts will be there from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to answer your EV questions.



DOSED Documentary + Q&A.

An evening dedicated to psychedelics, mental health, addiction, compassion, education and solutions. Documentary screening will be followed by a Q&A featuring filmmakers Tyler Chandler and Nicholas Meyers; as well as Adrian Oberg of the Victoria Association for Psychedelic Studies. ArtSpring. 7 to 9 p.m.

Trivia Night at The Legion.

With Fran Leask and Lance. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.



Sat. Jan. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Underground. Rock band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 25

ACTIVITIES

The Naturalist's Sketchbook.

Local biologist, artist & environmentalist Briony Penn will lead youth aged 6-13 in the art of observation and documentation. Final youth works will be exhibited at Against the Current: Orca + Salmon at Mahon Hall, Feb. 14-23. Workshop runs Saturdays at Mahon Hall, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Feb. 15.

Our Lady of Grace Children's Home & School Anniversary and Info Session.

Event hosted by registered Canadian charity called Action for God's Love to report on and fundraise for a sanctuary and school for orphaned girls in Kenya. Meaden Hall. 1 to 4 p.m. Info: Erika Ponsford at admin@actionforgodslove.org or at 250-653-9925.

Film Screening: Five Seasons - The Gardens of Piet Oudolf.

Documentary film screening hosted by Salt Spring Garden Club, with proceeds benefitting the Copper Kettle. The Fritz Movie Theatre. 1:30 p.m.

Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance.

Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club hosts the annual event at Fulford Hall. 5:30 p.m. Advance tickets through Peter King at 250-537-8544 or peterdging@gmail.com.

DAISSI Queer Reading Series: Bill Richardson.

Bill Richardson is guest author at the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: The War of 1812.

From producer Mike Delamont and the writers of Three Dead Trolls In A Baggie comes the funniest history lesson of a lifetime. Live theatre at ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.

Mon. Jan. 27

ACTIVITIES

SSI Community Economic Development Commission.

Business meeting, rescheduled from Jan. 13. CRD Building Inspection meeting room. 3 to 5 p.m.

Our Forests: A Community Conversation.

Community Alliance meeting explores how opposing needs can be balanced when it comes to island forests. Everyone is welcome to this respectful discussion. Lions Hall. 7 p.m.

Mon. Jan. 27

ACTIVITIES

Sacred Song Circle.

Led by Barb Slater and Kevin Wilkie at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m.



Tue. Jan. 28

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Public Hearing.

Public input invited on proposed Bylaw 512: Affordable Rental Housing - Cottages. Meaden Hall. 6:30 p.m.

Trivia Tuesday.

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

Argentine Tango Practice.

All welcome to learn the wonderful Argentine tango every Tuesday night. All Saints By-the-Sea. 8 to 10 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 29

ACTIVITIES

Dementia Friends.

A free talk by the Alzheimer Society of B.C. at Salt Spring Seniors. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Release: a TRE and Restorative Yoga Practice.

With yoga teacher Sarah Jane Smith and TRE provider Mardon Dary at The Nest Hot Yoga. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Yoga Nidra.

See last Wednesday's listing.

Insight/Mindfulness Meditation.

See last Wednesday's listing.

Music Bingo.

See last Wednesday's listing.

Swing Night.

See last Wednesday's listing.



Briony Penn leads a youth workshop called The Naturalist's Sketchbook beginning this Saturday.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker** shows Wednesday, Jan. 22 to Thursday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. each night plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. Rated PG. 145 minutes. No passes or Tuesday discount for Star Wars.

For more movie info go to www.thefritz.ca

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Photography Club** members hold an exhibit in the ArtSpring lobby through January.

• **Rosemary Partridge** shares a selection of original drawings and paintings including portrait and life, animals and birds, and some written pieces accompanying the work in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room through January.

EXHIBITIONS

• **The Photographic Eye** — photographs by Avril Kirby — shows at Country Grocer Cafe throughout January.

• **The Group of Six Photographers** — Simon Henson, Larry Citra, Bruce McPhee, Kahsia Hartwell, Ross McLeod and Judy McPhee — exhibit at Fernwood Road Cafe through mid February.

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

Best of the Fests: Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and the Band

A SS Film Festival Society presentation
Wed., Jan. 22 • 7:30 p.m.
ArtSpring

THRIFTY FOODS

Ganges, Mouat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm • Customer Service 250-537-1522

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 13

LIBRARY BOOKS

Winter months beckon readers

New shelf titles have something for everyone

BY MAGGIE WARBEY
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Give yourself a post-holiday gift this year by setting aside some me time to read a new book or two. As always, your library has just what you are looking for. These are just a few of the new titles on the New Shelf.

Looking for a tell-all autobiography that won't disappoint? **ME Elton John** is sure to be a big hit. It has everything from his early life through his rise to fame and fortune, to his loving relationship with Princess Diana, to his personal life and loves. It is a book that you will not want to put down. The volume includes some beautiful photos of John and his family and his closest friends. This is the story of and by a

ON THE NEWSHELVES

first-class star who isn't afraid to be just who he is. Absolutely fascinating!

The Clean Body: a Modern History is also a wonderful read. The book details the intricate, centuries long history of how we, as societies, define clean and what culture does to define and manipulate our sense of cleanliness. Well-researched, clearly written and easy to read, this book makes learning about ourselves and how we came to be who we are a joyful experience. History is rarely so interesting to learn. This book is not about bloody wars and regime changes; rather, it is about how water and soap have come to be so influential in our daily lives.

If tales of horror fas-

cinates you, take a look at **Monster She Wrote: The Women Who Pioneered Horror & Speculative Fiction**. Women, it turns out, have always been at the vanguard of frightening fiction. From Margaret Cavendish and Mary Shelly to Anne Rice, women have written about monsters and scary mayhem forever. And their own life stories are as intriguing as the monsters they created. This book, part biography and part fiction, introduces over a hundred authors and over 200 of their spine-tingling tales.

What Matters Most: the Get Your Sh*t Together Guide to Wills, Money and Life's "What-If's" is well worth looking at before the information is needed. A reviewer tells us, "There's little point in worrying about future death, but simple planning can relieve your

worries . . . and give you a calmer today." The book is the result of the author finding herself in just that situation: the sudden death of her husband, and the realization that she didn't have a clue what to do next. The book offers solid advice, clear instructions, check lists, and even some kindly counselling. The message is clear: being prepared for the inevitable is the wise choice.

New on the fiction shelf is Robert Harris' latest novel, **The Second Sleep**. Set in 15th century Exmoor, England, this thriller is one you won't want to put down. Beautifully drawn characters, historical details, a carefully constructed plot with lots of animation and twists, and a truly mournful and remote setting all add allure to this mystery. You won't rest until you know who done it!

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com

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

The New Moon in Aquarius occurs on January 24 and at 4 Aquarius 22 in the Tropical Zodiac. As a whole, this seed event which will manifest as a 29.5-day Lunation Cycle, generally reveals themes power and authority and the balance of it. Taking a dominant attitude and approach or being dominated by others, individuals, management, government or otherwise, is featured. Yet an emphasis on democracy is also indicated. This presents a reminder that every arena where two or more people are gathered, the politics of power arises. Mutual cooperation and respect are ever ideal, even where power hierarchies naturally exist. Of course, history and the realities of daily life ever remind us all that realizing these ideals is not only a constant challenge, it literally constitutes the very fabric of life. Whether power is used to empower or control is ever the question. P.S. The Aquarius New Moon each year also marks Chinese New Year – The White Metal Rat!

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You have begun to make new connections, associations, and friends. Some of these may well constitute the beginnings of whole new foundations in your life. As eager as you are to explore these further, you may feel somewhat hesitant and cautious, as well. Trust is the main issue. Yet, you do sense there is something special and precious to be gained, too.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Both from within and subject to the realities of outer circumstances, you feel both inspired and determined to push through. Yet, there is also a flow factor at play which you also recognize and want to acknowledge. This is especially true in association with other key players. As well, as important as are practical realities, dreams also matter.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Some cycles are more complex and challenging than others and you are in the midst of one now. Both due to outer pressures and inner feelings linked to your feelings and priorities are pulling at you. If ever there was a time to be fully present 'in the moment' and trusting the flow, it is now. Focus to see the advantages of all outcomes possible.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

This New Moon will activate some important changes in you linked to your values and priorities. Positively, they will inspire you to activate latent creative talents and interests. Yet, these will likely involve others somehow. Cultural events and activities hold special appeal. You may even undergo glimpses of higher truths woven into the fabric of common realities.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Changes on relationship fronts will be activated by the Aquarius lunar cycle. These will likely influence your public and/or professional spheres and your social status in general. There is a transformational element featured, as well, yet there are indications that these will prove satisfying and advantageous, yet may require some measure of adjustment on your part.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Lifestyle changes will be activated by this lunation cycle. Some of your most important relationships are directly involved. These will very likely come about as a blessing. Professional opportunities are also featured, yet these will likely manifest in actuality in May 2020. Yet, you will still have to do your part by cooperating with the process.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

If you have been waiting for a spark to ignite your creative aspirations, this could be it. Inspirations are destined to awaken at this time. These could even lead to measurable financial returns. Yet, you do have to be willing to give to the situation. An expectant and deserving attitude could lead you away from this otherwise promising possibility.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

New activations on relationship fronts are manifesting as shaking and awakening close to home. Yet, these may come laced with inspired imagination and some semblance of magic. At least you stand to be moved by heart-opening vistas of beauty. Still, these changes could prove very real in terms of your life flow and could also prove to be bittersweet.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Sometimes are perspectives on reality change very slowly, while at others our entire view of reality can change in an instant. Such transformations of consciousness are generally referred to as awakenings. Whether these are uplifting and satisfying or devastating and challenging is another matter. In both cases, wisdom requires us to adapt and reclaim our center.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Our priorities in life are usually directly linked to what we deem important. Yet, both are subject to change. There are indications that your priorities are undergoing major changes or will soon, within the next couple of weeks. How you perceive and interpret the world is also featured. Some of these may be deemed sobering and could also require more efforts to have faith.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

This New Moon in your sign on January 24 will activate your courage and resolve to ask harder questions. These are likely directly linked to your future direction. Acknowledging your own sense of personal authority as well as that of others and entering into cooperative negotiations is featured. Clarify your insecurities as well as your goals for best results.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Some cycles are a call to retreat and this may prove to be one of them. Yet, there is also a theme of outer self-expression woven into the plot. The emphasis is on beauty so focus on your sense of it to be in alignment with this destiny. Involvements with friends and even entire groups are also indicated, so the urge and opportunity to retreat will be divided. Aim for a balance of both.

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Last Week's Answer: Esther Sufady was first to correctly identify the wheel as being at the Farmers' Institute; Dave Howell elaborated by noting it is a drive wheel with steel cleats on an old McCormick tractor on the institute grounds.

SALT SPRING **Stars** of the **WEEK**

John and Verna Elliott



John and Verna Elliott are among the busiest of the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop's 60-odd volunteers. They are often seen at and around the shop after hours taking care of the culls and other important details, and have done so for many years!

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Obituaries Obituaries In Memoriam Coming Events Coming Events Information Information

Captain Rohinton (Ron) Adi Pardiwala
 April 2, 1953 - January 15, 2020



Captain Rohinton (Ron) Adi Pardiwala, of Salt Spring Island, BC, died peacefully on Wednesday January 15, 2020 surrounded by his family.

Rohinton was the loving husband of Pinkie Pardiwala and father of Tina, Zubin, Nikita and Kobe Pardiwala.

Capt. Pardiwala was born in Calcutta, India on April 2, 1953. He spent his entire career sailing all the seas of this world. His infectious laugh and gentle demeanor will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday January 25, 2020 from 12:00 to 17:00, at the Salt Spring Golf & Country Club.

A butterfly to remind me even though we are apart



Your spirit is always with me forever in my heart...

Donna Martin
 Aug. 12, 1948 - Jan. 11, 2020



It with immense heartbreak that we announce the loss of our beloved Donna. Born on Prince Edward Island, she hitchhiked across Canada, found Salt Spring Island in 1971 and never left. She loved the Salish Sea and with a gentle warrior heart, she worked to conserve and protect its ecology and support the rights and title of First Nations whose unceded lands we live on.

Our sincere thanks to this community for the love and care that have been so freely and generously given to Donna and our family. Our hearts are shattered yet we see a grand beauty of human love and caring twinned amidst this unexplainable tragedy and loss. The hands held out, the shoulders offered and the compassionate words have given our family courage and strength. There are not enough "thank you's" to cover all those friends that have shared and listened. To each of you individually and to that collective whole that makes such a community, please know that you are all a permanent part of our hearts and memories as we find our way forward.

We will hold a celebration of life for Donna when the flowers are in bloom.

In lieu of sending flowers and cards, we will be in touch regarding donations to a cause dear to Donna's heart.

With love and respect,
 Michael, Tara, Bron and family

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Island Health is requesting expressions of interest to provide long term accommodations for medical professionals working in the Lady Minto Hospital.

All types of accommodations will be considered with preference being; furnished and equipped (dishes, towels, bedding, kitchen basics,) three bedroom, two bathroom located in the Ganges area. Other locations and features will be considered.

Please forward expressions of interest listing:

- Landlord(s) name, address, phone and email.
- Address of rental property/city/town.
- Proposed rent
- Number of bedrooms
- Number of bathrooms
- Floor plan (if available)
- Any other additional information relevant to proposal.
- Brief description of the property.
- Pictures (if available)

to be received no later than January 31, 2020 to the attention of:

Sara Gogo: Sara.gogo@viha.ca
 Rural Site Director, Lady Minto Hospital
 135 Crofton Rd
 Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2P7



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- Knowledge of Adobe Creative Suite an asset.

Please forward resumes to:
 Amber Ogilvie
aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com





AUTOMOTIVE NEWS

- Vehicle tips
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ECO DRIVING

Plug-in hybrids share advantages with EVs

Real life island examples

This month I will explore plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. What are they and how good are they in the EV benefits department?

A hybrid has both a gas engine and an electric motor. There are two types of hybrid. There are the Toyota Prius you see the taxi drivers using. They have been sold since 1997 and were very efficient for the era. You can't plug them in and they have a small (4.4 kwh) traction-assist battery. They drive sometimes on gas and sometimes on electricity generated from the battery energy stored from regenerative braking.

The second and more recent variety is a plug-in hybrid. They also have a gas engine and electric motor, but have a much larger battery, regenerative braking and a plug for



Jim Standen
EV
OLUTION

charging that battery. They use the battery energy first before "going gas" and go different distances on the battery, depending on the brand. And with the plug-in feature, they are categorized as an EV by the provincial (and federal) government so I can write about them and they are the focus of the remainder of this article.

There are many available models, but as an example, a Chevy Volt has an 18.4-kwh battery and, depending on conditions, will go about 60 kilometres on battery alone. The Kia Optima and Kia Niro

PHEV have an 8.9-kwh battery and will travel just over 40 kms. There are a variety of purchase incentives for new or used plug-in hybrids, but they can change over time. Currently there are government rebates (the iZEV federal rebate is \$2,500 and the CEV for BC rebate is \$1,500) and also, if you have an ugly beater like my parked Subaru, the SCRAP-IT program may provide an additional incentive. Those eco-incentives are mighty handy but check ahead to ensure your purchase is eligible.

How good are plug-in hybrids for your pocketbook and the environment? It depends very much on your driving habits.

If you are doing lots of daily commute driving (shorter hops) and have a charging station at home or, if necessary, at work, then they can be close to a full EV with both benefits. For example, say you drive 20 km to work every day, and don't charge there, the gas engine will never kick in. That is eco-wonderful.

And just like a fully electric EV, you get the advantage of very inexpensive electricity and no emissions come out of your tail pipe (yes, Virginia, you do have a tail pipe).

The disadvantage is that because the car has a gasoline engine, you do have to head to the dealer for maintenance like oil changes, filters and belt changes. The 100 per cent EVs don't have those needs. Those are very nice savings.

Here are some real examples from kind Salt Spring folks who let me use their name. Markus Wenzel, who lives at the deep (653) South End on Isabella Point Road, only filled up his Chevy Volt twice in the first 20,000 kms of use. Ruth Riddell has a Volt as well and only needs gas when she commutes to her family cabin on Cortes. She also chose a pluggable level-2 charger option (it attaches to a dryer socket), so she can toss it in the trunk and use it in both locations.

The Bottom Line

Pure EV enthusiasts might disagree, but I think plug-in hybrids are one of the unsung heroes in the transition to emission-less transportation and may be ideal for you. Depending on your needs, it may allow you to reduce almost all your transportation emissions and save considerable money using inexpensive electricity, while allowing for the occasional longer distance trip on gas.

Ask me at ASK

I will be joining Darryl Martin, chair of the Climate Action Group, and Jessica Harkema, executive director of our Chamber of Commerce at ASK Salt Spring this Friday morning (Jan. 24) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Thrifty Florist Shop (upper level) to answer questions on EVs.

Respectful comments are welcomed at jstanden@ucalgary.ca.

VEHICLE PARTS

Vehicle tires require attention

Tire maintenance and driving safety are related

Making driving more safe can come down to ensuring that the vehicle is in good working order — starting from the ground up.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states that roughly 70 per cent of single-vehicle accidents are tire-related. Taking tire maintenance seriously can greatly reduce the chances of blowouts, accidents and fatalities.

Caring for tires not only improves safety but also extends the life of the tires, saving drivers money as a result. Michelin Tires says that simply checking the tires' inflation pressure can make a significant difference in

how long tires last. For example, a tire that is consistently 20 per cent under-inflated may see its life expectancy reduced by 20 per cent.

Tires that are not properly inflated also can have a high rolling resistance. In such instance, the engine must expend more effort to move the vehicle — thus eating up fuel.

Pressure should be checked at ambient temperature before driving. The recommended inflation pressure can be found in the drivers manual or on the tire.

Wheel alignment, tire rotation and tire balancing are also key to minimizing wear and extending the life and safety of tires. Each vehicle has specific recommendations and drivers should consult their manuals to find those specifics.

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Basketball boys take second at Howe tourney

B team helps fill the gaps

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary School boys basketball team were only a few points away from winning this year's Nairn Howe tournament, which took place over the weekend.

Instead they had to be happy with second place, which was quite exciting for the young team. They finished their final game against Royal Bay losing by only nine points after crawling back from a big deficit in the first half. By the end of the game, they were within shooting distance of the goal, but were unable to make up those final points.

"We dug ourselves a hole in the first half and it was pretty difficult to get out of it," said coach Myles Wilson. "We tried. If you'd have seen the first half you'd wonder how we clawed back, but we did. That's the way it goes, though.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

GISS guard Matthew Schure dribbles past a Duncan Christian defender in the first game of the tournament on Friday. See more photos on our www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com website.

They were hot and we weren't."

While the boys were unable to duplicate their 2019 accomplishment, they played well throughout the tournament. Their season has been quite good for a relatively new squad, said Wilson. He added that even when the boys

lose a game, it's not by much.

"They have been competitive. The biggest thing from our coaching standpoint is that we have to be more consistent," he said. "We lost consistency and it cost us the game. Too many turnovers and unforced errors hurt us."

As hosts of the tournament, GISS had to pull together a "B" team after one of the teams dropped out of the weekend at the last minute. The second team was made up of alumni, current players and some juniors, and served to play in losing brackets just to ensure visiting teams had someone to play against. The secondary team's performances did not count in any standings, and just allowed for visiting teams to play more games. The official GISS team was also down one game, since their competitors from Nanaimo were snowed in on Saturday morning.

"The [B team] did really well and made for some good competitive games for the other teams. They were clean too, they weren't hacky or anything. They did a really good job," Wilson said. "If we didn't put them in, there would have been at least two teams who would have not had one of their games in the tournament."

Home tournaments are a nice change of pace for the boys, who play most of their games on the

road. It gave the players' friends and parents the chance to watch and show support.

Wilson said that the high scorers in the final game were Matthew Schure and Reuben Wright. Nathan Lavallee took home the Nairn Howe award for GISS, which goes to the player exhibiting the most sportsmanship and dedication.

The boys play again this weekend in Victoria, followed by a tournament the next week in Brentwood Bay. They do have a small chance at reaching the provincials, provided they are on their A game through the rest of the season.

"There's a big difference between a contending provincial team and teams that are on the cusp. That's just the level of ball," Wilson said. "The boys have their work cut out for them but it's a good group of kids who are learning as they go. If we can tighten up on a few of those other ends, then I think we'll be okay."

SOCCER

Soccer programs keep kicking



Malcolm Legg

SOCCER
ROUND-UP

site for home games, as the weather is very volatile at this time of year.

a) House Program starts Jan. 25 in the GISS gymnasium with the following schedule: 10 a.m. Girls U6-7 and Girls U8-9; 11 a.m. Boys U6-7 and Mini Program; 12 p.m. Boys U8-9.

Note: House Program tentatively moves to Portlock Park from March 7 to April 25.

b) Small-sided teams. Games have started and will run to about March 7. Tourneys are in March. All games are at Portlock.

c) Full-field teams. League games have started. District Cup starts in late February with finals held the first week of April.

d) Adult teams. League play then cup play beginning early to mid February.

SS United Academy: Due to success with the fall sessions our academy will run a spring program on Fridays from March 7 into May. Ten sessions with a similar cost and times. Details will be on our website. Ciaran Ayton (ciarananayton@gmail.com) or Josip Bratanovic (jbratanovic@shaw.ca) can give further details.

SS United will have other things happening as well, as our 19 new referees will have a development session, Josip plans a coaches course on Feb. 9 (details on the website), a new website will be up fairly soon (Maggie and Ciaran are heading this up) and we will announce a working relationship with Pacific FC.

Before I close down for now, SS United wishes to give special thanks to the Salt Spring Foundation and particularly Joan Nicholson on the donation to our club for the new soccer goals with wheels at Portlock Park. Safety concerns for youth and adults in moving these goals are alleviated and the donation is deeply appreciated by the whole Salt Spring United Club.

Happy New Year to all on Salt Spring, including our many soccer participants and supporters.

At the end of 2019, Salt Spring United received the disappointing news that the school board had turned down our application to try to build a turf field on the lower GISS field, a project that would have benefited over 500 students in the high school and over 300 members in our soccer club, as well as any other group that needed the use of an all-weather facility. As disappointing as this decision was, the SS United executive understood the school board's decision, respects it and will now turn to the positive with our 2020 winter and spring programs, as will be outlined in my article here.

1. **Registration.** There are several key dates to remember with registration:

a) Registration for all full-field and small-sided teams is now closed for this season.

b) Feb. 15 is the last date to register for the House Program, if anyone wishes to have children join now. The fee is adjusted to reflect the amount of season left for playing.

March 1: Registration for the 2020-21 season and for the Spring League will be open March 1.

d) Early February. Spring Academy registration (exact date to be posted).

2. **Schedules.** Please always check the web-

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