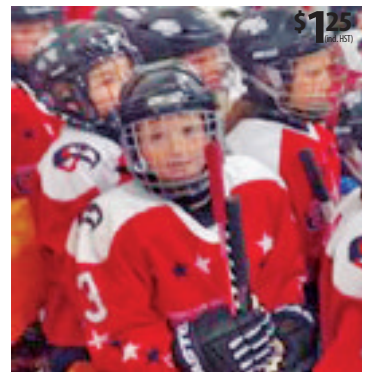




Messiah Sing-along
3rd annual event
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On the ice
Island hockey families
make it work
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GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, December 11, 2013 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 53RD YEAR — ISSUE 50



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

CRAFT FAIR ELVES: Salt Spring Pathfinders members Linnea Barrett, left, and Clara Serra take a break from volunteering in the kitchen at the Fulford Community Hall Craft Fair over the weekend. Six Pathfinders plus 10 other youth helped out at the fundraiser for the hall.

FERRY SERVICE

Ferry cuts get heated response

Salt Spring residents offer dose of reality

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A weary BC Ferries Community Engagement contingent came to Ganges on Saturday, ready to take the flak for a transportation ministry plan to save \$14 million in ferry operating costs over two years.

It was the 16th meeting held in coastal communities facing cuts to their ferry service as announced by the Ministry of Transportation

and Infrastructure on Nov. 18.

Some of the audience's ammunition was diffused at the beginning of the question-and-answer session at the GISS gym when Peter Simpson, BC Ferries' director of fleet operations strategy, said proposed cuts to the Crofton-Vesuvius route might not have to be so dramatic.

"We think we can make [the last sailing from Crofton] at about 8:30 at night," Simpson said.

The initial announcement had the last sailing in off-peak season leaving at 6:55 p.m., and at 8 p.m. in summer months.

As the meeting heard from several parents, young dancer Amber Tuttle, and Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee chair Harold Swirenga, such an early cut-off time would have decimated off-island youth activities.

FERRIES continued on 2

MEDIA

CFSI faces CRTC hearing

Station failed to provide logs and tapes

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's only radio station will be under scrutiny next month when the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission examines a failure to comply with radio regulations.

CFSI-FM owner Sukhdev "Dave" Dhillon will be in Surrey for the Jan. 27, 2014 CRTC hearing to explain why he didn't comply with regulations to file requested program logs, tapes and music lists, and why the station should keep its broadcasting licence. Public submissions on the matter of non-compliance will also be heard.

A notice of the hearing posted on the CRTC website states that starting in May 2013, the commission made several attempts to obtain files from the station in order to analyze them in preparation for the station's licence renewal.

During an interview with the Driftwood, Dhillon said he had asked station manager Dave Gordon to look into the CRTC's request and let him go on Nov. 1 when the issue remained unresolved. He also reported having issues with the volunteer programmers.

"We asked people hosting so many times to please fill out the logs properly, otherwise we can't have you hosting on the radio station," Dhillon said. Around 10 volunteers were let go in consequence, he added.

Islanders who have worked at the radio station as paid staff and volunteers say Dhillon was aware of the noncompliance issue, and the real problem was his lack of investment in the station.

CFSI continued on 2

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- Direct Downtown - Ganges:** 8:45AM daily except Sunday, 11:20AM daily, 5:20PM daily.

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Crofton-Vesuvius ferry use numbers not accurate

FERRIES

continued from 1

"These groups, if they are travelling home in the evenings, have virtually no flexibility or options. If there is no evening sailing, it may very well mean no interaction with partnered youth, school, or recreational activities on Vancouver Island for them," said Swierenga.

Tuttle trains in Duncan three times a week, and said that without a 9 p.m. ferry from Crofton will not be able to continue.

Matt Kellow, who commutes to work in Nanaimo, and Tony Hambrook, who has two sports-playing kids and runs a construction company, were among those questioning "utilization" numbers for the Howe Sound Queen based on what they regularly see.

"If you think that ferry is not well used, throw away your statistics because they don't match reality," said Hambrook. "What is going on down there and what you think is going on down there are not the same thing."

Swierenga and B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers' Union

president Chris Abbott also said the numbers were not correct, and BC Ferries officials admitted basing their figures on an A-licence 70-vehicle capacity when the actual number is 55 on a B licence with lower crew numbers.

Bob Jones, a long-time Salt Spring FAC member, also stressed that the government and BC Ferries have not done their homework about the efficiency of the Crofton-Vesuvius route (#6).

"If the rest of the minor route ferry service was anywhere near Route 6, you wouldn't have this problem at all."

Based on his intimate knowledge of ferry operations and marine matters, Jones estimated about \$1.4 million in overtime costs and another \$750,000 in fuel costs could be saved annually by making changes on other southern Gulf Islands routes.

While specific-to-Salt Spring concerns were expressed by some speakers, many others hit broader concerns, such as the political impetus for treating coastal ferries differently from the inland ferry system and from



Susan Worrall, who commutes to work off-island, takes her turn at the microphone with a long line of people behind her at the ferry cuts meeting at GISS on Saturday.

PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

highway infrastructure and maintenance.

"I don't think anyone calls the cost of a snowplow on Highway 3 a 'subsidy,'" noted Swierenga.

The lack of an economic impact study done on communities facing cuts, or consideration of what halving the Monday through Thursday seniors discount would do for ridership and seniors' lives was also criticized.

Gary Holman, the NDP MLA for Saanich North and

the Islands who also sits on the bipartisan select standing committee on finance, said the government process of forcing BC Ferries to make \$14 million in cuts from the minor routes over two years should be put in proper context. This year's provincial government budget is \$44 billion.

The government is projecting a surplus of \$130 million for this budget year, and with a contingency and forecast allowance added together has about half a billion dollars to

tap into.

"If the political will is there, the dollars are there."

Not only that, he said, as the B.C. Ferry Services Corporation's sole shareholder, the provincial government receives an annual eight per cent dividend of more than \$6 million each year.

Similarly, islander John Davies was among speakers rejecting the Liberals' funding priorities.

"Don't ask me what ferries I'm ready to give up so gov-

ernment has more money to spend on its pet projects."

Tom Toynbee attacked the perception that BC Ferries users are draining public coffers.

"We are talking about the least subsidized ferry system in the world," he said.

While it was difficult for some community members to contain their anger, they recognized that it was not most usefully directed at the Ministry of Transportation and BC Ferries staff at the front of the room.

Kevin Richter, assistant deputy minister for the transportation ministry, said his group's role was to inform and educate the elected officials about the impact of the government's savings plan.

Toynbee gave credit to the members representing the ministry and BC Ferries, but added, "I have to tell you though, fellas, if my boss had given me a job presenting such a weak and flimsy script as this one, I would have quit after meeting number one."

Feedback on service cuts and changes is being accepted until Dec. 20. See www.coastalferriesengagement.ca.

Conflicting stories arise from radio station

CFSI

continued from 1

"I was not let go for that reason. I was let go, I was told, because there was no money — but I wasn't surprised because I watched the ads dry up," Gordon said in response to Dhillon's claims, adding he declined an offer to switch from salary to being paid by commission.

"It makes me sad because I wanted Salt Spring to have a radio station, a community station."

Gordon is now station manager for CICV-FM in Lake Cowichan. The federal Labour Relations Board is launching an investigation into Gordon's complaint of unpaid wages at his former job.

Bobby Magee was involved with CFSI for three years as a volunteer host before station founder Gary Brooks sold the business to Dhillon in March 2013. Magee stepped in as volunteer business manager

for the first three months of the new regime. During that time, he said, he and Gordon sent numerous emails warning Dhillon the computer used for logging shows had crashed and must be fixed or it would become a CRTC issue.

"He said he would take care of it and he did not take care of it," Magee said. When the logging computer finally died, Magee estimates it took Dhillon at least a month to replace it, which is why the audio files for that period were never sent in. Gordon, meanwhile, had done what he could to comply with the CRTC's request, supplying a paper record that took three days to format.

"All the playlists were sent to the CRTC. Not the audio logs — they were gone forever," Gordon said. "There's not much you can do when technology breaks down, and there was no back-up for the back-up."

Magee and others, including former volunteer music director

Rob Pingle, have also pointed to Dhillon's management by distance as a problem, which contributed to the lack of ad sales and overall financial decline.

"That's really the issue, I think, affecting the station, is the pretty-much destruction of the cash flow," Magee said.

Also at issue at the CRTC hearing will be Dhillon's failure to respond to two warning letters the commission sent out on Sept. 18 and Nov. 7. Dhillon says he was completely unaware those letters until recently, when he discovered they had been sent to his old address.

"They were under the impression that I ignored them, which I didn't," he said.

Dhillon said he is currently working three or four days a week on Salt Spring while he looks for a new station manager. He is confident the CRTC hearing will be resolved to his satisfaction, though others aren't so optimistic.

"To my knowledge there are still a number of volunteers who have never met Mr. Dhillon and these volunteers are not being adequately supported by the ownership of CFSI to ensure that they perform their broadcasts in a way that would be compliant with CRTC regulations," Pingle wrote in an email to the Driftwood.

"There has not been a daily paid staff presence in the CFSI office since the departure of Mr. Gordon. I believe that given the current situation it will be very difficult for the station to live up to its obligations with the CRTC."

Public submissions to the CRTC will be accepted prior to the hearing up to Jan. 6, 2014. Any submission must relate solely to the issue of non-compliance.

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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

Local Trust Committee Meeting

Thursday, DECEMBER 12

Harbour House Hotel (note change of location)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CRD emergency program targets four-legged friends

Pets get welcome boost

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Amidst the many dramatic images that persist since Hurricane Katrina swept through New Orleans in 2005 is a shot of dogs being evacuated aboard a commercial aircraft.

Those four-legged passengers were among approximately 8,000 lucky animals rescued and relocated following the devastating storm. It's believed as many as 600,000 pets weren't so lucky, winding up killed or abandoned in the decimated city.

That tragedy encouraged federal lawmakers in the United States to pass the Pets and Evacuations Act, a formal response protocol to deal with pets in distress following a major disaster.

When Hurricane Sandy struck parts of New Jersey and New York states in 2012, the new measures are believed to have helped approximately 30,000 animals in need of emergency assistance. Regardless of the efforts, volunteers across the United States are caring for hundreds of pets in shelters and foster homes more than a year after the disaster.

Here in Canada, the importance of community preparedness was highlighted when volunteers rescued approximately 2,000 pets when floodwaters forced the evacuation of High River, Alta.

Inspired by efforts like these, Salt Springers Monika Mayr and



Sheri Standen, left, Monika Mayr and Otis check out emergency pet supplies.

Sheri Standen have taken the lead to develop disaster preparation tips for pets with help from the Capital Regional District.

"It's been a really fun thing to do together," said Standen, an island-based dog-trainer. "What I like is that it takes an idea and makes it a reality."

The reality, in this case, is

spread across Mayr's living room floor on the occasion of our recent interview at her north-end home.

A basic grab-and-go-bag for pets, she explained, should include medication and vaccination information, a collar with ID tag and leash, a photo of you and your pet, blankets and grooming

supplies, bags and/or litter and pan for waste, toys and food and water for at least three days, food and water containers, treats and a pet carrier.

On the other side of the room, Mayr and Standen demonstrate the kind of supplies they've stashed at emergency reception centres across the island.

Towels and linens, treats, colour-coded identification tags and toys are among the many items tidily stored in large blue plastic totes.

Thanks to donations from Windsor Plywood, Mouat's trading, Country Grocer and Lady Minto Hospital, Mayr and Standen have cobbled together nearly enough totes to stock each of the island's eight emergency reception centres. They're always looking for more donations, including plastic carriers that can accommodate dogs and cats.

Though the program is essentially about encouraging people to be responsible for their pets, the emergency reception centre resources will enable coordinators to better manage the influx of people and their animals if there is a major disaster.

"We don't know what's going to happen in a disaster, but at least we'll be ready," Standen said.

During an immediate evacuation that requires leaving Fido behind, pet owners are asked to place a sign in a visible location that will tell rescuers the type of the pet inside the home. Pet owners should also leave food and water in a spill proof container and not cage larger animals left alone in the house.

For more information about the program, visit crd.bc.ca/animal/emerg_prep.htm or contact Mayr at memayr@telus.net.

NEWS BRIEFS

Copper Kettle wish list

The Copper Kettle Community Partnership group is putting a call out for some specific items it needs to distribute in the community.

"I've always got a list," said Cherie Geauvreau of Copper

Kettle, a group that helps the homeless and other underprivileged members of the community.

Needed items include sleeping bags and blankets. They must be clean and the sleeping bag zippers must work. Also requested is other bedding, including new pillows, warm woolen sweat-

ers, toiletry bags for women, shaving kits for men, women's gloves and socks, men's underwear and socks, rain gear in good condition, size 9 1/2 work boots in good shape, a small white fridge for Murakami Gardens (larger than a bar fridge but not full size), firewood, 16" winter tires, working vacuum cleaner, and art

supplies for kids of all ages.

For more information or to donate, contact Geauvreau at 250-537-5863.

New ferries to include LNG

BC Ferries announced Monday the company has issued a request for propos-

als to five pre-qualified shipyards to build three intermediate class ferries to replace the Queen of Nanaimo and the Queen of Burnaby by 2016.

Nine shipyards responded to BC Ferries' request for pre-qualification. Seaspan Vancouver Shipyards is the sole Canadian company to make the shortlist.

The new vessels will be designed to be dual-fuel capable, able to operate on either Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) or Marine Diesel Oil (MDO).

According to the press release, BC Ferries is pursuing funding under incentive programs to help offset any incremental capital costs associated with LNG use.

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- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.

- Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or fax to 250-537-2613.
- For more information, 250-537-9933.

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IMMIGRATION

Salt Spring family to be united at last

Elizabeth May advocacy helps
immigration effort

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring resident Jennifer Lannan got the best early Christmas present possible when she received news on Tuesday that an immigration visa for her husband has finally been approved.

"I'm blown away," Lannan said shortly after hearing the news. "I was done a long time ago. The delays have been incredible — I'm pretty much speechless."

Lannan and Emekoba, a Nigerian citizen, first met in South Korea and have been battling Immigration Canada for more than four years. The process has involved several twists and turns, including the birth of their son Gerard in February 2011 and a denial of Emekoba's application later that year.

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May took on the fight as Lannan's federal representative and succeeded in getting Emekoba's denial overturned at an appeal hearing held in May 2012. She was also instrumental in helping end the bureaucratic nightmare that has kept him out of Canada since then due to reprocessing red tape.



PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER LANNAN

John and Gerard Emekoba, and Jennifer Lannan in Poland for Christmas 2012. If all goes well, they could be together on Salt Spring for the holidays this year.

"I'm so over-joyed. I called Jennifer as soon as I got the news. Both of us were crying on the phone," May said, calling during a short break from Parliament on Tuesday afternoon.

The seeds of the recent turn-around could

have been sown when May briefed Immigration Minister Chris Alexander and his office on the file sometime between six and eight weeks ago.

"I wanted to make sure the new minister knew. There were so many problems," she said. "I don't know if he did anything, but I gave him the information."

Lannan, May and constituent advocate Lois Weaver increased the pressure during the past month, conferring several times a week. May even started getting up at 6 a.m. Ottawa-time to reach the High Commission of Canada to Ghana in Accra, where Emekoba's visa application was being processed. She left voice mail messages for Canadian staff members explaining, "It's almost Christmas, we really want to get John back here."

"I think the begging helped," she said. "It was a very personal message when I got the news from a Canadian staffer there."

Like so much of the process so far, there is no way of telling if Emekoba's visa will be ready in a week or a month. But when he does arrive on Salt Spring at last, it will be the first time the family has been together since a visit to Poland over the Christmas holiday last year.

"The perseverance has finally paid off and finally we got an answer," Lannan said. "Holy smoke. This is so exciting."

LOCAL POLITICS

Island's political future a waiting game

Governance study
comment period closed

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Representatives from the provincial ministry responsible for implementing an incorporation study for Salt Spring say it's difficult to predict when a decision will be made.

"It will take some time for the report to be reviewed and all the implications to be considered," said Alison Giles, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development in an email on Tuesday.

At the end of November, the island's Governance Study Com-

mittee forwarded a consultant's report that states most island residents participating in the committee's surveys want a formal incorporation study. An incorporation study must be completed before there is any chance of a referendum on the matter.

"There are some people who are extremely disappointed."

PETER LAMB
Former SS local trustee

The process concluded nearly a year of community consultation

undertaken by Urban Systems in conjunction with the 12-member committee. Public engagement undertaken by the committee since late 2012 represents the full extent of the public comment on the matter.

"The local elected officials ensured that the volunteer governance committee represented a good cross-section of community interests," Giles said. "They will also provide the minister with a good overview of the issues of importance to the community."

The GSC has drawn murmurs of discontent from islanders who feel they were not given an opportunity to comment on the consultant's report before it was relayed to the

ministry.

"There are some people who are extremely disappointed," said Peter Lamb, a former member of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. "There was absolutely no discussion. It was very surprising."

Lamb was equally startled by the lack of any discussion about recommendations among commission members at the Nov. 29 meeting.

The decision to proceed with a study falls to Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. An incorporation study will cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000, Giles added.

TRANSPORTATION

Cuts deemed economic threat

Trust weighs in on ferry debate

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries service cuts and fare increases are a top threat to island economies, according to an expert panel addressing Islands Trust Council last Tuesday.

"We heard today that coastal communities are in economic decline. The provincial government needs to address this as it has in the past for other regions of the province," said Gordon Ganong, chair of the Bowen Island Economic Development Committee. "The ferry system must be an integral component in shoring up this region."

Ganong spoke during an economic sustainability workshop at Trust Council's quarterly meeting in Victoria. He was among 50 participants representing local, regional and provincial governments, and chambers of commerce and economic development committees.

Li Read, president of Salt Spring's chamber, called the meeting an important step to grow solidarity between ferry-dependent regions.

"Even though each island is quite different, we share the same need to sustain people of all ages in our communities and we can only do that by collaborating together," she said.

Since the middle of November, thousands of coastal residents have attended public meetings to learn about and voice opposition to \$14 million in planned service cuts.

Opponents worry cuts will cause a huge financial fallout for individuals and businesses that depend on ferries.

"This is why we are so disappointed that the [provincial government] did no socio-economic assessment of ferry cuts and rate hikes at a time when we are working collectively with communities and different levels of government to strengthen economic sustainability," said Sheila Malcolmson, Islands Trust Council chair, during Tuesday's session.

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AQUACULTURE

Geoduck farms raise alarm at Trust Council meeting

Opponents fear for future of Salish Sea

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust appears headed for a jurisdictional battle of unprecedented proportions as the province, federal government and First Nations wrestle with the prospect of increased geoduck aquaculture in the region's waters.

"It shows up sort of quietly in places where people don't go and is not visible from the surface once it's installed, so let this be a word of warning, it really is out there," said Peter Luckham a trustee

from Thetis Island.

Discussion of the big clam arose during last week's quarterly Trust Council session after a town hall presentation by Shelley McKeachie, the co-chair of the Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards.

McKeachie said the granting of new licences throughout Islands Trust region stands to destroy marine habitat, devastate marine areas and decimate other commercial fisheries.

"This industry has a voracious appetite and wants more," she said. "This is the next wave of industry and this is big big big money."

"If you start looking at

some of the companies, what they are proposing and the extent of it, all the Islands Trust will be impacted in very negative ways."

McKeachie's group wants the Islands Trust to ask the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to delay geoduck cultivation, support the Denman LTC by committing staff time, budget adequate funds for legal services and identify marine issues as Trust Council's top priority.

Commitments to fund advocacy about pipelines and tanker traffic, derelict vessels and rising ferry fares have so far afforded geoducks a low profile on a Trust-wide level. The question of juris-

"If this doesn't speak to our preserve and protect mandate, then nothing does."

DAVID GRAHAM
Trustee, Denman Island
Local Trust Committee

diction adds another layer of complexity.

"It's not as cut and dry as some might think," said Linda Adams, the Trust's chief administrative officer, during last week's meeting.

In a letter submitted to the Islands Trust in November, representatives from the K'omox First Nation state the Islands Trust has no say over the use of its traditional lands. The KFN owns Pentlatch Seafoods, a company that holds at least seven intertidal tenures around Denman Island.

"We have maintained the position that we do not recognize the authority of Islands Trust or the Denman Island Local Trust Committee, especially when it comes to any bylaws that may have an impact upon the lands and waters that we have had access to since time immemorial," wrote the KFN's

chief councillor Robert Everson in the letter.

Trust staff will try to identify Trust Council's jurisdictional responsibilities in time for the next TC's March meeting.

"This is an opportunity to get on top of this before the damage happens as opposed to being in a reactionary mode for the balance of the Trust area," said David Graham, a representative from Denman Island. "It may be too late for poor old Denman, but this is an opportunity for us to do some good work."

"If this doesn't speak to our preserve and protect mandate, then nothing does."

BANKING

Credit union boards pursue merger

ISCU members vote to come

The boards of Island Savings and First West Credit Union have unanimously approved the business case that would see Island Savings join First West.

"I'm really pleased that our board has

given its approval to bring the proposal forward to our members," says James McKenzie, board chair of Island Savings in a Dec. 4 press release. "We look forward to combining the expertise, local knowledge and experience of our teams to better serve all our members."

The business case outlining the coming together of the two credit unions must still receive consent from the Financial Institutions Commission.

Following its approval, Island Savings members will be asked to vote on the transaction.

REAL ESTATE

Receiver trims Channel Ridge project

Stagnant market forces new direction

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Depressed market conditions on Salt Spring have encouraged sellers to scale back plans for an unprecedented village development on Channel Ridge.

"Potential buyers feel little urgency to complete transactions for property of this nature," reads part of a 71-page document released by the property's court-appointed receiver on Nov. 29.

"The listing price of \$17.5 million was deemed too high in light of current market conditions, demand for real estate on Salt Spring Island and costs of construction," the report continues.

Channel Ridge Properties entered receivership in May 2013 after being plagued by excessive financial difficulties. The company accumulated more than \$46 million in debt to multiple lenders between 2005 and 2012.

Based on the new vision, gone are plans for 321 residential units, 75,000 square feet of commercial space and 96 "estate-sized" view lots. The alternative, which is subject to court approval and assent from regulatory authorities such as the Islands Trust, proposes a "revised development concept" consisting of 243 single-family dwellings.

These would include four duplexes, 67 single-family homes and 134 bare land strata homes. The site will also include 31 two-acre and three 10-acre bare land strata estate lots. The change represents a 24 per cent

decrease in the number of residences proposed for the 830-acre site once envisioned as a new village for the island.

"In the receiver's view, the revised development concept . . . demonstrates that development of the Channel Ridge lands is economically viable in the current market conditions," according to the second report of the receiver.

"Potential buyers feel little urgency to complete transactions for property of this nature."

ERNST AND YOUNG REPORT

The new approach was initiated by Ernst and Young in August, following suggestions from potential buyers.

"Prospective purchasers advised Colliers that they wanted to see a revised development concept . . . which demonstrated the economic potential of development at Channel Ridge," reads the report.

The new proposal is the result of work undertaken by the receiver, Altus Group, Creus Engineering, Colliers International and "numerous contractors and real estate professionals with specific knowledge of Salt Spring Island."

"Colliers intends to re-market the remaining Channel Ridge lands immediately upon receipt of this honourable court's approval of the

revised marketing process, and it anticipates a six to nine-month timeline to obtain a definitive purchase agreement," the report states.

A spokesperson for Ernst and Young said he is uncertain how long court approval for the new marketing process will take.

Leah Hartley, the Islands Trust regional planning manager for Salt Spring Island, calls the proposed change "conceptual in nature." Should court approval be granted, she added, the Islands Trust would work with buyers to identify what parts of the concept meet development permit and zoning requirements.

"Presumably that would allow some development to proceed," Hartley wrote in an email. "Other components would be considered through a community plan or zoning amendment process."

Meanwhile, island residents who live near the project's Broadwell Road entrance may have noticed a surge in truck traffic travelling to and from the property in recent weeks. The Ernst and Young report confirms Salt Spring Excavating has been authorized to "remove an immaterial value of shot rock and boulders . . . for the benefit of its other unrelated construction projects" due to monies owed by Channel Ridge to SSE. The work is not a result of any plans to resume construction on the proposed village site.

Channel Ridge lots that surround the proposed village site, including at least five properties on Canvasback Place, will be relisted with Pemberton Holmes in early 2014.

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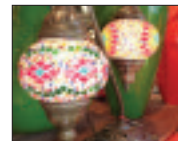
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EDUCATION

Calendar change still unlikely for SD64

Practices examined
as financial reasons
unchanged

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

While the Gulf Islands School District continues to grapple with questions about how the school calendar affects learning outcomes, the way time is used is more likely to see changes than how that time is structured.

Treasurer Rod Scotvold confirmed at the school board's regular meeting on Dec. 4 that the financial considerations that led to the four-day school week still exist.

"Probably the best situation we can have at the end of the year is a break-even," he said when reporting the district's monthly financial

statements.

"We could even be looking at a small deficit for this year. We've had a lot of expenses come forward, and they're substantial... we're facing heavy pressures in a lot of areas."

Scotvold gave his opinion that in order to go back to a five-day school week, the district would need to accrue a surplus of at least \$600,000 a year for a period of two or three years.

The topic was introduced during district superintendent Lisa Halstead's report for a steering committee on the organization of time and learning. The committee was struck following recommendations made in an independent study by former district educator Martin Blakesley.

Working her way up Blakesley's list of recommendations to the

study's embedded questions, Halstead reported the committee still had to determine the impact of the four-day school week on student achievement. Doug Livingstone, the district's director of instruction, said there was no evidence of negative impact so far.

The steering committee is examining how to ensure learning is equitable in the district, with a motto of "learning for all." Possible strategies include designing programs to intervene before students are designated with official difficulties, and creating summer camp-type programs for students at risk that would include academics and recreation. Boosting support for Strong Start and other early learning programs in the district was named as an additional strategy.

Although provincial regulations now allow districts to create any

type of school calendar, there is not much likelihood SD64 will move to a "balanced" year-round model with a shorter summer break. Halstead said respondents to the survey portion of Blakesley's study were strongly opposed to restructuring time in this way.

Salt Spring school trustee Kathy Page, who also sits on the steering committee, added there is some research showing benefits to a balanced calendar, but only if there are strong supports in place for students during breaks.

The need to coordinate with neighbouring districts is also an issue, particularly when it comes to athletics and scheduling sports seasons.

The next school board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 22 at Salt Spring Middle School with the public session starting at 1 p.m.

CHILD POVERTY

Housing costs drive island poverty rates

Provincial trend apparent in
Salt Spring homes

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring is no exception to the findings of a new report that reveals B.C. has the highest child poverty rate in the country.

"Salt Spring Island is definitely not immune to child poverty," said Rob Grant, the executive director of Salt Spring Community Services.

The high cost of rent and utilities, few opportunities for home ownership, and the rising cost of food are some of the factors that contribute to elevated poverty levels among island families.

"The alternative is that many children live in unfit environments — mould, overcrowding, poorly heated [homes]," he said, adding that nearly 24 per cent of island residents spend more than 30 per cent of their income to housing.

Despite the island's high cost of living, Salt Spring families earn less than people in neighbouring communities. The island's average family income of \$72,000 is considerably lower than Vancouver Island, \$76,065; Greater Victoria, \$82,012; and Saanich, \$96,113. The provincial average is a little more than \$80,000.

"Indicators such as the ones above tell the story," Grant added. "Salt Spring has a lower-than-average household income and higher cost of living."

According to the 2013 Child Poverty Report Card, released earlier this month, British Columbia's child poverty rate is nearing 19 per cent, well above the 13 per cent national average. Using Statistics Canada data, the report's authors call the provincial situation "dismal." The province has the worst poverty rate for children living in single-parent and two-parent households. The poverty rate for children under the age of six topped 20 per cent.

"Despite these shameful facts, and a decade of similarly dismal statistics, B.C. has inexplicably refused to follow the lead of most other provincial and territorial governments, of all political persuasions, to develop and implement a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy," reads part of the report. The document was produced by First Call, a provincial child advocacy group.

Among the report's recommendations are a need to raise the minimum wage, increase the child tax benefit, initiate a \$10 per day provincial daycare plan and address demands for affordable housing.

Grant said he's yet to see many large-scale actions implemented at a local level. Community Services is, however, involved in initiatives to develop affordable family housing.

Islanders can do their part to address the need for assistance by contributing to SSCS programs. For more information, visit www.saltsspringcommunityservices.ca or call 250-537-9971.

ISLANDS TRUST

Grinch steals Trust's 2014/15 budget

Trustees select restraint
in election year

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Grinch's spirit reigned supreme during last week's quarterly Trust Council meeting in Victoria as elected representatives voted to proceed with moderation in the coming fiscal year.

Councillors narrowly defeated a request to give the Trust's Financial Planning Committee the liberty to consider increases of nearly two per cent for the Trust's 2014-2015 budget.

"I think the let's-not-tax approach works really well for a while, but can backfire in the end. The cuts can dig us into a hole," said Laura Busheikin, a Denman Island trustee.

"I would like us to consider that a one to two per cent tax increase is not too much to ask constituents who want to see us provide services, especially when the cost

of everything is going up."

Busheikin said a near-sighted approach is part of the reason BC Ferries finds itself in such desperate fiscal circumstances.

**"I think the let's-not-tax
approach works really well
for a while, but can
backfire in the end."**

LAURA BUSHEIKIN
Trustee, Denman Island Local
Trust Committee

Her motion to loosen the purse strings was defeated by a 13-12 vote. The result means FPC members' mandate is to minimize any new expenditures. Under the current proposal, the FPC is eyeing a .93 per cent tax increase for the coming fiscal year.

"The only way we put future

taxpayers at risk is by committing them to longer-term expenditures than they can handle," said Gary Steeves in opposition to the motion.

Trust taxes on Salt Spring, however, face a potential 4.3 per cent increase due to a special requisition by the island's Local Trust Committee to fund the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority.

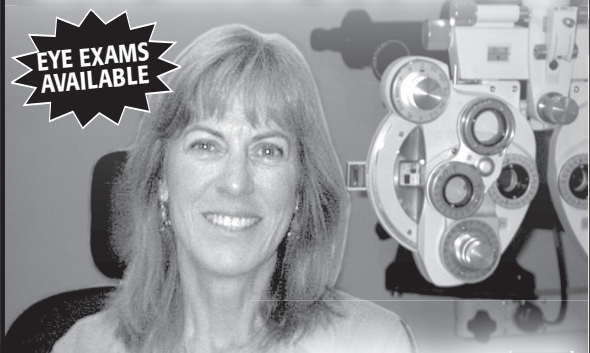
Salt Spring trustees Peter Grove and George Grams were among those who voted against the possibility of Trust-wide increases, an option that could have saddled Salt Springers with an up to six per cent increase in Trust taxes.

The Islands Trust represents approximately 12 per cent of the average Salt Spring's overall residential tax bill.

Public consultation on the draft 2014-2015 budget will occur in communities throughout the Trust in February. Budget approval takes place when Trust Council meets again on Thetis Island in March.

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EDUCATION

Students to reap rewards of solar proposal

Energy savings transformed to scholarship fund

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District has approved in principle a solar-power project that has so many potential benefits it leaves the typical "win-win" scenario in the dust for a probable win-win-win-win-win.

David Denning and Kjell Liem of Transition Salt Spring's Community Energy Group brought a proposal for installing solar panels on the high school gym to the school board's regular meeting on Dec. 4 after first receiving approval in principle from district staff. They enjoyed an enthusiastic response from the board, including an unanimous motion of support.

"We're excited about joining with you and getting a successful project," district treasurer Rod Scotvold said after the presentation.

The plan that Liem designed as chair of the Community Energy Group includes community fundraising to cover the cost of the solar panels and photovoltaic arrays, which is expected to come in at \$62,000, with a 30-year life span.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the GISS Environmental Club are working with Transition Salt Spring's Kjell Liem (second from right) on a solar power project and scholarship for the high school.

Similar projects have been instituted in a number of school districts across the province with help from SolarBC, including nearby Oak Bay High School and Shawnigan Lake School.

"The technology is so good that you just put it on the roof and it starts pumping money into the district," Denning said.

Saving on energy bills is just the first step of the multi-pronged proposal, however. The group plans to install monitoring software so that the project can be incorporated into

curriculum and to establish an electric vehicle charging station at the school. The school board has agreed to put most of the energy savings (aside from maintenance costs) back into a renewable energy scholarship fund. Creating an apprenticeship stream in renewable energy studies has also been proposed as a possible idea.

With all the significant "wins" to the project, the biggest one coordinators are hoping for is nothing less than saving the planet.

"Ultimately the goal is to reduce

greenhouse gases . . . there is an urgency to do this that most people don't recognize," said Denning. "Any good scenario for the future of our students involves moving off fossil fuels."

He stated there is five times as much fuel already identified in reserves than the world can safely afford to burn before global temperatures reach the two-degree tipping point. But instead of weaning ourselves off carbon, more fossil fuels are being burned than ever before. The high school project will therefore add to the solution in its own right, and potentially inspire community action as a shining example of what can be accomplished.

"Communities actually have to take a stance [and] do it themselves, because governments are obviously way off track," said Galiano Island trustee Bonnie MacGillivray.

"If we can do this, every child on Salt Spring will benefit," Denning said. "This is all about making a better future for the kids, which is what we are trying to accomplish."

With support from the school district now in place, the next steps will be getting electrical and structural surveys done. The group will then create a more detailed proposal with a systems plan, financial plan and critical path to the board before launching a fundraising campaign.

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

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RCMP

SIMS thief snatches monitor

Holiday road check season underway

RCMP are looking for clues to identify whoever is responsible for a brazen weekend break-in at the Salt Spring Island Middle School.

The perpetrator gained access to the school, smashed an interior window leading to the computer lab and took a monitor. Police believe the person or persons responsible for the break-in are also behind the painting of profane graffiti on the side of the school.

Anyone with information about the inci-

dent is asked to contact the local detachment at 250-537-5555.

Island RCMP warn motorists to use caution when driving on island roads as slippery conditions are forecast to persist into the weekend. Recent days have seen an above average number of cars in ditches.

"Road conditions are unpredictable and can become extremely slick with little notice," said Sgt. George Jenkins.

With the holiday party season in full swing, police have started to conduct increased road checks focused on impaired drivers. Partygoers are asked to make arrangements before heading out to avoid driving while impaired.

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OPINION



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 Gold - Special Section (Best of 55) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)
 Silver - Editorial Page | Silver - Outstanding Reporter Initiative (Sean McIntyre)
 Silver - Feature Series (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Sports Photo (John Cameron)
2013 BCYNA AWARDS
 Gold - Sports Photo (John Cameron) | Silver - Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)
 Silver - Special Publication (Aqua) | Bronze - General Excellence
 Bronze - Environmental Writing (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Ad Campaign, Collaborative (Leanne Brunelle)



EDITORIAL

Food for thought

The most anticipated part of any holiday season is the endless meals.

With those inevitable New Year resolutions lurking around the corner, it's as though merrymakers have an urge to have one final gut-busting blast. What would the holidays be without the scent of roasted meats (or suitable vegetarian alternative), the warmth of baked goods and the promise of leftovers for days to come?

Sadly, the number of Salt Springers who are unable to enjoy these fundamental holiday highlights is on the rise as the cost of living outpaces family incomes. Having taken care of the rent and utilities, a growing number of families just don't have enough left over to put nutritious food on the table. According to Rob Grant at the Salt Spring Community Services Society, one in five people have had to skip a meal just to make ends meet. Statistics released in November showed nearly 800,000 Canadians rely on food banks.

THE ISSUE:

Food banks

WE SAY:

Don't delay donations

Every December, there are plenty of media stories about people who never imagined they'd have to visit a food bank. Though circumstances vary, these folks are always grateful for the boost. Yet food banks offer families so much more than a helpful hand and a full stomach. The availability of nutritious meals makes kids healthier, happier and better educated, all of which are crucial to help families escape the grip of poverty.

Salt Spring's food bank gave out 9,138 bags from fiscal 2012/13, and the demand grows during the holiday season, when volunteers assemble and deliver more than 200 hampers of healthy food for individuals, couples and families.

While the Dec. 19 ArtSpring Community Sing-along and Dec. 18 Carols for Christmastide event at All Saints are urging food bank donations as "admission," the island has lacked a major food bank drive this season. And truth be told, the most useful and efficient donation is cash, so that much-needed fresh goods can be purchased.

Though Christmas is still 14 sleeps away, it's never too early to make a contribution next time you pass a food bank bin at the grocery store, or to mail a cheque to Community Services. Since the need remains long after the holiday decorations come down, getting into a habit of regular contributions may even be a New Year's resolution worth looking forward to.



VIEWPOINT by George Sipos

Math test analysis proves nothing

The national media are all abuzz right now over results reported by the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment. It seems that achievement in mathematics among 15 year olds in Canada has slipped from seventh place in 2006 to 13th place this year in a sampling of 65 countries.

John Manley, former Liberal deputy prime minister and now CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, has called these results "a national emergency."

Setting aside any qualms we may have about the methodology of the survey and accepting the numbers as they are, it is fascinating to look at the meanings that have been drawn from them.

First, let's hear from Mr. Manley himself: "We need skills, we need knowledge-workers to really improve our prosperity and build our society... Having the skills becomes a very important element to attracting investment and creating jobs."

And here, as reported by the Globe & Mail, is a rough and ready summary of what the testers themselves feel underlies the slip in Canadian scores: "Critics contend that the math curriculum, ushered in over the past decade, is to blame for lower scores because it places more emphasis on real-world concepts rather than abstract thinking and practice. The OECD report noted that the top performers had more exposure to formal mathematics than word problems."

How do we reconcile these two statements? Too much applied math and not enough pure math makes Johnny a dull boy, according to one lot, while if we listen to the other, we need more skill in applied math to keep our economy humming.

What interests me here is not so much the specific issue of mathematics education itself, as how the logic of Mr. Manley's statement typifies so much about public policy in our country as a whole. We are encouraged on every side to assume that the value of any activity or pursuit, or indeed of any thought, must derive from its economic usefulness.

Cultural activities are valuable, we are told, because they improve creativity that can be harnessed to our country's competitive advantage in business and industry.

Science is valuable because it leads to marketable innovations.

Wilderness has value because it conceals potentially exploitable resources, and because in the meanwhile it provides recreational opportunities to take our minds off the non-natural lives we live in the pursuit of prosperity.

Any idea that the point of mathematics is its internal integrity as a symbolic system constructed by the mind for the purposes of beauty as much as usefulness, or that the point of music is its formal self-sufficiency as much as its uses for entertainment, or that wilderness, god help us, needs no justification except its simple existence, is a hard sell in a world dominated by economics. So much so, evidently, that when a study such as this one from the OECD says specifically that we need more abstract mathematics, we immediately mishear it and start beating our breasts about where we've might have gone wrong in our teaching of applied math and how we might improve that to better serve the needs of business and industry.

You'd think in the arts at least the value of art on its own terms might be easier to assert, but there too the thrust has been to convince governments of the economic benefits of the arts sector: how many jobs are created, how much economic value is returned to society, and how much the arts make Canadians happier and more productive citizens.

But value is not a commodity. A pianist who plays a Beethoven sonata beautifully, a student who solves a quadratic equation or delves into the elegance of a geometric proof, a watershed that's left just to be itself with its intricate interconnections of living organisms — these all contribute to the meaning and beauty and order of the world far more importantly than evanescent concepts like prosperity or the sad barrenness of mere utility.

So by all means let's have more abstract mathematics, but for the sake of mathematics itself, not for the sake of the economy.

The writer is an author and executive director of ArtSpring.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

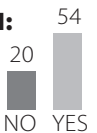
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LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you prepared for snow?



Driftwood

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 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
 Ph: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll Free: 1-877-537-9934
 Email: inquiries@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
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 Sean McIntyre,
 Elizabeth Nolan
Front office:
 James Burton,
 Johanna Walkner

Advertising:
 Sheena MacLeod,
 Drew Underwood,
 Jennifer Lannan



Amber Ogilvie
PUBLISHER
aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjoberg
MANAGING EDITOR
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan
PRODUCTION MANAGER
production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Sheena MacLeod
SALES MANAGER
smacleod@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "If the political will is there, the dollars are there."

MLA GARY HOLMAN ON BC FERRIES FUNDING

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:
What legacy does Nelson Mandela leave the world?



ELDA SODER

He has shown us that people can get along if people put their minds to it.



HELEN GUNN

There's so much, but the main thing is that he's gone back to the original philosophy of forgiveness, respect and sincerity.



WAYNE GOODWILL

I think his legacy fits Salt Spring: peace, love and flow-ers.



KEN KETCHUM

A spark of hope for human-ity.



DON CLIFFORD

An undying humanitarian whose deeds will live forever.

Letters to the editor

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

Caring community

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the Salt Springers who have shown their support for me over the last few weeks while I was undergoing radiation treatment for prostate cancer.

To all those who have written, phoned and emailed me or just stopped me on the sidewalk to extend their best wishes, I thank you.

In addition, I also want to thank those who offered to drive me to Victoria, or walked a lap of solidarity on the ferry, or gave me the "thumbs up" as I passed

by their vehicle. And, of course, I am eternally grateful to my wife, Jane, for walking this walk alongside me.

This is a fabulous island we live on. Despite all the spats and disagreements that are always spinning around on Salt Spring, this is definitely a tight and caring community. One of the radiation technicians at the cancer clinic told me she could always tell that someone was from Salt Spring because she could sense an invisible roomful of people hovering over them with loving care.

Let's keep that spirit alive!

SHILO ZYLBERGOLD,
SALT SPRING

Ferry changes can be made

I think it is important for people to understand the arrogance and disrespect that BC Ferries shows the people of the islands, customers of their service and the members of the ferry advisory committees.

During the recent disruption of the Long Harbour to Tsawwassen service, BC Ferries put a number of provisions in place to facilitate the flow of traffic to Vancouver through the Swartz Bay terminal, as reported in this paper. These were done to accommodate a problem that BC Ferries had in meeting their contracted obli-

gation to the province and to minimize the backlash/pressure from the public due to the disruption in service. I would like the general public to know that without exception these same accommodations have been suggested and promoted by the FAC and the general public, but have been rejected by BC Ferries as unworkable and impossible to implement within the existing system.

These initiatives are simple, inexpensive improvements to the service that are customer focused and any organization interested in customer service and satisfaction would implement in a heartbeat. When you improve service, you

increase ridership/business. Is that really so hard for BC Ferries to figure out?

TONY MAUDE,
FULFORD

Raffi book an essential read

Congratulations to Raffi for his book *Lightweb* Driftwood, reviewed in last week's Driftwood.

It is right on and couldn't be more needed at this time. I'm told that the average North American youngster spends seven hours a day, seven days a week staring at a screen. And how much time do they spend out in nature? No time. Of course Salt Spring kids are above average, but it is even

a problem here.

Raffi is right, the cyber world has enormous positive qualities. However, too many kids feed their faces with junk food for the body, and their eyes and ears with junk food for the soul.

A wise Cowichan (Hwiemtun, aka Fred Roland) is quoted as follows, "What kind of world are we leaving for our children? We have to start saying, What kind of children are we leaving for our world?"

This book deserves huge distribution and should be in every school... even every family.

ROBERT BATEMAN,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Myths and reality collide in BC Ferries debate

BY TOM TOYNBEE

It has become clear during the past few months, but particularly during the past few weeks, that we in ferry-dependent communities not only have to combat false and misleading statements from the B.C. government but also from some members of the media.

A Friday one-hour segment on CKNW radio called *Cutting Edge of the Ledge* can best be described as the propaganda voice of government on ferry policy. Bill Good, Vaughn Palmer and Keith Baldrey take a fairly balanced approach on most issues, but not so when it comes to ferries. Let me cite a few examples.

All of the above have repeatedly referred to BC Ferries as being highly subsidized ("massive" is an adjective often used). The truth is, BC Ferries is the least subsidized of all the large, car-carrying coastal ferry systems in the world. Yet, when I phoned in to the radio show to enter that fact in the discussion, Bill Good treated it as irrelevant. I found this odd because the BC Ferry Commissioner obviously considers it highly relevant as he devoted a large section of his excellent 2012 report to comparison with peer systems. So if BC Ferries is massively subsidized, how do we describe the subsidies to Washington State Ferries, Alaska Marine Highway, Norway etc., which all receive a much greater share of their total revenue from taxpayers than does BC Ferries?

Then there is the matter of the amount of the subsidy. The spin from the government and its friends is that it is "in the neighbourhood" of \$200 million and the clear impression is given

that it is steadily rising. The reality is that a base service fee (subsidy) of \$100 million per year is paid by government and this remained unchanged from 2004 to 2012. In addition, B.C. treats the Social Program expense (free fares to seniors, students and people travelling for medical reasons) as part of the subsidy. For the year ended March 31, 2013 this amounted to roughly \$29 million.

The only increase in provincial support during the period 2004 to 2012 came when a huge jump in fuel prices forced an increase in support for the northern routes in order to prevent collapse. In 2012, Ferry Commissioner Gordon Macatee, in the previously mentioned report, stated that the price of fares had reached a "tipping point" and that additional government support was needed. So, at the last year end, provincial support stood at about \$180 million. However, this marks the high water mark. It is scheduled to decline from here on in. I should mention that BC Ferries also receives an inflation-adjusted yearly subsidy from the federal government — more on this later.

Now to the fresh water ferries. The Ledge crew pretty much dismisses the free ferries as a trivial issue — so the ferries are free — so what? In a recent column Vaughn Palmer trivialized the questions raised by coastal ferry users as "squawking." He doesn't seem to get it that many, many people have real and justifiable concerns over the highly uncertain future of a service that is vital to them, their families and their communities and that they are demand-

GUEST COLUMN

ing equity. That was a cheap shot.

In the last year the interior ferries produced an operating loss of roughly \$23 million while BC Ferries delivered a small operating profit. How come BC Ferries requires subsidization? The answer is simple — financial charges. The subsidy goes directly against amortization and interest charges. When a new lake ferry is required, government provides it. When BC Ferries requires one, the bulk of money needed is borrowed with the cost of debt servicing to be collected from the fare box.

Is the BC Ferries system part of the highway system? Bill Good says it isn't because the transportation minister told him so. Also, B.C. has a different model — correct! — a failed model.

Keith Baldrey is unequivocal: It is impossible for a ferry to be part of a highway system. Well, Washington state operates a system with great similarities to ours which they call their marine highway. So does Alaska. Norway operates a large and heavily subsidized system with many routes similar to ours and they describe it as "an integral part of the road network." Frankly, Baldrey's position on this issue is absurd. BC Ferries was conceived by WAC Bennett as an extension of the highway system and it remains that today.

By the way, remember the federal subsidy mentioned earlier? The primary reason for this is that B.C. was able to convince Ottawa that the ferry route between Horseshoe Bay and Nanaimo is an essential link in the Trans

Canada Highway. That's right — HIGHWAY.

I feel compelled to write this as I am fed up with hearing distortions of the truth and just plain falsehoods. We in ferry-dependent communities having nothing to apologize for. We pay, at the fare box, much more than our fair share of the cost of supplying and maintaining transportation infrastructure in B.C.

The problem is we have been ever so quiet and ever so reasonable for far too long. We have been lectured about "lifestyle choices" and scolded for siphoning away hard-earned tax money from the folks up north. We have to fight back. Arm yourselves with the facts and confront people who play fast and loose with the truth on ferry issues.

Unfortunately, the propaganda machine has done a remarkable job of reinforcing the myth that people in ferry-dependent communities are excessively subsidized freeloaders. The blunt truth is that a great many British Columbians have bought into that nonsense and have very little sympathy. And, given the shape of the electoral map, getting tough on ferry users comes at a very low political cost.

So ferry users, get active and stay active. Get the message to our fellow B.C. citizens that we are definitely not the parasites we have been described as, and demand fairness from the government of B.C.

The writer is a retired businessman who is a native-born islander. He also served as chair of two B.C. Crown corporations during the Bill Bennett era.

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RANTS and Roses

Roses

A dozen beautiful Christmas roses to the cookie ladies (yummm). You know who you are. What a wonderful, thoughtful surprise. Merry Christmas. One-wing Gail

Santa's bags full of roses and everything else you wish for Christmas to all our wonderful volunteers who helped make our Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair a huge success. You helped us earn funds for another year of operating the grand old hall. Very special thanks to all the young folk who stepped up to help this year, including the Salt Spring Island Pathfinders, (Sophia, Carlie, Kaitlyn, Chi-chi, Linnea and Clara) and Troy, Alec-R, Lorenn, Connor, Trent, Carmen, Liam C, Liam Mc, Emily and Cassy. Your energy and enthusiasm were amazing. Have a joyful and peaceful holiday. Hope to see you all again next year. Fulford Hall Association

The GISS greenhouse is up, complementing our already producing outdoor year-round organic garden. Roses to the many people who have been helping us along the way, specifically Judy Smith, former GISS principal, who has supported our vision from the beginning; Michael Ableman, with his invaluable organic farming advice and industry connections; Jane Squier, who has guided our every step; Maggie Allison, Pauline Martens and Len Wallbank, who have supplied us with invaluable advice and plant starts; Mike Best and his crew, who helped with the garden renovation; Neil Kerrigan, the GISS TASK crew and former students, now tradesmen themselves, who built the boxes and greenhouse foundation; Harold Swierenga for pick-up and delivery; Rob Scheres at the Harbour House farm for sharing his knowledge and starting beds. We have received grants from the GISS PAC, School District 64 and SSI Foundation to help with garden renovation costs and a rainwater collection system. Very importantly we would like to thank Paul Sinclair, who has provided skilled labour and sage advice whenever he was "voluntold;" and Iain Leckie, community vol-

unteer extraordinaire, for the huge gift of his time, labour and expertise to make our dream a reality. We are excited to start growing and serving the fruits of everyone's labours in our salad bar soon!

A crisp bunch of roses to the sister and brother team who truly went out of their way to return to me my handbag, left in the car that stopped to offer me a ride in the snow, on my way to Calvin's for the end-of-year lunch of the SSI Archives volunteers. My stunned appreciation to the sister, who, having listened well, remembered my requested destination, and telephoned Calvin's. A special long-stemmed rose to Calvin's who remembered having been called when I returned long after having left, thinking that must be where I left it, and telephoned the number left by the sister — and to the brother-in-the-background when the sister received that call, who willingly drove his sister and the bag all the way back to Ganges to deliver it to me!

Hot nettle stew for all those who helped me with the move, garage sale and life for the last year, when I was unable. From each of you I received a deep teaching about community and friendship, giving and receiving. In particular, thank you Caffyn, Jaya, Linda C., Simone, Amanda, Tara, Lex, Markus, Rita, Normand, Adam, Richard, Linda M., Moe, Dennis, Andria, Rowan, Karen F., Kate, Jodi, Lynda, Peter, Candace, Katie, Tara, Emma, Mabel, Karen B., Susan, Diane, Ella, Ginnie, Gwen, Chelsea, Lorraine, Mark/Dark Lady, Shannon, Wendy, Tormatha, Rainbow, Brett, my cat Oscar for all the support this last year. And especially for Jean-Claude Catry for the unforeseen emergency ferry talk. "Everything in life is most fundamentally a gift. And you receive it best by holding it with very open hands." (Leo O'Donovan). Juli Macdonnell

A huge thank-you basket with multi-coloured roses for the Community Gospel Chapel. Thanks for opening your doors

again for the recent flu clinic. Your generous hospitality was heartwarming from the start to the close of the clinic for our community, the nursing staff and volunteers. With grateful thanks, the Salt Spring Island Health Unit.

Winter white roses to all the community sponsors who helped make Salt Spring Centre School's Winterfest another wonderful success: Country Grocer, Thrifty Foods, Natureworks, Salt Spring Coffee and Barb's Buns for the kitchen; Dragonfly Fine Arts and Craft Supply, Mouat's Trading, Salt Spring Books, Salt Spring Soapworks, Treasures of the Heart and West of the Moon for craft supplies and pocket person gifts; performers Jim Rad-dysh, Billie Woods, Tara Grand, Amy Hay-som, James Cowan and Shane Hooper; and raffle item donors Salt Spring Air, Windsor Plywood, Salt Spring Golf and Country Club, and B Natural Piano, in addition to parents. Thanks also to the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga for making the day possible by supplying a beautiful setting for the festivities.

A beautiful thank-you red rose and a boutonniere to each of our volunteers at the Salt Spring flu clinics. Thank you so much for all your time, work and your smiles. You are all greatly appreciated for your Salt Spring spirit of helping. With much gratitude, the Salt Spring Island Health Unit.

Bravo! Way to go! Everything came up roses at the Women of Faith celebration hosted by the Community Gospel Chapel. We were blessed by the generosity of Country Grocer general manager Paul Large, and the store's community relations liaison Rick MacKinnon. A royal high five to our organizers, Gail Neumann and Lynette Murray; our sound gal, Angela Anderson; the men of CGC for set up and take down; Carole Martens and crew for spectacular decor; and to all our "kitchen angels." Hugs and many thanks to all the participating churches of Salt Spring Island. God bless you! Judy Sims

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 11

Culinary article corrections

Thank you for the excellent article in last week's Driftwood about the exciting direction the GISS Culinary Arts program is taking with our focus on local sourced, healthy food options and our plans to grow more of our own food on-site.

However, we regret that the article mentions Michael Ableman as the person helping us with acquiring hydroponic growing equipment, which in fact Jane Squier has been doing. Along with Iain Leckie, Jane has also been helping us to set up the system so that we can grow our salad greens during the winter months. Michael Ableman and

Foxglove Farm have been a huge inspiration to us with the organic gardening system that we have implemented in the year-round garden outside, surrounding the greenhouse. Michael was also instrumental in connecting us with Timothy Kendrick, the owner of BW Greenhouses, who worked with us to design a greenhouse that suits our site and our needs, while giving us a discounted price to fit our limited budget, helping us to achieve our dream of having a top-of-the-line greenhouse for GISS.

We would also like to state that Dave Astill is alive and well at GISS, still teaching and inspiring young minds about science and life.

MILLY SINCLAIR AND MARK KILNER,
GISS CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

MORE LETTERS
continued on 12



PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

CASTING AN IRISH SPELL: Will Millar, who became famous as a member of the Irish Rovers beginning in the 1960s, plays guitar at Fulford Hall on Monday night. Seen behind him is fiddler Trent Freeman, part of the dynamite group on stage for the Salt Spring Folk Club concert that also included singer Mary Murphy and guitarist Paul Keim.

Get on the same page for our future

BY JEAN GELWICKS

I would like to thank the Salt Spring Governance Study Committee for all their hard work and most likely many sleepless nights. They deserve a round of applause from all of us.

I have read the consultant's report and I must say that it is easy to read and informative. I encourage all islanders to read it. I now have a better understanding of the issues and islanders' concerns.

I attended the first couple of governance committee meetings. I heard the provincial ministry representative, Linda Galeazzi, say at the first of these meetings, "It will be your job to help get the community on the same page" with the facts and all the information Salt Spring Islanders will need, to make informed opinions and decisions. She said it would be essential to ensure an unbiased analysis of the "status quo," our current form of governance and the municipal model of governance.

I felt this was just what we, as a community, needed — unbiased information. I was disappointed to learn that they were not going to be able to examine what might be possible within our present form of governance, what is being called the "status quo."

For example, for many years we wanted a transit system. We had no governing body to make this possible. We could have had a transportation commission (it was possible within the "status quo") but we didn't realize it. Now we have a transportation commission and this has made it possible for our community to have a great award-winning transit system.

I am sure there are other things we can do or have within our present form of governance that would work for us. I would like to know if this is true and what they are. I would love to know how we can keep what is working, within the "status quo," but tweak it to work better for islanders.

There is nothing stopping our trustees, CRD director, fire chief, water board representatives, etc. from sitting down once a month and discussing how they could work more closely with one

INDEPTH

another. They could even make these meetings open to the public. This could happen tomorrow. The governance committee and this consultant's report were not allowed to examine this.

I am sure there are other things we can do or have within our present form of governance that would work for us.

I think the committee truly believed they would be able to get us "all on the same page" at those first meetings, but in the end, what they were able to accomplish (with their terms of reference, time and money) was to survey self-selected islanders, mostly who had already made up their minds about being either pro-Trust or pro-incorporation, and let us know these results.

They hired a consultant to write a report about these findings and give us an explanation of our present form of governance and how a municipality works. The consultant's report, which we now have, is really the first document that starts to give us some information and hopefully some understanding of the issues facing us.

Remember, this report is limited to just talking about our present form of governance and comparing it with how a municipality works. Nowhere does it give an explanation of why the Trust was formed in the first place. Or put another way, why was forming the Trust seen as a solution to the problems facing the islands at the time? So the question "Has it worked?" was also not asked.

Do the concerns that existed then still

exist? And if they do, will changing our present form of governance affect us in a negative way? These are crucial questions in my mind.

There was a reason that the Trust was set up the way it was and not as a municipality and "business as usual." "Business as usual" has never been very successful in preserving nature and ecological values of the land. It was crucial to the government of the day, when creating the Trust, that they separated the land-use planning function from the regional district service delivery function. In this way, land use was not driven by service demands, as in a municipal structure.

The provincial government was aware of our islands' national significance and deemed it was necessary (as the islands were being exploited) to create a form of governance not based on growth and the fear of over-development that might have a better chance of protecting them. It was an experiment. It is unique in Canada. It is not "business as usual" but an attempt to find a different way of doing business that preserves the things we care about most and have a great place to live. We are a model, like the Lake District in England. There are still some problems, but I would like to see us address them specifically. None of this is in the consultant's report.

A great deal is working well on our island. Visitors are amazed at how much we have accomplished for a small community. We are the lucky ones who get to live here. With that comes a responsibility to help preserve and protect our islands (all the islands in the Trust Area) for the entire province. I do not want us to jeopardize what is working well.

I hope everyone gets a chance to read the consultant's governance report, so we can get closer to "all being on the same page" with information, and make the best decisions for the future of our islands.

The writer is an active Salt Spring volunteer.

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Apartheid pronunciation

In honour of Nelson Mandela, I have asked the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to tell me the origin of the decision, if that is what it is, to pronounce the Afrikaans word "apartheid" as if its origins were in the German language.

Listen to how Mandela said the Afrikaans word: "Apar-hate."

I was born in South Africa of an Afrikaans-speaking bilingual English South African mother and an Afrikaner Voortrekker family father, who grew up speaking only High Dutch and Khoisan, in the Kalahari.

The word "apartheid" is derived from the Old Dutch spoken in the Cape Colony founded by the Dutch; it evolved from the language called "Cape Dutch" — 95 per cent of Afrikaans vocabulary is of Dutch origin. The origin of the remainder is Malay, Portuguese, Bantu, Khoisan. So the way Mandela pronounced his enemy was "apar-hate" not "apar-hide." The -eid ending in Dutch is pro-

nounced "ate." The meaning of the compound word is apart-hood.

As a Canadian citizen so proud and glad of Canada's stand against the apartheid that drove my family from its homeland when I was a child, I have suggested to the CBC that it knowingly and strongly stands against the erroneous tide out there, and let Canadians hear the way to say the word as it was spoken by those who made the discriminatory apartheid laws, and as it was spoken by those who fought and won against those laws.

An acquired habit should be changed in conscious respect for Mandela: pronounce the end of this word not as "ite" or "ide," but as "ate". Aparth-hate. A hateful crime.

Thanks to Mandela, apartheid is even admitted by its perpetrators to have been a wrong done.

USHA RAUTENBACH,
SALT SPRING

Parliament power

Finally a Conservative MP has moved to break the prime minister's stranglehold on his MPs and on Par-

liament.

Michael Chong has introduced the Reform Act to give all MPs the power to represent their constituents instead of following the dictates of their leaders. Momentum is building for a bill whose time has come. It's time for us all to speak up for democracy.

MELISSA SEARCY,
BITTANCOURT ROAD

Truly democratic reform is possible

One can sympathize with decent Conservative backbenchers for trying to take attention away from the shameful handling of the Senate scandal by the prime minister and his entourage. But MP Michael Chong's proposed Reform Act can only be seen as a distraction from the present sorry state of affairs in Parliament.

What Canadians desperately need is meaningful reform of our electoral system. The first-past-the-post form of representation may have had its merits when there were

only two major parties vying for seats in the House of Commons, but now, with three recognized parties and a fringe formation not lacking in ambition, there exists a democratic deficit that needs to be addressed urgently.

A solution exists: both the New Democratic Party and the Green Party support systems of proportional representation whereby every vote counts, electors can vote for the party that best corresponds to their own values and the distribution of seats in Parliament reflects that diversity of opinion.

This system of representation exists in a majority of advanced countries around the world.

Instead of that, Green Party supporters in Brandon Souris nearly lost their democratic right to vote for a Green Party candidate when their leader MP Elizabeth May contemplated making a deal with the Liberal Party and the NDP in the hope of defeating the Conservative candidate. This affront to democracy won't be redressed by Michael Chong's Reform Act, which Ms. May

supports.

Realistically, only the NDP, whether in power or holding the balance of power in a minority government, can implement proportional representation.

But if the Green Party keeps on running candidates who take votes away from the Liberals as in the Brandon Souris by-election or from the NDP in general elections, the likelihood of proportional representation becoming a reality are greatly diminished.

In his Globe and Mail column of Dec. 3, journalist and author Lawrence Martin writes that, after 30 years of existence in Canada, popular support hovering around five per cent nationally and one MP, it might be time for the Green Party to "pack it in."

His words will certainly not find favour with Elizabeth May's supporters, but they could be what the country needs to pave the way to meaningful reform, not a smoke screen à la Michael Chong.

HÉLÈNE NARAYANA,
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In 2014 it is my hope that our sense of world community deepens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address our challenges ahead.

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JAN
MACPHERSON

Mechanic

Holiday trips in cold weather may require more than a well prepared vehicle

All the regular things like snow tires, antifreeze, new wiper blades etc. are a top priority and should be checked before heading out on a holiday trip.

As well as all these things give some thought to a survival kit. No one wants to think about getting stuck in their vehicle in adverse conditions but it does happen and a small kit prepared ahead of time could make the difference between being uncomfortable and being dangerously hypothermic.

One website has a rather extensive list of materials for your survival kit and attached to it are a few paragraphs of excellent advice on what to do in case you are stranded in your vehicle. Check out <http://www.21stcenturyadventures.com/advice/lists/winterSurvivalChecklist.html>

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What can I do over the holidays to reduce stress?

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- * Exercise improves blood flow to your brain, bringing additional sugars and oxygen that may be needed when you are thinking intensely. When your neurons function more intensely, a toxic waste can build up, which fogs your thinking. Exercise speeds the flow of blood through your brain, moving the waste through faster.
- * After swimming a few laps in the pool or participating in an Aqua fit class you will have more energy, feel calmer and be better focused.
- * Keeping your regular exercise routine, or starting a new one, can give you the fitness stamina to make it through the demands of the festive season and beyond for a healthier you all year long.

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BRENDA
AKERMAN

Meter plan needs BCUC intervention

The following letter was sent to the B.C. Utilities Commission.

BY PATRICIA FAUROT

In the faint hope that your commission is not entirely controlled by Hydro, the B.C. government, and the corporate media, I am writing again to ask that you intervene in the implementation of the exorbitant fees that Hydro starts charging on Dec. 1, 2013 to those customers who have chosen to keep their analog meters, many of whom can ill afford an extra \$35 a month.

I understand that there are approximately 66,000 households in B.C. that have refused the "smart meter." If so, the "fees" of \$35 per month per household = \$420 a year x 66,000 = \$27,720,000 per year. It is obvious that BC Hydro is not only attempting to punish those of us who have refused to "buy" into their ill-advised "smart" grid, but they apparently want us to cover some of the costs of replacing perfectly functioning, safety-approved analog meters for untested plastic meters that catch fire, can be hacked by almost anyone and that emit dangerous radio frequency/microwave radiation.

I fail to understand how the BCUC can allow Hydro to first of all harass and bully customers into accepting the "smart" meters and then use extortion to force many holdouts to comply because they simply can't afford not to. The taxpaying citizens of B.C. have the right to refuse to have a transmitting meter that is capable of transmitting

information generated in our residences and I ask the commission to uphold the rights of all BC Hydro customers by rejecting the smart meter choices' program currently proposed by our only choice of an electric utility company.

According to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, sections 7 and 8, "citizens have the right to make important personal choices and the reasonable expectation of privacy, the right to be secure against unreasonable search, and rights to privacy of the body and its health." Smart meters and the smart grid infringe on these rights.

For those of us who choose to protect our health, safety and privacy by retaining our analog meters, I'm sure it would be very easy and inexpensive to set up an online, self-reporting system. A web portal that explained the meter reading process and had a page to enter a customer ID and current meter reading could easily feed into Hydro's billing systems and a meter reader could check biannually to ensure all was correct.

I am asking you to uphold the basic rights and freedoms of choice and privacy of Canadian citizens and refuse BC Hydro's proposed fee to retain an analog meter. As an agency of the B.C. government, your commission is made up of public servants tasked with acting in the public interest, in this case that human rights are more important than an unnecessary change in technology.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

arts&entertainment

CONCERTS

Community steps into Victorian times

Christmas concert includes carols, dances and treats

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A musical exploration into the Victorian roots of modern Christmas celebrations will take place at All Saints By-the-Sea next weekend when the Fiddlers Hatchery presents two interactive concert events.

In shows set for Friday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 15, fiddle students under the tutelage of Carolyn Hatch will present a variety of music, including carols and dance, with a narrator explaining how the selections fit into past and current holiday practices.

"Almost all our traditions, we found out, come from the Victorian era," Hatch said.

"The idea of Santa Claus, the idea of giving presents, the idea of having a dinner with special foods — it all started in the Victorian day."

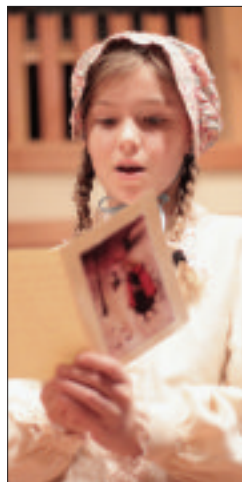
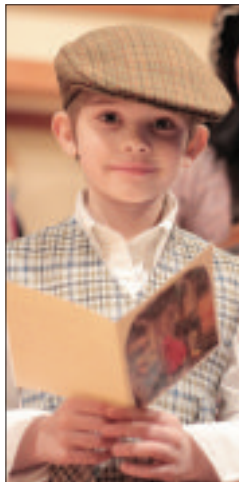
Now with a new crop of students under her wing, Hatch is reviving an idea that she brought to Salt Spring and toured to the outer islands a few years ago. The group includes 24 students ranging from five to 16 years old, along with two adult learners.

Fiddlers will be dressed in costume for an authentically immersive experience. One of the pieces will be Pachelbel's Canon played by candlelight as the students re-enact the special Christmas meal.

The audience and the players will come together for a celebration with actu-



Dinner is served during rehearsal of the Victorian Christmas show being presented by Fiddlers Hatchery this Friday and Sunday at All Saints.



From left, Kieran Denny and Gabrielle Love in period costume.

al food during the second half of the program, when the group invites the audience into their "home" for a

party in another part of the hall. Treats, cookies and hot cider will be offered as the fiddlers break into

small groups to play more carols and dances. Singing and elocution will also figure into the second half.

Hatch explained that during Victorian times, people were scouring the globe to find new carols to bring home, and she has continued in that tradition to make the event truly special.

"I've also gone out into the world, through books and computers, to bring new music into the concert. There will be some interesting carols that people probably will not have heard," she said, noting these include pieces from Spain and Italy.

Showtimes are 7 p.m. on Friday and 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are available in advance from Hatchery students or at the door.

For more information, call Hatch at 250-931-1770.

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NEWS
UPDATES

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5th Annual Legion Christmas Craft & Collectibles Fair

**At Meadon Hall
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Sunday, Dec. 15
10am - 4pm**

**FOR DETAILS CONTACT FRAN @
mummyearth@gmail.com**

LIONS Santa Ship
Saturday Dec. 14th
6:30 pm Santa arrives at Coast Guard Dock.

Come early to see the fireworks display as Santa comes into the harbour.

Follow Santa into Mouat's Mall. Give him your wish list for Christmas. He'll also visit Greenwood's and Lady Minto Hospital.

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CREATIVE VENTURES

Local Christmas silent film released

Salt Spring well represented in Keith Picot project

BY JIM NICKELS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

If you've seen the Dagwood's Diner silent film style ad at The Fritz theatre, or noticed a tall moustached gentleman walking around town in a 1920s style get-up and doing strange things in front of a camera, then you've seen Keith Picot.

A bass fiddler by trade, Picot has a passion for silent films. Hastings House, downtown Ganges, Fernwood and Fulford docks are some of the many familiar Salt Spring locations that provide

backdrops for Picot's films.

His Hek's Half Acre Studios, located on Maliview Drive, has just completed what Picot hopes will become a local classic Christmas film, made, for the greater part, on Salt Spring, and starring a mostly local cast. The cast includes several children, musicians, a mechanic, a taxi driver, a small business owner, retirees and a teacher.

Picot is releasing this 20-minute film solely for the viewing pleasure of anyone who cares to look it up. It will be on YouTube on Friday, Dec. 13 beginning at 8 p.m. Just search: "Frank Georges and The Truth," or go to www.keithpicot.com to watch it and many more of Hek's Half Acre's silent film productions.

Join us @ Moby's?

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Wednesday Dec 11 Wing Night \$6.00 SSI Whaletail Ale \$4.50 Slv	Saturday Dec 14 The Never Never Band Every Sunday 1 piece fish n' chips \$9 Every Monday Two for one select applies - Every Monday Monday Night Football Tuesday Dec 17 Pubstumpers Trivia 7:30pm Win 3 days, 2 night in Vegas!
Thursday Dec 12 Open Mic Night 8pm	
Friday Dec 13 All-request dj No cover charge	

MOBY'S PUB
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what's on this week



Wed. Dec 11	Thurs. Dec 12	Fri. Dec 13	Sat. Dec 14	Sat. Dec 14	Mon. Dec 16	Wed. Dec 18
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Fernwood School Christmas Concert. Fernwood Elementary. 6:30 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Open Mic With Ross & Dave. At Moby's every Thursday. 8 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Soul Shakedown. Live band at 6 p.m., preceded by free appies at 5 p.m. The Local. Terry Warbey. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. A Victorian Christmas. Live music, dance, food and drink presented by Fiddlers Hatchery. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7 p.m. DJ Night. Live DJ with light show and music. Moby's Pub. 9:30 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Christmas Music at Mistaken Identity Vineyards. Deborah Inkster-Kneebone performs on piano from 1 to 3 p.m. Barley Bros. The Local. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sweetwater & Co. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Never Never Band. Bluegrass/old-timey music. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Lions Santa Ship. Santa and his entourage arrive on a decorated ship from Bellingham, Wash. Santa greets children at the Ganges Coast Guard dock at 6:30 p.m., then sees them at Mout's Mall before visiting the folks at Lady Minto Hospital's Extended Care Unit and Greenwoods.	ACTIVITIES Transitions Store Sweet 16. Cake, snacks and community celebration. Transitions Thrift Store. 2 p.m. SSI Parks and Recreation Commission. Monthly public meeting. Portlock Park Portable. 5 p.m. Salt Spring Fire Protection District Board Meeting. Public welcome to meeting of trustees. Ganges Fire Hall. 7:30 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Carols for Christmastide. An Anglican Parish of SSI event. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2 p.m. SSE Winter Concert. Salt Spring Elementary School. 6:30 p.m.
ACTIVITIES Early Maps & Charts of Vancouver Island. Michael Layland introduces his new book called The Land of Heart's Delight: Early Maps and Charts of Vancouver Island. SS Public Library. 2 p.m. Seniors Christmas Party. At Salt Spring Seniors for members only. 2 p.m. Swing Dance. Every Wednesday evening. East Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Fox Trot, more. SSE Activity Centre. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Texas Holdem. Sign-up 6:30 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. The Local. SS Film Festival Screening: Still Mine. A exquisitely crafted and deeply affecting love story about an elderly couple in rural New Brunswick. Starring Genevieve Bujold. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Regular public meeting at the Harbour House Hotel Orchard Room. (Note different location.) Business meeting starts at 9:30 a.m., with town hall session at 12 noon. Stay & Play Drop-In. For parents/caregivers and children ages 0-6. Family Place. 12:30 to 3 p.m. GISS Market. Purchase products made by the GISS Culinary Program, and local crafts. GISS Cafeteria. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Pizza and Beer Night. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m. Coral Reefs of the World. Slide show evening with underwater photographers Ken Sutherland and Ann Donahue. By donation with proceeds to the SPCA. Fernwood Road Cafe. 7 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Storytime at the Library. In the children's area. SS Public Library. 10:30 a.m. A South-end Christmas. Presented by the Anglican Parish of SSI. St. Mary's Anglican Church. 2 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Dad N' Me Pancake Breakfast. Drop-in with free pancakes for dads, uncles, grand-dads and their kids age 0-6. Family Place. 8:30 to 10 a.m. Christmas Market in the Park. Vendors set up in Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Phoenix School Carolling & Goodies. Students singing carols with a bake sale - cookies, squares, chai, hot chocolate, etc. Centennial Park. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stefanie Denz Annual Open Studio. Hot drinks and nibbles, new work, old work, prints. 471 Beaver Point Rd. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Felting Demos + Holiday Celebration. Fever Tree hosts an evening celebration with felting demos and chance to win store GCs and workshop classes. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Sun. Dec 15 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Sing-along Messiah. Sing the Messiah with the Salt Spring Chamber Choir and Orchestra, or just come to listen. Fulford Hall. 2 p.m. A Victorian Christmas. Live music, dance, food and drink presented by Fiddlers Hatchery. All Saints. 3 p.m. Aki & Pierre Guitar Duo. Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m.	Tues. Dec 17 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Fulford School Winter Concert. Fulford Elementary School. 6:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Stay & Play Drop-In. Parents and caregivers with their children ages 0-6. Family Place. Noon to 3 p.m. SSI Transportation Commission. Monthly public meeting. Portlock Park Portable. 4 to 6 p.m. Who Cares? Film Screening. Documentary film on social entrepreneurs is reprised after popular response. Hosted by IWAV. GISS. 6 p.m. Salt Spring Forum AGM. 2013 annual general meeting. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

THE FRITZ CINEMA
901 North End Rd. 250-537-4656 www.thefritz.ca

The Fritz movie passes and gift cards make great Christmas presents and can be purchased before show times at the cinema.

"We're sorry but we cannot accept any passes to the Hobbit!"
Friday Dec. 13th 3:00 matinee, Friday Dec. 13th to Thursday Dec. 19th 7:00, with Sunday 3:00 matinee & 7:00.

The final 2 shows of Thor: The Dark World are Wednesday Thursday December 11 and 12 at 7:00

CINEMA

- **Thor: The Dark World** offers plenty of the humour and action that fans have come to expect. Thor continues to battle to save Earth from an enemy that predates the universe itself... but the vengeful Malekith returns to plunge the universe back into darkness. Faced with an enemy that even Odin and Asgard cannot withstand, Thor must embark on his most perilous journey yet.
- **The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug**, the second in the trilogy of films adapting the masterpiece The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien, continues the adventure of Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) as he journeys with the Wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellan) and 13 Dwarves, led by Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) on an epic quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Stefanie Denz** holds her annual open studio with new work, old work, prints, hot drinks and nibbles. 471 Beaver Point Rd., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Fri.-Sat.-Dec. 14-15.
- Christmas Exhibition of Small Works by **Gallery 8** artists runs through Dec. 31 at the Grace Point gallery.
- **Wintercraft**, the Salt Spring Arts Council-sponsored show and sale of some 90 Gulf Islands artisans runs daily at **Mahon Hall** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 22.
- Inspire Winter World is an exhibition of small works by 11 artists showing at the **Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** on McPhillips Avenue.

- Photographs by **Judy H. McPhee** are showing at **TJ Beans Coffee Shop** for the month of **December**.
- Photographer **Shari Macdonald** shows Whispering Wood Walks at **Kizmit Gallery Cafe** on Beaver Point Road through **Dec. 31**.
- The **Fernwood Road Cafe** hosts an exhibit of amazing underwater photography of **Ken Sutherland and Ann Donahue**.
- **Ahava Shira** and the Pieces of Her Story Collective present work in the program room of the **Salt Spring Public Library** in **December**.
- Through **December** the **ArtSpring** lobby hosts Interpretations - Then and Now, paintings by **League 181**, consisting of artists **Don Hodgins, Peter Eyles, Herb Otto, Cary Ennis, Milan Stevulak, Wendy Wickland, Melanie Williamson** and **Judith Borbas**.
- **Melinda and Ceilidh Divers** show photography and original artwork at **Barb's Bakery & Bistro** through **December**.
- **SS Coffee Company** staff have an art show at their cafe this month.
- **Delaine Faulkner** shows calligraphy and paintings at the **Country Grocer** cafe.
- **Carole Leslie** shows new work titled Geography of the Heart at **Cafe Talia** through **December**.
- Paintings of the North by **Judith Currelly** is now showing at **Duthie Gallery**. Winter hours are Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment at 250-537-9606.
- **Juliana Paul** has photographs hanging at **Penny's Pantry**.
- **SOLID at the Market Place** (in Gasoline Alley) shares African Art by **Louise Adelle**.

A Victorian Christmas

A Fiddlers' Hatchery Presentation

Music, Dance, Food & Drink
Friday, Dec. 13th at 7pm
Sunday, Dec. 15th at 3pm
All Saints by-the-Sea

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TREATING YOU LIKE GOLD



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

TASTE OF THE ISLAND: The Harbour House Hotel was all aglow on Thursday evening for the 3rd annual Glowtini contest, part of Christmas on Salt Spring events. From left is Janis La Couvée from Victoria (a contest judge along with Jayce Kadyschuk and Rebecca Bollwitt), Greg Van Riel from Oystercatcher/Shipstones, and winner John King from the Harbour House with his trophy.

SEASONAL MUSIC

Carols ring out for Christmastide

Dec. 18 at All Saints

One of the highlights of the Christmas season for many islanders is Carols for Christmastide.

Established in 2003 by Music Makers of the Anglican Parish, the hour-long program has become popular both as an opportunity to sing along and as a recital.

This year the event falls on

Wednesday, Dec. 18 and, being the third Wednesday of the month, it replaces the monthly organ recital Simply Organic. The program will bring the season's best with talented musician and choir director David Storm at the piano and organ.

The All Saints choir will sing the beautiful Lullay My Lik-ing, as well as leading the more familiar carols we all love to sing, while certain members of

the choir will offer a charming selection of solos and duets.

Some of those are notably He Shall Feed His Flock from Messiah, performed by the duo Anke Smeele and Connie Holmes; Song Beyond the Moon by Linnea Good, sung by soprano Jean McClure; and a touching rendering of Sweet Little Jesus Boy by soprano Betty Rothwell.

Perfect for those who may

not wish to drive at night, the concert starts at 2 p.m. in All Saints' church.

The music is, as always for Music Makers events, free. However, any donations received will be directed to the food bank. Festive refreshments will be available for \$2 after the concert, where Sarah's Christmas cake, mince tarts and the mulled apple juice are always a big hit.

So . . . you want to be a writer

There are three rules for writing a novel.

Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.

— Somerset Maugham



Arthur
Black

WIT & WHIMSY

critics were less than kind.

"An ill-compounded mixture of romance and matter-of-fact," wrote one. "The idea of a connected and collected story has obviously visited and abandoned its writer again and again in the course of composition. The style of his tale is in places disfigured by mad (rather than bad) English; and its catastrophe is hastily, weakly, and obscurely managed."

Harsh words, but delicious to the ears of North American literary reviewers who reprinted the British reviews without bothering to, you know, actually read the book they were trashing. The bad press was disastrous; the author was deeply in debt and praying that the book would earn enough money to placate the bill collectors.

But to be absolutely fair, the book he'd written was a bit . . . odd. It was written in highly stylized, at times baffling language with dollops of symbolism and

lashings of metaphor. It dealt with, among many other themes, madness, murder and mass slaughter, of both men and animals.

At times, the author printed stage directions as if a play was being performed. His main character was an animal, for heaven's sake — an albino, in fact, which thought and acted like a sadistic human stalker.

Stephen King might be able to pull off a plot like that, but this author wasn't Stephen King and the times — the mid-19th century — certainly weren't propitious for such an outlandish and unlikely tale.

Nevertheless, the author — unfamiliar with the rules of novel writing — persisted and finally found an American publisher who was willing to take a flyer. In 1851, Harper and Brothers of New York published a North American edition.

The book was a dud — mostly because of those critical British reviews. The author, they say, never really recovered from his failure and died an unhappy, debt-ridden failure.

Pity he didn't live a little longer. The author's name was Herman Melville and his book, *Moby Dick*, is now considered a classic.

Strange business, writing fiction.

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CONCERTS

Messiah Sing-along now an island tradition

Fulford Hall event set for
this Sunday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents won't have to travel to participate in a Messiah Sing-along this Christmas, with the third annual performance by Bach on the Rock on Dec. 15 establishing it firmly as a modern island tradition.

"The holiday season wouldn't be complete for me without doing it," explained Bach on the Rock music director and conductor Jim Stubbs, who has performed the Messiah every year but one since he was seven years old.

"It's such great music — it wears very well."

Like her husband, bassoonist Laurie Stubbs has also played the music many times with various orchestras in New York, and she agrees, "It never gets old."

The Messiah is one of the few compositions to remain in constant popularity ever since Handel debuted it in Dublin back in 1742. What has changed is how the music is performed. Originally written for a small choir of 16 boys and 16 men plus two female soloists accompanied by a modest orchestra, over the centuries



FILE PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

A filled Fulford Hall at last year's Messiah Sing-along. People can sing-along or listen to the beautiful Handel piece performed by the Salt Spring Chamber Choir and Orchestra.

a fad for going big saw performances swell to as many as 2,000 singers and 500 musicians.

Recently, Stubbs said, groups have been bringing the Messiah back to a more manageable size. The Salt Spring performance fits into that path with its choir and orchestra numbering around 50 people in total. That leaves plenty of room for community members to join in — a key to the community outreach that Bach on the Rock values.

This season the group once again invited audience members to participate at two rehearsals before the performance, as they did last year at the request of community members. Scores are available for rent for anyone who would like to sing along. Those who prefer just to listen are also equally welcome, however. Stubbs said there is no need to stay away if singing is not your thing.

Bach on the Rock is pleased to return to Fulford Hall in order to

accommodate the largest possible audience, as well as for its attributes as a venue.

"We love the acoustics and the warm feeling," Laurie Stubbs noted.

A seasonal concession will add to the festive environment.

Tickets are available in advance from RE/MAX Salt Spring, or at the door on the concert date. Early purchase is advised because of the large crowd that turned out last year. Show time is 2 p.m.

FILM

Love story shines on screen

Best of the Fest film
shows Dec. 11

BY JAMES COWAN
SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

Another great Best of the Fest film is coming up tonight (Wednesday, Dec. 11) at ArtSpring.

This engaging drama is based on a true story of an aging couple and the challenges they face. *Still Mine*, a beautiful and gentle story that is lovingly told and beautifully acted, is a film that will appeal to islanders of all ages.

With a screenplay written by Michael McGowan, *Still Mine* is about an 89-year-old New Brunswicker who comes up against the system when he sets out to build — on his own land — a more suitable house for his wife Irene (Genevieve Bujold) whose memory is starting to go.

Craig Morrison has a passion for wood and an understanding that comes from years of building with methods taught to him by his father, a shipbuilder. Craig, a skilled builder who wants just one more project, bumps up against an increasingly regulated world.

Determined to build on

his own land the way he wants, Craig quickly gets on the wrong side of an overzealous government inspector, who finds just about everything unacceptable, including the unstamped wood Craig has milled from his own trees. As Irene becomes increasingly ill — and amidst a series of stop-work orders — Craig races to finish the house. Hauled into court and facing jail, Craig takes a final stance.

**Still Mine gathered
seven nominations
at the 2013
Canadian Screen
Awards.**

Still Mine is a story about loss and the threat of loss: hand-crafted traditions, the joy in working with wood, family farms and losing a wife to dementia. Craig has to accept change but he also stubbornly insists on keeping to his own choice: to keep his wife with him and build her a house. The poignancy of a changing world and a

changing marriage is offset by his stubbornness in holding to what he believes is right.

Ultimately, *Still Mine* is a love story that gently reveals the tenderness of an aging couple and at the same time is a love story to a disappearing way of life.

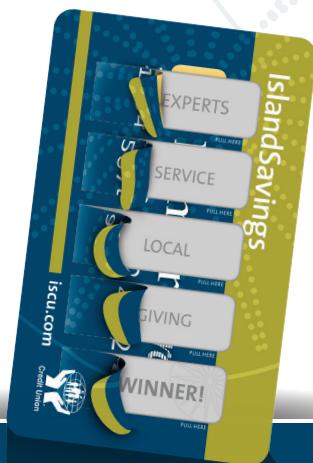
Still Mine gathered seven nominations at the 2013 Canadian Screen Awards, and James Cromwell won the best actor award for his portrayal of Craig Morrison.

This is surely deserved, for Cromwell's Craig is, as described in a *Globe and Mail* review, "a man who keeps everyone at a manageable distance, but whose inner workings are manifest in the smallest gestures and details: the way he looks at his wife when she forgets something, the contempt in his eyes when faced with regulatory noise, his frustration with a stubborn necktie, the way his fingers brush the family history scored in an old, hand-made dining-room table." Bujold, nominated for best actress, brilliantly portrays a woman whose memory is fading but with a still fierce spirit.

The film begins at 7:30 p.m.

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TRADITIONS

Christmas Carol returns to island

Fundraiser for
Grand(m)others to
Grandmothers group
runs at Salt Spring
United Church

BY DIANE LUGSDIN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The holiday season would not be truly complete without a production of A Christmas Carol, and it has been some years since islanders were blessed by the Newman Family's Christmas With Scrooge.

This year the Salt Spring Island United Church, in partnership with the local Grand(m)others to Grandmothers group, presents a dramatic reading of this Charles Dickens favourite, complete with musical interludes plus refreshments at intermission.

Salt Spring is well served by its arts community and this event is no exception. The gifted performers offering their talents are: Arthur Black, the humourist, author of 11 books, three-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour, radio broadcaster and syndicated columnist; Jan Rabson, a voice actor whose list of credits is so long, chances are you've laughed at him many times, and who is now sharing comedy improv skills on the island; Sue Newman, actor, singer, dancer, musician and performing arts instructor; Ann Stewart, who not only captured a bronze in the Tennis World Masters Games but also audiences with her characterization of Maude in the recent Harold and Maude production; and Clark Saunders, from Mamma Priscilla's Cagney Revue, a reader in A Christmas Carol in Winnipeg, and the mastermind behind this fundraising partnership.

Proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation seeking to "turn the tide" of HIV/AIDS in Africa through its support of 300 community-based organizations to help women, orphaned children, grandmothers and people living with HIV and AIDS. Some 250 Grandmothers groups across



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Vocal Quartet singers Connie Holmes, Anke Smeele, Al Robertson and Lyle Eide will be among several community members participating in A Christmas Carol production on Dec. 21 and 22.

Canada have raised over \$19 million in solidarity with their African grandmothers.

One might well query what Dickens, writing 160 years ago, and Stephen Lewis share — and that would be a commitment to speak to the major injustices of their respective worlds — Dickens giving public readings of his carol, Stephen Lewis with his impassioned oratory and advocacy, and now five of our best voices reminding us via Scrooge of the possibility of transformation.

"I love the story of A Christmas Carol, an important piece that deals with greed and poverty and kindness that is still, unfortunately, relevant today..."

SUE NEWMAN
Newman Family Productions
member

When asked about the show Sue Newman summed it up: "I love what the Grandmothers to Grandmothers do, so raising money and awareness of their

work is good. I love the story of A Christmas Carol, an important piece that deals with greed and poverty and kindness that is still, unfortunately, relevant today, and I love that my parents, Ray and Virginia Newman, wrote a musical adaptation of the story that I was fortunate to be a part of for so many years and that the Salt Spring community embraced it and them... I love working with my fellow readers and look forward to reviving the CBC script!"

Jan Rabson said "yes" when Arthur Black asked him to participate because "the grandmothers do so many wonderful things, I felt I should help". Arthur Black "loves the camaraderie of the Christmas season. Connecting that to the work of Grandmothers to Grandmothers is just icing on the Christmas cake."

The dramatic readings will be interspersed with seasonal music provided by the Salt Spring Vocal Quartet, featuring G2G members Connie Holmes, soprano, and Anke Smeele, alto, joined by Lyle Eide, tenor, and Alan Robertson, bass, and accompanied by pianist David Storm.

There are two show times: 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Tickets are available at Salt Spring Books or the United Church office.

(The show is not recommended for children under 8.)

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Church hosts carols and readings

Women of Note choir part of
south-end Christmas

On Friday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m., St. Mary's Anglican Church and Women of Note invite everyone to A South-end Christmas, a seasonal celebration of the meaning of Christmas.

It includes carol singing, readings from Scripture and poetry, and selections for the season by one of Salt Spring Island's favourite small choirs, Women of Note. They will perform traditional music like Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

and Coventry Carol, as well as some less familiar pieces like Season of Light, Carol of the Advent, Sleep, Little Tiny King and the harmonious and soothing chant from the ecumenical French monastery of Taizé, Confitemini Domino.

"Take a break and join us for a time of joyous music and readings in a contemplative setting," urges an Anglican Parish press release. "St. Mary's Church has stood across from Fulford Hall for well over a century. This is an excellent opportunity to enter it and sense its quiet beauty and deep spiritual tradition."

There is no charge for the event.

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@driftwoodgimmedia.com



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salt spring island

wintercraft

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open daily 10-5



Wintercraft is THE place to shop for those unique Salt Spring gifts, promising something for everyone on your list this Christmas. Soaps, candles, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, original artworks and much, much more, all created by hand on the Gulf Islands, all of them special and at a wide range of prices.

This year Wintercraft will be running the "Wintercraft wish list", a gift

registry where you can come in and pick out something wonderful for yourself and then send in someone to make it appear under your tree on Christmas day.

Wintercraft is open 10am-5pm, 7 days a week, from Friday November 29th until December 22ND at a festive Mahon Hall on Rainbow Road. Don't miss it!

**SSAC MEMBERS 10% DISCOUNT EVENT:
SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH, 3-5PM**

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Transitions Thrift Store
would like to give a
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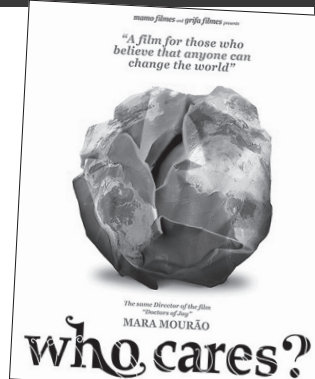
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people&community

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Santa's Workshop still collecting gifts

Presents for girls and teens needed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Santa's elves on Salt Spring are gearing up to help families in need have a wonderful Christmas with the Santa's Workshop program through Salt Spring Island Community Services ensuring there's something under the tree for everyone.

Christa Wohlfahrt, the program's head elf, reports that an estimated 100 children will benefit from the program this year, with unwrapped gifts to be delivered to their parents along with all the necessary gift paper, tags and tape.

The workshop has already received many toys, gift items and a cash donation from the Toy Run motorcycle group. But although community members have been generous, there are still more items needed, especially for teenagers of both genders and girls ages five to 13.



PHOTO BY KATE RICHER

Salt Spring Centre School's leadership class students with Lego kits they've created for Santa's Workshop.

"This year the need is for a lot of gloves, mittens and hats — that's what the teenagers want," Wohlfahrt said.

"Also sports equipment. We don't have a sports store anymore, so those items are hard to shop for."

Boys and girls on Santa's list who like Lego will receive a special gift this year through a partnership with Salt Spring Centre School's leadership class. Wohlfahrt supplied the group with a large donation of loose Lego pieces. Each student then created his or her own project. A large photograph of each creation and all the pieces used to create it were then packaged into gift bags.

"Many years ago my class volunteered to wrap presents for Santa's Workshop, which was very fun and successful," teacher Kate Richer explained. "However, they don't wrap the gifts anymore as parent recipients want to see what the gift is

before it goes under the tree."

Richer said she brainstormed with the class of grades 3 to 5 students on how to approach using the loose pieces to the best effect.

"We agreed that the project needed to be super awesome, as it was going to be a Christmas gift, and the recipient should feel excited and impressed by it. They also needed to make sure they included lots of individual pieces so the recipient had a lot to build with."

Richer said her students were proud of their creations and to be doing something to help other kids.

"It was a perfect way for the class to use their skills they have to contribute to someone else's happiness, perfect for our theme of 'random acts of kindness,'" she said.

Families who register for Santa's Workshop fill out a checklist of needed or preferred items, which can include things like swimming

pool tickets and warm clothes and blankets as well as toys. This year there are many requests for books. Wohlfahrt said the best thing is to buy a gift certificate so parents or children can choose the books they want themselves.

The only thing that isn't on the list is stuffed animals.

"We really can't handle them and parents have asked not to have them," Wohlfahrt said.

New, unwrapped toys and gifts for the program can be dropped off at collection boxes located at Island Variety, Pharmasave Uptown, Country Grocer, West of the Moon and Mouat's Trading. The gift bags will be distributed with Christmas food hampers through Salt Spring Community Services around Dec. 22.

Contact Wohlfahrt at 250-537-4793 or Salt Spring Community Services at 250-537-9971 for more information.

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December 2013

Thanks to all the AMAZING
Wellness Program Volunteers in 2013!!!
Sprigs of holly, ivy and bright shining stars to:

Senior Peer Counsellors:
Lee Evans, Rosalind Hope, Dawn Luker, Scott Merrick,
Adiel Pantoja, Barry Pinchin, Betty Pinchin,
Lois Sprague, Eileen Stubbe, Sam Tarasoff,
Betty Thompson, Mike Webb, Lee Wright

Friendly Visitors and Voices:
Harold Bailey, Steve Edge, Linda Scarlett-Hauck,
John Pickering, Premilla Pillay, Janet Rayner,
Alan Robertson, Chris Sisson, Janet Smith,
Bruce Wallace, Lynda Turner, Murray Shoolbraid

Blood Pressure Clinic Volunteers:
Anne Byrne, Meg Buckley, Phyllis Coleman,
Susan Good, Claire Sellar, Shelagh Tulloch,
Hope Williamson; Toby Fouks, Lois Sprague,
Ruth Volquardsen, Mike Webb

...and ALL the wonderful Screening Mammography
Volunteers!! and MORE!!

Although I am leaving Wellness Programs this month,
you are forever in my thankful heart!

AUTOMOBILES

Car club motors to broader role

Society
incorporation
planned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Antique and Classic Car Club is preparing to roll out measures that will strengthen both its membership and ability to hold community events.

Known for hosting the annual Canada Day show and shine, club members extend their personal automotive passions into popular events the whole family can enjoy. They now

feel that changing to a registered society with a board of directors and membership dues will help ensure the club's public contributions can continue.

"We've been putting on the Canada Day show since 2001 — it will be number 14 coming up next year," said car club member Marv Coulthard.

"It's probably the second largest event on the island after the fall fair. Not bad for a bunch of car buffs."

During an open meeting held by the club on Dec. 2, participants came up with new enthusiasm and

new ideas. In addition to becoming a society, the group will look for a new name that indicates a more inclusive organization. Coulthard said motorcycle buffs and people who have customized cars of any age should be welcomed.

Having status as a society will help when seeking funding for its events from bodies such as the Salt Spring Foundation and Heritage Canada — which failed to award a grant in 2013, causing the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and local business sponsors to take on a scaled-back version of the Can-

ada Day show.

"It costs around \$2,000 to put on. We have to have that in the bank before we even start," Coulthard said, explaining that costs include entertainment acts, the sound, dash plaques for car entries and trophies.

As a society, the club hopes to attract even more car buffs to the island and to host additional annual events such as an Easter parade.

Interested community members are invited to attend the group's next meeting, set for Jan. 27 at ArtSpring starting at 7 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Nominees sought for women's awards

Part of weekend events
in March 2014

For over 100 years, International Women's Day has been a day of celebration and recognition to mark exceptional achievements of women and to build on inequities still to be addressed.

This year SWOVA, IWAV and Victim Services have teamed up to present a weekend of exciting events for all members of the community in honour of the exceptional contri-

butions women make to life in the Southern Gulf Islands.

Weekend activities kick off Friday, March 7 with the annual Sparkfest evening of entertainment. Saturday will include workshops and skill-training sessions, and end with a fabulous dinner and recognition ceremony hosted by Elizabeth May.

"We are inviting anyone in the Southern Gulf Islands to nominate an adult or young woman (aged 19 and under) they feel has made an exceptional contribution to their field and or our community,"

explains a press release.

"We will be honouring women's achievements from past and present, including change makers, leaders and activists from all aspects of community life: environment, politics, social, science, the arts, education and economic fields."

Nominators should submit an explanation, in 450 words or less, about why their nominee deserves to be recognized. Entries can be sent via email to ssgirlleadership@gmail.com, or dropped off or snail mailed to Nominations c/o SWOVA,

344 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3. Deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. on Jan. 23, 2014. People should specify if their nomination is for the young woman or adult woman category.

An independent panel will review the submissions and announce the winners on March 8.

All events will take place at the Harbour House Hotel, which has made the event possible through its generosity.

Workshop and ticket information will be released at a later date.

WORLD HEALTH

Dear Santa: a Rotary Club Christmas wish

Campaign aims to end polio

BY DAWN EVANS

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Rotarians around the world, including the Salt Spring Island Rotary Club, have all worked hard and been very good this year. We deserve lots and lots of presents.

We only want one gift, dear Santa; help to prevent all children in the world from suffering from polio.

Santa, you know we have worked hard to stop polio since 1985 and we have been 99 per cent successful!

We saved more than 10 million children from crippling paralysis. We immunised over 2.5 billion children. We eradicated polio in all but three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Our progress to the end goal, though, is at risk when the polio virus in these countries is imported to formerly polio-free countries.

Imagine, Santa, our horror with the news on Oct. 24, 2013, World Polio Day, when we learned of the outbreak of polio in Syria. Syria had been polio-free since 1999. The civil war in Syria meant many children under the age of two were not vaccinated against polio.

Now the polio virus is spreading in two new areas of Syria. There is great fear in the surrounding countries as Syrians flee from war-torn areas and seek refuge wherever they can.

This is a global health emergency requiring Rotary and its partners to immediately mobilize a massive campaign for polio vaccination. Over 20 million children in seven countries and territories in the Middle East need to be vaccinated in the next six months.

Do you know Santa, in your travels around the world, especially in areas where polio is endemic, that you could pick up the polio virus on the sole of your boots and bring it back to us? Imagine one small child on our island, in our province or our country who has not been vaccinated coming into contact with you and contracting this disease?

If all the children in the world, that last one per cent, were vaccinated against polio, this would never happen. Polio would be gone forever. Until that happens, polio anywhere is a threat everywhere.

Rotary International, whose motto is Service Above Self, began PolioPlus in 1985 to eradicate polio around the world. In 1988, our progress resulted in a partnership with national governments, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention called the Global Initiative to Eradicate Polio.

Rotary has contributed more than US\$1 billion to GIEP, secured over US\$9 billion from donor governments, including Canada, and attracted the financial support of many corporations, international development banks, public and private charitable foundations.

Our most notable support is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who so respect the work of Rotary to eradicate polio that they donate huge amounts to our campaign (see sidebar) in the form of matching grants.

So, Santa, please grant our wish and ask your friends and relatives to donate to help Rotary completely eradicate polio in the world. Not one child can be missed.

Thank you, Santa
The Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island

P.S. Instead of leaving you cookies and milk this year, we made a donation to PolioPlus in your name.

How to Donate to PolioPlus

Locally by cheque: The Salt Spring Island Rotary Club Foundation

Box 513, Ganges PO,
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2W2

Nationally by Cheque: The Rotary Foundation (Canada)

C/O 911600

PO BOX 4090, STN A,
Toronto, ON M5W 0E9

Online with a credit card: Rotary International
www.rotary.org (specify Polio Plus, US or Canadian currency)

For every dollar donated, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will donate \$2, up to \$US 35 million this year.

(Tax receipts will be issued for amounts over \$25.)

CELEBRATIONS

Transitions hosts Sweet 16 party

Encore film
screening also
on tap

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Everyone on Salt Spring has made the guest list when it comes to Transitions Store's Sweet 16 birthday, which is being celebrated the afternoon of Monday, Dec. 16.

There won't be a celebrity entertainer, a circus theme with real elephants or a Lexus involved, but the party for this thriving local business promises to be more authentically joyful than any of the over-the-top events profiled on MTV. Instead of celebrating consumerism and greed, island values will be in focus as community

members are thanked for helping bring the second-hand store into a beautiful coming of age.

"It used to be a big deal, turning 16, and that's what I feel about the store — it just keeps getting better," said store manager Roberta Temmel.

"The world is turning," she added. "We're becoming more aware of the importance of re-using and re-gifting."

A combination of quality second-hand clothing, accessories and housewares and other items, plus committed volunteers and staff members and a devoted clientele, has allowed the store to become a true island success. A flow of goods leading to record sales over the past few years is helped by the store's policy of stay-

ing open every day of the year except Christmas and New Year's days.

"Everyone is always looking for that great find of the day. And we have great things because we have such a generous community," Temmel noted.

The simple value of the enterprise is multiplied when the reason for its existence is factored in. Proceeds support programs that Island Women Against Violence offers for women and children who have suffered from domestic violence. These include emergency shelter at the long-standing Transitions House, and new second-stage housing at The Cedars, where women who are rebuilding their lives after escaping abuse can live for up

to a year before moving on to permanent housing.

"We're so grateful and we hope everyone will come down and have some cake and celebrate with us," Temmel said.

Veggie and cheese plates provided by Country Grocer and coffee from Salt Spring Coffee will be served Monday afternoon, with chocolate cake made by Barb Slater at 2 p.m. The special of the day will be gift certificates worth \$25 on sale for \$20 — a perfect Christmas gift.

IWAV is also extending the party by offering a second screening of the inspiring documentary film about social entrepreneurs called Who Cares?, to take place at GISS starting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

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www.crd.bc.ca

SEASONAL EVENTS

Volunteers serve up food and joy

14th annual community dinner on Christmas Day

BY DIANE LUGSDIN
CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER COMMITTEE

Once again, the Community Christmas Day Dinner, sponsored by the Salt Spring Island United Church, is a go. Started in 2000, this is dinner number 14.

They say it takes a community to raise a child, and it certainly takes a community to raise a feast like the one planned for this year. And community we have here on Salt Spring!

Last year, 18 organizations and 72 volunteers contributed to make this annual celebration happen, and this year once again our local businesses have come through with generous donations. As usual, the Legion's Meaden Hall will look its festive best to welcome guests to this popular free-of-charge dinner at noon on Christmas Day.

The menu includes home-cooked turkey with all the trimmings, ham, salmon and veggie lasagna, together with four vegetables, salad and rolls, all topped off by fruit and goodies for dessert. Accompanied by hot and

cold beverages, this dinner is made and served by volunteers, who enjoy the event as much as the diners.

The original impetus for the event came from Gary Fletcher within the United Church. While the organizational responsibility and some volunteers remain rooted in the church, many volunteers are from the wider community — including off island. This year our trusty dishwashers of many years are not available, so Lennie from the "big island" is rejoining us to keep those clean plates flowing. Likewise, we fretted about who was going to prepare our delicious salmon as chef Bruce had for several years, so executive chef Brooke of the Harbour House came to the rescue.

Richard Dick, now in his 11th year with the dinner, will be busy whipping up the food and "whipping into line" the kitchen volunteers, and Lesley, another long-serving volunteer who just goes with the flow, will be welcoming old and new servers, and our guests, many of whom she knows from prior years.

And you might wonder what needs to go on before the 25th to make this event happen. Fundraiser/coordinator John Lugsdin finds a welcome

reception from food merchants and general businesses alike; fellow coordinator Diane finds an equally warm reception from "advance" cooks and volunteers; and miracle of miracles, the hordes descend on Christmas Eve morning to deck the halls and peel the veggies. Chief among the set-up stars are Heidi, Dean and family, who like our kitchen manager have been helping for over a decade to organize the tables to be not only efficient but also beautiful and welcoming.

Also helping to "make the season bright" are Tim and John, who arrange sound systems and background music, and other musicians, some long-standing, who donate time and talent to the event. Tom Mitchell, with his long-time commitment to this event, ably oversees all.

Everyone is welcome at the dinner in the Legion's Meaden Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 25. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with live music, food service begins at 12 noon and celebrations continue until 2 p.m. So come on your own, with family or friends — there is lots of love to go around.

For more information, leave a message at the United Church office, 250-537-5812.



PHOTO BY ELAINE SHAW

SWEET SCENE: Christmas has come to the Ganges Visitor Centre, with not only the centre beautifully decorated and lit up by volunteers as a gingerbread house for Christmas, but with another house inside. Children are invited to drop in with their families to see what services the centre offers to residents as well as visitors, and to put their names in a box for a chance to win the gingerbread house pictured above. The contest is open to children under 10 years old and the winner will be notified by telephone on Friday, Dec. 20.

SALT SPRING FOCUS ON SENIORS

Safe neighbourhoods, safe seniors

By LESLIE WALLACE
SSICS Seniors Activity Program

In a rural community like Salt Spring, being a good neighbour and having good neighbours during extreme weather conditions — following a snow storm, during power outages or when temperatures are cold enough to freeze water pipes, during any emergency — can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

In some instances, being a good neighbour, or having a good neighbour, can save a life. For elderly seniors in particular, and seniors living alone, it can be very comforting to know that there is someone nearby who will check on them and make sure they have what they need.

There are many such informal networks among neighbours on the island, where people welcome newcomers to the neighbourhood, and neighbours help and look out for each other throughout the year. I had the good fortune of living in

such a neighbourhood for three years, where my closest neighbour let all of his neighbours know that he was available to help with anything anybody needed help with. I watched Art drive people to the ferries and pick them up again. He chopped and stacked wood, watched people's houses when they were away, visited them in the hospital . . . the list goes on. He invited his neighbours to birthday, Thanksgiving and Christmas parties. His door was and is open to anyone who cares to drop by.

A refugee from the city, I was reluctant to ask for or accept help. Watching Art in action though, I learned how to be a good neighbour, and I learned how giving and receiving among neighbours creates bonds of trust and friendship among people who might have remained strangers. I learned that giving and receiving creates community. I learned that safety and community go together.

This is one of the gifts of rural life.

We may forget that we need each other when times are good. In any emergency or extreme weather situation, however, it is the people nearby who can be of the greatest help to each other.

You can create more safety and more community on your street by hosting a cold weather potluck. Go door to door to introduce yourself and invite your neighbours. Do you have an elderly neighbour who you see from time to time who might need help during extreme weather conditions? Introduce yourself, let them know you are available to help out if needed, and check in on them from time to time.

Or join one of the formal neighbourhood networks that are part of the Salt Spring Emergency Services POD program, created to help neighbours help each other during emergencies. Contact director Elizabeth Zook at 250-537-1220 to join an existing POD or to start one in your area.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

Barbara Joan Bompas
May 26, 1925 - Nov. 29, 2013

Our dear Barbara who liked Margaritas' passed on peacefully, with family by her side. Barbara loved her family and she loved to have a bit of fun. We send a heartfelt thank you to all the staff of Greenwoods and Dr. Crichton, for she had the best care we could ask for. We will celebrate Barbara's life with a family gathering, Spring 2014. Her family carries her light.

Cliff Mills
MARCH 8, 1928 -
DECEMBER 3, 2013

Cliff Mills passed away peacefully after a comfortable day with family at the Jubilee Lodge in Prince George, BC. He is survived by his wife Angie and his daughter Kasandra, her partner Ramesh, and granddaughters Ramona and Naomi. A service was held in Prince George in Cliff's honour. To view Cliff's life story and send condolences, please visit www.assmansfuneralchapel.com. In lieu of flowers, donations to the B.C. Parkinsons Society or BCSPCA would be appreciated.

Donald Alexander Dowsley
AUGUST 8, 1930 - NOVEMBER 25, 2013

DOWSLEY, Donald Alexander, born August 08th, 1930 in Abbey, Saskatchewan, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2013 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Don is predeceased by his beloved wife Joan who passed away in May. Don leaves to mourn his daughter Alexandra, sons Gordon and John, sisters Mary and Dorothy, daughters in law Lynn and Shauna, granddaughter Jennifer, grandsons Christopher, Michael, Stephen, Patrick, Thomas, great grandsons Carter, Colton, and Gavin.

Son of Dr. Gordon and Theodora (Ted) Dowsley, Don graduated from Magee High School in Vancouver, and later UBC (Forestry Engineering). While at UBC, and always wanting to become a pilot, Don joined the RCAF Auxiliary, earned his wings, later to be assigned to 443 Squadron in Vancouver. Don flew Harvards, Mustangs, Vampires and T33's, but his favourite aircraft was the P51D Mustang.

While at UBC Don met his wife Joan, and they were married in Vancouver on October 16th, 1956. As a young forestry engineer with MacMillan Bloedel, Don took his new bride to a number of rugged logging outposts and towns on Vancouver Island including Menzies Bay, Sarita River, Franklin River, Duncan, Port Alberni, and Nanaimo. During this period Don and Joan built many friendships that lasted a lifetime.

In 1990, after 35 years with MB, Don and Joan retired, and on their cottage property on Salt Spring Island built their dream home. Salt Spring Island was Don and Joan's favourite place on earth and what they loved most was to have family and many friends visit so they too could enjoy the paradise they truly loved.

Always in our hearts, Don will be missed by family and friends. There will be no Service by request, and in lieu of flowers, a donation could be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

As the second anniversary of John Christian's death approaches, I am filled with gratitude for all the help I received during my bereavement. I especially want to thank my daughter, Elizabeth, my beloved book club girls, Fulford friends, South Ridge neighbours, Saturday Market and farming friends. John is dearly missed.

Elizabeth Buchanan

DEATHS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas Season

Remember
Lorraine Dods Moth
Oct. 23, 1955 - Oct. 18, 2007

PLEASE DO NOT
DRINK & DRIVE

Make 2014 a happy, healthy & prosperous new year.
- Mom, Les, Loretta, Mark, Anna and William

DEATHS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM GIFTS

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DEATHS

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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Fellowship
of Salt Spring Island**

Sunday service
10 - 11:30 am

**Core Inn -
134 McPhillips Ave.**

www.bbfsi.org
more info: 250-537-4934

INFORMATION

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bcclassified.com

INFORMATION

Thinking of volunteering somewhere?
Check out opportunities at:
www.volunteersaltspring.com
or phone Anne at 250-537-2054

IN MEMORIAM



Clark Little
MAY 02, 1986 -
DECEMBER 09, 2003

As ten years have now crept up on us and we reflect back on our loss of Clark, it is with a lot of deep sadness and wondering what he would be doing right now, how would he look, would he be married and maybe even have children, how would he wear his hair or even yet, would he still have hair?

There's one thing I always think about, it's the apple tree planted where the accident happened, now that story alone is such a demonstration of how God loves us and hears the cries of our heart, but it has also been an act of community love and support.

The tree has seen people decorate it, water it, cut the grass around it, clean it up, eat the apples off it and numerous other acts of kindness.

The similarities between the apple tree and Clark when we compare them are undeniable, they both represent acts of kindness, compassion, caring, giving, and forever bearing fruit along with many others.

We as a family would like to just say to you all, we still remember everything that you have done for us and continue to do for us, the acts are too many to list but please know we see them and are blown away by your continuing love and support.

The saying goes "It takes a community to raise a child" well we have also seen a community grieve a child, our son Clark.

Thank you to our family, friends and community we will be forever grateful.

And you Mr. Clark, we'll see you later.

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Love Duane, Leah, Dustin and Emily

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10, 2014, after which date
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Carol Lynne
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page 14

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AWARDS

Collins earns education award

Passions connect for UBC student

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring resident Annie Collins is one of 48 B.C. students to receive a \$2,000 education award from Coast Capital Savings this fall.

Though her family moved to the island just a short time before she left to attend the University of British Columbia, the community can be proud to claim Collins as one of its own. She has been involved in environmental and sustainability campaigns since childhood. Her long-term goals involve integrating those concerns into a career in medicine.

"What I'm doing is to focus on things I'm interested in and passionate about," Collins said.



ANNIE COLLINS

"When I'm able to connect my passions to my studies and make the world a better place, getting a scholarship through that is really just a bonus."

Collins' early interest in global issues saw her apply to attend a United Nations youth conference on the environment in Norway when she was just 12 years old. While there, she was elected to become North America's representative on the youth board of directors. Her responsibilities included helping organize similar conferences in South Korea and Japan.

As a high school student in Nakusp, B.C., Collins founded a

sustainability club and led her community to becoming the province's first fair-trade town. More recently she was working on an anti-malaria project in Botswana. A component of the program was cleaning up the local environment at the same time as clearing mosquito breeding grounds.

Collins is just finishing her first term as a science student at UBC, so for now she's concentrating on getting a handle on post-secondary life rather than becoming involved in any new campaigns. She is grateful for the recognition and support the award from the Vancouver Island based Coast Capital Savings Credit Union brings.

"It's helpful, financially, to let me move forward with my education and take some of the pressure off and focus on my studies," she said.

COMMERCE

Virtual marketplace opens Friday

Auction and direct sales for islanders

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Friday the 13th could be a lucky day for islanders who want to buy or sell goods but don't have a storefront to operate from with a new venture called the Salt Spring Auction and Market website going live on that date.

The online marketplace is a project of Salt Spring resident Duffy Masterson, whose business experience includes offering computer support for local companies. The main

impetus behind his new concern was to provide an easy platform for islanders who create products for the Saturday Market to sell their wares during the off-season.

"Our primary goal was to help local residents sell their stuff," Masterson said.

The auction component came second but may provide the most local excitement, as islanders tap into the fun of their very own eBay.

"There's a thrill that goes along with an auction," Masterson explained.

"There's an excitement that's involved, rather than just posting

an item for sale.

"And there's a variable price that's based on the customer's want... It can go from one dollar up to the asking price and beyond."

People who register to sell something on the site will be able to adjust the look of their virtual storefront and choose whether to have direct sales with a set purchase price, or put pieces up for auction. While the first option might appeal to crafters and artisans with an ongoing customer base, the second could benefit people with collectibles hidden away in the attic or anything at all they want to part with.

In either case, Masterson said, people who sell items through the site won't have to find a physical venue to sell their items, won't have to start their own website or register a domain name, and don't have to know anything about e-commerce.

"They won't have to worry about the financial back end at all. It will be all set up for them," he added.

The website will take a fee for listing items and a percentage of sales in return for the service. Find the virtual marketplace at www.saltspringauction.com starting this Friday.

This Week's

Noroscope

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastronomy.com

sunstarastrology@gmail.com

1.888.352.2936

Tip of the Week:

The final countdown has begun. I am referring to Winter Solstice. For many the emphasis is upon Christmas. For others the countdown only begins 10 seconds before midnight on December 31st each year. Yet, Winter Solstice is extra special and this year it occurs on December 21 at 9:11 am PST. The exact moment is when the sun enters Capricorn in the Tropical Zodiac, which measures the periodic and progressive cycle of the Sun's light, which incidentally is ever changing throughout the year. In other words, each same minute of each day, let's say the strike of 12 at noon reveals a subtle but sure shift of the Sun's light than it did the day before or will the day after. All on its own this is a wonderful fact to consider and can contribute to you being here now each moment of each day. This annual cycle established itself literally billions of years ago which is a reminder that life on earth has evolved in this context. The celebration of the apparent path of the Sun beginning another 365.25 (or so) day cycle can also be understood in the factual verses the experiential sense with the recognition that the Earth itself begins a new cycle around the sun. Yes, both are 'true'! In Simple terms, the marker for this new beginning is the sun's light from the Earth's perspective. It is this experiential reality that begins the new round, which we call Winter Solstice. Shrugging it off as 'nothing new' indicates a linear or parts oriented perspective. In other words, from our experiential perspective here on our home planet we can also recognize that the cosmic background is also ever changing and has never been the same before, nor will ever be. This is the true wonder of time and miracle of life: patterns repeat in close approximation yet every single second in time is unique.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Big changes are underway and you are on a march to engage them. Your situation can be described as an ascent of power. But more than simply a climb, this journey implies a literal transformation, inside and out. You are hardly in a frivolous mood. Sober thinking behind practical ambitions is leading you onward to greater heights.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

Whether in body, mind or spirit you are covering a lot of 'ground'. By now you might think that you are used to it, this ongoing stretching process. It is not over yet though, so keep breathing into the stretch. You have about another six months to go. In the short-term, keep giving to your life flow. Call it necessary overtime. Weave in cultural stimulation to feel refreshed.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

A feeling of expansion on all fronts continues. Ideally this includes your confidence levels. Yet you have work to do for this to be true. Ironically, this includes letting go of control. Actually, this is the work of spiritual aspirants. To counter instinctive reactions with intuitive responses requires emotional self-control. "I am responsible for everything in my life" is the power mantra to this end.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

You are in a 'go big or go home' cycle. Well, for you this may include going big at home. In any case, it is extra important that you pay attention to the details. Gifts in the way of new tools, techniques, rhythms and routines are coming your way. Of course, beyond receiving them you have to open these gifts and implement them.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)

By now you should be on a creative role. This includes entering new territory, which may not be literal as much as psychological, emotional and/or spiritual. Your fears may be stirred as a consequence. So, you have to dig deeper than usual to access a well of faith you have stored deep in your subconscious. The first key to accessing this store is to trust that it is there.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Sometimes you 'gotta get in to get out'. What 'in' means, is for you to decide. It could be a place, or a state or both. Or maybe you simply want to 'get into it' somehow. That could even be a deep and engaging discussion or debate with close friends. Hopefully, neither you nor they will aim to win at all costs. Engage in the journey/process as an end in itself.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

Some very big ideas are stirring in your mind. These may well be accompanied by some big ambitions too. Yet, all this big focus may also be the cause of some big anxieties. To counterbalance these, aim to contract or concentrate all this big energy and focus into a smaller and more manageable focus. Aim big but start small.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)

Sometimes we are in more of a gambling mood than others. This may be one of those times. Guided by intuitive hunches and inspired by imaginings of big wins is leading you on. Yet it takes courage to act upon such feelings. That is what the gamble implies - risk. A good gambler plays a smart game by concentrating on the goal and observing everything, undetected.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)

Something new has begun or perhaps has been born into your life. Yet this new beginning comes in the midst of many things familiar, changing. It implies a whole new lifestyle. You are still in the foundational stages of what may be called a renovation process. This implies the importance of clearing the old to make way for the new. That's a good place to start.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

A busy time doing work behind the scenes continues. Even if your social agenda is busier than usual you still will be busy behind or within. Inner work is at least as important as outer and includes communication with... your inner council. You may also feel the need for new tools, skills or training. Fortunately you are in the mood to try new approaches.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)

An adventurous spirit is leading you on. Ironically, you may not be covering a lot of outer ground. This adventure and the new territory it implies could be new knowledge and/or philosophies and/or strategies. Fortunately, you are in the mood to acquire new knowledge. As well, you feel determined and able to overcome any obstacles, so persevere.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Some big changes, momentums and/or initiatives have begun in your world. These are accompanied by an already awakened and active creative cycle. With these forces joined, the time has come to launch intentions and ambitions that have been brewing for months, perhaps even years. Balance inspired visions with practical goals for best results.

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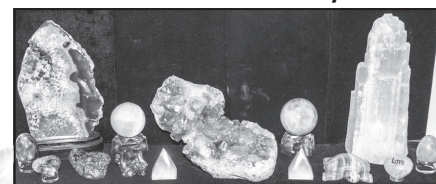
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HOCKEY

Parents' commitment keeps island kids on the ice

Life of island hockey parents not easy, but it's rewarding

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Being a hockey parent on Salt Spring means dark mornings, ferry lineups and plenty of hot coffee, but it's all worth it, according to die-hard islanders keen to give their kids a taste of the Canadian dream.

"It's a lot of fun," said Yves Rouselle. "A lot of challenges but a lot of fun."

When Rouselle and his spouse Daniella moved to

Salt Spring about six years ago, their five-year-old son was already in the habit of lacing up his skates. Relocating to one of the few communities in the country without an ice rink has meant frequent trips to the Cowichan Valley to ensure their oldest child can continue playing the sport he loves.

Sacha, 12, is in his fourth year of competitive hockey. The commitment requires at least two practices a week, games on the weekend and the occasional tournament. Making it to the 6 a.m. midweek practice means Sacha has to spend

the night with friends in Duncan. On other days, it's an after-school trip to the rink and a late ferry back to Salt Spring, where he attends Salt Spring Middle School.

"You want to support your kids, you don't want to penalize them for where you choose to live," Rouselle added.

The result has encouraged the Rouselles and many other island families to devise a formidable network of scheduling and carpooling.

Ten-year-old Kodiak Aven-Picard's practice schedule looks demanding

enough for families who live close to the rink. With practices twice a week and games spread across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, Salt Spring's aspiring pros commonly spend much more time reaching the rink than they spend hitting the ice.

"The travel costs associated with living on Salt Spring make it almost unbearable for me," said Kodiak's mother Sabrina Aven. "The entire family must sacrifice time and money to accommodate hockey in the family. Sometimes you also need to take time off work in order to make ferries and coordinate travelling for practice and games."

She said many island families have trailers and RVs set up in Crofton to save money on ferry fares and accommodation over the long term.

Hockey season gets underway with pre-season tryouts in early September. The regular season lasts well into March and many kids keep skating at training camps held throughout the spring and summer.

"You basically need to tap into every resource to make hockey happen in the family," Aven said.

Whereas many other parents would be content to toss their kids in the pool or buy a pair of soccer cleats, Salt Spring's hockey parents persist in spite of the challenges. For Rouselle, it's watching his son develop skills and dream of



PHOTO COURTESY SABRINA AVEN

Ten-year-old Kodiak Aven-Picard (looking at camera) is one of several Salt Spring kids playing hockey on Vancouver Island.

becoming a better player. The sense of teamwork and responsibility among players and the solidarity with fellow parents eases some of the sting.

"As a parent, it's been interesting to watch. You get coaches involved and other like-minded parents," he said. "It's been nice to watch the positive side of the kids and how they learn to be courteous, the way they wear a suit and tie before every game."

In Aven's case, watching the sheer joy the game

brings to her son is enough reward for all the sacrifice. Not having to drag your sleepy pre-teen out of bed at 5 a.m. because he's so excited to hit the ice seems to defy nature, Aven added.

"There's that moment when he's kind of groggy from the early morning wake-up, wipes his eyes, and as soon as his skates touch the ice he is where he feels his best. That is the moment he has waited for since the last time he was on the ice," she said. "And it's apparent in his smile."

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DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Bridge hordes not bored

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

"Society is now one polish'd horde, Formed of two mighty tribes, the Bored and Bored." — George Gordon, Lord Byron

Well, there were no Boreds or Bored among the not quite teeming hordes who arrived for duplicate bridge on Nov. 25, but there were eight and a half tables, a record turnout for recent times.

The most polish'd on this occasion among the North/South tribe were Liz and Oleh Mycyk, and among the East/West bunch were Joanne Elizabeth and Jill Evans. Second N/S were Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor; E/W were Charles Kahn and Judy Norget. Gisela Welsh and Glenda Kaiser were third N/S, while April Wright and Michel Jutras gained that spot E/W. In fourth place were George Laundry and Paul Retallack N/S, and Al Wilke and Nadene McCoy E/W.

Dec. 2 saw a very different turnout — only six full tables, so no N/S and E/W tribes. Polish'd and shining again were the Mycyks, with George and Flo Laundry the runners-up. Ted Baldwinson and Terry Clement were in third place, with April Wright and Judy Nurse coming fourth. The Boreds and Bored never showed up.