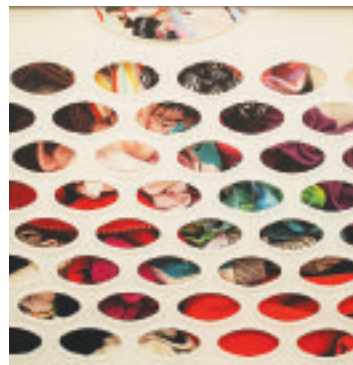


GULF ISLANDS

# Driftwood

 Wednesday, November 2, 2016 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 56TH YEAR — ISSUE 44 **\$1.25** (incl. GST)


## FIRE DISTRICT

## Four fire trustees resign

'Insurmountable frustration' cited among reasons

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The future of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District is mired in uncertainty following the sudden resignations of four trustees in the past 10 days.

A statement issued by the fire district on Monday confirms trustees Michael Craig and Derek Hill submitted verbal resignations during an in-camera meeting to discuss "matters pertaining to labour relations" on Monday, Oct. 24.

By Wednesday, trustee Linda Lee announced she was stepping down as fire district chair. Lee and trustee Norbert Schlenker submitted their resignations after a special meeting of trustees held on Friday, Oct. 28.

Trustee Mitchell Forest was elected chair of the board at the district's Oct. 28 meeting. Forest and Howard Baker are the only two remaining trustees.

"I decided to remain on the board, as did Howard Baker, because we both felt that there were still issues to be dealt with that would allow the district to continue to do business, and we needed to stay to attend to them," Forest wrote in a statement provided on Tuesday. "For example, I as chair needed to deal with signing authority for all items the district currently writes cheques for. That includes salary cheques for our employees."

"We felt it was in the best interest of the district to remain."

FIRE BOARD continued on 4



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

**CLOWNS ARE SCARY:** Kim Dalton proves that clowns are indeed creepy as she plays the part at the Spook House on Halloween night. For more photos, see page 15 and the Driftwood's Facebook page.

## HOMELESSNESS

## Province boosts shelter nights

In From the Cold opens for another season with welcome news

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Community Services Society's over-night shelter opened its doors for the first time this season Tuesday night with welcome news of increased funding from BC Housing.

The provincial government agency has agreed to fully fund every night the homeless shelter is open from between Nov. 1 and March 31. In previous years, the BC Housing subsidy was only provided when outdoor temperatures met a strict weather threshold.

According to the new funding arrangement with BC Housing, the shelter subsidy will be based on need rather than weather.

"We have been requesting funding for this basic need for a number of years and are relieved to know that the funding has been granted finally," said Jordan Lessick, coordinator of SSICS's Housing First program.

The In From the Cold shelter can provide up to 20 people with basic overnight accommodation.

SHELTER continued on 2

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# Other 'glaring needs' can be addressed

## SHELTER continued from 1

Increased funding for the shelter arose as a key priority during a public discussion hosted by the Copper Kettle Community Partnership's Cherie Geauvreau at the Lions Hall on Oct. 26. Offering homeless people on the island a place to stay warm and dry overnight during the harshest time of year is a basic step toward meeting the immediate needs of Salt Spring's homeless population, Geauvreau told the audience.

Operating the shelter costs roughly \$600 per night, according to Rob Wiltzen, a spokesperson for SSICS.

BC Housing will cover basic shelter operations,

including staffing from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m., site costs and miscellaneous items like food, laundry and janitorial services. The new funding model will see BC Housing cover roughly 80 per cent of the shelter's cost. Community Services will have to fundraise to cover additional shelter costs, which could reach \$20,000, Wiltzen added.

An unofficial homeless count conducted in February 2016 counted 83 homeless people living on Salt Spring Island. Thirteen of those included in the survey were youths. Geauvreau said these statistics give Salt Spring one of the highest per-capita rates of homelessness in Canada.

"Relieving a bit of pressure on the necessary community work to keep the shel-

ter open every night means we can address some of the other glaring needs," Lessick said.

## "Securing a safe shelter for youth is a top priority given the results of the homeless count last winter."

JORDAN LESSICK  
Housing First manager, SSI  
Community Services

"Securing a safe shelter for youth is a top priority given the results of the homeless count last winter. Even

with 20 mats being funded, it doesn't add up to a solution for a significant portion of homeless individuals and certainly not for youth."

SSICS's Housing First program helps islanders identify housing options and connects people with support services and assistance to secure housing, provide support with landlord relations and offer subsidies.

The work of SSICS is subject to funding from government agencies, non-profit organizations, foundations and other fundraising efforts.

"We have been grateful for community donations to keep the shelter open in past years," Lessick said. "We would like to direct donations this year towards improving our services for youth shelter services."

## HEALTH CARE

# Local recovery bed program nixed

Requirements  
impossible: proponent

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's inability to play a part in providing 500 substance use recovery beds across British Columbia by 2017 is being questioned by the organization that was gearing up to offer the service locally.

Salt Spring Community Services responded to a request for proposals issued by Island Health in May for the provision of two residential beds. That RFP was abruptly cancelled on Oct. 7, just when Community Services was aligning the various partners it hoped would make the proposal possible. SSICS executive director Rob Grant is now wondering how health planners thought the RFP could be met as worded when the requirements didn't meet Salt Spring's reality.

"I just can't imagine how it was ever going to succeed. It was kind of doomed to failure," Grant told the Driftwood.

The Island Health RFP specified a full staffing model for the two beds, and also stated the new beds must be attached to an existing service. There are no residential beds outside of Lady Minto Hospital, so that was automatically untenable, Grant

pointed out.

In addition, the 24-hour staffing requirement would require three people to cover round-the-clock shifts. At the minimum, Grant said that would cost more than the \$200,000 annually that Island Health allocated for total program delivery.

Community Services nonetheless attempted to create a scenario where it could deliver the recovery bed service, and thought it had one by partnering with Community Living BC, the Salt Spring Foundation and a private donor. The plan was to purchase a home and use it both as a location for the substance use recovery beds and services that CLDC funds for adults with disabilities.

"We worked very hard to put all that together," Grant said.

Although the final location and CLDC partnership had yet to be confirmed, Grant was confident these would be secured and asked Island Health for a deadline extension. A meeting with the Salt Spring Foundation was scheduled for the very afternoon that an Island Health email came in stating the RFP had been withdrawn. No communication about it has been sent to Community Services since.

Island Health says it is now looking at other methods of service delivery for the community.

"In response to the call for proposals, we appreciated receiving a proposal from one prospective proponent," information from the health authority's communications department stated. "After careful review of the proposal and discussions with the potential service provider, it became clear that the proposal we received did not align with the services sought in the RFP, and would not meet the needs of clients we are seeking to serve."

"We remain committed to making investments in substance-use services on Salt Spring Island/Southern Gulf Islands and are exploring other service options in partnership with health care providers and clinical professionals in the community."

Grant said even if Island Health accepted the Community Services proposal, there would have been difficulty with the recovery bed program. People in beds in other communities spend their days accessing support services such as individual counsellor sessions and groups.

"The notion of a supportive recovery program is there should be a safe and supportive place for people to live and a means to connect with supportive services," Grant said. "We don't have groups or the space to run groups, and there's a six-week waiting list to see a counsellor."



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# NEWSBEAT

## Heads up!

**Daylight Saving Time Ends:**

Sunday, NOVEMBER 6 at 2 a.m.

Turn clocks back 1 hr before you go to bed Saturday

### PARKS

## PARC releases draft design for a future Centennial Park

Washroom replacement set for winter 2017-18

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission has released a final draft design and master plan for Centennial Park that retains many popular park features as it draws to the close of an extensive nine-month consultation process.

"Community consultations highlighted that Centennial Park has a fantastic location, hosts great events and boasts a few well-loved features, including the tree canopy," the Capital Regional District stated in a press release issued Monday. "The consultations also helped identify where Centennial Park can be improved to fulfill its potential as a well-utilized and welcoming space, particularly on days without planned events."

The consultation process has included a survey, a roundtable session with stakeholders, a design charette and the public distribution of three potential design plans. Areas that were identified as needing improvement included the park's existing design limitations, safety issues and limited connection to the waterfront and surrounding village.

The final design synthesizes favourite elements without making a significant

departure from what the park currently looks like, except for removing the performance gazebo and berms and planning a new stage in the centre of the park.

"The three designs came out of the first two stages of the community consultation," Salt Spring parks manager Dan Ovington explained. "There was feedback on the three designs — we tried to pull out a lot of the negative and focus on the positive."

Ovington emphasized the updated master plan is intended to inform CRD decisions for the next 20 years, but the only immediate plans are the washroom replacement, scheduled to take place in 2017-18. Identifying the correct placement for the washroom project, along with addressing drainage and flooding issues at the park, was the main impetus for updating the master plan. Other work may go ahead in phases as needs arise and grant funding is acquired.

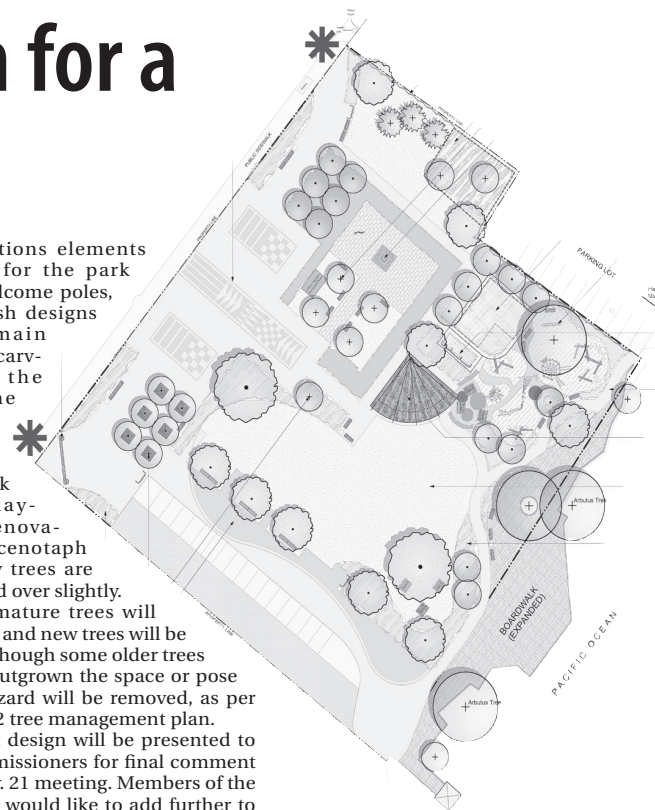
"So the bulldozers and the tree cutters won't be going in tomorrow," Ovington said.

Under the updated plan, the Saturday market is to remain in its current location in two wings along Fulford-Ganges Road and "Gasoline Alley," and will continue to occupy 25 per cent of the park, but hard space is to be expanded to allow improved walkability and flow.

First Nations elements proposed for the park include welcome poles, Coast Salish designs on the main plaza and carvings on the stage. The plan also calls for an expanded boardwalk and a playground renovation. The cenotaph and cherry trees are to be moved over slightly.

Several mature trees will be retained and new trees will be planted, although some older trees that have outgrown the space or pose a safety hazard will be removed, as per PARC's 2012 tree management plan.

The draft design will be presented to PARC commissioners for final comment at their Nov. 21 meeting. Members of the public who would like to add further to the process are welcome to submit an application to give a delegation at that meeting. Contact the PARC office at 250-537-4448 for details, or download the form from [crd.bc.ca](http://crd.bc.ca) under Salt Spring Island Parks. The updated master plan is also available online.



Draft design for an upgraded Centennial Park. Work would only be done as funds become available, except for washroom building replacement by 2018. A full-colour version of this plan is part of online materials on the CRD's SSIPARC website.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Winner off to see Strippers

Julie Mills of Salt Spring was the winner of two free tickets to this Saturday's Comic Strippers comedy show at ArtSpring after responding to last week's ticket giveaway contest in the Driftwood and having her name drawn from the entries.

Two more tickets are being given away via the Drift-

wood's Facebook page.

Comic Strippers tickets are otherwise going fast, so people should get them through ArtSpring ASAP in order to avoid disappointment.

### Halloween noise calls investigated

Local RCMP responded to eight separate noise complaints over the past week-

end, involving Halloween house parties and fireworks/firecracker-related noise complaints.

In all cases, the partygoers cooperated with police, and the noise ceased after police attended.

The RCMP detachment handed out candy during Halloween day on Oct. 31, and responded to a few noise complaints related to fireworks/firecrackers that evening, but otherwise had a calm

night. Officers report there was lots of foot traffic around town, but everyone was well behaved and enjoying the festivities.

In other news, police reconnected the owner of the Vagabond with the missing vessel, which had been reported as possibly stolen. A member of the public found the boat on Oct. 29, run aground in a creek in the 200 block of Long Harbour Road. Local media reports were cited by

the finder in his recognizing that the boat was either lost or stolen. Police suspect the vessel broke free and drifted, rather than being stolen.

### Scorpions off to North Islands

The Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior boys soccer team aims to keep its season rolling forward this week

in Mill Bay.

Frances Kelsey Secondary School hosts the tournament on Nov. 2 and 3 to determine which teams will compete in the Vancouver Island championships. Top teams from the competition will move ahead to compete in provincial finals.

GISS coach Ciaran Ayton said the road ahead will be tricky but he is confident that his boys can emerge victorious.

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### ISLANDS TRUST MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee will hold a Public Hearing within a Local Trust Committee Business Meeting on:

- **Proposed Bylaw No. 170** – cited as "Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw No. 146, 2008, Amendment No.2, 2016"

for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaws at **1:00 p.m., Monday, November 7, 2016, at the Mayne Island Agricultural Hall, 430 Fernhill Road, Mayne Island, BC.**

At the Public Hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaws shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaws.

- **Proposed Bylaw No. 170** – cited as "Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw No. 146, 2008, Amendment No.2, 2016"

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 170, is to amend Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw No. 146 in two ways:

The first amendment changes the Commercial Tourist Accommodation C2(b) zoning that applies to Strata Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20, VIS 6703 by adding residential use, including employee housing use as permitted uses. The units are presently permitted to be used as tourist accommodation units only. The location of strata lots subject to this amendment (13-20) are shown on Plan No. 1 below.

The second amendment changes the C2(b) zone by increasing the maximum floor area permitted for accessory retail sales to 40 m<sup>2</sup> (430 ft<sup>2</sup>) allow for additional commercial retail space. This amendment applies to the whole area zoned as C2(b) shown on Plan No. 1 as the subject property (Mayne Island Resort).

PLAN NO. 1



A copy of the proposed bylaws and any background material that may be considered by the Local Trust Committee in respect of the proposed bylaws may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, **commencing October 26, 2016, and up to and including November 4, 2016.**

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2) (e) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the proposed bylaws may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Mayne Island, B.C., commencing **October 26, 2016**. The proposed bylaws can also be viewed on the internet at the following URL: [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/mayne/bylaws](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/mayne/bylaws)

Written submissions may be delivered to:

1. The office of the Islands Trust by mail at #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, by Fax (250) 405-5155 prior to **4:30 p.m., November 4, 2016.**
2. By email to: [vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca).
3. After **4:30 p.m., November 4, 2016**, to the Local Trust Committee at the Public Hearing at **1:00 pm, November 7, 2016.**

The public is asked to send any electronic response by using the email address [vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca). The Islands Trust does not guarantee that any email submission will be received by the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide email submissions, if they are opened and received, to the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee for consideration, but the public should not rely on email as a means of providing a written submission.

Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaws may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Gary Richardson, Planner, at (250) 405-5157 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

**NO REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Sharon Lloyd-deRosario, Deputy Secretary

## INCORPORATION STUDY

# Study group completes report

First of three open house and town halls set for Nov. 7

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The final report of the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee reveals island property owners can expect "no overall tax impact" if islanders were to opt for incorporation.

"In the 'apples to apples' analysis and using 2016 constant-dollar analysis, the current tax rates could be maintained even after Year 5 once a transition period has been completed," reads part of the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Final Report.

The document was released to the public Thursday morning following nearly two years of discussion and analysis. Copies of the report's executive summary, appendices and full text can be downloaded at [www.ssiincorporationstudy.com](http://www.ssiincorporationstudy.com) or viewed at the Salt Spring Island Public Library. Hard copies are available for purchase in various formats from Apple Photo in Ganges.

The report's authors empha-

size conclusions about property tax implication are based on transferring current levels of service to a new municipality.

The study identifies "risks, opportunities and uncertainties that could result in adjustments to expenses and revenue."

**The report's authors emphasize conclusions about property tax implication are based on transferring currently levels of service to a new municipality.**

These include service level changes voted on by council members, a more "proactive road maintenance system" and the potential construction of a municipal hall.

Release of the final report comes ahead of three open house/town-hall meetings scheduled in November. Sessions will be held at the Salt Spring Island Middle School

on Monday, Nov. 7 between 5:30 and 9 p.m., Fulford Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 8 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., and at the middle school on Sunday, Nov. 20 between 1 and 4:30 p.m.

In each case, a presentation by committee members will begin about one hour after doors open.

Incorporation Study Committee members will weigh the report's findings with public opinions provided at public meetings to develop a possible recommendation about whether or not to hold a governance referendum. A recommendation is expected before the end of November.

"The recommendation will not be an indication of support for one form of governance or another, but will simply represent whether the committee believes that it has provided local citizens with the accurate and substantially complete information required to make an informed decision on incorporation," the report states.

A possible referendum to decide the island's political future must be ordered by the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. The earliest potential referendum date is February 2017.

# Board limited to 'caretaker mode'

## FIRE BOARD

continued from 1

Speaking Tuesday morning, former trustee Hill said his decision to resign stems partially from frustration with the fire district's inability to pursue meaningful, cost-effective changes.

"We straightened out policies that were lacking before, but there's always that elephant in the room to cut costs and do more than nibble away at expenses," he said. "For me it was just general frustration at not being able to move forward the way I would like."

Hill said he sought to run the fire district like a normal business but faced the ever-present challenge of meeting demands by the union that represents staff firefighters.

The collective bargaining agreement between the Salt Spring Fire Protection District and Local 4467 of the International Association of Fire Fighters expires on Dec. 31, 2016.

"Everybody tried their best, but with anything that we tried we weren't making any headway," he said.

"We have great firemen and great service, but we have great costs; how we got there is pretty easy to see," he added. "How much it costs is what counts."

Hill said he was "completely cut-off" from any further communication with trustees following his decision to step down.

Trustees Craig and Lee did not respond to multiple requests for a comment on the situation over the past week. Schlenker contacted the Driftwood on Friday but declined to comment on the matter.

"I hereby resign as a trustee of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District," reads the entirety of Schlenker's signed Oct. 28 resignation note.

Lee's letter attributes her decision to personal reasons that no longer permit her to "dedicate the countless hours to do an excellent job as trustee."

**"Everybody tried their best, but with anything that we tried we weren't making any headway."**

DEREK HILL  
Former fire trustee

She thanked trustees and wished the board's remaining members the very best.

The fire district has appointed Thomas Moore to act as return officer for a by-election to fill the board's vacancies, according to the statement released on Monday.

When asked how soon islanders can expect to see a by-election on Salt Spring, Moore said

he had yet to be contacted by the fire district.

"What's going on over there?" Moore asked on Monday evening.

Moore, who lives on Vancouver Island, expressed surprise when informed that four trustees had resigned. He said the fact that only two trustees remain on the board could force intervention by the provincial government before an election can be called.

Trustee Baker said the process to initiate a by-election has begun but suggested the province could offer a temporary solution to reduce the costs of redundant or repeated elections given the prospect of a governance referendum on Salt Spring in early 2017.

The fire district letters patent sets the size of the improvement district board of trustees at seven trustees.

A provincial government spokesperson confirmed the two-member committee no longer has quorum, but the district still retains authority to continue with day-to-day operations through its staff.

Ministry staff has communicated with fire district administrator Andrew Peat and indicated that until the board has quorum, the board must operate in "caretaker mode" and no future-focused decisions should be made by the improvement district, including any decisions that have financial consequences.

## WATER QUALITY

# Cowichan dog deaths cause concern

Pet owners advised to use common sense

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The deaths of four dogs who came into contact with toxic algae in Quamichan Lake near Duncan have prompted a Salt Spring couple to demand more be done to monitor and publicize awareness about the potential for similar outbreaks in Salt Spring lakes.

"It is the responsibility of the powers that be to inform people and let them make their own decisions about swimming in and drinking from the lakes," said Wayne Hewitt, a member of the Cusheon Lake Stewardship group.

Hewitt and his wife Doreen draw their domestic water directly from Cusheon Lake. Speaking on Monday morning, the couple said they haven't sipped a drop of their tap water since late September, when they discovered cyanobacteria toxins in the lake.

Other than their own testing and data provided by the Capital Regional District, Hewitt said, obtaining information about algae toxicity in any of Salt Spring's major lakes is a difficult task.

"The rest of us need that information," he said. "In my opinion, if the threats are continuously downplayed, little to nothing will ever be done by anyone, including local, provincial and federal governments, to help prevent cyanobacterial blooms

from occurring."

Hewitt said he hopes media attention surrounding the deaths of the four Cowichan Valley dogs in October will generate the momentum needed for change. In each of the cases, the otherwise healthy and active dogs are reported to have shown signs consistent with cyanobacteria toxin poisoning within hours of exposure to the slimy blue-green algae.

Speaking on behalf of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, environmental manager Meghan McKee said testing of untreated and treated water in St. Mary Lake undertaken by the district has not revealed any toxins.

"We've been using the best testing methods every week and have not had a positive hit," she said.

Samples of St. Mary Lake water conducted by the CRD in September did, however, find evidence of toxins.

McKee said the deaths of dogs in the Cowichan Valley isn't a cause for greater concern on Salt Spring, though residents should exercise common sense and keep pets away from lake areas with visible concentrations of surface algae.

"I would say also that it's possible for different parts of the lake to be affected differently," she said. "There is always potential for toxic cyanobacteria in the lake."

On Salt Spring, CRD and NSSWD jurisdiction is limited to drinking water standards. Recreational use of the lakes falls under the responsibility of Island Health.

Public monitoring of non-drinking water



FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Evie enjoys a frolic at Cusheon Lake this summer. Recent dog deaths attributed to cyanobacteria in Cowichan Valley lakes have raised an alarm.

lakes such as Stowel, Blackburn, Bullock and Ford is not undertaken, said Shannon Cowan, coordinator of the Salt Spring Watershed Protection Authority.

Cowan said SSIWPA is trying to improve communications between local government agencies who monitor water quality and Island Health.

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## Advertising Deadline Change

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will **not be open on Friday, Nov. 11 Remembrance Day**, and will re-open for usual business hours on Monday, Nov. 14.

**Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday Nov. 16th edition will be as follows:**

Display Advertising Deadline:  
**Thursday, Nov. 10, 3pm**

Classified Display Deadline:  
**Monday, Nov. 14, 1pm**

Classified Word Deadline:  
**Tuesday, Nov. 15, 9am**

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## TRANSPORTATION

# Lower Ganges pathway scouted

No imminent plans for improving Ganges Hill

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District and the Salt Spring Transportation Commission are heading into the next phase of pedestrian and cycling improvements in Ganges, with plans now coming into focus for Lower Ganges Road.

Karla Campbell, the island's senior CRD manager for Salt Spring, reported at SSITC's Oct. 24 meeting that a walk-about with JE Anderson engineers had taken place earlier that day with the idea of creating a "reduced scope" plan for the area.

JE Anderson is the consulting firm that produced the North Ganges Transportation Plan in 2010, which originally called for major intersection work at Lower Ganges and Rainbow roads and a roundabout at Lower Ganges and Upper Ganges roads, plus paved sidewalks in between. A CRD report states the less ambitious plan for the first intersection will "generally follow the current road alignment, meet budgetary constraints and respect the rural nature of the community."

Campbell said the intersection of Lower Ganges and Upper Ganges roads could have pedestrian crosswalks and an accel-

erator lane to help advance turning traffic. A two-metre pathway will be constructed on the "upland" side of Lower Ganges Road between Upper Ganges and Rainbow roads, which could narrow at some points to avoid obstacles. The work is slated to be completed in 2017.

The first section of the multi-use pathway on the north side of Rainbow Road in front of Gulf Islands Secondary School will be completed this year, the CRD progress report states.

**Capital funding of \$1 million for the North Ganges Transportation Plan was approved by taxpayer referendum in 2014 for the years 2015 to 2018.**

The segment between the intersection of Jackson Avenue and Kanaka Road west to the GISS soccer field is pending while the CRD waits for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to address historical drainage issues. The remaining sections to Lower Ganges Road will be advanced

to tender with construction expected in early 2017.

Capital funding of \$1 million for the North Ganges Transportation Plan was approved by taxpayer referendum in 2014 for the years 2015 to 2018.

The CRD report notes improvements along Fulford-Ganges Road into Ganges village (Ganges Hill) will not be considered during this phase due to cost constraints, and could depend on funding by a referendum timed with the 2018 local elections.

In other news from the Oct. 24 SSITC meeting, commissioners heard a delegation from Beddis Road residents who remain concerned about speed bumps put on the road by property owners Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks. The bumps have now been bolstered by piles of rocks on the sides to stop drivers seeking to avoid them.

Delegates Arthur Black and Bev Bolton disagree with the property owners that the section of the road is private, and said they want the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to remove all bumps, rocks and signage. They have so far failed to get a response from Gary Holman, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands.

Though outside the commission's direct mandate, members agreed to send a letter to Holman asking him to advocate on residents' behalf.

## The Sounds of Life.



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**BATTERIES  
HALF PRICE**  
Month of  
November.

# OPINION



2016 CCNA Awards  
Gold - Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan) | Gold - Environmental Writing (Elizabeth Nolan)  
Gold - Special Section (Best of Salt Spring Island) | Silver - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)  
Bronze - Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)

2016 BCYNA Awards  
Silver - Environmental Initiative (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - General Excellence



## EDITORIAL

# Four-alarm fire board

The mass resignation of four of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's six elected trustees leaves many questions about what caused the sudden departures and what's in store for a troubled improvement district.

Elected with a mandate to curb spending and improve public "transparency" to fire board operations, former trustees Michael Craig, Derek Hill, Linda Lee and Norbert Schlenker were among those determined to shift the business-as-usual approach with which the voting public had clearly had enough.

Anyone who has attended a monthly fire district meeting in the past year is familiar with the table full of committee minutes, reports, policy proposals and financial updates that greets attendees by the door.

### THE ISSUE:

Fire board resignations

### WE SAY:

Reasons required

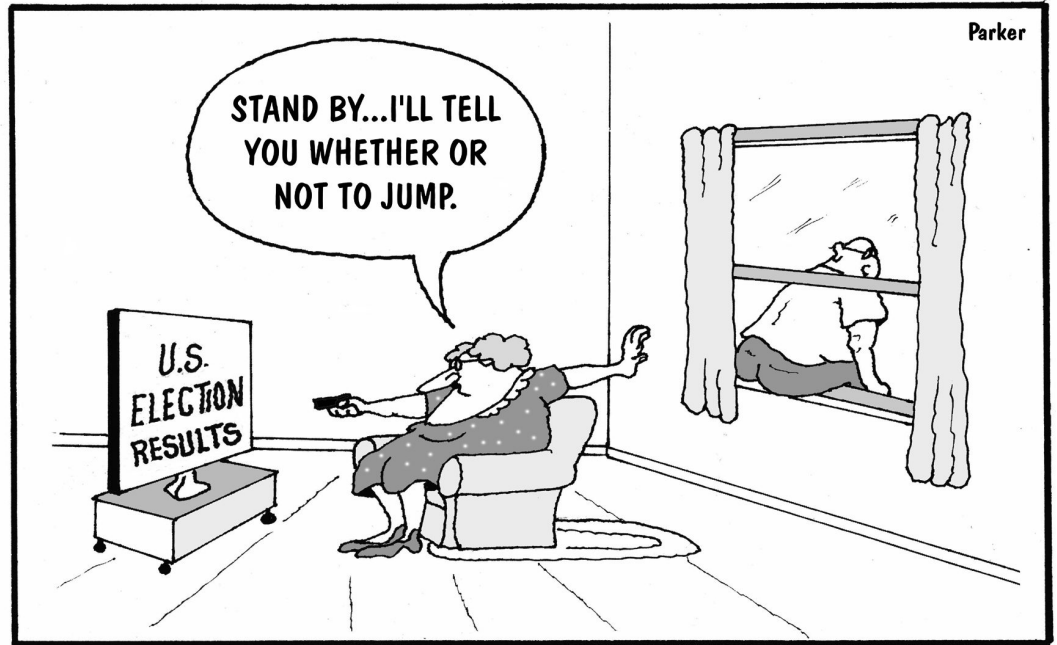
Likewise, trustees have done well to post documents online alongside meeting notifications. Few among us can deny the board's level of openness has been far ahead of where things stood only a few years ago.

Despite these notable changes, however, much remains to be accomplished. The island is without a plan to replace the fire hall in Ganges, and negotiations with the union representing career firefighters have evidently stalled. Only two of the seven trustee positions are now filled. There is Howard Baker, who was elected last December, and Mitch Forest, who has been on the board since April 2015.

Assuming a new slate of potential fire trustees emerges in the weeks ahead, they could use some help from past trustees. Those who have already served should share their thoughts about what went wrong, where rifts began to form and what must be done so the fire district can effectively oversee the island's pre-eminent public safety organization and ensure island taxpayers are getting acceptable value for money.

Over the past 16 months alone, the district has witnessed the sudden and unexplained dismissal of a fire chief, mid-term resignations from eight trustees and now the need for yet another by-election.

The community deserves answers about how this situation happened so it will not be repeated in the future.



VIEWPOINT by Mitch Forest

# New board to address old issues

The press release from the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that was passed about reflects very accurately what has gone on with the board. Effectively, four members are no longer part of the board. Each of them has their own reason and I believe they should speak to their reasons for leaving.

I decided to remain on the board, as did Howard Baker, because we both felt there were still issues to be dealt with that would allow the district to continue to do business and we needed to stay to attend to them. For example, I as chair needed to deal with signing authority for all items the district currently writes cheques for. That includes salary cheques for our employees. We felt it was in the best interest of the district to remain.

### How do we get back on track?

The fire board, before the final two resignations, appropriately made sure that an election would be held to fill the vacancies. The only way we can get back on track is to have a full board. Currently, there being no quorum there can be no new business accomplished. I, as chair, therefore have a very limited role as a result.

One of my jobs will be to preside over the newly elected board until a vote is held amongst the new board members to choose either a new chair or leave me in that position. For the meanwhile I am the voice of the board and can only speak to limited

issues. There is no board to direct me and with no quorum I cannot make statements that do not reflect a majority of board members' voted-on directions.

**We were elected with a mandate to reduce the escalating fire district budget that has tripled since 2005.**

I have asked current committee members for their support by staying on. I believe the continuity of their committee work is very important to allow for the best transition possible with a new board. Committees can still meet but no items can be brought before a board for action. All of the members of the standing committees have worked very hard on behalf of the district and it is their hard work that has enabled the board to make important changes.

We were elected with a mandate to reduce the escalating fire district budget that has tripled since 2005. The finance committee worked tirelessly to

hold the budget at or as close to level over the past three years. However, the budget has to address unavoidable contractual obligations and capital expenditures. The estimate is that the budget could rise 20 per cent within three years. Ratepayers were unknowingly committed to contractual obligations that have been driving the budget increases.

There are no easy solutions to this problem and it had been this quandary that the board had to deal with and, quite frankly, it is the same quandary a new board will have to deal with as well.

*The writer is the new chair of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District board and one of two remaining fire trustees.*

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

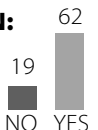
**Would you be willing to be a SSI fire trustee?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Are you following the U.S. election race?**



**Driftwood**

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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "So the bulldozers and the tree cutters won't be going in tomorrow."**

PARC MANAGER DAN OVINGTON, ON CENTENNIAL PARK PLANS

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** How has the island's affordable housing situation affected you?



**DORIS WLASITZ**

*We've just sold our home at Brinkworthy and are moving to Nanaimo. Prices are still up, and people are noticeably buying and selling.*



**MEKHALA BAUERLE**

*The cost of living and the taxes are very high.*



**LOUISE NYE**

*I wonder why the empty houses in the failed Bullock Lake development can't be used for affordable housing.*



**LING WESTON**

*It's absolutely necessary to find a solution, especially with winter coming.*



**ROSELYNE SCHNEIDER**

*It hasn't personally but it affects a lot of people I encounter as a nurse.*

## Letters to the editor

### Emissions solutions

Fossil fuels are not renewable resources, and I know I'm not alone in realizing that investing more and more in the oil and gas industry is setting our economy and our environment up for eventual disaster.

Which will come first? The end of our oil as a resource, or the end of a comfortable and livable planet? Do we really want to find out?

Canada should cut carbon emissions by one-third within a decade to keep

the promises we made at the December United Nations climate conference in Paris. We need to take steps, although they may be uncomfortable for some who have grown dependent on oil and gas for financial security, to ensure that we are doing everything we can to preserve the environment, the climate, our self-respect and our economy in the long term.

From discomfort stems growth, so let us move through this period of disagreement and wary interactions with our friends and

family who vouch for fossil fuels to solutions that will benefit all.

**HANNAH SPRAY,**  
SALT SPRING

### Volunteer culture could be lost

A largely unnoticed, largely unsung everyday miracle of life on Salt Spring is our culture of volunteering.

From the food bank to the film fest, from the library to search and rescue, so much of our rich island life depends on and is nour-

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

ished by volunteers. A volunteer culture also promotes important values, among them generosity, selflessness and cooperation. As do most people with their ambient culture, we tend to take ours for granted — the air we move through, the ground on which we stand. I noticed it afresh myself because of two articles in last week's Driftwood.

One was about how enhanced medical and forensic care, including the administration of rape kits, is now being offered at Lady Minto Hospital by locally trained forensic nurse exam-

iners. How did this essential service come to Salt Spring? Terry Lake, B.C.'s minister of health, said it was brought about "by a community committed to removing barriers through collaboration and open discussion."

And the other article? It was Bowen Islanders weighing in on how incorporation had changed their community. Terry Cotter, who'd supported incorporation and was a municipal councillor from 2002 to 2005, told of how disappointed he was with the "intense levels of bickering and opposition" that "stifled many visionary

community plans as islanders adapted to the new political framework."

Much of the discussion on incorporation has focused on numbers — how it will affect our taxes — and this is important. Just as important, though, is how it will affect our way of life. How will municipal status erode our unique volunteer culture?

All too often (the Brexit vote comes to mind) you don't value what you have until it's gone. By then, though, it's likely too late to get it back.

**MURRAY REISS,**  
FULFORD

# The lap of luxury could be ours as Saltonians

If you're like me, you've probably been scratching your head for the last several weeks trying to understand the on-again off-again on-again off-again trade talks between Canada and the European Union. As of the eve before Halloween, it appears that both sides had finally come to an agreement, but not before the signing of the accord was delayed a few hours when Prime Minister Trudeau's plane had to turn back to Ottawa because of mechanical problems. It wouldn't surprise me if the process was delayed further by another crisis such as the pen used to sign the agreement running out of ink.

It's actually been more than seven years of negotiations that have brought both sides this close to a final handshake on the Comprehensive European Trade Agreement (CETA). In fact, it was the Harper government that initiated the talks and we all know how popular his policies remain today.

Nevertheless, the Liberals under Justin Trudeau have picked up the ball and are running with it. If all goes well, the government tells us, there should be loads of trade advantages for both Canada and the 28 member countries of the EU.

If these assurances sound familiar, you might be thinking back to the NAFTA treaty which came into effect in 1994. At the time, this trade agreement was heralded as the cat's meow, and was supposed to remove trade barriers and tariffs between Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. All of our economies were going to flourish and we would all be happy as clams at high tide.

Instead, NAFTA has contributed to envi-

ronmental degradation, loss of jobs to cheap foreign labour, worsening of working conditions in Mexican farm labour, and massive exportation of Canadian energy and water south of the border. Some clams. Some high tide.

It's not that difficult to understand then why a certain leanness arises when the subject of CETA comes up. Although all the member nations of the EU are ostensibly in favour of the agreement, cracks in the solidarity are beginning to show. European Greens have come out in opposition, as well as some of the many socialist parties that make up a significant slice of the political system on the other side of the pond. Ironically, even many of the right-wing nationalist parties also oppose CETA.

The biggest fly in the ointment, however, has been Wallonia, a French-speaking province in Belgium known primarily for its traditional Trappist beer. Although it comprises a mere one per cent of the population of the European Union, Wallonia has cried out "not so fast" and has threatened to scuttle the trade agreement.

According to Belgian regulations, all regions of the country must approve any international agreement before it can go into law. You all remember Belgium. It's that pathetic, low-lying country that German armies regularly had to march through as a shortcut on their way to invading bigger fish like France. Well, apparently, the Walloons (as natives of Wallonia are wont to call themselves) are tired of decades



**Shilo Zylbergold**

### NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

of disrespect and are now demanding that the rest of the world take note that they are sick and tired of being ignored. They are simply not going to take it anymore.

Perhaps we here on Salt Spring should take a page out of the Walloon book. We can start by declaring ourselves the Duchy of Saltonia and make outrageous demands on the Canadian government in return for our agreement to ratify the CETA proposal.

What kind of outrageous demands are we Saltoons (I know, sounds like some kind of cracker) talking about? How about roads that don't suddenly have the fountain of youth spewing out into the middle of an intersection? And while we're at it, why not throw in some yellow centre lines that stay visible for more than a month after they are painted. Some white lines that mark the edge of the pavement and road shoulders that don't disappear willy-nilly would be nice too, but we wouldn't want to appear unreasonably clamorous.

Of course, Saltonia would need to ensure that its economic base would be protected from outside influences. Nobody wants to see cheap foreign tofu, for instance, flooding our shores and squishing our fair market value. Likewise, our free-range eggs need to be guarded from the onslaught of commercially graded "Big Chicken" corporate agribusiness competition trying to crack our healthy, ethical standards.

That's not all. For many living here in Salto-

nia, tourism is the life blood that keeps the economy flowing. Let's face it, if visitors were to stop coming to the island, we would probably find that we had more parking spots available and less lineups to endure. But then we would have precious few reasons for having to park our cars or to get into a lineup, and we might have to leave our cars parked permanently at home, having fewer dollars in pocket for gas or groceries!

In order to maintain this delicate symbiotic balance to sustain our tourist economy without losing Saltonia's soul in some cheese time-share resort type manner, we would need to be assured that all travel leaving the island will be matched equally on a "quid pro quo" basis by tourists coming here to divest themselves of any spare shekels they might own. You can see how this would work to Saltonia's advantage as a trip by a Saltoon to Victoria for a dental appointment might be offset by a reciprocating "spending spree" visit from the Crown Prince of Lichtenstein and his entire entourage.

In the 1955 satirical novel and subsequent British film, *The Mouse that Roared*, the mythical tiny Grand Duchy of Fenwick declares war on the United States in hopes that a quick defeat to the American war machine would bring in Yankee reparation payments to help revitalize the Fenwick economy. Likewise, if we here on Saltonia play our cards right, we could be living in the lap of luxury once ratification of the CETA push comes to shove.

Nobody asked me, but all this back and forth talk about the benefits and drawbacks of CETA sounds particularly familiar. Incorporation, anyone?

# getnoticedboard

The free place to list your regular group activities of any kind.

Send your submissions to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or drop them off at the Driftwood office. Published in the first Driftwood of each month! Brought to you by Saunders Subaru.

## WEDNESDAY

**SALT SPRING GENEALOGY GROUP** meets on the last Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mormon church. Info: [cloudie48@gmail.com](mailto:cloudie48@gmail.com)

**SALT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB** meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room.

**SOUTH SALT SPRING SENIORS** meet on the last Wednesday of each month at Fulford Hall at 2 p.m.

**STITCH DIMENSION QUILT GUILD** meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Salt Spring Island Baptist Church, around the back.

**TEEN BOOK CLUB** for teenagers aged 13 and up meets at the Salt Spring Public Library on the third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**YOUTH CREATIVE WRITING GROUP** for ages 9-13 runs at the Salt Spring Library led by Nikky from 4-6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

**BOOMERFIT** at Fulford Hall. All aspects of fitness are covered (strength, balance, flexibility, etc.) based on functional movement. Coed classes led by certified personal trainer. 9 to 10 a.m. Info: [trisha.synergym@gmail.com](mailto:trisha.synergym@gmail.com), 250-653-4656.

**CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP** for people caring for individuals with Alzheimers and others. Every Wednesday at Salt Spring Seniors (379 Lower Ganges Rd.) at 11 a.m. Info: Margaret Monro, 250-537-5004.

**COMPUTER HELP** — Free help with computer, tablet, smartphone problems at Salt Spring Literacy. By appointment at the literacy centre at 126 Hereford Ave. or by calling 250-537-9717.

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE** group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 12:45 p.m. (for 1 p.m. start)

**KIRTAN** at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 7:30 p.m.

**MEDITATION GROUP** suitable for beginners meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Everyone welcome. Info: Deb Stevenson, 250-930-5333

**MEDITATION MEETINGS** and teachings with the Salt Spring Vipassana Society. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. Teachings offered by Heather Martin. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**MEN'S BRIDGE** at Salt Spring Seniors at 7 p.m.

**PEPPER WALK WITH MOVEMENT INTELLIGENCE CLASS** with Anna Haltetrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd. This innovative movement class features the work of John Pepper and is suitable for people with neurological conditions that are highly motivated to learn solutions for movement difficulties. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Info: Anna Haltetrecht, 250-537-5681, [anna@bonesforever.com](mailto:anna@bonesforever.com)

**PILATES CLASS** with Anna Haltetrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd. 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Info/register: [anna@bonesforever.com](mailto:anna@bonesforever.com) Pilates is a body conditioning system that builds flexibility and long, lean muscles, strength and endurance.

**SSI ROTARY CLUB** meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Harbour House Hotel from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**SENIORS YOGA** with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

**SWING DANCE** at SS Elementary School gym. East-Coast, West-Coast, and Lindy Hop. Everyone welcome. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call Larry Nelson or Wendy Hartnett at 250-537-4118.

**TAOIST TAI CHI** at All Saints By-the-Sea, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

**YOGA** with Dorothy Price. Hatha flow at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m.

**ZEN MEDITATION** at 210 Cedar Lane at 7 p.m. Call 250-653-2411 for details. Newcomers always welcome.

**ZUMBA TONING** with Lee Sigmund at SSI Wellness Centre. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY

**BOOK CLUB** meets on the second Thursday at Salt Spring Seniors in the lounge at 1:30 p.m.

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** meets on the first Thursday of the month at SS Wellness Centre. 1 to 2 p.m. Info: Claire at 778-353-0029 or [clairebeariona@yahoo.com](mailto:clairebeariona@yahoo.com).

**LIBRARY BOOK CLUB** open to all meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the library. 1 to 3 p.m.

**OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT** at the Salt Spring Library Program Room on the first Thursday of the month. Sign-up at 6:45 p.m.; one poem per reader; event begins at 7 p.m. Guest poets read at 7:30.

**TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION** — Group meditations for all who have learned TM. Last Thursday of each month 7:30 p.m. Call 778-353-3014 for address and more information. Free introductory lectures by appointment.

## EVERY THURSDAY

**AL-ANON** for friends and families of alcoholics meets at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 12 noon.

**DANCE TEMPLE** at Beaver Point Hall from 7 to 9 p.m.

**FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT™ CLASS** with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, [alicef@saltspring.com](mailto:alicef@saltspring.com).

**MEN'S YOGA** with Ken Katz at SS Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

**NIA** at Antler Ridge Dance Studio, 211 Horel Rd. 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. See Tuesday NIA description. Info/register: Arleen, 250-653-9235.

**PROBUS** group for retired professionals/business people meets on the second Thursday of each month at Meaden Hall at 10 a.m. with special guest speakers each time. Info: [probus.ssi@gmail.com](mailto:probus.ssi@gmail.com)

**SALTY WHEELS SQUARE DANCE CLUB** meets at 734 Upper Ganges Road. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Info: Marilyne, 250-537-5356.

**SEVEN STARS TAI CHI CLUB** beginners class at 210 Cedar Lane. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 250-537-5667.

**STAY AND PLAY DROP-IN** for parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Family Place. 12:30 to 3 p.m.

**TAOIST TAI CHI** for beginners at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with beginners until noon. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

## EVERY THURSDAY

**YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE** for all levels at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

**YOGA WITH JIM DICKINSON** at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 p.m.

**ZUMBA TONING** with Marifer Robledo at SIMS dance studio until Nov. 24. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Pre-register through PARC at 250-537-4448.

## EVERY FRIDAY

**AIKIDO** for kids and adults at the SSI Wellness Centre. Kids 5 to 6 p.m.; adults 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: Alan, 250-538-5549; [alanwardroper@gmail.com](mailto:alanwardroper@gmail.com).

**BRIDGE GAMES** run at Salt Spring Seniors at 12:30 p.m.

**COFFEE TIME** for seniors is at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**ELEMENTARY BRIDGE COACHING.** Beginning bridge lessons (but also with more advanced coaching available) at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**EVERYBODY STRETCH** — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. SSI Wellness Centre. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT™ CLASS** with Anna Haltetrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 10 to 11 a.m. Move with less pain and stress by learning how to make any activity more effective and more enjoyable. Info/register: [anna@bonesforever.com](mailto:anna@bonesforever.com).

**FRIDAY ADVENTURE CAMP** for ages 6 to 12 years every Friday that school is not in session. SS Elementary School gym. Info/registration through PARC: 250-537-4448.

**GAMES NIGHT** at the Salt Spring library. An evening of board games and other interactive games facilitated by Bryan Dubien. 6 to 9 p.m.

**MAH JONGG** players gather at Salt Spring Seniors at 12:15 p.m.

**MEAT DRAW** at the Legion. 5 p.m.

**STAY AND PLAY DROP-IN** for parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Family Place. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**STORYTIME** — Ideal for kids aged 3 to 6 and their families. SS Library. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

## EVERY SATURDAY

**DAD 'N' ME PANCAKE BREAKFAST** at Family Place. For dads and kids aged 0 to 6. 8:30 to 10 a.m.

**MEAT DRAW** at the Legion. 5 p.m.

**OPEN STAGE OLD TIME CAFE.** On the last Sunday of every month at Fulford Hall OAP annex. 7 to 11 p.m. Everyone welcome to alcohol-free event with good music and munchies. Info: 260-653-9856

**TAOIST TAI CHI** at All Saints from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Open practice. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

**TECH TUTORING WITH JOHN** at the Salt Spring library on Saturdays on the hour from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. All topics, including Macs. Please sign up at the library for the appropriate date and time, complete with contact information and tutoring topic.

## SUNDAY

**UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP** meets on the first three Sundays of every month at Salt Spring Seniors. For weekly program, visit [www.saltspringunitarians.com](http://www.saltspringunitarians.com).

## EVERY SUNDAY

**DRUM CIRCLE** at SSI Wellness Centre. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**KUNDALINI YOGA** with Jaya Levesque at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

**POKER** at the Legion. 1 p.m.

**SEVEN STARS TAI CHI CLUB** — All styles at 210 Cedar Lane. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: 250-537-5667

**SUNDAY SATSANG** at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 3:30 p.m.

## MONDAY

**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC** on the last Monday of each month at SS Seniors. 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

**SSI FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** trustees hold their business meetings on the third Monday of each month at the SSI United Church, lower hall. 7 p.m. Public welcome.

**SSI PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION** usually meets on the third Monday of each month at the SS Library Program Room. 4 to 6 p.m. Public welcome. Confirm meeting date at 250-537-4448.

**SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION** meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the SS Library Program Room. 4 to 6 p.m. Public welcome.

## EVERY MONDAY

**ACTIVE LEARNING** group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 2:30 to 4 p.m.

**BALL HOCKEY** for ages 7 to 11 at the Portlock Park Multi Sport Court until Nov. 21. Register through PARC at 250-537-4448.

**BOOMERFIT** at Beaver Point Hall. All aspects of fitness are covered (strength, balance, flexibility, etc.) based on functional movement. Coed classes led by certified personal trainer. 9 to 10 a.m. Info: [trisha.synergym@gmail.com](mailto:trisha.synergym@gmail.com), 250-653-4656.

**CHESS GROUP** meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE** meets every Monday at 6:45 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors Services. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or [pastorale@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorale@shaw.ca).

**EVERYBODY STRETCH** — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. SSI Wellness Centre. 1 to 2 p.m.

**FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT™ CLASS** with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd., 9 to 10:30 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, [alicef@saltspring.com](mailto:alicef@saltspring.com).

**KUNDALINI YOGA FOR BEGINNERS** and others at North End Fitness. 1 to 2:10 p.m.

**LIFE DRAWING** every Monday at the Core Inn (third floor). 1 to 3 p.m. Info: Jose Campbell, 250-537-1121. Drop-ins welcome.

**READERS' THEATRE** meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**SALT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB** holds casual coffee mornings for its members at Penny's On the Green at 10 a.m.

**SEVEN STARS TAI CHI CLUB** — Applications at 210 Cedar Lane. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 250-537-5667

**TAOIST TAI CHI** at All Saints By-the-Sea. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. With beginners until 8 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

**TECH TUTORING WITH CONRAD** at the Salt Spring library. iPad, Tablet and eReader tutoring with Conrad Koke. Sign-up sheets are found in the Info Desk Programs binder.

Sessions are available every Monday at 12 and 1 p.m.

## EVERY MONDAY

**TOASTMASTERS** is a dedicated band of public speaking learners and enthusiasts meeting at the Shared Space Community Hub, Unit #1 Merchant Mews, 315 Upper Ganges Rd. every Monday (except for statutory holidays). (Note the new location.) 7 to 9 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

**THE CLINIC by OPT:** Options for Sexual Health is open every Monday at the Core Inn 2nd floor. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 250-537-8786.

**YOGA** with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre (yoga studio). Mixed Levels - 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.; Level 1 - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Mixed Levels - 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

**YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE** for all levels at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 4:30 to 6 p.m.

## EVERY TUESDAY

**AIKIDO MARTIAL ARTS** classes for kids and adults at the SSI Wellness Centre. Kids from 5 to 6 p.m., and adults from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: Alan, 250-538-5549; [alanwardroper@gmail.com](mailto:alanwardroper@gmail.com).

**ART GROUP** meets at Salt Spring Seniors at 1 p.m.

**CHESS GROUP** plays games at Salt Spring Seniors. 6:30 p.m.

**FLOOR HOCKEY.** Drop in at Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m. Required: hockey stick and runners.

**IYENGAR YOGA** with Jayne Lloyd-Jones at SSI Wellness Centre. 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**LOST CHORDS** seniors choir practices at Salt Spring Seniors. 10:30 a.m.

**NIA** at Salt Spring United Church Hall. NIA is the original fusion/fitness practice that offers the joy of dance, the power of the martial arts, the flexibility and mindfulness of yoga and more. 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Info/register: Arleen at 250-653-9235.

**NIA** at the Core Inn top floor. 5:45 to 7 p.m. Info/register: Arleen, 250-653-9235.

**SS SEARCH & RESCUE** — Learn ground survival, search and rescue techniques at the SAR Hall. 7 to 9 p.m. Or phone Chuck Hamilton, 250-537-6601.

**SMARTSOMATICS** classes with Nelly Kosteljik at North End Fitness from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Info: 250-537-2056 or <http://smartsomatics.shawwebpace.ca/>.

**STAY AND PLAY DROP-IN** for parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Family Place. 12:30 to 3 p.m.

**SEVEN STARS TAI CHI CLUB** — Yang Style at 210 Cedar Lane. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 250-537-5667

**TAOIST TAI CHI** at All Saints By-the-Sea. 10:30 to 12:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

**UBUNTU** sacred chants with Barb Slater. SSI Wellness Centre. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

**YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE** — All Levels at SSI Wellness Centre, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.; and Slow Flow at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. (Note the new time.)



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# Study answers many questions, but some still remain

## SUBMITTED BY THE SSI INCORPORATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Last summer, the Salt Spring Incorporation Study Committee selected the Urban Systems consulting firm to do an "apples-to-apples" comparison of how things are currently done and paid for on Salt Spring with how they would be were our island's residents to vote for incorporation.

Costs, revenues, tax rates and how services such as policing, fire protection and planning would be provided are among the topics considered in our consultant's just completed study report. This report can now be found online at [www.ssiincorporationstudy.com](http://www.ssiincorporationstudy.com) and in print form, available for sign-out, at the Salt Spring Public Library.

So what is the best way for interested islanders to become fully informed about the study report? Those with an aptitude for careful and detailed examination will find the entire report, some 385 pages from beginning to end, a most useful document. Those with a detailed interest in certain

## INCORPORATION STUDY CORNER

impacts of an incorporation (e.g. financial impacts, impacts to select services such as roads or the fire district, etc.) will also be able to find in-depth information on these aspects within the full report.

Those primarily interested in "the big picture" should find their needs met by reading the report's executive summary, which is also available separately online.

In addition, Urban Systems will orally present key highlights of its report at three community open houses. These events will be held: Monday, Nov. 7, 5:30 to 9 p.m. (Salt Spring Middle School), Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1:30 to 5 p.m. (Fulford Hall) and Sunday, Nov. 20, 1:30 to 5 p.m. (Salt Spring Middle School). The varied days and times are intended to provide opportunities for all members of the community to attend.

The formal presentation and Q&A will begin one hour after the start of each event and will run for about 90 minutes. Each formal presentation will be both preceded and followed by an opportunity to informally discuss topics of particular interest at information display stations. Available at these stations will be members of the incorporation study committee and representatives from the provincial Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, the CRD and the Islands Trust.

The incorporation study report contains a great deal of factual information and provides all of us with a common starting point. However, many islanders may still have questions about what the report says in areas of particular interest to them. We expect, for example, substantial public interest in the following:

- How the cost of service delivery by a municipality compares with what is now being paid for the same "basket" of community services. The results of the "apples-to-apples" (same services and the same level of services) cost comparison may be surprising to some and are deserving of everyone's careful attention. But are locally elected officials more, or less, likely over time to provide an enhanced basket of services at an additional cost? Or, perhaps fewer services at a reduced cost? These are questions we can't answer.

- How might the taxes now being paid by residents, farmers and the business community change and how likely is it they will change faster if Salt Spring becomes an island municipality than they would under the existing form of distributed government? Both the numbers in the report regarding taxation levels and the assumptions behind these numbers deserve careful attention. (For a high-level review of Salt Spring's tax history as compared to a select group of recently incorporated munici-

palities, refer to the ISC website, "Oct 2016 – Historical Tax Comparison newsletter" under "Fact Sheets & Articles.")

- If Salt Spring incorporates, the new municipality will be responsible for both land use planning and rezoning. It will also be charged with upholding the Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate. However, changes in bylaws affecting planning, rezoning and the official community plan will still require Islands Trust approval. Will it work out? Learn exactly what's planned and then decide if you think it is in our island's best interest.

- And what about roads? It's generally believed that the province has regularly and routinely spent much less on our local roads than Salt Spring needs. Less, in fact, than Salt Spring pays for road maintenance. A new municipal council would assume responsibility for road design, maintenance, resurfacing, reconstruction and all associated liabilities. For instance, there may be existing safety and geotechnical issues. All things considered, are we better off with the province

or a local government being responsible for our roads?

- Ultimately, if Salt Spring incorporates, a locally elected mayor and six council members elected at large will be responsible for planning decisions and decide on both the types and level of community services that are provided. What any council decides will depend in large part on who is elected and what community members urge the council to do. Is this form of government more or less likely than the status quo to provide the kind of government you want?

The incorporation committee's study report explores many relevant issues in some detail and what executive summary provides a very useful overview. A great many relevant questions are answered, but not all of them. Not everything can be fully known or objectively quantified. Where that is the case, the gap has been described.

The study report is definitely worth reading. Then join us at one of the open house events to ask any remaining questions you might have.

# Homelessness and the housing crisis on Salt Spring Island

## BY PETER GROVE

I have attended two of the three community meetings hosted recently by the Copper Kettle to discuss homelessness and affordable housing.

The stories from those who attended and who are living "rough" were heartbreaking. That such conditions are allowed in our affluent society is unacceptable. As a community we must deal with this, as best we can, through our own resources and those of our federal, provincial and local governments.

For those who are not familiar with the Copper Kettle, it offers people without homes or shelter emergency supplies (i.e. tents, sleeping bags, warm clothing and food). It is a community partnership working with many other groups, supported solely by islanders for the sake of those less fortunate who live here.

In addition to the plight of the homeless I hear over and over again about the shortage of rental housing on the island. Local businesses cannot get the employees they need because there is nowhere for them to live. Young families who would like to move here, to work, to send their children to our schools and to be a part of our community cannot do so for the same reason. We need young families to help balance our aging population and to look after us in our rapidly approaching old age!

There are a number of projects in the works which, I am confident, will be providing the island with an increased supply of affordable housing. The CRD has an 80-unit project on Drake Road, which is stalled while it deals with water supply issues (North Salt Spring Waterworks District advises that they do not have the capacity to service the project. Alternate sources of water are being

## INDEPTH

explored). Non-profit societies and local benefactors between them plan to provide a further 70 units. These projects will take time but they appear to be moving ahead.

Secondary suites are now legal across a significant part of the island (approximately 25 per cent of all properties), either through the relatively new Bylaw 461 or because they are within the ALR, zoned Agriculture 1&2. Please check with the Trust office or online to find out if your property is within those zones. The Local Trust Committee is working towards legalizing secondary suites and cottages in general, in order to help meet the demand for affordable housing.

However, right now we have an immediate crisis that must be addressed: the crisis of the homeless. This becomes increasingly more pressing as days become shorter, wetter and colder. I discussed the matter with Rob Grant of Community Services which, even under increasing pressure, does a wonderful job as best it can. I asked Rob what our community needs in order to improve the situation.

Rob told me that, at the last count, done in February 2016, our community had over 80 people that were unsheltered. The real number, allowing for those who were missed, is closer to 100. Of those who were counted approximately 15 were youth (under age 21). He states that the community requires a stable emergency shelter capacity made up of a minimum of the current 20 mat shelter. But the current shelter is only open from Nov. 1 to March 31. The needs of the homeless are year round. The current shelter is barely

adequate: when it is operating the outreach staff have to move out of their offices and make do elsewhere. A new building is essential.

The number of beds for the adult homeless could be kept at 20, provided there is an adequate number of outreach staff, who work to find more suitable and long-term housing for those in need. There is also a pressing need for a suitable youth resource centre to provide a year-round home-like shelter for eight to 10 people. These shelters would be adequate and effective if we also had a bolstered outreach team. Community Services needs at least two more staff. The current outreach program is funded by United Way, and the three-year funding commitment ends in March 2017.

Rob noted that a large number of the unsheltered homeless have mental health and trauma issues, which leave them with profound housing barriers and health issues. They require support services in the form of outreach workers to help them get connected with resources and manage daily living, and mental health clinicians to assist them with recovery and healing. The mental health clinical component is the mandate of Island Health, which could also enter the housing picture by providing supported mental health and addictions recovery beds in our community. They have about 1,000 of these beds, but none on the southern Gulf Islands. Our community also receives far less mental health clinical service than other communities.

He added that an obvious source of outreach worker funding is BC Housing. They have a Homeless Outreach Program which provides funding to over 60 B.C. communities to hire trained staff. This has been

requested by Community Services numerous times, without success.

I believe that, with the right combination of outreach support, an effective youth strategy, improved mental health housing and services, together with additional affordable housing, our island can and will see a significant decline in our homeless numbers and that those who remain homeless will receive better care.

So what can we do now to help? I believe that local government is doing what it can, although it must move

faster. What is needed is additional funding for Community Services from Island Health and BC Housing, which are the responsibility of the provincial government. We need to be lobbying to get that support.

We can also increase our own support for Community Services, either by volunteering or with financial assistance. We are all in this together. This is our community. Let's do it!

*The writer is a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member.*



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# FOCUS on EDUCATION

## Science World brings wow factor to island schools

Bottle rockets and flying chickens amaze students

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If the reviews of Science World's recent visit to the island offer an accurate measure, elementary schools across the Gulf Islands stand to produce an enthusiastic crop of inquiring scientific minds.

"It was awesome," said one of about 40 young participants after an afternoon presentation of Science World's On the Road program at Fulford Community Elementary School.

Science facilitators visiting the island as part of a multi-stop tour through the Gulf Islands and the Cowichan Valley in October amazed audiences with an interactive look at the forces that surround us and the elementary principles of scientific inquiry. Experiments saw students straddle hover boards, catapult rubber chickens across gymnasiums and launch bottle rockets skyward.

"I think the kids generally like all the stuff we bring because of the wow factors," said Stefano Giulianetti. "We do fire balls, things with electricity and anything that gets students engaged and that we can get a response from."

Anyone familiar with Science World in Van-

couver will know the organization's emphasis on hands-on and interactive science education. On the Road crams those learning opportunities into a van with a team of science enthusiasts who take their road show to communities across the province.

The latest five-day tour visited elementary schools on Galiano, Pender, Mayne islands and Chemainus. The pair's two-day stay on Salt Spring included stops at Fernwood, Phoenix, Salt Spring and Fulford elementary schools.

"A lot of the schools that we come to visit can't necessarily make it logistically work to come into Vancouver for a day trip so we bring the science to them," said Nicola Grice, a facilitator who credits her Ph.D. in chemistry to seeing a similar show when she was growing up in the United Kingdom.

"I've done science for a long time, and my enthusiasm started when I was at the age of these children," she said following the Oct. 27 show at Fulford. "I went to presentations that were similar to this, and it was just that wow factor that made science tangible to me and made it understandable."

"It doesn't have to be rocket science, unless you're firing a rocket."

Members of the U.S.-based National Science Teachers Association are among a growing voice of educators pushing for more science in



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Science facilitators and students use a leaf blower, toilet paper and a paint roller to demonstrate the power of lift during the Oct. 29 Fantastic Forces event at Fulford elementary.

classrooms. A position statement by the group calls for science education in all elementary grade levels. Such courses are deemed essential to instill knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts and a familiarity with how scientists view the world around them. Even people who don't go on to pursue a career in the sciences can benefit from the critical thinking skills cultivated through an exposure to

science at a young age.

"In the last decade, numerous reports have been published calling for reform in education," reads part of the NSTA position paper. "Each report has highlighted the importance of early experiences in science so that students develop problem-solving skills that empower them to participate in an increasingly scientific and technological world."

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PHOTOS BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Student Lucas Marcotte, left, prepares to ride the hover board, and facilitator Stefano Giulianetti launches Boone Harris on his inaugural hover board flight.

An assessment of student science skills released in 2013 by the Conference Board of Canada found that about 30 per cent of 15-year-old Canadian students had inadequate science skills. According to test results from the science section from the Program for International Assessment, fewer than 15 per cent of Canadian students were deemed to

have "high-level science skills." Canada ranked fifth in the world behind Finland, Japan, Australia, Germany and the Netherlands.

For video footage from the Science World On the Road's Fulford performance, visit the Driftwood's [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) website or the Gulf Islands Driftwood Facebook page.

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Paul Johnson  
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# arts&entertainment



## ART REVIEW

# Artists unleash potential to solve Surfacing challenge

Joe Bengé photo earns top prize

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

ArtSpring's latest juried art show Surfacing has delved straight into a key dilemma of the modern art world by asking artists to find visual meaning in the surface, rather than in imagined and illusory depths.

The backlash against using perspective and the attempt to portray three-dimensional art in a two-dimensional space peaked in the 1960s with the influence of American art critic Clement Greenberg. Painters pursuing modernism to its ultimate end were eventually led to create works that were simply flat areas of pigment on canvas — such as the infamous Voice of Fire by Barnett Newman (better known in some circles as blue stripe, red stripe), which the National Gallery of Canada purchased to great controversy for \$1.8 million in 1989.

Surfacing exhibit producer George Sipos therefore posed an interesting challenge when he asked artists to submit works in various mediums that would "explore the potential of plane surfaces to find visual meaning without resorting to conventional illusions of depth."

Speaking after Friday's opening, Sipos said the artists met the challenge as presented.

"They did, and often in ways I found quite surprising," he said. "Their notion of 'surface' was much wider and more interesting than I

expected."

Following the logic of medium specificity, paintings should not attempt to portray objects in space and abstraction is preferred to "realism." But what to do about photographs, which tend to capture the illusion of depth? By not resorting to illusion, most artists tip to the other extreme and reject any images that reveal separate planes? Then there's sculpture, which is three-dimensional by nature. Forcing it into two dimensions seems counter-productive.

The anonymous jury included two Salt Spring Islanders and the curator of a gallery located somewhere else in B.C. Interestingly, jury selections for the show included abundant photographs and just one sculptural piece, as well as several mixed-media works and a few paintings. Photographs won the day in terms of the jurors' prize, awarded to Joe Bengé, and the two honourable mentions for Birgit Freybe Bateman and Michael Wall.

Bengé's photo Spiffing Up the Entrance was taken in the 1960s and shows a group of workers on ladders, silhouetted against the glassed-in entryway to an office building, while another group looks in. The judges praised its "riveting composition, at once abstract and engagingly human." A sense of depth is not entirely removed, as the shot was taken from inside and includes a stretch of hallway floor, but the visual strength certainly comes from the arrangement of dark lines and shapes against the bright window.

Wall's piece Across the Bridge is extremely

abstract, with a reflection in the water taken from straight above producing a patterned band offset with mysterious marks. The concentric circles of a small ripple insert a specific moment into an image that is otherwise absent of time, or even a sense of space in a three-dimensional world.

The judges also liked the painterly nature of Bateman's Peeling Paint Pattern, with the curl of old latex producing interesting interplays of shadow, tone and texture.

Audrey Brown makes great use of repeated planes and abstracted forms in a painted divider screen. The three panels are each dominated by one primary colour, with small insets of the other two plus black and white accents. With the light coming through, the work is bright, colourful and extremely surface-centred.

Bob Leatherbarrow's Drift, a triptych of kiln-formed glass panels, refers to tectonic plates and the signature patterns of continental drift.

"They are my two-dimensional resolution of three-dimensional movement onto a sphere," he explains.

Even without points for sticking to the theme, the work is mesmerizing with its fractured grey and white crackle divided by staggered red and black bars and misty white clouds.

Renee Sanden bravely submitted the three-dimensional mixed-media piece Core, the result of a personal experience of being "reduced to the two-dimensional." The pressed charcoal grey form of a torso is suspended from an open black frame — not quite 2-D but definitely suggesting a sad scrap of a once vibrant whole.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Renee Sanden's mixed-media piece called Core, part of the Surfacing exhibition at ArtSpring until Nov. 7.

## CONCERT PREVIEW

# Chopin virtuoso on stage

First classical music performer of new season

Canadian concert pianist Charles Richard-Hamelin will share the all-Chopin program that has earned him international critical acclaim when he visits ArtSpring on Friday night.

In 2015, he won a silver medal and the Krystian Zimerman Prize at the 17th Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw. He also won second prize at the Montreal International Musical Competition and third prize and a special award for the best performance of a Beethoven sonata at the Seoul International Music Competition in South Korea.

This past weekend, he won his first Felix award for classical (solo and small ensemble) album of the year among nominated Québec performing artists.

"His sense of time, his sense of harmony, above all his structural originalities are immensely sophisticated and daring," reports Robert Harris of the Globe and Mail.

While Richard-Hamelin is not yet 30, ArtSpring press material writes: "He has the air of a decades-old performer that belies the fact that he only completed his bachelor's degree in performance from McGill University in 2011, and his master's from Yale School of Music in 2013."

"Once settled at the piano, Charles' magic begins. His fingers stroke the keys gently at first, his posture still formal. As the piece progresses, however, he leans closer over the keys, as if physically touching and breathing



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH DELAGE

Pianist Charles Richard-Hamelin.

the music, and his face reflects every nuance of emotion in the notes. These details may not be so easily seen in the grand concert halls of Warsaw and Seoul, but in ArtSpring's intimate theatre, each member of the audience will be close enough to see and feel Richard-Hamelin's expressions, and be drawn into the emotional journey of the music. Even for audience members with no experience in classical music, the authenticity of Charles Richard-Hamelin's performance has the power to bring tears to your eyes."

The Friday, Nov. 4 show starts at 7:30 p.m., with a tasting from Garry Oaks Winery beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby.

The question is  
**WHO REPRESENTS US?**

...Should we have more local control?

...Do you want a mayor and council for Salt Spring?

...There could be a referendum in just a few months!

*Get informed!*

Monday, Nov. 7 | **SSI Middle School**

5:30 - 9:00 pm, Presentation at 6:30 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 8 | **Fulford Hall**

1:00 - 4:30 pm, Presentation at 2:00 pm

Sunday, Nov. 20 | **SSI Middle School**

1:00 - 4:30 pm, Presentation at 2:00 pm



Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study

www.ssiincorporationstudy.com

## BOOKS

# Read Local BC event puts focus on 'Our Natural World'

Three writers discuss works at library on Nov. 7

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Read Local BC is putting the focus on writers who explore humans' complex relationship with their environment for 2016, with readings from three authors whose recent work discusses local natural history and conservation challenges presented on Nov. 7.

The event at the Salt Spring Public Library features Salt Spring's Briony Penn, whose biography of Ian McTaggart-Cowan won the Roderrick Haigh-Brown Regional BC Book Prize this year. Joining her are two writers based in Victoria: Mark Leiren-Young, author of *The Killer Whale Who Changed the World*, and Caroline Fox, author of *At Sea with the Marine Birds of the Raincoast*.

You don't need to be a scientist or biology buff to read any of the above titles, which were

written to be accessible and enjoyable for the general public. Speaking from her home in Victoria, Fox said one of the reasons it's important to hear stories about the natural world is that so much of it is unknown, even if it's not far from our back doors.

That's particularly true of the places some marine birds Fox writes about are found.

"It's about spending time offshore in an area most of us never get to access; unless we're fishermen or mariners on freighters, we never get to spend time out at sea," she observed.

At Sea with the Marine Birds of the Raincoast is an illustrated narrative that interweaves natural history and cultural references with Fox's personal experiences surveying thousands of kilometres of open ocean of the B.C. coast.

Now a post-graduate fellow at UVic and Dalhousie, Fox had just completed her master's degree in biology when she signed on to count birds for wildlife surveys being conducted by the Raincoast Conservation Foundation. Her work was completed in three seasons

from 2007 to 2008 in waters off the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii – places under consideration for massive oil and gas shipping and pipeline projects.

"One of the reasons the surveys were undertaken was to fill knowledge gaps on species population and distribution," she explained. "In B.C. we have very poor information on where [birds] are and when they are."

In her writing, Fox describes species both familiar, like bald eagles and ravens, and less familiar to those of us on shore. Some species can only be seen out at sea, even though they might be just a few kilometres away from land, such as three species of albatross known to visit the B.C. coast. Despite their iconic nature and amazing wing spans of seven to eight feet that allow them to cross open oceans, albatrosses have been hurt by the feather trade of past centuries. All three locally known species are now listed at threat of extinction.

One of the highlights of Fox's research trip was getting to see a juvenile short-tailed alba-

tross, which is the least frequently sighted albatross species on the coast. They were once thought to be extinct, and the world-wide population is still estimated at only 3,500.

"I don't think I'll ever see one again. They've documented fewer than 100 in B.C. since the 1990s," Fox said.

Aside from winning a BC Book prize this spring, Penn's book *The Real Thing* won the inaugural Mack Laing Literary Prize and was shortlisted for the 2016 Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize. The first official biography of Ian McTaggart-Cowan, it is an inspired portrait of the "father of Canadian ecology."

Leiren-Young is an award-winning journalist whose book is described as a "fascinating and heartbreaking account of the first publicly exhibited captive killer whale, Moby Doll."

Monday's event starts at 6 p.m. at the library program room. Driftwood book reviews/interviews were previously published with Penn on Dec. 16, 2015 and Leiren-Young on Oct. 19, 2016.

## LITERARY EVENING

## Page and Henighan team up to read

Guatemala novel setting and short stories

Two Canadian writers — one from Salt Spring and the other from Guelph — are co-presenting a literary night at the Salt Spring library on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Beginning at 7 p.m., Stephen Henighan will launch his novel *Path of the Jaguar*, while Salt Spring's Kathy Page will read from her new, Giller-nominated short story collection *The Two of Us*.

Henighan is the author of three novels and three books of short stories. His short stories have been published in more than 45 magazines and anthologies on both sides of the Atlantic. He has been a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Canada Prize in the Humanities, a McNally Robinson Fiction Prize, a National Magazine Award and a Western Magazine Award. Henighan teaches Spanish-American literature at the University of Guelph.

*The Path of the Jaguar* is set in 1997, as Guatemala emerges from 36 years of civil war. Amparo Ajuix, an energetic young Mayan woman,

sees a chance for a better life for herself, her husband and her children. As Amparo's culture erodes and her hopes confront seemingly insurmountable obstacles, she resorts to both traditional wisdom and personal determination to take a decision about her children's future that no mother should have to make.

Page is perhaps best known as the author of novels such as *The Story of My Face*, long-listed for the Orange Prize in 2001, *Alphabet*, a Governor General's Award Finalist in 2005, and *The Find*, shortlisted for the Relit Award in 2010. She is also passionately committed to the short story, both as a reader and as a writer. Her two most recent — and very different — collections, *Paradise & Elsewhere*, and *The Two of Us*, were both nominated for the Giller Prize.

The stories in *The Two of Us* focus on pairs, couples, dyads: intense one-on-one relationships such as lovers, spouses, siblings, hairdresser and client, mother and baby, teacher and pupil, girl and dog. Whether undergoing medical tests, tending the garden, starving themselves, visiting museums, travelling, considering suicide, or falling pregnant, these characters drive each other towards moments where the true shapes of their lives

are glimpsed.

Some book-lovers may have heard Page read from her new, Giller-nominated collection *The Two of Us* at the library in October. Her reading this time will be from a different story and possibly one with local connections.

### Abattoir

## BIRTHDAY BASH

**SATURDAY, NOV. 12**  
**FULFORD HALL**  
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30

Local buffet dinner & cash bar

**\*SILENT AUCTION\***



\$40 tickets at Foxglove, Salt Spring Books or [www.plantofarm.org](http://www.plantofarm.org)

## FUNDRAISING

## Express sponsors welcomed

Businesses invited to get in on the act

For the second year now the Salt Spring Folk Club has joined the Barney Bentall and Cariboo Express bandwagon to raise money for the Salt Spring Community Services Food Bank.

Last year's fundraiser was an astounding success, said event co-organizer Irish Nobile. With generous donations by individuals and the matching funds from the Bentall family's Hawthorne Foundation and Salt Spring business sponsorships, the event raised \$15,000.

"The call is out to give this

much-needed support to our community members who require help," she said. "This is the best time to give as it will contribute to the Christmas food hamper program and the Hawthorne Foundation matches donations dollar for dollar."

A key part of Cariboo Express evenings is hilarious live "commercials" promoting the virtues of the business sponsors. Nobile is the person to contact for more information about being a showcased sponsor at the Fulford Hall evening on Monday, Nov. 21.

All donations — whether from a business or individuals — are acknowledged with a tax receipt from Salt Spring

Community Services.

"Even if one is unable to attend the actual concert they can still support this effort by giving a cheque dated Nov. 21, 2016 directly to SSCS," said Nobile.

With all donations matched by the Hawthorne Foundation, it's a way to give twice to the food bank.

The concert itself features a stellar line-up of 12 outstanding performers, led by Bentall. "Last year it was claimed by many to be 'the best show ever' and so the folk club is excited to present it back by popular demand," said Nobile.

Show tickets are available at Salt Spring Books and Stuff 'n' Nonsense.

## Notice to the Public

### Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

2:15 pm to 4:45 pm

Harbour House Hotel - Crofton Room

Meetings are open to the public.

For more information, please contact:

Harold Swierenga, Chair  
Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee  
Phone: 250-653-4950

or

Darin Guenette, Public Affairs Manager  
BC Ferries  
1-877-978-2385 (toll free) or  
[darin.guenette@bcferries.com](mailto:darin.guenette@bcferries.com)

 **BC Ferries**

# what's on this week



**What's On - the go!**  
Scan this barcode with your smartphone to download, instructions below.

## Wed. Nov 2

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Tea a Tempo.**  
Alan Moberg performs at All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Free music (or by donation) followed by optional tea and treats at about 3 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting.**  
Public welcome. Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room. 2:15 to 4:45 p.m.



### Kids Beaded Bracelets Class.

For 8 to 14 years at the Portlock Park Portable Classroom. 4 to 6 p.m. Pre-registration with PARC required at 250-537-4448.

### Author Reading With George Mercer.

Vancouver Island author reads from books in his Dyed in the Green fiction series set in Canada's national parks. Salt Spring Public Library. 5 p.m. **SongJam.**  
A pub-style singalong to the soundtrack of our lives. Moby's Pub every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.



## Thur. Nov 3

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Mic With Dave & Ross.**  
Every Thursday at Moby's Pub beginning at 8 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

### Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

Regular business meeting starts 9:30 a.m. at Lions Hall. Reports and town hall session at noon.

### Poetry Open Mic.

With featured poet Brian Brett. Salt Spring Public Library at 7 p.m. Reader sign-up at 6:45.



## Fri. Nov 4

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Gene Grooms.**  
Live music at The Local. 5 to 8 p.m.

### Charles Richard-Hamelin.

Canadian pianist and winner of the silver medal and the Kristian Zimmerman prize at the 17th Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition plays an all-Chopin program at ArtSpring. Garry Oaks wine tasting 6:30 p.m., music at 7:30.

### Angry Hippies.

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

## Fri. Nov 4

### ACTIVITIES

### Resilient Region Exchange Breakfast.

The session's theme is "resilience and food security," with topics including how to support local makers, bakers and growers and addressing packaging, shipping, compost and waste. At GISS multi-purpose room. 8 to 9:30 a.m. An RSVP to KPearson@crd.bc.ca is required. **Friday Adventure Camp.**  
For ages six to 12 years at the Salt Spring Island Elementary gym. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration with PARC is required at 250-537-4448.

## Sat. Nov 5

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Barley Brothers.**  
Every Saturday at The Local. 3 to 6 p.m.

### The Comic Strippers - Improv Comedy Show.

Comedy by Vancouver-based award-nominated improv team. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

### Luke Wallace Concert.

Folkivist and eco troubadour performs at Beaver Point Hall, celebrating his CD An Opportunity, which was recorded on Salt Spring Island. Doors at 7:30 p.m., music at 8.

### Down to Dirt.

Hip hop band with special guests. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

## Sat. Nov 5

### ACTIVITIES

### Fabulous Flea Market.

New-to-you treasures and delicious homemade food. Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Book Launch: Shirley Graham.

Shakespearean Blues, by Shirley Graham. A modern romp through the state of mankind, drenched in Shakespeare's words and characters, on the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Salt Spring Public Library. 2:30 p.m.



## Sun. Nov 6

### ACTIVITIES

### Sunday Satsang.

Every Sunday at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 3:30 p.m.

### Drum Circle.

Every Sunday at the SSI Wellness Centre. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

## Mon. Nov 7

### ACTIVITIES

### Meeting of the Minds.

Outreach Adult Day Program for independent seniors looking to socialize and be engaged in thought-provoking activities. Caregivers welcome to contact Greenwoods Eldercare Society to discuss criteria for attendance. Every Monday at Meadowbrook from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Brandy-Lee Borley at 250-537-5520, Ext. 6 to register.

### Veterans' Luncheon.

Free lunch prepared by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary for a veteran or their escort (regardless of Legion membership) at Meaden Hall. Refreshments at noon and lunch at 1 p.m. Must RSVP by Friday, Nov. 4 to legionbr92@shaw.ca, 250-537-5822 or at the Legion bar.

### Ball Hockey.

For ages 7 to 11 every Monday at the Portlock Park Multi-sport Court from 4 to 6 p.m. until Nov. 21. Pre-registration with PARC required at 250-537-4448.

### Incorporation Study Open House.

The Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee-hosted event featuring the final report to determine impacts of becoming a municipality. SSI Middle School. 5:30 to 9 p.m., presentation at 6:30.

## Mon. Nov 7

### ACTIVITIES

### Read Local BC Presents: Our Natural Word.

Intimate evening with celebrated writers Briony Penn, Mark Leiren-Young and Caroline Fox. Spring Library Program Room. 6 p.m.



## Tues. Nov 8

### ACTIVITIES

### DEBBIT® Beginner Weight Loss Outdoor Bootcamp.

Learn safe, fun and highly effective exercises in a non-intimidating, co-ed fitness class. At the Portlock Park covered picnic area Tuesdays until Dec. 6. 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

### Incorporation Study Open House.

The Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee-hosted event featuring the final report to determine impacts of becoming a municipality. Fulford Hall. 1 to 4:30 p.m., presentation at 2.

## Tues. Nov 8

### ACTIVITIES

### Tech Series: Excel.

Instructor Jared Finesmith will teach students to use Microsoft Excel in this free four-part course. Pre-register: info@saltspringlibrary.com. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 6 p.m.

### Floor Hockey.

Every Tuesday at Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.



## Wed. Nov 9

### ACTIVITIES

### Book Launch: Kathy Page & Stephen Henighan.

Launch for The Two of Us by Kathy Page and The Path of the Jaguar by Stephen Henighan. Salt Spring Library. 7 p.m.



### Tribute to WWI Veterans.

Salt Spring Historical Society meeting pays tribute to island veterans who served in WWI. Historical calendars also available for purchase. Meaden Hall. 2 p.m.

### SongJam.

See last Wednesday's listing.

**THE FRITZ CINEMA**  
901 North End Rd. 250-537-4656 Movie info: www.thefritz.ca

**DEEPWATER HORIZON**  
starring Mark Wahlberg and Kurt Russell  
INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY OF REAL LIFE HEROES  
1 hr 48 min Rating: 14A  
Nov. 4th to 8th Fri. to Tues. 7pm  
Sun. 3pm matinee and 7pm

**SNOWDEN**  
starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt  
Starts Fri. November 11th

**get noticed board**

Send your submissions to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or drop them off at the Driftwood office.

Published in the first Driftwood of each month!  
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**Fabulous Flea Market**  
A fundraiser for Fulford Community Hall

**Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Fulford Community Hall • 10 am to 2 pm  
Delicious homemade food available

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**CINEMA**

• **Deepwater Horizon** — Starring Mark Wahlberg and Kurt Russell. In 2010, one of the world's largest man-made disasters occurred on the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico. This story honours the brave men and women whose heroism would save many on board.

**EXHIBITIONS**

• **Surfacing** — Explorations in Two Dimensions runs in the ArtSpring gallery from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily until Nov. 7.

• **She Said** — an art exhibit featuring the work of Sam Barlow, Julie Howard, Meghan McKillop, Ahava Shira and Charlene Wolff — opens at ArtSpring on Thursday, Nov. 10 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m., and continues daily through Nov. 17.

**EXHIBITIONS**

• **Eyes On Nature:** David Denning presents an exhibit of his nature photography in the ArtSpring lobby through November.

• **Renee Sanden's** installation called Trinity: the Mother, the Daughter and the Holy Spirit shows in the window of ArtSpace Gallery, #17 in Merchant Mews.

• **Bernadette Mertens-McAllister** presents her solo exhibition called Day of the Dead in the Salt Spring Library Program Room through November during opening hours and when the room is not otherwise in use.

• **Hannah Stone** shows work at Barb's Bakery & Bistro and the Salt Spring Coffee Co.

**This Week's Horoscope**

by Michael O'Connor  
[www.sunstarastrology.com](http://www.sunstarastrology.com)  
[sunstarastrology@gmail.com](mailto:sunstarastrology@gmail.com)  
1.250.352.2936

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INTERACTIVE  
**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**  
LISTINGS

# people&community

**SALT SPRING INN**

Now Open for Fall/Winter Hours  
Breakfast at 9 o'clock

## A SPOOKY NIGHT



PHOTOS BY  
JEN MACLELLAN

Part of a spectacular Halloween Spook House at Mahon Hall on Monday night were, clockwise from top left, Sami Clemente, the GISS Improv Team as the House of Dolls, 'chef' Bob Twaites and Amanda Poystila under the lid, John Dolman in disguise and a creepy mystery jester.

### INTERNATIONAL AID

## Samaritan's program shares joy

Two church groups  
organize gift project

BY GAIL NEUMANN  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

What Christmas gift you give will be most appreciated this year?

Picture a girl who has never received a gift for any occasion. Imagine a young boy who lives in a refugee camp and has become head of his family. Think of an infant born to a single mother with only a blanket to call his own.

How would it feel to select gifts for these children? Imagine the joy they must feel to receive a shoebox full of school supplies, hygiene items, toys and love. A gift box from you may change their lives. This could be the most appreciated gift you have ever given!

Islanders are invited to participate with Samaritan's Purse to provide Christmas gift boxes to children regardless of gender, race or religion. Pick up a shoebox at Community Gospel Chapel or the Baptist Church, or use your own shoebox, and fill it using the guide on the Samaritan's Purse website ([http://](http://samaritanpurse.ca/operation-christmas-child.aspx)



COURTESY SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Samaritan's Purse gift boxes displayed.

[samaritanpurse.ca/operation-christmas-child.aspx](http://samaritanpurse.ca/operation-christmas-child.aspx)) that explains customs regulations and more. Add \$7 to pay for shipping and a note or picture from your family. This program allows donors to personally select or create their own gifts.

Community Gospel Chapel will host a collection party on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. where people can drop off shoeboxes, or help fill more boxes, and view a short video about Operation Christmas Child. Bring a friend and enjoy tea, coffee

and snacks with us.

If you are unable to come to the party please return your shoeboxes to either church by Sunday, Nov. 13, or fill a box online through the Samaritan's Purse website.

No matter who is on your list, or what you buy, nothing will surpass the delight and joy that a shoebox will bring to a child this Christmas. For more information, call the Community Gospel Chapel at 250-537-2622 or Salt Spring Baptist Church at 250-537-2222.

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### Town Hall on Bill C-51

Keeping Canadians safe - when our security laws help and when they make us less safe

Tuesday, November 8  
7:00 pm

Room B150  
Bob Wright Centre  
University of Victoria

[elizabethmaymp.ca](http://elizabethmaymp.ca) | 1-800-667-9188  
9711 Fourth St., Sidney BC V8L 2Y8



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8:30am downstairs  
**Special Meat Draw**  
2pm in the lounge  
**Alan Moberg 2:30**

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### YOUTH CHALLENGE

# Experience of a lifetime up for grabs

Fire/rescue camp application deadline coming up

BY BRIGITTE PROCHASKA  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Teens who live in the Gulf Islands and are between the ages of 15 and 18 are very fortunate to have one of British Columbia's top fire cadet camps right in their own backyard. The Gulf Islands Fire/Rescue Cadet Camp, endorsed by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, is the experience of a lifetime.

The next camp runs during the next spring break — March 20 to 25, 2017 — and applications are being accepted now until Nov. 15. A select group of boys and girls with "the right stuff" will be accepted.

For the seventh successful year Pender Island Fire/Rescue, in association with Salt Spring Island Fire/Rescue, is offering an intense week of rigorous instruction and hands-on training in structure fires, auto extrication, high-angle rope rescue, search and rescue, medical first response and other related skills, totalling approximately 100 hours of training in just six days.

Firefighter training has been shown to be a great way to challenge teens — mentally and physically — and this unique boot camp has helped its graduates reach new levels of confidence, self-esteem, strength and initiative. There will be a strong emphasis on team work, physical fitness, community service and fun!

The cadets live and work with firefighters and community mentors 24 hours a day for six consecutive days, with this level of immersion and intensity having shown remarkable learning results.

The camp is made possible through hundreds of volunteer hours contributed by more than 40 firefighters and support crews from Pender and Salt Spring Island Fire/Rescue, with further assistance from other Gulf Islands fire departments as well as the RCMP. A number of cadet program graduates (now qualified firefighters) will also be returning to lend a hand. Launched in 2005, it runs every other year on Pender Island.

States Pender Island Fire Chief



PHOTO COURTESY GULF ISLANDS FIRE/RESCUE CADET CAMP

Above, some 2015 Gulf Islands Fire/Rescue participants get instruction while in full gear.

Charlie Boyte, "Every cadet camp brings us a new appreciation for the commitment, passion and determination of the teens in our local communities and further afield. I've seen our cadets overcome very challenging obstacles, and witnessed transformations in their approach to those challenges, that went from apprehension to passionate determination — both individually and as a team. As well, it is truly exceptional to see how the mentorship of caring community firefighters and volunteers, with many decades of service, impacts the lives of our youth."

Adds acting Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George: "The Gulf Islands Fire/Rescue Cadet Camp provides great exposure to the fire service and is a valuable avenue for reaching our next generation of firefighters. Within our department alone, we have recruited four firefighters and a summer student as a direct result of the camp. If you are interested in attending, you won't be disappointed. It truly will change your life and perhaps lead you to a career in emergency services."

Admission is \$200 (financial assistance is available) and includes all food and lodging. Upon completion, cadets qualify for 100 work experience hours, which is equivalent to four school credits. This is made possible



PHOTO COURTESY GULF ISLANDS FIRE/RESCUE CADET CAMP

Camp students learn basic rope rescue training as part of the week-long agenda on Pender Island during spring break.

sible through a partnership with the southern Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island school districts.

For more information or to download an application form, go to [www.penderfire.org](http://www.penderfire.org) or call 250-629-3321. More details are also on [www.facebook.com/FIRECADETS](http://www.facebook.com/FIRECADETS).

### DUPLICATE BRIDGE

# Mutually supportive alliances the way to go

Wise words shared via cards

BY JILL EVANS  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Breaking news: "William Shakespeare's Henry VI co-written by Christopher Marlowe, big data analysis reveals."

It seems that collaboration between playwrights was quite normal in Elizabethan times, and William even said "Now join your hands, and with your hands your hearts" as an urge to cooperation. Proof that it was Marlowe in this case has

## BRIDGETRICKS

resulted in his being listed as co-author in the coming New Oxford Shakespeare.

On Oct. 17, after weathering those three big storms, six full tables joined their bridge hands and didn't necessarily find hearts therein, but certainly found cooperation with their partners most helpful. Those most successful that day were Blanche Poborsa and Vic Parks, followed by Liz and Oleh Mycyk. Third were Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor, with

Nick Beringer and Patricia Sutherland coming fourth.

Long-ago comedian Fred Allen said, seriously, "It is probably not love that makes the world go around, but rather those mutually supportive alliances through which partners recognize their dependence on each other for the achievement of shared and private goals." He must have been a bridge player.

On Oct. 24, four and a half tables tried to live up to that, and it was the Jeff Bell-Prem Margolese partnership that prevailed the best that evening. The Beringer-Suther-

land pair were second, while George Laundry and Terry Clement came third and Al Wilke with Nadene McCoy were fourth.

As for cooperation, among other wisecracks noted bridge expert Alfred Sheinwold said, "Years ago there were only two acceptable reasons for not leading partner's suit: (1) having no cards in the suit; (2) a death wish." Sometimes partnerships can be dangerous.

If you need a willing partner for a game, please call 250-537-1398 and for info contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or [pastorale@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorale@shaw.ca).



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

**MOVING DAY:** John Quesnel uses his Salt Spring Metal Recycling company crane and truck to move Gulf Islands Spinning Mill equipment from the Farmers' Institute site to a private property on the island. Patricia Donnelly, who will use the equipment for a new venture, gave kudos to founding director John Fulker. She said Fulker was instrumental in keeping the co-op, which processed animal fibres, running for the past 18 years.

## GREEN PLANNING

# Resiliency topic fills breakfast plates

Quarterly gathering at GISS Friday

Gulf Islands Secondary School is the place to be this Friday morning when the Resilient Region Exchange Breakfast takes place in the multi-purpose room.

The session's theme is "resilience and food security," with topics including how to support local makers, bakers and growers, and addressing packaging, shipping, compost and waste.

"Building off four years of success, these quarterly com-

munity breakfasts bring together business leaders, politicians, activists, bureaucrats and academics," states a press release about the event. "The goal is to provide a space for forging new partnerships, incubating ideas and developing projects that contribute to a resilient, healthy

and green capital region."

The Nov. 4 event, hosted by the Capital Regional District and the Transition Salt Spring Society, runs from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Time for networking is provided.

An RSVP to KPearson@crd.bc.ca is required.

## OUTDOOR SAFETY

# Survive Outside talk offers practical tips

Free wilderness survival talk presented on Nov. 13

With relatively few wilderness areas, a dispersed population and its confined geography, Salt Spring may not be the first place that pops to mind when it comes to getting lost in the woods, but veteran search and rescue volunteers know all too well that trouble on the trail can strike anywhere.

"We want to let people know how to minimize getting lost and help them know what to do in case they do get lost," said Tudor Davies, a Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue rope team member who has been with the group for nearly five years. "It's surprising what can happen."

Davies is one of three SAR volunteers who will present Survive Outside, a short presentation on the basics of outdoor survival.

The talk is the latest in a series of events the group has made for Salt Spring Rotary, the Trail and Nature Club and local schools.

Setting out on a hike or camping trip with an it-can-never-happen-here attitude is often the first step toward trouble, Davies said. Salt Spring's lumpy topography and thickly forested areas can be disorienting. Though efforts have been made to improve signage in popular hiking areas such as Mount Erskine and Mount Maxwell provincial parks, markings in many parts of the island are still far from ideal.

Even in cases where hikers are familiar with their surroundings, Davies added, an injury on the trail can mean big trouble, especially if you're caught out in an area with spotty cellular phone coverage.

Survive Outside will feature an overview of Salt Spring SAR's 25-year history by Judy Burch, Davies' introduction to the provincial AdventureSmart program and a tick talk by documentary filmmaker Alan Bibby.

The event takes place on Sunday, Nov. 13 at Meaden Hall at 3 p.m. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Davies at 250-221-1418.

Further details about Salt Spring SAR are available at www.saltspingsar.org.

## FUNDRAISER

# Local food celebration supports abattoir

Annual birthday bash at Fulford Hall

## SUBMITTED BY THE AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE

This past year has been one of milestones for our local abattoir and the Agricultural Alliance is having a party to celebrate.

The annual Abattoir Birthday Bash will be held at Fulford Hall on Saturday, Nov. 12 and everyone is invited.

Between January and April the building was extended and the corrals upgraded to handle beef and pigs. Hog processing equipment was purchased thanks to a grant from the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute. The first hog was processed in June and now the abattoir can take

pigs on a regular basis.

Rabbit processing has also been approved and this new service will be offered in the near future. There are still a few more challenges to overcome before beef processing is possible, but we remain optimistic that they will be resolved shortly.

It's quite an achievement to be able to process lambs, goats, pigs, rabbits, chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese in a licensed facility so close to the farms where the animals and birds were raised. There is no other abattoir that can handle such a variety and it bodes well for the future of local food production on Salt Spring.

An inventory of livestock on the island conducted last winter shows that since 2008 the num-

bers of meat chickens on our farms have doubled and market lambs have increased by 50 per cent.

A series of farm dinners over the summer helped pay down debt and were popular with locals and visitors alike. Many thanks are extended to Knoth Farm, Golden Tree Farm, Red Wing Farm and Salt Spring Seeds for hosting; to all the farmers who grew the food; to Jana Roerick, Shawn Walton, Steven Overholt and Marcus Gill the chefs, who created the most delicious meals; and to Natureworks for their sponsorship.

More thanks go to Country Grocer for their support of the fall fair fundraiser, to North End Farm for providing the meat

and to the abattoir staff who made and sold the most delicious hamburgers.

The last event of the year is next Saturday's Birthday Bash, the all-local food buffet dinner and silent auction fundraiser. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Matt Rissling of Rock Salt is our chef. This year's menu features pork and turkey with a vegetarian option, and fruit pie from Jana's Bake Shop, along with Salt Spring beer, wine and cider available for purchase. Entertainment will feature music by Yael Wand and Alan Wardroper and the MC is Arthur Black.

Tickets are available at Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply, Salt Spring Books or online at www.plantofarm.org.

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## This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastronomy.com | sunstarastronomy@gmail.com  
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### TIP OF THE WEEK

All Hallows' and Saints now fading into memory for yet another year, Scorpio season fast approaches its apex. Last week's quadruple set of conjunctions including Sun-Moon-Mercury in Scorpio, Saturn-Venus in Sagittarius, Mars-Pluto in Capricorn and Neptune South Node in Pisces, are now in a gestation phase under the darkness of the Scorpio New Moon.

Mars Square Uranus reveals a revolutionary, aggressive and potentially violent impulse. Yet, it can also be expressed as a dynamic and assertive force with remarkable productivity. As ever, how the overall chart at the time of a seed event such as a New Moon will manifest ever depends on the deeper destiny embodied by each person. The planetary energies at any given time must refer to a base chart to reveal their unique and specific purpose.

On the global stage, a historical race for the U.S. Presidency will be decided this week. Whatever else may be said of this vie for power it is serving to reveal the shadows and weaknesses in the country as a whole. The good news is that once identified imbalances and illnesses can be addressed and remedied. According to the New Moon chart observed in its wholeness, a new level and quality of equality and justice will play a pivotal role in the United States for the next 4 years anyway even though the task may require longer to be fully realized.

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#### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

While trust and faith are important in life, so is verification. Call it healthy skepticism as opposed to blind faith. You are in an investigative mood. Superficial answers will not suffice. Half research and half key communications and exchanges with others with authority is the answer to this equation.

#### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

Questions are answers are questions... Many thoughts are running through your mind about some of the deeper aspects of life. Who you are now is among them. Much has changed both within and without in your life over the past couple of years ago or so and the momentum continues.

#### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Clearing clutter, making improvements and refinements all towards creating a smoother flow is keeping you busy now. This peak in your life flow is now leading you to feel more streamlined. Beyond the stuff, attitudes, habitual emotional patterns, the deeper beliefs that guide your actions are all under review.

#### Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

A new wave of creative passion is washing in. It may well include bringing existing projects to completion. Anything that will help you to feel more confident, especially in your home, will prove most satisfying. While core structural aspects are likely in your focus, attending to the overall atmosphere is also important.

#### Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)

The beat of deep change continues. These may not be so evident outwardly, however. The focus is centered upon your skills, abilities and talents. Improvement is a keyword. A steady and patient approach remains ideal, yet you will likely want to target a variety of areas simultaneously. Have fun doing the rounds.

#### Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

Investigations into some of the deeper aspects of your life are underway. Much of your focus is centered on the quality of your expressions, offering and service. Seeing your situation as clearly and objectively as possible is ideal. The good news is that the mirrors are everywhere but you have to want to see your reflection clearly.

#### Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)

Devising a realistic, workable plan continues. Beyond simply a list of things to do, the goal now is to achieve a specific and overall outcome. In certain respects, you want to go big. A learning curve is implied. Fortunately, you are in the mood for new intellectual input. Avoid tangents and aim for whole bodies of knowledge.

#### Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)

A pioneering process is underway. Making new inroads, perhaps even into familiar territory is featured. There is always another way, a different approach. Making these your new norm involves the proverbial ice breaking steps required. Exercise your beginners mind.

#### Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)

How to best proceed with things is on your mind. A rather deep period of reflection and contemplation to this end is underway. Almost ironically, slowing down with the progress machine will feel rewarding as an end in itself. Step back and away from things to gain new perspectives. Then decipher what constitutes the reset button and aim for it.

#### Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)

Accessing aspects of your own or other people's individuality continues. This individuality factor may well include what specific skills, resources, talents, position of power and consequent leverage and/or anything else that indicates that they have what you want and need. Sincere acknowledgement and fair negotiation will bring your focus to its loftiest level.

#### Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)

New initiatives and assertions in your professional sphere is the main focus now. While advancement and promotion may feature in your intention, increased organization to achieve a higher level of efficiency is a top priority. Sometimes the attitude and perceptions of others in key positions helps or hinders efficiency. Identify the blocks and flows.

#### Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

A balancing act between expanding your vision with penetrating insight into things is a current theme. This exercise of your intellectual muscles has direct links to your professional and/or social/cultural interests. Forging ahead feels important but you may have to compensate a lack of confidence with a revolutionary assertion.

## PARALYMPICS

# Paralympians grateful for help

Ness Murby and Eva Fejes attend Ottawa ceremony

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's first Paralympians are happy to be home after the journey of a lifetime that saw them compete among the world's best at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August.

"There was a great sense that I wasn't carrying the burden alone," said Ness Murby, a blind discus competitor, in an interview last week. "So many people cared about our Paralympic journey and supported us."

Murby and her guide and spouse Eva Fejes finished their event in sixth position in a dramatic competition.

The couple said support from Salt Springers was mind-blowing throughout the Paralympic experience. Assistance from local businesses and individuals offered a much-appreciated financial and moral boost during training ahead of the event and at the competition itself.

"The send-off party really opened my mind and helped me feel that we weren't on this journey alone," Murby said.

Murby and Fejes were touched by donations for fundraising events, words of support and more than a few offers to buy them a bag of groceries or give them garden-fresh fruits and vegetables.

"It was amazing to see how islanders value each other,"

she said. "Our island is amazing and it was an honour to represent Salt Spring in Rio."

She admits to having hopes for a medal but conceded that her competitors rose to the occasion in an event that saw many athletes achieve personal bests.

The sheer volume of the noise in Rio's Maracana Stadium on competition day has had a lingering effect on Murby's hearing. Though she appreciated the spectators' enthusiasm, the experience has encouraged her to work on a strategy to cope with the crowd's deafening roar at future events.

"It felt like I was really knocked for six in terms of the noise," she said.

Murby and Fejes travelled to Ottawa this week where they will be honoured alongside other Olympic and Paralympic athletes at a Nov. 2 Celebration of Excellence ceremony.

The event will feature a chance to speak with school groups and get a tour of the House of Commons.

Come January, Murby begins training for the 2017 world championships, but she and Fejes are keen to share their inspiring story and passion for athleticism with islanders of all ages.

"It's really reignited the concept that we can make a difference," Murby said. "I'd really like to get into schools on the island to share the message that nothing can stop you. As representatives from Salt Spring and our nation, we have a duty to make sure we are bringing that experience home."

## CONCERTS

# Eco troubadour performs Saturday

Luke Wallace plays BPH

Luke Wallace will return to Salt Spring this weekend to perform the final show of a tour for his newest record "on the rock" where the album was produced.

The show takes place at Beaver Point Hall on Saturday, Nov. 5, with doors at 7:30 p.m. and music beginning at 8.

"Call him a folktrivist or eco trou-

badour, Wallace has officially broken into B.C.'s folk music scene after completing a 45-day, 23-performance tour of the Kootenays, Okanagan, Interior, North Coast and Vancouver Island," a press release proclaims. Wallace recorded his record *An Opportunity* in June 2016 with Daryl Chonka at Old Growth Studios. Album artwork was designed by Jasper Snow Rosen, who is also from Salt Spring. The collection has since received



PHOTO COURTESY LUKE WALLACE

Singer-songwriter Luke Wallace performs Saturday.



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airplay across the province, including on Sheryl MacKay's CBC show North by Northwest.

Wallace's work as a musician-activist started two years ago in Kitimat, where he was inspired to create his first record after meeting with locals fighting tirelessly to stop the Northern Gateway pipeline. Since then he has performed all over the world, including a recent string of performances in Paris during COP21, the United Nations' international climate conference.

"An Opportunity is an attitude and a perspective," Wallace said.

"I wrote this collection of songs in hopes that it will counteract the manufactured hatred, political corruption and environmental collapse that plagues my generation and those to come. I wrote it to inspire those paddling in the same direction as me and to bring light to come of the fundamental issues holding our society back from being truly free and brilliant.

"Seeing our future as 'an opportunity' is critical if we wish to address the challenges that we face as individuals, communities and a global society. It's about being optimistic and embracing the challenges we face with hope and immunity."

Advance tickets are available at Salt Spring Books.

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### THE ISLAND ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY (ArtSpring) will hold its AGM on

**Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016 at 4:30 pm**

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Financial and Annual Reports will be received and considered. The election of several Directors of the Society will be conducted. A motion will be presented to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society in accordance with the provincial government's new legislation. A motion will be presented to amend the name of the Society.

**www.artspring.ca**

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## DISC GOLF

# Salt Spring Island disc golfers finish strong in 2016

Highlights reported

BY BEN CORNO  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Salt Spring Island's disc golf community has wrapped up an exciting

season of competition.

Thousands of kilometres were convoyed, countless chains were rattled, and couches and campgrounds across the province were crashed on, as the group set out to test their skills among the best players in the region.

In May, Pender Island hosted the annual "Pender Classic" at the 27-hole Golf Island Disc Park. The two-day tournament saw Salt Springers littering the field among the nearly 400 entrants. Keith Barclay won the open division and Tom Berry won advanced men's.

Ginny Murray finished third in open women's and Dylan Carter finished fifth in advanced men's.

"I go into every game thinking I'm going to win," said Barclay on his pre-game strategy. "That positive visualization before and during big games helps."

One draw that kept islanders on the road was the Island Summer Series, a number of tournaments organized by Vancouver Island clubs, and sponsored by Driftwood



PHOTO COURTESY SS DISC GOLF

Dylan Carter putts from high up a maple on hole #13 in Mouat Park.

Brewery. The series comprises six events held along Vancouver Island and here on Salt Spring.

Hart Memorial Disc Golf Course at Mouat Park hosted a leg of the Island Summer Series in August, and local players made it clear that they were not losing at home. All five divisions were won by islanders: Robin Doobenen in advanced men, Murray in advanced women, Evan Eyles in pro men, Sav Boro in advanced masters and Ben Corno in novice.

"Most Salt Springers are great players on short and technical courses. Our recovery game keeps us from getting bogged where others who play longer courses might struggle to get out of trouble," said Eyles, who also placed third in Nanaimo's Trilogy Challenge, a tournament played with only three new discs.

The Island Summer Series wrapped up on Sept. 21 at Mary's

Therapeutic Farm in Langford. The farm has hosted a disc golf course for over 10 years, playable on Thursday evenings through the summer, and will continue in the new year. Owen Stearns-Smith, an employee of Mary's Farm, and the company put together an ambitious event attended by more than 100 players that challenged entrants right to the end.

Josie Lockey finished first at Mary's Farm, and Murray second in advanced women. Carter again came away with first place and an outright win in his division for the summer series.

"I had confidence in myself that if I played smart golf, shot for par, let the birdies come to me, and tried to not take any boogies, I would win. I was lucky enough to do just that," said Carter on his hard-fought win.

Disc Golf Islanders brass Murray (vice-president), Lockey (president) and Sarah Peek (treasurer)

finished in that order at the top of the advanced women's division for the entire summer series, setting a serious tone for next season.

"The female disc golf group on Salt Spring is tiny, and to have done so well this year in the Island Summer Series and provincials was amazing, I can't think of anyone in the world I wouldn't mind losing to more than Ginny or Sarah; I hope more chicks will come out next year and compete with us," Lockey said.

The B.C. Provincial Championships of Disc Golf were held in Kelowna on Sept. 17-18 at the Myra Canyon Adventure Park. The park boasts two 18-hole disc golf parks, and both were in play for the event. Playing among the high Okanagan hills, Murray again took first place in advanced women's, and Lockey finished second. Carter tied for second in advanced men.

Also in September, five Salt Springers travelled to Jo Brown Park in Surrey representing Team Island for the annual Jim Brown Cup. The JB Cup is an invitational team tournament wherein teams of two face off for points that aggregate into a larger team score. After five years of winning the JB Cup, the Mundy Park team was bested by Team Island, including Salt Spring players Eyles, Carter, Forest Junker-Allen, Tobin Eyles and Joah Chlopan.

"Our JB Cup team was dominated by Salt Spring Island members," said team captain Geoff McNamara. "I'm very proud of all the islanders this year."

As the rainy season falls upon the Salt Spring disc golf community, they recede for a few months of relaxation, and for games at home. Beneath our unique fir and cedar tree canopy, the island nurtures a special disc golf quality that has helped grow proven winners and will surely give way to more.



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**Salt Spring Island Public Library** **November BOOK READINGS**

 <p><b>SATURDAY, Nov 5, 2:30pm</b> Shakespearean Blues by Shirley Graham</p>	 <p><b>MONDAY, Nov 7, 6pm</b> Read Local BC: Briony Penn Mark Leiren-Young AND Caroline Fox</p>
 <p><b>WEDNESDAY, Nov 9, 7pm</b> The Two of Us by Kathy Page AND The Path of the Jaguar by Stephen Henighan</p>	 <p><b>SATURDAY, Nov 12, 3pm</b> Beach Kill by Phyllis Smallman</p>

## MEN'S SOCCER

# Old Boys get tricked and mistreated

Visitors routed by Juan de Fuca hosts

BY FRASER HOPE  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

A last-minute change of venue wasn't able to confuse an exhilarated Old Boys squad still riding high following last week's 8-2 victory over Zgoda FC.

The visiting Salt Springers were met by a large turnout of spectators and dogs at Fernwood, undoubtedly excited by the return of Matt Johnson following a successful cross-Canada musical fall tour. The weather cooperated, the field never looked in finer shape, and the sloping gradient proved equally debilitating for both teams.

From the opening whistle, Juan de Fuca were determined not to be intimidated by the Old Boys' early season success and played a pressing game, a style of play favoured by teams that face skillful opponents the likes of Barcelona FC, FC Bayern Munich and Real Madrid.

Old Boys' keeper Henry Braak was kept busy with constant attacks on his goal, but stout defending and much luck thwarted the early onslaught.

Totally against the run of play and to everyone's sur-

prise, a desperate and defensive long ball clearance was misjudged by the Juan de Fuca defender, allowing David Toynbee to evade the advancing keeper, cut back and feed Ben Cooper, who tapped in the match's first goal from the six-yard box.

Juan de Fuca quickly regrouped, returned to their attack plan and, despite a full-length save from a powerful shot that keeper Braak could only parry, an unmarked striker slotted in the tying goal.

A free kick allowed Toynbee to score off a deflection by a defender that gave the Juan de Fuca keeper no chance of a save.

The Old Boys looked to have had a great opportunity to pad their lead when Toynbee beat the offside trap from his own side of the centre line but was called back for an arm-contact foul.

Juan de Fuca levelled the score early in the second. Juan de Fuca maintained pressure throughout the second, eventually going up 8-2 before the full-time whistle ended the Old Boys' suffering.

The Old Boys will host the Centaurs on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 10:30 a.m. at a venue that's yet to be decided.