

## INCORPORATION STUDY

# Islanders voice incorporation fears

First town hall session addresses development, farming and the Trust

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

About 150 islanders got their first real chance to delve into the findings of the Salt Spring Incorporation Study Committee's highly anticipated final report during a Monday evening town hall event at Salt Spring Island Middle School.

"The purpose tonight is to disseminate the findings of the report and hear from you," said James Klukas, a planning consultant with Urban Systems who co-authored the report, during the introduction to the Nov. 7 meeting. "Ultimately this is your choice as a community."

About 15 people from the crowd asked questions about incorporation's implications on road costs, environmental protection and development, the future of the Islands Trust and local decision making, among other topics.

The event was the first of three town halls for islanders to learn about and discuss the committee's report. A second meeting was held in Fulford on Tuesday afternoon. The third town hall takes place on Sunday, Nov. 20 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. at the middle school.

STUDY continued on 2

## FIRE DISTRICT

# Province mandates fire by-election

Former trustee floats idea of eliminating fire service

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The late-October resignations of four Salt Spring Fire Protection District trustees has prompted the provincial government to order a by-election to fill the vacancies before Feb. 15, 2017.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

**PAYING ATTENTION:** Salt Spring Local Trust Committee members Peter Grove and George Grams, second and third from right in the front row, can't help smiling at the Driftwood photographer while incorporation study committee chair Mark Aston addresses a crowd at the middle school Monday evening in the first of three open house and town hall events. Another was held Tuesday afternoon and the final one is on Sunday, Nov. 20, again at the middle school gymnasium.

In a letter sent to fire district corporate administrator Andrew Peat on Friday, the provincial inspector of municipalities stated she's officially appointed Thomas Moore as election returning officer and ordered that costs of the by-election be covered by the SSFPD.

The date, time and location of the by-election will be confirmed by the election officer, Tara Faganello said.

Voters will head to the polls to fill four vacancies created by the recent resignations of

Michael Craig, Derek Hill, Linda Lee and Norbert Schlenker and a fifth position left vacant since the March 2016 resignation of former trustee Andrew Hildebrand.

Two of the contested positions will expire at the fire district's April 2017 AGM. Another pair will be elected to serve until the 2018 AGM, and a fifth trustee will be elected for a three-year term.

FIRE DISTRICT continued on 5

## CRIME

# Weapons thieves flee on ferries

Unlocked vehicle nets valuables

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

RCMP are still on the hunt for two suspects alleged to have stolen a vehicle and weapons from the Long Harbour ferry terminal on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

"Anytime that firearms fall into the wrong hands, it is of concern to police," said Cpl. Darren Lagan of the Salt Spring RCMP detachment.

Lagan said police suspect the man and woman entered six unattended vehicles at the Long Harbour terminal at around 7 p.m. A 2015 F150 pickup truck was stolen from the lot and recovered by police at the Fulford ferry terminal on Wednesday morning.

The suspects travelled to Tsawwassen via Swartz Bay on Tuesday night. Video surveillance footage shows the couple transporting a black plastic case, which police believe contains a compound bow and 24 arrows as well as a .22-caliber rifle. Police suspect the weapons were stolen from the truck. No ammunition is believed to have been taken, according to police.

THEFTS continued on 2

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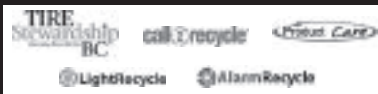
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# Farmers could lose tax exemption

## INCORPORATION

continued from 1

Aston told the crowd that committee members will meet after the final open house to discuss a recommendation on whether a referendum on incorporation should be held on Salt Spring. Should the provincial government sanction the vote, a referendum could be held by February 2017.

The Salt Spring Incorporation Study Final Report can be seen online at [www.ssiincorporationstudy.com](http://www.ssiincorporationstudy.com). Hard copies are available for viewing at the Salt Spring Island Public Library or can be purchased from Apple Photo.

## Taxes unchanged, except for farmers

Though the final report suggests most islanders wouldn't experience any changes to taxation rates based on current service levels, owners of farm dwellings stand out as an exception.

Jane Squire, who spoke on behalf of the island's agricultural community, said she fears the prospect of higher

property taxes for farm properties could destroy many of the gains to promote local agriculture achieved in recent years.

"We have worked very hard to get where we are, and we are very concerned about food security because we are an island, and I think the message increasing the farm tax is just not a great message for the community."

According to projections contained in the final report, a vote to incorporate would eliminate the Provincial Rural Tax exemption for farm dwellings. The difference could see property owners pay \$56 per \$100,000 in assessed value of the farmers' dwellings, which represents approximately \$194 for an average farm property.

"Other communities have gone through this process where they were deeply impacted and there was a huge outcry," Squire added.

Aston said the province no longer gives the committee flexibility to adjust the farm dwelling tax.

"The number is in the report because that's the number that it is, and not because of a decision of the committee to try and artificially increase

it in any way. It's just the way it is, and the province isn't allowing any leeway whatsoever on that."

Squire said she hopes a municipal council could find "a creative solution" or provide farming incentives to counteract the tax hike.

## Impact on the Trust

Speaking at the very end of Monday's three-hour meeting, audience member Hannah Brown said she fears a vote to incorporate would weaken the Islands Trust and threaten the local government's preserve and protect mandate.

"I'm worried about development, I'm worried about the Trump towers in Ganges," she said. "If we become a municipality and Galiano and everywhere else says 'let's become a municipality too,' the Trust is going to be decimated, and I moved here because I wanted this beautiful rural life."

Speaking in response to Brown's comments, Islands Trust CAO Russ Hotsenpiller acknowledged Salt Spring's incorporation would result in

a "fairly significant difference" to Trust revenues. He said the Trust would probably need to make up about \$500,000 over three years following Salt Spring's incorporation. The Trust's annual budget, he added, could drop from about \$7 million to \$5.8 million as a result of Salt Spring's incorporation.

"I would say that's not an insignificant consideration, but we have come up with a transition plan that talks about how we are going to adapt," he said. "Salt Spring would still be a member of the Islands Trust... but the land-use planning component would be undertaken by the municipality."

Hotsenpiller said the Trust's transition plan, which can be downloaded from the Islands Trust website, outlines various post-incorporation options.

Earlier in the evening, Klukas said any decisions by a Salt Spring municipal council to alter the island's Official Community Plan would require approval from Trust Council if Salt Springers chose to incorporate.

"There is no reason to necessarily suggest that the level of development would change as a direct result of incorporation," he added.

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## THEFTS

continued from 1

Camera footage shows the suspects at BC Ferries' Swartz Bay terminal after taking the 7:50 p.m. sailing from Fulford Harbour, where they transferred to a 9 p.m. Tsawwassen-bound vessel and reached the Lower Mainland at 10:40 p.m.

The male suspect is described as Caucasian with short hair (shaved sides with mohawk strip), approximately six feet tall and having an athletic build. He was wearing a light-blue jacket over a navy blue hooded sweatshirt and salmon-coloured pants with white running shoes.

The female suspect has a fair complexion, long dark hair, is between 5'2" and 5'4" tall, and was wearing a dark jacket over a blue-coloured hooded sweatshirt with light-blue jeans and black running shoes with pink laces.

When reached for an update on Tuesday afternoon, Lagan said police believe the pair is from off island.

Salt Spring Island RCMP have notified province-wide police agencies about the theft. Anyone with information about the pair's identity and/or whereabouts is urged to contact Salt Spring Island RCMP at 250-537-5555 or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

"Along with investigating the pair of suspects in this theft, officers are also investigating the apparent improper storage of the firearm prior to the theft," Lagan said. "Islanders are reminded to secure their vehicles and remove their keys to prevent becoming the victim of theft."

In other Salt Spring RCMP news, a Salt Spring man faces a charge of fleeing the scene of an accident after he drove his blue 1990s-era Nissan pick-up truck into a UHAUL rental van in the heart of downtown Ganges at around 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

# Ganges crash investigated



PHOTOS COURTESY RCMP

BC Ferries security camera footage reveals two suspects sought by police for auto and weapons thefts on Salt Spring.

Police found the man in a nearby bar and placed him under arrest for failing to remain at the scene. There are no criminal charges pending as the individual will be charged under the Motor Vehicle Act.

The incident reduced traffic to a single lane in the 100 block of Fulford-Ganges Road for about 45 minutes as crews worked to clear the scene.

No injuries were sustained by the occupants of either vehicle, according to police.

# NEWSBEAT

## Heads up!

### Salt Spring Trails Forum

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## ROADS

# MoTI extends deadline for Vesuvius fence removal

Owner hopes petition will sway decision

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The owner of a contested fence at the intersection of Vesuvius Bay and Sunset roads is hoping public support will help convince the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure the structure poses no safety hazard to drivers.

Sabrina Aven, owner of a home at 700 Vesuvius Bay Rd., constructed the fence on what she thought was her property earlier this year. She was first notified in May that complaints had been made about impeded safety and sight-lines at the intersection with Sunset Drive. With information that the fence was actually constructed on MoTI property, the department ordered Aven to take it down by June 24.

Following a meeting between Aven, MoTI area manager Tina Rogers and Islands Trust bylaw officer Thomas Loo on Oct. 18, Rogers gave Aven a new deadline of Dec. 20 to remove the fence.

"I am hereby issuing notice to yourself that you have 60 days from today to relocate the fence back within your property," Rogers wrote in a letter dated Oct. 21. "Failure to do so will result in

the ministry's contractor, Mainroad Contracting, [being] dispatched to remove the fence."

Rogers stated at the Oct. 18 meeting that although the order had been initiated by driver complaints, only a traffic engineer could say whether the intersection was unsafe, while Aven had asked whether a deal allowing the fence to remain in place was possible.

"I have taken care of both these items and did review this issue with the operations manager and our district engineer and both parties concluded that the fence needs to be removed from its current location," Rogers wrote.

Aven has so far refused to budge on the grounds that it was not clear the right-of-way was not part of her property when she first built the fence. She further believes safety at the intersection has actually improved, since drivers now stop at the stop sign at the end of Sunset Drive instead of treating it as a yield.

Aven has also argued that her way of life as a permaculture farmer would be impacted by removing the fence and says privacy from the busy road is a concern.

Participants in an online survey and petition that Aven mounted through surveylent.com seem



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has issued a new deadline for removal of this fence located on their right-of-way in front of 700 Vesuvius Bay Rd.

to share her views. She asked whether participants were aware of the fence, and whether they considered it a safety hazard. Out of 222 responses between Oct. 24 and Nov. 3, only two people said they were unaware of the fence and eight said the fence makes the road unsafe for motorists.

Although MoTI had previously stated Aven would be charged for the fence removal if Mainroad Contracting had to do it, Rogers offered to defer that cost at the

Oct. 18 meeting if Aven agreed then and there to move the fence.

"I understand it was an honest mistake, and that's why I don't want it to financially cause you any ill harm," Rogers said, according to a recording Aven made of the meeting.

She stated later: "I'm not here to pick on you and I'm not here so you can't provide food for your family. My only lens with being here is to make sure the travelling public can navigate their way

through that intersection safely."

Rogers also pointed out that legally, people and organizations can only build on lands that belong to them.

Avens refused the on-the-spot offer, saying she felt blackmailed. She has offered to sign an agreement to move the fence at a later date should MoTI wish to develop the roadway at some point.

Islands Trust bylaw enforcement personnel had also previously contacted Aven about the fence, noting if she were to move it back onto her property it would then contravene their bylaw on intersection sight-lines. The bylaw currently states that no fences exceeding .75 metres in height can be located "in the triangle formed by the boundaries of two intersecting highways and a line joining points on those boundaries 15 metres from their point of intersection."

Amendments to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's technical bylaw, which were given third reading and sent to Islands Trust Executive Committee on Thursday, reduce the measurement to six metres along the sides. It's not clear how that might affect the situation if Aven were to move the fence back to her property line.

Loo said the file on Aven is closed since the fence is currently out of Islands Trust jurisdiction.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### No toxins found in Cusheon Lake

Water quality experts have confirmed that although Cusheon Lake contains a variety of algae with the potential to spawn cyanotoxins, no such toxins have been measured in lake water.

The discovery of cyanobacteria algae in Cusheon Lake in August

has prompted lakeside resident Wayne Hewitt to question if more frequent and detailed water-quality monitoring needs to be undertaken by the Capital Regional District.

Hewitt said the return of cyanotoxins to St. Mary Lake underpins the need to preserve the integrity of Salt Spring's watersheds and work to improve the quality of freshwater sources.

"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," he said.

### Fulford Water questions LTC authority

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee trustees were left confused by correspondence written on behalf of

the Fulford Water Commission, which was discussed during Thursday's LTC business meeting.

The letter criticized the LTC for directing the commission on how much water it should supply to ratepayers.

"The commission is concerned with Islands Trust setting standards in their land use bylaw for a daily water volume which is set at a higher volume than what the water purveyor's treatment system currently allocates to

its users," wrote Karla Campbell, the Capital Regional District's senior manager for Salt Spring. "Assigning specific volumes to individual lots potentially jeopardizes the water purveyor's ability to modify user volume in the future ... Additionally, this approach creates an inequality in service and value to property owners who may become eligible for different allocations."

Planner Jason Youmans explained that a regular referral had been sent to

the water commission asking it to confirm how much water it could supply to a proposed seven-lot subdivision at 277 Morningside Rd. Policy guidelines state that 1,600 litres per day must be available to any lot to be developed on the island. He said the LTC does not require water districts to supply that amount, but asks whether they can.

Trustees asked staff to reply to Campbell with clarification and an invitation to meet.

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# Nursery on the brink

Fraser's Thimble Farms protests threatened loss of water permit

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

**Everyone living on Salt Spring Island needs access to clean water, but for some it's also the key to their livelihood.**

Richard and Nancy Fraser of Fraser's Thimble Farms on Arbutus Road at the north end of the island know that more acutely than anyone.

Established in 1972, the nursery's specialty is the growing of rare and native plants, although all kinds of flowering plants and shrubs, fruit trees and berries are available there. Despite practising extreme water conservation from years of experience — using well water, storage ponds, roof run-off, shade structures and specialized techniques — they are still completely dependent on St. Mary Lake water arriving at their property through a three-quarter-inch pipe installed by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District several decades ago.

Without access to that water during the summer months, they will no longer have a business.

"We could last three days without water and then we would start incurring losses," said Richard. "And that's exceptionally long for a nursery. Most last one day."

And it would only take about a month without adequate watering for the nursery business to be defunct. Investments of 10 or more years in some plants would be lost.

That's why the Frasers experienced an incredibly stressful summer of 2016, when the NSSWD threatened to revoke the nursery's water permit on more than one occasion. At the end of June, when Level 4 conservation restrictions were implemented, the NSSWD sent them an email advising they should expect their water permit to be rescinded the following week.

Without a special water permit, the nursery faces the same Level 4 restrictions as anyone else: watering of gardens and plants for one hour every other day between the hours of 6 and 10 a.m., and 6 and 10 p.m.

"So basically they were saying 'find your own water within a week,'" said Nancy.

The Frasers wrote back to the NSSWD, detailing the other sources of water and conservation actions the farm already uses, and received no response.

On July 22, they received a letter stating their permit was extended to July 27, at which time it would be reviewed again.

"It suggested we weren't conserving the voluntary provincial requirement for Level 4 drought, which is 30 per cent," said Richard.

The Frasers couldn't believe that so dug out their water bills to check.

"Lo and behold our reduction from 2015 was 36 per cent from the start of the conservation Level 2, which was on May 1," said Richard.

He wrote back to the NSSWD to point out their error and again emphasized their conservation efforts. He also explained how nurseries need support from their area water managers and hoped for continued support from the NSSWD.

The response? "Whether or not you have a sustainable business model that factors in your needs for available [water] supply is a matter for you to deal with and not the district."

Richard said it made him realize that the NSSWD couldn't possibly care about supporting local business.

"They don't care that we've been here for 44 and a half years and they don't care if we're employing people or using water efficiently."

Another letter from NSSWD arrived at the end of August. It stated that the permit had been extended, but stressed how "issuing a permit and reviewing it each month is not permission for you to carry on this way next year."

Again, the Frasers were upset by the tone of the correspondence, and by the way their situation was portrayed in public NSSWD board minutes, which contained some incorrect information. One statement claimed the nursery had expanded, which it has not done for more than 20 years.

"It implies that we are abusing water and that is the most frustrating thing," said Richard.

The Frasers' conservation-mindedness permeates all aspects of their business, which includes growing plants for ecological rehabilitation purposes. Government and non-profit agencies are among their customers.

"Reclamation and restoration of damaged ecosystems has been a very important, key part of our business and philosophy over the years," said Richard.

## PETITION LAUNCHED

Not wanting to endure last summer's scenario again, the Frasers have created a petition they would like residents and customers to sign. It urges the NSSWD to continue to provide water to Fraser's Thimble Farms during times of drought and to make nurseries exempt from water permits as they are in other districts like the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

It can be signed at the farm at 175 Arbutus Rd. or through [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) — search for "Fraser's Thimble Farms."

The Frasers were reluctant to seek publicity for their situation, but feel they have no other choice.

"Our customers have been fantastic," said Richard. "The support has been overwhelming."

## NSSWD POSITION

Marshall Heinekey is the chair of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board of trustees.

From the district's point of view, the issue is a simple matter of water quantity.



Richard and Nancy Fraser with information about their NSSWD petition. Below, right, fall colours at their nursery.

**"They don't care that we've been here for 44 and a half years and they don't care if we're employing people or using water efficiently."**

"There is a finite amount of water," he told the Driftwood in explaining the NSSWD's hard line against supplying water to the Frasers.

While acknowledging that the Frasers have made a serious effort to meet their water needs, they are still a significant consumer, he said.

Heinekey also said how nurseries are treated in other parts of B.C. is not relevant since their water supplies are potentially less limited than on an island. Richard Fraser had presented data from various reports and nearby jurisdictions to show how much more water other nursery operations use and how those businesses are valued in their communities.

"They were important to him, but not relevant to us," said Heinekey.

He explained how the NSSWD is concerned about St. Mary Lake dropping below the 40.0-metre level allowed by its licence with the provincial government. If that looks like it will occur, the district needs to apply for a permit, which costs \$10,000 just to make the application, with further expenses beyond that.

Heinekey also defended NSSWD's leak rate, which the Frasers had criticized. A 2014 NSSWD water audit found more than 28 million gallons of water had been lost through the system before reaching customers — 18 per cent of all water withdrawn from St. Mary Lake and 21 per cent of water from Maxwell Lake.

"St. Mary is now down to 10 per cent and Maxwell is at 16 per cent," said Heinekey.

The NSSWD also needs people to understand that even if the island receives ample rainfall in winter months, as it did last year, that doesn't avoid the need for extreme conservation during the summer. St. Mary and Maxwell lakes can only hold so much water before the excess spills over and flows away.

And while raising the weir at St. Mary Lake is in the works and will increase the amount of water available, completion of that project is not imminent.

Heinekey and NSSWD manager Ron Stepaniuk met with the Frasers after the launch of their petition, but no promise to provide a water permit next summer was given.



## DROP BY DROP

Fraser's Thimble Farms has always pieced together a water supply and reduced the amount it needs through conservation measures since it began operating in 1972. Before that, Richard Fraser's family had a market garden on their 3.5-acre property and spearheaded a push for NSSWD expansion to Southey Point.

"When I was a kid, we ran out of water every summer," says Richard Fraser, which is why conservation efforts have always been part of their operation.

- Catchment ponds were created in the late 1970s and '80s.
- Rainwater is taken off the roof of the buildings and charged down to the ponds. (That was first done 25 years ago.)
- Despite brackish groundwater, a new well was drilled in the 1980s to augment ones from the 1950s and '60s, and some well water is always part of the water equation. The farm uses between 120,000 and 150,000 gallons of pond and well water per year. All non-NSSWD water must be treated before use on plants.
- From 2014 through 2016 they increased pond storage capacity by extending a liner. They also added 6,000 square feet of shade structures used in the summer months.
- In September 2016 they expanded an existing pond and lined it, adding an estimated 50,000 gallons of storage capacity for next year.
- Various containers are used to collect rainwater.
- Many plants are hand watered.
- They institute a practice of "waiting for wilt" before watering plants.
- Many plants are rooted into the ground, which means they need less water.
- Plants are moved closer together and in reduced areas as warmer weather arrives so they can be watered as efficiently as possible.

Richard Fraser says their farm uses 90 per cent less water than the recommended use for growing container plants in B.C.

"We believe we have the most efficient farm of our type in B.C."

## How much NSSWD summertime water does Fraser's Thimble Farms use?

- July & August 2016: 97,790 gallons
- July & August 2015: 204,140 gallons

Way back in 2006, the farm used 214,750 gallons in July and August.

Because April of 2016 was exceptionally dry, they used more water than normal for that month, which may have caused the NSSWD to scrutinize them more carefully. Coincidentally, in May the Frasers had also requested some financial relief since their NSSWD water costs rose by 396 per cent from 2006 to 2016.

## How does that compare to an average NSSWD household?

In 2014, the average NSSWD household of two people used 118 gallons per day, calculated on a year-round basis. (Source: NSSWD Sustainable Water Management Strategy, June 2015)

That makes the Frasers' 2016 summertime NSSWD water consumption of 1,577 gallons per day only 13.3 times that of the average NSSWD household year-round. Average NSSWD household use in summer months was calculated by a March 2016 Opus DaytonKnight study for the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee to be 36 per higher than in winter.

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Watershed group okayed

Agricultural activities explored

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee has taken the advice of staff and affected parties by inviting local environmental and agriculture groups to refine regulations for rural watershed protection.

Trustees had previously decided the regular public meeting structure would be sufficient to inform bylaw, stakeholders, who include both farming and water protection advocates. The decision at Thursday's LTC meeting will see a small working group convened to hash out the bylaw's particulars.

"It's always difficult finding the balance between the [Trust's] preserve and protect mandate and promoting agriculture when conflicts occur," observed trustee George Grams.

The LTC gave first reading to Bylaw 487, with land use amendments introducing new regulations for agricultural activities in the two rural watershed zones on Sept. 1. A staff report dated Oct. 27 outlines how new regulations will not apply to any properties located within the Agricultural Land Reserve. However, changes to the official community plan are necessary to prohibit or restrict farming where it is currently allowed in non-ALR lands near lakes in order to protect water quality and the natural environment.

"The agricultural community is concerned

and quite anxious to be part of the process," planner Jason Youmans reported at Thursday's meeting.

The Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society has also indicated a strong wish to collaborate with farmers and the LTC.

Staff were directed to draft the working group's terms of reference, to be reviewed for approval at the next LTC meeting on Dec. 1.

## Applications moved forward

The LTC also voted Thursday to send a rezoning application for residential accommodation at Wisteria Guesthouse to the Advisory Planning Commission for comment, and granted a development variance permit to allow a smaller minimum lot size for one of two lots in a Long Harbour Road subdivision.

Trustees accepted applicant Eric Booth's proposal to reduce the smaller lot from the permitted minimum of .6 hectares to .44 hectares as it was not expected to have a land use impact or change the setback between the well and septic field. As well, the lot change follows Islands Trust policy by encouraging development away from intact natural areas, in this case forest backing the larger lot.

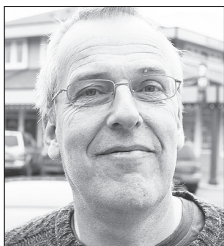
Salt Spring LTC's amended technical bylaw received third reading and was sent to the Islands Trust Executive Committee for approval.

# District dissolution promoted

## FIRE DISTRICT

continued from 1

The candidate with the most votes will win the two-year term, while candidates who receive the second- and third-highest number of votes will serve until 2018. The fourth- and fifth-place candidates will serve until the fire district's upcoming AGM in April 2017.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

## Schlenker cites frustration

One week after submitting his official resignation as fire trustee, Norbert Schlenker has sparked debate by claiming dissolution of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District is the only way islanders can avoid cost increases associated with union-mandated wages and benefits paid to the fire department's career firefighters.

In a website launched late last week, Schlenker outlined his frustration over an inability to enact change as a fire district trustee.

"I was elected 18 months ago by ratepayers of the fire district to further their interests," he writes at libra-investments.com/fpd/. "Nearly 2,000 hours of unpaid work later, I felt I could no longer do so.

"Ratepayers know they are getting a raw deal; ratepayers should know there is nothing the trustees can do

Norbert Schlenker, one of four recently resigned fire board trustees. He is proposing that Salt Spring Island have no fire department and pay higher insurance premiums instead.

about it."

According to Schlenker's calculations and research, Salt Spring property owners would pay less overall property tax if they chose to eliminate fire protection services and pay the resulting increase in home insurance rates rather than continue to pay fire tax.

Funding for the fire district's nearly \$2.5-million budget represents approximately 15 per cent of the average resident's overall property tax bill, according to information contained within the recently released Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Final Report.

"The district charges its ratepayers far more than the benefits they receive," Schlenker writes. "Its current cost structure makes it

a value destroyer."

With budget increases tied significantly to collective agreements covering full-time firefighters, wages and benefits have grown to comprise 80 per cent of the overall fire budget. Schlenker said a 2.5 per cent annual wage increase virtually guaranteed until 2020, along with other anticipated costs like equipment replacement and a new Ganges fire hall, create a situation that is not sustainable.

"There will be an inevitable 1.5 to 2.5 per cent increase in SSIFPD's operating budget every year," he sates.

Schlenker concedes he's unsure how fire service and first response calls would be handled following the district's dissolution but suggests other public agencies could fill some of the gaps.

Schlenker ends his blog with a request for anyone swayed by the prospect of dissolution. Under the heading "You have convinced me. What can I do?" Schlenker encourages islanders to run for office in the coming by-election on a platform to petition the provincial government to dissolve the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.

"Run for office as a fire trustee on the dissolution platform, or vote for people who will in the coming by-election. If they win, they can petition the province to dissolve the district."



## North Salt Spring Waterworks District Exploring Options



At a Board meeting on October 12, 2016, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Board of Trustees passed a resolution to begin discussing the option of conversion to a local service area of the Capital Regional District (CRD), should the vote to incorporate Salt Spring Island as a municipality fail. If the outcome of the vote is 'no', the District would remain in the current position of being unable to access the significant federal and provincial infrastructure funding that is available to a municipality; therefore, the Board of Trustees feels it would be prudent to examine different eventualities in advance of any governance change.

### Financing Capital Projects a Challenge

Over the last number of years, the District has wrestled with the challenge of financing much needed capital infrastructure projects. As an improvement district, the full cost of service is borne by the ratepayers, with the exception of capital expenditure charges, which are paid by the property developer. These developer charges are now limited as the District no longer has the capacity to supply the major development projects, which have historically helped to fund capital projects.

Water tolls have also been adjusted and raised several times but, with much needed conservation measures in place, revenue is not keeping pace with capital costs. The parcel tax structure has been reformed as well; changes will be implemented beginning in 2017 in order to proportionately distribute taxes across the entire base and make the system more equitable for all ratepayers. However, while there will be a small increase in revenue, it will not be sufficient to fund future capital projects.

In addition to the St. Mary Lake water treatment plant, the District has several other large infrastructure projects coming in the next few years including raising of the Duck Creek weir and a new water treatment plant at Maxwell Lake. These projects will be a substantial burden on District finances and District ratepayers are unlikely to support the increases in water, parcel tax and surcharges that will be necessary to fund these projects. As mentioned in the recently released *Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study: Final Report*, a municipality would be eligible for Infrastructure Planning Grants and programs such as the Building Canada Fund that typically provide funding for two-thirds of capital costs. In the case of the Duck Creek weir project, which has been roughly estimated to cost \$5 million, obtaining a grant could reduce the cost to ratepayers by as much as \$3.33 million. There are also other grants available to municipalities for which NSSWD would apply if eligible including grants related to water conservation, wildfire protection, and asset management.

### Access to Grant Money

Should the residents of SSI vote against incorporation, joining the CRD is the only remaining mechanism for the District to secure grant money. Of course, it is important to note that grant funding is not guaranteed upon incorporation or conversion to a CRD local service area and there is a key difference between the two situations: in the case of a municipality, the Council will decide which projects receive priority for grant applications, however, if NSSWD converts to a local service area, it will become just one of many CRD service areas that are in competition with each other for the CRD to apply for grants on their behalf.

The provincial government has repeatedly made it very clear that there will be no direct funding of improvement districts and that external grant funding will continue to be available only to regional districts and municipalities. As a result, the District must be ready to move in another direction if the community of Salt Spring Island rejects municipal incorporation; therefore, the Trustees have chosen to open a dialogue on behalf of the ratepayers with the CRD about the possibility of conversion to a local service area of the CRD. At this time, the District is committed to keeping ratepayers informed and will provide updates via the website and newsletters as discussions and events unfold over the next few months.

NSSWD Board of Trustees

North Salt Spring Waterworks District  
www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

## BC FERRIES

# Fulford terminal upgrade pushed back once again

Quinitsa scouted for Crofton route

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ferry passengers and anyone else attempting to travel in and out of Fulford village will have to wait a little longer before BC Ferries terminal upgrades get parked vehicles off the roadway.

Upgrade plans will likely not proceed until 2020, BC Ferries executives announced during the semi-annual meeting between BC Ferries and the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee, held Wednesday, Nov. 2 at the Harbour House Hotel.

"We're looking at a three to three-and-a-half year process, assuming successful property negotiations by the end of the year," said Dave Hendry, BC Ferries' director of strategic planning.

"I hate to sound like a broken record. I've been working on this for around 10 years," Harold Swieren-ga, FAC chair, said in response to the news.

BC Ferries' original 20-year master plan for the area was initially presented at a July 2011 open house. The first phase was going to be the development of a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure right-of-way on Fulford-Ganges Road as a holding lane before eventual terminal expansion in phase two.

Construction on phase one was envisioned to take place in 2013, but unexpected costs and the need to acquire property saw delay after delay until that phase was abandoned. New plans announced in May 2015 called for a complete terminal expansion to take place in 2018-19. Instead of expanding parking on the road, the design has room for 145 vehicles within the terminal space, plus a bus turnaround and a passenger pick-up/drop-off area.

Ferry executives said the reason for the delay is stalled negotiations to acquire a property located at the edge of the existing terminal. If they are unsuccessful, an alternate plan will include purchasing a different piece of land.

The completion date is also not guaranteed, explained Mark Collins, BC Ferries' vice-president of strategic planning and community engagement.

"In a cold sense it's a discretionary project, which is why the timeline can change," Collins said, noting BC Fer-

ries does not have a legal requirement to get its vehicle traffic off the road.

"We're determined to get there. We just need the conditions in place that allow us to proceed," he said.

## Salish vessels possibly delayed

The delivery of the much-anticipated Salish class vessels, two of which are headed for Gulf Islands routes, could also be delayed. Collins said the first ship slated for delivery to the Powell River-Comox route is definitely behind schedule.

If the next two ships are also not on time, that could put back implementation of new schedules for the Gulf Islands-Tsawwassen routes. At least one Salish class vessel will need to be in place for the schedules to start during summer 2017 as planned, Collins said.

However, trials on the Salish Orca have been successful, with better than expected speed performance. BC Ferries is also confident in its pioneering partnership with Fortis BC to fuel the ships with liquidified natural gas through on-deck bunkering, which will be the first time this is done on passenger ships anywhere in the world. BC Ferries already uses bunkering for diesel fuelling.

Howard Holzapfel, a FAC member with experience in the propane industry, had several questions for Sarah Smith, Fortis' director of natural gas transportation, about bunkering safety and emergency precautions. He said firefighters in the communities where bunkering will take place (near Comox and at the Tsawwassen terminal) should receive training and special equipment to meet the new risks, paid for by BC Ferries.

Smith and Collins assured the FAC

that safety procedures and computer programs for shut-down in case of emergency are rigorous.

"We've literally written the book, and we will follow the book," Collins said.

## Howe Sound Queen replacement planned

With the mid-sized Salish class vessels underway, BC Ferries is looking to its next phase of vessel replacement and fleet standardization by introducing a new Minor 44 class as the smallest capacity ships. The corporation currently has 35 ships from approximately 30 different classes in the fleet. The new program will potentially eliminate six classes.

Part of the change will include retiring the Howe Sound Queen, currently serving the Vesuvius-Crofton route, in three years' time. BC Ferries' current plan is to bring in the MV Quinitsa. Since it has a smaller capacity than the Howe Sound Queen, one extra round trip would be added to the schedule each day.

"That's the proposal we're floating right now," Collins said.

## Garlic fest part of traffic boom

Salt Spring ferry routes contributed to a fleet-wide increase in vehicle and passenger traffic this summer, including a boost of nearly eight per cent on the Long Harbour-Tsawwassen route.

The Salt Spring Garlic and Music Festival in August was responsible for an increase of nearly 20 per cent in foot passenger traffic over that weekend.

"The draw was good for us as well and positive for the community," reported marine superintendent Capt. Lewis MacKay.

## 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**

**Driftwood**  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPIKE SINCE 1980  
gulfislandsdriftwood.com

## WATER

# Cyanotoxins found in St. Mary Lake

Advisory issued for private users only

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island Health advises private users who rely on St. Mary Lake for their potable water to consider other sources following the discovery of cyanotoxins in water samples tested by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District last week.

"Although the levels are below the lifetime exposure limit, as a precautionary measure, an alternate source of water could be considered for domestic purpose, such as drinking, preparing baby formula, cooking, etc.," reads part of a notice circulated to residents who live near the lake.

The advisory does not apply to residents who consume water that is treated by the NSSWD or the Highland and Fernwood Water Service District.

The drinking water quality threshold for cyanotoxins set by Health Canada is 1.5 parts per billion. According to the test results received on Nov. 2, the raw water sample contained 1.2 ppb of microcystin LA and treated water contained 0.030 ppb of the cyanotoxin.

"Toxic chemicals produced by cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, have been detected in the NSSWD water from St. Mary Lake; however, the toxin was present only at levels below the guideline for treated water stated in the Health

Canada Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality," said Meghan McKee, NSSWD's environmental manager, on Nov. 2.

NSSWD staff have confirmed the treated water they provide to more than 5,500 island residents is safe to drink.

The NSSWD last detected cyanotoxins in St. Mary Lake in 2013.

McKee said the district will closely monitor raw and treated water from St. Mary Lake until further notice.

"Please be assured that human health and safety is the top priority at NSSWD and a precautionary approach will be taken," she said.

The Island Health notice was circulated to neighbourhood POD leaders by the Capital Regional District emergency program coordinator for Salt Spring on Friday afternoon.

The notice calls upon lake water users who aren't affiliated with a water district to take precautionary measures because of the potential variability of cyanobacteria levels in various parts of the lake.

"It can't be established what the level [of cyanotoxins] would be at the private users' point of intake," reads the notice.

The toxin cannot be removed through boiling. Testing and analysis is ongoing.

Further details are available at [www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca) or by calling Island Health at 250-519-3401.

## SHIFT INTO WINTER

### Winter Driving Tips

Equip your work vehicle with a Winter Survival Kit. Recommended items include: an approved high-visibility vest, non-perishable food, blankets, first aid supplies, windshield scraper, snow brush, spare tire, wheel wrench & jack, shovel & traction mat, sand or kitty litter, fuel line antifreeze, flares & matches or a lighter, tire chains & gloves, flashlight & extra batteries, battery jumper cables, sandbags for extra weight, extra clothing & footwear. Do it now, before you're caught off guard.

There are many other great winter driving tips available at: [www.shiftintowinter.ca](http://www.shiftintowinter.ca)

Take the Shift Into Winter Driving Quiz: <http://shiftintowinter.ca/quiz/>

[www.prepareyourself.ca](http://www.prepareyourself.ca)

## HEALTH CARE

# Eye specialists foresee service drop

Surgical privilege cramps recruitment in Duncan

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The upcoming retirement of two Cowichan Valley ophthalmologists who are in their 70s is posing a potential barrier to care for patients on Salt Spring as well as those in the Duncan area.

Following the previous retirement of Dr. David Wakelin, who founded the Duncan practice 40 years ago, partners Donald MacGregor and Stanley Polack are planning to follow suit by January 2017. That will leave Dr. Karen Hoar to serve all the patients that three specialists now take care of, with little hope of attracting another person due to politics over hospital surgical privileges.

The three doctors sent a letter to patients in September warning them of the situation and asking that people take up the cause with elected representatives and Island Health administration.

"Our position is that unless we can initiate recruitment to get someone, the community service is going to drop," MacGregor told the Driftwood.

The Duncan office has already seen wait times for appointments grow and its waiting room is being stretched to capacity. Many of the patients are from Salt Spring. MacGregor operated a satellite clinic at Lady Minto Hospital for 20 years but discontinued that in the lead-up to retirement.

With a high patient load requiring non-surgical services, the entire system is now poised to overload. Patients may be required to travel to Victoria, which will

then increase pressure on those services.

There are two types of ophthalmology care: medical and surgical. Medical ophthalmologists prescribe and fit eyewear as well as treating conditions related to systemic disease such as diabetes, hypertension, atherosclerosis and inflammation. Surgical services include cornea, retina, cataract and glaucoma interventions, among other procedures.

New ophthalmologists are doctors who have just spent additional years on specialist training and are eager to put their surgical skills to use, MacGregor explained. But Island Health has not agreed for any newcomer to share existing surgical time and resources at Cowichan District Hospital beyond the two ophthalmologists who currently do so.

"If you can't offer surgical privileges, they won't come. They know that having a medical ophthalmologist is a non-starter," MacGregor said.

The Duncan office knows this from experience. They had attracted a "perfect fit" who moved on after two years, after a frustrating wait for privileges that were never awarded.

Wakelin outlined the same issue in a letter to Cowichan Valley MLA Bill Routley upon his retirement in 2015.

"We need a younger full-time ophthalmologist to maintain the status quo. That someone would require being granted hospital privileges, including surgical privileges. To get a younger fully trained ophthalmologist willing to give up using a good part of their training is impossible," he wrote.

Jean Elder, president of Salt Spring Senior Services Society, said access to specialist eye care is of extreme importance to

the senior population's health and mobility. The need is only bound to increase as the population ages.

The regional health authority has meanwhile said it recognizes that medical ophthalmology service will diminish in the Cowichan Valley with the coming retirements.

"Island Health does support the recruitment of an additional medical ophthalmologist to meet the population's non-surgical treatment and diagnostic need. However, we are unable to provide additional hospital/operating room time without impacting other programs and clinical service areas," information supplied to the Driftwood states.

Island Health says the Cowichan Valley is well served by its two surgical ophthalmologists, boasting "the lowest wait times for ophthalmologic surgery on Vancouver Island (within the provincially established acceptable wait time period of 16 weeks.)"

The health authority said it plans carefully where services are located and resources allotted, based on population and demographic needs. Because of that, it is exploring the need to hire an ophthalmologist for the Sidney area.

Routley's office has advocated on the issue in the Cowichan Valley with Island Health and B.C. Health Minister Terry Lake. He received the same response from Lake in November 2015 that the region is better served than most communities. However, MacGregor feels that doctors' and patients' voices are more recently starting to be heard.

"It's in active review. We have some reason for mild optimism," he said. "But if we can't offer hospital privileges, it won't work."



PHOTO COURTESY DEBORAH NOSTDAL

**REUNION:** School District 64 teacher Deborah Nostdal, right, meets with Isabella Carlyle, who graduated from Gulf Islands Secondary School in 2016 and is working as a page in the House of Commons. Nostdal was attending the 20th Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy in Ottawa last week.

## ISLAND ROADS

## Morningside causes MoTI ire

No-parking option provokes strong response

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has suggested that removing parking along most of Morningside Road might be the best option for ensuring residents and emergency vehicles can navigate the narrow thoroughfare.

Salt Spring's new MoTI area manager Tina Rogers presented the no-parking concept to the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee at their public meeting on Nov. 2.

"I need to turn it back into a reliable corridor," Rogers said, adding local residents had started taking action on their own to discourage parking, including adding signs and boulders. Emergency vehicles and the MoTI maintenance contractor are therefore facing obstacles getting through.

The presentation called for closing Morningside to parking for 800 metres starting just past the intersection with Orchard Avenue. Rogers said she had spoken to local RCMP about helping with enforcement. As well, plastic barriers that might scratch passenger vehicles but that emergency vehicles could pass over would be installed.

Rogers said it is imperative that emergency access be maintained.

"Unfortunately, convenience doesn't trump safety," Rogers said.

The announcement came as an unpleasant surprise to most in the room, including elected officials Peter Grove of the Islands Trust and MLA Gary Holman.

Grove told Rogers that from his perspective as a trustee and a mediator, announcing intentions without any prior community consultation was "not the way you do things."

"You have no idea what can happen on this island. It can get pretty wild," Grove said.

Holman added his opinion that if the ministry was concerned about safety in Fulford, it should have looked first at the problems caused by ferry traffic parking on the only road in and out of the village.

"MoTI seems quite happy to leave the problem of the pinch-point to BC Ferries to deal with," he said.

Other participants at the meeting observed that asking seniors or others with mobility issues to park at the road's end cul de sac and then walk one kilometre to the Fulford terminal would be difficult.

FAC chair Harold Swierenga explained there is already a problem with parking in Fulford. He suggested opening more parking along South Ridge Road, but said MoTI would have to construct a proper sidewalk because otherwise people would be forced to walk in the drainage ditch on Fulford-Ganges Road. He offered to do a walk-about with ministry staff to survey the area.

Rogers agreed that immediate community response was not in favour of the plan and said as a result there was no timeline for implementation.

"The ministry can confirm that it has not yet made a decision regarding the parking along Morningside Road, and what was presented was an option for discussion," a Nov. 7 email from MoTI states. "The ministry is committed to consultation before making any changes and will be engaging with the community."

## 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!*

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

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

*Last meeting!*



**Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study**

[www.ssiincorporationstudy.com](http://www.ssiincorporationstudy.com)

# 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 Islands)  
Bronze - Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)

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



## EDITORIAL

# We remember

Photographs and the written word have the power to transcend space and time, and there's currently no better proof of this power than Gillian Watson's Great War exhibit on display at Meaden Hall.

In her series of panels, viewers are transported 100 years back in time to an era when some 150 young Salt Spring Island men set off to fight in Europe. Twenty-five of them died there. As we pause on Nov. 11 to recall contributions of these and other soldiers from generations past, it's equally imperative for us to remember the growing needs of today's soldiers and veterans, many of whom are faced with unprecedented levels of post-traumatic stress disorder and other debilitating physical and psychological injuries.

### THE ISSUE:

Traumatic effects of war

### WE SAY:

More resources needed to help

Few veterans have done more to spread awareness about the mental health crisis among returning soldiers than retired lieutenant-general Romeo Dallaire.

"Death became a desired option. I hoped I would hit a mine or run into an ambush and just

end it all. I think some part of me wanted to join the legions of the dead, whom I had failed," Dallaire writes in *Shake Hands with the Devil*, a powerful account of his experience during the 1993 Rwandan genocide.

Dallaire could be describing thoughts of the more than 70 soldiers and veterans who have died by suicide since returning from Afghanistan. The startling figure, obtained by the *Globe and Mail* newspaper in the absence of federal statistics, represents nearly half the 158 Canadian soldiers who died while serving in Afghanistan between 2001 and the end of Canada's combat role in 2011.

The federal government's decision to revisit the file has resulted in a commitment to track the suicide rates among veterans, but the first report won't be completed and released by Veterans Affairs until late 2017. Likewise, a special committee continues to review recommendations on ways to best help veterans and soldiers in need, but conclusive action has yet to come forward.

Remembrance Day commemorations on Salt Spring begin at 10:45 in Centennial Park on Friday, Nov. 11. The ceremony will be followed by special Remembrance Day open house activities at the Legion.



VIEWPOINT by Jamie Holmes

## Firefighting facts clash with fiction

We live in logic-defying times. U.S. presidential election candidate Donald Trump has illustrated that facts don't matter. Voters in the United Kingdom were likely duped by fact-free pundits during the Brexit referendum.

And on Salt Spring Island, a small vocal group has created a similar false narrative, free from reality, in a bid to reduce public services. Now, as an extreme version of their ideology, some wish to "dissolve" or dismantle the local fire department.

Their argument is designed to trigger base emotions. They use sensational language like "most expensive" and "highest paid." They repeat the same comments over and over until they sound familiar. But these comments are simply not true. The truth is not nearly as exciting, the way reality often is upon close inspection, perhaps complex and interrelated but also, boring and bland.

According to an independent review conducted by Walker Resource Group for the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District in 2015, "Our assessment has concluded that at less than \$0.90 per thousand in property value (the "Mill Rate"), SSIFPD cost is slightly below the provincial average for similar communities."

Hecklers on social media have described runaway fire taxes by hundreds of per cent annually. They whip up hysteria with fears of hyperinflation. But in reality, the annual budget has grown by less than seven per cent from what it was in 2010 (\$2.33 million) to what it will be in 2017 (\$2.48 million).

Union firefighters are compensated fairly on Salt Spring Island; the salary for a union firefighter is exactly the same in 95 per cent of B.C. fire departments. There are minor variations between firefighter contracts in B.C., but many other fire departments have better benefits and wage provisions.

When critics compare base salaries in one department against total remuneration of Salt Spring firefighters (including benefits,

overtime and standby pay), they aren't making equal comparisons.

Finance shouldn't be the sole determiner for public safety, but the fire service is actually a pretty good deal for the community. Apart from the possibility of saving lives and cherished possessions, firefighters can also help reduce fire insurance premiums. Fire insurance rates are based on the quality of fire service in the community as determined by an independent agency, the Fire Underwriters.

According to the Fire Underwriters Survey conducted in 2015, "semi-protected" homeowners within eight kilometres of a fire hall and five kilometres of a recognized water source would receive an average 60 per cent reduction in fire insurance premiums due to the quality of service provided by Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue.

Furthermore, the Fire Underwriters estimated that the fire department — at a cost of less than \$2.5 million — saved island residents and businesses more than \$5 million in fire insurance premiums in 2015.

The underwriters stated: "In summary, the total cost benefit of having public fire protection for constituents of SSIFPD considering DPG [dwelling protection grade] and PFPC [public fire protection classification] rate estimates in this analysis is \$5,320,649."

It's time that islanders started hearing the truth about SSIFR. But in this case, the truth is not a sensational tabloid headline. The truth about SSIFR is that it's a perfectly normal public-safety organization that provides quality service for good value.

Demonizing rhetoric is unhealthy for the morale of your public safety professionals. And public safety policy developed from misinformation could have catastrophic effects within the community.

The writer is a member of the Salt Spring Island Fire Fighters Association and president of the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 4467.

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Should the fire improvement district be dissolved?

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.

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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

75

18

YES NO

# Driftwood

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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "You have no idea what can happen on this island. It can get pretty wild."

PETER GROVE, TRUSTEE, TO NEW MOTI AREA MANAGER TINA ROGERS

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:**  
Why do you remember?



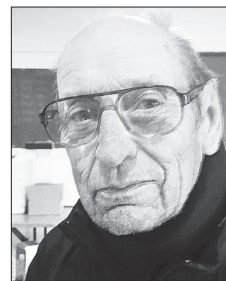
**CHRIS SIMMONDS**  
*Because of history, and what took place during the first and second world wars, and what my grandparents went through.*



**SUSAN GOOD**  
*Because wars are so horrific, and we need to remember those who suffered so we never have wars like that again.*



**DEAN MCCLERNON**  
*Me and my dad always used to lay a wreath at the cenotaph in Vancouver for my uncle.*



**DENNIS OWEN**  
*Because of the service done by the people of Canada to keep us free.*



**MARJORIE NASH**  
*Because I worked in a munitions factory for 13 days and 13 nights, 12 hours a day for five years during the war.*

## Letters to the editor

### Comforts of home

I am grateful to the incorporation study committee for contacting Bowen Island Municipality officials for their comments on the pros and cons of incorporation. I felt that much valuable information was given on both sides of the debate, which makes us all a little wiser.

Peter Frinton's observation that Salt Spring has achieved so much without incorporation and that 15 years after Bowen's incorporation they still lack an arts and community centre or a municipal hall is worth noting; as is his comment "To change governance form, there must be a compelling reason to do so." I would argue that there is no compelling reason here.

But the phrase which ranted with me was the meme which I have often heard

here: "I view Salt Spring as an overgrown teenager who ought to move out of his/her parents' home."

I view this metaphor as utterly specious. What possible relevance does adolescence have to forms of governance? But if we were to accept this metaphor, the phrase that usually follows that statement in families is "it's time you started paying your fair share."

Incorporation will mean, eventually, that we will be paying more for the level of services we currently enjoy, so I am totally in favour of continuing to accept support from our "parents" — the province and the regional district. And I have no compunction about doing so because the purpose of the Islands Trust is to preserve and protect the southern Gulf Islands "for the benefit of all British Columbians."

I am profoundly relaxed about asking all Brit-

ish Columbians to help finance the maintenance of the rural character of the islands which they enjoy so much. Surveys have shown that they are more than willing to do so. Let's stay forever teens!

**MICHAEL WALL,**  
SALT SPRING

### Assurance, please

*The following letter to Beddis Road residents Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks, who have installed "private road" signs, speed bumps and road shoulder boulders over part of Beddis Road bisecting their property, was sent to the Driftwood for publication.*

As winter weather is fast approaching I ask you the following question to which many of us would like a public response.

Will the "private" road section of Beddis Road be

plowed and sanded?

Will utilities have access to the "private" section of Beddis Road should they need to re-establish power, etc. caused by weather conditions or an accident?

Thank you for publicly reassuring us that you continue to only be concerned with your own and the travelling public's safety.

**NANCY M. HAMILTON,**  
WILDWOOD DRIVE

### NDP should walk the talk

Regarding "Electoral reform a priority for MLA," published in the Oct. 19 Driftwood, I fully support the efforts being made by our current MLA, Gary Holman, on electoral reform.

However, a few important points are missing in his review. I completely agree that electoral reform is needed in Canada and in British Columbia. Yet, the NDP's position on banning

big money in our political system is self-serving and hypocritical.

It is not just the NDP who have spoken up against the influence of corporate and union money on our elections. In fact, independent MLA Vicki Huntington was well ahead of the Official Opposition in proposing legislation to limit the influence of money in our system earlier this year, and she has repeatedly championed this cause. Green Party leader Andrew Weaver has spoken out repeatedly on this issue, going so far as to ban big money from BC Green coffers ahead of any legislated requirement to do so. Give credit where credit is due.

While the Official Opposition calls for a ban on corporate and union donations, and criticizes the government, they profit from the same system. NDP leader John Horgan, made headlines this year

when he attacked Christy Clark for her private and extravagant fundraisers, while at the same time his party had charged \$5,000 a plate to have breakfast with Mr. Horgan at a Toronto function.

The Official Opposition promises they will change the system, but only once they are in government. In contrast, the BC Green Party no longer accepts corporate or union donations, period.

Again, I completely support the reforms being proposed. Promises have a way of weakening once elected to power. It would be nice to see the NDP walk the talk now, and rid their party of big money influence.

**ADAM OLSEN,**  
BC GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE,  
SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 10

## Follow trustees' lead to demonstrate backbone

BY TONY MAUDE

Upon reading the information regarding the resignation of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District trustees, I would like to offer my thanks and support to them for attempting the near impossible, and the bold stand to mass resign in order to bring the issues to the attention of taxpayers in a manner that forces action and acknowledgement of the current situation.

It is now up to each of us to either accept the outrageous circumstances we find ourselves in or to unite as a force to reckon with to enact change.

We are an independent community on Salt Spring and any attempt to impose standards and services that do not reflect our needs or ability to fund should and can be rejected if we have the common desire and backbone to do so. For those afraid that changing the status quo will result in death and destruction of our community services, they are fear mongers at best. There are risks involved, no doubt, and there may be a time when the level of organized safety services may

not be there at all or less than desired. I can tell you that, given the make-up of our community, if there are fires/accidents or any other incidents, that we will all respond to fight the fires or rescue the injured until the services are restored in a way that reflects our needs and ability to fund in a rational manner. This is far from an ideal situation, but it appears that desperate situations require desperate actions.

I do not believe that to resolve the current impasse that the dissolution of the current services and selling of the assets is the only way out. Yes, we obviously need to decertify the union that has gone from a support organization of workers to a dictator of service levels and organization. There are many examples of government reaching a point when the excess demands of a labour organization required a reset or restructuring of the service providers of the common needs to reflect a balance between governance and the staff providing those services.

I believe that if we stand up as a united group and force or request our provin-

### INDEPTH

cial government to step in, through legislation or mandate, that there is a solution to be found. If that is via the dissolution of our fire district or mass appeal to our elected representatives I do not know. I can tell you that if we were self governed then we would have a centralized, strong voice to represent us, but we can still, through petition or mass individual appeal, cause change if we are united and active enough as a community.

I strongly recommend that we each phone or write to our provincially elected and mandated representatives to make them aware of the current issue and our unhappiness.

We also must ensure that the representatives elected to fill the current vacancies are dedicated to forcing through change, at any cost, up to and including dissolution of the current structure and that is our mandate as a community. Anything less than that means we have decided we want and are happy with our fire services, and that costs we bear are determined by

others removed from our island and motivated by their own self interests. Remember that the reason the unions are there is for the benefit and protection of their members primarily and that any other actions are secondary to that mandate and may or may not be beneficial to the community at large.

In closing, you may feel I am anti-union but that is very much not the case. Unions are necessary and good for both parties, but as with any organization, be it government, corporate or union, there will be a time when the original purpose or mandate gets lost in the grab for power that can be human nature at its worst. When those times come, then it is up to the affected parties to decide if they are sheep or principled individuals who are prepared to say enough is enough.

Our current board members have stated their position and it is up to us to decide if we have the backbone to stand up as they have or hide in a hole and wait until it is over.

*The writer is a Fulford resident.*

# RANTS *and* Roses

## Rants

A wheelbarrow full of dirt for the person who has borrowed my tools without asking, particularly my polaski (fire axe), my long-handled trowel and my son's tree planting shovel, along with other tools I can't find. Please return them all, and ask if you want to borrow anything in future. Nancy Wigen

## Roses

Meadows of fragrant roses to my guardian angels Lisa and her friend, who rescued me at Duck Creek on Friday, Oct. 28. I'm so glad you decided on a walk in the park instead of a bicycle ride. Blessings to you both. Andrea

A wheelbarrow full of poppies to Country Grocer for supplying the prizes for our Legion Halloween dance. Thank you so much for all your continued support. It is very much appreciated! Legion Branch 92, Salt Spring Island

Awesome roses to Kurt Irwin of Irwin's Collision. A little over a month ago a dog I was dog-sitting scratched a car door. Wanting to pay for this, I had given Irwin the damage deposit of said vehicle. Kurt called me up and gave me some money back. It happened to be on my birthday! So thanks again, Kurt, for the fantastic job.

An elephant-sized bouquet of Kenyan roses to all the participants at the Fifth Annual Bridge Tournament to keep Kenyan school girls in school. Special bouquets to Country Grocer for providing the food and to Thrifty Foods for providing Smile Cards to the winners. Chef Mollie and super sales woman Ruth deserve special mention. Also deserving thanks are the people who provided the items for the silent auction: Moby's, Fernwood Cafe, Black Sheep Books, Golden Island, Dagwood's, Rock Salt, Embe Bakery, Jana's Bake Shop, Barb's Buns, Lewis Pitman, Josh Lawrence and Anne May RMT. Your generosity will keep girls in school.

A wheelbarrow full of poppies and red roses to Frank Neumann, our Legion poster boy. Frank makes the majority of our Legion entertainment posters and does a phenomenal job at it. Thank you so much. Your work is very much appreciated. Hugs, Wendy

The GISS Improv Team and the Festival of Fools wish to thank our friends and sponsors for the best Spook House ever. We are grateful for candy donations from Country Grocer, Pharmasave and Thrifty Foods; Island Variety shop for spooky discounts; and to TJ Beans for sound, lighting and so much more. This year, a generous grant from Country Grocer allowed us to acquire the spookiest props ever.

To the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure: Thank you so much for fixing and paving the sections of Walker Hook Road that were in such bad shape. I felt like just driving back and forth on those stretches of road 'cause it felt so good. I have been asking for that work to be done for years — and now, woohoo! Kishori Hutchings

# Report's tax numbers misleading

BY PETER LAMB

Once again, I am compelled to clarify an article in last week's issue about the final report from the incorporation study committee ("Study group completes report").

It leaves the totally misleading impression that incorporation will not change your property taxes either immediately or after the transition period.

As the Driftwood correctly pointed out, the final report "reveals that island property owners can expect 'no overall tax impact' if islanders were to opt for incorporation." However, the report's multi-year budget is not a detailed estimate of proposed revenues and expenses for a Salt Spring municipality (at current service levels) resulting in a projected level of property taxes. You would think that's exactly what they would have done if they were trying to show what a new municipality would cost.

Instead, the report misleadingly sets tax revenues the same as under the current governance structure and projects the net expenditures to stay within this financial limit. So of

## IN RESPONSE

course they show no increases in property taxes because they didn't allow for any. This is disclosed on page 189 of the lengthy final report.

The final report goes on to say that "the current tax rates could be maintained even after Year 5 once a transition period has been completed." Yet a new infographic posted by the committee on its website last weekend shows post-transition annual cost increases of \$1.3 million and annual cost savings of \$1.0 million for a net annual cost increase of \$300,000. This translates into an increase in property taxes of \$45 for an average residential property and related increases for business. Farm properties are already projected to have an annual tax increase of \$194 after the transition period.

For these, and many other reasons, I am disappointed in the final report, which does not, in my view, provide "local citizens with complete and accurate information to make an informed decision on

island incorporation" demanded of the committee in its terms of reference or "accurate and substantially complete information" as stated in the executive summary of the final report.

I am especially concerned that this final report will be sent in its present form to the minister to make a decision on whether or not to hold a referendum. According to the study committee's plan, any public comments on this report will only be sent as an attachment to the final report. As if anyone will read that in addition to the current 385-page final report.

There is still one more open house for public feedback on Nov. 20 and I encourage residents to take advantage of this last opportunity to ask questions. This is a critically important vote for every islander since incorporation is essentially not reversible. We need to be much more certain about its total impact before we take that chance.

*The writer was a Salt Spring Islands Trust trustee from 2005 to 2008.*

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 9

## Secure your stuff

I am writing in response to the Nov. 1 incident where cars at the Long Harbour terminal were "broken into."

In my opinion, if you don't want to lock your car so your car is not damaged by potential thieves, it's your prerogative, of course. Leaving keys in the ignition is only asking joy riders to take the vehicle. Again, it's your prerogative, but now issues get tricky. Is the ICBC insurance still valid? I don't think so. What if the joy riders hurt someone?

The real issue for me, however, is the unlocked guns in an unlocked car with keys in the ignition. It's a privilege in this country to have a gun licence and with privilege comes responsibility. If you can't be responsible for locking up your guns appropriately then you don't deserve the licence, period. It's that simple to me!

Why can't we, as individuals, be responsible for our own actions? Some people are blaming BC Ferries for their lack of security. Really! Do we need to do security checks at movie theatres, bus depots, malls and light rail stations, anywhere that people congregate in large numbers now? I guess it can be argued that being in the general public does have its risks. But let's not get paranoid here, and certainly not make it easy for "bad behaviour people" to get weapons.

I know of BC Ferries passengers who have been asked by ferry staff to open bags and fishing poles were found. Good for you, ferries staff! Be prudent, but can you imagine the time involved if we all had to do security checks as foot and car passengers?

Unfortunately, thieves will always be ready to take our things, but don't tempt them. Responsibility starts at the personal level and please, let's teach our kids that. I say start there and don't pass the blame onward.

WENDY CHARLTON,  
SALT SPRING

# Message for in-the-dark 'morons'

BY ROSS KING

I am sending rants to cyclists and pedestrians who grope around the roads in the dark with no lights or reflective clothing, ironically almost invariably dressed in dark clothing, and who presumably expect us motorists to not hit them.

Do these people have a suicide urge?

This appeal will in the Driftwood probably never reach these morons because a) they are morons by default; b) likely have an IQ lower than a fruit fly; c) likely can't read and/or reason anyway.

I had three near misses in a recent 10-day period, twice with a prize example on Beddis Road, who was riding a bike with no headlight or rear-lights. Not only are they invisible to both vehicles coming up to them from behind but also perhaps overtaking oncoming traffic,

and the moron-rider can't see where moron is going anyway and sways around blindly, trying to avoid the ditch, which is really smart on narrow Beddis Road.

Hitch-hikers dressed in hoodies and drab clothes are a menace on dark roads. The best example of where to see this is while travelling up Ganges Hill just south of Ganges. They tend to step out so you are more likely to see an abruptly projected thumb, which causes one to instinctively — and dangerously — swerve.

Morons . . . listen up! We cannot see you!

Duh! All cyclists should have proper front and rear lights. The brilliant flashing ones are excellent and they can be seen a mile off. Adding reflectors to the bicycle and the rider so they can be seen from the side (at junctions) should be mandatory. Pedestrians should fol-

low the same example. Wear flashing lights and reflectors on ankles, wrists, head and a torso-harness.

But back to Beddis Road: Jogging along in the gloaming, wearing a dark-coloured track-suit, turning on a minuscule flashlight at the last moment and waving it around is not good enough. It looks like a firefly. Duh again!

The evenings are getting earlier. Gloaming — the most dangerous driving light — is when a lot of people are moving around. Our morons likely have never driven and everyone should get on their cases.

I now lean on my horn, wind down my window and scream at them to get illuminated. Maybe that'll start to impinge into their vacuous brains.

*The writer is a retired engineer who lives on Beddis Road.*



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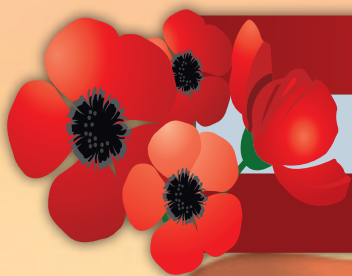
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# Remembrance Day

## NOVEMBER 11



Over the years, the Driftwood has published wartime photos submitted by community members. Some of those from a 2004 paper appear here as a Remembrance Day collage. Clockwise from top left: Bruce Logan in Vietnam, 1967; Vera Payne and Muriel Beer, 1945; Bill, Ernie, Harold and Albert Sampson, World War II; William J. Kane and Royal Navy comrades in Ceylon in World War II; members of the 442 Squadron in June 1944, Bini Sur-Mer, France; Don H. Dabbs, right, with Royal Air Force crew in Nova Scotia, 1944; Roy Lamont receiving a Queen's Coronation Medal, 1955.



"Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again; though lovers be lost love shall not; and death shall have no dominion."

- DYLAN THOMAS

## HISTORY

# Exhibit sheds new light on island men in the Great War

Historian discovers details about Salt Spring's sacrifice

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Bion. Bond. Crofton. Whims.

The names etched on Salt Spring's understated Centennial Park cenotaph are draped in island lore, presenting a story too enticing and far too valuable to ignore for amateur historian Gillian Watson.

"How many men from Salt Spring had gone really surprised me," she said in a recent interview to mark the opening of her new exhibit about Salt Springers in the Great War, currently on display at Meaden Hall until Remembrance Day.

Information gathered by Watson and other Salt Spring Archives volunteers reveals about 150 of Salt Spring's 880 residents enlisted in the First World War. The figure, which represented 17 per cent of the island's population in 1914, is nearly double the national average. Likewise, a similar proportion of Salt Springers died in Europe when compared to the mortality rates of Canadian soldiers.

"Both recruitment and mortality rates were high on Salt Spring," Watson concludes.

She suggests the reason for difference is due to Salt Spring's relatively high proportion of British and European-born pioneers, who could have been more eager to defend their homeland than Canadian-born residents. Watson also discovered that many Salt Springers were deployed to the battlefield, whereas only 68 per cent of



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

Above, and on the next page: part of displays put together by Gillian Watson, about Salt Spring men who served in World War I. Watson will give a presentation at the Salt Spring Historical Society meeting today (Wednesday, Nov. 9) at Central Hall at 2 p.m. Displays can also be seen in Meaden Hall through Remembrance Day on Nov. 11.

nationwide recruits had that experience.

The statistics are compelling, but it's the stories of individual soldiers and their families that stirred Watson's interest to create Salt Spring in the Great War: Centenary Remembrance Project.

"I find it all very surprising," said Wat-

son, who worked as a social psychologist before she retired and moved to Salt Spring. "My attitude about human beings is that we are a sturdy lot, and you have to keep on keeping on."

As someone naturally drawn to the social interplay and human relationships that

define historical events like the First World War, Watson found much to ponder in her examination of Salt Spring's war heroes.

She introduces James Douglas Whims, 16, and his older brother James Clark Whims, 18, who joined the No. 2 Construction Battalion in 1917. The unit had just been created following a petition from African-Canadian men who'd been excluded from joining the war. The platoon was comprised of African-Canadian soldiers tasked to build roads and clear mines as the Allies pushed deeper into the heart of Europe.

James was eventually "promoted" to the infantry and saw action in France but died before his 18th birthday. Robert Whims returned to Salt Spring, where he married and raised a family.

Then there's the story of Jesse Bond, who arrived on Salt Spring as an orphan to work as a houseboy on a farm owned by settler Henry Bullock. At 21, Bond joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force's 48th battalion, and departed for Europe one month after enlisting.

Bond witnessed a close friend killed by machine gun fire on the Western Front during the Battle of St. Eloi Craters and was fortunate to survive many crucial battles before he was eventually discharged and returned to Canada following a bout with the Spanish flu in 1919.

Bond used funds obtained through a government soldier settlement program to buy land on Epron Road, but eventually sold his farm to join Vancouver Island's lucrative logging industry.

**GREAT WAR** continued on the next page >>>

## Thank you.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, remember to honour our veterans who have served and continue serving our great nation.

*Lest we forget.*

## Remembering and honouring our heroes



*Lest we forget*

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Bond returned to Salt Spring in his 40s and settled on a 200-acre farm at the end of Lepage Road, where his son Malcolm and family members carry on their agricultural heritage with pride.

Lesser known among islanders is Kenneth George Halley, an island farmer with Scottish roots who enlisted at 36 years of age despite having a wife and young child. Halley was soon named a captain, but it was the farmer's fondness for the written word that established his legacy as a war poet whose works appeared

in the Victoria Colonist throughout the war.

A particularly moving panel in Watson's exhibit shows the victorious Salt Spring Island champion football team circa 1910. Arms crossed, socks pulled taut and chins held high, the players pose proudly behind a pair of trophies. One can only wonder if the lads had any sense of the political forces at play that would uproot them from their island home to fight in Europe within five years. Of the 12 men pictured, Watson writes, 11 enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary

Force, four died and one was paralyzed. The lives of those who returned would, surely, never be the same.

Salt Spring in the Great War can be accessed at Meaden Hall during the Royal Canadian Legion's regular business hours throughout the week until Remembrance Day.

Watson will also present her findings at a special meeting of the Salt Spring Historical Society at Meaden Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

Admission to the event is free.

## AFTERWARDS

by Kenneth George Halley

The battle's over now, the joy bells peal,  
And all thro' Britain's Empire hand clasps hand;  
The platform speakers praise our wall of steel;  
Hysteric crowds cheer madly thro' the land.  
But could they see the ground that we have won,  
They'd cease their cheering e'er they well begun.

Blackened and scarred, scorched by a poisoned breath,  
Stand remnants of a forest dead and still.  
Nothing could live before the hand of death  
Which fell with dread precision on the hill  
And other forms in grey and khaki dressed  
Lie 'neath the trees in never-ending rest.

Crater joins crater where the great shells came,  
Amid the tangled wire and liquid mud,  
Where ruined villages still smoke and flame,  
And streamlets turn to pools of slime and blood.

*Excerpt from Afterwards, written by a Salt Spring soldier who served in the First World War. It was published in the Victoria Colonist, March 13, 1918*



**"Please join the Hedgers on this day of remembrance of those who offered their services and lives for the preservation of freedom for Canada and countries of distant lands. The positive act of honouring these individuals surely is in living, defending and promoting the freedoms of our land, speech, religion and travel. Freedom is a right, not a privilege."**

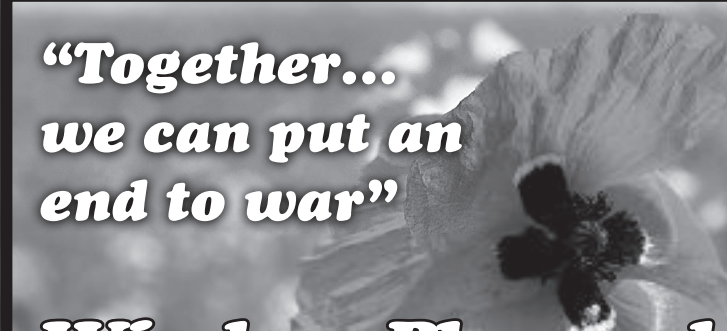


Seen left to right are Lawrence McFadden, Anthony Hedger, Millard Cantrill and William McFadden.

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- OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES



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## ESSAY

# Four poppy groups honoured on Remembrance Day

Author reflects on wartime and beyond

*Editor's note: John Mills of Salt Spring Island submitted this piece for publication in the Driftwood, but sadly died earlier this year before he could see it published. He was professor emeritus at Simon Fraser University and the author of eight books.*

BY JOHN MILLS  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It was called Armistice Day in my youth and it was supposed to celebrate the agreement drawn up between the "Allies" and the "Central Powers" on Nov. 11, 1918, at 11 a.m.

The fighting stopped, the guns fell silent, there was a hush, and then, as infantry officer and poet Siegfried Sassoon says, it was as though "Everyone suddenly burst out singing." So Armistice Day became an occasion to be observed, and that is why, on Nov. 11, 1940, our school was assembled and marched two by two to the local church.

By that stage of World War II, it was fairly safe for us to be out of doors. The Germans had given up bombing us by day and had turned to raiding us by night, so we reached the lychgate without having to dive for shelter or to listen to machine guns a long way overhead. We trooped inside and found ourselves involved in a service

of Thanksgiving, which seemed, even more than the others we were forced to attend, utterly incomprehensible.

We were instructed to remember what the priest referred to as Our Glorious Dead. I couldn't understand this. I'd already seen a couple of air raid victims — dead — and there was nothing glorious about them. I was also puzzled by the statement that these soldiers, sailors and airmen had sacrificed their lives for us. They had died, we were told, that we may live in peace. Yet it was obvious, 20 years on, that we were not living in peace. And that plenty of other men and women in uniform were out there busily dying in their own turn and presumably for the peaceful existence of another generation of children.

Cloth poppies with pins for your lapels were sold in the couple of weeks before the occasion. It was part of a campaign inaugurated by Field Marshall Douglas Haig to help ex-servicemen and their families. My father, who had fought in Haig's war, had been wounded in the knee, had got a bad case of "trench feet" and more than a whiff of poison gas, hated Douglas Haig and cursed him as the incompetent general who had sent so many of his friends over the top at the battle of the Somme, from which particular disaster he had fortunately been absent. The poppy business left him a little cold.

Like thousands of ex-servicemen,



John Mills photographed on Salt Spring Island in 2003.

he'd been kicked out onto the streets in 1918 and told to find himself a job: some of his comrades did, selling matches on street corners, or vacuum cleaners door to door, and so on, and so did my father — after a couple of years on the dole. Thus a grateful nation rewarded those who had not succeeded in entering the kingdom of the gloriously dead.

Clearly there was something wrong with all this.

When a decade later my own turn came to serve in the army, I started to understand this remembrance business a little better. I did my training with a light infantry regiment called the King's Royal Rifles. We drilled, fired rifles, Bren guns, went

on manoeuvres and forced marches and it was pleasant enough, playing soldiers on the chalk downs around Winchester. But at the end of that 10 weeks I knew one thing for certain: we had formed such a bond, those 40 or so youths, that we would have died for one another. If a war broke out, and it did — in Korea — we'd have gone there bitching and grumbling but prepared, however reluctantly, to do a particular job.

The opposite was not thinkable, it was what one's generation did, what one did in the good company of fellow soldiers. This esprit de corps, of course, is what the politicians who send us into wars rely on; otherwise wars would probably never get fought. Glory and sacrifice didn't come into it. There may have been men who thought in those terms, but I never met one.

So today I not only acquired a poppy, I'm sitting here with four of them. The first is in memory of my dead comrades, men and women in the services who were killed in the many wars since 1914 and are still being killed even as I write, and with this poppy I will gladly join you at war memorials and cenotaphs for the customary two-minute silence.

I never, luckily enough, went to Korea. I did my time in Germany instead — a relatively cushy posting. Here I made many friends among the Germans, including ex-members of the Wehrmacht. They never talked

about their experiences, nor did I ask them. But I learned this: that they were in no way different from myself, that had I been born in Berlin, say, instead of London, I'd've been in the Hitler Youth with them, a flag-waving, card-carrying Nazi like the rest, all but a very few, of my generation. I would have found myself, as in Kurt Vonnegut's fine metonymy, "staring at a pair of naked feet sticking out of a snow bank."

I used to play chess in the unit's orderly room with a filing clerk called Dieter who had been a colonel and had got a job with us after the courts had cleared him as a "good German." I told him that I'd been brought up to believe that the only good German was a dead one. He laughed: "Exactly what I was taught about the English," he said.

Here were these men and women with whom I drank, "fraternized," talked about Plato, Shakespeare, Goethe and whom, five years before, I would cheerfully have slaughtered, just as they would have delightedly slaughtered me.

So the second poppy helps me to remember that the barrier between a civilized human being and a murderous savage is thinner than the ninth part of a hair — and that when the fighting starts our humanity, along with St. Augustine's rules for a Just War, flies out of the window.

MILLS continued on 16

Please join us for 2 minutes of silence  
on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month.

"Lest we forget".

Our deepest thanks to our veterans.  
Let us not take for granted the things  
that most deserve our gratitude.

Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.  
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## WORLD WAR II

# Islander recalls the Saturday night dance in wartime

Musical show arouses  
romance and sadness

BY PAT GOULD

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

A PBS special on the Glen Miller Orchestra — the Big Band of the '40s — caught my attention.

I turned on the television. There on the screen was the Miller orchestra reincarnated — exact same instruments, exact same arrangements, playing String of Pearls. Every note of the song was as I remembered — the sax section establishing the up-tempo rhythm, trombones kicking in to reinforce the theme, drum beat muted to a steady swish swish. The glory days of swing. I was awash in nostalgia.

1942: After three years, World War II was raging still, with no end in sight. Boys, just graduated from high school, were men in uniform — air force blue, army khaki, navy navy. Overnight we girls were old enough to date. For us teenagers, war was the norm. Most of us had forgotten what the world had been like before.

Often my Saturday night date was Bob. He had been the popular high school president, an 18-year-old destined for "great things," according to the yearbook. We, along with a couple hundred other young people, would go to the weekly dance at the local hall. The floor was springy, the band played all the Glen Miller hits, the soft drinks were cold, the popcorn cheap, altogether the perfect place to be on a date — as long as your partner was a good dancer. That's what those Saturday nights were all about. Dancing.

Bob had a crush on me. Not reciprocated, but he could sometimes get his dad's car, had money for movies and milk shakes and was a great dancer. Besides, he was now a pilot officer wearing a spiffy RCAF uniform, about to be shipped overseas, all of which made him, I conceded, somewhat glamorous.

We seemed a cavalier bunch, we teenage girls. But we were not uncaring, just accustomed to the here-today-gone-tomorrow reality of these fast-paced days. Romances were frequent, if short-lived. Bob wrote to me from his base in England. I answered a few of those letters (always intending to write more often), but he was, after all, a long way away and the beat went on at the Saturday night dance.

Three months later he was killed on his first flying sortie over Germany. I was saddened, as were all his friends. My mother especially. She told me of a conversation they had had that last night that we went



Cover of Bedtime Stories book, with author Pat Gould pictured.

dancing.

"You were upstairs primping," she said, sounding angry, almost accusatory. "Bob sat down with me at the kitchen table. I asked him how he felt about going overseas." My mother dabbled at her eyes.

"He said — and these were his exact words — 'I don't want to go; I'm afraid. I don't want to be killed.' He turned his face away so I wouldn't see the tears. My heart ached for that dear, brave boy. Just then you appeared and he jumped up, all smiles. You'd never have guessed there was anything wrong."

I can't remember where I was going that night after our conversation. Or with whom. But there was a pall over the next few days.

I danced with a boy from Ontario then: Larry, 19, army, on leave from training camp here before being shipped out. He too would write to me — for awhile — but the letters stopped coming. Someone said he was wounded somewhere — Italy, I think. Anyway, I never heard from him again. That's the way it was.

The Glen Miller Orchestra had segued into the one song guaranteed back then to get even non-dancers up on their feet, In the Mood. The brass blared, reeds competed for attention, the drummer kept the beat soaring. I watched the dancers on the screen move around the floor of the crowded ballroom. Surprisingly, there were few people my age. They were baby boomers, mostly, responding enthusiastically, if awkwardly, to the novelty of swing.

But the tame disco steps, which were what they knew, were all wrong. We jived, baby, and if you weren't panting halfway through the number, you had the wrong partner.

More tunes wafted through my living room, more memories of long ago boys/men who entered and exited my life — the ones who made it, the ones who didn't. The orchestra was playing Serenade in Blue — achingly romantic. I was on my feet, propelled alone around the carpeted floor like a puppet on a string: step, step, feet together, turn, gliding sideways, swaying to the music — a ridiculous sight, surely, if anyone had been looking on. Why were my eyes misting up?

1944. A summer night. My date was Bruce, another newly minted pilot officer. Oh, he was handsome, and he had chosen me for his last date before heading overseas. We left the dance before closing time and walked slowly hand in hand towards my home.

Our route took us through a park. We sat down on the grass, Bruce with his head propped against a tree, me gazing at him adoringly, hoping he would kiss me.

He was staring intently at the stars, recounting as if to himself what was on his mind: the thrill of piloting a Spitfire, the Messerschmitts he would shoot down, and how eager he was to get where he was so soon going.

Then the unthinkable happened. I had to go. I just couldn't tell him. Girls weren't supposed to have bodily functions. I squirmed, knowing the spell was broken. I would have to hurry home. Now. Walking rapidly, it was only minutes to my door.

Poor dear confused Bruce. A hasty

"it's been a lovely evening," and the door slammed in his face. If only he had known how much I wanted him to kiss me. If only I hadn't drunk all that root beer. He too was killed over enemy territory shortly after joining the battle.

1945. May 8, VE Day. Victory in Europe. The crush of bodies surging downward, laughing, singing, shouting, kissing, crying. Mass hysteria, I suppose, but oh, it was good. Our boys would be coming home. Except for Bob and Bruce and Larry and the legion of young men who didn't return. Did they die in vain? Surely that could not be so. They defeated an evil enemy. There would be no more wars. There would be peace in this world for all who came after. That is what they believed.

Moonlight Serenade. The Glen Miller Orchestra's theme song signaled the end of the hour-long program. The baby boomers moved around the floor carefully, but clearly responding to the sweetness of that haunting melody.

We had danced cheek to cheek to Moonlight Serenades all those years ago — a boy, a girl, moving as one across the dance floor. Not talking. For some of the dancers, embarkation leave about over, it was a bittersweet moment — a last Saturday night dance. The mist over my eyes tuned to gentle tears.

"Lest We Forget." Amen to that.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident whose work has appeared in a number of publications, including the Driftwood. The above piece is part of her Bedtime Stories collection compiled and published for family members and friends.*



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Friday, November 11th 2016

Salt Spring Island joins Canadian communities worldwide to pay homage to those who have served, to observe a moment of silence, to mark the sacrifice of so many who gave their tomorrows for our todays, to reflect and remember ...

LEST WE FORGET

### BREAKFAST:

at the Legion in Meaden Hall  
8:30-10:00. By donation.  
All welcome.

### BUS TRANSPORTATION:

from the Legion to  
Centennial Park starting at 10:00.

### PARADE MUSTERS:

at Ganges Post Office - 10:20.  
Colour Party, Legion Pipe Band,  
Veterans and Legion Members,  
Royal Canadian Navy Contingent,  
RCMP, Coast Guard, Firefighters,  
RCMSAR, SAR, Guides, Cubs.

**Remembrance Day Service at  
Cenotaph in Centennial Park -  
10:45. Dedicated and  
prominent seating for Veterans.**

Wreaths available from the  
Legion 250 537-5822.

The public is cordially invited to an  
Open House at the Legion following the  
ceremony/parade: mingle with Veterans  
and Legion Members, refreshments,  
entertainment, Salt Spring Archives display  
in Meaden Hall, membership kiosk open.



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## WAR &amp; FAMILIES

# Son ponders barbarism of war and loss of young lives

Families affected by world war participation

BY PETER HAASE  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

A few years back I wrote a short article for the Driftwood about my father's time in the British army, from 1914 to 1918, otherwise known as the First World War.

Albert Haase, my dad, signed up in 1914 at the age of 18 years old. He and three of his brothers signed up to go across the British Channel and take on the menacing Hun. Dad entered the fray in quite a few memorable battles, one of which was the Battle of the Somme and also at Ypres. It was at the Somme where his brother Ted was killed not more than a hundred yards from where Albert was busy with the heavy artillery,

sending over the 60-pound shells as "get well cards" from the King.

My dad received a bullet wound at one battle and then, after being hospitalized and sent back to the front, was plastered for the second time with shrapnel along the total left side of his young body when a shell exploded nearby.

Albert survived the first war with his wounds and when World War II arrived in 1939 he served on the A.R.P. in the home guard. He met my mother during those times when Liverpool was bombed by the German Luftwaffe. A few short years ago I learned of Ted's burial in France, from the cousins I've recently met.

My cousin Lewis, who I had never met, was born in Liverpool in 1917, just a few months after his father Ted was blown up by a shell in the



COURTESY PETER HAASE

Salt Spring resident Peter Haase.

trenches, but later, as a young Royal Navy sailor, he became the heavy-weight boxing champion of the Mediterranean fleet during the Second World War.

My dad mentioned just a few

things about his time in the first war: his times in France, Egypt and Palestine, fighting Johnny Turk, but many things were omitted from his stories, because "those things were not to be heard by little boys' ears." That changed when my three brothers and I had reached an older age of reason. There were descriptive stories of the dismembered British boys scattered like the leaves on the winds of winter throughout the fields and trenches. This barbarism was all happening while the elitist politicians and Royals sipped on their fine wine back home in Blighty.

Yes, glorious war is where you lay your exhausted, wounded body down in your own shit and blood at the bottom of a trench while you scream out for a half cup of cold water. Well-pressed uniforms and

carefully folded flags sanitize the experience.

We will always remember and honour those wonderful lost young lives with serious respect, not just on 11/11/11, but all the time.

But we must also realize that as long as the elitists and well-heeled plutocrats of this glib world want more and more, your fathers, sons and grandsons will pay the expensive price for their comfortable and undeserved lifestyles.

Uncle Ted's grave was finally found by his grandson 70 years after he spent his last moments on that day at the Somme. All for what?

If only dead soldiers could talk, what would they tell us?

*The writer's first memoir, Liverpool Lad, was published by Mother Tongue Publishing earlier this year.*

## Acts of remembrance help grow our human consciousness

### MILLS

continued from 14

But the number of service people killed in 20th-century wars is dwarfed by the enormous number of civilians who died by violence, none of them gloriously. So with my third poppy I remember the 11 million people murdered by the Nazis and the two million or so Russian prisoners of war they deliberately

starved to death. I remember the civilians killed in Britain by the Luftwaffe, and the Germans killed by Allied bombers. When Hamburg went up in flames, it warmed our hearts: when Dresden was blown to bits, we rejoiced. But I also remember my first encounter with a German city — Essen in the Ruhr — a vast and meaningless heap of rubble, a kind of mass grave, with a street or two bulldozed through it... and the pictures I'd seen of the

wastelands that had been Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Frankfurt School philosopher Theodor Adorno once asked, "After the Holocaust, what art is possible?" He might well have added "and what theology?" I don't know the answer to that and neither does anybody else, but at least this fourth poppy reminds me of the function of "Remembrance," for it is on such a day as this, Nov. 11, that we enter,

if only for two minutes, the shadow side of human existence — in the destructive element, immerse! And such an entry, it seems to me, is utterly essential for human growth.

If it is true that human beings are that aspect of nature becoming conscious of itself, and I think it is, then human consciousness can only grow by our being momentarily torn from it so that we can know our shadow and become conscious of ourselves within it.

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and his service  
with fellow Canadians  
in WW1

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## Veterans' Luncheon 2016



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

Scenes from the Nov. 7 Veterans' Luncheon put on by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 at Meaden Hall included, clockwise from top left: nursing officers Marg Munro and Pat Lavender, and Betty Ball, food service officer; Cliff Kelly, a former gunnery sergeant; Arthur Farrow, who served in the merchant navy and was shipwrecked on his first deployment at the age of 16; poppies on a table with World War I display; Meaden Hall before lunch is served by the wonderful volunteers of the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary. The event is open to veterans of any war and an escort.

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and those who still serve today.  
Lest We Forget*

*Lest we forget.*



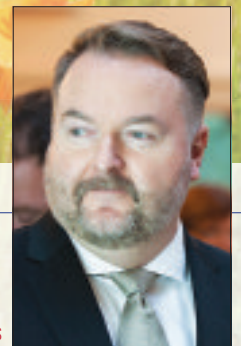


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## WE SHALL NOT FORGET



Like most soldiers, my grandfather, Sidney Roberts, left his young family to go off and fight in service of our country so that all families would have the freedom and security we enjoy today. On Remembrance Day, we reflect, and give thanks, and we salute their sacrifices.



**Stephen - from the Island, for the Island**

  
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# arts&entertainment




## ART REVIEW

# Day of the Dead show engages with deep questions



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From left, *The Party Beyond*, and *Granny*. The paintings by Bernadette Mertens-McAllister are part of her Day of the Dead show at the library this month.




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**Best sound on the Island**

## Thought-provoking work at library

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Humour and reverence for the journey that is death can be found in equal measure in the library's program room this month in a Day of the Dead art show by Bernadette Mertens-McAllister.

The European-born and educated artist has been inspired by Mexican traditions for the show, which is full of cheeky morbidity. Like those who celebrate in Mexico, though, she has taken the opportunity to engage with a deeper conversation about death, using both the lens of her past experiences and speculations about what might occur in the inevitable future event for artistic fodder.

Mertens-McAllister borrows some of the motifs of the Mexican celebrations, such as vivid colours and abundant grinning skeletons. The images are unique to her, though, and combine her own photographs with acrylic painting for a convincingly personal approach.

Take the piece called *Granny*, for example. It is dominated by a huge amorphous burst of yellow and orange against a dark, starred sky glimpsed just at the edges. A length of vivid green netting stuck onto the canvas veils a black and white photo

of the relative in question in her casket. The bottom edge of the work contains other photos of the grave site and burial, plus a bone and some snatches of text. All together, it's an homage to a loved one and a breakdown of the Western ritual of saying goodbye, in which that person is sent below cold and alone.

On the *Grave* is another piece that investigates our death rituals. Nestled within a large wreath is the framed photograph of a young woman. Like any gravesite, her importance is known only to the person who placed it there.

Embrace Death is strong compositionally, with a tilted cross set in bright green grass against a dark blue sky. In each quarter of the cross' frame there is a scene of a skeleton embracing a different young woman. The women's faces cannot be seen; in one case the embrace is so close that only some of her hair is visible as the skeleton nestles into her ear. The effective way that Mertens-McAllister renders these figures makes the scenes creepy but strangely moving.

Road Kill might be a bit graphic for some viewers, with its bleak highway next to a wide desert horizon crossed with a swath of blood-red paint. Merged into the right side of the scene is a series of photos of a dead mountain goat on the road, a pool of

blood trailing out behind it. The mystery of death is not constricted to the human here, except how we cause it through our infrastructure and machinery.

In contrast, the *Party Beyond* is a happier affair, perhaps because it doesn't stem from personal experience but is an optimistic view of the unknown. Here the skeletons are dressed up to dance and gathered under colourful marquees under an acid green sky. Happily, it seems animals are part of the party too, with some ghostly dogs and rabbits in pastel shades. A long row that mixes human faces and skulls and borders the bottom edge is a little more sinister, as the faces have eyes, mouths or both painted over in angry orange "Xes" or slashes. This seems to suggest we can't know or share these mysteries before our time.

Those who wish to ponder questions of death and the beyond more deeply should venture into the program room's far corner, where Mertens-McAllister has offered slips of paper and pencils and a set of seven topics that viewers are invited to respond to. "Would you prefer to die slowly or suddenly?" and "What do you fear most about dying?" are some of the questions that can be addressed.

The show remains at the library through November.



## Viva Chorale! sings In Remembrance

**Saturday, November 12, 7:30 PM & Sunday, November 13, 2 PM**

**Featuring Eleanor Daley's *In Remembrance* and Paul Gross *After the War***

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## BOOK AWARDS

# Campbell and Brett take home Writers' Trust prizes

Awards announced at Nov. 2 gala

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two Salt Spring authors have accounted for nearly a third of the prizes handed out through the Writers' Trust awards this year, with Deborah Campbell winning the prestigious Hilary Weston Prize for Nonfiction.

Fellow islander Brian Brett was also honoured at Wednesday evening's ceremony at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, where he received the Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration of a Writing Life, which is given to an author for whom writing is their primary pursuit.

Campbell's book *A Disappearance in Damascus: A Story of Friendship and Survival in the Shadow of War* charts the dangers of life and work in a conflict zone, and tells the story of the particularly risky situation Campbell and her contacts faced while reporting on the Iraqi refugee crisis in



PHOTO COURTESY KNOPF CANADA

Salt Spring writer Deborah Campbell is the winner of the 2016 Hilary Weston Prize.

Syria. She received the top prize of the Writers' Trust awards of \$60,000.

In addition to being an independent journalist, Campbell teaches journalism at the University of British Columbia. For many years she spent part of the year on Salt Spring while being based in Vancouver and now makes the island her main home.

Speaking to the Drift-

wood on Monday, Campbell said she was delighted to be back after a month-long book tour.

"It was a magical evening," she said of the Writers' Trust awards night. "I didn't really think about the reception of the book while I was writing it, so to be honest I was quite stunned when I heard my name."

During her acceptance speech Campbell thanked her Iraqi friend and fixer, Ahlam — the central figure of *A Disappearance in Damascus* — because of how much they went through, both before and after her arrest by Syrian police.

"She showed me the human face of war in a way that changed me forever, and convinced me that it's possible to retain dignity and wisdom and humour and compassion in the face of violence and inhumanity," Campbell said.

"I couldn't be happier for her sake and for the book's sake," she added. "These days people have so many

demands on their time and attention that books — and writers — need all the help they can get. The prize means the book has a chance to reach readers."

The prize money will also give Campbell more freedom to write her next book. As she's just now in the early stages she is not disclosing what it will be about, except to say it won't be about war.

Brett is also going to have an easier time pursuing his art thanks to his \$20,000 in prize money. The Writers' Trust "elected awards" don't publish a list of finalists, so he had no idea what was coming when he received the call informing him of the win just before he was flown out to Toronto.

"I'm 63 years old and in debt and my greenhouse is rotted out, and then I get this weird phone call," relayed Brett, who literally wept with happiness at the news.

"One of the best — and best loved — writers in Canada, Brian is first and fore-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Brian Brett, who was named the Matt Cohen Award winner last week.

most a poet," the selection committee wrote, adding he is also "an accomplished novelist and short story writer."

His second memoir *Trauma Farm: A Rebel History of Rural Life*, won the Writers' Trust Nonfiction Prize in 2009. Other recent awards include two BC Book Prizes and a CBC poetry prize.

"He is, in other words, a renaissance man, some-

thing of a rascal, and a consummate example of one who has lived the writer's life and produced work of the finest quality," the committee concluded.

Brett said although he has received many prestigious awards in the past seven years, hearing his name called out continues to provoke both humility and a sense that perhaps he has connected with readers.

"You're put in a strange position when you realize your book beat every other writer in Canada for this. A rush of conflicting emotions comes in," he said.

As happy as he was for his own win, Brett was almost more excited about the coup for West Coast writers, who took home five of the seven Writers' Trust awards handed out. He was especially pleased for Campbell, who he felt sure would win.

"This is very good and really career helping. She should really be celebrating," he said. "It's the most important non-fiction prize in Canada."

## BIG BAND

## Swing Shift dance raises funds for hospital foundation

Fulford Hall hosts live band next weekend

Islanders are invited to dance the night away to the sounds of Salt Spring's own Swing Shift Big Band while supporting two great causes.

Next Saturday, Nov. 19 at Fulford Hall, Swing Shift will play popular

music from the 1920s, the big band era, and some modern hits such as Uptown Funk. There will be swing, Latin, jazz, and even a little pop music, and several well-known local guests will join the band during the course of the evening.

Local young talent and Swing Shift alumni Daniel Hunter will be featured on vocals and sax. A second young musician, Ben Arney,

will be featured for a few tunes on electric bass. Internationally acclaimed Tara MacLean also sings with the band.

Doors open at the hall at 7:30 p.m. with music on from 8 to 11 p.m.

Advance tickets are available seven days a week at Mondo Trading. Proceeds will support the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation and

the Bandemonium Music Society.

Fabulous snacks by Lou Ellis and a licensed bar are also available.

Over the years, the hospital foundation has raised funds for important medical upgrades and services, including laboratory equipment, ultrasound, a birthing suite, palliative care suites and the endoscopy suite. They also

provide funding for continuing education and the Extended Care Fund, which provides comforts and programs for residential care clients.

The Bandemonium Music Society, of which Swing Shift is a part, supports community music making, young people's music education and local charitable organizations.

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Snow tires are recommended to be installed in sets of four. When the first snow flies, the demand is often so heavy that your first choice may not be available. Get your tires now and avoid the rush.

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# what's on this week


**Wed. Nov 9**
**ACTIVITIES**

**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.

**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.

**SongJam.** A pub-style singalong to the soundtrack of our lives. Moby's Pub every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.


**Thur. Nov 10**
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

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

**ACTIVITIES**

**Probus Club Meeting.** Featured guests are the Salt Spring Island Readers' Theatre Group, local performers who write and perform short skits related to contemporary events. Guests are welcome. Meaden Hall. 10 a.m.

**Thur. Nov 10**
**ACTIVITIES**

**'She Said' Opening Reception.** Opening reception for art exhibit featuring the work of Sam Barlow, Julie Howard, Meghan McKillop, Ahava Shira and Charlene Wolff at ArtSpring. 5 to 7 p.m.

**Operation Christmas Child.** Community Gospel Chapel will host a collection party where people can drop off shoeboxes, or help fill more boxes, and view a short video about Operation Christmas Child. 7 p.m.


**Fri. Nov 11**
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Marianne Grittani.** Live music at The Local. 5 to 8 p.m.

**Sky Valley Live Jazz.** Live at The Oystercatcher Bar & Grill. 6 to 9 p.m.

**The Brent Shindell Band.** Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Remembrance Day Breakfast.** By donation at the Legion's Meaden Hall. 8:30 to 10 a.m. Bus transportation to Centennial Park starts at 10.

**Remembrance Day Service.** Ceremony and parade honouring veterans. Cenotaph in Centennial Park. 10:45 a.m.

**Fri. Nov 11**
**ACTIVITIES**

**Legion Open House.** Public welcome to mingle with veterans and Legion members after the Centennial Park ceremony. Refreshments, entertainment and SS Archives display at Meaden Hall.


**Sat. Nov 12**
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

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

**Viva Chorale In Remembrance Concert.** Salt Spring's Viva Chorale choir will perform In Remembrance. Directed by Caroni Young, accompanied by Diana English (piano) and Laurent Boucher (percussion), with readings by Charlie Beaver. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

**The Coalition.** Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**West Coast Swing Workshop.** All-day West Coast swing classes with Vancouver instructors. At the SS Elementary gym starting at 10 a.m.

**Sat. Nov 12**
**ACTIVITIES**

**Book Launch with Phyllis Smallman.** Crime Writers of Canada award-winner Phyllis Smallman introduces the second Singer Brown mystery Beach Kill, set on a Gulf Island. Salt Spring Public Library. 3 p.m.

**Abattoir Birthday Bash.** Annual Abattoir Birthday Bash fundraiser at Fulford Hall with MC Arthur Black, an all local dinner menu, cash bar and silent auction. Doors at 5:30 p.m.

**Salt Spring Forum Presents Dr. Amir Attaran.**

Canada's greatest activist-academic, Dr. Amir Attaran, joins the Salt Spring Forum for a wide-ranging and stimulating discussion of international development, human rights, disease, poverty and foreign policy. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 7:30 p.m.


**Sun. Nov 13**
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Viva Chorale In Remembrance Concert.** See Saturday's listing, except at 2 p.m.

**Barley Bros.** Live music at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

**Sun. Nov 13**
**ACTIVITIES**

**Survive Outside.** Outdoor survival basics presented by members of the Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue group. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Meaden Hall at 3 p.m. For more information, call Tudor Davies at 250-221-1418.

**Red Court Indoor Tennis.** Red Court (1/2 court) doubles action returns for another season of fun. Sundays at Centre Court at SS Golf and Country Club. 3 to 5 p.m.


**Mon. Nov 14**
**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 Greenwood's 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.

**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.

**Mon. Nov 14**
**ACTIVITIES**

**Trails Forum.** Community input about Salt Spring trail issues wanted by PARC. Portlock Park Portable. 5:30 to 8 p.m. RSVP to davington@crd.bc.ca or by calling PARC at 250-537-4448.

**Tue. Nov 15**
**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.

**Floor Hockey.** Every Tuesday at Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.

**Wed. Nov 16**
**ACTIVITIES**

**SSPLASH AGM.** School Board Office (112 Rainbow Rd.). 4:30 p.m.

**Trails Forum.** See Monday listing.

**Getting Social with WordPress 2.** Phil Rees will talk about the social side of Wordpress in this informal meet-up. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

**Eight Days a Week - the Touring Years.** Film about the Beatles by Ron Howard. A SS Film Fest presentation at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

**SongJam.** See last Wednesday's listing.



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**CINEMA**

• **Snowden** — Oliver Stone tackles the true story of Edward Snowden, who exposed shocking illegal surveillance activities by the NSA and became one of the most wanted men in the world. Stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

**EXHIBITIONS**

• **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**

• **Avril Kirby** shows a photography exhibition titled Travels with Rennie at the Harbour House Hotel through the month of November.

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

• **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.

• **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.

**This Week's**

# Noroscope

by Michael O'Connor  
[www.sunstarastronomy.com](http://www.sunstarastronomy.com)  
[sunstarastronomy@gmail.com](mailto:sunstarastronomy@gmail.com)  
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**PAGE 25**

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COMPREHENSIVE  
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**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**  
LISTINGS

## THEATRE

# Adult puppet comedy hits ArtSpring

Baker's Dozen: 12 Angry Puppets here next Thursday

## SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

One of the most common misconceptions about puppets is that they're just for kids. In his show Baker's Dozen: 12 Angry Puppets, puppeteer and comedian Adam Francis Proulx demonstrates exactly why puppetry is sometimes much better for an adult audience.

Coming to ArtSpring's stage on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m., Baker's Dozen is perhaps one of the most challenging ArtSpring shows to describe. Yes, the most commonly used photograph from the show is a man sitting in a bubble bath, holding a steak knife in one hand and supporting a faceless, pale blue puppet on the other. This puppet is the real star of the show, for not only is Baker's Dozen a one-man production, it's also a one-puppet production. Proulx and the blue enigma work together to hilarious effect to enact a whole cast of characters.

Baker's Dozen is roughly (very roughly!) the story of the Butcher, the Baker and the Candlestick Maker — with murder and LGBTQ themes added in. The drama begins when the Baker is found dead in the bathtub, and his husband, the Butcher, is put on trial for murder. The single blue puppet (with Proulx's help) acts out all 12 members of the jury that must decide the Butcher's fate. Not only do they have a murder to deal with, but the over-the-top-quirky jurors must also wrestle with their personal problems — everything



PHOTO COURTESY BAKER'S DOZEN

Adam Francis Proulx brings his award-winning show to ArtSpring Nov. 17.

from gnat-like attention spans to lactose intolerance.

So what exactly is this show? With equal accuracy, one could answer comedy, puppet show or courtroom drama. However you want to describe it, Baker's Dozen has seen a lot of success. Debuting at the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2014, Proulx and his "team" have since won Best of Fringe Awards in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, and the B.C. Touring Council Award at the Vancouver Fringe in 2015. They have opened for Rick Mercer, and are currently being taped for Bell On Demand.

Actor, singer, puppeteer, comedian and entrepreneur, Proulx will appear on the upcoming tween-aged Netflix show Oh Yuck!

Proulx holds bachelor's degrees in theatre and business from the University of Waterloo, and has also received professional training at New York University, The Second City and The Broadway Dance Center. In addition to performing, he is founder and owner of the Pucking Puppet Co., a company that designs and produces custom puppets of all kinds, including a frog that turns into a prince.

## CONCERTS

## Viva Chorale sings 'In Remembrance'

Performances on Nov. 12 and 13

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Viva Chorale community choir will perform a concert called In Remembrance at ArtSpring this Saturday, Nov. 12 and Sunday, Nov. 13.

Directed by Caroni Young and accompanied by Diana English (piano) and Laurent Boucher (percussion), the choir will showcase diverse music that reflects and honours experiences of times of war and separation.

Young has built a program of music from around the world that has inspired the choir, with pieces that delve into the topics of war, free-

dom, separation and identity, and above all a desire for peace. She combines songs sung during World War I to raise the spirits of the soldiers with songs that touch on war's tragedies.

"The concert is a reflection of a soldier's experience but it is also largely about our search for freedom, acceptance and peace," Young explained. "Canada is currently seeing the repercussions of war as we accept more refugees to our country. Our piece Immigrant Son by Vancouver composer Stan Gubiotti touches on the experience of immigration which so often accompanies war."

Other modern pieces include Eleanor Daley's In Remembrance and Morten

Lauridsen's Sure on this Shining Night.

Listeners will also hear folk songs from various countries that share similar themes of peace and reconciliation. Included will be songs from Ireland, Estonia and South Africa, a traditional Japanese poem and After the War from the movie Passchendaele.

In a moving addition to the musical selections, Charlie Beaver will read letters relating the experiences and thoughts of Canadian soldiers who fought for world freedom and peace, sourced from the Canadian Letters and Images Project. The archive holds many letters, photos, documents and articles from various wars in Canadian history.

"The letters are a means of bringing the history to life. Although the First World War was 100 years ago, many of the letters could have been written today," Young said.

"The soldiers talk about fighting for peace and an end to all wars, but we have yet to achieve that goal."

"This concert will be a very moving and thought-provoking presentation and it will be a unique way to revisit the past through the beauty of music," she added. "We hope the power of the music and words will inspire the audience with their messages and encourage us all to call on our leaders to resolve the conflicts of today's world."

Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

## AUTHOR EVENT

## New Smallman mystery shared at library

Beach Kill is latest Singer Brown addition

Salt Spring author Phyllis Smallman will launch her latest mystery book with a local crowd this Saturday in the library's program room.

Set on a Gulf Island, Beach Kill is the second book in Smallman's Singer Brown series.

"When the body of a teenage girl is found on Ghost Island, Singer identifies the corpse," press material notes. "Suspicion quickly spreads through the small town like a virus."

The first Singer Brown book, Long Gone Man, won the gold medal Ippy award in the mystery/thriller category.

Smallman has also won awards from the Crime Writers of Canada group.

Refreshments and wine will be provided at the Nov. 12 event, which begins at 3 p.m.

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## MENTAL HEALTH

# New survey calls on young men for their opinions

Statistics reveal need for further support

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Growing up can be tough, especially when it's hard to find positive role models while navigating a com-

plex gauntlet of gender stereotypes and expectations.

In a bid to fill the gap, Pass It On: Engaging Boys and Young Men Council has launched an online survey that's hoped to unearth issues affecting the lives of Gulf Islands boys and young men between 13 and 19 years of age.

The survey, which is being coordinated by Salt Spring's David Norget, is part of SWOVA's bid to resurrect its Pass It On Boys program, a move that statistics show might be needed now more than ever.

According to a McCreary Society survey of Gulf Islanders between the ages of 13 and 19 conducted in 2013, approximately one in seven respondents said they'd thought about suicide and one in 11 had attempted suicide. Nearly 50 per cent of respondents reported binge drinking in the last month and 55 per cent reported being bullied in the past year. Among male respondents, six per cent experienced depression, five per cent experienced extreme stress and four per cent experienced anxiety attacks.

The current survey arose from discussions that took place in the Pass It On Boys – Engaging Boys and Young Men Council, as part of the project's larger goal to set out to determine the needs of boys and young men.

"There is a great role for men to play in holding community in care



PHOTO COURTESY SWOVA

Pass It On boys program coordinator David Norget.

and safety, modelling for our boys and young men," Norget said. "There are real mental health reasons for doing this, and additional data suggest that some of these things, like anxiety and depression, increase as boys and young men get older, peaking in their 40s and 50s.

"This is about believing in the young men with great skills who make great mentors."

SWOVA launched the Pass It On program for girls and boys in island schools nearly 10 years ago, but the boys version lapsed after its inaugural year. The Pass It On Girls program has since become a fun-

damental way for young women to help younger girls in a supportive and mutually supportive environment, Norget said.

Given that issues of isolation, loneliness, anxiety, depression and suicide continue to figure prominently in the lives of Salt Spring males, Norget added, many in the community are grateful for the decision to restore the program.

**"Our community can help by encouraging boys and young men they know to fill out this survey."**

DAVID NORGET  
Facilitator, Pass It On Boys program

"Many young people have spoken to being greatly impacted by new ideas around healthy relationships through its various offerings," he said. "Our community can help by encouraging boys and young men they know to fill out this survey."

Survey responses will be used to undertake a needs assessment report for the Pass It On Boys program.

Pass It On programs for boys and girls give Grade 8 students an opportunity to receive mentoring from older students, as well as engage in fun activities. Using the findings from the needs assessment, it is hoped that a Pass It On Boys group will begin to meet weekly.

"Already I have found a great honesty and interest in being able to talk about any subject in a way that isn't reactive but adds knowledge," said Norget, who also facilitates the Pass It On boys group.

The needs assessment will be comprised of a series of focus groups that will include parents, youth service providers, young women and young men. Meetings are set to begin later this month, although more participants are encouraged to step forward to have their say. Teachers will also have a chance to offer input through an online questionnaire.

The project has been generously supported by School District 64, the Salt Spring Foundation, British Columbia's Ministry of Justice and Country Grocer.

The survey and more information about the Pass It On needs assessment project can be accessed online at [marketworksmidia.polladdy.com/s/salt-spring-pass-it-on-boys-project](http://marketworksmidia.polladdy.com/s/salt-spring-pass-it-on-boys-project) or by contacting Norget at [davidnorget@gmail.com](mailto:davidnorget@gmail.com).

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## FILM

# Beatles up next for film society

Eight Days a Week - the Touring Years

BY CONNIE KUHN  
SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

They started out as working-class punks playing pubs in Liverpool and Hamburg.

From the beginning they considered themselves brothers. Paul McCartney and John Lennon were already writing. George Harrison was developing his experimental guitar style. With Ringo Starr's first beats, the band was bound together.

It could have ended there, but another young man, whose parents ran a record store, saw them at the Cavern Club and understood. Brian Epstein took them to a tailor. With suits and boots, their talent harnessed, then unleashed, in four short years the Beatles changed everything.

Ron Howard's new film *Eight Days a Week* — the Touring Years is that story told inside and out. Through long-lost and newly discovered concert footage, we have the chance to see and understand (as Epstein did) the full impact of this band.

Beatlemania and the emergence of teen culture were the early fuel. The Beatles played to millions of young people throughout Europe, Japan, the Philippines, in Beirut and, of course, Canada and the U.S. A quarter of a million kids lined the streets in Australia. At Empire Stadium in Vancouver, 7,000 teens rushed the stage; 240 ended up in hospital. Concerts had to be held in stadiums (a first in the music business) to accommodate their fans.

But it wasn't long before a mesmerized press turned adversarial, latching on to any seemingly controversial remark (specifically by Lennon). This eventually led to boycotts, bomb scares and a short-lived "Ban the Beatles"



Film poster for *Eight Days a Week - the Touring Years*

movement. But the Beatles' suffer-no-fools attitude with the press also resulted in an end to segregated concerts in the southern U.S., a very important but often overlooked result of their influence.

In the film, these events are told firsthand through recent interviews with McCartney and Starr, and posthumously by Harrison and Lennon. Radio journalist Larry Kane, Elvis Costello, Whoopie Goldberg, Sigourney Weaver (who was spotted in some early concert footage by Ron Howard) and others, tell their personal stories.

In the end, the screaming drowned out the music and forced the Beatles off the road. They never toured again. Instead they retreated to the studio and created a new identity, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. The film ends with their last performance together on a cloudy day in 1969 on the rooftop of Apple Studios in London.

*Eight Days a Week* is an emotional film, but it is not nostalgic. At its core, it is the story of four young men who just wanted to play music. The bigger themes still exist.

*Eight Days a Week* is playing at ArtSpring on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

## EDUCATION

# Pender students feast on pit cook day

Tsawout members share culture

BY PAUL MICHAEL PETRIE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

The Oct. 12 traditional First Nations Pit Cook at the Pender School brought drama, special knowledge and a delicious salmon feast to school's nearly 140 students.

Tsawout elder Earl Claxton Jr. and knowledge keeper John-Bradley Williams shared WSÁNEC culture and tradition while engaging the students in constructing the steam pit and preparing the salmon for cooking over hot coals.

The drama came when Williams released the steam cloud and the pit was enthusiastically closed in near record time with everyone following their assigned task. Claxton worked one on one with older students preparing the salmon for the fire pit while Williams shared WSÁNEC stories with the younger ones. One class had prepared a special selection of indigenous teas, including rosehip, huckleberry and spruce for everyone, and shared information on the health benefits of each tea.

Opening the steam pit was an exercise in anticipation and participation. The reward was a bounty of steamed potatoes, carrots, yams,

onions, squash, artichokes and apples, some of which were harvested directly from the school garden. All the rest of the vegetables and some of the salmon were generously donated by Pender Tru-Value and manager Mike Gray. The maple wood smoked salmon was done to perfection and many came back for seconds and some for thirds.

The pit cook event was first recommended by Tsawout Chief Harvey Underwood when members of the Pender Islands Museum Society, the Pender Reconciliation Circle and St. Peter's parish met with the Tsawout leadership team in May to discuss ways to share cultural knowledge. A modest grant-in-aid from the CRD helped support the event.

School staff embraced the event and the students and some parents participated with enthusiasm. Many students enjoyed a unique cultural experience and some learned a new skill. Before the feasting began, Williams and Claxton taught everyone how to say thank you, "HÍSWKE" in the SENCOTEN language with palms gently raised upward. The whole event felt like a second Thanksgiving with a First Nations cultural theme and a focus on Pender youth.



PHOTO BY ANNA HERLITZ

Tsawout knowledge keeper John-Bradley Williams is seen through the smoke of the pit-cook event held at Pender Island School and enjoyed by some 140 students plus staff.

## IDEAS

## Activist academic to shake up Forum

Dr. Amir Attaran at GLSS Saturday

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING FORUM

You already know Dr. Amir Attaran because of his frequent commentary in national and international media on hot-button topics such as high generic drug costs, the slow development of the Ebola vaccine, the legalization of marijuana and assisted dying, and many other controversial issues.

From arguing for the postponement of the Rio Olympics due to the Zika virus, to being threatened with a lawsuit by the Indian govern-

ment because his research showed the country was exporting poor-quality drugs, Attaran never shies away from controversy.

Please join the Salt Spring Forum as we host one of Canada's greatest activist-academics for a wide-ranging and highly stimulating discussion of international development, human rights, disease, poverty and foreign policy. The event takes place at Gulf Islands Secondary School on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Attaran is a professor in the faculties of law and medicine at the University of Ottawa, a position that he uses to speak truth to power. In an article



AMIR ATTARAN

published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, he wrote: "Canadians pride themselves on being citizens of a humanitarian nation. But when it comes to the infectious disease that kills more African children than any other — malaria — the indolence of Canada's government is baffling and embarrassing."

This paragraph, along with the analysis and proposed solutions that follow it, is typical of Attaran's hard-hit-

ting, highly informed, hugely influential approach to some of the greatest issues of the 21st century.

In addition to malaria, Attaran's current research includes AIDS, hypertension, substandard medicines, access to medicines in less-developed countries, and the application of human rights law in armed conflict and anti-terrorism. He is an editorial consultant to The Lancet and publishes in leading academic journals as well as the Globe and Mail, New York Times, and Guardian.

Tickets for the event are on sale through ArtSpring or Salt Spring Books.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

## Trails forum scheduled for Nov. 14 and 16

Public input to aid PARC's Strategic Plan

The Capital Regional District and its consultants are holding a trails forum this week to help guide and prioritize future projects and to assist with the allocation of trail development funds.

A CRD press release notes the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission's 2009 strategic plan identified trail development as a high priority with the public.

"Based on this recommendation, PARC has been actively developing a comprehensive trail network on Salt Spring. The evaluation and prioritization of new and existing trail projects is an important step in the development of community trails on the island," CRD information reads.

The primary objectives of the trails forum are to bring multiple trails advocates together to review background materials and identify major issues, opportunities, and any missing information; develop criteria for ranking

trails projects; and make recommendations for future trail development and funding requests to PARC.

The trails forum is open to the public and will be held over two evenings on Monday, Nov. 14 and Wednesday, Nov. 16. It runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. both evenings at the Portlock Park portable. Interested participants are asked to RSVP by emailing dovington@crd.bc.ca or by calling 250-537-4448.

For more information, visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-recreation-culture/parks-trails/ssi-parks

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## LIBRARY

# Time restriction applied to new fiction borrowing

Policy aims to keep books circulating

BY MAGGIE WARBEY  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

You may have noticed that new fiction now comes with a label: two-week loan with no renewals. This practice allows many more readers to get their hands on the latest releases before they become stale. You can still put a hold on a new book; you just cannot keep it out of circulation for too long. Hurrah!

And, just so you know, **All Waiting Is Long**, the new novel by Barbara J. Taylor, is now on the shelf and ready for you to check out. Whether already familiar with the Morgan sisters, or just getting to meet them, readers will be quickly drawn into the intrigue and emotions of this story set in the 1930s. While morals and values shift and change, the tale of love and persistence between sisters and their social and cultural settings is fresh and constant. Set aside time to savour and enjoy this tale; you may not want to put it down!

## ON THE NEWSHELVES

**Buddhist Boot Camp** is a touching compendium of thoughtful, meditative insights into human nature and our relationship to the world we live in. The book represents a training method that will appeal to today's short attention spans. Using the words of the Dali Lama: "Don't try to use what you learn from Buddhism to be a Buddhist; use it to be a better whatever-you-already-are," this volume calls to those ready to look inward for answers. It is full of interesting quotes from some of the world's most inspiring individuals that cover a wealth of everyday and special moments in our lives.

The memoir **Through the Door of Life: a Jewish Journey between Genders** relates the author's transitional journey between genders. Readers will be rewarded with the story of a regular human life that is beset with difficult decisions, terrible choices and meaningful

rewards. This is a moving and compelling journal of one person's journey to fulfillment, self-acceptance, and religious and social commitment.

**Coyote America: a Natural & Supernatural History** is an absolutely fascinating book about the life and range of the (not-so-common) coyote. Despite campaigns of annihilation, dating back to pre-history, coyotes have survived and even thrived. This book details and examines the ages-old relationship between man and coyote.

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# Abuse prevention presentation on tap

Anyone interested in the topic of preventing abuse or neglect of older people in our community is invited to attend a special presentation on Thursday, Nov. 17 at Salt Spring Seniors.

Titled Prevention of Abuse and Neglect of Older People, the session will be led by

Bridey Morrison Morgan. She is the mentor for the South Vancouver Island/Southern Gulf Islands on behalf of the

B.C. Association of Community Response Networks. The BCACRN works at the local community level with service providers, agencies and community-related members to build a co-ordinated community response to the abuse, neglect and self-neglect of vulnerable adults.

Morgan's presentation runs from 1 p.m. Community Response Network members can be anyone in the community

concerned about adult abuse and neglect, including designated agencies, police, community organizations serving specific groups, faith communities, financial institutions, advocacy organizations and concerned citizens.

Island Savings will also be sharing information about financial abuse at its branch on Salt Spring the following day, Nov. 18.

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## NATURE

# Rare bat discovered on island

Call tips off biologists about  
Brazilian free-tailed bat presence

BY LAURA MATTHIAS AND PETER OMMUNDSEN  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy has recorded the presence of the Brazilian free-tailed bat, likely the first record of this bat in Canada.

It was first identified by conservancy biologists from among bat calls recorded at Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve and has been verified by international bat experts.

The Brazilian free-tailed bat is so-named because of its long mouse-like tail and is the fastest flying (100 km/hr) and highest flying bat known. This species (also known as *Tadarida brasiliensis*) normally lives in the southern United States, Mexico, Central America and South America. Young bats have been known to disperse long distances from their birthplace and likely that is how they arrived on Salt Spring.

The conservancy has conducted bat surveys since 2014 as part of a provincial bat conservation program and the conservancy's species at risk program and has analyzed about half a million bat calls from nine species on Salt Spring. Most bats are detected at wetlands, which are among the most productive wildlife habitats in nature, but which are scarce locally. The Brazilian free-tailed bat was first discovered at a wetland



PHOTO BY ANN FROSCHAUER

Brazilian free-tailed bat.

restored by the conservancy. It was subsequently recorded in three other locations on the island.

Acquisition of Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy has provided an extraordinary opportunity to restore once extensive wetland habitats in the Blackburn Lake basin. Biologists have identified over 30 potential wetland restoration sites at the nature reserve, of which nine have been restored to date.

The conservancy would like to recognize the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for their important support of this bat work.

## AGING with GRACE: The incredible shrinking woman

"You used to be taller than me,"  
he announced.

There we were last month, eye to eye for the first time in 60 years, my eyes flicking furtively between his face and his name tag. I wasn't remembering this guy and he wasn't helping by nattering on about how he'd always been "a shorty." There's nothing wrong with that, I thought, but I didn't want to hear that suddenly I'm eligible for his team.

The classes of '56 and '57 at my southern California high school decided to share a reunion this past October to make sure there'd be enough of us still alive and kicking to have a real party. But some were using crutches and canes, so I'd been feeling pretty full of myself and my youthful vigour. Then along comes some blast from my past telling me I've lost enough of my former glory to make it something worth commenting on.

I might have been surprised, or even seriously upset, but I'd already received the bad news two weeks earlier when I was scheduled for a bone density scan at Saanich Peninsula Hospital. The technician had asked for my height and I said we'd better measure.

You and I have had this conversation before. I've already reported on the time, back in 1999, when a new doctor gave me a checkup. He'd measured my height and I'd come up seriously short ("Straighten Up and Fly Right," Jan. 21, 2015 Driftwood). I couldn't believe the numbers, so he told me I'd been slouching. Sure enough, when I stood up straight, I regained half an inch.

Losing height is a touchy subject

for me because Mom and Grandma both lost about six inches before they died, Grandma at 99 and Mom at 93. Over time, they'd both shrivelled into tiny replicas of their former selves, stooped lower still as they clung to their walkers.

I can remember that I first noticed my mother stooping forward when she was in her 70s, and I haven't wanted to slide down that same slippery slope. So I've been marching around town with my tiny personal trainer pulling on my belly button trying to remind me to walk tall.

Had her efforts done me any good? I'd hoped so and, as I stepped forward to be measured, I pulled myself together and stood as straight as I possibly could. You can imagine my dismay when the technician announced the results. I've lost two and a quarter inches since high school and no stretching my head into the stratosphere made any difference.

I'm by no means alone in this. The Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging has found that by the time we're 80 the average woman has lost three inches and the average man has lost two.

Is it something to be concerned about? You bet it is! Shrinkage can signal loss of muscle in the torso leading to a stooped posture; osteoporosis, leading to increased risk of bone fracture; and spinal compression fractures, leading to kyphosis, commonly known as dowager's hump. (Hey, men! Don't be fooled by that gender specific language, I've seen some of you wandering around town stooping forward, heading toward kyphosis.)

Back in 1981, Lily Tomlin's Pat Kramer shrank down to doll-size because of some experimental perfume. My shrinkage probably results in part from sitting too long hunched over my computer keyboard. I try to sit up straight, but my tendency to lean forward often takes over. Strong core muscles could help keep me straight. I've been exercising them, but nowhere near enough, I fear.

Another possible cause of my shrinkage is the osteoporosis with which I was diagnosed in 2013. To treat it, my doctor prescribed a 70-mg weekly dose of Alendronate (Fosamax), a 2,000-unit daily dose of Vitamin D, a 1200-mg daily dose of calcium and lots of walking.

Fosamax can irritate your esophagus, but I, like most women for whom it's prescribed, seem to tolerate it well enough. Calcium tablets constipate me, so I drink lots of milk instead. I take Vitamin D and I walk about four kilometres a day, weather permitting. Three years ago, my doctor suggested this regimen might actually increase my bone density, so I was eager to find out my results.

Hooray! The other day, he announced my bone density has increased enough so that I no longer have osteoporosis and the high risk of a bone fracture it implies.

But I'm not resting on any laurels. Instead, I've recently added yoga (to help me become flexible) and pole walking (to strengthen my core musculature). Maybe you'd like to work on your posture too. When next we meet, we can smile at each other as we stand straight, strong and proud.

BY HELEN  
HINCHLIFF



## This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastronomy.com | sunstarastronomy@gmail.com  
1.250.352.2936

### TIP OF THE WEEK

The big news now in the astrological world is the Full Moon in Taurus which occurs on November 14th. Because the Moon is the closest it will be for the next 120 years, it assumes an extra prominence. It may not appear large as it does when it hovers close to the horizon producing the impressive optical illusion, but it will appear larger than average. Some pretty sensational predictions have been made about what can be expected from this Full Moon. However, such generic events ever require a base chart to interact with, as in a Natal Chart, and every nation, province, state, city, legal organization and individual person has one. In other words, the effects are never the same for everyone, ever actually. However, the Horoscopes do bring it one step closer as we are all tapped into the archetypes of the 12 Signs each according to our own Sun Sign. This is only true in Western Tropical Astrology which is based on the annual cycle of Sun's light divided into 12 equal portions, thus the 12 'Sun' signs. Gaining insight about how it interacts with our actual Birth Chart, on the other hand, is much more accurate and insightful yet. In world news, the U.S. Elections are finally over and a new era is poised to begin. In many respects, the country will never be the same. Many wounds and shadows have been brought to the surface and, in some respects, created anew. A deep renovation and healing process must now begin and it will, but as is often true of such processes, things usually get messier before the new qualities and attributes can shine through.

**READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.**

#### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Your power potential now is expressed as your ability to think deeply and with subtle discernment. The results of your investigations are inspiring revolutionary action. Breaking through existing self-definitions to support you to take bold initiatives is featured. New tools and methods will be required.

#### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

A process of death and rebirth on relationship fronts continues as a central theme. Deep conversations with others are about power and perhaps money. Questions of justice and fairness are featured and gaining agreement or balance in these areas has and probably continues to be a challenge.

#### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Themes of healing are lingering. Blind spots, denials, and confusions are at issue. These may be your own or those of others close by, like family members. Critical analysis to support objectivity and practical solutions is important. Expect new conversations in this regard to begin this week. Prognosis follows diagnosis.

#### Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

A creative and inventive cycle is keeping you busy. It has served to inspire originality. Yet, the learning curve has been and continues to be steep, compelling you to give more than you may want. Positively, your confidence levels have been steadily rising and this trend will continue. As well, important new relationships are destined to begin.

#### Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)

A soul-searching journey has been underway. Deep questions about what is real, true, practical, and possible are on your mind. Discussions and perhaps some debate are featured. Literal travel and adventure have, at least, gained some of your attention, if not indeed then, at least, in your dreams.

#### Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

Gaining clear reflections of who you are and where you are at now on your journey continues. You may be in new territory altogether and/or feel the need to explore the possibilities. This includes inner as well as outer geography. The inner part of this equation includes a steady flow of new realizations and considerations.

#### Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)

The process of establishing a new foundation continues. The challenge is to decipher between your intentions, dreams, fantasies and illusions. Recognizing that you do not perceive things as 'they' are so much as who 'you' are can help. Your facts may simply be your personal interpretations. Be open to fresh input.

#### Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)

Taking new steps and measures linked to original modes of self-expression continues. In some respects, you are digging deeper than you have for quite some time. This may even be the beginning of a whole new lifestyle. Sharing your deeper thoughts, visions and philosophies feels necessary and not simply ideal.

#### Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)

A period of retreat and reflection has been a central theme. You are very concerned about what is right, fair, just and ethical. Where you might have felt more certain before you are no longer so sure. This may, in fact, be recognized as a sign of progress. In any case, your energy levels are running high supporting other activities.

#### Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)

Asserting a new level of personal power is keeping you busy. The twist is that to do so you may have to let go of certain existing relationships or relationship patterns. Assessing whether your attitudes and expectations are balanced or not is the kind of honesty that will tilt the scales in favor of realizing the harmony you desire.

#### Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)

Pushing to be seen and heard socially and professionally is in focus. Critical analysis has been a central theme. You are learning to see into and through existing circumstances. Asserting your sense of individuality in a bold and revolutionary manner may catch you and others by surprise. Affirm your power potential.

#### Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Stepping back to see a bigger picture continues. Philosophical considerations are featured perhaps especially in terms of how these affect your social and professional interests and responsibilities. This trend will continue over the coming weeks and you will begin to take more deliberate and practical action very soon.

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PHOTO BY LORETTA RITHALER

**AWARD WINNERS:** From left, Salt Spring 4H Community Club members Anna Rithaler, William Rithaler, Everest Masselink, Joely Welsh and Helena Cuddy at the South Malahat District Awards Night in Saanich on Saturday. Awards were received for achievement at the District Judging Field Day by the top 10 individuals placing in a field of over 100 members from across the district, with Anna Rithaler earning fourth place, Welsh fifth place and Cuddy seventh place. William Rithaler received the Val Trimble Memorial Award for his essay describing the benefits and fun he has enjoyed as a junior member of the 4H program. He is the first member from the Salt Spring Community Club to receive this award since its inception.

## HEALTH SERVICES

# Rotary gauges blood clinic potential

First step is determining if enough people eligible on Salt Spring

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's Rotary Club wants to see blood flow on the island — for a good cause.

It's spearheading an effort to bring Canadian Blood Services' mobile clinic to Salt Spring, with next spring or summer being the earliest possible timing.

"We know that every week blood is used on our island to support life," said Rotary member Tom Bremner.

He said it's only appropriate that a community benefitting from a service should be able to contribute to it.

The Rotary Club has already nailed down the physical requirements, with Community Gospel being an ideal location for a mobile clinic.

However, as Canadian Blood Services territory manager Ann Chabert explains, one of the main considerations is having enough eligible donors. She advises that less than 50 per cent of the general public is eligible to donate blood. A quick online quiz will determine a potential donor's eligibility. It can be done at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca), starting by clicking "Learn More About Blood Donation" on the right-hand side. Easy to fol-

low instructions then appear on a "Becoming a Donor" page.

The full donation process takes one hour, including registration, screening, completing a questionnaire, the actual donation, and cookies and juice provided.

A minimum of 100 eligible donors are needed before Canadian Blood Services will consider approving a clinic. The Rotary Club wants to start gathering names of interested and eligible individuals to see if the minimum can be reached. A separate email has been set up for people who take the quiz to then advise the Rotary Club if they are eligible, so a tally can be kept. The email to send names to is [RotarySSIBloodDrive@gmail.com](mailto:RotarySSIBloodDrive@gmail.com).

## HUMOUR

# Singing in praise of big fat chairs

*Happiness is like a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.*

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

I don't know whether that's true but I've spent a lifetime acting as if it was. Butterflies or no butterflies, I am a guy who is happy to sit anywhere, anytime on just about anything. I've roosted on bar stools, fence rails, barber's chairs, church pews, rockers, wingbacks, Ottomans, Adirondacks and unadorned cedar stumps — any protuberance or upwelling that offers a brief respite from gravity. Show me an oasis that offers a place to park my butt and I'll back in and settle down before you can say "Take a load off."

Which is why I greeted the news from Cineplex Entertainment with a dozen Hosannas and a quartet of Hail Marys. And I'm not even Catholic.

The news is, the movie giant is installing 1,000 motorized recliners in selected movie theatres in the city I live next door



Arthur  
Black

## WIT & WHIMSY

to. Capitol 6 Cinemas promises to follow suit with 564 luxury recliners in its theatres.

It's an exploding trend in movie houses across North America. The proprietors are doing everything they can to entice customers away from their living room TVs and back into the movie palaces of yesteryear. What kind of luxury seating are they offering? The swanky kind. High backed, extra wide and plushly padded with foot-rests that shoot out and lift your feet off the ground as soon as you lean back.

All this and popcorn too? Sign me up.

This return to Big Fat Chairs in movie houses is especially refreshing because the rest of society seems to be galloping in the opposite direction. Seats in modern busses, trains and

subway cars are brutal monuments to minimalism. They practically declare war on the human bum.

And don't get me started on airplane seating. Sure they're padded — sort of, and recline — a little. But they're so whittled down and crammed together that flying economy feels like riding in an ice cube tray.

It's happening in our work spaces too. In many offices, chairs have been replaced by "stability balls." Desk workers are encouraged to toil while perched like over-achieving hens on armless, backless exercise balls.

I know a lot of office workers who have tried to work while squatting on stability balls. I don't know a single one who has lasted more than a week.

Some doughty spartans of the workplace eschew even the stability ball. They prefer to work standing up, or, even more perverse at a treadmill desk. It comes with a built-in desktop, calorie-counter and...I can't believe I'm writing this — a speedometer that

allows a worker to trot from half a kilometre to 6.5 kilometres per hour while working. O Brave New World! Now you can type up those warehouse requisitions AND run a marathon at the same time.

Stability balls and treadmill desks share one defining characteristic: they're both exhausting.

Memo to head office: Humans have been using chairs with arm rests and back supports for centuries for one simple reason: they work.

Me? I have a stressless chair — aka a recliner, a LazyBoy, or as I like to think of it — my Big Fat Chair. It comes with a footstool, it reclines far enough to let me look at the ceiling, it even has a mini-desktop attachment to support a laptop, a heavy book or a saucer bearing a peanut-butter and banana sandwich. Yes, it was obscenely expensive and yes, I love it very much. If it's legal I may even one day be buried in my stressless chair. In the meantime I intend to spend an outrageous amount of time just sitting in it.

Watching for butterflies.

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE ISLAND ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY (ArtSpring) will hold its AGM on

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

**ARTSPRING 100 Jackson Ave., Salt Spring Island**

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**

### Volunteering is a Work of Heart

Check out opportunities at:  
**www.vcrsaltspring.org**  
or call 250 931 0039

