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GULF ISLANDS

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58th year
Issue 47

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An Island Christmas
Song Book



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season begins



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Ocean Champions & more



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ENVIRONMENT

Derelict vessels pulled from bays



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

A Salish Sea Industrial Services crew gets set up in Burgoyne Bay in advance of a Transport Canada-funded clean-up operation last Wednesday.

Barge and crane used to remove sunken vessels

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first of the derelict vessels in Burgoyne Bay and Fulford Harbour have been removed, thanks to funding from Transport Canada.

Vessels were salvaged as part of an operation spearheaded by the Dead Boats Society. The salvage operation began on Nov. 14 and was estimated to last up to 10 days. However, society leader John Roe said that work would continue until the job was finished.

The project is funded through Transport Canada's Abandoned Boats Program. In September, Transport Canada announced funding for three recipients in B.C., including Salish Sea Industrial Services in Victoria, the company that has provided the barge and crane for the project. They received \$19,685 from the government, according to a press release.

Projects that have received funding for the 2018/2019 fiscal year have not been officially announced by the department, but the Dead Boats Society used a recent period of calm weather to remove some boats before winter.

"It was one of those things that we had to get done. The funds were granted and it was either we do it now or not until next year in May or June," said Roe. "With the size and type of equipment that we have and the expertise . . . We had a 10-day window and everyone came up from Victoria. We're hard at it and we're not stopping until we're done."

The crews did not remove all of the vessels around the island. Target vessels were an 85-foot barge in Burgoyne Bay and a 65-foot landing craft in Fulford Harbour. The Fulford job was scheduled to take place on Tuesday.

"It's a lot of work, but it's a good bunch of guys and we're doing it right. We're getting them all done at once and we'll be back for more next year," Roe said.

After removal, samples are taken from the derelicts and sent off to be processed. Materials are separated into three categories, which are disposed of accordingly.

"It's an intricate process," Roe said. "We look for heavy metals, zinc, copper, lead, mercury. They have to be separated out into three separate piles: special waste,

contaminated waste and general garbage. Contaminated waste and general garbage can go to the dump, and special waste goes to a landfill in Alberta to be burned."

The Dead Boats Society will continue building an inventory of derelict vessels for future removals. Those looking to get rid of old boats are encouraged to contact the society.

"We'd rather get the boats donated. By the time we do all of the paperwork and everything else, if we find one that's abandoned and it's afloat it takes months to get processed," he said. "If people want to get rid of them, then no questions asked. As long as they can show some sort of title, we'll take them off their hands and file for the title transfer. We'd rather do it before they sink."

The Islands Trust is also compiling a list of abandoned vessels for agencies that are applying for funding through the Transport Canada program. The Abandoned Boats program is part of the federal government's Oceans Protection Plan. The program includes assessment and removal of the vessels, as well as a public education program.

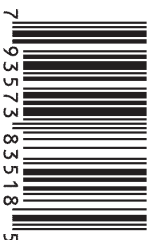
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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
21	0430	2.9	9.5	25	0745	3.5	11.5
WE	0902	2.3	7.5	SU	1226	2.9	9.5
ME	1441	3.2	10.5	DI	1634	3.2	10.5
	2145	0.8	2.6				
22	0518	3.1	10.2	26	0015	0.2	0.7
TH	0948	2.5	8.2	MO	0836	3.6	11.8
JE	1504	3.2	10.5	LU	1339	2.9	9.5
	2216	0.6	2.0	MA	1714	3.1	10.2
23	0606	3.3	10.8	27	0103	0.3	1.0
FR	1036	2.6	8.5	TU	0927	3.6	11.8
VE	1530	3.2	10.5	WE	1509	2.8	9.2
	2252	0.3	1.0	TH	1802	2.9	9.5
24	0655	3.4	11.2	28	0153	0.5	1.6
SA	1127	2.8	9.2	WE	1016	3.6	11.8
SA	1559	3.3	10.8	TH	1642	2.6	8.5
	2331	0.2	0.7	FR	1905	2.7	8.9

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LABOUR ACTION

Postal strike hits Salt Spring

Second time picketing for local union

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Canadian Union of Postal Workers rural mail couriers went on strike on Thursday and Friday.

The Ganges and Fulford post offices remained open, but mail was not delivered until after job action was halted at midnight on Friday.

Jessica Dempster, president of CUPW Local 850 in Victoria, said, "Our goal is not to shut it down completely. Our beef isn't with the public. We want to disrupt the service and put pressure on Canada Post, but we want to still let the public know that this isn't about taking away their mail service."

Post office workers are part of a different bargaining unit from couriers, and did not comment on the strike. A protocol was established to ensure that office workers are still able to carry out their duties, since they are not part of a legal strike action.

Rural mail service couriers were told to strike starting at 8 a.m. on Thursday, and told to continue until instructed otherwise.

Negotiations for contracts for urban carriers and rural and suburban workers are continuing. Dempster said that gains have been made for rural carriers, but those were through arbitration, not negotiation.

On Wednesday, CUPW received a proposal for an agreement from Canada Post which included pay increases and a signing bonus for new employees. The proposal was time-sensitive and expired at midnight on Saturday. However, according to the CUPW website, the proposal was lacking when it comes to key issues.

"We've been negotiating for a year and virtually no movement has been made," Dempster said. "For



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Salt Spring mail couriers on strike Thursday as part of CUPW's nationwide rolling labour action. From left are Dana Fewings, Sandra Charge, Kerry Marshall, Kat Greene and Jaysun O'Scalleigh.

[rural and suburban mail carriers] in particular, this job action is very important. They currently get paid significantly less than their urban counterparts. They don't get paid for all of the hours that they work... That's really the big issue for carriers on Salt Spring Island for sure, just getting them up to equality with their urban counterparts."

Canada Post wrote in a press release that they have been "working hard to minimize the service impact to Canadians, but the union's strikes continue to cause unprecedented backlogs in our delivery network."

This is the second time that Salt Spring postal workers have gone on strike this year. They were among the first group called to strike on Oct. 22. The strike lasted one day before service was restored.

"We want to continue to provide the service, it's just that we're at point with the negotiations with the corporation where we've tried everything... mediation, conciliation... all of those things have been tried. Nothing's working. That's why we're doing the

rotating strikes," Dempster said. "It's just coming to a point where we need them to make some changes."

"We've been negotiating for a year and virtually no movement has been made."

JESSICA DEMPSTER
President, CUPW
Local 850

An update from Canada Post on Monday said that it is unlikely that the situation will be resolved for the foreseeable future, including through the holiday season and into the new year. CUPW called on Canada Post to return to the bargaining table to negotiate a settlement on Monday, rejecting Canada Post's proposed "cooling-off" period through the holiday season. The period would be followed by binding arbitration if a solution is not found by Jan. 31.

"With all efforts exhausted to restore operations while the labour dispute continues, Canada Post is advising commercial customers and Canadians that mail and parcels in or entering its network will have long and unpredictable delays before being delivered," the Canada Post notice read.

The postal strike also has the potential to affect the electoral reform referendum, as the primary instructions on the ballots are to mail them in to Elections BC. Though the referendum does not end until Nov. 30, delivery of completed ballots may be slowed due to backlogs in the Canada Post system.

Rebecca Penz, a spokesperson for Elections BC, explained that "if there's a mail stoppage that is going to impact people's ability to participate in the referendum then we would extend deadlines and we would communicate that with the public."

Ballots can also be dropped off at the Service BC office in Ganges at 343 Lower Ganges Rd. to be sent by courier to Elections BC.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Beitel friends say farewell

Bert Beitel, who is well known in the community for his time as branch manager of CIBC in Ganges, among other activities, is inviting people who have known him on the island in the past 40 years to attend a "farewell tour" event this Saturday, Nov. 24.

"Unfortunately, with getting older comes the reality that we all have limited time on this Earth and Bert wishes to spend time with those while he still can," explains his granddaughter Danielle Head, who is organizing the event. "Over the past few years, his health has declined and he has decided to celebrate with everyone now rather than let everyone party without him later."

People wanting to attend the event at the Beitel home from 1 to 4 p.m. must RSVP through www.eventbrite.ca (search for "Bert Beitel's Farewell Tour") or email Head at dhead@islandsavings.ca.

Health society has AGM

The Salt Spring Community Health Society held its inaugural AGM as an incorporated society on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

In the nine months since its inception, the society has researched primary and community health centres that already exist on other Southern Gulf Islands, in coastal and rural B.C. communities and beyond. The society has also become a member of a number of organizations, such as the B.C. and Canadian Associations of Community Health Centres and the B.C. Rural Health Network.

Islanders can learn more about the society and what they're trying to accomplish through their website, www.saltspringcommunityhealth.ca. Residents who have questions or would like to include their voices in the ongoing discussion can email info@saltspringcommunityhealth.ca.

ART DONATION

Brownridge creates Humboldt art

Saskatchewan team recognized as 'Heart of Hockey'

Salt Spring artist Bill Brownridge presented an original painting to the Humboldt Broncos hockey organization earlier this month as a memorial tribute.

The gift is a symbol of the artist's empathy for the community's loss and his hope for renewal after the team's tragic bus crash on April 6. The crash killed 16 people associated with the Broncos, including many youth players, their coaches and other team supporters who were on their way to a semi-final playoff game against the Nipawin Hawks.

According to a press release, Brownridge views the Humboldt community "as representative of all that is good in the game of hockey, in particular that hope and strength through camaraderie can overcome the most difficult obstacles." For this reason, he titled the six-foot painting Humboldt, Heart of Hockey.

Brownridge has published three best-selling children's books about hockey. His artwork can be found in galleries across Canada from Toronto to Victoria. It has been exhibited in the Glenbow Museum in Calgary and the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, and can be found in the U.S. Olympic Centre in Colorado and Toronto's Hockey Hall of Fame. In the 1995 Brownridge re-designed the game uniforms for the NHL Calgary Flames.

Brownridge was born and raised in Saskatchewan, not that far from Humboldt.

"Growing up in a small prairie village in the 1930s, Brownridge is very familiar with the challenges of loss, pain and hopelessness. The artist suffered physical handicaps throughout his childhood and then, as a teen, lost his leg due to improper medical care. Instead of wallowing in bitterness and self-pity, he struggled to find a way to cope," the press release explains.

"Initially, his strong family ties helped him to carry on. Later, as a young boy, he joined the local hockey community and drew inspiration and hope from that, even if he couldn't skate and had to wear moccasins to play goal."

Ultimately art offered another community from which Brownridge drew strength. He celebrated his 86th birthday last month and has enjoyed a career as a professional artist that has spanned more than six decades.

Presentation of the painting took place in an on-ice ceremony just prior to the hockey game face-off between the Humboldt Broncos and the Nipawin Hawks on Saturday, Nov. 3.

The Broncos team organization received not only the painting from Brownridge, but the copyright as well. If they choose, they can make prints from the original and market them to raise funding. Brownridge hopes the original painting will find a new permanent home in Humboldt's Elgar Peterson Arena.

Brownridge lived on Salt Spring for six years until being forced to move to Victoria this summer to continue his kidney dialysis.



PHOTO BY D. BROWNBRIDGE

Salt Spring artist Bill Brownridge is flanked by Humboldt Broncos hockey organization president Jamie Brockman, left, and two Broncos team members who unveiled Brownridge's memorial tribute original painting on Nov. 3 in an on-ice presentation prior to a Bronco vs. Nipawin hockey game.

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PARC

Centennial Park upgrade plan gets underway

Washroom replacement to be followed by playground

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Centennial Park upgrades are underway, beginning with replacement of the aged washroom facilities and park drainage system.

The washroom building was closed earlier this week, and portable toilets have been set up in the park. Demolition is scheduled for the coming weeks. The Capital Regional District hopes that construction will be complete by the spring, and a tentative deadline of May 2019 has been set.

Dan Ovington, CRD parks and recreations manager for Salt Spring, said that the project will also include an upgrade to the drainage system which will benefit other projects planned for the park.

"The goal isn't just to go in and demolish the park. We're looking at replacing infrastructure only after it fails or becomes close to its useful end of life," he said.

The washrooms were originally built in the 1980s and use



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Porta-potties set up in Centennial Park. The washroom building is now closed and awaiting demolition before being replaced by a new facility and an upgraded drainage system this winter and spring.

heavy-flow toilets that are prone to failure. A new facility design was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in January and features environmentally friendly fixtures and toilets, as well as a gender-neutral stall. Crews salvaged any useable items from inside the washroom, such as the hot water heater and towel dispensers before demolition.

Construction has been delayed through coordination with other agencies on the island, pushing the deadline later in the year

than originally planned. At Monday night's PARC meeting, commissioner Brian Webster was concerned about having a construction site in the middle of the park during the market.

"I understand that things happen, but this is the very first step in the plan and it's the one and only element that had no critics, except on the cost. This was the win," Webster said in the meeting. "If it ends up that the timeline is into May, our credibility with the community for the playground part, let alone the

other parts that are more controversial, is going to be lost."

Though the project timeline puts its completion after the beginning of the Saturday market season, staff does not expect much disruption. The timeline allows for some flexibility and PARC will be pushing to have the project completed before the busy season.

"It is going to be slower at the market at that time of year, so I think if we have adequate porta-potties on site it should be fine," Ovington said. "The goal is to have the washroom completed before the May long weekend when things really ramp up."

Karla Campbell, senior manager for the CRD on Salt Spring, added in the meeting that if the project takes longer, "It might be an inconvenience that we're going to have to live with, and that might come with some criticism, but that comes with managing these projects sometimes."

The second phase of the park upgrades has also begun, as PARC approved the project charter for the playground replacement, with the intention that the timeline remains flexible. To help pay for the project, the Salt Spring Lions Club agreed to contribute up to \$100,000, which brings the project budget up to \$200,000 total.

"The thing that'll take most of the time will be the consultation. We want to talk to kids, different caregivers that use the playground and the parks and do a pop-up [consultation] down there as well to get some more feedback, and then go from there," Ovington said.

Commissioners were concerned about the prospect of having a construction site in the park over the summer, particularly since the bathroom project has the potential to run over its deadline. They discussed pushing the construction start date ahead to November 2019. Since the playground is near the bathroom construction site, and due to the fact that the current structure is in disrepair, Ovington explained in the meeting that if construction is pushed to later in the year, parts of the playground will have to be removed in the spring regardless of the timeline.

"The playground is in pretty rough shape," Ovington said. "We're looking at having to essentially remove the playground, so we need to have a plan for replacement."

The rocking horse, which has been part of the playground since it was built in 1967, will be incorporated into the new design.



Centennial Park Upgrades - Phase 1

The CRD is building a new washroom and installing storm water drainage at Centennial Park. The new facility will occupy roughly the same footprint as the current washroom but with the addition of a single stall unisex washroom. The new washroom will be plumbed with low flush-toilets, waterless urinals, energy efficient lighting, skylights and be fully accessible.

Please use caution around crews and equipment. There will be noise and dust in these areas during construction.



Please use the portable toilets on site during construction



Estimated timing: November to May 2019

For more information and to subscribe for project updates: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-upgrades>

Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation (PARC)

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CRD
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FIRE BOARD

'Solutions Centre' pitched

Community Alliance partnership for grant proposed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District's board of trustees will consider whether to lend its support to an innovative proposal that would bring two community societies together on its downtown fire hall property.

As presented during the board's regular business meeting on Monday night, the partnership would unite the Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation — a fundraising body for fire department needs — and the Salt Spring Community Alliance in an effort to go after a \$100,000 Shaw Family Grant.

Foundation member Gayle Baker explained that if successful, much of the grant would go toward purchasing a pre-fabricated building shell that would be put onto the Fulford fire hall property. The short-term use of the shell would be to house the district's two vintage fire trucks. The glassed-in room downtown where the 1920s Bickle is now housed would therefore be available to become a "Solutions Centre" in which Community Alliance volunteers would help with any kind of questions that island residents might be grappling with, from rent dispute mediation to local governance issues.

"I think that Salt Spring deserves something like what visitors

get, which is somewhere to find answers to their questions," Baker said. "At this point, nobody really knows where to go, who to talk to or how to get the answers."

As proposed, the two antique trucks would be transferred to the new fire hall when it's constructed. The building shell could then be renovated to become an affordable housing unit.

Trustees had many questions and some concerns about the proposal, including whether such a venture was a proper use of the Fire Rescue Foundation, what would happen if the district needed the Ganges fire hall space itself, and what the district would actually get from the deal.

Trustee Rollie Cook observed there is a Service BC office in town already. Trustee MaryLynn Hetherington questioned the value of associating with the Community Alliance in particular when public opinion of the fire board has been low in recent years.

"What the fire district would get is a house on the Fulford [fire] hall site where paid-on-call firefighters could live. This would definitely be of benefit to the fire department," Baker replied.

She said the Alliance could operate under an agreement to leave the Ganges site when and if the district needed it, and that the space would be available for new fire hall information materials. Working with the organization of 320 members could bring additional benefits, including support for a future campaign to build a new

hall.

"This is a good community partnership that gives a lot to the fire district, along with good community publicity," Baker said.

The board agreed to discuss the matter further at a breakfast meeting on Thursday morning to decide whether they should write a letter of support for the grant application. The deadline to submit is Nov. 30.

"I support the concept and I support what we need to get there, but the clock is ticking," trustee Ron Lindstrom observed.

In other business Monday night, the board looked forward to establishing its fire hall advisory group. The district will send out a request for proposals for the paid facilitator's position. Lindstrom, who chairs the strategic planning committee, said this will be a robust leadership role and not just a committee chair.

The board has also invited members of local government and other agencies to participate, and is seeking seven qualified members of the public. Notices regarding application will be sent out soon.

The board voted to direct Fire Chief Arjuna George to explore the possibility of selling two mini pumper trucks and replacing them with more usable off-road vehicles. One mini is reaching its 25-year lifespan while the other has proved unsuitable for the island's steep and narrow island roads. Board chair Per Svendsen noted the truck would be fine for a town with flat roads and laneway access.

CRD

Holman dives back into CRD role

Meetings and review underway

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District held its first meeting of the newly elected board last Wednesday and voted Saanich councillor Colin Plant in as their new chair.

Gary Holman, who was elected as Salt Spring's CRD director in October, said not much else happened in the way of business at that initial meeting. However, plenty of activity has been happening on home territory, where Holman has been reviewing budgets, meeting with staff and preparing the ground for governance improvements in existing groups as well as some possible new ones.

Holman has yet to appoint an alternate director, and to make a decision on whether to keep regular office hours.

"I do believe the director needs to have more of a public presence," he said.

To that end, Holman will continue the tradition that he established while CRD director from 2002 to 2008 of making a report during the Local Trust Committee town hall sessions. He is also in the process of reviewing all the individual commission budgets and has committed to holding a public meeting on the overall budget for Salt Spring in late January or early February.

Holman said he does not plan to make any major changes, respecting the work of the previous director and individual commissions, but some minor changes to the draft budget approved earlier this year are likely.

The new director has started to work on some of his campaign platform points, such as establishing a process through which a Local Community Commission could be formed, and bringing the decision on whether to do that to a public vote. He has confirmation from CRD chief administrator Bob Lapham that there are no obstacles to initiating that process.

Holman said the community would need to negotiate an establishing bylaw with the CRD that would set out the LCC's mandate, its delegated authority and most likely a modest salary for the other elected members.

Holman believes there are good reasons for taking the step to increase local responsibility beyond just one elected official.

"When you consider the \$6.7-million budget the director has to recommend to the CRD, when you consider the \$600,000 in gas tax a year which the director has even more control of, when you consider the fact that just one person is making those decisions, that in itself is a good enough reason to broaden it."

Holman has met several times with the new Islands Trust trustees for Salt Spring, Peter Grove and Laura Patrick. The three elected officials have a meeting set with Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Selina Robinson on Monday, where they will discuss various local concerns related to housing and to governance. (As a result of this meeting the regularly scheduled transportation commission meeting has been moved to Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 4:10 p.m. at the school board office.)

Work has begun to revive or support important community groups that have lagged in recent years, such as the Salt Spring Housing Council and the Climate Action Council.

A further commitment relates to using the Community Works Fund or gas tax transfers more proactively. Holman said Salt Spring has around \$1.5 million in uncommitted funds in reserve and will be getting another \$600,000 each year.

"My approach will be to further the priorities that have been long established and also some that I identified in my platform," Holman said. "That's a significant source of funding that we can use to move projects ahead on Salt Spring Island."

Christmas Story Writing Contest

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

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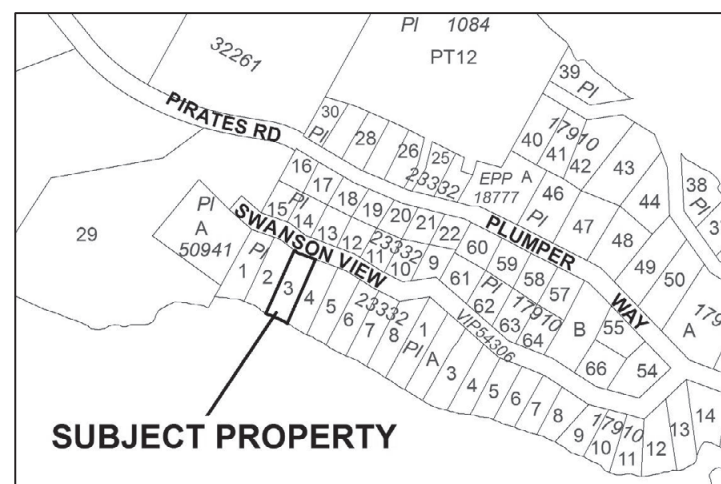
NOTICE is hereby given that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit pursuant to Section 493 of the *Local Government Act*. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 3, Section 6, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 23332 (PID: 003-083-446). This property is located at 7938 Swanson View Drive.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit:

- A Short Term Vacation Rental within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the permit. The permit would be issued for three years and the owner may apply to the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee to have it renewed once for an additional three years.

The general location of the subject property is shown in the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C., V8R 1H8, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding Statutory Holidays, commencing, **November 16, 2018** and up to and including **November 28, 2018**.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Planner Phil Testemale at (250) 405-5170, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: information@islandstrust.bc.ca, before 4:30 p.m., **November 28, 2018**. The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:00 AM.**, Thursday, **November 29, 2018**, at the **Anglican Church Hall** on North Pender Island.

All applications are available for review by the public. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Sharon Lloyd-deRosario, Deputy Secretary

OPINION



2018 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan)
Bronze - Best Local Editorial | Bronze - Best Front Page | Blue Ribbon - Best All-Round

2018 BCYCA Awards
Gold - Best Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best All-Round | Bronze - Best Editorial



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Clearing the waters

As Gulf Islands residents, it's easy to feel neglected by senior levels of government.

That's why it's been good news to see Transport Canada money being spent on tackling a significant island problem: derelict vessels left abandoned in local waters.

Dead boats in island harbours pose hazards to navigation for boaters, are eyesores and an environmental nightmare.

Salt Spring-based John Roe has been advocating for clean-up efforts for decades through his Veins of Life Watershed Society. His group has estimated that some 500 derelict boats exist in the Vancouver Island region. More recently he partnered with the Cadboro Bay Residents Association to create the Dead Boats Society and spearhead efforts to get some of the Transport Canada funding spent close to home. Results have been visible in the past week, with an 85-foot barge in Burgoyne Bay and a 65-foot landing craft in Fulford Harbour among eyesores and hazards removed by a Victoria-based contractor.

While seeing some derelict vessels removed is a positive sign, it reminds us that much more needs to be done in this area.

Sheila Malcolmson, the former Islands Trust Council chair and Nanaimo MP, lobbied hard on this subject. While her relevant private members bill was not adopted by the governing Liberals, at least some significant action has been taken through the Liberals' Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act introduced last year. That act makes it illegal for people to leave dilapidated vessels in the same place for more than 60 days, among other changes.

But raising funds to pay for removal of wrecked vessels is still the greatest need in order to deal with the existing problem of long-dead boats.

Roe has in the past suggested adopting revenue-raising models used in Australia and Washington state for that purpose. Surcharges to boat licences and marina fees are amassed to provide funds for dealing with abandoned vessels on a local level.

Progress made to clean up derelict vessels to date is heartening, but further funds from local, provincial or national sources are needed in order to really clear the waters.

THE ISSUE: Abandoned vessel clearing

WE SAY: Good start but more funds needed



Walkers' safety an issue

BY JENNY MCCLEAN

I see that we are replacing the family area of the former bowling alley site with not a new set of doctors offices as once promised but instead a new seniors housing project, Meadowlane.

A retail area is also to be added as a new pharmacy will be built there. A new parking lot will also be built to accommodate all the cars that need to drive in and out constantly to shop and to visit.

Although a prime area close to town is going to use this, there is no effort being made to reduce car use to the site. If the reason we are densifying town is to reduce car use based on the idea of walking, there should not be measures to add retail in the residential areas as this brings people from everywhere who drive in and out. A business that is put into the area near medical uses and housing will create more traffic and it is hard to see how it will be managed.

It is very difficult for those who drive around in this already dangerous area to appreciate the needs of those who wish to have a nice area for children to walk safely without having to worry about so much traffic. If you drive a lot near town, do you realize that every parent has to stop

VIEWPOINT

their nice walk with their children and become alert to the oncoming car? This is a real reason kids are not out playing as they used to be in my generation.

It is already ridiculously dangerous to cross Blain Road. What are the planners who are developing Meadowlane planning to do about this? What about a proper plan for mixed demographics that allows children to live near town? Why are all the best sites being made into yet more seniors housing?

Is that really healthy? What if kids want to walk home from school and be able to walk to the store and buy a chocolate bar? What if people need to cross Lower Ganges Road as they already do and cannot? They already need to cross and they already cannot cross easily. It is a multi-lane road and even if one driver stops, the others may not see the pedestrian and they may not stop. That is already what is happening. People are trapped on the other side of the road unable to get across all the way along with only one crosswalk light at Crofton Road.

What if it is November and it gets dark at 4 p.m. and someone is hit crossing Lower Ganges Road to get to this new development? Most pedestrian fatalities are in the crosswalk, not on the side of the road, so don't tell me a new gravel path will be put in and that will make everyone safe. Real work needs to be put into that area before there is a really bad accident. Street lights, another crosswalk, some work on traffic calming — all of those things.

Please do not continue to develop Ganges in the same haphazard manner. The increased density simply cannot rest on such poorly laid-out infrastructure. The infrastructure needs to come first, not in some offhand manner after the shovels hit the ground.

CRD, are you listening? The CRD is the liaison with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, so there is no point in trying to blame the off-island MOTI for this one. It also rests on the local trustees to make sure things are set up properly with goals that create liveability for all age groups in Ganges before just giving permission to any new idea that comes along.

The writer is a Ganges-area resident.

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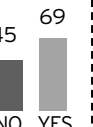
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you support private-land logging restrictions?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support changing B.C.'s electoral system?



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

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"We're hard at it and we're not stopping until we're done."

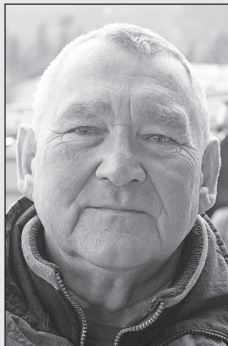
JOHN ROE, DEAD BOATS SOCIETY, ON VESSEL CLEAN-UP

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

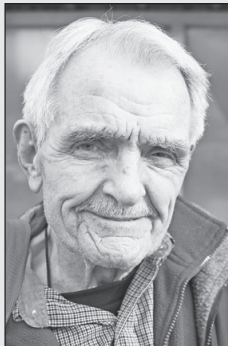
What do you think of the postal workers' strike?

BRENT HAMILTON



They've had a long time to settle this, but the workers deserve a fair increase. Their numbers are dropping and their workload is going up. They deserve to make a fair living.

BRIAN THOMPSON



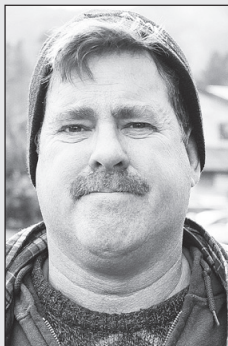
I think there's not enough mediation going on. They need to be talking more than what they're doing now.

JOSEPHINE FLETCHER



It's very unfair at this moment. People should be looked after.

KEVIN ELLIOTT



I support the workers. They wouldn't be striking if they didn't need to.

NELLY KOSTELIJK



It's better that they're striking in stages because there's still some movement of mail. In the meantime there's couriers. I just hope it's fair in the end.

LETTERS to the editor

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

Alternatives to logging exist

We remain extremely concerned about the commercial logging operation currently underway on Beddis Road ("Beddis logging alarms residents," Nov. 7 Driftwood).

Unless an immediate solution is found, over the next few months well over a hundred logging-truck loads of our heritage trees, including giants as large as six and a half to seven feet in diameter will be cut down. Salt Spring will be left with another huge scar, an erosion-prone hillside and the loss of a precious irreplaceable ecosystem.

But options exist that would leave this beautiful old forest and slope intact and provide financial gains to the title

holder, Gary Stunder, who has authorized a commercial logging operator to extract the timber on his property.

We urge him to pursue profitable alternative to clear-cutting this land, such as:

- selling the property after clear-cutting just the lower agricultural zone of the property;
- investigating residential density clustering or transfers for the rural-zoned portion that would protect the forest and slope in its natural state; and
- placing a conservation covenant on the forest in exchange for fair monetary compensation and/or significant tax benefits from the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program.

If these options are ignored and this land is clear-cut, two rare and endangered Gulf Islands sensitive ecosystems

classified by the BC Conservation Data Centre as the "Older Douglas Fir Forest" and the "Treed Swamp" are in peril. The forest will be completely destroyed and erosion of the steep slope will threaten the viability of the swamp, despite it being legally protected under an Islands Trust bylaw.

The logger claims that in a few years the site will look attractive, but this ignores the fact that old forests which have grown for 100 years or longer provide so much more than aesthetic values.

When huge old trees are removed and bare steep slopes are left behind, there are serious negative impacts on water tables, wildlife habitat and soil stability. Increased siltation into streams degrades water quality and impacts our already stressed salmon populations, and inva-

sive species thrive on these highly disturbed lands.

The forest cannot grow back as it might have in the past, due to increasingly intense long summer droughts as well as the current over-abundance of deer eating saplings. Salt Spring's contribution to carbon sequestration and moderation of air temperatures and humidity is reduced, thus adding to ongoing climate disruption. Neighbouring property values plummet and the natural beauty of our island suffers, which in turn can impact tourism, our main economic base.

It's time these realities were recognized and this clear-cutting was stopped.

PETER MCALLISTER AND JEAN WILKINSON,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

In defence of SSIWPA . . . sort of

By **DON HODGINS**

At the inception of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority (now alliance) in 2013, the most pressing problem was the long-lasting algal bloom in St. Mary Lake, which produced cyanotoxins in the lake water.

A technical advisory committee (TAC), reporting to the steering committee, was formed to determine what was causing the bloom, and whether it was being worsened by nutrients from the surrounding watershed. This committee was comprised of Salt Spring community volunteers, and CRD, VIHA and NSSWD staff, all with relevant technical expertise in this area. It was widely speculated at the time that phosphorus from septic drain fields was a major source of nutrient seeping into the lake. One suggested remedy was a sewage collection system and treatment plant discharging into Trincomali Channel, costing tens of millions of dollars. It was obvious that before such an infrastructure investment could even be considered, evidence had to be obtained to support the "septic seepage" rumour. The TAC formulated a proposal, combining monitoring wells at selected septic fields, with water-quality measurements in the lake itself. Monitoring would be continued for two years, with costs totalling \$136,000.

Wayne McIntyre, then CRD director, raised \$45,000 in cash; the balance was contributed in-kind labour by TAC volunteers and member agencies. The work was completed and reported (SSIWPA web site). In the Nov. 14 issue of the Driftwood, David Rapport and Luisa Maffi once again denigrate the results of this study and cast aspersions on the authors. They fail to recognize that the physical chemistry of phosphorus around drain fields results in rapid mineralization of this compound within a few feet, and permanently sequesters it there. It would be exceptionally rare to find phosphorus at

INRESPONSE

great distances from the drains, particularly in our acidic soils where the rate of mineralization is very high (> 96 per cent). In addition, a constant flow of groundwater is required to move the nutrient to the lake. Due to its geology, shallow groundwater around St. Mary Lake is sporadic, and absent altogether during summer.

The purpose of the study was to confirm the phosphorus chemistry; it did that and the results were convincing that septic fields were a negligible source of phosphorus. Septic fields are not the cause of the algal blooms, and an expensive sewage collection system would provide no benefit to lake water quality. Additional field studies were then carried out to determine how much phosphorus drains into the lake from creeks, and to provide a nutrient balance for the lake. These data indicated that phosphorus levels in the lake, while highly variable from year to year, have not changed from the 1970s, and sediment core data suggest little change from pre-settlement times. The study results were reviewed internally, and in some cases by expert outside reviewers. A key point here is that these investigations were undertaken with considerable volunteer effort, provided credible results, at a substantial cost saving to our taxpayers compared with hiring consultants.

By 2015 it was apparent that water quantity was also a significant issue, and SSIWPA focussed its attention on it. This led to an integrated water management plan, with a set of structured tasks aimed at determining our water supply and water demand. Far from being the "mindless exercise" suggested by Rapport and Maffi, it provides the framework for generating information needed by the Islands Trust and other member agencies for watershed management. It also

included a new working group for conservation and water use efficiency. Early results introduced the concept of safe yield for our lakes with applications to St. Mary Lake and Lake Maxwell, assessments of climate variation and change on supply and, more recently, water budgets for our groundwater aquifers. A good deal of valuable information has been assembled to help going forward. Again, considerable on-island volunteer effort went into this work under the SSIWPA umbrella.

Then things changed! Re-writing of the terms of reference for SSIWPA resulted in restrictions on what could be done by the technical working groups, specifically prohibiting them from doing original research and investigation. Their role became one of review only, with studies to be carried out by qualified professionals (consultants). SSIWPA cut itself off from a valuable resource of on-island volunteered expertise. One result is, of course, a significant increase in the cost of completing the tasks in the water management plan, all of which must be paid for from the tax base.

Looking to the future then, is SSIWPA viable in its present form? Can it produce the results we need in a timely manner, and who will pay for them? Last week's Driftwood editorial suggested that the Islands Trust carefully examine whether the alliance is still needed, and posited that use of on-island expertise may be preferable. Instead of "deep-sixing" SSIWPA, perhaps it could be re-constituted so that it once again brings local knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for working together on problems faced by our community, and by the agencies that govern us and provide the services upon which we rely.

Don Hodgins is a Salt Spring resident, former chair of the TAC / TWG of SSIWPA, and a qualified professional water resources engineer.



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Transportation issues in focus

First off I would like to congratulate the newly elected and inaugurated mayors, councillors, CRD directors and Islands Trust trustees across Saanich North and the Islands. And, I raise my hands to Chief Rebecca David and her new council recently elected in Pauquachin as well.

There are more than 60 elected officials in local and First Nations governments in our riding and I appreciate their hard work and leadership on behalf of our community. A special acknowledgement is due for those not returning to the table.

Thank you to mayors Alice Finall and Steve Price, and councillors Erin Bremner-Mitchell, Tim Chad, Alicia Holman, Mervyn Lougher-Goodey, Cam McClenan and Jack Thornburgh. Thank you for your community service.

I started public life as a councillor in Central Saanich. In January 2013 I decided to step away from the local government table and run provincially because I was frustrated with the dysfunctional relationship between the province and municipalities.

The frustration has not been forgotten and as we move into this next council term I renew my commitment to better the relationship. Whether it be through the Local Government Act, Agricultural Land Reserve Act, tax policy, or the myriad other ways we are intertwined there is no doubt we can do much better.

Through better coordination of com-



Adam Olsen

MLA'S
REPORT

munity planning and service delivery to strongly advocating for more provincial infrastructure funding to support the residents of Saanich Peninsula and Southern Gulf Islands we must work together on critical issues like housing, health care (doctors), education (schools) and transportation (transit).

I visit local businesses regularly to get a better understanding of the economic engine of our community and region. We have incredible homegrown companies in the Keating Business Park and West Sidney Industrial Park.

My most recent visits to Epicure and Nicholson Manufacturing have highlighted the fact that we generate more than a billion dollars of economic benefit but also that it is not to be taken for granted. The business climate is global, complex and fragile. We compete with aggressive markets looking to attract economic investment.

I am thankful to those businesses open-

ing their doors to me to help better my understanding of those factors. Over the coming weeks, months and years, I look forward to working with my colleagues in local and First Nations governments to ensure we are striking the balance in community and economic development.

Collectively we must take stock of how we are nurturing the growth of community, training for a skilled workforce, housing and educating a diverse population, creating robust connections across cultural differences and with the Gulf Islands communities and transportation.

Transportation continues to be a primary challenge for the Saanich Peninsula. It was a targeted issue at all-candidate meetings in the recent elections, with residents demanding better connectivity.

It is not just more roads and highways, it is more efficient transit and ferry services, increased walking and cycling infrastructure. I heard the call for better mobility on all fronts. I have recently connected Emilie de Rosenroll from the South Island Prosperity Project to discuss the exciting work they are doing and will host another community dialogue on transportation.

Do you have concerns and ideas about transportation? Your opinions and thoughts are welcome!

I hope you will join us on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 11 a.m. in the Saanich North and the Islands constituency office located at #215-2506 Beacon Avenue in Sidney, B.C.

SSIWPA: An essential water commitment

BY RON HAWKINS

David Rapport and Luisa Maffi's commentary last week does grave disservice to the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance, suggesting a lack of understanding and bitterness.

I am not sure how many monthly SSIWPA meetings they attended over the years of its existence, but I did not see them at the many I attended.

It was instructive to watch this vision and concept take shape and evolve. The vision is one of an integrated, island-wide approach to freshwater management. The concept, well-accepted by many enlightened governments recently, is through a coordinated, voluntary, collaborative team approach for all jurisdictions having some authority over Salt Spring Island water

management: provincial departments, Islands Trust, CRD and some local water districts. North Salt Spring Waterworks District recently withdrew due to lack of staff resources.

Each group holds a seat on the steering committee, chaired by the Islands Trust member. It is a critical role, confronting the challenge of how to marry this body and the mandate of the Islands Trust. It requires considerable skill, insight, diplomacy and vision to find commonalities amongst all agency priorities, budgets and commitment to the long haul.

Finding sustainable solutions to local freshwater management is, and will remain an ongoing need not just because political, financial, jurisdictional, or public priori-

ties may change, but environmental change too, which requires new knowledge and strategies. There is no quick or simple fix.

SSIWPA's website details quite an array of significant accomplishments. What one doesn't see is the extensive planning required to make this happen. SSIWPA relies on a common commitment, hard work, technical volunteerism, in-kind and financial contributions from member agencies, patience and quality of work.

To dismiss it so jaundicedly as "cobbling together a few reports from existing reports on watershed management — with a couple of recycled 'expert' assessments previously done by others" I find inflammatory, personally bitter or lacking understanding.

Nothing is perfect. Yet as a

former member of Salt Spring Island Water Council, which preceded SSIWPA, I watched SSIWPA fledge with an open curiosity. I was given opportunity at every meeting to question and make constructive suggestions, which I did, and learned and benefitted from that. I wish I had seen David and Luisa there helping shape a vision for our common future.

Public support for SSIWPA is essential, not because Salt Spring pays the total cost, but more importantly because it is an investment in our future. Without a sustainable water supply amongst the ever-demanding challenges always ahead of us, life as we have known it is not possible.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Vote for life

"Vote as if your life depends on it. If not your life, consider the lives of our children and grandchildren, the future of democracy around the world, and the well-being of the community of life on earth — within which we all depend."

Thus began a letter, variations of which I sent out over the past few months to Canadian and American friends living in Canada and the United States. While at that time I was primarily focused on the very critical U.S. midterm elections, my voting concerns have continued on through the rather dismal turnout for our own recent local elections, and now to our important upcoming referendum on proportional representation.

In my opinion, anyone who lives in and enjoys the benefits and privileges of a democratic society has an ethical and moral obligation to make a sincere effort to be an active, informed participant in the democratic process. Surely this is our minimal civic responsibility and duty.

Too often, very notably in the U.S. in the very recent past, elections have been decided not just by the well-documented nasty undemocratic gerrymandering, illegal last-minute voter disenfranchisement, absurd sociopathic lying, fascist fear mongering and facilitated foreign intrusion, but ultimately by the non-voters — the folks who just didn't bother to show up. Come on! Really? Is this the best we can do?

Let's vote, eh? And, of course, let your conscience be your guide.

RALPH MILLER,
SALT SPRING

Respite needed

The following was sent to the Port of Vancouver harbour master and copied to the Driftwood.

I am a resident and property owner on Salt Spring Island. There is a freighter anchored near Cusheon Cove and Prevost Island. Even though our home is at least one kilometre from the coast, we are subject to all-night "industrial noise" from the tanker. This affects our sleep and feels like we are living in an industrial park, not at all the rural and reasonably quiet life we have chosen on Salt Spring Island. This has gone on for a number of months.

Can I ask you for a response to this matter? How long will we be subjected to this noise and can something be done so people can sleep free from this noise?

MARK KNOX,
SALT SPRING

More than a drop in the bucket

BY JILL WILLMOTT

The Salt Spring Island Raging Grannies have been supporting the Lesotho Solar Cooker Project in this poor and mountainous South African country since 2005.

We began after a visit from Salt Spring documentary filmmaker, Judy Jackson, who came to show us some of her pictures after she had been travelling around Africa with then UN special envoy Stephen Lewis. She asked, "How about you grannies twinning with grandmothers in Lesotho — just like our local high-school kids are twinning with Lesotho students?" And since the ultimate goal of all Raging Grannies is to leave the world a better place for all grandchildren, we asked a few more questions and said "yes." Since then we have been major fundraisers for this project.

The Lesotho Solar Cooker Project was instigated and has been very well managed since its beginning by Carol Pritchard of Gatineau, Que. Every year she takes the money that we and others have raised, flies at her own expense to Johannesburg in South Africa, where she buys the sunstoves, and then trucks them into neighbouring Lesotho. Her contact there chooses a rural community which she deems to be needy, and the local chief invites grandmothers who are looking after their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren to participate in three days of workshops on how to use the solar cookers.

As you can imagine, when first told they have been chosen to learn to cook with the help of the sun, they laugh at the ridiculousness of the idea, but are none-the-less intrigued. However, after the first day these same people become overjoyed and sing and dance, and can't wait for the next session. So on three sunny days, Carol provides the sunstoves, the pots and the foodstuffs, and shows them how to make cornmeal mush, a soy-and-vegetable stew and bread, all of which are local staples. At the end of each session the participants take home what they have just cooked, and at the end of the third day the pots, the stoves and leftover foodstuffs as well.

To date, solar cookers have been distributed to 407 grandmothers in Lesotho. Carol will be heading to that country again with a new Canadian assistant in early January 2019. The site for this year's workshops has been chosen and enough new money has already trickled in to buy 18 new stoves. So if you have peo-



PHOTO COURTESY JILL WILLMOTT

Sunstove like the ones given to grandmothers in Lesotho to help them feed their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren.

ple on your Christmas list who don't need or want more material gifts, we would like to suggest that you consider donating to this project instead. If you do, we can provide you with a card to give to your family member or friend which explains the Lesotho Solar Cooker Project and sports a coloured photo taken by Carol during one of her workshops.

When one thinks of helping some of our world's poverty-stricken people, the Lesotho Solar Cooker Project may seem like a very small drop in the bucket. But because using a sunstove relieves these elderly grandparents of having to collect scarce firewood to make hot meals, I can assure you — having been Carol's assistant in 2016 — that for the families who receive these stoves it is huge!

One cooker plus its associated expenses is deemed to cost \$130 (Cdn), but all donations small or large are gratefully received. Cheques should be made out to the Salt Spring Island Raging Grannies and sent to me, and I will also quite happily provide more information. jillawillmott@gmail.com; 250-537-8343.

The writer is a member of the Salt Spring Raging Grannies and has long been involved in the cooker project.

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Roses

Roses to BC Ferries for being proactive and stopping the black truck that jumped the lineup down the end of a lane at Vesuvius on Thursday morning. Many of us saw it, and quietly seethed. It was fitting that the truck didn't make it onto the ferry when they were sent to the end of the line, and would have made it, if they had gone down the correct lane when they originally arrived.

A bunch of their favourite roses for the several people who stopped to help me and the person who called BCAA for me when my car wouldn't start. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Nancy Wigen

Roses to our friend Elizabeth and our neighbour Al for being there for us, driving us to appointments, and above all, caring. Roses again to Helen, our parish community, our son and daughter-in-law, our neighbours on Cedar Lane, Dr. Butcher and his wonderful staff, and everyone at Lady Minto for their prayers, support and care during this most difficult time for Fred and I. The road before us, although bleak, is that much more bearable thanks to all of you. Salt Spring: angels walk upon you. Marianne Hobbs



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92
 120 Blain Road Salt Spring Island V8K 2P7
 250 537-5822
legionbr92@shaw.ca

Now that Remembrance Day is over for another year, the tendency is to sit back and relax knowing that we, once again, participated in a successful event. I am posting this to remind all members of Branch 92, that accomplishing this required many hours of planning and work, by the Executive, members and spouses, and other participants.

In addition to the Executive, I recognize quite a number of comrades who made this day a success. Unfortunately, I may not mention all, as some persons just do what they do, every year, without question or fanfare and we take it for granted.

Mike Winter, Chairman and John Binsted, Vice Chairman
 The Ladies Auxiliary of Branch 92
 Alfie Luke, Poppy Chairman and all Poppy Campaign volunteers
 Tom Woods, Bill Haworth, Jesse Byron, Trene Kaye, Bill and Helen McKenzie, the Breakfast Crew and many others.

I will also mention some organizations whose participation was essential to our success; The Historical Society, The Pipe Band, The Concert Band, Salt Spring Singers, Scouts and Girl Guides, the Salt Spring Fire Fighters, the RCMP Members, both Search and Rescue units and the Royal Canadian Navy.

The Executive and all the organizers want to give a *full-hearted thank you* to all of whom we have mentioned above and to all participants that helped with the many Remembrance Day activities. The events of the day could, in no way, have been accomplished without you. *Good work everyone!*

Klaus Mortensen

Klaus Mortensen
 President
 Royal Canadian Legion Br 92
 Salt Spring Island



More accountability with current voting system

BY STEPHEN P. ROBERTS

In the current B.C. referendum, voters are being asked to choose between the first past the post (FPTP) system that we use now, and one of three variants on proportional representation (PR).

The big attraction for advocates of PR is its proportionality. The percentage of votes a party receives equals the proportion of seats they win in the legislature. How this proportionality is achieved is where the many variations in PR come into play. The three options in the second refer-

GUEST COLUMN

endum question are three such variants. There are many, many more.

Usually, in this type of electoral system more parties elect members and no one party commands a majority of the seats in the legislature. Parties need to group together to form a coalition that has a majority of seats. PR advocates consider this a positive exercise in cooperation and compro-

mise. Although they may have only a few members, smaller parties also have influence in this system because they may be a participant in whatever ruling group is formed. Because of this, advocates say "every vote counts."

There are flip sides to these points. For example, how the much-desired proportionality is achieved can be quite complicated. Generally, parties have lists of politicians to be elected to satisfy proportionality. These politicians are not connected to any riding and may not even be connected to a region. How do people get on these lists? The current referendum has thrown up a debate about "closed" and "open" lists. A "closed" list is prepared by party head office and those on the list owe their position there to the leader and/or party bureaucrats. Voters have no say.

The creation of an "open" list can be more complicated. It could be a list of the biggest losers in a party, where candidates don't win in a riding, but secure a significant number of votes. An "open" list could be created by voters having a second vote to choose people within parties. This would require voters to know about a lot of individuals and in many countries, voters simply end up voting for a party. A clear line of accountability to voters is absent.

Parties enter elections with policies they would like to implement. When no one party has a majority, those with similar ideas get together to see what they can agree on. This inevitably results in policy "horse-trading.. A policy that may have been the single biggest reason for your vote for a party could be dropped because it is opposed by a smaller party that your party needs to be able to create a majority government. That smaller party may have a single-issue policy you disliked, but that is the price for its cooperation with your party. So a deal is sealed. Unfortunately, you, the voter, have no say in any of this. It will be done behind closed doors. You don't get the policy you wanted and you do get one that you didn't!

ceded it. While this happens, nothing else does, and bureaucrats run the country.

Most PR systems recognize the possibility of extreme views gaining a foothold in their legislatures and restrict membership to parties that gain at least five per cent of the popular vote. If you vote for a party that does not get at least five per cent, your party will be disqualified and your vote will not count! Should there be several small parties receiving, for example, 2.5, three and 4.5 per cent of the vote, then collectively 10 per cent of the votes are disqualified and will not count. The idea that every vote counts is a myth.

Turning to FPTP, to be elected, you simply have to win more votes than anyone else in your riding. For a party to be elected as the government, its members need to win a majority of those seats. It is clear, and it is simple. Generally speaking, under FPTP, with more than two parties active, parties that win just over 40 per cent of the popular vote are able to form a majority government without having to deal with other parties. This means they are free to implement their policy program as presented to the electorate. It is also clear they are responsible for those policies. This accountability is a key strength of FPTP.

Under FPTP, every elected member is responsible to the voters in a riding. A particularly odious individual can be elected or defeated on his own merits. He does not have another way to win. This is why parties generally spend a significant amount of time searching for appealing candidates that will resonate with voters. Under "closed" list PR, and even some "open" list models, as many as half of the members of the legislature may have no allegiance to the voters of a geographic area and simply be members at large. There is no accountability.

When a government performs poorly under FPTP, voters have the option every four years to keep them or "throw the bums out." In a PR system it is much more difficult to get any one party out of power because you never know which parties will get together to try and form a coalition.

In summary, do we want proportionality, even if it is complicated and unclear how we got there, and even if it results in up to half of the members of the legislature being unaccountable to voters? Do we want to elect governments with no idea what policies we are going to get in the end? And do we wish to do this more often than we do currently, because minority governments are inherently unstable?

My preference since I was a young economics and politics student is for a clear connection between voter and elected representative. This is critical in a vast country such as Canada. I prefer a strong stable government that when elected delivers on the policies it has espoused. When it doesn't I know I have the opportunity to vote against it meaningfully.

The writer was a BC Liberal Party candidate in the Saanich North and the Islands riding in the 2013 and 2017 elections and resides on Salt Spring.

In summary, do we want proportionality, even if it is complicated and unclear how we got there, and even if it results in up to half of the members of the legislature being unaccountable to voters?

Further, it may take a long time to create a governing coalition and, contrary to sunny belief, the politicians in countries with PR do not love each other appreciably more than those in countries with FPTP. Some outright refuse to work together. Recently, it took Belgium a year and a half for parties to reach an agreement to govern. In 2017, it took the Netherlands six months and Germany nearly six months to establish a coalition that looked much like the one that pre-

In Remembrance

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GREEN

LIVING GREEN

Composting turns food waste into garden fuel

Help keep organic matter out of landfills

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Composting is the process of turning organic material into a useable soil amendment by letting it break down and decompose. Though it may seem daunting and difficult to begin composting, the process is exceedingly simple.

Kayla Siefried is an education coordinator at the Compost Education Centre in Victoria, where they teach courses in different kinds of composting and are a great resource for anyone interested in reusing their food and yard scraps.

"Often we call our fruits and veggie scraps 'compost,' but really those are just ingredients for compost," Siefried said. "The finished product that is actually compost is a black, soil-like material that is more of an amendment that can be added to gardens and plants. That finished compost is full of nutrients and it helps bring balance into a soil ecosystem... when we add that to a soil ecosystem it can really help the plants thrive."

When food waste enters a landfill, it ends up decomposing in an anaerobic environment (without air). As it decomposes, it releases methane gas. Methane gas is a major contributor to global warming and food products in the landfill is one of the main reasons that landfills give off greenhouse gases. By turning unusable food into compost, that waste is diverted from the landfill and becomes part of a closed loop that keeps nutrients close to home and helps replenish soil quality in the area.

"A fantastic way to connect us with some of our waste is to watch

it turn from something that is gross and not useful to us to this really valuable life-filled resource," she said. "It's a really amazing thing to watch."

Siefried explained the three different styles of composting that work best on Salt Spring Island. The first style is using a compost bin or earth machine for kitchen scraps and yard waste. The second is to use a compost digester for kitchen scraps. Third is the hot compost pile for large amounts of yard waste.

Using a compost bin is the most common way people get rid of organic material. Essentially, a compost bin is an enclosed container that is filled alternately with nitrogen-rich green material and carbon-rich brown material. It is this mixture that makes a successful composter. Siefried recommends not putting meat, dairy or cooked food into this kind of bin, because those products decompose at different rates and can introduce pathogens to the compost mixture. A compost bin will give a large compost harvest about once per year, for a four-person household.

For those looking to only use their kitchen scraps, a green cone digester is a good way to go. Digesters operate in a nitrogen-rich environment that turns food waste into a liquid that leeches into the

soil below the container. This kind of composter does not give a harvest of useable compost, but rather fertilizes the soil around it. They can be used for orchards or near fruit-bearing bushes to slowly add nutrients.

Finally, a hot compost pile is a great way to reduce a large amount of material into compost over a short period of time. Hot composting is mainly for yard waste, but can take food scraps as well.

"The idea is that over the course of time, the pile heats up because of the chemical reactions that are happening and the bonds that are breaking, creating heat," Siefried said. "Your organic material will break down into compost quicker, and it can make a larger quantity."

Each of these processes can continue through the winter. As long as the moisture content of the material stays relatively consistent, compost piles will continue to work.

"You don't want it to be too wet or too dry. Basically the microbes in a compost pile are like goldilocks," she said. "We recommend a texture like a moist wrung-out sponge as being good for a compost pile. If you have a bin, keep the lid on."

Siefried also recommends taking the time to stockpile leaves in the fall and winter, since they are a valuable source of carbon and can be used throughout the summer to maintain the nitrogen-carbon balance. In most cases, compost will be ready in the spring, which is the perfect time to harvest and use it in raised beds, potted plants, soil and as fertilizer.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Plastic compost bin in the writer's yard with carbon-rich "brown material" waiting to be added on the ground.

"The cool thing about compost is that it's a really gentle slow release of nutrients," she said. "Compost can be added at any stage of a plant's cycle without risk of harming that plant."

The Compost Education Centre has info sheets on the different

styles of composting and what kinds of materials to include in compost. One of the main things to avoid are plastic compostable bags, since those are designed for industrial-scale compost facilities and not for backyard operations.

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THE GREEN EDITION

EDUCATION

Ocean Champions book reaches international audience

Author Michelle Mech empowers kids to end plastic waste

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A children's book written by Salt Springer Michelle Mech in an effort to reduce and prevent plastic pollution in oceans is starting to have an impact with ripples around the world.

Ocean Champions: A Journey into Seas of Plastic was first released in the summer of 2017. Mech has since sold over 1,500 copies of the self-published picture book across Canada with help from distributor Heritage Group, and spoken to more than 600 children during school visits in the Gulf Islands and the Lower Mainland.

Mech's reach is set to become much wider with the recent translation of Ocean Champions into Indonesian and connection to a program that will deliver 5,000 free copies to schools throughout the island nation.

"A company called Sea Trek Sailing Adventures is taking them around the islands and Rotary is getting them into schools," Mech reported.

Ocean Champions delivers important facts about plastics and ocean health in a friendly way, illustrated by Ian Fry. The adventure-type format allows kids to explore the impact of plastic on living creatures from phytoplankton right up to humpback whales plus the sea-



Michelle Mech's book Ocean Champions in its new Indonesian translation.

birds, mammals and turtles in between. It also inspires readers to help clean up and, more importantly, prevent more plastic from entering the water in the first place. The story is followed by pages with tips and suggested school projects that teachers can use as follow-up. Even more educational material is available on the website www.oceanchampions.ca.

Mech created and self-financed the book as a concerned world citizen. If she eventually

makes any return on the project, funds will go right back into the cause.

"This was never meant as a money-making thing," she explained. "It's a total non-profit environmental endeavour to help with ocean plastic."

Mech said her story development received valuable feedback and advice from numerous people. They include Dr. Peter Ross of Ocean Wise Conservation Association and the Coastal Ocean Research Institute; the education staff at the Vancouver Aquarium; and Captain Charles Moore (who discovered the North Pacific Trash Vortex in 1997) and his education staff at Algalita. Professor Max Liboiron at the Memorial University of Newfoundland provided a social sciences perspective. Staff at NOAA in Hawaii reviewed the book and provided input. Janet Hoag, K-5 coordinator at SD64, set up test classroom readings before the book went to press and provided extensive support in other ways.

"That's the thing about this book: I really got expert help. I was really lucky with this," Mech said, adding a number of photos were also donated by people who heard about what she was doing.

Having the book translated and distributed in Indonesia is an exciting development, as the topic could hardly be more relevant. It's estimated more than eight million tons of plastic debris enter the oceans every year, and Indonesia is reportedly the second highest contributor of mismanaged plastic waste in the world, coming in just after China.

Mech's friend Jeni Kardinal, who lives in Bali, was the project coordinator who wrote the grant application and coordinated distribution in Indonesia. Rotary Club of Bali Seminyak was involved in working with the Australian Consulate on the project, and it was funded by the Direct Aid Program. The translation was done by an Indonesian teacher and proofed by a professional editor. Mech also reviewed the translations to ensure the intended meaning came through.

Distributors Sea Trek Sailing Adventures offer educational cruises across the eastern part of the Indonesian archipelago on two traditional wooden pinisi sailing ships, which follow historic trading routes and trade winds to remote areas of the world's longest and most biodiverse archipelago.

"Books are also getting distributed over land as well and have been sent to Lombok to earthquake victims, and around Bali, Nusa Penida, and as far away as Borneo. The distribution covers an area from tip to tip of Indonesia from Borneo to Papua and various islands in-between," Kardinal said.

Mech is now working with nonprofit groups to replicate the experience in other parts of the world, starting with a Spanish translation that will be distributed from Mexico City through two NGOs.

Ocean Champions is available at local bookstores and through the public library. People who would like to get more information on reducing and preventing plastic pollution can also visit the website.

ACTIVISM

Microplastics: how to reduce their prevalence

Salt Spring group suggests local action

BY SUSAN HANNON AND MICHELLE MECH

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Microplastics are very small plastic particles (<5mm) found in increasing amounts in all the world's oceans and shorelines, even found in polar ice. The major sources are:

Tiny polyethylene granules used as "scrubbers" or "exfoliants," found in facial cleansers, soaps and toothpaste (now banned in Canada and U.S.) and household, boat and industrial cleaning products.

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Our synthetic clothing, bedding and towels, which release millions of tiny plastic fibres, about one-fifth the diameter of a human hair, in wash water. These microfibres escape most wastewater treatment facilities and end up on

shorelines and in the ocean.

Microplastics greatly outnumber bigger fragments of ocean plastic. A study conducted in 2014 estimated that more than five trillion pieces of plastic weighing 269,000 metric tons were floating in the oceans. Ninety-two per cent of these were microplastics. Sadly, their small size makes them virtually impossible to clean up.

Microfibres are ingested by marine organisms, working their way up the food chain to molluscs, crustaceans, fish, birds, marine mammals and ultimately to humans. Microplastics have larger surface area to volume ratios than larger pieces of plastic, making them (volume to volume) more effective at picking up and transferring toxins found in water to the organisms that ingest them.

In various places in the world, microplastics have been found in tap water, bottled water, sea salt, beer, honey, sugar, and even the air we breathe. In the U.K., researchers found plastic particles in a third of fish. Not surprisingly, a recent study from Austria found microplastics in human stools. It is not yet clear how plastics are affecting organisms, food safety, and human health.

How contaminated is the Salish Sea?

Dr. Peter Ross, executive director of Ocean Wise's Coastal Ocean Research Institute, is leading research on microplastics. In 2017, his team found up to 25,000 plastic particles and fibres in just one cubic metre of water off the coast near Vancouver and, in the Strait of Georgia, an average of 3,200 plastic particles per cubic metre. Juvenile salmon along the B.C. coast are ingesting between two and seven microplastic particles each day, while returning adult salmon are taking in as many as 90 per day. Dr. Sarah Dudas, a researcher at Vancouver Island University, found an average of eight microplastic particles in wild and farmed Manilla clams and oysters.

Ross noted that washing a synthetic sweater releases up to 10,000 microfibrils, and a fleece jacket, made from recycled plastic bottles, up to a million microfibrils, into the sewage system. With millions of people living on or near the Salish sea, this can build up. Ross is currently working with Metro Vancouver and sewage treatment plants testing incoming and outgoing water for microplastics and trying to determine what measures might stop the flow into the ocean. Hopefully this work will culminate in improved fil-

tering techniques at plants. Mountain Equipment Co-op, Arc'teryx and the American companies Patagonia and REI are all supporting Ross's research.

Here on Salt Spring, a portion of our wastewater flows through the sewage treatment plant in Ganges, which uses a membrane bioreactor that filters out most of the plastic. Pumped septage from septic systems and sludge from the sewage and water treatment plants are eventually trucked to Langford for treatment. Here it is dewatered: the water goes into the Victoria sewage system and into the ocean and the remaining sludge is composted and can be applied to fields. The effect of the microplastics and their absorbed toxins remaining in our septic fields and in the composted sludge is unknown but will likely be problematic as they accumulate.

While researchers, governments and industry look for solutions to the microfibre problem, what can you do? Here are some suggestions from the Single-use Plastic Elimination and Recycling (SUPER) task force:

- Buy only what you need and buy high quality. Cheap fashion clothes don't last and shed more fibres.
- Buy clothes made from natural fibres such as wool or cotton and

press clothing companies to provide more options in natural fibres. While these materials shed fibres, they will eventually biodegrade. Plastic won't.

- Wash your synthetic gear less often and for shorter duration. You can spot clean dirt and many stains.
- Invest in a front-load washer when your current washer breaks down. Top-loading machines cause seven times more shedding than front loaders.
- Use a cooler wash temperature. High temperatures break down clothes and release more fibres.
- Avoid using laundry powder as its scrubbing action loosens more microfibrils than liquid soap.
- Use a filter bag or install a filter on your washing machine. Put synthetic clothes into the bag before washing (e.g. Guppyfriend, \$24). A washing machine filter costs \$140 and will catch the most microfibrils. SUPER is investigating whether a coordinated effort can be achieved to reduce the price to buy and install the filter.
- Don't buy cleaning products that contain micro-beads. Ask the Canadian government to ban plastic micro-beads in cleaning products.

The writers are SUPER task force members.

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THE GREEN EDITION

ECO-EDUCATION

Eco-adventure company has education focus

Getting kids to interact with nature helps them learn

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring eco-adventure company has been teaching and showing children how they interact with the outdoors for almost 30 years.

Jack Rosen and Candace Snow have led pro-

grams focused on outdoor learning, environmental education and stewardship since 1990. They partner with organizations like the Gulf Islands School District to help kids get out and experiencing the natural world around them.

Coastal Current Adventures runs school groups, summer camps and other programs all around Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands. With a basis in kayaking, many of the activities take place on or near the water. Rosen and Snow offer a series of modules for teachers to

choose from, and tailor their lesson plans to suit that module.

"If they're doing soft invertebrates we can actually take them kayaking and do lots of soft invertebrate discussions and talk about how humans are affecting the water quality," Rosen said. "We'll take them out to the areas where there's seals, sea lions and porpoises to talk about those animals."

Much of what they teach helps kids understand their role in the environment and how

to lessen their impact on the world.

"The nice thing for us is getting kids to really learn what's happening in their province," Rosen said. "Then they can take action or look at places in their lives where they want to actually study more."

Rosen and Snow sold their long-time Island Escapades business to Jason and Anna Watkin last year and have been able to focus more on their outdoor education programs as a result.



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TRANSPORTATION

EV parade joins Light-up events

Dec. 1 event in Ganges

BY JIM STANDEN

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The fun-loving Salt Spring Island Electric Vehicles owners are at it again. This time we are joining up with the "Light Up Ganges" event on Saturday, Dec. 1 with a "Light Up EV's" parade.

We will meet at 3:45 p.m. in the Country Grocer parking lot, near the brand new free public Level-2 charger. We will get the cars all spiffed up with lights and unicorns and fancy bits, and then when it is dark, at about 4:30, all those silent motors will turn on, form a cavalcade of some sort and drive slowly and safely into and around Ganges.

Then we will park and join in the Ganges festivities.

Attendees and their kids and pets are encouraged to be as creative as possible in adding lights to their cars. Flashlights? Spotlights? However, please ensure your visibility is not impaired. Additional lighting has been ordered for vehicles that have none and, barring the current postal-service issues, should arrive in time.

The event organizer is Tom Mitchell (tomymitchell@shaw.ca) and I am the registrar. If you have an EV and want to join in, please send an RSVP to jstanden@ucalgary.ca. We have over 10 committed EVs so far.

Our next celebration? Welcoming EV #200 to the island. We are getting close, folks.

Growing your own produce is a rewarding way to reduce your impact on the environment!

We have an excellent selection of fruit and nut trees, fruit and berry plants (blueberries, raspberries, grapes, kiwi, figs etc.) ready to go now.

Fall is the best time to plant most shrubs and trees. When adding trees and shrubs to your landscape, planting in the fall offers several benefits ... The combination of warm soil and cool air stimulates root growth to help your tree or shrub get established before the next summer thereby reducing after care.

Fraser's THIMBLE FARMS

9:00 - 4:30pm | Tuesday-Saturday
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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

Be Water Wise
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Water is a precious resource and supplies on Salt Spring are much more limited than in other parts of BC. Please join islanders as we work together to ensure that this summer, and every summer, we use this limited resource wisely.

Try these conservation tips:

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- Run only full loads in dishwashers and washing machines.
- Shut off the tap while brushing teeth, shaving, and washing.
- Flush less often.
- Inform guests about our island's limited water supply, and ask them to be part of the solution.

Together we can make a difference

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

SALT SPRING INN
 Open for Breakfast every day at 9am
 Sunday Brunch served until 2pm
 "Where Islanders & Friends Start their Day"

EXHIBITIONS

Wintercraft and Art Jam group show open Friday

Artists From the Fringe reception

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Arts Council's annual Wintercraft show featuring the best arts and crafts from Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands opens for the season this Friday morning, Nov. 23.

Mahon Hall has been festively decorated, and will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. all the way through Dec. 22, offering holiday shoppers the opportunity to find ideal gifts for a full month.

"The idea of gifting a beautiful,

local and unique, handcrafted creation is a time-honoured tradition in the Gulf Islands, and at Wintercraft there is truly something special for everyone," the Arts Council promises.

Around 90 artists are represented each year, producing pottery, jewellery, fine weaving and textiles, artisan soaps, painting, woodwork and much more.

This year the show and sale will also host an exhibition by the "Artists from the Fringe," a group of people who participate in the Art Jam program at the Salt Spring United Church. An opening reception for the Artists From the Fringe

show takes place at Mahon Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday.

Program coordinator Lynne Johnson notes this is the seventh exhibition for the group, which has been active for just a few years.

"Many of the artists have been with us since Art Jam started three years ago, and the progress they have made is amazing," Johnson said. "Some have never painted before and are finding their creative voice for the first time. Others have been exploring new mediums and techniques."

Art Jam participants come from Salt Spring's homeless and vulnerable population, and many struggle

to stay warm and dry at this time of year, Johnson said.

"However, when they come to Art Jam on Sundays they have the opportunity put aside the physical and emotional challenges of living in poverty, and let their creativity take over. They become 'artists' as opposed to 'parkies' or 'those people,' being welcomed into a non-judgmental and caring environment in the basement of the United Church."

Support for the program includes coffee and healthy food provided through a grant from the Salt Spring Foundation as well as the generosity of Hannah Brown and

United Church members. Foot care, clean socks and art tips are offered by artist and nurse Deb Newberry. Artistic and friendly support comes from Stefanie Denz, an artist, teacher and soon-to-be art therapist. Art supplies, frames, clothing and shoes are frequently donated by members of the community who hear about the program and want help in some way.

"As many pieces sell during the opening we urge you to come on the 23rd to choose that special piece for yourself or a loved one this holiday season," Johnson said.

All proceeds from Art Jam exhibition sales will go to the artists.

BOOK LAUNCH

Hughes turns family history into fiction

Imagining Violet book launches Nov. 27

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring readers will be introduced to the fascinating story of an independent young woman and her music studies in 19th century Germany when local writer Mary Hughes launches her first book of historical fiction later this month.

The Salt Spring Public Library event scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 27 celebrates the release of *Imagining Violet*. Though based on a few facts that Hughes knew about her paternal grandmother, most of the tale comes through a fictional reconstruction of what her life must have been like. The epistolary format, which advances the narrative through letters written by Hughes as Violet, brings the book into firmly fictional territory.

Violet Alice Trant Courtenaye was born in 1875 and lived with her family in Edinburgh and south London. At the age of 16, she went to Germany to study violin — a fact that Hughes discovered as a brief notation on the inside cover of her grandmother's Bible.

"I was just struck with this idea that this 16-year-old girl had gone, by herself, at a time when women were just beginning to travel by themselves," Hughes explained.

"I decided it would be a challenging project to imagine her life in Leipzig in the early 1890s."

Hughes' early career was in theatre and television production, followed by several years in association management where she picked up skills in marketing, public relations, meeting planning and editing. She is known on Salt Spring for her previous book *The Life and Times of the Floathouse Zastrozzi*, a memoir about living in Victoria's inner harbour.

Her first book was a biography of Frank Welsman, who founded the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 1906. Welsman also happened to be Hughes' grandfather and husband to her grandmother Violet. The pair actually met during their studies at the Leipzig Conservatory.

The developing relationship between the two is a key component of the new book, but Hughes starts the story with Violet's first



MARY HUGHES

journey away from home as she travels from Edinburgh to Cassel, Germany by train and ship.

"I decided her mother went with her on that trip," Hughes said.

Letters written in Violet's voice to her mother and other family members reveal the exciting new places and experiences as expressed by a girl coming into adulthood. Hughes strove hard to create this authentic voice. She also worked at getting just the right amount of exposition into the letters, supplying facts that her readers would want to know but that wouldn't seem out of place for the fictional recipients.

"It's a different way to tell a story. The reader only knows what the writer knows," Hughes said about the epistolary style. "The research was great fun, and crafting it was an interesting adventure."

Hughes has some correspondence saved from later in Violet's life, through which she was able to glean some important details, such as the address of the family home in London. Her research into the time period yielded some other valuable resources, such as a travel guide to Germany from 1891 that included all the English train and boat schedules of the time. This allowed Hughes to track exactly which route Violet must have taken and the components of the journey.

Other aspects of the story are informed by accounts written by Leipzig Conservatory students of the time. A student from New Zealand wrote a series of columns on his experiences for his home paper, and a group of students from Toronto did similar reporting for a Canadian music journal.

Hughes did first-hand research too. She travelled to the U.K. and to Germany, walking the streets of old Leipzig to ensure her geography was correct. She received great help from a pair of archivist librarians at the conservatory, who were able to dig up some of Violet's actual course registrations and progress reports.

One of the lovely outcomes of the writing project is how Hughes' research has connected her with the grandmother she never knew. As a result of the book, she

took up the violin five years ago at age 70, studying first with Joan Blackman and more recently with Carolyn Hatch. She now plays with the Salt Strings, an amateur string ensemble led by Paula Kiffner. Even more amazingly, through taking up the violin Hughes has acquired Violet's actual violin from her cousin Richard Welsman, and has been playing it ever since.

Audiences will have the chance to hear Hughes perform with the Salt Strings as part of the Nov. 27 book launch. Books are available at local shops and as an e-book through Hughes' blog, <https://imaginingviolet.blogspot.com>.

Salt Spring Concert Band Presents
TALES OF OLD
 Directed By Keith Ollerenshaw
 November 30th Tickets Available
 ArtSpring 7:30 Through ArtSpring
 Adult \$20 Youth \$5

Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for Pender Island. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the Agency. Applicants must reside on Pender Island in order to be considered for this position.

For information and an application form please visit our website at:
www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/marriages



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 salt spring arts council

ART REVIEW

Solstice art show brings light to dark months

Show runs at Salt Spring Gallery through Dec. 29

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Gallery artists and guests are once again making sure islanders don't get overwhelmed by darkness this season by contributing special works to the signature fall/winter show.

While the days leading up to the winter solstice will only be getting shorter and darker, A Celebration of Light has plenty to dispel the gloom. Whether in literal fashion as creative lanterns, lamps and candelabras, or in paintings and photos that zap the November blahs with glimpses of summer's celestial light, this show is a good way to stay cheerful with the 28 different artists involved.

Working to cast some literal light on the project is expert basket maker Melanie Thompson, who has a couple of beautifully illuminated woven pieces. Iris Pod Lamp is a particularly nice

example with the dried pods on slender stems creating a rich, autumnal bouquet.

Ceramics are natural vessels for sheltering light. Sonja Barnard makes good use of this fact in a hanging lamp with slim cut-outs for the light to wink through and embellishments of beads, metal and crystals for extra shine, as well as her standing Solstice Sea Candelabra festooned with sea creatures. LeeAnn Norgard's candle lanterns are crafted as delicately cut-out and sculpted forms inspired by nature, including a lovely seedpod piece in shades of chocolate and bronze. Norgard's Intertidal Solstice Lantern is a stunning sphere marked with intricate ridges and punch-holes, made more mysterious by the periwinkle shade.

Other artists at the show help repel the winter blues through wearable art. Ulrieke Benner's voluminous nuno felted shawl in holly berry-red silk and merino wool will challenge anyone to feel gloomy, whether wearing it themselves or just enjoying the marvellous colours and texture on



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Some of the works on display in the solstice show at Salt Spring Gallery through December.

another. The same goes for Ilse Leader's knitted pieces, including a snug hood in soft plum with fluffy fringe in grey mohair encircling the face. Carol Newmeyer

promotes a different kind of warmth with her Falling Leaves necklace and bracelet, a cascading and rippling beaded design in typical fall leaf colours plus delicious

accents of coral and pomegranate.

Hanging pieces that cast a bright tone include Rachel Vadeboncoeur's multimedia stained glass panel From Thrift to Treasure, with its border and accents in vivid carrot orange. Contrasting tones in soft blues and greys suit the seashell motif, which appears in patterned tiles and a three-dimensional scallop form. Isabelle de Launiere tempts the mind back to summer with her photographs. Single flower heads are drenched in light, shown in partial view, close up and framed to allow a corner of black background. Her setting adds another nice element of contrast, with wide black frames and a matting that is embossed with a floral pattern.

Cinda Helm's acrylic painting Light Speed combines subject matter and material, with an impressionist scene of boats under sail painted onto stiff sailcloth. The scene is evocative of high vertical cliffs towering over the small boats, a splash of cerulean and green behind deeper blue waters. Dara Clayton's

untitled, abstract gouache paintings evoke an atmosphere of warmth and mystery, with swirls of amorphous colour set off with a few careful marks and forms. Katie Watt's digital photograph Daydreamer also produces a feeling of timelessness. In one slightly transparent layer, a smiling young girl looks upward, her hands clasped around her face. The girl and the brick wall behind her are bathed in sunlight; another layer over top frames the image with a dark fringe of trees and bush.

There's something to be said for embracing the season at hand, of course, and that's sometimes easier to do with the added brightness that comes after a snowfall. Charming winter scenes at the show include Wendy Wickland's accomplished oil painting Into the Woods. Lorne Shantz brings in a powerful view of nature in Tundra, a watercolour painting of a lone wolf resting in the snow under dark tree trunks.

The solstice show continues at Salt Spring Gallery through Dec. 29.

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**LOUD AND CLEAR
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As part of an extensive regional technology upgrade, CREST is adding several new transmission sites across the Capital Region, including an emergency communications mono-pole proposed for installation at the Royal Canadian Legion in Ganges.

You may also learn more by visiting crest.ca/ganges

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING
Royal Canadian Legion, 120 Blain Road
Saturday, December 1st 2:00 - 4:00 pm

CREST
EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS

what's on this week



Wed. Nov. 21

ACTIVITIES

Mother Goose.
Join Nomi and Hannah Wednesdays for Parent-Child Mother Goose, with songs, rhymes and play-time. Salt Spring Library. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Youth Book Club.
Salt Spring Public Library. 3:30 to 5 p.m.



Thu. Nov. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic at the Legion.
Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Open Mic Night.
Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Library Book Club.
Free and open to all. This month's pick is *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman. 1 to 3 p.m.

Book Launch for Collapse of a Country: A Diplomat's Memoir of South Sudan.

With local author Nick Coghlan, who was the first Canadian diplomat to be posted to war-torn Sudan. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Costners.
Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Library StoryTime.
StoryTime is a great way to build early literacy skills, read new books and old favourites, and have fun with games, crafts, and more. Salt Spring Public Library. 11 a.m.

A Watershed Stewardship Community Presentation.

Golder Associates presents Monthly Groundwater Budget Analysis for Aquifers on Salt Spring Island at Lions Hall. 1 to 3 p.m.

Opening Reception: Artists From the Fringe.

Opening reception for month-long exhibition of work by Artists From the Fringe artists held during Wintercraft show and sale. Mahon Hall. 4 to 6 p.m.

Gallery 8 – Christmas Exhibition of Small Works.

Opening reception for 10th anniversary show featuring all gallery artists. Gallery 8. 5 to 8 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 23

ACTIVITIES

Youth Games Night.
Weekly drop-in games night. Salt Spring Public Library. 6:30 p.m. until late every Friday (except holidays).

Sat. Nov. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Chorale! Dreams of the North.

Viva Chorale! choir presents *Dreams of the North* concert directed by Caroni Young, accompanied by Diana English and featuring the Salt Spring String Quartet. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7:30 p.m.

Duo Corvi Early Music Ensemble.

One of Canada's most captivating early music groups, specializing in the creative performance of music from 13th to 15th century Italy, Spain, and France. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

The wannaBeatles.

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



Sat. Nov. 24

ACTIVITIES

WinterFaire.
The annual Salt Spring Island United Church's WinterFaire event includes the Christmas Cafe featuring hot lunch, upstairs and downstairs shopping for handicrafts, cash and carry treasures, Christmas and gluten-free baking and more. Salt Spring United Church. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Earlybird Artisan & Collectibles Fair.

Christmas craft and gift fair at Meaden Hall. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Book Launch and Signing for Cooking With Friends.

Launch event for David Wood's new book called *Cooking For Friends*, with photographs by Gillean Proctor. Fulford Hall. 2 to 4 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

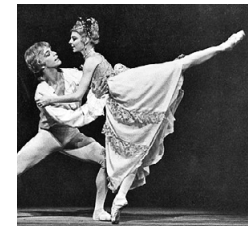
Viva Chorale! Dreams of the North.

See Saturday's listing, except time is 2 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 25

ACTIVITIES

Manon - The Royal Ballet.
Film screening of *The Royal Ballet Covent Garden's* 1982 production of *Manon* – starring Salt Spring's own prima ballerina Jennifer Penney. ArtSpring. 10 a.m. Entrance by donation to SSI Hospice.



Perspectives on Parenting: Supporting Health Nervous Systems. SS Public Library. 1 to 3 p.m.

WinterFaire.

See Saturday listing, except the time is from 11 a.m. to 12 noon only.

Mon. Nov. 26

ACTIVITIES

Island Infants Discussion Group.

Drop-in for parents and babies with weekly speakers. Family Place. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Music Bingo.

Every Monday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Tue. Nov. 27

ACTIVITIES

Peace Circles in the Library.

A Salt Spring Restorative Justice Committee four-Tuesday event featuring different guest facilitators each week. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 12 to 1 p.m. Today's guest facilitator is Aaron Kipnis.

Book Launch: Mary Hughes and Imagining Violet.

Local writer Mary Hughes presents *Imagining Violet*, her first work of historical fiction. Epistolary format based on the life of Hughes' paternal grandmother, who was born in 1875 and travelled on her own to audition at the prestigious Leipzig Conservatory at age 16. Salt Spring Public Library. 1 to 3 p.m.

Preserving Groundwater Supplies on Salt Spring Island.

Talk by Islands Trust senior freshwater specialist William Shulba. Lions Hall. 7:30 p.m., with doors open at 7 p.m. A Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society event.

Wed. Nov. 28

ACTIVITIES

UVic's Michael Lines on Charlemagne and the Monks.

Speaker at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 p.m.

SSI Transportation Commission Meeting.

Regular business meeting date moved for this month. School Board office. 4:10 p.m.

Film Screening: SGaawaay K'uuna (Edge of the Knife).

Salt Spring Film Festival hosts an unprecedented creation: a full-length film entirely in the Haida language, filmed in Haida Gwaii and inspired by oral history. Director Gwaii Edenshaw will answer questions after the film. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.



THE FRITZ CINEMA

THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS –
Runs Fri., Nov. 23 to Tues., Nov. 27 at 7 pm with an additional Sunday matinee at 3 pm. PG. 1 hr. 42 min. Family-friendly humour and horror. A boy goes to his uncle's house with a mysterious ticking clock.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Gallery 8** holds its 10th annual **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** by all gallery artists beginning with an opening reception on Friday, Nov. 23 from 5 to 8 p.m.
- **Artists From the Fringe** exhibition and sale runs in the side room at Mahon Hall, with an opening reception on Friday, Nov. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 22.
- **A Celebration of Light: Solstice Show** of work by **Salt Spring Gallery** members & special guests runs until Dec. 29.

EXHIBITIONS

- **The Salt Spring Arts Council's Wintercraft** holiday season exhibition and sale opens at Mahon Hall this Friday, Nov. 23 and continues daily through Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Venter Gallery** presents selected works from **Deon Venter's Last Supper / The Order of Things**, and from **Kathy Venter's series Metanarrative / Life** until Dec. 3.
- **A Love Story** – 20 women explore telling love stories through a variety of art media, including mosaics, collage, mixed media, up-cycling, paint, photography, and words. **ArtSpring** gallery through Nov. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is the sixth year that some of these women have exhibited together.
- **Historic Fine Arts & Crafts by Ruckles and Neighbours**, a display of decorative and useful items made to enrich the lives of early south Salt Spring farmers and their kin, shows in the **Library program room** through November.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Lorence Bryans** shows digital art at **T.J. Beans** through November.
- **Jerry Witmer** holds an exhibit of paintings in the lobby of **ArtSpring** through November.
- **Auntie Pesto's Cafe** shows new work by **Gabrielle Jensen**.
- **Kahsia Hartwell** has photographs hanging at **Country Grocer's** cafe.

WinterFaire

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EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Salt Spring firefighter shares his experience

Patrick Byrne proud to be part of POC team

BY PATRICK BYRNE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It's 3 a.m., and I am shocked out of my deep sleep by a loud, beeping alarm — my pager — "Salt Spring first responders respond to 1234 XYZ Road, first response for cardiac arrest."

I try to be as quiet as possible getting on my carefully laid-out clothes, always arranged before I go to bed. I do this so I don't have to think about dressing as I feel my way around in the dark like I have done for so many late-night page-outs.

I am trying my best not to wake my wife, but she too has been woken by the loud beeping of the pager, her adrenalin racing just as much as mine. I kiss her and tell her not to worry, that everything will be fine, just go back to sleep. That is wishful thinking because she will be restless and worrying for the duration of the call and until I am back safe lying in bed again. On some occasions, my children wake while I am gone and also become anxious because they know I have gone out on a call.

I get back from the reality of the call: two completely different worlds to reconcile and to create a balance between. "Everything ok?" "Yes, fine, go to sleep."

She eventually drifts off, and I lie awake. Eyes open, trying to find the path back to sleep after having responded to the emergency. I have just spent several hours assisting someone to breathe, doing chest compressions and listening to the anguish of family members as we try to revive their loved one. I think of the call, each moment, each action, and make a mental note of how I can improve on some things and how well other things went.

I think about the debrief that we engage in after each

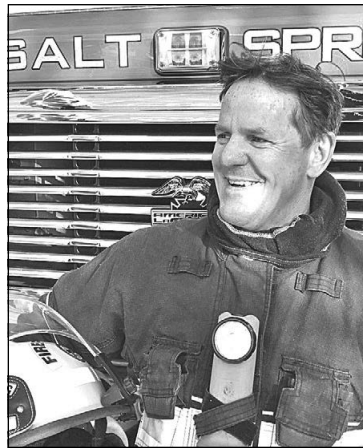


PHOTO COURTESY SSIFR

Salt Spring firefighter Patrick Byrne.

traumatic call as I try to calm my breathing to relax myself enough to get some rest. It takes a lot of balance to manage all these aspects of one's personal and emotional life to stay healthy in the face of such trying events.

This is the job of a POC or paid-on-call firefighter. I prefer calling us Professionals On Call because that is what we are, well-trained professionals who respond in all conditions and at all hours helping people in need and serving this community.

How did it begin for me? Well, I had never thought of being a firefighter. It wasn't one of those things I dreamed about doing as a child, so it all feels a bit surreal. I had moved to Salt Spring from Asia where I worked as a professional musician and event coordinator. It was a big change, for sure, and it took a

bit of time getting used to the slower pace here.

But, as time passed, I felt a very strong desire to stay here. The family was settled and happy, but I needed to find something to really connect me to the community. I had only been on Salt Spring for three years when I decided to respond to the recruitment poster for Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) hanging on the fence at Hall 2 in Fulford. "Volunteers wanted!"

I told myself, if I can get into SSIFR and make a meaningful contribution to the community, that would be the impetus, the anchor, to keep us here. So, at 50 years old I filled out the application, got all the necessary tests and checks, submitted my paperwork and waited. I got a call to show up for the physical tryout in three weeks and began to train.

There were three other candidates at Hall 2 waiting in anticipation for the tryout, nervous and excited and wondering, I am sure, what "the old guy" was doing there. We all did well, supported each other, and passed on to the next phase, which was an interview. I got in and embarked on one of the most rewarding endeavours of my life.

I wasn't sure what to expect at first, but soon realized that SSIFR is a full-service department where firefighters are trained to the National Fire Protection Association 1001 standard (the standard for all North American firefighters).

I was thrilled and threw myself

into the experience completely. I was mentored by all of the senior members who answered all my hundreds of questions and went out of their way to show me how to operate this and to tie that. I was humbled by the teamwork and camaraderie.

I trained hard, studied hard and began to do regular cross training to improve my physical ability, which is essential in a job that is very physically demanding. My first structure fire was one of the most physically demanding experiences of my life. I was drained after it.

It was very important to become extremely proficient in all the skills that are required to do this job well. It meant training in a wide variety of areas, including first aid, auto extrication, rope rescue and water rescue skills. It also required learning how to drive large fire apparatus and operate the fire pumps that are complicated and require knowledge of math formulas on friction, psi calculations and flow rates. By the time you have learned all this, it is time to go back again and refresh all the skills. Training is constant and necessary to maintain a high level of skill.

These amazing men and women of the POC team maintain these skills while holding down day jobs and, in many cases, raising families as well. They represent such a profound and admirable dedication to this community, and it is with exceptional gratitude that I stand proud as a member of this outstanding team. Thank you!

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ISLANDS TRUST

Patrick elected to Trust executive

Peter Luckham returns as Trust Council chair

Salt Spring will once again have good representation on the Islands Trust's governing body, with incoming trustee Laura Patrick elected as a vice-chair of the Trust executive on Nov. 8.

During its first meeting since the local government elections in October, the Islands Trust Council elected a chair and three vice-chairs to form the Islands Trust Executive Committee for the 2018-2020 term. Peter Luckham from Thetis Island was elected to his second term as Trust Council chair. Sue Ellen Fast of the Bowen Island Municipality and Dan Rogers of the Gambier Island Local Trust Area were also elected to vice-chair positions.

"It is such an honour to be elected by Trust Council to once again serve as chair of the Islands Trust Council," Luckham said on his re-election. "I look

forward to working with the new vice-chairs who were chosen this morning from amongst a group of worthy candidates.

"During the presentations, we heard the impassioned voices of trustees who are eager to tackle the important issues we face including affordable housing, climate change, and environmental sustainability. The beginning of a new term of office represents a time of renewal for the Islands Trust but we remain, as always, committed to preserving and protecting these precious islands in the Salish Sea for all British Columbians."

Executive member duties include serving as chairs of the 12 local Trust committees. Luckham was re-appointed chair of the Salt Spring LTC, a position he held during the previous term.

Patrick will chair the North and South Pender, Saturna and Thetis LTCs.

The first meeting of the Salt Spring LTC is scheduled to take place at Lions Hall on Thursday, Dec. 6.

Remember *20 years ago*

WHEN

Five years ago

• Regulation changes about who could grow medical marijuana was a potential boon for Salt Spring farmers. The changes said that permitted users would no longer be able to grow their own and must source from licensed producers. Salt Spring's fallow agricultural lands had the potential to become a leading source of island revenue. Health Canada expected the number of people using medical marijuana in Canada to reach 450,000 by 2024.

10 years ago

• A rough count determined that Salt Spring was home to the second highest number of homeless people per capita compared to other communities in the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island. Community Services staff and volunteers from the United Church confirmed that Salt Spring's temporary cold-weather shelter would be up and running.

• Salt Spring Island bars faced a smoking ban, which had some pub owners worried about the future. The effects of separating smoking and drinking in public places were unknown, and different owners had different views of the problem. The owners of the Vesuvius inn believed they would lose 35 to 45 per cent of their business after the ban, but the owner of Moby's Marine Pub felt that his customers wouldn't disappear.

• Local rock climbers thought that Mount Everest was too easy for them and decided to take on the highest peak in the Solar System: Mars' Olympus Mons. However, with interplanetary travel still years away, the climbers had to complete their ascent by tallying up their total climbs on the Ganges climbing wall. Olympus Mons rises 21,287 metres above the planet's mean radius (sea-level is not applicable on the dry planet), dwarfing Everest's 8,848 metres above sea level. Climbing the equivalent of Olympus Mons would take 3,520 ascents of the 24-foot climbing wall. The climb was to raise

money for the Challenge Program for Youth, and 30 to 40 climbers participated.

30 years ago

• A decision was made to include condoms for sale in roughly one-third of 400 cigarette machines throughout Vancouver Island. The condoms were not available in Salt Spring vending machines, which were operated by a different company. The owner of the local vending machine company was not interested in putting condoms in Salt Spring's machines, saying, "I don't think it would be a very worthwhile venture for us."

• Valdy released a single condemning the trade deal between Canada and the United States. His song "Living Next to a Candy Store" was released in conjunction with the Council of Canadians, one of the major opponents of the deal.

40 years ago

• A man from Mayne Island was charged with breaking and entry when he was discovered in the kitchen of Rita's Inn in Ganges at 10 p.m. The

man walked in the back door, which had been left unlocked, and ate a baked potato before he was discovered. The restaurant was closed at the time of the incident.

50 years ago

• "It will not be too long before there is no agriculture left on Salt Spring Island," suggested superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, L.W. Johnson when he was addressing the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute at a banquet honouring two local farmers. He described the "sharp contrast between the island of today with subdividing going on in every direction and the island of yesterday, when lamb and butter made Salt Spring famous."

Not all was lost, however. Another speaker at the event was P.G. James, an agricultural consultant for the islands. James discussed the potential for specialty crops to be grown on the island, including his own Sunrise tomato and a special breed of lavender.

"You will see the Gulf Islands come back to the specialty crop until it is known the world over," he said.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

ON TOP OF IT: Lucas Segura keeps boxes of books tidy as part of his volunteering duties at the Giant Book & Jewellery Sale at the Farmers' Institute on Sunday. The three-day, Salt Spring Literacy Society fundraiser saw more than 2,000 people come to the institute hall to buy bargain books and jewellery, and to enjoy a BBQ and refreshments provided by the Salt Spring Rotary Club.

healthy LIFESTYLE

Self-Compassion Break Over the Holidays

The holiday season can be a mixed bag for many of us. It is a time to gather with loved ones to socialise and celebrate with good cheer. And, as most of us already know, the holidays can become stressful when we get busy, wanting to create a pleasant experience for more than one person at the same time! We can feel torn and begin to suffer, experiencing higher levels of self-criticism and stress.

Taking a break for yourself and cultivating an attitude of self-compassion can help. Marcia is offering an introductory workshop in Mindful Self-Compassion on Saturday, the 8th of December from 10-1 where you can learn skills to be kinder to yourself and reduce stress. It is easier than you think!

To access free guided Mindful Self-Compassion meditations and info about the 8-week Mindful Self-Compassion course starting in February 2019 go to: www.mindfulselfdiscovery.com



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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Coming Events

Coming Events

Coming Events

THOMAS EDWARD FLEMONS
September 19, 1953 to November 4, 2018

Tom Flemons raised his sail, tightened the sheet, and headed for the sunset November 4th, 2018 to explore what he once called "the really big tensegrity."



Tom possessed an incessant drive to draw, sculpt, and create. For Tom, interdisciplinarity was a beautiful and effortless habit of mind, a boundless curiosity that happily roamed the universe, paired with the discipline to explore any subject he chose to an exacting degree, whether it was a meta-theory of the I Ching during his days at SFU, tensegrity (both in the abstract and as a mode of understanding living structures), or the microbiology that accompanied his illness. Whatever he undertook, he approached with the playfulness of a boy, the intellectual scope of a polymath, and the rigour of a scientist. What he leaves behind is a trove, or should we call it a tensegrity, of interconnected ideas and experiments, along with some five million human infants touched by his toy, the Skwish.

During the difficult months of his illness, he was lovingly supported by his community of friends on Salt Spring Island. He is survived by a devoted family—his wife, Jane Squier and family Kip (Lauren), Julia (Jeremiah), Anna (Doudou), and grandson Muabilay; his father, Don (Isabel), and brothers, Douglas (Shelley) and Ward; his nieces and nephews, Kristin, Eric, Fraser, Jenna, Laurèn, Yohannes, and Faven; and his great grand nieces, Ava and Alyssa. He was predeceased by his mother, Elizabeth Jean.

Special thanks to Dr. Ron Reznick and the nurses and staff of Lady Minto Hospital for their outstanding care.

Tom's legacy will live in the form of his toys, his contributions to bio-tensegrity and robotics design, and his company, Intension Designs. A permanent online archive is in development at <http://intensiondesigns.ca/>

Donations in Tom's name can be made to Coast Protectors British Columbia and the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

Please visit his online memorial site at: <http://intensiondesigns.ca/rememering-tom/>

SIMON HIELKO CAMPING



We are so sad to announce that our Husband, Father, Opa and Great Opa, Simon Hielko Camping passed away on November 7, 2018 after a lengthy illness.

He was born in Dokkum, Netherlands on February 3, 1928 and moved to Leeuwarden with his family in 1936 where he followed his education and went on to Nautical College. He became a Merchant Marine Officer and made his first sailing trips along the eastern coast of North and South America. From 1949 to 1952, he worked as a cartographer in the Indonesian archipelago. Upon his return to the Netherlands, he married the love of his life, Anna Simona Verra.

In 1954, they emigrated to Canada, where he found deep connection with the unspoiled wilderness of western Canada, with her majestic Rocky Mountains, and poetic Pacific Rim.

He instilled this awe for nature in his two daughters, Geraldine and Elizabeth, as they hiked and skied the foothills and mountains with their extended family and friends, through all seasons, any chance they could.

Combining this reverence for the wild world with his steady and artistic hand, Simon began to paint the mountains, and later the rugged Pacific coast. As he retired from Shell, he made his art into a full time career.

In 1981, they moved to Salt Spring Island to be closer to his daughter, grandchildren, and later great grandchildren. Here, he continued to paint and share his wonder for life with his family and all those whose lives he touched.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Anna Camping, Daughters Geraldine Camping (Don Fisher) and Elizabeth Camping, Grandchildren Hanna Munneke (Hughson Welch), Christopher Munneke (Ladyme Munneke), Simon Munneke, Emile Pellerin and Delphine Pellerin; and Great Grandchildren Keshua, Levi and Zyah Welch and Annacacia Munneke, and his extended family and greater community in Saltspring, Calgary and the Netherlands.

Heartfelt thanks to Sue for all you have done for us, and to our Friends and Neighbours, the Home Care Nurses, Beacon Community Caregivers, the Paramedics, the Nurses and Staff of Lady Minto Hospital, and the Hospice Society Volunteers. All of you helped to make Simon's last years much more comfortable. Special thanks to Dr. Beaver for your kind and attentive care.

A celebration of life will be held for Simon at the Salt Spring United Church on December 2nd at 1pm. A reception and graveside service will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lady Minto Hospital foundation.

"The unspoiled wildness of nature is a reflection of the one who created it. The wonder of life — the brilliance of colour, the violence of a storm, the starkness of winter, the solitude — is a religious experience made touchable." - SIMON CAMPING

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GISS

High school improv season gets rolling

CyberScorpions team makes underwater robots



Reign Ackerley
THIS MONTH @
GISS

Three months in and the Gulf Islands Secondary School year is off to a busy start.

GISS Improv recently performed at the South Island Exhibition Rounds in Esquimalt, along with four other teams from the region. The Improv team is made up of six members, four returning improvisers from last year's national runner-ups and two new members. In January, GISS will be competing in the South Island Junior Tournament that takes place at St. Margaret's School in Duncan.

In other news, the **Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts** has started planning for their annual show, which will be presented in April. The music department is honing skills and developing new pieces for their music show taking place at ArtSpring on Jan. 22.

On the technology side, the GISS robotics department is another exciting group that has recently acquired three new 3D printers, which have been used in both the 3D design classes and by the robotics team. This year the **CyberScorpions** are designing underwater robots, also known as ROVs. They are currently in the design process and have already built a thruster. The team has 10 students and by the end of the school year expects to have three ROVs.

GISS is also home to a large art studio in which **three mixed-level art classes** are currently working on their show, *Please Touch the Art*. The show will open on Jan. 10 at Mahon Hall. On Jan. 18, there will be a closing party starting at 7 p.m. and running till 9:30. The closing party will feature a fashion show, displaying student pieces. The show is open to the public with food and drinks supplied by Moonshine Mama and other local businesses. Entrance is by donation.

As far as individual students go, **Grade 11 student Sean Close** has recently won over \$100,000 from competing in various *Fortnite: Battle Royale* competitions. *Fortnite* is a video game that was released in 2017 by Epic Games. In the latest tournament, on Oct. 28, Sean and his team came in fifth place out of 50 competitors. He is currently signed to Ghost Gaming, a North American eSport organization.

And finally, the **senior boys soccer team** made it to the North Islands tournament, where they beat Wellington and Ballenas. Their victories sent them to the Vancouver Island Championships, where their season ended in a long, tough game against Brentwood. While the soccer team's season ended with a hard-fought loss, the senior boys volleyball team won the north Vancouver Island tournament without dropping a single set and the junior boys team won the mid-islands tournament.

All in all, it's shaping up to be an eventful year at GISS.

Reign Ackerley is a Grade 11 GISS student who will be reporting regularly from the high school.



Out + About is a compilation of items about upcoming events on Salt Spring.

Winterfaire

The annual Salt Spring Island United Church's WinterFaire event runs at the church from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24 and from 11 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Nov. 25. It's a one-stop Christmas shopping affair at 111 Hereford Ave. in downtown Ganges.

Islanders are invited to get into the holiday spirit by enjoying the Christmas Cafe featuring a hot lunch of traditional tourtiere or homemade bagels and salmon while listening to music.

Then shop upstairs and down for handicrafts, cash-and-carry treasures, Christmas and gluten-free baking, frozen soups and assorted breads, jams and fruit

cakes. There's also a silent auction, and even a kids-only shopping area and fishing pond.

Perspectives on Parenting

This winter Salt Spring Island Public Library invites islanders to join in a new parenting series. Starting on Nov. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m., the theme this year is Supporting Healthy Nervous Systems.

Guest speakers will offer practical and positive support to families raising children in this internet influenced and digitally dominated age from a wide variety of perspectives.

The first talk is with Amber Wood, a practitioner of functional medicine who will look at ways to work with addiction to devices. Further dates occur from December through February.

Childcare is provided. Please contact the library information desk, at 250-537-4666 or info@saltspringlibrary.com to register.

Film Festival screens Haida feature

The stunning film *SGaawaay K'uuna* (Edge of the Knife) will be shown Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m. at ArtSpring.

Salt Spring Film Festival is honoured to host the unprecedented creation: a full-length film entirely in the Haida language, filmed in Haida Gwaii and inspired by oral history. They also welcome director Gwaii Edenshaw, who will answer questions after the film.

Concert band presents Tales of Old

Salt Spring Concert Band presents *Tales of Old*, a diverse array of modern and traditional repertoire, at ArtSpring on Friday, Nov. 3. Audiences will experience musical evocations of fantastic and familiar creatures, such as the unicorn, firebird, thunderbird and hawk. See the full story in next week's Driftwood.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

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Pets Remembered



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my friend and
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SEE WEEKLY
HOROSCOPE
ON PAGE 22

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Bill Murray

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

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

Sagittarius time has begun. With Jupiter there and Mercury too, we can expect the heat to rise, in association with this archetype. This is even more so given that they will form an almost exact triple conjunction this week, especially on December 26th. Already, the union has begun and it will produce a strong afterglow as well. Generally, this will manifest as a heightened wave of enthusiasm and/or of extremist attitudes and actions... If you have planets situated anywhere between 2 and 8 degrees of any sign, but of Sagittarius, Pisces, Gemini, and Virgo, especially, you will feel and experience this king wave of energy. Positively, it could manifest as inspiration, optimism, and opportunity. Negatively, the effects could be sensation, cynicism, and fanaticism. Mars in Pisces in close square could activate new levels of selflessness and heroism or a strong urge to retreat and escape. Harnessing this energy in a conscious and deliberate manner could produce great results. As ever, free will plays a role, which is best expressed as compliance with your destiny. While this may occur intuitively, astrology offers a great opportunity to be aware and engage consciously.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

That saying, 'go big or go home' is strongly influenced by Sagittarian enthusiasm and is especially strong for you now. Yet, there is also a sober balancing principle coming from Capricorn, as well. On one hand, you are eager to explore new territory. Alternatively, you yearn to feel secure and may opt to venture out while cozy at home via a good book.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

This is a time of returns. If you have been diligent and wise, these will come about as blessings. Negatively, you could be confronted with a big bill. Meanwhile, a rebellious urge is pushing you to explore new territory or to simply do your thing your way despite what others may want or say. It may feel that you have entered the next major phase.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

In the foreground, an expansive social time includes travel and adventure. In the background, deep changes are churning and can be understood as transformational. The status quo is changing quickly now both inside and out. Positively, inspirations to cultivate your talents are active. Negatively, you want to escape and have a fresh start.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

The time has come to activate needed changes in your usual lifestyle patterns. To succeed, you will have to push through inertia and tendencies to evade all responsibility. In some respects, you may feel called to explore new possibilities and/or to embark upon the next great chapter. In any case, courage and commitment are required.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

An expansive creative cycle continues. This includes the inspiration and confidence that supports taking risks. In some respects, this is a call to surrender to a higher power. This could come in the form of collective thinking and attitudes. It remains important to be willing and ready to engage in a steady learning curve. In whatever way you must, pay your dues.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Your confidence levels have begun to rise. This trend will continue for quite a while. It will activate practical thinking and action. The biggest challenge may come down to making clear choices and decisions. Indecision can prove to a subtle yet pervasive enemy that drains one's vitality. Intend to swim against any current of resistance, deliberately.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

A summons to service beyond what you might otherwise choose has been sounded. Positively, it includes a new sense of purpose. It also includes new levels of authority yet responsibility too. You may even feel a little intimidated by what is involved and required of you. In the short term, the pace is busy and you may have to take extra care of your health.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Seeing a bigger picture is a central theme these days. This may include learning to decipher what is and accessing your higher mind. This can be understood as intuition, which is qualitatively different than instinct or reason. Intuition can be understood as the voice of the heart and can literally be felt in that area, as opposed to the gut.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

An expansive cycle is underway, but it will also include a lot of changes. These will be of the sort that will require you to simply surrender. If you have a pattern of trying too hard to control the outcome of events, it might prove wise to start practicing surrender now. This does not mean let go of the steering wheel; just go with the traffic flow.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Learning to be more empathetic and conscientious with the significant people in your life is important now. If you have experienced disappointments and are feeling sorry for yourself, you are likely an energetic drain to others. This can be understood as a downward spiral. If things are flowing well, this is a call to make them even better and by doing so the rewards will be great.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

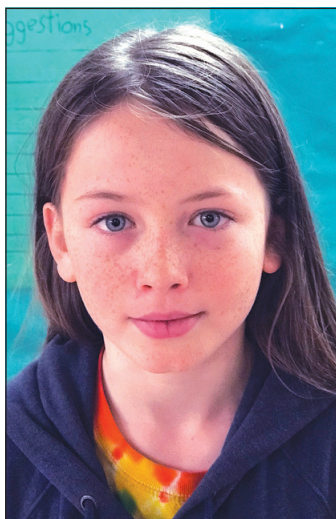
You may notice that the current of late has grown stronger and is moving faster. Positively, this includes making more money. As well, it is also pushing you to cultivate your skills and talents. Adapting to the new pace can best occur by establishing a steady pace, albeit one that is moving faster than it has for some time.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Balancing inspiration with perspiration is the timeless reality. Even the prospect of working smarter than harder requires extra effort. Mars in your sign now and for the coming several weeks signifies the opportunity to establish a new momentum and even to take new leads and directions. Success more than ever now requires clarity and organization.

SALT SPRING Star of the WEEK

Elvin Shoolbraid



Elvin is a Grade 8 student in the Middle Years Shared Ecological Education Centre (MYSEEC) program at Salt Spring Middle School. He has lived his entire life so far on Salt Spring and was born "halfway up Mount Maxwell."

Elvin is part of the SIMS band program studying bass and guitar. His other interests include friends, drawing, academics, education and literacy, physics, and surfing, especially.

What is this? Where is this?



Can you identify this spot on Salt Spring Island? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop off a paper copy to the Driftwood office.



WE ALMOST had a winner last week: Joi Freed-Garrod knew the photo was of rings on a jungle gym but assumed it was the set at Portlock Park her granddaughter loves. It is in fact the set at Salt Spring Elementary. We are tricky!

Readers are welcome to submit their photographs of objects or Salt Spring places for "What is This? Where is This?" Email JPEGs to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop in to the Driftwood office with your pics or ideas.

Why does communication fail?



Laura Dajoe

LET'S TALK

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." George Bernard Shaw

There are some subtle habits we often fall into that prevent us from understanding each other when we communicate. These habits are recognized as being barriers or blocks to effective listening. As we become aware of them, we are able to use our listening skills rather than default to their use. This allows the person speaking the space to express thoughts more clearly and fully. As the listener, you will feel the ease of simply being present and you will really hear what they have to say.

Be aware of the following common communication blocks:

Advising: We think we know the nature of the problem the person is describing and then we jump in quickly to offer advice. We may say things like "If I were you I would..."

or "You should ..." While we usually have the best intentions, the speaker often just wants to be heard. As a rule of thumb, give advice only when you are asked.

Judging: This occurs so naturally that as listeners we are often unaware of making judgments. We may find ourselves making judgments based on previous interactions with that individual. "I have heard this a hundred times."

Mind Reading: When we hear ourselves saying, "I know what they really mean," it's a clue that we are over-thinking and not listening.

Rehearsing: We find ourselves rehearsing in our mind what we are going to say next in order to demonstrate our own knowledge of the topic.

Story Telling: When we share a similar experience, we believe we are demonstrating effective listening technique. In fact the opposite is true. "I remember when I ..." is better left out of active listening.

Other impediments to active listening include comparing, consoling, dismissing, derailing, downplaying, educating, fixing, joking and sympathizing.

In the coming weeks, be mindful of your own listening habits, try letting the blocks go, and appreciate a shift in the quality of your communication and connection.

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Interesting Wedding Photo or Wedding Story?

The Driftwood's annual Wedding Planner is being prepared and we are looking for interesting and historic original photographs from our readers.



Submit with pertinent information by November 23rd to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V3. Email: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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



SOCCER

Wartime soccer recalled

Cancelled game gives reporter time to reflect

BY FRASER HOPE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Armistice Day is an important occasion in the Hope-McDonald household as my father-in-law and six uncles fought in the First World War.

My father, seven uncles and countless cousins served in the Second World War so Nov. 11 is a day of much reflection! James Hope, 22 years of age, and John Hope, 19, were killed "in France or Belgium" within two months of each other in 1917. My father and my father-in law survived with the rest of my uncles and cousins, except for two who were shot down over Europe in 1944. One was in Bomber Command and the other "Fraser" who was shot down shortly before my birth in June 1944. I only found out that my name was not just pulled out of a hat by my parents until after my mother had passed away and her last surviving sister gave me the background to my birth name.

So with the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice in 1918, it meant that I could not carry out my normal Sunday duties to report on the scheduled Old Boys match of Nov. 11. As happenstance would have it, Gorge asked to postpone and this allowed players on both sides to attend services in both Salt Spring and Victoria. I am hoping the executive of South Vancouver Island Classics Soccer Association will in the future leave Remembrance Day, like Thanksgiving Day, free on the calendar.

The Game Report

Many readers will of course know the background to the origins of the First World War in 1914, and that it would be over and the soldiers would be home for Christmas.

Readers also know that after the initial battles and skirmishes the war developed into trench

warfare where opposing soldiers faced each other across "No-Man's Land" behind barbed wire. The stalemate after the first Battle of Ypres led many soldiers in the days leading up to Christmas — British, French and German — to cross the trenches to exchange greetings with many meeting in No Man's Land on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to exchange food and headgear, buttons and badges as souvenirs. The informal Christmas Truce, Trêve de Noël and Weihnachtsfrieden allowed for joint burial ceremonies and some meetings ended up with soldiers singing carols.

Often, informal football matches were played out in No Man's Land. Just imagine the Hydro Field in Ganges with a few more shell holes scattered about the muddy surface (apologies to Mike Brown and SD64 maintenance staff) with some predictable results. One report has the Germans beating the Saxons 3-2. At least England did not lose on penalties! A number of reports had German regiments playing against the "Scottish Troops," with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders winning 4-1 over a German unit. Most of the games were just 'kick-about' matches, often played with improvised balls.

They gave the soldiers of both camps an opportunity to leave the unspeakable conditions of the trenches for a short while before the return to the carnage, which was to last another 46 months till Armistice 1918. These little truces were seen to be a danger to morale and were quickly forbidden by generals on both sides of the front. Very rarely did these "fraternizations" occur in future years, as it became obvious that not many would be "going home for Christmas!"

Note: Since this report was written, the scheduled Nov. 18 game was cancelled by Vic West. The next game sees the Centaurs meet the Old Boys on Sunday, Nov. 25 at GISS at 10:30 a.m. Friendly spectators welcomed!



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Top: Gulf Islands Secondary School senior boys battle the Mark Isfeld team during a grueling day two of the Vancouver Island Volleyball Championships at GISS on Saturday. Seen from left are Jeff Gray, Aaron Moise, Jared Farias and Logan Wenzel. Left: Wenzel jumps for a point in the bronze medal match against St. Michaels University School. The home team ended up fourth place overall. "Despite their efforts, they were simply exhausted and unable to sustain the quality of play needed to beat SMUS in a best of five match," said coach Kellie Booth. "We congratulate the winners and wish them good luck at provincials. I am very proud of the GISS boys. They gave it their all."

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