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JANUARY - APRIL 2019
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inside
New Birthday Party Options
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inside:



15 Christmas Bird Count ready to fly



20 Scorpions trounce the opposition

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Issue 49

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Santa Claus greets excited kids and parents in Ganges after flying in to the harbour on Saturday. He then met with kids for chats and a photo-taking session at the library. See more photos on page 18.

ENVIRONMENT

Shellfish campaign grows

Booth Bay comment deadline extended to Jan. 10

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The deadline for members of the public to provide comment on a proposed shellfish aquaculture operation on Booth Bay has been extended by one month, with the window for feedback now open until Jan. 10, 2019.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development confirmed that an application for tenure submitted by Penelakut Seafoods Ltd. had generated significant public interest to date, warranting the longer review period. Salt Spring residents who are concerned by multiple aspects of the application are meanwhile urging others to make their voices heard.

A grassroots group of islanders has coalesced under the Protect Booth Bay banner, establishing a website and handing out fliers to encourage others

to get involved. A response email form is available directly on the website, but the organizers would prefer people send their messages directly to the ministry if possible.

"They need to let the authorizing agencies know they are upset about it, and seeing a personalized email is of much higher value than our form email," explained group member Heidi Kuhrt.

Penelakut Seafoods is a commercial venture operated by members of the Penelakut Tribe in their traditional territory. The company holds several existing aquaculture licenses around Penelakut and Thetis islands.

Penelakut Seafoods has not responded to interview requests from the Driftwood.

According to their application, the company intends to seed oysters and clams in 13.6 hectares (33 acres) of intertidal area in Booth Bay, extend-

ing from the mouth of Booth Canal to the Quarry Drive neighbourhood. The proposal calls for about 11 acres of plastic anti-predator netting to be anchored to the low tide region.

People opposed to the project have pointed out the dangers of plastic netting to other wildlife, including eagles, herons, otters and spawning fish. Recreational activities such as swimming and kayaking that are popular at Baker Beach would also be impacted.

"One of the things we're finding most challenging is the overlapping in ministries and government agencies," said Booth Bay resident Stan Garrod. "And the fact that environmental concerns seem to have fallen into a black hole, and economic concerns are being put ahead of quality of life."

BOOTH BAY continued on 4

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Walker injured in Rainbow MVI

Driver issued traffic ticket

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A pedestrian was struck by a truck as she was crossing Rainbow Road last Wednesday evening.

Myna Lee Johnstone was taken to hospital for minor injuries and the driver of the vehicle was issued a traffic violation ticket.

At 6:03 p.m., RCMP responded to a report of a motor vehicle incident at the corner of Rainbow Road and Lower Ganges Road. Salt Spring acting RCMP Sgt. Brett Sinden said Johnstone was legally crossing Rainbow Road heading south towards the lighted crosswalk. The driver of a northbound truck turned left from Rainbow Road, striking Johnstone as she was crossing the road.

Johnstone is a commissioner on the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission and had just finished attending Wednesday's meeting at the school board office when the incident took place. She was taken to hospital with an injured head and elbow and later released.

"I just recall a big white pickup truck coming at me, and then hitting my head on the pavement wondering if he was going to totally run over me," Johnstone said in an email. "I am very traumatized, and really hurting a lot and very fatigued."

Sinden said when visibility is low, "drivers should take that extra second to make sure the crosswalk is clear."

He also recommends that pedestrians dress in bright clothing through the winter, as they can be difficult to see at night, although clothing brightness was not a factor in Wednesday's incident.

"My whole body aches. I am almost in my mid 70s, so my body is maybe more sensitive," Johnstone said.

"It could have been much worse, though."

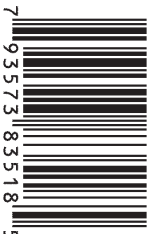
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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
5	0453	3.1	10.2	9	0751	3.5	11.5
	0909	2.6	8.5		1307	2.8	9.2
WE	1423	3.3	10.8	SU	1619	3.0	9.8
ME	2147	0.6	2.0	DI			
6	0543	3.3	10.8	10	0003	0.5	1.6
	1008	2.7	8.9		0830	3.5	11.5
TH	1451	3.2	10.5	MO	1412	2.8	9.2
JE	2220	0.5	1.6	LU	1648	2.9	9.5
7	0627	3.4	11.2	11	0039	0.6	2.0
	1107	2.8	9.2		0908	3.5	11.5
FR	1519	3.2	10.5	TU	1525	2.7	8.9
VE	2254	0.4	1.3	MA	1715	2.7	8.9
8	0710	3.5	11.5	12	0115	0.8	2.6
	1206	2.8	9.2		0943	3.5	11.5
SA	1549	3.1	10.2	WE			
SA	2328	0.4	1.3				

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- Prepare an emergency kit and store it in an easy-to-find location.
- Use surge protectors to protect sensitive electrical equipment such as computers, DVD players and TVs.
- Include a battery operated flashlight in your emergency kit to avoid using candles.

Go to the BC Hydro site and get the home outage preparation checklist to ensure you and your family are ready for an outage.

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

ALARMING FLAMES: Flames from a propane system at the new St. Mary Lake water treatment plant on Tripp Road prompted a citizen from across the lake to report a structure fire on Monday afternoon. Salt Spring Fire Rescue members responded quickly to the call before determining the flames were a result of venting propane in a system being tested at the North Salt Spring Waterworks District plant. The new treatment plant is getting closer to completion, with various tests scheduled to take place this week.

TRANSPORTATION

Study finds parking not an issue

Archeological permitting means further NGTP delay

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Parking in downtown Ganges is not a problem even on Saturday market days during the summer, according to a new study commissioned by the Capital Regional District.

CRD senior transportation planner John Hicks presented the results of the study by Watt Consulting to the Salt Spring Transportation Commission last Wednesday. The commission paid for the study to inventory available spaces throughout the Ganges village area as a first step toward potential action. Past discussion at the commission table has considered whether establishing an island parking authority might be desirable.

Hicks reported that the inventory and utilization studies done during peak and non-peak times showed that parking availability is sufficient in town. Peak occupancy rates for the village core ranged from 65 to 83 per cent, but more peo-

ple preferred to park closer to the Saturday market in Centennial Park. Illegal parking was counted but was not considered in the occupancy rate.

"It did show the supply in Ganges is definitely meeting its need. There is no demand issue," Hicks said.

Observations for the study were made on Saturday, Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again on Tuesday, Oct. 16 during the same hours. The surveyors counted 2,245 parking spaces in the village study area as a whole, with 1,156 of those located in the village core as defined in the official community plan.

"It did, in its own way, work quite efficiently."

JOHN HICKS
CRD senior transportation planner

Hicks, who participated in the surveying work, said it appeared that locals and visitors have worked out a system on busy Saturdays that includes use of illegal parking spots. Turnover of spaces overall was reason-

ably quick, and utilization of the illegal spots was both high and consistent.

"It did, in its own way, work quite efficiently," Hicks said.

Karla Campbell, the CRD's senior manager for Salt Spring, said that in light of these findings, establishing a parking authority is not warranted and could even make things worse if it meant those illegal spots were removed from the picture.

"It has that potential," she stated.

Commissioners were interested by the report's finding that people are less likely to park on the periphery of the village core, where many parking spaces can be found. Studies show that in most centres, people are willing to walk as far as 800 metres from their car to get to an attraction. On Salt Spring that drops to around 500 metres from the market. The reason could be lack of safe pedestrian infrastructure, an older demographic or a combination of reasons, commissioners suggested.

The commission asked staff to forward the report to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee, and to other CRD commissions with an interest. CRD director Gary

Holman observed the LTC will likely be embarking on a review of the official community plan and that creating a new Ganges village plan will be part of it. He suggested CRD and Trust staff could also think about some short-term improvements.

In other business from the Nov. 28 meeting, CRD Salt Spring engineering manager Chris Davidson reported the archeological situation at the end of Rainbow Road is proving to be complicated, meaning that pedestrian and cycling improvements under the North Ganges Transportation Plan will likely be pushed back again.

A more in-depth archeological impact assessment is scheduled to take place in the new year. Construction of improvements on Rainbow and Lower Ganges roads may not get started until next fall, depending when and if a site alteration permit is issued by the province.

The next meeting of the Salt Spring Transportation Commission is set for Monday, Jan. 28 and will feature a number of new faces at the table. Longtime member and current chair Robin Williams will finish his term at the end of 2018.



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NEWS BRIEFS

LTC meets Thursday

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee gets down to business this Thursday, Dec. 6 in its first meeting since local elections were held in October.

The newly formed committee comprising Salt Spring trustees Peter Grove and Laura Patrick and chair Peter Luckham of Thetis Island has a full agenda of items to address. The morning portion of the Lions Hall meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. and includes updates on projects including the industrial lands review and the Ganges Harbour Walk. New information being presented to the LTC is a toolkit for protecting the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem. An update on short-term vacation rental enforcement is also scheduled.

The noon-hour town hall session includes a delegation on the Salt Spring Watershed Protection Alliance. The afternoon session deals with applications, with commercial applications for Beachside and Dragonfly Arts Supplies on the list.

The full agenda package is available through www.islandstrust.bc.ca.

Phoenix rises

Salt Spring-raised singer/songwriter Phoenix Lazare will thrill local fans looking forward to new music with the release of her single Under the Light coming this Friday, Dec. 7.

The song is described as an "atmospheric reflection."

"Velvet vocals glide gently, yet powerfully, above an enveloping electronic track produced by Jose Castro. With lyrics exploring persuasion and a deep rhythm driven by acoustic guitar, the song captivates."

Lazare will also be releasing a music video with the song. For more information, visit phoenixlazare.com.

Penders in CBC contest

Pender Islands School students have been accepted into the 2018 Canadian Music Class Challenge with CBC Radio.

Working under the direction of music teacher Ben McConchie, the band from Steve Dunsmuir's place-based high school class submitted their video performance of a Loreena McKennitt song.

The CBC judges will now be listening to every submission before announcing their top-10 picks in seven different categories, to be announced on Tuesday, Dec. 11. The seven winners will be announced on Dec. 18.

The video can be found on YouTube under "Mummer's Dance - Pender Islands School."



PHOTO BY DAVID DENNING

READY TO RIDE: Participants in Saturday's electric vehicle parade, with a "unicorn-riding theme," gather with cars decorated with unicorn horns and lights. Some 22 vehicles and three electric bicycles participated in the inaugural event.

REC FACILITIES

Fernwood fields planned

PARC aims for CRD approval of major grant application

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Plans to upgrade the playing field at Fernwood Elementary School are moving forward, as the Capital Regional District is expected to apply for a provincial government grant to help cover the costs.

The proposal is on the next CRD Board meeting agenda on Dec. 12.

The Fernwood project would level the field, build two junior-sized baseball diamonds and a soccer field, and install a rainwater catchment irrigation system. Total cost is expected to be \$835,500. If funding is approved, the project should be finished by April of 2020.

"I think it's a win-win," said Dan Ovington, manager of CRD Parks and Recreation on Salt Spring. "The elementary school gets some much-needed upgrades to their fields, then the community gets a new amenity that can be used by sports groups outside of school hours."

The CRD originally pursued the upgrade work in 2012, but was unable to receive funding at that time. A similar grant, the Community, Culture and Recreation Fund, is applicable to this kind of project. The grant awards up to 73.3 per cent of eligible project costs, with the federal government covering 40 per cent and the provincial government the rest.

PARC currently has more than the minimum allotment available in capital reserve funds, which Ovington hopes will help with the application. Providing ball fields on Salt Spring has been a priority for CRD Parks and Recreation for years, and this opportunity could be a way to fulfill that goal.

"We will still be looking for a place to do a senior ball field. It just doesn't make sense to put a senior ball field at an elementary school. The kids will have a bit far to run," Ovington said. "We are currently lacking in the number of junior fields, and potentially — with the property up for sale in Fulford — if we lost those we'd be even further behind in our inventory."

Plans also include a rainwater catchment irrigation system, which will lessen the environmental load of the upgrade. If the CRD is not successful in receiving the full amount of the grant, that system would be pulled back and done at a later time, said Ovington.

Rob Pingle, chair of the Gulf Islands School District board, said that the idea has always been supported by SD64, and that moving forward is in the best interests of the community and the school district.

"We're just really excited whenever we can find ways to partner with the community and have our facilities used more by people outside of school time," Pingle said. "We're always looking for ways to do that."

The grant application deadline is Jan. 23. Letters of support to include in the grant application are still being accepted.

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FIRST NATIONS

Tsawout speak against tanker traffic to NEB

Hearing part of Trans Mountain Expansion reconsideration

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Tsawout First Nation representatives stressed the importance of the ocean to their way of life in traditional oral evidence presented to a panel from the National Energy Board in Victoria on Nov. 28.

The NEB is holding hearings into the environmental impact of the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project.

According to Tsawout band councillor Mavis Underwood, who coordinated the presenters, increased tanker traffic in the Salish Sea has a direct effect on traditional Tsawout hunting and fishing grounds, and poses a threat to the group's traditions, she said.

"It is important that as salt water people we are able to speak to our rich way of life that has been distinguished by an important relationship with the breadth of our marine territory. . . . Not only do we have a rich way of life that faces threats and extinguishment, but we also risk access to food security and a distinct economy that has been supplied as a gift to us through our creation and placement in our territory."

Chief Harvey Underwood underscored that point to the panel, saying, "This is actually the last hour. For us it's desperation to say no to tanker traffic. So I really believe that. And our way of life is in its



PHOTO BY HEATHER TUFTS

Tsawout First Nation councillor Mavis Underwood speaks to a crowd outside an NEB hearing on the Trans Mountain Pipeline held in Victoria on Nov. 28.

last hour."

Supporters gathered outside the Delta Ocean Pointe Hotel in Victoria to show their support for the presenters inside. The meeting was closed to the public, though an audio live stream of the event was available and transcripts were made public after the testimony was finished.

"It was extremely encouraging and energizing to have such well-informed,

supportive and influential supporters outside of the hotel," said Mavis Underwood. "It was beautiful to witness that many of our good neighbours and allies have been with us for a very long time lending energy, enthusiasm, influence and financial contributions to assist us."

The NEB is conducting three weeks of oral traditional evidence gathering from First Nations groups as part of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project

reconsideration hearing. The project was stopped in August by the Federal Court of Appeal, and in September the federal government directed the NEB to reconsider its recommendations as they apply to marine shipping related to the project. This reconsideration was to take place within 155 days.

Hearings were held in Calgary, Alta. from Nov. 20-22, Victoria, B.C. from Nov. 26-29 and Nanaimo, B.C. from Dec. 3-6. Twenty-eight groups were scheduled to present, including the Tsawout First Nation, the Tsartlip First Nation, the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation and Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen.

The Tsawout band has reserve lands on the south end of Salt Spring Island.

Though the panel was receptive to the testimony of the Tsawout, Mavis Underwood is still concerned about her people's need to fight for their way of life.

"If we do not continue to participate, we face extinguishment, assimilation and colonization in the worst possible way," she said. "It is very sad to contemplate the sense of powerlessness in the face of such desecration."

The submissions will be part of the deliberations as to whether the Trans Mountain project is granted an environmental certification and can proceed. The Tsawout will also be providing written submissions to the board through their legal representative, and the hearing process will support additional opposition through the courts.

The NEB has been directed by the federal government to finish the reconsideration report by Feb. 22, 2019.

Protect Booth Bay group forms in response

BOOTH BAY

continued from 1

While Fisheries and Oceans Canada licenses aquaculture production, the B.C. government is responsible for approving sites though tenures on the foreshore. Transport Canada is also involved in approving the harmonized application, as navigation hazards can be a concern.

Proper zoning for aquaculture must also be in place before operations go ahead. According to FLNRORD, all Land Act tenure documents include a condition requiring tenure holders to abide by all laws, including local government bylaws. If a tenure was issued prior to re-zoning and re-zoning was unsuccessful, the province would have the authority to cancel the tenure.

The Protect Booth Bay group and other residents have additionally pointed out inconsistencies or errors in the application. Check boxes for items such as the tenure space being free of eel grass beds and local zoning being in place have been checked off when they should not have been, according to the critics. They would like the application to be resubmitted without those errors.

Other concerns are the high amounts of shellfish proposed for harvest — which some find unsustainable or so large it would require the use of machinery — and the nature of the process itself.

The proposal could find more support if one major issue was removed. "It's the predator netting that



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

Booth Bay, the site of a proposed aquaculture licence covering 13.6 hectares or 33 acres of foreshore.

most of us have an issue with. I think most of us would welcome the Penelakut if they were simply doing beach harvesting," Kuhrt said.

Garrod said the plastic netting is bound to be damaged and come loose due to bad weather pummeling the rocky beach during winter. Having it there may in fact have the unintended effect of drawing attention to a valuable resource.

"The biggest predators are humans, and no nets are going to stop them," Garrod said, noting illegal shellfish harvests have been rampant in the area in the past. "And DFO is never on our beach."

The Protect Booth Bay group is looking for some help to submit

meaningful information to the authorizing authority, including an objective third-party environmental impact study. They would ideally like to find a pro-bono lawyer and a pro-bono biologist.

In the long term, they hope Salt Spring can collaborate with Penelakut and other nearby islands to come up with a sustainable marine use plan, noting common concerns such as increased freighter traffic.

"We need a dialogue as a community of communities," Garrod said.

More information on how to get involved can be found at protect-boothbay.org, along with links to the tenure application and response options.

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HUNTING

Hunting practices concern Sunset neighbours

Deer season ends
Dec. 10

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island hunters have just a few days left to make their bag limit before the season on black-tailed deer ends on Dec. 10, but some residents are wondering whether the hunt is still appropriate for Salt Spring's increasing population.

Janet Simpson farms directly across the road from the large open fields at the base of the Channel Ridge development along Sunset Drive. She said hunters who come out for the plentiful deer known to gather there don't always follow the rules and don't seem to know what they're doing, which means wounded deer fleeing the scene are hiding and dying on other private acreages such as her own. The safety of other animals and people is also an issue.

"I think it's offensive to have shooting in a neighbourhood. There are just too many people around," Simpson said.

Bryce Chapman owns 80 acres off Channel Ridge, including 60 acres of grassland. He has seen as many as 200 deer on his property at the highest count.

"There are no predators for deer, so if they don't get culled they just get diseased and sick," Chapman said.

There are currently three people to whom Chapman has given permission to hunt on his land, and all have the required hunting and firearms licenses.

"They take the meat for their

families, which is an important part of reducing their food costs," Chapman said. "I would never let anyone come out here unless they know what they're doing."

Chapman does not believe anyone is hunting on his land that he has not given permission to. Two of the hunters use shotguns with slugs and the other uses a bow, both of which are permitted hunting formats on Salt Spring.

"It's hard to respond if we don't know stuff is going on."

SCOTT NORRIS
Conservation officer

Simpson said she has witnessed different types of behaviour, however, including people shooting across the road and shooting from vehicles, neither of which are permitted. She has also come across hunters using small shotgun pellets that pepper deer hides but don't kill them, and those who fail to make an efficient kill. Deer that are left to die may require the RCMP or workers from Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre to step in.

Other concerned neighbours in the area include Lindsay Whelan, who has sent letters to CRD director Gary Holman and MLA Adam Olsen.

"It's cruelty — it's not hunting," Simpson said. "If you don't drop the animal, it's going to go where

it's safe and that's in here. And why do I have to deal with it? I don't get anything.

"The reality is they aren't obeying the rules. There is nobody monitoring it, and it's not appropriate in a neighbourhood."

Chapman disagreed.

"Everyone is incredibly cautious. If they wound an animal they will dispose of it very quickly. They are humane hunters."

"If they were hunting for trophies, I wouldn't let them hunt," he added. "They only hunt for meat and they know if they do anything wrong, they'll never do it again."

Shooting with rifles was banned throughout the Gulf Islands in 1969 after Salt Spring-based surveyor Peter Arnell was accidentally killed by a hunter on Galiano. On Mayne Island, hunting is banned altogether, except for special occasion hunts targeting non-native fallow deer.

Simpson feels that Salt Spring's hunting rules need to be updated, as they were established when the island had perhaps one-third of the full-time population it does today. And while she agrees there are too many deer on the island and that many of them are sickly, she says hunting does not help because it removes only the biggest and most healthy animals from the breeding pool.

Sgt. Scott Norris, a B.C. conservation officer for the south Vancouver Island zone, said his branch had not received any complaints about hunting on Salt Spring for all of 2018.

"It's hard to respond if we don't know stuff is going on," Norris



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

A black-tailed deer, which are a common sight in the Gulf Islands.

said.

Norris said anyone who has a firearms licence should be aware of four cardinal rules, one of which is knowing what's beyond your intended target to ensure nothing else gets harmed. He noted hunters should also have a special Gulf Islands hunting licence and be aware of rules such as no shooting 100 metres from a house or farm building, or within

15 metres of the centre line of a road.

"The duty is on the people hunting to know the lay of the land and where it's safe to shoot," Norris said.

If anyone does have complaints they should call the 24-hour RAPP line (for Report All Poachers and Polluters) at 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) or #7277 on the TELUS Mobility Network.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Harbour Walk future up for debate

Dec. 7 meeting location
changed to Portlock
Park

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Ganges Harbour Walk steering committee is meeting on Friday to determine the future of the project.

It will be held at the Portlock Park meeting room at 10 a.m., changed from its first-announced location at the Capital Regional District office in Ganges.

The challenges to moving forward include the acquisition of statutory rights of way (SROW) from shoreline landowners, as well as a harbour area plan to inform any further developments. In their report, CRD staff are recommending that the project be held in abeyance until the rights of way are established.

The main challenge is in acquiring the SROWS over the foreshore areas. Property owners have the right to access their waterfront, and they must be able to physically access the water from their property, without being blocked by an obstruction. Any boardwalk construction requires consent from property owners.

According to Friday's meeting agenda, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNROD) has instructed both the Islands Trust and the CRD to address any potential impacts on the owners' rights.

"The difficulty in addressing the harbour walk impact on the upland owners property is there are no designs for the harbour walk."

FEASIBILITY STUDY

The feasibility report states that "the difficulty in addressing the harbour walk impact on the upland owners property is there are no designs for the harbour walk; and without upland owner consent or SROW it is difficult to inform criteria for detailed site designs . . . and how to incorporate the harbour walk within the existing upland owner's infrastructure and commercial business operating along and within the foreshore."

A lack of solid commitments on land-use changes and approvals required to attract investments may mean that the property owners will not agree to the SROWS.

The report recommends that the project be temporarily put on hold until the foreshore rights of way are established, with the Islands Trust continuing to engage with owners and develop the vision for the projects.

Another option is to get cost estimates for the removal and disposal of the portions of the existing boardwalk that are unsafe.

The steering committee will also discuss a memorandum from the Islands Trust about the next steps of the project. It discusses many similar concerns as the CRD report, and recommends that the steering committee make a recommendation to the Local Trust Committee about the project.

An updated project budget from November 2018 is also on the agenda, as well as results of a number of structural and related studies.

Christmas Story Writing Contest

Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the Christmas season.

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Friday, December 7th.

Win a Salt Spring Books gift certificate for a story of up to 500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.



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328 Lower Ganges Road
email: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or fax to 250-537-2613.
- For more information, 250-537-9933.

Teachers: Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!

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



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Step up for safety

A pedestrian being struck by a vehicle on Rainbow Road last Wednesday evening is a harsh reminder about the perils of walking and driving on Salt Spring.

Eerily, the victim was a woman who has long been vocal about the need to reduce vehicle traffic and improve infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists on the island. Myna Lee Johnstone was also recently appointed to the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission and was struck on her way home from a commission meeting. It's also ironic that the Rainbow and Lower Ganges roads intersection has been slated for safety improvements by the CRD as part of funding voters authorized via referendum back in 2014, but that project has been stalled.

While night-time driving on the island is somewhat safer this winter due to some road lines being repainted this summer, intersection lighting in a number of areas — including the Rainbow/Lower Ganges intersection — is woefully inadequate.

Being a pedestrian is risky not only on Salt Spring. According to Insurance Corporation of

THE ISSUE: Driver/walker collisions

WE SAY: Everyone needs to take safety seriously

British Columbia statistics, an average of 2,600 pedestrians were injured and 61 of them killed each year from 2012 through 2016 in collisions with motor vehicles. Seventy-five per cent of collisions took place in intersections.

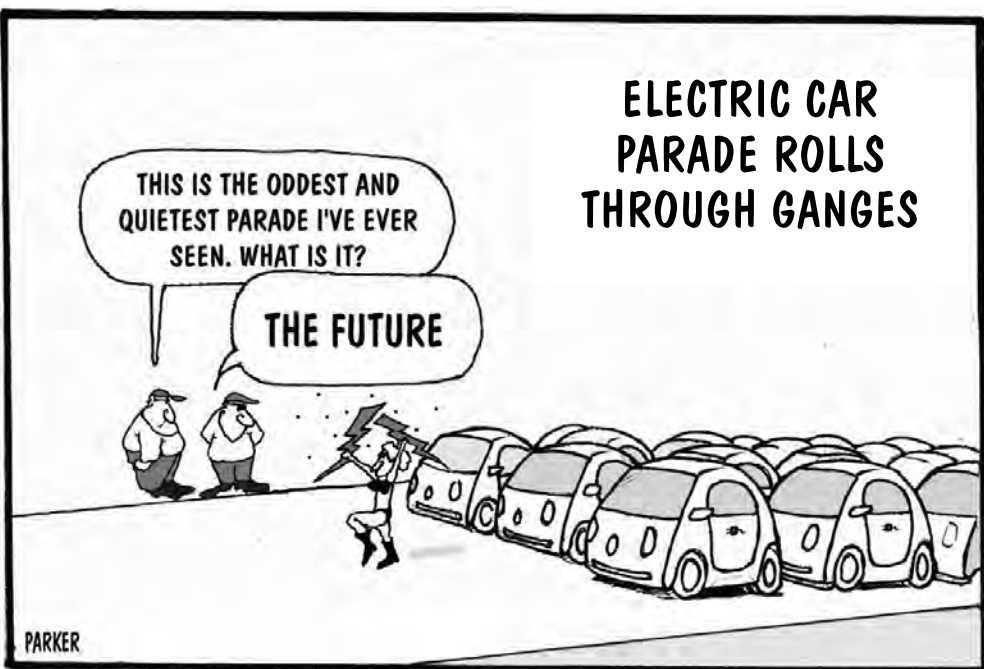
Drivers and pedestrians can both take steps to reduce those incidents.

Drivers can improve their ability to see (and be seen) by ensuring their vehicle's headlights and taillights are on before heading home after work, and by replacing burnt-out bulbs or repairing inoperative lights. They can reduce driving speeds to not exceed posted limits, and travel even slower than the allowed-for 50 km/h through Ganges. Most obviously, they can consciously look out for pedestrians on road-sides and in crosswalks.

For pedestrians, wearing some light-coloured or reflective clothing, or carrying a light of some kind, is a must in order to protect themselves while walking on Salt Spring roads.

Assuming one has the right-of-way and stepping into an intersection when vehicles are approaching is also unsafe. If it is not absolutely clear that a driver has seen you and that vehicle brakes are being applied, it's best to wait before entering an intersection.

Let's all up our road safety game on the island this winter.



Flu shots will save lives

BY MARIANNE HOBBS

Thank you once again, Shilo Zylbergold, for your humorous and informative article on outwitting the flu (Nov. 28 Driftwood). Once again, a delightful read on a dreary day.

My grandmother told me about the flu epidemic that threatened to become the new Black Plague. She told me how she and her "Cabbage-town" neighbours would brew a concoction of "eau de garlique," then soak a rag in the odiferous liquid, tie it to a string and hang it around their husbands' necks and send them off to work — not to ward off any germs but to keep others at bay!

She also spoke of chasing "snake-oil salesmen" from her doorstep with a broom. They were hucksters preying on the fears of those who could not bear to lose another loved one to this horrific illness.

The flu is still with us, but now, as Shilo explained so well, we know the science behind this killer. We also have a new "tool" to reduce the devastation this virus wreaks; we now have a vaccine.

By now the naysayers, believers of conspiracy theories and the misin-

VIEWPOINT

formed, or those whose health is just fine, thank you very much, are ready to move on to another article. But please, read on.

In his column, Shilo chose to minimize his vulnerability, but influenza is a serious threat to those whose immune systems are compromised. I know this: my husband has just been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. Like Shilo, the flu poses a very real threat to him.

A healthy person may feel unwell when the flu strikes. A cancer patient, however, may very well die from exposure to this virus. Make no mistake: the flu is a killer!

Look at it this way: would you take a loaded gun, aim it at Shilo and shoot him (or my Fred)? Surely not! Yet the unvaccinated stand a very good chance of doing just that when they cough, sneeze or simply touch a door-knob. This virus becomes a viral bullet.

When as a teacher I taught empathy lessons to my Grade 2 students, way back when the Earth's crust was cooling, there

was a line from one of the songs used in the program that is still very relevant: "May I think a little more of others and a little less of me?"

Please, as flu season fast approaches, put aside whatever bugaboos you may have about the flu shot. Consider that even if the vaccine proves to be only 40 per cent effective in reducing your chance of catching the flu bug, that's a massive 40 per cent chance of a cancer patient not becoming infected and perhaps dying. And, if you are old enough to read this letter, you surely will not "catch" autism from the vaccine!

And, if I may add another thought, please consider giving the gift of life this holiday season. Make the effort to become a blood donor. Leukemia patients are just one group that relies on "fresh" blood and platelets to sustain life. Accident victims, those undergoing surgery and others also need transfusions.

You may never know the person whose life you are saving, but the recipient of your donation will never forget you.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

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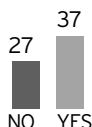
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you like the idea of an island-wide water authority?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Did you get a flu shot this year?



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: }

"I think it's offensive to have shooting in a neighbourhood. There are just too many people around."

JANET SIMPSON, SUNSET DRIVE RESIDENT, ON DEER HUNTING

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What do you want for Christmas this year?

DYLAN DOUGLAS



I want Lego!

GABRIEL GORDON



I would like a PlayStation.

GIA VAN RIEL



Dollies.

THEA AND AYL VAN HAM



We want Wheely Shoes!

WEST VAN RIEL



A toy camera.

LETTERS to the editor

Santa's call

This year for Santa's Workshop we have already received applications for over 80 children and more will be coming in.

For those interested in contributing new or lightly used gifts for children up to the age of 16, drop-off boxes can be found at West of the Moon, Pharmasave Uptown and Country Grocer. Gifts can also be left under the CIBC and Legion (upstairs) Christmas trees. Gifts should be unwrapped.

We are especially in need of items for 10 to 16 year olds. These can be clothing (especially hats, socks, gloves, pajamas), gift cards, swim passes, movie passes, cosmetic or hygiene items, blankets or throws, sports equipment (especially soccer balls, basketballs, swim goggles, flippers), games and building toys. We have plenty of stuffed animals, books and car/truck toys this year.

For further information, contact me, Santa's Workshop head elf Wendy Eggertson, at 250-537-2658.

WENDY EGGERTSON,
SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Check lights

Last Monday morning I left my house at 7 a.m. heading for the Fulford terminal and Victoria. I returned on the 5 p.m. ferry and drove home, arriving at 6 p.m.

Both of these drives were done in total darkness — except when I came through Ganges, and both were scary because so many of the passing vehicles had just one headlight. Seeing just one headlight coming toward me makes me think that the vehicle is a motorcycle, and so I am jolted into wondering how close I have been to the other driver's door when I finally realize that what just passed me was a full-width car or truck.

Fellow islanders, now that

the days are shorter and we're out and about in pitch blackness for several hours daily, please check your headlights and make them all shine brightly — as they should for everybody's safety!

JILL WILLMOTT,
NORTH END OF SALT SPRING

Parade recap

The first ever electric vehicle parade was held on Saturday evening and it was a great success.

We had 22 electric cars of all makes and models and three electric bikes, many "unicorned-up" with stickers, signage and — so cool — those three Nissan Leafs that came with prominent unicorn horns. And of course there were lots of plush toys, bright flashing lights and Christmas music.

We did our car light and decoration preparation by the four EV chargers in the Country Grocer parking lot. Then we had a photo session, and as darkness

approached, a drivers meeting to focus on our three rules: safety, safety and safety, and to get informed on our route and assembly details. Then we drove to Hereford Avenue to line up and then did two very safe and slow laps of downtown before arriving at the annual chili cook-off and Ganges light-up, choral music and Santa. Too much fun!

Now it is time to start planning for next year. For those of you that participated, please send your comments or recommendations to the organizer, Tom Mitchell, at tommymitchell@shaw.ca. We are interested in all sort of topics, including increased safety, lighting or decoration hints and suggestions, routing, timing of the event, and whatever you think is relevant to holding a better event.

JIM STANDEN,
TRANSITION SALT SPRING EV GROUP

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

We're far from the days of rationed phone calls

A few days ago, I was woken at the ungodly hour of 5 a.m. by a phone call and heavy breathing. It was my youngest granddaughter Summer, just three years old, calling from Manchester, England, where it was a more respectable 2 p.m.

According to her dad, who came on the line to apologize, she had been playing with the phone, pressed the quick-dial button — and connected to Canada.

Once the panic and dread had dissipated (any early morning call from the kids can only be bad news unless one of them had won the lottery, in which case they'd have been phoning from the Caribbean and hiding the number), I lay awake marvelling, more or less, at how the world had changed.

Think about it. An inquisitive little girl on the other side of the world, poking her chubby fingers at the phone and the world is instantly diminished, through a cobweb of cables and satellites, to the point where she could have been calling from next door. Throw Skype or Facetime into the mix and you can only catch your breath and marvel at the lightning speed of technology's growth over the past 20 or so years.

My dad would have thought he'd died and gone to heaven (actually, he has died and gone to heaven, but you know what I mean) to have had Google at his fingertips. He was a man with an insatiable appetite for information but slipped away before computers became ubiquitous and useful.

I was 12 or 13 when my parents got their first phone and I remember now walking down the road to the nearest red phone box to call them to "check that it worked." My mum had rehearsed her reply: "Aylesbury Eight One Two Double Six. Whom is calling?" with all the weight of Alexander Graham Bell's assistant taking that first historic phone call.

We had what was called a "shared line," which meant we could only use the



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

phone when our neighbour, Mrs. Bearman, had finished one of her tedious and interminable calls to her daughter three streets away. The upside of a shared line was that we could also listen in to their conversations and were consequently the first in the street to learn that Mrs. Bearman's 17-year-old and distinctly unmarried granddaughter was in the pudding club, up the duff, knocked up.

I have occasionally wondered what happened to the granddaughter, since my mother had long warned that she would "come to no good," which means she is probably a politician or the chair of an international bank, which is about as "no good" as you can get these days.

And phone calls were strictly rationed — or at least they were in our house. It was all very well for Mrs. Bearman next door to maunder on for minutes at a time, running up what my mum reckoned to be "huge phone bills when she could have simply walked down the road and bellowed through the letter box." In the McElroy household you spoke sparingly, delivered your message promptly and got off the phone.

"Hello doctor. My son has come out in black pustules. He'll explain when the ambulance gets here. Thank you."

Frivolity was also frowned on since the phone was a serious instrument and intended only for serious business. I have this image of Mum rushing up to today's teenagers who live their lives with a cell phone stapled to their ears and chastising

them for their inconsequential use of the phone.

Thirty years ago, when I was working in Australia, I became convinced my mother dressed in her Sunday finest to receive that weekly call from Down Under. If the Queen had phoned to wish her a happy birthday, Mum would have likely reminded her that calls cost two pence a minute and to keep it short.

In her defence, she was a child of austerity, coming of age during the war and raising a family when rationing was still on the books. To leave a light on in an empty room was more sinful than leaving a copy of Ladies with Large Busts in the living room, and uneaten food on your plate was a mortal sin when "little children in Africa are starving." I was never entirely certain how my leftover Yorkshire pudding would be shipped to the Dark Continent, nor how a serving of limp and unloved Brussels sprouts would ease their plight, but it was important to Mum that nothing went to waste. And in any case, they were entirely welcome to the boiled cabbage and lumpy gravy I had been shuffling around my plate in an ineffective attempt to make it look eaten.

But there was a kind of unnecessary frugality about it all. We weren't especially hard-up as far as I know, but heating was kept to a minimum, clothes were handed down and patched or darned so that my little brother looked like a Fagin waif until he was old enough to buy his own flared trousers and kaftan.

I do wish occasionally that some of Mum's parsimony had rubbed off on me, but instead I have pretty much embraced the profligacy of the 21st century. There is so much out there to be had, and I intend to own as much of it as possible before the Great Debt Collector finally calls in his loan.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

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MORE LETTERS

Nautical dreams at an end

I agree with the cleanup of local nuisance derelict boats currently underway through federal government funding, but some of them are art in their own way. And we should not jump to conclusions about all boats anchored out. Some are still working boats and some are people's homes.

I have watched and photographed the once beautiful Grenfell cabin cruiser up on the beach beside the Fulford ferry dock for years. Every time I went to the ferry, if time permitted, I would stroll over and photograph it in its inevitable decay. I used to wonder whose pride and joy it had once been, and how it had come to such a state.

Last week I took some final photos of it on its way to its final destruction, and shed a tear for dreams ended.

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING



PHOTO BY GREG MIDDLETON

Grenfell cabin cruiser sits on a barge in Fulford Harbour after being removed from local waters. It is one of some 17 derelict vessels slated for removal from waters around Salt Spring under a federally funded program.

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RANTS + Roses

RANTS

It always annoys me when a logging concern starts up that there is an outcry calling for it to stop, citing often the remotest of reasons. Logging has been a means of livelihood here for probably over 100 years. It has put food on the table for countless families and lots of the kids I grew up with. Trees get cut down and marketed, it's a true fact of life. Logging's here to stay and probably there's nothing that's going to change. I wish people would get used to it! Jim McClean

I am unaccustomed to "light fingeredness" being recognized on Salt Spring. Could the person who seized the opportunity to procure my groceries from my trolley, whilst stacking my car on Thursday night outside Thrifty's, please note that I had shopped in preparation for my wife's return from Europe and my own dietary low-fibre protocol for a forthcoming colonoscopy. Thanks to Sean of Thrifty's for trying to help locate the bag of groceries. M. Randle

Roses

Cyril and Miss Mona wish to present roses of appreciation to Leitia for stepping up and filling in and being there for us while our owners have been called elsewhere. You are our new best friend.

Congratulations and fragrant late-blooming roses to everyone who helped in any way to make Apple Festival 2018 so successful and so much fun. Thanks to the

17 farm hosts and five non-farm hosts (who get to see no other farms that day); the organizers who ran a very smooth event; the great volunteers (the "Apple Team"), who are so helpful and enthusiastic; the 12 farms that offered delicious lunches; and the over 1,300 happy apple lovers who came out despite the rain and supported us. They love their apples. Most of all, an amazing toast to Mother Nature and the growers who supplied 425 Salt Spring apple varieties that we displayed at Fulford Hall. I believe that is the largest collection of organic apples ever assembled in Canada. Amazing. Thanks to the growers and collectors who put in such a great effort to assemble that beautiful apple display. To pull off such a fabulous apple festival was a great feat, requiring a real team effort. The presence of so many blissful apple lovers brings such a peaceful aura to this island. Thank you all. Harry Burton

Heaps of violet roses to Elsie Mountford at the library and to Kate and Lesley for their generous help with my book launch. Violets also to the Salt Strings Chamber Ensemble for their musical contribution to a successful event. Mary Hughes

Bunches of safety conscious roses to Salt Spring Firefighters Association members and Mafalda Hoogerdyk for volunteering their time to manage traffic and parking duties at the Giant Book & Jewellery Sale. Your community spirit and support of Salt Spring Literacy programs is much appreciated!

Booth Bay aquaculture application opposed

The following was sent to the section head of Aquaculture for the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Resource Operations in Nanaimo and copied to the Driftwood.

BY JOI FREED-GARROD AND STAN GARROD

We are writing to express our serious concerns arising from the proposed commercial shellfish aquaculture operation (Foreshore Licence of Occupation Application 1414788), which would impact 13.6 hectares (33 acres) of a shoreline home to a wide range of birds, mammals and native marine organisms living in a complex and delicate ecosystem that is also one of Salt Spring Island's most popular recreational features.

The corporation's foreshore licence application is based on an activity, commercial onshore mollusk farming, for which the

area is not currently zoned, and which has a history in British Columbia of being environmentally damaging.

Many of us, locals and visitors alike, are able to enjoy the foreshore running from the mouth of Booth Canal, along Baker Beach, to a point several hundred metres past the CRD's Quarry Trail for a variety of activities, including swimming, paddle-boarding, kayaking, dog-walking and pleasant leisure strolls which currently have a minimal impact on the natural environment. All of these activities would be curtailed should the foreshore be covered with plastic predator netting, as called for in the foreshore licence application.

Much of the proposed area is already officially designated by the Province as conservation lands. The proposed commercial aquaculture operation would:

- conflict with Conservation Reserve Areas as currently officially designated for much of the affected foreshore, especially eel grass, spawning grounds for sand lance and smelt, and other marine habitats;
- require extensive "grooming" of the foreshore to remove boulders and driftwood that play important roles as habitats for foreshore and intertidal organisms;
- involve Pacific oysters and Manila clams, introduced species, neither of which is indigenous to the area covered by this foreshore licence of occupation application;
- interfere with feeding and other activities by at-risk species such as great blue herons, as well as eagles, oyster catchers, and other shore birds, resident river otters and seals, and visiting orcas;
- see large areas of exposed bedrock,

where no mollusk farming could ever take place, covered with anti-predator netting that would impede such recreational activities as dog-walking, strolling and swimming along the shoreline; and

- end any jurisdiction of Islands Trust regarding activities of the corporation on this foreshore as approval of a licence of occupation would effectively grant them permanent tenancy, subject only to not violating DFO or provincial guidelines if enforced.

We would therefore urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to reject Foreshore Licence of Occupation Application 1414788, which has serious, negative environmental and social impacts that would adversely affect the quality of life on Salt Spring Island.

The writers are Quarry Drive residents.

It's important to sustain our 'econological' heritage

BY MAGGIE SQUIRES

You are wondering what "econological" is all about, right? When we combine "economy" — how we make our living — with "ecology," — how we partner with nature rather than co-opting it for our personal gain — we have become "econological."

On Salt Spring, we find ample evidence of econological interaction with our environment. We can also find instances here when it is simply not working. At the Community Alliance meeting on Oct. 22, the micro-economics group explored the econological balance on Salt Spring.

The exploration began with some fun and laughter. The evening got an enthusiastic kick-off with Valdy, who tuned us "in" with his islander ballad and followed with Shilo's 537-653 song. (Thanks, Valdy!)

A skit, which was a conversation between North End Nadia (at a 537#) and South End Sally (at a 653#), unfolded next and suggested that Salt Spring's Old Divide may have more to do with different rock types under our feet (sedimentary in the north and mostly igneous in the south) than with any real differences in socio-economic status on opposing sides of the Divide. The skit concluded with some gumboot dancing and Lions Hall resounded as participants jumped up to join in. The take-home message is twofold:

1) On Salt Spring, our socio-economic backdrop is tied to physical landform; and,

2) Strong interaction between the environment and humans has nurtured a uniquely diverse and creative local culture.

We then looked back at change in Salt Spring livelihoods over the last 100 years. Beginning with the harvest of traditional foods, settlers' arrival brought export of old-growth logs and lumber and then export of lamb, wool, butter and eggs from

INDEPTH

farming on cleared areas. Soon, though, farms were subdivided and towns sprang up. Electricity, ferries and hippies arrived, and, in the 1970s, the Trust was established. Most recently, the cost of land has risen sharply and, in turn, some low and middle-income earners have been displaced (a process referred to in academic studies as "gentrification," too often leading to cultural depletion). At the same time, new and innovative small businesses have sprouted, supported by the Saturday market, community farmland and flexible home-based business bylaws.

For the past year, the Alliance's micro-economics group has explored the culture that attracts retirees and visitors — the economic engines driving Salt Spring's economy. Artists, craftspeople, farmers, musicians, writers, dancers, yoga teachers and those who offer alternative housing and hospitality collectively embody Salt Spring's unique culture.

Over the past year, the micro-economics group has explored topics with potential to impact this culture: the provincial review of Agricultural Land Reserve rules, the challenge of housing farm workers, the purpose of economic development commissions and the support of home business and alternate housing/hospitality that are entrenched in our official community plan.

Recently, the micro-economics group contributed the following questions for candidates for CRD and Islands Trustee positions:

1. How might you respond to gentrification's potential to diminish our island's socio-economic diversity?

2. Does your vision of Salt Spring include a live-aboard community?

3. What steps might you

take to protect the unique and diverse culture on Salt Spring?

4. What should our local economic development commission be doing, given that its original purpose was to create an inter-agency working group to facilitate development of local economic activities?

Throughout this exploration, the question was asked repeatedly: Are we doing enough to preserve and protect Salt Spring's unique econological heritage?

5. Do you have interest in identifying alternatives to complaint-driven enforcement of bylaws?

Throughout this exploration, the question was asked repeatedly: Are we doing enough to preserve and protect Salt Spring's unique econological heritage? After almost 10 years here, I've bemoaned the change in culture at the wharf and swimming pool, as I did the vanishing of the Alaska highway community when paving trucks obliterated the twists and turns of the original gravel road between northern B.C. and the Yukon Territory.

Given the very short time scale of human-driven change on Earth, including the fast-paced recycling of fossil carbon back to the atmosphere and resulting climate change, it seems vital that community decisions be based on the idea of common good (rather than on division), and that we find a way to speak from many

perspectives with one voice. By that I mean two things:

1. Involvement of Salt Springers in making community decisions that will chart our future, for example slowing climate change, building affordable housing where water is available, and creating eco-land trusts for low and middle income earners; and,

2. Investigation that leads to decision-making that is informed by both understanding our limitations and embracing/celebrating our socio-economic diversity.

I'll wind up with my ideas about how this might be accomplished:

1. Set Up a Governance Structure to Encourage Integration and Cooperation: Regular meetings between elected officials and decision-makers to move important projects forward (an inter-agency working group) should be held as soon as possible, and a Local Community Commission (with authority to make change) should be established, as recommended by the Alliance's Governance Working Group assessment of governance options (sscommunityalliance.org.)

2. Engage the Community in Important Decisions: Regular issue-based surveys and community conversations should be offered to give vital information both to the public and to elected officials.

3. Get the Community and Elected Officials Together to Move Important Projects Forward: As an example, the recent amalgamation of housing groups should host a conference, to which elected officials commit to attend, to look beyond housing projects to the creation of land trusts that would make rural and farmland acreage affordable in perpetuity to low and middle-income earners.

The writer is a member of the micro-economics group of the Salt Spring Community Alliance.

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ART REVIEW

Treasures abound at Christmas Smalls show

At Gallery 8 through December

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gallery 8's annual Christmas show of small works focuses on smaller-sized pieces that are priced just right for gifts, presenting an opportunity for gallery artists to get creative with dimensions that may be much tighter than they're used to working with.

This year's show, which opened Friday night, once again offers plentiful treasures in many mediums. Many adhere to the small theme and few large pieces are on exhibit as well to meet all preferences.

Sticking with the jewel-sized 8-X-8-inch canvas, Jerry Davidson presents an unusual Christmas wreath in *Amanita Muscaria*. This straight-on view from above of a single mushroom cap contrasts the beautiful but deadly poisonous red-and-white speckled cap with a soft carpet of living greenery. Individual leaflets and grasses are all crisply articulated to form a complex background pattern.

Lucas Wolf's *Deer Park* series combines a set of 8-X-8 boards — tiny but striking abstract paintings in black and white. His wide brushstrokes are sparingly applied to allow maximum play of posi-



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Sculptures by Janet Cameron at Gallery 8.

tive and negative space, suggesting a Japanese influence. Some panels include elements from the natural world such as trees or blossoms. Others evoke the elements themselves.

Also sticking to the 8-X-8 frame for the most part is Kathryn Amisson, whose sweeping paintings of sky and sea are usually expressed on a pretty large scale. It's interesting to see how she is able to compress that complex interplay of light and water into a few crucial passes of colour, such as in *Best Time to Anchor*. Here a satisfyingly chunky ridge is built up with medium. Streaks of rust and deep orange balance blue sky, transected by bands of white.

Janet Cameron has a truly charming set of sculptures. Each one could fit into the palm of a large man's hand. Six different stylized dogs are shown in various aspects: pointing, sauntering, sitting and so on. Made of wire and oven clay and finished in glossy black acrylic with metallic undertones, the figures are delightful for their goofy personality, and anatomy that simplifies and exaggerates loose-limbed movement.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Pieter Molenaar painting *Amsterdam Night*.

EJ Feller is a skilled and experienced ceramicist working at the top of her game. She has a lovely set of vessels that showcase the different methods of adornment that firing techniques can provide. Natural creamy tones are given nuance and sheen by smoke firing. Elements added during the process burn designs directly onto the surface: graphic lines with tiny zigzags with the addition of horse hair, or a jagged fringe of marks produced by swallow feathers in another.

Tiffany Hastie excels at the tiny scale, as until recently it was where much of her artwork lived. For this show she has some of her newer explorations into the abstract, but also a couple of those fascinating miniature scenes that recall looking through the wrong end of a telescope. Images are far away but incredibly crisp and detailed. *Mountain Meadow* is a vertical window into a restorative scene, with mountain grasses and foxgloves backed by towering dark firs.

Working on the small scale doesn't suit everyone, of course, and when it comes to Pieter Molenaar's nostalgic Dutch scenes the viewer is happy to get the largest view possible. *Amsterdam Night* is Christmas-card perfect: the heavy dark frame encapsulates an impressionist scene of snow at night-fall against the backdrop of cheerily lit apartment houses and shops. A single shopper comes toward the foreground out of the city scene, while just a couple of others are glimpsed further away.

Some of the same nighttime colours are found in JD Evans' piece *Passing Through*. But while Molenaar's cityscape bustle has been quieted by the snow, Evans' acrylic painting on paper is more modern. Streaks of light and implied movement suggest streets that never sleep, but are hardly glimpsed in the passing.

David Joseph Ellingsen has a series of photographs inspired by passage over the Salish Sea. His framing captures the formal or more graphic elements of the basic scene, which is sky, a marked horizon line, and water without any visible landmark or human construction. Soft focus or desaturated colours produce the more suggestive nature of a watercolour painting.

Two of Ellingsen's pieces are framed with circular matting as if seen from a porthole. In *Dusk*, a square frame contains nine scenes of the same view, each capturing different washes of colour. Shades run from blue and orange to pink and lavender in subtle variation.

With plenty more works and artists to discover, there is lots of time to see the show, which runs to Jan. 1.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Vessel fired with swallow feathers by EJ Feller.

LIONS Santa Ship
Saturday Dec. 15th
6:45 pm Santa arrives at Coast Guard Dock.

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Director Don Conley
Guest Cicela Månsson
Accompanist James Yi

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December 9, 2018 at 2:00 pm

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WEDNESDAY

SALT SPRING GENEALOGY GROUP meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Mormon church. Info: Email clouddie48@gmail.com

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

SALT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Lions Hall.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC at SS Seniors Centre board room. 10 a.m. Confidential, accurate, easy and convenient.

BOOMERFIT at Fulford Hall. 9 to 10 a.m. Experience a variety of exercises that will awaken every muscle in your body. Stretch, strengthen, mobilize, BFit! Core strength, stabilization and injury prevention are a main focus. Last class this month is Dec. 19. Info: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.

BRIDGE CLUB at the SS Library program room from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

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

COMPUTER HELP — Free help with computer, tablet, smartphone issues at Salt Spring Literacy. By appointment at the literacy centre at 1258 Rainbow Rd. or by calling 250-537-9717 or emailing coordinator@saltspringliteracy.org.

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

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY offers free access to premium genealogy websites at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 221 Vesuvius Bay Rd. from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

GAMES AFTERNOON at Salt Spring Seniors. 1 to 3 p.m.

HATHA FLOW YOGA with Dorothy Price at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m.

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

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

MEDITATION MEETINGS and teachings with the Salt Spring Vipassana Society. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. Offered by donation with Insight Meditation teacher Heather Martin. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

PICKLEBALL runs at Portlock Park from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.

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

SSI PAINTERS GUILD meets at ArtSpring. 9:30 a.m. For activities see website ssipaintersguild.ca.

SSI ROTARY CLUB meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Salt Spring Baptist Church, around the back, from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

YOGA - Mixed levels with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre. 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. and 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. PLUS Chair Yoga (Seniors) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

YOGA with Dorothy Price at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Info: info@santoshya-yoga-retreats.com, 250-537-7675

YOGA FLOW with Li Mei Wong at Duck Creek Farm. 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Info: limei.wong1@gmail.com

ZEN MEDITATION at 210 Cedar Lane at 7:15 p.m. Call 250-537-2062 for details. Newcomers always welcome.

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

THURSDAY

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

VISUALLY IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP meets on the first Thursday of the month at SS Seniors Centre (across from Country Grocer), 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Info: David at 250-537-8595 or Seniors Centre 250-537-4604.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

AL-ANON for friends and families of alcoholics holds an Easy Does It Lunch Bunch open meeting at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 12 to 1 p.m. (Closed Dec. 20, 27 and Jan. 3.)

BRIDGE at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 12:45 p.m.

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

LUNCH at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 12 to 1 p.m.

KUNDALINI YOGA - all levels with Shannon Cowan at the Wellness Centre. 8 to 9:15 a.m.

NIA — Discover the delicious music, mindful movement & healing magic of Nia, a fabulous, fun blend of dance, martial arts and yoga. Antler Ridge Dance Studio, 211 Horel Rd., 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca

OPEN MIC NIGHT at the Legion. 7 to 9 p.m.

PICKLEBALL runs at Fernwood Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m.

SQUASH - Have Fun Learning Squash introductory sessions at the squash court at the Salt Spring Golf Club. Bring clean non-marking shoes. First time is free. 7:30 to 9 p.m.

STAY & PLAY DROP-IN at Family Place for ages 0 to 6 and caregivers. 12:30 to 3 p.m.

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

WOMEN'S YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

VIJNANA YOGA with Liz Young at Stowel Lake Farm. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

YOGA ALL LEVELS with Dorothy Price at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

YOGA with Jim Dickinson at Salt Spring Seniors from 2 to 3 p.m.

YOGA FOUNDATIONS with Li Mei Wong at Duck Creek Farm. 6 to 7 p.m. Info: limei.wong1@gmail.com

EVERY FRIDAY

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

DRUM CIRCLE meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 4 to 6 p.m.

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

EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

FAMILY MOVIE MATINEE at the SS Public Library Program Room. 2:30 p.m. From Sept. 14 to Nov. 9, except for Oct. 12.

HOLIDAY STORYTIME at the SS Public Library in the children's corner at 11 a.m. Drop-in program best for kids ages 3-6 and their caregivers. On Dec. 14th only.

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

GAMES NIGHT at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. Facilitator Bryan Dubien brings his vast collection of board games, or you can bring your own. 6 to 9 p.m.

MAH JONGG players gather at Salt Spring Seniors from 12:15 to 2 p.m.

MIXED LEVELS YOGA with John Howe at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENCE with Kaya Reiss at SSI Wellness Centre. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

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

PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.

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

ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS with Lee Sigmund. SSI Wellness Centre. 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

SUNDAY

CHRONIC PAIN SUPPORT GROUP meets at SS Seniors every other Sunday beginning Sept. 16. 1 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY

KUNDALINI YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SS Wellness Centre. 10 to 11:15 a.m.

PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

RED BALL TENNIS. Indoors at the Salt Spring Island Tennis Centre behind the golf club for adults ages 16 and over. Two hours of fun, exercise and friendship. Mini-court tennis from 3 to 5 p.m. Info: Laura Moore, 250-537-0721.

SUNDAY SATSANG at the SS Centre of Yoga. 3:30 p.m.

YIN YOGA with Shelby Luffman at SS Wellness Centre. 12 to 1:15 p.m.

MONDAY

SSI FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT usually meets on the third Monday of each month at the SS United Church hall at 7 p.m. See www.saltspringfire.com.

MONDAY

SSI PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION usually meets on the third Monday of each month at the Portlock Park Portable. 5 to 7 p.m. Public welcome. But confirm meeting dates at 250-537-4448.

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

BOOMERFIT at Beaver Point Hall. 9 to 10 a.m. See Wednesday class description (but note different location). Last class this month is Dec. 17. Contact: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.

CHESS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

DARTS at the Legion from 6 to 9 p.m.

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

EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 1 to 2 p.m.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 9 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alicef@saltspring.com.

ISLAND INFANTS PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP at Family Place. A drop-in for parents of babies prenatal to 1 year with weekly speakers. Pre-register (familyplace@ssics.ca) for childcare. Lunch provided. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NIA — See Thursday description, except the location is All Saints Church, downstairs hall. 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca

PEPPER WALK WITH MOVEMENT INTELLIGENCE CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 12:45 p.m. This innovative movement class features the work of John Pepper and is suitable for people with Parkinson's and other neurological conditions that are highly motivated to learn solutions for movement difficulties. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

PICKLEBALL runs at Portlock Park from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.

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

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

SALT SPRING SCOTTISH DANCERS meet at All Saints from 6 to 8 p.m.

SALT SPRING YARNIES KNITTERS CLUB meets to knit, crochet, or do other handicrafts. Free. Newcomers welcome. Penny's Pantry on the Green. 1 to 3 p.m.

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

TECH TUTORING WITH CONRAD at the Salt Spring library. iPad, Tablet and eReader tutoring with Conrad Koke. Sign-up sheets are found in the Info Desk Programs binder. Sessions are available every Monday at 12 and 1 p.m.

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

TOASTMASTERS, a dedicated band of public speaking learners and enthusiasts, meets at the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

EVERY MONDAY

VIJNANA YOGA LEVEL 2 with Cathy Valentine at Stowel Lake Farm. 5:30 to 7 p.m.

YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre: Mixed Levels from both 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.; Level 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

TUESDAY

YOUTH BOOK CLUB for ages 9 to 12 meets at the Salt Spring Public Library on Dec. 17 this month. 3:30 to 5 p.m.

SRHYTHMS with Shauna Devlin runs on the third Tuesday of each month at Stowel Lake Farm from 5 to 7 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

ACTIVE LEARNING, the Tuesday Edition. Current events and conversation. Respectful, fun, discussion group. SS Seniors Centre Dawson Lounge. 2 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome. Very interesting every time.

AL-ANON for friends and families of alcoholics meets at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (Closed Dec. 18, 25 and Jan. 1st.)

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE. All are welcome to join the tango group, Por el Amor del Tango, at weekly practicas. All Saints By-the-Sea. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: ssi.tango@gmail.com

ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 1 to 3 p.m.

CHESS GROUP plays games at Salt Spring Seniors. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

CHOIR at Salt Spring Seniors. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

FLOOR HOCKEY at Fulford Hall at 7:30 p.m.

LIFE DRAWING GROUP meets at Lions Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. All welcome.

NIA — See Thursday description, except the location is All Saints Church upper hall from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca

MEN'S GROUP - A council of highly supportive men. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Info: John, call/text 1-519- 821-9703, reinless@mender.ca or meetup.com/reinless/

PICKLEBALL games are played at Fulford Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and at Fernwood Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m. Instruction and equipment provided for beginners. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.

SHUT UP AND WRITE - silent focused writing in 25-minute intervals, with 5-minute breaks. Salt Spring Public Library in Room 106. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/suawss/>

SQUASH - Have Fun Learning Squash introductory sessions at the squash court at the Salt Spring Golf Club. Bring clean non-marking shoes. First time is free. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

SS SEARCH & RESCUE - Learn ground survival, search and rescue techniques at the SAR Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

STAY & PLAY DROP-IN for parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6 at Family Place. 12 to 3 p.m.

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

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

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE — Slow Flow class at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.





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what's on this week



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

<div>Wed. Dec. 5</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>O Christmas Tea. A British comedy with James and Jamesy. Fans of Monty Python, Mr. Bean and Dr. Seuss: Grab your teacups! ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>Tea à Tempo presents Linda Quinn. Composer and pianist performs winter program reflecting on the beauty and wonder of the dark time of the year, with original compositions and guests. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. View decorated trees in the lobby of the Harbour House Hotel. Bring a food bank or Copper Kettle donation to put under your favourite. Daily through Jan. 3.</div> <div></div> <div>Songs and Stories at the Library. Drop-in program for ages one to three (and older siblings welcome) at the Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Snacks provided.</div> <div>Youth Book Club Salt Spring Public Library. 3:30 to 5 p.m.</div> <div>Chanukah Menorah Lighting. Chabad of Vancouver Island celebration with traditional treats. Centennial Park. 4 p.m.</div>	<div>Thu. Dec. 6</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Open Mic at the Legion. Thursdays at 7 p.m.</div> <div>Open Mic Night. Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Meeting. Public meeting of trustees at Lions Hall. 9:30 a.m. Town hall session begins at noon.</div> <div>Third Party Reporting Presentation. Salt Spring RCMP Const. Andrea Fitzpatrick and IWAV outreach worker Katie Aiken give a presentation on a new program that allows for third-party reporting of sexual assaults. Salt Spring Public Library. 12 to 1 p.m. Light refreshments and snacks provided.</div> <div>Transitions Thrift Store 21st Anniversary Party. Transitions marks its 21st anniversary with cake and apple cider served at the store. 2 p.m.</div> <div>National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. Vigil at Centennial Park gazebo at 5 p.m. Sponsored by SWOVA and IWAV.</div> <div>Slide Shows From Years Gone By. Louise Nye shows slides of Salt Spring events from years gone by: Santa's arrival, polar bear swim and more. At Central Hall. 7 p.m., with doors open at 6:30 p.m. A fundraiser for the Central Community Hall siding replacement fund.</div>	<div>Thu. Dec. 6</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Poetry Open Mic. Bring your favourite poem to read or share. Salt Spring Public Library. Reader sign-up at 6:30 p.m. and readings begin at 7.</div> <div>Fri. Dec. 7</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>The Costners. Live folk-rock at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.</div> <div>Malcolm Jacks, Elastic Stars, Johnny Payne and Rob Butterfield. Live at Beaver Point Hall. 8 to 11 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Ganges Harbour Walk Project Steering Committee. Meeting at Portlock Park Meeting Room. 10 a.m. Public welcome to observe.</div> <div>Book Launch for Little Island Bake Shop. Jana Roerick celebrates the release of her new cookbook called Little Island Bake Shop with bites, recipes and refreshments at Jana's Bake Shop. 5 to 7 p.m.</div> <div>Youth Games Night. Salt Spring Public Library. 6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Auditions for Arsenic & Old Lace. Auditions for SS Community Theatre production at 2232 North End Road. 6:30 p.m. Info: Scott — smerrick12@shaw.ca</div> <div>Glowtini Contest. This year's theme is Classic to Contemporary: contestants will take a classic cocktail recipe and bring it up to date. Harbour House Hotel Crofton Conference Room. 7 p.m.</div> <div>Karaoke With Michael. At the Legion. 7 p.m.</div>	<div>Sat. Dec. 8</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Salt Spring Singers Winter Concert. Choir concert at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>Deep Sea Gypsies. Rock-blues at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>22nd Annual Winterfest. Seasonal craft-making, scrumptious food, festive music and silent auction at Salt Spring Centre. A fundraiser for Salt Spring Centre School. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</div> <div></div> <div>Too Much Art Studio Sale. Melanie Thompson holds a special "I made too much art" studio sale at 159 Head St. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</div> <div>Workshop: Take a Self-compassion Break During the Holiday Season. At Salt Spring Centre of Yoga in the yurt with Marcia Burton. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</div> <div>Stefanie Denz Open Studio. Annual winter open studio by Stefanie Denz at 471 Beaver Point Rd. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.</div> <div>Book Launch: Margriet Ruurs and Robert Bateman. For the children's picture book called Robert Bateman: The Boy Who Painted Nature. SS Public Library. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Author and artist will be in attendance.</div>	<div>Sat. Dec. 8</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Waiting for the Light: An Advent Retreat. An afternoon of Soul Collage®, Guided Meditation & Labyrinth Walking led by The Rev. Gyllian Davies, the new Anglican priest on SSI, at All Saints. 2 to 5:30 p.m. By donation to the Angel Tree. Registration required at ssanglican@shaw.ca or 250-537-2171.</div> <div>Winter Art Show + Sale Gala. Opening event for an exhibition and sale of work by Salt Spring artists at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room, with proceeds donated to the library's children's services. 3 to 5 p.m. Show & sale runs to Dec. 20.</div> <div></div> <div>Art Show Opening: How to: MAKE WITH. Group exhibition opens at Fault Line Projects in Grace Point Square with an opening event from 4 to 7 p.m.</div>	<div>Mon. Dec. 10</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Makana Youth Choir Concert. First concert by new ArtSpring-sponsored youth choir directed by Caroni Young. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Island Infants Discussion Group. A drop in for parents and babies with weekly speakers. Family Place. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</div> <div>Coping With Grief. Salt Spring Hospice hosts free community event to help people cope with grief over the holiday season. SS Public Library Program Room. 1 to 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Auditions for Arsenic & Old Lace. Auditions for SS Community Theatre production at Croftonbrook Lounge. 6:30 p.m. Info: smerrick12@shaw.ca</div> <div></div> <div>Salt Spring Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting. Monthly meeting of trustees at the Ganges fire hall training room. 7 p.m.</div> <div></div> <div>Music Bingo. Every Monday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.</div>	<div>Tue. Dec. 11</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Stay and Play Drop-In. Parents, caregivers and children 0-6 yrs welcome. Family Place. 12 to 3 p.m.</div> <div>Feng Shui for the Holidays. Free lecture that provides tips for gift giving, decorating and addressing possible areas and situations in order to create peace-filled family gatherings. Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 9 p.m.</div> <div>Trivia Tuesday. Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7-9:30 p.m.</div> <div>Winter Chant Evening. Barb Slater and Kevin Wilkie lead an evening of singing chants and rounds from many traditions at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's Church in Fulford). 7 to 9 p.m.</div> <div></div>
					<div>Wed. Dec. 12</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Bach on the Rock Messiah Concert. Michael Jarvis directs four soloists, orchestra, and chamber choir in the second London version of Handel's Messiah. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See last Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Songs and Stories at the Library. See last Wednesday's listing.</div>	

EXHIBITIONS

- **How to: MAKE WITH** is a group exhibition curated by Alwyn O'Brien at Fault Line Projects gallery beginning on Saturday, Dec. 8 with an opening event from 4 to 7 p.m., and continuing through Jan. 5. Artists include Mima Preston and Cathy Terepocki; Zoe Kreye and Luciana D'Anunciacao; Jasmine Baetz and Christian Vistan with Anna Gustafson; Sarah Coote and Kent Anderson; Catherine Fairbanks and Alwyn O'Brien.
- **Gallery 8** holds its 10th annual **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** by all gallery artists until Jan. 1.
- **The Winter Art Show & Sale** with work donated by Salt Spring artists runs in the library program

room from Dec. 1-20, with an opening gala on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. Sale proceeds benefit children's services at the library.

- **Stefanie Denz** holds an open studio at 471 Beaver Point Rd. on Sat.-Sun., Dec. 8-9 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Melanie Thompson** has a Too Much Art Studio Sale at 159 Head St. on Sat., Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **The Salt Spring Arts Council's Wintercraft** holiday season exhibition and sale runs at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 22.
- **Artists From the Fringe** exhibition and sale runs in the side room at Mahon Hall 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.

- **Haiku Holiday Pop-Up Shop** opens Dec. 1 to 23 with work by multiple artists and designers in the Big Bear and Wolf space in Ganges Alley.

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PART TWO OF TWO

Growing Up: Arts community envisions public art space

Public gallery raised
as potential avenue to
explore

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The establishment of the Salt Spring National Art Prize in 2015 opened new horizons for contemporary artists working on the island and right across Canada.

With a mandate for showcasing work that is significant both in visual impact and depth of meaning, the prize is one of just a handful of such opportunities offered on the national level. This coming year SSNAP will hand out \$40,000 to artists, including a \$15,000 cash prize and island residency worth \$5,000 to the top artist.

Salt Spring artists have made it to the finalists' exhibition in each of the two previous events so far. But with a local art market that works on different parameters than those of the academics and professionals making prize selections and curatorial decisions, the question arises as to how those two worlds might move closer together. If local artists are to grow and thrive at home while improving their ability to contribute to the greater dialogue in Canadian and international art, community investment may be necessary to get them there.

When you ask local artists and curators what they think Salt Spring needs in order to grow as an arts community, the need for non-commercial space to champion the arts inevitably comes up.

"I think one of the big things now would be a public art gallery. I think we have this amazing arts community and that we don't have a public art gallery is a shame," said SSNAP's founding director Ron Crawford.

The places where artists can explore new ideas in their work without having to focus on making a sale are few and far between. ArtSpring, the island's performing arts centre, has exhibition space for rent but no curatorial function or funding.

Islander Margaret Day hosted non-commercial shows inside her repurposed barn/gallery and with outdoor installations at The Point

for many years, but has now retired from what was essentially a privately managed public service.

The only other body filling the role is the Salt Spring Arts Council, which presents curated shows at Mahon Hall during Easter weekend and in four Showcase exhibitions during summer's Art-craft season. Richard Steel, who was manager of the arts council's show and salesroom for the past seven years, agrees with the assessment that Salt Spring's art is deserving of a bigger platform.

"I think on the whole the work here is of a very high standard. There are a lot of artists that are technically really good," Steel said.

The arts council has worked to provide a boost for artists with the Showcase exhibitions, which Steel said aim to show the type of work that audiences could expect to find in a public space. As curator he has encouraged artists to create high-quality exhibitions that show their work to its best advantage, and to continue in a similar vein afterward. More established local artists who are trying to get to the next level may use the Showcase as a testing ground, to try something experimental or new that they're working on before taking it to a gallery in Vancouver, Toronto or the United States.

Other events at Mahon Hall that have helped bring the enriching influence of outside art to the island include the finalist exhibitions for SSNAP and the Salt Spring Ceramics Awards. A touring show by Syrian artists that the arts council sponsored was well received, and so was a show of oversized "steamroller" prints that Duthie Gallery owners Celia Duthie and Nick Hunt brought to the island.

"I would like to see more incorporation of the outside world," Steel said, while noting the arts council's mandate of supporting Gulf Islands artists isn't likely to change greatly.

"Art can make you feel good but it can also make you think and that's where the outside influence comes in. That's where art is really special and important. It's essential as well, because it feeds local artists and influences how they work. Not everybody

can go to Toronto."

Anna Gustafson is an artist who has debuted some exciting work on the Mahon Hall stage. One of her most recent projects involves wrapping dead appliances and gadgets in raw linen as a way to address habitat destruction. The shrouded objects have been displayed with X-rays of wildlife that ran afoul of plastic netting and other consumer waste.

"It's not highly commercial work, and I see it as a public discourse," Gustafson explained.

Gustafson has been awarded some residencies but finds it difficult to access the type of support she needs to move forward. Her ideal outcome would be touring her series to public art centres in Canada and beyond. But she said the Showcase exhibition doesn't lend the same weight to her resume as having a public gallery show would.

work with a committed group or organization to spearhead it, not to mention establishing capital and ongoing operational funding. In lieu of a Medici or even a Michael Audain — the collector who partnered with the village of Whistler to create the Audain Art Museum — both a major institutional contribution and community buy-in would be required.

Naomi Potter, a former islander who is the curator/director of the Esker Contemporary Art Galley in Calgary, participated in a curators panel at the 2015 SSNAP show and was invited back as a juror in 2017. She was surprised the first year to discover how much was going on locally.

"I think the island is evolving. It's not like it's stuck in 1970," Potter said. "In fact the island is very much in touch. It's really as sophisticated as they want it to be in some ways."

**"If the island's going to mature
as an arts community
... people need to intensely care about art"**

GEORGE SIPOS

Former director, ArtSpring

"Mahon Hall is trying to do it, but a real gallery means you have a director, and you've got a curator, or it could be both. It means that it has a vision and a mandate of what they want to show," Gustafson said. "Campbell River has an amazing contemporary gallery and Courtenay is trying to figure it out [but] there is a greater number of accomplished artists here, I would say, than in Courtenay or Campbell River."

Small town public galleries in British Columbia usually operate on a dual exhibition system, with touring shows by contemporary artists shown in one space and local artists featured in another. Incubation and development programs may be in place. Crucially, the artists who are shown are supported with funding rather than paying to have their work seen, whether that's through gallery rental or commission fees.

Establishing such a venue would require a huge amount of

As someone who works for a gallery established by a couple of philanthropists, Potter believes there is nothing wrong with private funding. But she also believes that all levels of government have responsibility for supporting the arts — as do the businesses that are capitalizing on their allure. The idea of a tourism tax that could support a public gallery or grant-ing program is one idea she raised.

"If people are coming to the island because of its creativity, is there some way to capture some of those funds to support the artists?" Potter asked. "If Salt Spring is being touted as this creative Mecca, I think there is some responsibility for paying for that, so that artists aren't just being used as a marketing tool."

George Sipos was manager of the Prince George Symphony before moving to Salt Spring to take the executive director position at ArtSpring from 2006 to 2014. He created three juried and themed exhibitions while at ArtSpring; in the second he

invited viewers to submit written critical responses on a piece and why it meant something to them. For Sipos the results were disappointing, because few people responded with the depth he was looking for.

"That is what I see as being the real lack on this island. There is no context or venue — or very few — in which the viewers of art are encouraged to or are able to discuss what they find to be successful in an artwork," Sipos said.

"What would make a great arts community is if a significant portion of the community got really excited about a new show by an artist, and then they sat down with friends and strangers and talked about it," he continued. "If the island's going to mature as an arts community, that's the direction I think it needs to mature in. People need to intensely care about art. The corollary of that is the artists themselves have to create art that makes us think or is provocative to how we see the world."

Sipos said it's easy to tag the public gallery concept as a fix. Even if successful, though, the results might not be immediately apparent. For example, Prince George's architecturally designed public gallery has been in place for 18 years and so far has not transformed the city into something completely different.

At the same time, that's not to say the community has not benefited from that space, Sipos said.

"It wasn't a cure-all, but it certainly meant ordinary people in Prince George could go and see things like a minimalist exhibition with a visiting curator," Sipos said. "Did it revolutionize Prince George and make it the cultural hub of B.C.? No, it didn't. Because in and of itself, that's not the cure. But people still somehow need to be enticed to go, and then there need to be rewards for them to do that."

Ultimately there would be many aspects to consider before launching a public gallery campaign, starting with the mandate.

"Would it be just local artists, or mixed? Would there be a curator, a director, maybe a curatorial team going out to discover artists? There are a lot of different models possible and it would take a strong team of people to investigate the options," Potter said.

DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN
Anna Gustafson's Object Lessons project debuts on the Mahon Hall stage as a 2016 Showcase exhibition.



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

THE NEXT GENERATION: Among the dozen young vendors at the first Core Inn Youth Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday were, from left, Daisy and Bonnie Conrad with their handmade infinity scarves, and soap-maker Maija Hargrove. The event was spearheaded by Salt Spring Community Services youth worker Angela Koetzle. Community Services operates the Core Inn and its youth programming.



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BOOKS

Bateman's youth captured in book

Island author Margriet Ruurs focuses on art passion

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two well-known Salt Spring Islanders have teamed up to create a beautiful new children's picture book.

Robert Bateman: The Boy Who Painted Nature is a unique collaboration of writer Margriet Ruurs and artist Robert Bateman.

Bateman and Ruurs will be talking about the book and signing copies at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Ruurs said she contacted Bateman about four years ago to propose doing a children's book about his life. Ruurs interviewed Bateman, read every book he had written, read everything she could find about him online, and watched documentaries about his life.

Then she had to find the essence of his story and express it in a maximum of 700 words that

kids would want to read.

"It's easy to write a book of facts, but if it's a children's book it needs to be more exciting," she said.

After the text was written, Orca Book Publishers personnel paired it with artwork, photographs and other documents provided to them by Bateman.

"They did an amazing job matching the text to the art," said Ruurs.

Ruurs said she wanted the book to work on different levels.

"His art is so focused on the environment and nature and he does so much for children's nature and art programming with the Bateman Centre and Bateman Foundation, so I wanted kids to be aware of his art, but I didn't want it to just be a biography of one person. I wanted it to be a story of how you can nurture what you are good at as a child, and encourage a child to follow their passion and maybe find work in what they excel at."

Robert Bateman: The Boy Who Painted Nature is Ruurs' 38th published children's book.



PHOTO COURTESY MARGRIET RUURS

Margriet Ruurs with her new children's book about Robert Bateman as a young artist.

CONCERTS

Holiday favourites offered by Singers and Bach group

Four concerts on tap

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders can get into the holiday spirit through song this season, with a number of concerts coming up that feature timeless works both traditional and contemporary.

This coming weekend the Salt Spring Singers choir presents a program of choral works that brings together favourite pieces of choir and audience members from the past 10 years.

The following week brings the return of Bach on the Rock's annual Messiah tradition, with a complete concert performance of Handel's second London version at ArtSpring and a separate community sing-along at Fulford Hall.

Salt Spring Singers present their show Christmas Treasures at ArtSpring on Dec. 8 and 9. Choir director Don Conley said the group has done its research to offer a beautiful program of favourites as well as a few exciting new pieces.

The music of John Rutter is an all-time favourite for many, he said.

"Audiences have always loved the works of John Rutter because they're upbeat and happy, and they're original works he created for the Christmas season," Conley said, noting they are performed by English-speaking choirs all over North America and Europe, and even as far away as Japan.

Another composer that tops the list is Morten

Lauriden — the Singers will perform O Magnum Mysterium — while guest soloist Cicela Månsson joins the choir for a selection by Haydn.

A new subgroup within the choir is the Salt Spring Singers Schola. Eight advanced members who study more challenging works, they will perform a special set at the concert.

The show will also include some audience sing-along pieces for those who like to join in.

"The choir loves this music. They're just eating it up and love singing it and I'm sure they'll convey that to the audience when they come," Conley said. "And the audience should be familiar with most of the selections. That's what this year is about."

Handel's Messiah

Audiences on Salt Spring are quite familiar with Handel's Messiah and at this point they probably could not do without a Christmas season performance. Bach on the Rock is happy to oblige and will continue its plan of offering two different events, which artistic director Michael Jarvis initiated last year.

The ArtSpring concert on Wednesday, Dec. 12 is slightly different than last year's program, which replicated the Messiah's first London concert of 1743. This year Jarvis leads the Salt Spring Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra in the revival version that Handel presented in London in 1745.

"Around 80 per cent of it will be the Handel

that everyone knows and loves," Jarvis said, explaining the composer changed the work over time to suit the different singers he worked with. "As they came and went he adapted things; we're gradually exploring what he himself sanctioned."

Four up-and-coming guest soloists join the choir for the Dec. 12 performance: soprano Ai Horton, counter-tenor Kyle Guilfoyle, tenor Adam Dyjach and bass-baritone Louis Dillon, who is back by popular acclaim after BotR's November concert.

The orchestra will perform the music using Baroque-period bows. Jarvis said this helps with articulation and lends a lighter transparency of sound, so the music balances the singers better.

Then on Sunday, Dec. 16, members of the public get their chance to join the choir at Bach on the Rock's Messiah sing-along, running from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Fulford Hall. For this event the chamber orchestra will be boosted by winds and brass to suit the larger space, while the soloists will all be choir members from the community.

"I'll be expecting the audience to sing the chorus all well," Jarvis said. "It's fun and this is something we like to do because it's community involvement."

Audience members will be seated in sections according to what part they want to sing, and vocal scores will be available to borrow.

Bach on the Rock

Artistic director

Michael Jarvis

Messiah Concert Performance

Wednesday
Dec. 12, 2018

7:30 pm, ArtSpring
Tickets: ArtSpring

~~~~~and~~~~~

## 8th Annual Sing Along

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018

2:30 pm, Fulford Hall

Tickets: Mondo Trading,  
118 Lower Ganges Rd  
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# ISLAND LIFE

- Star of the Week
- Out & About
- Remember When

**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](mailto:dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com)



PHOTO BY DREW UNDERWOOD

**TREE-MENDOUS:** Officially opening the 2018 Festival of Trees in the Harbour House Hotel lobby are, from left, Anne Zeller of Grand(m)others to Grandmothers, one of the participating groups; Lynda Turner (festival initiator); Annika Lund (from Community Services); and Cherie Geauvreau from the Copper Kettle Community Partnership. Members of the public are urged to bring a donation for the food bank or Copper Kettle and place it under their favourite decorated tree on any day through Jan. 3.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE

# Observant bird counters wanted

Experienced and novice birders compile inventory during event held across North America

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island birders and nature enthusiasts are gearing up for the annual Christmas Bird Count on Salt Spring, which takes place from dawn into darkness on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Experienced bird watchers and anyone else who would like to participate are welcome to the North America-wide citizen-science initiative.

"This is an exciting day for birders of all abilities," said Kathleen Maser, who is helping to organize the 2018 count on Salt Spring. "Having begun in 1900, it is by far the longest-running citizen-science project around. Imagine knowing you will add to a century of scientific data."

Although it has not reached a century of local participation, the Christmas Bird Count is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Salt Spring in 2018. This season longtime coordinator Tim Marchant is taking a break from those duties but will be active in compiling the lists from a dozen different island zones. Peter McAllister, a longtime birder and environmental activist, steps into the coordinator role with heaps of past experience to guide him.

McAllister explained that Christmas Day during the 19th century was an extremely popular hunting competition day, with people vying to bring back the biggest pile of feathers and fur. With bird population decline a growing concern, Frank M. Chapman, an ornithologist at the Natural History Museum in New York and a director of the then new Audubon Society, proposed counting birds during the holidays as a new tradition instead. That initial year, 27 people went out in 25 locations, including Toronto,



PHOTO BY PETER MCALLISTER

Rufous-sided towhee, a bird frequently seen during the Christmas Bird Count on Salt Spring Island.

and reported back seeing 90 species in total.

"Last year on Salt Spring we counted 91 species — close to the number counted all over North America in 1900," McAllister reported.

McAllister's own history with the Christmas Bird Count dates back to around 1950, when he was 13 or 14 years old. He was already quite skilled as a bird watcher growing up on Long Island and was a member of the prestigious Baldwin Bird Club. Young McAllister's potentially exciting find of the extremely rare yellow rail on that first count was not included in the tally because the directors felt the bird was just too rare and the witness just too young.

Subsequent counts for McAllister took place at prep school and boarding school locations in eastern United States, then in Victoria, in West Vancouver in 1969 when Burrard Inlet froze over, and in Vernon when it was home to one of the most active naturalist clubs in all of North America.

"I counted there for many years and that was fun because there was great habitat, and we'd compete with Penticton and Kelowna," McAllister said.

Additional locations included Ashcroft, Lillooet and 15 years running the Alamos count in Mexico's Sierra Madre. McAllister spent the 100th

anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count there, which was a great treat because famous birder Kenn Kaufman visited to count with the club.

Salt Spring's Christmas Bird Count is unique in a couple of ways. The first is that it's run by a few unaffiliated individuals and not officially overseen by a nature club. The other is that Salt Spring does not actually constitute an official bird count community. Instead, different parts of the island are included in other community counts — including those of North Saanich, the Cowichan Valley, Pender Island and Galiano Island. The reason is that each bird count describes a circular territory with a 16-km diameter, and other counts that were established first ate into Salt Spring's territory.

Despite not appearing under its own name as an official Christmas Bird Count location, Salt Spring tallies are incorporated into the other nearby communities' results and form an important data set. The count helps scientists spot trends like species decline or relocation, with impacts of climate change on one hand and conservation efforts on the other recognized over time.

Last year's count revealed 10,800 birds on Salt Spring land and water. The dark-eyed junco was most prevalent at 1,188 counted, followed by the chestnut-backed chickadee. Other birds with high numbers include the robin and common mergansers.

For more information or to get involved in this year's count, contact [khmaser@shaw.ca](mailto:khmaser@shaw.ca) or [pbmcallister@gmail.com](mailto:pbmcallister@gmail.com). Those who need help will be paired with an experienced birder. Maser can connect people with the zone captain in their neighbourhood.

"Your captain will want to know how comfortable you are with identifying winter birds in your area and if need be will set you up with an experienced birder," Maser said. "There are also feeder watchers who count birds at their feeders for a portion of the day."

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE by Michael O'Connor

[www.sunstarastrlogy.com](http://www.sunstarastrlogy.com) | [sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com](mailto:sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com)

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

December 6 is the date of the last New Moon of 2018 occurring at 15 Sagittarius 07. This new lunar cycle occurs just hours after Mercury completes its 3-week retrograde cycle. Jupiter is also there in Sagittarius, where it will remain for another year! In these rather shaky times, this visionary, philosophical and principle driven archetype comes as a welcome support, provided it does not tilt into over-zealousness a.k.a. fanaticism, especially that of the religious sort. Mercury is still in the late degrees of Scorpio and will re-enter Sagittarius on December 12. When in Scorpio, Mercury supports psychological insight, investigation research, and espionage too. The announcement last week of the global data breach linked to the Marriot Hotel Empire over the past 4-years is a clear synchronicity of this principle. Linked to this New Moon, it will coincide with the investigation process. With Venus in Scorpio, where it will remain until January 7 thus, will also feature in the Solar eclipse New Moon on January 6th... the probably desperate measures to hide any traces of this and its likely objective to extort money from credit cards could linger longer than some would hope. All this amidst the background of jingle bells and falalalala... Oh well, the good always outweighs the bad.

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You are in the mood to both go big and go deep. Mercury, Venus and Mars and Chiron, Neptune and the Lunar North Node in Cancer are all conspiring to lure you into the deep end, as if you had a choice... Sun and Jupiter in Sagittarius are ample enough muscle to inspire you to go big. At worst, you feel pulled in different directions. Aim for core strength.

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Some deep changes are underway for you. Hopefully these are coming by way of inspiration more than desperation. Positively, there are indications of returns coming in. These stand to flow in over the course of weeks and even months, actually. Some measure of a learning curve is implied, however. Your task now is to bring your salty wisdom down to earth in creative ways.

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Some big and exciting changes on relationship fronts hold some promise. These will require that you both think deeply about what you commit to words and that you be willing to give more. This giving could include an exchange, though, as in by giving you will receive. Yet, you may have to be the one who takes the first step. Your fans await you!

### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Health is and perhaps should be your main concern and focus these days. This cycle will extend well into 2019. In the short term, you are receiving an invitation to engage with your own creative design. Fortunately, Mars in Pisces is well positioned to give you added drive and determination. The key to your success includes reaching for an ideal.

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

A big creative spark is exploding in your mind. You do and will increasingly feel a surge of inspiration now and even over the coming days and weeks. The time is right to capitalize in whatever way you can. A learning curve is implied, but your energy levels should be running high and it sure seems like your ambitions are too. This is your cue to bring your inner beauty out.

### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

You are in a philosophical mood. You want answers and none you simply must believe. Call it exercising discernment, but it could amount to scrutiny. Either way, you are ready to assert yourself as necessary. You are hardly in a mood to simply yield and comply. Use this wave of enthusiasm and strength to break through blocks, barriers and walls.

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

People may be wondering you have such a big smile, even though it may come with some signs of fatigue around the eyes as well. The reason is because you are beginning to tap into a little gold mine. Mining is seldom an easy task so the word remains firm because whatever you are up to it is not likely that it is going to be delivered to your door for free....

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

A big boon like this may require a big spoon to scoop. This one is so fun that the jest from last week just keeps jumping in. Like a party that just won't quit, or one you are the last to leave, something special is tickling your fancy. Yet, it may arrive in a package wrapped in unusual paper. You know the lord she works in mysterious ways and she is especially full of surprises for you these days.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The time has come to go big. Yet, like your Aries friends the call is also to go within and deeply so at that. This deep dive is to the roots of the lotus blossoms that are anchored at the bottom of the pond. Yep, it may amount to something of a mucky task. But this is an example of how you must pay your dues and you may feel like you have been paying a lot lately.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Some journeys are to distant lands while others are through the mountain passes and others yet are to mystic places, and this one may include all three. There is nothing frivolous about this adventure. It stands to summon the full measure of your faith and resolve. The irony of this quest is that it is to explore the individuality and authenticity of the one(s) you love.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

The words 'truth and freedom' are ringing in your mind. You yearn to break free yet you are challenged to acknowledge the truth of your situation and exercise the discipline required to be free. This is not a riddle, but just the way it is. To succeed, you need to be open to new and better approaches and to obtaining new skills and tools too.

### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The world is calling you out. Yet, you are challenged to answer in ways you have not before. One way or another, you are meant to design your own way. Mars in Pisces is providing you with the courage, energy and the resolve to do just this. But, you must take action now. The good news is that this summons is all about deciphering what makes you special.



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PHOTOS BY MARC KITTINGHAM

Seen at the 7th annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday are, firefighter Jamie Holmes, above, with one of two fire hall entries; Viva Chorale! carol singers, below; and Travis Dorchak and Chantelle Johnson of Island Savings, which hosted the event and raised about \$1,030 for its Full Cupboard program to benefit the Salt Spring Food Bank. People's choice chili winners were: Andy Downing, 1st place; fire hall #2, second; Auntie Pesto's, third. Judges David Wood, Howard Busgang and Dan Snowsil placed Tanya Schultz' chili first, followed by Auntie Pesto's and fire hall #2.



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## SALT SPRING **Star** of the **WEEK**

**Catherine Bennett**



Catherine Bennett recently retired as coordinator of Salt Spring Island's Meals on Wheels program after 21 years in the position. She says she was lucky over the years to have worked with a wonderful group of MOW volunteers and will miss both the volunteers and the MOW clients.

She is happy to retire but with an intentionally full, active life following her passions: running, Scottish country dancing and teaching Everybody Stretch classes.



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**Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****In Memoriam****Coming Events****Coming Events****HARALD BERLE "BUD" FRIELE**

Harald Berle "Bud" Friele passed away on November 21st, 2018 in the comfort of his own home on Salt Spring Island. Bud was born October 9, 1921 in Oslo, Norway, the eldest son of Haakon and Aslaug Friele, and brother to Ted and Rolf. He took great pride in his heritage, and always flew a Norwegian flag along with his Canadian flag.



Bud lived his life with a strong sense of family, adventure, humour, creativity, and curiosity. Although he always kept Norway near and dear to his heart, Bud spent most of his younger years residing in the Seattle area. He proudly served in the US Navy during WWII as Captain of the USS Vent, patrolling the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. Bud was well known in the salmon industry, having fished and operated canneries in Alaska for many years. He later became President and General Manager of the Nakat Packing Corporation for A&P before retiring to Salt Spring Island. The sea was always a priority in Bud's life. From his extensive career in the Alaskan salmon industry to spending time on his boat, "The Royal Viking," Bud was happiest when out on the water. He could often be found prawning in the local waters, eating raw oysters off the beach, and making his specialty, Gravlox. Bud was also an avid skier, hiker, photographer, and gardener who recently returned home from the Fall Fair with a first place trophy for his grapes. He enjoyed spending time in his workshop, engineering new and ingenious ways to build or repair almost anything, and was known to be the best knife sharpener around. His most recent pastime found him creating perfectly balanced driftwood mobiles which he would give to grateful friends and family.

Bud was deeply loved and cherished by his three devoted wives, Katherine Brazeau, Evelyn Mouat, and Patricia Dougan, all of whom predeceased him. He leaves behind his five daughters and two step daughters: Kathy Fontenot (Don), Barb Lorensen (Stan), Christy Lein (Gary), Shelley Maxwell (Ron), Kari Holmes (Rob), Aileen Dougan (Craig), and Leanne Stegall (Bill). He was also the treasured "Bestefar" to eleven grandchildren and "Oldefar" to eight great grandchildren. Additionally left behind are Bud's younger brother Ted Friele (Patty), Bev Brazeau, and the Pringle and Mouat families. Bud's longevity was due in part to his long time friend, David Davies, and to the wonderful care he received over the years from Dr. Reznick, Dr. Woodley, and the staff at Lady Minto Hospital.

Bud wishes that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Lady Minto Hospital in Ganges.

**Solveig (Heldal) Ronne**

December 20, 1931 – November 25, 2018

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Solveig (Heldal) Ronne. She passed away peacefully with her daughters by her side.

Solveig is survived by her daughters Susanne Daviau (Dom), Lisbeth Jones (Sid), Wendy Isherwood (Tom), son Finn Ronne, grandchildren Kara Jones, Ryan Jones, Shay Daviau, Hayden Daviau, Travis Isherwood, Paige Isherwood, Tyler Ronne.



Solveig was born on a farm in Bergen, Norway. Solveig was the oldest of 6 children. She emigrated to Canada in 1955 where she met her husband Ib Holger Ronne in Vancouver, BC. In 1973 the family moved to a farm on Saltspring Island, BC where Solveig hit her stride growing her own vegetables, fruit, raising beef, lamb, chickens, ducks & rabbit, making beer and the best blackberry wine around. Solveig was a stay at home Mom and provided the best food and care a child could ever want. She had a B&B where she became famous for her farm to table breakfasts. Solveig loved to cook, bake, knit, crochet and garden. After the kids moved out she loved travelling to Hawaii & Arizona to soak in the sunshine. In 1994, she moved to Victoria, BC. In 2010 her husband Ib passed away and in 2011 Solveig moved to the Chemainus Health Care Centre in Chemainus, BC.

The family would like to thank Anne Dawkes and the lovely, caring staff at the Chemainus Health Care Centre, her long time loving companion Lorna Tolman (an earth angel) and the 2 nurses Carmen and Cheryl (the dream team) who were there at the end to see Solveig's soul off into the light.

A Celebration of Life will be held on April 21st, 2019 at 1 pm at the Mill Bay Community Hall, 1035 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd, Mill Bay, BC.

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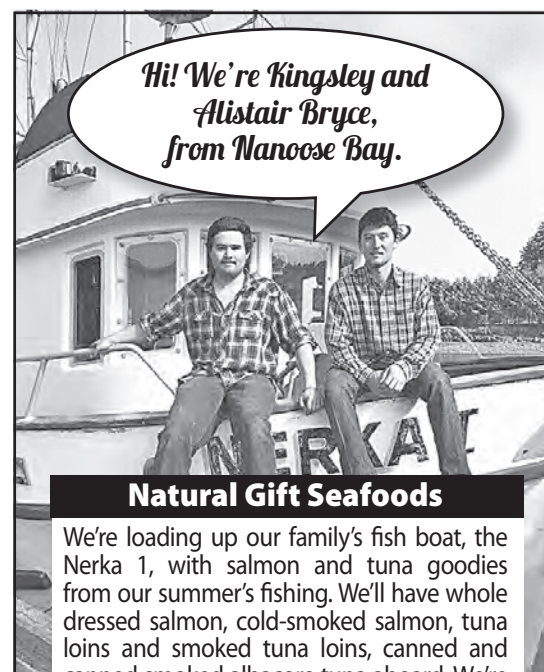
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**Salt Spring Island  
Fire Protection District  
Regular Monthly Meeting of the  
Board of Trustees  
10 Dec 2018 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District have rescheduled their December meeting. For December 2018 the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held December 10, 2018 at the Training Room Fire Hall No. 1 beginning at 7:00 P.M.

**Board of Trustees  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District**

**Natural Gift Seafoods**

We're loading up our family's fish boat, the Nerka 1, with salmon and tuna goodies from our summer's fishing. We'll have whole dressed salmon, cold-smoked salmon, tuna loins and smoked tuna loins, canned and canned smoked albacore tuna aboard. We're stopping at a different island every day, and will be selling these delicious products direct from our boat each day from noon until 8 pm.

**YOU WILL FIND US AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

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- DEC 06: Montague Harbour, Galiano Island
- DEC 07: Miner's Bay, Mayne Island
- DEC 08: Port Browning, Pender Island
- DEC 09: Ganges Harbour, Saltspring Island
- DEC 10: Main Dock, Piers Island

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DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTOS

Clockwise from top left, Bryan and Na'ara Dubien get their photo taken with Santa at the library; Rotary Marine Park's entrance is beautifully lit, taking the best use of lights prize in the Driftwood's Christmas Light-up Decorating Contest; an operating chairlift is new in the Mouat's Home Hardware window display created by Sharon Sykes; and juiced oranges are just one small part of the comprehensive kitchen scene in the window of Love My Kitchen. For chili cook-off photos, see page 16; and for more photos from the whole weekend, see the Driftwood's Facebook page.

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Tuesday, December 25th - Closed  
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Tuesday, January 1st 10am - 10pm  
...

## Decorating winners named

### Annual Christmas season contest

Linda Koroscil of Love My Kitchen went all out in creating a beautiful old-fashioned kitchen scene to win the best all-round award this year. Sharon Sykes added an operating chairlift, a garage and more to her ever-evolving Mouat's Home Hardware winter village display to earn second place all-round.

In the best use of lights category, Rotary Marine Park earns top marks, followed by the Tree House Cafe.

Love My Kitchen took first place in the most creative category, followed by Salt Spring Books.

Honourable mentions go to Mouat's Clothing, the Driftwood and Ganges fire hall.

The People's Choice Award has still to be determined. Vote for your favourite by sending an email to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or naming them on the Christmas Light-up album on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/gulfislandsdriftwood](http://www.facebook.com/gulfislandsdriftwood).

## Out + ABOUT

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

### Transitions party

Transitions Thrift Store is marking its 21st anniversary with a thank-you cake and refreshments on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.

Store manager Roberta Temmel says volunteers' commitment and support from the community are essential and much appreciated in order for the store to help fund the island's Transition House.

She notes that while violent crime in general is declining in Canada, incidents of domestic violence are not.

"It really is something that we shouldn't forget," she said.

Dec. 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. Island Women Against Violence, the non-profit society that operates the Transition House and thrift store, and Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse will hold the annual Dec. 6 candlelight vigil to mark 29 years since 14 women were gunned down at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. The vigil takes place in the Centennial Park gazebo at 5 p.m.

### Final slide show

Also on Thursday, Louise Nye presents the last in her series of Slide Shows From Years Gone By at Central Hall.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with some general slides on the cinema screen, plus music, and the slides of people are shown beginning at 7 p.m.

Nye, who formerly owned the movie theatre with her sisters in the 1990s, took copious photos during that time and showed them before the movies began. She has hosted slide shows on the first Thursday of each month this fall.

The Dec. 6 show features winter events like Santa's arrival and the Polar Bear Swim, random people shots and more.

With entrance by donation, all proceeds benefit the Central Community Hall Society's siding replacement project.

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## Remember WHEN

A compilation of items from the Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper during the week of Dec. 5th in past years.

### Five years ago

A local health-food producer gained exposure with an apparently successful pitch on an episode of Dragons' Den. Four of the five dragons passed on the opportunity presented by Annette Magled and her Vida Grains company, but Boston Pizza owner Jim Treliving offered an investment of \$125,000 in return for 50 per cent of the company. The deal was not completed, as only 20 per cent of the deals offered actually work out.

### Ten years ago

Plans were announced to raise the Duck Creek weir on St. Mary Lake, which would help maintain the creek as a coho salmon and cutthroat trout spawning zone. The original weir was installed in 2006 by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District to control the lake's outflow into the creek.

### Twenty years ago

ArtSpring opened its doors to the public for the first time at a weekend event welcoming islanders to the new facility. The project had been underway for nine years. Some 30 performers and 70 artists were showcased at the two-day event. The facility was formally opened in April of 1999.

### Thirty years ago

A parents group was concerned about the availability of liquor to minors. One parent was concerned because she saw first hand that minors were buying alcohol from the Ganges liquor store. One of the minors, who did not wish to be identified, told the Driftwood that it was not difficult to obtain liquor from the store, and that he knew many people his age who had done so.

### Forty years ago

The Vesuvius ferry wharf was out of commission after high winds beat the structure to pieces. The steel plate that bridged the water between the wharf and boat was damaged in the wind. The terminal was closed for two days.

### Fifty years ago

The first visit to Salt Spring Island by a hovercraft was made, but the craft was in too great a hurry to stop. It came up Ganges Harbour, ran around the shoreline and returned to deeper water.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

**CRATCHIT VOICES:** Bringing some early Christmas songs and cheer to residents of Braehaven and Greenwoods are Christmas With Scrooge actors, from left, Maggie O'Scalleigh, Sophia Hickson and Kevin Wilkie singing as Mrs. Cratchit, Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit. Some Scrooge cast members visited a number of spots last Thursday as part of pre-show outreach activities. Scrooge runs Dec. 19-22 at ArtSpring. Tickets are available now.

## HOLIDAY SEASON

# Seasonal grief explored

Facilitator shares ways to cope

Salt Spring Hospice is hosting a free community event on Monday, Dec. 10 called Coping with Grief Over the Holidays.

Co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Public Library, the event will offer suggestions for people to navigate the holidays and make plans that are right for them. It runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

"Holidays are often difficult for anyone who has experienced the death of someone loved," explains a Hospice press release. "Rather than being times of family togetherness, sharing and thanksgiving, holidays can generate feelings of overwhelming sadness, lethargy and emptiness.

"Since love does not end with death, holidays may result in a renewed sense of personal grief. Society encourages you to join in the holiday spirit, but all around the sounds, sights and smells trigger memories of the one loved, who

has died."

The event will cover:

- How grief can impact your mood, activities and motivation;
- Holiday healing practices;
- Exploring ways to honour your loved one;
- Navigating the range of participation that feels manageable;
- Sharing with others who also are grieving.

Event facilitator JayaLynda Cole will share information about the grief process, ways to help people explore their grief and to honour their loved one.

The session is intended for those experiencing recent or long-term grief and bereavement, or individuals supporting a loved one who is grieving.

The program will close with reflection and an honouring ceremony. Participants are welcome to bring a framed picture of their loved one or a special memento to be placed on a remembrance table.

An RSVP is appreciated if possible to 250-537-2770 or office@saltspringhospice.org.

## What is this? Where is this?



Can you identify what and where this is on Salt Spring Island? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop off a paper copy to the Driftwood office at 328 Lower Ganges Rd.



**LAST WEEK'S WINNER:** The first person to identify the photo of a Drummond Park washroom pole was John FitzGibbon. Thank you to everyone else who submitted the correct response!

**READERS** can also submit photos to put in this feature. Photos can be of mystery items or public places.

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# SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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## BASKETBALL

# Senior boys basketball team off to strong start

Young players jump into 2018-19 season

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary senior boys basketball team is off to a hot start this season, beating Chemainus for the second consecutive time in a Monday night game.

The score was 72-27.

"They're a young team, so they're going to learn from trial and error, but they work hard and they're a really nice group of kids," said coach Myles Wilson. "They'll leave it all on the floor, there's no doubt about it," Wilson said.

GISS plays against Chemainus at the beginning of the season each year. The first game was last week, where the Scorpions beat Chemainus 68-22.

"It's a good start for the kids," Wilson said. It allows everyone to get playing time for sure."

Newcomer Matty Shure was the game's top scorer, netting 18 points for the Scorpions. Three other players scored into double digits as well. Another Grade 10 player, Owen Collobin, played a physical game, Wilson said, which bodes well for future matches this season. Nick Van Bakel and Gabe Harrison also played solid games on Monday, Wilson said.

"We've only got four Grade 12s, and the rest are Grade 11s and 10s. . . For Grade 10s it's usually quite a jump to senior, but they've adjusted really well," Wilson said.

The coaching staff has also seen an addition, with Will Nemeth joining the group this year.

"He's won a couple of B.C. boys

championships with Brentwood College. He brings a good wealth of knowledge. He also knows the kids, which is nice," Wilson said.

The team faces their first real challenge this weekend in an away tournament against Pacific Christian, Lambert Park and Reynolds schools. The boys will host games at GISS in the new year, playing on Jan. 8 and 15, and then hosting the annual Nairn Howe Tournament on Jan. 18-19.

"We've got a good coaching staff, we've got good kids and we have pretty strong community support, which is nice. People on Salt Spring certainly support their sports teams. Can't say enough about the community on things like that."

The junior boys basketball team will also host a Dec. 15 tournament.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

GISS Scorpions player Gabe Harrison takes a shot in the first quarter of a game against Chemainus on Monday. GISS won the game by a 72-27 score.

## SOCCER

# Castaways gift early Christmas present to Old Boys squad

Old Boys grab win in otherwise dull game

BY FRASER HOPE

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Sunday morning's bright sunshine infused this reporter full of

hope for an exciting final game of a stretch of home games with Old Boys aiming to add to their record of two losses and a win.

The Castaways kicked off with two volunteers — Kerry Walker and Wade ter Heide — donning the blue shirts of the visitors. Field

conditions might have been the eventual winner of this event as the ground would pose problems for accuracy, skill and balance, not noticeably strong points of the Old Boys. The two conscripts, eager to show that they could make a difference, helped the visitors to keep the Old Boys hemmed in their own half with Walker leading the attack and ter Heide making his mark on the game, or should I say more pointedly on Donny Brown in goal? Free kick to Old Boys!

A series of four corner kicks was repulsed as the Old Boys sought to control the midfield. It does not take a Pochettino, Mourinho, Guardiola or Klopp to understand the importance of a strong mid-

field, but Tweddle has only cooler privileges to offer to attract world-class players to Salt Spring. David Toynbee, our last major signing, is still yet to receive any of the conditions of his signing contract!

There was excitement as Mike McCormick on the breakaway was ably supported by speedy Ben Cooper, who was unceremoniously tripped from behind. The advantage was given by the referee but the opportunity fizzled out.

The game for most of the first half revolved around a midfield battle that neither team was able to resolve. It was chess, no, checkers, no — more like a game of tiddlywinks.

Thankfully, both teams decided to have little or no intermission to allow the Castaways to catch an earlier ferry and the game proceeded under brightening skies.

Spectators were looking for some spark of excitement on or off the field as underfoot conditions seemed to be defeating both teams. Tweddle tried to liven up the game by trying to incite the ref to yellow card him for taking off his shirt to celebrate (what he was "celebrating" the fans were not sure), but the ref was unmoved.

The Castaways goalkeeper made several good saves that just lacked the power to produce goals with Toynbee, Mike McCormick, Dave Eadie and Stefan Cermak all testing the keeper.

As in the televised game earlier in the day, a last-minute shocker changed the dynamics of the game: Scouser Mark Aston pounced on a penalty hand ball advantage to give the Old Boys a 1-0 lead. The joy on Aston's face as he wheeled away from the kop end of the stadium to be mobbed by his teammates brought joy to the Liverpool fans on the bench and stands.

Thankfully the score held up and Klopp's doppelgänger, Tweddle, showed his class by not running onto the field like a maniac to embrace Donny Brown at the final whistle.

Old Boys move off island this Sunday, Dec. 9 to renew their long-time rivalry with Cowichan at Francis Kelsey school field.

*Editor's note: For a longer version of Fraser Hope's report, see [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) under the Sports tab.*



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