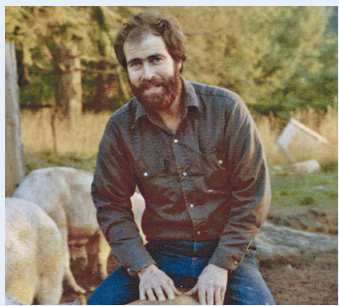


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PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

IN THE GENES: B.C. folk-roots-rock icon and former Salt Spring resident Shari Ulrich, left, plays with her daughter Julia Graff at Monday night's Salt Spring Folk Club concert. The next and final folk club concert of the year is the annual Gumboot Gala on April 22.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Island beach fire ban considered

Fire district wants public input

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire Rescue and the governing board of trustees are seeking community input on whether the department should take more active management of beach fires or implement a ban under the burning bylaw.

Fire Chief Arjuna George presented a report during the board of trustees' business meeting last Monday night that lays out some of the management possibilities being undertaken in nearby areas. With an increase in local beach fire activity, he said it might be time for the department to think about changing its own policy, while acknowledging it could be a contentious issue.

"Salt Spring's becoming more and more of

a destination, and beach fires are a familiar sight on the island," George observed. "We just want to have some more direction from the community on that."

Currently the district's burning bylaw does not differentiate between beach fires and campfires, which may be permitted with permission from the property owner and within size restrictions, as long as a fire ban is not in place. The difficulty is that permits are required, and there are no private owners of the beach except through foreshore lease. In practice, the fire department has been largely permissive of beach fires as long as there aren't complaints about them.

District CAO Andrew Peat said the question of whether to manage beach fires separately from campfires only arose recently because until now the fire department did

not believe it had any authority on the foreshore.

"We've always gone under the assumption that we don't have jurisdiction, but we found out we can actually regulate activities on the foreshore if we choose to do it," Peat said. "The question now is are we going to permit beach fires as we have done in the past, or are we going to say no?"

As George states in his staff report, "Many sections of the Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation (which regulates fire on private and public lands) are exempted in areas where there is a local government with a bylaw related to open burning, a means of reporting fires and a fire department."

BEACH FIRES continued on 5

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PARKS

Centennial Park playground replacement begins

Community consultation is first stage in process

BY MARC KITTINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The playground in Centennial Park will be replaced this summer, as the second phase of the park's upgrade project begins.

Now that the washroom portion of the plan is nearing completion, the island's parks and recreation department will be consulting with various community groups about the look and feel of the new playground, as well as specific features that the community may be interested in.

"We want as many people as we can to give input . . . Centennial Park is kind of our central hub, so we want to make sure it reflects Salt Spring values," said Dan Ovington, parks and recreation manager for the CRD.

"A lot of the structures that are there are at or near the end of their life."

DAN OVINGTON
Parks & recreation manager

Thanks to a \$100,000 donation from the Salt Spring Lions Club, the playground project's budget



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTINGHAM

From left, new Centennial Park washroom building constructed over the winter months, and the existing park structure that is slated for replacement as the next phase of Centennial Park upgrades gets underway. The red curved slide has already been removed for safety reasons.

has been doubled. Initially, the Parks and Recreation Commission earmarked \$100,000 for the playground portion. Since the entire park is built on fill, any upgrades will need additional drainage put in, along with properly engineered footings. The extra money from the Lions gives PARC more flexibility for the playground.

"We'll be able to do something really really great that I think both the community and all of the visitors are going to appreciate," Ovington said. "This will allow us to expand the options that we can look at, but also will help us keep true to the feel of Centennial Park in trying

to honour some of the history with the design as well."

The project is expected to be finished in August, with community consultation happening within the next month. PARC has planned a pop-up session in the park to get people's feedback on April 20. That input will help finalize the design, which will be approved by both PARC and the Lions Club before construction begins.

Postponing the project until after the Saturday market season was contemplated, but since the current playground is falling into disrepair, it was decided that completing the project sooner was better than

later. Work will occur during the week, and the impact to the market will be minimal.

"We had to remove the slide earlier this year just because of safety. A lot of the structures that are there are at or near the end of their life," Ovington said.

Some parts of the existing playground, such as the historic rocking horse, will be kept in the new design. The CRD will also discuss materials used for the ground surface, with an eye on longevity and affordability.

No demolition date has been set, but the playground will stay up for as long as possible to minimize the time that kids have to

go without a place to play in the park.

The project's scope will be similar to that of the bike park, with some pieces pre-fabricated and some custom-made. The CRD has partnered again with Green City Builders, bringing on Elizabeth FitzZaland as project manager.

No trees will be removed from the site, said Ovington, with the design incorporating existing trees.

There may be a need to update the Centennial Park survey map to include the new washroom, and trees may be marked in that process, but none of the markings will indicate planned removal.

EMERGENCY preparedness

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In a major disaster getting warnings and alerts quickly to people is essential. Timing is critical. Our new Public Alert Notification system will assist with this need providing individuals a system using multiple communication methods including: cell phone, home phone, texting or email.

For any questions please contact: ssiepc@crd.bc.ca

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

MARCH/APRIL 2019 PST Z+8							
DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
27	0410	2.6	8.5	31	0306	3.2	10.5
	0815	2.8	9.2		0921	2.3	7.5
	WE 1603	0.9	3.0		SU 1255	2.4	7.9
28	0034	3.1	10.2	1	0338	3.1	10.2
	0617	2.6	8.5		0945	2.1	6.9
	TH 0850	2.7	8.9		MO 1410	2.5	8.2
29	JE 1659	1.0	3.3	2	0404	3.1	10.2
	0137	3.2	10.5		1007	2.0	6.6
	FR 0803	2.5	8.2		TU 1511	2.6	8.5
30	FR 0947	2.5	8.2	3	0427	3.0	9.8
	VE 1801	1.1	3.6		1029	1.8	5.9
	SA 0227	3.2	10.5		WE 1604	2.7	8.9
	SA 1121	2.5	8.2		ME 2200	1.4	4.6
	SA 1901	1.1	3.6				

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ECOLOGY

Pro-forest march planned

April 6 event part of B.C.-wide activism

BY MARC KITTINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders are invited to take part in a provincial day of action planned for Saturday, April 6 to push for changes to how forests are managed in B.C.

The event begins at 10 a.m. at the Salt Spring Public Library. Briony Penn, Joe Akerman and others will speak about how to become more informed on local and provincial issues. Musician Luke Wallace and the Ragging Grannies will perform some songs, which will be followed by a march from the library to Centennial Park.

"We encourage folks to bring signs and clarity on how we can steward our precious forests both on Salt Spring and province-wide," said Sheila Dobie, one of the organizers of the event.

Forest March B.C. is a campaign organized by the BC Coalition for Forestry Reform. The campaign

is aimed at furthering changes to the B.C. government's Forest and Range Practices Act. The campaign's goal is to ensure that changes include ecosystem restoration, responsible forestry and meaningful community consultation about forests.

"By joining this march you are encouraging the local and provincial governments to make critical changes that ensure forestry practices reflect environmental concerns, and bring community values and involvement back into forest management," a press release from the coalition reads.

Some of Salt Spring's own local issues will be in the spotlight at the event. The release cites a lack of stewardship and regulation on private lands.

"Our Islands Trust has declared a recognition of the climate change crisis. Human impact has caused this crisis, and now we must do what we can to turn this around. Forest stewardship is a crucial component to this action," said organizing team member Jean Wilkinson.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Nuisance calls lead to charges

On Friday, March 22, several calls were made by a Salt Spring Island resident to report incidents that were determined to be false. During the course of these phone calls, the caller uttered threats to the RCMP dispatcher. Police responded to the residence and arrested a man for public mischief and uttering threats. He was later released from custody and is scheduled to appear in court in May.

On March 19, RCMP were called to a disturbance at a home on Charlesworth Road. They determined that a man living at the home had assaulted his common-law girlfriend. While initial attempts to locate the man at the home were unsuccessful, he was found several hours later walking on a nearby road. The man was arrested for assault and transported to appear in court in Duncan on March 20.

Impaired driver fined

A 30-year-old resident of Victoria received a \$1,000 fine and a one-year driving prohibition in Ganges Provincial Court on Thursday.

Thomas Cudworth was sentenced with the mandatory minimum penalties after pleading guilty to charges stemming from an incident that took place on board the ferry from Swartz Bay to Fulford last August. Crown counsel described how a witness had observed Cudworth pour out a beer on the deck and that he appeared to have difficulty standing before he got back into his vehicle.

The witness informed BC Ferries staff. Police were notified and waiting at the terminal when the ferry arrived. Cudworth was apprehended before leaving the terminal and tested over the limit for alcohol consumption.

Presiding Judge Jennifer Barrett accepted a request for a lenient payment schedule of 18 months for the fine after hearing Cudworth lives on his boat and receives minimal social assistance.

Barrett reflected that the sentence was meant to be a deterrent rather than a punishment.

"It's up to you to decide what you want to do with the drinking in your life, but you simply can't get into your car and drive," she said.

ENVIRONMENT

Feds take on wrecked boat authority

New legislation to become law this summer

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands is a confirmed hotspot for dumping wrecked and unwanted boats, but new federal legislation could make a significant impact toward clearing coastal waters.

Bill C64, or the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act, received royal assent on Feb. 28 and is expected to become law this summer. It recognizes the responsibility and liability of owners for their vessels and gives Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada wide powers to act when that responsibility is neglected.

Susan Pickrell, the Coast Guard's superintendent of vessels of concern for the western region, said it's not just a perception that Salt Spring and other nearby islands have more than their fair share of abandoned boats.

"I think it is a hotbed for vessels that fall under the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act," Pickrell said. "You do have a higher concentration than elsewhere on the coast — and than elsewhere in Canada."

Pickrell noted that many boats in the area have already been cleaned up by the Dead Boats Society and other groups taking advantage of federal funding under the five-year Oceans Protection Plan. However, she also observed that Ganges Harbour had three new wrecks this week compared to just the week before.

"I think the inventory will be an ever-living document of constantly adding, and hopefully taking away," Pickrell said.

"There's been good reception of the Abandoned Vessels Program, but we've only scratched the surface. Hopefully people will continue to apply for the program and access the funding to remove vessels under that temporary program."

One of the most visible examples of derelict boats in Ganges is the twin-keeled Castle Finn, which ran aground last November and hasn't moved since despite a massive community effort in the winter. Two fires have since reduced the ship to its hull, but the boat remains stuck on the foreshore.

Contrary to information given out by the Castle Finn's owner, the Ganges Coast Guard did not assist in bringing the boat to shore and did not grant permission for it to be there.

"The Coast Guard would not have the authority to grant permission for this person to beach her vessel," Pickrell said, explaining that officers are currently limited to rescuing people in distress and responding to environmental issues.

In this case the Coast Guard removed the hydrocarbons when the vessel first got into trouble. (Anything left over burned off during the fires.) As the boat was not deemed to be a hazard to navigation under Transport Canada regulations, that ended federal jurisdiction. The Coast Guard has been keeping tabs on the situation and working with the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Pickrell said the Castle Finn will be a great example of a test case when Bill C64 does pass. According to the act, "If the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has reasonable grounds to believe that a vessel or wreck poses, or may pose, a hazard, he or she may take the measures that he or she considers necessary to prevent, mitigate or eliminate the hazard, including by repairing, securing, moving or removing of the vessel, the wreck or their contents, or selling, dismantling, destroying or otherwise disposing of them." The legislation gives officers a wide list of situations under which such action can be taken, and the power to serve the owner with a deadline.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Castle Finn seen beached in Ganges Harbour in January, before two fires on Jan. 30 and March 12 reduced the vessel to not much more than its cement hull.

Noncompliance could amount to a heavy fine — up to \$5,000 per day. The large amount is meant to be an incentive for boat owners to take the appropriate action rather than just accepting a fine.

The Coast Guard has compiled a list of all the abandoned and wrecked vessels around British Columbia. A contractor is now doing public consultation in order to develop a risk assessment tool. This will help determine which vessels are high risk and therefore high priority for some kind

of action.

Pickrell said the concentration of people living onboard derelict and hazardous boats around Salt Spring could make the situation more complicated, and it's something the Coast Guard will be sensitive to when the time comes.

"You don't want to remove a person from their home without having a viable alternative," she said. "When the act passes, we'll have to determine what that looks like."



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

**NOTICE TO THE
RATEPAYERS OF THE
NORTH SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS DISTRICT**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, that nominations for TWO trustees will be received in the District office between:

**8:00 am March 27, 2019
12:00 noon April 17, 2019**

Nomination of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed and seconded, by two duly qualified electors of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office at or before 12:00 noon, Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

The Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 beginning at 2:00 pm at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road. Voting for the Election will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Community Gospel Chapel on April 27, 2019. Results will be announced as soon as they are available.

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Elections Act*.

Visit the "Who We Are" and "Becoming a Trustee" pages on our website for more information about the role of a Trustee.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office and online in the Documents/Forms section of the District website.

NOTICE OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. Voting for the Election will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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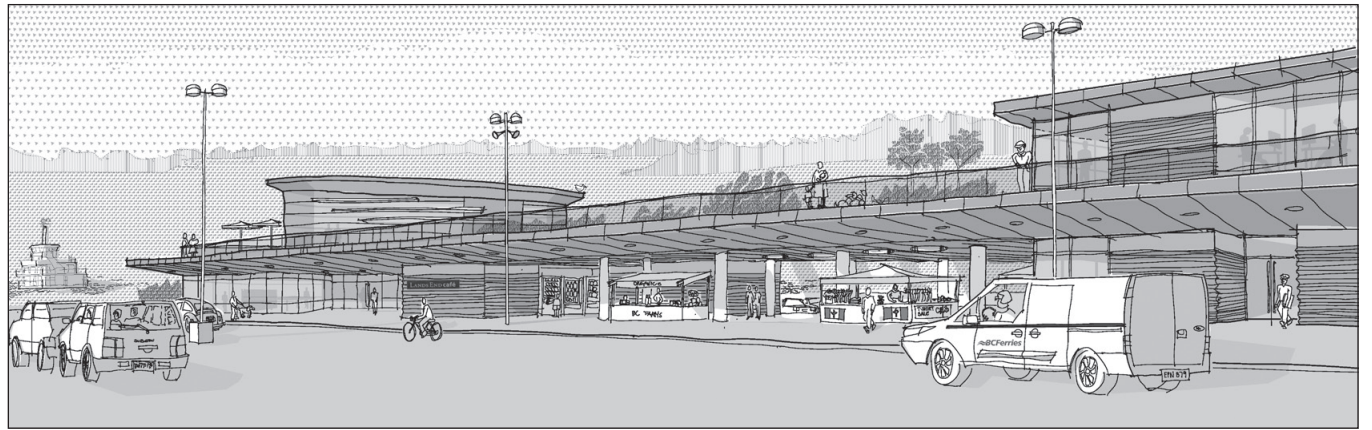
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FERRIES

BC Ferries peeks into the future



Over 1,000 people gave feedback for Swartz Bay update

BY MARC KITTINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries is looking to the future with their 25-year road map for the Swartz Bay terminal, and plan to have the first shovels in the ground within the next two years.

The implementation of the plan will occur in five to eight stages, the first being an upgrade to the passenger pick-up and drop-off area. By moving forward in stages, BC Ferries hopes the plan will be flexible in the face of unforeseen challenges and will be able to be kept open and usable through the lengthy process.

"We can't really just throw a lock on the door and shut it down for a few years," said Mark Wilson, BC Ferries' spokesperson for the project. "It's such a busy terminal that doing things in stages will allow us to keep things business as usual with minimal service disruptions."

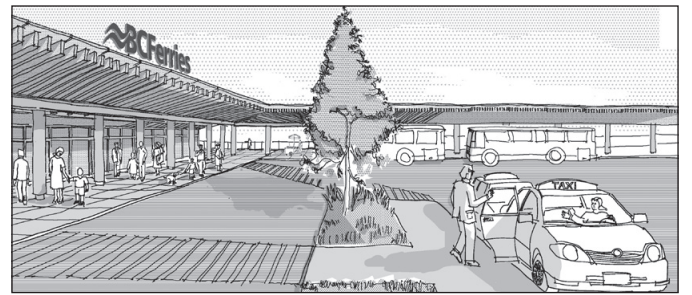
The terminal plan came after a lengthy period of public comment, where the company learned from passengers what they would like to see in the new building. Wilson explained that through the process, around 1,000 individual

pieces of feedback were heard and taken into consideration in the planning.

"Very early in this we recognized that BC Ferries might not know what's best, so we went out early to our customers and asked them what's important. We're trying to do a much better job of listening to our customers and incorporating their feedback into our designs," Wilson said. "The service is for them at the end of the day."

In order to carry out a plan that lasts almost three decades, BC Ferries will look at ways that transportation will change within that time period. The terminal will no longer be only focused on catering to single cars, but will incorporate multiple forms of alternative transportation. Plans include an updated bike loop, potential e-bike and EV charging stations, an improved bus loop, ride-sharing options and other ideas. As the plan evolves, there will be more chances for public engagement that will inform the specific designs of each piece.

"We're looking at a shift into other modes of transportation out of predominantly single-passenger vehicles," Wilson said. "We want to see how buses connect into it, foot passenger-only ferry service, bicyclists coming in and ride sharing. We want to



Two views of a proposed Swartz Bay ferry terminal redesign presented by BC Ferries.

make sure that we're ready for it if and when that shift comes."

The facility is also being designed with climate change in mind. While they have not determined the actual nature of the environmentally friendly features of the terminal, the focus on the environment is one of the biggest drivers in the new complex's design. Wilson said that green spaces, environmentally friendly buildings and carbon-neutral elements are all on the table.

The 1,000 comments received covered everything from the environment, dealing with changing technology to things like improving the Land's End services building and other facilities.

"The exact details into what Land's End is going to look like and what the foot passenger building is going to look like will be subject to further engagement. We've got the

general high-level roadmap now, which is good. Now each one of those pieces we'll need further engagement on," he said.

The Swartz Bay terminal is considered a major terminal since it is a connector between Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. However, attention was paid to the Gulf Islands routes, as it is also a major hub into the Southern Gulf Islands. Wilson explained that while many Gulf Islanders had similar feedback to other users, staging and loading for the Gulf Islands routes was a big concern among the group.

The company is now entering a planning stage for the improvement to the passenger drop-off and pick-up location, as well as the roads leading to that area of the terminal. Wilson said that work should begin sometime in the next two years.

EDUCATION

Students prepare for Salish Sea summit

Pender school invites reps from each island to ocean plastics event

BY MARC KITTINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Students from all over the Salish Sea area will converge on Pender Island for a Salish Sea Ocean Plastics Summit on May 31 and June 1.

The summit's inspiration came from a trip that a group of students called the Salish Sea Stars made to California in February. The Stars took part in an international youth summit on ocean plastics in Dana Point, Calif., and are using their experiences for the Gulf Islands event.

"We'll start preparing our guest speak-

ers and all of our activities and sending out invitations," said Pender Island science teacher Steve Dunsmuir. "We're hoping every school in the district will send a team of four kids and one advisor."

Rubbing shoulders with other students from around the world while in California gave the students ample opportunities to get new ideas and learn from people with different experiences. Students Lauren Ohnona, Meredith Boyd, Taeven Lopatecki and Quynn Stafford worked with students from Sri Lanka, Tunisia, New Zealand and Kenya, sharing their different projects on the oceans, and are excited to bring what they learned at the summit back to the Gulf Islands.

"But we've got lots of new ideas, especially from the summit, that are

really inspiring for our project," said Lopatecki.

The field trip to California ended up coinciding with February's dump of snow. The trip was originally supposed to be made by train, giving the kids a chance to experience the west coast. However, after the train they were supposed to board in Oregon was buried by snow, they had to find alternative transportation.

"We had to quickly book flights," Dunsmuir said. "The kids had to show resilience and problem solving."

Leading up to the summit in May, the girls will be holding a series of workshops that will help showcase their individual research projects. The projects cover microplastics, compostable plastic, alternative materials and ocean acidification.



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SATURNA

Tsawout logging action delayed

Band council may seek injunction

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A controversial clear-cut logging operation on Saturna Island's Indian Reserve 7 is on hold while Tsawout First Nation members opposed to the project continue a peaceful stand on the property.

"We're trying to make sure everything stops right now," said Perry LaFortune Sr.

As of Monday, around 80 per cent of the 60-hectare parcel know as Block A had been cleared by contractors Chemainus Forest Products, on behalf of Tsawout and Tseycum First Nations. People who are opposed to the project are hoping to save the remaining 20 per cent, while Tsawout Band Council wants to complete the project before a March 31 deadline.

LaFortune is one of the Tsawout members who has been "occupying" the reserve by being on site during the past week. His family is deeply connected to the land as a place to practise traditional cultural activities. A camp that his grandfather established and the family has used for generations is located just south of the new logging road.

"All I want is for our people to be protected," LaFortune said. "They have to make sure it is in the best interests of our people. It's not about money, it's about doing the right thing."

Money is a huge factor for the band council, which is struggling to find the funds for an important community project. Council member Mavis Underwood said after the contractor gets its cut, they expect around \$2.5 million in profit, to be shared between Tseycum



PHOTO COURTESY PERRY LAFORTUNE SR.

Aerial view of clear-cut logging on Tsawout and Tseycum reserve land on Saturna island.

and Tsawout.

In Tsawout the money is earmarked to build a new community longhouse where family and community memorials, namings, blessings and celebrations take place. The longhouse is deemed critical to maintaining community health and well-being. The building will also help generate revenue as it can be rented out when not in use.

"It's a decade-old plan that we've returned to every year. We're trying to figure out a way to balance it out with our need for revenue and trying not to incur another debt," Underwood said.

LaFortune and others have said they do not believe that council followed the proper procedures in making its decision, and many people in the community didn't know what was happening even after logging started. Underwood agreed there could perhaps have been better communication about the history of the land, including past logging there.

"Unfortunately the hunt-

ing part of the community is concerned that territory won't be available. But it has been logged before and the hunting recovered," she said.

Tsawout Council says the project was undertaken not only as an economic development opportunity but to remove built-up ground cover from deadfalls and debris, to help eradicate invasive plant species and to respond to concerns about root rot and beetle infestations.

"It was hoped that with some planned reforestation and replanting that the area could be improved as a hunting place for traditional medicine and food plants."

LaFortune does not see how hunting will improve under the conditions, and he foresees big problems with mitigation plans, including the seeding of medicinal plants. He said those plants won't grow without a protective forest canopy. Clearing will also leave the land more vulnerable to invasive plants like broom and gorse, while reforestation attempts will have to contend with

both deer and the even more destructive feral goats.

Tsawout Council held a well-attended community meeting and dinner on Thursday to discuss the situation, followed by a meeting Friday morning with those opposed to the logging. They still hope to reach a compromise and are asking their community members to leave the site voluntarily. If not, they are willing to apply for an injunction. The permit states work must be done before March 31 to avoid nesting season.

"We just want to get phase-one finished, so we want people off that site," Underwood said. "We're losing money every day. We don't have money to incur any other costs."

Additional concerns are also being raised with respect to other people accessing the site out of curiosity or advocacy. Underwood said the RCMP are assisting with monitoring the area and there are some efforts to educate people that the reserve is private property belonging to Tseycum and Tsawout First Nations.

More tools sought to manage fires on beaches

BEACH FIRES

continued from 1

Since much of the Wildfire Act and Regulation do not apply within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District, its bylaw would be the applicable regulation. As well, the district's letters patent indicate jurisdiction over the foreshore within its boundaries.

Beach fires are prohibited in much of the surrounding region, including the City of Victoria, where there is a \$350 fine for noncompliance, as well as North and South Pender islands. They are allowed by permit in fire protection areas under the Capital Regional District, including the other southern Gulf Islands. Nanaimo Regional District, North Saanich Municipality and Saanich Municipality also permit beach fires within their

bylaws, George reports.

When the Salt Spring Fire Department is called for beach fires, George said it is usually due to public alcohol consumption or noise complaints, which may be addressed by other agencies. Current practice is to extinguish beach fires if summoned by complaint, especially if the fire is deemed unsafe or if the fire creates noxious smoke.

George said that fires built below the high tide mark carry less risk, but those above that level can be an issue. For example, Victoria firefighters were called to Dallas Road on March 16 to a brush fire that was apparently started accidentally by a woman smoking on the beach. Dry conditions soon led to a full flare-up of brush on the steep bank.

George noted that even with the ban and associated fine, Victoria fire-

fighters were called to more than 100 beach fire complaints last year. An amendment to the Salt Spring burning bylaw could expect to face similar challenges.

"It's not going to stop the burning on the beaches, but it might give us more tools to manage it," George said.

Salt Spring Fire Protection District trustees have asked staff to consult with the community to get a better idea of how to proceed. The department will start by reaching out on social media platforms and then may move into more formal consultation, such as a workshop or special meeting, if warranted.

George's report can be located on the saltspringfire.com website along with the March 18 meeting documents, located under the Trustees' section.

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OPINION



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



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EDITORIAL

Onboard opinions

Complaining about ferries goes hand-in-hand with being an islander. We moan about schedules, overloads, the food and the cost.

BC Ferries may normally prefer we keep our thoughts to ourselves, but as the corporation makes plans for its newest group of major-route ships they are actively soliciting public opinions.

A survey accessible at bcferries/about/nexgen asks respondents to give their two cents worth about what they would like to see in five new vessels BC Ferries plans to have built in the next few years. Survey topics range from services for disabled people and cyclists to whether a mobile phone app to pre-order and pre-pay for food would be used. Specific suggestions for healthier menu items are also requested.

THE ISSUE: BC Ferries big ship survey

WE SAY: Speak now while it matters

One significant possible change is allowing pets in some parts of the upper deck passenger areas, so opinions are solicited about that idea as well. And if you'd like to see yoga classes or hair-cutting services offered onboard, now is your chance to express that.

Ferry travellers often complain about the poor or nonexistent WiFi service on BC Ferries vessels. Since the corporation was last fall finally able to incorporate at least some use of debit cards on its fleet, we know it is possible for the company to enter the 21st century when it comes to technological functions. Better WiFi is a must for not only the next generation of vessels but their current ones as well.

Something else the corporation needs to do on the technological front is offer the ability for website users to more easily plan trips that may involve transfers or more than one way to get to a destination. Trying to plan a trip between Salt Spring and Pender Island that may not involve Long Harbour, for example, is presently a brain-bending exercise of cross-referencing various schedules. A website function that lays out options is long overdue. But we digress, as ferry travellers often do.

The next-generation ferries survey will be available online until April 12. It's better to speak up now about what you want to see on future BC Ferries vessels than have to complain later.



PARKER

Developers get new lever

BY FRANTS ATTORP

Affordable housing advocates are failing to consider the unintended consequences of fixating on a single cause. And their narrative is drawing attention away from the big picture.

In his March 13 article, Rhonan Heitzmann sets out "creative" ways to make more water available for new users. While some of his ideas for water conservation have merit, he certainly doesn't encourage prudence when he says we should be "rejoicing at the natural abundance of our annual metre-deep rainfall."

But it is the overall thrust of the article that is so disturbing. Heitzmann focuses almost exclusively on the water issue, arguing that if only we can secure enough water we will be able to have a "healthy community" with "sustainable housing" and a "sustainable population." Water, it seems, is the only limitation to growth.

He is absolutely correct that human innovation and technology can overcome pretty much any water shortage, but if that logic is taken to the extreme, what's to prevent us from building desalination plants and rezoning the entire coast for condominiums?

No, the problem is not just water, but development

VIEWPOINT

itself. The Gulf Islands are supposed to stay rural and in their natural state as much as possible — not just now, but in perpetuity. That's why the Islands Trust was formed and what the "preserve and protect" mandate is all about.

Heitzmann seems to view major development projects as an opportunity to negotiate more affordable housing units. "What if a proposal was put to the developer...?", he asks. It is this type of "let's make a deal" attitude that undermines the integrity of the island.

Unfortunately, our OCP allows the Trust to swap higher densities for "community amenities." It sounds great, but in reality, serves as a honeypot for developers and a constant enticement for the Trust to upzone properties. "Affordable housing" has become a new lever for developers as it lends moral authority to any application.

Next up is the "cottages bylaw" which seeks a blanket rezoning of 405 properties, many of them at the north end where water can be scarce. It is not known how many cottages already exist on the properties, nor how the proposed change, allowing year-round occu-

pancy, will affect aquifers. There is also no evidence the bylaw will influence market dynamics and increase the stock of affordable housing.

If the Trust wants to be effective without boosting densities, they should strictly enforce the ban on short-term rentals, and not hesitate to take recalcitrant owners to court. They might also ask to have the province's empty-home tax reinstated (possibly with an exemption for long-held recreational properties).

There seems to be a misconception that the current housing crunch is a one-off phenomenon we can deal with and then be done. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are surrounded by three large cities, and that means the people pressure will go on and on. If we respond to each new housing crisis by jacking up densities, there will be no end to it.

The housing issue definitely requires attention, but let's not forget Salt Spring is a protected area much like any federal or provincial park. If we follow the same planning model as other outlying communities in the greater Vancouver/Victoria region, this island will disappear in the melting pot. We must do all we can to avoid such an outcome.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is spring break too long?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you have plans to conserve more water this summer?

22 YES 27 NO

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

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"We can't really just throw a lock on the door and shut it down for a few years."

MARK WILSON, BC FERRIES, ON THE SWARTZ BAY TERMINAL

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What would you like to see from BC Ferries in the future?*

ROB CANNON



I would like to see ferries more like the Washington state ferries and less like cruise ships. They don't need to be fancy, just utilitarian.

LLOYD BERNTSEN



More frequent service on the Fulford-Swartz Bay route because it is often overloaded.

BETH HAWKES



I'm generally pretty happy with them, but I wish there was slightly more interesting food on the bigger ferries.

CAPTAIN LYLE



There's only one thing. I like them but I'd like to see WiFi on the Long Harbour ferry.

DOROTHY CHRISTOPHERSON



Some help with getting to the smaller islands. Not a lot of people can afford to go out there.

LETTERS to the editor

Burn policy should be changed

I have become increasingly concerned with all the open burning all over the island. The air quality has become very bad and it is only the first day of spring!

I awoke this morning smelling smoke, with my window only open a small crack. I see smoke haze all around. Friends complain about walking on forest trails only to be assailed by much smoke. My breathing is being compromised, as is the breathing of all other beings on this small island.

I would like the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection board of trustees to consider a change in the burn bylaws to curb such

widespread burning.

Perhaps more berms could be properly used. And if they are considered a fire hazard, then the whole island is a fire hazard come summertime. Much more caution is needed.

We all need clean air, even the plants and trees and all wildlife.

I urge the fire district to please consider changing this open burning policy.

DULCY WILSON,
SALT SPRING

Cottage water issues

Regarding the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's proposed Bylaw 512 to legalize seasonal cottages for year-round residential use on 405 properties, there appears to have been insufficient communication between the Minis-

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

try of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and the Salt Spring LTC on the following questions:

1. Cottage occupancy and water consumption will not be monitored. How is this not akin to "not managed?" And how does this relate to the Islands Trust's water sustainability principles and objectives?

2. Will all landowners dependent on licensed groundwater be given notice in writing, with a notation placed on their title, that "in the event of a well water deficit the landowner is responsible for dealing with the problem?"

3. Given that the landowner is responsible, if a water shortage was subsequently shown to be related to neighbouring wells' demand it invites all sorts of potential litigation in

the future, for successive Islands Trust trustees and particularly for the taxpayer in the event of any compensation being awarded.

For this reason, ongoing monitoring of consumption is imperative to all parties.

I hope the Trust will give these matters their full attention now, not after the bylaw has been approved.

RON HAWKINS,
SALT SPRING

Pick up litter

This is more of a plea than a rant: Can't we all take responsibility for our beer cans, water bottles, coffee cups and trash?

The garbage that was hidden by the snow is now spoiling our landscape.

JAYNE LLOYD-JONES,
SALT SPRING

Sea monkeys not quite as advertised, but close

In last month's instalment of "Nobody Asked Me But ..." I discussed the multitude of minutiae, or trivial details, that have crammed themselves into every nook and cranny of this organ I call my brain. Almost totally useless for maintaining both my health and survival, these mini-tidbits of nonessential information continue to take up valuable real estate in my consciousness.

Take sea monkeys, for instance. As a kid, I would see the ads for them on the back covers of comic books and wondered what it would be like to have sea monkeys as pets. "Amazing Live Sea-Monkeys," the ads would tease. "Just Add Water And Watch Them Come To Life!" Flogged by the Transcience Corporation, these little critters (actually a species of brine shrimp called hybrid artemia) were touted as "the world's first INSTANT PETS" and you, as the sea monkeys' human master, were encouraged to feed 'em, grow 'em, breed 'em and train 'em.

I never did cut out the comic book coupon, or send away for the sea monkey kit (which included the crystallized eggs, special nutritional food and a small plastic "sea-quarium" with magnifying bubbles imbedded in the plastic to allow you to get an up-close look at the little crustaceans). School friends who did send off their coupons with payment all reported the same outcome. After following the explicit directions that came with the kit and waiting expectantly for weeks, nothing happened. Eventually, the entire sea monkey experiment fell prey to its natural predator: mothers who flushed the liquid mess down the toilet.

I never forgot about the sea monkeys. It was one minutia that kept eating away at me. Finally, years later, when I reached that defining moment of total adult immaturity, I sprung for my very own colony of the exotic creatures. Again, as expected, days turned into weeks and zero monkeys (sea or land) made themselves visible. Then, one fine morning, I took my usual scan of the situation and blinked my eyes in amazement. There were dozens of tiny white dots floating about in the salty solution. Not only that, but they seemed to be moving! I squinted my eyes and peered through the magnifying plastic bubbles on the aquarium, but couldn't make out much more than minus-



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

cule white specks without any more detail than that they were definitely moving.

As the next few days passed, more and more of my sea monkeys continued to hatch. I fed them the special nutritional sea monkey food that came with the kit and, sure enough, I could now distinguish certain features, especially among the ones who were the first to hatch. Okay, maybe they didn't look exactly like the cartoon illustration in the comic book ad in which they displayed curly tails, three-pronged crowns on their heads and gleaming white smiles. However, they did appear to have small antennae and multiple wispy appendages which propelled them through their liquid environment.

More time passed by, and as I watched my sea monkeys grow to about five millimetres long, I noticed there were fewer and fewer of them in the aquarium. I'm not sure if it was disease or the "monkey eat monkey" law of the sea jungle that caused the attrition, but there came a day when I realized that there were only two survivors from my original colony of hundreds of sea monkeys.

I'm not sure why, but I chose to name my remaining sea monkeys Boris and Natasha, after the two nefarious cartoon characters, Boris Badenov and Natasha Nogoodnik in the 1960s much-heralded cartoon series, The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show. I can't claim, with my somewhat limited zoological expertise, that I could really determine the sex of a brine shrimp, but to me, one was definitely the male and the other was certainly the female. In my mind, I attributed a rock-solid relationship between the two of them. They were mates for life.

As fate would have it, I woke up one morning to find only one remaining sea monkey. Natasha had been taken to that great aquarium in the sky (don't ask me

how I knew it was Natasha; even sea monkeys have their wives). As an elegy to her, I penned the following poem which is titled "Boris the Sea Monkey."

Boris turns aimless spirals
In his plastic sea-quarium
His 800 white translucent arms
Bend.
Prairie wheat

The rhythm of the wind.
He swims alone now,
The last survivor
From a colony of Sea-Monkeys
(just add water * they come to life)
— so said the comic book ad (inside back cover).

Gone is Natasha
His chosen, beloved, betrothed.
She sleeps now forever
In her bed of green algae.
She is snuff-ed.

No more loop-de-loops
No more lightning sprints to the surface.
Boris has 800 arms
But no one to hug.

Time decelerated after Natasha's departure, and the hands on the clock seemed to stand still as I would watch Boris turn aimless spirals in his solitude. He no longer seemed to care about anything, not even the times when I tapped a few specks of his special food into his little "ocean." As was inevitable, there came the day when Boris too left our earthly sphere. Now I could have believed, since there were a few specks of white particles floating in the algae tinged brine, that he had expired from a broken heart and simply disintegrated into his watery grave. I chose, however, to trust in my faith that Boris had made the spiritual journey to meet up with his beloved Natasha in that Elysian Fields of Sea Monkey World, that great big ocean in the sky.

Nobody asked me, but there are so many more morsels of useless minutiae I could deliver to your fertile minds, but time and space are somewhat limiting the discussion to sea monkeys. I'm certain this topic alone will stir up your very own useless bits of fluff inhabiting your brains. As the ad said, "Just Add Water And Watch Them Come To Life!"

Final CRD budget details released

BY GARY HOLMAN

SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR

The CRD Board approved the 2019 Salt Spring Island CRD budget at a special meeting on March 20.

The CRD budgeting process is comprised of two steps: a provisional budget approved by the CRD Board at the end of the previous calendar year, and a final budget approved in March of the current year, in this case 2019. While the CRD Board has final approval authority for Salt Spring's provisional and final budgets, they are effectively based on recommendations by the CRD director.

Provisional 2019 Budget

The CRD 2019 provisional budget, put forward by former CRD director Wayne McIntyre and virtually all of which I supported, included a requisition of \$6.385 million (including the Capital Region Hospital District or CRHD portion), a one per cent increase over 2018. The most significant change in the provisional budget was a requisition decrease of \$250,000 for the Salt Spring Transportation Commission resulting from the "sunset" of funding approved by voters in 2014 for the North Ganges Transportation Plan.

The large decrease in the SSTC requisition substantially offset other requisition increases, including: approximately \$50,000 for a local engineering technician; \$30,000 for an auxiliary PARC project coordinator; \$30,000 for Salt Spring's share of increased transit costs; \$30,000 for an additional, half-time librarian; \$20,000 for the Community Economic Development Commission as Salt Spring's share of the newly established Gulf Islands Destination Marketing Organization; a \$16,000 grant-in-aid budget increase; and CRD wage and salary increases affecting all CRD services.

Final 2019 Budget

In addition to the above provisional budget changes, based on commitments I made in my election platform, public feedback (including that from my public budget presentation on Jan.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

22), and recent events such as winter storms and vandalism in Ganges, I recommended some other requisition additions which have now been approved by the CRD Board, including: a \$15,000 additional grant-in-aid increase; \$10,000 to re-establish funding to examine the feasibility of possible new CRD services (collapsed by electoral area directors in 2018); \$4,000 for Search and Rescue; \$7,000 for Salt Spring's Emergency Program; and \$6,000 for CRD bylaw enforcement in our local parks.

In total, I recommended an additional requisition increase of about \$43,000 over the provisional budget. In addition, there have been some requisition changes at the CRD Board level, which I also support, for example for climate action, affordable housing and First Nations reconciliation.

These changes result in a final 2019 requisition on Salt Spring of \$6.446 million (again including the CRHD), an increase of 1.8 per cent over 2018. This means a total requisition cost per "average" parcel or household on Salt Spring of \$971 in 2019, or about \$81 per month. This compares to a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of over 2 per cent and an average Salt Spring property assessment increase of 10 per cent (roughly the same as for the CRD as a whole).

Non-Tax Requisition Costs and Revenues

The above summary includes only the annual property tax costs of CRD services at the regional, sub-regional and Salt Spring levels. It does not include tax requisitions for area-specific services on Salt Spring, such as water and sewage treatment utilities, which totalled approximately \$357,000 in 2019.

Nor does it include user fees to help recover the costs for area-specific services at the swimming pool, for liquid

waste disposal and for Saturday market vendors.

The above summary also does not include over \$200,000 in annual transfers from the CRD's Solid Waste Division to support residential recycling on Salt Spring.

Also not included are gas tax transfers from the federal government (earmarked primarily for infrastructure spending) of roughly \$600,000 per year. It appears that the federal 2019/20 budget substantially increases gas tax transfers for this fiscal year, the details of which are to be confirmed.

Current and Future Debt Servicing Costs

Part of the annual CRD tax requisition covers the carrying costs on debt for island-wide services such as the swimming pool, library and our Burgoyne Bay liquid waste disposal facility, which together amount to about \$580,000 per year.

Salt Spring also contributes to the carrying costs of construction cost debt for regional or sub-regional services in which we participate, the most significant of which is about \$930,000 annually for our share of the Capital Region Hospital District's borrowing costs.

Over time, debt will be retired, but new investments will also be needed. For example, on Salt Spring, \$2.9 million in debt for the Rainbow Road swimming pool will be repaid by 2021, resulting in carrying cost savings of \$190,000 per year. However, part of these savings must be diverted to reserves for capital repairs and eventual replacement of this facility.

There are also other important investments in public infrastructure, funded by new borrowing (that must be approved by voters) and also by gas tax transfers. I will provide more details on Salt Spring's debt and capital spending in future reports.

A detailed summary of 2019 CRD tax requisitions can be found by searching for "financial plans" on the CRD website (www.crd.bc.ca) or people can contact me with any questions at directorssi@crd.bc.ca.

Rants 
+ ROSES

Send your
submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

Roses

Baskets of hand-painted roses to the Lions, Ron Cooke, Ron Hawkins and the United Church for your contributions to the food budget for the Art Jam Program. We are so grateful for your generosity, which will help stave off the hunger pains on Sunday afternoons, allowing creativity to blossom for another year!

Roses of fragrance and beauty to Dr. Prendiville, the LMH Emergency staff and the medics who drive our ambulances.

Thank you for not only doing your jobs but the gentleness and caring way you do them. Victoria Woodman and family.

To the lovely people who planted pretty clumps of daffodils along the new trail beside Atkins Road. A cheery note to walkers along an otherwise long, straight path. Jayne Lloyd-Jones

Dear Ellie: Thank you for my new hat, and for choosing me to be your "Do One Good Thing Every Day" recipient on Monday, March 18. Happy spring! CG

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Financial Advice

Beware social media security risks

You know the old adage you don't know who your friends are? Well that's especially true on social media. Criminals troll social profiles to glean information to access secure financial accounts. In honour of Fraud Prevention Month, here are five tips I recommend to protect yourself.

Ensure your social media accounts don't reveal your passwords or the answers to your "Forgot your password?" questions. Could someone find out your dog's name or the city you were born in from the content of your social media activity?

Speaking of strong passwords, a phrase is often harder to detect—and easier to remember. Use a phrase featuring some numbers, spaces and special characters, like My d@g is 5!, which would be very secure.

Adjust your privacy settings to the highest possible security options and limit access to defined groups such as family or co-workers.

Keep current with system and app updates on your computer and mobile devices. Turn on automatic updates to prevent potential attacks on older software.

Set up mobile alerts on all your financial accounts and social profiles. These features will give you the chance to shut down any suspect activity before it's too late.

While nothing is foolproof, following these five tips can drastically reduce your likelihood of getting attacked.



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Mechanic

If you could save yourself money on gas by spending fifteen minutes every couple of days would you do it?

The answer for most people is yes.

If you could save even more by doing regular vehicle maintenance would you?

The answer should still be yes.

Things as simple as keeping tires properly inflated, engine oil and coolant levels maintained make a significant difference to fuel economy. Checking these things yourself takes only minutes.

Having your car maintained by professionals at regular intervals laid out in your owners manual will also help to get the most out of your fuel dollar.

During regular service your technicians trained eye will pick out developing problems, giving you a chance to do preventative maintenance.

Drive Safe, Gyle



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How Should I Prepare My House For Listing? Part 2

You have one chance to make a first impression with drive-by appeal. Buyers begin to evaluate a home before they are in the door. Consider painting the front door, placing spring flowers in pots, or setting out bedding plants near the entry. Is the yard and drive tidy? Is the home address clearly visible?

Create ambience! Treat yourself to presentation accessories. A new tablecloth, bedspread, or speciality lighting can add pizzazz. Enliven your living space with bowls of fresh fruit, plants, freshly cut flowers. Buy or borrow artwork from friends. Rejuvenate your current living space and enjoy the new items in your next home. You are presenting an image, a lifestyle.

Staging your home can make a huge difference as to how quickly your home sells and increase its perceived value!

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C.) - GOLD AWARD 2018 (VREB)

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LIVE THEATRE

Community troupe presents classic comedy

Arsenic and Old Lace
opens April 5

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Community Theatre offers a classic and hilariously dark comedy for its spring show this year, presenting *Arsenic and Old Lace* over two weekends at Mahon Hall.

Opening on Friday, April 5, the Joseph Kesselring script is directed by Suzanne Rouger and stars Ann Stewart, Mary Lowery and Daniel Squizzato, with Metta Rose and Scott Merrick in supporting roles.

Many will be familiar with the hit movie adaptation featuring Cary Grant. For those who need some refreshing, the action centres around New York drama critic and author Mortimer Brewster, who suddenly decides to get married and arrives in Brooklyn to inform his two aged aunts. While there he discovers their well-intentioned "charity" scheme of murdering lonely old men to give them peace, and has to contend with his two equally insane brothers — one a deluded soul charged with burying the victims in the basement, and the other a psychopath who travels with his own plastic surgeon so he can regularly change his identity using other men's faces.

Rouger said she chose the play partly because she wanted to work with the older demographic that makes up such a big part of the



PHOTO BY SCOTT MERRICK

Mary Lowery, left, and Ann Stewart rehearse for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, opening Friday, April 5 at Mahon Hall.

island community.

"And I love the classics. Some of the 1930s, '40s and '50s plays are so clever with their comedy. They were written before you were allowed to go for the cheap laughs, like fart jokes," Rouger said.

The large cast of characters includes Mortimer's fiancée Elaine — who is "smart for a reverend's daughter" but in fact a lot sharper than it may appear — as well as her father, police officers of various abilities, a mental institution administrator, and a would-be tenant.

This large cast may pose logistical challenges for the production, but it also helps fulfill the community theatre mandate by offering a wide variety of roles with

different expectations and stage time. There's room for theatre veterans and avid enthusiasts as well as those who are perhaps dipping their toes into those waters for the first time.

Rouger said she saw many brilliant women in the auditions for the aunts, Abby and Martha Brewster. Stewart and Lowery were special standouts, though, both for their sharp comedic impulses and for the way they play off each other.

"It came down to chemistry between the two sisters. They just had the chemistry from the beginning," Rouger said.

Squizzato only ventured into community theatre a few years ago but quickly became an accom-

plished and committed actor, appearing in serious and silly roles with equal success. He was a natural fit for Mortimer.

"He has this delightful knack for physical comedy and facial expressions, which he really needs for this play," Rouger said. "The way he holds himself, he's quite gifted at those things."

Rouger has also been impressed by Rose, who appears as Elaine. She's smart, charming and one to watch, the director said.

Community theatre stalwart Scott Merrick gets to pull out his comedy arsenal — including a German accent — for the role of corrupted plastic surgeon Dr. Einstein. To give an idea of the possibilities, Peter Lorre played the part in the film version.

Arsenic and Old Lace is set in 1941, but stage instructions note the house has not changed since the Brewsters' Edwardian grandfather established it. To help get things just right, retired film set designer Jim Erickson is mentoring community theatre set designer Suzanna Devitt. Erickson is also contributing items from his personal collection such as wallpaper and window dressing from the actual time period.

"That should be something interesting, to see what they come up with," said Rouger, adding the group is most thankful to get the expert advice. "How often do you get to work with an Academy Award winner?"

CELEBRATE

The Arts!

Participatory Arts +
Performance

Saturday, April 20

10:00am - 4:00pm

Participatory Art Exhibition

+ Children's Corner

5:00 - 6:00pm

Mash-up Performance

Free

All levels and ages welcome.



ArtSpring 100 Jackson Ave
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Out + ABOUT



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

Salt Spring Gallery revisits faves

This Friday, March 29, Salt Spring Gallery will open another exciting art show with a twist. Titled *Resurgence*, the pop-up show and sale features favourite artwork from the past by the present 10 gallery members.

"With the usual push in the art world to be always showing new work, some art gets put into storage before many people have had a chance to see it," a press release from the cooperative gallery explains. "For artists this results in an overabundance of art filling the corners of their studio work space. Hidden in those stacks of paintings are treasures to be found."

An opening reception for the show runs from 5 to 7 p.m. this Friday. The exhibition continues to April 10.

Ethereal band tells story

Music lovers will have a special opportunity to hear the stories behind the songs when Victoria band Fox Glove plays Mahon Hall on March 30 as part of their album release tour.

Fox Glove annually headlines Alix Goolden Hall in Victoria, selling out the 800-seat theatre with their self-produced *Love In* — an immersive assembly of music, art, community and collaboration. They are known for their diverse voices and range in sound, and offer everything from sensuous melancholic ballads to spellbindingly strident anthems.

On Salt Spring they will be joined by local talents Billie Woods and Phoenix Lazare, who will each play a few songs "in the

round" where they discuss the stories behind the songs. Fox Glove will then play through their first full-length album, *Jessie*, and tell its story.

Doors are at 7 p.m., and the show is at 7:30.

Woodwinds on Wednesday

On Wednesday, April 3, Music Makers welcome The Faire Wyndes Quintet, the only performing woodwind quintet in the Gulf Islands, to the Tea à Tempo stage at All Saints By-the-Sea.

The quintet is comprised of professional and high-level amateur musicians from Salt Spring and Gabriola islands: Kerry Graham (bassoon), Phil Haig (clarinet), Christine McKim (flute), Janet Summers (French horn) and Deborah Vitek (oboe).

The concert begins at 2:10 p.m.

New Orford String Quartet

That same evening at ArtSpring, islanders will have the opportunity to hear the Juno Award-winning New Orford String Quartet. The group is at the forefront of chamber music and features four musicians with equally stellar pedigrees: Jonathan Crow, Andrew Wan, Brian Manker and Eric Nowlin.

Press material explains their goal was to develop a new model for a touring string quartet, bringing four elite orchestral leaders together on a regular basis over many years to perform chamber music at the highest level. It has resulted in a quartet that "maintains a remarkably fresh perspective while bringing a palpable sense of joy to each performance."

The April 3 show starts at 7:30 p.m.

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SWING INTO SPRING: FUNDRAISING DANCE



SWING SHIFT BIG BAND, a 17-member big band led by music director, Derrick Milton, plays music for dancing from 7-10pm.

DON'T MISS IT!

Salt Spring Island
Public Library



Saturday, April 13 • Doors open 6:30PM
\$25 ticket, includes one drink ticket • 19+



ISLAND LIFE

- Remember When
- Star of the Week
- What is This?

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



HISTORY

Hard work rewarding on the farm and beyond

Second of two-part Laurie Hedger history: the working life

BY ROGER BRUNT
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Laurie Hedger's dad Alan Hedger was a logger from the horse-logging days and a heavy equipment operator. Once Laurie left school, he and his father worked together. They developed Bluewater Park on Bowen Island, a major subdivision. Laurie had bought an R-4 track machine. It ran on distillate, a low-grade diesel. He had to crank the whole engine to start it. It would take your head off if you weren't careful.

Once back on Salt Spring, Laurie logged about 2,000 acres for the Mouats who he says were always quick to help anyone they could. By the late 1960s, he had a good business reputation and a contract to put 25,000 feet of subdivision road on Galiano and Salt Spring with a TD-24, a 90,000-pound machine. Then came the 10-acre freeze, a law passed in the late 1960s that meant lots could be subdivided on average no smaller than 10 acres. Suddenly, Laurie was down to 5,000 feet of road and without the landowner's backing to complete it. Laurie didn't blame the government, even though the freeze devastated the construction economy. The way he saw it, development was out of control. There was little consideration for proper drainage and sewage management, so it needed to change. Foreclosure for Laurie was inevitable.

"I was faced with the bank foreclosing on my property, which was down the road from Dad's near Fernwood. I didn't blame them, the bank had hung with me for months. On the Friday before foreclosure, I backed my low-bed under the house and moved it to Dad's farm. The logging truck I used is in the Duncan museum. It was a 1956 GMC 620 with a 427 in-line overhead valve straight 6. That truck would pull anything."

The bank manager phoned Monday morning. Laurie told him the house was gone. "My God, Laurie," he said. "Is everyone OK?" Laurie mumbled something and then the manager caught on. "Laurie, you son-of-a-bitch. What did you do?" Laurie told him not to worry, the land would sell for the \$5,000 he owed, and it did.

The slow-down sent Laurie off-island to look for

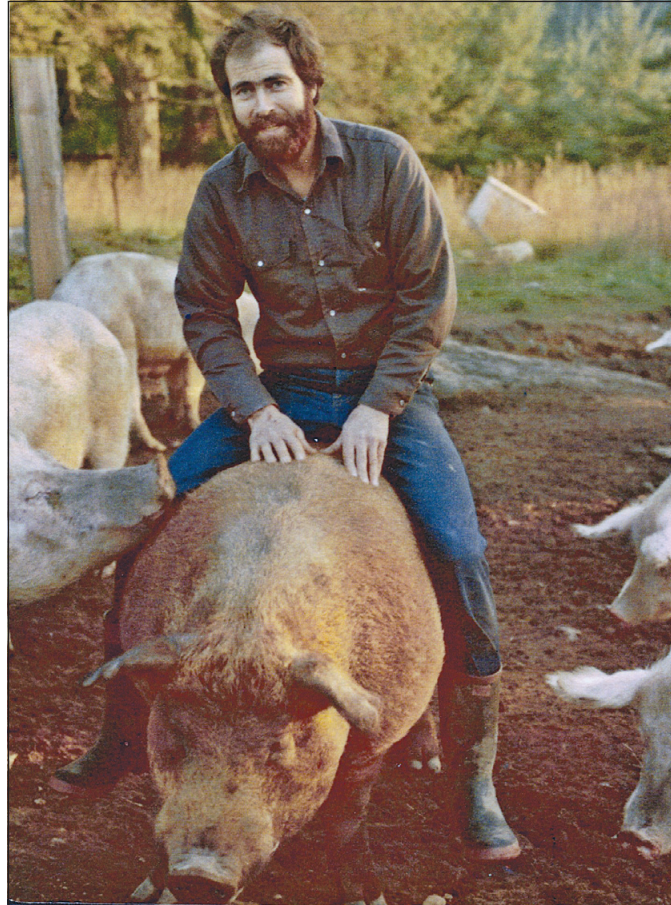


PHOTO COURTESY LAURIE HEDGER

Laurie Hedger sits on Rusty the boar during Laurie's pig-farming days in the 1970s.

work. Al Trace, Bob Undwin and George Leoch had a logging and road-building show near Lake Cowichan. Laurie said he was looking for work, and the boss, who was operating a big cat, came down to see what was going on.

"He says he is a cat skinner," the men said. They were snickering and started to laugh. Almost nobody under 50 drove the big machines like a TD-24 — many of the men had gained experience with heavy equipment in the war. The boss said, "Put the kid on it. Let's see what he can do."

Laurie had never operated a machine that big so he said, "Let me sit beside you and watch you operate for 10 or 15 minutes." The ground fell away down the mountainside, 1,200 feet, a steep, steep slope. He sat beside the operator and watched for a quarter of an hour, then took over, and ran the machine for several hours.

"OK," the boss said, "Start tomorrow."

"I can't. I have a job. I have to give a week's notice," Laurie replied. "I have obligations. If I'd do that to my present boss, I'd do that to you."

"You've got a point," the boss said. "Start next week."

Laurie was working to get back home to Salt Spring. His last big job was clearing and cutting to grade a 13-acre industrial site at Sarita River on Vancouver Island. Then they moved on to the next job of clearing 25 miles of old railway grade near Duncan. Laurie's dad was his swamper, maintenance man and cook until he mentioned to Laurie that he was keeping up a two-acre market garden at home as well. With produce from Laurie's father's farm of 17 acres, his mother and father helped start the Saturday farmers market in around 1968. Alan sold vegetables and fruit, and Laurie's mom Agnes sold fish.

Back on Salt Spring, Laurie decided to go farming. His family was surprised, but he had done the math and created a cost/revenue projection and had the funding to build a farrowing barn. The barn had 18 pens for sows, nine on each side. Laurie's affinity with animals meant he always got top-dollar for his hogs.

"We'd deliver 60-pound feeder pigs, and we always got top price. I'd let the sows root in the bush, and they would line up at the fence and come running when I called them. I left the piglets for an extra week on the sow. I'd take 26 pigs at a time to Vancouver. They would climb into the pick-up truck bed on lots of straw the night before shipping and fall asleep, no stress. Rusty the boar (a Durock purebred) was the main breeder at first. I never had any trouble with him and in all that time I only had



PHOTO COURTESY LAURIE HEDGER

Laurie, top, and his father Alan Hedger working to clear an old railway grade near Duncan.

one sow that was aggressive and I had to let her go. A 300-pound pig can tear a man's arm off, and a sow once took my arm in her mouth. I said, 'Come on now, you don't want to do that,' and she let me go. Dad said I had to be much more strict with them, but I never was."

As the business grew, Laurie had 75 sows and two very happy boars. The average litters were larger than most, and came twice a year. In the end, shipping subsidies killed the operation. The government had begun subsidizing farmers in other parts of the country and Laurie just couldn't compete with their lower prices and high grain costs. It was back to heavy equipment work.

In 1991, the Blackburn landfill was closed by the provincial environment ministry. Laurie began to get calls through his bulldozing business to dig private garbage pits. Many people on the island had no garbage service. The CRD stated if there was not an adequate disposal solution immediately provided they would send garbage trucks from Victoria. Laurie and his wife Nancy were soon in the recycling and garbage business, but it was never an easy go. The garbage business is politically charged, subject to seemingly ever-changing regulations. The Capital Regional District took years to form and implement the waste transfer station bylaw, during which time his business, with community support, grew to what it is today, with garbage drop-off located on the corner next to Country Grocer.

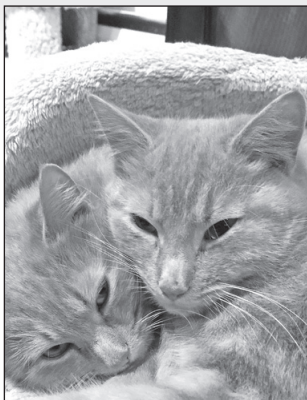
The business was to be treated the same as the Blackburn Road site, which had been granted legal non-conforming (or "grandfathered") land use from the Islands Trust in 1999. In September 2001, within days of the CRD transfer station bylaw being completed, Laurie's operation was served by the Islands Trust with a court claim to cease operations. Laurie counter-claimed and after a further three-and-a-half years of struggle and turmoil, the Islands Trust dropped their claim and recognized the seven legal non-conforming land uses, including transfer station, established on Laurie's property on Lee Road.

"I didn't get into it for the money," Laurie told me. "I did it to give something back to the community. Rather than being recognized, it feels like we have been dragged in the mud for years by the politics of it all." The struggle is still not over. The Islands Trust is now re-classifying and amending zoning of island land uses. Laurie has asked for community support to continue what he has been doing since 1986, and others have been doing since the 1960s, at Lee Road. He says, "We deserve full rights for these uses and not to have it called legal non-conforming."

"I have done the best I could as I made my way through life," Laurie concludes. "I feel rich without being rich in cash. Everybody has backed me through good times and bad. I've had tremendous support from all my friends and family. I'm beholden to them all."

The first part of this story appeared in last week's Driftwood.

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BOOKS

Former Hells Angel shares memoir

Joe Calendino
redeemed through
youth initiative

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An author set to visit Salt Spring says his life path as a younger man led him to wanting to be a full-patch member of the Hells Angels.

"I was able to achieve that goal," said Joe Calendino in an interview with the Driftwood last week, "but like all storylines in the gangster world there's a rise and then a fall."

The author of *To Hell and Back* and founder of the Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative, Calendino has come a long way since his days as a member of one of the world's most notorious biker gangs. After being kicked out of the Angels and spiralling into drug addiction on Vancouver's Downtown East Side, he turned his life around and started making a difference.

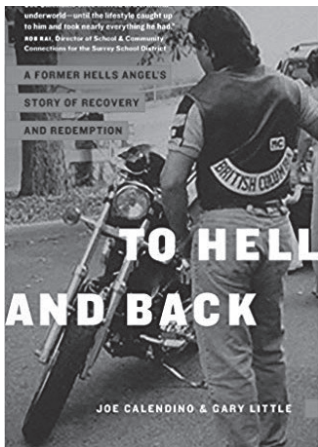
Now Calendino is an outspoken advocate for keeping kids away from drugs and gangs. He will speak on Tuesday, April 2 at 7 p.m. at the Salt Spring Public Library, and will give a talk to kids at Salt Spring Island Middle School the next day as part of a book tour for his biography.

Calendino's work in reaching out to kids is based on his experience getting involved in drugs from an early age. Starting in Grade 8 with marijuana, Calendino wound up using anything that was available by the time he was in Grade 12.

"As we all know, the amount of drugs that our youth have access to today is a completely different game," he said. "Kids are dying due to fentanyl, carfentanyl, acryfentanyl. We're now seeing a wave of crystal meth make its way throughout Canada. It's scary."

By the time he was in his 20s, Calendino became "fully addicted to cocaine." However, he straightened up and ran a chain of electronics stores in Vancouver after getting a business degree. Calendino's experiences with drugs were not over, though, and after a person from his past came back into his life he fell into a cycle of using and abusing narcotics that eventually led him to the Angels.

"I missed the lifestyle, the rush, the feel, the sense of belonging, the purpose that you believe you get in that lifestyle," he said. "Over a period of time I got more invested in the drugs and my behaviour was erratic. The club told me to clean myself up, but I didn't listen."



After being kicked out of the Hells Angels, Calendino spiralled further. One of his classmates from high school, Kevin Torvik, had become a policeman with the outlaw motorcycle gang unit. Torvik offered to help Calendino with his addiction struggle. Eventually, after ending up in prison for selling a small amount of crack cocaine, Calendino took Torvik up on his offer.

"Torvik made multiple attempts to put his hand out and I guess I was on rock bottom and I looked up at him and I said 'I never want to see a kid go through this,'" Calendino said. "The real sad reality of addiction is that you're on a different planet. All you think about is the drug. You're wired to it. It's like water, food,

your lover, it becomes your family . . . that's the way that the drug takes a grip on you."

After Calendino brought himself up again and became sober, he started to work with kids trying to keep them away from drugs and out of gangs. He started an initiative called Yo Bro Yo Girl to work with adolescents by doing presentations in schools. The initiative started with 20 kids, and currently helps over 1,000 at-risk youth realize their potential.

"We deal with municipal government, police departments, school districts. We have various different programs to keep kids engaged and connected to their schools and out of the hands of law enforcement. Our number-one underpinning is to keep kids away from drugs and gangs."

Part of Calendino's work is to help teach parents, teachers and law enforcement personnel about the realities of addiction.

"I think we all need to get invested in a game plan with continuous dialogue with our youth," he said. "People have to make their kids aware of the outcomes. If you hit any gangster movie, they're either getting killed, incarcerated or falling to addiction. How many times have you seen this story?"

COMMUNITY

Slater and Wilkie lead sacred chants evening

At St. Mary's Church

As part of its ongoing first Tuesday-of-the-month chant series, Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice will host Barbara Slater and Kevin Wilkie on Tuesday, April 2.

Slater and Wilkie will present an inclusive, relaxed and reverent environment

for all voices to come together, singing chants and rounds from many traditions.

The by-donation session runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Slater and Wilkie lead Ubuntu Sacred Song Circles, a group of people dedicated to singing for the benefit of all beings.

"Singing is a way of being together and expressing emotion without being


bound by the story of what we are feeling," notes Star of the Sea press material. "Singing in circle provides a container for the feelings that arise. The sound that is generated by the group is the healing medicine that we require."

The evening's event will take place at St. Mary's Church in Fulford, which is the home of Star of the Sea Centre.

SALT SPRING

Star
of the **WEEK**

Barry Green



Barry Green has been a volunteer driver for Salt Spring's Meals on Wheels program for the past two and a half years.

He says it's a fun thing to do and he really enjoys seeing and talking with the people receiving the meals and his fellow volunteers.

"Doing something for the community is what it's all about," he says.

Along with his wife Linda, Barry is also active with the Spirit Point Dragons dragonboat club. Some people may also know Barry from when he owned the Harbours End Marine business.

What is this? Where is it?



Can you identify what and where this is on Salt Spring? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or send a note to us on Facebook. The first person to submit the right answer gets their name published in this space.



LAST WEEK: Ling Weston correctly identified this as the gate to the Ganges Community Cemetery at Central.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastrlogy.com | sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com

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

Mercury turns Direct again after 3-weeks of retrograde motion in Pisces. Yet, it remains in very close conjunction with Neptune as it has since Spring Equinox, a status that continues until a couple of days after the New Moon in Aries on April 5. And, it will remain in Pisces until April 17. So, we are not out of it yet. However, in the interim from about April 8 until the 17th, Venus creates a lovely bridge between Neptune and Mercury all huddled closely together in Pisces. While Mercury which is symbolic of perceptions, interpretation, and communication tends to be foggy and sleepy in Pisces, albeit poetic, meditative and imaginative, at best, Neptune is in honor and Venus is exalted in the mystical sign of the fishes. Venus was already in Pisces as of March 26 and by the time of the Aries New Moon was already conjunct Neptune, if widely. This brings an added and welcome blessing to this first New Moon of Spring serving to offset some of the lingering fog present at Spring Equinox.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Bit by bit the pendulum has been moving closer to direct your focus on what constitutes home. This swing of focus began in late 2018. This can also include family and, more generally, themes of security. The New Moon in Aries will activate the next phase. While the answers will not likely come through loud and clear right away, you will begin to push to get them, soon.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Although much of your focus and effort will likely occur behind the scenes your energy and enthusiasm levels are rising quickly, now. Still, a lot of your focus will be directed towards outlining your dreams and clarifying your ideals. This process will likely continue well into May. Then you will be ready to take more deliberate, outer action.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

The deep changes you have been undergoing, both within and in your close network are not over, yet. Understanding these might prove helpful. Chalking it up to outer circumstance is one option, but it is not that simple. This Pisces storm will end soon and the dense clouds are beginning to break up but will linger through April.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Opportunities to tune in to subtle feelings, subconscious layers or even other dimensions, are available now. However, you may simply feel lost, confused and perhaps depressed. Yet, you are probably already feeling the shifting energy of the new season. Whether this manifests as rebellious energy or revolutionary is within your scope of choice.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Learning to be fully present is a spiritual process. It includes understanding the mind. It is human to dwell on the past and dream about the future. It is also common to dwell on regrets and resentments from past experiences. These can be understood as the lessons of life. As ironic as it sounds, we can be grateful for them too. Forgiveness and gratitude are two keys to be here and now.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

The Sun in Aries represents a time of purification for you. It includes cleansing and purging. This can certainly include literal, material stuff as with spring cleaning. Yet, it can also include mental, emotional and spiritual refuse too. Attitude, attachments, and beliefs are examples. The goal is to feel lighter, clearer and more focused. A plan of action helps.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Okay, so you have been undergoing a lot of shifts these past several months. In many respects, these have likely manifested as an empowerment process. The health focus continues, but there are other themes at play too. One of these is a process of laying claim to hidden reserves of power. Doing so requires clarity and courage to face your fears.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Uranus entered Taurus, your polar opposite sign, in mid-May 2018. Since then it has been producing changes on relationship fronts. These could have manifested as foreshadows or actual initiatives. Now Uranus has re-entered Taurus as of early March. These are bringing about a deepening of the themes and momentums activated last year.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The Sun in Aries reveals a creative and empowering cycle for you. Jupiter in your sign is a boost of inspirational energy to support your cause. Saturn in Capricorn, however, requires you to 'pay your dues'. While these depend on your circumstances, upon reflection, you should notice that you are paying, somehow. Synchronicity works this way.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You are a warrior at your core and the Sun in Aries is here to remind you. How you exercise your strengths and powers is ever important. Abuse of power will always accrue negative karma that often gets stored for another time. Fighting the good fight may sound like a cliché, but there is indeed truth in it. It begins with slaying ego dragons, starting with your own.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Everyone is experiencing the deep changes that Uranus in Taurus and Chiron in Aries are activating due to their recent re-entry into these signs. How these shifts manifest is always personal and relative. For you, they are destined to bring about changes in your perceptions and self-concepts and to shake you at core levels. These could prove very positive, but cooperation is required.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The time has come to address your values and priorities. These are linked to your self-concepts and to financial beliefs and approaches. While your actual outer circumstances are a major contributing factor, it remains that you must assess what you need and want and what is possible. Destiny is like a deep keel in the water, but free will is like the rudder and is yours to maneuver.

what's on this week






<div>Wed. Mar. 27</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div><p>Creative Districts in Chinese Cities. Prof. Andrew Martin is guest speaker at SSI Seniors Centre. 2 p.m.</p><p>Thirsty for Justice, Hungry for Peace. Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice presents a workshop exploring the archetypes of labyrinth, pilgrimage, justice and peace led by Rev. Gyllian Davies. St. Mary's church in Fulford. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info/register: staroftheseassi@gmail.com</p><p>Salt Spring Garden Club – Moe Wendt. Salt Spring gardener Moe Wendt gives a presentation titled Permaculture: Principles & Practice. Meaden Hall. 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)</p><p>Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.</p></div>	<div>Thu. Mar. 28</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div><p>Fish and Invertebrates of Ancient First Nations Clam Gardens. Morgan Black, a PhD candidate and Hakai Scholar at the University of Victoria, gives a presentation on her field of study: the ecology and biodiversity of ancient First Nations' clam gardens. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m. Co-sponsored by SS Trail & Nature Club.</p></div> <div><div>Wed. Apr. 3</div><div>ACTIVITIES</div><div><p>Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance AGM. Annual general meeting at the Farmers' Institute, upstairs meeting room. 4 p.m.</p><p>New Moon Yang Yin Practice & Tea Ceremony. With yoga teacher Sarah Jane Smith and tea chajin Kari Mathieson at The Nest hot yoga. 6:30 p.m. Preregistration is required at www.thenesthotyoga.com.</p><p>Music Bingo See last Wednesday's listing.</p></div></div>	<div>Fri. Mar. 29</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div><p>Art Show Opening: Resurgence. Salt Spring Gallery presents a pop-up show called Resurgence, featuring favourite artwork from the past by the present 10 gallery members. 5 to 7 p.m.</p><p>Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.</p></div> <div><div>Sat. Mar. 30</div><div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div><div><p>Fox Glove With Phoenix Lazare & Billie Woods In The Round. Victoria-based Fox Glove plays at Mahon Hall as part of their album release tour. They will be joined by local talents Billie Woods and Phoenix Lazare, who will each play a few songs "in the round" where they discuss the stories behind the songs. Fox Glove will play songs on their new album called Jessie and tell its story. 7:30 p.m.</p><p>Interchill Records: Mat the Alien. DJ music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.</p></div></div>	<div>Sat. Mar. 30</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div><p>Fabulous Flea Market. Twice-a-year event at Fulford Community Hall. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Delicious homemade food also available from Cafe 653.</p><p>Book Launch: Al Rempel & Kerry Gilbert. Double poetry book launch of Little Red by Kerry Gilbert and Undiscovered Country by Al Rempel. SS Public Library Program Room. 1 p.m.</p><p>The Garry Oak Talk & Walk. A SSI Conservancy event at the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve from 1 to 2:30 p.m., followed by a walk at the Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve from 3 to 4 p.m.</p><p>6th Annual Cemetery Walk. Led by Dave Phillips at Central Cemetery behind the Fritz Movie Theatre. Learn some of the little known history of islanders as Dave tells stories in his inimitable style about community members who are buried in the cemetery. Meet at 1 p.m.</p><p>Death Cafe. Join JayaLynda Cole and other Salt Spring Hospice facilitators for open, honest and genuine dialogue about death while enjoying tea, coffee and goodies. ArtSpring. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.</p></div> <div><div>Sun. Mar. 31</div><div>ACTIVITIES</div><div><p>Central Community Hall Society AGM. Annual general meeting at Central Community Hall. 1 p.m.</p></div></div>	<div>Sun. Mar. 31</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div><p>Community Quilting Bee. Annual Island Comfort Quilts quilting bee at the Farmers' Institute. No particular sewing skills required as there are jobs for everyone to do! Runs all day. Quilts and carry bags are made for distribution to islanders who are suffering from a life-threatening injury or disease. Info/register: mlee3@shaw.ca</p></div>	<div>Tue. Apr. 2</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div><p>Book Reading: Joe Calendino. Joe Calendino presents To Hell and Back: A Former Hells Angel's Story of Recovery and Redemption at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m.</p><p>Trivia Tuesday. Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.</p></div>	<div>Wed. Apr. 3</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div><p>Tea a Tempo: The Faire Wyndes Quintet. The Faire Wyndes Quintet is comprised of professional and high-level amateur musicians from Salt Spring and Gabriola islands: Kerry Graham (bassoon), Phil Haig (clarinet), Christine McKim (flute), Janet Summers (French horn) and Deborah Vitek (oboe). Concert is at All Saints By-the-Sea at 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea and treats.</p></div>	<div>Tue. Apr. 2</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div><p>ArtSpring VIP Trip Raffle Ticket Sales. ArtSpring volunteers will be at Country Grocer selling tickets to the Vancouver arts VIP Weekend trip raffle. 12 to 5 p.m. artspring.ca/2019-vip-weekend-in-vancouver/</p><p>Sacred Chanting. Barb Slater and Kevin Wilkie present an inclusive, relaxed and reverent environment for all voices to come together, singing chants and rounds from many traditions. Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sacred Chanting runs on the first Tuesday of every month.</p></div>	<div>Thu. Mar. 28</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div><p>Skylight. Chris Humphreys and Deanna Milligan present a Tony-winning play by British dramatist David Hare. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</p><p>Open Mic Night at the Legion. Thursdays at the Legion. 7 p.m.</p><p>Open Mic at Moby's. Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.</p></div> <div><div>Fri. Mar. 29</div><div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div><div><p>Skylight. See Thursday's listing, except two shows at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.</p><p>Mateada Friday Night Shakedown with Groove Lion. West coast musician, DJ and producer Blair Francis (aka Groove Lion) at Mateada Nitro Lounge. 7 to 10 p.m.</p><p>Salt Spring Underground. Rock band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.</p></div></div>	<div>Mon. Apr. 1</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div><p>Salt Spring Island Toastmasters. Guests welcome to Monday night meetings at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m. (Please plan to arrive at 6:50 p.m. to get oriented and find a spot at the table.)</p></div>	<div>Tue. Apr. 2</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div><p>ArtSpring VIP Trip Raffle Ticket Sales. ArtSpring volunteers will be at Country Grocer selling tickets to the Vancouver arts VIP Weekend trip raffle. 12 to 5 p.m. artspring.ca/2019-vip-weekend-in-vancouver/</p><p>Sacred Chanting. Barb Slater and Kevin Wilkie present an inclusive, relaxed and reverent environment for all voices to come together, singing chants and rounds from many traditions. Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sacred Chanting runs on the first Tuesday of every month.</p></div>	<div>Wed. Apr. 3</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div><p>New Orford String Quartet. Juno-winning group of Andrew Wan (violin), Jonathan Crow (violin), Eric Nowlin (viola) and Brian Manker (cello) performs at ArtSpring in an ArtSpring Presents series concert. 7:30 p.m. Bar opens in the lobby at 6:30 p.m.</p></div> <div><div>Wed. Apr. 3</div><div>ACTIVITIES</div><div><p>Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance AGM. Annual general meeting at the Farmers' Institute, upstairs meeting room. 4 p.m.</p><p>New Moon Yang Yin Practice & Tea Ceremony. With yoga teacher Sarah Jane Smith and tea chajin Kari Mathieson at The Nest hot yoga. 6:30 p.m. Preregistration is required at www.thenesthotyoga.com.</p><p>Music Bingo See last Wednesday's listing.</p></div></div>
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PHOTO BY ALAIN LEFORT
New Orford String Quartet members, from left, Jonathan Crow, Andrew Wan, Brian Manker and Eric Nowlin, who will perform at ArtSpring next Wednesday, April 3 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

<div>THE FRITZ CINEMA</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spider-Man into the Spiderverse runs on Wednesday, March 27 and Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m. Rated PG. 117 min.• Stan and Ollie shows Friday, March 29 through Sunday, March 31 at 7 p.m., plus an additional 3 p.m. matinee show on Sunday. Rated G. 98 mins.• Green Book runs Monday, April 1 through Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. Rated PG. 131 mins.</div> <div>EXHIBITIONS</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Today (March 27) is the last day to see the Fourth Annual Tossed and Found multi-artist exhibition of fine art made from found objects and/or recycled materials at the Salt Spring Gallery.• Then on Friday, March 29, the Salt Spring Gallery opens its Resurgence show of work by 10 gallery members with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and then runs until April 10.</div>	<div>EXHIBITIONS</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will Millar of Irish Rovers fame shows new paintings at Gallery 8 until March 31.• Draw the Line Art Collective's exhibit of paintings and drawings called Faces, created by artists dedicated to recording images of Salt Spring folk, shows in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room through March.• Timothy Gibbon holds a photography exhibit in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room from April 1 to 29.• SSI Painters Guild members present their Workshop and Drawing Show in the lobby of ArtSpring through March, an exhibit of new works initiated during workshops and drawing sessions hosted by the guild.• Jeremy Witmer shows Inspired Landscapes in the ArtSpring lobby from April 2 to 29.• From April 2 to 29, Rea Zogia shows <i>Nova Luna</i> in the Jankura Lounge at ArtSpring.</div>	<div>EXHIBITIONS</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salt Spring Photo Club members Jean, Sylvia, Pat, Fifi and Margaret show photos of women from around the world to celebrate International Women's Day at the Country Grocer Cafe.</div> <div><div><div>Fabulous Flea Market</div><div>Saturday, March 30</div><div>Fulford Hall</div><div>Lots of treasures and delicious homemade food</div><div>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</div><div>THRIFTY FOODS </div><div>Ganges, Mouat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm • Customer Service 250-537-1522</div></div></div>
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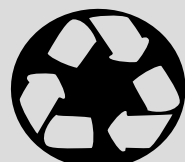
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Capital Regional District

**NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

All meetings will be held in the CRD Electoral Area Office
Meeting Room Located at
Suite 108 121 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island

Liquid Waste Service Commission -

Monday, April 15, 2019 from 10 am - 12 pm

Beddis Water Service Commission -

Monday, April 15, 2019 from 1pm - 3 pm

Fulford Water Service Commission -

Tuesday, April 16 from 1pm - 3 pm

Highland Fernwood Water Service Commission -

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 10 am-12 pm

Maliview Sewer -

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 12 pm - 1 pm

Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission -

Wednesday April 17, 2019 from 2-3 pm

Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission -

Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 10 am-12 pm

Cedar Lane Water Service Commission -

Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 1 pm-3 pm

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED??

We are seeking volunteers for a term which begins on January 1, 2020.

These Local Service Commissions advise and make recommendations regarding the supply, treatment, storage and distribution of water and or sewer within the service area. These volunteer positions are open to a resident or property owner within the Service Area and have a two year term. The Commissions include the CRD Regional Director and are supported by local CRD Staff Members.

Nominations will be accepted at the Annual General Meetings as shown above for two year terms beginning in January 2020.

Contact 250.537.4448 for more information
or email: saltspring@crd.bc.ca

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Small grants have impact



PHOTO COURTESY SSI F

Gina McMahon, left, and Catrine Eberle at the Creative Collective macramé workshop, a project funded by the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants program.

Salt Spring Island Foundation solicits next round of 'neighbourhood' grant applications with April 6 info session

SUBMITTED BY SSI FOUNDATION

On a recent sunny morning, the Salt Spring library's program room was filled with conversation, laughter and the occasional squeal from a happy baby. Groups of women were gathered around several wooden coat stands and ladders, busily knotting macramé plant hangers as they chatted.

The macramé workshop was the final one in the Creative Collective series of arts and craft skill-share workshops, one of 11 projects supported by Neighbourhood Small Grants. Over the past memorable winter, this small but powerful grants program has been forging connections between islanders. The program is based on a simple idea: that everyone is a valuable member of the community and that we all have something to share that will make Salt Spring Island a better place to live.

Last fall, the Salt Spring Island Foundation, in partnership with Salt Spring Island Community Services, launched the island's first Neighbourhood Small Grants program, offering grants of \$50 to \$500 to projects and events that bring people together, share skills and knowledge, build a sense of belonging and responsibility, and respect and celebrate diversity.

Neighbourhood Small Grants funded block parties, a gathering for young people working on local farms, a clothing swap, a community tea party, an allotment-garden gathering place, the chili cook-off and Christmas light-up, and the Creative Collective series. The Glitter Queens gathering brought together girls in grades 6 to 8 to create community, share skills and song circles, while the Community in the Birthing Year event offered support to families.

Neighbourhood Small Grants were first offered by the Vancouver Foundation in an effort to combat isolation in city neighbourhoods. The Vancouver Foundation is supporting the expansion of the program to the Vancouver Island area, where the Salt Spring Island Foundation is working with the Victoria Foundation and Clayoquot Biosphere Trust.

The Foundation's 2017 VitalSigns® report showed that Salt Spring generally scores well on community belonging, but that some of us feel isolated. Neighbourhood Small Grants have proven a great fit for Salt Spring's combination of traditional geographic neighbourhoods and other "neighbourhoods" of shared interests, activities and identity that transcend geography and help us feel more connected to our fellow islanders.

Unlike regular Foundation grants, which are only available to registered charities, Neighbourhood Small Grants are awarded to individuals with great ideas to share.

Creative Collective participant Gina McMahon said, "When I think of neighbourhood, I think of community and getting to know people, and these workshops hit every note. The enthusiasm was there, it was well organized and had all those cosy, friendly touches that you think of with neighbourhood, friends and family. The no-cost aspect is definitely attractive too. I can't say enough good things about it."

In April, the Foundation and Community Services will celebrate the first Neighbourhood Small Grants projects and launch the next round of grants for 2019. All islanders are invited to the ArtSpring Gallery on Saturday, April 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. to hear inspiring stories from project organizers and learn more about participating in Neighbourhood Small Grants in 2019.

For more information about the program, visit the Foundation website at ssfoundation.ca.

Remember

WHEN

Five years ago

- A project designed to raise awareness of the risks associated with increased oil tanker traffic through the Salish Sea got an international twist, as teams from Canada and the United States worked together to drop 650 biodegradable plywood cards along major tanker routes. The cards were wallet sized, and each had unique serial numbers. Also written on the cards were the words "This could be oil." The idea was to map the path of a potential spill through the Salish Sea. Similar experiments done near Salt Spring resulted in reports of cards as far away as Haida Gwaii.

Ten years ago

- An Islands Trust bylaw enforcement officer told Richard and Rose Murakami to remove vehicles stored on a section of their land directly behind their home on Rainbow Road or face legal action. A letter sent to the family in January reported that the Trust received complaints that the land — which was zoned for agricultural use — was being used as a wrecking yard. Richard Murakami argued that the activity was lawful since it predates the 1972 bylaw that restricted what could be done on the property. The Islands Trust officer was unable to verify Murakami's claim. Murakami said he did not intend on removing the vehicles by the Islands Trust's deadline.

Twenty years ago

- The Gulf Islands Secondary School had a slightly better year according to the Fraser Institute's annual high school report card, but locals considered it a document of relatively minor importance. The card was based solely on four factors that stemmed from provincial exam results and the school's graduation rate. Principal Nancy MacDonald said that she was happy to see the improvement, but she stressed that the report is a "very, very restrictive evaluation of schools." The rating does not consider the content of or performance in electives, career preparation or provincial scholarship winners.

Thirty years ago

- Bylaw officers took aim at unsightly island properties, as a dozen Outer Gulf Islands households were warned to clean up their act or the CRD would hire someone to do the job and send them the bill. The CRD bylaw enforcement officers were acting on complaints from the public about untidy properties in their neighbourhoods. The bylaw had been in place since 1977, but enforcement had only stepped up in the two years leading up to the story.

Forty years ago

- The Gulf Islands School District contemplated and approved in principle the biggest field trip ever in the district. Supervisor of instruction Larry Holbrook told the board that he wanted to get as many elementary school students as possible to take a trip to Victoria to see the Greatest Little Travelling Supershow. Holbrook wanted to see all 650 students go on the trip, but didn't think it would be possible because of transportation issues. Trustees thought that even 300 students would be a problem because the two ferries from Fulford would not be able to carry that many passengers.

Fifty years ago

- There would be no special ferry services to permit a daily high school attendance from the outer islands, after trustees of the Gulf Islands School District agreed that it was not the function of BC Ferries to meet the demands of a commuter service. Trustees declined to call on the ferry authority to introduce a service to let Pender Island students leave for school in the morning and return in the evening. Also suggested was that Pender students be permitted to attend high school in Saanich and to commute there on the Mayne Queen. The possibility of establishing a high school on Pender was also discussed, but trustees explained that the number of students was too small to warrant a new school.

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LITERARY AWARDS

Island authors get nods

Finalists for BC Book Prizes announced

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Authors of island provenance are abundant on the BC Book Prizes shortlist this year, with both newcomers to the field and veteran authors among the finalists.

Those being considered with Salt Spring connections are Aidan Cassie, Kathy Page, Robert Bateman and Margriet Ruurs, and Harley Rustad.

Cassie is in the running for the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize for her picture book *Sterling, Best Dog Ever*. It is the first published book for the author/artist, who both illustrated and wrote the story.

In the same category are a pair of well-known Salt Spring names, with Ruurs' story Robert Bateman: *The Boy Who Painted Nature* illustrated by the famous island artist in question. Ruurs has written 35 children's books and received multiple awards for many of them.

"When my publicist told me the news I barely believed it," Cassie told the Driftwood. "And then my friend, Margriet Ruurs, wrote to congratulate me right after ... it's so amazing that we've both been nominated for the same prize."


Cassie had a foretaste of her success, and was equally shocked and excited, when the Toronto Public Library put *Sterling* on its top 10 list for "First and Best" books in December. She said being recognized here in her own province feels even more fantastic.

"I'm so fortunate to have such a great group of author pals on Salt Spring; crit partners who helped make *Sterling* the book it is. There can't be a better place to be a writer than in the Gulf Islands," Cassie said.

In other BC Book Prizes categories, Salt Spring's Kathy Page is up for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for her novel *Dear Evelyn*. The story of a 70-year marriage that begins with World War II and sours over time won the Rogers Trust Fiction Prize last November. Her two previous books were both nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize finalist Rustad was born and raised on Salt Spring and now lives in Toronto, where he is an editor at *The Walrus* magazine. He made the shortlist with his nonfiction book *Big Lonely Doug: The Story of One of Canada's Last Great Trees*. The investigation of logging companies and eco-champions fighting over Vancouver Island's old-growth forests started out as a long-form article in *The Walrus* that earned a National Magazine Award. The book was also a finalist at the 2018 Banff Mountain Book Competition.

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SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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



MEN'S SOCCER

Valley of Death greets team

Old Boys lose round one of epic Cowichan battle

BY FRASER HOPE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

All week Old Boys coach Graham Tweddle begged, pleaded and even plastered posters at strategic points throughout the island with the message “Your Team Needs You,” hoping to avoid the ignominy of a cancellation with the scheduled game versus Cowichan Classics in Mill Bay.

Injuries to key personnel saw only nine Old Boys answer Lord Kitchener Tweddle’s call for more troops because, let’s be clear, it usually is “war” when Salt Spring plays Cowichan or Duncan.

A Fellini nightmare scenario was in the offing with Tweddle starring as the dispirited coach suffering from creative inspiration as he tries to direct the Old Boys in an epic struggle against one of the best teams in the league.

Team transport was whittled down to three vehicles as the ferry traffic threatened a one-sailing wait for late arrivals. A Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee member was on hand to provide updates about the BC Ferry Corporation’s plans to bring order to the expected chaos of the upcoming summer schedules, much like Tweddle’s plans for the game: order out of chaos.

So into the Cowichan Valley of Death rode the nine Old Boys. Off-island shoppers to the right of them! Off-island shoppers to the left of them! Off-island shoppers to the front of them!

Bolstered by two of Cowichan’s finest reserves, the Old Boys started off like Scotland’s national

team. Not a good start then! They were two goals down to the opposition, in Scotland’s case Kazakhstan, in the opening minutes. The advantage of surprise saw goalkeeper Richard Steel, one of the walking wounded, outdone by a magnificent 40-yard shot that dipped at the last to come off the crossbar for the early lead. Within minutes the speedy upfront home attackers used the wide-open steppes of Kazakhstan to sweep in behind the Old Boys’ defence for the second.

But true to the fighting spirit of previous matches, Old Boys roared back and a shot from David Toynbee, ably assisted by Mike McCormick, had enough power to break through the goalie’s gloves to cut the deficit. Lo and behold the same duo managed to work into a goal-scoring position, helped by some deft footwork from Andrew Haigh, to equalize the score to the consternation of all at the field.

The Cowichan coach had a fit of apoplexy, berating his team in German for their casual approach. “Just Don’t Talk About the War!” (Fawlty Towers BBC 1975-79.)

Disaster coach Tweddle left the field with a pulled hamstring after trying valiantly for the lead. The team was up the creek now with no coach, never mind a paddle. Cowichan pressed their continuing advantage and passed up bountiful opportunities to bury the Old Boys. Half-time came with the score tied at 2-2. The greatest heist since The Great Train Robbery of the ‘60s!

Against all evidence to the contrary, the Old Boys now felt a win was well within their grasp.

As the second half wore on, the game became a little more testy. Players on both sides niggled at each other and the referee was having some difficulty in bringing about peace in our time.

Over-exuberance in the counter-attack saw Cowichan on a half-way break that left Steel facing three possible scenarios for saves but each with little chance of success. Cowichan took a 3-2 lead.

Toynbee then was caught reacting to an upturned boot and was dismissed from the field by the ref. It was a golden hattrick: two goals and a red card all in the same game! A first for the Old Boys archives.

Shortly afterwards, Dave McColl interacted “forcibly” and was warned by the referee. Not surprisingly in “shadowing” an attacking forward into the penalty box, a stumble was interpreted by the ref as a blatant foul and a penalty ensued, giving Steel no chance.

McColl was red carded and joined Toynbee on the sidelines to enjoy the warm sunshine. Two Daves. Good name for a pop group! The referee, deciding that his control of the game was slipping, (a bit like Theresa May and her Cabinet) blew for an early full-time. The Battle of Frances Kelsey was over with a 4-2 win for Cowichan.

The ferry schedule out of Crofton allowed more time than usual for postgame analysis around the cooler. Thoughts revolved around the parentage of the referee, but as the saying goes, “Always Look on the Bright Side of Life” (Monty Python Eric Idle 1979).

Natural Resources Canada’s cartography section and Google Maps have been asked to update their maps with a crossed-sword symbol to mark The Battle of Kelsey Field 2019. In fact, they should wait one week before updating as the Old Boys play the other half of the Devil’s spawn, Duncan 48s, at the same location, Frances Kelsey Field in Mill Bay on Sunday, March 31 at high noon.

Black balaclavas will be issued to whoever turns up to play for the Old Boys in memory of the Battle of Balaclava, Crimean War 1854 and the First Battle of Frances Kelsey, 2019.

HIKING

Trail club outings planned



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Peter Arnell Park trail ready for spring hikers and walkers.

Two speaking events in April

On Thursday, April 11, Sarah Cox, author of Breaching the Peace: The Site C Dam and a Valley’s Stand Against Big Hydro, speaks at the Salt Spring library on April 11 at 7 p.m.

Then on Thursday, April 25, also at the library at 7 p.m., Lo Camps gives a presentation titled Going Wild-Rafting on Yukon Rivers and a Trek Along a Remote Portion of Vancouver Island.

Hikers

April 2: Karen and Marc will lead this moderate to steep hike along footpaths from Collins Road to the summit of Mount Erskine, weather and fairies permitting. Start at the Jack Fisher trail on Collins Road. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to carpool.

April 9: For hikers and walkers, it’s time to construct the lower portion of our new KDOL Trail at the Buddhist Retreat. Bring tools that will work for grubbing out the trail (e.g. hoes, rakes). Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or Drummond Park at 10 a.m. You are going to LOVE this new section of trail!

April 16: Nick and Jenny will lead a wandering hike on Channel Ridge. Meet at ArtSpring to carpool for departure at 9:45 or at the end of Epron Road at 10 a.m.

April 23: This hike, led by Al Lehmann, starts with a strenuous hike up (about 500 meters climb) through the forest for about 90 minutes followed by lunch on the open meadow with spectacular views. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or Drummond Park at 10 a.m. to carpool. Park just past the No Exit sign, five km from the start of Mountain Road.

April 30: Lynn Thompson will lead a moderate hike on Mount Tzouhalem, taking in the flower reserve and summit. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:45 a.m. to carpool on the 9:25 a.m. Vesuvius ferry.

Walkers

April 2: Kees Visser will lead a walk through Peter Arnell Park

and onward over the linear trail to Jennifer Way and return over Jasper Road. This will be a moderate walk with a few short uphill. Meet at 10 a.m. at ArtSpring or at 10:15 at the top of Stewart Road, behind the concrete barrier.

April 9: KDOL Trail work. See the Hikers entry.

April 16: Dick and Patsy Tipping will lead us on a round trip walk through the Tsawout First Nation Reserve, starting at the trail head at the end of Menhinick Drive. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to carpool and then meet at Beaver Point Hall at 10:20 a.m. From there we will drive to the trail head at the end of Menhinick Drive with the fewest possible cars.

April 23: Kathleen Maser and Rob Mason will lead us on a walk along the Chris Hatfield Trail to Cusheon Cove and then to Yeo Point following the oceanside trail south to Kings Cove for lunch. We will then retrace our steps back to the cars. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at the east end of Meyers Road at 10:20 a.m.

April 30: Andrea Rankin will lead a walk around one or two of the loops on the south side of Burgoyne Bay. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the Burgoyne Bay parking lot at 10:20.

Ramblers

April 2: Meet at Centennial Park to carpool to Drummond Park where Paul and Donna will lead us on a ramble. and return to their house for soup. Bring a sandwich.

April 9: Meet at Centennial Park, and we will choose a leader. Watch the website.

April 16: Meet at Centennial Park and Ann will lead a ramble.

April 23: Brian Adderley will lead a ramble in the valley between Mount Belcher and Mount Erskine. Lunch at Penny’s Pantry on the Green. Meet at Centennial at 10 a.m.

April 30: Meet at Centennial at 10 a.m. and carpool to Blackburn and Fulford-Ganges Road. Marjie will take us on a ramble at Blackburn meadows. Bring a sandwich.

Capital Regional District



Notice to local area residents CEDAR LANE WATER SERVICE AREA

WATER INTERRUPTION

On Tuesday, April 2, 2019 between the hours of 8am and 4pm, the Capital Regional District will be carrying out annual maintenance and flushing of the water distribution system. During this maintenance, you may experience low water pressure and/or periods of discoloured water at your tap.

The areas likely to be influenced by the service interruption are:

- Cedar Lane Road
- Kangro Road
- Mansell Road

As water to your property may be shut off briefly during this period, residents may want to set aside some water to meet their individual needs during this time.

It is also important to note that after the work is completed and water service is restored, you may experience intermittent brown water at your tap for short durations. Should this occur, continue to run your water until it clears.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Questions? Please call
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