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PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

HONOURED: World War II veterans Jack Clements, 96, left, and Harold Blanes, 99, take the salute during Monday's Remembrance Day parade and ceremony in Ganges. See the Driftwood's Facebook and Instagram sites for more photos from the event.

BC FERRIES

Fulford crews work on loading

Cumberland's on-time performance rates improve with practice

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries crews stationed on the Fulford-Swartz Bay route continue to work on making the Queen of Cumberland meet the schedule more than two weeks after the vessel replaced the Skeena Queen.

The Cumberland will be the main vessel serving the route while the Skeena undergoes a six-month mid-life upgrade, except for two weeks during the Christmas holiday season when the Bowen Queen will take over. So far the switch has received mixed reviews from passengers, with late sailings frequently occurring at peak periods when an on-board vehicle ramp must be employed in order to match the Skeena's capacity.

Islander Chris Bradley has experienced the

Cumberland being late on more than one occasion since the vessel change occurred and feels everyone on Salt Spring should be aware of the situation.

She said "it is doubtful" that people taking the 7:50 a.m. sailing from Fulford hoping to make the 9 a.m. connection from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen will be successful due to the Cumberland's struggle to maintain the morning schedule. It takes 10 to 15 minutes to deploy and load the upper ramp, she said, which automatically throws the schedule out of whack.

Other passengers who have had better luck catching less busy sailings have said they prefer the Cumberland's lay-out, with one large passenger lounge and cafe service promoting more comfort and community

between travellers.

BC Ferries acknowledges the change between two very different vessels has been difficult on some sailings. Strategy and community engagement manager Darin Guenette said Monday that crews are still getting fully accustomed to having the Queen of Cumberland on Route 4. On-time performance has improved, though, going from under 60 per cent during the first week of the change to approaching 80 per cent in the past week. Statistics show the Skeena Queen's on-time performance was at 98 per cent for the month of October prior to the Oct. 28 change.

FERRIES continued on 5

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BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

I try to make it to the recycle depot at least once per week. The night before, my wife Kristen and I sit in the kitchen and sort through the week's worth of recycling.

We try to avoid sending things to the landfill, and we also maintain a backyard composter for food scraps. Every week, as the piles of various kinds of recyclables get higher and higher, the plastics end up dwarfing the rest.

The Salt Spring Recycling Depot is operated by Salt Spring Community Services under a longstanding contract with the Capital Regional District. It is also part of the Recycle BC program. Recycle BC coordinates all consumer-based packaging and paper recycling in the province, operating on a "producer responsibility model." Producers and distributors pay into the system, based on the amount of packaging they bring into the province.

"More than 1,200 producers are obligated under the legislation and are members of the Recycle BC program," explained Recycle BC spokesperson David Lefebvre. "Every single one of those has to report to us and tell us how much of each individual material they're putting into the marketplace. From that, we look at the costs of managing those materials, the revenues we get from marketing them. Then we're able to set a fee rate based on each individual material."

All materials, including various kinds of plastics, are distributed to central locations in the province. Plastics are sent to a company called Merlin Plastics based in the Lower Mainland. Merlin breaks down the material into the raw materials for the plastic industry, which re-uses them to make new plastic products. Only a small portion of the plastics collected in the province are sent overseas to a factory making picture frames in China. Recycle BC's goal is to build a closed-loop system in the province to ensure all of the materials under its mandate are entirely recycled here.

Recycle BC's program is established based on definitions set out by the provincial government. Bio-based plastics are designed to be a part of that system. However, compostable and biodegradable plastics are not.

"If you look at your traditional compostable plastic fork, that item is actually not part of the Recycle BC program at this time. It's not a regulated or mandated item and it does not form part of the packaging and paper that we collect. That would be considered a single-use item," explained Lefebvre.

"Plastics that are deemed compostable can present a challenge in terms of their recyclability, and they can have a negative impact on the overall quality of the material that we recycle if they enter into the stream," he added.

Recycle BC follows regulations set out by the provincial government. As of right now, compostable plastics do not have a government-mandated definition and, as such, the recycling industry does not know what to do with them. The government has been working on a single-use plastic plan that will help determine how these materials can be recycled, and how they can fit into the existing regimen. Until that time, there is not much that recyclers can do with the stuff.

Lefebvre explained that the compostable plastics that do end up in the stream get turned into a fuel that can be used in place of coal. While this kind of thing lessens our resource extraction, it is still a single-use solution and it produces a hydrocarbon-based fuel that emits greenhouse gases when burned.

So when a customer orders a drink served in a compostable plastic cup on Salt Spring, what are they supposed to do with their garbage? Right now, there is no good answer.

Michelle Mech is a member of Plastic Free Salt Spring and has worked to develop plastic action plans for politicians and

"Compostables would be great if they could be sent to an industrial composter, but otherwise they're not good."

MICHELLE MECH
Plastic Free Salt Spring

local causes. Mech has become exasperated with the state of things on the island, and has reached the point where it makes more sense to her to use single-use plastics than their compostable alternatives.

"If you were to get a compostable cup on Salt Spring there is nowhere for it to go," she said, adding that compostable plastics are "worse than plastics, because at least plastics can be recycled."

Mech has been looking into ways to reduce plastic consumption on the island. She has spoken with local grocery stores, consulting on how and if to switch to compostables. Unfortunately, she describes it as a "chicken-and-egg" situation. Grocery stores here get their food waste shipped off-island to an industrial composting facility. Mech explained that one truck comes to the island per week to pick up a shipment.

"The once-a-week truck is full," she said. "They would only send another truck if we can get it full or close to full again."

"Compostables would be great if they could be sent to an industrial composter, but otherwise they're not good," she added, speaking about whether or not grocery stores should convert their packaging to compostable plastics. "It broke my heart to tell them to go back to plastic. I hate plastic."

In 2015, the Capital Regional District banned organics from the Hartland Landfill, and since then companies have had to turn to the private sector for compost disposal.

The idea of building an industrial composter on Salt Spring has been floated for years but it has not yet happened. Based on a lack of viable options for compostable plastics, islanders have little choice when it comes to disposing of the materials. Until the provincial government comes out with its regulations and definitions, Recycle BC's hands are tied. However, Lefebvre told me that after the regulations are public, Recycle BC should be able to integrate the plastics into their system, and have manufacturers pay the cost of recycling them.

"The challenge we have right now is that there's no recycling solution for those materials," he said. "The Organic Matter Recycling Regulations will hopefully provide some standards, which will then hopefully point the way towards a solution."

Other organizations are working to solve the problem as well. The CRD is undertaking community consultation for its new Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes 15 strategies to help improve the services, including increasing organic diversion and processing capacity. An open house will be held on Salt Spring on Nov. 28 at Meaden Hall from 2 until 6 p.m. The public comment period is open until Dec. 1.

Recycling as an industry is based on a closed-loop model, or circular economy, where things that get put into the system are re-used to maintain it. While the system helps reduce raw material extraction and keeps single-use items from being wasted, a few problems do exist. Recycle BC only looks at residential recycling, not commercial. Also, items like compostable plastics can fall through the cracks in the system. A true closed-loop would ensure that nothing is wasted, and they cannot guarantee everything brought in to the province ends up in the recycling stream. Yet, Mech and Lefebvre both think this is the best option we have right now.

"If you're looking at it from a circular economy lens, being



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Kristen Battle helps the writer sort through household plastic recyclables.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Containers collect plastics at the Salt Spring Recycling Depot before the materials are prepared for transport to the Lower Mainland end-market for processing.

Background photo on page: A compressed bale of plastics at the Salt Spring Recycling Depot, ready for shipping to a Lower Mainland processing facility.

able to recycle plastic effectively like we are here in B.C. is an environmental outcome that is beneficial," Lefebvre said.

Mech agreed, to a point, saying that "if they're handled correctly and we can make a circular economy out of them in the interim as we get to a more waste-free state they're okay."

However, as I loaded my recycling into the car for the weekly drop off, I saw a bio-based fork sitting on top of the plastics pile. I couldn't help but wonder, why do we need so much plastic anyway?



NEWS BRIEFS

Meadowlane progresses

The Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association's seniors housing project has received good news.

Meadowlane is in the final steps of the zoning process, and GISRA is in ongoing discussions with various federal and provincial granting agencies. Other updates include approval of a housing agreement between the Islands Trust and GISRA and an agreement to connect the project to the Ganges sewer system.

Well licences have also been issued by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. The property has three wells, all of which have been issued approvals from Island Health. The development will also utilize water catchment from the roof to be used for landscaping and fire prevention.

Meadowlane is a 48-unit affordable residential facility for seniors aged 65+ located on Kings Lane. It will also include the new home of the Salt Spring Seniors Service Society and The Salt Spring Community Hub – a collection of common area spaces for community use. The medical clinic that has been on the site for years will remain open and active.

Agriculture town hall

The Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance is hosting a community town hall on the future of agriculture on the island.

The meeting is set for Saturday, Nov. 16 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at GISS. The discussion will look at climate, housing, locally grown food and the impact it has on island agriculture.

A town hall format will be used, with everyone attending able to bring their ideas to the table.

See www.plantofarm.org for more details.

FOR THE RECORD

Two award winners in a list of SSNAP Youth Art Exhibition were inadvertently omitted from recent coverage of SSNAP events.

The second-place jurors choice winner was Mac Flett for his submission called The Angry Anarchist, and Rose Hermann's Work in Progress was the third-place jurors choice winner.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rural islands connect



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Thetis Island trustee Doug Fenton, left, talks with Salt Spring's CRD director Gary Holman during a wrap-up exercise at the Rural Islands Economic Forum on Friday.

Sustainable tourism among many topics discussed at two-day conference

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Delegates from multiple small island communities gathered at Pender Island's Poets Cove Resort on Thursday and Friday for the first ever conference to focus on the economic well-being of such places.

The Rural Islands Economic Forum attracted over 100 attendees who came from parts of the Islands Trust region, including Bowen, Gabriola and Thetis islands; those outside the Trust such as Cortes and Quadra, and even as far away as Port Hardy. Elected officials from many regions of the Islands Trust, including Salt Spring's Laura Patrick, were present, along with the CRD directors for Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands and local MLA Adam Olsen.

Members of Salt Spring's Community Economic Development Commission were deeply involved in the organization of the forum, with Francine Carlin and Holly MacDonald both sitting on the steering committee. Participants came together to forge connections, share their similar challenges and concerns, and discuss strategies for achieving sustainable economies without necessarily courting growth in the face of climate change.

Forum topics over the two days included green business trends, entrepreneurial ecosystems, island transportation, economies of climate change, tourism management and sustaining rural culture.

A session on sustainable tourism held on Friday morning addressed some of the impacts visitors can have on island communities and discussed ways to stretch tourism throughout the calendar year instead of being bombarded in just two months.

Panel members were Callum Matthews, director of destination development with Tourism Vancouver Island; Dawn Rueckl, manager of policy and programs at the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture; and Salt Spring's Randy Cunningham, chair of the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society. While the session did not fully dive into the advertised topic — Balancing Tourism with Environmental Protection — there was discussion of how to educate visitors about island limitations such as water and septic systems as part of a more sustainable industry overall.

As moderator Ed Andrusiak observed, tourism is "probably going to remain as one of the key economic drivers on our islands. We have to get a better handle on how not only to reap the benefits but to manage it long-term."

Matthews reported that having a focus on responsible tourism and sustainability is

quite new for the sector. Non-profit organizations like Tourism Vancouver Island are working on strategic plans, which they hope to start implementing at the regional level within the year.

"Research is key to having a better understanding of what success means," Matthews said. "Increasing visitor volume is not a good measure; we need to focus more on what visitors do to contribute to our communities."

He mentioned Indigenous tourism partnerships and "voluntourism" events such as beach clean-ups as positive developments. He also suggested celebrating local businesses that are truly part of the communities they are in, and working across community and local government groups.

Cunningham discussed the new Gulf Islands society that will be receiving funds from the two per cent MRDT accommodation tax that was implemented on Sept. 1. He said the organization is working with BC Ferries and other sources to gather data on visitors, with hopes of convincing some people to move their travel to the fall and spring seasons to better deal with overstretched resources in the summer months.

"Now that we understand a little better who our visitors are and who we might push to our shoulder seasons, that should come up in our tactical plans," Cunningham said.

The society is working on a five-year strategy that must be reviewed by Destination BC. Annual tactical plans are also required, with the group's first to be submitted by Nov. 30. Those plans will become publicly available through the Capital Regional District, whose economic commissions advanced the creation of the SGITPS.

Criticism of the new society came from South Pender Island trustee Steve Wright, who said the Islands Trust and local stakeholders aside from business owners were not consulted about the plans to create the new destination management and marketing organization. He asked that more concrete development strategies be shared. Another attendee questioned how communities were involved in creating the local and regional-level plans that Tourism Vancouver Island is working on.

Matthews explained that stakeholder meetings were held in 20 communities and that locally elected officials, including those from the Islands Trust, were invited to attend each one.

"The Southern Gulf Islands working together — sure each island is different and has its unique factors and circumstances — but at the end of the day there is a lot of power in working together," Matthews responded.

More information about the two-day conference can be found at www.ruralislandsforum.com. The steering committee intends to make it a biennial event and to establish a permanent organization.

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13	0638	3.2	10.5	17	0116	0.5	1.6
	1120	2.6	8.5		0956	3.5	11.5
WE	1559	3.1	10.2	SU	1605	2.8	9.2
ME	2318	0.6	2.0	DI	1731	2.8	9.2
14	0725	3.3	10.8	18	0205	0.6	2.0
	1207	2.8	9.2		1046	3.5	11.5
TH	1620	3.1	10.2	MO			
JE	2353	0.5	1.6	LU			
15	0814	3.4	11.2	19	0300	0.8	2.6
	1303	2.9	9.5		1132	3.5	11.5
FR	1642	3.0	9.8	TU	1847	2.4	7.9
VE				MA	2011	2.4	7.9
16	0032	0.4	1.3	20	0401	1.0	3.3
	0904	3.4	11.2		1214	3.5	11.5
SA	1418	2.9	9.5	WE	1914	2.1	6.9
SA	1707	3.0	9.8	ME	2238	2.3	7.5

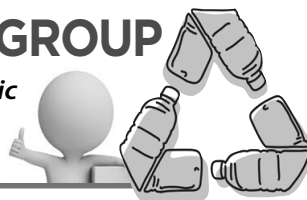
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TRANSPORTATION

BC Ferries faces demand surge

CEO shares strategies to improve service

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries is working to meet unprecedented demand while being limited in its options under the service contract with the provincial government, CEO Marc Collins said during a session for the Rural Islands Economic Forum on Friday.

Speaking at a roundtable event on the second day of the two-day conference held at Poets Cove Resort on South Pender Island, Collins said BC Ferries has a vision of being trusted and valued by the community they serve. Although he acknowledged the ferry corporation hasn't achieved that vision yet, he said they hope to get there through their mission of "connecting people to the people and places that are important to them."

Making those connections has become increasing difficult in recent years, with unexpected growth straining vessel capacity during popular travel times.

"There's no doubt it's tough in the peak periods now. And in many cases, we're running above [service levels required in] the contract," Collins reported.

BC Ferries has been working to replace vessels that are aging out with those that have slightly bigger capacity, as well as being quieter, greener and more fuel efficient. Two new Island Class

ferries that are set to arrive in British Columbia in the next couple of months will have the ability to run by electric battery whenever shoreline technology advances to allow charging. Four more ferries of the same model were announced to have been ordered last week.

However, Collins explained that while the provincial contract covers vessel replacement, the company does not have \$250 million in the bank to purchase an extra new ferry to increase overall system capacity. The last major expansion to the system came in 1992.

"We provide the service we are contracted to provide," Collins said.

One way to manage overloads and shift traffic to under-utilized sailings will be to offer flexible pricing and fare incentives once the company finishes a major upgrade to its information technology system. Work has been underway on this project for five years, and will hopefully wrap up soon. "Peak shaving" to move flexible traffic will be offered first on the major reservable routes, but Collins said there is no reason the principle could not be applied to the inter-island routes after that.

BC Ferries also supports diverting vehicle traffic to encourage walk-on passengers. Collins said foot passenger levels only reach 20 per cent capacity on most sailings. Although the company does not have the mandate to manage transit connections, in practice BC Ferries works closely with BC Transit staff to try and ensure the two systems work together.

Collins said in addition to community requests to increase capacity on the minor routes, another common request is to limit ferry travel available to tourists in order to ensure preferential loading for residents. This idea has grown on the Sunshine Coast, for example, where strong growth in population and tourism has not yet resulted in a change to the service level set by the province.

Collins conceded BC Ferries can make those types of changes within the terms of its mandate, but said the idea does not have buy-in from Sunshine Coast business owners.

"BC Ferries will not make that decision for communities," Collins said. "You need to tell us as a community that's how you want to run it, and then we can look into that."

Salt Spring's CRD director Gary Holman posed a similar idea to Collins during the roundtable session, asking whether non-resident travellers to the Gulf Islands could pay a minor surcharge, such as 50 cents. Funds collected could go toward reducing the impact of tourism to local communities, he suggested.

"I'm told New Zealand has done this, except their surcharge is around five dollars," Holman said. "This would be a fraction of that, so tourists would not even notice it, but if they did notice I think they would be happy to contribute to the communities in the Gulf Islands."

Collins said the proposal could be possible as long as it came with community consensus and was approved by the BC Ferries Commissioner.

COMMUNITY

Restorative Justice educates

Two community discussion circles set for week's program

Restorative Justice Week is coming up during the third week of November. It gives Canadians a chance to learn more about the restorative approach to crime, community safety and conflict.

Here on Salt Spring, the Restorative Justice Group has been running for over 20 years and offers a community-based alternative to the justice system and to resolving conflicts. Run by trained volunteers, the program has supported hundreds of people to repair the harm they have created and make amends to people and relationships. This helps to build a safer and more respectful community, and keeps cases out of the courts at the same time.

As part of Restorative Justice Week, the local program will host two community talking circles on the topic of "community safety."

"Our local restorative justice team is able to deal with criminal matters and we work with the RCMP to identify and divert some cases back into the community for repair rather than punishment," said Darlene Gage, the program coordinator. "We have also been trained in a process called 'peace making circles,' which can help in a lot of conflict situations. The proposed CRD community safety tax seemed like a good focus for some circles, to help people talk across differences and perhaps find some common ground."

The two meetings will focus on questions like: "What does safety actually mean, and what are the best ways to create safety for everyone?"

Everyone is welcome to join these open community circles on either Saturday, Nov. 16 (3 to 5 p.m.) or Thursday, Nov. 21 (7 to 9 p.m.) at the Salt Spring Public Library program room. For more information, contact Restorative Justice Salt Spring at rjustice@ssics.ca.

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BOARDWALK

CRD goes for harbour walk ROW

PARC provisional budget also passed

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission has applied for a statutory right of way for the Ganges harbour-walk project.

Previously, the Islands Trust had submitted a similar application, but it was determined to be more appropriate for the CRD to submit an application as the boardwalk will be owned by the district rather than the Trust. The previous application had become stagnant after private land owners with upland riparian rights made a ROW application. However, the province can grant the right of way despite the objections of upland owners.

"I think we have more willingness from the [Salt Spring CRD] director to accept a right of way if we're granted it," said senior manager Karla Campbell during the Oct. 29 PARC meeting.

Director Gary Holman told the commission that the CRD has some money set aside for the project to complete the boardwalk, including gas tax funding. A community referendum was suggested as another major source. However, no funds can be spent until the ROW application is approved. Additionally, any community partners or designs for the project cannot go forward until there is approval for a right of way.

"We need to get them to say yes to this. We're trying to get the province to say yes to this portion, despite the objections of the upland land owners," Holman said.

"The second thing was they asked for our funding sources. We can't really cross that part of the boardwalk until we've got the right of way application, but just to be clear, there's no indication in here that it will be a top [PARC] priority. This is a plan," he said. "There's a whole bunch of other things in the strategic plan, including improvements to the pool. This does not suggest that a referendum on the harbour walk would proceed before any other referendum does."

Commissioner John Gauld expressed concern about the harbour walk proceeding even though he saw the potential for it to support local businesses and tourists more than islanders themselves.

"I'm not sure that it addresses our strongest priorities, which is to serve Salt Spring residents and their fitness and lifestyle. I don't see Salt Spring residents using this an awful lot," he said.

Gauld suggested that PARC reach out to other stakeholder groups to form partnerships for the project, rather than the commission take the full brunt of the leadership for the plan.

"We have all of the priorities and we only have so much capacity. I see that if we end up being leaders and the

sole driving force behind this thing, it's going to impact our capacity," he said. "One of the priorities in our strategic plan is community partnerships . . . We need to get those partners on board now so that we're not seen as a driving force for this."

The motion to approve the application was passed during the meeting, with a small amendment to specify that plans included in the application were conceptual, rather than final.

The commissioners were also presented with the 2020 budget, set to rise 3.1 per cent over the previous year. Due to time constraints, the PARC budget was sent to the CRD Financial Planning Committee before receiving PARC commissioners' approval. The CRD as a whole approved their provisional budget the next day.

Gauld commented that the budget's increase could be attributed to things being done "more professionally" in the past few years, with PARC taking on operations of the pool and coordinating community recreation programming, though he was still concerned that the increase of 3.1 per cent was high.

The CRD passed the provisional 2020 budget on Oct. 30, with an overall increase of 6.2 per cent. Public consultation on the CRD's overall budget will begin after documents are updated to reflect any changes. The parks commission can make amendments to its budget until March.

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Raven gets off track

FERRIES continued from 1

Issues for Salt Spring travellers who are trying to transfer to Tsawwassen through Swartz Bay were discussed at the Oct. 30 ferry advisory committee meeting. Guenette said crews have since developed a procedure where the first 20 or so vehicles that arrive at Fulford are loaded in stages near the front of the ferry's main deck, which allows them to unload earliest and have the best chance of making a timely connection at Swartz Bay.

"Otherwise, we need more time to understand if there are specific sailing times that are more prone to challenges in getting vehicles loaded efficiently ... and ultimately we're working at procedures to sail on time to the highest level possible," Guenette said. "Some more time for all crews should help them truly figure out their best practices with Cumberland on this route."

In other news, 85 passengers travelling from Pender Island to Swartz Bay on board the Salish Raven on Thursday morning were trapped on the water for several hours after a bow thruster broke down. Passengers who expected to arrive at 10 a.m. were finally able to disembark after a tug assisted docking at Swartz Bay at 1:30 p.m. No one was harmed during the delay and passengers were offered free food and drinks. The ship was back in service on Friday.

Capital Regional District

CRD

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Volunteers wanted to serve as members of various Commissions

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Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission - includes 8 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The PARC serves in an advisory role to the CRD and is responsible for the establishment, ongoing operation and maintenance of facilities, community parks, trails and recreation services.

Salt Spring Transportation Commission - includes 8 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The Commission serves in an advisory role to the CRD and to BC Transit on matters related to the transit service and to transportation related community needs and projects. On transit matters, the Commission advises on bus service funding, schedules, routes and other details of the service.

Salt Spring Community Economic Development Commission - includes 7-9 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The Commission works collaboratively with non-profits, provincial, federal and local governments on economic development projects.

Water and Sewer Service Commissions

These Commission advise and make recommendations regarding the supply, treatment, storage and distribution of water and or sewer within the service areas. The current vacant positions are open to a resident or property owner within the service area.

- Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission
- Beddis Water Service Commission
- Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission
- Highland Water and Sewer Local Service Commission
- Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission

Please submit your letter of interest and background information no later than December 2, 2019 to:

CRD Electoral Area office

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or by email to: saltspring@crd.bc.ca

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OPINION



2019 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)
Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

2019 BCYCN Awards
Gold - Best Arts & Culture Writing (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best Environmental Writing (Gail Sjuberg)
Silver - Best Multimedia Feature (Marc Kitteringham)
Silver - Community Service | New Journalist of the Year (Marc Kitteringham)



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EDITORIAL

Travel trials

It's been a stressful six months for Salt Spring Island ferry travellers. The replacement of the tried-and-true Howe Sound Queen with the smaller Quinitsa on the Vesuvius-Crofton route in June turned out to be a disaster, regardless of how BC Ferries tried to spin the tale in its favour. That the corporation has decided to bring the Bowen Queen on to the route next spring indicates that reality could no longer be ignored when it came to the Quinitsa's inadequate capacity during spring and summer months.

More recently, people travelling between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay have been thrown off course by the Queen of Cumberland being late in some of its arrivals and departures. While the Skeena Queen is getting its mid-life refit, the Cumberland is the replacement vessel on that route (except for the Christmas holiday period,

when the Bowen will be on duty there). While people are delighting in the replacement vessel's lounge amenities, using its upper ramp to accommodate as many vehicles as possible is a time-consuming process. But if the Cumberland gets off its schedule, people wanting to connect with a Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen vessel

THE ISSUE: Coping with ferry challenges

WE SAY: Get info and arrive early

are sometimes unable to do so. It's no surprise that BC Ferries often issues "delayed sailing" notices for Route 5 between the Southern Gulf Islands and Swartz Bay, which the Cumberland normally serves.

As inconvenient as it may be, anyone needing to get off or on the island at a specific time via the Fulford-Swartz route in the next few months is advised to give themselves as much time as possible to incorporate possible ferry delays into their plans. On-time performance for the route has certainly improved since the vessel's first week on duty, but as of last week it was still not matching the Skeena's stellar 95 per cent or better on-time record.

Travellers should perhaps never assume that a particular BC Ferries sailing will be on time, or that a ferry will never break down — witness the Salish Raven experience last Thursday — but it's safe to say that is moreso the case these days.

People can check bcferries.com to determine if a ferry is late or not, sign up for service notices that will advise via email about tardy ferries or follow BC Ferries on Twitter. Arriving at terminals as early as possible and being armed with information are the two best ways to cope with the reality of living on ferry-dependent islands.



Election changes nothing

BY FRANTS ATTORP

John Sprague pointed out in last week's Driftwood that votes for "centre-left and left parties" in the October federal election far outnumbered votes for "right-leaning" parties. It is an interesting perspective, but I seriously question the labels. I see the Liberals more as a pro-establishment party fiercely opposed to meaningful change.

Canada's fossil-fuel agenda will not be affected by the results of the election as the Liberals and Conservatives have more than enough seats to push it through. Subsidies to Big Oil will continue and the toxic gunk from Alberta will still flow to the coast.

Since Confederation, Canada has been ruled alternately by two dominant parties. Not until the 1920s did other parties break through, but even so, power has never shifted significantly from the two main players.

The reason is simple: because the British aristocrats who created our electoral system centuries ago did so to disempower the rabble and keep money and power in the hands of the elite. First-past-the-post was designed to protect the status quo.

We shall never know

VIEWPOINT

how the election results would have differed under proportional representation. It is quite possible that, without strategic voting, wasted votes and general voter apathy, we could now have a more progressive government.

We have just commemorated all those who fought and died in past wars, but let's not forget we are now engaged in a war that is much greater in scope and even more destructive. The weapons used by the oppressors have changed from rifles and tanks to the almighty dollar. There is very little that money cannot buy (including governments), and the psychopaths with most of the wealth are taking control. Millions are being enslaved, exploited and displaced, all while eco-systems collapse around the globe.

South of the border, Trump is using inflammatory language to whip up hate, anger, racism and violence, and to fool people into believing there is no difference between the corporate and public interests. As he trashes the environment, he convinces others that the climate crisis is

"a hoax" and "America is clean."

Here at home, Trudeau uses politically correct language, but there is no doubt whose interests he serves. He is the pretty face that hides the ugly reality of the corporate establishment and unbridled capitalism.

In William Golding's Lord of the Flies, a group of British school boys is stranded on an island. The one with the most reasoning ability and knowledge about survival is a fat boy nicknamed Piggy. He is ridiculed by the others, and his glasses, which symbolize science and allow him to see, are soon broken. Eventually, Piggy is thrown off a cliff and his brains are literally splattered on a rock. As the veneer of civilization disintegrates, the society of boys descends into the chaos of tribalism, war and superstition.

As I reflect on the state of the world and the election results, I recall Elizabeth May saying, "This will be the last election of any consequence," and wonder if we are heading in the same direction as the boys on the island. We are indeed in deep trouble, but unlike events at the end of Golding's story, nobody is coming to save us.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you following the Trump impeachment process?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is Elizbaeth May's resignation good for the Greens?



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: }

"It broke my heart to tell them to go back to plastic. I hate plastic."

MICHELLE MECH, PLASTIC FREE SALT SPRING

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

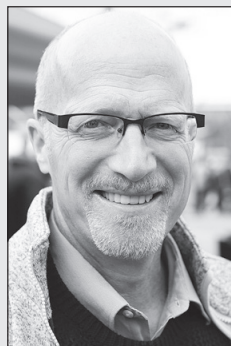
Why is Remembrance Day important to you?

YULI ROEHLIG



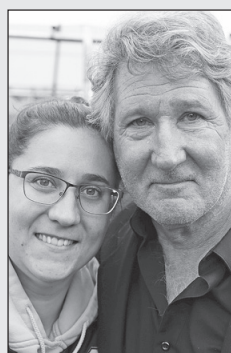
Because we have to remember those who fought for us and all they've done.

SCOTT HOWE



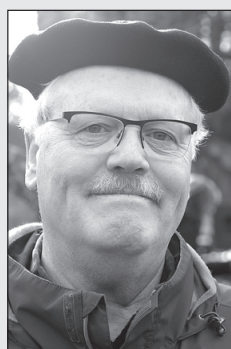
For me it's a gathering of the community that shows our togetherness of spirit and remembrance.

JIM AND MEREDITH RADDYSH



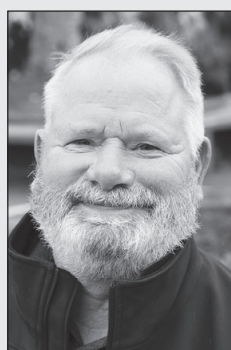
My dad was a war veteran and he just passed away. He was awarded a medal from France for his role in the liberation. It has always been special, but this one was particularly special.

RICHARD STETSON



Because of how it builds community and the hope it inspires for peace.

BARRY HAYNE



To remember the people.

LETTERS to the editor

Prevention better

Regarding the proposed community safety service: Let's hear it for prevention. Let's hear it for identifying the "gaps" between the services of our major safety and social services providers.

Over the years of my volunteer and paid work in the areas of social services and mental health both here and abroad, I've seen how lack of inter-agency planning can leave individuals and groups feeling unsupported, fearful, injured and/or outraged. Then something gets done. Not good enough!

Please be aware that the issues addressed by the community safety service will be much broader than preventing vandalism. Let's be logical here. If everything were going along smoothly between all our great social service agencies (I include the RCMP here), why would there be a call for such an inter-agency service? Regarding the modest amount of fund-

ing for this service? Does the concept of "pay now or pay later" ring a bell?

JUDITH BOEL,
SALT SPRING

Control deer population

It is time to do what Oak Bay is doing: put our deer on birth control!

The loss of our island's understory is having a disastrous effect, according to UBC professor Tara Martin (see Oct. 11, 2017 Driftwood article).

Our historic deer population was 1,500. Now it is 6,000. Crazy.

Why are deer more important than our bee populations, who are suffering from lack of wildflower abundance and diversity due to deer consumption?

This, instead, is a much better way to spend the additional money CRD director Gary Holman wants to charge us for his undemocratic "safety tax."

Deer overpopulation is a big problem. Safety is not.

MARY MACLEAN,
SALT SPRING

Taxed off the island

I am aware of people's concerns about vandalism in and around town, but perhaps there should be a Block Watch done by volunteers in the effected community as other communities do.

I am beyond tired of hearing the local governing body, CRD or others, wishing to fund new issues by applying for the funds through our taxes.

I live in the town core in a very small home. What I am paying now to Victoria for parcel taxes that include sewer and water services, along with metered costs, friends in the Lower Mainland and Victoria with much larger assessed values and homes pay less and get garbage pickup included.

It is time for politicians to find alternative ways to deal with these sort of problems.

And perhaps they should remind the provincial government of how much money is pulled out of the community and how little of it comes back to be used in it. Also, they are the ones who shut down many of the mental health facilities where certain individuals were housed way back when and are now without the care they require and have been set loose on to society.

To close, I am more than just tired but fed up with their lack of imagination in problem solving and the way they are so free with the public purse. They should stop now and think very clearly about what they are proposing and how they are funding it. It may seem like not much but add it in with all the rest of the hangers-on and the total is becoming increasingly just too expensive.

It's to the point of my considering moving from the community I have called home for nearly 40 years and where I raised a family. A very sad thought indeed.

RODERICK MACDONALD,
VILLAGE TERRACE

More data needed to ameliorate homelessness

By **SHARON MCCOLLOUGH**

Homelessness is a complex phenomenon with many causative factors requiring diverse problem-solving strategies. Having been a therapist in a mental hospital and in private practice, a social service professional, a co-author of a federal grant that funded a drug addiction program and a community outreach worker, I am aware of the extremely difficult challenges involved in addressing the needs of this considerably varied population.

Purportedly, "Salt Spring has the highest rate of homelessness in the province." This is a disturbing and remarkable "statistic." If this is the case, why has so little effort been expended into an objective analysis of that "fact?"

Before attempting to address this extremely complex issue, it might behoove us to attempt a more in-depth understanding of the causes resulting in that statistic. Why do we have the highest rate of homelessness in B.C.? One of the most obvious causative factors is our mild climate. But why is our homeless population greater than in other areas within our climate zone?

Our island has green spaces, forests and parks, which provide more outdoor living opportunities than concrete urban environments. Still, why is our homeless population greater than Langley, Cloverdale, Abbotsford, Cowichan, Chemainus, Sooke, etc. where there are also a lot of green spaces? One contributing factor could be our island topography, where our forests and parks are relatively

GUEST COLUMN

close to the town with coffee shops, food banks and social services.

Another major factor is our housing crisis, most recently exacerbated by the surge of landlords opting to rent commercially and thereby displacing island residents. Additionally, Salt Spring is widely promoted as an island "paradise" with beautiful beaches and a thriving, colourful community of artists, musicians and traditional and alternative lifestyles.

While we do not have quantitative numbers, we do have corroborated anecdotal evidence directly from some newer members of the homeless population that their outreach workers and/or shelter staff members in Victoria and Vancouver told them specifically to "go to Salt Spring because there is food, clothing and it is safer than the city." It has also been reported that law enforcement officers in these two neighbouring urban hubs have offered similar advice. Further, our homeless population is also comprised of travellers who are the volitionally transient, which is a different subgroup than many of the homeless who do not have choices as to their living situations.

Another puzzling phenomenon is the disproportionate number of travellers from one particular eastern province, which seems to be well beyond any statistical chance. One might posit that, at some level within that province, there exists systemic

encouragement to go specifically to Salt Spring, but as yet we do not have objective evidence that that is the case. Understanding that process would be a worthwhile pursuit and essential if we are striving to reduce our homeless population.

According to the statistics, our homeless population has been increasing annually. This would seem to indicate that the manner in which we are addressing this problem isn't working. We need to develop some different problem-solving strategies. In order to do this effectively, we need more information: information that can be easily, quickly obtained without violating any individual's privacy. How many within the population are infants or children under 16? How many are 17 to 25, 40 to 60, over 65? How many have been on the island for three to six months, one to six years, or over 10 years? How many are singles, or couples? How many have part-time or full-time employment? How many were former renters evicted by a landlord opting to rent commercially to tourists through Airbnb?

There is no cookie-cutter solution for "homelessness." The needs of a dyslexic 22-year-old are different than those of a single parent of a four-year-old or a pensionless senior.

Our small community has limited resources and we need more definitive data in order to develop more effective, pragmatic strategies that will, hopefully, result in the loss of this most unwelcome distinction of having the "highest rate of homelessness in the province."

Preliminary safety budget details released

By GARY HOLMAN

I'm writing in response to recent articles and letters in the Driftwood regarding the proposed new CRD Community Safety Service. I can confirm the initial requisition for this new service will be \$30,000 (about 40 cents per household per month), about \$10,000 of which covers counter-petition costs. A referendum would have taken the entire requisition.

In consultation with the stakeholder group that formed in response to safety concerns in Ganges, I'm proposing a preliminary budget for further public discussion in the new year if the initiative proceeds, including: \$9,000 in grants to on-island organizations to better support and connect those in need to existing services; \$7,000 for crime prevention measures (e.g., Neighbourhood Watch and security cameras and lighting in public locations), organized under the auspices of a contribution agreement with the RCMP; and \$4,000 for minute-taking and CRD financial

IN RESPONSE

accounting/reporting. Over time, as priorities are refined, and success demonstrated, the requisition can be increased.

For those concerned about the validity of the counter-petition process, it is a well-established, provincially legislated means of securing voter assent, used by local governments throughout B.C. On Salt Spring, counter petitions were used to establish and increase funding for our successful public transit system. Counter petitions do not "end run" voters and some have failed here, including those for the arts and fire district. In fact, counter petitions give voters at least 30 days to register their opposition (CRD has been accepting petitions since Nov. 4 and will do so until Dec. 9), compared to just one day for a much more costly referendum.

It's been suggested that a poll be conducted before putting the issue to voters. My "polling" involved attending a number of community meetings sponsored by the United Church, the Chamber of Commerce, and other citizens, as well as many conversations with workers, volunteers, residents and visitors in private and public venues about repeated rounds of vandalism, and their experiences of threats and harassment. I cannot as an elected official ignore these concerns, or dismiss them as "peripheral."

At this time, I'm not proposing the establishment of a formal CRD commission, but to regularly convene public meetings of an inter-agency advisory group. Any grants or expenditures made through this new service will have the same staff and political oversight as other CRD services. The involvement of any resident or local group will be welcome in these public advisory meetings to take part in discussions about priorities and inter-agency

collaboration. The information sharing and collaboration facilitated by this new CRD service will enable existing agencies and organizations to more effectively fulfill their mandate. Improved collaboration will also result in more effective advocacy to senior governments, an approach that recently helped encourage BC Housing's about face on funding for a year-round shelter.

If voters approve the proposed safety service, the CRD budget increase over 2018-2020 will average about 3.7 per cent per year. Considering an inflation rate of about 2.5 per cent and local population growth of one per cent, these increases are certainly not out of control. For an initial investment of 40 cents per household per month, a CRD Community Safety Service will improve safety and supports for all our residents, and pay dividends in terms of funding partnerships with senior governments, just as we've accomplished with public transit, pathways and affordable housing.

Smell the coffee, Driftwood: one cup should be considered a bargain

BY IAN CLEMENT

It was disappointing to learn that, despite acknowledging that "many huge community issues will demand . . . our resources in the coming years," in Driftwood's view, the creation of an open and accountable community service — tasked to engage with some of those issues now — is not worth the price of a cup of coffee (Oct. 30 "Coffee Allowance" editorial).

There seems to be some serious misunderstanding — or myopia — afoot. Plainly, the "many huge community issues" that Driftwood alludes to aren't going to wait for "coming years." They are on our doorstep now, and they are enormously complex, inter-connected and multi-faceted. "Personal safety in Ganges," per se, is just one facet of the much larger issue.

In any other community of our population size most "huge issues" would be comprehensively tackled by local government, possibly in concert with other levels of government. On Salt Spring, we (arguably) have no effective local government at all, or — at best — enjoy membership in a regional district that provides a limited number of services (parks and recreation, animal control, building inspection, etc.), all "led from behind" by our land use planning authority, the Islands Trust. Other services are delivered by non-profits that receive support from government, such as Community Services, or the library. There are huge gaps in services and accountability, and no single agency has overarching responsibility for, or a legislative mandate that encom-

passes, the health or trajectory of this community. Clearly, addressing "huge issues" (whether now or in coming years) demands a better system of governance than that which currently exists here. Some might even say we need self governance in order to survive those "coming years."

We can either wait for a miracle, a deus ex machina moment, or try to do something now.

A "safety service" with a budget of \$30,000 (or even \$68,000) will obviously be severely limited in the scope of the services it can deliver. In fact, delivered "security measures" would account for only 10 per cent of that already tiny proposed budget, and will be incidental in the larger scheme of things.

What the proposed safety service might be able to deliver, how-

ever, could prove to be invaluable.

As has already been pointed out by others, the word "safety" has not been defined, and this means the potential scope of the service's mandate is broad. As I understand things, there will be regular meetings, official minutes will be taken, and important agencies such as RCMP, CRD, Community Services, etc., will be in regular attendance. Most importantly, this will be a legitimate face of government that will be open, transparent and accountable to the public, with an opportunity at every meeting for delegations from the public to be heard. A possible step towards the effective self governance we desperately need, in other words.

If the "safety service" fulfills its promise in a satisfactory fashion — "Great!" If it fails to live

up to its promise, that could also be "Great!" We get rid of it, and try something else. If the objective of our community is to transform itself from being one that apprehends "huge issues" but is incapable of effectively grappling with them to one that is capable of self-determination and self-actualization, we are obliged to explore every possible avenue to get there. The safety service might turn out to be nothing but a necessary step along the way to something better — but it is at least a step — and an inexpensive one, at that.

If the quest for effective governance on Salt Spring is viewed as a board game, we have to keep our markers moving. To be actively in that game for the price of a cup of coffee is a bargain. Wake up, Driftwood, and smell that coffee!

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Real Estate

IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?

Often sellers will say to me "I want to wait till my spring garden blooms". Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year.

By listing now, your residence will:

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

I sell many homes in February and March that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to more supply, hence competition, or better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

This old adage is really true for real estate:

"Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!"

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

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JAN
MACPHERSON

Mechanic

Holiday trips in cold weather may require more than a well prepared vehicle

All the regular things like snow tires, antifreeze, new wiper blades etc. are a top priority and should be checked before heading out on a holiday trip.

As well as all these things give some thought to a survival kit. No one wants to think about getting stuck in their vehicle in adverse conditions but it does happen and a small kit prepared ahead of time could make the difference between being uncomfortable and being dangerously hypothermic.

One website has a rather extensive list of materials for your survival kit and attached to it are a few paragraphs of excellent advice on what to do in case you are stranded in your vehicle. Check out <http://www.21stcenturyadventures.com/advice/lists/winterSurvivalChecklist.html>

Drive Safe, Gyle



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Questions a financial plan can help you answer

Finances can sometimes keep us up at night. But with proper planning, a financial plan can help you answer some key questions including:

How do I create a budget that fits my lifestyle? Creating a budget is at the heart of any financial plan, and learning to manage it is key to thriving financially. Follow this rule:

- 50% of your after-tax income covers your needs
- 30% covers your wants • 20% is what you save
- Should I pay off my debt or build up my savings? Growing your nest egg is a big reason for why you should start saving as soon as possible. But, not all debt is the same - with credit card debt, it's best you pay that off quickly as the interest rates can be extremely high.
- Am I saving enough for retirement? Make sure to pay yourself first. It's never too early to start planning your retirement and it's never too late to plan what it's going to look like.



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FOCUS on EDUCATION

MUSIC PROGRAM

Island choirs tackle CBC Music Class Challenge

Relationship building
aids mental health

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Youth from Salt Spring and Fernwood elementary schools came together to combine their voices in song last month for a unique experience inspired by a CBC Radio contest.

The fifth year of the Canadian Music Class Challenge, hosted by CBC personality Grant Lawrence, provided the opportunity for the two schools to sing together for the first time. As music director for both schools, Whitney Walker saw the contest as a great way to bridge the upper classes who will soon be meeting at middle school, and to build relationships across the community as a whole.

"I'm not crazy about the competition aspect, but it does allow us to do something different that we haven't done before," Walker said. "For me it was more about getting both choirs together."

The Canadian Music Class Challenge invites music teachers in



PHOTO BY RICHARD WALKER

Music teacher Whitney Walker leads Fernwood and Salt Spring elementary choirs while being filmed as part of the CBC Music Class Challenge.

elementary, junior high and senior high categories to select a song from a list of Canadian works chosen each for the contest each year. After a month or two of practice, groups perform the song for a video recording, which is then sent to the CBC judging panel for consideration. The deadline for the 2019 submission is Nov. 26, and winners will be declared in December.

The 2019 contest marks the first time that Salt Spring's public elementary schools have entered the contest, although School District

64's Pender Island School has participated in the past. While Walker has downplayed the competition part of the program with her two school groups, there are some things that make the challenge appealing. One is the Canadian content focus, which includes a large number of contemporary hits. The other is the fact that it stretches right across the country, to every province and territory.

With input from students, Walker selected Scars to Your Beautiful by young artist Alessia Cara as their

song choice. She notes that teaching music is easier when young people like what they're singing, so that made the radio-popular song a good choice.

"We'd actually done the piece once before. It has a really good message about just being who you are," said Walker, who likes to incorporate positive messaging and values into the music program.

Walker's philosophy for her music program is all about building self-confidence in students through participation. She also holds a degree in counselling and is the school counsellor at both SSE and Fernwood. For her, both aspects of her work fit together perfectly into one package to help reduce anxiety in kids and to improve mental health through community.

"Singing is just another way to bring everybody together," she said. "It's another way to build relationships between kids."

As an added bonus, children who might need counselling support will already know Walker through her music teaching role, and therefore will likely feel more comfortable getting help. Walker

believes it's important that parents know that mental health services are available through the schools.

Altogether around 90 students combined from grades three to five at SSE and Fernwood performed the song for the recording, which was captured by a professional videographer on Oct. 30. Walker said she isn't expecting to wow the judges too much, considering some schools are able to incorporate lots of instruments and fancy T-shirts. She needed to rehearse the two choirs separately until they could join for the recording.

"For us, it was just us and our bare voices," Walker said. "It was a bit of a risk because we came together for the first time that morning."

Videos will soon go live to the world on the CBC Music YouTube channel, and winners will be declared in December. One class will receive a grand prize of \$5,000 in new musical instruments for the classroom; eight first-place classes will receive \$3,000; two classes will receive \$1,000, plus all first-, second- and third-place classes will receive winning plaques.

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November 2019

30 YEARS

Sam Keating

25 YEARS

Catherine Walker
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Sheri Wakefield
Lenore Baxendale
Graham Tweddle
Shelly Johnson

20 YEARS

Stephen Berry
Sonia Langer
Tony Marshall
Katja Korinth
Michael Berendt

15 YEARS

Laura Morgan
Jennifer Hughes
Raymond Colleran
Jason Donaldson
Anthony Copeland
Geoffrey Mahady
Sarah Bateman
Bryce Woollcombe
Donna Kirkpatrick
Jane Sinclair
Pieter Hofmann

10 YEARS

Andrea Hollingsworth
Myriah Michaux
Lisa Stafford
Ciaran Ayton
Donal Duncan
Marian MacLean
Cynthia Marshall
Daniel Simmonds

5 YEARS

Jacob Hall
Rosamund Henbrey
Erin Anderson
Michelle Fox
Roland Kerr
Nikita Pardiwala
Catherine Samson
Lindsay Huberdeau
Emily Raichura
Michael Brown
Michelle Davies
Dustin Bean
Allison Dutcher



FOCUS on EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

Islanders take on reconfiguration challenge

Two of seven planned meetings held last week

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Community members, teachers, students, board staff and trustees sat down last week to discuss the future of education in the Southern Gulf Islands.

The Gulf Islands School District is undergoing a configuration review, a process where they examine how the district is set up and determine how students and the community can best be served in the future. As part of that work, the district has been reaching out to the community through an online engagement process as well as a series of community meetings. The meetings began in October on the outer islands, and the first Salt Spring meeting was held on Nov. 6 at Gulf Islands Secondary School. A second meeting on the island took place the next day at Fernwood Elementary School. Two more are scheduled, with one on Mayne Island this evening, and one at Fulford Elementary School on Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

The motion to start the process, though initiated by the previous board before last year's local elections, showed that the district was aware it would be going into a period of transition and that the exercise would be

valuable in bringing education in the Gulf Islands in line with modern thinking.

"It's been hugely valuable to get to visit Pender, Saturna and Galiano so far," said board chair Rob Pingle during the meeting last Wednesday. "There are seven meetings for seven trustees on all five islands. It's a great learning experience."

Some 30 people came to the GISS meeting to voice their concerns and bring their ideas on how the district can provide the best educational experience to their students. Pingle explained that the last time the district looked at its configuration was around 25 years ago.

"About 25 years ago, this school was built that we stand in now. At that time, the district said 'how should we use the facilities that we have and get people to where they can be best served through the education process,' and we ended up with what we have," he said.

The district will be taking all feedback and working in December to determine what action will be taken moving forward. Any decisions will be implemented in time for the 2020 school year, with some possible transition time built in if larger changes are necessary. District officials wanted an open discussion, with no ideas left off the table. Apart from a few no-goes, they welcomed all ideas and encouraged people to speak their minds. The district's caveats include keeping at least one school on each island, and continuing

water taxi service.

The meeting began with a backgrounder on the reconfiguration process, followed by a quick look at the district's financial reality. Finances were on the mind of many in the room, as discussion around the tables broke into what people would like to see in the district moving forward. The district has faced financial issues in the past, and is currently in what is called "funding protection" with the Ministry of Education. The ministry is also undergoing a funding formula review, which could change how education is funded in the province. The review process was originally expected to be complete by this point, but the deadline was pushed back one year by the education ministry.

Some of the ideas heard during the meeting were that there was a general appreciation for the four-day school week, that connectivity and coordination between the outer islands would be beneficial to the students based there, and equal access to programming for all students was a key goal. The future of the Salt Spring Island Middle School was also discussed at length at most tables, especially concerning potential grade splits, programs and use of the building if it is decided that the middle school would close.

Parent Mick Bromley spoke about the need for more communication between schools and parents.

"I just see every one of our children as a brilliant learning thing. That's what they do. The schools are trying to help that, and the parents are trying to help that. I can't see why there isn't massive communication between parents and schools," he said, adding that the formality between the schools and parents is a traditional relationship and not necessarily reflective of the way education should be.

"The only thing I can't question is that we all love our kids. It seems to me that schools do in their own way too. Why don't we just open the doors and communication between schools and parents," he added. "I don't think we should be looking for more money, I don't think we should be closing down or whatever. I believe we have everything we need already, and it's more about accessing the resources, whether they're parents or teachers or the kids themselves."

Trustees and district staff collected the feedback from each table, and documents will be made public after the feedback period is complete.

Pingle also explained that the district will be obtaining feedback through an anonymous online forum where people can explain their ideas and vote on others. That service was launched in October and over 400 ideas have been posted. The Thoughtexchange page is available at <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#522043214>.



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LIVE THEATRE

Oleanna play prompts timely dialogue

Community Theatre production continues Wednesday through Saturday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Community Theatre is offering a brave choice for its fall production, tackling the thorny issue of male-female power relations as expressed in David Mamet's *Oleanna*.

Resting on the performance of just two individuals to reflect a huge social concern, *Oleanna* charts the changing relationship between a male professor and his young female student over three acts. At the beginning of the play, professor John (played by Dave French) has all the security of position, his fortune rising with tenure at his university just about to be signed. He's not much help when Carol (Metta Rose) arrives at his office begging for help to understand his obscure writings and thoughts on the philosophy of education.

By the third act the power relationship has almost completely reversed, as Carol's reports on actions John unthinkingly took in acts one and two place him on the verge of losing everything. While John argues things he said and did to Carol were never meant to be sexual in nature, Carol challenges his right to assign the meaning of those actions.

Oleanna premiered in 1992 and was written during the hearings on Clarence Thomas' appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court — which were complicated when his former assistant Anita Hill accused him of sexual harassment. Similar to the more recent hearings for Brett Kavanaugh, who was accused of sexual assault by Christine Blasey Ford, the claim was dismissed as politically motivated invention.

As *Oleanna* director Damian Inwood states at the beginning of the Community Theatre production, in the wake of the #MeToo movement we may be thinking about these matters differently now than when Hill was testifying. The shift

may in turn colour how modern audience members react to the situation depicted on stage, which on paper sounds like a false accusation.

That is certainly how the character played by French sees it. French is remarkably restrained through most of the performance. John is so blinded by his own self-importance that he fails to hear Carol's real meaning when she asks for help. He has no self-awareness. He disrespects the education system and happily avoids its conventions, while at the same time using those conventions to accumulate power.

French has a fairly thankless task in taking on this character, but he manages to make John somewhat likable for most of the play. His ability to transverse Mamet's complex dialogue is also impressive, with full control over the incessant reversals and self-interruptions. John is involved in several phone conversations where his emotions do finally get engaged, and French has the perfect timing and expression to make those conversations real to the audience. Later on, when his restraint with Carol finally breaks, the transformation is both shocking and powerful.

Rose is completely mesmerizing to watch as her rage grows apace with her ability to analyze – and change – the situation on campus.

Rose has the more interesting character development to enjoy, and she embodies the transformation with total commitment. Carol is already angry in the first act, but she's also physically ill at ease. The unbalanced power relationship, her perceived failure as a student and her reliance on John to succeed are all clear to see in the way she shrinks into herself, peering out suspiciously from large glasses and hiding behind her long



PHOTO BY CHARLEY MILLER

Carol (played by Metta Rose) confronts John (David French) in Community Theatre's *Oleanna* production.

sweater and hair. As the situation changes, Carol moves out of that shell, becoming more militant in dress and more active in her movements. Rose is completely mesmerizing to watch as her rage grows apace with her ability to analyze — and change — the situation on campus.

Without the right actors in place this could have been a bad choice for community theatre, but Inwood has made a solid bet on the two stars. His directing talent is also notable. The dialogue-heavy material sounds natural enough that the audience can focus more on the subtext, which is where the true rift in power and perception lives. Movement and blocking in the simple office set likewise creates a dynamic analogue to the interior battles taking place.

Salt Spring Community Theatre offers four more performances of *Oleanna* beginning with a fundraiser event for SWOVA tonight, Wednesday, Nov. 13. The show runs at 7:30 p.m. nightly through Saturday, Nov. 16.

FOLK CLUB

Cariboo Express show back by popular demand

Food bank fundraiser and musical feast combine for fun night at hall

On Monday, Nov. 18, the Salt Spring Folk Club presents Barney Bentall and the Cariboo Express at the Fulford Hall. The concert is a fundraiser for the Salt Spring Food Bank.

"Back by popular demand," this show is one of the best ever and last year raised over \$20,000 thanks to the generous cash donations of audience and business sponsorships.

The Cariboo Express is a highly entertaining, one-of-a-kind variety show hosted by Canadian music icon Barney Bentall and includes some of Canada's finest roots and country musicians. The cast includes Ridley Bent, Kirby Barber, Dustin Bentall, Wendy Bird, Matt Masters, Leeroy Stagger, Adrian Dolan, Rob Becker, Geoff Hicks, Scott

Smith, Stephanie Cadman and Geoff Hilhorst. This stellar showcase of performers is all about laughter, storytelling and the timeless sound of contemporary songwriters with great respect for tradition. The show is a heartfelt set of roots, folk and rock favourites.

The Cariboo Express tour raises money for food banks in many different B.C. location. Funds raised by the Salt Spring evening will be matched by the Bentall family's Hawthorne Foundation. Donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt from Salt Spring Community Services Society and can be made at the hall this night or directly to Community Services. The Salt Spring Food Bank relies entirely on donations, so this fundraiser is a timely community contribution to stock up for the Christmas food hamper program.

Tickets are available at Salt Spring Books. Doors open at 6:15 and showtime is 7 p.m.

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Show 7:00 Catering by Three Blind Mice
Food Bank Fundraiser

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At Your Service

The Life and Yarns of Robert Service

Written, Adapted & Performed by
Jeffrey Renn

ArtSpring, November 21st
3:00pm & 7:00

Tickets at the box office and
artspring.ca

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what's on this week



<div>Wed. Nov. 13</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <p>Oleanna. Salt Spring Community Theatre presents David Mamet play, directed by Damian Inwood. Special fundraiser performance for SWOVA. Mahon Hall. 7:30 p.m.</p> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Salt Spring Film Festival presents nīpawistamāsowin: We Will Stand Up. In August 2016, a young Cree man named Colten Boushie was shot and killed after entering Gerald Stanley’s Saskatchewan farm with his friends. Award-winning filmmaker Tasha Hubbard follows the journey of Colten’s family as they search for justice, taking their fight to the highest echelons of power and, ultimately, the United Nations. Screening with director in attendance, co-presented by the Stqeeye’ Learning Society (Xwaaqw’um Village). ArtSpring. 7 p.m.</p> <p>Tech Tutoring with Peter Freeman. Every Wednesday at the library in three 50-minute sessions between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Insight/Mindfulness Meditation. A guided session of meditation in the Buddhist tradition by Heather Martin at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary’s Church in Fulford). 7 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby’s Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.</p>	<div>Thur. Nov. 14</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <p>Oleanna. Salt Spring Community Theatre presents David Mamet play, directed by Damian Inwood. Mahon Hall. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Open Mic & Jam. At the Legion on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Open Mic at Moby’s Pub. Every Thursday from 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.</p> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Tech Tutoring with Jim Watkins. Every Thursday at the library. 10 a.m to 12 noon.</p> <p>Singing on the Theme of Mother Mary. Siobhan Robinson, founder of the Gettin’ Higher Choir in Victoria, leads a day of participatory singing called Singing on the Theme of Mother Mary. Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration required at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.</p> <p>Preview Night for Giant Book & Jewellery Sale. Special event for Salt Spring Literacy Society members that lets them peruse the books and jewellery for sale at the Nov. 15-17 Giant Book & Jewellery Sale, purchase their first two books and pieces of jewellery, and enjoy wine and appys. SS Farmers’ Institute. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Memberships can be purchased at the door.</p>	<div>Fri. Nov. 15</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <p>Oleanna. See Thursday’s listing.</p> <p>Grant Lawrence and Friends: An Evening of Songs and Stories. Writer/broadcaster/ musician Grant Lawrence and musical performances by Jill Barber, Ashleigh Ball and Luke Wallace. Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>ArtSpring Presents Yegor Dyachkov and Jean Saulnier. Renowned Canadian cellist Yegor Dyachkov and pianist Jean Saulnier present a program called Crossroads. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>DJ Kemal Evans ’90s Party. At the Legion. 8 p.m.</p> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Giant Book & Jewellery Sale. Salt Spring Literacy fundraiser at the Farmers’ Institute. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> <p>StoryWalk. A self-led program where participants walk from the library, through Mouat Park to the pool, following the story along the path. Today’s book is Duck in the Truck by Jez Alborough. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p> <p>Ask Salt Spring. Neighbours Helping Neighbours Find Answers. Thrifty Foods Flower Shop. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with s trustee Laura Patrick from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p> <p>Art Show Opening: Winter Solstice Gift Shop. At Salt Spring Gallery. 5 to 7 p.m.</p>	<div>Fri. Nov. 15</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Family Movie Matinee – Charlotte’s Web. Kids and families welcome to library screening with free popcorn. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Fridays at 2:30 p.m.</p> <div>Sat. Nov. 16</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <p>Oleanna. See Thursday’s listing.</p> <p>Buck Dodgers String Band. Live at Moby’s Pub. 9 p.m.</p> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Qigong as Portal to Awareness. Led by Purna Ma at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary’s Church in Fulford). 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration required at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.</p> <p>Giant Book & Jewellery Sale. See Friday’s listing.</p> <p>Write on the Rock Children’s Book Festival. First annual celebration of children’s lit at the SS Public Library. Aidan Cassie gives a presentation on creating picture books from 11 a.m. to noon; snacks and a picture book-making activity from 12 to 12:30 p.m.; and Mike Deas gives a presentation on creating graphic novels from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Community Town Hall: The Future of Agriculture on Salt Spring Island. Public consultation session for renewal of the Area Farm Plan. GISS. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Register/info: plan2farm@gmail.com</p>	<div>Sat. Nov. 16</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Community Talking Circle on the Topic of “Community Safety.” Salt Spring Island’s Restorative Justice group hosts talking circles on the proposed community safety tax. Salt Spring Public Library. 3 p.m.</p> <div>Sun. Nov. 17</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <p>Sari Alesh and Friends. Renowned Syrian violinist and his band play a concert of a wide range of musical styles from Arab pop and classical to Celtic fiddle music. With Wilf Davies, keyboard, Barrie Hughes, bass and mandolin, Dave Conway on guitar, Keith Bjorndahl, drums, and Sherry Williams on vocals. All Saints By-the-Sea. 3 p.m.</p> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Giant Book & Jewellery Sale. See Friday’s listing, except the time is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <div>Mon. Nov. 18</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <p>Barney Bentall and the Cariboo Express. Salt Spring Folk Club evening by the inimitable Barney Bentall and his band of amazing musicians. Fulford Hall. 7 p.m. Proceeds of the evening matched by the Bentall Foundation to benefit the Salt Spring Food Bank.</p> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Youth Book Club. Snacks, games, crafts and discussion of Jane, the Fox and Me by Jane Britt. SS Public Library. 3:30 to 5 p.m.</p>	<div>Mon. Nov. 18</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>100 Women Who Care Salt Spring Island. Meeting of collective philanthropy initiative aimed at gathering a group of now almost 200 women to raise money for local charities in a novel way. ArtSpring. Orientation and social at 6 p.m. Meeting from 7 to 8 p.m.</p> <p>Salt Spring Toastmasters. Public-speaking club meets Mondays at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room, except on statutory holidays. 7 p.m. sharp.</p> <div>Tue. Nov. 19</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>Evening of Sacred Poetry. Led by poet Brian Day at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary’s Church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m. Participation is by donation and registration is not required.</p> <p>Dan Jason: Changing the Climate With The Seeds We Grow. Salt Spring Seeds founder and author of multiple books Dan Jason talks about his latest book. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Trivia Tuesday. At Moby’s Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>Salt Spring Probus Club. Guest speaker is John Neville giving a talk called My Encounters With Mammals. Lions Hall. Meeting at 10 a.m., speaker at 10:30.</p>	<div>Wed. Nov. 20</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <p>Shadows in Morocco: Live Multimedia With William Jans. Join Vancouver photographer & adventurer William Jans for his 9th new multimedia show about absurd travels. The Fritz Cinema. 7 p.m. (Doors at 6:45)</p> <p>Lonesome Ace Stringband. Oldtime Appalachian string band plays at Moby’s Pub. 8 to 11 p.m.</p> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <p>After the Truth & Reconciliation Commission: Will Canadian Democracy Be More Fair? Speakers series event at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 2 p.m.</p> <p>Rest & Recharge. A two-hour restorative yin yoga practice with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest. 6:30 p.m. Contact sarahjane@thenesthotyoga.com or 250-537-6638 for info.</p> <p>Insight/Mindfulness Meditation. See last Wednesday’s listing.</p> <p>Music Bingo. See last Wednesday’s listing.</p> <p>Tech Tutoring with Peter Freeman. See last Wednesday’s listing.</p> <p>IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com</p>
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THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Abominable** shows Friday, Nov. 15 to Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. and with an additional Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Rated G. 1 hour 37 minutes.

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EXHIBITIONS

- **The Winter Solstice Gift Shop** — a treasure trove of artful creations in stained glass, painting, mixed-media, textile, jewelry & ceramic — opens at Salt Spring Gallery on Friday, Nov. 15 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and continues through Dec. 28.
- Today, Nov. 13, is the last day to see **Melanie Thompson’s** exhibit called Shadow Show at **Salt Spring Gallery**.
- **Unwritten, Unspoken, Unheard**, an exhibit of work by 16 women artists, runs daily in the **ArtSpring gallery** until Nov. 24.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Melodie Herbert** and **Philippa Tattersall** exhibit paintings in the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room** through November.
- **The Venter Gallery** showcases work by **Deon Venter** from his critically acclaimed Missing and Highway of Tear series along with a selection of **Kathy Venter’s** polychrome ceramic sculptures.
- **Andy Poystila** has an exhibition in the **Jankura Lounge** at **ArtSpring** through November.
- **Mary Laucks** shows new abstract works in the **ArtSpring lobby** in the month of November.

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LIVE THEATRE

Renn explores life of Service

One-man show
premieres Nov. 21
at ArtSpring

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Shakespearian actor and theatre teacher Jeffrey Renn is turning to a beloved figure in Canadian culture for his latest project, a one-man play based on the life and work of poet Robert Service.

At Your Service — The Life and Yarns of Robert Service features the Scottish banking clerk who made his name imagining stories from the Klondike gold rush while he was stationed in the Yukon. The play is presented by exitStageLeft Productions and gets its national premiere on the ArtSpring stage with two shows on Thursday, Nov. 21.

As Renn observed while touring across the nation, Canadians of a certain age, regardless of status or education, will most likely have memorized work by Service at some point of their life, whether that was The Cremation of Sam McGee or The Shooting of Dan McGrew. He once put the theory to the test at a series of small-town pubs, where he would start off reciting the first few lines of Sam McGee.

"By the end of the first verse, three or four people would have joined in," Renn recalled. "I realized Robert Service cuts across class distinctions, cuts across financial barriers. And I realized, 'This has legs as a show.'"

Fresh off directing an all-female production of MacBeth for the Douglas College theatre program in New Westminster, Renn got his start as an actor at the prestigious Stratford and Shaw festivals. He was mentored by famous Canadian thespian Douglas Campbell, who was a founding actor at Stratford and a company stalwart for many years.

It was Campbell who first got Renn interested in Service, when the older actor gave him a copy of the poet's autobiography Ploughman of the Moon, An Adventure Into Memory.

"I've been carrying the book around for 20 years," Renn said, adding it was due to this habit that he started reciting Service in bars.

Renn has mainly acted and directed throughout his stage career. During a 10-year break from the theatre he practised organic farming with his father in Powell River, which led to them opening a farm-based bistro. His interest in staging poetry was ignited when Theresa Kishkan and John Pass, "the unofficial Poet Laureate of the Sunshine Coast," walked into the restaurant one night, and

Pass challenged Renn to try performing some Canadian poems.

After a crash-course in a genre he knew little about, Renn created Poetry Night in Canada. (It happened to take place during the National Hockey League strike.)

At Your Service — The Life and Yarns of Robert Service marks the first time, however, that Renn has written a complete play. The work contains key moments of narrative interest from the Ploughman autobiography, plus music and performance of works by Service and some of the writers who influenced him, such as Longfellow and Burns.

Service started writing his "verses" for fun, but wound up becoming the most popular writer in the English language after Shakespeare, with fans across the British Empire and the United States. He actually lived close to Salt Spring at the turn of the 19th century, with stints in Cowichan Bay, Duncan and Victoria before he was posted to a Canadian Bank of Commerce branch in Kamloops, and then on to his life-changing experience in Whitehorse in 1904.

Those postings do not figure in this play, though, as Renn has focused the work on formative moments from the poet's early years, from childhood up until he left the U.K. at age 21. (Future installments on later periods in the poet's life will be forthcoming.) As seen in a preview after an ArtSpring residency last summer, the actor remarkably becomes a cheeky Scottish lad of six and 12 before a section on Service's transformation into manhood, around age 18.

"The stuff that had dramatic narrative from the autobiography really rose out. It became obvious what would have play," Renn said of his writing process. "There's a whole lot of humour in there that people might not have expected."

"I think there's a fine dramatic narrative to Service that's different," he added.

The ArtSpring premiere will provide the opportunity for recording a "reel" that Renn will send out to other venues and festivals. He is excited that Christina Penhale and Jekka Mack of exitStageLeft Productions have championed the work.

"This will be their first purely professional production and it will take exitStageLeft off the island for the first time," he observed.

The show will be around 90 minutes, including one intermission. Two performances are offered on Nov. 21 at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

celebrating SENIORS

Code of Conduct for the Delivery of Banking Services to Seniors

In July of this year, the Canadian banking industry adopted a Code of Conduct for the Delivery of Banking Services to Seniors (the code).

The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada will monitor banks to ensure they comply with the code.

The code is an important first step in guiding banks in their delivery of services to meet the needs of seniors. Banks who have signed on to the code must abide by its principles.

The code will come into effect by Jan. 1, 2021. However, effective immediately, banks must abide by principles 5 and 6, which will require them to mitigate potential financial harm to seniors and take into account market demographics and the needs of seniors when proceeding with branch closures.

Should FCAC find that a bank has breached a voluntary code, it will take appropriate action as outlined in its supervision framework.

FCAC will continue to engage with seniors' groups, financial institutions and other public, private, not-for-profit and academic sector stakeholders on specific issues related to seniors and banking.

Seniors are a rapidly growing segment of Canada's population. Canadians are living longer, which can bring health, mobility or cognitive changes that may impact their ability to bank.

"As Canadians live longer, some seniors may face challenges that impact their ability to bank. This voluntary code of conduct marks an important first step in guiding banks in their delivery of products and services that meet the needs of seniors. FCAC will actively monitor banks' compliance with this code and ensure its principles are upheld," said Werner Liedtke, assistant commissioner, Financial Consumer Agency of Canada.

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ISLAND LIFE

- Remember When
- Star of the Week
- Where 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



CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Gift program forms now available

Deadline for applications to be submitted is Nov. 26

For Salt Spring parents anticipating a financial struggle during Christmas, now is the time to submit a Santa's Workshop application form.

The forms are available at the reception desk of Community Services at 268 Fulford Ganges Rd. and should be returned by Tuesday, Nov. 26. Applications will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis.

Santa's Workshop is a volunteer group that comes together once a year to buy and distribute gifts for



CONTRIBUTED FILE PHOTO BY WENDY EGGERTSON

From left, Santa's Workshop volunteers Lucille Marcotte, Lynda Green and Gail Neumann in a photo taken last December. The application deadline for the 2019 program is Nov. 26, with forms available at Salt Spring Community Services. Some changes in how the program runs have been made this year.

children at Christmas.

Workshop head elf Wendy Eggertson advises that the workshop will be held differently this year. For parents of children aged 0 to 12, they will have a shopping time to choose the gifts of their choice for their children. For parents of teens, aged 12 to 16, they will be asked to provide their choice of gift certificates on the application on a priority basis.

As well, the distribution of gifts will be held at Central Hall between Dec. 7 and Dec. 14.

"This year it will be the parents' responsibility to pick up the gifts, although we will try to schedule times that make it easier for them and may have volunteers help with transportation from the hall if it is required," said Eggertson.

For people who have new or lightly used toys, books, art supplies or sports equipment to donate, they can do so in Santa's Workshop boxes provided this year at Country Grocer, West of the Moon or Home Hardware. No clothing will be accepted this year. The boxes will be placed out the week of Nov. 18 and will be retrieved on Dec. 14. Santa's Workshop Christmas trees will not be set up CIBC or the Legion this year.

Anyone interested in helping out with Santa's Workshop between Nov. 26 and Dec. 14 should call Eggertson at 250-537-2658.

ADOPT A PET TODAY!



Azizi & Sphinx are a bonded pair of 3 month old brothers who can be shy at first but will quickly warm their way into your heart. They are waiting to be neutered but once done will be ready for their furrever home.

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GIANT Book & Jewellery SALE

Salt Spring Farmers' Institute

NOV. 15 & 16

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NOV. 17

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A SALT SPRING LITERACY FUNDRAISER

Plus — SS Literacy Society members' PREVIEW EVENT on Thursday, Nov. 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy wine, appys and perusing the books and jewellery. Memberships \$10 at the door.

Salt Spring Literacy
Learn. Grow. Succeed.

Sponsored by the
Rotary Club of
Salt Spring Island

Driftwood

COUNTRY GROCER

EVENTS

Sales and kid-lit festival on tap

Weekend events

A favourite November tradition returns this weekend with the Giant Book and Jewellery Sale at the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute.

A fundraiser for Salt Spring Literacy programs, the sale of quality, mostly used books and jewellery runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. See the www.saltspringliteracy.org/ book-sale for more information.

The Salt Spring Rotary Club, which sponsors the sale with a major donation each year, will again have refreshments and

treats available inside and a BBQ outside the hall.

Another literary-themed event makes its debut this year with the Write on the Rock Children's Book Festival being held at the Salt Spring Public Library on Saturday.

From 11 a.m. to 12 noon, award-winning author Aidan Cassie will lead participants in designing a real picture book character. From 12 to 12:30 p.m., various activities will take place as refreshments are served, and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., author/illustrator Mike Deas will share what goes into creating a graphic novel.

Remember WHEN

Five years ago

Rumours of the death of the Vesuvius-Crofton ferry route were greatly exaggerated, after a TV clip implied that the route was at risk. CTV Vancouver Island stated that one of the island's terminals "may be on the chopping block" after the network misunderstood a statement from BC Ferries. The ferry company confirmed with the Driftwood that it had no plans to shut down any routes, and that a decision to explore possibilities would not rest with the corporation.

Twenty years ago

Newspaper readers of the future had their own space in the Driftwood beginning with the launch of the "Especially for Kids" page. Created by kids for kids, the page ran three times prior to Christmas and would start again in January. The inaugural page was created by students at Salt Spring Middle School. The Driftwood had contacted all schools in the district in September, offering them a chance at creating a kids' page. Three schools responded, while a few others expressed interest to take on the challenge in the new year.

Thirty years ago

The six members at the Coast Guard office in Ganges went out on strike in support of a Canada-wide action called by the Public Service Alliance of Canada. Dave Howell, the officer in charge, said coast guard staff would respond only to what it considered to be "may day" situations. The primary concerns of the union included the wage differential between the private and public sectors and a move by the federal government to equalize the salaries paid to union members on the east and west coasts.

Forty years ago

A development permit application for phase one of a multi-stage development in Ganges came up before the Salt Spring Trust Committee meeting at Ganges. Stage one was to consist of a 9,800 square-foot building located on property between the fire hall and the Bank of Montreal. The committee decided not to approve the application until more details were available. Some concern was expressed over what the phasing would mean. Chairman John Rich said among the items needed to be considered were screening the parking area, how it would conform with future road lay-out and provision for a public walkway through the property.

Fifty years ago

There was no school for North Galiano students on Tuesday. The bus wasn't running. Donald New, school trustee from Galiano, told his fellow trustees that the bus driver had taken a holiday and there was nobody else on Galiano authorized to drive a school bus. There was no school bus; there was no school. A relief driver had been engaged from Chemainus, but he left after the first day. In the meantime, Chester Reynolds from Ganges had volunteered to fill in and the road to school was reopened.

ENVIRONMENT

Author tackles climate change by growing food

Dan Jason discusses new book Nov. 19

“In all the talk about climate change, food is one thing that is rarely mentioned,” says local author, farmer and seed saver Dan Jason. This is not so much the case on Salt Spring, however, and especially not on Tuesday, Nov.

19 at the library, where Jason will talk about his newest book, *Changing the Climate With the Seeds We Sow*. A press release explains that Jason “will talk about a subject that no politician has dared to discuss: the unsustainable way food is grown in North America.” The new book complements three other books he has recently published. Jason will discuss aspects

of all the books, how humans are changing the earth’s climate by the destructive and unsustainable ways we relate to seeds and food and how to change the situation through better practices. The new book is about some stars/champions of the plant world — like barley — that deserve to be better known and better grown. Some are not that well thought of in

North America, but they are all easy to grow and have a long history of providing sustenance and health. Islanders are invited to come with their questions to the free event, which is being sponsored by Transition Salt Spring and co-sponsored by the library. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with tea and cookies served. The event starts at 7 p.m.

LITERARY EVENT

Second Violet book in series released

Mary Hughes reveals next chapter in Toronto woman’s life

The Salt Spring Public Library will sponsor a book launch for *Imagining Violet Married* by Salt Spring author Mary Hughes on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 1:30 p.m. Hughes will talk a little about the research process and read a few letters from the book. *Imagining Violet Married* is Part Two of The Violet Trilogy. It continues Violet’s story as she and her new husband, Frank Welsman, embark on married life in turn of the 20th-century Toronto. The book begins with their 1898 voyage to Canada. In subsequent letters, Violet writes about life with her in-laws, her first pregnancy and the development of her husband’s career as a concert pianist. Its gentle domestic drama is set against the rise of Toronto as a musical centre. The book includes the postcards that Violet sent during a trip to England in 1902. Pianist Susan Bull will be on hand to accompany the event and will play a menuet composed by Welsman. Born and educated in Toronto, Hughes has called Salt Spring Island home since 2002. The author of *Frank Welsman, Canadian Conductor and The Life and Times of the Floathouse “Zastrozzi,”* as well as part one of her trilogy, *Imagining Violet*, she has published numerous feature articles in Canadian trade magazines. Recent publications include stories in *The Muskokan*, *Cottage Life*, *More of Our Canada*, *Page & Spine*, *Seniors Living* and the *Vancouver Sun*. *Imagining Violet Married* will be available for sale at the book launch and at Salt Spring Books.

Capital Regional District



NOTICE OF ASSENT VOTING OPPORTUNITY

Magic Lake Estates Wastewater Referendum

Qualified Resident Electors and Non-Resident Property Electors of the Magic Lake Estates Sewage Local Service Area located on North Pender Island within the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will be asked to vote on the following question on **Saturday, November 23, 2019**: “Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopting Bylaw No. 4320, Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3, 2019”, authorizing the Capital Regional District to borrow an amount up to but not to exceed SIX MILLION DOLLARS (\$6,000,000) for the purpose of administering, planning, designing, acquiring, and constructing the capital renewal and upgrade of the Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System. YES or NO”.

Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4320

The intent of Bylaw No. 4320, Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3, 2019, is to authorize the Capital Regional District (CRD) to borrow an amount up to but not to exceed \$6,000,000, for the purposes of funding Phase 1 of capital renewal and upgrade of the Magic Lake Estates wastewater system, which will involve the design and construction of facilities for collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of wastewater, as well as other related works, facilities, real property and equipment purchases, and will include planning, studies, project administration and communications, and staff time. The Magic Lake Estates sewage local service area is located on Pender Island in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area of the Capital Regional District.

The above synopsis is not an interpretation of Bylaw No. 4320. A copy of the complete bylaw and this notice may be viewed from October 21, 2019 to November 22, 2019, Monday to Friday, at CRD Headquarters, 625 Fisgard Street, 1st Floor Foyer, Victoria, BC, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. The bylaw and other information may also be viewed on the website: www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-vote

Taxation Impact

The 30-year loan authorization period may ultimately result in an additional estimated parcel tax of \$496, based on borrowing up to \$6,000,000 for the project. This rate is for illustrative purposes only and the actual parcel tax will be based on the amount borrowed and the interest rate at time of borrowing. The interest rate may also change each time the loan is refinanced (after approximately 10 years and then every 5 years thereafter).

Voting Opportunities

- ▶ **General Voting Day:** voting place will be open from **8 am to 8 pm** Saturday, **November 23, 2019** at:
 - ▶ St. Peter’s Church, 4703 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC
- ▶ **Advance Voting Opportunities:** will be available from **8 am to 8 pm** on Wednesday, **November 13** and Wednesday, **November 20, 2019** at:
 - ▶ St. Peter’s Church, 4703 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC
- ▶ **Mail Ballot Voting:** is available to qualified Resident Electors or Non-Resident Property Electors who:
 - ▶ have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity, or
 - ▶ expect to be absent from the regional district on general voting day (Saturday, November 23, 2019) and at the times of all advance voting opportunities (Wednesday, November 13 and November 20, 2019)

To Register To Vote By Mail, eligible electors who meet the criteria must submit a completed mail ballot application form in advance of general voting day, November 23, 2019. Application forms are available on the CRD website noted above. Completed application forms may be submitted via email, mail, in person or via fax at the following contact information listed below:

Capital Regional District, c/o Legislative Services, 5th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1R7; Phone: 250.360.3024; Fax: 250.360.3130; Email legserv@crd.bc.ca

If you are not on the Provincial Resident Elector List or the CRD Non-Resident Property List of Electors, you may register at the time of filling in your ballot. If you wish to confirm that your name is on the List of Electors, please call the number listed above.

After receiving a mail ballot application, the CRD will send out the applicable mail ballot package commencing on or about November 4, 2019. If we receive your application at a date that does not permit mailing, you should arrange to pick

up a package from the CRD, Legislative Services, at the address listed above. To be counted for the assent voting, your mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 8 pm on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at the CRD address listed above. It is the obligation of the person applying to vote by mail ballot to ensure that the mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer within this time limit.

Elector Qualifications

Resident Elector: You are entitled to vote as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on voting day (November 23, 2019), are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months and within the boundaries of the Magic Lake Estates sewage local service area for the past 30 days. If registering on voting day, you must provide two documents proving identity and residency (one must have a signature). Please note the CRD is using the Provincial Voters List for Resident Electors.

Non-Resident Property Elector: If you are 18 years or older on voting day (November 23, 2019), are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months, have owned and held registered title to property within the boundaries of the Magic Lake Estates sewage local service area for the past 30 days, and do not qualify as a Resident Elector, you may vote as a Non-Resident Property Elector provided that you:

- a) have registered on or before October 11, 2019, or
- b) apply at the time of voting. The following information is required at the time of application:
 - ▶ a recent title search, state of title certificate, or property tax notice, showing the names of all of the registered owners,
 - ▶ 2 pieces of identification proving identity and residency (one must have a signature), and
 - ▶ in the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property (original signatures only; facsimiles of signatures not acceptable). A copy of the consent form may be downloaded from: www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-vote

The following examples are acceptable classes of documents for proof of identity:

- ▶ BC Driver’s Licence
- ▶ BC ID card (BCID)
- ▶ BC Services Card
- ▶ BC CareCard
- ▶ Social Insurance Card (Canada)
- ▶ Citizenship Card (Canada)
- ▶ Real property tax notice (municipal or rural)
- ▶ Credit card or debit card issued by a savings institution
- ▶ Utility Bill

Please Note:

- 1) Only one Non-Resident Property Elector may vote per property, regardless of how many owners there may be. Further, you may vote for only one property, no matter how many properties you own within the service area.
- 2) You may register on voting day if you meet the qualifications set out above. If you are already registered as a Non-Resident Property Elector, and provided that you still meet all of the requirements of the *Local Government Act* in order to be registered under this category, you are not required to re-register in order to vote.
- 3) No corporation is entitled to be registered as an elector or have a representative registered as an elector, and no corporation is entitled to vote. Individuals who are on title with corporations are not entitled to register or vote. Individuals who own an undivided interest in land on which the balance is held by a corporation are not entitled to vote.

For questions regarding this voting opportunity contact the Capital Regional District at 250.360.3127, Toll Free at 1.800.663.4425 local 3127, or by email at legserv@crd.bc.ca.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2019

Kristen Morley
Corporate Officer

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

In Memoriam

Help Wanted

Coming Events



**BUNNY
(AGNES HELEN)
LORENTSEN**
(1923-2019)

Bunny passed away surrounded by the love of her family on October 31, 2019, at the age of 96 years. She was born and raised in Chilliwack, BC and later served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WW II. It was then she met her lifelong partner Louie (Lauris) Lorentsen. They raised 5 children while living and working in various coastal communities of BC. She and Louie retired to Salt Spring Island where they were active members of the Rod and Gun Club and Sons of Norway. Bunny is predeceased by her son, Larry and survived by her husband Louie; her children Louise, Lynne, Lenore, and Lorne; eleven grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren.

There will be an informal celebration of life between 2 and 4 Saturday, December 1 at the Harbour House Hotel on Salt Spring Island. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Salt Spring Island Hospice Society would be appreciated. Bunny will be sorely missed by all her family and many friends.



RODERICK CHARLES BAILEY
June 17, 1928 - November 9, 2019

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Roderick Charles Bailey, son of Mary and Charlie Bailey, Okotoks, Alberta, born June 17, 1928, our beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. Rod is survived by his son, Marshall (Laura), daughter, Leah (Catherine) his very special friend, Irene Currie, his brother David, sister, Mamie and former wife, Jean McKinley. Surrounded by family, Dad left us peacefully on November 9, 2019.

Rod was grandfather to Rod Bailey (Marcie), Robin Bailey, Chris Stone and Ashlynn Stone and great-grandfather to Thomas, Fletcher, Nevaeh and Chloe.

Rod was predeceased by his wife, Kathleen Bailey (nee Standbridge), his mother-in-law, Kathleen Charbonneau, his sister-in-law, Patricia Heller and is survived by Kay's sisters, Bea Brady and Anne Shaw (Alan).

Rod was a native of Okotoks, Alberta where his family ranched and farmed for many years. As the middle child, Rod knew that his future lay away from the farm. Rod obtained certificates in electric welding and diesel at Olds College, Alberta and attended the Christian Leadership Training School at Naramata, BC where he met and fell in love with Kathleen.

Following graduation from the University of British Columbia with a degree in Agriculture specializing in Animal Husbandry and Agronomy, Rod became an agricultural development specialist and administrator. Rod began his career with the BC Department of Agriculture as a District Agriculturist in Vernon, BC. Rod then served in Ubon, Thailand under the Canadian Colombo Plan for 2 years. Returning to BC, Rod again served with the BC Department of Agriculture followed by the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Office, in Rangoon, Burma (now Myanmar). Rod then completed graduate work from Colorado State University in rural sociology and University of Wisconsin in resource development and research methodology.

Following his overseas assignments, Rod and Kay wanted to ensure the kids could complete middle and high school without interruption, so following a brief stint as District Agriculturalist in Killarney, Manitoba, Rod became the area development officer and then general manager of West-Man Regional Development Corporation in Brandon, Manitoba from 1966 – 1974.

Following an initial time with Agriculture Canada in rural development, Rod was named Deputy Minister for Agriculture in Manitoba where he served under Minister Bill Uruski and J.E. Downey. Following that, Rod was invited back to Agriculture Canada under Minister Eugene Whalen as Assistant Deputy Minister for regional development.

Following his retirement from Agriculture Canada, Rod did additional development work in Pakistan and Kashmir. His final retirement from overseas development work brought him to Salt Spring Island in 1997. Rod then assisted the BC Cattlemen's Association with strategic planning before his final retirement from domestic development work.

Then Rod found a new passion – restoring old farm equipment including tractors, binders and threshing machines as well as other farm equipment such as grinders and tools. He became a member of the Farmer's Institute of Salt Spring Island and joined a wonderful team of like-minded gentlemen including Merv Walde, Ted Dodds, Robin Reid, Bruce Manley, Larry Fraser and others.

The family would like to thank Dr. Reznick and the wonderful medical team of nurses and assistants at Lady Minto Hospital, Salt Spring Island. In addition, we are grateful for the assistance of the medical team at the Canadian Cancer Society headed by Dr. Zito.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at the Clubhouse, Brinkworthy Place, 135 Brinkworthy Road, Salt Spring Island, starting at 2:00 pm.



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Coming Events

SPEAKERS TO ENLIGHTEN AND ENTERTAIN

Location: Seniors Centre
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Wednesday,
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at 2pm

**"Reconciliation,
Restitution &
Resurgence
Indigenous Politics
after the
TRC report**

Dr. Rennie Warburton
Univ. of Victoria

Information

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Coming Events

Barbara Joanne Dow

Born Prince Rupert, July 28, 1943
Passed Sannich, September 27, 2019

Pre-deceased by her partner of over 20 years Alan MacDonald, her parents Ralph and Agnes Gaudry. Survived by her brothers Robert (Marilynn) Campbell, Doug (Sheila) Gaudry, along with her four sons' Robert, Bruce (Kathleen), Gregg (Leah) and Dale (Jennifer). Proud grandmother to, Tyrone, Samantha, Anthony, Benjamin, Kyle, Connor, Graeme, Kalem and Lilly. She also leaves behind her dog Terra.

Barbara, "Barb" to her friends was a strong, tough and caring woman. A proud mother and grandmother, an artist, and a true friend to many. She lived on Salt Spring for almost 30 years, raised four boys, worked at BC Ferries from 1981 to 2003, and first lived and then retired in Youbou, from 2000 to 2019.

The family would like to thank Wes and Lucy for all their help, and for being there for mom. We would also like to thank all the Doctor's and Nurses at both Duncan Hospital, Royal Jubilee and Sannich Peninsula Hospital for the amazing care they provided our mother.

Donations may be made to Branch 92 of the Royal Canadian Legion.

She will be forever loved and forever missed.

*For those who love,
time is not.
Missing you today
and always.*

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Christmas Story Writing Contest

Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the Christmas season.
• All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
• Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
• Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
• The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
• Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or fax to 250-537-2613. For more information, call 250-537-9933.

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



The deadline for our annual writing contest is Fri, Dec. 6th.
Win a Salt Spring Books gift certificate for a story of up to
500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.

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Islands Arts Centre Society

**We hope to see you at
the upcoming AGM.
IACS (ArtSpring)**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTSPRING
100 Jackson Avenue
Monday, Dec. 2, 2019 at 4:15 p.m.

**For the receipt of Annual Reports,
Financial Statements,
and the Election of Directors.**

All are welcome. All who have been members for 30 days
as of December 2, 2019, are allowed to vote. (2018-2019
members may renew at the AGM in order to vote).

The 2018-2019 AGM report will be available to members at
the Box Office as of Thursday, November 28th. If you do
pick one up, please bring it with you to the AGM.

COMMUNITY

Newcomer shares enthusiasm

Young man from Syria joins island community

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

New residents of Salt Spring are usually excited about their move to paradise. But Ray Abras can probably beat all of them when it comes to appreciation for his new home.

"Everything here was beyond my imagination. Everything was more magical than I thought," he said after his first week on the island. "Since I came here I have never stopped smiling."

Abras, 23, is from Syria, although he has spent the last four years in Cairo studying to be a dentist. Two of those years were spent at a Canadian university and that shows through his strong English-language skills.

He said he worked hard to learn English and that listening to movies and song lyrics was a big help to him.

"I was preparing myself for this," he said. "I knew that someday I would be here. I believed it."

Abras had a Canadian flag in his room, has a maple leaf screen saver on his phone and even made himself a maple leaf pendant with tools and the moulds used to make crowns.

The young man would eventually like to find a way to continue his studies to become a dentist in Canada, but in the meantime would be interested to find employment in his field and is open to any possibilities. He has experience working in a denturist's office.

Abras knew about Salt Spring Island because his brother and sister-in-law are good friends with Sam and Ranya Khaldi, who came to the island with their three children from Aleppo, Syria in 2016. They were sponsored by the Salt Spring Unitarian Fellowship group, which is also sponsoring Abras. The Khaldi family eventually moved to Calgary.

"The settlement team is most amazing," said Abras.

Understandably, Abras does not want to talk about his war-torn country of origin.

"I feel like I have moved on over Syria and I don't want to remember it. I don't want to watch news at all or anything that will remind me of Syria. I am happy



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Ray Abras holds maple leaf pendant he made himself, which expresses his love for Canada.

here because there is no Syrian or Arabic people around me. I want to integrate with my new society. I feel comfortable with that."

Salt Spring is also a good fit for Abras because he is an artistic person.

In his first week on the island he was drawing with coloured pencils on flat stones he collected from the beach.

"I love drawing," he said.

"His heart is in his art," said Anne Marshall from the local settlement team.

Abras observed that art is valued by people here.

"I didn't find that in Cairo or anywhere in the Middle East. No one really cares about art."

Other hobbies include cooking and decorating food, styling women's hair and doing make-up, and roller-blading.

Marshall said when Abras arrived, "He

only had two little suitcases. One of them was carrying his roller blades."

While Abras is currently staying with settlement team member Clark Saunders, that situation is not a permanent one, and suitable long-term accommodation accessible to Ganges — either close to Ganges or on a bus route — is needed. People can contact him directly at ma.abras16@gmail.com, along with settlement team housing coordinator Katie Watters at cajunkatie@hotmail.com if they have a suite or other accommodation with its own entrance and private space.

Abras' given name is Mahmoud, but he wanted to choose a new name for his life in Canada.

"It's like 'ray of sunshine,'" he explained about his choice. "Before I came here I wanted a new name to fit with my new life here. I said 'Ray' because it gives me hope and makes me optimistic."

Christmas Story Writing Contest

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

For details visit our facebook page



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Public feedback opportunity

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The Capital Regional District is developing a new solid waste management plan and your input is important! Learn more about the proposed strategies and how you can provide feedback at an open house event:

Thursday, November 28 from 2-6 pm
Salt Spring Island Legion (Meaden Hall)
120 Blain Road

Provide feedback online by December 1 or in person by attending the open house. See website for details.

www.crd.bc.ca/rethinkwaste

CRD

Card of Thanks

It is with deepest gratitude that Salt Spring Hospice Society wishes to acknowledge Ralph Ward of the Ward Family Foundation (Red Deer) and his daughter, Karen Alexander of Impact Computer Graphics & Printing (Edmonton) for their generosity.

In honour of Phyllis Ward who died Nov 26, 2018, they gave a generous contribution to our Hospice which was instrumental in enhancing the way we operate to a much more effective degree. It was through a mutually close friend that the connection was forged and an oath made and fulfilled.

Our sincere thanks to Ralph, Phyllis, Karen and all the Ward family for their donation, extraordinary ongoing support and friendship.



Where is this found on Salt Spring?
Send your answer to
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or
watch for the photo to appear on our
Facebook page.

Last Week's Answer: Adrien Kaiser was the first person to correctly identify the multi-sport court at Portlock Park.

SALT
SPRING

Star

of the WEEK

Jaime Halan-Harris



Jaime was nominated by a Driftwood reader to be Star of the Week for her kindness when it comes to helping people who have dogs. While she runs Salty Dog Daycare, she also takes in lost dogs until the owners can be found. She has also provided care for dogs belonging to elderly people if they need to spend time in the hospital.

Jaime works part time as a counsellor but has found that spending time with dogs is a great way for her to give back and enjoy her work.



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



VOLLEYBALL

Host boys face disappointment

Junior girls win islands tourney in Nanaimo

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary School junior boys volleyball team ended their season at the island championship tournament held on Salt Spring over the weekend.

After a strong performance last week at the mid-island championships, the boys were well placed to impress this weekend, but fell just short of their goal. They lost their first two games, did well in their third on Friday, but were unable to advance to Saturday games and ended up placing seventh.

"They had a rough start," said coach Kellie Booth. "They just didn't play well in the first two matches that we played."

The tournament was a step up in challenge compared to last week, where the team went undefeated. Though the boys had faced that kind of competition before, Booth said the pressures of playing at a high level on a home court may have been the reason for their slow start.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

GISS Scorpions junior volleyball players, from left, Om Decosas, Reuben Wright and Jackson Allan on the GISS court in a game against Claremont on Friday.

"It's interesting because the senior group that I had last year had difficulty playing at home in front of friends and family. There's distractions and what not," she said. "I'd say we had a taste of that again with this group."

Setter Reuben Wright was named the team's all-star during the tournament. Booth said that Wright has two years of playing experience and acts as a leader for the team. Grade 9 athlete Jackson Allan also stood out to Booth, since he showed promise with just a few months of experience.

"He played like a veteran and he's only played a couple of months of volleyball. His star is rapidly on the rise here," Booth said.

Booth was impressed by the boys' performance over the weekend. The team is a very young and inexperienced group of players and they were able to hold their own against some tougher rivals. Booth said the skills the boys showed meant that the next few years of high school volleyball would be ones to watch.

Other GISS volleyball teams played over the weekend as well, with GISS junior girls A team winning the islands tournament held in Nanaimo. According to a GISS Athletics tweet, after winning their first set, the team found themselves down 9-17 in the second set and battled back to win it 26-24.

GISS SOCCER

Scorpions soccer year ends at islands

Senior boys look to next season

The GISS senior boys soccer team's season unfortunately ended in disappointment at island championships last week.

Coach Ciaran Ayton said that with some great team play and lots of learning having occurred throughout the season, the senior boys were quite hopeful of making the next step to provincials.

However, the team was weakened by injuries to leading scorer Braden Nordine (concussion), playmaker Ben Shugar (fractured bone in foot) and defender Aubrey Dooben (shoulder).

GISS was defeated in their opening games against Lambrick Park of Victoria and Brooks of Powell River. Both games were 1-0 losses, with the opposition teams pulling off goal-line clearances and tremendous saves to keep GISS at bay.

"GISS just could not find that bounce that would go their way," said Ayton.

The final game ended 2-2 against St. Michael's University School, who finished in second place overall. The winners were Carihi of Campbell River, who GISS had beaten 2-0 in the previous week's North Islands.

Ayton congratulated the Grade 12 athletes who have battled over the years: Braden Nordine, Drayke Young, Nathan Lavallee, Joe Schulze, Quinn Ashford, Harrison Sweet and Nico Bauer.

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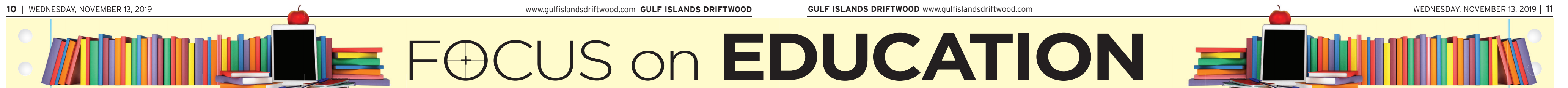
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PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Queen Margaret's School nurtures strong leadership skills

New equine leadership program provides unique opportunity

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Options for students living in the Gulf Islands who have specific educational needs and interests include several programs located outside the islands area, but Queen Margaret's School in Duncan has proven to be the winning choice for many Salt Spring youth over the years.

With a 98-year record of excellence and a total school population of just 370 students enjoying a 27-acre campus, the smaller class sizes and increased teacher time are a draw for many families. Grade 8 student Kieran Denny is one Salt Spring resident who started making the daily trip two years ago, after looking for a facility that could accommodate his advanced academic needs.

"It's a really great environment for people who want to get more in depth with their learning," Denny said. "It's a beautiful campus. For people coming over from Salt Spring it's a great alternative, and the commute is not as bad as it sounds."



PHOTO COURTESY QMS

Salt Spring Islander Kieran Denny with a certificate of recognition he received from the Global Goals Conference.

Denny is very interested in international relations and politics, and recently participated in Shawnigan Lake School's model

United Nations conference, which he particularly enjoyed. While there he earned the title of Best Delegate in the Life Below Water Committee.

"This is a huge honour and recognition from his peers within the model UN participant community for his outstanding debating skills, and knowledge on the topic from the perspective of his assigned country (the Russian Federation)," reported Queen Margaret's communications manager Hayley Picard.

Denny has also appreciated the school's strong music program, which includes the opportunity to participate in a number of different band and music groups. The young Salt Springer, who plays violin, is currently concert master for the string orchestra.

"I just think it's a really great way to express yourself and I feel the school has set up the music program really well," Denny said.

Salt Spring author-illustrator Aidan Cassie said her daughter Maia has likewise thrived at Queen Margaret's thanks to small class sizes and an engaged cohort. The Grade 8 student earned the Best In Class Scholarship last year.

Families give further high marks to the social environment that Queen Margaret's fosters. The potential for cultural exchange

is strong, with students from 20 other countries attending the boarding program. Staff ensure that all students are included in social activities and feel happy in their school environment.

"I think there's a really good social dynamic here. They have a really good process for supporting students and their personal issues, as well as just making sure everyone's happy," Denny said.

Three signature programming strategies guide Queen Margaret's faculty in the delivery of an enriched curriculum. Two established streams are Sustainable Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking, and Experiential and Inquiry-Based Learning. An exciting new program that's now in development and will be rolling out for grades 4-8 this year is Equine Facilitated Leadership Development.

The leadership program is completely different than the equestrian program, which is an option students can take under the PE curriculum.

"It's really about students growing and developing leadership skills by working with horses on the grounds," explained program lead Jodine Buydens.

Buydens noted that Queen Margaret's purpose is to "prepare trailblazers for an unknown future." That means faculty must

determine how to prepare students to become confident leaders and arm them with the right type of knowledge and skills.

With equine-facilitated leadership training, students can learn a lot by grooming and leading a horse through exercises, which can then translate to leadership skills in other areas.

"We like to say the horses are the teachers in that horses really live in the present moment, and they give us immense feedback in how we're showing up in that moment," Buydens said. "Horse are such unconditional animals. They really accept us for who we are."

A key part of the process is just getting comfortable with a large, 1,000-pound animal. For students who are not familiar with horses, they might start the relationship "over the fence" until they reach that comfort level.

Buydens said those who work with a clear focus on what they want to accomplish with the horse will get better results. Students are encouraged to think about how this experience could apply to other relationships and situations.

While something similar is available at Stanford University, Queen Margaret's is an innovator at the pre-university level, and programming will eventually reach every student at the school.

"As far as I know, we are the only school in Canada and the United States that is actually offering equine leadership on campus," Buydens said.

See qms.bc.ca for more information.

YOUNG LEARNERS

Early Learning Framework revised

Changes follow consultation process

Young learners in B.C. will have more tools and resources to help them be successful through release of a new provincial early learning guide.

"The revised Early Learning Framework is receiving national and international attention for its potential to make a positive difference in the lives of our province's early learners," said Education Minister Rob Fleming in a recent press release from his ministry. "We are focusing on providing accessible high-quality early learning opportunities to all British Columbian children and making sure education professionals, parents and caregivers have the knowledge required to support kids to move forward positively through their K-12 studies to reach their full potential."

Developed in consultation with more than 600 early child care and education stakeholders and Indigenous partners, the framework has a focus on reconciliation with

Indigenous peoples and inclusion for children with diverse abilities. The revised framework expands the focus to children from infancy to eight years of age (formerly birth to five years of age), integrates theory with practice and reflects the modernized kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum.

The framework advocates for the importance of young children's development and

learning through all learning environments, from StrongStart BC programs and primary classrooms to child care settings, preschools and other early childhood development or child health programs.

In addition, it guides early learning programs and activities, encourages discussion with families about their child's early learning and shapes professional development.

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