

**GULF ISLANDS  
WEDDING  
PLANNER**

pages 9-11

# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,  
NOV. 27, 2019

59th year  
Issue 48

**\$1.50**

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NEWS**  
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set for 2019 season

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## ISLANDS TRUST

# Housing advocates raise voices



PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

An all-ages crowd gathers at the Salt Spring Islands Trust office on Friday morning to push for local housing and climate action.

## Community members and trustees speak

BY MARC KITTINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

More than 100 people gathered at the Islands Trust office on Friday morning to speak out about the ongoing housing crisis on Salt Spring.

The rally was organized by Salt Spring Solutions, a group dedicated to building awareness and advocating for a fix for the island's lack of affordable housing. Demonstrators gathered to hear housing advocates speak out about the various issues causing the crisis, as well as demand action in the form of a bold plan from local government officials in response to the issue.

Salt Spring Solutions spokesperson Jason Mogus said that the issue has been on the minds of local government officials for years, and that "when it comes to an actual plan that is going to give systemic and bold solutions, it's not happening. We feel like we need to remind the Trust, the CRD and North Salt Spring Waterworks that people need action now."

"It's really easy to punt the ball or come up with incremental solutions that might lead to a

few cottages here and there, which is what the current cottages bylaw will do. What we need are bolder solutions that will help with the climate emergency and help with the housing crisis," he added. "There's still this resistance to homes and density in town, when all these forests are getting cut for big mansions being built far from town, which makes people have to drive into town. We want to see the Trust make some tangible changes towards these things."

Also speaking at the event were Islands Trust trustees Laura Patrick and Peter Grove. The trustees both spoke about the progress made since last year's local elections. However, Patrick and Grove disagreed on the effectiveness of different bylaws. Grove touted the benefit of Bylaw 512, which changes some seasonal cottages into permanent residences. Patrick, meanwhile, feels that staff time could be better spent elsewhere.

"I'm prepared to press the pause button on Bylaw 512 and redirect staff to look at expanding the suite bylaw," she said.

Other steps taken by the Trust include a new

temporary use permit for suites, cottages and tiny homes for full-time residency. That bylaw (#471) was being reviewed at Tuesday's LTC meeting.

"There's a potential here for hundreds and hundreds of people in suites," Grove said after the rally. "It actually adds up to a heck of a lot. I'm proud of that because it has taken a lot of work to do... what's amazing is that it's all happened in the last few years."

However, to advocates, the action has not been fast enough. Mogus said that the prevailing message from local government has been that the issue would be solved in the future.

"We've met with the Trust a number of times and they smile, nod and usually say 'next year, next cycle, next OCP.' They're always saying they can't do it. We need action," he said.

Salt Spring Solutions will be speaking with other agencies responsible for governance on Salt Spring, including the Capital Regional District and the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. They also plan on making a delegation to the Trust Council meeting in Victoria on Dec. 4.

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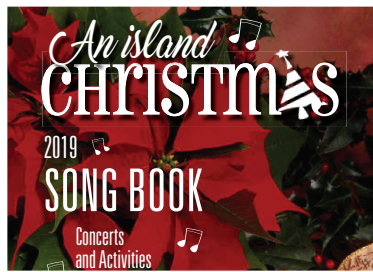
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## EDUCATION

# SIMS pilots report method

Parents can provide feedback about changes on school website

BY MARC KITTINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Middle School is taking part in a pilot program to test a new way of reporting student progress to parents.

Earlier this month, the school board made a motion to allow Salt Spring Middle School to change the way reporting is done within the school. The change came about as new principal Judy Smith, who has been working on reporting methods with the Ministry of Education, chose to take part in a pilot project regarding student reporting.

"We have a principal at the middle school who is involved quite intimately in the My Ed BC roll-out, which is a provincial student information system, and part of that is one of the platforms for reporting on student progress," said director of instruction Doug Livingston at the Nov. 13 board meeting. "What we're going to see here is an expression of that as a pilot that is going to look a bit different."

"She's wanting to use her understanding of our provincial information database," he added. "She's wanting to leverage it so we can do some reporting in new kinds of ways."

The school will be splitting progress reports into different forms, including a digital portfolio with posts and reviews, learning conferences, student reflection and self-assessment as well as a summary of student progress at the end of the year. Part of the new reporting program includes an updated proficiency scale with different language for reporting, as well as points-of-progress reporting that will give parents a look at how their children are performing in specific areas at specific points

in time. Four points-of-progress reports are slated per year, with two being written ones. The other two can be in the form of teacher conferences, phone calls or other forms. Letter grades will still be available upon request from parents.

According to the rules set out by the Ministry of Education, any changes to the reporting schedule must be approved by the board before the first reporting period. The motion had been added to the board's agenda at the last minute to comply with these rules, since the first reporting period in the year is typically in December. Ideally, staff explained, the motion would have been made in the spring. However, the principal at the middle school had not been chosen at that time.

Also part of requirements for using a new reporting method is to provide feedback opportunities to parents, who would typically have time to give feedback before the change occurs.

Board chair Rob Pingle said he did not think implementing the system would harm students, but added, "My only concern is that we don't cause an uproar somewhere else."

Livingston suggested adding a piece to the motion to ensure parent consultation takes place before or during the period in which the reporting is being done. Parents were able to attend a meeting at SIMS on Nov. 13 and can provide their feedback on the change at the school's website.

Salt Spring school trustee Tisha Boulter, who is the liaison for the middle school, said that teachers were experiencing a "gradient of receptivity of this" and that "it has been challenging for the teachers to embrace this. Some are excited, others are about half way, and some want to do the minimum."

More information on the changes and an opportunity for parents to give feedback is available on the SIMS website.



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Holiday ferry schedule released

A holiday schedule for the Fulford-Swartz Bay ferry route is now available for viewing at [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com).

The schedule will change from Dec. 20 to Jan. 1 when the Bowen Queen takes over for the Queen of Cumberland. To accommodate for having a smaller capacity vessel in service for that period, an extra round-trip sailing has been added each day. The length of the travel day remains the same.

Passengers are advised the changes will cause disruptions for those hoping to make through-fare connections to and from Tsawwassen.

### IWAV changes name

IWAV has changed its name from Island Women Against Violence to Islanders Working Against Violence.

"This change in language empowers the entire community to support working against violence and abuse," states a press release. "Through a robust process, IWAV included staff, board, volunteers, community members and consultants to come up with a final name and new logo."

More information is available at [iwav.org](http://iwav.org).

### Women care for library

The Salt Spring Island Public Library Association is the fourth community nonprofit to win support from 100+ Women Who Care Salt Spring Island.

A majority of the group of 191 members voted to donate to the library at their third-term meeting in November. The donation amounts to \$19,100, with each member contributing \$100 to the pot.

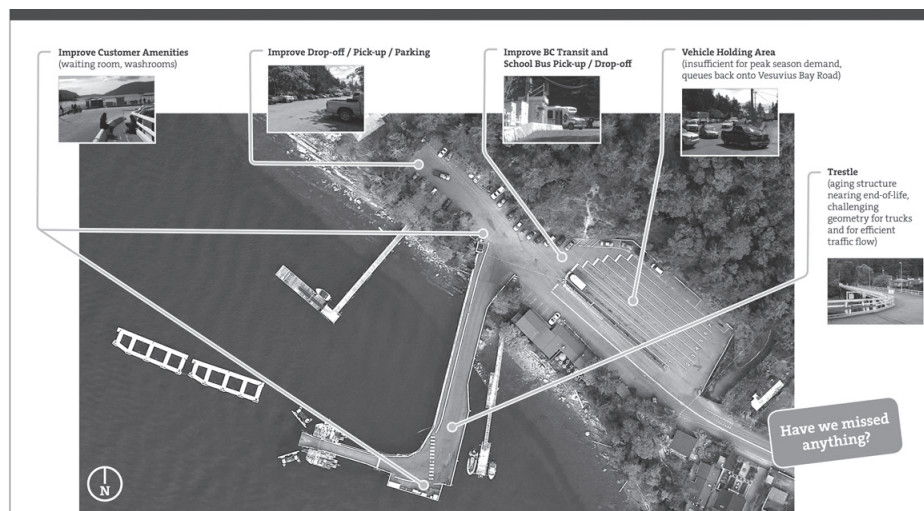
Chief librarian Karen Hudson thanked the group for their support, and said the extra funding would be put towards databases for e-books and e-audio books as well as a new subscription of Ancestry that patrons will be able to use in the library.

### FOR THE RECORD

Last week's Star of the Week incorrectly identified Tom Woods as the owner of Gulf Island Aluminum. He in fact sold the company several years ago.

## VESUVIUS

# Public invited to rate ferry terminal concepts



Aerial view of Vesuvius Bay ferry terminal with key issues outlined on website page.

### Options increase parking and trestle space

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the public have their chance to help shape the development of the Vesuvius ferry terminal, with consultation materials and draft concepts now available on the BC Ferries website.

The corporation's terminal development team has been working with the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee and stakeholders to identify key issues and opportunities at both the Vesuvius and Crofton terminals since the spring of 2019.

BC Ferries presented two draft ideas for Vesuvius to the FAC and to a closed stakeholders' session earlier this month. According to the public engagement materials, the final plan will likely involve a combination of elements from both options, rather than endorsing one or the other as drafted.

As presented, both options would increase parking on the terminal site and extend the holding space for vehicles waiting to board onto the trestle, similar to what is done now in Crofton.

"Having the extra parking space would certainly help with all the cars that are parked all over the road right now," FAC chair Harold Swierenga commented about the proposals. "And with a two-ship solution [to the route's service], that would be very adequate parking."

In both concepts the trestle would be rebuilt to decrease the grade, and would be curved to eliminate the current right-angle turn that is difficult for commercial trucks to manage.

Option one would accommodate 70 standard vehicles combined in the holding area and trestle, and provide 38 additional parking stalls. Option two would take out some of the steep bank at the edge of the holding area, increasing the space to permit 79 vehicles waiting to load and 52 parking spaces. This option also has traffic leaving the ferry from the left side of the trestle, switching the usual lane direction that Canadian drivers are used to operating under to allow more parking on the trestle itself.

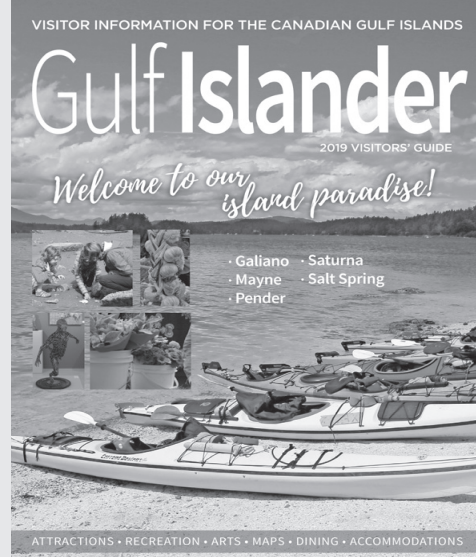
"It does require some engineering to cut into the bank, but if we're looking at something for the next 40 or 50 years, certainly option two is my preference," Swierenga said. "Option two would have a little bit of an added cost, but I think that would be manageable."

Both options include room for two bus stops, as well as a waiting room with washrooms. Option one puts the waiting room on the hill side of the compound between the current parking and holding areas, while option two puts it on the water side adjacent to the top of the trestle.

Swierenga said there may be yet another option that BC Ferries is considering but which hasn't been made public yet.

The two draft concepts and a short survey can be found at [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com) under Public Engagement — Terminal Development Planning.

Opportunity for public feedback on terminal concepts for Crofton was closed on Nov. 15. A Phase 2 Engagement Summary is expected to be posted to the website in December, with a terminal development plan to be completed in 2020.



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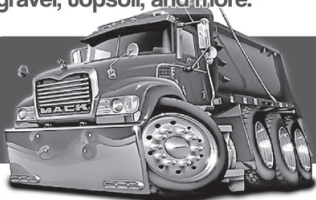
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## HARBOUR ACTIVITIES

# Dock facility upgrades continue

Harbour authority reports on season

## DOCKTALK

BY PER SVENDSEN

CHAIR, HARBOUR AUTHORITY OF  
SALT SPRING ISLAND

This year's summer season was a busy time for most businesses in the harbour and associated users.

Due to construction at one of the marinas there was some creative boat juggling at our docks to accommodate the extra visitors.

Many events during the year made for a busy time for HASSI's docks. We saw the annual West-coast Work Boat Rendezvous in Ganges Harbour, tall ship Zodiac visits, First Nations staging at Fulford for events on Russell Island, the Canadian Junior Rangers program visited us and, of course, we saw many happy visitors from down south and locally that came to Salt Spring by air or water.

### Safety issues

One particular event that was applauded by all

and noticeable this past summer was the derelict boat clean-up around our island. This was headed up by John Roe of the Dead Boat Disposal Society and saw the removal of 17 wrecks off our shores and out of our beautiful waters. This is an ongoing problem and we look forward to continuing to support John in his efforts. Time will tell if recent changes to regulations will make any difference.

Also respecting the abundance of wildlife in our waters we have stayed in touch with DFO and are encouraging all boaters with "See a Blow Go Slow" signage at all our docks and at the office to help remind us we are not alone on the water.

### Facility upgrades

The Centennial Park washroom rebuild saw an upgrade to the fencing near the kids playground and our loading area,

with additional work underway.

HASSI crews have been busy repairing or replacing docks, upgrading water supply lines, painting almost anything needed, having the electrical system upgraded and many, many repairs to the outlying docks at Fulford, Burgoyne and Musgrave. We are hoping to redeck the Fulford wharfhead and start a major project of replacing many of the floatation tanks under the docks.

### Kids Don't Float

You may have noticed the new Kids Don't Float kiosk on the dock in Fulford Harbour. This has been jointly sponsored by HASSI, BC Ferries and RCMSAR Station 25 to promote water safety with our youth and children. Safety for everyone using our facilities is paramount in all that we do.

### Winter prep

The fall season offers an opportunity to prep our boats for the winter, especially if they are not being

used regularly. If hauling out, be sure to wash off the hulls, engines need to be flushed and prepped, any fresh water should be drained, coolant levels need to be checked, and boats should be covered to prevent water intrusion and mould development.

If boats are to remain in the water, precautions should be followed with the appropriate electrical hook-up, proper tie-up or anchorage sufficient to weather whatever storms will come.

HASSI is preparing its facilities for this winter by stocking up with a good supply of salt (if needed), and preparing the docks for any major blows. Fresh water lines will be closed off and drained for the winter prior to the cold weather coming. Our power connections have been upgraded.

Our HASSI crew members are continuing to work so that our clients can have a safe and enjoyable time on and around the water this fall and winter.

## AWARDS

# Summit honours islander

Simone Cazabon earns Good Food Champion title

A local food advocate has been recognized for her work in creating the Salt Spring Island Community Services food security program.

Simone Cazabon received a Good Food Champion award at last week's Good Food Summit in Victoria. Her award recognizes the leadership and dedication she has to the collective food systems in the area.

"With the broad range of programs at Community Services we have a unique opportunity to bring food into the foundations of programming that spans all the demographics and generations," Cazabon said. "Access to good food is essential to the success of everything else."

The Harvest food security programs have grown from a simple food bank and garden program to an entire food security system that runs from the farm to the plate. She also administers the Farmers Market Nutritional Coupon Program at the Tuesday and Saturday markets.



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Bylaws 265 and 266

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GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What are the bylaws about?

The bylaws would redesignate and rezone an approximately 2.2 hectare portion of the subject property as shown in the sketch map below to allow excavation contractor workshops and yards, gravel processing and storage, and one accessory dwelling. Recent changes provide for additional future highway access in the covenant agreement and an additional emergency access in the right of way agreement.

Redesignate OCP to Forest Industry - FI  
Rezone to Forest Industrial (a) - FI (a)



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How do I get more information?

Copies of the bylaws and other information are available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, November 22 to December 5, 2019. Or:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/galiano/applications

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., December 5, 2019 to:

- Islands Trust, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, or
- Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca, or
- In person at the Public Hearing

Note: All submissions received become part of the public record



## CENTENNIAL PARK

# Playground construction begins

Facility to be open in time for holiday break

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Construction has begun on the Centennial Park playground, with new playground equipment expected to arrive next week.

The old structures have been removed and crews are awaiting the delivery of new ones. In the meantime, the construction process has begun with site excavation and a new cement retaining wall to contain the play surface.

"The new playground will make use of natural materials like wood, rocks and rope," said project manager Elizabeth FitzZaland. "Play features will include swings, a jungle climbing dome and a toddler parkour course. The metal rocking horse will be re-installed and the grassy hills will stay."

Plans include the installation of a slide that will use the existing grassy berm, with the addition of some natural log steps. Wooden benches will also be installed near the younger children's play area for parents.

Salt Spring Island parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington added that one of the new features will be a drainage sys-



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Centennial Park playground area under construction this week.

tem "so that the playground can be used year round and [will] no longer flood."

Installation of the new equipment is scheduled for the first week in December, to be completed in time for the school holiday. The CRD will be holding a soft launch of the playground in mid-December to welcome families to the new facility. Additional landscaping will occur in the new year. An official launch of the completed playground planned for the 2020 Easter long weekend.

The playground update was the second phase of the Centennial Park master plan. The first phase was the construction of a new washroom and drainage sys-

tem under the park. Planning had been underway for much of the past year, and included public consultation in the spring. Funding to the tune of \$100,000 for the playground structure was provided by the Salt Spring Island Lions' Club.

"The next phase is to address the uneven parking lot and front promenade as well as direct flow out of the market onto the sidewalk and not into the Harbour Authority's parking lot as it currently does," Ovington said.

He explained that funding for that phase has been allocated for 2020, but that work would not begin until after the market season is finished next year.

## SATURDAY MARKET

# Composting not recommended for market

Cost deemed too high for vendors

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Market Advisory Group determined last week that the cost of a compost collection service would be too much for seasonal vendors to cover.

In August, market vendors began discussing the possibility of composting options, especially among food vendors. A Driftwood survey of island food trucks conducted in 2016 showed that most of them had already switched over to compostable packaging for their meals. However, the materials in question are often confusing to consumers, and are impossible to deal with effectively on the island. In August, CRD director Gary Holman said he would consult with parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington and market coordinator Rob Pingle about the problem to be brought to the fall MAG meeting.

"We don't actually have the capacity in our staff to look after food scrap collection, so if that was something that we were wanting to look into, we would have to have a private contractor come in and provide that service," Ovington told the group during their fall meeting held last Wednesday.

Though Pingle said he received no official quotes from the companies he reached out to, similar markets in B.C. typically pay around \$10,000 per year for such a service. Staff suggested that the cost be shared among seasonal vendors at the market, which would total around \$100 per vendor.

"There are only two organizations that are available that I can figure out. Laurie's [Recycling] and ReFuse [a service based in Victoria]. They both expressed an interest in possibly participating, but neither came back with an estimate on costs even after repeated requests," Pingle said.

Splitting the cost between vendors would include both seasonal farmers and seasonal craft vendors. Current regulations are that vendors are responsible for their own trash and debris, and that garbage cans provided by the CRD at the market are for customers only.

Donna Johnstone, who operates a clothing booth and represents fabric at the MAG table, said that she was not "sure how many vendors would want to pay \$100 for other people's waste, but perhaps the farmers could provide some signage where they have their compostables and other people can come and take it away if they want it."

Vendor and group member Bree Eagle clarified that the idea was more for packaging and food service items, not necessarily for vegetable scraps, which are collected and returned to the farms for disposal by farmers.

"It's more people serving clamshells that are compostable, but people put them in the trash. The trouble with that is it's not the same as composting. You need a really hot composting system to handle compostable containers and there's nothing here that could do that," Eagle said. "There's a proposal for a composting facility to be built in the Burgoyne Valley by Community Services. If that ever

gets off the ground, I can see asking staff to work on connecting with that facility, but until there's something that exists on Salt Spring, I feel like we'll be spinning our wheels on it."

Salt Spring Island Community Services director Rob Grant and Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust president Patricia Reichert made a delegation to the Islands Trust about the proposed facility at the Local Trust Committee meeting on Tuesday. Ovington also mentioned that composting could appear on a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in the new year.

The MAG passed Eagle's motion that the group recommend waiting for a local facility to be constructed before moving forward with this idea, and continue the practice of vendors being responsible for the collection and disposal of their materials, including compostable containers.

## December 6th Memorial Ceremony In Memory Of:

Geneviève Bergeron  
Hélène Colgan  
Nathalie Croteau  
Barbara Daigneault  
Anne-Marie Edward  
Maud Haviernick  
Maryse Laganière

Maryse Leclair  
Anne-Marie Lemay  
Sonia Pelletier  
Michèle Richard  
Annie St-Arneault  
Annie Turcotte  
Barbara Klucznik-Widjiewicz

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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 BCYCNA 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)



## Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by  
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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### EDITORIAL

## Climate homework

Local governments across the country have declared “climate emergencies” in the past six months, including the Capital Regional District and the Islands Trust.

The Gulf Islands Board of Education is talking today (Nov. 27) at its committee meeting about making a declaration. The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee was also set to discuss making climate change a top priority at its Nov. 26 meeting.

But many citizens are asking themselves if such declarations have any meaning beyond being a symbolic gesture or seeing a couple of electric vehicles added to the corporate fleet. What kind of action is both required and feasible in order to plug the hole in the dam of climate change impacts?

### THE ISSUE: New climate action plan

### WE SAY: Learn from past plan experience

This isn't the first time that volunteers largely stepped up to put the spotlight on climate change. A group called the Earth Festival Society first got the ball rolling way back in 2003 to undertake the Salt Spring Island Energy Strategy and the resulting Climate Action Plan, which was released in 2011. Its stated aim was “to support a reduction of at least 15 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions by 2015; at least 40 per cent by 2020 and at least 85 per cent by 2050 based upon 2007 data.”

As a new group of islanders sets out to create another climate action plan, with the aim of reducing GHGs by 50 per cent by the year 2030, it seems obvious that an evaluation of the document created eight years ago should be part of the process. How close did we come to meeting the targets set out in the 2011 plan? What unforeseen challenges arose during and after the plan's completion?

For the 2019-20 project, an online “eDemocracy” platform will be used to facilitate input gathering, and a casual brunch discussion about the new climate action plan is set for this Saturday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon at Gulf Islands Secondary School. It's sure to be a lively morning that will benefit from as many motivated participants as possible.

In trying to answer that question locally, volunteers are taking a leadership role — as is often the case on Salt Spring — in trying to develop an action-oriented plan. (Some government involvement exists through funding and in-kind support, and CRD and Trust officials are ex-officio committee members.)



## CRD bylaw process flawed

BY TOM PICKETT

Many thanks to all those people who've been writing in the past few weeks, attempting to alert islanders to this vague CRD Bylaw 4325 being promoted by Gary Holman and friends in Ganges.

The law's preamble states:

A.) Under the Local Government Act a regional district may operate any service the regional board considers necessary and desirable.

B.) The Capital Regional District may provide assistance for the purpose of benefitting the community or any aspect of the community.

The bylaw goes on to give the CRD the authority to largely duplicate services we're already paying other levels of government to provide. It also opens the door to many ill-defined other services/needs which can be included later in this vaguely worded document.

Somehow I don't see this tax bite being held at the cup of coffee levels as promoters have suggested.

Some of you may have noticed that on Salt

### VIEWPOINT

Spring many of our existing laws are completely ignored with impunity by officials when it suits them. Or that our laws can be easily amended later without requiring a public vote.

I recently attended the CRD office to get a few copies of the bylaw for my household and was refused. CRD staff has been instructed to only give out one copy per person.

**In my opinion, this law is just the tip of a very big wedge.**

That's a nice way to keep the numbers down. Screw the shut-ins, non-computer friendly residents and those who are absent or don't read the Driftwood. They have no idea this process is even happening.

Those of you like myself who aren't up to speed should know this Bylaw 4325 has already

received three readings. All that is required for passage is your inattention.

In my opinion, this law is just the tip of a very big wedge. The CRD and friends have written themselves a blank cheque and signed your name to it. They are now standing at the teller's wicket hoping you'll be too uninformed, busy or distracted to act.

Don't think because you're a renter you'll exempt from these costs. Some of the unacknowledged factors making housing unaffordable are the local government's imposed services, fees and taxes.

Another concern I have is that even if you do vote, your response will be taken off Island to be controlled by the CRD, who have created and stand to profit from this law. How would we know if their count is even legitimate?

Your vote — the elector response form — has to be in the CRD office in Victoria by Dec. 9, according to the law. It can also be returned to the CRD office on McPhillips Avenue in Ganges.

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Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782

Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Are you in favour of the CRD safety service?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Will the Fuel Price Transparency Act help reduce gas-price gouging?**

17 35  
YES NO

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



# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"We've met with the Trust a number of times and they smile, nod and usually say 'next year, next cycle, next OCP.'"**

JASON MOGUS, SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *Why do you want to see the housing situation change?*

**HANNAH BROWN**



Because the rental crisis and a housing crisis put homes out of reach for too many people. It is far more expensive than it was when I was young. People should have the same chance I had.

**ALEX LAMBERMONT**



I have a personal interest in this. I live in a floating house, and years ago the Trust tried to evict us. I just want to have a place to raise my kids.

**MUNDY HENBREY**



Lack of affordable housing impacts access to childcare for island families. Licensed care facilities cannot fill positions due to a lack of housing options, and many families are experiencing greater stress upon returning to work.

**DAVID NORGET**



Because community is so important. Our richness is in our diversity.

**CHARLES ANTOINE BEAUDET**



I'm new here, and I hear a lot of people around me who are concerned about the situation. The first thing anyone asks me is if I've found a place to live. It's a crisis.

## LETTERS to the editor

### LTC responses

Thank you for the clarifying "Trust exercise" editorial in your Nov. 20 paper.

You are correct in stating that "the Islands Trust is but one organization responsible for local regulations" relating to housing. As its share, the Local Trust Committee has achieved a great deal towards affordable housing over the last few years.

I think it may be helpful to list what has been done: Suites are now lawful over some 70 per cent of the island, including ALR lands; Bylaw 512 is close to completion allowing for full-time occupancy of more than 400 cottages; Bylaw 471, which is before the LTC, allows for temporary use permits for suites, cottages and tiny homes, for full-time residency; our villages now allow for residences as accessory to commercial activity, permitting increased den-

sity; the LTC is doing what it can to deal with unlawful STVRs, which are believed to affect the availability of properties for full-time rental; there are some 170 units of affordable housing in process, and I am hopeful that they will ultimately come to fruition. Lastly, "affordable housing" is a strategic priority of the LTC so there will be more to come.

As a community of a little over 10,000, I am proud of what we have achieved and believe we measure up more than favourably to other jurisdictions.

Regarding climate action, I hope that, with the support of my fellow trustees, climate action will be the Top Priority of the LTC following the Nov. 26 public meeting. As a "top priority," staff time and resources can be made available to address the protection of Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems. There is no other single action of the LTC

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

which can have a greater effect on climate change than this.

**PETER GROVE,**  
ISLANDS TRUST TRUSTEE

### Turf field nightmares

One can only hope that the Gulf Islands Board of Education and local soccer association have read the latest artificial turf nightmare as CBC reports (Nov. 20), "It's everywhere! BC high school field closed after shedding fake grass into the environment" and Time Colonist (Nov. 20) front page "Artificial turf fibres foul creek, closing Oak Bay High field."

In June, quantities of rubber turf were found in the storm drains beside Trillium Park in Burnaby. Also reported by my family members living in Courtenay is that their high school fake

turf field has to be closed on frosty days due to an considerable increase in injuries.

Fake, plastic grass just continues the "magical thinking" that technology is the answer to our world problems. Think again, folks.

**RICK LAING,**  
WILKIE WAY

### Impossible

Regarding Salt Spring Metal Recycling, congratulations to the Islands Trust for closing down another viable and necessary business on Salt Spring.

We would all be better off if the Islands Trust would concentrate on finding solutions instead of imposing impossible conditions.

**DUNCAN MATHIESON,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

## Dental floss currency has proven advantages

You may have recently heard or read about James Rickards' bestselling book *The Death of Money*, describing the collapse of global currency and how it would bring down the world financial system. This week's Nobody Asked Me But . . . column has nothing whatsoever to do with this particular topic.

No, the subject I wish to dissect here is the death of cash. You remember cash, don't you? Whether you know it as bucks, coinage, scratch, scrip, dough, bread, lettuce, green, smackers, moolah, samoleons, or dead presidents, I'm sure you recognize that it is something you can hold in your hand and exchange for something you want.

Just think of all the adages and aphorisms that cash has given the English language. Will future generations have a clue as to what you mean when you say the buck stops here? How much is a penny for your thoughts worth? What in tarnation are you referencing with heads I win, tails you lose? Is it a good thing when someone tries to nickel and dime you? Should you give somebody your two cents worth? What exactly does it mean when you want to cash in?

I believe it was the great circus mogul P.T. Barnum who is credited with the quote, "Nobody ever lost a dollar by underestimating the taste of the American public." Would it have worked if he had used the word "bitcoin" instead of dollar? If you are like me, you probably would like to know what exactly is a bitcoin? A Google search comes up with "bitcoin, often described as a cryptocurrency, a virtual currency or a digital currency — is a type of money that is completely virtual . . . This makes it possible to trace the history of bitcoins to stop people from spending coins they do not own, making copies or undoing transactions." That makes about as much sense as the assembly directions enclosed inside the packaging of IKEA furniture.

What would be more useful is to know whether you can flip a bitcoin and have it come up heads or tails. Will bitcoins jingle in your virtual pockets? Can you use one to make a call from a payphone? (Whatever



**Shilo  
Zylbergold**  
**NOBODY  
ASKED ME  
BUT**

that is.) Will it substitute for a screwdriver if you need to open up the battery compartment of your grandkid's Thomas the Tank Engine talking book?

Let's take a look at the pros and cons of using cash versus other forms of exchange for transactions. For one thing, cash doesn't run out of batteries. It can also be used during natural disasters when there is no power. Even if it devalues to a fraction of its worth, it can still be used as fire-starter to help keep you warm. Another advantage to cash is that it doesn't identify you or give away information about you that you may not want to share (other than the fact that you can afford to buy that overpriced and never to be used fondue set, say). You don't have to download an app or pay exorbitant transaction fees for the convenience of not having to carry a wad of cash with you. Mind you, you are still forced to carry around with you 22 other credit, debit and shopper points cards just in case you find an incredible deal that isn't on your shopping list.

Although 85 per cent of the world's retail purchases still rely on cash, non-cash transactions are rising at a rate of 11 per cent annually. As recently as 2017, Forex Bonuses trading site listed Canada and Sweden as the top two cashless countries, with only approximately 20 per cent of transactions involving cash.

I'm one of those 20 per cent. I'm the dinosaur who still always carries cash with me. Bills in one pocket and coins in the other. I'm the geezer in front of you at the Country Grocer checkout who not only pays in cash but insists on fishing out coins from deep down a side pocket so that he can pay the

exact amount without having to force the cashier to make change for a larger bill. It sounds something like this: "I know I've got the right change here somewhere. Let's see, 20 dollars and 40 cents, eh? Okay, here's a 20. Now there's a dime. Another dime. Oops, that's my dental floss. Now there's a quarter. How much have we got now? Too much? No, no. No need to give me a nickel change. Give me back that dime and I know I've got a nickel down there somewhere. Just hold my car keys and my pocket knife and I'll find it in no time."

Sound familiar? In the meantime, you and the 12 shoppers behind you are frustrated to just about the boiling point while I'm checking the date on that last nickel to make sure it's not a collector's coin worth thousands of dollars.

The drawbacks to having real money in your purse or pockets? For one thing, cash has to be stored and protected. Once it is lost or stolen, there's little or no chance that it will be returned to you. Another problem that most of us are forced to learn eventually is that once it is spent, you have to somehow get more. This may mean a trip to your financial institution to make a withdrawal, or failing that, you might have to actually go out and earn more of the stuff.

Another argument against cash is that it's not exactly convenient for making large transactions like coming up with the down payment for a house, for instance. Unless your aim is to do a little money laundering for some nefarious business dealings, you would probably need to back up a Brink's truck filled to the gills with 50-dollar bills if you wanted to invest in some Salt Spring real estate with some cold, hard cash.

Nobody asked me, but with the younger generation opting for PayPal, e-transfers, cryptocurrencies and mobile apps, there will probably come a time when nobody will want to take my two cents worth (especially if the global financial system does come crashing down). If I'm still around then, you can be sure I'll still be reaching way down into my pocket and paying with something that still has value. Dental floss.



# Commitment made to Indigenous reconciliation

For centuries governments tried to exterminate Indigenous peoples and their culture. Bill 41: The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act is designed to do the opposite.

The First Nations Leadership Council and provincial government came together for the annual First Nations Leaders Gathering on Nov. 5 with a renewed commitment to shared values and collaborative decision-making.

This was the third time I had the opportunity to attend the FNLG as an elected member of the legislative assembly. Each year the progress and commitment of this government toward reconciliation has become stronger — not in words but in actions.

Last year, the government committed to guaranteeing a percentage of gaming revenue is distributed to Indigenous communities across B.C. to use as they determine is best to improve the lives of families and strengthen their economies.

A follow-through on this commitment



**Adam Olsen**  
MLA'S  
**REPORT**

came just last month when legislation passed directing seven per cent of the B.C. Lottery Corp.'s annual net income to First Nations. That works out to \$100 million a year or \$3 billion over 25 years.

That same week saw perhaps the most important day in the province's history with the introduction of a bill that would implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into B.C. law.

This is a true commitment to doing things differently.

Taking this step is deeply personal and important to me as a member of the Tsar-

tip First Nation and as an MLA. The B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act is a foundational piece of the confidence and supply agreement that I signed to support this government. It was a shared commitment of both the NDP and Green party platforms. Now it's becoming a reality.

It's a reality that is in stark contrast to the dark history of Canadian governments and First Nations.

For centuries governments tried to exterminate Indigenous peoples and their culture. They have denied rights, forced relocations and seized children. Our history is littered with legislative and executive actions that were racist, discriminatory and deliberately designed to destroy Indigenous communities.

This bill is designed to do the opposite. With its introduction, we are reaffirming that Indigenous rights are human rights and our belief that the path forward — though not always clear nor easy — is one that we must walk together.

It doesn't confer any special rights or privileges. It merely upholds the rights that are well-established in the courts, and provides a path for the province and First Nations to begin to build a system in which there is a clear, transparent process for consultation and consent.

Change isn't easy and can even be scary. But few things worth doing come easily.

As government and the many First Nations come to the table to work through the process of building a plan, we will find what we always discover when more voices are invited in: that diversity of perspectives brings strength. That doing what is right for your neighbour is also what is right for economic prosperity.

The gathering of provincial and Indigenous leaders took place during a new chapter in B.C.'s history. Hard work lies ahead on all sides, but we remain optimistic because this chapter is now being authored by all British Columbians, in all her languages.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

### Stop mad plan

Further to the Driftwood's excellent series on plastic pollution: we are only just waking up to this environmental disaster, and avoiding needless plastic waste is a good start.

With that in mind, I am writing to urge Salt Spring residents to reject an enormous new source of plastic pollution — the proposed \$2.5-million plastic field for Gulf Islands Secondary School. Some of you will have heard the recent news reports of the closure of the four-year-old "state-of-the-art" artificial turf field at Victoria's Oak Bay High school, where thousands of plastic blades of "grass" have contaminated the surrounding area and entered a creek that flows through the community and into the ocean. The school district has closed the soccer pitch indefinitely, cancelling all scheduled sports events, and the municipality has installed screens on storm drains to attempt to contain the spread of microplastics. The Environment Ministry has said the B.C. government is aware of the situation and takes the issue of plastics in provincial waterways seriously, but states that the soccer pitch is "primarily the responsibility of local government and the school district." What will this mean in terms of legal liability?

It is estimated that these fake turf fields are made up of some 90 tonnes of plastic, the equivalent of nine million single-use 0.5 litre water bottles. If we are serious about dealing with plastic pollution on our island we must put a stop to this mad plan.

**DEBORAH CAMPBELL,**  
SALT SPRING

### Greater good

Mental health continues to be a large issue all over Canada. Salt Spring is no exception. There are increasing numbers of children and youth with mental health issues, as well as many adults seeking support. The challenge of finding healthy and stable accommodation is a major contributor to mental

health problems in our community.

I applaud those who are supporting fellow community members and neighbours, while taking care of themselves. Their efforts strengthen our community: by working closely together we improve as a community.

I am grateful that CRD director Gary Holman is trying to find a way to contribute to safety and care in our community through the CRD Community Safety Service. Gary recognizes that there are needs to be dealt with and he is bringing something forward to help rather than sitting back and doing nothing.

Yes I, like others, feel cautious about such a service. It is important that it not become a way of policing. This is definitely not our most important need.

The fairly recent bout of vandalism that many attribute to the homeless was not done by a homeless person. It is unfair to judge those who are insecurely housed. This does not detract from islanders' need to feel secure in their person and property, and this includes the insecurely housed.

I think that the CRD Community Safety Service can make a positive contribution if the service is overseen by people who keep the greater good in mind and if the service is provided by people with the same mindset. Such a service can contribute to learning more about what is needed by the most vulnerable in our community, as well as making sure that all is well in town. An interagency group of individuals, including those insecurely housed and those who understand our community's needs, makes sense to me.

I would support such a service under these parameters.

**DAVID NORGET,**  
SALT SPRING

### Bill 41 kudos

During the Fraser Gold Rush in the 1850s, the place that would become B.C. was marketed as the "New Eldorado" — a place to become rich, and a few families and corporations have done that since colonization.

Bill 41 is now before the B.C.

legislature for the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People; their rights to self-determination with their values of building an economy that delivers affordable housing, clean power and good jobs available to all British Columbians. An example is the huge rental housing project the Squamish have currently planned for Kitsilano.

Bill 41 has passed first and second reading with unanimous support in the legislature. We trust it will become law this week before the Christmas break.

**EILEEN WTTEWAALL,**  
SALT SPRING

### Undermined

We had been away and distracted by some health issues lately, so hadn't been attentive to the CRD's newly proposed Community Safety Service bylaw until recently, when we were informed of it by a friend. We read the proposed bylaw, and learned that the CRD had chosen to rely on the Alternative Approval Process (i.e., "counter petition") for elector determination. After obtaining a copy of the Elector Response Form, we were appalled to read that it would be necessary to deliver it to the CRD office in Victoria, and to attach a copy of the proposed bylaw.

But wait! It turns out that neither of those requirements, despite being printed on the legal Elector Response Form, are actually necessary. Nonetheless, these requirements currently remain on the form obtainable through either the CRD website or from their office. In other words, nothing has been done to issue a corrected version.

Let's face it . . . the counter-petition process is daunting enough to dissuade voter participation, if only due to the fact that one's "vote" is no longer secret. In this case, though, the CRD has added elements which would surely discourage participation unless one happens to become aware that requirements listed on the so-called legal form are erroneous. In our humble opinion, this should negate the validity of this AAP altogether.

**MARK AND JULIA LUCICH,**  
SALT SPRING

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# Here comes the BRIDE

## GULF ISLANDS WEDDING PLANNER

- Islanders' stories
- Local supplies and services to ensure a fantastic celebration

### MARRIAGES

# Strong foundations help maintain the marriage

Long-married couples reflect on what they've learned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Making the decision to marry is a wonderful commitment to a relationship, and something most people enter into hoping it will mean a lifelong partnership. How to make that happen in modern times is difficult to know — and while many are still willing to take the gamble, some tools for success would be nice to have.

Having a long marriage that's also a happy one is something to celebrate, so the Driftwood talked with three island couples who still enjoy their time together about what it takes to make a marriage work. Whether it's due to cultural attitudes, less financial stress or other reasons, the earlier people married in the 20th century, the better chance they appear to have of making it to a golden anniversary, as long as they have good health.

But as the Hungarian proverb observes: "A happy marriage does not fly into your mouth like a roasted pigeon." That's the information George Sipos' father shared with a startled Anglican minister just before his son's wedding to Bridget 46 years ago.

George and Bridget met in England in 1972. George, a Vancouver resident, was lodging at Bridget's mother's house while attending graduate school at the Univer-



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Bridget and George Sipos with daughter Emilie and grandson Nathan, who live on Bridget and George's property.

sity of Sussex. Bridget was living and working in London but had to go home to convalesce for two months after breaking her knee-cap in a bad car accident. Soon

enough, George was driving Bridget around the countryside to see beauty sites and pubs. It was possible to take the passenger seat out of his small Mini, so she was able to sit in the back seat with her cast-encased leg extended toward the front.

One of the best decisions the two made as a young married couple was to get rid of the television set they had rented. They had thought of watching two or three BBC shows per night and soon realized it was a nightly routine that was getting in the way of their intimacy. They didn't get another TV until they were given one decades later.

"Lock up your devices and electronics. Put them in a drawer and don't get them out when you're at home together," George advises. "The most important part of any relationship — whether it's your friends or your children — you've got to talk to each other."

Instead of retreating into a screen, the Siposes had a nightly routine of having dinner, talking together for hours over a bottle of wine and then going to bed.

"I still remember those evenings fondly," George said.

Their strong foundation continued through having two girls and even through 14 years of owning a business and working together daily at their Prince George shop Mosquito Books.

**MARRIED** continued on 10

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## WEDDING PLANNER

## Establishing trust, having common interests are factors

## MARRIED

continued from 9

"We've had an awful lot of jokes together," Bridget said, noting a common love of language and how that has been shared by the family through the decades.

John and Bridget Metzger, who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary last week, narrowed down a few qualities needed to make a marriage work. Establishing trust in a relationship is crucial, they said, but also important for the long haul are having common interests and agreeing on the values the couple will bring into the marriage.

While that will be different for every couple, for the Metzgers it's been based on their Christian beliefs. The two started as friends at a shared faith-based house in Ottawa where they both lived in the summer of 1973. (They didn't date until after that situation was finished.)

John explained, "I heard about the place from the Christian community in Vancouver and heard they were taking people for the summer. So when I drove across to Ottawa I knocked at the door."

"And yours truly answered the door," Bridget added.

After they were married and Bridget moved to Vancouver, John worked as an engineer for the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, and Bridget earned her teaching degree. They have since raised three daughters and lived and worked in various places around the world, including Egypt, Laos and Uganda. They have always shared an interest in other cultures and places, which forms



PHOTO COURTESY BRIDGET AND JOHN METZGER

Bridget and John Metzger as a young couple in the 1970s.

another part of their marriage foundation.

One of their first moves, though, was to Prince George, where their first daughter was born.

"What was good about it was we moved away from John's family and we had already moved away from mine, so we had to rally together and build our own life," Bridget said.

Gloria and Edgar Hildebrandt will be celebrating 54 years of marriage this coming March. Their first meeting — on Edgar's second day in New Zealand — did not go so well. They were at a house party for a group of Australians they both knew who had just completed a boat trip from Sidney to Auckland.

"I didn't take much notice of him. He was smoking my cigarettes, which I didn't like. I thought he was a bragging Yank," Gloria recalled.

When the two met by chance on the street a week or so later, Edgar appeared

much nicer, however, and when he invited Gloria to accompany him to a fancy ball she thought, "Why not?" Edgar showed further gallantry at the dance. When Gloria slipped and fell down, he scooped her up and danced her along like nothing had happened.

"I thought he was lovely," she said.

"I swooped her off her feet — and I was enveloped by her family," Edgar added.

Though the couple had dissimilar cultural backgrounds they were both one of six siblings who kept close ties with family. Gloria's family looked after them in New Zealand, and Edgar's would take them in when they came to Canada in 1980 — originally planned as a two-year visit. Their shared belief in the importance of family extended to their own three children, whom they often put first as their family objective.

The evidence of that bond today is the Hildebrandts and their three adult children all live within about a kilometre of each other on Salt Spring (and most live right next door to each other).

Both the Metzgers and the Hildebrandts point to another important aspect of marriage, which is getting through the tough financial hardships that nearly every young family will face. According to a recent poll by the Bank of Montreal, 68 per cent of those surveyed say fighting over money would be their top reason for divorce.

Although they acknowledge times are different, the couples advise trying to live within your means, managing expectations and facing your economic reality.

"The money part is always going to be



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Gloria and Edgar Hildebrandt on Salt Spring Island in 2019.

the money part forever, but how you deal with it is important," Edgar said.

Perhaps just as important is the willingness to work through problems. That roasted pigeon that makes a marriage delicious in Hungarian terms is not just going to fly into your mouth, after all.

The Metzgers went through several challenging periods, especially their multiple moves when their family was still growing. They made three moves while Bridget was pregnant with their second daughter, and then arrived in Pakistan with three young girls and not much of a support network.

"We both come from families where our parents were together until they died, and they both went through very challenging times," Bridget reflected. "Certainly early on when things were tough I used to imagine ways to get out of Pakistan, but I couldn't come up with any way to get out of that country. So I had to stick it out, and in the end it was fantastic."

## WEDDING PREP

## Hair an important consideration

Be open to stylists' suggestions for wedding day

A wedding is a tough time to experience a bad hair day.

Clothing styles, time of day and weather all can dictate a wedding hairstyle, but ultimately one of the most important factors in a wedding hairstyle is finding a stylist who understands you and can exercise your vision. A patient, understanding stylist who is open to viewing different photographs and drawing inspiration from various places, as well as running

through a few trial styles, can help brides and grooms look their best. In fact, trials are a must to ensure that a chosen style will work with your hair texture.

If you plan to get your hair coloured, professionals recommend doing so about three weeks in advance of the big day so it looks natural and any potential snafus can be remedied beforehand. Your stylist may suggest a light trim prior to the wedding so that the ends are fresh and healthy.

And since you're putting your faith in a qualified stylist, trust their expertise and vision. Keep an open mind to their suggestions. You may fall in love with one of the options you hadn't considered.

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## WEDDING PLANNER

## WEDDING PREP

# Cake choice sweetest part of planning process

Theme and feel of wedding is important to consider

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

I recently got married, and can attest that planning a wedding can be a stressful and drawn-out process. However, there was one day in the year of planning that I was heartily looking forward to: Cake day.

One of the most iconic elements in a wedding, aside from the bride, her dress and the venue itself, is the cake. It is the dessert your family and friends will be enjoying after the dinner, and it is one of the best ways to showcase your theme and the things that make your wedding unique. Many bakeries on and around Salt Spring make amazing options for your special day.

It is important for both partners to be involved in the cake selection process, since it is representative of both of your tastes. My wife Kristen and I first chose our bakery, and then went through their online profile and saved images of our favourite designs. Design elements include cake toppers, florals, icing colour, accents and other stylistic designs. Essentially, it is how your cake will look. After coming back and comparing our choices, we were able to narrow down our design elements into something that worked for both of us.

At this point, you should probably reach out to the bakery. Local baker Jana Roerick recommends doing this early (she has a year-long waitlist) and doing it in writing. Having



PHOTO BY SUSAN BATTLE

The writer's fresh ginger and black pepper wedding cake with cream cheese icing and buttercream from Ruth & Dean in Victoria, chosen after a sampler session.

an email chain helps keep all of the important information in the same place. Roerick operates a small bakery, and usually takes half a dozen clients per year. Bigger bakeries are able to take more.

Roerick explained that the design process is essential to choosing the right cake for your wedding. After the initial contact, Roerick helps in "making sure you're on the right track, then going into the theme and feel of the wedding. What are the colours?"

"I have a gardener who lives on my property and he supplies fresh flowers," she added. "I don't do sugar flowers, so it's usually what-



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Salt Spring baking wizard Jana Roerick, who sometimes makes wedding pies instead of cakes for couples.

ever's in season."

After Kristen and I decided on our design, we looked into the flavours offered by our bakery of choice. Most bakeries have variations on classic flavours, and some are able to experiment with unique tastes and cake types.

"The most stand-out was quite a few years ago," Roerick said. "Someone wanted a profiterole cake . . . It's choux paste filled with a cream or custard. Then you have to put them together with a cooked sugar syrup."

"That was a really big challenge. The bride and I talked about it quite a bit," she added.

Our bakery was able to provide a sampler,

which turned out to be my favourite thing about the whole wedding-planning process. There is no better date than inviting your favourite person in the world to a beautiful place and eating 10 to 15 cupcakes. Though not every bakery is big enough to provide a sampler, it is possible to taste a few options before making a choice on the final product.

Roerick herself does not offer a sampler plate. However, that has not dissuaded people from coming to her for their wedding cake. In fact, one of Roerick's most common asks is actually not cake at all.

"I've done lots of pie weddings lately. They seem to be really popular. They're terrific. We just do a whole range, especially since the fruit is in season, usually in July or August, even September. We have all these fruits that we can explore," she said.

Other ideas to keep guests happy are multi-layered cakes with different flavours on each level, and sticking to a known favourite. Although it is important not to forget that the wedding should be all about you: The cake should represent what you enjoy as a couple, from the design to the flavour to the filling.

The final piece of advice Roerick had to give was to ensure the cake makes it to the destination intact. She recommends keeping a firm grip on the cake base and taking your time going through the twists and turns of Salt Spring roadways.

"Sometimes you have to go way up there, and you're holding on for dear life," she said.

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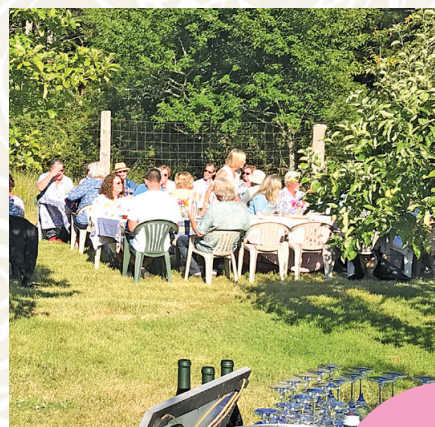
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### EXHIBITIONS

## Art Jam celebrates fourth annual winter show

Opening event on Friday

The Art Jam group is holding its fourth show at Mahon Hall beginning with an opening event on Friday, Nov. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. The Wintercraft sale also opens in the main part of the hall on Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

According to program coordinator Lynne Johnson, 2019 was a year of new experiences for Art Jam group members.

"We were fortunate to receive a grant from Arts and Culture BC that enabled us to invite four artists to share their expertise with us in a series

of workshops. This grant also provided us with the opportunity to have a pop-up show outdoors at Mahon Hall where 19 pieces sold in four hours."

Art Jam is a volunteer-run program of the Salt Spring Arts Council and the United Church. It provides a safe, welcoming space for members of the island's marginalized community, where they can be defined as creators and artists rather than by the challenges they regularly face.

"By celebrating their creative accomplishments through public exhibitions, we promote positive self identities and help build self esteem," said Johnson.

A group of over 20 artists attending Art Jam elected to call themselves Artists from the Fringe as they prepared for their first show in July 2016.

"Some had never painted before and are finding their creative voice for the first time," said Johnson. "Others

have been exploring new mediums and techniques thanks to a variety of art supplies, many donated by local artists."

Support for the program includes coffee and healthy food provided through donations from individuals and community organizations. Socks and winter clothing frequently donated by members of the United and Anglican churches have been most welcome. Salt Spring Literacy has partnered with the program this year to help members obtain their birth certificates and other forms of ID. Close ties are also maintained with Copper Kettle, who provide sleeping bags, blankets and other basic necessities for those unable to find shelter. Thanks to the Capital Regional District, pool passes were made available to the artists so they could enjoy the benefits of the showers, hot tub and a swim.

Many pieces sell quickly during Art Jam show openings, so early attendance is encouraged. All proceeds benefit the artists.

The show will run through Dec. 22, concurrent with Wintercraft, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

More information is available on the [www.ssartscouncil.com/artjam/](http://www.ssartscouncil.com/artjam/) webpage and on the Artists from the Fringe Facebook page.

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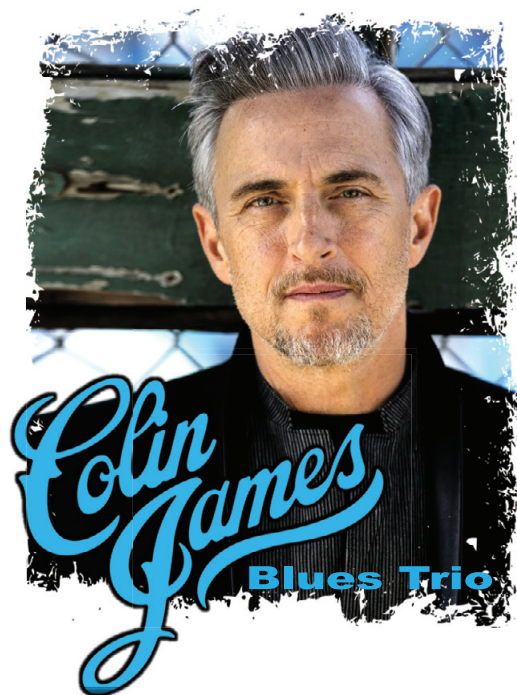
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## SEASONAL PRODUCTIONS

# Scrooge returns to community hall roots

Tradition unfolds in new old venue

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A well-loved tradition in island theatre returns this year with a new venue and new presentation style, making the 2019 run of Christmas with Scrooge at Fulford Hall an experience not to miss.

Opening Friday, Dec. 13 for a run of eight dates, the immersive musical theatre event by Newman Family Productions will feature an all-new "in the round" staging sure to enhance the connection between audience members and performers.

"It's very exciting and creative," said company lead Sue Newman. "There's a very different kind of blocking that has to work in a very natural way, and for audiences it's a more intimate way of watching and listening to a story."

Christmas with Scrooge is known for involving nearly as many community members on stage and behind the scenes as can fit into the audience. Even with a slightly exaggerated "cast of thousands," though, Scrooge is also known for its high quality of entertainment. Year after year it leaves audiences embracing the Christmas spirit with almost as much fervour as the title character after his amazing transformation.

The play began life in 1971 as Christmas Madness, a short musical adaptation of the classic Dickens story A Christmas Carol. Island newcomers Ray and Virginia Newman created the company and involved their three children partly as an avenue to build community in their new home. The play developed and expanded through many repeat presentations thereafter.

When Virginia died in 2013 at age 90 (Ray having preceded her in 1999), it seemed an era had passed. The company had stopped staging Scrooge after its 20th run in 2007. But after multiple requests from the community, Newman Family Productions committed to at least one more five-year run, to end with the 50th anniversary extravaganza in 2021.

As Sue Newman recalls, her parents' early practice of inviting their children's new friends to get involved in their theatrical productions led to inviting their parents too, so the Scrooge crew often included full family groups in addition to the Newman clan. No auditions were needed to fill the stage.

"You sort of have an instant cast, but it was practical in other ways too," Newman said. "It was an activity for the whole family."

This is a tradition that has continued throughout the play's nearly 50-year lifespan, and with so many years having passed now, it means multigenerational families may be represented on stage. This year that will include Dion Hackett and his granddaughter Ursa, who is around three and a half and first appeared on stage as a babe in arms. The cast in general ranges from toddler to octogenarian. Children who started as a Cratchit child or a Spotty Dog often move into other roles as they mature.

One role that remains consistent is the Christmas Fairy. Sue Newman danced the part as a young girl and continues to embrace the character to this day. Other familiar faces on stage will include Patrick Cassidy as Scrooge, a favourite in the role he has carried for the



PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Rehearsing a Scrooge scene clockwise from bottom left are Sue Newman as Mrs. Thigsberry (the Topsy Maid), Danielle Osieck as Lady Muggleton, Lisa Dahling as Mr. Charity, Jane Goodall as Mrs. Fezziwig, Kevin Wilkie as Bob Cratchit, Shilo Zylbergold as Mr. Fezziwig, Wendy Beatty as Mrs. Baker, Sophia Hickson as Street Urchin and Ruby Williamson as Belinda Cratchit with Etienne Osieck as Tiny Tim in the centre.

past several years. People who saw the show prior to its 2007 hiatus will be happy to welcome Shilo Zylbergold and Jane Goodall back after a long break.

Community members with special talents may be highlighted with a performance at the Fezziwig Ball, a festive scene from Scrooge's younger life. The host family's children and guests typically offer several entertainments, providing a play within a play that's full of seasonal warmth and cheer. Other people who aren't part of the main cast or can't commit to the two-month rehearsal/performance timeline may come in as carollers, performing before the main show and in interludes on stage.

Lack of availability at ArtSpring brings the show to Fulford Hall this year, which led in turn to the innovative "in the round" staging decision. For a show that started out playing island venues such as Central, Mahon and Fulford halls, the change is more than just an opportunity to switch things up.

"It's really nice to be returning to our roots," Newman said. "There's a flavour of the community hall — it harkens back to a time that is really quite well suited to the play's time period. And there's just a wonderful warm feeling about welcoming people into somewhere that's obviously a community space."

The immersive stage environment will include aisles behind the seating along the hall's longer walls, which will be transformed into lamplit streets or alleys. The far end of the hall where the old stage was located will be the place to find the pre-show carollers and dancers, along with hot cider and snacks such as hot potatoes and roasted chestnuts.

The shows runs Dec. 13, 14 and 18 to 21 at 7 p.m., with matinee performances at 2 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 22. Audiences are urged to arrive early to soak in the festive Victorian environment.

Tickets are available at Salt Spring Books.

## Out + ABOUT

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

### Poetry night guest

Award-winning B.C. poet Aislinn Hunter will read at the Salt Spring library on Thursday, Dec. 5, as part of the library's monthly open-mic poetry series.

The open-mic portion begins at 7 p.m., with sign-up at 6:45, followed by Hunter reading at 7:30.

Hunter is the author of three books of poetry, two novels, a story collection and a

book of paratexts. Her work has been adapted into musical, dance, art and film forms.

Her most recent book of poetry, called *Linger, Still*, won the Fred Cogswell Award for Excellence in Poetry and was longlisted for the Pat Lowther Award. Her previous poetry book, *The Possible Past*, was shortlisted for the Lowther award, the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and the ReLit Award for Poetry, while *Into the Early Hours* won the Gerald Lampert Award and was shortlisted for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize.

### Newman & friends

The next Tea à Tempo event features Sue Newman showcasing her life of music and theatre.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, beginning at 2:10 p.m. at All Saints By-the-Sea,

Newman and her friends will present some original songs and a little dancing, and a special excerpt from Christmas with Scrooge.

### Scottish dancing

The Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club is celebrating St. Andrew's Day by hosting a fun afternoon of Scottish country dancing on Saturday, Nov. 30.

This free event is for families, singles, couples and people of all ages and dance abilities. For those who haven't danced before but have an interest, it's a great opportunity to give it a try. Patient instruction and friendly coaching is offered by more experienced dancers. Casual attire with soft soled shoes is all that is needed for the afternoon.

The event runs from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Salt Spring Elementary School gym.

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	1113	2.8	9.2		0952	3.6	11.8
WE	1545	3.3	10.8	SU	1633	2.7	8.9
ME	2316	0.2	0.7	DI	1748	2.7	8.9
<b>28</b>	0729	3.5	11.5	<b>2</b>	0201	0.8	2.6
	1219	2.9	9.5		1034	3.5	11.5
TH	1617	3.2	10.5	MO			
JE	2356	0.3	1.0	LU			
<b>29</b>	0819	3.6	11.8	<b>3</b>	0243	1.1	3.6
	1333	2.9	9.5		1112	3.5	11.5
FR	1650	3.0	9.8	TU			
VE				MA			
<b>30</b>	0037	0.4	1.3	<b>4</b>	0329	1.4	4.6
	0906	3.6	11.8		1145	3.4	11.2
SA	1457	2.8	9.2	WE	1925	2.0	6.6
SA	1722	2.9	9.5	ME	2246	2.1	6.9

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# what's on this week



<div>Wed. Nov. 27</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Open Mic at the Mateada. Open mic night at Mateada Nitro Lounge. 7 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Parkinson's Support Group. Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 to 3:30 p.m.</div> <div>Let's Talk: Island Protein and Your Health. Info session about the Ideal Protein weight management protocol presented by Pharmasave. 6 p.m. Limited space: Call 250-537-5534 to reserve a spot.</div> <div>Tech Tutoring with Peter Freeman. Every Wednesday at the library in three 50-minute sessions between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</div> <div>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.</div> <div>Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.</div>	<div>Thur. Nov. 28</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Open Mic at Moby's Pub. Every Thursday from 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Tech Tutoring with Jim Watkins. Every Thursday at the library. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.</div> <div>Library Book Club. Today's book is The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón. Salt Spring Public Library. 1 to 3 p.m. The book club is open to all and meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.</div> <div>Open House: CRD Solid Waste Management Plan. Learn about and provide feedback to the CRD's proposed Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes 15 strategies to help improve the services, including increasing organic diversion and processing capacity. Meaden Hall. 2 to 6 p.m.</div> <div>Film Screening: The Toad People. Film about community-based movements to save endangered toadlets. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.</div>	<div>Fri. Nov. 29</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>ASK Salt Spring: Neighbours Helping Neighbours Find Answers. Open every Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Flower Shop, upstairs at Thrifty Foods. Special guests are available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This week's special guest is Gary Holman, CRD director.</div> <div>Festival of Trees. Opening day for Festival of Trees in the Harbour House Hotel. Put a donation under your favourite tree for either the food bank or Copper Kettle.</div> <div>Family Movie Matinee - Elf. 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.</div> <div>Art Show Opening: Wintercraft and Artists From the Fringe. SS Arts Council show plus 4th Art Jam winter show opens Mahon Hall. 4 to 7 p.m.</div> <div>WinterFaire Preview Night. A chance to preview silent auction items and bid on them or buy them outright at WinterFaire and enjoy a hot beverage and treat at Salt Spring Island United Church. 6 to 8 p.m.</div> <div>Braiding Cedar: An Evening with Indigenous Leaders. An evening of Indigenous solidarity, songs and stories in support of RAVEN Trust. Benefit for the Pull Together campaign, raising funds for strategic lawsuits against TMX. The event features a silent auction and delicious concession at intermission, along with a very special musical guest. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.</div>	<div>Sat. Nov. 30</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Handel's Messiah Sing-along. Bach on the Rock Chamber Choir and Orchestra leads Handel's Messiah Singalong at Fulford Hall. 2:30 p.m.</div> <div>Soul Shakedown. Live at the Legion. 8 p.m.</div> <div>Blanky. Live band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.</div> <div>Vetta Presents Art of the Tango Fugue. SOLD OUT</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>WinterFaire. Annual Christmas season fundraiser at the Salt Spring Island United Church. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Includes silent auction, cash and carry treasures, winter greens, handicrafts, Christmas baking, including gluten-free items, preserves, frozen soups to take home and the sale's famous tourtiere luncheon served in the Christmas Cafe. Vegetarian options are available too.</div> <div>Climate Action Plan Presentation Day. Everyone is invited to a casual brunch at the Gulf Islands Secondary School multi-purpose room. Discussions and presentations on how we might meet our goal of reducing emissions by 50 per cent by 2030. 10 a.m. to noon. Yummy local food, drinks and prizes. Kids welcome.</div> <div>Santa Fly-in. Santa flies in to Ganges Harbour at 1:45 p.m. Kids can then have photos taken with him at Meaden Hall from 2 to 4:30 p.m. There will also be activities for kids and refreshments at Meaden Hall during that time.</div>	<div>Sat. Nov. 30</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See decorated trees and place donation for Food Bank or Copper Kettle under your favourite. Harbour House Hotel. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through Jan 1.</div> <div>St. Andrew's Day Dance. Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club hosts a fun afternoon of dancing for people of all ages and skill level. Instruction provided. Salt Spring Elementary School. 2 to 4 p.m.</div> <div>Book Launch: Stories From the Magic Canoe. Salt Spring author Briony Penn shares Stories from the Magic Canoe, stories of Cecil Paul, an Xenakissala elder, as told to Penn. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Chili Cook-off. 8th annual chili competition at Centennial Park. Sample chili and cast your vote. Plus music by Viva Chorale singers. 4 to 6 p.m. A food bank fundraiser.</div> <div>EV Light-up Parade. Electric vehicles meet at north side of Country Grocer from 4 p.m. to get decorated and head downtown at 5 p.m., followed by a gathering to make merry.</div> <div>Spanish Conversation Meetup. Chat with other Spanish speakers or learners in a relaxed and fun atmosphere on most Sundays. Salt Spring Public Library. 3 to 5 p.m.</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Saturday's listing.</div>	<div>Mon. Dec. 2</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Salt Spring Centre School Celebration of Light. Annual advent ceremony at Salt Spring Centre. 5:30 p.m.</div> <div>Salt Spring Toastmasters. Public-speaking club meets Mondays at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room, except on statutory holidays. 7 p.m. sharp. Public welcome to observe.</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Saturday's listing.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Transitions Thrift Store 22nd Birthday Party. The not-for-profit Transitions store operated by Islanders Working Against Violence celebrates with cake and treats at 2 p.m.</div> <div>Evening of Sacred Chants. Led by Barb Slater and Kevin Wilkie at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m.</div> <div>Art Show Opening: Diana Hayes. Opening event for Diana Hayes' exhibit of photographs, which celebrates her recently published book called Labyrinth of Green. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 to 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Saturday's listing.</div>	<div>Wed. Dec. 4</div> <div>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</div> <div>Tea a Tempo: Sue Newman and Friends. Sue Newman and friends bring music, dance and a taste of Christmas With Scrooge to Tea a Tempo at All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea and treats.</div> <div>ACTIVITIES</div> <div>Festival of Trees. See Saturday's listing.</div> <div>Insight/Mindfulness Meditation. See last Wednesday's listing.</div> <div>Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.</div> <div>Tech Tutoring with Peter Freeman. See last Wednesday's listing.</div>
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Thur. Nov. 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic & Jam. At the Legion on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

ArtSpring Presents Le Vent du Nord. Le Vent du Nord is a driving force behind Quebec's progressive folk movement, as well as a key group in the renaissance of Quebec's traditional music. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m., bar opens at 6:30.

Fri. Nov. 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Doug and the Thugs. Live at The Local pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

The Regulars. Live at the Legion. 8 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 1

ACTIVITIES

WinterFaire. Annual Christmas season fundraiser at the Salt Spring Island United Church. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Includes silent auction, cash and carry treasures, winter greens, handicrafts, Christmas baking, including gluten-free items, preserves, frozen soups to take home and the sale's famous tourtiere luncheon served in the Christmas Cafe. Vegetarian options are available too.

Climate Action Plan Presentation Day. Everyone is invited to a casual brunch at the Gulf Islands Secondary School multi-purpose room. Discussions and presentations on how we might meet our goal of reducing emissions by 50 per cent by 2030. 10 a.m. to noon. Yummy local food, drinks and prizes. Kids welcome.

Santa Fly-in. Santa flies in to Ganges Harbour at 1:45 p.m. Kids can then have photos taken with him at Meaden Hall from 2 to 4:30 p.m. There will also be activities for kids and refreshments at Meaden Hall during that time.

Tue. Dec. 3

ACTIVITIES

Transitions Thrift Store 22nd Birthday Party. The not-for-profit Transitions store operated by Islanders Working Against Violence celebrates with cake and treats at 2 p.m.

Evening of Sacred Chants. Led by Barb Slater and Kevin Wilkie at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Art Show Opening: Diana Hayes. Opening event for Diana Hayes' exhibit of photographs, which celebrates her recently published book called Labyrinth of Green. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Festival of Trees. See Saturday's listing.

Wed. Dec. 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea a Tempo: Sue Newman and Friends. Sue Newman and friends bring music, dance and a taste of Christmas With Scrooge to Tea a Tempo at All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea and treats.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Saturday's listing.

Insight/Mindfulness Meditation. See last Wednesday's listing.

Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Tech Tutoring with Peter Freeman. See last Wednesday's listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Fantastic Fungi** shows Friday, Nov. 29 to Sunday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. each night and an additional Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Rated PG. 80 minutes.
- **Hustlers** starring Jennifer Lopez shows Monday, Dec. 2 to Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. Rated 14A. 105 minutes.
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream** shows Thursday, Nov. 28 only with a 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. show.

For more movie info go to [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca)

EXHIBITIONS

- **Art Jam** group participants hold their 4th winter show at Mahon Hall, concurrent with the Salt Spring Arts Council's Wintercraft show, beginning with an opening event on Friday, Nov. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. and continuing daily through Dec. 22.
- **Gallery 8's** 11th annual **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** runs through Dec. 31.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Diana Hayes** shows an exhibition of her photography at the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** beginning with a reception on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- **The Venter Gallery** holds an exhibition and sale of **'Small Gems'** by **Deon and Kathy Venter**.
- **The Winter Solstice Gift Shop** — a treasure trove of artful creations in stained glass, painting, mixed-media, textile, jewellery and ceramic — is open at **Salt Spring Gallery** through Dec. 28.
- **The Group of Six Photographers** — **Simon Henson, Larry Citra, Bruce McPhee, Kahsia Hartwell, Ross McLeod and Judy McPhee** — exhibit at **Fernwood Road Cafe** through mid February.
- **Melodie Herbert** and **Philippa Tattersall** exhibit paintings in the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room** through November.
- **Andy Poystila** has an exhibition in the **Jankura Lounge at ArtSpring** through November.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Mary Laucks** shows new abstract works in the **ArtSpring lobby** in the month of November.
- **League 181** painters present **Warming Up the Season** in the **ArtSpring lobby** through December.

Handel's Messiah Sing-along

With Bach on the Rock

Sat., Nov. 30 • 2:30 p.m.

Fulford Hall

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# ISLAND LIFE

- Remember When
- Star of the Week
- Where is it?

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



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**READY FOR A FEAST:** Indigenous Cultural Group students and staff at Gulf Islands Secondary School help host a table for a multicultural lunch put on by the school's leadership program on Wednesday, Nov. 20. From left are Cheyenne Sawchuk, GISS Indigenous support worker Cheryl Ruff, Abi Tamboline, Tristan Claxton, Hudson Scheres, Laine Hogstead and Caleb Wilson.

## FARMING

# Ruckle lease stays with Lanes

New 20-year contract begins in 2021

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A farmer who has been working the land within Ruckle Provincial Park for close to 30 years will get another 20 years at the project with the operating lease for Ruckle Farm awarded to Mike Lane.

When the 529-acre Ruckle Provincial Park was created in 1974, the 82-acre farm property and three heritage homes were reserved for living members of the Ruckle family, who first homesteaded the land in the early 1870s. That area was handed over to BC Parks' management when the last remaining family member, Helen Ruckle, died.

A request for proposals for the farm's management and operation was issued in June 2018.

The B.C. Ministry of Environment confirmed last week that Lane Agricultural Management Ltd. was the successful candidate. The news will be a relief to community members who rallied for Lane and his wife Marjorie to remain on site.

"There was a lot of support from the community. It was great to receive that from them," Lane said.

Lane's company has operated the farm for the past year under permit with BC Parks, and did so for approximately 24 years previously under the direct management of the Ruckle family. The new 20-year lease will begin Jan. 1, 2021.

According to the request for proposals, BC Parks wished the operating area "to evolve and to be used in a way that maintains the integrity of the property while functioning in a financially sustainable way that benefits the



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Mike and sheep during a sheep-herding demo at the 2017 Salt Spring Fall Fair.

park and park visitors."

Lane said he hopes to increase production of the food crops (not including livestock), but otherwise the farm will be very much

business as usual. They may also host a few more events such as weddings and reunions.

Ruckle Farm's contribution to local agricul-

ture is well known to the community and to visitors to the Salt Spring Fall Fair, where Lane's sheep dog demonstrations are a mainstay of the annual weekend's activities. The farm is often represented in the exhibition section as well — in 2019 they took home the high aggregate trophies for vegetables and field crops, plus best family garden exhibit.

Visitors to Ruckle Provincial Park also enjoy the experience of going through the oldest active working farm in the province, even if they may have to slow down to avoid free-ranging sheep and turkeys. The farm is also home to an annual farming heritage day.

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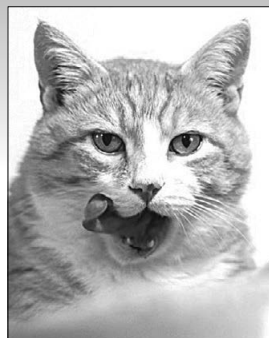
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**Monroe** is an amazing guy who could use a good home that will meet his needs. He is currently awaiting dental work but would love to find someone who will take a shine to him while he waits.

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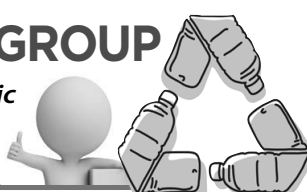
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## SUPER GROUP

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### PICNICS AND OTHER OUTINGS INVOLVING TRANSPORTING FOOD AND DRINKS:

Single-use plastic plates, glasses, cups, and cutlery are all among the plastic debris that is commonly found during beach cleanups. Did you know that Styrofoam cups and other food/drink containers can potentially leach toxins into hot drinks and food.

#### What you can do:

Use only reusable, washable plates, glasses and cups, and cutlery. Carry your own with you so you will have them available whenever you need them. If you don't want to carry metal cutlery, you can buy reusable bamboo cutlery that comes with chopsticks in a cloth carrying case. If you are having a party or holding an event which includes food, have guests bring their own eating and drinking utensils.



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## Remember WHEN

### Five years ago

• Parks and Recreation commissioners were frustrated with a communication disruption between themselves and CRD staff. "It feels a little bit like, during the last few months, PARC board members are being treated like mushrooms growing in the closet until their heads are chopped off," said long-time commissioner Stanley Shapiro. Absence of info concerning signage in Duck Creek park as well as the Ganges boardwalk project was "unacceptable," they said.

### Twenty years ago

• As adults went to the polls, kids too had a chance to express themselves using the democratic process. SIMS students joined over 180,000 others from across Canada in the National Election for the Rights of Youth. Students voted for the rights of children they felt were most important to them. The idea was organized by UNICEF Canada and Elections Canada. Salt Spring voters chose "family" as the most important right for children.

### Thirty years ago

• Preparations for construction of the marine pub and related facilities at Harbour's End Marina took one step forward when the Islands Trust approved issuance of a development permit for the area. But before things proceeded too much farther, the Trust wanted to see the developer's plans for the boardwalk along the water in the area.

### Forty years ago

• BC Ferries requested that Active Pass be closed to all small craft and recreational fishermen. The request angered Gulf Islanders at a public meeting held on Mayne Island. Canadian Coast Guard officials sponsored the meeting and outlined the safety concerns of the corporation before asking for suggestions. The ferries needed to maintain a speed of 18 knots through the pass for efficiency reasons. However, increased traffic in the waterway made that difficult to achieve.

## BOOK REVIEW

# Brooks earns novel attention

Dark love story  
shortlisted for Staunch  
Book Prize

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring poet and author Brenda Brooks has a stylish new novel now on book store shelves that illustrates how love can upend our lives like few other forces.

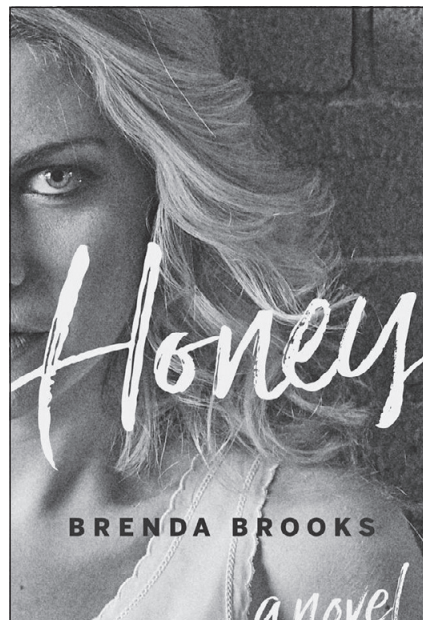
Cast as a "sensuous modern noir novel," Honey combines classic tropes with contemporary economic and social realities for a darkly atmospheric read. The love and betrayal at the centre of the story is meanwhile all-too timeless for human hearts, and told in a way that leaves the reader thinking long after the book has ended.

The title character of Brooks' novel is the perfect femme fatale, intentionally using her sexual attractiveness to hustle a gullible naif. The difference is the main person being manipulated and relieved of excess wealth is Nicole, Honey's childhood best friend and the book's narrator.

As someone from a depressed small town whose social circle is essentially limited to her parents, Nicole has always focused on Honey as the source of fun and freedom in her life. When Honey returns to town after disappearing for six years, that intense focus soon turns to outright obsession. Nicole's latent passion is unleashed at last under Honey's guidance, but just how much Honey is invested in the relationship is always at question.

Brooks was inspired to create the setting, which takes place mainly in the fictional town of Buckthorn, partly in response to the 2008 financial crisis. She does not identify where this town might be except that it is somewhere vaguely "northern" and in North America. It could easily be mid-west America, Ontario, or even parts of B.C.

Along with direct reference to film noir in some favourite classic movies



shared by the two main characters, there are many elements in the book that add to the noirish atmosphere. A neon sign featuring a sleek diving woman blinks outside a key location; 24-hour breakfast is served at an all-night diner. There's also Nicole's job playing old jazz hits at the piano bar of the local casino.

Brooks is herself a fan of those movies, which she watched with her parents as a kid. She observes the 2008 financial collapse, the drug crisis and the 2016 U.S. election results also make the noir style seem appropriate for expressing these dark times. Not coincidentally, one of the most villainous characters in the book is a banking executive who gets his just desserts.

"I was so angry about how the financial world had taken everyone for a ride that way, and now we all had to pay for it — it was pretty much business as usual," Brooks told the Driftwood. "Sometimes when you're a writer, short of actually going out and wreaking revenge you just get your characters to do it."

By three quarters of the way into the book, it's as apparent to Nicole as to the

reader that Honey has not been sincere in her affections. Feverish love turns to inevitable betrayal — and yet, there is a suggestion in the final pages there may have been more than a rip-off scheme at play. Even without that glimpse of possible redemption, though, there is something to be said for how the terrible events aid Nicole's development as a person and an artist whose job it is to interpret the great musical expressions of love.

"I almost thought of it as a bit of an exchange these two women could make with one another," Brooks said. "You have a very innocent person, inexperienced, [and] one who's just the opposite. Could that person redeem herself through her exposure to someone who's more innocent? Can there be an exchange there in a way? And could Nicole become a more experienced person and more in touch with what it really means to be human?"

Honey was on the shortlist for the 2019 Staunch Book Prize, which celebrates thrillers that are an alternative to novels that feature violence to women. Samantha Harvey was announced as the winner on Monday, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Though Honey didn't quite meet the requirement that "no woman be beaten, stalked, sexually exploited, raped or murdered," Brooks' publisher ECW Press believes it meets the spirit of the award and the judges agreed. While there are some male characters in the book, they don't get much page space, either for acts of violence or acts of heroism.

The two women with their opposing characters are firmly the drivers of action and emotion. And in the end, Nicole is not a victim fated to be destroyed but bravely chooses to surrender to the unknown.

"So much about life is about letting go and surrendering to things, and the beauty of it is it's so scary, but when we do it we are changed by it," Brooks said. "The older I get the more I realize that's what life is all about, really."

## expert ADVICE

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### Financial Advice

#### Charitable Giving #1

I'm considering donating to a local charity. Any insight on the tax implications of this?

First off, good on you for thinking about doing something like this.

As you know, the real purpose of charitable giving is generally to support causes that are aligned with our values, principles or beliefs. As government support is not a constant, many organizations rely on the generosity of the community in order to carry out their programs. In recognition of this, governments, both provincial and federal, provide tax credits to encourage giving.

There are a few criteria that the donation and the receiving organization must meet, such as being a registered charity. If this is done, then you the donor will receive a tax receipt for the value of your donation. For the first \$200 that you donate, you will get non-refundable tax credits of about 20%. Anything over that will receive a credit for about 45%.

There are annual maximums and other things to consider, depending on what you want to donate and to whom. However, if you can do a good thing and reduce your taxes a bit in the process, then that seems like a pretty good combination to me. I'd be happy to discuss it with you and point you to some other good resources!



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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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### 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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**Obituaries****Obituaries****In Memoriam****Coming Events****Coming Events****Coming Events****Coming Events**

## Anne Stevenson



Anne Stevenson passed away peacefully on November 23 at Greenwoods Eldercare on Salt Spring Island. Anne is predeceased by her loving husband Ken Stevenson who passed in 1992. Anne is survived by her 5 children; Gord, Colin, [Susan] Bob, [Dawn] Deb, Cindy [Bob], 3 grandchildren, Josh [Noemi], Sidney, Robyn [Eric], 3 great grandchildren, Katelyn, Landon, and Rebecca. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the dedicated and loving staff at Greenwoods Eldercare for their loving and caring compassion for their Mom.

Donations will be gratefully received by Greenwoods Eldercare Society. The website for donations is [www.greenwoodseldecare.org](http://www.greenwoodseldecare.org).

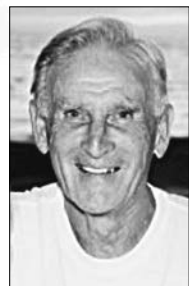
We miss you already Mom and we will carry you in our hearts forever.

Service will be held at The Salt Spring United Church, 111 Hereford Ave., Ganges at 2 pm. Monday Dec. 2, 2019.

*"When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure"*

## DR. PETER FREDERICK WILLIAM ROWELL

April 21, 1928 - November 12, 2019



Peter was born in Ponteland near Newcastle on Tyne - a Geordie who grew up in the mining village of Greenside where his folks had a pub. He attended Barnard Castle School where he excelled at cricket and rugby. At 16 he was one of the youngest to play cricket for Greenside in the Tyneside senior league.

He graduated from Newcastle Medical School in 1954 then spent three years as a G.P. and surgical registrar on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland where he met and married Jean MacLean, a school teacher. They moved to Angmering in Sussex where he had a family practice for eight years. They had three daughters; Sheena (Kirkham), Susan (Stepaniuk), and Fiona (Sollitt).

In 1965 they decided to immigrate to Australia but first trek across Canada in a Land Rover and caravan to Vancouver. Instead, they stopped off at Sylvan Lake, Alberta, and remained there for 10 years. They moved to Salt Spring in 1974 where he had a family practice before retiring at the age of 76. His wife, Jean, died in 1982 and he married Maureen (Clarke) in 1986.

He enjoyed the camaraderie of the Egg Heads Club and the PGA Golfers, and winters spent golfing in the California desert with Maureen. He was always quietly proud of his three daughters and their achievements, and his 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Peter was a well respected physician and member of the community, and he was much loved by his family. A celebration of his life will be held in the Spring.

**Legal Notices****CRIMINAL RECORD?**

Why suffer Employment/Licensing loss? Travel/Business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US Entry Waiver. Record Purge. File Destruction. Free Consultation 1-800-347-2540. [accesslegalmjf.com](http://accesslegalmjf.com)

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250-537-2770 • [saltspringhospice.org](http://saltspringhospice.org)

**Coming Events**

## One Stop Christmas Shopping!



Saturday Nov. 30th  
9am-3pm  
111 Hereford Ave.

Café featuring Hot Lunch & Music  
Shop Upstairs & Down  
Handicrafts, Cash & Carry  
Treasures, Christmas & Gluten Free Baking, Frozen Soups, Preserves, Fruit Cakes

\*Silent Auction\*  
\*Auction opens Fri. Nov 29th, 5-8pm for viewing & bids with drinks & treats

**Information**

**HIP or KNEE REPLACEMENT?**  
Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$2,000 yearly tax credit and \$20,000 lump sum refund. Expert Help 1-844-453-5372.

Hello Peggy Mackenzie The grads of the 1970 Renewable Resources class are planning a reunion and looking for members of the class. Can Peggy Mackenzie or anyone who knows her please contact Byril at 250-804-3726.

**Financial Services****GET BACK ON TRACK!**

Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend! If you own your own home - you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB. 1-877-987-1420 [www.pioneerwest.com](http://www.pioneerwest.com)

**Computer Services****CALL BOB'S Computer**

Service for troubleshooting, software & networking support. We do house calls. 250-537-2827 or cell 250-538-7017. Please back-up your important data now!

The magic of  
*Christmas Craft Fair*  
15 VENDORS  
Fri. Nov. 29 3-9  
Sat. Nov. 30 &  
Sun. Dec. 1  
10-5  
LIONS HALL, (upstairs)

## Pat Webber Pottery

### STUDIO SHOW AND SALE



Saturday & Sunday  
Dec. 7 & 8  
10-5pm

425 STEWART ROAD  
[www.patwebber.ca](http://www.patwebber.ca)

**Coming Events****Coming Events**

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.

**Medical Health**

GET UP TO \$50,000 from the Government of Canada.

Do you or someone you know Have any of these Conditions? ADHD, Anxiety, Arthritis, Asthma, Cancer, COPD, Depression, Diabetes, Difficulty Walking, Fibromyalgia, Irritable Bowels, Overweight, Trouble Dressing...and Hundreds more. ALL ages & Medical Conditions Qualify. Have a child under 18 instantly receive more money. CALL BRITISH COLUMBIA BENEFITS 1-(800)-211-3550 OR Send a Text Message with Your Name and Mailing Address to (604) 739-5600 For Your FREE benefits package.

**Help Wanted**

**WATER WATER WELL PROBLEM?**  
Talk to an ex-driller. Vincent Theriault 250-537-9119

## Benchman-Sawfiler

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**FOR RENT**

Commercial Space for rent 2 rooms+common area. The Gulf Clinic 250-537-2468

**bcclassified.com**

**Business Opportunities**

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**FOR SALE**  
Large collection of Ross pottery

We have been lucky to acquire this collection. Now available at a reasonable price. Perfect condition. Twenty years old and never used. **CALL 250 537 1332**

**Career Opportunities****Counsellor**

North Island Survivors' Healing Society seeks an additional counsellor to join our vibrant clinical team to provide professional counselling for people affected by various forms of trauma and abuse.

The Society supports a range of recognized and evidence-based approaches and provides peer support and clinical consultation.

The position is well suited for a counsellor to work a regular schedule of 30hrs/wk. on-site in Campbell River.

Please direct your cover letter and resume to contact@nshs.ca



## DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

## Career Opportunities

## Career Opportunities

## Career Opportunities

## Part-time Cook

Part-time Cook required at Lady Minto Hospital.

As the Cook, you will prepare and serve meals, cater to special diets, clean as well as other related duties. Baking skills required.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from a recognized program in cooking or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

Food Safe Level 2 required.

Shift schedule: 6:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. & 10:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Apply today!

<https://islandhealth.hua.hrsmart.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/119306>

Island Health offers an exceptional employer-paid benefits package including extensive extended health plan, group life insurance, vacation entitlements and a defined pension plan.

Come be part of our team!



## Auctions

**BUSINESS & CONFERENCE CENTER** - Williams Lake, BC. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, December 13 - Edmonton Site. The Pioneer Complex Business & Conference Center, 41,000 +/- Sq Ft Multi-Purpose Multi-Tenant Conference Center Building. Jerry Hodge: 780.706.6652; Brokerage: Re/Max Dawson Creek Realty; [rbauktion.com](mailto:rbauktion.com) /realestate.

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Ask for Jim

## CALLING ALL SALT SPRING BUSINESSES &amp; COMMUNITY GROUPS: GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL

## CHRISTMAS LIGHT-UP

## DECORATING CONTEST

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

## CATEGORIES:

- Best All Round
- Best Use of Lights
- Most Creative
- People's Choice

## PRIZES &amp; RIBBONS AWARDED:

First Place \$100\*

Second Place \$75\*

People's Choice Award \$150\*

\*In ad credits with the Driftwood

Decorate your store or office, using your imagination & creativity - any way you like!

To enter the contest or to vote for your favourite in the People's Choice Award, email [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com).

**Driftwood**  
GULF ISLANDS

Where is it?



Where is this found on Salt Spring?

Send your answer to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or watch for the photo to appear on our Facebook page.

Last Week's Answer: Esther Sufady was the first person to correctly identify the object as a flour grinder.

See our Facebook page for our annual Christmas Story Writing Contest

See the Sports section of [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) for this week's Old Boys soccer team report by Fraser Hope.

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

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

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

Month 12 is poised to begin. Although it does so on the wings of Pegasus, as with the influences of Sagittarius, already the sobering grip of Capricorn is getting tighter. Venus just last week aligned with Jupiter with ceremony and pageantry, yet duty called and on November 25th she was wisped back to work. Jupiter has lingered a little longer yet on December 2nd will also enter the sign of duty and responsibility. Jupiter spends about a year in each sign, sometimes a month less and sometimes a month more. Its cycle through Capricorn will continue until mid-December 2020 and will culminate in a very powerful conjunction with Saturn in Aquarius right on Winter Solstice, next year. Currently, the scenario reveals a more serious and sober theme cycle, which invites us to recognize and embrace the virtues of hard work, endurance and practicality. Although the Sun remains in Sagittarius and will until the solstice, already this tone of Capricorn is setting in.

## Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

The trumpets and cheers that so clearly pierced the airwaves last week have now gone silent. Some of the euphoria lingers but that peak moment is now over. The focus now is upon work. For you, this includes strategies and actions emphasizing expansion based on concentrated focus and realistic choices and actions.

## Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Your value of industriousness is being met and expanded by the current planetary alignments. Yet, what seems likely in terms of this, is change in your public and professional status. Whether these occur now or in a few weeks or months, the reality and momentum of this change are here now. Your main job, therefore, is to trust and cooperate fully.

## Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

The uplifting winds of Sagittarius which graced your spirit has become colder, perhaps even bitter at moments. They are a reminder of the fact that all good things must come to an end. It is this stage of the game that is often more bitter than sweet. Yet, it can be for those whose hearts are filled with faith and gratitude. Thank, forgive and let go of the illusion of control.

## Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

For you, this interception of the Sagittarian euphoria may actually come as a welcome change. The noisy fanfare has its place and time and so too does the quieter aftermath. If you think about it, despite the cheers, you were secretly yearning for more peaceful moments shared with ones you love. This is your opportunity now, embrace it.

## Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

Well, the brief spike of high energy lingers but has, for the most part, retired. Now again, the focus turns to more practical affairs. This will remain true throughout the month, actually. Yet, that creative spark ignited by the influence of Sagittarius remains lit. Still, the way to make the most of it is to become more disciplined.

## Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

That boost of confidence you enjoyed last week has actually moved on to become a more realistic mode of expression. Positively, this is a perfect fit for you. It provides you with just the right balance to feel confident, inspired and focused on the work required for outer manifestation. Allow some room for variety and multi-tasking.

## Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Hopefully, you enjoyed last week's boost. This week it will manifest as a more sober and realistic mode of confidence. You have really been learning to exercise your beginner's mind over the past couple of years and this process continues. Yet, now you are entering into a more mature stage of it and are getting ready to advance to the next level.

## Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

A boost of inspiration regarding taking risks and gambles has come and gone. Hopefully, you were able to tune-in and place your bets. Now, the focus is turning to more practical and realistic measures. This is where working smart as opposed to hard comes to mind. This kind of logic probably appeals to you and you are keen to think this way.

## Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

For you, last week's expansion stemming from the influences of your sign served to inspire you to take a few risks. Having done so, now the challenge includes getting down to business. This includes gathering the needed tools, getting organized and implementing strategies. These may require investment. But avoid throwing money at the problem and be frugal.

## Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

That bit of reprieve that you hopefully enjoyed last week now shifts into a more proactive cycle. It does have to do with expressing yourself diplomatically. Yet, it also includes an impulse to take calculated risks as indicated by Jupiter in your sign. This influence will endure for an entire year, so there is no rush, unless you are ready to get a jump on things.

## Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

The current energy shift from lofty Sagittarius to grounded Capricorn is probably producing a mixed result for you. On the high side, it has served to expand your overall exposure and this might include new connections and perhaps friendships. On the other hand, this new cycle will challenge you to dig deep to lay claim to your power potential.

## Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The Sagittarius influence has served to give you a boost. This is probably especially true publicly and/or professionally, even this boost came within already sober context. Now, the emphasis is on getting clearer on both what and who you know. The greater emphasis is on your knowledge and skillset, yet there are likely key players whose allegiance you may, in fact, need.

SALT SPRING

**Star**

of the

**WEEK**

Simone Cazabon



Simone Cazabon is the coordinator for the Salt Spring Island Community Services food security program. Under her leadership, the program has grown from a simple garden plot and food bank to a multi-faceted food security program including a food rescue, cafe, farmers market coupons, community gardens, food bank, by-donation market and community farm. Cazabon has also been awarded a Good Food Champion award for her dedication to community food resilience.





# AUTOMOTIVE NEWS

- Vehicle tips
- EVolution column
- Local auto deals

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

# Charging ahead on public EV infrastructure

This month I will review our island's EV charging infrastructure.

### Current Status

As of November, we have 10 Level 2 (220-volt - medium speed) free public charging stations with 16 wands. The locations and operational status is always available at: <http://www.ssiev.ca/free-charging-stations.html>. Donation boxes at some stations will hopefully collect enough money to cover the cost of the service, repairs and eventual replacement. Suggested donations: \$1 per hour is minimal, \$2 is generous and \$5 is awesome.

The charger network is very useful for occasional use when you visit a merchant and need an e-booster shot, or you've purchased an EV and have yet to install a charger at your home, or during challenging times when you can't get to your home (deep snow) or the electricity is out (drive to where the grid is active), and for our valued visiting tourists.

### Why Are They Free?

Initially, BC Hydro would not support a location owner charging



Jim  
Standen  
**EV**  
OLUTION

for the electricity. I believe this has since changed, but there has always been the challenge of the electricity being inexpensive, so a charging mechanism for Level 2 locations may not be practical.

A rough estimate for the usage is 50 to 70 cents per hour, depending on the service charge, the physical charger output and the car's charging rate. For this minor cost, the location can attract customers. If a third-party company or individual donates a charger or provides sponsorship (reducing the location installation cost), they are supporting a greener, low-carbon economy and are rewarded with inexpensive advertising for many years from a vanity plate located near the charger.

The customer gets a nice parking spot and some free charging. Win win win win.

### How Did We Get Here?

The first charger was installed at ArtSpring by the Earth Festival Society (now Transition Salt Spring) and opened by Elizabeth May in August 2013. It quickly became the 14th most popular charger in the province. Real time usage stats are available at: <http://egaug4807.egaug.es>. Almost all the others have been funded by off-island donations, the owners and the efforts of volunteers of the EV group (ssiev.ca).

### Being a Respectful User

First of all, only EVs should use the stalls, please. Just like with designated disabled parking spaces, infringement is unkind and could lead to an unhappy tow event.

Express your gratitude. Please only park in your EV charging stall if you are actively charging. Carefully remove the charging wand and attach it to your car. Ensure your car is charging before you depart and don't lock the charger in place if your

car has that option. Use an EV group etiquette card if you have one. When you return, look around to see if a nearby car has their charging port open (hinting they are thirsty) and, if so, plug them in. If not, NEATLY wrap the cord and return the cord to the charger. Do not leave excess line on the ground. That is unsightly and a tripping hazard. The chargers are for personal (non-commercial) use only. Please do not rely exclusively on the public chargers. Installing a Level 2 charger at home is the best way to go.

### The Future

The EV Group is actively investigating many other potential locations for free public chargers. If you have a location that you think may be eligible or if you wish to participate in the sponsorship, please contact me.

I am very pleased to announce that CRD director Gary Holman has quickly responded to the climate change emergency declared in March 2019. The CRD and our local Parks and Recreation Commission have installed a free charger at Port-

lock and will be installing another at the Rainbow Road pool. Portlock is a premiere location as it is busy from dawn to dusk with runners, sports teams, racquet sports and educational events. Many of the users are from off-island. The swimming pool location would support the pool users, the nearby allotment gardens and be an alternate parking location for island visitors.

The CRD is also actively investigating a Level-3 installation which would be fee-for-use, and respond to the needs of higher-use vehicles (taxi, delivery, rental, etc.). I applaud the CRD's efforts.

### The Bottom Line

Our public network of chargers will continue to grow as the number of EVs (currently 240) continues to expand. Each additional EV reduces our dependency on imported oil and keeps our air cleaner. The EV group and the CRD are working closely together to charge up the future.

I encourage your respectful comments. I can be reached at: [jstanden@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jstanden@ucalgary.ca).

## DRIVING

# Winter driving advice shared

BCAA offers the following tips for winter prep and driving:

1. Prepare your car to perform in winter so you can drive more safely.

- Get a complete vehicle check-up and install winter tires before cold weather sets in. Sooner is better so you don't get caught out. For most highways in B.C., the law requires winter tires as of October 1.

- Carry a winter driving emergency kit and chains in your car.

2. Adjust your driving to match the weather conditions.

- Before you drive: check road and weather conditions, clear snow and ice from windows and lights, defog all windows.

- Route plan to avoid trickier areas such as hills or narrow unplowed streets.

- As you drive: slow down, leave more room between you and the car ahead and use turn signals well in advance.

3. Put safety first.

- Be honest about your driving skills and comfort level. Don't drive in conditions when you don't have the skills or if you're nervous.

- Always have a plan B. Avoid the temptation to drive when you shouldn't by planning other transport options.

- Carry emergency items in your car, including: highly visible winter outerwear, safety cones, battery jumper cables, a shovel, windshield scraper and brush, flashlight and batteries, warm clothes and boots, gloves, blanket, supply of non-perishable food and water, spare container of winter-grade washer fluid.

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# Christmas

## on SALT SPRING



Activities provided by

**Legion**

...with the help  
from some  
amazing elves,  
we will have  
activities and hot  
chocolate  
set up for the kids.

**SATURDAY NOV. 30**  
**1:45 pm**  
**SANTA ARRIVES**

Welcome Santa as he flies  
into Ganges Harbour with  
Salt Spring Air.  
Children can greet Santa  
on the  
Ganges float plane dock.

### KIDS ACTIVITIES:

- arts & crafts for young & old
- ornament making
- refreshments

Please bring a non-perishable  
food item or a  
donation for the Food Bank.

**SATURDAY NOV. 30**  
**2 - 4:30pm**  
**PHOTOS WITH**  
**SANTA AT**  
**Royal Canadian Legion**  
**Meaden Hall**

Santa will ride to the  
**Royal Canadian Legion Br. 92,**  
**Meaden Hall**

in a Salt Spring Island  
Fire Rescue truck, where  
he will spend the next  
two hours posing for photos  
taken by the Driftwood.  
The following week  
Apple Photo will have  
the pictures printed  
ready to be picked up!

**Photos**  
**with Santa**  
**Saturday,**  
**Nov. 30**



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