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9 Venters go small for seasonal show



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- Pharmsave
- Thrifty Foods
- The Local Liquor St.
- Home Hardware
- Cabela's



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
DEC. 11, 2019

59th year
Issue 50

\$1.50

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

JOLLY TIMES: Athlete Chris Joynson, right, and Gulf Islands Families Together Society worker Bob Delion get into the Christmas spirit as they promote fundraising for the 2020 Operation Trackshoes event. See story on page 11.

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Voters defeat CRD safety bylaw

No referendum planned in near future

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District's proposed Bylaw 4325 has been decisively defeated by Salt Spring electors via the alternate approval process.

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman told the Driftwood on Monday afternoon that CRD officials had already received more than the minimum required 910 elector response forms and hadn't finished counting them yet.

"It is clear there is no consensus on the need for this service," he said. "I think I failed to make the case, and despite our best effort to explain the rationale for the service, it is fairly complex and too many voters felt there was no definite plan."

In order for a bylaw to be blocked by the alternate approval process, previously known as a counter-petition, a minimum of 10 per cent of eligible voters in the jurisdiction — or 910 on Salt Spring — must sign and submit elector response forms.

The bylaw would have established a community safety service, supported by Salt Spring property taxpayers to a level of \$0.016 of \$1,000 residential property value.

If fewer than 10 per cent of Salt Spring electors had submitted elector response forms by the Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. deadline, the bylaw would have been automatically enacted and the tax added to the 2020 requisition.

Many islanders initially found the process difficult to navigate, with information printed on the electoral response form suggesting that it needed to have a copy of the bylaw attached and be delivered to Victoria in order to be counted. As well, some people who wished to pick up extra forms from the local CRD office were told incorrectly they could only take one for themselves.

Opposition to the service and the AAP process inspired some islanders to take action. Gordon Lee could be seen handing out voter forms to passersby on Lower Ganges Road for several days last week, and other community members were also making sure extra forms were printed and circulated.

Holman said the community's participation in defeating the proposal proves the AAP can work on Salt Spring, even though he feels some voters signed the petition form because they were opposed to the mechanism rather than the safety

service itself.

"This experience demonstrates once again that in fact, the alternate approval process can actually make it easier for voters to reject proposals," he said. "A: because of the 10 per cent threshold, B: you've got at least 30 days to reject the proposal, and C: the entire field is left to the 'no' voters."

Holman added the CRD usually only chooses to use the AAP over a referendum to request taxpayer spending when the request is fairly modest, or if it seems there is community consensus about the need.

"Certainly on the last issue I'm a bit surprised, but that's a judgement call and voters have made it clear they feel there is no need for the service," he said.

Holman said he is not planning to call for a referendum on the issue at this point, as it would cost anywhere from \$30,000 to 40,000 to hold and a positive result is uncertain. At the same time, he said the need for local agency collaboration on things like crime prevention and outreach has not gone away.

AAP continued on 2

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AAP process criticized

AAP

The director still hopes to hold stakeholder meetings with the RCMP to communicate on issues and how they are being addressed. Those meetings may not happen as frequently as they could have with funding and CRD administrative support, however.

"I am disappointed in the outcome, not for me necessarily but for the people who came forward — many of them women, who have a different perception of safety than men do — about the need and their concerns about personal safety in Ganges," Holman said. "As an elected official I can't dismiss their concerns."

Darcy Repen, a part-time resident of Salt Spring who has been critical of the AAP process, said, "I am glad to see the result. I'm also relieved that what has been a very trying time for many people on both sides has come to a close."

"I have two hopes for what will come from this result. The first is that the CRD follows up with recommendations to the province on how the alternative approval process can be improved to make it more acceptable to the electorate. And the second is that Salt Spring residents and the CRD director continue to work together to come up with well defined, practicable and empathetic solutions for the problems that are occurring in Ganges."



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

FLAMES BEGONE: John Wiebe practises using a fire extinguisher while other attendees at a Salt Spring Fire Rescue-sponsored training session held at the Rod and Gun Club watch and wait for their turns. Fire extinguisher training was also part of recent Salt Spring Emergency Resilience Training sessions put on by the Salt Spring Emergency Program.

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ISLANDS TRUST

Trust Council meetings debated

Special session to test electronic meeting potential

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A staff request for Islands Trust Council to finalize its 2020 meeting locations raised surprisingly vociferous debate at the December quarterly session in Victoria last week, as trustees grappled with whether to reduce their meeting schedule in light of a declared climate emergency.

A proposal to drop the June meeting from the schedule altogether did not win support. Denman trustee and former executive member Laura Busheikin, one of the people to speak against the idea, said she was concerned about limiting the time available for the council to accomplish its work in just three meetings per year.

"This is where we do our business together," Busheikin said. "There's so much to deal with and so much work, and we need to be out on the islands where constituents can see us and come to our meetings and we can hear from them . . . and I think if we don't meet we don't move business forward."

While the council defeated that motion and decided to stick with the status quo for the coming year, the carbon footprint associated with bringing 26 trustees and multiple staff members to different communities on a quarterly basis posed considerable concern for many.

A motion raised by Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick at the September session on Bowen Island asked staff to report on the possibilities for going to three in-person meetings. Staff were unable to deliver the report in time for the December meeting due to their current workloads and the complex variables.

Trust CAO Russ Hotsenpiller reported for the time being that such a report would require consideration of council's legal obligation to table a budget, present financial statements and present the annual report; the legislative responsibilities to approve bylaws under the Islands Trust Act; potential changes to the meeting procedures bylaw and other policy items; and the unknown viability of electronic meetings. The ability of the public to participate is

another consideration, Hotsenpiller said.

Although acknowledging the climate crisis, several trustees spoke to the value of meeting together and visiting other communities within the Trust area to understand the federation better. Many of the Trust's committee meetings are already held electronically, which helps reduce the carbon footprint, they noted. Carpooling and travelling by public transit are also possible for some. (Busheikin vowed to hitchhike from Denman to the next meeting on Hornby.)

The ability to hold an electronic meeting involving 26 trustees and staff is meanwhile an unknown factor. Committee meetings currently being managed that way feature far fewer people.

Some trustees added that poor internet connections on their home islands would make meeting electronically impossible. They would still have to travel to find a suitable location to attend digitally, and the system would need to be sufficient on both ends to avoid interruptions and disconnections.

Trustees ultimately voted to approve 2020 quarterly sessions with meetings on Salt Spring in March, Hornby Island in June, Saturna in September and Victoria in December. They also voted to hold a special electronic meeting to test its viability before attempting to do an entire council meeting.

Live-streaming in discussion

Issues with technology as well as British Columbia's privacy laws continue to be examined in light of a request stemming from North Pender trustee Ben McConchie, who has championed online streaming of local Trust committee meetings. So far staff have determined that, according to B.C. laws, a local government-directed broadcast cannot be done through social media platforms based in the United States such as YouTube or Facebook. However, meetings can be filmed and live-streamed on Facebook by members of the public with certain conditions. A Pender resident performed this service for the Trust Council session on Dec. 4.

Islands Trust staff are continuing to research the matter, including the potential costs of recording and storing video footage that would be accessible to the public.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Emergency program coordinator resigns

Salt Spring Emergency Island Program Coordinator Brian Bogdanovich has resigned his post after 10 months on the job.

Bogdanovich said in an email to POD and neighbourhood leaders that health concerns were the reason for stepping back. He intends on acting in a supporting role in the future, helping maintain the new initiatives that he started when he came on as coordinator. These include the workshop series and the Salt Spring Emergency Resilience Training program.

"I want to say how much I have appreciated the support of many of the fantastic pod leaders and can't say enough also about the incredible volunteers within our program," he wrote in the email. "We have a lot of momentum built up from recent training and hope to continue that into 2020."

Bogdanovich will continue in his position for the beginning of January. His replacement will be announced when chosen.

String lights recyclable

Non-profit group Product Care Recycling wants islanders to know that Christmas string lights can be recycled.

The Salt Spring Recycling Depot on Rainbow Road is one of the places that accepts all kinds of string lights.

"This time of year, British Columbians are unboxing their Christmas decorations, including lights," states information from Product Care Recycling. "We all know that annoying feeling when you plug in the string lights and the bulbs are no longer working. Many people don't know what to do with that pesky string once it's reached the end of its useful life. Thankfully, they can be recycled."

In addition to string lights, the program accepts all kinds of lighting products from fixtures (think chandeliers, desk lamps, etc.) to burnt out light bulbs including fluorescent tubes, halogen bulbs, CFLs, LEDs and more.

ISLANDS TRUST

Quesnel wins Trust reprieve

Metal recycling enforcement deadline extended to March 31

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Metal Recycling has been given a reprieve from Islands Trust bylaw enforcement action for the next few months while owner John Quesnel works with the Trust to bring the business into zoning compliance.

"We're looking at options at how to comply. We're going to work together to try to find a solution that works for everyone," Quesnel told the Driftwood on Dec. 4, one day before he was scheduled to stop accepting materials.

"I think this is a reasonable amount of time to allow him to either remove his equipment and scrap metal or to make the necessary changes to make the operation lawful. It is clear that the status quo is not acceptable," said trustee Peter Grove. "I believe the community would like him to succeed and continue to provide a useful service. I hope that can be achieved and be compliant with the bylaws."

Quesnel's property at 251 Fulford-Ganges Rd. has industrial zoning, but it does not include vehicle wrecking or the outdoor storage or processing of recycling material. The assertion that the business fills a gap in local services seems proven over the past few weeks, as islanders reacted to news about its planned closure.

"People are panicking and I've been absolutely swamped," Quesnel said. "I can't even get the trucks in to get the bins."

Islands Trust chief bylaw enforcement officer Warren Dingman confirmed that Quesnel asked for and received a grace period of several months. He will follow up after March 31, 2020 to see what progress has been made.

"John will talk to planning staff, and he's already talked to the regional planning manager, about what applications he can submit to operate his recycling business lawfully," Dingman said.

Neighbours who are opposed to noise from the recycling business and worried about environmental pollution have meanwhile stepped up complaints. A letter sent to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee on Oct. 26 warned that islanders were petitioning the B.C. Office of the Ombudsperson to encourage the Trust to enforce its bylaws.

Salt Spring resident Keith Ballantyne said he has communicated with the ombudsperson on behalf of a group of at least 20 neighbours. He was directed to contact Islands Trust CAO Russ Hotsenpiller about the matter and will be doing so shortly.

While Salt Spring Metal Recycling recently registered with the Vehicle Dismantling and Recycling Industry Environmental Planning Regulation, which requires an environmental site plan, a compliance officer only makes a site visit after the fact. Ballantyne said the backward process leaves him in doubt that environmental standards are being followed properly, which could put other properties at risk.

The noise and vibrations caused by car wrecking are also real concerns, he said.

"My feeling is the authorities have to become involved in some way," Ballantyne said. "It affects a lot of people."

Editor's note: An earlier version of this story was published the Driftwood's website on Dec. 4.

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Islands Trust

2020 Regular Meetings of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be meeting to consider various matters of general business such as applications received, bylaw reviews and meeting notes.

Regular Meetings are scheduled for:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday	January 21	9:30 AM*
Tuesday	February 18	9:30 AM*
Tuesday	March 24	9:30 AM*
Tuesday	April 28	9:30 AM
Tuesday	May 26	9:30 AM
Tuesday	June 30	9:30 AM
Tuesday	July 28	9:30 AM
Tuesday	September 1	9:30 AM
Tuesday	October 6	9:30 AM
Tuesday	November 10	9:30 AM
Tuesday	December 15	9:30 AM

*Meeting must conclude by 3:00pm

The proposed meeting agenda is usually available one week prior to the meeting and may be obtained at the Islands Trust office or on our website.

Please note that correspondence received from the public may become part of a meeting agenda that is published online.

Visit our website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca

Contact us at 250-537-9144 or ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca



Islands Trust

Have Your Say

When:
Tuesday,
December 17, 2019
12:00 p.m.

Where:
Harbour House Hotel,
(Crofton Room): 121
Upper Ganges Road, SSI

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by
the application.

Enquiries?
Islands Trust
250-537-9144

Written submissions are welcome and can be emailed to: ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca or, mailed or dropped off at the Islands Trust office by Monday, December 16, 2019.

Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

Subject Property Address: 262 Roland Road, SSI
Parcel Identifier Number: 001-116-002
Application: SS-TUP-2019.3

TEMPORARY USE PERMIT NOTIFICATION

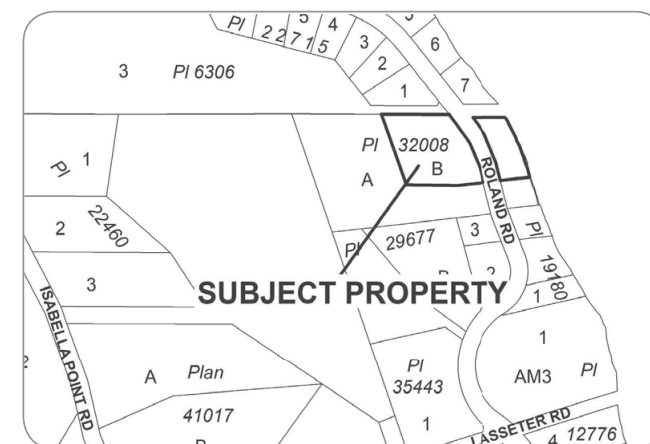
SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will consider a resolution to issue a Temporary Use Permit for the subject property.

The purpose of this temporary use permit is to allow the following uses:

- Commercial Guest Accommodation Unit (commonly referred to as a Short Term Vacation Rental or "STVR")

The location of the property subject to the proposed permit is shown on the following sketch:



How do I get more information?

A copy of the staff report and proposed permit will be available online after Wednesday, December 11, 2019 on the Current Application webpage:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/SSIapplications

or, at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

(NOTE: the office will be closed Wednesday, December 11, 2019)

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B.C. POLITICS

Forestry Olsen's 2020 priority

Party leadership race to have "interesting impacts" on B.C. Greens

BY MARC KITTINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen will be making his final stop on Salt Spring for the year on Thursday, and is looking forward to the 2020 legislative season.

Olsen will be speaking at a community meeting on Salt Spring on Dec. 12 before spending a few weeks with his family and then preparing for the legislative session in the new year. The meeting will be held at the Legion at 4:30 and all are welcome to attend.

Looking back on 2019, Olsen said the year had been one of ups and downs. It began with a challenging spring session that came with the announcement of subsidies for LNG that the Green party had voted against. However, the fall session included an amendment to the Climate Change Accountability Act that brought in more transparency and accountability on climate action. Another highlight for Olsen was the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act.

"I was ready to move forward on it a lot quicker than others were, but I recognize and respect the fact that the minister had a lot of work to do to get all of the pieces aligned," he said. "So 2019 ended well."

The new year is shaping up to be an interesting one for Olsen and the Green

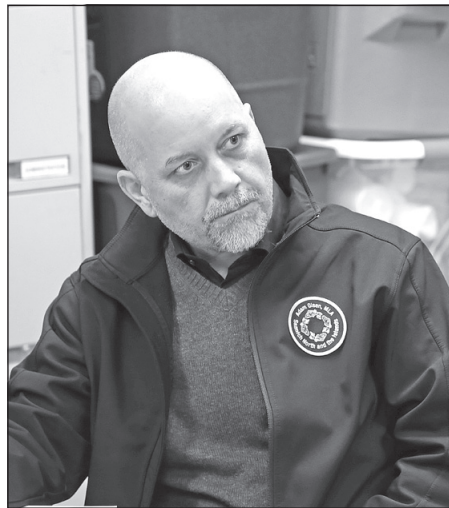


PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen listens intently to a constituent during Friday morning's Ask Salt Spring session in the Thrifty Foods community room/florist shop.

party. The party is looking for a new leader, after current leader Andrew Weaver announced he was stepping down. Olsen said that the race would have some "interesting impacts on Sonia [Furstenau] and I... as to how that works out."

While Olsen did not announce that he would be running for the position, he said that he was mulling over the idea.

"I'm exploring all of the opportunities that are there. I'm very realistic about where I am in life right now. I have some ideas about where I'm going to land," he said. "I'm going to take a few weeks in

the holiday season to connect with my family and have some final conversations about it."

On the legislative side of things, Olsen has two main priorities for 2020. The first is to continue his work on forestry and expanding on a clear vision for the industry in B.C. This includes looking at unsustainable logging of coastal Douglas-fir trees in the Southern Gulf Islands. He will be looking at ways to redefine how we see the last remaining forests on the islands, he explained.

His second priority is around education, and he will be "further defining where we stand on education and where education stands in our society."

"When we're talking about sustainability and resilience at a provincial level, those are issues that are magnified on the Southern Gulf Islands."

ADAM OLSEN
MLA, Saanich North
and the Islands

"I think if I was to sum it up, it's the cornerstone of every progressive society. We didn't evolve to where we're at based on our ancestors giving us part of the information. They gave us as much of the information as they could possibly store, collect and deliver. I think we have it incumbent upon us as a successful, sustainable and resilient society to fully arm the next generation with all of the tools possible in order to succeed. We're now faced with a climate crisis that's going to require a lot of education and a lot of tools," he added.

Those two items are related, in that as communities in B.C. are faced with declining primary industries on which they're built, the people working in those industries will need a way to transition into a new sustainable path for the future.

"One of the things that I've seen is that when we're talking about sustainability and resilience at a provincial level, those are issues that are magnified on the Southern Gulf Islands," he said. "We need to embrace the opportunity that exists. I'm not here to sugar coat, gloss over or make the climate crisis seem like it's going to be easy. It's not easy. It's difficult. But there are opportunities that if we were truly innovative and open-minded in our approach, we'd be able to grasp those opportunities."

Olsen has already visited Mayne, Pender and Galiano islands, and will be on Saturna next week. While the constituency office will be closed from Dec. 20 to Jan. 2, Olsen will be monitoring his email in case of an urgent issue that needs to be addressed.

"I wish everybody peace and love and as much happiness as possible in the coming weeks," he said.



Islands Trust

Have Your Say

When?
Tuesday,
December 17, 2019
9:30 a.m.



Where?
Harbour House Hotel
(Crofton Room):
121 Upper Ganges
Road, SSI



Who should attend?
Anyone interested
in, or affected by,
proposed Bylaw
No. 518.



Enquiries?
Claire Negrin,
Island Planner
ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca
250-537-9144



Bylaw No. 518 Regulation of the Production of Cannabis

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Bylaw No. 518 about?

Since the Federal Cannabis Act and Regulations were introduced in 2018, Salt Spring Island has seen development of several cannabis production facilities. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is updating the Island's land use regulations to minimize negative land use impacts from cannabis production and to ensure consistency with Federal and Provincial legislation and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Bylaw No. 518 will amend the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw to regulate cannabis production. In general, it will:

- Make cannabis production a distinct use, rather than a general agricultural activity.
- Permit cannabis production on land that is within the ALR and prohibit cannabis production on land that is not within the ALR.
- Establish a 200m² lot coverage maximum for indoor cannabis production facilities.
- Establish setbacks for indoor cannabis production.

What will happen at this Community Information Meeting?

9:30 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.

SSI LTC chair's welcome and opening remarks

9:35 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Staff presentation

9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Q&A with the SSI LTC and Islands Trust staff

- This is your chance to learn more about the development and implementation of Bylaw No. 518

12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Town Hall

- This is your chance to share your opinion regarding Bylaw No. 518 with the SSI LTC.

How do I get more information?

For more information on Bylaw No. 518, visit:
www.islandstrust.bc.ca/SSICannabis

Copies of the bylaw and other information is available at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

(NOTE: the office will be closed Wednesday, December 11, 2019)

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mill Farm plan in development

New trail access and signage proposed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A treasured piece of Salt Spring could finally become more accessible to the community with new plans for the Mill Farm Park Reserve in the works more than 20 years after the first portion was acquired.

The 315-hectare asset in the southern mountain area includes three individual lots separated by Crown land that were acquired by the Capital Regional District between 1996 and 2004. While initiation of a comprehensive management plan is not being contemplated until 2025, a set of guidelines advanced by the parks and environment committee on Nov. 27 could offer a better user experience in the meantime. The CRD Board is set to vote on their recommendation today (Wednesday, Dec. 11).

Salt Spring Islanders who frequent the area feel it's about time some attention was focused there.

"The park has been here for 25 years and the CRD still hasn't begun to sign and maintain the trails. That's very sad," said Charles Kahn, who acted as a volunteer park warden for the CRD from 2006 to 2014.

As author of the popular guidebook *Hiking the Gulf Islands*, now in its fourth edition, Kahn has hiked all over the region. The Mill Farm Park Reserve remains particularly special to him.

"It's a beautiful place. You could call it a spiritual place; it makes you feel really good to be out there," Kahn said. "It's a good combination of history, environment, beauty."

The original plot is crisscrossed with old logging roads, so there are plenty of unofficial hiking routes available. An anonymous person has posted homemade wayfinding signs at many of the junctions to help people avoid getting lost.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Avid hiker and guide book author Charles Kahn at one of the Musgrave Road entrance points to Mill Farm Park Reserve.

The 65-hectare property was first homesteaded 100 years ago by three Smith brothers from England, who installed the historic mill wheel that can still be seen in a creek. Later on it was owned in collective by a group of eight people who purchased it in 1981. A decade or so later, the need to sell and keen interest from a logging company prompted the community to raise \$150,000 toward the \$800,000 purchase. The CRD added two other portions to the park reserve off Mount Bruce Road and adjacent to Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park in 2001 and 2004.

"As far as I know there are no longer any park wardens walking through the Mill Farm for the CRD, although I have continued to report any vandalism or intrusive activities like vehicles entering the land," Kahn said. "I have also taken several CRD personnel on tours of the trails over the years with the hope that they would sign and maintain the trails that already exist there."

The installation of new gates and

barriers to prevent vehicles from entering the park reserve is listed as one of the first actions to take place under the interim management plan. The development concept includes creating a small amount of parking and an orientation sign at the primary access on Musgrave Road in 2020. A temporary toilet is also to be installed at this site in 2021.

Three signed trails would provide official access routes during the interim phase. Mill Farm Trail would link the Musgrave Road access to the Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park trails, and Lookout Trail would lead from Mill Farm Trail to a viewpoint location on the northwest side of the park, both to be completed in 2020. A third trail could connect Mount Bruce Road to the Salt Spring Conservancy's Alvin Indridson Nature Reserve using former logging roads, but is marked as low priority.

Archaeological and ecological studies are to take place throughout the interim plan timeline.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Laundromat on tap

Plans unfolding in positive way

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Fundraising has begun in earnest to establish a laundromat in Ganges.

The Wagon Wheel Housing Society has set up a GoFundMe "Laundromat on Salt Spring" page with the goal of raising \$40,000 towards start-up costs for the not-for-profit venture.

Society spokesperson Cherie Geauvreau said the society's board was last week poised to sign a lease for the former Orca electronics store at 162 Fulford-Ganges Rd. in the Creekhous complex.

Geauvreau said the plan is for 70 per cent of the water to be recycled,

and for high-efficiency extractor washers and dryers to be used. A 1,000-gallon water storage tank with a pressure valve for the laundromat unit will be installed outside. A letter of support has been received from the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, noted Geauvreau.

Establishing a soap exchange service at the site is also planned.

Geauvreau said more than 2,000 hours of volunteer work has gone into the project since January, and the concept has received widespread community and business support.

Salt Spring has been without a public laundromat since Mrs. Clean closed in February of 2016.

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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

Turf the plastic

When reducing plastic in our environment has become a mantra, it's hard to believe that replacing a natural grass field with artificial turf is being considered in the Gulf Islands School District.

The Salt Spring Youth Soccer Association has proposed installing a synthetic grass product on a Gulf Islands Secondary School field and covering the initial capital cost of more than \$2 million.

Some of the reasons for opting for turf are compelling. Fields made from polyethylene and other plastics can be used year-round and not only when weather and grass conditions are optimal. Water resources are saved by not having to water a natural grass field. Maintenance costs can be lower. As well, athletes using turf fields are reportedly less prone to being injured.

However, the products only last only about 12 years before needing replacement. When the numbers are truly crunched, as they have been in time for today's school board meeting, there is virtually no difference in cost for the school district over the long term between maintaining a grass field and taking the artificial turf path. Using just the financial argument, school board staff have recommended not proceeding with the project. Trustees are scheduled to make their decision this afternoon (Dec. 11).

THE ISSUE:
GISS plastic turf field decision

WE SAY:
School fields should stay 'green'

But just as important as costs are the environmental and health impacts of synthetic fields. While the soccer association has proposed using biodegradable coconut fibre as infill, in part to prevent pollution from pellets that migrate into water bodies, the plastic grass can itself be a problem. Recycling options may be an issue when the field needs to be replaced. The artificial grass blades can also detach and enter the surrounding environment. That was witnessed recently with the plastic field at Oak Bay High School.

The Gulf Islands School Board will also consider declaring a climate emergency today. To do that and support a turf field on the same day is simply not rational.

As Agricultural Land Commission approval for a turf field is required, the school board could punt the decision off to the ALC, but they should not do that. Instead they should heed their staff report, which suggests finding ways and funds to improve the GISS field in question, an option that makes far more sense.



OCP survey suggested

By FRANTS ATTORP

As recently reported in the Driftwood, the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee is embarking on an "incremental" update of the island's official community plan.

Given the incredible pressure trustees are now under by housing groups to approve more development, it will be important to focus on key indicators that show where this island is heading.

Our current OCP, adopted in 2008, states that, of the 5,800 residential lots on Salt Spring, approximately 1,300 are vacant and many are subdividable. "All told, the number of dwelling units (not including seasonal cottages and suites) that could be built on Salt Spring under current residential zoning is estimated to be about 8,150. The eventual population of Salt Spring that might result from the zoning now in place is estimated to be a little over 17,000."

And then this crucial part: "Zoning changes should be avoided if they would likely result in a larger island population than is expected under development potential zoned in 2008. Exceptions to this policy are to be few and minor and only to

VIEWPOINT

achieve affordable housing and other objectives of this Plan."

In other words, our existing OCP has capped the population of the island at 17,000 (about 6,000 more than today), and provided very little wiggle room. If trustees push that number significantly higher through upzoning, they will be charting a radical new course for the island and possibly violating the Trust Policy Statement.

As I have argued before, among some excellent proposals by housing groups is a very dangerous one with the potential to transform not just this island but also others in the Trust Area: the widespread use of amenity zoning to "conserve" parts of larger acreages while using the remainder for "eco-villages."

In the 1998 OCP, the limit for extra dwellings under the density bonus system was set at 100 for the entire island. In 2008, that number was reduced to just 40, probably in recognition of how risky it is to offer financial incentives (extra densities) for an amenity. And now,

if the statements of a prominent housing advocate are to be believed, there is a need for "many thousands" of new lots or dwellings.

As the OCP review process unfolds, we should pay special attention to two red flag numbers: the maximum number of new dwellings allowed through bonus density deals, and the total population projection. Since no OCP is written in stone, we should also watch for any public hearings involving bonus density deals, especially on rural land, and attend in person to give feedback on this pivotal issue.

Because the OCP review is being done incrementally, and in light of the sensitive and highly charged nature of the housing debate, I suggest the Trust send a detailed questionnaire to every household outlining strategies for dealing with growth, people pressure and the climate crisis, all while emphasizing the limitations of living in a protected area. The OCP discussion must go beyond the housing issue and delve into the broader philosophical question of what we hope the island will look like long after we are gone.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should MLA Adam Olsen pursue Green party leadership?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is speeding a problem on Salt Spring roads?

86

244

NO

YES

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

OPINION

{ QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

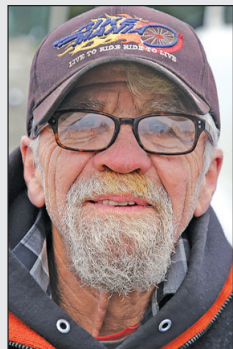
“The park has been here for 25 years and the CRD still hasn’t begun to sign and maintain the trails. That’s very sad.”

CHARLES KAHN, HIKING THE GULF ISLANDS AUTHOR

SALT SPRING SAYS

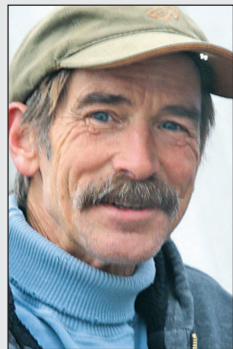
WE ASKED:
What is your favourite holiday meal?

RICK BLACK



It’s gotta be the turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes . . . the whole shebang. Dressing is my favourite.

STEPHEN KELLY



Turkey and stuffing, I can’t even think of anything else.

CATHARINE MARZALIK



Leg of lamb and a good wine. It’s just so delicious.

THOMAS WAKEFIELD



I like turkey with gravy and stuffing. I don’t have it very often, so that’s why it’s good.

KEVIN FALCONER



I like the desserts at Christmas buffets. I don’t have dessert very often, and they’re always home made and so good.

LETTERS to the editor

Miles ahead

Our Nov. 30 community get-together on climate change put new air in my sagging tires.

There were seniors, and senior seniors like me, hanging in there, bless them. Young folks came in good numbers with all their exuberant impatience, the best reason for hope anyone could ask for. And the solid muscle of any community project, the people between last pimple and last paycheck, were everywhere, many telling us of all the work already happening.

Our community and thousands like it all over the world are miles ahead of big-scale politics. That’s the way it should be. Big-picture thinking is needed, for sure, but all action is local. And no two places are alike either in society or nature.

I get the shudders when I imagine climate-change projects controlled by global organizations: corporations, consortia of nations, the U.N., etc. We have tried that with international trade, which is a mess. Democratic process planet-wide? Forget it!

And let’s be real. No matter what, we will make mistakes while in our present belatedly

panicky state. Better to make them over small areas than big ones.

BOB WEEDEN,
SALT SPRING

Action now

I am a mother of two high school students who feels it is imperative that climate action happens immediately. Let us start with calling it a “climate emergency.” It is imperative that strong language be used to foster a new lens for all future proposals, projects and actions by all of our local school boards, governing bodies and municipalities.

I believe a “green new deal” has many elements that can be utilized to get Canada and the world on track to lessening the effects of the current and very real climate emergency. I live rurally and see the effects of climate change all around me. It can be hard to imagine how many times worse other countries like Australia, African nations and the many island communities and countries with low-lying land are faring with this ever-growing threat.

We are in the age of human-caused mass extinction and truly very little is being done. Every decision from now forward must be viewed through a climate action lens. Strong climate emergency language is imperative to create the room to change our business-as-usual attitude into action for a future.

ANNETTE WITTEMAN,
MAYNE ISLAND

Not symbolic

I have to comment on a line in the Nov. 27 “Climate Homework” editorial. The topic was climate change emergency declarations and the line was “But many citizens are asking themselves if such declarations have any meaning beyond being a symbolic gesture of seeing a couple of electric vehicles added to the corporate fleet.”

I agree with the theme of the editorial and applaud the Driftwood for pointing out that the CRD, Islands Trust and other organizations must do more.

However, the response to climate changes does require both little things and big things. Just like every bit of plastic, styro-

foam or other discarded garbage I pick up on Beddis Beach is part of the clean beach solution, so is every EV that displaces an ICE (internal combustion engine) part of the reduced emissions solution.

But it turns out EV-ing even a few cars in your fleet is not a little thing. And much more than a symbolic action. Every replacement EV eliminates emissions that remain in the atmosphere for up to 1,000 years. It would cost less to operate over time (average \$1,880 per year), saving important taxpayer dollars for other priorities. They are also the easiest actions to take to fall into line with the current B.C. government programs such as the Zero-Emission Vehicle’s Act (ZEVA). And guess what, a response to an emergency requires immediate, decisive and results-achieving action. What could be easier and what could be more emergency-response like?

I would encourage all local organizations and companies to “go EV” as soon as possible. Every so-called symbolic gesture counts — a “lot.”

JIM STANDEN,
TEAM LEAD,
EV GROUP

Beard signals potential for a hairy Mr. Hyde

I’ve grown this beard, you see, and I’m not entirely sure what to do with it now. It is neither luxuriant nor distinguished and, if the truth be told, it’s more than a shade on the threadbare side. My middle son probably put his finger on it when he somewhat unkindly opined that it made me look “uncared-for.”

If I can impress you a little with my Sunday school education and throw the Book of Genesis at you for a moment, I’ve always been more Jacob, “a smooth man,” than Esau, who was “an hairy man,” although I’ve never quite understood how Jacob tricked his blind old dad into believing he was Esau by wrapping his arm in a sheep skin! Just how hairy WAS Esau? Or how dopey was Isaac?

I’ve always attributed my own lack of facial hair to suggesting I am that much further up the evolutionary tree than the shaggier among us. It figures, right? When did you ever see a Neanderthal who didn’t have hairy feet?

But the truth is I’ve secretly envied those men who, like one of my sons, are able to grow a beard between breakfast and lunchtime. My brother too has a beard, which he maintains with the scrupulous attention to detail of a Victorian topiarist. On his advice I recently bought a beard trimmer, which turns out to have been a bit optimistic, like buying a chainsaw after planting an apple seed. But I have in any case taken to trimming what little there is on my face with the obsessive consideration of a Japanese bonsai master. If careful and judicious pruning encourages roses to grow, then it’s got to be good for beards too?

And did you know there is a How to Grow A Beard website called The Art of Manliness? The Art of Manliness, for crying out loud! If there is a solitary thing that men do better



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

than most women it is growing a beard, but not even the wildest definition would elevate cultivating hairs on your face to an art form, how ever filigreed you keep it.

Another website, Psychology Today of all things, examined the virtues or otherwise of sporting a beard and mine failed on all counts. Their research starts with the premise that a beard is an obvious indication of rugged manliness, which is entirely wishful thinking on my part. While I do possess one or two manly bits like a prostate and disorderly nose hairs, it is the miserable truth that there are six-year-old ballerinas who are more rugged than me.

Apparently, according to a bunch of bo-fins at Australia’s University of Stating the Blindingly Obvious, a beard “visibly differentiates men from females, masks emotions, provides warmth and shields skin from the elements.” Phew, that’s a relief! Goodness knows I’ve grown tired of being mistaken for a woman and if my beard helps me cut back on winter fuel bills it’s all to the good. As for masking emotion I’m not certain how having a face like a floor mop comes between a man and his feminine side.

But here’s where their research gets interesting in that “so what” kind of listless ennui an awful lot of university theses can induce. Men with beards, it says, are more “proso-

cial” than their clean-shaven contemporaries, which for those of you who have not had the benefit of a higher education is a shrink’s way of saying “sociable.” In other words, beardies are simply nicer to know. So, Santa Claus good, Donald Trump bad, Rasputin good, the Pope bad, which leaves me in a no-man’s land of the only slightly hirsute, neither good nor bad, just a bit ordinary, which is probably the story of my life.

Most evolutionary theorists (which is a phrase you won’t read too often in this column) believe beards evolved as a display of dominance, masculinity and aggression (Grrrrr...) so I’m giving a heads up to anyone parking in a handicapped parking spot without a blue ticket or rooting through their purse for the “right change” at the check-out that this genial Dr. Jekyll is working on his hairy Mr. Hyde.

I’m personally more inclined to believe beards evolved because early man didn’t have razors and shaving with a sharp rock was just too painful, although it is quite well established that until a Viking woman could grow a beard she left the raping and pillaging to the chaps and stuck to her knitting.

For the life of me though, I’m not entirely sure how raping and pillaging could even loosely be described as “prosocial.” There’s not much that’s lovable about a bunch of rampaging beardies in horned helmets.

Incidentally, and call this lateral thinking if you will, but I’ve long thought that a simple solution to the bone-idle, selfish lumps who take up a handicap space without the appropriate qualifications would be to move the handicap parking slots to the farthest corner of the carpark. Sorted . . .

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

Trustees implored to vote against artificial turf

The following was sent to SD64 school trustees and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY LAURA HARVEY

My name is Laura Harvey and I am writing on behalf of my children's futures. Within this past year, upon learning about the school district's plan to replace natural earth with synthetic materials, I became both devastated and disappointed in my community. I soon shared this with my children, avid nature advocates, and they expressed the same disgust that I felt to my bones.

The overarching question that crosses my mind and will continue to cross my mind is "When will our species stop

INDEPTH

believing that it is our right to continue destroying the Earth for our self-righteous personal gain?"

My latest conclusion is a disappointed and bereft "never." As a species, I have been convinced that we will continue to make poor decisions for our betterment but at the cost of disrupting our environment until we are extinct as a species.

The choice of investing in artificial turf is an ironic and high example of this, the news released on the same day that our prime minister announced a single-use plastic

ban as of 2021 and our GISS music program funding was being cut. With humans these choices — much to the dismay of the environment — are always easily justified without a second thought, for the cost of just a warm drink (even if I know it is at the cost of more precious resources), for the cheapest solution and for a more comfortable playing field. This, trustees, is why we are facing the climate crises that we are in today.

Thus, I implore that you think about the long-term and bigger-picture impact of this choice and not make excuses as to why an artificial playing field is better for our environment, because it is not. Artificial is how the snowball effect of our Earth's warming began in the first place. By installing an

artificial field we would be disrupting several ecosystems, starting with that of the dirt below the field, our own microbiome's internal ecosystem, and the ecosystem of the ocean and the sky.

You have a big decision ahead of you, and I beg you to consider the real impact of this decision. Vote against the continual destruction of our environment and vote for the future of our children. Keep the Earth as it was delivered to us and the Earth may continue to hold us for generations to come. Vote against placing artificial turf on our island.

The writer is a parent of children in the Gulf Islands School District.

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What: Beautiful LIVE MUSIC & SINGING by Adam Huber and Usha Haywood - Christmas Snacks & Drinks.

When: Thurs. December 12, 4pm-8pm (during Shop Local Late Night)

Where: 164 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (Next to Ganges Stationary)

See you there!

Rants + ROSES

Rants

A rant to the Driftwood for only publishing one photo, although a most appropriate one, of the Remembrance Day ceremony. This is a once-a-year important community event. Not everyone has access to a computer [to look at more photos online]. Sue Gagnon

Roses

A bouquet of handcrafted roses to Donna Johnstone for her most generous fabric donations to all of Santa's WinterFaire crafter helpers.

Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and participants that made this year's flu clinic a great success. A bucket of roses to: Brenda from Community Gospel, for setting up for us and making the space available. Country Grocer, for their generous donation of snacks for the community. SSI Fire Department, for taking the opportunity to entertain and teach the community about fire and fall risks. Volunteers, for helping it run smoothly and as efficiently as possible. Many thanks from the public health team!

Dozens of coal-dust-covered roses to John Gogo for his Coal and Wood show on Nov. 21. My grandfather came to Canada from Italy in 1913, looking for a better future for his family. He worked his entire life in the coal mines of the Crowsnest Pass in Alberta. Your songs and stories brought back many memories. Marg M.

One hundred or more fragrant pink roses to the women who belong to One Hundred+ Women Who Care for voting for our beloved library to receive \$19,100 from last month's meeting. Every cent will make a difference.

A huge thank-you hug to all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time and culinary skills to make the 35th Annual Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair a resounding success. The generosity of our island community shines bright through your continued support of Beaver Point Hall.

A kettle of copper roses to all the people who so generously donated to the Copper Kettle Community Partnership at the Handel's Messiah Sing-along.

Submerged Ganges not factual

BY KEES VISSER

Timothy Harvey's Dec. 4 Viewpoint piece on a submerged Ganges in 30 years is scientifically incorrect and scaremongering, to say the least.

Let me say up front that I am not a climate change denier, and I am very worried about the rapid warming of the Earth, which is mainly due to human activities, but we should use all scientific information available and not scare people to death.

Indeed, sea level rise is mainly caused by melting of Antarctic and Greenland Ice, and to a much minor degree by the melting of the last remaining land glaciers. In the last 100 years sea level has risen by about 20 cm, and it will rise more, and probably rather rapidly by the melting of the last ice. Although not mentioned in the Harvey article, some scaremongers claim by 70 metres, but that is the total rise from the end of the last ice age, 10,000 years ago, when almost all of Canada was covered by a thick ice cap. Most of that has melted now, and the remaining ice in the mountains and Antarctica/Greenland will contribute to another few meters, assuming that we continue to live as we are doing now. I am not aware of an estimate of the remaining rise from the melting ice.

We have to keep in mind that the models on the website quoted in Harvey's article use unsubstantiated rises over the next 30 years, plus it completely ignores the fact that Vancouver Island, and actually all of Canada, is rising, as a result of a re-bounce of the Earth's crust due to the fact that the land ice has gone. This is not everywhere the same, due to a large number of factors, but for South

INRESPONSE

Vancouver Island, and the Gulf Islands, it is about 25 cm per 100 years, which is more than the sea level

rise. Then we also have the local effect of the rise of the land due to the pushing of oceanic plates against B.C. There is no number available for that, but it is happening and might, unfortunately, create tectonic chaos at some point in the future.

We have actual present-day proof of this rebound when we see that some rivers, as in Sooke and on the west coast, now arrive with a waterfall into the ocean. These ocean entries from rivers were virtually level 10,000 years ago.

When we look down at the water level in Ganges Harbour, we see that even at high water the level is at least one metre below the footpath near Thrifty's and even with a rise of 20 to 25 cm per 100 years, combined with the land rise of 25cm/100 year, this level will stay there.

I like to emphasize again that sea level rise and the climate change we are experiencing can and will be catastrophic for many parts of the globe, but not so for coastal B.C., or coastal Atlantic Canada. Having said, that major deltas, such as the Fraser River, will experience sediment compaction and extra loads on the crust, which might counter the glacial rebound. I do hope that our decision-makers do not jump to conclusions based on erroneous scientific work, and will not burden us with unnecessary regulations.

The writer has a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Amsterdam and has worked in his field in various areas of the world.



Islands Trust

Have Your Say

When:
Tuesday,
December 17, 2019
12:00 p.m.

Where:
Harbour House Hotel,
(Crofton Room): 121
Upper Ganges Road, SSI

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by
the application.

Enquiries?
Jason Youmans,
Island Planner
Islands Trust
250-537-9144

Written submissions are
welcome and can be emailed to:
ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca
or, mailed or dropped off at the
Islands Trust office by Monday,
December 16, 2019.

Written comments made in
response to this notice will be
available for public review.

Subject Property Address: 170 Jones Road, SSI
Parcel Identifier Number: 009-015-043
Application: SS-TUP-2018.3

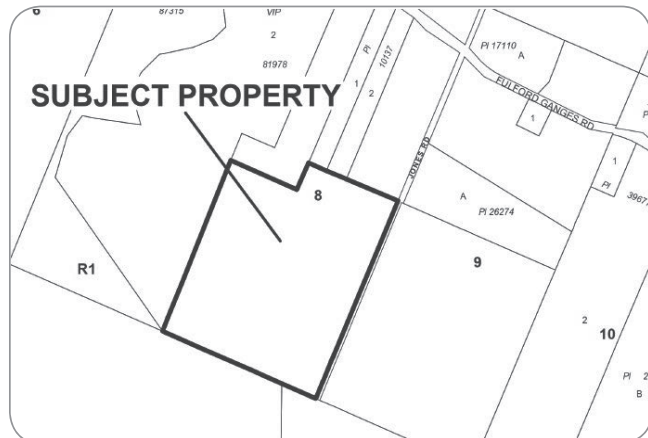
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT NOTIFICATION

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will consider a resolution to issue a Temporary Use Permit for the subject property.

The purpose of this temporary use permit is to allow the following uses:

- mechanical aggregate screening
- aggregate crushing
- import, storage and sale of landscape materials
- rental and storage of bucket crusher, roll-off truck and bins



How do I get more information?

A copy of the staff report and proposed permit will be available online after Wednesday, December 11, 2019 on the Current Application webpage:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/SSlapplications

or, at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

(NOTE: the office will be closed Wednesday, December 11, 2019)



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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EXHIBITIONS

The Venters explore new directions

Small Gems show underway at Venter Gallery

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Established artists Deon and Kathy Venter each have a signature method and style associated with their names, but both members of the talented couple have something new on offer this season.

The Small Gems show at Venter Gallery upholds an island tradition of offering works that could potentially become Christmas gifts. For the Venters, though, going small has opened a whole new world of possibility.

Kathy initially started out wanting to work with the realities of their Grace Point Square space, which has trouble holding her human-sized or larger figurative sculptures. Gone for now are the unapologetic depictions of real women's bodies. The new series is still based mainly on the female body but the forms are gestural, dynamic and evocative.

At first Kathy was concerned about how she would imbue the same sense of presence into smaller figures — at that point she had been working at the human-scale for the past 25 years.

"I decided I'm not going to try, I'm going to break away completely from that, and go more into a story, more of a language content in it," she said during a recent visit to the gallery.

"The pace that I worked at back then was still in my hands," she continued. "Once I'd forced my eye down to the little scale, this making of maquettes as a younger woman clicked in, and the rhythm of that work that I did at the stage was in my hands, and my hands were flying."

The pieces further take in the artist's memories and feelings about the models for older drawings that she went back to for inspiration, in details such as posture or attitude. Glazing, also new to Kathy's oeuvre, came about through a partnership with Deon. He taught ceramic science, including the composition of glazes, at university in South Africa and was able to pull out those skills to create the exact shades Kathy wanted to use: a matte green like oxidized copper that evokes patina on bronze sculpture, a dusky red and a cool medium blue that allows the terra cotta clay to show through in the edges.

"There's a lot of exciting things [about this series], and it just shows me a road ahead that I wasn't expecting. Circumstances have sort of moved me up that shore, but it's a delight. I'm really happy about it," Kathy said.

Deon also presents a new direction at the gallery this month, with his Blomskryf oil wash on paper series. Blomskryf is an Afrikaans word meaning "flower writing," and the subject material combines women's faces with single flower heads. The title is taken from a poem by the famous South African poet Breyten Breytenbach.

As Deon is known for his room-sized paintings in heavily textured oils depicting serious topics such as missing and murdered women, this is a significant departure. They are smaller, more intimate works than he usually does when the context and content demand the large scale. Using the oil wash in a way that's similar to watercolour meanwhile allows for a free, loose hand and a suggestion of delicacy in the pastel shades and slightly elusive images.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Secret Lands, a glazed terra cotta sculpture from Kathy Venter's new Small Gems series.

In contrast, the woman who inspired the series are paragons of strength from the ancient world. They include mythical figures such as goddesses of wisdom, Minerva and Athena, and also the poet Sappho. Other influences include the poetry of Mary Oliver and Botticelli's beloved painting Primavera.

"In a time where we have 70-year-old men running roughshod over the environment and women's issues and minorities, I feel it's good to go back to maybe a female power," Deon explained.

The works also strive to integrate the human with nature, which is why in some cases there is no separation between the flower and person depicted in each. Deon often creates a more dynamic framing than the standard portrait. In some cases the scene appears to be displayed on its side rather than upright, which serves to encourage the viewer's interrogation of the material rather than bland acceptance.



Holiday Gift?

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CONCERT PREVIEW

Favourite songs featured at Singers concert

Sing With Joy! on this weekend

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

For this year's holiday season, the Salt Spring Singers want to make sure everyone in the community has a chance to sing with joy like they do when they gather every week.

The long-running, 60-member choir will present their concert and sing-along titled Sing With Joy! this weekend at ArtSpring. It's on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m.

"I think it's going to be a really lovely show," said choir president Kitty Martinho last week. "Picture a group of friends sitting around the fireplace, some strumming on the guitar, some singing and harmonizing. It's not purely Christmas music or religious music or classical music. There's some great old favourites there."

For sing-along numbers, which might be done with the whole choir or smaller ensembles, words will be projected on a screen for audience members.

Some of the familiar tunes are from the Sound of Music, and one well-known piece has been slightly reworked to more accurately reflect Salt Spring's demographics: "I am 60 Going on 70."

Salt Spring Singers are directed by Don Conley. Accompanist is James Yi, who comes over from Victoria each week to work with the group.

Other instrumentalists at Sing With Joy! are Deb Smith playing the bass, and guitarists Susan Bull and Jean Brouard. Soprano Connie Holmes will do a vocal solo.

Also on the program are excerpts from Faure's Requiem, and Canadian content in the form of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and a Gordon Lightfoot number, among other familiar favourites, both seasonal and otherwise.

"The challenge with this program is not learning the music, it's unlearning the music, because we are so used to having the melody . . . your voice instinctively goes back to the melody, so you have to relearn those numbers, which is kind of interesting."

"It's a great community choir," added Martinho. "They're all very supportive and we have a lot of fun."

LIONS Santa Ship
Saturday Dec. 14th
6:30 pm Santa arrives at Coast Guard Dock.

Hot chocolate at 6:15 pm

Follow Santa into Mouat's Mall. Give him your wish list for Christmas. He'll also visit Greenwood's and Lady Minto Hospital.

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ISLAND ARTISTS

Hayes shares 'Labyrinth of Green'

Poetry and images found in new book and library exhibit

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Diana Hayes' remarkable talents are fully evident this month, with release of her new book *Labyrinth of Green* and a photo exhibit at the Salt Spring Public Library showcasing her wonderful way with both words and image.

Though small in size and just about 100 pages, *Labyrinth of Green* holds a remarkable range of expression. The Plumleaf Press publication is beautifully produced, with its bright white cover and pages set off by full-colour images.

Hayes has provided new poetry divided into five different categories that move from reflections on her youth and her family to experiences with nature, through to death and beyond. Supplementing these thoughtful meditations are her own beautiful photos, plus quotations from fellow poets, introductory passages and even the odd footnote. End notes provide more information on the provenance of some of the poems.

Hayes is certainly adept at the poetic use of language, shaping complex thoughts and layers of meaning into spare and elegant arrangements of words. The visual and emotional imagery of a single stanza can be breathtaking. Take for example the beginning of *Psyche* and the *Ladder*, which addresses the lessons of adolescence through the metaphors of Greek mythology and its underworld. "A switch gets tripped/without warning she steps blind/ into the sinkhole dropping/ from daylight to pitch night/ feeling only the blood on her shins."

In the section related to death, Hayes ably demonstrates the Celtic reverence for the transformation and the close connection between the natural and eternal worlds, with birds often acting as medium and messenger. The poems *These Little Deaths* and *Thirteen Ways to Free a Crow* offer eyewitness accounts of life and death as close at hand as the backyard. Hayes illustrates the heartbreak of "small" deaths in a way that honours our emotional capacity for grief and opens the possibility of mystery beyond, even while accepting that the natural cycle of life necessarily includes its loss.

"Raven's chorus strikes grief by the neck/ the forest a dark audience," she writes in *These Little Deaths*.

Hayes' library exhibition is testament to her long commitment to expression in multiple



Looking for Cornelius – Inis More, Galway, Ireland, 1996. A print of the photo can be seen as part of a show at the Salt Spring Public Library this month, and also appears in Hayes' new book *Labyrinth of Green*.

formats. The lobby showcase displays some of her many previous publications, including books and programs for the Theatre Alive literary series she cofounded with author Brian Brett.

The photo exhibit in the program room features some of the images from her new book, including those of lovely green, stony places in Ireland and England that speak to Hayes' connection to her ancestry. There are also some interesting examples from photo series in which Hayes' dreams played a strong role.

The series *On the Way to Mektoub* was taken during 1995 and gained inspiration from writers of the Sahara such as Paul Bowles, as well as the artist's interest in expressions of the body. The photographs of subjects in the desert with faces veiled and torsos exposed seek to "obscure the usual definitions of feminine and masculine principles" and "illuminate both the ambiguity and the interplay of male and female forms."

Another series from 1996 is called *Of Bodies Changed to Other Forms I Tell*. It takes inspiration from a dream Hayes had about seeing a drowned sailor in Santorini, Greece. She did a photo shoot at Salt Spring's Southey Point to recreate the scene, and took her title from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

Both series reveal the strong connection between images and words that runs through Hayes' work, and how her art manifests through a combination of intellectual and intuitive forces.

The photo show continues through December. Look for *Labyrinth of Green* at local shops or the library.

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Wednesday, December 25th - Closed

Thursday, December 26th - Closed

Wednesday, January 1st 10am - 10pm

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Mechanic

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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>

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GYLE KEATING

Financial Advice

I'd like to align my investments with my ethics and values. Can you help?

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SCOTT HOWE

Real Estate

A Time For Thanks

During this holiday season we are reminded of how blessed we are to live on this island, in this province and in this country.

To my clients, friends and colleagues in real estate, I continue to enjoy and appreciate working with you especially during these times of change.

In 2020 it is my hope that our sense of world community deepens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address the many challenges ahead.

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JAN MACPHERSON



ISLAND LIFE

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

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@driftwoodgimedi.com



COMMUNITY

Trackshoes fundraising gets going

Duo bank on bottle returns

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

At the end of the holiday season, islanders may find themselves with extra returnable bottles and cans and may be looking for a way to give back to the community.

Chris Joynson and Bob Delion from Gulf Islands Families Together Society (GIFTS) are collecting donations from bottle returns to go towards sending a group of islanders to the annual Operation Trackshoes event in Victoria in June.

"It's a sporting event for people with special abilities that happens once per year at the University of Victoria campus. Participants go for three days," Delion said. "There's a certain cost to each participant, and what we try to do is raise money to defray those costs."

The pair started collecting bottles and raising money in 2013 when Joynson was trying to save money for a trip to Disneyland. After the trip, they realized they could continue with the fundraising, but needed a cause to which they could donate.

"We gained a bit of momentum with different people around and we got the money to go. We decided to keep doing it and give it to a charity, and Christopher thought of Operation



PHOTO COURTESY BOB DELION

Chris Joynson at a recent Operation Trackshoes meet.

Trackshoes," Delion said.

They have been going to the event every year since.

Joynson is known around town for helping out at the fire department, who donate his admission and transportation costs. However, other members of the community also attend the event every year and the bottle donations help cut down on some of the costs. People

from all over B.C. attend the UVic campus to compete in track and field events and get to know each other in a fun setting. In addition to the sporting events, the weekend includes a live band, karaoke, communal meals and a dance.

"If there's 10 people and we raise \$1,000, they each get \$100 discount off what they have to pay," Delion said.

Joynson's main athletic event is swimming, and he trains every week for both this competition and for the Special Olympics. However, he also loves the atmosphere of the weekend and getting to socialize with all sorts of other people.

"I like the food there. Karaoke is fun too. I love singing Tom Petty stuff," he said. "I'm excited for this year."

So far the pair have raised around \$500. Most of the money comes when people donate their recycling refunds to the Operation Trackshoes account at the Return It depot. Delion also helps those who can't make it to the depot by picking up their recycling, though the preferred way is for people to make donations at the depot.

"I wanted to ask people to keep it on their mind and put it on our account when they bring in bottles," Delion said. "They can call us [at GIFTS] to get in touch with me too."

"I like being helpful," Joynson added.

YOUTH LITERATURE

Bookstores share winter break favourites

Long nights, a blazing fire, not too much homework . . . winter break is the perfect time to reach for a book.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or just the fact that your kids are around for a couple of weeks, here are titles that are recommended by our two island bookstores.



Lavonne Leong
READING ROOM

Black Sheep Books

A used bookstore is always an adventure to visit; you never know what you are going to find. Cat Cooper and her daughter-in-law Mishka Campbell took over the highly atmospheric Black Sheep Books in April and have set about slowly making it their own. They have a cozy children's nook upstairs, with kid-friendly pre-loved editions on the lower shelves for browsing, and the beautiful/antiquarian children's books higher up, out of reach. In the cards for some time in the future: meeting space for reading clubs and other fun bookish pursuits.

Put Me in the Zoo by Dr. Seuss

As a child, says Cooper, "This was my favourite Dr. Seuss book." It's a delightful, exuberantly illustrated little story about a spotted creature with unusual gifts. Though he wants to be in the zoo (the illustrations show a spa-like environment that no one would say no to), he winds up where his talents can be put to even better use.

Nancy Drew: The Whispering Statue by Carolyn Keene

Here's another nostalgia-inducer that is still beloved by grade-schoolers and middle-schoolers today: Nancy Drew and her cohort of mystery-solving friends appear in dozens of titles. Cooper notes that a strong female protagonist, so common today, wasn't so common when she was a book-loving child: "Nancy Drew was a girl — and she was in control!"

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

First published in 1950, this fireside classic about four siblings slipping away to an epic magical realm during WWII has been the gateway to fantasy literature for generations of children, Cooper included. "My Grade 3 teacher read it to us in school, and we'd put our heads down on the desk, close our eyes, and just be in Narnia," says Cooper. "I think to this day, because Mrs. Henry read *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* to us, fantasy is my thing."

Archie Comics

I know there's a dark version of Riverdale, Archie Andrews's hometown, on Netflix, but my heart belongs to the sunny-side-up original — and my now-voracious eight-year-old reader got over her fear of "big" (read: non-picture) books with Archie comics. Right now, Black Sheep has a great collection of these retro-cool precursors to graphic novels, and each vintage issue is going for a fraction of the cost of a new one.

Salt Spring Books

Independent bookstore employees are the best: they love what they do and are always on hand with a spot-on recommendation. When we asked Chelsea Newcombe of Salt Spring Books for her favourite word-based holiday gifts, she picked out some gems that will probably never be on library shelves.

The Crayons' Christmas by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers. This hilarious Christmas-themed picture book from the creators of *The Day the Crayons Quit* features the same collection of feisty art supplies and their zany hijinks. Only this time, there are also in-book envelopes filled with activities: games, cards, punch-out ornaments, a poster, etc., all "from the crayons" to the reader.

Share Your Smile: Raina's Guide to Telling Your Own Story by Raina Telgemeier. Tweens and teens adore these autobiographical graphic-novel accounts of the author-illustrator's own childhood. This new activity-and-journal companion book walks readers through the process of doing what Telgemeier does, only with their own experiences. "A lot of kids are interested in sharing their own story," says Newcombe, whether it's on the internet, through journals, or graphic novels. "This is a really good way to do that."

Christmas Fun Mad Libs by Roger Price

A way for kids to pass the time independently while learning the parts of speech AND howling with laughter? Consider this a present to the adults. These classic word games that can be played by two or 20 never go out of style.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, illustrated edition, by J.K. Rowling

This one costs more than other editions and is for die-hard Harry Potter fans, but for die-hard Harry Potter fans, there's nothing else like it. Beautiful illustrations turn the riveting tale of wizard school into a whole different experience.

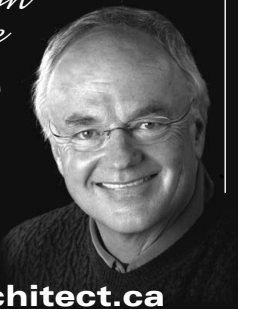
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what's on this week



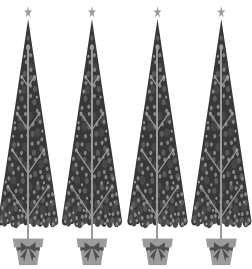
Wed. Dec. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tenore – Christmas With You.
Multi award-winning tenor group performs, accompanied by Bach on the Rock's choir. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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.



Gulf Islands Board of Education Meeting.
School trustees meet at the school board office in Ganges. 1 p.m. Public welcome.

Yoga Nidra.
Deeply relaxing spiritual practice led by Celeste Mallett Jason at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's Church in Fulford). 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

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. 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Thu. Dec. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Open Mic at Moby's Pub.
Every Thursday from 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Ganges Shop Local Social.
Ganges merchants open until 8 p.m. with specials and treats from 4 p.m.

MLA Adam Olsen Community Meeting.
Adam Olsen hosts a community meeting at Meaden Hall from 4:30 to 6 p.m.



Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Fri. Dec. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas With Scrooge.
The Newman Family Productions classic adaptation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Fulford Hall. Opening night. 7 p.m.

Dave Carl Band.
Live at the Legion. 8 p.m.

Wannabeatles.
Evening of Beatles music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Fri. Dec. 13

ACTIVITIES

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 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This week's special guest is CRD director Gary Holman.

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Sat. Dec. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas With Scrooge.
The Newman Family Productions classic adaptation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Fulford Hall. 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Singers: Sing With Joy!
Salt Spring Singers' winter concert and singalong. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.



The County Line.
Six-piece country band at the Legion. 8 p.m.

Buck Dodgers Stringband.
Old-time bluegrass music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 14

ACTIVITIES



Lions Santa Ship.
Annual visit by Santa Claus and entourage aboard the Victoria Star II from Bellingham. An international Lions Club project. Ganges Coast Guard dock. 6:30 p.m. with hot chocolate available from 6:15 p.m. Kids will then chat with Santa in Mouat's Mall.

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Sun. Dec. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Yuletide Square Dance.
With Buck Dodgers Stringband and Barnacle Bex. 2 to 5 p.m.

Christmas With Scrooge.
The Newman Family Productions classic adaptation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Fulford Hall. 2 p.m.

Salt Spring Singers: Sing With Joy!
Salt Spring Singers' winter concert and singalong. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 15

ACTIVITIES

Old Boys vs. Zgoda 48s.
Men's soccer at GISS. 10:30 a.m.

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Mon. Dec. 16

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.



Tue. Dec. 17

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Community Meeting on the Regulation of the Production of Cannabis.
Trust staff will provide info on proposed Bylaw 518 at the Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room beginning at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Q&A session. Town hall at noon onward.

Tue. Dec. 17

ACTIVITIES

SS Local Trust Committee Temporary Use Permit Considerations.
LTC will consider issuing a TUP for Forsyth Farms Gravel Mart on Jones Road, and for Commercial Guest Accommodation Unit at 262 Roland Road. Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room. 12 noon.

The Poetry of Wintertime.
Led by Heather Martin, Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m. Participation is by donation and registration is not required.

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

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.



Wed. Dec. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Carols for Christmas-tide.
Sing carols at All Saints By-the-Sea. 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See Saturday's listing.

Yoga Nidra.
See last Wednesday'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.



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Driftwood

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Ford v Ferrari** shows Friday, Dec. 13 to Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. each night and an additional Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Rated PG. 152 minutes. Two men battle to design a vehicle for Ford and compete in the race at Le Mans in 1966.

For more movie info go to www.thefritz.ca

EXHIBITIONS

• **Gallery 8's** 11th annual **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** runs through Dec. 31.
• **The Venter Gallery** holds an exhibition and sale of 'Small Gems' by **Deon** and **Kathy Venter**.
• **Wintercraft** show and sale of work by is open at **Mahon Hall** daily until Dec. 22, along with the **Artists From the Fringe** show and sale of artworks.

EXHIBITIONS

• **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.
• **Diana Hayes** shows an exhibition of her photography at the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** through December.
• **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.
• **League 181** painters present **Warming Up the Season** in the **ArtSpring lobby** through December.

Viva Chorale!

Christmas Concert & Food Bank Fundraiser
Friday, Dec. 20 • 7 p.m.
All Saints By-the-Sea

THRIFTY FOODS

Ganges, Mouat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm • Customer Service 250-537-1522

see horoscope
on page 15

INTERNATIONAL AID

Solar cooker project connects communities

Some 450 stoves distributed in 15 years

BY JILL WILLMOTT

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It was the summer of 2005 when Judy Jackson, at that time a documentary filmmaker who lived on Salt Spring, came to one of our Salt Spring Raging Grannies meetings to show us some of the pictures she had been taking in Lesotho, Africa.

She then said, "The local high-school students are twinning with

students in Lesotho; how about you grandmothers twinning with some of the African grannies — and occasionally grandfathers — who are looking after their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren?" And since the mandate for all Raging Grannies is to leave the world a better place for everybody's grandchildren, we had a short discussion and said "yes," and were put in touch with Carol Pritchard, the instigator and manager of the Lesotho Solar Cooker Project.

Traditionally, in most cultures

the females look after the children, and when the mothers die the grandmothers take over. In Lesotho, which has the third highest incidence of HIV/AIDS, families are generally large and many grannies are left to feed, clothe, shelter and educate six to eight orphaned children. These older women are thus forced to spend many hours searching for and carrying home heavy bundles of firewood and dry animal-dung so they can cook at least one hot meal a day for their grandchild-

dren. A solar cooker can change this.

In a nutshell this project involves raising money to buy solar cookers in Johannesburg and then take them into Lesotho. Each year Carol and her assistants go to a different rural area, and after three sunny days of showing locally chosen grandparents how to use the sun-stoves for cooking three of their main foodstuffs, the stoves and demonstration leftovers are given to the participants to take home and use for their families.

This project has been going for 15 years now, and we southern Gulf Islanders are its main supporters. I am proud to say that to-date we islanders have raised enough money for Carol to provide 450 sun-stoves and introduce this new way of cooking hot meals to 15 different communities in Lesotho. I am glad to answer any further questions people may have about how to support the project: 250-537-8343 or jillawillmott@gmail.com.

Remember WHEN

Five years ago

• Salt Spring RCMP had 46 calls for service in one week, including a report of damage at Portlock Park's main playing field. Over the weekend, one or more individuals operated dirt bikes at the park, causing damage to the turf used for organized sports.

Ten years ago

• A floatplane bound for the Lower Mainland crashed shortly after takeoff from Lyall Harbour on Saturna Island, killing six passengers and injuring two others. The Seair flight had originated on Mayne Island and had also stopped on North Pender. The two survivors were taken to Victoria General Hospital immediately after rescue. Rescue teams were deployed in coordination with the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria. The wreckage was found at approximately 1 a.m. In the aftermath, a surge of reporters rushed to the island.

Twenty years ago

• Salt Spring RCMP had 46 calls for service in one week, including Driftwood reporter Tanya Lester's car gave a new meaning to the term "window dressing" when it rolled down the hill and smashed into The Thrift Shop window. Lester's friends at the island's metaphysical shop, Treasured Spirit, where she reads teacups, saw the accident in a different light. Many people were "crashing" as 1999 drew to a close before their lives shift into the New (Age) Millennium. Despite The Thrift Shop window's plywood replacement, the store still picked up the Readers' Choice award in the Driftwood's annual Light-up decorating contest.

Thirty years ago

• The Motor Vessel Quinita had a reason for being late. The ferry left Fulford Harbour for a routine first sailing at 6:30 a.m., but as it entered Satellite Channel, someone spotted a partially submerged fish boat. Only the cabin and part of the fo'c's'le showed above the water. Crew of the Quinita contacted Ganges Coast Guard about the situation and were asked to stand by to check on possible survivors. The Coast Guard was on the scene quickly and just as quickly determined that the vessel under scrutiny was merely a derelict that had floated off some beach.

Forty years ago

• Development of the Warren Hastings property at Ganges into an English-style country hotel was being considered by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. It was revealed that the purchaser of the property was planning the switch to a resort. The main residence was an authentic reconstruction of a Sussex farmhouse. The owners also wanted to add one building and that on a high rocky ridge, trustees were told. Some agreement would be needed with the B.C. Land Commission.

Fifty years ago

• A small boat launching ramp found a home in Ganges. After years of negotiating for a location, the Chamber of Commerce announced federal approval for the location of a ramp adjacent to Centennial Park. The federal government required that the slope of the ramp be reduced to a 12 per cent gradient. The ramp would be located on the left-hand side, or northern side of the gravelled parking area alongside Centennial Park. It would run about 50 feet out beyond high water mark, and would be about 100 feet long.

celebrating SENIORS

Video series about dementia caregivers receives international recognition

An Island Health video series created for family caregivers of people with dementia disorders has received an international award.

Sharing the Journey: Practical Approaches to Caring for a Loved One With Dementia is an 18-part video series for family caregivers that offers practical advice to help them respond to new challenges while maintaining meaningful and healthy relationships with their loved ones.

The 18-month project was developed by Island Health's Distributed Multimedia Systems team in collaboration with family caregivers and experts in the field of dementia care. The series was selected from more than 400 entries to receive a silver award at the Health Information Resource Centre's spring Digital Health Awards, which honours the world's best digital health resources.

The video series reflects the lived experiences of caregivers who participated in the project.

"Our hope is that these videos will help families who are navigating life with dementia. We're very grateful to everyone who helped make this project a reality," said Cheryl Damstetter, vice president of priority populations & initiatives for Island Health.

The videos were designed to reflect the unique experiences and challenges experienced by family caregivers.

"Many family caregivers have said providing a better quality of life for loved ones is the most important job in life. But there are unique stresses that go with caregiving that can have an impact on the wellbeing of the caregiver, and their capacity to continue over time," said Sandra Somers, a retired seniors health nurse and clinical advisor to the project.

Each video segment is just a few minutes long and focuses on a specific topic, such as wandering, communicating with health-

care professionals, or self-care for caregivers. The segments include advice from health-care professionals, interviews with real-life caregivers and short scenarios performed by actors to demonstrate different responses. The videos are free to watch on the Island Health website and YouTube channel.

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Obituaries**Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****Coming Events****Help Wanted****Help Wanted**

RAY SIMARD

October 24, 1932 - December 9, 2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved patriarch, Ray Simard.

Husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, dispenser of wisdom, and corny jokes.

He wouldn't give the shirt off his back, but he would give you advice (and maybe a job) on how to get your own.

He valued his solid relationships with family, friends, and community - you know who you are!

With gratitude to all the staff at Lady Minto Hospital, food services, house keeping, and our nurses, Ronda, Rose, Virginia, Sara, Mona, and Ben.

Service at St. Paul's Catholic Church 11:00 am December 16th, 2019 reception follow at the legion Meaden Hall. Refreshment and snacks to be served.



Beautiful memories
silently kept
Of one that we loved
and will never forget

Gail Loretta Prior

It is with grateful hearts and lifelong memories that we remember the full and colourful life of our Gail, treasured wife of Ray, loving big sister to Carol (Lloyd) and Glenn (Marlaine), and special auntie to Lisa (Jamie), Melissa (Devin), Makayla, Kathy (James) and Taya. She was also a dear cousin and friend to many and a lover of all critters big and small.

Born on February 25, 1940 in Edmonton, Alberta, she went forth in true Gail style with her wine glass in hand, to explore new trails, and to reunite with her dad, loved ones and beloved fur babies that were waiting for her, on December 7, 2019 in Penticton, BC.

To know her was to love her and her humorous and vibrant personality. She was an accomplished author and writer, having been published and well respected in the writing community. She loved animals and the earth, believing in the respect of them both.

She was an exceptional cook and enjoyed entertaining and socializing with her many friends, neighbours, and family.

Salt Spring Island was her true home where nature, water, and the salty air renewed her soul. She always treasured her memories of happy times spent there at her little cottage on Weston Lake. Her second Salt Spring became Little Bear Lake in Northern Saskatchewan where she enjoyed many good times with Ray.

Always unapologetically herself, she lived and left us on her own terms and for that we are forever grateful. She would not want to be remembered with sadness nor tears but remembered for her quick wit, take charge outlook on life, and fierce independence. She will be forever missed until we meet again.

We wish to thank the incredible physicians and nursing staff at PRH for their compassion and care of our Gail.

In lieu of flowers we ask that you donate to the BC SPCA in Gail's memory. http://support.spc.bc.ca/site/TR/Memorial/General?px=2391613&pg=person&l&fr_id=2000

A celebration of life will be held in the spring of 2020, details will follow at a later date.



Valerie Anne Watt (nee James)

Aug. 27, 1928 - Nov. 22, 2019



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear mother, Valerie Anne Watt. She passed away peacefully on Salt Spring Island November 22nd in the presence of her loving family. Born on Salt Spring Island, to Dorothy and Percival (Jack) James, she spent her early years on the family seed farm in Fernwood and in the Cowichan Valley. The family moved to West Vancouver and then to Kelowna where she finished high school and met her husband and love of her life, Don, with whom she shared 69 years of marriage. They started a family in Kelowna, later moving to Vancouver and finally Victoria to raise their children. Mom and Dad greatly enjoyed boating in the Gulf Islands aboard their boat Duna where many great friendships were established. Eventually, they moved back to Salt Spring Island to enjoy the retirement years.

Our mother was an extraordinary woman. Always elegant and well dressed, Mom was also an amazing cook and loved to entertain. She had boundless energy and an amazing zest for life. She could often be found in the garden tending to her beautiful creations. Valerie was completely devoted to her family and took great pleasure seeing how her family grew with grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was very involved in her community on Salt Spring Island and was active in the St. Marks' Anglican Church Guild for many years.

Valerie is pre-deceased by her son Douglas, her sister Mary, her brothers-in-law Bill and Michael, sister-in-law Gay, and her son-in-law Tom. She is survived by her husband Donald Watt, her children Chris (Kerry), Barbara, and Robert (Liz), grand children Shaun (Lindsay), Breanne (Mike), Michael (Mimi), Katherine, Emerson, Vienna and Geneva, and 11 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Audrey Bennett and her brother-in-law Bill Hogg.

The funeral service will be held at 3:00 pm on December 14th at All Saints by-the-Sea Church on Salt Spring Island, to be followed by a reception and tea. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice.

In Memoriam

Margaret Northeast

(nee Edwards)
1939 -
Dec. 14th, 2017

Lovingly
remembered
by her family

In Memoriam

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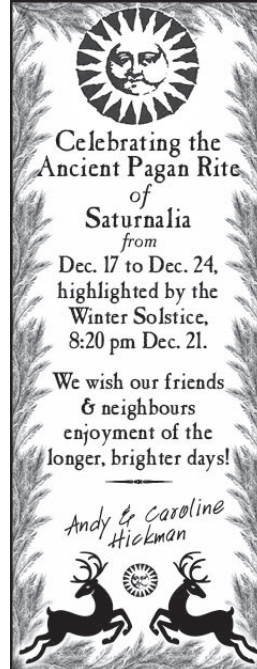
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- Other duties assigned by Office Manager or Publisher.

REQUIREMENTS:

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- Ability to multi-task and work within deadlines;
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Accuracy and attention to details;
- Ability to take initiative and be helpful to all staff and customers;
- Good working knowledge of Excel, Word and PowerPoint;
- Knowledge of Adobe Creative Suite an asset.

Please forward resumes to:

Amber Ogilvie

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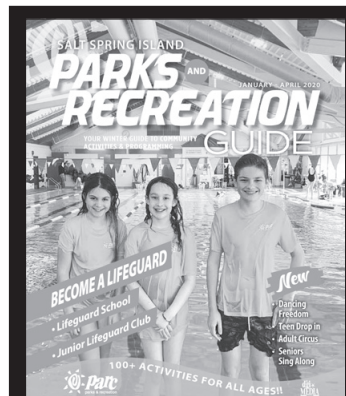
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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DIGGING IN: Marking the groundbreaking of the Croftonbrook affordable housing project expansion on Monday are, from left, CRD director Gary Holman, IWAV chair Susan Dann, IWAV executive director Kisae Petersen, Nanaimo MLA Sheila Malcolmson, Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen, and housing consultant Janis Gauthier.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

IN TUNE: A few members of the Calliope women's choir sing at the Transitions thrift shop's 22nd-anniversary party last Tuesday. From left are Sharyn Carroll, Maria Robins, Laura Ann, Silvia Graber, Jaime Fry and Darlene Gage. The music was followed by chocolate cake and hot apple cider.

CHRISTMAS

20th annual Xmas dinner served up

All welcome on Dec. 25

The Salt Spring United Church is sponsoring the 20th Annual Christmas Day Dinner at noon at Meaden Hall, and wants the community to know that everyone is welcome on Dec. 25.

The tradition continues with the help of many generous and faithful local businesses and individual volunteers.

"From financial and food donors to decorators and 'preppers' on Christmas Eve, to cooks, greeters, servers and the clean-up crew — all work together to create this seasonal miracle and more importantly to make it 'feel just like Christmas,'" the organizers explain.

The feast includes home-cooked turkey with all the trimmings, salmon, ham and vegetarian lasagna for the main dish, served with many vegetables and topped off with goodies and fruit for dessert, plus a variety of beverages. A decorated Meaden Hall is truly festive, with long tables to make it easy to sit with friends, to meet and mingle (or not), and to enjoy music and carolers.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with music. Food service begins at 12 noon and celebrations continue until 2 p.m.

For more information, leave a message at the United Church office at 250-537-5812.

Christmas Season ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Wednesday Dec 25.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 24 PAPER:

Display Advertising Deadline: Dec 16, 4pm
Classified Display Deadline: Dec 16, 4pm
Classified Word Deadline: Dec 16, 4pm

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Wednesday Jan. 1.

Open for usual business hours on Thursday Jan. 2.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 31 PAPER:

Display Advertising Deadline: Dec 23, noon
Classified Display Deadline: Dec 23, noon
Classified Word Deadline: Dec 23, noon

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastrlogy.com | sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com

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

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Your mood and attitude have become much soberer and your attitude serious, as if suddenly. This synchronicity is due to Jupiter entering Capricorn. Positively, inspirations for adventure will be directed towards productivity. You could get a lot done with this influence. You will also feel included to take a few risks to expand your position, albeit calculated ones.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Your philosophy of life tends to be more grounded and tangible than that of many others. Less talk and more action with an emphasis on results speak to you the loudest. This theme will prove extra strong with Jupiter Capricorn. The twist is that you will take revolutionary action or at least measures that can be described as original to fulfill your ambitions.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

That cycle of deep transformation that has been underway, has entered into a whole new phase. This will accelerate the flow and like a river with more slope and narrows, may produce rapids. Positively, you will rise to meet the challenge and this could even result in a rejuvenation process. Still, you have work to do.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

You have entered an expansive cycle. This will lead you to push harder to get results. These are linked to relationships in general, but to your public and professional life more specifically. In simple terms, you want more power and authority. If circumstances or other key players are not supportive of this objective, you could get pushy, ever aggressive. Exercise grace despite the pressure.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

You are readier than you have been for a while to get down to business. You will push harder for practical results than previously. Your daily routine stands to become more disciplined. At worst, you will not act on the cues to be more organized and focused and this could cascade into worry and anxiety. Set clear goals and get to work!

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Your power potential has been rising steadily. A creative boost of energy and focus is now coming to the fore. Ironically, tending to more than one project might prove better than not. However, you will still have to safeguard from getting scattered with your focus. If altruism has not spurred you into action this year, ambition will now.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Recent turns and events have produced circumstances that are helping you feel more confident. Yet, you will still want to be that much more organized to meet the inevitable challenge that will come with wanting to act on this boost. This is true especially close to home. Perhaps creating a home office or studio or lab space will satisfy your need for order.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

If you have wanted to be busier, then you are in luck. Jupiter in Capricorn will serve to increase the flow. The biggest challenge stands to be your ability to focus on one thing at a time. This will activate your creative leadership. As well, circumstances will emerge to support you to be more imaginative. Focus on creating beautiful works for the best results.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Jupiter is your ruling planet and with it in Capricorn, you will become more sober and serious regarding practical affairs. Your health is among these. This could manifest as establishing a new health routine. Yet, it could also be directed to getting more involved, perhaps with a new business venture. Either way, your ambitions are rising, quickly now.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Jupiter in your sign is an indication that you are ready to broaden your overall scope of expression. This will synchronize with increasing your exposure and network. Taking new approaches and exploring new possibilities is featured. However you do it, you want more. The main thing to be aware of is that this expansion could affect your waistline too.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

You have entered a time when circumstances will push you to draw deeper from both your reserves of talent and of faith. Positively, you could realize some of your dreams with this influence and become better at what you do too. Necessity will play a role and so too will the prospect of opportunity and progress.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

An increase in your outreach and scope of contact with new friends, groups, and associations, in general, has come forward as a whole new theme in your life. Some of these may well be with family members or old friends and/or their friends. Keeping it warm is featured. Yet, it could also manifest as opening up to whole new professional networks, as well.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT-UP DECORATING CONTEST

<p>BEST OVERALL: FIRST PLACE, Love My Kitchen SECOND PLACE, Ganges Fire Hall</p> <p>BEST USE OF LIGHTS: FIRST PLACE, Salt Spring Inn SECOND PLACE, Rotary Marine Park</p>	<p>MOST CREATIVE: FIRST PLACE, Salt Spring Gallery SECOND PLACE, Cedar Mountain Studios</p>	<p>PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD: SEND YOUR VOTE TO: NEWS@GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD.COM</p>
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Where can this be found on Salt Spring? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or watch for the image on our Facebook page.

Last Week's Answer: James Wood was the first to guess the correct spot as the Centennial Wharf parking lot entrance.

SALT SPRING **Star** of the WEEK

Gordon Lee

Gordon Lee, AKA The Tree Guy, proved the power of the people still exists when he took to the streets of Ganges to distribute elector response forms to protest the CRD's proposed Bylaw 4325. Lee said he wasn't opposed to the safety service concept but was against the use of an alternative approval process to get the bylaw passed. Lee is a member of a pioneering Salt Spring family and works on BC Ferries in addition to doing tree work and volunteering in the community.



SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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



TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

NOV/DEC 2019 HNP Z+8

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
11	0603	3.3	10.8	15	0015	0.2	0.7
WE	1438	2.9	9.5	0846	3.6	11.8	
ME	2221	0.4	1.3	SU	1411	2.9	9.5
				DI	1658	3.0	9.8
12	0643	3.4	11.2	16	0059	0.3	1.0
	1108	3.0	9.8	0927	3.6	11.8	
TH	1505	3.2	10.5	MO	1530	2.8	9.2
JE	2255	0.3	1.0	LU	1751	2.8	9.2
13	0724	3.5	11.5	17	0147	0.5	1.6
	1200	3.0	9.8	1006	3.6	11.8	
FR	1537	3.2	10.5	TU	1644	2.5	8.2
VE	2334	0.2	0.7	MA	1904	2.6	8.5
14	0805	3.6	11.8	18	0236	0.8	2.6
	1300	3.0	9.8	1044	3.6	11.8	
SA	1614	3.2	10.5	WE	1743	2.2	7.2
SA				ME	2057	2.3	7.5

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MEN'S SOCCER

Shaw wins Frances Kelsey battle

Mai back after years away

BY FRASER HOPE

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Old Boys continue to have difficulty fielding a full complement for both home and away games, as witnessed by the fact that management had to leave the luxurious team bus in the garage for lack of numbers.

Even the blandishment of a "Last chance to bond on the Quinitsa! note" from manager Graham Tweddle was not sufficient to entice more than eight players for the game, or should it be "battle," with long-time rivals Cowichan Classics.

There was the Second Battle of Thermopylae in 191 BC between the Roman army of Manius Glabrio and King Antiochus III The Great, the Second Battle of Panipat in India 1556 between Hindu King of India and Akbar, the Second Battle of Bull Run 1862 between the Confederate Forces of Lee and Union Army of Pope and McClellan, the many Second Battles of the Marne Ypres and Somme of WWI, but surely the Second, Third and even Fourth Battles of Frances Kelsey between Old Boys and Cowichan Classics is up there in the annals of history. Surely!

Nicholas Mai may not have been able to return to the Old Boys for last week's game but arrived at Mill Bay with new cleats still showing the price tag. Obviously, Mai must have thought of returning the boots for a

refund if his performance disappointed. He certainly earned sufficient "brownie" points by providing a bag of chocolate chip cookies, ensuring a favourable report in the Driftwood by this reporter.

In an attempt to reduce the chance of further injuries, Tweddle had mandated an early ferry so that all could warm up with a routine especially tailored to ensure the team was at peak fitness at game start. I can hear the chuckles of regular readers at this preposterous statement. Old Boys warm up?! Most of the team have survived because of a lack of a warm-up!

With the Classics volunteering Pat and Harvey, Old Boys kicked off with a suggestion that they might park the bus for most of the game in a truly defensive mode à la Mourinho, but being Old Boys soon showed their usual attitude to team orders by ignoring them three minutes into the game. The warm-up worked as Old Boys unexpectedly caught the home team on their heels and had several opportunities to advance on goal.

Scott Howe, cool in defence and advancing play upfield, was an indication that Old Boys were confident of taking an attacking position.

Then tragedy! Against the run of play, Cowichan were gifted an opportunity to capitalize on a rare Richard Steel mis-hit where he was left stranded as the opponent

took full advantage to lift the shot over Steel's head for the first goal. Oh no! How would the Old Boys react? Newly returned Mai after 20 years in the wilderness must have thought old habits never change. A period of chaos ensued and Cowichan player Dan "Robben" lifted a shot into the box that had Steel in conniptions.

Gradually, captain Tweddle restored order and Mai soon shed the rust of 20 years and found his touch to make contributions in the mid-field. Mark Aston and Mike McCormick, making use of opportunities from Donny Brown, Pat and Harvey, began to exert pressure on Cowichan.

McCormick had in the warm-up been aiming for the bottom left of the net. Obviously the Cowichan keeper had not been observant because he dove to his left and McCormick calmly equalized 1-1.

Not to be outdone, an opportunity arose for McCormick to capitalize on an uncertainty in the Cowichan defence and he put the Old Boys up 2-1 just before the half-time whistle.

But Cowichan's Sammy was determined to change the storyline and with a fine cross-field pass from Robben took a shot from 25 yards that as soon as it left his body you could tell Steel was in trouble. It started one way and then swirled to pass Steel without a chance in Hades of stopping it. A 2-2 tie. All to play for!

Dennis Shaw, now showing signs of distress, changed shirts with Steel. It worked last week, why not now?

Back and forth breakaways occurred at each end as stamina ebbed. After giving away a sitter to Robben, Shaw watched as the striker missed the open net completely. Minutes later in a one-on-one with Robben he managed what had to be the TSN Turning Point in the game when he made a double save that was the highlight of the second half.

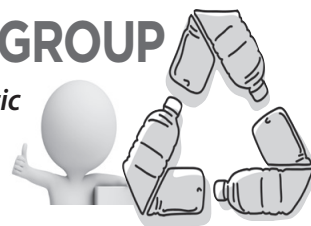
Cooler talk was positive with opinion that travelling on the Queen of Slumberland and the Bowen Queen contribute greatly to the well-being of the team. This newfound concern by the BC Ferry Corporation for the needs of the Old Boys was welcomed. My only concerns relate to the fact that without fail on both Queens I have been parked at the elevator entrance or the washrooms. Methinks an electronic device been placed on the vehicle. The Deep State is still at work! Thanks, BC Ferries!

The ferry was relatively calm and relaxed with the team nursing bruises and bumps, so little, if anything, was made of the turf field debate, CRD Bylaw 4325 or the upcoming U.K. election and, of course, Old Boys have refused to name what many still trump as a success.

Boosted by Sunday's effort, which saw them leave the field bloodied but not bowed, the Old Boys will face Zgoda 48s at Fortress GISS on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. Come out and support your team. Your team needs you!

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LUB Amendment for Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs)

Bylaw 117

PUBLIC HEARING

SOUTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is the bylaw about?

Proposed Bylaw 117 amends regulations in the South Pender Island Land Use Bylaw (LUB) to prohibit the operation of STVRs as a principal (outright) use in all zones except commercial resort. The bylaw does not impact legal existing operations.

Thursday,
December 16,
2019
Public Hearing
@ 10:30 a.m.

South Pender
Island Fire Hall
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Point Road,
South Pender
Island

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by
the proposed
bylaws

Enquires?
Narissa Chadwick,
Island Planner
nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca
250-405-5189

How do I get more information?

A copy of the bylaw and other information is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, November 9 to December 12, 2019. Or visit:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/spender/STVR-project/

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., December 12, 2019 to:

- Islands Trust, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC 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