

inside:



## SALT SPRING ISLAND 2020 CALENDAR



**9** Theatre Alive revived  
with new shows

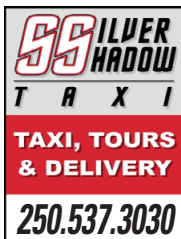


**3** Marine conservation  
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# Driftwood

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Wednesday,  
Dec. 18, 2019

59th year  
Issue 51  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

**PLACE OF PRIVILEGE:** Kate Voisin gets carried by Santa Claus on Saturday evening after he arrives in Ganges from the Lions Santa Ship and before heading into Mouat's Mall to give toys to children there. Ganges was the last stop of the day for Santa, his entourage and the Victoria Star II vessel, which also went to Saturna, Pender, Mayne and Galiano islands. On Sunday the ship stopped at the San Juan Islands before returning to Bellingham, Wash.

## CRIME

# Money laundering alleged in suit

Civil Forfeiture Office enters claim to seize Baker Road house

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The B.C. Civil Forfeiture Office has filed a lawsuit to seize a Salt Spring property alleged to be acquired through the proceeds of crime and to have been used to launder money.

According to court documents, a waterfront property at 391 Baker Rd. was used by Alicia Lee, Geordie (AKA Skye) Lee and Vincent Manalastas as part of an international stock fraud scheme amounting to \$200 million. The forfeiture suit was filed at B.C. Supreme Court in Victoria on Dec. 11.

The lawsuit states the property is registered to Beresford Estates Inc., which is owned or operated by the three defendants. Manalastas, who is believed to live in the Philippines, is listed as

Beresford's sole director. The Lees are a married couple who have been living at the Baker Road home, according to the court claim.

"By converting the proceeds of the unlawful activity into property, the property was used by the defendants as an instrument of unlawful activity, namely the laundering of the proceeds of crime," the lawsuit claims.

If proven, the property could therefore be forfeited to the provincial government. BC Assessment lists the current value at \$2.14 million.

The notice of claim alleges that Beresford Estates Inc. is tied into the Silverton Platform, a scheme to disguise ownership of publicly traded companies and circumvent securities laws. An investigation by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in 2018 determined the

Silverton Platform was responsible for \$165 million USD in unlawful proceeds accrued between June 2015 and September 2018.

The SEC investigation found that Beresford was used in British Columbia to receive and distribute proceeds of the securities fraud. RCMP investigating the case in Canada subsequently found the Lees had contracted renovations to the home to Burrard Green City Builders amounting to \$526,000, which were paid for through a series of wire transfers. The money transferred was the proceeds of the unlawful activity, according to the investigation.

The defendants had not responded to the civil lawsuit as of Dec. 17. Allegations within the suit have not been proven in court.



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## SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Trustees acknowledge climate crisis

Difference between  
'emergency' and 'crisis'  
discussed

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

What is the difference between a crisis and an emergency? The Gulf Islands School District mulled over that question as one of the finer points of their Dec. 11 board meeting discussion on how the district would respond to climate change.

The issue was first brought to the table in November, after a delegation asked the district to declare a climate emergency, to lessen their carbon footprint and focus their resources on mitigating the effects of climate change. Discussion was picked up during the November committee meeting, which informed a draft motion on the table at last week's board meeting.

It was decided by the board that instead of declaring a climate emergency, they would acknowledge a global climate crisis, and commit to minimizing negative impacts that district operations have on the climate. Part of that motion is to create a working committee to review what climate action has already been done by the district, to share that information with the community and to improve existing practices.

Most of the discussion centred around semantics, looking at the relative weights of the words "crisis" and "emergency" and how those terms applied to the district. The dictionary definitions of the words differ in that a crisis refers to a turning point in a sequence of events, or a condition of instability that leads to decisive change. An emergency is defined as something unexpected that requires immediate action, or a state of needing help or relief from such an event.

Assistant superintendent Linda Underwood said during the meeting that the "key difference between a crisis and emergency is that an emergency requires immediate interventions and assistance, and a crisis may not."

While it was acknowledged that elsewhere in the world there are people who are facing a climate emergency, one that requires immediate intervention, the school district in the Gulf Islands is not. Though the climate issue is one of importance and should be accounted for, trustees were not under the impression that it should colour every single decision made in the district.

"For me, in our district, a crisis is rising sea levels, and an emergency is water in our schools. We're not at that point, and I hope we never get there. If we do, we need somewhere to go. We need to step it up from a

crisis," said Galiano Island trustee Shelley Lawson. "Other parts of the planet are on fire, other parts are under water. Those are emergencies for those people . . . I think ['crisis' is] strong enough and it means this committee is going to have some legs to do things, but we're not in an emergency situation where every single decision we make is through the lens of climate."

Other school districts in B.C., some municipalities, cities, regional districts and universities have declared a climate emergency. Locally, the Capital Regional District, the Islands Trust and other groups have also made declarations. However, the school district was wary of jumping on the bandwagon, especially since some of those organizations that have declared did not have any action plans on how to deal with the issue.

"We don't want to be trendy," said Salt Spring trustee Tisha Boulter. "If that's the trend, I don't want that trend. I don't want to jump on the bandwagon and be another school district declaring a climate emergency, but not having a plan."

Board chair Rob Pingle agreed, saying: "They called it something, and then have done nothing. It's reflected in our discussion that we're trying to find our way forward without lighting our heads on fire."

The committee's membership will be decided at a future meeting.

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## EDUCATION

## SD64 configuration decision deferred

Timeline extended into fall of 2020

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Those waiting to see what the Gulf Islands School District might look like after reconfiguration will have to wait a bit longer, as the board of education voted to extend its self-imposed timeline to September 2020 in order to account for a delayed funding formula model from the province.

Originally, the deadline for any changes to the district was to be in the spring of 2020. This would ensure the district had time to implement the changes for the start of the next school year. However, the public feedback process brought significantly more data than the district had anticipated, and more time is needed to sift through that data in order to make an informed decision, staff said during last week's board meeting.

"Staff would wholeheartedly welcome a timeline that went into September. The scope of the work is enormous if we want to come to a responsible recommendation. It's probably beyond what the previous board had anticipated," said district superintendent Scott Benwell. "There is a vast amount of feedback and a vast amount of information with implications for families and students . . . we need to have some robust conversations."

A major factor in the way the district may change configuration is the ongoing funding model review being done by the provincial Ministry of Education. The ministry has been working on changes to its funding model, which will apply to all school districts in the province. District staff would need to run any configuration changes through the funding model to see if they are financially viable, and since they are still waiting for the model to be released, staff said that they appreciate the delay.

Secretary treasurer Jesse Guy explained in the meeting that "September is I think a far more reasonable timeline for proper modelling of the changes. We have to balance them and how they impact students. That takes some time. April will also be when I am doing the annual budget with the new funding formula model, and we'll move directly into audit."

The district is also still in funding protection with the education ministry, and will be working on a yearly basis to keep within budget until the protection is lifted.

An ad-hoc committee will be formed by the end of January, consisting of trustees, staff and other groups, to sift through the data and determine what the public has said about the reconfiguration. It will then be discussed and decisions will be made to be presented at the September board meeting.



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Safety AAP numbers in

Official results for the Capital Regional District's alternate approval process on a community safety service for Salt Spring were released Friday and reveal that a significant number of voters took part in rejecting the proposal. A corporate officer has determined that 1,850 verified elector response forms were accepted before the close of the Dec. 9 deadline. Eight submitted forms were rejected.

The CRD board could have enacted a bylaw to establish the new service unless at least 10 per cent of qualified voters submitted forms in opposition. The number received was just over 20 per cent.

The cost of running the counter petition has also been finalized at \$3,003. CRD director Gary Holman had originally allotted \$10,000 of his administrative budget for the exercise.

### Food bank fundraisers

Viva Chorale! choir presents its annual Christmas concert and carol singalong on Friday, Dec. 20 at All Saints By-the-Sea.

In addition to seasonal carols and audience singalongs, the beloved classic *The Polar Express* will be read. Choir director Carol Young has carefully chosen songs to represent each page of the book, which will make the story come alive for the audience.

Friday's event begins at 7 p.m.

Admission is by donation to the Salt Spring Food Bank, with tax receipts for monetary donations over \$20.

Then on Saturday night, Carol Young's Christmas Singers will present *A Dylan Thomas Christmas* with narration by Chris Humphreys as well as carols. It's a food bank fundraiser in conjunction with Island Savings' Full Cupboard program.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. at Island Savings in Ganges.

### Driftwood Christmas deadlines

The next two issues of the Driftwood will be going to press much earlier than usual due to the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

People wanting to submit letters to the editor or press releases for the Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 papers, which will also be distributed one day early, should send them to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) by the morning of Friday, Dec. 20 or Dec. 27.

Advertising deadlines are also earlier than usual, as detailed in an ad in this paper.

## MARINE ENVIRONMENT

# Strait of Georgia plan gets new legs

Parks Canada provides marine conservation update to Trust Council

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A long-delayed plan to create a National Marine Conservation Area in the southern Strait of Georgia is getting new traction with the Parks Canada feasibility phase nearing completion.

Establishment of an NMCA would extend protection to the seabed, waters and species found in an area of the strait stretching from the southern tip of Gabriola Island to Saanich Inlet and Cordova Bay. Parks Canada project manager James Gordon reported on recent progress made and potential next steps at the Islands Trust Council meeting held in Victoria on Dec. 4.

Gordon said the project is heading toward a decision on feasibility, which will determine whether the marine conservation area is actually doable or not. Assuming the answer is positive, the two final phases would be negotiating a marine conservation area agreement with the affected parties and ministries, and establishing the conservation area in legislation.

"It's a fairly lengthy, complex process as you can imagine, but those are the steps we go through," Gordon said.

The Islands Trust previously resolved to request that any Parks Canada zoning put into place within its jurisdiction start with the zoning it has already legislated. Trust Council chair Peter Luckham reiterated that position at the meeting.

The NMCA proposal was first envisioned by the B.C.'s NDP government in 1995 as part of its Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy program, which also helped establish the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. The provincial and federal governments signed a memorandum of understanding to assess the scientific and socio-economic feasibility of the proposal in 2003. The proposed boundaries for the NMCA were released in 2011.

In 2012, the federal government laid out its five phase-roadmap for implementation, but no updates have been announced since then.

Changes in the federal and provincial governments from the reigning Conservatives and BC Liberals seem to have revitalized the process, starting with a new federal commitment to marine protection made by Justin Trudeau's Liberals in 2016. New funding allocated that year permitted the hiring of a First Nations consultant and the project manager for the Strait of Georgia NCMA proposal.

Gordon said much of the work since then has been to rebuild relationships, as many people who were previously involved had retired or moved on to different positions during the time when the project lay dormant.

Guidelines for creating an NMCA include setting four different usage zones with varying levels of protection versus human activity. Gordon said ideally 40 per cent of the conservation area would fall under zones one and two, which offer restricted access and general protections. Other zones would allow the "ecologically sustainable use of marine resources."

Ports and marinas have been excluded from the mapping, as have the international shipping lanes. Things like oil, gas and aggregate exploration and exploitation would not be allowed at all, however. A permitting system to authorize other land use, including use of submerged lands, may be developed.

One proposal for the Strait of Georgia NMCA is that businesses taking place within its boundaries be required to get a permit to operate — including whale watching businesses, which are not currently regulated other than by newly required setbacks between vessels and whales. Saturna trustee Lee Middleton said this aspect of the proposal had caught his interest.

"People who see [whale watching] happening in the Gulf Islands understand it's absolutely critical," Middleton said about regulating the



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Southern resident killer whales cruise through Gulf Islands waters in the moonlight. The whales are one of the endangered or at-risk marine species that can be found within the boundaries of the proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area.

sector.

North Pender trustee Ben McConchie asked how the different federal ministries would work together on a management agreement when some of their mandates appear to be opposed; for example, the possibility that more oil tankers will be soon passing through the area designated for protection. Gordon said that Transport Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Parks Canada will all have to sign on to the management agreement. The boundary of the NMCA may also need to be adjusted slightly for the shipping lanes where they pass through Boundary Pass as they are governed by international law.

Mayne Island trustee Jeanine Dodds

noted that Miner's Bay has not been excluded from the NCMA boundary although it hosts an important dock serving local transportation and commercial needs.

"Where we're at in the process is addressing many of the issues of how we move forward with First Nations," Gordon explained. "There's many First Nations with interest in the area and that's been our main focus; it's critical to success. Then we need to go through the process of looking at those exclusion areas in detail."

While no promises have been made, Gordon noted that Canada will be hosting the fifth International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC 5) in Vancouver in 2021. He suggested that would be an ideal time to make a positive announcement.

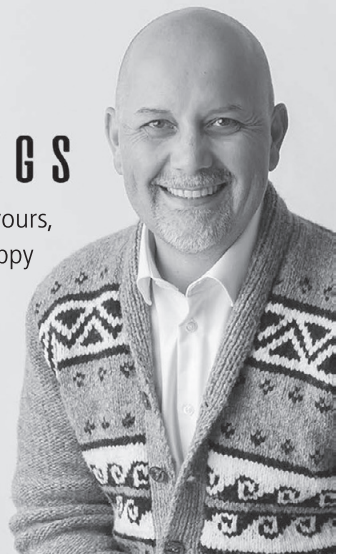
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## SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Trustees rescind turf field support

School board vows to seek ways to improve fields with natural methods

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Plastic will no longer be an option for the Gulf Islands Secondary School soccer field, after school board trustees voted to rescind their June motion supporting the construction of an artificial turf field at the school.

However, trustees did recognize the need to ensure that field's playability in the future, and will be looking into ways to improve it without going to an artificial surface.

In June the Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association presented a feasibility study to the board, asking them to support the project. The board agreed to support the field in principle, as long as the soccer association raised the \$2 million in construction costs and consulted with the community. Pushback concerning the proposed infill material caused a change in the plan from using plastic to a natural cork and coconut material.

A staff report submitted last week on the financial impact of the synthetic field showed that the district would still be required to commit \$30,000 per year for the field, which would go into repair and maintenance as well as a sinking fund for replacement costs. The soccer association would commit to an equal share of the replacement costs. The final third of the costs would be fundraised by both the district and the soccer association. The report recommended that the district not proceed with the project, since it was a significant long-term financial commitment in a time where the district is in funding protection with the Ministry of Education.

"Once we've committed, we are no longer able to back out of the annual commitment or the long-term commitment for replacement," said secretary treasurer Jesse Guy during last week's board meeting. "That does put the district in an unfunded liability while we are in a time of fiscal restraint."

The decision came after months of discussion and feedback from the community, and debate amongst the trustees at both board and committee meetings.

"This has been a huge topic of conversation at our tables," said Galiano Island trustee Shelley Lawson. "This has been something that we've all taken home and done our suggested readings on and I think at one point or another we've all swung through the options and come down on different sides of it."

Though use of plastic has been taken off the table for the school board's fields, they are open to coordinating with the soccer association or other groups to find a way to improve the playing surface while staying within a natural medium. Another stipulation about staying cost-neutral for the district was added as a necessary requirement to moving forward.

"One of the things that became really clear through the feedback and the initial proposal was that we have fields that need something," said Lawson. "We have a very different environment than we did when we put those fields in and when we put the geothermal system in."

Representatives from the soccer association were present at the meeting. The board allowed Fraser Hope to speak after the decision, and he said no matter how the fields were improved, it was important that they are improved.

"I think it's incumbent on the school board, being the guardians of these playing fields, to provide opportunities and are open to that next stage. If there's no artificial surface, they must find a way to ensure these fields are available 12 months of the year," Hope said. "Soccer is really important for the well-being of the families in this community. It is the single biggest organization, other than the school board, and it has quite a serious impact on our health."

"FIFA doesn't let the men's World Cup play on artificial grass. I can tell you that," he added. "Grass is still the best."

## FERRIES

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Based on lower prices at the pump, BC Ferries removed the 1.5 per cent fuel surcharge from its fares on Dec. 17.

BC Ferries' fuel rebate and surcharge mechanism is designed to follow the highs and lows of the price of fuel. Surcharges are implemented when the price of

gas rises, and rebates are applied when it falls. A release from BC Ferries explained that the company does not benefit financially from these changes, as they are designed to cover the additional cost of fuel, and that they are part of a regulatory process that is independent of fares.

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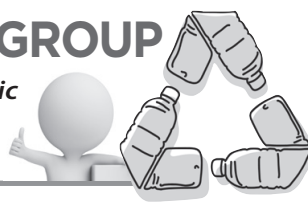
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## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

## CRD gears up for housing ask

Electoral areas face AAP on regional housing fund contribution

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fresh off completing an alternate approval process to decide a Capital Regional District taxation request, Salt Spring voters are being asked to participate in another exercise to help boost the Regional Housing First Program.

But while islanders decisively defeated a new tax requisition for a loosely defined community safety service, Salt Spring director Gary Holman said the upcoming request is completely different, as a regional program to increase direct investment in affordable housing.

"This is a board initiative, not my individual initiative, but I do support it. Most everyone would agree that we are in a housing crisis," Holman said.

The goal is to increase the Regional Housing First Program — currently a \$90-million collaboration with equal contributions from the CRD, the province and the federal government — up to \$120 million. BC Housing confirmed in August that it would contribute an additional \$10 million to the program as long as there was a matching amount from the regional district. The provincial organization said it would also help the CRD pursue an additional contribution from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Innovation Fund.

In order to borrow the \$10 million for the CRD's share, the tax requisition increase must be approved by 11 of the 16 local governments that make up the district. The 13 municipalities will approve or reject the request through their elected councils,

but voter approval must be obtained in the three electoral areas without councils.

As approved by the CRD Board last Wednesday, a 30-day alternate approval process to gain that consent will begin in January 2020. Those who wish to vote against the tax increase must submit an electoral response form by 4 p.m. on Feb. 18.

**"This is different because it's absolutely clear where the funding is going and it's a fixed amount, rather than a requisition that could be increased over time."**

GARY HOLMAN  
Salt Spring CRD director

Salt Spring taxpayers currently pay \$52,000 toward regional land banking and housing. The increase of \$27,000 would amount to around \$4 per household per year.

A staff report states that consent will be considered given unless at least 10 per cent of voters send in the form, which means 910 people on Salt Spring, 500 in the Southern Gulf Islands and 575 in Juan de Fuca. If the 10 per cent mark is reached in an electoral area, the CRD Board will consider those voters to have indicated their consent must be obtained by a referendum.

Holman acknowledged the timing of the AAP event is unfortunate for Salt Spring, given the island just finished another process on Dec. 9. With

1,850 responses submitted, more than twice the 910 people needed to defeat the safety service participated.

Holman said some of those voters may have been opposing the process as much as the taxation request. However, he believes the AAP is still an appropriate vehicle.

"This is different because it's absolutely clear where the funding is going and it's a fixed amount, rather than a requisition that could be increased over time," Holman said, adding that even if Salt Spring voters oppose the housing program increase there's a good chance it will meet the two-thirds approval threshold across the 16 communities.

"I would be surprised if every local government didn't support it," he said. "It's absolutely essential and the entire region will benefit."

During the CRD Board vote to approve the AAP process last week, Holman introduced amendments to the electoral response form to make things easier for voters in light of the previous exercise. The form now states explicitly that people can drop off the completed form at local CRD offices as well as the Victoria headquarters, and does not suggest the bylaw must be attached to the form in order to be counted.

Any qualified voters — those who are Canadian citizens, have lived in B.C. for at least six months and in the community for at least 30 days — are eligible to participate. Once again, people will be able to pick up electoral response forms at the Salt Spring CRD office or print their own from an online link. Holman noted that individuals who wish to pick up an extra form for someone at home will be able to do so, but the local office will not be printing off or handing off large stacks of forms to hand out.

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## BC FERRIES

## Bowen moves to Fulford

Change impacts bus connections

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ferry passengers travelling between Fulford and Swartz Bay will have another service change to get used to during the Christmas holiday period, with the Bowen Queen coming onto the route from the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 19 through Jan. 1.

While the change was originally set to take place on the morning of Dec. 20, BC Ferries said the timing of moving three vessels to different ports meant an earlier start was needed. The Queen of Cumberland will sail as planned during the morning schedule on Thursday. The Bowen takes over starting with a 1:15 p.m. sailing out of Swartz Bay.

Since the Bowen is a smaller capacity ship than the Cumberland, changes to the regular schedule are also in effect during the holiday season to accommodate an extra round-trip sailing per day.

Passengers travelling to or from Tsawwassen through Swartz Bay are advised they will not find the same connections as usual. As well, Salt Spring transit service to the Fulford terminal will not be able to meet the new ferry arrival/departure times during the holiday schedule.

BC Transit said that although it works hard to align its schedules with other transportation services when possible, it was not able to do so in this case.

"BC Ferries did notify BC Transit of the upcoming change in November. Due to a number of factors, including time to adjust our schedules and customer information, at this time we plan on keeping our schedules as posted," said BC Transit communications officer Jonathon Dyck. "We continue to work with BC Ferries and review our internal practices to find ways to create more seamless transportation connections."

Check bcferries.com for the revised Fulford schedule, and see www.bctransit.com/salt-spring-island/home for Salt Spring bus schedules.

TIDE TABLES  
at Fulford Harbour

DECEMBER 2019 HNP Z+8

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
18	0236	0.8	2.6	22	0307	2.7	8.9
	1044	3.6	11.8		0648	2.4	7.9
WE	1743	2.2	7.2	SU	1252	3.4	11.2
ME	2057	2.3	7.5	DI	2026	0.7	2.3
19	0329	1.2	3.9	23	0416	3.0	9.8
	1119	3.6	11.8		0800	2.7	8.9
TH	1830	1.8	5.9	MO	1322	3.4	11.2
JE	2321	2.2	7.2	LU	2103	0.4	1.3
20	0428	1.6	5.2	24	0510	3.3	10.8
	1152	3.5	11.5		0911	2.9	9.5
FR	1911	1.4	4.6	TU	1355	3.4	11.2
VE				MA	2141	0.3	1.0
21	0131	2.4	7.9	25	0557	3.5	11.5
	0535	2.0	6.6		1019	3.0	9.8
SA	1222	3.5	11.5	WE	1431	3.3	10.8
SA	1949	1.0	3.3	ME	2219	0.2	0.7

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EDITORIAL

One year later

As the calendar inches towards Christmas Day, it's hard for Gulf Islanders to not look with trepidation at the Dec. 20 date in between.

It was one year ago on Dec. 20 that an unprecedented windstorm — with gusts estimated as high as 120km/h at tree canopy level — uprooted thousands of trees, which also resulted in downed power, phone and cable lines, damage to homes, outbuildings and vehicles. Miraculously, no one was killed by falling trees or utility poles on our islands that day.

Clean-up and damage repair continues to this day, with plenty of physical evidence of the disaster still visible. Psychological impacts are another issue altogether, as the storm was trauma-inducing for many individuals.

THE ISSUE:

Windstorm experience

WE SAY:

Individuals must be prepared for emergencies

and two recent Salt Spring Emergency Resilience Training multi-night sessions with hands-on activities for smaller groups.

More workshops on topics such as FireSmart, generators and food security are in the works, and another SSERT session is being planned for late January.

Islanders should take advantage of opportunities to learn more skills for dealing with disasters and to help mitigate them in the first place. They should also investigate the Emergency Program's pod system to determine which pod their home belongs to and provide information about special needs or resources their family may have and, if possible, to volunteer in whatever capacity is needed. Making emergency prep plans with neighbours can also be done informally.

Ensuring emergency supplies are adequate and periodically refreshed is another action that individual households can take.

Many of us will be prompted to talk about last year's storm during this one-year anniversary period. We also need to act on that talk, taking what we learned individually, as families, neighbourhoods and island wide to better prepare ourselves for the next emergency situation that will inevitably come our way.

Salt Spring's Emergency Program and other emergency service agencies have spent considerable time in the past year assessing their response to the storm, dissecting what worked well and what could be improved.

A number of training opportunities for citizens have been arranged, including a workshop series held at the library



Housing solutions exist

By LAURA PATRICK

VIEWPOINT

When I ran for Islands Trust in 2018, I said I would work to find solutions for the housing crisis. We risk losing organizations and businesses that are integral to our island life because their workers are struggling to find secure housing.

I said that we should make immediate amendments to the land use bylaw to remove unacceptable encumbrances to farmworker housing, secondary suites and cottages. Unfortunately, because of amendments to the Agriculture Land Commission, solutions to farmworker housing are now more difficult.

I said we should direct staff to review the many reports, surveys and studies already completed that identify affordable housing innovation and best practices. This is an important part of the OCP update project that is underway.

I also said we should hold community forums to better understand housing needs, but I have heard loud and clear that we already know enough about this topic, and to just get to work.

Finally, I said we should strongly advocate to senior levels of government for a unique housing strategy with dedicated funding. While we may not have succeeded yet, I can assure you that your three island elected officials, Peter Grove, Gary Holman and myself, along with our MLA Adam Olsen, have advocated to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and BC Housing for solutions and funding.

You also might not be aware of the recent 11th-hour funding crises for both the Croftonbrook and Salt Spring Commons projects. Resolutions to these crises came about through the hard work of the project staff, our Islands Trust staff and your elected officials working with BC Housing.

Do you know why the Municipal Affairs and Housing Ministry recently reversed its position on funding for shelters and support? It's because every organization and individual who cares for and supports our island's growing population of homeless, along with all of your elected officials, collectively asked for support for a year-round shelter. We thank MAHM Minister Selena Robinson for listening to us and for providing this much-needed support. Our island shelter can now remain open all year. Our voices are heard when we work together.

People like to pick and choose from the "Object Statement" in the Islands Trust Act to describe what they believe the Islands Trust is all about. I often hear the phrase "preserve and protect" in reference only to the environment. The Object Statement must be read and understood in its entirety. I believe it aims to strike a balance between conservation and development, and it recognizes that this can only be accomplished through cooperation with others. The only way the Islands Trust can effectively safeguard our island against a changing climate and development pressure is to involve others, including the local community and Indigenous peoples, in all of our work.

A critical message from a recent UN-backed report about the impacts of human activity states that "nature fares better when the people most connected to that nature — those living within it — are supported as the primary stewards." "When people benefit from biodiversity they protect it." Doreen Robinson, a wildlife expert at UN Environment, presented this message and she is correct.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you worried about the growing level of federal debt?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should MLA Adam Olsen pursue Green party leadership?

37

49

YES NO

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

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"It's reflected in our discussion that we're trying to find our way forward without lighting our heads on fire."**

ROB PINGLE, SD 64 BOARD CHAIR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *What changes have you made after last year's storm?*

**MARGRIET RUURS**



We've bought a generator and cut down some trees that were too close to the house. We've also gotten more into the POD system.

**ZACH CORLEY**



I carry a chainsaw in the back of my truck in the winter.

**NICOLA BELL**



I was lucky to have missed the storm.

**THOMAS VIKANDER**



I was ready for the last one. I guess I'm just safety conscious.

**CLAUDIA FRENCH**



I haven't really changed much. I had a pretty good safety kit already.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Divisive move

I was wondering whether or not the safety tax funding would pass. It was soundly defeated.

Gary Holman suggested the tax did not pass due to the dislike for the alternate approval process and because there was not a clear enough concept as to what the safety mandate was. I think both of those things contributed. The lack of clarity of mandate meant there would be a perpetual tax with the CRD in charge of the mandate, as there was no specific end date for the tax, nor any specific mandate on the ballot forms. And do we really want the CRD to have policing powers?

However, I believe that the real gist of the matter that caused the bylaw to fail has to do with how safe streets acts have played out in other communities. For example, look up Salmon Arm on this one.

In any case, although Gary Holman heard the discussions of the groups he was connected to, he did not hear the tone of the rest of the community when he launched this. Asking for a tax shortly after a problem was identified made the conversation more about whether

or not we want to give more annual money to the CRD when there was no clear idea what the CRD was going to do with the money. It was a divisive move to present it this way.

**JENNIFER MCCLEAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Next steps

I objected to CRD Bylaw 4325 because, although well-intentioned, it lacked definitive substance. From a larger perspective, our elected representative was responding to serious concerns raised by some of his constituents. Would his critics prefer that he ignore issues that are brought to him?

Some of those concerned constituents were notably absent in their lack of advocacy for the bylaw. Now perhaps the Chamber of Commerce, the Salt Spring Community Services Society, Copper Kettle, etc. can be forthcoming in presenting a plan for Ganges. Antisocial behaviours, the dependent itinerants and our resident homeless present real challenges and they need to be addressed.

**SHARON MCCOLLOUGH,**  
SALT SPRING

### No to CRD

Hey, Salt Spring, the next time you get a chance to vote, be sure and show Gary Holman and the CRD gang how much you appreciate them taking over the decision-making process for our wayward island. After all, they do know what is best for us.

Like giving nasty medicine to a spoiled child they will resort to whatever trickery necessary to administer it. For a nominal fee, of course.

If you would like a firsthand account of just how much the CRD cares for us and to see their wisdom in action, just have a chat with the hostages of Fulford Water District. Ask them how the gang has improved their lives and what a joy it has been working with them.

Gary, I can assure you that you are not the only one disappointed.

**BOB ELSEA,**  
DUKES ROAD

### Drivers' lives put at risk

Recently I had need to drive from Ganges to Fulford to catch the first ferry. As the

weather was poor, I couldn't see the white lines marking the edge of the road as the line was so faint or non-existent. Also, the centre yellow lines were in no better shape. I was asking myself while driving, "Where is the road?"

Anyone driving to or from Fulford or Vesuvius in the early morning or late evening, particularly if it is drizzling, or raining, or misty, then these so-called "clear" yellow or white lines simply disappear, as these lines now are so vague or non-existent.

So, I have a few questions. Why is the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure putting the lives of drivers at risk unnecessarily? Surely there are funds available for upkeep of roads in dire need of repair.

Can we engage in a healthy conversation on road maintenance with the ministry?

The issue of keeping our network of roads in a safe condition must be of concern to all drivers. Does anyone else feel the same way?

**JOHN WELLINGHAM,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

## Time for younger people to step up to volunteer

"How long can we keep stepping up like this?" he asked me while silently saying, "You'd better cancel your plans for that concert this evening; otherwise, you're gonna sleep right through it."

It was about 4:30 p.m. on a recent Saturday afternoon and a few of us (fewer than last year) were still cleaning up from the United Church WinterFaire. Two hours later, I had just enough energy to phone a friend to say I couldn't drive her to ArtSpring that evening; I was going to bed instead. So my answer to Bryan's burning question has to be "Not very long."

And I'm not alone. I've heard whispers and even shouts in some quarters that can best be summed up as WE CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE. WE'RE TOO OLD!

"But WinterFaire this year was bigger and better than ever," I hear you comment.

"Nevertheless, most of us are in our 70s and 80s," I reply, "and we're slowing down. Or at least we need to slow down before we stumble. We can't keep up this pace forever."

This "aging out" of volunteers doesn't apply only to the United Church. I'm talking about practically every organization on this island that depends on oldsters to get its good works done. I belong to several of them and have friends in others. We're all struggling to keep up the pace and, when we look around for those in their 60s to start taking up the slack, there are precious few of them among us.

Last year a fellow board member of one group suggested we investigate the secret of the 100+ Women Who Care. "How can they attract so many members while all we do is lose members?" she wondered.

"That's easy," I replied. "It's because they



**Helen Hinchliff**  
AGING WITH  
**GRACE**

don't do any work. All they do is gather three times a year, choose a charity and write a cheque for \$100." The pure ease of it all, assuming you have enough money in your bank account to write those cheques, has led to the founding of 100 Men Who Care and, more recently, Queens Who Care. I suppose it won't be long before we have Pampered Pets Who Care with surrogates who write cheques for the SPCA, the Therapeutic Riding Association and the Wildlife Natural Care Centre.

Don't get me wrong! I applaud all those caring people for handing over sizable cheques to service clubs and other organizations who do good works, but it's also true that to provide their services those clubs need warm and pliable bodies at least as much as they need money. Take, for example, the Seniors Services Society, which offers a drivers' service for seniors who have medical appointments but who have no way to get to them, especially when those appointments are off island. Last year, 100+ Women Who Care gave the Seniors Services Society a cheque for some \$12,000, but the drivers' program won't be able to keep going if the number of available drivers begins to dwindle.

That's what happened several years ago

when the Lions Club had to give up its van service for those in wheelchairs because good old Don Cunningham, their last driver, was moving into his late 70s. I used this column back then to plead for volunteer drivers, but no younger people came forward, so the Lions Club had to pull the plug.

On a recent Sunday I attended the Lions Club Annual Christmas Dinner for single seniors. A multitude of merry widows and a wee sprinkling of widowers filled Meaden Hall almost to overflowing. Alan Moberg, who's getting up there himself, entertained us. Master of ceremonies Lorne Bunyan welcomed Don Cunningham forward to be honoured as the local Lion of longest standing and, after Don said grace, a bevy of Girl Guides served us a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. It was lovely.

Suddenly I had the answer. If we can't attract enough volunteers in their 60s to begin taking over all the work we do, then maybe more teenagers can help us.

But then I wondered whether we have enough of them to go around. I consulted my 2016 census profile for Salt Spring Island, adding three years to everyone's age. Assuming none of us has left the island and nobody new has arrived, those now aged 73 to 82 yield 1,270 potentially active seniors, while those aged 13 to 22 add up to only 945. But here's the real shocker: almost one-quarter of this island is composed of people aged 63 to 72. That's 2,420 of a grand total of 10,557.

How soon will enough of those in their 60s start stepping up so their elders can step down? And what happens if they don't?

author@helenhinchliff.com



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

**READY FOR GUESTS:** Santa and Mrs. Claus get settled at Mouat's Mall to meet with Salt Spring children after a journey aboard the Lions Santa Ship on Saturday. The local Lions club also provided hot chocolate to families waiting in Ganges Harbour before the ship docked.

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Dr Jake grew up in Wisconsin and Colorado, which firmly solidified his love for cheese and the mountains, and graduated from Midwestern University School of Dental Medicine in Illinois. He married a woman from Salt Spring, which luckily for us brought him here, along with his four children (ages 10, 9, 7 & 5). The Taraskiewiczs have been thrilled with the Salt Spring community, culture, and sense of calmness. You may see them out and about as they love exploring and all doing all types of family adventures, including hiking, biking, camping, beachcombing as well as a wide variety of games. Dr Jake also enjoys golf, disc golf, pickle ball and kayaking.

Dr Jake is drawn to all aspect of general dentistry, and his calm, gentle approach has already won over the hearts of many patients. His dedication to continuing education to provide the highest quality care to his patients shines through in all aspects of his work. We are thrilled to have Dr Jake as a prominent member of our Salt Spring Dental team.

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SALT SPRING  
DENTAL

# Initiatives supported in 2019

Over the past year, I've been working on my election commitments, including public budget meetings, regular director reports, convening town halls, improving relationships with NGOs and inter-agency cooperation, and acting on community priorities. My thanks to CRD staff and volunteer commissions for completing projects ranging from Ganges sewage treatment and Burgoyne liquid waste upgrades to establishing the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership. Progress on some other key issues is outlined below.



**Gary Holman**  
CRD DIRECTOR'S  
**REPORT**

permanent addition to the pool to provide more such shared space. A new playground is being installed at Centennial Park. The parks and recreation commission is responding to public concerns about plans for the park, confirming retention of healthy trees and incorporating the berm into the new playground. A provincial decision is expected in early 2020 on CRD's application for the Harbourwalk right of way.

## Affordable Housing

IWAV is now constructing the Croftonbrook affordable housing project. Their experience in proving alternative water supplies will help similar projects in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's service area. Community Services begins construction of their Salt Spring Commons project shortly. They have also secured long-requested funding for a year-round shelter, with laundry and shower facilities. The regulatory requirements for the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association's Meadowlane project are now virtually completed. CRD has now proven water on their Drake Road site and an announcement with BC Housing is expected soon.

These projects will create more than 150 units of new affordable housing for a range of incomes, and free up existing rental or owned housing stock. I've committed gas tax funding to support water supply or energy conservation measures for all of the above housing projects. The Islands Trust is also taking important actions and MLA Adam Olsen has indicated his support for reviewing Salt Spring's exemption from the provincial speculation tax, a commitment I've also made.

## Transportation and Transit

Construction of the Booth Canal to Central pathway by PARC's works crew has begun. Permission is expected soon from the B.C. Archaeology Branch, allowing already completed designs for the North Ganges pathway to be tendered. The province has now committed to repaving Ganges Hill up to Beddis Road. CRD staff are working to secure MoTI, Bike BC and local gas tax funding for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure as part of this project. Planning for improving accessibility and pedestrian safety in Ganges is underway. Next year, transit service will be extended to the Beddis area and consultation on future transit expansion will begin.

## Parks and Recreation

Planning and construction of several trails is underway, including a connector between Salt Spring Commons and Drake Road. Construction of modular, shared recreation/daycare space at the pool, funded almost entirely by the province, will begin early 2020. Provincial funding is also being sought for a

## Climate, Farm and Water Planning

Climate action and area farm plan updates, supported by gas tax funding, are now well underway with public kickoff events. I've also supported gas tax funding for EV chargers at PARC's Portlock and Rainbow facilities, and energy conservation measures at Salt Spring Commons and The Root.

Locally, CRD continues to encourage non-automobile travel by building pathways and expanding transit. Regionally, CRD is capturing methane emissions at Hartland, hired a regional energy manager, and extended CRD Regional Parks' Land Acquisition Fund. We must do more, and also adapt to climate changes already occurring, including strengthening our community's emergency preparedness and resilience to increasing risks from fire and drought.

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance is refocusing its efforts on key priorities such as water conservation and storage and is reorganizing to encourage broader NGO and public participation.

## Emergency Preparedness

The CRD emergency planning program was strengthened this year by hiring two deputy coordinators, formalizing ties with the amateur radio group, improving communications and other equipment at the Emergency Operations Centre, contracting with Red Cross to provide emergency social services and conducting emergency prep workshops. Unfortunately, coordinator Brian Bogdanovich will have to step down, but thankfully he and his predecessor Elizabeth Zook will continue their involvement in the program. Much remains to be done. Our EOC should ultimately be co-located in an earthquake-proof new fire hall. We need to improve emergency communications (CREST and cell service) and install backup power at all key community facilities and emergency reception centres. As the 2019 windstorm once again demonstrated, emergency preparedness is not just a government or agency responsibility but a personal one.

Richard Kerr's one-year commitment as my alternate has ended. His work on the harbourwalk was instrumental and he'll continue his involvement in emergency planning and on the CREST Board. Mary Richardson, chair of the CRD Liquid Waste Commission, has agreed to a one-year term as alternate.

If you have any questions on CRD issues, please contact me at 250-538-4307 or directorssi@crd.bc.ca. I'm taking a solstice break Dec. 19 to Jan. 6, but will monitor messages. Happy holidays to all.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

## Rise to the challenge

In response to the news that climate scientists warn that low-elevation communities such as Ganges will be largely submerged by the year 2050, Dr. Kees Visser dismissed my Dec. 4 Viewpoint as "incorrect and scaremongering."

He dismissed as "unsubstantiated" the peer-reviewed work of Scott Kulp, PhD, and Benjamin Strauss, PhD. Their Oct. 29 article in the journal Nature Communications was the basis of the flood-zone map published by Climate-Central that depicts the Ganges core under water by 2050.

Dr. Visser reasoned that we need not worry about rising sea levels, because the land itself on "Vancou-

ver Island, and in fact all of Canada, is rising," due to the rebound of the earth's crust from the weight of the last ice age. In fact, the available data indicate that, at most, land upheaval will mitigate a small percentage of the sea level rise predicted to impact Ganges and other low-lying BC communities over the next century. The B.C. Ministry of Environment's publication entitled Change of Sea Level in BC (1910-2014) acknowledges that although "sea level trends . . . reflect the combined impacts of climate change and vertical land movements," "average sea level has risen along most of the B.C. coast over the last century," by 6.6 cm in Victoria and 13.3 cm in Prince Rupert.

As the polar regions melt, the trend is accelerating: "even with sharp, immediate cuts to carbon emissions, it could rise another 0.5m this century," state Kulp and

Strauss. With continued high emissions, that figure becomes two metres.

Differences of opinion aside, I must agree with Visser's suggestion that "our decision-makers not jump to conclusions and burden us with unnecessary regulations." Ultimately, the decision-makers with real power to influence the climate crisis are each one of us as individuals. Our habit of blindly delegating solutions to elected decision makers has put society in the climate crisis we now face. Our true leaders are those among us who exemplify the locally oriented, low-emission lifestyles that are the key to building resilience as a community and as a species.

As the oceans rise, so must we. We must rise to the challenge and, at some point in the future, to higher ground as well.

**TIMOTHY HARVEY,**  
SALT SPRING



# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

**SALT SPRING INN**  
Wishing Everyone Happy Holidays!

## THEATRE ARTS

# Theatre Alive turns to stage events

Season premieres with 'Earnest' Jan. 1

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An important island arts and literary society is set to have a vital new role on Salt Spring, with the relaunch of Theatre Alive in the new year as a staged reading theatre series.

Helmed by actor/writer/director Chris Humphreys, Theatre Alive will enjoy a monthly run at Mahon Hall from January to June, beginning with *The Importance of Earnest* on Wednesday, Jan. 1. Humphreys directs Oscar Wilde's comedy classic, with Adina Hildebrandt as Lady Bracknell. Young actors Izak Donnelly, Jo Gaffney, Chloe Haigh and Peter Hoskins will take the roles as the two main couples.

Theatre Alive was set up by Diana Hayes and Brian Brett in the 1990s to host literary events and author readings. The infamous Erotic Festival was a fundraiser for the series. Humphreys happened to be having dinner with Hayes and Brett recently when the topic came up. He'd already been thinking about doing more staged reading events after producing and acting in *Art* by Yasmina Reza for the Salt Spring Arts Council's Easter Art Show program in 2018.

With Brett having left the island for health reasons and Hayes ready to retire her role, the time was ripe for a new iteration.

"For me it's a way of bringing really great theatre to Salt Spring, and I'm quite excited about it," Humphreys said.

"I really like staged readings," he added. "It's a way of accessing great plays without all the bells and whistles. You don't need a ton of rehearsal — but I do insist on rehearsal. You can tackle big things because you're not going to need big sets, you don't need much costuming. And the feedback from the audience after *Art* and elsewhere that I've done it is they forget you're even holding a script, which is great."

Humphreys has been busy buying and reading plays to prepare for the first season, which he will produce. Although he's known for acting and directing, he intends to limit both of those roles for this series, giving more community members the chance to participate.

Some of the script rights are still being negotiated, but Humphreys has most of the 2020 season mapped out. It will include a mix of material from



PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Jason Gaffney appears in the staged reading of *Art* produced by Chris Humphreys in 2018, a precursor to a new Theatre Alive program that debuts at Mahon Hall on Jan. 1.

comedy to drama and perhaps even some tragedy, and also vary in cast size from the two-hander to the large ensemble.

"I want to try to reflect the diversity of the island," he said. "One of the plays I'll do this year will be a gay-themed play, hopefully *Boys in the Band*. I want to make [the series] as broad as possible and bring in a lot of theatre people from the community."

Readings will include *Red*, which is about Mark Rothko and will star Jan Rabson and his son Hayden, to be presented during the Easter Art Show. *God of Carnage*, another play by Reza, is about two sets of parents who meet after one set's child has hurt the other at a public park. *Escaped Alone* is a play for four older women by acclaimed playwright Caryl Churchill. Humphreys will close the season

in June with a modern farce written by himself called *Touching Wood*. (Plays will not be occurring on the same day of the month each time, so people should check the schedule as it becomes available.)

Having *The Importance of Being Earnest* to kick off the season promises to get the new year started in a light and silly way, and also won't break the fledgling program's bank since it's past the date of copyright.

"*Earnest* ticked a lot of boxes. Obviously no licence, but also it's an absolutely great play, and it's a marquee name — almost everyone's heard of it," Humphreys said. "And it's fun; I didn't want to start with anything too heavy, although I will do the

odd bit of heavy during the season, because I think that's important."

Tickets can be purchased to shows individually, but Humphreys is also looking for subscribers to support the program. It will be possible to purchase the entire series at the first show on Jan. 1, which will mean six performances for the price of five.

*The Importance of Being Earnest* starts at 7 p.m.

For advance subscription purchase or more information, contact theatrealive2020@gmail.com.



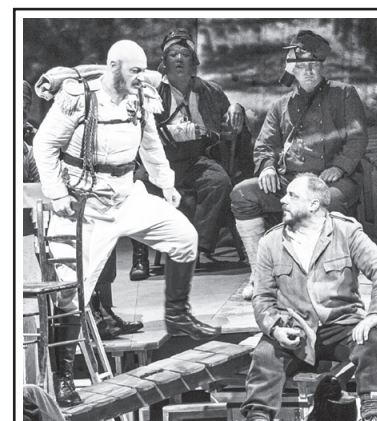
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# ISLAND LIFE

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

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

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**CHRISTMAS EVE:**  
**Tuesday, December 24th:**

7pm Family Mass at Our Lady of Grace (Carols at 6:30pm)  
11pm Vigil Mass at St. Paul's, Fulford Harbour (Carols at 10:30pm)

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**

**Wednesday, December 25th:** 10am Mass at Our Lady of Grace

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD:**

**Tuesday, December 31st:**

5pm Mass at Our Lady of Grace

**Wednesday, January 1st:** 10am Mass at Our Lady of Grace

*God bless your Christmas and New Year with much Peace, Joy and Love.*

## EMERGENCY PREPARATION

# Islanders look back at storm

One year since historic windstorm blew through

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It is hard to believe that just one year ago, sustained winds knocked the Gulf Islands for a loop, leaving some spots to endure weeks without power or running water and leaving islanders dazed and scrambling to recover. However, for some living in the islands, that recovery is still ongoing.

Julia Smith remembers Dec. 20, 2018. She was in Victoria for most of the day, coming home on the evening ferry. As she came up her south-end street, she saw her neighbour sitting in his truck on the road waiting to inform her that power lines were down on her driveway. Smith avoided the downed wires and came into her yard to discover extensive damage to some trees and a nearly destroyed studio outbuilding. She was one of many who suffered damages in the storm, and spent much of her holiday season keeping warm by candlelight. Smith's troubles were not resolved when the lights came back on Christmas Day. It wasn't until just last week that the final repairs to her artist's studio were complete.

"It was a pretty wild time," Smith said, though she and her husband were luckier than others. "I must say that our neighbours hadn't moved in yet. They were going to move in on Boxing Day and they couldn't move in for three months because of the damage our big tree did. It impacted the lives of this young couple with two young children."

Smith's studio repairs were delayed because of an issue with the insurance claim. Since contractors were so busy fixing damage all over the area, bids for work on the studio pushed the repairs back for most of the year.

"My studio has been completely repaired," Smith said. "The compa-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Jason Charlebois treks past downed trees and power lines on North End Road the morning after the Dec. 20, 2018 windstorm.

ny was awarded the claim, the insurance company took a long time. There weren't many bids because everyone was so busy, so we just thought that we were lucky that someone was on it once they heard they got the bid."

This Friday marks the one-year anniversary of the storm that affected so many islanders. Everyone seems to have a story, and everyone has learned something from the ordeal. Agencies like the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, the Capital Regional District, the Islands Trust, the Gulf Islands School District and the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program all have undergone large-scale changes to their procedures when it comes to emergency preparedness. One agency that was particularly stretched was BC Hydro, where crews spent three weeks working around the clock in shifts all over the south coast to restore power.

"The last storm was the most damaging to our system ever," said BC Hydro spokesman for Vancouver Island Ted Olynyk. "We know that as a result of

climate change, we're going to get more of these storms, and they're going to be more intense. We know we need to be more prepared, and we're working with agencies and community groups to make sure our customers are prepared as well."

BC Hydro has collaborated with the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program to provide presentations that will help better inform people about what to do in the case of a power outage. They've also been working to improve communication to customers during an event by beefing up their website and response capabilities. The company has also been running advertisements on social media platforms to make people aware of the dangers of downed wires.

"We know we can never eliminate outages completely," Olynyk said. "What we can hope to do is lessen the impact and that's either for the duration of an outage or the frequency of outages. We can also improve the information flow to customers so they can make decisions about what they have to do."

During the storm, over one third of B.C. Hydro customers in the Vancouver Island area were without power. Crews were on duty from Dec. 20 until the last customer had power restored on Dec. 31. Olynyk said that on some islands, trucks were not even able to disembark from the ferries because trees had blocked the road up from the ferry terminals.

Additional crews were brought in from the BC Interior, Alberta and even further east to help meet the demand.

While storms like this typically happen in the winter, Olynyk stressed that the hydro company is not just worried about future storms and that people need to be prepared no matter what time of year it is.

"We have to realize that we live in a very seismically active area. These storms can be treated just like a snooze alarm, not the major event that we will get," he said.

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*The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island*  
**Christmas Services for 2019**

**Thursday, December 19th**

Blue Christmas

Eucharist for people challenged by the season  
4:45 p.m. All Saints, Ganges

**Friday, December 20th**

A Southend Christmas with Women of Note  
2:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Fulford

**Tuesday, December 24th**

Carol Eucharists with Blessing of the Crèche  
4:00 p.m. All Saints, Ganges  
7:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Fulford  
Icons, Incense, Carols & Candlelight  
10:30 p.m. "Midnight Mass" at All Saints

**Wednesday, December 25th**

"And the Word became Flesh"

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist at All Saints, Ganges



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## BROADCASTING

# Radio input requested

CRTC accepting comments on Gulf Islands Community Radio application to Jan. 15

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Community radio advocates are calling for local support for their project to return local programming to the airwaves at 107.9 FM.

The Gulf Islands Community Radio Society has reached an important step in its quest, with a call from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission asking for public comments regarding the "market capacity and appropriateness" of having radio serve Salt Spring Island. Radio society president Damian Inwood said that if the CRTC decides the idea is viable, the federal agency will then open the opportunity to submit licensing applications.

"What we would like to happen now, is that anyone interested in having a radio station for the Gulf Islands to respond saying it's a good thing for us to have," Inwood said.

"There are lots of reasons we think it's a good thing," he continued. "There will be local voices talking about news and events that actually matter to us rather than being about Vancouver and Victoria all the time."

Promotion of local musicians and organizations is another benefit of having a local station. Inwood further pointed out that radio broadcasting would have been helpful during last December's major windstorm to inform people about what was happening and where they could access services.

Salt Spring's former radio station CFSI broadcast on 107.9 FM from 2009 to 2015, when the CRTC revoked its licence due to noncompliance with Canadian broadcasting rules. Though the radio station was a commercial venture, it involved many volunteer hosts from the community, and some of those have kept up their programming with the Gulf Islands Community Radio Society though online streaming at [www.islandsradio.ca](http://www.islandsradio.ca).

Shows that are currently available and would form the base for full-time programming include Scott Merrick's morning music

and talk show Beam Me Up Scotty, Dan Snakehead's late night electronica and a series on community members doing positive things by Gaianna Love. The community radio station application includes plans for inclusive programming that would involve First Nations, the LGBTQ community and other groups.

**"We're hoping for a broad response to this call for comments to show there is a great deal of interest in this."**

DAMIAN INWOOD  
*President, Gulf Islands  
Community Radio Society*

An agreement to use the two radio towers previously used by CFSI is already in place. Inwood said the community station would also like to use the former station's radio frequency. Whether the CRTC opens the call for licensing applications, however, depends on the current step.

"We're hoping for a broad response to this call for comments to show there is a great deal of interest in this," Inwood said. "I think if there is a lot of support that will make it clear to the CRTC that people do want this and it's important to them, and hopefully it will go to the next stage."

Inwood said the easiest way to access the online comment form is to enter CRTC 2019-384 in Google or another search engine. The Gulf Islands application will appear at the top of the list. To access the form, click on "submit" and then read the privacy statement. Commenters will need to accept the terms by clicking in the tiny box at the bottom of the page, which then opens to the form with options either to comment, register opposition or register support.

The radio society will have 15 days after the Jan. 15 commenting deadline to respond to any opposing submissions. For more information, see the Gulf Islands Community Radio Society page on Facebook.

## Remember

### WHEN

#### Five years ago

• Licensed medical marijuana producers were celebrating the Federal Court of Appeal's unanimous decision to support an injunction allowing them to keep growing pot. In March 2014, licensed growers obtained the legal injunction to continue producing and possessing marijuana for personal use on grounds that new federal regulations threaten the affordable and stable supply of their medicine.

#### Ten years ago

• Mayne Island residents refused to remain silent about a plan that could've seen the island lose its permanent RCMP staff member. Both Mayne and Galiano islands each had one full-time resident police officer. The outer Gulf Islands detachment's two other members were based on North Pender Island. Regulations enacted by Transport Canada and the Canadian Labour Code would prohibit RCMP officers from serving alone in any community. More than 60 people spoke out against the RCMP's proposal to base all detachment members on North Pender. Instead of no staff, residents on Mayne Island asked the RCMP to consider basing three officers on the island.

#### Twenty years ago

• Salt Spring Islanders would be making the turn-of-the-century transition close to home, according to local travel agents. Uniglobe manager Tim Walker was surprised at how many people went on holidays early in December and even in November. Walker said the large number of people in hospital, computer, banking, hydro and other industries who were on stand-by for New Year's Eve and concern about YTK led to a reduction in early January travel.

#### Forty years ago

• Even the police were unsure what a balaclava was except for the fact that an unidentified man streaked through the laundromat on Rainbow Road wearing nothing but a balaclava and a pair of socks. A dictionary was procured and with the help of the police secretary it was soon learned that a balaclava is another name for a knitted ski mask; one which covers the entire face except for eye and mouth holes.

#### Fifty years ago

• Jim Reid, at Vesuvius, was a weary man. He'd been digging parsnips. When it came to parsnips, he knew what he was talking about. He'd grown them for years. And even then he never had one like this. It was 17 1/2 inches in diameter and weighed an even four pounds. It would have gone heavier, said Jim, if it hadn't lost the end. He broke the parsnip taking it out.

# healthy LIFESTYLE

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**TUESDAY**  
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SS Centre of Yoga  
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**WEDNESDAY**  
All levels  
9:00am – 10:30am  
Gatehouse, Stowel Lake Farm  
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**THURSDAY**  
All levels  
4:30pm – 6:00 pm  
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# what's on this week



Wed. Dec. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

**Christmas With Scrooge.**  
The Newman Family Productions classic adaptation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Fulford Hall. 7 p.m. Come a half hour earlier for festive cheer and carols.

**SIMS & GISS Music Show.**  
Join musicians from the middle and high schools at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. with doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a silent auction to benefit the GISS music program's trip to Cuba.

ACTIVITIES

**Tech Tutoring with Peter Freeman.**  
Every Wednesday at the library in three 50-minute sessions between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Festival of Trees.**  
See decorated Christmas trees in lobby and meeting room at the Harbour House Hotel until Jan. 2. Put a donation under your favourite tree for either the food bank or Copper Kettle.

**Film Screening: The Condor and the Eagle.**  
Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

**Yoga Nidra — A Meditation on Deep Rest.**  
Guided visualization meditation 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. Participation is by donation and registration is not required.

Wed. Dec. 18

ACTIVITIES

**Insight/Mindfulness Meditation.**  
A guided session of meditation in the Buddhist tradition by Heather Martin at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Thu. Dec. 19

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.

**Christmas With Scrooge.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

**SIMS & GISS Music Show.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

ACTIVITIES

**Tech Tutoring with Jim Watkins.**  
Every Thursday at the library. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Blue Christmas Service.**  
Special church service for those who may find the holiday season difficult. All Saints By-the-Sea. 4:45 p.m.

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.



Fri. Dec. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Viva Chorale! Choir Christmas Concert & Food Bank Fundraiser.**  
Annual Christmas concert and carol sing-along at All Saints By-the-Sea. 7 p.m. Followed by hot drinks and home-baked treats. Admission by donation to the food bank.

**Karaoke - Ugly Christmas Sweater Edition.**  
Prizes awarded to the ugliest sweater during karaoke night at the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

**The Regulars.**  
Rock/dance band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**Christmas With Scrooge.**  
See Wednesday's listing.



ACTIVITIES

**StoryWalk.**  
Self-led walk from the library, through Mouat Park to the pool, following a picture book story along the path. This month's book is The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**A South End Christmas.**  
A service of celebration with Women of Note choir at St. Mary's Church in Fulford. 2 p.m.

**Winter Solstice Swim.**  
Celebrate the shortest day of the year with a fun swim, games, crafts and treats. Rainbow Road Pool. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

Sat. Dec. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Ocie Elliott.**  
Mateada Nitro Lounge. SOLD OUT.

**Caroni Young's Christmas Singers Present A Dylan Thomas Christmas.**  
A Child's Christmas in Wales, narrated by Chris Humphreys, with carols in between. Traditional carols from England, Germany and the Ukraine, plus a fun twist on the 12 Days of Christmas. Island Savings. 7:30 p.m. Limited seating. All proceeds to Island Savings' Full Cupboard Program in support of the food bank.

**Damasco Soul System.**  
Reggae music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**Christmas With Scrooge.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

ACTIVITIES

**Christmas Market in the Park.**  
Seasonal selection of Salt Spring market vendors. Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



**Yule 2019: Potluck Viking Feast.**  
Annual potluck Yule Feast, inspired after the ancient heathen Germanic and Nordic cultures and traditions, held in unceded WSANEC First Nation territory by Leann and Dan. Beaver Point Hall. Doors open and lighting of the Yule fire at 5 p.m. The feast commences at 7, closing ceremony at 9.

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

Sun. Dec. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Christmas With Scrooge.**  
See Wednesday's listing, except time is 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

Mon. Dec. 23

ACTIVITIES

**Merry Monday.**  
Carol singing led by Valdy in the Salt Spring Mercantile parking lot. 6:15 to 7 p.m.

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

Tue. Dec. 24

ACTIVITIES

**Carol Eucharists with Blessing of the Crèche.**  
Anglican services take place at All Saints By-the-Sea at 4 p.m. and St. Mary's Church in Fulford at 7 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Family Mass.**  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. 7 p.m. Carols at 6:30 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Service.**  
At Salt Spring United Church. 7 p.m.

**"Midnight Mass" at All Saints.**  
Service with icons, carols and candlelight. All Saints By-the-Sea. 10:30 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Vigil Mass.**  
St. Paul's Catholic Church in Fulford. 11 p.m., with carols at 10:30.

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

Wed. Dec. 25

ACTIVITIES

**Christmas Day Mass.**  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. 10 a.m.

**Christmas Ball at Fulford Hall.**  
Alcohol-free all-ages drop-in event at Fulford Hall. Doors open for brunch at 11 a.m. Music and games run through the afternoon and after dinner, which starts around 6 p.m. Info/ to volunteer: Michael or Helga: 250-653-9856.

Wed. Dec. 25

ACTIVITIES

**Christmas Day Service.**  
Holy Eucharist at All Saints By-the-Sea. 11 a.m.

**Christmas Day Community Dinner.**  
Annual event at Meaden Hall organized by the SSI United Church and other volunteers. Doors at 11:30 a.m. Food served from 12 to 2 p.m.

**Festival of Trees.**  
See last Wednesday's listing.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Just a few of the many cast members of Christmas With Scrooge, which continues this week at Fulford Hall. Shows from Wednesday through Saturday are at 7 p.m.; Sunday's show is at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at Salt Spring Books.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Frozen 2** shows Friday, Dec. 20 to Thursday, Jan. 2, every night at 7 p.m. with an additional Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Rated PG. 104 minutes.
  - **Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & News Year's Eve.**
- For more movie info go to [www.thefritz.ca](http://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 Gulf Islands artisans is on at **Mahon Hall** daily until Dec. 22, along with the **Artists From the Fringe** show and sale of artworks.

- **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.

## 20th Annual Christmas Day Dinner

Enjoy great food, music & community  
Wednesday, Dec. 25 • 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Meaden Hall

**THRIFTY FOODS**

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

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 14



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**JOB WELL DONE:** An Islands Trust staff team from the Salt Spring office show off the award they received from Trust Council on Dec. 4 for their work creating a new efficient and paperless process for harmonizing CRD building permit applications with land use bylaws. From left are Serena Klaver, Kristine Mayes, Shayla Burnham and Geordie Gordon. Three Trust-wide staff awards are handed out each year in December.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

# Volunteer shares dinner tales

Christmas tradition

BY LINDA SCARLETT-HAUCH  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Since 2013, volunteering and taking part in the Salt Spring Christmas Day Dinner at Meaden Hall has been an important and significant part of my Christmas. The dinner is put on by the Salt Spring Island United Church, but it is truly an island affair. Many island businesses and residents donate and volunteer. Everyone is invited and many come.

I put up posters early, knowing every nook and cranny where posters go and whether a stapler or tape is required.

Dec. 24 is chop and peel day. Alone I

would find a huge bag of potatoes or carrots intimidating, but working with other volunteers, those veggies are ready for the pot in a moment as we chat and work. When Dec. 25 arrives, we come with our aprons and festive clothing to greet, to cook, to serve, or to do any of the other myriad tasks needing to be done. Everyone greets others with a smile.

Once the doors are open at 11:30 a.m. the real fun begins. People from all walks of life arrive to spend Christmas with others — happily interacting with neighbours or strangers. There is music and singing and food: turkey, ham, salmon, vegetables, desserts, and vegetarian and gluten-

free dishes. I like to serve (yes, there are second helpings) and later, helpers have Christmas dinner too! Shifts are arranged so that volunteers still have time to spend a large part of Christmas at home.

Last year, after a major windstorm knocked out power on much of the island, many more people came for a warm meal and fellowship. There was enough room and food for everyone. (We did run out of potatoes but there was turkey and vegetarian lasagne left!)

The Christmas Day Community Dinner at Meaden Hall is truly islanders serving islanders — and you can be part of it!

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Dinner is served from 12 noon to 2 p.m.



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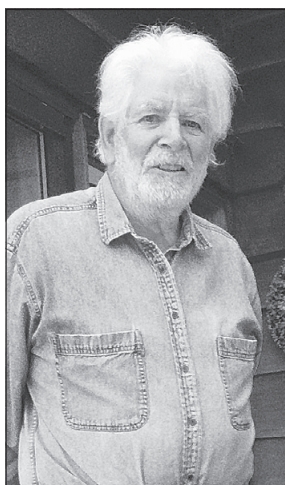


Where on Salt Spring Island can this be found? Send your answer to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or respond if the image shows up on our Facebook page.

Last Week's Answer: Janine Gowans identified the flower from the Phoenix Farm cob farm stand.

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

Fraser Hope



Fraser Hope's profile has risen mightily in recent years as the volunteer reporter of Old Boys soccer games. Driftwood readers love Fraser's quirky articles, which not only describe the soccer match but touch on island politics and other happenings, and throw in historical reference scraps for good measure. Fraser is also a huge advocate for the sport of soccer on the island. Before retiring and moving to Salt Spring in 2003, one of the places he and his wife Rosalind lived was in the Arctic, where Fraser taught geography.

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

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

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

The Sun entering Capricorn, the sign directly linked to your career inclinations, comes at a somewhat distracting time, at least initially. The year still has ten days until New Year and that is when you are more likely to tune-in to this practical influence. On the other hand, the end of the year often marks completion. Make way to drive for new ambitions in early 2020.

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

The Sun entering Capricorn, the 3rd of the 3 Earth Signs, of which yours comes first, produces a complimentary energy pattern for you. This is an auspicious aspect for you, by the way, and it will be active throughout 2020. It invites you to think expansively about your future, to see the bigger picture. Mars in Scorpio currently is lending a passionate push.

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Returns for past efforts are beginning to come in now. You are still deeply immersed in a transformational process which should be quite apparent by now, but you may have to step back and review the past couple of years. With the Sun in Capricorn, both the returns and the deep change process will both be amplified for the next several weeks.

### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

The stellium of planets in Capricorn is also having a big influence on your relationships. Since Jupiter is among them, this will serve to increase your overall network of associations. In the shorter term, you will enjoy more socializing over the coming weeks. To this end, you will feel inspired to take a creative lead this year which will find you breaking with tradition somehow.

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

If you have been waiting for the energy flow to push you into more productivity based on discipline, then get excited. The biggest issue to overcome with Jupiter in Virgo is a tendency to worry more and to become neurotic about details. Yet, where attention to the details is required, you will excel with scientific precision.

### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Creativity with a capital C is the main theme now with Sun and Jupiter in Capricorn. It will serve to increase your ability to focus and on more than one project at a time. While indicative of artistic expression, it may not all feel like fun and games. This is when the joy of hard work as an ethic for living a successful life comes to the fore. Get clear and get going!

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

The Capricorn factor active now will serve to boost your energy and confidence levels over the coming weeks especially. Already your ambition drive is in high gear so this influence will add to what is already flowing strongly. As well, your energy levels will rise steadily as 2020 gets underway so you are in a good position to get a jump on the year.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Your I.Q. is about to get a boost. Making good of this opportunity includes more knowledge directed at creative projects that require a lot of imagination and which are directed towards practical results. This could altogether manifest as success realized. The biggest challenge to overcome will be a tendency to scatter your focus. Be aware.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The Sun now in Capricorn and forming a conjunction with Jupiter is giving everyone a big boost and you are among the luckier recipients. The amplification is occurring in your sector of personal finances. It will include and require tapping your talents and bringing some of them into fuller expression. Admittedly, necessity may play a stronger role than inspiration.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

The Sun in your sign brings with added motivation to take new leads and initiatives. You will also feel increasingly inclined to take a few risks. There are indications that doing so with the collaborative support of others will probably work better than trying to go it alone. However, it is up to you to take the lead and to set the pace.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Faith comes in many forms and one of them is linked to our own abilities when we really put our heart into a project. The other is having faith in the steady flow of change. When this is embraced with awareness and wisdom, we don't simply get older over time, we get better. These are examples of the power of faith to inspire you to focus to add to the list.

### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Having friends in high places can certainly prove helpful and you are about to discover just how true this can be. You may have to be the one to take the initiative to reach out to gain their attention. As well, you may have to ask for a favor or draw upon your reserves of earned rewards. In any case, gaining the support of key people with influence could result in getting prayers answered.

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**Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****Coming Events****Coming Events****Coming Events**

### DEVON JAMES BOLTON (1972-2019)



Bev and Terry Bolton, and their daughter Kirsten, are greatly saddened to share the recent passing of their beloved son and brother Devon in Calgary.

Devon and Kirsten grew up on the international circuit with the family, gaining experiences in other cultures, skiing, traveling, excelling at school sports, arts, and making lifelong friends.

His interests and talents were diverse – photography, music, history, architecture, even the pondering of theoretical physics. He became a gifted, award-winning filmmaker and respected marketing creative director, but most importantly, a dedicated family man and father to four beautiful children whom he adored – Courtenay (27), McKenzie (25), William (6), and Evelyn (3.) Devon and his family lived on Salt Spring for a time, with Courtenay and McKenzie attending Salt Spring Middle School and High School.

He went on to achieve his Executive MBA from Queens University, top of his class, and was voted class president by his peers.

Known for his fierce intellect, relentless curiosity, spirit of adventure, and infectious sense of humour and charm, Devon was a deeply kind, sensitive, and compassionate soul, especially caring about the homeless and the plight of those with mental health challenges.

After many struggles, Devon took his own life Tuesday, December 10th. He was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed. The name Devon means "Poet."

For those who wish, in Devon's memory, please consider giving to mental health or suicide prevention organizations and reaching out to those who suffer.

### Peggy Emmie Cliffe

November 29, 1924 to November 22, 2019



We are saddened to say Mom passed away of heart failure, in the presence of her loving family, one week before her 95th birthday.

Born in Wales, Peggy moved with her family to Drumheller, Alberta at the age of 2 years. She lived for much of her youth in Calgary, where she met and married her husband Fred in 1944. They lived many places in Canada, as well as being station in Europe, with the RCAF. Fred retired from the RCAF in Ottawa, and they soon moved to the west coast, eventually retiring in Victoria. Fred passed away in 1986 and in 1996 Peggy moved to Salt Spring Island to join her family here.

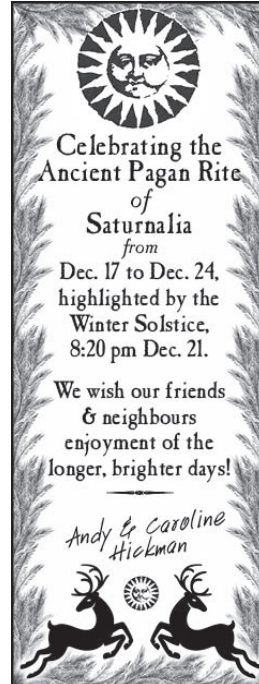
While in Victoria she was the first leader of the newly established Sparks, of the Girl Guides of Canada. She continued here on Salt Spring as much as possible as a member of the Trefoil Guild.

Peggy was a loving person who enjoyed nothing more than giving. Everyone truly touched her heart. She loved her community and loved to be involved. She is known for her passion for animals: the birds, the deer, but most of all the cats and dogs in her life, they thought she was pretty special too.

She is survived by her three children, Jim Cliffe of Victoria, Janet Cliffe and Connie Wray both of Salt Spring. And as well, by many grandchildren and great grandchildren who embrace her in their love.

Mom, we truly love you, and you will always have a special place in our hearts.

A Celebration of Life, in spring, tba.



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enjoyment of the  
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Andy & Caroline  
Hickman

TOM Steward, Licensed  
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and the book: Spirit Code-  
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- Ability to take initiative and be helpful to all staff and customers;
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Please forward resumes to:

**Amber Ogilvie**  
[aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



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

### VALERIE JEAN HUGHES 1942 - 2019



It is with heavy hearts, we must convey that Valerie Jean Hughes passed away suddenly on December 2, 2019.

Mom had many physical ailments over the last 2 years, and had suffered a great deal with chronic pain. She is now at peace, free from her agony, and able to spend her days "at coffee", which she thoroughly loved.

Valerie was born in Victoria on April 13, 1942, and moved to Salt Spring with her family 2 months later. Spending her entire life on the island. Growing up in the Fulford Village, spending her married years in Burgoyne Valley, and her later life on Wildwood Crescent. She had many friends and acquaintances over the years, and enjoyed recalling stories from the past. After marrying and having 4 children in quick succession, somehow she was able to manage a household, have a job and still have dinner on the table at 6:00.

She is preceded by her parents Fred and Jean Hollings, sisters Anne Royal and Donna Tajeulo. Leaving behind sisters, Marion Parke (Dennis), Jennifer Hollings-Mitz (Greg), brother Lawrence Hollings. Children, Lorne Hughes (Tracey), Lisa Hughes-Fisher (Devin), Paula Hughes (Darren), and Ross Hughes. Grandchildren Emily Bolch (Chris), Nolan Willie, great grandchildren Thomas, and John Bolch. Many cousins, extended family and friends. Her baking skills and more specifically her pies, will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Meals on Wheels program would be greatly appreciated.

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# SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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



## PATHWAYS

# Interpretive panels installed

Ganges Village Pathway Network offers historical perspective

Thanks to a grant from Heritage BC, Island Pathways has just completed a project to install three interpretive panels along the Ganges Village Pathway Network.

Island Pathways collaborated with the Salt Spring Island Historical Society, Japanese Garden Society, the Farmers' Institute and the local Anglican Parish on the content and design of the panels that illuminate aspects of Salt Spring's human history. The Partners Creating Pathways Committee designed the podiums to hold the panels and installed them in the ground.

As a press release from Island Pathways explains, the Historical Society and Japanese Garden Society worked together on a panel about Okano Creek that is located on Atkins Road. A panel about the history of the Bittancourt Museum building at the Farmers' Institute is located on Rainbow Road, and the third panel will be installed by St. Mark's Cemetery when the pathway is completed on Lower Ganges Road.



PHOTO BY JEAN GELWICKS

Mary Waugh looks at a new interpretive panel on Rainbow Road that is about the Bittancourt House Museum on the Farmers' Institute property.

Okano Creek is featured on one panel because the creek made it possible for First Nations people to save hours not having to paddle around the north end of the island. The creek route took them from Booth Canal directly to Ganges Harbour, a prime location for digging

clams and fishing. The fertile soil of the Sharp Road area along Okano Creek and the temperate climate were also perfect for Japanese-Canadian farmers to set up huge greenhouses and farm field crops.

The Bittancourt Museum building panel on Rainbow Road relates to the island's agricultural heritage and the museum that tells that story.

In explaining the St. Mark's panel, Pathways says, "As soon as there was a large enough population on Salt Spring, churches were built and parishioners who died were buried in their cemeteries. Fortunately, the names of Salt Spring's earliest settlers and pioneers are preserved and can still be read on the grave-stones."

Island Pathways feels the panels give real add-on value to a walk around the Ganges Village Pathway Network.

"We have been pleased to work with so many other community groups to make this project happen," said Jean Gelwicks of Island Pathways. "We hope many islanders and visitors take a walk and learn a bit of Salt Spring's history at the same time."

## SOCCER

# Fall soccer season comes to a close



**Malcolm Legg**  
**SOCCER**  
ROUND-UP

The past weekend saw the fall soccer program of the Salt Spring United Soccer Club come to a close, with the Christmas break upon us.

There were many successes over the 2019 fall session, such as lots of players in lots of programs: over 30 in the tots program, over 120 in the house program, nine teams of players in the small-sided league play, four full-sided teams in league play and three adult teams.

The highly successful Salt Spring Academy Program has more than 30 players participating over 10 Friday afternoons under the guidance of technical director Josip Bratanovic and assistant Ciaran Ayton.

A small-sided referees course took place on Sunday, Nov. 24 under this writer's tutelage that by day's end saw 19 new referees for games on Salt Spring.

The club now has a booming concession, serving lots of goodies, from pulled pork sandwiches to slushies to onion rings and more. Maggie Montague, Nicky Montague and Michele MacKenzie spearheaded the workforce that provides all these goodies.

The club also worked on a turf field proposal that moved forward to the school board for consideration.

New soccer goals that have wheels were acquired for Portlock Park. They are safer and easier to move for our teams and PARC staff.

Of course, none of this can happen without the support of many, who Salt Spring United would like to thank, such as:

- All of our coaches and managers for their many hours of hard work in coaching our teams and programs. Without them and the many free hours they give there would be no teams.

- Josip, Ciaran and their assistants for a great fall academy program and probably a spring session to follow. Also, Josip's great work with a goalkeeping clinic and special assistance to many of our teams.

- Dan Margolese, Daniel Squizzato and newcomer Larry Woods for assisting with their guidance to all of our young referees. Many teams coming to Salt Spring are amazed that we have so many youngsters as assistant referees. Thanks as well to all the youngsters who do such a great job officiating the many games scheduled.

- All of the youngsters who have worked diligently in the concession. For many it is their first job.

- Kirk Harris and his PARC staff, as well as Tony Mason and his school staff for the fabulous job they did getting all the fields in great shape, after a dry summer, for the youths and adults to play on.

- PARC and SD64 office staff with their assistance with booking rooms and helping with paperwork.

- The Salt Spring Foundation for their financial support in helping us get the new Portlock goals. They were so badly needed.

- The Saunders Foundation, Ken Marr and Windsor Plywood (spring league sponsor) and Tim Hortons (our house program sponsor).

- Cheryl Roenig for her great work putting on the coaches' appreciation event and Harbour House for holding the fun evening.

- The executive of the Salt Spring United Soccer Club, who along with Eva Kuhn (our bookkeeper) and Josip (technical director) make this whole program work so well.

I look forward to our spring program, which starts on Jan. 11, 2020.

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