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# Driftwood

Wednesday, January 8, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 2 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JENNIFER MORGAN

**CAUGHT:** Islander Jennifer Morgan took this spectacular photo of two oystercatchers at the Ruckle Park shoreline on Saturday.

## REAL ESTATE

# Property values drop in 2013

Lower prices boost regional sales

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The average assessed value of a residential property on Salt Spring has dropped again, according to figures released by BC Assessment on Thursday.

The decrease coincides with a dip across the Capital Region, where residential property values in urban, suburban and rural communities fell between two and five per cent.

"The majority of residential home owners will observe a modest assessment change compared to last year's assessment roll," said Reuben Danakody, an assessor with BC Assessment.

The average price of a residential property in the Gulf Islands is down nearly six per cent, from \$508,000 in 2012 to \$479,000 in 2013, based on assessment figures released on Jan. 2. Residential property values in the Gulf Islands

have dropped nearly 10 per cent on average since 2011.

On Salt Spring Island, north-end non-waterfront properties experienced the biggest change, with values dropping from \$445,000 to \$410,000, or roughly eight per cent. Conversely, south-end waterfront properties saw average values rise from \$778,000 to \$797,000.

**ASSESSMENTS** continued on 2

## CRIME

# Charges laid in Lyons' death

Grief continues for Salt Spring family

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The suspicious death of a woman who grew up on Salt Spring Island has been officially upgraded to a murder, with charges laid against 32-year-old Sarbjit Bains of Surrey on Friday.

The B.C. RCMP's Integrated Homicide Investigation Team announced a charge of first-degree murder relating to Jill Lyons' death on Aug. 9, 2013 at a press conference at its Surrey headquarters on Monday. The 45-year-old woman was living alone in New Westminster at the time of her death.

Officers also announced Bains is being charged with first degree murder in the Aug. 25 death of Lyons' friend Karen Nabors, and second-degree murder and indignity to human remains in connection with the death of Amritpal Saran in February 2013.

Salt Spring resident Sheri Hickman, Lyons' mother, was at Monday's press conference to give a statement about her daughter, along with family members of the other two victims. She explained that Lyons was the third eldest of four children in the family.

"We adopted her when she was four months old, and I fell in love with her the moment I looked into those big brown eyes," Hickman said.

"She was an adorable baby and a sweet little girl who loved rainbows and puppies and Barbie dolls... When she was 18 she met her birth family and they fell in love with her too. She got married and had two beautiful sons and was happy."

At some point Lyons' life became more complicated and she became addicted to oxycontin, turning to the sex trade as an escort to

**LYONS** continued on 5

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## INDEX

Arts	10	Letters	7
Classifieds	17	Sports	20
Editorial	6	What's On	12

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## SS FIRE RESCUE

# Busy first week of January bucks trend from 2013

North End Road crash among 13 emergency calls

Local firefighters report that 2013 might have been a quiet year for emergency responses but Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue had already attended 13 calls in the first week of 2014.

SSIFR wrapped up 2013 with a total of 482 emergency responses. This was the lowest number of calls of any year since 2001, said Lieut. Mitchell Sherrin. The 10-year average has been 616 calls during the intervening period (ranging from 505 responses in 2003 to 735 in 2009).

Fire-prevention efforts might account for some reduction in emergency responses, Sherrin said. But the fluctuations in call volume over the years are more likely caused by natural variations in the need for services, he noted.

"Fires, rescues and medical emergencies don't happen on a predictable schedule."

Among SSIFR responses over the last week, a crash on Jan. 1 caused significant damage to a vehicle on North End Road when it struck a tree.

"The vehicle was probably a write-off. Fortunately, safety features, including airbags and seatbelts, protected the lone occupant from major injuries."

SSIFR responds to approximately 50

vehicle crashes each year, Sherrin noted.

"Motorists are reminded to use extra caution during winter driving when weather conditions can make local roads much more hazardous," he added.

Medical aid was provided by first responders at eight incidents over the last week. One medical response saw firefighters provide CPR/AED with B.C. Ambulance Service paramedics to a man in cardiac arrest.

"We always hope and strive for a positive outcome, but the patient was not resuscitated. We offer our condolences to the family."

SSIFR also worked with BCAS and the Canadian Coast Guard to transport a woman who had fallen on a trail.

Among other responses, SSIFR also attended two fire-alarms and one false report of a structure fire.

"Someone had ignited a burn pile with a mattress, which creates black noxious smoke and is a banned burning material by the Ministry of Environment."

A tree across Stark Road that brought down utility lines on Jan. 2 also saw firefighters provide traffic control while B.C. Hydro workers cleared the road and repaired power lines.

For more information about SSIFR emergency responses, visit the department's website at [www.saltspringfire.com/index.php](http://www.saltspringfire.com/index.php).

CALL GAIL, SEAN OR ELIZABETH IF YOU SEE NEWS HAPPENING  
**250-537-9933**

## Town Hall Meetings

Mayne Island  
Friday January 10  
7 - 8:30 pm  
Mayne Island Community  
Hall 493 Felix Jack Road

Saturna Island  
Tuesday January 21  
7 - 8:30 pm

Saturna Island Community Hall  
109 East Point Road

Salt Spring Island  
Wednesday January 22  
7 - 8:30 pm

Gulf Islands Secondary School  
112 Rainbow Road  
Multi-Purpose Room

Pender Island  
Friday January 24  
7 - 8:30 pm

Pender Island Community  
Hall  
4418 Bedwell Harbour  
Road

Galiano Island  
Thursday February 20  
7 - 8:30 pm

Galiano Community Hall  
141 Sturdies Bay Road

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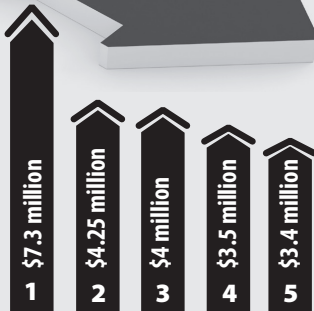
## At the top

Residential properties  
with the highest  
\$ values on SSI

### SALT SPRING'S TOP FIVE

- 1 - 466 Scott Point Dr.
- 2 - 3015 Southey Point Rd.
- 3 - 810 Sunset Dr.
- 4 - 151 Parminter Rd.
- 5 - 570 Sunset Dr.

(Values have been rounded) source: BC Assessment



### AVERAGE ASSESSED VALUES FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES ON SALT SPRING ISLAND (2013 AND 2014)

**SALT SPRING (NORTH-END WATERFRONT):**  
2013: \$812,000; 2014: \$762,000 **Change: -6%**

**SALT SPRING (NORTH-END NON-WATERFRONT):**  
2013: \$445,000; 2014: \$410,00 **Change -8%**

**SALT SPRING (SOUTH-END WATERFRONT):**  
2013: \$778,000; 2014: \$797,000 **Change +2.5%**

**SALT SPRING (SOUTH-END NON-WATERFRONT):**  
2013: \$468,000; 2014: \$451,000 **Change -3.6%**

**CENTRAL SALT SPRING (NON-WATERFRONT):**  
2013: \$398,000; 2014: \$403,000 **Change: 1.2%**

## December sees buying spree

### ASSESSMENTS

continued from 1

BC Assessment data reveals that two of the Capital District's five priciest properties are in the Gulf Islands. Domville Island, east of Sidney, ranked second at \$9.35 million, while nearby Forrest Island is listed as the region's fourth most expensive property at \$9.1 million.

The most expensive property on Salt Spring, which ranks 14th regionally, is a waterfront acreage at 466 Scott Point Dr., valued at nearly \$7.3 million. Five Salt Spring properties made it into the Capital Region's top 100.

Property owners should have received their annual assessments in early January. The assessed value represents a property's market value on July 1 of the previous year. Properties across the province are valued on the same date to ensure taxes are levied fairly.

Even if property values decline, however, local taxation authorities can adjust rates to cover any lost revenue. By increasing taxation rates per \$1,000 of a property's assessed value, government agencies like the Capital Regional District, Islands Trust and Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District can cover any impact a drop in assessed values might have on their bottom line.

Though prices have dropped, the number of units sold throughout the greater Victoria

area in 2013 is up four per cent compared to 2012. The rising number of sales and a decline in prices offers Tim Ayres, president of the Victoria Real Estate Board, a source of hope.

"I'm optimistic about the next year. Buyers who were on the sidelines are now out shopping," he said. "Savvy buyers need to know that there are some good deals in certain areas, and interest rates are not expected to increase in the near future."

Tom Navratil, a realtor based on Salt Spring, suspects a number of undecided buyers jumped into the island market in 2013 as well. He looks forward to seeing the trend continue in 2014.

Statistics he collected show a Salt Spring sales volume of 182 for last year, compared with 181 in 2012 and 168 in 2011. Last year's numbers, he added, were lifted by a December buying surge that resulted in 15 sales.

"This trend is expected to continue in 2014 and with that, firmer prices may be expected in the immediate future," he said.

Property values from across the province are available online by using the e-value search tool on the BC Assessment website. Property owners have until Jan. 31 to appeal their assessment.

For more information about the assessment process, call 1-866-825-8322 or visit [www.bccassessment.ca](http://www.bccassessment.ca).



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# NEWSBEAT

## Heads up!

### Journey to the West - 2nd Story Theatre

Thurs/-Fri., JANUARY 9-10

7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring

## LOOKING AHEAD

# Cost of Salt Spring Island life could soar in coming year

Infrastructure projects fill 2014 calendar

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The coming year promises no shortage of drama in the world of local politics. Along with province-wide local elections slated for Nov. 15, many local commissions and committees will present islanders with requests for additional taxpayer support. In anticipation of things to come, here's a primer on some of the projects islanders can expect to read about in the next 12 months.

### North Salt Spring Waterworks District

Staff and board members at the North Salt Spring Waterworks face what may very well be the island's largest public infrastructure project of the year.

Engineers have completed preliminary design plans for a water-treatment plant to replace the district's St. Mary Lake facility on Tripp Road. The new unit, estimated to cost the water district between \$6 and \$10 million, will bring the district into compliance with Island Health's drinking water guidelines, according to Ron Stepaniuk, general manager of the NSSWD.

It's too early too say when a referendum or counter petition to approve borrowing for the project will occur, but staff at the district hope to complete the process before the close of 2014.

"The intent would be to have it this year, and toward the fall would be more typical," Stepaniuk said.

Any attempt to gain residents' approval for the project would follow a thorough public engagement process, he added.

### SSI Transportation Commission

Five new commissioners set to join the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission this month face a steep learning curve as the group prepares for an eventful year.

Since it was formed in 2008, the SSITC has implemented and overseen plenty of people-moving projects, including sidewalks and cycling paths along Lower Ganges Road, public transit and car-pools.

In 2014, commissioners will focus on projects along Rainbow Road and Ganges hill, while looking to expand transit and consider upgrades in busy hubs like Fulford and the village core, according to Donald McLennan, SSITC chair.

Voter approval to increase the commission's annual tax requisition by \$250,000 per year until 2018 is necessary to carry out further proposed safety upgrades. A borrowing referendum will coincide with local elections in the fall.

The community will get several opportunities to speak with commissioners and examine upgrade proposals prior to the vote.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

While St. Mary Lake is currently free of warning signs like this one from 2012, local government officials hope action coordinated by the SSI Watershed Protection Authority will reduce the likelihood of their being posted in the future. A new treatment plant, estimated to cost between \$6 and \$10 million, is required for the lake.

### SSI Watershed Protection Authority

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee will start to gather responses in February on a proposal that could see the Islands Trust portion of local residential property taxes increase by 4.3 per cent.

Because taxes collected by the Islands Trust represent approximately 12 per cent of overall residential property tax costs, the proposed increase will add .5 per cent to a property owner's overall tax bill.

If approved, funds would cover a full-time coordinator to assist the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority. SSIWPA is a multi-agency group of representatives from various levels of government, Island Health and local water districts. Its immediate priority is to identify and implement

a solution to control toxic algal blooms in St. Mary Lake.

Approval of the Trust's 2014-15 budget will be considered at a Trust Council meeting on Hornby Island on March 4, 5, and 6. The special tax requisition will be levied in addition to a proposed .93 per cent Trust-wide property tax increase.

### BC Ferries

Nearly all Gulf Islands residents will be affected by a joint proposal by the provincial government and BC Ferries to increase fares and cut service on April 1.

Salt Springers can anticipate a 12 per cent reduction in the number of roundtrips between Vesuvius and Crofton and cuts to off-peak Friday and weekend trips

between Tsawwassen and the southern Gulf Islands. The 100 per cent discount for B.C. seniors — aged 65 and older — who travel Monday through Thursday will be slashed to 50 per cent.

Fares will rise four per cent in 2014 and 3.9 per cent in 2015. The increases coincide with a fuel surcharge hike of up to 3.5 per cent announced late last week that takes effect on Jan. 17.

Opponents from across coastal British Columbia have vowed to protest the cuts, arguing that ferry routes form part of the provincial transportation network and should be funded accordingly.

### Governance

If you thought governance issues hogged the headlines in 2013, you may be in for a surprise during the months to come.

Now that the island's Governance Study Committee has forwarded a recommendation to continue with an incorporation study, islanders can only sit back and wait for the province to announce funding for the next stage in the process.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development said it's hard to know when the decision to move ahead with an incorporation study will be made. The study needs between \$60,000 and \$80,000 of provincial funding — so it won't affect islanders' pocketbooks directly.

The incorporation study, which will offer detailed information about costs associated

with incorporation versus the current political structure, is required before an incorporation referendum can be held.

A separate study funded by the ministry to consider effects of Salt Spring's incorporation on the Islands Trust is ongoing. Findings are anticipated by the end of March, according to Linda Adams, the Islands Trust's chief administrative officer.

### SSI Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission

Having spent years wallowing in uncertainty and delays, members of the island's Liquid Waste Commission are optimistic about plans to make serious headway on the island's principal waste management facility near Burgoyne Bay.

What's even better, according to chair Peter Lake, is that commissioners don't expect to require any more funds to do so.

"In the last two years, we've eliminated our deficit and are in a reasonably healthy state," he said.

Waste collected from island septic tanks and sewage treatment facilities is being stored at the Burgoyne Bay site before being shipped off island for disposal. Long-awaited upgrades at the Burgoyne site — valued at approximately \$1.2 million — will hopefully be completed by 2016 with reserve funds and borrowing authority already granted by Salt Spring taxpayers.

Commissioners anticipate project design and cost estimates to be in hand by early 2014.



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## FERRIES

# Washington ferries examined for new local approach

MLA Claire Trevena elaborates on fact-finding mission

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries' new fuel surcharge is just one more incident of the company forcing its expenses onto the people who depend most on its service, according to North Island MLA Claire Trevena.

"We've got to find ways of funding that are not user-pay. The new fuel surcharge is just another way of allowing it to be user-pay, which is not acceptable," the opposition critic on transportation and ferries said following the ferry corporation's announcement on Thursday.

"We are getting our costs of running the system and then downloading them directly to the people using the highway, and I think it's unconscionable of a government to do that."

In light of recently announced service reductions and an ongoing cycle of decreasing ridership and increasing fares, NDP ferries critic Trevena and her party are calling for government to

scrap the Coastal Ferry Act and find a new way to structure the system to support coastal economies. To look for possible alternatives, the former journalist for BBC and CBC news outlets conducted a fact-finding mission to Washington state in October.

"It really is incumbent to find what system would work for us, and one that is really serving the people and the communities that it's supposed to be," she said during a phone interview.

In a report of her findings dated Nov. 28, 2013, Trevena notes a fundamental difference in social attitudes toward ferry service in the two jurisdictions as well as several key operational differences. Though she does not make any recommendations toward adopting specific measures, the comparison provides some eye-opening details.

Despite having more routes, terminals and ferry-dependent communities in B.C., Trevena found Washington residents and policy makers are united in recognizing their system as part of the highways network — a view that seems to polarize provincial residents.



CLAIRE TREVENA

Washington's ferry system is funded through the Washington State Department of Transportation budget. State subsidies and transfers cover capital costs and 25 per cent of its operating revenue, while fares, advertising and licence fees cover the rest. Taxes related to transportation directly support the transportation budget.

Locally, Trevena points out, "It should be noted that neither gas tax nor carbon tax revenues in B.C. are directed toward transportation; the revenues from these sources go into general revenue."

Washington ferries are also officially supported by the bi-partisan Ferries Caucus, "bringing together senators and representatives from both parties to fight for the system," as well as a Washington Ferry Coalition comprising mayors, legislators, businesses and community groups.

"Their argument for strong ferry service is economic: fer-

ries are vital for the ongoing economic health of the region, and thereby the whole state, daily carrying tens of thousands of tons of goods," Trevena writes in her report.

Beside fares that were cheaper by half than what B.C. residents are used to paying, this bi-partisan support was one of the things that struck Trevena most on her tour.

"I think it would be very helpful if the Liberal MLAs representing coastal communities would stand up and say, 'This is not acceptable,'" she said, stating so far they seem to be following the party line stemming from the interior.

One of the biggest factors in making BC Ferries a more expensive operation to run may be Transport Canada safety regulations. Trevena shows that 48 crew members are required for B.C.'s Spirit Class vessel carrying a maximum 2,052 passengers.

The smallest Jumbo Mark 1 Class in Washington carrying 2,000 passengers requires just 13, according to U.S. Coast Guard requirements. However, BC Ferries crew can be employed in ancillary services that bring in revenue such as restaurants and gift shops,

while the basic food services on Washington ferries are contracted out.

Another large difference is the cost of management. Trevena points out that in Washington, much of the overhead from accounting, IT and legal services is absorbed by the Department of Transportation, while BC Ferries has to provide its own staff.

**"It really is incumbent to find what system would work for us and one that is really serving the people and the communities that it's supposed to be."**

CLAIRE TREVENA  
NDP ferries critic

Upper management costs are also extremely divergent, with BC Ferries' CEO Mike

Corrigan's salary of \$364,000 more than doubling that of his American counterpart, who earns \$152,000 as assistant secretary.

Along with putting out her fact-finding report, Trevena plans to keep debate alive in the legislature when it returns in February and to encourage people to look for ways to restructure the ferry system.

"There is no simple solution for fixing our ferry system here in B.C., nor was it ever the purpose of my tour to make a case for simply adopting Washington state's model in its entirety," Trevena writes in the conclusion to her report.

"Yet, bluntly, our ferry system is not working, and we must look at all the information available to us when considering how to right its course."

"We owe it to coastal communities to look closely at a system in which, compared to us, management costs are far lower, the costs per kilometre are less than half and fares are more affordable."

A copy of Trevena's full report can be found on her website at [clairetrevena.ca](http://clairetrevena.ca).

## BC Assessment We Value BC



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### TYPHOON HAIYAN

## Handyman keen to lend hand

Pender resident looks to assist reconstruction

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Pender Island carpenter aspires to use the winter work slowdown to help disaster victims in the Philippines.

"I probably won't have any work here until springtime, so I'm hoping to go for a month and a half," said Keith Light. "I can't imagine how many times I've thought how great it would be if I was someplace I could put my talents to work."

Light has wanted to help people in disaster-stricken areas for more than a decade but was never in a position to follow through. There have been family obligations, work responsibilities and chores to complete around the home. Until now.

"It's kind of scary in a way," he said. "My dogs have never been away from me for that long."

With his son in Grade 12, Light can confidently delegate part of his Pender Island routine and finally fulfill his dream to lend



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pender Island carpenter Keith Light is raising money to help rebuild homes in the Philippines.

a hand. Should everything go as planned, he'll depart for Baybay City on Samar Island — via Vancouver and Cebu — on Jan. 27. The community of approximately 100,000 people is nearly 100 kilometres from Tacloban, reported to have been the area hardest hit by Typhoon Haiyan.

Light will join a team of volunteers with Shelters International Disaster Response, an NGO based in the B.C. interior, to help locals rebuild a devastated country.

"I have lots of experience in carpentry, wiring and plumbing," he said. "I can do anything; this is the perfect situation. I want to get my hands into it."

Between his airfare, vac-

cines, basic supplies and food costs, Light figures he'll need several thousand dollars to undertake his trip. He's raised \$800 thanks to friends, acquaintances and local business owners on Pender. He's eager to reach his goal within the next week or two.

**"In a sense, I am**

**asking you to**

**volunteer with me."**

KEITH LIGHT  
Humanitarian handyman,  
Pender Island

"I am semi-retired, on a very tight budget and, although I have the time, energy, skills and desire to go and help, I do not have the funds to make it happen," he said. "That is the one duck that is not yet in the row."

"In a sense, I am asking you to volunteer with me."

Contributions to the Philippines Relief Fund account can be made at Island Savings and Vancity credit unions. For more information, contact Keith Light at 250-744-4741 or [penderite@gmail.com](mailto:penderite@gmail.com).



## AWARDS

# Minerva Foundation honours neuroscientist Carol Lane

Former GISS student receives award

Galiano resident Dr. Carol Lane has been honoured for impact in science by receiving the 2013 Minerva Foundation's Women In Science award.

"Carol is dedicated to the advancement of women in science through teaching in medicine at UBC, mentoring undergraduate, graduate students and academics, young industrial scientists in industry, and paramedics in the rural community," the press release states.

Lane was a Gulf Islands Secondary School student in the 1980s and is now a clinical neuroscientist at the University of British Columbia and research specialist at Mitacs, a not-for-profit research network that supports university industry graduate students and post-doctoral research

internships.

Lane trained at McGill University in psychiatric genetics and at UBC in neuroscience with a specialization in brain imaging. She had paramedical training at the Justice Institute of B.C. and Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. She has clinically developed

numerous medications nationally and internationally, working with pharmaceutical companies, biotech and contract research organizations.



CAROL LANE

## HEALTH CARE

## Progress stalled on elder care initiatives

Recruitment, capital needs problematic

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Health Review, commissioned by Vancouver Island Health Authority (now Island Health) in 2010, called for a number of ways to reconfigure health care provision on the island starting with an end to surgical services at Lady Minto Hospital.

According to island Health planner Grant Hollett, resources would be better applied to a number of areas needing improvement, including home care, home support and residential care to meet the needs of a growing seniors population.

As Hollett wrote in his 2010 report, "increasing age is highly correlated with increasing need for and utilization of health care services."

"The age profile of patients of Lady Minto Hospital illustrates this well. In 2008/09, people over 75 years of age accounted for around 12 per cent of the population, but accounted for approximately 40 per cent of hospital cases, 69 per cent of patient days, and 100 per cent of alternate level of care days."

Hollett noted that people requiring an alternate level of care — those who no longer required acute care but remained in the section pending transfer to a suitable facility such as a residential care home — accounted for a quarter of all stays at Lady Minto. As well, the hospital had the fourth highest number of days in hospital for patients waiting transfer

across the region during the period.

More recent statistics suggest the situation on Salt Spring is significantly better than the regional average, according to an email response to the Driftwood from Island Health media relations manager Sarah Plank.

**"Increasing age is highly correlated with increasing need for and utilization of health care services."**

GRANT HOLLETT  
SSI Health Review 2010

From Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, 2013, the average wait time for a residential care bed from Lady Minto Hospital acute care was 26.6 days compared to 29.9 days across the Island Health region. The average time for admission to a residential care bed for a patient coming from the Salt Spring community was 49.3 days compared to 84.8 days regionally.

However, many of the objectives for elder care laid out in the 2010 health review have still not been fully met, as stated in a review of responses to the recommendations that Island Health released in November 2013.

According to Island Health planning guidelines, Salt Spring required between 110 and 120 residential care beds in 2010 and was expected to

need as many as 250 by 2020. Currently there are 81 such beds at Lady Minto Extended Care and Greenwood's Eldercare, with no definite plans to build new facilities.

"A preferred approach has not been determined and would be subject to prioritization with other major capital and operational needs. It would also be subject to Island Health's broader bed planning for residential care and to a public tendering process," the November 2013 report reads.

The health authority's focus on keeping seniors at home for longer and moving them back home following acute hospital care has also faced set-backs. Following Hollett's recommendations, an occupational therapist (18.75 hours per week) and a rehab assistant (25 hours per week) were hired in 2010.

"As of October 2013, these positions are vacant with active recruitment underway to fill the vacancies," the action report states.

Recruitment difficulties are also implicated in the difficulty in meeting goals to increase home support services, and to attract visiting geriatricians and gerontologists.

Island Health recognizes that the shift toward an older population as the islands' boomer generation moves along the demographic grid means elder care will only become a bigger challenge as time goes on. It is currently working on a new five-year strategic plan for the region to start in 2018.

A survey to aid the process with public input can be found at <http://viha.fluidsurveys.com/s/ih2018/>.

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## SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

Please note, effective January 20, 2014, the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District's Trustee's monthly business meeting, scheduled for the third Monday of every month, will henceforth be held at the Salt Spring Island Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue.

**In addition, the start time has changed from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm.**

For further meeting information, please review the meeting procedures' Bylaw 119, which can be found in the Trustees' section of the SSIFR website [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)

*As always, the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.*

## Details to come out in court

## LYONS

continued from 1

help support her addiction. Hickman said her daughter was on methadone and trying to beat her drug dependency when she was killed.

"Jill was smart, beautiful, a good listener, and funny. She loved to laugh, and could laugh at herself. She adored animals and fostered homeless dogs from the SPCA. She truly enjoyed her sons . . . their accomplishments and humour and the funny things they did."

"We have lost a daughter and her siblings have lost a sister and our grandsons have lost their mom," Hickman continued.

"This year, we had an empty chair at our Christmas table. Jill's life was snuffed out on Aug. 9, 2013, and now we have three children and we have a hole in our hearts."

Lyons and Nabors were both found dead in their apartments at a New Westminster condo building, while the charred remains of Saran's

body were discovered on the side of a rural Surrey road. Police said they were able to connect Bains to the three deaths using security video footage.

There is no known link between Bains and the three victims, and nothing connecting Saran and the two women, though all three were involved in "high-risk" lifestyles. Both Lyons and Nabors worked as escorts through an online service.

"We're not going to say that it's totally random, but we're not going to speak further about that either," Sgt. Jennifer Pound said during the press conference. "It will all come out in court. Unfortunately, that's a detail we have to keep to ourselves right now."

Police believed at first that Lyons might have died of natural causes or suicide, but issued an alert to sex trade workers after Nabors' more suspicious death. Lyons' initial autopsy was deemed inconclusive. The results of a subsequent toxicology report have not been released.

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# OPINION



**2013 CCNA AWARDS**  
 Gold - General Excellence | Gold - Front Page | Gold - Environmental Writing (Sean McIntyre)  
 Gold - Special Section (Best of 550) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)  
 Silver - Editorial Page | Silver - Outstanding Reporter Initiative (Sean McIntyre)  
 Silver - Feature Series (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Sports Photo (John Cameron)

**2013 BCYCN AWARDS**  
 Gold - Sports Photo (John Cameron) | Silver - Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)  
 Silver - Special Publication (Aqua) | Bronze - General Excellence  
 Bronze - Environmental Writing (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Ad Campaign, Collaborative (Leanne Brunelle)



## EDITORIAL

# New name, same story

**T**he Vancouver Island Health Authority rebranded itself in 2013.

Amidst little fanfare, the organization long known to islanders far and wide as VIHA became Island Health.

According to a press release that marked the occasion, the new name was adopted to help the organization "better align with the communities and people it serves."

Island Health, the announcement continued, was said to reflect the organization's values and a "commitment to creating healthy communities and healthy people."

One might have expected the transformation to hold particular significance for district residents who don't live on Vancouver Island — such as those of us scattered out here on the Gulf Islands — but it feels as though that old VIHA moniker persists in our day-to-day conversations.

## THE ISSUE:

Island Health strategic plan

## WE SAY:

Old issues still exist

Many of the decisions to focus on home care were made at the expense of surgical service at Salt Spring's Lady Minto Hospital.

Nearly four years after the review's findings were published, various targets have yet to be met. Despite a need for 120 residential care beds, for example, only 81 are in place. Likewise, the island still needs an occupational therapist and rehab assistant to help keep seniors in their homes.

As in almost every community across the country, Salt Spring faces a growing proportion of seniors as more baby boomers enter their golden years. Acting on recommendations such as those created in 2010 is essential to accommodate the grey wave and ensure adequate support for everyone else in need of care.

Instead, Island Health has ventured to rewrite the script. Besides its new name, the organization has announced plans to initiate a five-year strategic plan in 2018. As part of that process, members of the public are being asked to fill out a 10-question survey to share thoughts about ideas like "partners in care," "patient-centred approaches" and other changes to the current system.

We've already told VIHA, but now it appears we need to remind Island Health.



**VIEWPOINT** by DAVID J. RAPPORT

# Study questions still not answered

I don't wish to be nitpicky about Shelley Nitikman's Dec. 25 "Accusation of bias in governance study unfounded" piece responding to my Dec. 18 piece. But with all due respect, she misinterpreted or misrepresented nearly all of my statements, drew unsupported inferences from others, attributed to me statements or innuendos that I never made or implied and side-stepped the fundamental issues I raised.

For starters, I never suggested that the governance study survey should have been mandatory. What I did say was that to have validity, it must follow proper statistical methodology (sample size, randomization, etc.) I also said that the lack of mention of any such methodology and of a summary statistic indicating the level of confidence in the results indicates clearly that the process was faulty and the results meaningless.

Of course it is entirely possible that the results of even the most methodologically rigorous opinion poll may turn out not to reflect what people will actually do at a later time (as in the B.C. voting example Ms. Nitikman refers to). But that is entirely beside the point. What I said, and stand by, is that the poll conducted to gauge this community's interest in a formal incorporation study was completely ad hoc, followed no acceptable statistical protocol and included no checks and balances for accuracy. No confidence can be placed on its result.

Whatever other forms of community engagement were employed by the committee to conclude that there was "sufficient public support to proceed to a formal incorporation study," only a responsible survey could yield a quantitative measure of support. As the survey conducted was deeply flawed, the committee lacked the critical data on which to gauge the degree of public support.

Concerning Ms. Nitikman's innuendo, that I might have reacted differently to the survey results if the majority of responses had leaned in a different direction, that is uncalled for. I expressed no personal position whatsoever on the matter of incorporation, and thus no indication of leaning one way or another.

What I said was that Salt Spring Islanders may or may not be in

favour of an incorporation study — but we don't yet know about that, given the lack of reliability of the survey and lack of transparency in the process. Ms. Nitikman appears to acknowledge that "apparently there was opportunity to respond from different computers," although she asserts that there was "no evidence of cheating." How would the committee know whether there was or wasn't any such cheating, and why were not provisions put in place to guard against the possibility of cheating? This crucial question remains unanswered.

Concerning the issue I raised of possible bias in the composition of the governance committee, Ms. Nitikman chooses not to address that point and not to inform the community of what measures were taken, if any, to ensure that the selection process was indeed unbiased, and that each member was unprejudiced about the governance issue when they agreed to serve. In other words, I asked, were there any checks and balances (as is the case in jury selection) to ensure that the committee itself did not have an agenda. This, too, remains unanswered.

The lack of transparency, the lack of assurance of unbiased process and the faulty poll all point in the same direction: the process of determining islanders' interest in a formal governance study was deeply flawed; the results obtained cannot be taken as an accurate reflection of public opinion; and taxpayer money was accordingly wasted.

In short: we need to hit the reset button. The request to the minister for a formal incorporation study should be promptly withdrawn. Before one can justify taking that (or any) further step, we need to determine in an unbiased and reliable way where the community really stands on the governance issue. To push ahead despite all the flaws in the process thus far is, in my opinion, at the very least, irresponsible.

*The writer was senior scientist and science advisor to Statistics Canada, and tri-council eco-research chair and professor at the University of Guelph.*

## THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Are you satisfied with your property assessment?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

## LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Are you optimistic about the coming year?**

24  
82  
NO YES

**Driftwood**

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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "I like to ride my BMX because it takes my mind off things and makes me feel free."

TAYLOR OLIVEIRA, FUNDRAISING FOR BMX CAMP IN CALIFORNIA

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:**  
What's your cure  
for the winter  
blues?



**DOROTHY BUSH**  
*I sing all kinds of songs by myself and with the Lost Chords choir.*



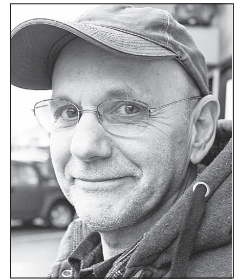
**JIM HALICKI**  
*I keep going to work and don't let it get to me.*



**VICTORIA WOODMAN**  
*I listen to wonderful classical music and jazz. I can never get enough music.*



**FIONA WOLFE-MILNER**  
*I go outside and walk with my dog.*



**DESMOND GROSS**  
*Stay home with your honey.*

## Letters to the editor

### Overblown

Aha! Your Jan. 1 "New Year's wish" editorial finally admits that you do love a controversy.

Considering that a misunderstanding between the island trustees at the time and Salt Spring Coffee regarding a possible zoning change resulted in two industrial land task forces, one and maybe two governance studies, a charged election, and aggressive and insulting behaviour at Trust meetings, in your paper and on the internet shows that the media's ability to blow issues out of proportion is indeed very powerful.

There have been positives, however, and I would include some of the recommendations we made in the first industrial land task force, but how the incorporation issue has led to your assumption of

"island tribes pitted against each other" is simply not true. As you can see from your own poll on the same page, 104 votes want an incorporation study and the governance study group indicated 300 or so (although impossible to verify), so essentially there are at most 300 actively dedicated Trust haters out there and the rest of us thousands are saying Salt Spring Island is OK the way it is, but don't raise taxes.

Your editorial's subhead of "less talking, more listening" concurs with an insightful book by Susan Cain called *Quiet - The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*. She writes how much of the world's ideas, art and inventions come from introverts, but how society in the past 100 years has embraced the extroverted ideal in schools, politics,

advertising and business, often sacrificing character for personality in the process. One of many studies she cites is how groups, teams or committees led by extroverts "can be so intent on putting their own stamp on events that they risk losing others' good ideas along the way" whereas "introverted leaders achieve better results because they are more likely to hear and implement suggestions."

If the governance committee had chosen another, more introverted and neutral chair instead of John Macpherson, who's been very outspoken in his support of incorporation and another study, then we may have had a much more creative and completely different recommendation.

**RICK LAING,**  
WILKIE WAY

### Taking sides

Last week, Jan Slakov demonstrated her hostility towards incorporation ("Study process deepened wariness"). Her abhorrence is so strong that she objects to the mere prospect of such an eventuality.

If Ms. Slakov is to be effective in winning hearts and minds to her point of view, she should be more circumspect on the issue, at least until all the facts are known. This will occur during the next study, which will deal with the pros and cons of incorporation.

The position Ms. Slakov espoused for the now-bygone Calmunty, the group she so avidly promoted as some sort of facilitation and mediation organ that might lower the temperature of debate on the island to a reasonable level of civility and decorum, was one

of "not taking sides." It's deeply disturbing for both Ms. Slakov, and her aspirations for Calmunty, that when it comes to the topic of incorporation she is clearly unable to walk her talk.

It's been my experience that at this stage in the governance review most islanders who have taken the time and made the effort to make their voices heard are less opinionated than Ms. Slakov on the subject. Most islanders appear to be content to wait for the outcome of a full incorporation study to reveal the facts and figures. That, too, has been the position of the Governance Study Committee, whose members have expressed no view for or against any particular form of governance.

It's also unfortunate Ms. Slakov is not prepared to wait for the outcome of the parallel

study currently being undertaken by Urban Systems of the potential impact of Salt Spring's incorporation on the Islands Trust before declaring that incorporation is a threat to the Islands Trust. Our three elected officials requested the provincial government undertake the parallel study precisely so that islanders could come to a judgment on incorporation knowing the full facts. Sadly, facts appear to be of no interest to Ms. Slakov, who apparently much prefers hysteria to Calmunty.

Let's hope the calm majority of island residents will wait for the outcome of that report before predicting the demise of the Islands Trust.

**CLIFF JONES,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

# Ferries' stagnant tidal pool needs a shake-up

BY STEVE WEST

In the year that has passed since Cindy and I decided to make this island our future full-time home, we have come to understand many of the things that hold the fine balance, making this wonderful place what it is.

While we struggle sometimes to slow to island time, to accept the pace of services and general attitude concerning what is urgent and what is not, we have committed to watching and understanding before speaking out as critics. This is a good course considering that we are deeply attracted to the knit of this place and there are many more things to enjoy and appreciate than criticize.

As home owners, however, we are concerned and affected. Accordingly, I can think of things to say about BC Ferries. As a long-honed public entity, BC Ferries should be one of the shining examples of how to make a corporation tick like a Swiss watch, but it continues to struggle. When I read the reasons for its becoming a corporation in 2003, it feels like a political spin and I cannot accept the propaganda.

The only reason I can accept for splitting BC Ferries away is because they were always a losing venture and so became a political issue. Any well-run corporation that has a lame duck subsidiary will force it off so it can point to it as the problem and be hacked off easily if it gets gangrene. It's a smart thing to have isolated ferries in a business where fiscal accountability is

cornerstone to the real business of re-election.

There has been an "us and them" set of factions produced as a result, however, and the ones that are "us" are characterized as spoiled and rich and having choices about where we live and how we commute. The all-in-one-family reality that existed when ferries were part of the transportation ministry and considered more of a moving bridge are likely gone, except possibly if enough voices make it an election issue — unlikely, unfortunately. Organization, the enemy of bad government is hard, but if ever I have seen a place where it has potential, it's here on this island, with these people.

I watched our MLA, a really honest, hard-working man by way of first impression, talk at the most recent public consultation. There were members of the panel who shifted, yawned, checked their watches and took inventory of what was in the ceiling of the gym while he spoke. There were shouts of approval for what the rep was saying from attendees, but he was regarded with so little respect that it made it clear what the attitude behind the window dressing of the commission really is. What irks me most about the whole ferry issue is this: The primary job of a corporation is to generate revenue. It is with money that safety, services, improvement and growth are born. This white elephant of a corporation looks at fares, costs

## GUEST COLUMN

and service levels as the only way to balance books. We never hear much about generating new revenues.

Although VLTs feel bad to me personally, at least it was a glimmer of entrepreneurialism. Why have they not been considering a ferries lottery, legacy-naming opportunities for ships, terminals, benches? Why not use the big white billboard-sized wall areas on the decks of the ferries as advertising space? Is the land being used to its best advantage?

Can we include services like park and ride shuttles to downtown Vancouver, the airport, the rail link? Can float planes dock at the terminals so it's not such an isolated place? Can we lease areas for auto service, auto wash, inspection stations, ICBC inspection, quick oil change companies and windshield repair kiosks? Where is the salesmanship, inside and out? I have seen BC Ferries Vacations, but do we partner in a meaningful way between hotel owners, communities, service providers, destination vacation spots in a way that cross pollinates for all? A BC Ferries business community liaison would generate money and cost no more than the money spent on the repetitive consultations.

I think gift cards and Experience Cards are great as they are often lost or unused. Other industries that issue gift cards get a big "up" just from the forgotten cards in drawers and even if they are used, BC Ferries gets money paid in

advance. Frequent users should not be rewarded with lower fares, that is giving away base income for no reason. If you want to reward them, and we should, give them a free pass on a little used route with discounts at a fishing lodge and boost a local economy. Anything outside the box! Are we branded, merchandized, promoted?

When we re-elect people to represent us, they often come and go at a four-year rate. The people who run the ferries don't budge, and don't appear to be accountable to our representatives. This must be what creates all the moldy, stagnant tidal pool of repeat performance that has our ferry system in this mess. They are our ferries, not BC Ferries' ferries. How can we shake things up, get new water in the pool?

The ferries make the B.C. coast accessible, attractive and usable, and they create potential. A corporation in decline should not retreat; it should attack, innovate and break patterns.

We have been speaking to the wrong people. We need to reach the people who get it. Who are the people who understand the long-term socioeconomic impact of a key industry in retreat? Does BC Ferries have any of those? Does the sitting government? I think not, I fear not.

If a march is organized, I am in with bells on. I hope enough people attend to make a difference.

*The writer is a retired businessman.*

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# Study: No monsters under the bed

BY JOHN MACPHERSON

Jan Slakov is entitled to her opinions, but I find her Viewpoint of Jan. 1 deeply flawed. With barely a nod to civility, it combines alarmism, dogma, fiction and innuendo for no other apparent purpose than to discredit the governance study process and derail further study of incorporation.

First, she declares it is "pro-incorporation" when the former chair of the governance study committee cites relevant facts in addressing common misconceptions. By the same token, Galileo must have been "pro-atheism" for revealing that the earth revolves around the sun. It is a wrongful inference in either case.

Like Jean Gelwicks, she claims the Islands Trust is in danger, even from the very idea of incorporation. Untrue again. If the island were to become a municipality, it would happen according to the Islands Trust Act, which not only provides for incorporation but also ensures the preserve and protect mandate survives and binds any municipal council. My full response to Ms. Gelwicks is posted at [www.ssigovernancestudy.ca](http://www.ssigovernancestudy.ca).

Ms. Slakov knows full well the

## IN RESPONSE

Trust is conducting a study to establish the impact of possible incorporation by Salt Spring. This was part of the ministry's original funding of the governance study, but separated from the committee's role. However, instead of waiting for more facts, she sounds the alarm about the Trust's imminent demise. Deliberately misleading or simply misinformed?

Ms. Slakov sidesteps some other facts: one does not have to be decided about incorporation to desire further information; neither does one have to choose between the Islands Trust and becoming a municipality. The final report at [www.ssigovernancestudy.ca](http://www.ssigovernancestudy.ca) covers it all.

Ms. Slakov refers to new polls showing reduced support for incorporation. Sorry, another fiction. This isn't an incorporation debate — there's support for further study, that's all. The governance study never polled support for incorporation nor have there been subsequent polls in this regard. Reasonable folks will await the facts and

incorporation study will reveal. Likewise she doesn't like the either-or of the process (having an incorporation study or not) but that's the way democracy works — with limited choices. Note the recent referendum defeating the proposed new emergency services centre.

Ms. Slakov accuses the consultant of bias toward incorporation. Yet the Islands Trust is (coincidentally) using the same consultant, a testament to the consultant's capability and credibility. In fact, the senior team member engaged for the governance study — Dave Morris — was a major author of the Islands Trust Act. Mr. Morris (being human) even gaffed at the first public forum at Fulford Hall, saying our own roads would be "hugely more expensive" with incorporation, instead of just saying "more expensive but only an incorporation study will tell you how much." The committee has heard the public say "bias" both ways. Fuddle!

Ms. Slakov accuses the committee of lack of openness and transparency. Yet both the ministry and the CRD (whose role was to administer the consultancy contract) provided advice about public meetings and

non-public workshops dealing, for example, with protocols. It is also normal for committee members to receive/consider a final report before formally receiving the report in public. We didn't "get away" with anything as alleged. We relied on the advice we received.

As to the study committee's decision making, consensus was indeed the ideal but a simple majority vote would have sufficed. The recommendation was obviously consistent with the conclusions of the final report so consensus was the result. Ms. Slakov attacks only because the study and its results did not conform to her wishes.

She closes in saying those who care "can do more than merely try to win arguments." I suggest that if Ms. Slakov genuinely cares about serving the community, she can do her bit by basing her distaste for further information about the incorporation option on something other than alarmism, fictions and allegations. Then perhaps there might be a real conversation, the kind she says she wants.

*The writer chaired the Salt Spring Governance Study Committee.*

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

### Bus review coming

I am responding to the Jan. 1 letter from one of your readers expressing the hope that the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission will support our award-winning community bus service as a priority undertaking.

At a recent monthly meeting, the SSITC passed a motion endorsing the terms of reference for a comprehensive service review of SS Transit. The review is to be launched in the spring of 2014 by BC Transit and will include multiple opportunities for public participation and input.

The objective of the review is to undertake a detailed analysis of the Salt Spring community bus system to identify opportunities to improve its efficiency and effectiveness and to further build ridership. BC Transit seeks to undertake comprehensive service reviews of systems on at least a five-year basis. The last full review of the SS Transit was completed in 2009.

This review will build on work previously undertaken in early 2013, which looked at immediate issues and opportunities within the system and proposed a number of service expansion options, most of which were implemented in June and September 2013.

Specific opportunities to be evaluated include:

- introductory services to new areas
- enhanced evening service
- a synopsis of the current fleet
- an evaluation of existing bus stop and passenger amenities on the island and a summary of priorities for improvement (e.g. additional shelters, accessibility improvements, etc.)
- future capacity needs at main hubs such as Fulford ferry terminal and Ganges Visitor Centre.

It should be pointed out that SS Transit does not make a profit from its daily operations. Like all public transportation systems,

it is subsidized. SS Transit is funded from three sources: a 50 per cent subsidy from BC Transit; 25 per cent from ticket sales; and 25 per cent from the Salt Spring taxpayer. Any service expansion must be pre-authorized by BC Transit and cannot be undertaken solely by the Capital Regional District or by the SSITC.

**DON MCLENNAN,**  
CHAIR, SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

### Rally missed

I enjoyed the Jan. 1 issue of the Driftwood, with its highlight of events for the year 2013.

I was disappointed, though, when I noted that the month of November did not include the very successful Defend our Climate, Defend our Communities rally, one of the largest held, that took place on Nov. 16 at Centennial Park.

Events like this need to be in the forefront if we want to keep the public aware of threats to our environment, such as the pipeline project and tar-sands industry.

I look forward to increased coverage of these issues.

**MARJORIE LECKIE,**  
SALT SPRING

### Unsustainable approach

*The following letter was sent to Premier Christy Clark and filed with the Driftwood for publication.*

Your government recently completed a community engagement process to obtain feedback on proposed cuts to BC Ferries services. At those meetings, community members spoke out loudly and clearly, recognizing that some efficiencies are no doubt needed, and that reasonable fare increases are to be expected from time to time. However, it was emphasized that fares have now gone way past the "tipping point" with devastating effects on islands and communities. The proposed cuts to services will only make matters worse.

It is simply unsustainable to continue on the present course. Ferry services must

be financed by the entire tax base of B.C., as are its roads, if coastal communities are to survive.

The most compelling argument to support this approach is that of "fiscal fairness," about which you are no doubt familiar. BC Ferries services an area with 20 per cent of B.C.'s population, and a wide variety of industries and commercial enterprises, which together provide tax contributions of roughly 36 per cent of B.C.'s annual revenue, yet this area only benefits from about six per cent of capital expenditure on highways, including the expenditure on ferries.

At the meetings, your representatives appeared to make every effort to be receptive and assured their audiences that they were indeed being listened to and their concerns appreciated. Those meetings concluded at the end of 2013. It has come as a severe blow to be told, in the very first days of the new year, when the ink on the report of those meetings can barely be dry, that a fuel charge of 3.5 per cent is soon to be imposed on ferry passengers. To the public, this represents a fare increase and is simply offensive, showing a complete disregard for your process of community engagement and the feedback you have received.

I appreciate the BC Ferry Corporation is providing a service as contracted with the provincial government, so it lies with your government to ensure that services meet the needs of the communities it serves. The course you are requiring BC Ferries to take is leading to an unacceptable reduction of services at an unaffordable cost to its users. Matters can only get worse unless you take an entirely new approach.

The proposed service reductions and the ever increasing ferry rates must be reconsidered. Your present approach is not sustainable. Coastal communities deserve the same considerations to preserve and protect their well being as do all communities in British Columbia.

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SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUSTEE

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## MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

## Musical thanks

On behalf of Music Makers of the Anglican Parish, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made our 2012 season of Music and Munch and Simply Organic such a success and pleasure to produce.

Our gratitude to the many talented musicians, our enthusiastic patrons, the creators of many delicious lunches and special thanks to Driftwood for their part in advertising our events and supporting these two long-established musical traditions.

We are taking a break from both Music and Munch and Simply Organic until February, but we are pleased to be assisting in the production of an interfaith celebration of light, which takes place on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. in All Saints By-the-Sea. So there will still be a wonderful evening of music, poetry and dance to enjoy in January in this popular venue.

Be sure to look for the details in the next issue of Driftwood. A happy new year to all, filled with music music.

**LOTTIE DEVINDISCH,**  
FOR MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

## Staying home

Dear friends: I am afraid the last nail has been driven into the coffin. Since 1972 my family and I have been making day trips and sometimes weekend trips to beautiful Salt Spring Island.

Our trips have taken us all over the island visiting art studios, wineries, artisan cheeses, the great restaurants, the apple festival and the fall fair, to name a few activities. We have come by car and by bicycle and on occasion walked on the ferries. We have had bed and breakfast vacations and have stayed at motels.

Our family always looked forward to our fun adventures on the island, but alas those days are coming to an end with the increase in the ferry fares. The outrageous return fare for a vehicle and passengers now prohibits us from travelling to Salt Spring or any of the Gulf Islands or for a leisurely trip to Vancouver.

So we wish to bid fair Salt Spring Island a fond farewell as we stick closer to home and spend our hard-earned dollars locally.

**KEN KNOWLES,**

## RANTS and Roses

## Rants

Rants to people who are too lazy to pick up after their dogs along Park Drive and near schools and paths. Very inconsiderate of you. Barb Byron-Akerman

## Roses

Sending dozens and dozens of roses to everyone who helped me cope with the black mold in my unit (due to a pipe leak in the walls). Your compassion and care was really appreciated, so thanks to you all. Bouquets of gorgeous flowers to Gulf Islands Restoration (the Reynolds family). Your integrity and caring about my health is beyond words. Dozens of special roses go to Susannah Devitt for her love and care given to me while I was undergoing serious effects of the black mold in my unit. She is not only caring to me but an "angel" to everyone! She is truly a special lady and loved lots for her kind heart. Mairi

I send baskets full of red Christmas roses to the over 70 volunteers and the local businesses who helped make the Community Christmas Day Dinner at the Legion such a success. A wonderful meal in wonderful company on a wonderful day.

Sweet poinsettia-shaped roses to all who made the ArtSpring Sing-along so wonderful! George and the ArtSpring staff, Marv Coulthard, Maestro Don and Salt Spring Singers, the Sugar Plump Fairy and Mr. Scrooge, Patrick Cassidy, Arthur Black, Sue Lehmann, Jill Tarswell, Lynda Jensen, Country Grocer, and Deb Toole and Viva Chorale, and all of you who gave so generously to the food bank and sang in full voice with happy hearts. RJ

A wheelbarrow full of poppy roses to Jay Small, the executive and all the volunteers who helped over the holiday season. Thank-you for your ongoing dedication and effort in maintaining the Legion. Appreciative Legion Branch 92 members

## Warnings not abusive

BY ANDY SKUCE

Elizabeth Nickson gets some things right in her "Data defies peak planet assertions" piece last week: there is some good news about the Earth's population. According to the Swedish statistician Hans Rosling we may have reached "Peak Child"—the number of people aged less than 15 may well never again be larger than it is today. And she may be correct that material consumption in rich countries may be reaching a plateau.

However, this is not the same as saying that the demand on the Earth's resources has stopped growing. The population of the planet will continue to grow from the current seven billion to about 10 billion by the end of the century. That's roughly 40 per cent more mouths to feed than now. More importantly, the six billion poorest people on the planet are quickly getting richer. While this is undoubtedly great news, nine billion people at the end of the century aspiring to live like the richest billion of us do today will place huge additional demands on the planet's resources.

It is true that some pessimistic forecasts made in the past were wrong. There may well be future advances in technology that will allow prosperity to increase in a sustainable manner. But there is one area where we can no longer rely on recent experience to justify a rosy view of the future and that is climate change. Humans have dramatically and permanently changed the chemistry of the atmosphere by increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide by 40 per cent above the levels that prevailed before the industrial revolution and throughout human history.

Although the broad consequences of our fossil-fuel emissions are agreed upon by the overwhelming majority of scientists — increasing temperatures, acidifying oceans, rising sea levels, disruptions to precipitation patterns — the manifestation of these effects will vary in different regions of the Earth and they will be obscured by natural variations, particularly by the multi-year cycles in ocean circulation. This makes it easy for people who would prefer not to accept that the climate is changing to highlight short-term trends and isolated occurrences to deflect attention from the real changes that are undoubtedly underway.

For example, the long-term trend in the Arctic is undeniably

one of rapid decline in extent and volume of sea ice. But when a summer with a record decline such as 2012 is followed by a less extreme year, it is an error to claim immediately that sea ice is on a recovering upswing. Certainly, the oil companies are not falling for the idea of a newly cooling Arctic: their plans to explore for oil there depend on the sea ice declining over the longer term and they are not about to hesitate because of one slightly cooler Arctic summer.

Contrary to Ms. Nickson's claim, the New York Times article she cited did not report that "there has been no warming for 17 years." The NYT journalist argued that, despite the slowdown in the rate of increase in surface temperatures in recent years compared to trends in the 1980s and 1990s, global warming has continued, with measurements showing more heat going into the deep ocean. Subsequent recent research has shown that the rising temperature trends in this century have been underestimated, because previous estimates did not properly account for the warming in the Arctic.

Raising concerns about global warming is hardly the exclusive domain of environmental activists. Bastions of global capitalism such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Energy Agency have all expressed alarm that the world is doing too little and too late to address the problem. Concern about climate change is mainstream; it is the people who deny that there is a problem who occupy the fringe on this issue.

To claim that it is abusive to children to state the facts about global change is to get things backwards. It would actually be abusive to tell them that all is well with the world, despite what the experts say. After all, it is the young people who will have to deal with the consequences of a warming planet, and if we adults can't fix the problem that we have created for them, the very least we can do is to warn them about it.

*The writer is president of the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council Society, a contributor to the website Skeptical Science and a former oil company executive.*

*Editor's note: a footnoted version of the above piece is available on the Driftwood website at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com in the opinion section.*

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## LIVE THEATRE

# GISS theatre presents Journey to the West

Human attributes examined through classic Chinese tale

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Sneaky monkeys, wise monks, greedy pigs, kind Bodhisattvas and the Tathagatta Buddha himself are just some of the characters being brought to life by Gulf Islands Secondary School's 2nd Story Theatre this weekend with their production of Journey to the West.

The classic Chinese novel that inspired the play was written in the early 16th century and included elements of popular folk tales, as well as a real journey taken by a Tang dynasty Buddhist monk almost a thousand years earlier. The timeless story promises to lose none of its appeal in the modern era as adapted and performed by the Acting 11/12 class using a script by Mary Zimmerman.

**"It's definitely not a long, boring enlightenment spiel. It's dramatic and magical and hilarious."**

MAYA COOK  
2nd Story Theatre participant

"It's a well-written script. It sees things from a comedic view . . . hopefully that will help us better see the point of the story," said cast mem-



2ND STORY THEATRE

From left are cast members Amaranta MacAllister, Charlie Beaver, Brittany McAree and Ocea Goddard in Journey to the West, which runs at ArtSpring on Thursday-Friday, Jan. 9-10.

ber Daniel Irving, contrasting the theatrical version with the original epic treatment.

"It's definitely not a long, boring enlightenment spiel. It's dramatic and magical and hilarious," said castmate Maya Cook, while Ocea Goddard added: "It's just a big, epic adventure."

The action follows the Chinese monk on his quest to bring back spiritual texts from the home of Buddhism in India. Along the way he is befriended by unlikely characters that become his disciples and fellow travellers, represented by a monkey, a "crazy awesome pig" and a river monster.

"They all portray flaws in human nature and how they

can be tamed and harnessed toward betterment," Irving explained.

"The problems they have to overcome are problems faced by everyone, [such as] gluttony and ignorance," said Goddard.

Receiving aid from the bodhisattva Guanyin and observed by various divine presences, the characters will pass by Buddhist temples, small fishing villages, the Court of Heaven and more while their doings are narrated by a cynical Jade Emperor.

"It's a pretty exciting world to work in — there's a magical world that's created in the show," Goddard noted.

"And being able to see it through the eyes of the pil-

grims adds an interesting contrast," Irving said.

As usual, the production will be aided by creative makeup and costuming: Cook's particular favourite set piece is a massive Chinese dragon puppet. The narrative will be further enriched by a magical shadow play illustrating the story of the monk's life, as well as live music and singing accompaniment composed by the group.

The group will present two performances at the ArtSpring Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 9 and Friday, Jan. 10 starting at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available through the ArtSpring box office or online at [artspring.ca/ticket-centre](http://artspring.ca/ticket-centre).

## FOLK CLUB

# Lapp trio on tap at SS Folk Club

Multi-talented musicians team up for Jan. 13 evening

Daniel Lapp is the featured artist at the Salt Spring Folk Club's next concert on Monday, Jan. 13 at Fulford Hall.

Lapp is a renowned and highly sought-after fiddler, trumpeter, singer, multi-instrumentalist, composer, teacher, bandleader and more.

"Hailing from Victoria, Daniel does it all with his trademark energy and warmth," says SSFC press material. "He has always got something happening, such as directing the

B.C. Fiddle Orchestra, producing events and leading a choir."

In the past year he has been performing and touring with Adrian Dolan and Adam Dobres. Dolan is also a multi-instrumentalist based in Victoria and perhaps best known for his work with the award-winning roots ensemble The Bills. His skills as a violinist, fiddler, pianist and accordionist have landed him on stage with some of the best in the business and he is frequently called upon for session work.

Dobres is a natural-born guitarist with a sensitive ability to embody any style of music with energy and

spirit. He has performed with Scru MacDuhk, Ruth Moody and Oliver Swain, among other acclaimed musicians. Opening for Lapp, Dobres and Dolan is The Cumberland Brothers, who are Archie Pateman and Jack Roland. These two young men specialize in brother harmony-style country music and present it with simple but proficient support of guitar, banjo and fiddle.

The concert starts at 7 p.m. with doors open at 6:15 for folks to enjoy a sumptuous supper provided by Haidee Hart catering. Tickets are on sale at Salt Spring Books and Stuff & Nonsense.

Lapp,  
Dobres &  
Dolan

Opening: The Cumberland Brothers

**Monday** January 13 Tickets \$20

Fulford Hall available at:

Door opens 6:15 (Pass holders 6:00) Salt Spring Books

Show starts 7:00 Stuff and Nonsense

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## EXHIBITS

# Inner visions expand in lobby show

Photo club exhibit on through January

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

During the cold, dark days of January when folks are liable to become interior and brooding, a trip to ArtSpring's lobby area will be enough to instill a feeling of mental expansion through the images presented by the Salt Spring Photography Club.

Using the camera as medium, participating artists reflect back to the viewer worlds that the creators have uniquely observed or imagined. Whether a detail from the Gulf Islands environment or a glimpse of an exotic desert locale, the images contain elements both familiar and unknown for an overall broadening of perspective.

Avril Kirby's lens provides a warming nourishment in solid colour tones evoking coffee and caramel while leaving the central imagery somewhat elusive.

Intermission is a portrait of a man in a stairwell. Illuminated from behind an opaque panelled window, the wooden bannister and wall area are highlighted with golden rosy tones, while the deeper shadows come through as rich mahogany. The geometric lines in the window leading and bannister are sharp, while the man's face is indistinct, emphasizing his temporary but deep removal while into a book.

Kirby's work Choices also contains warm golden tones but is more wistful, a scene of metal-sided boatyard sheds layered over with a rippled sky at sunset. The breaks in the clouds meld with the horizontal strips of a walkway that recedes into a misty vanishing point. The containers' vertical counterpoint suggests a more



Somedays are just like that!!! image by Margaret C. Benmore.

ancient landscape of tall buildings and narrow lanes.

... the images contain elements both familiar and unknown for an overall broadening of perspective.

Pierre Mineau captures the contemporary-yet-ancient in the amazingly dense hillside towns of Matera, Italy and Gordes, France, using an archival look that suits the ancient topography. Gordes, reproduced in scanned-infrared film, has a grainy, almost pixelated texture that enhances the stone houses and exposed rock of the cliffside.

Matera, printed in archival giclee, could almost be a pen and ink drawing with its finely hatched detail and

contrasting smudgy shadows.

Judy McPhee takes a lush, Old Masters approach to two still lifes, with fruit and other objects reflecting bright light taking up most of the field and blackest shadow surrounding these items. The effect is perfected with wide frames in gold leaf.

In contrast, Chris Dixon is ultra modern and ironic in his amazing capture of a department store window display, which features four (female) headless mannikins in undershirts and briefs sitting in causal repose on a plexiglass bench that's illuminated from within. There is a visual poetry in the repeated image of the bright undershirts in different Kool-Aid colours — and probably an entire essay in cultural/women's studies about the meaning, which Dixon implies merely by presenting it.

Don Romanchuk displays a more mystical flair and puts his large-scale printer to good use to show off numbers 17 and 23 in his Vertical series. The black-and-white, layered images in archival giclee portray the majesty and mystery of local forests, whether concentrating on a single tree (17) or the interplay of trunks, shadow and mist (23).

Margaret C. Benmore takes a plastic bust as muse and places it in natural landscapes for an interesting series of works.

Perhaps the most intriguing is called Somedays are just like that !!!, which features the bust in extremely shallow field so as to fill the right half of the frame. Draped with ribbons of seaweed, the transparent figure rises out from a foggy beachscape. The soft lines, the V of grey sky between dark firs reflected back into the water and the prominent female form combine to create a sensual and feminine piece without voyeurism or compromise.

## ARTS HAPPENINGS

## Island talent makes mark in Vancouver

Salt Spring art and drama appreciated on the mainland

BY MARGARET DAY  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

With the end of a year having passed, it's a time to look back and say thank you to fellow islanders for all the pleasure and insight their creativity has given us.

The Driftwood has done its usual great job of covering the arts in 2013, but there are no roving reporters. So this letter is to redress that in some small part and give my personal thanks to two among many whose work made a trip off island to Vancouver more than worthwhile.

In September, Wim Blom's work of the last seven years was up at the Ian Tan Gallery. Meticulously crafted, beautifully balanced in colour and composite on

each drawing and painting was an ode to an aesthetic of simplicity and perfection. A suite of images full of intelligence that stay in the mind's eye and remind us to stop, to observe and to appreciate still things, each piece giving us much-needed time out from a fast-paced world.

In November, at the Fire Hall Theatre, the play People Like Us was a reminder to all of how tragic and irreversible that fast world can be. With a similar critical intelligence and attention to detail as Wim Blom, writer Sandi Johnson used words to create an indelible image of the aftermath of war.

A spare yet lyrical use of language drew the audience into an extraordinary intimate conversation with Kate, the wife of a Gulf War veteran. In a beautifully nuanced monologue performance, actress Sarah

Louise Turner never let us go until her story had reached its end. Impossible not to be moved by her heartbreak and frustration as her injured husband's life, and her own in tandem, disintegrated; the help and support she needed never materializing.

Her memories of simpler times full of fun and pleasure in the remembered moment only served to emphasize all that they both had lost.

Staged against a backdrop of light, sound and imagery that evoked the horrors of desert war, the set itself acted as a visual metaphor for the contagious, destructive nature of violence, and allowed all that had happened to Kate's husband Gerry to invade the quiet space of their ordinary Nova Scotia home.

Set in a particular time and space, the play is a universal condemnation

of war and a call for a true reckoning of all the sorrow that unnecessary casualty and death entails. Sandi Johnson and the late Maggie Schubart, who commissioned the work, are to be commended for their courage in taking on such a difficult subject, with especial kudos to the playwright for seeing this long process through to such a successful and moving conclusion.

Both artist Wim Blom and writer Sandi Johnson gave us work that will long outlast this year, riches indeed.

Looking forward into the New Year, it is wonderful to know that Kathy Venter's show called Life, of which I have heard great things but was unable to see at the Gardiner Museum in Toronto, is to come closer to home, giving us all a second chance: on at the Bellevue Arts Museum in Seattle from March 7 to the June 15.

 <p><b>A Taste of India</b> Saturday 5-9 pm</p>	<p><b>This Week's Music</b> Friday 6-9 pm <b>DUCK CREAK</b></p>	<p><b>\$10 Burger and Beer</b> Thursday 5-9 pm</p>
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# what's on this week



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Wed. Jan 8	Thurs. Jan 9	Fri. Jan 10	Sat. Jan 11	Sun. Jan 12	Tues. Jan 14	Wed. Jan 15
<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Agriculture on Salt Spring Island - Past and Present.</b> A SS Historical Society presentation with guest speaker George Laundry. Central Hall. 2 p.m. <b>Public Hearing for Bylaw 470.</b> Bylaw would change zoning to permit a private wharf or docks associated with upland residential use for 250 Collins Road. Lions Hall. 5 p.m. <b>Parent Education Night With Dr. Allison Rees.</b> Sponsored by the Salt Spring Coop Preschool and the SS Library, with the author of Sidestepping the Power Struggle and The Parent Child Connection. Salt Spring Public Library. 6 p.m. Info: 250-537-8445. <b>Texas Holdem Poker.</b> The Local. Sign up 6:30 p.m.	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>GISS Drama: Journey to the West.</b> 2nd Story Theatre presents retelling of a Chinese classic, adapted and performed by the GISS Grades 11 & 12 acting class. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. <b>Open Mic With Dave &amp; Ross.</b> Every Thursday. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>SS Local Trust Committee.</b> Regular public meeting. Lions Hall. 9:30 a.m. Town hall portion of the meeting begins at 12 noon. <b>Dance Temple.</b> Grounded in Heaven with Samantha Joy Halliday. Ecstatic dance, awakening ancient roots into the cosmic field of love. Art Barn on Suffolk Road. 7:15 p.m. <b>Pizza and Beer Night.</b> The Local. 5 p.m.	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Duck Creak.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. <b>Soul Shakedown.</b> Live band, preceded by free appetizers. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m. <b>GISS Drama: Journey to the West.</b> See Thursday listing. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>StoryTime at the Library.</b> Stories and more for kids aged four to six and their families every Friday at the SS Public Library. 10:30 a.m. <b>Sat. Jan 11</b> <b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>The Barley Bros.</b> The Local. 3:30 to 6 p.m. <b>Piano Bar with Andre Carrasquero.</b> Venezuelan pianist & composer. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Fulford Water Service District Special Info Meeting.</b> Of interest to all subscribers to the water service. Fulford Hall, seniors annex. 10 a.m. <b>Salt Spring Forum Presents John Helliwell.</b> Rhodes Scholar, Officer of the Order of Canada and pioneer of happiness and well-being in policy making. Event replaces presentation with Trevor Greene — no ticket exchange necessary. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. <b>Sun. Jan 12</b> <b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Piano Bar with Andre Carrasquero.</b> Venezuelan pianist & composer. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Qi Gong Informational Session.</b> Bring your questions, enjoy a basic practice, tea and snacks, then stay for the regular 2 p.m. class if you like. By donation. Still Point Yoga Studio. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. <b>Lighting 101.</b> 12-week course with ArtSpring's technical director Marv Coulthard starts today.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> Learn about the history of lighting, basic lighting tools, stage, television and motion film lighting, still photography, dimmerboard operation and more. ArtSpring. 7 to 9:30 p.m. <b>Mon. Jan 13</b> <b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>SS Folk Club: Lapp, Dobres and Dolan.</b> Daniel Lapp, Adam Dobres and Adrian Dolan perform for the Salt Spring Folk Club. Opening act is The Cumberland Brothers. Doors open at 6 p.m. for season's ticket holders; 6:15 for everyone else; music at 7 p.m. <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>ToddlerTime at the Library.</b> Stories and more for babies and kids up to age three and their families every Monday at the SS Public Library. 10:30 a.m.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>SS Probuc Club.</b> Guest speaker is political scientist Stewart Webb. Meaden Hall. 10 a.m. <b>Nia - Daytime.</b> New session of dance fitness class led by Arleen Sadler runs Tuesdays at Still Point Yoga Studio. 10:45 a.m. Info/registration: Arleen, 250-653-9235. <b>Nia - Evening.</b> New session of dance fitness classes led by Arleen Sadler runs Tuesdays at the Side Door Studio. Spaces limited. 5:45 p.m. Info/registration: Arleen, 250-653-9235. <b>Salt Spring Vipassana Meditation.</b> Weekly meditation and teachings with insight meditation teacher Heather Martin. Note day has changed to Tuesdays from Wednesdays. The Gatehouse. 7 p.m. <b>IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE CALENDAR EMAIL:</b> news@gulfislands-driftwood.com	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>What to Expect When Someone Passes Away.</b> First in a series of free info sessions presented by Hayward's Funeral Service. Refreshments served. Spaces are limited to 8 people only, so please call 250-537-1022 during office hours to book space, or email contact@haywardsfuneral.com. Noon to 1 p.m. <b>Texas Holdem Poker.</b> The Local. Sign up 6:30 p.m.

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## EXHIBITIONS

• **Members of the Salt Spring Arts Council** exhibit works at the public library's Program Room through January. Artists include Patricia Brown, Christine Clark, Stefanie Denz, Barbra Edwards, Sean Goddard, Gillian McConnell, Amy Melious, Gilleen Proctor, Gillian Smith, Michela Sorrentino, and Robert Steinbach. Opening hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

• **Zandra Stratford's** bold, textured abstracts are on the walls at the Harbour House through the month of January.

- Photographs by **Asia Petis** and mixed-media works by textural design artist **Sabrina Edwards** are showing at **TJ Beans Coffee Shop**.
- **Carol Adams'** drawings are at **Barb's Bakery & Bistro**.
- The **Salt Spring Photography Club** presents **Bob Rogers** at the **Country Grocer** cafe through January.
- **Carole Leslie** shows new work titled *Geography of the Heart* at **Cafe Talia** until Jan. 17.
- Paintings of the North by **Judith Currelly** is now showing at **Duthie Gallery**. Winter hours are Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment at 250-537-9606.
- **Juliana Paul** has photographs hanging at **Penny's Pantry**.
- **SOLID at the Market Place** (in Gasoline Alley) shares African art by **Louise Adelle**.
- **Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** on McPhillips Avenue is closed for a winter break and will re-open Feb. 2.

[www.driftwoodgimedia.com/calendar](http://www.driftwoodgimedia.com/calendar)

**John Helliwell Salt Spring Forum**  
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## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

# Wellness woman salutes seniors 'jewel'



Sharon Glover, second from the right seated, with her seniors peer counsellors at a surprise goodbye gathering they held for her at Meadowbrook in December.

Sharon Glover thankful for years of involvement

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Since June of 1996, Salt Spring seniors and the island's health and social service agencies have had a special friend and partner in Sharon Glover.

As Wellness Programs coordinator, she managed a host of programs that improved the lives of seniors, and worked with some 35 volunteers at any given time.

The Friendly Visitors program matched isolated seniors with individuals of all ages who dropped by on a regular basis for casual chats or to play cards or other games.

Peer counsellors were trained to assist seniors who were going through a "rough patch" by providing a non-judgemental ear to hear their concerns.

She arranged an excursion program for some years, and brought in speakers on topics of specific interest to seniors.

Among Glover's wonderful Wellness Programs

volunteers were women assisting with the twice-yearly mammography service, and she was often a representative voice for seniors health issues in the community.

"I can't believe it isn't just last year," she said in reflecting on when she first took the part-time position that has seen her based from Salt Spring Seniors, Salt Spring Community Services and, for the last 10 years, at Meadowbrook seniors residence.

Glover's overwhelming feeling upon retiring in December was one of thankfulness for her years of involvement with such a "jewel" of a program.

"Peer Counsellors and Friendly Visitors are at the core of the thankfulness," she added, "because they are the ones who give at least one hour of direct service per week. In return, they get a full heart and knowledge that they're doing a good job."

Mike Webb was a peer counsellor even before Glover became Wellness Programs coordinator, and has been an essential support person, filling in for her when she was away.

"I could always rely on him and there was continuity," she said.

Through both the PC and FV programs, Glover

experienced great joy from matching people who benefitted from the relationships and services provided.

Glover spent 26 years in various roles in the education field in North York, Ont., including being principal of a single-track French Immersion school for six years. She then acquired a degree in counselling psychology, and has maintained a private practice on Salt Spring through her Wellness Programs years.

She will continue her counselling practice, and widen her parameters somewhat to address seniors who are in transition and want help to determine their next steps.

She also intends to heed some advice she received from many seniors by ensuring she travels as much as possible in the coming years. Several people told her they wished they had travelled more in retirement before health problems made it impossible to do so.

"I hope the next 17 and a half years will be as satisfying as these ones have been," she said.

The Wellness Program is also evolving, with Salt Spring Community Services becoming the lead agency. SSCS has always been a program partner, along with the Salt Spring Seniors Services Society, Meadowbrook and Lady Minto Hospital. A connection also existed with the Association of Senior Peer Counsellors of B.C.

The change follows an extensive study on seniors needs undertaken by islanders Ellie Langford Parks and Andrea Palframan, and a provincial government funding shift.

Speaking on behalf of all the partner groups, Community Services executive director Rob Grant thanked Glover for her years of dedication and hard work.

"Sharon has done a tremendous job at providing welcoming and caring services for seniors in our community," he said. "The Peer Counselling and Friendly Visitors service have benefitted hundreds of individuals and families over the years. Sharon has also been a solid and resourceful advocate for seniors needing to access health services."

Grant said priorities for the future include maintaining the Senior Peer Counselling and Friendly Visitors services, expanding community education on aging-related topics for seniors and family members, and integrating the program with current and new seniors services.



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## FAMILY MATTERS

# Death discussions made easier with series

Hayward's Funeral Service offerings

A series of free one-hour info sessions aimed at easing the emotional burden of death begins on Salt Spring next week.

Patrick Beattie, Hayward's Funeral Service owner and funeral director, along with guest speakers, will host the Wednesday sessions that run from 12 to 1 p.m.

"Losing a loved one is an unfortunate and sad experience, but it is a fact of reality that eventually we all must face," explains a press release. "These free one-hour info sessions are designed to give you an idea of what to expect when faced with an upcoming passing of a loved one and

what services the funeral home is able to provide to you and your family."

The topic for Wednesday, Jan. 15 is What to Expect When Someone Passes Away and the services that Hayward's provides.

The next session, on Jan. 22, will discuss the Advantages and Benefits of Pre-planning a Funeral. The Jan. 29 event, on Financial Planning, will be hosted by financial advisor Markus Wenzel, who will offer his advice and expertise on the subject.

How Hospice Can Help is the name of the fourth session (Feb. 5), and the final one on Feb. 12 will discuss How Spiritual Leaders Can Assist You (even if you're not spiritual) with Chaplain Louise Mangan. There may also be a special seminar specifically on Wills

and Estates, but as of press time, this had not yet been confirmed.

Refreshments will be served at each event held at Hayward's Funeral Home at #22-315 Upper Ganges Rd.

Only eight people can be accommodated at one time, so spaces must be reserved by calling the office at 250-537-1022 between Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by emailing contact@haywardsfuneral.com.

More information is also available on the website at www.haywardsfuneral.com.

People who are unable to attend but would like to discuss any or all of the above topics can arrange a private, personal appointment at their convenience. Groups or organizations can also book a visit from Hayward's.

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## RETREAT

# Creative streams merge in women's workshop

Dance, writing and reflection to set the year ahead

Women who are looking for an empowering and soulful way to start off the new year will find they can improve their emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual health through an integrative retreat being offered on Jan. 19.

Combining 5Rhythms Dance and expressive writing, Awaken: Write and Dance For Your Best Year Ever promises to suit anyone who enjoys self-expression, movement, dance, creativity, writing and/or journaling. The one-day women's retreat will use creative and healing tools to help participants discover their deepest desires for 2014, as facilitated by Writing for Wellness coach Lynda Monk and Anne Marie Hogya, an occupational therapist and 5Rhythms movement teacher.

"When we take time for rejuvenation and reflection, as well as listening deeply to the wisdom of the body, we have an opportunity to access our inner clarity, calm and greater self-awareness," the facilitators note in a press release.

"This can influence our choices, our actions and our next steps in actualizing what we really want for ourselves in our lives. Through moving our bodies using 5Rhythms Dance and our pens through the Life Source Writing reflective journaling process, we can get unstuck and unblocked, become in touch with our core desired feelings and ignite greater inspiration for taking action on what really matters most to us."

The retreat takes place on Sunday, Jan. 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Gatehouse on Stowel Lake Farm. Registration is available at <http://CreativeWellnessWorks.com> (look for the Awaken icon on the left hand side of the page), or call Lynda at 250-653-2085.



PHOTO BY LISA SIGURGIERSON

**EMPTY!:** Lisa Sigurgeirson couldn't help but snap this photo of Ganges' main parking lot on Christmas Day. Without any vehicles in view, it was definitely a once-a-year scene.

## LIBRARY PROGRAMS

## Family book times return this month

Guests encourage young readers

Free StoryTime and ToddlerTime sessions have resumed at the Salt Spring Public Library.

Conducted by enthusiastic and fun-loving library volunteers, StoryTime and ToddlerTime encourage early literacy and offer young children an introduction to the library and a chance to socialize.

ToddlerTime, at 10:30 a.m. on

Mondays, is perfect for children aged 0 to 3, while Friday StoryTime (also at 10:30 a.m.) is ideal for the four to six crowd.

Teresa and Lorraine lead alternating Monday ToddlerTimes in January, dazzling and charming youngsters with puppets, rhymes and simple stories.

For StoryTimes, Vaughn appears the first Friday of every month with an armload of quirky tales, delivered with his best stage persona. Rama of Sweet Water Revolver

brings her puppets and her beautiful voice to thrill and entertain on the third Friday of every month.

Other StoryTime presenters are Margaretha, Elia and Hannah, each with their own brand of laughter, magic and flare.

Both programs take place in the children's area of the library, on the rainbow carpet of the world. ToddlerTime lasts 30 minutes. StoryTime is 45 minutes long and sometimes includes a take-home craft activity.

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## Seniors activity program up and running

Salt Spring Island Community Services' seniors activity program is up and running, with over 15 excursions since it began on Aug. 10 with a trip to Fulford Bay. The program now offers one excursion every week, usually on a Wednesday or a Thursday.

"We have a dedicated group of music lovers who are regular audience members for Music and Munch and the Simply Organic organ concerts held at All Saints Anglican Church," says program coordinator Leslie Wallace.

The group recently attended their first Seniors Lunch at Salt Spring Seniors. One participant expressed her surprise that they were served "roast beef!" with "gravy!" Definitely a satisfied customer. The lunch was followed by a drive to see the autumn leaves.

The program, Wallace explains, is a work in progress.

"I ask people what they'd like to do,

and then I look for overlapping interests. I propose an outing and sign up whoever is interested in attending."

To qualify, seniors must be living in their own homes, relatively healthy and experiencing difficulty getting out to socialize and to enjoy island events.

To date, all participants have been in their 80s and 90s, and all but one are unable to drive. The one participant who does drive has a restricted licence and enjoys the program for the opportunities it gives her to go to evening events. Wallace is hoping more seniors will come forward who are interested in going out in the evening.

### A typical month looks like this:

- First Wednesday of the Month at Music & Munch – live music at All Saints Anglican Church – Noon.
- Second Thursday of the Month – Seniors Lunch, Seniors Serving Seniors

- Third Wednesday of the Month – Simply Organic organ concert at All Saints Anglican Church – 10 a.m.

- Fourth Thursday of the Month – Seniors Lunch at SS Seniors

Off-island trips are offered from time to time.

Wallace drives participants to and from activities in the Community Services van. Most activities are free of charge, unless there is an activity people want to attend for which admission (i.e. a concert) or an instructor fee is charged.

If you think you might be interested in participating in this program, please contact Wallace at 250-537-9971, extension 503. If you know a senior who might benefit from this program, please let them know about it and pass along Wallace's contact information.

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## DEATHS

# Buddhist community saddened by monk's death

Prayer ceremonies  
for Lama Phuntsok

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Death is not an ending for practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism, but the tragic accident behind Lama Phuntsok's demise on a snowy evening just before the winter solstice has left many people shocked and saddened both on Salt Spring and further afield.

An informal report by the coroner's office has determined the 52-year-old resident lama at Kunzang Dachen Osel Ling retreat centre succumbed to carbon monoxide asphyxiation at his

Mount Tuam cabin around 7:35 p.m. on Dec. 19, 2013.

Apparently his propane heater wasn't working and he had tried to warm his room by burning firewood embers in a large metal pot without opening any windows, investigators found.

"For us this was a great shock for everyone in our local community who knew and loved him, as well as all around the world with his family, friends and dharma brothers from his home monastery in Sonada, India," said Trinlay MacPhee, a Salt Spring practitioner and treasurer of the local Buddhist society.

"He worked very hard in the short time he was here to

improve all facets of the facility, both physical and spiritual. It's a big loss."

"He was deeply connected to the people on Salt Spring, so the news was very sad," added Tony Chapman (Lama Trupgyu), who is a high-ordered western practitioner in KDOL's Shangpa Lineage and close to its spiritual leader, Kalu Rinpoche.

Speaking from the home of longtime Buddhists Matthew and Phyllis Coleman where he was visiting, Chapman said Lama Tsultrim of KDOL's parent centre, Kagyu Kunkhyab Chuling in Burnaby, will be taking care of the retreat's spiritual needs for the immediate future while Kalu Rinpoche decides how

to proceed.

The Mount Tuam retreat remains closed for the time being. Matt Burrows, the centre's administrator, is currently in Burnaby but will be returning to his position on Salt Spring.

"It was hard on Matt because he was very close to Lama Phuntsok and he was the one who found him," Chapman said.

Burrows discovered Lama Phuntsok's body around 10 a.m. the morning after he died and had to break down the cabin's door to reach him. MacPhee said phone records indicate the lama had made two cell phone calls after retiring to his cabin that night. It was during his second call, to

a fellow lama living in India, that he is believed to have succumbed to the CO fumes.

Paramedics responding to the centre's emergency call on Friday, Dec. 20 were unable to reach the mountain-top retreat because of the snowfall that had occurred. MacPhee said a friend who was going up in a four-wheel-drive vehicle after hearing the news was able to bring the emergency responders with him. RCMP also attended the scene.

MacPhee thanked Hayward's Funeral Service, where the lama's body was taken after examination, for its professionalism and caring conduct.

Lama Tsultrim, a first

cousin of Lama Phuntsok, returned from India where he was visiting his mother to oversee the funeral ceremony preparations and will be officiating the 21st-day prayers with a ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 9. MacPhee said Tsultrim will go back to India shortly with Lama Phuntsok's ashes to give them to his father and two brothers.

Prayers will continue until 49 days after death on Feb. 6. The retreat centre will most likely re-open before that date.

"It is our intention to once again provide our facilities for practitioners, either singly or in groups, who want to meditate in a quiet, supportive environment," MacPhee said.

## CREATIVITY

## Grant inspires fresh voices

Young women's writing flourishes  
with school-based initiative

In the winter of 2012, Connecting Generations started a writers' group at Gulf Islands Secondary School in response to a growing number of requests from young writers looking for opportunities to connect to other writers.

Funded by two Artist in the Classroom grants from the Salt Spring Arts Council and supported by School District 64, the group attracted an eager cohort of young women writers.

Writing mentors Ahava Shira and Sarah Hook-Nilsson encouraged the young writers to play, take risks, open to what they wanted to say and discover new ways of expressing themselves. Through the year, the group evolved, as did the range of voices, styles and projects.

In the late spring the writers decided to gather their work in an anthology, which has just been published — after much anticipation and some delay — with support from the school district's literacy fund. Scattered Change shares poems, journal entries, short stories, graphic fiction and creative non-fiction as well as drawings from three artists — two of whom have also contributed writing.

On Dec. 18, many of the contributors gathered to celebrate the launch of the book, copies of which can be found in the Salt Spring library, the GISS library and the Salt Spring Middle School library.

This fall the group started up again with a new group of enthusiastic young writers, along with two who returned this year. The rest had graduated at the end of last year.

Beginning on Jan. 15, the group will become part of an exciting new project for which the school district received a grant from Vancouver's ArtStarts' Artists in the Classroom program, funded by the B.C. Arts Council and the province of B.C.

Finding Our Voices will support young women to find and use their voices at school, in their community and in the world through workshops and mentorship in creative writing and storytelling. The project will promote creativity, self-awareness, critical thinking and reflection by supporting young women to explore their perceptions of themselves and make meaning of their life experience and challenges.

Anyone who would like more information or to participate in any part of the Connecting Generations program should email Sarah Hook-Nilsson at shooknils-son@sd64.bc.ca.

Article contributed by the Connecting Generations program.

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

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

This old adage is really true for real estate:

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### Renovations

When undertaking a significant renovation you usually need to find a professional to manage it. Although there is much advice available for do-it-yourselfers, there are a myriad of pitfalls that regularly get exposed on shows like Holmes on Homes.

"Doing it right the second time" is a common mindset of homeowners ready to take on a renovation or addition. Building to Code is often not enough. Many "code" homes do not last very long and renovations are different from building new. The challenge is to integrate what is already existing with the new portion. That integration needs to consider the vapour pressure, the stack effect, the R-values and thermal bridging, exposure to material's toxicity, and of course the structure. In other words, it has all the challenges of building new, but it also has the pre-existing conditions to accommodate. Double the considerations plus integration issues. To ignore either the pre-existing conditions or integration issues is a high risk undertaking. We at TFB encourage doing it right the second time.



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## Opportunity for Public Comment On BC Ferries' Proposal For A Cable Ferry

The British Columbia Ferry Commission, the independent regulator of BC Ferry Services Inc. ("BC Ferries"), is seeking public comment on BC Ferries' proposal to build and operate a cable ferry on Route 21 (Buckley Bay on Vancouver Island – Denman Island). BC Ferries has submitted an application pursuant to Section 55(2) of the Coastal Ferry Act seeking the commissioner's approval of a major capital expenditure for the cable ferry project.

Under Section 55 of the Act, the commissioner may approve a major capital expenditure if the proposed expenditure is reasonable, prudent, and consistent with the current Coastal Ferry Services Contract, and any long-term capital plan established by the ferry operator.

Visit "What's New" at [www.bcferrycommission.com](http://www.bcferrycommission.com) for a copy of BC Ferries' application and Section 55 Application Guidelines established by the commissioner.

In accordance with the commission's regular process for public comment, written submissions can be sent by email to [info@bcferrycommission.com](mailto:info@bcferrycommission.com) or by mail to BC Ferry Commission, PO Box 9279 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC, V8W 9J7.

Deadline for written submissions is **January 23, 2014**. Submissions received by the Ferry Commission may, at the discretion of the commissioner, be published on its website.

## DEVELOPMENT OF A PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Application #: FLNR-S-COAST-2014

**Applicant:** Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
Range Branch  
441 Columbia Street, Kamloops, BC, V2C 2T3

**Agent:** SMC Consulting, 1582 Lawrence Avenue, Penticton, BC, V2A 3C1  
Tel/Fax: 250-492-6193, email: [smcconsulting@shaw.ca](mailto:smcconsulting@shaw.ca)

The purpose of the proposed multi-agency Pest Management Plan (PMP) is to manage invasive alien plants and/or noxious weeds on provincial Crown land in south coastal B.C.

The PMP applies to areas located within the Capital, Cowichan Valley, Alberni-Clayoquot, Comox Valley, Strathcona, Powell River and Mount Waddington Regional Districts.

The PMP applies to areas in the vicinity of the communities of Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Campbell River, Powell River, Courtenay, Comox, Parksville, Qualicum, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Duncan and Victoria.

The pest management methods proposed for use include mechanical, cultural and biological control and the use of herbicides within the area to which the PMP applies. The common name and examples of the trade names of the herbicides proposed for use under this plan include aminopyralid (Milestone), dicamba (Vanquish), glyphosate (Vantage Plus Max), metsulfuron methyl (Escort) and triclopyr (Garlon XRT). Selective application methods include wick/wipe-on, injection, squirt bottle, cut surface, and foliar applications using backpack or vehicle mounted sprayer.

The proposed duration of the PMP is from May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2019.

A draft copy of the proposed PMP and map of the proposed treatment area may be examined in detail at: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Range Branch, 441 Columbia Street, Kamloops, BC, V2C 2T3, online at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/HRA/Plants/> or by contacting the Agent listed above.

A person wishing to contribute information about a proposed treatment site, relevant to the development of the pest management plan may send copies of the information to the applicant (c/o SMC Consulting, Agent, at the address listed above), within 30 days of the publication of this notice.



## ENVIRONMENT

# Mass sea star deaths a mystery

'Mass mortality event' alarms biologists

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A mysterious illness attacking sea star populations in the Salish Sea shows no sign of relenting as scientists continue to look for answers.

"Initially they won't look quite right. They look sort of soft or droopy," said Andy Lamb, a biologist and avid scuba diver who lives on Thetis Island. "The legs start falling off, tears start to appear, and the innards actually droop out of the body."

"They just basically disintegrate into a pile of goo."

Lamb has seen dozens of sea stars transformed into "whitish muck" near Thetis Island, Chemainus and Galiano Island. Since divers spotted the first case of "sea star wasting syndrome" in September near Vancouver, hundreds of cases have been reported in various starfish species between Mexico and Alaska.

"It's an ongoing story. Every day something new is happening," said Lamb, who's never experienced anything like this in his nearly 50 years as a federal fisheries scientist, marine naturalist and educator. "It's certainly captured the imagination of the dive community."

According to information collected by sci-

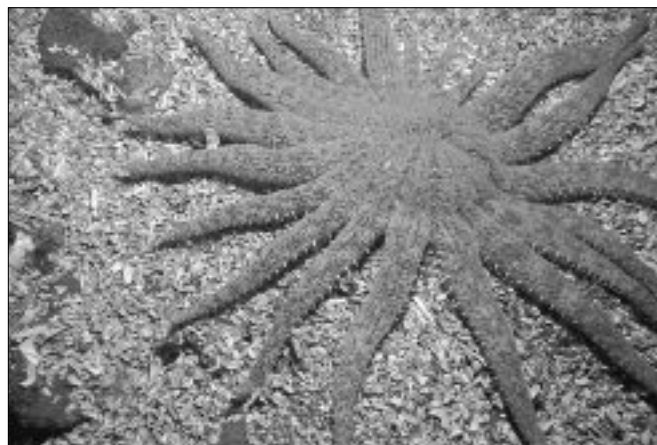


PHOTO BY PETER LUCKHAM

Sunflower sea stars are the hardest hit by sea star wasting syndrome.

entists at the Vancouver Aquarium, regional reports of the illness have been noted in the Gulf Islands, San Juan Islands, Saanich Inlet, Puget Sound and as far north as Port Hardy on Vancouver Island. Observations suggest sea star wasting syndrome targets purple, mottled, pink and several other species. Hardest hit is the large sunflower sea star.

"The coast of British Columbia is currently experiencing a sea star mass mortality event," according to information on a SSWS website established by the Vancouver Aquarium to monitor the disease.

"The wasting syndrome may be a pathogen that affects several species in the same way, or there may be multiple agents at

play. The underlying causes of the epidemic are not known."

Lamb said theories about the illness' cause have proliferated. He's heard people attribute the disease to higher oceanic temperatures or fallout from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan.

**"They just basically disintegrate into a pile of goo."**

ANDY LAMB  
Thetis Island resident

Since the illness has not been recorded in other marine creatures, including closely related species like sea

cucumbers and sea urchins, he suspects the cause isn't environmental.

"If it were an environmental thing, radioactivity would have shown up and affected other animals," Lamb said.

All that's certain, he added, is the need for further research.

"The theory, at this point, is that it's a virus, but there doesn't seem to be a lot of rhyme or reason to it. Nobody's spent much time looking at viruses in sea stars, so they're not sure what they're looking for."

Marine watchers can submit observations of suspected sea star wasting syndrome to the Vancouver Aquarium's Howe Sound Research and Conservation team. For more information, visit [www.vanaqua.org/act/research/sea-stars](http://www.vanaqua.org/act/research/sea-stars).

## IDEAS

## Happiness expert speaks at forum

John Helliwell steps in after Greene cancellation

Salt Spring residents are invited to chase away the winter blues with a world-class lesson in happiness hosted by the Salt Spring Forum.

Globally renowned economist and well-being expert John Helliwell is the next speaker on the forum's roster, appearing at ArtSpring on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

A forum press release notes Helliwell has persuaded governments around the world to pay attention to happiness. In 2011, the United Nations invited member countries to measure the hap-

piness of their people and to use this to help guide their policies. A year later, Helliwell co-edited the first World Happiness Report and formed the basis for the first UN high-level meeting on the topic.

The World Happiness Report focuses on happiness rather than per capita GDP as the measure of well-being. It has since become an annual publication, and has been downloaded millions of times.

According to the report, six key factors affect happiness: per capita GDP, life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity, having someone to count on, and freedom from corruption. Happy people "live longer, are more productive, earn more, and are also better citizens."

Canada is currently ranked

the sixth-happiest country in the world.

Helliwell is a Rhodes Scholar and officer of the Order of Canada. A long-time professor of economics at UBC, he currently co-directs the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research's program on social interactions, identity and well-being.

Tickets are available at ArtSpring at 250-537-2102 or [www.tickets.artspring.ca](http://www.tickets.artspring.ca), as well as Salt Spring Books.

Forum patrons should note that Trevor Greene, who was initially scheduled to speak this Saturday, was forced to reschedule his visit for personal reasons. Ticket holders can use their tickets to see John Helliwell at the exact same time and place. No ticket exchange is necessary.

# Classifieds

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

250-537-9933

OR 1-855-310-3535 • OVER 20,000 CLASSIFIEDS ON-LINE UPDATED DAILY

## PLACE AN AD

In person at 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Ganges  
By telephone 250-537-9933 or fax 250-537-2613  
By email to driftwood@driftwoodmedia.com  
By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.,  
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

## Payment

By cash, debit, Mastercard or Visa. Classifieds are prepaid.

## DEADLINES

Class display deadline: Monday 4 pm  
Word ad deadline: Tuesday 9 am  
Too Late To Classify: Tuesday 1 pm



## WHAT IT COSTS

**3 LINE CLASSIFIEDS:**  
\$13.30 - additional lines 95¢ ea  
All ads are posted to BCClassified.com  
**EMPLOYMENT/LEGAL ADS:**  
3 line rate \$15.25 - additional lines 95¢ ea  
**DISPLAY ADS:** \$12.60 per col. inch

## YOUR AD ON-LINE

All ads booked in the Driftwood Classifieds  
appear on-line at  
**www.bcclassified.com**  
Auto ads also listed on line at  
**www.bcautocentral.com**

## BOOK YOUR AD ON-LINE

Book your classifieds online -  
open 24 hours a day  
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com or  
bcclassified.com

**bcclassified.com**

Please check your ad after the first insertion. Should an error appear in an advertisement, Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is only liable for the amount paid for the space occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Driftwood Publishing Ltd. will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion.

## DEATHS

## DEATHS

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Arnold C. Wallis

Sept. 4, 1925 - Dec. 20, 2013

Army was born to Mae and Joe Wallis in North Vancouver where he spent a happy boyhood. He then left to serve in Belgium and Holland with the Canadian Armed Forces during WW II.

He is survived by his loving wife Jean who he married in July 1953 in North Vancouver where they settled together to raise their children, Lesley (Mike Stacey) of Salt Spring Island, Colleen Wallis of Victoria and Joe (Cindy Wallis) of Kamloops.

Army was the proud grandpa to 10 grandchildren. Sadly pre-deceased by Rob Stacey in 2004. Survived by Jeannie (Craig Brown) of Brussels, Belgium; Helen (Darcy Lainchbury) of Chilliwack; Sheila (Cal Mills) Salt Spring Island; Joe Stacey of Salt Spring Island; Jennifer Wallis of Kamloops; Joanne Wallis of Kamloops; A.J. Wallis of Fort St. John; Michael Wallis of Kamloops and Stephanie Wallis of Fort St. John.

He had 9 great-grandchildren, Alexis, Ireland and Dylan W., Magnolia B., Ryder and Sadie M., Kai and Leo L. & Jack W.

Army was best known for his beautiful smile and sweet easy-going nature. He worked hard and proudly at many varied jobs over the years. He loved to take his family on road trips to explore B.C. on his time off and also spent many fun summer holidays here on Salt Spring Island at the cabin on Hedger Road that he helped build in the 1940s with his dad and his older brother Doug, pre-deceased in September 2012. His adored big sister Marjorie Martin has been living on the same property since the late 1970s. Army and Jean moved to Salt Spring Island just down the road from her in 1979.

The family would like to thank all the fine folks that work and volunteer at Greenwoods for their compassionate care of Army these past 2 1/2 years. A special hug for the sweet hospice lady that sang him goodbye. Family memorial this summer.



## Margaret Prietz

Margaret Prietz (nee Kuehnemann) died on December 29th 2013 in her 98th year, proud and loving mother of Sabine Swierenga (Harold) of Salt Spring Island and Tina Prietz (Doug Jemmett) of Huntsville, ON. She will be sadly missed by her grandchildren Stephan Swierenga (Natalie McMaster) of Ottawa, Heidi Swierenga (Tom Baker) of Vancouver, Charlie and Peter Jemmett of Huntsville and her great-grandchildren Cathy, Hayden, Jacob, and Kieran Swierenga of Ottawa, and Sidney and Sebastian Swierenga of Vancouver, and her sister Eva Borgstrom of Lund, Sweden. She was predeceased by her son Rainer in 1959 and her husband Dr. Hans Prietz in 1997.

Margaret trained as a dietician in Hamburg, married her childhood sweetheart in 1939, and survived the horrific war and post-war years with two toddlers. The family immigrated to Canada in 1952 after the birth of her third child. At 55 Margaret went back to school, earning a Fine Arts Diploma from Sheridan College in Oakville ON.

Margaret and Hanno moved to Salt Spring Island in 1992, where she built a pottery studio and spent many happy hours with her craft and her students. In 2012 island children were enchanted with her ceramic crèche Christmas display in the new library. She had a wonderful knack for connecting with people, creating long lasting friendships. Margaret kept diaries all her life from which she wrote a wonderful memoir that has become a lasting legacy for her family. She will always be remembered for her encouraging positive attitude to life and her strength in getting through the dark times. We will miss her very much.

The family would like to thank the dedicated staff of the Lady Minto Extended Care Unit and in particular we are grateful for the loving and compassionate care provided by Kathy Geldart, who made such a difference to Margaret's last years.

Donations in Margaret's memory may be made to her favourite charity, World Vision. A memorial tea will be held at a future date.



## DEATHS

## DEATHS

## DEATHS

## DEATHS

## IN MEMORIAM GIFTS

## Karma Phinjo Sherpa

Feb. 24, 1962 - Dec. 19, 2013



Karma Phinjo Sherpa, known locally as Lama Phuntsok, was born February 24, 1962 and passed away suddenly December 19, 2013. He is survived by his father and an elder and younger brother. He was predeceased by his mother who passed away last year.

Born in Nepal he entered Kalu Rinpoche's monastery (Samdrup Tharjeyling) in Sonada, India at a young age to begin his training as

a Buddhist monk and teacher. After completing the traditional three year three month retreat at Sonada he held different jobs at the monastery helping with its administration and running. In 2007 he came to Salt Spring Island to become the Resident Lama for Kunzang Dechen Osel Ling, a Buddhist meditation retreat centre on Mount Tuum. In the short time he was here he worked tirelessly to improve all aspects of KDOL. He will be deeply missed by all who loved him and who came in contact with him.

A traditional Buddhist Funeral Service and cremation was conducted by a group of lamas at the Parish Hall (Celebration Hall) of St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church in Vancouver on Monday, December 30.



## DAVID BEATTY MUNDY

1919 - 2013

It is with great sadness that Lyndsay Mundy announces the death of her husband David Beatty Mundy, who died peacefully on Christmas Eve at Lady Minto Hospital. He will be greatly missed by our extended family and friends in Canada and overseas.

We wish to thank Dr. David Woodley and everyone at LMH Extended Care Unit for their gentle kindness and constant care, which was greatly appreciated by David and family.

There will be no service by request. An open house will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 1 - 3 pm at "The Last Hurrah", 130 Mariners Lane, Salt Spring Island. Donations, if so inclined, may be made to the Lady Minto Hospital Extended Care Unit.

## Michael Bankes



It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved Michael.

He was born in Vancouver on Oct. 25, 1945 and left us for new adventures on January 5, 2014.

Our Mike was a "Force of Nature", a force for good, fairness, love, and laughter at every opportunity. He gave the best hugs!

He is survived by his wife Marion, brother Paul (Colleen) and nephews Connor, Morgan and Nelson and brother Stephen (Carol).

Mike was a powerhouse of a man who embraced friendship and connections. He had a keen interest in all his family and friends and always made time to get together with them. He was beloved by children and animals alike. Mike will be greatly missed by all who knew him. We were all blessed to have the privilege of having him in our lives.

A Memorial Gathering will be announced at a later date.

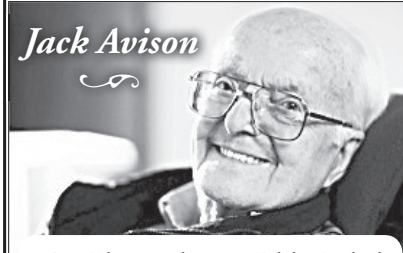
Deeply Loved

Forever Missed

## IN MEMORIAM

## IN MEMORIAM

## Jack Avison



Born February 13th 1915 in Yorkshire England, died peacefully at Lady Minto Hospital December 24th 2013 on Salt Spring Island BC.

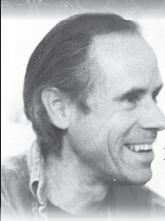
Jack was born and lived in Yorkshire England where he worked as a Sales Manager for a large wool spinning company until his retirement in 1980, when he and his wife Kay (who died in 1999) moved to Canada to join his daughter Judy and her family, then living in Vancouver.

Jack and Kay decided to make Salt Spring their new home and loved it from day one. They loved the Island lifestyle and quickly made many new friends. Jack was then able to pursue his love of painting and drawing full time. He was a long time member of the Painters Guild, well known for his watercolour painting and beautiful pen and ink drawings, he was also known for teaching others the wonders and techniques of watercolour.

Jack will be sadly missed by his daughter Judy, son-in-law Howard, grandsons Jared (Tamara), Morgan and his new great grandson Arlo, his many friends and extended family here and around the world.

Many thanks for the wonderful care he received from Dr. Beaver and Dr. Butcher, the Nurses and staff at Lady Minto Hospital, the Community Care Team and Braeburn.

There will be a celebration of his life to be announced later.



## Ken Fairbrother

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1950 -  
Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 2013

Born in Victoria, Ken Fairbrother moved to Salt Spring in 1977 where he continued his gardening business. Ken built his ever expanding house on High Hill Rd. He enjoyed working in his garden, playing music and singing in Tuned Air and Viva Voce. He was a generous and kind soul with an easy going nature and will be dearly missed.

His family would like to thank the staff at Greenwoods, Dr Reznick and all the care workers who helped him in his struggle with Alzheimers. Special thanks to his friends Ian, Jose and Anne.

A drop in gathering to celebrate Ken's life will take place January 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 pm at 131 High Hill Rd. In lieu of flowers, donations of hardy plants could be made for a memorial garden in Ken's honour.



## Salt Spring HOSPICE



*Nothing evolves  
us like love.*

250-537-2770  
saltspringhospice.org  
Supported by



Jan. 08

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COMING EVENTS

## Bible Believers Fellowship

of Salt Spring Island

Sunday service  
10 - 11:30 am

Core Inn -  
134 McPhillips Ave.

**www.bbfssi.org**

more info: 250-537-4934

**CHRISTMAS TREE CHIPPING** by donation -  
Sat. January 11th, 10-2 at  
the Lions Building - upper  
parking lot 103 Bonnet Ave.



**Haywards Funeral Service**  
Funeral Directors since 1867

**Free Community Info Sessions**

**Wed. Jan. 15 - 12 pm**  
What To Expect When  
Someone Passes Away

**Wed. Jan. 22 - 12 pm**  
Advantages of Pre-  
Planning Your Funeral

**Wed. Jan. 29 - 12 pm**  
Financial Advice  
with Markus Wenzel

~ Limited Space ~  
Please RSVP 250-537-1022  
contact@haywardsfuneral.com

More details online:  
**www.haywardsfuneral.com**

**BEGINNERS YOGA**  
SATURDAYS  
11:00 - Noon  
at GAJAMA YOGA  
in GANGES  
CALL DOROTHY  
250-653-4655

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Follow the Driftwood on Twitter

**http://twitter.com/GIDriftwood**



## DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES  
TUESDAY 9:30 AM

classified@driftwoodgimedi.com

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COMING EVENTS

**TAOIST TAI CHI**  
For Health & Relaxation  
**OPEN HOUSE AND FREE INTRODUCTORY CLASS**  
Wed. Jan. 8, 7-8pm  
All Saints Anglican Church, Ganges  
New weekly classes start Thurs. Jan. 9, 10:30am-noon & Wed. Jan. 15, 6:30-8pm, at All Saints.  
Stephanie 250-537-1721

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COMING EVENTS

**The British State Pension is Changing Again!**  
Find out the details at an **INFORMATION MEETING** Sat., 18th January at 2 p.m. Salt Spring Island Library 129 McPhillips Ave. Ganges  
Join us in the fight to **"UNFREEZE" Pensions** Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners  
For local information Call: 250-995-9356/250-537-9554 www.britishpensions.com

classified@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INFORMATION

**ADVERTISE in the LARGEST OUTDOOR PUBLICATION in BC**  
**The 2014-2016 BC Hunting Regulations Synopsis**  
The most effective way to reach an incredible number of BC Sportsmen & women. Two year edition- terrific presence for your business.  
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LICENSED HEALTH CANADA Medical Marijuana Person seeks new people who want to assemble a team for a commercial Licensed Marijuana Audit under new regulations. (\$1.5 B industry) 250-537-6382

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INFORMATION

**DO YOU KNOW? BBB** is a not-for-profit organization committed to building relationships of trust in the marketplace. Look for the 2013 BBB Accredited Business Directory E-edition on your Black Press Community Newspaper website at  
www.blackpress.ca.  
You can also go to http://vi.bbb.org/directory/ and click on the 2013 BBB Accredited Business Directory

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM**

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INFORMATION

**SALE!**  
**20% OFF EVERYTHING!**  
at **WATERFRONT GALLERY**  
work by over 100 local artisans  
January 8 through January 22  
beside the post-office  
250-537-4525

## EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

## EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

**DREAMING OF A NEW CAREER?**  
**CENTRE FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**  
digitalartschool.com  
**1.866.860.2787**  
**LEARN FROM HOME.** Earn from home. Huge is a demand for Medical Transcriptionists. Start your online learning today with CanScribe Career College. www.canscribe.com 1-800-466-1535 info@canscribe.com

**HELP WANTED**  
TUG SKIPPER Full time senior & junior positions available. Minimum Limited Master <60GT Certificate required. Apply via email: albertbaytowing@telusplanet.net or by fax: (250) 974-5216

**TRADES, TECHNICAL**  
**JOURNEYMAN AUTOMOTIVE** Service Technician(s) in Hanna Alberta. Hanna Chrysler Ltd. offers competitive wages, relocation allowance, negotiable depending on experience. Bright, modern shop. Full-time permanent with benefits. Friendly town just 2 hours from major urban centres. More info at: hannahchrysler.ca Fax 403-854-2845; Email: chrysler@telusplanet.net.

## PERSONAL SERVICES

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

**RAPID DEBT RELIEF...**  
NO Interest • LOW Payments  
There is Special Government Legislation that allows you to reduce your DEBT by up to 100%  
Call KYLE for a FREE CONSULTATION  
**1-855-812-6767**  
**ABAKHAN & Associates Inc.**  
414 - 1207 Douglas St. Victoria  
1120 - 625 Howe St. Vancouver  
Good people to know in times of trouble  
Serving Communities Throughout Vancouver Island  
www.abakhan.com  
We'll help you get a fresh start!

**IF YOU** own a home or real estate, Alpine Credits can lend you money; it's that simple. Your credit/income is not an issue. 1-800-587-2161.

## INFORMATION

**Thinking of volunteering somewhere?**  
Check out opportunities at:  
**www.volunteersaltspring.com**  
or phone Anne at 250-537-2054

**Salt Spring Singers Registration**  
January 14th from 6:15 - 6:45 pm  
First rehearsal follows at 7:00 pm  
SSI Baptist Church - 520 Lower Ganges Rd.  
New male voices welcome  
Contact Morgan Savin at 250-537-5995 or Go to www.saltspingsingers.org for a registration form or more information

**Need Packing Paper?**  
**Puppy Paper?**  
**Art Supply Paper?**  
**Paper Table Cloths?**

Why not stop by the Driftwood and buy a Roll End Prices \$5 and up.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**bcclassified.com**  
**LocalWork.ca**  
The Island Arts Centre Society ("ArtSpring") is advertising for the position of Executive/Artistic Director.  
Deadline: February 1, 2014  
For the job description and application details, please visit the ArtSpring website under About Us / Job Postings.  
www.artspring.ca/artspring-about-us/people/staff/job-postings/

## HELP WANTED

**SSI COMMUNITY SERVICES** has two positions available:  
**Seniors Program Coordinator**  
Regular Part Time 33 hours/week  
\$21.22 - \$24.70/hour  
Responsible for planning, implementing, evaluating and overseeing the day-to-day operation of services for seniors including the Better At Home program, senior peer counselling, community education and other projects. Duties also include: volunteer recruitment, orientation, supervision; contributing to the organization administration and leadership team.  
Required Qualifications: Post secondary training in social services, recent related experience with seniors health services or a related community service and supervisory/administrative experience.  
**Seniors Program Facilitator**  
Regular Part Time 12 hours/week  
\$18.31 - \$21.33/hour  
Responsible for implementing and coordinating specific activity and support services for seniors that are provided through the Better At Home program. Duties include the coordination of transportation, house/yard work supports, and other tasks required for successful program operation.  
Required Qualifications: Training in social services including and experience working with seniors in a community services setting.  
APPLY BEFORE JANUARY 17, 2014 TO:  
**Annika Lund, Program Director**  
SSI Community Services  
268 Fulford-Ganges Road, SSI V8K 2K6

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**LocalWork.ca**  
**LocalWork.ca**  
Found - **TEDDY BEAR** Nov. 16th. Call 250 537-2827

**TRAVEL**

**TIMESHARE**  
**CANCEL YOUR** Timeshare. No risk program. Stop mortgage and maintenance Payments today. 100% money back guarantee. Free consultation. Call us now. We can help! 1-888-356-5248.

**LocalWork.ca**  
**LocalWork.ca**  
**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**  
**THESE IS** a critical need for Medical Transcriptionists across Canada. Work from home. CanScribe graduates welcome and encouraged to apply. Apply through MTR at www.hds-mt.com/jobs

## HELP WANTED

**LocalWork.ca**  
**LocalWork.ca**  
**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**  
**CRD**  
Making a difference...together  
**Contract Opportunity**  
The Capital Regional District is seeking proposals from individuals to supply local courier/delivery services on Salt Spring Island. Applicants must supply their own vehicle and have knowledge of Salt Spring Island. Responsibilities include pick-up and delivery of materials at a minimum once a month, but has the potential to increase as need arises.  
Proposals: Applicants must have the following: supply their own vehicle and must be in good working condition, Commercial General Liability and Automobile insurance the contractor shall maintain Third Party Legal Liability Insurance in an amount not less than \$2,000,000, and WCB coverage.  
To apply, email your quote for the contract opportunity with a cover letter. Applications will be received until 12:00 noon on Monday, January 14, 2014.  
For more information please contact the CRD office, at 250-537-4448.

## LOST AND FOUND

**LocalWork.ca**  
**LocalWork.ca**  
**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**  
**GET BACK ON TRACK!** Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend! If you own your own home - you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB.  
1-877-987-1420  
www.pioneerwest.com

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**LocalWork.ca**  
**LocalWork.ca**  
**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**  
**DROWNING IN Debt?** Cut debts more than 60% and be debt free in half the time! Avoid bankruptcy! Free consultation. Toll Free 1-877-556-3500 BBB Rated A+  
www.mydebtsolution.com

## PERSONAL SERVICES

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
**GET BACK ON TRACK!** Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend! If you own your own home - you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB.  
1-877-987-1420  
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## LEGAL SERVICES

**CRIMINAL RECORD?** Don't let it block employment, travel, education, professional, certification, adoption property rental opportunities. For peace of mind and a free consultation call 1-800-347-2540.

## HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

**COMPUTER SERVICES**  
**CALL BOB'S Computer** Service for troubleshooting, software & networking support. We do house calls. 250-537-2827 or cell 250-538-7017. Please go & back-up your important data now!

**CONCRETE & PLACING**  
**GULF COAST MATERIALS**  
Serving the Gulf Islands  
• Concrete  
• Concrete Pumps  
• Sand/Rock  
• Rebar  
• Bagged Cement  
• Colour & Sealers  
Small Load Pick Ups Available at Yard  
345 Rainbow Road  
250-537-2611

**DRAFTING & DESIGN**  
**LET'S GET STARTED**  
Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.  
**HELSET DESIGN**  
250.537.1037  
Ask for Jim

**CONTRACTORS directory**  
Building Outlook  
Renovations  
65  
PSM

**The Gulf Islands Contractors Directory will be published in January, watch for the magazine in your Gulf Islands Driftwood.**

**If you are building, renovating or repairing, this guide is essential in helping you find professional contractors and suppliers to help you get the job done right.**

**Call 250.537.9933 for more details.**

**Driftwood**  
GULF ISLANDS  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

## DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS	RENTALS	RENTALS	TRANSPORTATION
<b>COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL</b>	<b>HOMES FOR RENT</b>	<b>STORAGE</b>	<b>SPORTS &amp; IMPORTS</b>
<b>1,068 SF</b> for lease, Merchant Mews nr. Ganges. Skylights, baydoor, upstps office, bthrm. Richard, 250-380-1669 (Vic.)	<b>2 BDRM</b> on quiet S. End road, NS, cat only, small studio/workshop & garden space, avail. Feb. 1 or 15, LT. \$975/mo + hydro. 250 653-4256	<b>2006 SMART CAR</b> - convertible. \$7,900. Diesel, 65 miles/gal, 68,000 km, extra winter tires on rims, tow package, bike/ski/carrier. Call: 250 537-4965	<b>2009 HARLEY DAVIDSON</b> , Fat Bob, still on warranty. Bag, windshield, top shape. \$12,200 250 537-7350
<b>UPPER GANGES CENTRE</b> , 2nd Floor - 4 professional offices 272 sq.ft. at \$275 & up. Chair Lift, ample parking - call: Mary Lou at 250-537-5528	<b>2 BDRM TOWNHOUSE</b> fully renovated, hardwood floors, plush carpets, close to town, 2 decks, WD, 2 baths, storage locker, \$1,000. Avail. Immed. Call 250-537-6860.	<b>MOTORCYCLES</b>	<b>2007 26RKS GULF BREEZE TRAVEL TRAILER</b> , \$14,900. Excellent condition. Very clean, well maintained and looks like new inside. One slide-out. Sleeps 6. Queen bed. Brand new tires, combination connection/microwave oven, HDTV (120 and 12 volt) with Blu-Ray DVD player and 5.1 surround sound. Comes with 4 stabilizer jacks, propane tanks, spare tire, new deep cycle battery, small propane bbq as well as the hitch, load bars and an anti-sway stabilizer. Dry weight 5030lbs GVWR 7460lbs. Call Paul @ 250-526-2626
<b>COTTAGES</b>	<b>APPLE TREE COTTAGE</b> - 102 Orchard. Charming sunny cottage in heart of Fulford village, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, fenced garden with old fruit trees. \$1,200 plus utilities. Avail. Feb. 1/14. Call 250 653-4322	<b>MID ISLAND STORAGE</b> 250-537-4722	<b>RECREATIONAL VEHICLES FOR SALE</b>
<b>2 BDRM. GUEST HOUSE</b> W/S, Pets neg. Walk to town. \$1000/mo incl. hydro/water Ref. Pat 250 537-1263.	<b>A VERY nice 2 BDRM</b> home in Vesuvius \$1150/mo. Sunny, open view, FP, decks, plus utils. Call 250 537-2809	<b>SUITES, LOWER</b>	<b>2007 26RKS GULF BREEZE TRAVEL TRAILER</b> , \$14,900. Excellent condition. Very clean, well maintained and looks like new inside. One slide-out. Sleeps 6. Queen bed. Brand new tires, combination connection/microwave oven, HDTV (120 and 12 volt) with Blu-Ray DVD player and 5.1 surround sound. Comes with 4 stabilizer jacks, propane tanks, spare tire, new deep cycle battery, small propane bbq as well as the hitch, load bars and an anti-sway stabilizer. Dry weight 5030lbs GVWR 7460lbs. Call Paul @ 250-526-2626
<b>HOMES FOR RENT</b>	<b>CENTRAL, 2 BDRM</b> designer cabin for long term rental. Avail. Feb. 1, \$950/mo. Call 250-653-9799	<b>AUTO FINANCING</b>	<b>OLDER 24FT MOTORHOME</b> , good condition, lots of new parts, \$3,900. 250 653-9820.
<b>2 BDRM MOBILE HOME</b> , renovated, large deck, new appliances, WD. Avail. Immed. \$650/mo 250-537-6860	<b>HOMES FOR RENT</b>	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>MARINE</b>
<b>2 BDRM MOBILE HOME</b> , renovated, large deck, new appliances, WD. fenced yard. Avail. Feb. 1, \$675/mo 250-537-6860	<b>HOMES FOR RENT</b>	<b>BOATS</b>	

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Deadline 10 am Tuesday

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<b>FREE ITEMS</b>	<b>GARAGE SALES</b>	<b>EPIC VIEW 550</b> folding treadmill - paid \$1,456, asking \$600. Several programs and TV included. 778 353-0321	<b>Renovation sale</b> fridge, dishwasher, stove, hot tub. Offers? Delivery? 250 537-5773
<b>FIVE LOUNGE CHAIRS</b> Call 250 537-9876	<b>LIONS GARAGE</b> Sales & Drop Offs: Fridays & Saturdays only, 10am - 12pm. Many household items. We do not accept large appliances, draperies or clothing. Drop-offs accepted only on Fri. & Sat. morning. Please no garbage!! 103 Bonnet Ave.	<b>DUNCAN FOAM AND FUTONS</b> Sofa cushions too soft? Mattress too hard or needs replacement? RV, boat cushions need work? We can help! Replacement foam, latex foam. We can sew RV or boat cushion covers. 4485 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan 1-250-746-0702	<b>RESTLESS LEG Syndrome</b> and leg cramps? Fast relief in one hour. Sleep at night. Proven for over 32 years. www.allcalm.com Mon-Fri 8-4 EST 1-800-765-8660.
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<b>HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD</b> GUARANTEED CORD Cut, Split & delivered Cedar Fence Rails 250-653-4165			

## This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor  
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1.888.352.2936

## Tip of the Week:

As the momentum of 2014 builds, there are some potent planetary alignments adding to the pace. Mars and Jupiter crossed swords on January 8 contributing to a larger pattern involving Uranus and Pluto. As well, we are contending with a sequence of retrograde planetary activity involving the three main personal planets: Venus, Mercury and Mars and with Jupiter and Saturn, the social planets, as well. 2014 began with Venus Retrograde since December 21, 2013. Since the Winter Solstice Astrology Chart represents the spiritual themes slated to unfold over the course of the year, it represents an important theme. The main issue with Venus Retrograde is excessive materialistic values and attitudes. Thus these will come into question this year. Venus turns direct again on January 31, yet it will take until mid-March before it recovers its 'shadow period'. This 'recovery period' is not as powerful as when the planet is actually retrograde but it does still contain some of its residual energy. Then on February 6 Mercury will turn retrograde in Pisces re-entering Aquarius on February 12 and will only turn direct again on February 28. The shadow period of Mercury will continue until about March 20. Meanwhile, on March 1st Mars turns retrograde and will remain so until May 19 and it will take until July 20 before it fully recovers from its shadow period. Saturn and Jupiter are tightly woven into this succession as well. Jupiter turned retrograde back on November 6, 2013 and turns direct again on March 6th, yet remaining 'in the shadow', until June 2nd. Finally, Saturn turns retrograde again on March 2nd and will remain so until July 20th and only fully recovers its 'lost ground' on October 31st. Altogether, this portrait reveals a dynamic, impulsive and assertive, even aggressive energy pattern reaching right through to mid-summer, yet is countered by the more introverted and restrictive expressions of planets when retrograde. Yes, 2014 is loaded with complexity.

## Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

A sturdy march in 2014 for you describes the way the planetary alignments show. The pace is a consequence of both practical ambitions and brewing conflicts on relationship borders. You are unlikely to meet these with warmth and understanding that will cause you to yield. Even with the prospect of casualty, you are determined to persevere.

## Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

Balancing a determined and wilful pace with desires for space and freedom is setting the stage as 2014 gets underway. Aspirations to expand on all fronts remain important to you. Many interactions with others, some of whose ideas and philosophies clash with your own, is the real test. Honour your own individuality and make time for your own pursuits.

## Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

On one hand circumstances reveal a sobering picture. On the other you feel playful and sporting. Your ability to weave these into a harmonious balance is a central challenge now. Changes in your lifestyle affecting your environment, or the other way around, or both, must be realistically acknowledged. Approach this game like a competitive athlete determined to win.

## Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

Some major players making definite power moves must be contended with now. Fortunately, you are in an assertive mood and are determined to dig-in deep as necessary. Generally, you have reason to feel confident. Yet, avoid leaning on the status quo. The more willing and able you are to accept and embrace the steady flow of current changes the better.

## Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)

Sober practicality describes the tone of your mood as 2014 gets going. The planetary picture suggests you are determined to advance your position. That you must give more than you might usually is the fine print. The results you seek, however, may not be as apparent as you might like. This is a call for faith. Set a clear intention to persevere all year with clear intentions to win big.

## Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

The pace of the game is challenging you to be a competitive player. A strong will to learn everything you feel you must and to confront fears of failure are a couple of the strategies required. As well, aim to expand your outreach and to nurture existing connections. Avoid over analysis and affirm you can and will do whatever it takes, as long as it takes.

## Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

A good deal of activity close to home should be keeping you busy. Seeing your home, or at least a power zone within it, as your headquarters and/or office will help. Mars in your sign through to July 2014 will help you to overcome obstacles and enter new territory. Some of it is psychological which implies an inspiration and attitude upgrade.

## Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)

You are in the mood to cover a lot of ground now. This includes attending to an array of errands, tasks, projects and people. Be willing to move slower with others especially. You may not feel so sure about all of them and some may feel the same about future prospects with you. Communicate two and three times before making new commitments.

## Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)

Establishing new foundations and or behaviour rhythms replacing recently removed structures and patterns is the call now. However, you are wise to carefully consider the resolve and integrity of others with whom you may be associating these days. Take an experiential and experimental approach and reserve, secure or identify an exit point, just in case...

## Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

The determination to begin the year on a powerful note is likely. However, you are wise to review whether your reasons and ambitions match your true values. With Venus Retrograde everyone is being challenged to re-assess their priorities and with Venus in your sign it is especially important. Get training or re-training over the coming months for best results.

## Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)

Making diligent efforts behind the scenes now is both likely and ideal. Aim to complete any undertaking or unfinished business now before spring arrives. Avoid procrastination and taking on other projects until what you have begun is done. Faithful and practical perseverance now will increase your confidence and scope of influence by summer especially.

## Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Establishing the ground of new friendships and business associations is important now. Yet, there may be some delays until about mid-March anyway. Since your ambitions are running quite high these days, focus to clear-up unfinished business and/or to concentrate on work and creative projects to be ready for openings of opportunity a little later in the year.

## Treasures of the Heart

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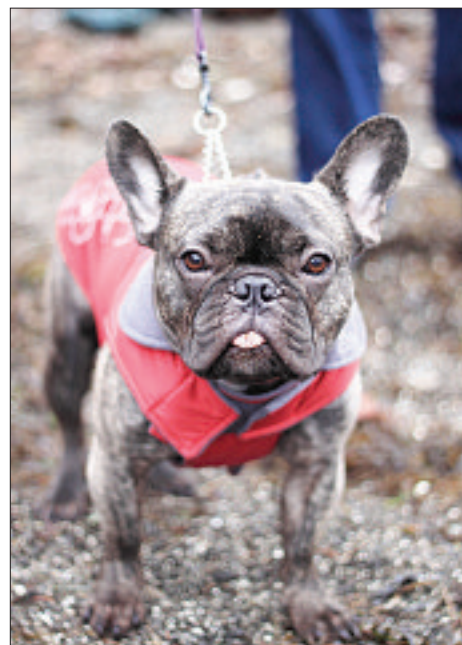
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# sports&recreation



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

**GOING FOR IT:** New Year's Day Polar Bear Swim participants rush into the water at Vesuvius Beach, while Toby the French bulldog stays dry and well-dressed on shore.

## Attention New Salt Springers!



**Welcome Wagon**  
A Canadian Tradition  
Since 1930

Don't miss your opportunity for a great welcome visit. Call Marilyn today for your greeting, gifts & useful info.  
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**WELCOME WAGON**  
SINCE 1930

## BMX

# Young riders head to California BMX camp

Bottle drive underway to cover camp tuition

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two Salt Spring youths are inching closer to their dream of spending part of the summer at a high-calibre BMX training centre near Los Angeles — one empty bottle at a time.

Taylor Oliveira and Nick Coby have been avidly honing their BMX skills at the Kanaka Road Skate Park for two years. The team can confidently pull off a few peg grinds, a 180, a 360, and even “the disaster.”

That's a good thing. “A disaster is when you go up a bowl, do a 180, and land when the

one tire is still in the bowl and the back tire is on the edge,” Oliveira said during a recent telephone interview.

“I like to ride my BMX because it takes my mind off things and makes me feel free,” he added.

Oliveira and Coby plan to take their riding to a whole new level when they're admitted to Woodward West, a state-of-the-art summer training facility for young athletes. The centre attracts thousands of teens and preteens to California's sun-baked Mojave Desert every summer. Most participants arrive with goals of making it big in action sports like skateboarding, gymnastics, mountain biking and BMX riding. It's a summer camp with an extra shot of adrenaline.

“I'm trying to go there so that I can hopefully become a pro,” Oliveira said. “As far as I could find, it's the best. Their facilities look amazing.”

Oliveira estimates tuition costs for the two-week summer program will be \$1,500 per rider. Since they launched a fundraising campaign in September, the Salt Spring Island Middle School students have raised nearly \$500. At five cents each, that's equivalent to almost 10,000 pop cans.

“It feels good to be raising my own money instead of it being handed to me,” Oliveira added. “It will make me appreciate the event more.”

With only six months to go before summer begins, fundraising has shifted into high gear.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Taylor Oliveira, left, and Nick Coby take a break from BMXing at the Kanaka Road skatepark.

Oliveira and Coby ask anyone with refundable beverage cans, bottles, cartons and jugs to consider contributing them to the

cause. For more information or to schedule a pick-up, Oliveira can be reached at [kirsty\\_oliveira@yahoo.com](mailto:kirsty_oliveira@yahoo.com) or 250-537-8747.

## Join us @ Moby's?

**Wednesday Jan 8th**  
Wing Night \$6

**Sunday Jan 12th**  
One piece Fish n Chips \$9.00

**Thursday Jan 9th**  
Open Mic Night 80's Theme 8pm

**Monday Jan 13th**  
2 for 1 appetizers | Canucks vs Kings 7:30pm

**Friday Jan 10th**  
Canucks 7pm vs St. Louis Blues  
18hr Brisket \$14

**Tuesday Jan 14th**  
Trivia is Back Win 3 days 2 Nights in VEGAS  
7:30pm

**Saturday Jan 11th**  
Seahawks vs Saints 1:35 pm

**Wednesday Jan 15th**  
Wing Night | Canucks vs Ducks 7:30pm

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