

11 Circus program evolves at new SIMS

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Isabella Point Road gets upgrade



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG

Vehicles make their way through the construction zone on Isabella Point Road last Friday, with the roadway now being built up seen at left in the photo.

Extensive subsurface improvements strengthen roadway

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new road surface on Isabella Point Road may not look different to drivers once completed, but the below-asphalt improvements will be significant and will help keep that section of road protected during future flood events.

"The real work is going to be underneath the pavement, where all the reinforcing has been done for the road base," said Emcon South Island division operations manager Andrew Gaetz last week. "There's quite a number of different engineering components going on there for water drainage."

Gaetz said the process involves excavating the section of road two metres deep, then building the road base back up with an engineered geotextile, lifts and aggregate to firm support before the road surface is laid. The highly engineered road base technique is one that's been used recently on several Gulf Islands, according to Gaetz, and has proven successful. It was also the method used on Walker's Hook Road in 2018 after a large section there washed away.

Roland Road resident Daniel Dickmeyer, who lives above the construction area, said while the work is appreciated, the lack of communication on the project was concerning for residents who use the road daily.

"I just think an overall plan presented in public to the community, for a project this big, would be important," said Dickmeyer, adding there had been no formal communication to residents about timeframes — or even why the road needed work.

Gaetz said the Isabella Point Road section has been under monitoring since the atmospheric river event this time last year, and that the physical work being done now is the culmination of almost a year's worth of engineering and studies to provide a more robust — and safer — roadway.

"We saw a kind of a slow-moving slope failure," said Gaetz, "where the side of the road was actually starting to drop, and the crew taking measurements noticed it starting to sag."

Gaetz said the section of roadway is very tight for crews to work in, and the "geography and topography" was one of

the bigger challenges, and made the work take longer than it might elsewhere. In addition, maintaining access for the many residents up the road has meant workers needed to keep access open for them.

"If we had an alternate route, we'd just close it, rip up the road, and lay everything in," said Gaetz. "Instead, we're working on one lane at a time."

Dickmeyer said some notice of time-frame would've given comfort to residents — and would still be appreciated.

"We're pretty laid back here on the island," said Dickmeyer, "and you know, people are more like 'Well, I hope they get it done in time for Christmas.' People don't like to complain. But we're certainly curious. We don't want to get in a situation where if we had an emergency, we couldn't get to town in a hurry."

Gaetz said while a specific date for completion was difficult to pinpoint, he anticipated crews would be finished by winter's start.

"The process is pretty lengthy to do while keeping access open," said Gaetz. "But we want to be finished and out of there before any kind of snow hits."

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LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Peter Luckham voted to chair Trust again

Thetis Islander will serve
third term and appoint
LTC chairs

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Thetis Island's Peter Luckham will serve his third term as chair of Islands Trust Council (ITC), after a vote among fellow trustees Saturday, Nov. 19.

At its first meeting since local elections in October, the ITC also elected three vice-chairs — Tobi Elliott from Gabriola Island, David Maude from Mayne Island and Timothy Peterson from Lasqueti Island — to form the Islands Trust Executive Committee.

Council also elected two representatives to sit on the Islands Trust Conservancy Board — Grant Scott from Hornby Island and Susan Yates from Gabriola Island — and the executive committee elected vice-chair Elliot as its representative to the conservancy.

"It is an honour to be elected by Trust Council to once again serve as chair," said Luckham. "I look forward to working with the vice-chairs who were chosen from amongst a group of worthy candidates."

The elections followed a session Friday, Nov. 18, where nominees made presentations and answered questions from trustees about the skills and values they would



PETER
LUCKHAM

bring to these leadership positions.

"During the presentations yesterday, we heard the impassioned voices of trustees who are eager to tackle the important issues we face, including affordable housing, climate change and environmental sustainability," said Luckham. "We also heard a deep desire to further reconciliation and improve communications and engagement with communities, and review opportunities to improve governance. The beginning of a new term of office represents a time of renewal for the Islands Trust, but we remain, as always, committed to preserving and protecting these precious islands in the Salish Sea for all British Columbians."

While the entire ITC meets quarterly, the executive committee oversees daily business; it has legislated responsibilities to consider approval of bylaws developed by local trust committees (LTCs) and Bowen Island Municipality.

Members also serve as chairs of 13 LTCs that have authority for land use planning and regulation in the Islands Trust Area.

Luckham has previously served two terms as chair for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee and — as chair of the ITC — will appoint chairs of the individual LTCs today (Nov. 23).

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ENVIRONMENT

Xwaaqw'um restoration outlined

Project to sequester carbon, improve wetlands habitats

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Patience will be a crucial component of an ambitious wetland restoration and carbon sequestration project on Salt Spring Island — for both organizers and park users.

Over the next five years, some 20 hectares of field at Xwaaqw'um, also known as Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park, will be — slowly — transformed through restoration work, in partnership with Cowichan Tribes and BC Parks. The project is funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk Fund and Nature Smart Carbon Capture, and targets storing carbon naturally in forested areas — and improving habitat for the key species the Stqeeye' Learning Society hopes to see thrive.

Critical to the restoration will be the planting of new native species wetland plants — and critical to their survival will be fencing to protect them from deer browsing. At a gathering of some 50 supporters and interested members of the public held at the restoration site Wednesday, Nov. 16, Stqeeye' organizers laid out how the multi-year process would unfold.

"Part of what we wanted to do today is explain the physical changes there will be at the park, and address questions," said biologist and project coordinator Rachel Bevington. "A lot of people access the park right here, there's a well-worn path; we want everyone to know it's Stqeeye' putting up a fence, not someone you don't know — and it's not permanent."

The project area is in the first open field on the left as you enter the park; organizers hope to see the return and recovery of several federally listed species at risk, including the western painted turtle, northern red-legged frog, western toad, dun skipper butterfly, and little brown myotis bat. Birders will be happy to learn several bird species will also benefit, including the peregrine falcon, band-tailed pigeon, barn



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Stqeeye' Learning Society organizer Maiya Modeste gives a Xwaaqw'um project update at the site on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

owl, great blue heron, common night-hawk, western screech owl, black swift, horned grebe, Lewis' woodpecker and the olive-sided flycatcher.

"We want to take the water that's going out into the ocean, and sequester it back into the land and into the aquifers that we're taking from," said water data technician Tyee Joseph. "We can do that with wetlands. We're going to be taking out a lot of the invasive grasses and replacing them with native plants."

More wetlands mean more habitat, said Joseph, who highlighted the connection between the at-risk species and native plants with the example of the "green marble" butterfly.

"It lived in relation with the First Nations women that collected camas," said Joseph. "Camas is a flower, and the bulb has a starch that was traded as far north as Alaska and as far south as Mexico — an economic staple of the First Nations people."

The butterfly evolved alongside the flower and the people that harvested it, said Joseph. "So when there was a hole dug, the butterfly would actually go back into the hole and lay its larvae."

Joseph said the butterfly had found one interesting way to adapt — just barely — at a shooting range on San Juan Island. Holes in an earthen backstop made by bullets there were close enough in size to those left behind from harvesting camas that some of the butterfly larvae laid in the holes survived.

Of course it wasn't ideal, said Joseph, compared to the huge numbers that flourished alongside the camas in the past. "Hopefully we can actually collect camas in this area again," he said.

Most of the valley bottom at Xwaaqw'um would have been "massive, towering red cedar" at one point, according to Bevington, with the associated plants, understory, wetlands and pools.

Native plants for the project are being grown with the help of Ken Eliot, a Cowichan elder partner and owner of a restoration nursery in Cowichan Bay. Stqeeye' organizer Maiya Modeste said Eliot had jumped at the chance to be involved.

"When we got to show him all the wonderful things that were happening here, he kept saying 'My prayers have been answered!'" said Modeste. "He said he'd been waiting for the next generation to get passionate about being on the land, and to have our future land stewards. It's finally here, and I can help!"

Other funding partners include BC Parks, Indigenous Watershed Initiative, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and community donors.

"An important takeaway is to remember that when we do a small thing today, it creates a better tomorrow for our future generations," said Modeste. "It all ripples, and it all has a greater effect that maybe we can't see today. But tomorrow it can be meaningful."

AGRICULTURE

End in sight for poultry restrictions

Agencies hope for no detection of avian influenza in post-outbreak surveillance

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's poultry will remain under movement restrictions for at least a few more weeks, according to Canada's lead agency on the avian influenza response — but an end may be in sight.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which declared a large portion of the island to be a Primary Control Zone (PCZ) following discovery of the H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza in birds here last month, said this week that the process towards revoking the order had begun, but it would not happen immediately.

"There will be at least 28 days of post-outbreak surveillance once the last infected premises in a PCZ has completed primary decontamination," said CFIA spokesperson Patrick Girard, who

confirmed that post-outbreak surveillance was currently underway for the zone on Salt Spring.

"If there are no additional cases of avian influenza detected, the PCZ will be revoked," said Girard. "It is anticipated that the PCZ will be eligible for revocation by Dec. 15."

The security zone boundary roughly follows a 10-kilometre diameter circle centred on Ganges — effectively most of Salt Spring Island north of Fulford. Movement controls are in place per the Health of Animals Act, requiring special permits to move "birds, their products and by-products, as well as things exposed to birds" into, out of, within or through the PCZ.

Until the PCZ is revoked, the Public Health Agency of Canada still recommends removing wild bird feeders from areas open to poultry and other domestic animals; wild birds are believed to be significant transmitters of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

According to Inspection Canada, avian influenza viruses — such as the H5N1 virus present in Asia — may, on rare occasions, cause disease in humans. Transmission to humans occurs through close contact with infected birds or heavily contaminated environments.



Islands Arts Centre Society
**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ARTSPRING AGM**
Monday, December 5th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

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

All are welcome. All who have been members for 30 days as of December 5th, 2022 are eligible to vote. 2021/2022 members are at liberty to renew right up to the date of the AGM in order to vote.

Please email board@artspring.ca to register.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

NOVEMBER 2022 PST (UTC-8h)

When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
23	0546	3.3	10.8	27	0030	0.0	0.0
	0954	2.8	9.2		0915	3.7	12.1
WE	1443	3.3	10.8	SU	1431	3.1	10.2
ME	2220	0.2	0.7	DI	1657	3.1	10.2
24	0638	3.4	11.2	28	0121	0.2	0.7
	1047	3.0	9.8		1004	3.7	12.1
TH	1509	3.4	11.2	MO	1619	2.9	9.5
JE	2259	0.0	0.0	LU	1743	2.9	9.5
25	0731	3.6	11.8	29	0214	0.4	1.3
	1146	3.1	10.2		1049	3.6	11.8
FR	1540	3.4	11.2	TU	1748	2.6	8.5
VE	2343	-0.1	-0.3	MA	1856	2.6	8.5
26	0823	3.6	11.8	30	0309	0.8	2.6
	1258	3.1	10.2		1130	3.6	11.8
SA	1616	3.3	10.8	WE	1838	2.2	7.2
				ME	2113	2.3	7.5

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Real Estate

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

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market-price-pointwise, 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 more homes in winter through March that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to more supply, hence competition, or better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

This old adage is really true for real estate:

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

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C.) - GOLD AWARD 2021 (VREB)

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OPINION

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Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

2022 BCYNA Awards
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EDITORIAL

Community central

Walking into the new SIMS these days, it's hard to not anticipate the clamour of adolescent voices and energy, even though it's no longer a middle school.

Excitement of a different sort has taken hold as the former Salt Spring Island Middle School has gradually transformed into the Salt Spring Island Multi-Space. It's handy to be able to still call it "SIMS" and know the place we're talking about, and its value as a community amenity is rapidly becoming clear.

As more and more groups set up in their allotted areas in the former school, the effect is not unlike the volume and harmonies rising as a stage fills with choir members arriving from all directions; and this new SIMS "choir" is wonderfully diverse.

Organizations and activities who have moved into the multi space represent vital aspects of island life: music, dance, visual arts, recreation, social services and more. Salt Spring Literacy is there; as is Transition Salt Spring and the SIMS Creator Space and Community Resilience

Hub. ASK Salt Spring — the place to ask questions of local government and other agency officials — sets up in the lobby every Friday.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) emergency program now has a much more appropriate home. The Gulf Islands Community Radio Society has a new spot, and space is also available for by-the-hour or day meeting/workshop rental.

When the closure of SIMS was first announced, the future of the Tsunami Circus program was uncertain. But as our story in this week's paper details, a partnership with Salt Spring Gymnastics in the gym is a boon for both groups.

While complaints will no doubt be heard at some point, for now it sounds like groups that have secured space at SIMS are just plain thrilled.

The CRD isn't planning an open house at the facility for a few more months, but with so many activities and groups increasingly based there, a large number of islanders will no doubt see at least some part of SIMS before then, even if only to get a vaccination in a classroom currently dedicated for that purpose.

Thanks to School District 64, the CRD and its parks department, and enthusiastic community members for cooperating to fill a longstanding need of creating a true community centre for Salt Spring.

THE ISSUE: New SIMS

WE SAY: CRD community space welcomed



RJ repairs harm and more

SUBMITTED BY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SALT SPRING ISLAND

It's Restorative Justice (RJ) Week in B.C.: a time to recognize the alternatives to the criminal justice system that exist in communities across Canada, and also here on Salt Spring Island.

Most people think of RJ as doing "community service hours" instead of jail time — but the processes used in RJ can be applied in schools, during conflicts and to bring communities together across differences.

In criminal cases, either the person harmed or the person causing harm can ask the RCMP to refer the case to restorative justice. If everyone involved agrees, then trained volunteers work to ensure everyone understands the process and is ready to participate. The person responsible for causing harm is supported to take responsibility for their actions and offer ways to repair the harm. The person affected is supported to express the impacts of the incident and to get the help they need to heal.

Often, other people are impacted by crime besides those directly involved. Family, friends, observers, arresting officers and the community as a whole often feel the impacts indirectly, but unlike traditional justice processes, their perspectives are invited into the RJ process.

Facilitators treat everyone equally, and no one is made to feel shame or blame — but rather to focus on taking responsibility and healing the harm. Everyone is brought together for a dialogue to hear the perspectives of all involved in a respectful way. The results are almost always a better understand-

ing of the impacts of crime and the unique people involved, and an agreement about how the harm will be repaired. Sometimes that looks like physical labour, or paying for the damage, and sometimes it's a meaningful and authentic apology.

But it's always up to those involved, and the facilitators are not judges. The process is not about punishment, and in essence, that is what makes it different from the criminal justice system. The Salt Spring RJ program has facilitated hundreds of criminal cases over the years and actively works with the local RCMP detachment.

This idea of repairing harm and rebuilding relationships carries over into how restorative processes can be used in schools, at work, in families and in neighbourhoods. The intent is not to lay blame, but rather to bring people back together so that they can continue to work, learn or live together. The tools of "peacemaking circles" and making agreements about behaviours are used in situations of conflict or harm. But more importantly, restorative processes can be used to build relationships of trust, respect and kindness before conflicts or harm occur.

Restorative schools show huge reductions in the number of critical incidences, student suspensions and absences, along with big increases in student and staff retention, satisfaction and engagement with the school community. RJ Salt Spring is working with SD64 to explore how schools in the district can bring more restorative practices into daily life at school.

To find out more, see www.rjssi.org.

VIEWPOINT

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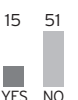
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you think the Ganges Harbour Walk will be completed someday? ☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Could a sandbag filling station be useful for you?



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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Help equine program thrive

I am writing to the community because we urgently need help to continue providing important equine therapy services to the youth of our community.

Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association (SSTRA) is a registered charitable organization founded in 2001 to provide quality, professional, equine-assisted therapy and activities for both children and adults. Since our opening, we have worked with hundreds of clients on Salt Spring Island and continue to be dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals by helping them improve their physical, mental and emotional well-being through equine therapeutic support.

My daughter Leah has ridden in our therapeutic program for 10 years now. She says it helps her with her posture and balance, and that it helps her in her struggle with anxiety. In her words: "When I get to the barn, I always know that I can just relax, I'm safe, it's ok. . . thank you for helping to create a safe space for me and for the other students of our wonderful program to blossom and grow, physically and mentally, and for helping us to feel comfortable in our own bodies."

Our funding needs are unique because of the year-round care of our horses. Three times a day, every day of the year, our six therapy horses require hay, grain, various supplements and medical attention when necessary. In response to that pressing need, we are asking donors

to consider joining SSTRA by committing to a monthly donation.

To learn more about the benefits of equine therapy and our programs, visit our www.sstra.ca website.

To become a member or supporter, please visit www.sstra.ca/donate.

Please help us help our community.

Thank you.

GAIL MUISE,

PRESIDENT, SSTRA

Legion thanks community

As this season's Remembrance activities wind down, the executive of the Salt Spring Legion Branch 92 would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the community for helping us fulfill our pledge to remember those who've served, past and present.

Also atop our list of thanks is to recognize all of the individuals who volunteered in all of the Remembrance-themed activities that happened on our island: The First Poppy ceremony, our poppy "taggers" and the businesses and organizations who hosted poppy donation boxes; the sponsors of our cenotaph wreaths; the CRD and the Salt Spring Parks and Rec team for their endless efforts to help show Centennial Park at its best; Search and Rescue members along with Fire-Rescue teams for traffic control; all of the Guiding group participants; the GISS's extraordinarily wonderful Remembrance service;

and our media partner the Driftwood.

Collectively, we believe that Salt Spring has truly made a sincere and memorable effort that left a very positive impression on the island's veterans and their families who are remembering their loved ones, knowing they live forever in our island's hearts.

BRUCE C. ANGUS,

PRESIDENT, ON BEHALF OF THE BRANCH 92 EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Biochar benefits

You published a great article on Brian Smallshaw and biochar in last week's paper.

For those who are interested in using biochar for gardening, here are some tips:

1. Crush the biochar for the tith of the soil.
2. Inoculate the biochar with a microbe-rich medium, such as grass clippings, compost, animal manure or human urine (if you're not on some heavy-duty medication such as SSRIs or hormone replacements).

3. Use your mixture to top-dress and to enrich the soil where you place bedding plants.

What biochar does:

1. It reduces compaction.
2. Retains water and holds air.
3. Provides luxurious accommodation for microbes.
4. Ramps up cation exchange because of being negatively charged.
5. Encourages arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (another fertility boost).



PHOTO COURTESY SHAN MACPHERSON

Shan MacPherson with a 34-pound kohlrabi grown in a biochar-nourished garden.

6. And stays in the soil for hundreds of years — just keep adding.

It can take a few years to see the difference, so I'm including a picture of my prize kohlrabi (kohl-braggy). This beauty weighed in at 34 pounds. Not too shabby!

SHAN MACPHERSON,
SALT SPRING

{ QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"An important takeaway is to remember that when we do a small thing today it creates a better tomorrow for our future generations."

MAIYA MODESTE, STQEEYE' LEARNING SOCIETY, ON XWAAQW'UM RESTORATION

Government-sponsored sports betting looks like a pretty big gamble

BY BRUCE CAMERON

If, like me, you enjoy fall sports coverage (hockey, football, basketball and now even soccer), then you have also been inundated recently with ads urging you to place a bet on sports. Bet 365, The Score, BetMGM, BetRivers, Draft Kings, Fan Duel, PlayNow: these brands and dozens of others have been flooding the airwaves since sports gambling was legalized in Canada.

Canada has always taken a more liberal view of gambling than America. The first lotteries offering consumers a chance to chase the dream of winning millions were launched in Canada years ahead of America. But the latest floodgates were opened by an obscure Canadian bill, C-218, introduced in mid-2021, that enabled single-game sports betting. That ability to wager, in real time, on the outcome of individual matches — something that until recently

was only available in Las Vegas or the U.K. — has revolutionized gambling in Canada.

The real gamble is in how much our governments will come to rely on gambling revenue as a source of funds and what they will do to deal with any problems it causes. The stakes are astronomical. In Ontario alone, online operators took in an estimated \$6 billion in the last quarter of 2022. And that doesn't even include the official Ontario Lottery revenues. A Deloitte report estimated the total value of the online sports gambling market in Canada would grow to \$28 billion by 2026. That's roughly \$1,000 spent per year for every adult Canadian.

So where is all the money going and what are the societal implications? These questions have been asked around North America as gambling expanded steadily over the past few decades. Most jurisdictions

GUEST COLUMN

direct gambling revenue to worthy charitable causes, but the allure of all that money is hard to resist for cash-strapped governments.

As a pollster who analyzed the gambling sector in U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions for many years, I uncovered insights about the potential for revenue and the potential political backlash that any expansion might bring. Two segments of the population are worth examining when it comes to the societal implications of expanded gambling.

"Prohibitionists" oppose gambling and think even regular lottery games are evil. They also worry about how the government will deal with problems caused by gambling addictions. "Concerned dabblers" on the other hand are happy to

have more options for betting but are concerned about the negative effects of unbridled expansion. Both groups are going to get much louder as sports betting revenue grows.

Also expect to hear more from sports purists who question the impact wagering will have on the integrity of their sport, especially now that sports betting segments on hockey telecasts look alarmingly like actual network coverage.

The barrage of sports betting ads seems most problematic for problem gamblers, a group whom government regulators target with millions of dollars of responsible gaming ads, promoting safe betting tips and practices. Self-exclusion is one of the suggested methods. Anyone who has ever met an addict would rightly question the effectiveness of that option.

As the wave of sports betting options turns into a tsunami, there are more questions

than answers. How much more money will BC Lotteries make in 2023 with the introduction of sports betting? Where will that money go? Will the proportion of so-called problem gamblers (which used to be around two to three per cent) increase with the explosion of sports betting ads?

And, finally, should I take the points and bet on the underdog this weekend?

Bruce Cameron is the political affairs columnist for Black Press, has been a pollster and strategist for over 35 years, working initially for Gallup Polls, Decima Research and the Angus Reid Group before founding his own consultancy, Return On Insight. He used to lead the North American Lottery and Gaming Division for the Angus Reid Group, working with dozens of provincial and state lottery organizations. He lives on Salt Spring Island.



**SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**

*Meetings will be held at the
Ganges Fire Hall Training Room,
105 Lower Ganges Road,
Salt Spring Island.*

- January 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- February 27, 2023 7:00 p.m.
(note: this is the fourth Monday of the month
as Feb. 20, 2022 is Family Day)
- March 20, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- April 17, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- May 15, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- June 19, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- July 17, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- August 21, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- September 18, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- October 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- November 20, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- December 18, 2023 7:00 p.m.

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Premier David Eby needs to get control of 'chaotic' government

On Nov. 18, David Eby was sworn in as the 37th premier of British Columbia.

The change comes following the resignation of John Horgan and the ensuing leadership event that raised many questions for MLAs and British Columbians alike.

Frankly, this change in leadership disrupted a chaotic fall legislative session, one plagued by a mismanaged agenda and a government that chose to shut down debate by shortening the session by a full week.

There is a troubling pattern developing with this BC NDP government. Like last fall, they continue to table important bills with just a few weeks left in the sitting, leaving little time for opposition members to do our job of scrutinizing them on behalf of all British Columbians.

Last year they shut down debate on structural changes to the freedom of information and forestry laws. Again, with only a few days remaining in this fall session, they tabled the largest bill in recent history, and among a half-dozen others, a bill with long-awaited changes to Indigenous child welfare.

These bills include important amendments. It is inappropriate to shorten the democratic process simply



Adam Olsen
MLA'S
COLUMN

because the BC NDP can't get their act together. Premier Eby's decision to shorten the session by a week is either a deliberate attempt to curb deep analysis, or an inability to competently manage the legislative agenda.

Put simply, the BC NDP has consistently shown a lack of respect for democratic debate. They have limited the Opposition's job to critique the government and the laws that govern our province. It's important to note that it is not unusual for those Opposition critiques to result in government amendments that improve the laws.

As Premier Eby outlined in his first press conference, there are many pressing issues that need the full attention of a competent government. He has stated he is going to hit the ground running, working to address a variety of critical and timely issues facing our province.

My constituents have raised concerns about the decimation of our equitable, universal health-care system, a lack of affordable housing, the dramatic increases in the cost of living, challenges in finding affordable childcare, the climate emergency and the BC NDP's continued use of taxpayer money to subsidize multinational oil and gas corporations who are simultaneously recording billion-dollar profits.

The promise of the BC NDP government was to make life more affordable. However, on so many fronts they are failing to proactively address the core issues.

The inability to manage a legislative agenda, frantically tabling legislation in the last week of a fall sitting and paying no respect to democratic processes that have evolved over decades to ensure the opposition, media and public can engage in informed debate, is indicative of a government that has no plan or purpose and cannot properly manage their affairs.

My hope is that Premier Eby's administration is far more organized than his predecessor's. We desperately need a government that is prepared to address the intersecting challenges we all face in a proactive and coordinated way.

Christmas GIFT GUIDE



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- The stores in your home town have everything you need and more.
- Shopping locally encourages local prosperity.

Focus on **EDUCATION**

PHOTO BY KIMBERLEY CHAPMAN

GAVELS OF HONOUR: Salt Spring Island students Kieran Denny and Maia Cassie were among members of the Queen Margaret's School Model UN team, earning national honours for their participation in the Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium (SSUNS), held Nov. 10-13 in Montreal, Que. At the final awards ceremony, Denny earned the Hide Hyodo Shimizu Award for Peacemaking, and Cassie was awarded the Viola Desmond Award for Advocacy. The Duncan school team also took first place in the SSUNS "Amazing Race" scavenger hunt, led by McGill University students in downtown Montreal. Pictured from left are Denny, Cadan Ritter, Alexander Munro, Cassie and Maya Harbo.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING

Island students learn online through 64GO

School may help improve district graduation rates with early intervention and more learning flexibility

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF



LYALL RUEHLEN
64GO principal

with regards to English and social studies. I'm part of that team. We can actually align with Camosun College and offer dual-credit programs and courses."

In addition to K-12 students, 64GO also serves adult learners.

Ruehlen told the board that some were in full-time programs and some were doing just a single course.

"One of the special things is that we are so local," he said. "We have quality educators in place, we know our teachers, and they know how to serve our students."

Individual student learning plan meetings are in-person at the beginning, Ruehlen said, and that generally takes place at the Hub — to ensure students are setting up the right courses for graduation, as well as to understand each student's learning profile. Staff also go out to other islands to meet with families where they are, with that central tie-in back to the physical assets that already exist in district.

"I think this is a real bonus of being local," said Ruehlen. "We get to utilize the resources of the school district; we can have families come in and sign out a library book, or get on a computer to print out an assignment, or access the old middle school gym to do physical activities."

The online school has also created an opportunity to identify learning gaps in alternative or home-schooled students that may be less prepared when they enter the district in Grade 10 or 11, according to Ruehlen, so they can get academic supports in place well in time to help them graduate.

"We want to ensure we know our learners, and we want to deliver quality education," said Ruehen. "The better we get to know them, the more we can get those learners across that stage — that's where we want them to be."

"One of the special things is that we are so local. We have quality educators in place, we know our teachers, and they know how to serve our students."

LYALL RUEHLEN
64GO principal

Just two months after opening its virtual doors, the Gulf Islands School District's online school has seen steady growth, and is helping reach a different part of the student-age population than its brick-and-mortar schools.

"In the same breath I'll say we're exceeding, and managing, our expectations," said 64GO principal Lyall Ruehlen, addressing the district's board of trustees at its first post-election meeting Nov. 9. "Right now, we're serving over 40 students, enrolled in one or more courses."

64GO is the district's online learning school, designed for students and families who need flexible learning options. Students enroll full- or part-time, and typically combine the online learning program with in-person instruction. That portion of the "blended" learning takes place at the Hub, SD64's Learning Hub classroom in the space formerly known as the SIMS Annex.

"We are a ministry-approved local online school," said Ruehlen. "We're not a provincial online school, where someone from Kamloops can parachute in; we have a licence to serve Gulf Islands schools and families."

Ruehlen said the program has four part-time specialized teachers, and between them are able to offer a wide range of courses across the grades.

"We have a math specialist, so we can offer all the way up to Calculus 12," said Ruehlen. "We have a science specialist, so we can offer chemistry and science throughout the curriculum. We have a humanities specialist,

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Sylvia Louwman

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Judy Smith

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Ardice McCre
Nia Williams
Jessica Willows

15 YEARS

Mark Beveridge
Kim Chalmers
Rachel FitzZaland
Peri Lavender
Stacy Mitchell
Sue Robinson
Heidi Soares
Leanne Sutherland

10 YEARS

Tania Aguila
Kim Gilmour
Lis Graham
Deirdre Knister
Kjell Liem
Navid Niazi
Guy Reeves
James Ripley
Siobhan Tarry

5 YEARS

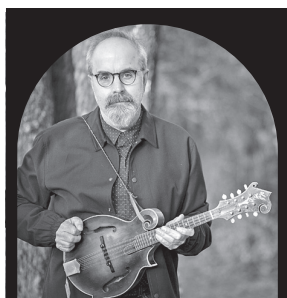
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CONCERT PREVIEW

East meets West in Harant odyssey

At ArtSpring Nov. 30

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

The life journey of the Czech nobleman, traveller, humanist, soldier, writer and composer Kryštof Harant from Polžice and Bezručice ended prematurely in the Old Town Square in Prague June 21, 1621, when he was executed for participating in the Protestant Bohemian Revolt.

As an unfortunate consequence, Harant's artistic legacy was largely lost or rendered incomplete. Today, two internationally renowned ensembles, Constantinople and Cappella Mariana, collaborate to present his surviving compositions and introduce audiences to his literary tradition: his 1608 record of a unique trip to the Middle East, which he chronicled in his Journey from Bohemia to

the Holy Land, by way of Venice and the Sea. Harant's colourful, atmospheric work, narrated by Bill Richardson, will lead listeners on a musical journey to the exotic lands of Cyprus, Jerusalem, Sinai and Cairo, immersing people in the music of those cultures as he himself had heard it.

Inspired by the ancient city illuminating the East and West, Constantinople was founded in 2001 in Montreal by its artistic director Kiya Tabassian. Constantinople has created nearly 50 works and travelled to more than 263 cities in 55 countries. Cappella Mariana, founded in 2008, has received acclaim from the public and critics alike. Salt Springers will of course recognize Bill Richardson as long-time CBC radio broadcaster and author of the Bachelor Brothers' Bed and Breakfast.

Tickets are on sale at ArtSpring for the Wednesday, Nov. 30 show at 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY PETRA HAJSKA

Constantinople musicians and Cappella Mariana vocalists, who will perform at ArtSpring Nov. 30.

JAZZ MUSIC

NYC jazz great on stage at ArtSpring

Michael Weiss Quartet
performs Thursday

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

Jazz fans on Salt Spring are in for a serious treat with the much-anticipated appearance of legendary NYC jazz pianist, composer, educator and band leader Michael Weiss on the ArtSpring stage on Thursday, Nov. 24.

Along with the members of his

quartet, Weiss delivers the agility and depth of someone who has enjoyed his four decades of working with such jazz giants as Johnny Griffin, Art Farmer, George Coleman, Wynton Marsalis, Jimmy Heath, Frank Wes, Slide Hampton, The Jazztet, Lou Donaldson, Charles McPherson, Jon Hendricks and the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra.

Together with Cory Weeds (tenor saxophone), John Lee (bass), and Jesse Cahill (drums), the Michael Weiss

Quartet will perform music from Weiss' latest album Persistence (2022.) It takes audiences on a jazz journey through four clever originals and four classic standards from the likes of Jimmy Van Heusen, Fats Waller, Thelonious Monk, and Antonio Carlos Jobim. Whatever the combination, The Detroit Free Press reviewed the line-up frankly: "the songs simply smoke."

Tickets are still available online and through the box office for Thursday night's performance at 7:30 p.m.

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FINE ART

Jensen drawings continue to enchant

Late artist's work shared

BY MARGARET DAY
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Every carefully curated selection of LeRoy Jensen's remaining drawings by his artist daughter Gabrielle Jensen is a total treat, not only for those who knew him but for those who come to his work for the first time.

This collection of 24 small, wash and line drawings, currently on exhibit at Steffich Fine Art, was created in the studio. Based on years of careful observation and constant drawing, they take us immediately back to sun-washed shores and the lovely idle moments of summer.

They remain as fresh and appealing today as when they were first made, the compositions full of life and movement. In many the enjoyment of water is emphasized by the fluidity of his characteristic bold use of line. This gives each figure weight and vigor, and defines the freely applied washes that underpin the drawing and evoke the light and setting of the beach. The viewer's eye goes from one scene to the next: the exuberance of adults playing in the sea, the freedom of a couple about to go skinny dipping, while in a quieter mood his drawings of small seated groups perfectly capture the companionable feel of those summer afternoons. As always in his work there are tender compositions of mother and child, balanced by a few



IMAGE COURTESY GABRIELLE JENSEN

One of the "beach" series of drawings by LeRoy Jensen on exhibit at Steffich Fine Art this month.

drawings of solitary figures, sculptural in their solidity and bringing to mind the works on paper of Henry Moore and Rico Lebrun.

As with all good drawings they allow our own imagination to come into play, a soundscape is evoked of distant laughter and water breaking on a pebbled shore. The intimacy and directness of the drawing captures just a fleeting moment, but those moments are expansive and stay in our mind's eye long after the sun has set on a lovely day.

CONCERT

Bands 'try again' for fun concert

Bandemonium and Swing Shift set for Dec. 3 night

SUBMITTED BY BANDEMONIUM

Bandemonium Concert Band and Swing Shift Big Band are combining forces to present a concert called Let's Try This Again, set for Saturday, Dec. 3 at ArtSpring at 7:30 p.m.

After two years of concert cancellations, the bands are thrilled to once again rehearse regularly in their new home, a dedicated community music room in the Capital Regional District's centre at SIMS, and even more thrilled to present a back-to-normal indoor concert.

A very eclectic program, sprinkled with a few seasonal favourites, includes music by Leroy Anderson, Gustav Holst, Benny Goodman, Andre Jutras, Sammy Nestico, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Duke Ellington and



PHOTO COURTESY BANDEMONIUM

Bandemonium Concert Band members raise their instruments in anticipation of finally being able to perform for an indoor audience on Dec. 3 at ArtSpring.

more. Guest artists include Yael Wand singing two big band classics, and Brandon Bronson performing a xylophone feature.

Bandemonium's and Swing Shift's current music directors, Wendy and Derrick

Milton, are the cofounder's of the Bandemonium Music Society. New members are always welcome. This concert will be Wendy's last performance as music director. A new music director will be announced in the new year.

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what's on this week

Wed. Nov. 23

ACTIVITIES

SSI Garden Club AGM. Annual general meeting with guest speaker Jeff de Jong on Digging Art. Meaden Hall. 6:45 p.m. Guests welcome.

Salt Spring Film Fest: Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets SOLD OUT. (A few tickets may be available at the box office one hour before showtime.)

Jack Little: The Battle for Salt Spring. Historian presents a talk on the anti-TeXada Land Company campaign from 1999 to 2001. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Thur. Nov. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Michael Weiss Quartet. Jazz concert with NYC pianist and other stellar musicians at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Green Drinks. Conversations with like-minded individuals about EVs, solar systems, rainwater catchment and more. Moby's Pub. 5 to 7 p.m.

Thursday Night Meditation. Weekly meditation program with Nicola Bishop. A Star of the Sea event at St. Mary's Church. 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Note new day of the week.)

Fri. Nov. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

DJ Franky Fontaine. Funk night at Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:45 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Books & Bling. Salt Spring Literacy's famous sale of books and jewellery at the Farmers' Institute hall. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Neighbourhood Story Time. Stories and activities for babies through 7-year-olds and caregivers led by community members. Library. 11 a.m.

Fri. Nov. 25

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. Guests from BC Ferries will talk about plans for future service improvement on Salt Spring Island. In the lobby of SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Youth Games. Card and board games for youth aged 9 to 13. Library program room every Friday. 2 to 4 p.m.

Christmas Light-up In Centennial Park. Hot chocolate, Christmas treats and carollers; plus a gold candy cane contest to determine who gets to flick the switch on the all-new light display from the SS Chamber of Commerce in the park. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John Muirhead & Jacob Weil. At Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

Old Times Cafe. Open stage at Fulford Hall annex. 7 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Books & Bling. See Friday listing.
WinterFaire. Annual SSI United Church sale of crafts, baking, secondhand treasures and more. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Raised By The Sea; Painted With Tea. Art and poetry talk with Briony Penn and Adelia MacWilliam related to The Poems and Palettes of Six Generations of Island Painters exhibition in the library's program room this month. 2 to 3 p.m.

Salt Spring Forum: Shady Dealings. The Decline of Democracy and the Hindrance of Climate Action. Sean Holman, investigative journalist and now UVic professor of environmental and climate journalism, is the forum guest. Beaver Point Hall. 3 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Makana Youth Choir Concert. Term-end concert for singers in grades 2-9, led by Caroni Young. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.

Jazz Jam. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 27

ACTIVITIES

Books & Bling. See Friday listing, except the time is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tue. Nov. 29

ACTIVITIES

Stewards in Training Celebration. The Salt Spring Island Conservancy recruits new Stewards in Training Program volunteers and celebrates the current ones. Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. 3 to 5 p.m. For more info and to RSVP, email reed@saltspringconservancy.ca.

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

Wed. Nov. 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Constantinople and Cappella Mariana. Two internationally renowned ensembles explore the music of Czech humanist and composer Kryštof Harant. With narrator Bill Richardson. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Garry Oak Meadow Presentation and Planting. A SSI Conservancy event. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration required by emailing debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.

Music Bingo. Every Wednesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.



THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile** is the show from Friday, Nov. 25 to Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. Rated G. 1 hour, 47 minutes.
For more movie info, see thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Artcraft Winter,** the Salt Spring Arts sale of work by Gulf Islands artists and artisans, runs at Mahon Hall from Nov. 25 to Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with an opening celebration on Friday, Nov. 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

• **Gallery 8's 14th Annual Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** opens with a reception on Friday, Nov. 25 from 5 to 8 p.m., with the show continuing through Dec. 31.

• **New Works - Sav Boro and Paul Bryans** is in the A Space at Salt Spring Gallery until Dec. 7. Gallery is open from Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **The ArtSpring lobby space** features **The Social Landscape** by photographer Seth Berkowitz through November.

• **Raised by the Sea: Painted with Tea** - Six Generations of Painters on Salt Spring Island. An exhibit of the art and photographs of the settler Tyrwhitt-Drake/Bridgman family is in the Salt Spring library's program room until Nov. 26.

• **Dragonfly Art Supplies** is featuring Jane Sellwood in the gallery for the month of November: Portraits, florals, and abstracts in oil and graphite.

• **Nostalgic Gestures:** newly released sketches by the late LeRoy Jensen are at Steffich Fine Art this month.

Books & Bling

Salt Spring Literacy's annual fundraising book & jewellery sale

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Administration

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- Meetings and scheduling
- Correspondence

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Obituaries

Obituaries



Gordon Martin Berg

July 22, 1943 – November 3, 2022

It is with tremendous sadness that we announce the passing of Gordon Martin Berg on November 3, 2022 at the age of 79. Martin, beloved father and brother, passed away peacefully with family by his side. He will be deeply missed by his daughter, Deanna, brother, Allan (Elaine), sisters, Connie and Ann, as well as niece, nephews, and good friends. He is predeceased by his parents, Elsa and Conrad, and brother, Walter.

Martin was born and raised in North Vancouver. As a young boy, he shared his amazing voice with others by singing in the church choir. He joined the navy and was honoured for having the best kit in his division. After the navy, Martin worked for Canada Post and then for BC Transit. It was as a transit operator that his outgoing, friendly and humorous personality was able to really shine. He greeted each passenger with a smile and enjoyed getting to know the regulars. BC Transit was very fond of Martin because of his outstanding record of safe driving throughout his entire career.

Martin and his ex-wife, Judy, raised their daughter, Deanna, in Burnaby. He was always happy to remind Deanna of funny moments such as the time the baby diaper was no match for her explosive poop. Martin was Deanna's number one fan, always attending her various games, races, and regattas, no matter the weather. When Deanna started a small business, Martin asked for a stack of business cards and proudly handed them out to people.

Martin vacationed on Salt Spring Island for many years with family and friends, and decided to move there after retirement. He loved crab fishing on the water and especially loved the delicious dinner that followed. He enjoyed island life and the many friends that he made on Salt Spring. Martin eventually moved back to North Vancouver where he cherished being able to regularly get together with family.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for a later date.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

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

Sagittarius time is underway. Sun, Mercury, and Venus are all featured and playing leading roles. This is serving to raise the overall vibration and tempo after the otherwise introverted influences of Scorpio. Jupiter in Pisces is itself quite introverted, so it is dampening the overall vibe, somewhat. Yet, there are enough factors at play to reveal a very exciting atmosphere activating themes and principles of ethics, truth, justice, and liberty. Like a clarion call piercing the airwaves the world over, disrupting usual rhythms and routines, people are talking and an awakening is underway. The signs of this will become stronger this week and over the next few. In some respects, the awakening is social and political, while in others, psychological and spiritual. References to these times as 'apocalyptic,' which translates to mean 'unveiling,' is quite appropriate and this process is undergoing a super-boost right now. To tune in, take a moment to realize that you do not see reality as it is, but rather as you are, according to your nature and conditioning. So, who are you and what conditioning factors are you exposed to?

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) The influences of Sagittarius will likely inspire new visions for you. This can include a widening of your horizons and scope of perspective and awareness. You could simply feel happier and more optimistic. At the deeper levels, you could experience rare insights and epiphanies of truth.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Sagittarius time is one during which you generally undergo various kinds of change and transformation. This will include some measure of investigation and research that takes you beyond familiar perspectives. Wanting to know what others know and why they think and believe as they do will drive your focus.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Your relationship life should already be experiencing a boost and this trend will continue. The desire to meet and greet comes with the seasonal festivities common to this time of year and these will prove extra strong. Your public and professional life will be amplified but will require more effort.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Paying closer attention to the quality of your overall lifestyle and the health or lack thereof is emphasized. You will want to understand via a combination of broader perspectives and specific facts. The inclination towards denial and escapism are present, but circumstantial realities may play a counter role.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) The fiery influences of Sagittarius will ignite your own. This will continue to be a more playful mood, yet one which could just as quickly escalate into drama. Jupiter in Pisces is having a deep influence on you and is likely swinging the pendulum between trepidation and increased confidence.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) A creative boost is indicated by these Sagittarian influences. Directing this inspired energy to beautify and decorate your home are some examples. Yet the focus could also turn to more focus directed to your hobbies and talents. As well, you are likely to experience social expansion and increased activities.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) You are in a 'need to know' cycle. It will continue for several weeks. Obtaining new knowledge includes study and exposure to various means and avenues. This can include the desire for engagement as well as dialogue with friends and exposure to new networks and forums.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) You are in a 'show me the money' kind of mood. It could also swing over to wanting to have a clearer understanding of your priorities and your best strategies to advance your position. All the Scorpio influences of the past several weeks have activated your resolve and now you are determined to capitalize.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) A pioneering impulse is being activated by these Sagittarian impulses. You can expect to undergo a new sense of courage and resolve. This will prove especially true after next week's New Moon in your sign. For now, the focus is on the build-up phase so buckle in and start your engines.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) Now is the time to duck out of the limelight for a while. Use this time to retreat and recharge. You may choose to keep busy behind the scenes, but be sure to pace yourself and rest as much as you can over the next few weeks because you will be extra busy afterward. At least slow the pace as much as you can.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) Your sense of individuality, although probably already quite pronounced, will be extra emphasized over the coming weeks. This will likely lend to the desire for increased engagement with friends new and old. Sharing visionary thoughts, philosophies, and convictions regarding rights and freedoms are highlighted.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Your public and professional spheres will undergo an increase in the coming days and weeks. Getting desired attention and that which you feel you have earned and deserve is featured. Acquiring new skills and tools is also likely. The time is right to forge ahead and expand your scope of power and influence.

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ISLAND LIFE

RECREATION

Circus and gymnastics join forces

New combined program for all ages to operate from the SIMS gym

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS) shuttered last year, one might have been forgiven for fearing the curtain was also closing on the island's renowned circus instruction and performance program practising within its walls.

No so, according to former Tsunami Circus volunteer administrator and newly minted Salt Spring Island Circus and Gymnastics spokesperson Michelle Bennett. A new partnership with what was Salt Spring Gymnastics — which ran for decades out of Fulford Hall — and access to the gymnasium at the former middle school space has enabled both groups to expand offerings.

"There is a lot of crossover between gymnastics and circus training," said Bennett, "and the two disciplines are very complementary. Salt Spring Gymnastics was kind enough to consider joining with us so that we could offer expanded programs for all ages."

"All ages" isn't an exaggeration; preschool gymnastics programs begin at age one, and circus at age six. In addition, there will be adult courses, separate courses for teens, and courses broken out for beginners and the more advanced.

"So we'll have programs for kids from age six to 106," said Bennett. "Whoever wants to join!"

Bennett said there had been so much demand for circus programming, and with the significant investment in time — and money — setting up rigging at the SIMS space, it's gratifying to be able to continue to use it.

"There's a great deal of engineering and skill involved in all that needs to be done for the aerials," said Bennett. "Making it happen and making it safe."

The new combined program will feature many familiar faces. Bennett said Sarah Robinson will be returning as head gymnastics coach, and several circus coaches are signing back on — as well as a number of talented new members of the combined coaching team. In addition



PHOTO COURTESY SSI CIRCUS & GYMNASTICS

Participants in a recent family acro course at the SIMS gym.

to specialty courses running in four-week sessions — unicycling, hoop, juggling and other circus arts — Salt Spring Island Circus and Gymnastics hopes to offer a hybrid gymnastics/circus class that is accessible to children who might benefit from a smaller lesson size, a quieter room and the flexibility of having a supportive adult join.

"We'd like to hear from the community about what else they might be interested in doing with us, too," said Bennett, "and from anyone interested in joining the coaching team. We offer training to those who have an interest, even if they don't have a lot of experience."

Bennett said while no longer free of cost, gymnastics and circus classes are eligible for funding through Jumpstart and KidSport.

Families and potential coaches can email: ssicircusandgymnastics@gmail.com and find details soon on the Salt Spring Island Circus and Gymnastics Facebook group page.



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SEE OUR
*What's On
Calendar*
ON PAGE 9



The holiday shopping season has arrived, along with a chance to buy hand-crafted gifts, seasonal decorations, baking and more from the many talented people who call Salt Spring Island home. Enjoy socializing while supporting fellow islanders and community organizations by shopping at upcoming fairs at the Salt Spring Island United Church, Beaver Point Hall and Lions Hall!

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LOCAL HISTORY

Trees planted in park for peace

Select items from past issues of the
Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper.

60 years ago

from Nov. 22, 1962

• With 126 servicemen and 10 service-women attending, the largest Veteran's Dinner since its inception was held on Nov. 10, the eve of Remembrance Day, at Mahon Memorial Hall. It was the first time a separate table was set up for the 10 servicewomen, a record number. The dinner was served by the Ladies to the Royal Canadian Legion; entertainment was provided by Mrs. J. Black (accordion).

• The local Boxing Club was represented at a Chemainus boxing card on Saturday, Nov. 24, by Danny Akerman. Danny, age 11, won a decision over Bill Odano in the 85-pound class.

30 years ago

from Nov. 25, 1992

• About 25 people met in Ganges Creek Linear Park Sunday to dedicate a newly planted grove of 13 trees for world peace. Organized by Salt Spring Voice of Women, the ceremony opened with the singing of

LOOKING BACK

well-known peace songs and others with lyrics adapted for the purpose at hand. Raging Grannies led the group in song.

• Final recommendations for the Ganges Alternate Route and changes to Ganges' traffic and pedestrian circulation and parking systems will be on display this week.

If recommendations are followed, islanders would see a one-way couplet traffic circulation system for McPhillips and Hereford avenues, left and right-hand turn lanes on Rainbow Road at Lower Ganges Road, and a left-hand turn lane accessing Seaview Avenue from Fulford-Ganges Road.

15 years ago

from Nov. 21, 2007

• Local residents flooded Monday night's Salt Spring Fire Protection District board meeting, urging fire trustees to consider alternatives to a full-time paid fire department.

According to the district's 10-year Strategic Plan Draft 5.5, the island's growing population and declining volunteer firefighter ranks have led trustees to consider staffing the Ganges fire hall around the clock with four paid firefighters. Completing the plan entails hiring 20 additional firefighters by 2012 at a cost of \$81,000 per person per year.

"This proposal, as it stands, has the potential to only make the situation worse," said Andrew Haigh, a Ganges business owner. "The board needs to look at creative ways of keeping volunteers. We are going to tax people off the island and end up with a rich enclave of nothing."

• Islanders can indulge their dreams for a public bus service with an open house at ArtSpring on Nov. 27.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the event will provide information about the B.C. Transit service set for launch on Jan. 7, 2008. The initial service will offer limited schedules and routes, which will be evaluated after a few months through community and operator input, and revised accordingly.

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