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Driftwood

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 56TH YEAR — ISSUE 8

INDUSTRIAL LAND

Zoning changes irk public

General Employment category proposal wins no friends

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Proposed changes to Salt Spring's industrial zoning appear to be creating more problems than current bylaws already contain, according to members of the public who attended Islands Trust consultation sessions last Tuesday.

Advertising for three sessions held throughout the day stated the changes are meant to support economic development, implement recommendations from the Industrial Advisory Planning Commission and simplify the existing zoning framework. But residents are asking Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee to put the brakes on the process.

"The is the first chance the community has had to see what they planned, and I guess they expected a rubber stamp," said Susan Cunningham, the former owner of an industrial-zoned property on Fulford-Ganges Road. "They really need more input overall."

Participants of two busy daytime sessions led by Beverly Suderman and Chris Hall of IPS Island Planning Services, plus a more sparsely attended evening event, voiced concerns with the process, the zones where industrial use is being considered and the proposed change of more than a dozen different commercial and industrial zones to four "general employment" categories.

INDUSTRIAL continued on 2



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TRADITION: Tzinquaw dancer Eugene Sylvester thrills a Mahon Hall crowd Sunday as part of Coast Salish First Nations Cultural Day. The event saw storytelling, dancing, music, reef-net fishing and cedar basket demos, a salmon BBQ and group discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS

Landline outage silences callers

Customers left to troubleshoot

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring resident wants answers about a perplexing telephone outage that left countless Shaw Communications landline users out of reach for days last week.

Evelyn Smith figured something was up when she couldn't make an urgent call to her doctor's office early on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

"Luckily I had a cell phone," she said.

Smith spent a good part of the morning troubleshooting her landline by going through the usual procedure: turning the phone on and off, unplugging the unit, removing the battery and resetting the modem.

The phone was still silent. When she arrived at the Shaw office in Ganges later that day, she saw cars double parked and customers waiting for answers to the same problem.

"I have to give credit to the staff in the office," she said. "They were obviously frustrated themselves, and all they could say is that it should be up soon."

Smith eventually determined the problem could be solved by accessing the Live Chat feature of her online Shaw account.

SHAW continued on 3

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- Country Grocer
- The Source
- Ganges Pharmasave
- Staples
- Thrifty Foods

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

CRD mulls liquid waste commission combo

Volunteer fatigue, like mandates observed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District is pondering the combining of three Salt Spring commissions that deal with liquid waste and sludge into one entity.

A staff report presented to the Electoral Area Services Committee on Feb. 17 outlines the similar mandates of the Ganges Local Sewer Commission, Highland Water and Sewer Services Commission and Salt Spring Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission.

Each advisory body has had difficulty attracting or maintaining volunteer members, posing a significant administrative challenge.

In particular, the Liquid Waste Commission lost all but one member last year during a mass resignation.

"It certainly seems like an idea worth exploring because of volunteer fatigue and the synergistic mandates," said Salt Spring electoral area director Wayne McIntyre. "There's a couple of commissioners that are pooped out."

As proposed, the combined commission would maintain separate taxation and budgets for local services but would bring "administrative time and cost savings as it relates to coordinating meetings and project delivery approvals."

McIntyre said that he will consult with the individual commissions for their take on the idea before moving ahead on the official level.

Simplified zoning is Trust goal

INDUSTRIAL

continued from 1

Speaking after the public engagement day, Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove said many more chances for participation will be available after the draft bylaw is tabled, which could happen as early as March.

"The idea of these meetings was just to get some input from the community — and people were concerned that things were moving too fast and staff had already made up their mind as to what was going to happen," Grove said, adding this is not the case. Planning staff will be incorporating feedback gathered at the sessions into the next phase, he said.

Cindy Bratt, a lawyer who lives and practises on agricultural land at the head of Fulford Harbour, had previously written in opposition to an IAPC suggestion to allow new industrial use at Musgrave and Isabella Point roads. The idea first surfaced in the group's November 2014 report called Blueprint Towards a Working Community.

Bratt said despite the full house at Fulford Hall, neither herself nor the neighbours of the proposed industrial area in Fulford/Musgrave were directly notified of the plans or the meetings, nor were they consulted about the potential impact of the proposed changes.

"When you are undertaking changes that are so drastic, there is a requirement to consult with and notify the people who would be affected, in writing, personally," she said.

The most recent material as presented on Feb. 16 shifts the proposed area over to Fulford-Ganges and Beaver Point roads, but Bratt is still alarmed by the entire procedure. As a lawyer, she believes changing "industrial" to "general employment" designations in the zoning bylaws and official community plan could have legal ramifications as well as contravene

the Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate.

"The Islands Trust is planning on changing the zoning that has the highest environmental, contamination, visual and noise impact on people and the land," Bratt told the Driftwood. "The trustees plan to expand the uses within industrial zoning, and to rezone lands to industrial. I see the proposed changes as being so broad and far-reaching that a formal public review and an OCP amendment are required before any such changes are even contemplated."

"When you are undertaking changes that are so drastic, there is a requirement to consult with and notify the people who would be affected, in writing, personally."

CINDY BRATT
Fulford resident

"Changes of the nature and extent that the trustees are trying to implement require the involvement of the neighbours and the public in a democratic way, and not just the involvement of a small sample of the population, not just the owners of the existing industrial land, or those who want to have their land rezoned to industrial."

Others who attended the meeting were concerned the general employment title would in fact lead to a softer interpretation, with the end result that current industrial uses could be phased out. According to the IAPC report, in 2014 there were 92 acres of industrial land in use, with a projected increase in demand of seven acres per decade

or 17.5 acres over the next 25 years.

Grove said that both the total acres of current industrial land and the types of industrial uses now permitted would be protected under the new bylaw.

"The idea is to simplify the zoning — we have so many designations — and to make it more flexible," Grove said. "No heavy industry is going to move to Salt Spring. You'd be nuts to do so. But what we need on the island is a place for home-based [industrial] businesses to grow. We don't want them to go off-island, which is what happened to the Salt Spring Coffee Company."

Some speakers at the Fulford session preferred the idea of creating an industrial park, as once envisioned for Rainbow Road, rather than facilitating small industrial pockets all over the island. The LTC prefers a northern European model where industry is dispersed and hidden from view. Grove said a successful example is the newly approved abattoir off Fulford-Ganges Road, which is not visible from the main road.

Grove noted one problem with trying to build an industrial park on Rainbow Road or other areas is that much of the land is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve.

There are also other considerations, he said.

"All you have to do is drive down the Island Highway and look at Duncan and around there, or look at Ladysmith and around there and then say, 'Do we want that?'"

Speaking Tuesday, Suderman said there will be at least two more sessions for public engagement on zoning changes. As it stands, the planners will be incorporating a number of "tweaks" and corrections into the draft documents using information from the Feb. 16 meetings.

"We were very grateful for the community feedback we got to help us with that," said Suderman.



Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING & COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee invites you to attend a Community Information Meeting and Public Hearing to hear your views regarding **Proposed Bylaw No. 484**.

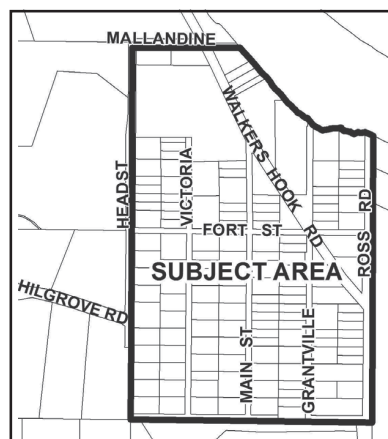
At the Public Hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw.

DATE: Thursday, March 3, 2016
LOCATION: Hart Bradley Hall (Lions Club), 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island
TIME: 5:00 p.m. onwards
• Community Information Meeting - 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
• Public Hearing - 6:30 p.m. onwards

Staff and members of the Local Trust Committee will be available at the Lion's Club from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to provide information about the bylaw and to answer questions. Members of the public will also have an opportunity to comment on the bylaw at the Public Hearing, which will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

WHAT IS THE BYLAW ABOUT?

In general terms, **Proposed Bylaw No. 484** will amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 to introduce a 30 metre setback requirement between septic fields and drinking water wells within the area identified below:



Proposed Bylaw No. 484 is cited as "Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 2, 2015".

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A copy of the proposed bylaw and other relevant background documents may be inspected at the Islands Trust Salt Spring Office at 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, from **February 17 to March 2, 2016**.

A copy of **Proposed Bylaw No. 484** may also be viewed on the Islands Trust website (www.islandstrust.bc.ca) under "Islands" --- "Local Trust Areas" --- "Salt Spring" --- "Bylaws" --- "Bylaw 355" under "Bylaw Amendments".

Enquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to Planner Jason

Youmans at 250-537-9144. For toll free access, request a transfer via Service BC: in Vancouver 604-660-2421, in Victoria 250-387-6121, and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

HOW DO I PROVIDE A WRITTEN SUBMISSION?

Received prior to March 3, 2016:

Mail or in person to: Islands Trust, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. V8K 2N8

Fax: (250) 537-9116

Email: ssiphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca

On March 3, 2016:

At the Lion's Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island

From 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Community Information Meeting

Commencing at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Hearing

Written submissions received in response to this notice will be available for public review.

NO WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OR ORAL REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Claire Olivier
Deputy Secretary

NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

National Cupcake Day SPCA Fundraiser

Monday, Feb. 29

Ganges Fire Hall & other locales

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Land Bank Society moves ahead on Rainbow project

Complex hoped to bridge housing crunch

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring Land Bank Society project that is slated to bring 13 affordable housing units to Rainbow Road has kicked back into action after being mired in building delays and funding complications for several years.

"We're really close to having two houses ready," Lank Bank Society president Eric Booth said Monday, adding he hopes to see the first families moving in within the next month.

Known as the Brackett Spring Project (on property owned by the late Bert Brackett), the development will make use of older houses and trailers donated by owners who would otherwise have demolished them, joining environmental goals with housing needs. It was hailed as a new model of community cooperation when the Islands Trust approved a covenant and a housing agreement to be administered by the Capital Regional District in 2010. A joint press release issued in September of that year predicted six units would be ready by 2011 and an additional four the year after that.

By 2013, however, the lack of readiness of any of the homes

moved onto the property caused problems between the Land Bank Society and its major funders, BC Housing and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In November 2015, the CRD rescinded its approval of a Regional Housing Trust Fund Grant of \$182,000, on which no funds had been drawn.

According to a CRD staff report recommending the grant be revoked, BC Housing had provided a \$500,000 grant toward the Brackett Spring project, while the CMHC contributed another \$440,000 in loans.

"In March 2013, BC Housing, CMHC and CRD staff became increasingly concerned with respect to construction delays and the failure of the SSILBS to provide necessary documentation on the project," the staff report states.

Booth, a real estate agent and former Islands Trust trustee, said he joined the society's board two years ago as a result of the conflict. While the Land Bank Society had requested arbitration to mediate its differences with BC Housing, that organization rejected the idea and instead issued a notice of foreclosure. Land Bank Society directors spent the next year formulating a recovery strategy, which resulted in new funding from VanCity. The BC Housing



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Some of the recycled houses being renovated for the Brackett Spring affordable housing project.

grant was largely repaid and CMHC agreed to write off its loans, according to the CRD staff report.

Booth said part of the problem in getting the units ready for habitation has been the random nature of the donations. A process in which each unit was renovated and completed one at a time would be preferable, but so far not possible.

"The largest challenge for the

project is you're dealing with recycled houses," Booth said. "They become available at different times and the opportunity for grabbing them is small, so as a result there are four of five in various stages of completion."

Using largely volunteer labour and recycled materials has brought costs down significantly but has also added to the renovation time. There is also

the problem of bringing in subcontractors.

"Everyone in the construction trade on the island is extremely busy right now, so to get someone to come in is quite the challenge," Booth said.

Once the housing units are ready, rents will be charged according to Islands Trust affordability standards, as per the housing agreement. Booth said the Land Bank Society has been successful with two other properties it owns.

Booth said projects like Brackett Spring, which is located outside any water district and has an abundant water supply, will be increasingly important in the coming years. He believes in the long term, 3,000 units of community housing will be needed for low to middle-income earners.

"As far as I can tell, unless someone can drill a well, there isn't going to be more affordable housing. In fact there's going to be less," Booth said.

New housing projects in Ganges are not likely to go ahead with a moratorium currently in place on new connections to North Salt Spring Waterworks District on the St. Mary Lake supply side. As well, Booth said, the number of rental units on the island can be expected to decrease as housing prices rise, with new affluent owners uninterested in rental income.

Lack of Shaw phone outage information puzzles residents

SHAW

continued from 1

Unfortunately, Smith had to repeat the process the following day when she returned to her office, where landline connections were still down.

"I went to my office Wednesday morning, thinking the problem would be fixed — not the case," she said. "I went to

a couple of other offices and their phones were still out."

She said many people were still without landline service by the end of the week. On Thursday, one of Smith's friends on Salt Spring resorted to Skype to keep in touch.

Hundreds of households on Salt Spring were affected by the outage, though the company still

hasn't explained what went wrong.

"I just Googled 'Shaw phone down' and there aren't any news reports about this. What is that all about?" she said on Thursday. "You would think that something this big would at least be newsworthy."

More than a week later, there's still no word on the outage's cause.

A staff member contacted at the company's Salt Spring office last week forwarded a Driftwood request for more information to the company's head office in Calgary. The Calgary office never responded and has yet to acknowledge a follow-up request for further details.

Smith said the company's response to the prob-

lem is as puzzling as the landline outage itself. She wants to know why Shaw didn't post information about the outage early on in the debacle.

"I'm a fairly savvy tech person so was comfortable unplugging and rebooting the modem," she said late last week. "There are many people who don't know where to go to find help or are

afraid to unplug for fear of causing worse problems. I feel sorry for them as some maybe still don't have a phone."

Anyone who still has a problem with their account can get assistance through the Live Chat feature of their online account or from the Salt Spring Shaw Communications office at 316 Lower Ganges Rd.

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Capital Regional District



Notice of Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel 2016

- North Galiano Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- Sticks Allison Water Service (Galiano Island)
- Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Southern Gulf Islands)
- Fernwood Dock Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Salt Spring Island)
- Fernwood Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Ganges Sewerage Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Highland Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Highland and Fernwood Water Service
- Beddis Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Fulford Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Service
- Cedar Lane Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Water Service (Pender Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Water Second Service (Pender Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Sewer Service (Pender Island)
- North Pender Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Service (Saturna Island)
- Surfside Park Estates Water Service (Mayne Island)
- Skana Water Service (Mayne Island)
- Gossip Island Electric Power Supply Service

Take Notice that the annual sitting of the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, pursuant to Sections 204 and 205 of the Community Charter will be held at 12:00pm on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at the Capital Regional District, Room 651, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, British Columbia to consider any complaints respecting the parcel tax roll and authenticate the roll in accordance with legislation.

The Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel will hear only those complaints or appeals filed in writing with the undersigned at least 48 hours in advance of its sitting.

A copy of the complete roll will be available for inspection at the Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm M-F and the Ganges Building Inspection office, #206 - 118 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (above the Post Office), Ganges, BC from 8:30 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm M-F, commencing February 24, 2016.

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 24th day of February, 2016.

Diana E. Lokken, CPA, CMA
 General Manager, Finance & Technology Dept.
 Capital Regional District

EDUCATION

School district examines assessment

Report cards not making the grade

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An increasing body of research shows report cards and letter grades are missing the mark when it comes to student assessments, and the Gulf Islands School District is at the forefront of making things better.

"We're one of 17 districts that are involved in innovative projects, and I think we are really a step ahead," said Doug Livingston, director of instruction at School District 64.

Letters sent to parents of school-aged children across the district last week encourage islanders to learn more and have a say about the future of student assessments. The information will be used as part of an ongoing province-wide effort to implement new assessment methods for the 2016-17 school year.

"The Ministry of Education has shared that there is overwhelming support for communicating student learning versus reporting, as well as using performance standard language in lieu of letter grades," reads part of the letter signed by five members of a group of islanders that's currently reviewing ways to communicate student learning.

The K-12 Innovation Partnership comprises 17 groups in B.C. that have received provincial funding to consider improve-

ments on traditional evaluation methods like letter grades and report cards.

Options under review include student portfolios, student-led conferences, learning stories, gradeless reporting and student self assessment, according to the Feb. 11 letter.

"Every study that has ever investigated the impact on intrinsic motivation of receiving grades has found a negative effect."

RACHEL FITZZALAND
 Teacher, Gulf Islands Secondary School

Students, school staff and parents in School District 64 are getting an idea of things to come through an ongoing project in the district's schools. Rather than letter grades, for example, students enrolled in grades 9 and 10 transitional programs will focus on "experiences and reflective process." Instead of report cards, pilot schools with students between kindergarten and Grade 8 will do away with report cards and explore alternative reporting methods. The new system also emphasizes multi-grade classrooms.

"Things are already going on at our schools with the goal of engaging students," Livingston said. "One of the focuses is what's next on the learning journey."

Teacher Rachel FitzZaland introduced the grades-free approach to students when her Robotics 10-12 class started earlier this month.

"Grades tend to reduce the quality of students' thinking," she said. "They're less likely to wonder and ask 'how can we be sure that's true?' than to ask 'will we be tested on this?'"

Emphasis on grades encourage students to favour the easiest solution to a challenge, lessen achievement and promote a fear of failure in students of all abilities, FitzZaland added.

"Every study that has ever investigated the impact on intrinsic motivation of receiving grades has found a negative effect. Extrinsic motivation, which includes a desire to get better grades, is not only different from but often undermines a desire to learn for its own sake."

Discussion among parents, teachers and students is anticipated to continue through the semester. A meeting of parents with elementary school students is scheduled for March 3 at Salt Spring Elementary School.

More information about the Gulf Islands pilot project is available under the Innovations Inventory tab at www.k12innovation.ca or from district superintendent Lisa Halstead at lhalstead@sd64.bc.ca.

TRANSPORTATION

Salt Spring Transit at top of B.C. systems

Fare review and Ruckle Park summer service coming

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Transportation Commission is looking to improve ridership and returns on the island's transit system, with options for the sluggish Ganges Local route to be considered under an upcoming fare review.

Commissioners discussed the idea of offering free service on the Ganges loop with visiting BC Transit planning staff during the regular business meeting Monday night. Planner Tania Wegwitz warned the scenario could create confusion for riders, and noted that although low for Salt Spring, the route actually sees better ridership than most systems of a similar size.

"One thing to always keep in mind is your system performs extremely well," Wegwitz said. "You perform double what your peers are doing."

Salt Spring's transit system overall averages 16 rides per hour, compared to eight rides per hour in like systems. The Ganges Local route averages nine rides per hour. Salt Spring Transit currently enjoys one of the best cost recovery rates in the province, with fares covering 38 per cent.

Transit planner Matthew Boyd said there is not much in the province to compare the free service idea to, other than a complimentary shuttle service in Whistler that is funded through a hotel tax. Planners said complications could arise through paid service running through the same cor-

ridor and integration with the other routes.

Commissioners voted to request a fare review from BC Transit, which would outline options, including offering family passes or discounted children rates, discounted fares for shorter distances and higher fares, among other possibilities. Senior planner Myrna Moore said she would consult with the finance department to see when a review could take place, with SSITC preferring a September deadline.

The commission will also look into the local implications of a provincial budgeting decision to change the BC Bus Pass Program for people with disabilities. Starting in September, users will pay \$52 per month in addition to the existing \$45 annual administration fee.

Commissioner Seth Wright said SSITC should send a letter to the province speaking against the further deprivation of the province's most marginalized people. Chair Robin Williams added the fare review would be a good time to look again at public transit goals, "because there are other non-financial goals, particularly on an island."

Commissioners voted

to once again offer summer bus service between Fulford village and Ruckle Park. Planners noted the pilot project in 2015 had good uptake despite limited service, and helped add service to the busy Fulford-Ganges run.

A further resolution will help advance a bus shelter design project on Lower Ganges Road, with commissioners agreeing to cap SSITC funds for the shelter at \$15,000. A draft request for proposals should be ready for the commission's consideration at the March meeting.

In other SSITC news, CRD director Wayne McIntyre announced he had sent a letter with the island's elected Islands Trust officials to Transportation Minister Todd Stone asking for attention to the critical state of Salt Spring roads.

Commissioners also voted to accept an amended project charter for the North Ganges Transportation Plan, with the upper section of a Rainbow Road pathway almost ready for tendering.

The next SSITC meeting will have a special date and place due to Easter weekend. It is set for Tuesday, March 29 at the library program room starting at 4:30 p.m.

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DAVE RUTH NORMA BOB EDIE

FIRE DISTRICT

Fire service level issue heats up in Salt Spring district

District must declare interior, exterior or full-service status

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With an election for two fire district trustees right around the corner, a requirement to declare fire department service levels could become a hot-button topic for nominees.

"We have a job for sure, and I don't think it's going to be easy," said fire chair Linda Lee at the Feb.

15 trustees' meeting.

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue must officially declare its fire service level to the provincial government by June 30. Departments across British Columbia can declare themselves exterior, interior or full-service departments, as outlined in the B.C. Fire Service Minimum Training Standards Playbook.

Though Salt Spring's fire department provides full-service capabilities, fire board members question the long-term implications of selecting the highest-possible service levels on the district's bot-

tom line and mandated training requirements.

The board's Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee had recommended the board adopt the exterior or interior fire service levels.

"Right now we have nothing, and we really should declare something," said Andy Hildebrand, a fire trustee and committee chair.

Acting fire chief Arjuna George told trustees the province's request has sown confusion among fire departments far and wide. Although fire service levels

will be needed to dictate training levels for career and paid-on-call members, many questions persist about the process.

"I think it's a question that really warrants public discussion," he said. "Most communities are having a really hard time understanding the playbook."

George said choosing a lower-level service level may restrict some firefighters from entering burning buildings when they arrive at the scene of a fire.

"[Under exterior service levels], we're not going to be able to go into any of those buildings. We're

going to have to wait until the fire goes out a window or through the roof," George told the board. "As the fire chief, I don't think that is something that Salt Springers would want to see."

Board members voted unanimously to table the service-levels discussion. The matter was sent back to the committee level for further research and development of a public consultation strategy.

"I'm sensing that the public is going to want to know," Lee said. "Declaring full service sounds great, but how much is it going to cost?"

CONTEST

Month-of-March photo contest seeks shots

Salt Spring Island Snapshots hosts event

Amateur and beginning photographers are encouraged to submit their best shots taken in the month of March

to a fun photo contest.

Kim Stewart of Salt Spring Island Snapshots has organized the Facebook contest, which will have prizes for first, second and third place, plus two honourable mentions. Winners also have a chance to see their image in Snapshots'

2017 photo calendar.

In order to enter, people must "like" Salt Spring Island Snapshots on Facebook and include the hashtag #saltspring and the date their photo was taken. Only photos shot between March 1 and 31, 2016 can be entered.

AGRICULTURE

Work begins on farm centre

Barn renovation request for quotations deadline on Monday

A request for quotations has been issued for the first phase of work on Salt Spring Island's Farm Centre for Food Security.

The project's steering committee issued the request to find contractors to rehabilitate an old barn on the farm centre site at 189 Beddis Rd. Plans call for the barn to be used for storage and other key farm centre activities.

"We're pleased to be moving ahead with work on the farm centre site during 2016," said project steering committee chair Anne Macey in a press release. "This is an exciting milestone for the project as we work to create a new resource for Salt Spring Island and our region's local food system."

The request for quotations is for several components of the barn renovation: roof replacement, electrical work, siding repairs and several smaller tasks. The work is one of a variety of activities scheduled for the site during 2016. Others include site clean-up, drilling of a well, installation of a septic field, installation of electrical services, and site preparation in anticipation of construction work on the main building getting underway in 2017.

Beddis Development Ltd. is a major contributor to the farm centre project, having contributed the land and committed to donations towards the cost of the main building.

The farm centre will be a food processing, distribution and storage facility, operated on a break-even basis to spur increased production by Salt Spring farmers and small-scale value-added processors. The project aims to enhance local food security and help

reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"It will help entrepreneurs transform their ideas into innovative, high-quality food products, reducing island residents' dependence on imported foods while creating new economic activity," states the press release about the project. "The farm centre will also support Salt Spring Island Community Services Society in its efforts to provide more locally grown food for vulnerable local residents."

The project is a joint initiative of the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society, which owns the site, and the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance. The Farmland Trust also owns the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm, which includes six new farm rentals and a vibrant community garden.

The need for a produce centre was identified in the Salt Spring Area Farm Plan as an important component in establishing a stronger local food system. The Farm Centre addresses that need, supporting the goal of bringing more farmland into production and providing significant sustainable economic benefits for the community.

Progress on the project during 2016 has been made possible by grants from the VanCity enviroFundTM, the Salt Spring Foundation and the Victoria Foundation. Including the land, the full project is valued at approximately \$1.22 million. Of this amount, about \$520,000 — including title to the land — is already in place. The project steering committee is working to raise the remaining \$700,000 needed to complete the project from government, funding agencies and community donors.

The deadline for responses to the barn rehabilitation request for quotations is 12 noon on Feb. 29.

For information about the RFQ, contact project designer Donald Gunn at donaldgunn@shaw.ca or 250-537-6689.

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NOTICE OF NOMINATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ELECTION OF TRUSTEES 2016

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for:

Two (2) Trustees for three year terms terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in 2019 will be received between:

**9:00 A.M. Tuesday March 1st, 2016
and 4:00 P.M. Friday March 18th, 2016**

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during office hours of Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Ganges Fire Hall or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Thomas Moore at (250) 472 0059.

The Trustees positions are for three year terms commencing at the end of the end Annual General Board Meeting to be held on April 18th, 2016.

The Election is to be held on Saturday, April 16th, 2016 at the Salt Spring Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, B.C. from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

An Advance Voting opportunity will be held on Tuesday, April 12th 2016 at the Salt Spring Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, B.C. between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Candidates shall be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Fire Hall or from Thomas F. Moore, Returning Officer (250) 472 0059.

Those persons eligible to vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen.
2. Be eighteen years of age or older.
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to this election.
4. Be an owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Ganges, B.C.
this 18th day of February 2016

Thomas F. Moore
Returning Officer

OPINION



2015 CCNA Awards
Gold - General Excellence | Gold - Front Page | Gold - Editorial Page | Gold - Feature Series (Sean McIntyre & Elizabeth Nolan)
Gold - Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker) | Gold - Agricultural Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Aqua)
Silver - Editorial (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)



2015 BCYCNA Awards
Gold - Environmental Writing (Elizabeth Nolan & Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - General Excellence

EDITORIAL

Eliminate premiums

B.C.'s government proved it's not oblivious to public pressure when it addressed some inequities in Medical Services Plan premium rates through its 2016 budget.

The changes set for Jan. 1, 2017 put a salve on the financial sting caused by MSP premiums for some lower-income B.C. residents and families.

But Christy Clark's government didn't go far enough. An individual making \$42,001 per year will fork out a whopping \$78 per month for MSP premiums when the rates rise again. Private companies covering their employees' premiums as a basic benefit will pay substantially more. In fact, with rates slated to rise again for everyone above the new thresholds, the province estimates it will get \$101 million more from MSP premiums in 2017 than it does now.

THE ISSUE:
MSP premiums

WE SAY:
Get revenue from income tax

Voices from all points of the political spectrum have criticized the government's refusal to eliminate health premiums, pointing out that it would be more fair to collect the \$2.3 billion generated via income taxes

like every other jurisdiction in Canada. UBC health policy professor Steve Morgan estimates a 1.5 per cent tax increase would bring in that amount.

It's not like there'd be a justified outcry from B.C. taxpayers. Only Alberta, the Yukon, North West Territories and Nunavut have lower provincial or territorial tax rates than B.C., and a 1.5 per cent hike would have little impact on its ranking.

Not only that, but the government would get its allotted money through Revenue Canada. It wouldn't be owed an estimated \$462 million in overdue bills and have paid the private U.S. MAXIMUS company more than \$300 million since 2010-2011 to collect the premiums on its behalf.

Let's face it. MSP premiums are just another form of taxation with a different name.

The only reason the government gives for not eliminating premiums and raising income taxes to compensate for the lost revenue is that the separate charge "reminds people that health-care isn't free." It's a statement that sounds more ridiculous each time it is uttered.

In this case, there's no merit in keeping the MSP premium system on life support by holding fast to an ideological position that should be long dead and buried.



VIEWPOINT by Harold Swierenga

Ferry scheduling frustrates users

Two significant issues are currently facing Salt Spring Island ferry users: the temporary but difficult Fulford-Swartz Bay (Route 4) schedule with the Skeena and Bowen queens, and the problem of developing new schedules for the Long Harbour-Tsawwassen sailing (Route 9) for the Salish class ships going into service next year.

The underlying problem on Route 4 is that the Queen of Cumberland of the Swartz Bay/Southern Gulf Islands Route 5 is out of service for a major upgrade and BC Ferries does not have a large enough replacement vessel available. As a result, to ensure enough capacity on Route 5, a combination of the Bowen and Skeena providing service on both routes 4 and 5 was set up. To ensure enough capacity on Route 4, the schedule was modified to allow an extra sailing.

The result has been a very disruptive and difficult time for Route 4 ferry users, particularly commuters and thrufare travellers to the mainland. It was also expected that when the Skeena Queen is out of service for its major upgrade, a similar arrangement would be made. Two significant changes are being made, which will benefit ferry users, however. Firstly, this week the Skeena Queen will replace the Bowen Queen for the 8:45 a.m. Swartz Bay-Fulford and the 9:40 a.m. Fulford-Swartz Bay sailings. This change should solve the commercial capacity problem on the 8:45 a.m. sailing and the general overload problem on the 9:40 sailing. As well, the Queen of Cumberland returns on April 21 and the schedule will return to normal.

The second change being made is that the Skeena Queen upgrade has been deferred somewhat until a more suitable time and a suitable replacement vessel can be determined. The current disruptive schedule would then not have to be repeated. It remains, however, that the current schedule is here for another two months with no larger suitable ship available to replace or supplement the Bowen Queen.

On the second issue, the process to develop workable, efficient and equitable schedules for the new Salish class ships on Route 9 has been very frustrating. The draft schedules the scheduling committee developed last summer, and which were the subject of public meetings held on each of the islands in August, were based on a very objective traffic model based on factual criteria. However, they did not account for historical travel patterns and, when taken to the public last summer, met with considerable controversy on some islands. As a result, revisions were made and the improvements to Salt Spring Island in the original schedules have been greatly reduced. The Salt Spring members of the External Working Group, including Bob Jones, Ellie Thorburn and myself, have spent many hours at meetings and working on the lengthy transit times and capacity issues with the current proposed schedules.

We are looking to the future in our approach as decisions made now will have implications for resident and tourist travel for years to come. To promote the tourist economy of Salt Spring we need shorter and more convenient travel time to and from Tsawwassen. This can be established by more direct or one-stop sailings on Route 9 and a more assured connection at Swartz Bay for travellers going from Fulford to Tsawwassen without negatively impacting the outer islands.

We are very aware of the concerns of the smaller islands but we are also very cognisant of the present and future needs of Salt Spring Island, which includes two thirds of the population of the entire Southern Gulf Islands.

We look for the continued support of the Salt Spring community on this issue.

The writer chairs the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee.

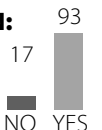
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you concerned about rising federal debt? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cast your ballot online at 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:

Does Salt Spring need a public laundromat?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "No heavy industry is going to move to Salt Spring. You'd be nuts to do so."

PETER GROVE, SALT SPRING TRUSTEE

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:

How can you tell it's spring on Salt Spring?



DENNIS MURRAY
Sunshine.



BARRY TIMMINS
There are more visitors like me walking around.



FORREST FOX
Things have sprung into action.



LUC BLANCHET
People are smiling.



JOEL AMITE
I've started seeing more bare feet.

Letters to the editor

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

Car repair zoning changes not reasonable

This is an open letter regarding the draft of proposed industrial rezoning for Salt Spring.

As an interested citizen who is also interested in a property purchase I attended last Tuesday's the open house regarding industrial rezoning. It was explained that this rezoning is intended to make it easier to get in business on our island,

something we need.

Some of the things proposed do the opposite and may drive existing businesses off the island as was done for Salt Spring Coffee. Specifically, there is a recommendation that Commercial-6 zoning be changed to General Employment-1 zoning. This new GE-1 designation has a new definition that is not in the existing C-6 designation.

GE-1 would require car repair shops to meet the following: "Indoor rental, repair, sales, and service of equipment, machinery, boats and vehicles, with a maximum of five vehicles

stored on-site."

Well, I don't know about you, but every car repair shop that I have ever visited both on and off this island do car repair both indoors and outdoors and have many more than five cars on-site at most times. If you want to drive our car repair shops out of business, then this restriction is a good way to do this — the same as Salt Spring Coffee.

Who dreams this stuff up? Please change the proposed restriction to permit businesses to function without strangling them.

I don't know why or how

these proposals exist. We should object to and not pay those that dream up ways to strangle successful businesses on our island.

BILL COTE,
SALT SPRING

Praise for BC Ferries

The following was sent to BC Ferries CEO Mike Corrigan and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

We Salt Spring Islanders are very quick to blast BC Ferries whenever we suffer the slightest inconvenience. In fact, com-

plaining about BC Ferries is what we do best.

So I want to break the mould and publicly thank BC Ferries for the willingness of the captains of the Skeena Queen and Queen of Nanaimo to make deviations from their routine to improve our travel experience on several occasions over the last two weeks. Twice, the 10:35 a.m. sailing from Swartz Bay to Fulford was held to allow thrufare transferes to cross from the arriving ferry. And another time, passengers were allowed to go through ticketing and board the Queen of Nanaimo at Tsawwassen,

even though we arrived after the 10-minute cut-off time.

I ride BC Ferries on average once per week. The ferries generally run on schedule, are suited to their tasks and are reasonable value for the service compared with anywhere (except the decrepit boats of Washington state).

While I have my share of frustrations, I wanted to express my thanks when the staff work to accommodate their passengers.

RICHARD BALLANTYNE,
SCOTT POINT

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Leap year math calculations cause headaches

If you have a problem wrapping your brain around Daylight Saving Time and whether you are supposed to spring forward or move your clock an hour back, this coming Monday will probably really challenge your space/time continuum.

It is on this day, Feb. 29, that we add an extra day to the calendar year. Put simply, what we are getting in this leap year is 366 days for the price of 365. Or, put another way, if you are on a fixed annual wage, you will be working this Monday for free and getting paid absolutely nothing.

What's the deal with leap years anyway? Did the Great Creator in the sky say, "Boy, have I got a deal for you. Because I like you, I'm going to throw in an extra day. But you better order now or you'll have to wait another four years for this offer to come around again."

Actually, it all has to do with the planet Earth and its annual journey around the sun. Most of us know that it takes 365 days for a complete revolution and that's why we have that many days in a year. Because there are seven days in a week and seven divides into 365 52 times with a remainder of one, we find that each year begins a day later than the year before. For instance, April 1 fell on a Monday in 2013, Tuesday in 2014 and Wednesday in 2015.

Here's where a spanner is thrown into the works. You see, it takes a little more than 365 days for the Earth to revolve around the sun. It takes an extra quarter of a day. If the calendar wasn't adjusted to account

for this discrepancy, we would discover our seasons no longer corresponded with our expectations. Over the course of thousands of years we would find ourselves huddling together in the cold in July and "beaching it" in December.

By inserting an extra day every four years at the end of February, we avoid this problem. That's why April 1, 2016 will fall on a Friday instead of a Thursday. It will have leapt ahead another day and that's the reason we call it a leap year.

Is your head hurting yet? It will after I relay this next piece of information. You see, in actuality, it doesn't take the earth exactly 365 and a quarter days to circle the sun. On average, a year is 365.24222 days long. This slight discrepancy, compounded over tens of thousands of years, would again make the seasons go all weird even if we did throw in an extra day every four years.

To bring everything back to order and make it all good again, the rule of thumb for leap years is this: if a year is evenly divisible by 4, it is a leap year unless it is also divisible by 100, in which case it is not a leap year unless it is also divisible by 400, which makes it a leap year again. Whoopee! So, as an example, 1900 was not a leap year, but 2000 was.

Although the practice of adding days to a year has been around since 42 BC in ancient Rome, this present system of determining a leap year came into effect in 1582 when



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

the Gregorian calendar was adopted.

If you think our leap years are complicated, you definitely don't want to change over to the Hebrew lunar calendar. Under this system, a year is composed of 12 months with each month containing 29.5

days. To prevent seasonal disruption, a leap month is inserted into the calendar seven out of every 19 years. That's an entire month! Not only that, but the leap month is called Adar, which is the same name as the regular month it precedes. So on a lunar leap year, you go through the month of Adar twice.

What's it like to be born on Feb. 29? The good part is you are only 20 years old when all the friends you grew up with are hitting their 80s. The drawback is that you still look like all your other friends. The other down side is that you only get to celebrate your birthday once every four years. That's a 75 per cent reduction in birthday present booty over the course of your lifetime! Is this a rip-off or what?

There have been a few famous leap day babies (or "leaplings" as they are affectionately called) over the years. Pope Paul III came into the world on this day in 1468. Likewise did '40s big band leader Jimmy Dorsey in 1904. Henri "the Pocket Rocket" Richard, Montreal Canadiens great, kid brother of the iconic Maurice Richard, and winner of more Stanley Cups than any other

player in National Hockey League history, chose 1936 to make his leap day entrance.

Arguably, the most bizarre of all leap day babies has to be a certain Mr. Adolph Blaine Charles David Earl Frederick Gerald Hubert Irvin John Kenneth Lloyd Martin Nero Oliver Paul Quincy Randolph Sherman Thomas Uncas Victor William Xerxes Yancy Zeus Wolfeschlegelsteinhausenbergerdorff, Sr., who was born on Feb. 29, 1904 near the outskirts of Hamburg, Germany. You may notice that all 26 of Mr. W.'s given names begin with a different letter of the alphabet.

If you think his surname is excessive, you should realize that he actually shortened it from its Guinness Book of Records official length of 666 characters. He claimed that the surname was created by his great grandfather in the 19th century when German Jews were forced to take on a second Teutonic sounding name. That guy obviously had a sense of rebellious humour!

Nobody asked me, but would it have been that much of a leap of faith if astronomers had fudged the numbers slightly and told us that a year is exactly 364 days long? If that had been the case, there would be no need for leap years and every new year would be identical to the last one. Furthermore, we wouldn't have to be dealing with this horrific headache caused by all this math.

Mind you, it might mean we would never have had a leapling like Mr. Wolfeschlegelsteinhausenbergerdorff, Sr. In that case, maybe we're better off if we leap before we look.

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A chance to improve St. Mary Lake?

BY JOHN SPRAGUE

Chemical measurements show that St. Mary Lake could be improved, if the aerators could be made to function properly.

We all know that the lake is moderately enriched, with occasional blooms of algae or toxic cyanobacteria. Blooms could be reduced by lowering concentration of phosphorus ("P"), the governing nutrient (in shortest supply).

There are a number of small-P inputs to the lake. Septic systems add five kilograms (kg) per year or less, according to excellent work by Don Hodgins for Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority. Other approximate yearly inputs are 10 kg from groundwater, 13 from wintering waterbirds, 25 from rain and dust fallout, and 100 kg or less from land runoff.

We could not expect to reduce that total external input of about 150 kg to less than 100, even with the best of land stewardship.

Sediment on the bottom of the lake is a much larger source. Four estimates by different scientists indicate an initial P input of 450 to 500 kg/year. (Some of it drops out later, see below.) All summer, a layer of cool dense water is isolated deep in the lake, under the warmer surface water. Natural decomposition uses up all the oxygen from that deep water. That reverses the entire framework of chemical conditions, causing P in the mud to dissolve into the deep water and stay there. In autumn, temperatures equalize, wind blows, the whole lake mixes, sediment P intermixes with all other P and becomes available for algal growth.

During winter, some P goes out with the water into Duck Creek, and some also disappears back into the bottom mud.

An attempt was made to reduce input of sediment P, by operating a deep-water aerator from 1986 to 1993, when it corroded and was removed. The new pair of aerators operated from 2009 until shutdown in 2013.

Thanks to excellent work by North Salt Spring Waterworks District, we have measurements of P

INDEPTH

throughout the lake for most recent years. Additional values come from the Ministry of Environment. There is enough information to compare a few years of successful aeration with some ordinary years of no aeration. Each year, one key value is just after the lake mixes in late October or November, when sediment P has mixed evenly with all other P. The other key value is at another time of mixing in the following spring (about March). That assesses disappearance of P over the winter. (The measured P concentrations allow calculation of the load of P in the whole lake.)

For years of no aeration, eight pairs of autumn-spring values are available. They show tremendous year-to-year variation, but average 828 kg P in the whole lake in the autumn and 533 kg in the spring.

It would be a good idea to find out why the aerators failed, and if possible, remedy the situation.

There were five years when the early or present aerators operated, but were overwhelmed, so that oxygen disappeared in the deep layer and P came out of the sediments. The resulting range of P-values was very similar to the range for no aeration, and averaged 834 kg in autumn and 569 kg in the spring. Combining "overwhelmed" with "no aeration" yields 13-year averages of 830 kg of P in autumn and 550 kg in the following spring.

Looking at five years of successful aeration (1988, 1989, 1990, 2009 and 2010), there is again a spread of values. However, every one of the autumn values was lower than any

value for the 13 years of no aeration or failed aeration. The springtime values were similarly low. The averages were only 429 in the autumn and 275 in the spring.

Analyzing all the results together indicates that on average, whatever P load was found in the autumn, about one-third of it disappeared over the winter.

So what is the conclusion? The numbers indicate that successful aeration resulted in about 350 kg less P in the autumn, a 42 per cent reduction. A similar springtime decline averaged 50 per cent. We would expect a reduction in algal blooms. Also, there would be less P to settle into the sediment during winter. Accordingly, over years and decades, we would expect less and less P in the top layers of sediment. Even without aeration in some future decade, the lake should be in better shape.

This is not a matter of opinion. Follow the numbers that tell a clear story. The present aerators do a great job for two years. Then they were overwhelmed in 2011, 2012 and 2013, could not maintain oxygen, and were no help in preventing blooms that occurred at that time. It would be a good idea to find out why they failed, and if possible, remedy the situation. There seems no reason why NSSWD should be burdened with the huge cost of operating aerators. Surface waters are a provincial responsibility.

This is public information on the SSIWPA website (ssiwatersheds.ca), in the library section, where my report "St. Mary Lake Dynamics" from August 2015 gives details and graphs.

Similar conclusions on the benefit of the aerators were reached in a detailed analysis by biologist Lisa Rogers of the University of Victoria. She studied the watershed and her report is also in the SSIWPA website library as Aerator System in St. Mary Lake (memo to TWG).

The writer has a Ph.D. and is a biologist who had professional employment in water pollution research and control for 45 years. He has lived on Salt Spring for 21 years.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Premier Clark's LNG complex

British Columbians have been told by their premier that they must pay billions of dollars through increased hydro bills to pay for a gigantic dam (Site C) that would engulf sacred First Nations and agricultural lands.

This is being done in order to supply subsidized power to a state-owned Malaysian fracking-methane liquefying plant that wants to set up on Lelu Island (and the sovereign First Nation people of that island have categorically said "no" to that plan).

The company, Petronas, would hardly be paying any taxes for several years, until it first finished paying itself back, with interest, on top of profit, to recover the entire cost of setting up and run its plant in Canada (see Bill 30).

Even if fracking did not cause any earthquakes, nor destroyed and wasted vast, under and above ground supplies of precious drinking water (that Christy Clark says the Province of British Columbia cannot sell because we could get sued if we ever ran out of it!)

Even if fracking could not worsen the climate pandemonium that the planet is already facing; even if hydraulic methane extraction did not require the use of massive amounts

of undisclosed, toxic and sometimes radio-active chemicals, which the industry insist on abandoning within the depths of our land before greedily and broadly clear-cutting its way through our wild forests and salmon streams to their next ephemeral drilling/extracting well locations, I wonder one thing: Why build a big dam to supply power to this foreign corporate LNG complex instead of growing food, especially now that California's growers could be facing severe drought conditions for years to come? Especially since the very industry that needs all that electricity is also causing strong earthquakes that could potentially damage,

let alone destroy, the very dam that British Columbians are expected to pay for.

Wouldn't it make more sense to just ban fracking altogether like it is done elsewhere and unburden British Columbians by not increasing their hydro bills more than 15 per cent instead of this grandiose 30 per cent which is under-way and use, if only, \$5 billion towards purchasing and setting up solar and wind farms?

Those would then belong to and benefit the residents and families of British Columbia instead of building such a costly dam that would only enrich a distant Malaysian oligarchy?

CHRISTIAN TATONETTI,
SALT SPRING



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TALENT PLUS: Members of the GISS Global Initiatives give a cheque for \$2,251.80 to the Salt Spring Refugee Sponsorship group, represented by Kathy Ramsey, right, and representing proceeds from the school's talent show event. The next fundraiser for the local Syrian refugee cause is called The Cutting Room Floor, which features author readings and a five-course dinner at The Oystercatcher on Friday, Feb. 26.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

Full fire report wanted

The fire district board of trustees held its monthly business meeting on Monday evening, Feb. 15.

I attended that meeting as did a Driftwood reporter, and because so many significant and newsworthy issues were raised and discussed I was looking forward to reading the Driftwood's "take" on the meeting. I was very disappointed.

While the article duly reported the fire departments' call volume in January and also noted the likelihood of

another election in April to fill the vacancy for two retiring fire board trustees, the article completely disregarded the very vigorous discussion that took place regarding the level of fire service and its potential cost to the tax payers.

This discussion was rather confusing even for acting fire chief Arjuna George, but its importance to the community cannot be overstated; in reality, it is a discussion "owned" by the community and therefore should have been reported.

It was also worth noting that no date has yet been set for a community meeting to follow the one held several months ago.

Mark Lucich, a former member of the board of trustees, presented

a detailed delegation to the board, expanding on the topic of "misinformation" which has so compromised the district in the last several years.

The Driftwood is supposed to be a community source of local news. In this case, fire district issues are not discreet issues; they are, above all, governance issues.

Lack of oversight, lack of transparency and years of misinformation have led to the dire situation in which we find ourselves.

When matters of community importance are happening and being discussed, and a Driftwood reporter is present, the community deserves to be informed.

SHELLEY NITIKMAN,
SALT SPRING

RANTS and Roses

Roses

Great big spring bouquets to Patricia, Jane and Shirley. Thanks for all your help the week before last. I couldn't have moved the furniture without you! Thanks, Wynona Cook

A huge heartfelt thank you to Jan Fellenius, who kindly bought several fresh loaves of fine bread at Embe Bakery for the food bank on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 11. Thank you from GIFTS and the food bank.

A parade of poppies for Salt Spring's Royal Canadian Legion branch from Salt Spring Search and Rescue for another generous financial contribution.

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Let GISPA get on with its brilliant work

BY TARA MACLEAN-GRAND

I wanted to write in response to some negative press that GISPA has been receiving.

I am a professional singer, songwriter and performer who has come to Salt Spring to raise my children. The fact that there is a performing arts school within the high school was a huge draw for me when deciding to live here. I want my children, if they show promise in the arena of the arts, to have access to this incredible program. And if they don't get in, that is fine too, because it means the program isn't right for them, and I trust the GISPA teachers to recognize this. For now in their younger years, we support private teachers in music, dance, martial arts and sewing/clothing design.

The GISPA shows are incredible. Even people who don't have kids in the program will attend these

IN RESPONSE

performances because it is nothing less than astounding what these kids achieve. I have never seen such professionalism, such nurtured talent and such incredible instruction in a high school arts academy.

Why shouldn't Salt Spring have a world-class program where kids could go straight to the top music schools in the world? Or hold their own as professional recording artists right out of the gate? Or excel in theatre and dance and be able to enter the professional realm in those mediums?

The fact is, in the "real" world, you have to audition. If you don't get the part, you either go in another direction, or you work harder and audition again.

Another fact is, some-

times programs cost money, and for what the kids are getting here, \$1,500 for the year is in my opinion a very low fee.

They also offer scholarships for kids with the talent but not the means to join.

The level of instruction is off the charts. The GISPA program encourages creativity and originality above all else, and this is why these young people are actually writing their own shows. This is a fully expressed and cutting-edge program and we are beyond lucky to have it right here.

These teachers also give their hearts to the regular high school program. I have had the great joy of coaching these classes in performance and composition. Seeing the way the students are encouraged, even the ones who are just beginning their musical journey, is incred-

ibly inspiring. The GISPA teachers should be highly praised and profusely thanked for their enormous efforts because they are excellent at their jobs.

This attack on GISPA is an attempt for private business to take down perceived competition. If there is one thing I have learned from a lifetime in the arts, it is that there are many people out there who are bitter when others are succeeding. But the truth is, there is room for us all, and our arts educators on the island should be examples of mutual support.

Let GISPA get on with its brilliant work. Our island should exemplify evolution in art and art education, as well as co-operation. It starts here, so let's give our kids the best chance to shine.

The writer is a singer-songwriter living on Salt Spring.

Local MLA challenges provincial budget interpretation

BY GARY HOLMAN

After a divisive Throne Speech that described the hundreds of thousands of citizens opposing the Liberal government's agenda as "the forces of no" and "quitters," we were presented with Budget 2016 last Tuesday.

The finance minister compared the favourable reaction to his budget by bond-rating agencies (you know, the same folks that rated toxic U.S. bank debt as "Triple A") as getting a good report card.

This is an interesting analogy given the Liberal legacy of hundreds of shuttered schools, while class sizes and the number of unassisted special needs children are growing rapidly. I wonder what grade our teachers would give this government on education?

The 2016 provincial budget does take some very modest steps in a pre-election year on a few issues raised by the Opposition — the inequity of regressive MSP premiums, the lack of affordable housing and cuts to services to children in government care.

But this budget cannot paper over the consequences of 15 years of cuts and austerity for our most vulnerable citizens and huge increases in regressive fees of all kinds, while rich and powerful political donors to the Liberal party are rewarded by tax breaks, privatization and environmental de-regulation.

The economy is growing in southwest B.C., but many businesses and citizens are struggling in rural areas, including



MLA GARY HOLMAN

the Gulf Islands, which have been crippled by ferry fare increases. The consequences of Liberal government policy choices include the highest inequity levels and child poverty rate in Canada, the highest food bank use and number of homeless in B.C.'s history, wage growth that is second lowest and private job growth that's fourth lowest of all the provinces, plus the highest student and overall consumer debt loads and the lowest education funding per student.

Budgets are being "balanced" by the Liberals on the basis of

billions in Hydro, ferry, tuition, MSP, ICBC and Pharmacare fee increases that hurt lower and middle-income families the most. The Liberal government has also imposed funding cuts and regulatory changes that have stripped resource management capacity in B.C. and left us with a self-regulated, "professional reliance" model, resulting in fiascos like the Mount Polley tailings dam breach and the toxic waste dump in the Shawnigan Lake drinking watershed.

There is a growing disconnect between the everyday reality of British Columbians and the pronouncements of our "photo-op" premier. You will remember promises of "debt-free BC" in the 2013 election, but she is actually increasing

debt at a record pace. She has also committed \$9 billion to a Site C dam that we don't need and that destroys thousands of hectares of farm land and First Nations traditional territory.

Budget 2016 takes such bizarre pronouncements to an absurd level, by establishing a \$100-million so-called "LNG prosperity fund" essentially financed, not by a non-existent LNG industry, but by another four per cent increase in MSP premiums.

My report card comment for this Liberal budget? "Christy needs to pay more attention in class, stop her bullying and get an arithmetic tutor."

The writer is the Saanich North and the Islands NDP MLA.

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Building

How Robert Bateman's business advice may save your biggest investment

The smartest business advice I ever got was from Artist Robert Bateman who said to me "Paint something people will buy."

I took his advice into building works of art and for the last 20 years I have traveled and built countless custom cabins, homes and mansions throughout Alberta and BC. Echoing the words of Robert Bateman I have told my clients again and again to design and build their dream homes to sell. By far the majority of clients scoffed at my advice and by far the majority of them had to sell their dream home sometime later at a considerable financial loss or with great difficulty because no one wants to buy a house that is built for your personal taste.

Death, divorce, illness, financial loss, issues with family; Life is full of endless unforeseen variables and if you want your dream home to be a truly good investment, then get an experienced realtor involved in the initial purchase of the land, design and build. Yes your architect will hate you, but your architect will not write you a cheque should you have to sell the dream home down the road at a financial loss.

So if you are thinking of building take a little advice from a very successful artist and "paint something people will buy." I look forward to working with you.



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Real Estate

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No need to delay listing your house if you have a few things "to do". Time is needed to create marketing brochures while you start your "Honey Dew List". When one party sees your home, they are not the entire market. There are fewer houses for sale "sooner" (hence less competition), since supply expands greatly in springtime.

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If your floor mats have water standing in them, dump them out. On a sunny day crack the windows open when the car is sitting in the sun, but make sure they get closed before the interior starts to cool down.



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AGRICULTURE

ABATTOIR

Animal hides get new life through island abattoir

Creative alternatives avoid unnecessary waste

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Success carries its own set of problems, and there are few places where this can become more evident than Salt Spring's "little abattoir that could."

Since it opened its doors in 2012, the abattoir has seen steady growth from island farmers who have their animals slaughtered on Salt Spring rather than Vancouver Island.

Since most of the animals sent to the abattoir are harvested for their meat, staff have had to get creative with the piles of pelts that often get left behind.

In similar operations elsewhere in the province, hides are salted and stored in a specially designed shed until they get hauled off to an approved landfill. Since shipping the hides off-island is costly and wasteful, a local squad of enterprising farmers has developed a made-on-Salt Spring approach.

"We're always going to be doing things on a small scale here. It just wouldn't be practical for someone to come and take even 500 hides off the island," said Margaret Thomson, a farmer and abattoir society board member. "The authorities expected that we would do it like everybody else but, as expected, we're different."

On a recent tour of her North Beach Road property, Thomson took a moment to point out a healthy-looking compost bin in the forest beyond her flock of heritage turkeys. After steadily adding layers of material for two years, she estimates the waist-high pile may contain at least 100 hides claimed from the abattoir.

Mixed with leaves, poultry manure and hay, the resulting compost is replete with nutrients to feed Thomson's garden this spring.

"You get all sorts of beneficial trace elements in the rotting hides," she said. "You've got all the minerals that's in the wool."

Then, over in a corner of Thomson's vegetable garden, she's laid out a checkerboard pattern of about 20 hides directly on the ground. Used this way, she said, the skins allow water to seep through and keep the weeds out more effectively than cardboard.

A good problem to have

Patricia Donnelly, owner of Elderberry Yarns, was actively involved in the early days of the abattoir's creation. Ten years ago, livestock production on the island was in sharp decline because of stringent provincial government regulations over how and where animals could be slaughtered. Donnelly was at ground zero of the movement to rebuild the island's livestock herds and the only way to do that was by building a local abattoir.

The processed hides at her store in Ganges represent the culmination of years of hard work and an ongoing learning process.

"I was in on the very beginnings of the abattoir, and to see this come out of our efforts shows how much work I didn't do and all the work that everybody else has done," Donnelly said.

Thanks to a workshop held on the island two years ago, more islanders can turn discarded sheep and goat skins into beautiful creations. The downy soft sheep hides and eclectic goat skins for sale at Donnelly's shop, for example, are the result of Sheila Windsor's commitment to learning the tanning trade. Windsor has become Donnelly's go-to supplier for hides, giving the south-end farmer and her family



Patricia Donnelly with sheep skin tanned by Sheila Windsor.



Margaret Thomson with compost that includes animal hides.

another revenue stream.

"The most popular use is for a foot rug, but there are so many uses," Donnelly said. "I keep mine on the back of my chair and just lean into it because it's so nice and warm."

"Once you've got it, it lasts forever. They're practically indestructible."

Donnelly said they're ideal for the elderly because their softness can prevent bedsores.

"When it's hot outside it keeps you cool, and when it's cold outside it keeps you warm," she said.

Islanders have also begun to use the skins to make masks and drums or reupholster furniture, and some use them as pet mats.

"Composting is valid and better than the garbage dump by a long shot, but we can get even more use from them," Donnelly said.

Throwing away the hides, she added, contradicts the reason people began to raise sheep

in the first place.

"We didn't originally domesticate sheep for meat. They're delicious, but the reason we chose the sheep instead of the goat for the kind of mass production we've ended up with is because of this wool quality. To throw away the end quality when you've chosen to consume the animal is

really going backwards."

Hides are available by donation by contacting the abattoir in advance through www.saltspringabattoir.ca or leaving a message at 778-354-1111. Abattoir staff request notice of how the hides will be used as this will be taken into account during the slaughtering process.

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Lulu Redder, with her fancy-dressed chicken Clementine, holds a sign explaining what she's looking for in order to pursue her career in commercial farming.

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Networking project underway on Salt Spring

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Lulu Redder moved to Salt Spring from Washington's Snoqualmie Valley last year, she was hoping to continue the work she's pursued in commercial farming for the past seven years.

Land is in short supply for young people who want to get their hands dirty but don't have the funds for a major land purchase, however. Redder was therefore happy to learn about the work of the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society to bridge some of the gap, although she feels much more land is needed than the almost 60 acres it operates as the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm.

"I think it's a great organization, and I would love to see them have more space to get started on," said Redder, who would like to raise chickens, goats and pigs as well as garden crops.

"I always have one foot in the dirt. It's my passion," she explained.

According to local research, island farms once produced most of Salt Spring's food supply and now account for less than six per cent.

"With a rising cost in fuel, a changing climate and a recognition of the health hazards of industrial agriculture, a return to safe, fresh, locally produced sustainable food production is critical," the Farmland Trust website states. "Precious farmland zoned for agricultural use requires protection and hard-working farmers seeking long-term tenure should be supported."

Farmland Trust spokesperson Marguerite Lee agrees there should be more opportunity for young people to farm without being saddled with land costs

they can't afford. Although the Burgoyne Valley site's commercial acreage plots are almost fully rented, she said there are currently only a few names on the waiting list and a good chance that space will open up this spring.

As well, a new project the organization is undertaking will potentially bring much more agriculturally zoned land into production by establishing a network of farmers in need of land and properties with leasing opportunities.

"Certainly the Farmland Trust is interested in connecting farmers with land and land with farmers," Lee said. "There is a large section of the island that has been farmed in the past, but for various reasons is not being used to its full potential. And there are people who want to farm but can't afford to purchase land on Salt Spring."

"I always have one foot in the dirt. It's my passion."

LULU REDDER
Farmer looking for land

With the Farmland Trust helping to make the connections, people like Redder will hopefully find the space they need. Another project in the works, a community facility for commercial produce processing that is being planned for Beddis Road, will add more shared resources to the table.

In addition to the commercial lots in the Burgoyne Valley, the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society oversees family-sized garden plots on three and a half acres of the site as the Shaw Family Community Gardens.

For more information on the organization's work and information on how to access either commercial acreages or family plots, visit ssifarmlandtrust.org.

AGRICULTURE

PRODUCTS

Cut flower market expands local farming potential



PHOTO COURTESY BAKER'S GARDENS

Iris growing at Ted and Sonja Baker's Furness Road garden.

Ethical concerns fuel growth of profitable sector

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders looking to expand agricultural production on their properties are increasingly looking to the ornamental market as the answer, either to supplant a diverse mixed farming operation or as their primary business.

"Even grain and livestock farmers have increased profitability in their operations by adding cut flower production. For many greenhouse and nursery operations, mid-summer business is slower, relative to spring. A field-grown cut flower business is a viable option to fill in the summer production and cash flow gap," writes Virginia Tech professor Holly Scoggins.

But with food security becoming a top local concern, some might ask why anyone would devote their soil to something that has little nutritional value.

"Because it's food for the soul!" answers Ted Baker, who has been transforming 20 acres of the Burgoyne Valley into rippling fields of purple, blue and pink for nearly 30 years.

Anyone who has been tempted by a bright bouquet at one of Salt Spring's farm stands or indulged in an even more spectacular arrangement at the Saturday Market knows that Baker is absolutely correct. But while having beautiful things around us can be as important to our mental health as good food is to our physical well-being, the importance of buying local in both regards is only now starting to be recognized.

Along with organic produce and pastured livestock, organic flowers are an integral part of operations at Bullock Lake Farm, just as they were on the farm Molly Wilson and Zach Hemstreet apprenticed at in Washington state.

Their organic flower arrangements have been available at the Saturday Market and by order for special events for several years. A recent development has seen Wilson and Hemstreet realize their goal of creating a flower CSA program, supplying local restaurants and accommodation providers on a weekly basis.

"It's been really fun and exciting for us," Hemstreet said. For example, the pair now takes global wedding fashion trends into account, adding a whole new realm to the farming business.

Hemstreet said Amy Stewart's book *Flower Confidential* helped open his eyes to the realities of the industrial flower market. These include everything from slavery to the use of pesticides that are banned for food use but okay for something that people literally stick

their faces into. Hemstreet and Wilson also recognize a larger environmental cost.

"A bouquet you get at the grocery store in the summer can have flowers from six different countries in it — and one you get in the winter definitely does," Hemstreet said.

As well as adding an ethical boost to the revenue stream, flowers can perform several functions in a healthy mixed farm. They can attract beneficial insects and pollinators and be used as crop covers or to protect bare soil areas from noxious weeds like thistles. And they can help farmers maintain healthy soil.

"For us, it's an integral part of a really diverse crop rotation. We plant 75 varieties of flowers so we can really increase the rotation cycle," Hemstreet said.

Sue Gerryts, president of the Salt Spring Garden Club, has spent a good portion of the past 18 months working with her husband to make their Beaver Point Road acreage garden-friendly. This has included fencing the entire perimeter, doing soil amendment and building new beds. Along with a garden to supply most of their produce needs, they are laying the groundwork for a major crop of flowers for their daughter's wedding in 2017.

"The impetus was the environmental cost of air travel," Gerryts explained, noting much industrial flower production occurs in massive operations in places like Venezuela. "Cut flowers are very expensive to bring in and very costly to the environment, and my daughter didn't want to add to it."

Gerryts has been putting in flowers and will be trying out a number of varieties in pastel shades like lavender, pale blue, pink and mint green. She said English roses are the main variety wanted for summer weddings, plus sweet peas, delphiniums and hydrangeas. Varieties like orlaya, ammi majus, cornflowers, nigella, feverfew, alchemilla and achillea are popular accent blooms.

"I am also growing extra herbs as they smell gorgeous in a bouquet — like mints, rosemary and lavenders," she said.

Part of Gerryts' work will be learning the local growing conditions, which are different from her previous homes in Vancouver, which has a lot more rain, and Somerset, U.K., which had less than Vancouver but still some rain during summer. After her first important project has been completed, she's contemplating a commercial use for the flower beds.

"It's a matter of seeing the demand for it. There's certainly a lot of weddings on Salt Spring," Gerryts said.

Living ornamentals are another sector that local farmers could take up. The 20-acre Baker's Gardens has become a major regional supplier of bulbs and flowering plants. Specializing in irises, they also produce perennials such as peonies, phlox, primulas and poppies.

As well, the farm has become a point of interest for garden tourists. Four busloads came through Salt Spring to see the Bakers' blooms when the American Iris Society had its convention in Victoria in 2011.

"They're not coming to see the broc-

coli," Baker pointed out.

Gerryts concluded that most people grow flowers because they love them.

"I think the message is really to have fun with it. It's really fun to cut flowers, and with the annuals, the more you cut the more you get," Gerryts said.

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what's on this week



Wed. Feb 24	Wed. Feb 24	Fri. Feb 26	Sat. Feb 27	Sun. Feb 28	Tues. Mar 1	Wed. Mar 2
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	ACTIVITIES	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	ACTIVITIES	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Monad Dance Project: Paradise Lost? Dance project by Anna Haltrecht and Luis-Filipe Araujo takes inspiration from Milton's poem and the life cycles of St. Mary Lake, with the goal of raising awareness of the urgent need to protect a valuable island resource. Video art installation/performance art piece in the round in the ArtSpring gallery. Bar sales open 6:30 p.m., show starts 7:30.	Socially Engaged Art: Knitting, Food and Power. 2015 SSNAP winner and first artist in residence Corrie Peters will talk about how she has come to understand her art as spending time in relationships with people, and why she refers to objects she makes as art documentation. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 p.m. Songjam. Pub-style sing along to the soundtracks of our lives. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.	The Ducks. Live music at The Local bar. 5 to 8 p.m. GISS Improv. Senior team and special guests display improv talents, plus musical guests. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Elvis Tribute. Live at the Legion. 8 p.m. Never Never Band. Live music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.	MONAD Dance Project: Paradise Lost? See Wednesday listing. Live Music at the Legion. Live music every Saturday at the Legion Lounge from 7 to 10 p.m. Interchill Presents Adham Shaikh. Live music from at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.	Purple City. Live music at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.	Learn to Speak Spanish 2. First session of five-Tuesday course begins today. Register through PARC. Portlock Park Portable. 5:30 p.m. Across the River Art Opening. Opening of art installation by Anna Gustafson includes short talks by 12 local writers on their creative process. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 6 p.m. Improv Theatre Workshop. The Salt Spring Improv Workshop meets every Tuesday night for fun and silly improv games. Everyone age 15 and up is welcome. GISS Room N208. 7 to 9 p.m. Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute AGM. Annual general meeting. With guest speaker David Astill of the abattoir society. Farmers' Institute meeting room. 7:30 p.m. Drop-in Floor Hockey. Every Tuesday at Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m. Info: Normand, 250-653-9798.	Music & Munch. Alan Moberg performs for Music and Munch free recital at All Saints. 12:10 p.m. Followed by an optional lunch prepared by the Anglican Caterers.
ACTIVITIES		ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES			ACTIVITIES
SSI Painters Guild Art Workshops and Life Drawing. Every Wednesday to May 4. ArtSpring Gallery. 9:30 a.m. Computer Drop-in Help. Free help with tablet, smartphone, computer issues every Wednesday at Elma Rubright Learning Centre (Salt Spring Literacy). 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Note new hours.) Poker Night. Hosted by Rebekah every Wednesday at The Local. Sign up by 6:30 p.m. Start playing at 7 p.m. Salt Spring Garden Club. Summer Joy and Jim Webb from Courtenay give a slide show presentation of their trip to the Royal Horticultural Society's Malvern Autumn Show to the SS Garden Club. Meaden Hall. 7 p.m.	Thur. Feb 25	MONAD: Paradise Lost? Gallery Open House. Come interact, move, dance, play in a video art Installation for personal and group explorations. Community Interaction event in the ArtSpring Gallery from 12 to 5 p.m. The Cutting Room Floor. Fundraiser for the Salt Spring and Pender Island Refugee Sponsorship Groups includes five-course dinner and readings by award-winning authors Lorna Crozier, William Deverell, C.C. Humphreys and Kathy Page of material their editors made them leave out. Oystercatcher Restaurant. 6 p.m. Introduction to Herbolgy. Three-day beginners' herbal workshop for ages 16 and older starts today. Taught by Jasmyn Clift and Kevin Kunzler. Register through PARC. Salt Spring Island Middle School. 6 to 9 p.m.	Canadian Federation of University Women Meeting. With guest speaker Ian Sigvaldason of Pegasus Gallery on West Coast Women's Art. Public is welcome. Harbour House Hotel. 10 a.m. MONAD: Paradise Lost? Environmental Talks. Free environmental awareness talks focusing on St. Mary Lake. Speakers include Chris Arnett, Don Hodgins, Bob Weeden and Maggie Squires. ArtSpring. 12 to 3 p.m. Smooth Sailing Workshop: Supporting Seniors' Health Literacy. Helping seniors and those supporting them to obtain accurate information, develop knowledge and skills, and access support in order to better navigate community and health resources and foster empowerment. No registration required. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 1 to 4 p.m. Salt Spring Forum Salon with Daphne Bramham. Vancouver Sun writer discusses The Secret World of Polygamy at members' salon. Location TBA. 7:30 p.m.	Mon. Feb 29		Seniors Van Excursion. Music & Munch concert for seniors without their own transportation. Book a spot through 250-931-0168. Computer Drop-in Help. See last Wednesday's listing. SSI Painters Guild Art Workshops and Life Drawing. See last Wednesday's listing. Poker Night at the Local. See last Wednesday's listing. Songjam. See last Wednesday's listing.
	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT			LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		driftwoodgulflslands media.com/calendar/
	Ivan E. Coyote. Storytelling by acclaimed author and performer, with surprise circus guests. SIMS gymnasium. 7 p.m. Open Mic Night with Ross & Dave. Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.			Salt Spring Nite Live! Variety show highlighting local performers in music, comedy, dance and more. A fundraiser for the Salt Spring Arts Academy's youth bursary program. ArtSpring. 8 p.m.		
	ACTIVITIES			ACTIVITIES		
	Buff Yoga SPCA Karma Class. Proceeds of yoga and weights class go to SaltSpring BC SPCA. North End Fitness. 11 a.m. MONAD Dance Project Workshop. Free workshop for those interested in performance-based art with MONAD performers Anna Haltrecht and Luis Araujo. Part of Feb. 24-27 Paradise Lost? No Action is Not an Option events. ArtSpring Gallery. 5 p.m. Green Drinks. This month's topic is gardening. Moby's Pub. 5 to 7 p.m.			National Cupcake Day SPCA Fundraiser. Buy cupcakes outside Ganges Fire Hall. Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee Meeting. At the Portlock Park meeting room. 4 to 6 p.m.		
		<div>Invite the whole neighbourhood to your garage sale with a classified ad. CALL 250.537.9933</div>				
						PAGE 23

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This Week's
Horoscope
by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstarastrology.com | sunstarastrology@gmail.com
1.250.352.2936
PAGE 23

THE FRITZ CINEMA
901 North End Rd. 250-537-4656 Movie info: www.thefritz.ca

5 Oscar Nominations Including Best Picture

THE BIG SHORT
121 min. Rating: 14A
Feb. 26 to Mar. 1 Fri. to Tues. 7pm
Sun. 3pm matinee and 7pm

BROOKLYN
3 Oscar Nominations Including Best Picture
1hr 51min Rating: PG
March 4 to 8
Fri. to Tues. 7pm
Sun. 3pm matinee and 7pm

THE LADY IN THE VAN
STARRING MAGGIE SMITH
starts Friday March 11th.

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media.com/calendar/

view our online
comprehensive
interactive calendar
of events listings

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everything happening on Salt Spring

CINEMA

• **The Big Short** — The Big Short is complicated, with impressive attention to detail, and is a well-acted, funny indictment of its real-life villains. Adapted from Michael Lewis' best-seller The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine, about the housing credit bubble of the 2000s. Five Oscar nominations, including best picture.

• **Brooklyn** — Back by popular demand. A young Irish woman immigrates to Brooklyn, where she falls in love. When her past catches up with her, she must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within them. A rich period drama with outstanding performances. Three Oscar nominations, including best picture.

D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column,
Streets of Salt Spring Island
If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at:
250-537-9933 or
dwsalty@driftwoodgimmedia.com



EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Gallery** holds a "New Year. New art. New artists. New beginnings" show running at the McPhillips Avenue gallery through March 3.

• **Anna Gustafson's** Across the River exhibition opens in the **Salt Spring Library** Program Room on Tuesday, March 1 with a special event at 6 p.m. Show continues through the month during regular library hours when the program room is not otherwise in use.

• **Abstract Explorations:** Acrylic paintings and photo collages by **Phyllis Webb** are the surprising late-life creations of this well-known Canadian poet and Salt Spring Islander. Colourful, sometimes puzzling, and mainly abstract, these works feel at home in the **Salt Spring Library's** generous gallery space until Feb. 29. Webb's books of poetry and essay collections are also on display during February.

• **Bill Underwood** shows photographs and **Suzanne Prendergast** her artwork in the **ArtSpring** lobby through February.

• **Sharada Filkow** shows paintings in **Salt Spring Coffee Co.** in Ganges.

• **Margaret Threlfall's** original paintings are exhibited at **Country Grocer's Country Roasters Cafe** until the end of February.

• **Salt Spring Gallery** artists have work hanging in **Island Savings**.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR, EMAIL:
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Salt Spring Nite Live!

Monthly variety show at ArtSpring

Monday, Feb. 29th • 8 p.m.

A SS Academy fundraiser for youth bursaries

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EXHIBITIONS

Anna Gustafson explores writing process via artwork

Across the River library show and event feature local writers

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring artist Anna Gustafson was attending a retreat at the Vermont Studio Centre last year when she realized a deep need to understand the creative process that writers undergo.

At the time, she was part of a group in residence that included 33 other visual artists and 14 writers. The writers stayed in an old school house located across the river from the studio buildings. Gustafson's creative journey was sparked by seeing their silhouettes at night and wondering what they were up to.

"Though I was coming to understand and appreciate different techniques that the visual artists were using, the writing process continued to evade me," Gustafson wrote about the art project that resulted. "How do writers persevere day after day, to condense this multi-



COURTESY ANNA GUSTAFSON

Writers' shredded-paper "specimens," part of Anna Gustafson's Across the River exhibit that will be in the library's program room through the month of March. A special opening event is set for March 1.

dimensional world into words?"

To help understand, Gustafson canvassed the retreat writers and asked for samples of work in process. These she passed through the shredder and mounted as "specimens" in clear plastic bags along with index cards containing some basic information on the creators, in their own words.

As Gustafson explained during a recent interview, the writing process continues to mystify, to the extent she's continued her attempt to cross the metaphorical river with a second

exploration here on Salt Spring. The results of the second project feature contributions from 26 local authors and will be on display at the library program room through March.

"I love reading and I have to say I am in awe of people who can take this complex, diverse, rich, textural, sensual world and put it through the construct of words, and at the end of it I can read the words and understand their story," she said. "It still feels like a miracle to me."

Gustafson said she felt a little

better after learning that each writer seems to approach the creative process in their own way, meaning there is no one solution or path.

At the same time, though, it has opened questions about the creative process in general, and what happens in the brain between sparking an idea and then bringing that idea to fruition.

The Salt Spring writers participating in Across the River represent a broad spectrum of genres, ranging from non-fiction heavyweights like Debo-

rah Campbell and Briony Penn to poets like Murray Reiss and Chris Smart. Some, like Brian Brett and George Sipos, are acclaimed producers of both poetry and memoir, while others have ascended the fiction and mystery bestseller lists.

In some cases their work talks about the creative sphere, such as writing on music or art. In some cases, like for silent film producer and stand-up bass player Keith Picot, their writing is hidden within their other work.

As per the first show, the authors' work in process will be displayed in specimen bags in shredded form. Gustafson said this is partly to protect work that has yet to be published. At the same time, it represents her inquiry.

"It's still a mystery to me," she said.

A full dozen of the 26 writers involved will seek to demystify the process a little further during a special opening event at the library on Tuesday, March 1 starting at 6 p.m. The show will continue at the program room (when not in other use) throughout the month during regular library hours.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Owl Singalong adds to Raffi collection

Salt Spring Elementary kids' voices on album

Raffi music fans are soaring high with the release of Owl Singalong.

The Salt Spring-based performer's 14th original album of music for children features 16 new tunes, including the title song inspired by two things: the owls Raffi has heard nightly outside his Salt Spring Island home, and by his grand-niece Lucie's enthusiasm for her stuffed toy owl.

Owl Singalong's songs range from delightful updates of classics such as The More We Sing Together, Dog on the Bus, The Lion Pokey and Abiyoyo, as well as new compositions like Garden Song, Blossoms and the reggae-flavoured Green Dream, an inspiring and hopeful anthem that embodies Raffi's career-long environmental advocacy.

"Green Dream is an important song for me," said Raffi, who first sang the praises of solar and wind power on Big Beautiful Planet, which was part of his 1982 album Rise and Shine.

"We live with the menace of global climate change, which is the greatest threat to future generations, and the kids who are alive today are going to face the brunt of that challenge. At the same time, we're seeing a rapid



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Musician Raffi at home on Salt Spring. His 14th album, Owl Singalong, includes young voices from Salt Spring Elementary School.

shift from fossil fuels to green energy technologies. My dream is a green dream for all of the world's children, something that all families want."

Besides the island's owls, the new CD has another local contribution.

Voices of 14 Salt Spring Elementa-

ry School students are on four of the tracks. The young singers enjoyed two afternoons spent recording with Raffi, through the coordination and cooperation of the school's music director, Whitney Walker.

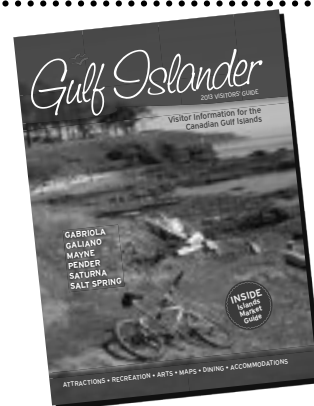
"This was an unforgettable experience for the students," said Walker. "A chance for them to work with Raffi and share some of the joy of his music."

Salt Spring's Dayna Litowski created the delightful art for Owl Singalong, as well as for Raffi's last album, Love Bug.

Critics and bloggers are heralding Raffi's latest work.

Yahoo! Parenting's Beth Greenfield pronounced the album "joyous" and "jubilant," while parenting blog MrJeff2000 noted, "Under the classification of children's music, Raffi remains almost sui generis, a genre unto himself. Long may he strum."

Zooglobe's Stefan Shepherd wrote, "The return of Raffi to the kids music scene has been one of the most pleasant surprises from the past couple years of kids music," and Kids Home Library proclaimed, "Three cheers for the iconic Raffi, who keeps it fresh, modern, and jazzy with Owl Singalong . . . With a voice that's pure and reassuring, Raffi's 16 songs are satisfying, beautiful and empowering."



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POETRY

Griffin-winning poet at next open mic

Jane Munro part of
March 3 evening

Award-winning writer Jane Munro is the featured poet at the Poetry Open Mic event at the Salt Spring Public Library on Thursday, March 3.

Munro's sixth poetry collection, *Blue Sonoma* (from Brick Books), won the 2015 Griffin Poetry Prize. Her previous books include *Active Pass* (Pedlar Press) and *Point No Point* (McClelland & Stewart).

Her work has received the Bliss Carman Poetry Award, the Macmillan Prize for Poetry, the

Fred Cogswell Award for Excellence in Poetry (second place), was nominated for the Pat Lowther Award and is included in *The Best Canadian Poetry in English 2013*.

Munro is a member of the collaborative poetry group *Yoko's Dogs*, whose first book, *Whisk*, was published by Pedlar Press.

She lives in Vancouver.

Sign-up for the open mic portion of the night is at 6:45 p.m., with one poem allowed per reader.

Open mic readings start at 7 p.m., and Munro will read at 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

FOLLOWING A THREAD: SAORI

weaving instructor Terri Bibby helps young student Miya deRoos at a Workshop on the Rock event at Mahon Hall on Saturday. Two all-ages sessions were held.

FILM FESTIVAL

Landfill Harmonic featured at demystified Gala Night

17th annual
documentary film
festival opens

BY PATRICIA LOCKIE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Over the years, Gala Night has become the undisputed standard bearer for the Salt Spring Film festival, setting the tone for what's to follow in an intense weekend of documentary film screenings, social justice bazaar displays, good food and, above all else, spirited discussion and clamorous opinions.

A palpable vibe of expectancy and anticipation grips

the multipurpose room at GISS on Gala Night. A newcomer to the festival experience recently inquired, "What's it like? I've never been to a Gala Night before."

Well, here's what it's not: Red carpets and haute couture. No Prosecco on tap. You'll probably be eating on your lap in cozy proximity to the person in the next seat. Food is provided by Lou Ellis of *Coco Loco* and is also available from the school cafeteria.

The room will be noisy with the sound of multiple conversations and shouted greetings. Then you'll know: The 17th annual Salt Spring

Film Festival is up and running and you just became a part of it. Gala Night is Friday, March 4. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the featured documentary screens at 7:30 p.m.

Landfill Harmonic, this year's Gala Night film presentation, epitomizes the heart and intent of the festival in so many ways. It is a film that challenges, informs, inspires and asks us to look inside ourselves awhile. Children growing up in an impoverished community in Cateura, Paraguay, where their backyard is a toxic, mountainous landfill — the largest in the country — and where hope is in short supply, become

talented orchestral musicians against all odds.

How could this happen? Through the unstinting efforts of a garbage and recycling technician with a passion for music and a belief in its capacity to heal and change the lives of people. Favio Chavez thinks the kids of Cateura deserve better. He finds Cola, a resourceful local trash collector and magician who before our eyes redefines the meaning of garbage. He builds guitars, flutes, violins, saxophones, drums and more from plastics, tin, wire and metal oil drums, all materials salvaged from the dump.

Chavez, an inspiring musical director and mentor, and his young students take us on an emotional journey, one in which music and environmental pollution on a massive scale intersect. What began as free music lessons for the children evolved into the Recycled Orchestra with an international reputation for performing classical music on instruments built from salvaged trash.

Landfill Harmonic charts the group's incredible rise to fame as one of the most unlikely youth orchestras in the world. The children must now navigate a strange

new world of arenas and sold-out concerts, and even share the stage with heavy metal band Megadeth.

When disaster strikes Cateura in the form of the biggest flood in 20 years, one which deluges the landfill and destroys many homes as well as the orchestra's workshop, it is the young musicians and their perseverance that help unite the stricken community. The film highlights two urgent issues of our time, poverty and waste pollution. It also suggests that culture is a universal human need.

The film festival runs from March 4-6.

MUSIC & MUNCH

Alan Moberg on M&M stage

Few concerts left in long-running All Saints series

After 20 years of operation, the Wednesday noon-hour series of musical programs known as Music and Munch is gradually drawing to a conclusion in June.

One of the main reasons for its continuing success has been the quality of local talent performing on the Music and Munch stage over the years. Such a one is singer/songwriter/raconteur Alan Moberg who, for the 16th consecutive year, will be gracing the stage at All Saints By-the-Sea church next Wednesday, March 2.

Known by the moniker of "Salt Water Cowboy," Moberg has steeped himself in the history and beauty of this province and its people, particularly in the West Coast fisheries and the rangelands of the Interior.

Born into a fishing family, he fell easily into a fishing life in his early years. His songs such as *Wild Salmon* and *Sunday Night Seine Boats* reflect the hardships

and dangers and camaraderie of that profession. It also gave him the opportunity of engaging with the First Nations people and their culture. His response to their steady courageous fight to save the ancient indigenous burial site on Grace Islet was his recent haunting song *Don't Build Your House On My Bones*.

This year Moberg has been invited to be a guest performer at the 90th anniversary of the Williams Lake Stampede on the weekend of July 1. His popular song of the same name was written well over 40 years ago and has been arranged in four-part harmony and sung by many choirs today.

He and his good friend, fiddler Wesley Hardisty, performed on Feb. 13 for the B.C. Cowboy Heritage Society at 100 Mile House, and Moberg will be performing at the Kamloops Cowboy Festival on the March 18 weekend.

The free Music and Munch performance begins at 12:10 p.m. followed by an optional delectable lunch prepared by the Anglican Caterer. Lunch tickets must be bought before the performance begins.

30% Off Regular Passenger Fares promotion is applicable on adult, child, BC Senior, student and persons with disabilities regular passenger fares. *South Coast Routes: Offer is valid on select sailings from March 10 to March 29, 2016, Monday to Thursday and Saturdays on the following routes: Metro Vancouver; Vancouver Island; Sunshine Coast; Southern Gulf Islands; Northern Gulf Islands, in either direction. Not valid on March 24 or March 28, 2016. **North Coast Routes: Offer is valid on all sailings March 10 to March 29, 2016, on the following routes: Inside Passage: Haida Gwaii; Discovery Coast Connector; Skidegate - Alliford Bay in either direction. Not valid on March 24 or March 28, 2016. Experience** Card users who receive a discount rate that is less than 30% will be increased to match the promotional discount on promotional sailings. Experience** Card users who receive a discount rate that is in excess of 30% off the regular passenger fare will not receive an additional discount, however will continue to receive the Experience** Card discount rate on all sailings. Resident and Group discounts will be increased to match the promotional discount on promotional sailings. Offer is not applicable on BC Ferries Vacations pre-bundled packages. Limited time offer. Other conditions may apply. Please visit bcferrries.com for full details on applicable sailings. BC Reg. 48839.

people&community

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

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CLASSIC CARS

Citroën Pony looks for new owner



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The quirky and eccentric Citroën Pony may just be the classic island ride. At right, Jason Rounsavall takes the wheel with John Maresh. The car is being stored on Salt Spring Island while awaiting a new owner to step forward.

Classic Citroën a rare breed in North America

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Greece isn't the first country that comes to mind when people talk of automotive ingenuity, engineering heft and technological innovation, but production of the Citroën Pony in the 1970s propelled the country to the forefront of a transportation revolution.

The boxy little Pony hit the market as the poor man's jeep, a practical, utilitarian car for the masses — a modern-era Ford Model T.

The company sold more than 30,000 units, primarily in the Middle East and Africa, but not many crossed the Atlantic. Citroën aficionados estimate there may be fewer than five such vehicles in North America.

One of them is on Salt Spring.

"There's a handful. And when I say handful, it's one hand," said Jason Rounsavall, a proud Pony owner.

Rounsavall listed his Pony for sale after a move from the island to Victoria. His new home's single parking space means the Pony has to go. The car is stored at a Salt Spring garage, and Rounsavall hopes it can stay on the island. The island, he added, is the perfect home for such an eccentric and versatile ride.

"It's a great island car, perfect for Salt Spring because it has that go-anywhere quality," he said. "It may not go very fast, but you get a lot of sunshine and a lot of smiles."

Rounsavall brought his Pony to Salt Spring from southern

California nearly 10 years ago. He'd always been a fan of classic cars and the opportunity to buy the Pony arose just days before moving day.

"I've had this Citroën fetish for as long as I can remember," he said. "So we trailered up the little yellow Pony behind the big yellow Penske moving truck."

Rounsavall bought his first Citroën, a legendary 2CV, with money he earned from his job at the local grocery store when he was 16. He traces his infatuation to Citroën's groundbreaking mechanics and intriguing aesthetics. The company introduced many automotive firsts in the years between 1934 and 1955, a time when car culture really took off in much of Europe and North America.

"I think Citroën has a huge following because the cars were built by engineers, not by the corporate guys," he said. "They were super groundbreaking. It's thinking outside the box and in some ways that's been Citroën's Achilles heel in the U.S."

The Citroën Pony was designed by the French automaker and manufactured entirely by the National Motor Company of Greece. The company produced the vehicle until the 1980s, when the Greek automotive sector tanked after Greece joined the European Union. Thirty years later, the car continues to inspire a cult following among Citroën fans.

Rounsavall's Pony is the only model of its kind among the 1,300-member strong Citroën Autoclub Canada. Citroën lovers celebrate the cars' unique driving experience and iconic vehicle style.

"Citroën produced cars like no other in its heyday," said George Dyke, the club's president. "That will never be repeated."

The Pony holds a special position in

an exceptional class, Dyke added. Few autoclub members have ever seen one in person.

"It's certainly viewed as an oddball," he said.

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Capital Regional District

CRD

Notice of Public Open House Magic Lake Estates Wastewater Infrastructure Projects

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is working with the Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Local Services Committee (MLE Committee) in preparing a new phased plan to address the issues facing the aging and failing wastewater infrastructure in the Magic Lake Estates Sewer Service Area.

The first phase of the plan addresses the highest priority items and requires borrowing up to \$1,530,000.

The CRD and MLE Committee invite all residents within the MLE Sewer Service Area to an Open House to obtain more information and ask questions about the phase 1 projects and Alternative Approval Process.

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2016
Time: 11am to 3pm
Location: St. Peter's Anglican Church, 4703 Canal Road, Pender Island

If you are unable to attend the open house or would like to receive updates, please visit the project website at www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-sewer.

For more information, please contact:
Malcolm Cowley, P. Eng.
Manager, Wastewater Engineering and Planning
Tel: 250.360.3066 Mobile: 250.812.7773
Email: mcowley@crd.bc.ca

Power pole test and treat Gulf Islands

To ensure your safety and our electrical system reliability, BC Hydro contractors inspect wood power poles along distribution lines and carry out treatment if required. Poles that have been in service for at least eight years (lodgepole pine), 14 years (spruce, fir) or 20 years (western red cedar) are inspected, tested for strength and treated near ground level with wood preservative to prevent and/or stop decay. Untreated poles typically have a service life of only 30 years, while treated poles can last up to 70 years, conserving demand on our forest resources.

From March 1–31, 2016, wood poles will be inspected and treated along distribution lines on the Southern Gulf Islands, including Saturna Island (9 poles), Mayne Island (9 poles), Pender Island (9 poles), Galiano Island (1 pole), Salt Spring Island (80 poles), Thetis Island (13 poles), Gabriola Island (53 poles), and Mudge Island (2 poles).

Wood preservatives used are approved and registered for utility wood poles by Health Canada. Contractors are certified and licensed by the BC Ministry of Environment, and work is completed under our direction in accordance with BC Hydro's Pest Management Plan for Wood Structure Maintenance (ref #105–0981–14/19).

For more information, contact Raymond Irving, Field Manager, at 1 250 755 4798 or email Raymond.Irving@bchydro.com.

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RETIREMENT PLANNING

Take time to kick retirement savings into high gear

Make the most of your money

BY CARLA HINDMAN

There's no better time than right now to start planning and saving for your retirement.

Today more than half of Canadians admit to not feeling financially prepared for retirement, and only one third of Canadians actually have a plan in place to meet their retirement needs.

Those in their 20s or 30s have several decades for their savings to grow, but if you're already in your 40s or 50s, and don't have a plan in place, you'll need to save more aggressively to make up for lost time.

Here are a few tips to kick your retirement savings efforts into high gear this year:

haven't done so already. An RRSP is a retirement savings program, registered by the Canada Revenue Agency, which commonly allows your contributions to grow tax free as long as the funds remain in the plan. According to Statistics Canada, in 2012 just 23.7 per cent of Canadian tax filers contributed to an RRSP.

One way to increase your RRSP is to determine whether other investments, such as Canada Savings Bonds, Guaranteed Investment Certificates and publicly traded stocks and bonds, are eligible for transfer into RRSP in lieu of cash.

You may need to check with a financial professional to determine whether it would be beneficial to transfer such assets, from both a retirement planning and a taxation standpoint. For more information on RRSPs, visit the Canada Revenue

Agency website.

Some employers offer corporate matching on RRSP contributions, which can add hundreds or even thousands of free dollars to your account every year. Take advantage of these matching contributions to build up your current savings. If finding more money to contribute is a problem, make a pledge to put your next pay increase directly into your plan.

Take Financial Inventory

Many people don't know their net worth, or how much money they'll need at retirement. Some experts say at least 60 to 80 per cent of current income is necessary to maintain your current lifestyle after you stop working.

In order to determine how much you'll need throughout

your retirement years, start by reviewing your Canadian Pension Plan, RRSPs, savings accounts and assets.

Once you have completed this inventory, enter these amounts into an online retirement calculator to roughly estimate how much money you'll need to retire comfortably. Practical Money Skills offers a retirement calculator to help you start thinking about your retirement financial well-being.

Check out the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada's website for a list of possible retirement income sources that may be available to you.

Consider Downsizing

Once your kids are all grown up and moved out, consider downsizing to a smaller, less expen-

sive home. This will allow you to invest some of your current home's equity for retirement, as well as pay less for utilities, property taxes, home repairs and other expenses.

Delay retirement. In this day and age people typically live much longer than their parents, so their retirement savings will need to last longer. By delaying retirement a few years or at least working part time, your savings can grow considerably before you need them.

Plus, the longer you delay tapping into your Canada Pension Plan benefits, the larger your monthly payout.

One last suggestion: Once you've settled on what you think will be a sufficient retirement budget, try living on it for a few months first before retiring to make sure it actually works.

Carla Hindman directs the Practical Money Skills program for Visa Canada. More budgeting and personal finance tips can be found at www.practicalmoneyskills.ca. As always, consult a financial professional regarding your particular situation.



Maximize Your Savings

There are several financial tools available to help maximize your current savings. Everything from Tax Free Savings Accounts (TFSA) and GICs, to mutual funds and stocks are all part of the assortment of products available today.

In addition to these options, consider opening a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) if you

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MONEY MATTERS

FOURTH IN A FOUR PART SERIES

RRSPS

Professional accountants group offers RRSP advice

Tax season has started and that means British Columbians are trying to make sense of tax changes and how to handle their RRSPs. The Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia (CPABC) has put together important RRSP tips for the 2015 tax year:

1. Who is Eligible to Contribute to an RRSP?

Anyone with "earned income" in a prior year who is subject to Canadian taxation on that "earned income," including non-residents, may contribute to an RRSP. You can make part or all of your RRSP contributions to a spousal RRSP under which you are the contributor and your spouse is the annuitant, and you as the contributor are entitled to the tax deduction. For this purpose, a spouse refers to a legally married partner or a common-law partner of the opposite or same sex with whom you have cohabitated for the past 12 months.

To maximize your long-term tax savings, there should be an attempt to equalize the retirement income of both spouses. Therefore, RRSP contributions should go into the name of the spouse who will otherwise have the lower income in retirement. There are, of course, exceptions to

this general rule where, for example, both spouses are trying to accumulate funds for the Home Buyers' Plan or the Lifelong Learning Plan.

2. Tax Savings from an RRSP

If you have an RRSP deduction limit as shown on your 2014 Notice of Assessment and you are a B.C. resident, the following are the income tax savings you could realize from making an RRSP contribution:

If your taxable income is between \$11,327 and \$44,701, a \$1,000 RRSP contribution would reduce your 2015 taxes by up to \$227.

If your taxable income is between \$44,702 and \$89,401, a \$1,000 RRSP contribution would reduce your 2015 taxes by about \$227 to \$343.

If your taxable income is between \$89,402 and \$138,586, a \$1,000 RRSP contribution would reduce your 2015 taxes by about \$343 to \$407.

If your taxable income is over \$138,587, a \$1,000 RRSP contribution would reduce your 2015 taxes by about \$437 to \$458.

Remember, an RRSP is a tax deferral vehicle. You will be taxed on the funds when withdrawn. That said, you would rather pay \$1 of income tax tomorrow than \$1 of income tax today. Actual tax savings will result if you are in a lower tax bracket when

you withdraw the funds, or if you can save income taxes by moving taxable income to a lower income spouse through a spousal RRSP.

3. Early Contribution to an RRSP

RRSPs can be tax-effective investment vehicles, especially if you are many years from retirement. If you do decide to take advantage of an RRSP, it is advisable to contribute at the beginning of the year to start the tax-free compounding of earnings within the RRSP earlier. Also consider monthly contributions to your RRSP throughout the year as opposed to a lump sum contribution at the end of the year or in the first 60 days of the following year.

You can make an RRSP contribution in a year and not claim a tax deduction in that year if you think your marginal tax rate will be higher in a later year. You will still benefit from the tax-deferred earnings. Provided your undeducted RRSP contributions do not exceed your RRSP deduction limit plus \$2,000, your undeducted contribution can be carried forward indefinitely, without penalty, for deduction in future years. This could be a substantial advantage if you claim the tax deduction in a year or years when

you are in a higher tax bracket.

4. Is There a Good Time to Use the Money in an RRSP Prior to Retirement?

The primary objective of an RRSP is to save for retirement by permitting tax deductions for current period contributions, and tax-deferrals on investment earnings, with the goal of creating a retirement nest egg. Ideally, tax deductions occur during periods of higher income (higher income tax rates) and withdrawals occur during periods of lower income (lower income tax rates). With this in mind, it might sometimes make sense to withdraw funds from your RRSP prior to retirement.

It might make sense to withdraw funds from your RRSP or a spousal RRSP in the first year you become self-employed and your net income is low as a result of start-up costs, or income is deferred as a result of tax planning. For example, if you are commencing a business in 2016, you could contribute \$10,000 to your RRSP by February 29, 2016, deduct it on your 2015 tax return, and receive a tax refund. You could then withdraw the \$10,000, net of withholding taxes from your RRSP later in the year, include it in your 2016 income,

and pay little or no tax as a result of having little or no other income in the year.

That said, since the purpose of an RRSP is to save for retirement, you should think very carefully about the future impact on your retirement wealth before withdrawing funds from your RRSP, especially since RRSP contribution room is finite. (If you plan to re-contribute a previous withdrawal, outside of special programs such as the Home Buyers' Plan, such re-contributions would utilize future RRSP contribution room.)

Also be careful about withdrawing from a spousal RRSP because the income could be attributed to the contributing spouse if a spousal RRSP contribution had been made in the prior three years.

BUSINESS

Study praises Canada's system

Paying Taxes Report released

According to the latest Paying Taxes report, released by PwC and the World Bank Group, Canada continues to lead when it comes to the ease of paying taxes compared to its global counterparts.

The report measures the overall ease of paying taxes for small to medium-sized domestic businesses based on the number of tax payments per year, the time required to compile returns and submit tax payments, as well as companies' total tax liability as a percentage of pre-tax profits.

The report found that on average, Canadian companies had a total tax rate of

21.1 per cent of commercial profits compared to a global average of 40.8 per cent. Canada's total tax rate also falls below the North American average. Mexico's total tax rate is 51.7 per cent while the United States comes in at 43.9 per cent. In 2014, 46 economies exhibited an increase in their total tax rate, while the tax rate decreased in 41 economies.

Paying taxes became easier for medium-sized companies globally, but the focus has moved from reducing tax rates for companies to embracing technology and relieving their compliance burden.

To view the full Paying Taxes report, visit: www.pwc.com/ca/payingtaxes.

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VOLUNTEERISM

Lions earn giving award

The nearly 40 members of Salt Spring's Lions Club have good reason to release a gigantic roar after being noted for their exemplary financial contributions to people and groups in need.

"It's pretty significant," said Neale Smith, the local Lions Club membership coordinator.

The club received news earlier this month that it ranks in the top-

five fundraisers among more than 450 Lions Club chapters in B.C., Washington and Idaho.

Neale said Salt Spring placed between second and fifth place.

The local chapter donated about \$120,000 in 2014/2015. The District 19 governor travelled to Salt Spring to present the certificate that acknowledges the accomplishment.

He said the Salt Spring club has donated to countless groups, which include the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, school-based lunch programs, Easter Seal House (Vancouver), Lady Minto Hospital and Salt Spring's therapeutic riding program. The group built Portlock Park, Salt Spring's skatepark and the Pioneer Village seniors housing complex.

"We raise money, and we give it to people who need it," Smith said. "It's all over the map, but most of it is on Salt Spring."

Smith said he hopes publicity generated by the honour will drive more islanders to join the group and make a difference in their community. He said younger residents can get engaged by joining the Leo's Club.

Capital Regional District



Notice to Electors Within the Capital Regional District

Alternative Approval Process for CRD Bylaw 4048 - Authorizing the borrowing of \$1,530,000 for funding the capital renewal and upgrade of the Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Capital Regional District ("CRD") proposes to adopt Bylaw No. 4048, "Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 2, 2015" to authorize the borrowing of up to One Million Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$1,530,000) for the purpose of funding the capital renewal and upgrade of the Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System.

Many of the existing wastewater system components in the Magic Lake Estates Sewer Service Area are old, have reached or exceeded their capacity, and are at end of their design life. Therefore, subject to this Alternative Approval Process, the CRD proposes to complete four high priority projects as follows:

1. Chart Drive Septic system has failed and a notice from Island Health Authority requires that it be replaced;
2. The sewers along Buck Lake and Privateers Road are undersized and require replacement with larger pipes to prevent overflows during peak flow storm events;
3. An inflow and infiltration program is required to identify leaking pipes so that they can be repaired in order to reduce wet weather flows at the Cannon and Schooner Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) to meet permit requirements, prevent overflows and extend the life of the treatment plants; and
4. Ultrasonic testing and condition assessment of the metal walls of the clarifier tanks at Schooner WWTP will determine the remaining life of the tanks so that plans can be initiated to replace them before they fail.

Take further notice that the CRD may proceed with Bylaw No. 4048 unless at least 62 electors within the Magic Lake Estates Sewage Local Service Area indicate by signing the elector response forms, that the Board must obtain the assent of the electors by way of referendum before proceeding to adopt Bylaw No. 4048.

The elector response form must be in the form as established by the CRD and forms are available from the CRD on request. The only persons entitled to sign elector response forms are electors of the area to which the alternative approval process opportunity applies. The alternative approval process opportunity applies within the Magic Lake Estates Sewage Local Service Area, on North Pender Island, in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area of the Capital Regional District.

The deadline for delivering the original signed elector response forms, in relation to Bylaw No. 4048, to the CRD is 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. Forms must be received by the deadline to be counted.

The CRD has estimated that the total number of electors within the service area is 618 and that 10% of that number or 62 electors must submit elector response forms to prevent the CRD from enacting Bylaw No. 4048 without the assent of the electors by referendum.

Further technical information concerning Bylaw No. 4048 may be obtained from Malcolm Cowley (mcowley@crd.bc.ca, 250.360.3066) or Dale Puskas (dpuskas@crd.bc.ca, 250.474.9648), CRD Integrated Water Services, during regular office hours Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from the date of this notice until March 30, 2016.

Qualifications for Resident and Non-Resident Property Electors

Resident Elector: You are entitled to submit an elector response form as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on the date of submission of the elector response form, are a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for 6 months and in the Magic Lake Estates Sewage Local Service Area for at least 30 days prior to signing the elector response form.

Non-Resident Property Elector: You may submit an elector response form as a Non-Resident Property Elector if you are 18 years or older on the date of submission of the elector response form, are a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for 6 months, have owned and held registered title to property in the Magic Lake Estates Sewage Local Service Area for 30 days and do NOT qualify as a Resident Elector. If there is more than one registered owner of the property (either as joint tenants or tenants in common) only one individual may, with the written consent of the majority, submit an elector response form.

To obtain an elector response form, or for questions about the elector approval process, please contact CRD Legislative and Information Services, PO Box 1000, 625 Fisgard Street, 5th Floor, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6 or by telephone at 250.360.3127 from 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

A copy of the elector response form may be downloaded from: www.crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/elections-other-voting

A copy of Bylaw No. 4048 and a copy of this Notice may be inspected during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (unless specified otherwise below), Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from the date of this notice until March 30, 2016 at the following locations:

- public notice board in the lobby of CRD headquarters, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria
- on the CRD website:

for Bylaw No. 4048:

www.crd.bc.ca/about/document-library/Documents/bylaws/bylawsubjecttoreferendumoralternativeapprovalprocess for this Notice: www.crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/elections-other-voting

An informational open house will be held 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Saturday February 27, 2016 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 4703 Canal Rd North Pender Island for electors to ask questions about the proposed works and alternative approval process.

Given under my hand at Victoria, BC this 10th day of February, 2016

Brent Reems
Corporate Officer

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

Spring outings set

Hikers, walkers and ramblers announce March plans

Presentation

The Bruce Trail is one of Canada's signature trail systems, on the edge of our World Biosphere Reserve of the Niagara Escarpment. Join us on Thursday, March 3 at 7 p.m. at the United Church for fascinating photos and stories from our own hiking scientist and bird specialist, Susan Hannon.

Hikers

March 1: Sheila and Barry Spence lead an off-island hike to Maple Mountain. Carpool from Portlock Park at 8:35 a.m. to walk on to the 9:15 a.m. ferry. If the weather is good we will take the longer loop, which is about 10 to 12 km; not strenuous but long, with a short, sharp, steep section.

March 8: Susan Hannon leads a moderately strenuous hike to Bold Bluff. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or meet Susan at the lower Burgoyne Bay parking lot at 10 a.m.

March 15: Lynn Thompson leads a moderate hike to Christie Falls (Ladysmith) and possibly beyond. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to carpool on the 9:15 a.m. Vesuvius ferry.

March 22: Sue and Al Lehmann lead a long hike with some steep sections from the end of Mountain Road. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or Drummond Park at 10 a.m. Drivers be aware that the road is a single-lane winding dirt road with potholes.

March 29: Kees Visser leads us on a longish intermediate hike on Hope Hill — one steep bit, some other ups and downs and some pleasant views. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to carpool or Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

Walkers

March 1: Lorrie Storr leads a walk up the Manzanita Trail to Mount Erskine. This walk is moderate to strenuous, as there is a lot of uphill. We will take it slowly and enjoy the lovely forest. Meet at 10 a.m. at ArtSpring or at 10:10 a.m. at the corner of Cranberry and Mount Maxwell roads.

March 8: Donna and Paul Way lead the daffodil walk in Burgoyne Bay. Meet at ArtSpring to carpool at 10 a.m. or at Burgoyne Bay parking lot at 10:15 a.m. This is a relatively easy

walk with some hilly sections.

March 15: Barry and Sheila Spence lead a walk to Crofton Lake in the North Cowichan Municipal Forest. We hope to circumnavigate the lake if the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise. The exact route will depend on weather and trail conditions. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:35 a.m. to carpool to Vesuvius, where we'll park and walk on the 9:15 ferry.

March 22: Andrea Rankin leads a moderate walk in the LePage Road area. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the pull-out near the end of LePage Road at 10:10 a.m.

March 29: Rob Mason leads a moderate walk along Reginald Hill Road to the Tsawout Reserve. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the parking area where Morningside Road meets Reginald Hill Road about 10:20 a.m.

Ramblers

March 1: Ramble with Kathy Darling in Vesuvius. Bring a lunch to enjoy at Vesuvius Beach. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. or Portlock Park at 10:15 a.m.

March 8: Ramble with Frauke in Ruckle Park. If the weather is nice, bring a bag lunch to eat in the park. If the weather is rainy, we will go to the Rock Salt Cafe in Fulford. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

March 15: Leader's Choice Ramble with Harold Page. Lunch at Moby's Pub. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

March 22: Ramble with Betty Ball along Duck Creek. Bring your lunch to eat at Vesuvius Beach. Meet at Centennial at 10 a.m., Portlock Park at 10:15 a.m. or at the trail entrance on Sunset Drive.

March 29: Ramble with Dorothy Kyle in Mouat Park. Bring a lunch or buy a take-out lunch. We will eat in Centennial Park. Meet in Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Membership

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 250-537-2332 or Linda Quiring (president) at 250-537-5116, or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in.

Participants need to bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing.

More information can be found at our website at www.saltsping-tnc.ca.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**DEATHS****DAVID ANDREW MAYER**

April 7, 1945 - February 13, 2016

Passed away suddenly and peacefully at his home on Salt Spring Island. He leaves behind his brother Robert, Robert's wife Veronica, his niece Karen, her husband Paul and his great niece Jorja all living in the U.K. He also leaves behind here on Salt Spring his devoted partner Sue, with whom he has taken many holidays and spent much time enjoying life on this beautiful island.

David was born in Bristol, U.K. attaining his Master of Science at Cranfield University and then emigrated to Canada in 1969 and became a Registered Professional Engineer in B.C. He spent his working life engaged in the forest industries of B.C. and spent time consulting internationally.

David retired to Salt Spring in 1999 as he loved the nature and simplicity of island life.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him for his sense of humour, and many real, and not so real stories he told.

David requested that no service should be held.

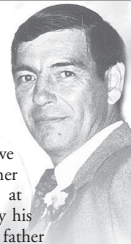
**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS****DEATHS****Roger Kenneth Kitchen**

July 19, 1958 - February 12, 2016

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our brother Roger Kitchen on February 12th at the age of 57. He is predeceased by his mother Marguerita Sampson and father Rod Kitchen. He leaves behind his daughter Christine and granddaughter Trin of Victoria, brothers Rick, Karl (Kathy), Brian, Phil, Mike (Dionne) and sister Liz (Rob), as well as many nieces and nephews and aunts and uncles who loved him and will always miss him.

Roger was a kind and gentle soul and had the biggest heart. He was famous for his potatoe salad as well as an amazing first baseman and ball player. He was the best brother, uncle and friend.

We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Reznick and the wonderful staff at Lady Minto Hospital. No service by request but donations can be made to the BC Cancer Society.

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS****IN MEMORIAM****Celebration of Life for Arlo McGowan**

Please join us on Saturday, March 5, 2016 2PM at Meaden Hall (Legion Basement)

Pot Luck, Cash Bar & Semi-Unplugged Jam Session

Please bring your instruments and voices and your stories to Celebrate this Great Man.

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DAVID FRANCIS KOS

July 23, 1944 - Feb. 15, 2016

Dave passed away gently at home on Monday, 15 February with his family around him.

Loved and missed deeply by Kay, children Krisi (Ron), Gretchen (Doug), Dylan (Suzanne), grandchildren Takoda, Shae, Sophia, Kiara, great grandson Cedric and brothers, Paul and Phillip.

Dave worked in First Nations Education as a teacher, counsellor, and administrator resulting in life-long friendships in Native Communities as he gained a deeper appreciation of their struggles. He also taught English Literature and English as a Second Language in Canada, United States, Nigeria, China, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Burma, a rewarding experience with students and teachers, many of whom he maintained regular contact with throughout the years.

We will all miss his pure enthusiasm and passion for life. Every moment spent with his family, every travelling adventure shared with Kay, every tennis game with friends brought him lasting joy. He has lived and loved and we feel privileged to have shared the life of a truly wonderful man.

Sincere thanks to Dr. Reznick, Karen, Community Nurses and Home Support and Len, (what a team) who made it possible for Dave to be at home on the hill - it was so important to him. To our incredible network of friends who brought good coffee, stories, treats and loving support - he needed you and you were there. To David W. for your consistent commitment and friendship. To Krisi, Gretchen, and Dylan, for loving their Dad so completely.

Celebration of life to be held later in the summer sunshine, date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders or a charity of your choice.

**BEN GOODMAN**

May 17, 1938 - Feb 15, 2016

After a short battle with cancer, Ben died peacefully in the early hours of February 15th 2016.

Ben will be remembered as a glass artist, an energetic hiker and longtime member of the Hiking Club, a keen paddler and knowledgeable kayak guide, and an enthusiastic horseback rider. He also enjoyed sailboat racing, downhill and cross country skiing.

After retiring from a career in business, Ben returned to school and graduated from the Ontario College of Art in 1990, before moving from Toronto to Salt Spring with his wife Judy in 1996. Life on Salt Spring suited Ben admirably, he enjoyed the artistic community and appreciated the outdoor activities. He will be remembered as an artistic and adventurous spirit, and a kind and thoughtful man.

At Ben's request there will be no service; his family will hold a celebration of his artwork and his life later this spring.

If you wish to make a donation in Ben's name, please consider the BCSPCA.



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RENTALS

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550 SF office/studio for lease, Merchant Mews. Was radio station. Lots of light, wood paneling, bthrm. Richard (in Victoria): 250-380-1669.

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SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 23

Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY
is offering one
"Back to School" Bursary
Applicants must be mature adults who wish to pursue a career in a health related field. Information & application forms available at Thrift Shop (located at back of the Upper Ganges Centre next to Driftwood office) and on our web-site.
WWW.LMHAS.CA
Application deadline is April 4, 2016.

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Mon., March 21, 2016 at 1:30 PM
At the Lion's Hall
~~~~~  
All members urged to attend for election of officers and committees

**Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**\*NEW DATE\***  
7:30pm, Tues. March 1 2016 at the Farmers' Institute meeting room  
Guest speaker David Astill, president of the abattoir society, will provide updates on recent operational changes at the community Abattoir.  
Please support your Institute and Directors by attending this meeting.

**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (BC SPCA)**  
**NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING**  
SALT SPRING ISLAND BRANCH OF THE BC SPCA  
In accordance with Bylaw 5.15(d), 9.5(b), 9.5(d) and 14 of the Bylaws of The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the:  
**SALT SPRING ISLAND BRANCH**  
Will take place on: Saturday March 12, 2016 • 11 am - 1 pm  
At: Salt Spring Public Library Media Room  
129 McPhillips Avenue Salt Spring Island  
For the purpose of: Electing members of the Community Council for the branch, as well as conducting any other business of the Branch  
For further information on the meeting or to obtain a copy of the draft agenda, please contact  
Sean Hogan at [shogan@spca.bc.ca](mailto:shogan@spca.bc.ca) or 250-537-2123.  
A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society is available at: <http://www.spca.bc.ca/about/governance-accountability/governance-docs/>  
**BCSPCA**

**CRD**  
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**Economic Development Coordination Services**  
Request for Expressions of Interest  
The Capital Regional District (CRD) invites qualified individual service providers, with experience in economic development and tourism, to submit an expression of interest to the CRD's Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission. Deadline is 4pm on March 4.  
The complete package, with a list of submission requirements and the scope of services required, is available on the CRD website at [www.crd.bc.ca/about/contracts-rfps/current](http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/contracts-rfps/current) OR at the CRD office at 145 Vesuvius Bay Road (Portlock Park). For further information, please contact Karla Campbell at [kcampbell@crd.bc.ca](mailto:kcampbell@crd.bc.ca) or 250 537 4448.

**MARKET IN THE PARK**  
March 26 - October 29, 2016  
**Seasonal Vendors** - Please re-apply for your Seasonal Permit no later than February 29, at the CRD/PARC office, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday. Seasonal Permit Fee is \$204, and is due at the time of application.  
**Returning Day Vendors** - Please register with the Coordinator on your first day back to the Market.  
**Potential New Day Vendors** - Orientation/Product Review sessions will be held in March. Please email [marketinthepark@crd.bc.ca](mailto:marketinthepark@crd.bc.ca) for more information.  
Find the complete Vendor Guidelines online at [www.crd.bc.ca/parks-recreation-culture/ssi-market](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks-recreation-culture/ssi-market)  
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**HELP WANTED**

**Driftwood Gulf Islands Media has a part-time position open**  
**JUNIOR ACCOUNT COORDINATOR**  
We are in search of an outgoing, self-motivated individual with excellent customer service, communication and administrative skills. Marketing education or experience would be an asset.  
This position will provide support for the Account Management team, manage back-office aspects of project implementation - including project briefs, client data collection, development of a firm understanding of client industries, strategies and goals, and covering accounts when necessary.  
This position will start as part-time and may lead to full-time.  
**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**  
• Strong attention to detail  
• Team player with a passion for results  
• Ability to problem solve  
• Work with energy, focus and motivation  
• Strong oral and written communication  
• Bring a positive "friendly" attitude  
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• Excellent time management/organizational skills  
• Display an appreciation of and strive for excellence in customer service  
Please send your resume with cover letter to:  
Amber Ogilvie  
[aogilvie@driftwoodgulfmedia.com](mailto:aogilvie@driftwoodgulfmedia.com)  
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DRIFTWOOD ISLAND MEDIA



|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RENTALS                                                                                                                                         | RENTALS                                                                                                                                                                   | TRANSPORTATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS                                                                                                                         | COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS                                                                                                                                                   | COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| TENDERS                                                                                                                                         | TENDERS                                                                                                                                                                   | TENDERS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## NOTICE OF EXCLUSION APPLICATION Regarding Land in the Agricultural Land Reserve

MICHAEL FRASER & NOELLA FRASER, 240 ATKINS RD, SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC V8K 2R5 intend on making an application pursuant to Section 30(1) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act to exclude from the **Agricultural Land Reserve** the following property which is legally described as, LOT 1, PLAN VIP86207, SECTION 2, RANGE 2E, COWICHAN LAND DISTRICT located at 240 ATKINS RD. - NW CORNER OF ATKINS ROAD & RAINBOW ROAD. Any person wishing to express an interest in the application may do so by forwarding their comments in writing to, ISLANDS TRUST, SALT SPRING OFFICE, 1-500 LOWER GANGES ROAD, SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC V8K 2N8 by **16 March, 2016** (14 days from the date of final publication).

### CURRENT USE OF PARCELS UNDER APPLICATION

1. Quantify and describe in detail all agriculture that currently takes place on the parcel(s). NO AGRICULTURE
2. Quantify and describe in detail all agricultural improvements made to the parcel(s). FENCING IN 1998
3. Quantify and describe all non-agricultural uses that currently take place on the parcel(s). HOME BASED BUSINESS- AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SHOP (DETACHED) HOUSE & HOME OCCUPATION- UPHOLSTERY SHOP (ATTACHED)

### ADJACENT LAND USES

**NORTH Land Use Type:** Transportation/Utilities **Specify Activity:** BC HYDRO SUBSTATION  
**EAST Land Use Type:** Agricultural/Farm **Specify Activity:** SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING/HORSE PASTURE  
**SOUTH Land Use Type:** Industrial **Specify Activity:** CAMPGROUND/COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL  
**WEST Land Use Type:** Residential **Specify Activity:** SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING

### PROPOSAL

1. How many hectares are you proposing to exclude? **1.8 ha**  
**Provincial Agricultural Land Commission - Applicant Submission**  
**Application ID:** 54994  
**Application Status:** In Progress  
**Local Government:** Islands Trust  
**Local Government Date of Receipt:** This application has not been submitted to local government yet.  
**ALC Date of Receipt:** This application has not been submitted to ALC yet.  
**Proposal Type:** Exclusion

2. **Proposal:** We are applying to exclude this property from the ALR to facilitate the development of a business park for light industrial & commercial uses. The plan includes, retaining the current residence, auto repair shop & office. The proposal includes a green strata title development to ensure self monitoring & care of the land. Services, including water, sewerage, circulation & parking would be provided by the owners. Test holes dug on this property show that the ground is generally rocky with poor drainage & would require extensive & costly improvements to be suitable for agriculture purposes.

### Mailing Address:

240 ATKINS ROAD, SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC V8K2R5, Canada Primary Phone: (250) 537-5393  
 Mobile Phone: (250) 537-5040 Email: nmfraser@shaw.ca

### Parcel Information

#### Parcel(s) Under Application

1. **Ownership Type:** Fee Simple  
**Parcel Identifier:** 027-799-409  
**Legal Description:** LOT 1 SECTION 2 RANGE 2 EAST NORTH SALT SPRING ISLAND COWICHAN DISTRICT PLAN VIP86207  
**Parcel Area:** 1.8 ha  
**Civic Address:** 240 ATKINS ROAD  
**Date of Purchase:** 07/15/1995  
**Farm Classification:** Yes  
**Owners**

1. **Name:** FRASER NOELLA  
**Address:** 240 ATKINS ROAD, SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC V8K2R5, Canada **Phone:** (250) 537-5393 **Cell:** (250) 537-5040 **Email:** nmfraser@shaw.ca

2. **Name:** FRASER MICHAEL

3. **Explain why you believe that the parcel(s) should be excluded from the ALR.**

The Islands Trust official community plan indicates provisions to provide adequate amounts of industrial zoned land, appropriately serviced & well located to accommodate local industry & to keep needed businesses on the island. The ocp also sites that the Local Trust Committee could consider rezoning applications for properties near the junction of Rainbow & Atkins Roads. Removal of up to 2 ha from the ALR for this purpose could be supported with the support of the Agriculture Land Commission. A recent Industrial Lands Needs assessment was completed in 2015 to address this issue & it was recommended to increase industrial lands. Further to this information, we have been advised of another Salt Spring property, more suitable to agriculture purposes & currently being farmed, would be interested in being included in the ALR, in lieu of this property being removed.

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If you want to be part of the Team, call Neva at 250-931-5550 or ssiessd@crd.bc.ca

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## This Week's Horoscope

### TIP OF THE WEEK

by Michael O'Connor  
 www.sunstarastrlogy.com  
 sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com  
 1.250.352.2936

2016 is a Leap Year. This is where the ¼ day in the equation of 365 and ¼ days in a year is counted as an extra day. So, this year there are 366 days. While not strictly an astrological theme, it does play a role and it does as well for Numerological calculations, if you were born on this day, that is. If you were born on February 29th, you would have the awkward distinction of being called a leap-year baby and some use the term 'leapling'.

Interestingly, the Sun will conjunct Neptune this week and you might have guessed it, on February 29th! Well, at least, that is true for everyone living in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and all other locations in the vicinity. If you think this is a bit of a leap, since you live here in North America and the conjunction occurs on February 28th, the day most leaplings probably celebrate their special day, then you are in-tune with this theme.

Interpreted from a positive perspective, these people are, well... rare and while not enough alone to ensure fame, being born a leapling is a solid step towards being great or, at least, unique. If you are a leapling, this year, at least, you deserve to have your cake and eat it too.

### READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)** Sweet dreams are flowing through your mind. Your participation point is to elaborate upon them, give them distinction and clear definition. Seeing these dreams as your reality now and feeling the rush and the joy of them. This is not mere fantasy; it is a key to manifestation. However, you choose to do it, focus to manifest your desires. 'Your future is infinitely bright'.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)** A feature of destiny is that we are meant to creatively engage in it in a co-creative process. At various points along the way our co-creative input is meant to increase. This is so for you now. Your public status and reputation require your attention. Focus to illustrate beauty and balance and pay extra attention to the details. Other key players are destined to assist you, so reach out and be receptive too.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)** Striking the balance between the personal and your social life is now in focus. The emphasis leans to your personal life where home and family take center stage. Yet there is work to do. In some respects, you need your family as much as they need you, even if it does not appear that way. Ironically, sometimes it is best to commit to surrendering.

**Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)** Over the past few years some important changes have likely occurred, perhaps especially in your professional life. These have and continue to keep you busy, perhaps more than you like. Yet all the while there is a summons to do some soul searching. It seems to be speaking of the importance of healing by way of the focus of your mind and imagination.

**Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)** Some cycles are deeper than others and some more profound, like this one. One way or another, you have been and continue to dig deep. Renovation is a keyword, but it could refer to clearing old emotional attitudes as much as deadwood. Meanwhile, important interactions with others are awakening you to new realizations. Pay close attention, these could prove profitable.

**Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)** Beyond your close attention to detail and engineering approach, you also feel the call of the mystic. It may seem completely alien to you, but it is there. You may respond by engaging in meditative moments or long, deep reflections guided by a cozy couch and a hot drink. Yet there is romance in it too. Whether this romantic urge leads you to love's embrace or adventure depends on your destiny.

**Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)** You have been on a creative roll and it continues. Yet now the plot is drifting toward the need to keep the faith. An important, if indirect, way to achieve this is to tend to your health. What can you do to rejuvenate and uplift your spirits? Your ambitions likely remain high and you will soon get your second wind, but there may be a temporary valley period you must contend with for the next few weeks.

**Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)** A creative spark is igniting your imagination. Thoughts about new possibilities are dancing in your mind. These are both the source and cause of inventive thinking. Beyond all outcomes, it is your overall lifestyle flow that is your main focus. Perhaps you feel the need to make a move or start a new business or explore alternatives regarding your usual rhythms.

**Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)** Beyond all facts and hard realities, a philosopher and a mystic and perhaps also a dreamer and an idealist hover in your heart. Even if usually dormant, at least, one of these has been awakened. All the while, a vision of the future lingers as well. Somewhere within it all, circumstances are pushing you to take a few risks and these require forward thinking.

**Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)** Circumstances are pushing you to cultivate a deeper and wider perspective on things. It could perhaps be described as a broader vision. This could include deepening bonds with certain people while allowing others to naturally dissolve. Commitment to attaining new knowledge is featured. A healthier lifestyle and perhaps on that in alignment with social, cultural and even spiritual trends is implied.

**Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)** You have entered a cycle destined to guide you to clarify your priorities. Generally, you may feel quite unattached to any 'thing'. What you do want is to be free and live according to your principles. These include fairness, justice for all and people who are genuine. You do not want to feel that you have to like others or be liked, but you do want to be respected. An unlimited supply in your savings account would ice the cake.

**Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)** You are feeling the itch to explore new territory. This process has probably already begun. But, you may feel stymied by certain perception patterns. While open to meaningful conversation, you are not in the mood to simply socialize. There is something of a soul-searching process underway, yet your objectives are practical. What you want is a plan you can believe in.

# sports&recreation

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

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



## MEN'S SOCCER

# Old Boys suppress RV envy while hanging on for a tie

Duncan visitors impress on and off the pitch

BY FRASER HOPE  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Old Boys returned to Gulf Islands Secondary School on Sunday to play the Duncan 48s.

Duncan elected to forgo a warm-up, catching the later ferry from Crofton and arriving just in time for kick off. The Duncan team RV rolled up and spectators marvelled as the visitors stepped out and onto the field ready to do battle.

Many questions were asked about the number of seat belts and safety features, but inquiring minds were reassured that all was cleared by the appropriate authorities. At least it wasn't a VW Beetle.

"We should have a team transport like Duncan," could be heard among the home side.

Eyes enviously focused across the road to potential vehicles that could double as transport and clubhouse.

After an intensive warm-up, with Ben Cooper in early attendance, followed by a cool down, the Old Boys quickly picked up the pace and



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Dave Toynbee, left, pursues the ball in his quest to score another goal for the Old Boys in Sunday's game at GISS.

imposed themselves on the Duncan defence.

The Duncan keeper was tested early, displaying uncertainty on his right post that might be exploited, if only. Playing a high line of defence

can be two-edged and a raking through ball split the Duncan back four. Dave Toynbee timed his run to perfection, controlling the ball, with a head feint, step to the side and a powerful side-footed shot scored off

the far right post for an early one-goal lead.

Duncan showed hints of dangers yet to come as several corners, eternal nemeses of the Old Boys, allowed Dennis Shaw to calm the nerves of his teammates and spectators with several saves that kept the score line respectable.

Old Boys further consolidated their lead when Donny Brown picked up an errant Duncan clearance to feed Mark Aston (recently returned from a team scouting trip to Leicester and Liverpool), who took a jet-lagged shot that the keeper watched trundle by the left post. Sideline pundits debated whether it should count for the Golden Boot Award or be recorded as an own goal.

Halftime arrived and the Old Boys were confident that even if Charley Mayer left early in the second half a two-goal lead should be enough for a win.

But a two-goal lead soon evaporated and Duncan appeared to be in danger of running out the victors. A Duncan corner kick was met elegantly by the smallest player on the field as he rose to head a beau-

tifully timed glance into the top-right corner, giving no chance to keeper Shaw. A second came from a through ball that left the striker the opportunity to walk in around Shaw for a second.

Duncan had three more chances to score but for the heroics of Shaw, who saved two certain goals with sliding tackles and the fortuitous use of his behind. It was so desperate that Toynbee was back in defence inside his own 18-yard box, but the Old Boys still maintained a three-man attack.

Just before the final whistle, Cooper, who had tried his best to snuff out opposing attacks (a polite way of describing crippling tackles to the ankles of his opponents), headed a surefire winner off the line to keep the final score at 2-2.

It was a fair result for both teams as the Old Boys dominated the first and Duncan the second half of an entertaining game. As the Old Boys carried out their post-game, envious eyes again turned to the Duncan RV as it left for the ferry.

Old Boys return to the GISS field on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 10:30 a.m. to play the Gorge 40s.

where will the  
red blazer  
take her?

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Salt Spring Island Library, 129 McPhillips Ave

Please join us from 3:00-5:00pm

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