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3 SD64 wins Youth in Trades Award



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HOUSING

Trust aids housing projects

Norton Road revived and Meadowlane gets second reading

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee decisions made on Tuesday, Feb. 26 will help bring two affordable housing projects closer to reality, although ultimate completion for each site will also rely on approvals from other agencies.

As part of the application stream at last week's business meeting, the LTC gave the green light to a development permit at 210 Norton Road and gave second reading to the rezoning of 154 Kings Lane.

Need for a development permit at Norton Road was triggered by a subdivision application currently underway with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and fulfills one of eight conditions that planning staff submitted in response to the referral.

Speaking for property owner Norm Elliott, consultant Donald Gunn explained the plan is to separate a seven-acre parcel with an existing family dwelling from a five-acre parcel where 26 affordable dwelling units are proposed. While the northeast corner of the property lies within Development Permit Area 4 for streams and wetlands, the housing development is planned for the southern half.

The project was first devised as an amenity proposal related to a subdivision on the side of Mount Erskine, and came with a \$50,000 donation toward housing development. A rezoning process that began in 2004 changed the property from an agricultural to a residential category.

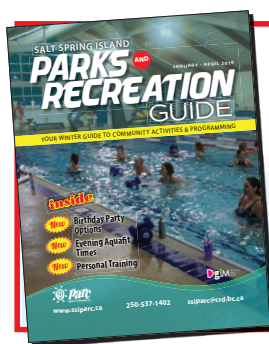
The applicant is now working on a stormwater management covenant and a development variance permit that will also be needed for subdivision. Gunn said time is of the essence to get those items onto the LTC's agenda because there is considerable pressure to sell the property as part of a divorce settlement.

HOUSING PROJECTS continued on 2



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

THE REAL DEAL: Salt Spring Islander Andrea Rankin displays some climbing gear she used in the Alpine Club of Canada's 1967 Yukon Centennial Expedition prior to a screening at Gulf Islands Secondary School, where a documentary on the project was shown Sunday as part of the weekend-long Salt Spring Film Festival.



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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
6	0556	3.2	10.5	10	0041	1.7	5.6
	1132	2.2	7.2		0711	3.1	10.2
WE	1629	2.8	9.2	SU	1336	1.5	4.9
ME	2304	1.1	3.6	DI	2000	2.7	8.9
7	0616	3.1	10.2	11	0117	1.9	6.2
	1159	2.0	6.6		0731	3.1	10.2
TH	1716	2.8	9.2	MO	1416	1.3	4.3
JE	2336	1.2	3.9	LU	2112	2.7	8.9
8	0634	3.1	10.2	12	0158	2.2	7.2
	1228	1.9	6.2		0752	3.0	9.8
FR	1806	2.8	9.2	TU	1501	1.1	3.6
VE				MA	2237	2.8	9.2
9	0008	1.4	4.6	13	0251	2.4	7.9
	0653	3.1	10.2		0815	3.0	9.8
SA	1300	1.7	5.6	WE	1553	1.0	3.3
SA	1859	2.7	8.9	ME			

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NSSWD

Water district seeks feedback

Group holds letter-writing campaign to push for housing options

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District wants feedback on its draft strategic plan.

A public meeting is set for Monday, March 11 in the library program room starting at 1:30 p.m.

The plan, which is available on the NSSWD website, looks at the purpose and goals of the NSSWD and would guide the organization through the next five years. It focuses on governance, water supply and management, communication and engagement, asset management, organizational strength and financial management.

Community engagement has already begun around the document, with ratepayers and community members completing a NSSWD customer satisfaction survey. Additionally, the Salt Spring Housing Action Committee, which runs the Salt Spring Solutions website, is conducting a letter-writing campaign and inviting people to the event to ask the district to prioritize affordable housing solutions.

"The NSSWD's moratorium, which is a really great climate and conservation policy, has the unintended consequence of making it extremely difficult for any densified or non-market housing to happen," said Jason Mogus, one of the organizers of SHAC. He added that inviting people to the open house is a way to "thank [the NSSWD] for doing a great job, [and] to ask them to take another look at this housing issue and see if there are creative ways that they can work with other stakeholders in the community to solve it, because right now it's not on their radar."

The housing issue was discussed at the district's monthly trustees meeting on Feb. 28. Trustee Michael McAllister emphasized that though affordable housing is not within the mandate of the district and therefore not considered a strategic priority, the board of trustees is concerned

"The root of the problem is that it puts 100 per cent of the restrictions on new customers and zero per cent of the restrictions on existing customers."

JASON MOGUS
Salt Spring Housing
Action Committee

The Salt Spring Solutions group has stated that conservation measures that include water catchment systems and grey water management cannot occur within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. However, according to the moratorium policy and district staff, rainwater catchment and reuse are not within the district's authority. The moratorium policy only applies to applications for water service connections made after Oct. 1, 2014. Under the policy, all properties currently served are entitled to one 19-mm connection, and any changes to the size of that connection or applications for new connections will be denied.

"The root of the problem is that it puts 100 per cent of the restrictions on new customers and zero per cent of the restrictions on existing customers," Mogus said. "It's kind of a water justice issue . . . The cost of the moratorium has to be borne on anyone that wants to do anything that is out of the ordinary."

As of Monday afternoon, 34 people had sent letters to the district.

Meadowlane draft housing plan approved

HOUSING PROJECTS

continued from 1

"The problem is there are lawyers involved in this project and they are going to want to put this property on the market this spring," Gunn explained. "It will be sold, subdivided or not. So what I'm basically saying is time has run out on this project. Twelve years has gone by to get it this far."

Gunn said organizations that might want to partner on the affordable housing project are also looking to see a good chance of success. Representatives from Island Women Against Violence, who are currently building new affordable housing units at Croftonbrook, were in attendance at the meeting for that reason.

"I think an important element that you didn't mention is this is a gift — this is a gift to the community with

additional funding to support this gift, so this is a big gift to the community and addressing affordable housing," said trustee Laura Patrick. "I think we do want to give as strong a message as we can to IWAV, who might be considering taking this project on to its future, as well as parties that might be involved in making it happen that we wish to process and proceed in as timely a manner as we possibly can."

Gunn and planning staff agreed they would do what they could to ensure the next stage comes back to the LTC on its March 26 agenda.

Development of the housing units will require establishment of water supply, as only the single family dwelling lot will have a North Salt Spring Waterworks connection.

The Meadowlane seniors' housing complex planned for Kings Lane will also need to get Island Health approval for its alternate water supply system,

as well as connection to the CRD sewer service.

An update on the project given prior to second reading of the rezoning application last Tuesday demonstrated the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association is well on its way to meeting a number of other requirements. The LTC approved in principle the draft housing agreement, which sets a maximum unit rental for 2020 at \$1,620, based on 30 per cent of the median household income reported in the most recent census.

Project lead Richard Walker reported the organization has engaged a consultant to undertake an archeological impact overview and has formed an agreement with Island Pathways to develop an amenity pathway along Blain Road. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has no concerns with the proposal or its impact on traffic, Walker said.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Time change this weekend

This is the weekend to "spring ahead" for the annual change to Daylight Saving Time.

People should put their clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, with the switch taking place at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10.

Driftwood nominated

The Driftwood has been nominated for five B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association awards.

Marc Kitteringham's No Direction Home web and in-print story about the housing crisis on Salt Spring is up for a multimedia feature story award. Elizabeth Nolan's two-part series about the maturing of Salt Spring's arts community is nominated for an arts writing award, and a series on freighters anchoring in the Gulf Islands written by Gail Sjunberg is nominated for environmental writing.

The Driftwood is also a finalist in the community service category for its Greening Salt Spring clean-up campaign, which was spearheaded by Nolan.

First, second and third-place prizes will be announced at the April 27 Ma Murray Awards gala in Richmond. All entries were published in the 2018 calendar year.

Additionally, Kitteringham is one of three winners in the inaugural New Journalist of the Year Award, based on the submission of five samples of work and a recommendation letter.

RCMP report

Salt Spring's RCMP detachment experienced a steady week, responding to more than 70 calls for service.

On Feb. 27, while conducting a road safety check stop, a truck being operated by a male approached. The male was unable to produce his driver's licence, but told police that he was licenced. Checks done on the male confirmed that he was prohibited from operating a motor vehicle. The vehicle was impounded and the man will appear in court in May.

On March 2, police responded to a mischief complaint at the Thrifty Foods Liquor Store, where a window had been broken by an unknown person(s). Police will be reviewing surveillance video from the business, as well as canvassing neighbouring businesses for their video footage. Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to contact CrimeStoppers or the Salt Spring RCMP.

EDUCATION

District wins apprenticeship award

Student apprentices also celebrated

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District's apprenticeship program had a lot to celebrate on Feb. 26 at an awards gala night presented by the Industry Training Authority, the provincial regulator for trades and technical education.

The school district was presented with the Youth in Trades Performance Award for having the highest enrolment in the Youth Work in Trades Program in the Vancouver Island region. In attendance were 48 students, educators, local tradespeople, parents and ITA representatives.

"[The ITA] said there were more people in our little room than they would often get out to one of these dinners in Surrey. That is a testament to our community and why we're able to be so successful," said Shari Hambrook, work experience and apprenticeship teacher at Gulf Islands Secondary School. "When [employers] bring on board a young student and register them as an apprentice, they bring them into their family. There's a very close connection that is formed as they train the young people."

The award included a \$5,000 grant that can be used to support the program.

The Youth Work in Trades Program allows students to begin working in trades while they are still in high school. Around 80 per cent of their learning takes place at the job site, and 20 per cent in the classroom.

"Career programs represent a strong bridge between school and community," said Maggie Allison, the manager of career development and



PHOTO COURTESY INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY

Industry Training Authority staff, employer sponsors, School District 64 staff, apprentices and family members gather at an awards event held at the Harbour House Hotel last Tuesday evening.

"The mentorship that students receive on job sites and in places of business prepares them for success and strengthens their transition from school to life beyond."

MAGGIE ALLISON
SD64 manager of
Career Development

community initiatives at the school district. "The mentorship that students receive on job sites and in places of business prepares them for success and strengthens their transition from school to life beyond."

The ITA counted the number of apprentices registered in

the program in June 2018 and compared the percentage to other schools in the area. Hambrook said that at the time of the count, 13 students were registered in the program.

"We had about 130 kids in the grad class and my goal has been to ensure that at least 10 per cent of the kids were well on their way to graduating before they leave high school," she said.

The event included a gala dinner at the Harbour House Hotel and award presentations for both the school district and students who had completed over 900 hours of workplace training in their programs. The students are presented with a \$1,000 award for finishing their hours. Six apprentices were presented with the award at the event.

The average age for new apprentices in Canada is around 27 years old, according to data from Stats Canada. Hambrook explained that people tend to get certifications

later in their 20s after working odd jobs and pursuing other interests.

"These kids are starting when they're 16 or 17, and that's a big leap," she said. "These kids are starting with their certificate. They may last in the industry for 10 years, or they may travel and bounce around, but they will always have that certificate."

The district has the second highest number of students that have been introduced to the trades through its various programs. These include things like the Women in Trades field trip to Camosun on Feb. 20, the robotics program and other trades-oriented classes. Allison starts working with kids in Grade 6 and continues their exposure to the trades through high school.

"Maggie Allison . . . has had a vision for trades training in high school and it has been unbelievable how much work she has done to create that vision," Hambrook said.

EDUCATION

CFUW bursary offered

Second Chance program on tap

The Salt Spring branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women is again offering a \$3,000 bursary to a woman from one of the southern Gulf Islands who is committed to upgrading her education.

Application for the 2019 Second Chance Bursary is open to a female resident of Salt Spring, Galiano, the Penders, Mayne or Saturna who has been out of high school for at least one year and is in need of financial assistance to continue her education. An applicant is usually to be enrolled in a community college program, a vocational program, a university or a certified online study program. Preference will be given to a mother with dependent children.

An application form with criteria is available on the CFUW website at <http://cfuwssi.ca>.

The application deadline is April 30.

Empowering young women to continue their education is an important goal of the Canadian Federation of University Women.



Islands Trust



Have your say!

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee invites you to help shape its strategic priorities.

At this event, you can share your ideas on what land use planning issues should be top priorities for the 2018 to 2022 term.

The meeting will include a short town hall session, table discussions, and an opportunity for written feedback to identify possible LTC priorities.

Friday, March 15, 2019 | 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Please arrive at 2:30 pm to allow for an engaging conversation.

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Community dissects windstorm

Strengths and weaknesses
of emergency response
highlighted by the public

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders gathered last Monday night to discuss the Dec. 20 windstorm and February snowfall and how islanders can be better prepared for the next disaster or severe weather event.

The discussion was a joint effort between the Capital Regional District and the Salt Spring Community Alliance, spearheaded by CRD director Gary Holman. Among those in attendance were POD leaders, CRD emergency program management staff, Community Alliance members, emergency services workers and members of the public. The discussion was focused on two main topics: what worked well during the storms and aftermath and what needs to be done better next time. The discussion was further broken down into suggestions at the personal, community and agency level. Discussion results will be posted on the Community Alliance website, and sent to all concerned agencies once the lists are compiled.

During the first part of the meeting, community members shared their experiences of dealing with the windstorm's fallout. It was reported that generally across the island, neighbours helped each other. The Salt Spring Island Emergency Program, BC Hydro and other agencies were acknowledged for their hard work.

"It was a wakeup call, that was for sure," Margaretha Nordine said in the meeting. "I certainly don't want to do it again. We had a fireplace, so we had that for heat, and we have a little camp stove so we could make coffee... We weren't in dire need, but it was a wakeup call."

Emergency services members were on hand to remind residents about things to think about in the future when severe weather hits. Downed power lines were a major issue. Salt Spring Fire Rescue Lt. Mitchell Sherrin stressed that no matter what, people should stay at least 10 metres away from any downed line.

"Even if you think they're out, I've seen lines that look like they're not doing anything and then learned later from the BC Hydro technicians that they were fully energized," Sherrin said.

Jason Grindler from Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue added to that point, saying that unless BC Hydro workers are actively on site, any downed line should be considered energized.

Many of the comments were concerned with what happens after a storm. People were concerned about communications on the island, transportation and how to prepare for things coming back online. Without power, many septic systems, water systems and communications also go down. Freezers and refrigerators no longer work and food begins to spoil. Also, every electronic item that was turned on when the power went out will still be turned on when it returns. Sherrin explained that reconnection can be erratic and sometimes dangerous.

"When the power comes back on, it can create problems. I'm hoping that we learned from that too," he said. "We did have a couple of fire events that were related to the power coming back on because it can happen in an unexpected way."

CRD manager for emergency services Conrad Cowan mentioned plans to strengthen communications at the CRD level, and said the best way forward would be to sign up for emergency notification systems on as many platforms as possible.

Taking part in programs like the POD



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Salt Spring Fire Rescue Lt. Mitchell Sherrin speaks at the windstorm debrief meeting last Monday night.

program, signing up for the CRD PANS notification system and diversifying communication channels will go a long way to ensure that messages are delivered in an emergency situation, he said.

Cowan also praised the island's resiliency during and after the storm.

"You have each other's back. You're helping each other out, you're coming together tonight because you want to effect positive change," he said. "Honestly, you guys have got this."

The information that comes out of the meeting will be sent out through the Salt Spring Community Alliance email list and will be passed on to the agencies involved in emergency response.

ISLANDS TRUST

North Pender concrete plant awarded TUP

Cross-island issues noted by LTC chair

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The North Pender Local Trust Committee brought a contentious concrete plant into compliance on Thursday by issuing the business a temporary use permit, but trustees are asking the owners to find a more suitable location before the three-year permit period expires.

Planning staff had recommended the LTC go no further with the permit application and instead initiate a compliance agreement to shut the operation down, citing numerous contraventions of the official community plan and potential environmental hazards without adequate enforcement resources.

The trustees were reassured by an environmental review completed for the applicant that showed where there might be concerns and suggested ways to prevent the potential impacts.

Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick chairs the North Pender committee as one of her duties as a vice-chair of the Islands Trust Council. She said the situation posed an interesting parallel to Salt Spring in the need for industrial lands and lack of cohesive zoning; Pender's commercial and industrial zones appear to have been applied to what was actually taking place in backyard businesses when the land-use bylaws were first drafted.

"Every little piece of property [zoning] was designed to meet the practices they were pursuing," Patrick said. "It's carbon-copy to Salt Spring. It's the same problems we're facing and the tools we can use to solve them are the same."

The Pender concrete plant owes other similarities to some of Salt Spring's industrial issues. It is owned by the

Grimmers, a well-known long-time island family. They moved their business two years ago after their lease at another location expired. But they moved it onto their rural-residential home property on Bedwell Harbour Road and announced future plans for a waste transfer station on the same site.

The environmental report identifies water management, petroleum hydrocarbon management and chemical management as three main areas of concern and recommends mitigation measures for each. The staff recommendation to deny the TUP was based on those concerns.

"But the report does not say that. It says there are some environmental issues to be mitigated — and they can be," Patrick said.

Despite the environmental issue, the business is seen as an important resource in the southern Gulf Islands and is widely supported by Pender's contractors — most of whom turned out for Thursday's meeting, Patrick said.

Patrick said the LTC is committed to working with the applicant to finding the most suitable location for the business and will be seeking public input into where that should be and if a rezoning application should be considered. The two North Pender trustees are not interested in extending the temporary use permit, however, and have demonstrated a desire to crack down on bylaw violations and unnecessary variances.

"They're really putting conscious thought into their decisions. It's a real honour to work with them," Patrick said.

The overall situation meanwhile points to the need to build capacity across the Trust area and to create tools that individual island committees can use when issues arise, rather than starting from scratch. Patrick said the planning services department also seems to be moving in that direction.

TRANSPORTATION

Parking shuttle idea revisited

CRD commissions seek chamber partnership

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Parking congestion in the downtown core on market Saturdays has once again surfaced as an issue with hooks into several different Capital Regional District commissions on Salt Spring, inspiring a renewed initiative to establish a parking shuttle service.

Community Economic Development Commission chair Francine Carlin made a delegation to the transportation commission on Feb. 25 asking for that group's help in reviving the shuttle idea. The two commissions had attempted to launch a service in time for the 2018 summer but ran into difficulty because the proposed vehicle — the day camp bus used by the Parks and Recreation Commission — could not be transferred to hop-on, hop-off insurance and licensing.

During her delegation Carlin said launching a service to encourage drivers to park away from the busy downtown area was not something her commission could take on as its own project, but that she could offer support to an initiative with a non-profit body as lead player.

"I've come up with a solution that I

think would be a win-win for our community so I'm inviting the transportation commission to send a delegate to the chamber of commerce board and talk about this as an opportunity for businesses in the Ganges core," Carlin said.

"We are trying to be a model of a sustainable world community that people will find welcoming and not something that 'No way Jose, I'm not going to go there again because I couldn't find a parking space or my car was bashed in by somebody.' We're talking about creating an experience that works well for residents and for visitors and that can be a model."

Carlin said having an added fee for Saturday market vendors to go toward the shuttle service could also be explored, as the market is a key attraction for people wishing to park in town.

Salt Spring's senior CRD administrator Karla Campbell has previously stated that taxpayer funding through the commissions should not go toward a service that exists to benefit private business owners in the market, and she repeated that assertion again at the Feb. 25 meeting. She also pointed to difficulty in aligning such a shuttle with public transit standards, which would have to fall within the existing BC Tran-

sit service agreement.

However, there are examples of less formal community shuttles being operated on other islands such as Galiano and Mayne, as CRD director Gary Holman pointed out.

"They're run by not-for-profit groups so I think that's maybe why Francine is thinking the chamber of commerce might be the ones to undertake this, if they see it as a business need," Campbell agreed.

The commission voted to join in meeting with the chamber and other stakeholders to discuss the idea.

In other business at the Feb. 25 commission meeting, a motion was passed that will potentially address some road safety concerns brought to the group by a member of the public last fall. The commission will ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to advise which two of the four areas might be easiest to resolve without spending too much time or money, as well as what action should be taken there.

The commission will also request that the ministry repaint lines on Blain Road, and will revisit a list of potential improvements for scooter accessibility and pedestrian access in Ganges village as part of its ongoing work.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SD64 set to balance 2018-19 budget

Cost-saving and higher enrolment helped

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District is forecasting a balanced budget for the 2018-19 school year, thanks to belt-tightening across the district and an increase in student enrolment from the year before.

The district began the year in rough financial straits after an enrolment audit left them with an operating deficit of \$250,498. The district was directed by the Ministry of Education to eliminate that deficit by the end of this school year. At the district's Feb. 27 board meeting, finance manager Cindy Rogers presented the annual amended budget, forecasting a successful reckoning of the budget.

"We have been working quite diligently this year to adjust our budget enough so that we will not end the year in a deficit, and also to save enough money in it that we can pay off the deficit that we had last year," Rogers said.

To help pay off the deficit, the district implemented cost-saving measures in all schools.

"We put the message out at the beginning of the year that we were in fiscal restraint and we did have this challenge ahead of us," Rogers said. "What we've seen is that people have listened to that and they are pulling together. It is really impressive that people would take that to heart. It really speaks well to the district."

The school district gets most of its funding through enrolment. Budgets are presented in advance of the coming year using an estimate of the number of students in classes, and are amended in the spring using the actual numbers recorded in September. SD64 saw an increase in actual enrolment from their estimate, which also helped their financial situation. The initial estimate was for 1,704 students, but was reported later to be 1,740.

"That increase of 35 students was a lifesaver in terms of increasing our revenue to help us with the goal that we had of balancing our budget this year," Rogers said. "That was very helpful because we were still able to be efficient with our staffing."

As part of the terms of carrying a deficit, the district must send quarterly reports to the ministry that show progress on eliminating the debt.

WATER QUALITY

Lake levels begin downward trend early

February sees less than half of average rainfall

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

February was the driest on record for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and though both St. Mary and Maxwell lakes are overflowing, the levels are expected to only decrease through spring and summer.

The island was hit with a major dump of snow in February, but the rest of the month saw far less than average precipitation, according to the monthly lake level report released by the NSSWD. St. Mary Lake received less than 50 mm

of rain during the month, which is less than any recorded by the district in the last five years. That amount is roughly equivalent to the average monthly rainfall for June.

"All that snow doesn't add up to very much rain," said district environmental manager Meghan McKee. "Basically you divide the amount of snow by 10 to get the amount of rain. We had extremely low rainfall in February."

Though both lakes are currently at capacity, the district is not expecting them to stay full for long.

"March is historically when our drying trend starts," said NSSWD manager Ron Stepaniuk.

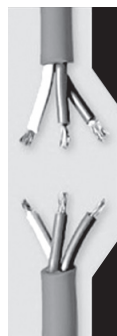
To maintain water levels in Maxwell

Lake, the district is allowed to divert Rippon Creek into the lake. However the licence to divert is only extended until the end of March. Furthermore, the district cannot divert the creek into the lake until phosphorus levels are below a certain point.

"We can use that water up until the end of March. If Maxwell drops below full capacity and the phosphorus is low enough, which it is at this point, then we will divert that to make sure we're full enough."

Environment Canada is forecasting a chance of rain in the middle of next week, potentially bringing 25 mm over three days. Typically, St. Mary Lake receives around 70 to 80 mm of rain in March.

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OPINION



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EDITORIAL

Get on the right track

It was surprising to hear recently that Gulf Islands Secondary School has a lower-than-average graduation rate among B.C. high schools.

Accomplishments of individual students or certain GISS programs tend to give the impression that the institution or all of its students are thriving, when that is clearly not the case.

Incoming schools superintendent Scott Benwell has rightly highlighted graduation rates as an area of improvement he would like the district to work on. The reported rate of about 60 per cent — representing the percentage of students who enter Grade 8 and graduate within six years — is much lower than the B.C. average of 85 per cent. Factoring in the impact of international students who may not complete Grade 12 requirements still leaves us far below the average.

THE ISSUE: GISS graduation rate

WE SAY: Trades training one way to raise rate

training programs.

Just as the overall graduation rate has been flagged, the school district has coincidentally received one of only seven awards from across B.C. for the number of students it had registered in Industry Training Authority programs, which was 13, or 10 per cent of the graduating class. Through another count, it had the second highest number of students introduced to the trades through various activities. The school and participants in the program — including workplace representatives who help train the students — were honoured at a gala event last week.

These days the demand for skilled workers in B.C. is high, so that a young person who has completed an apprenticeship is all but guaranteed a rewarding job that also pays well. They also graduate with a high school diploma.

GISS has been a leader in encouraging exposure to the trades for students who may not otherwise know they have an aptitude or desire to work with their hands in addition to their minds. It's an accomplishment to be touted and nurtured, and one that will hopefully help increase the school's graduation rate at the same time.

Perhaps one way to increase the graduation rate is to build on an area of strength in School District 64, which is its trades



Anchorage usage damaging

BY MARY LAUCKS &
BRIAN SWANSON

For years we have seen freighters anchored off Salt Spring's shores. Several times we have observed oil slicks or plumes of brownish water coming from these ships.

We are residents of Salt Spring Island and live about four miles south of Ganges with a clear view of ships at two anchorages along the western coast of Ganges Harbour. Last year there were at least 10 ships that moored at these "deep moorage anchorages" and this year there have already been at least two.

Besides the health concerns (from the constantly running generators), privacy issues (at night the boats are close enough to see into houses along the shoreline) and aesthetic concerns (lights and noise 24 hours a day) for anyone living near the shoreline, we are concerned about the fragile environment that is being harmed. One day recently the ZEYNO arrived and immediately dumped some liquid substance in the water. The liquid mass floated and remained together for about half an hour. The tide was pushing the mass of liquid into Ganges Harbour.

VIEWPOINT

The protocol for reporting pollution events is for the public to report any sightings to the Coast Guard. However, despite years of reporting under this protocol these pollution events are still occurring. Any pollution dissipates rather quickly before it can be confirmed by the Coast Guard and it is easy for ships to deny that there has been any dumping. In addition, sporadic aerial surveys of the area have not detected these events in the past.

We used to be able to fish for crab along our waterfront, but we would never consider doing that now. Our fragile marine environment is under attack by this continuous stream of freighters to our front door. Even the propellers cause problems stirring up the bottom and disturbing the marine life this close to shore.

We are very concerned that this onslaught of freighters in our Gulf Islands marine environment is completely against our Islands Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate. It is so hypocritical to "preserve and protect" our land envi-

ronment while destroying the marine environment by mooring freighters that travel around the world (possibly carrying alien species which could cause havoc with our indigenous species) and dump sewage and bilge water into our marine environment. These materials end up in our environment on land too and they cause irreparable damage to the marine mammals, fish and birds that call the water their home.

Transport Canada has instituted an Interim Protocol for the Use of Southern B.C. Anchorages, which has designated use of several places along the shores of Salt Spring Island as freighter moorage areas. Appeals to this agency by many island residents have not resulted in any action. Previous letters to MP Elizabeth May have not been answered and she has not made any headway on this problem.

We call on the community to step up pressure on our local representatives to do something about this menace before the pollution irrevocably harms our environment here in the Gulf Islands!

The writers are Beddis Road residents.

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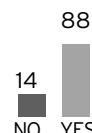
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Has your view of the
Trudeau government
been changed by the
recent controversies? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you believe
children should be
vaccinated?



OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"Honestly, you guys have got this."

CONRAD COWAN, CRD MANAGER FOR
EMERGENCY SERVICES

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What inspired you at the Salt Spring Film Fest this weekend?*

OJ CLARKE



“RGB was the most extraordinary experience and one of the best documentaries I've ever seen.”

CAROLINE HICKMAN



Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees is a fascinating film. I was really, really pleased.

PETER MEYER



This Mountain Life — it reminded me of the whole reason I moved to the west coast and it was just beautifully filmed.

KIT LEWIS



What is Democracy? They really should show it again because it was so beautifully done.

VICKI DALZIEL



We're looking forward to *Kusama: Infinity* and after that *Science Fair* and *Do You Trust This Computer?*

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

Leadership and principles

I am outraged that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government of Canada through the PMO, government clerk and assorted Liberal MPs attempted through peer pressure to have the former Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould remove/waive pending charges against SNC-Lavalin.

This scandal should give all Canadians pause for consideration about Trudeau the younger and his government's future as our governing body. Trudeau has betrayed the trust of all Canadians.

The dates, times and who what where were presented clearly by Ms. Wilson-Raybould in her testimony. I find the ex-attorney general very believable and unwaveringly steadfast in stating her truth and the truth. Finally, an honest and principled politician

in a sea of weak, self-serving sycophants.

Thank you, Jody, and best wishes in moving forward in your career, whatever path you choose. You are a credit to all B.C. and your First Nations who you represent so well. You have demonstrated leadership with principles, something the leader of your party is incapable of doing.

DAVID L. MERKE,
SALT SPRING

Step-by-step progress

From one long-time reader of the Driftwood (18 years) to another, I thank Glen Williams for his Feb. 27 letter to the editor entitled "Listen to us."

I appreciate the writer's opinion on the declaration of a climate change emergency as well as affordable housing and reliable water supply. To

me, all are most pressing issues and require immediate action.

Climate change is in a strange category mostly defined in the order of "we must do such and such by 2030 (or 2040 or, shudder . . . 2050) to avoid disaster. I believe that action is required now and every year till the required date, even though the Driftwood poll did not support the position of the Islands Trust doing more about climate change and we just finished the coldest February on record.

However, by listing future dates as targets, governments and organizations may (and I think they do), say to themselves, "I'll maybe do a bit, but there is plenty of time for the next agency to double up the effort and still get there." Future targets can promote irresponsible deferment.

Myself, I think precise stepping-stone goals are required. That is why I have

tasked my electric vehicle group statistician (yes, I have one) to determine how many EVs should be added to the island each year so that we will achieve the required emission reductions. We added over 60 last year (and have now exceeded 200 to date). If we continue to add 60, will we be ahead of the goal, on track, or falling behind? What is the magic number?

By the way, those 200 EVs have no negative consequences, but the positive consequences are cleaner air and over 200,000 litres of fuel no longer required to be transferred to Salt Spring Island.

I hope all the actions we take make a difference for all the problems we face. It is for our future generations.

JIM STANDEN,
TEAM LEAD, EV GROUP,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Heroes and Hobnobs make snowstorm bearable

Wasn't the snow lovely? So white. So deep and crisp and even. So, er, white.

It was also cold, wet and disruptive and got in the way of my regular trips into Ganges to satisfy my grocery shopping habit. And it's not as if Salt Spring is especially well fitted to deal with dire weather conditions unless you live within a spit of the hospital, fire hall and TJ Beans. I don't. I live halfway up a mountain and by the time the snow plows reached us and helpfully heaped a six-foot pile of snow across my driveway I was effectively as isolated as Nanook of the North.

So far, we've survived the Dreadful Drought, the Great Wind, the Big Wet and if you're reading this, we've presumably survived the Bastardly Blizzard, so all that's left is a plague of locusts. Or frogs. Or Republican politicians.

Needless to say, I don't own snow tires for much the same reason that I don't own a team of huskies, a parachute or a life raft, but thankfully I was well stocked to see out the white hell this time. Scott (that's Scott of the Antarctic, not Scott of the Plumbing) couldn't have prepared better: four avocados, cheese straws, ginger marmalade, a box of frozen mini chocolate eclairs, rocky road ice cream and enough Hobnobs to corner the world market in roughage. Towards the end we were becoming critically low on dishwasher tablets and coffee filters, but that was a small privation for anyone of the doughtiness that I was exhibiting. If washing dishes by hand was good enough for our pioneering forefathers, it is good enough for my wife.

I did own a pair of gumboots once but got rid of them when I realized they might involve me in gardening, so even a short amble to the woodshed was a sodden misery in the snow.



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

So, I won't deny it was tough. For a start, I missed at least four of my Aquafit classes under the blessed Brenda, so my level of fitness has gone from hanging-in-there to barely thriving, which makes shovelling snow a distinct life hazard. I'd tried propositioning the dozens of fit young men who were advertising their services online, but they were all taken. And you've as much chance of finding someone with a willing heart and a small bulldozer as you have of finding a grain of decency in Donald Trump.

My smuggo eldest son who commutes between Calgary and north of Fort McMurray was less than sympathetic when I whined about the weather down here. It was minus 45 with the windchill factor where he was, and he considers minus 4 to be balmy. As I pointed out, it may be colder up there but there isn't much he can teach a man in his late 60s about wind, chilled or otherwise.

My absence from the Aquafit session is especially disheartening because I have become reasonably convinced that I'm the group's eye candy and that the sole reason many of them put aside their walkers for an hour and take to the water is for glimpse of me in my new Speedo.

However, despite my better instincts, I still needed the exercise and gave the mountain of snow across the drive a few

desultory pokes with a shovel when my stir-craze was at its peak, but quickly talked myself out of anything more vigorous on grounds of my customary Salt Spring excuse that there was nowhere to go anyway, so who needs the car?

I was booked for a haircut which I'd cancelled twice and missed a doctor's appointment, so now I was both unshorn and untreated, which is pretty darned intrepid if you ask me.

In the end, however, the weather threw up two new heroes for me, three if you include The Weather Network, which seems able to predict snow or rain to the nearest five minutes. I spent happy hours with a stopwatch waiting for "Snow begins at 10:20 a.m.," poised to call the network if it was 10 minutes late.

But my first new hero (or heroine, if I can be a little un-PC at my age) is Kat, the Canada Post Snow Queen who trudged through the thigh-deep snow on my drive to drop off my new printer and my wife's comfy slippers from Walmart. Had it been me in the Canada Post uniform, the two parcels would have sat in a bush until the owner found them in the spring.

Finally, a big shout-out (and there's a phrase of which I have absolutely no idea of its meaning) to Dave Woode, my deck builder, who noticed that we were snowed in when he drove past and called to ask if we wanted a lift into Ganges. In the end, he sat around while I restocked on Hobnobs and English muffins before driving me home again. Cheers, Dave. Please accept this paragraph in lieu of a bottle of scotch.

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Not so silent spring

Even though the lakes are still iced over and evidence of winter storms is everywhere, the woods are suddenly alive again this week with the melodious trills of returning songbirds.

As the frozen ground in my garden rebuffed the advances of my eager trowel, suddenly there it was: the unmistakable upwards spiralling song of the Swainson's thrush and the achingly beautiful notes of the purple finch. This year I find myself profoundly relieved, consoled and reassured as I listen to the songbirds in the woods around the island. For me, it is a tonic for the increasing anxiety and grief I feel brought on by climate and geopolitical uncertainty.

I'm quite taken aback by how much I need to drink in their clarion calls of love and hope.

GILLIAN ASHLEY-MARTZ,

SALT SPRING



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

IT'S STILL HERE: Piles of snow like one left from parking lot clearing at Upper Ganges Centre are still a common sight on Salt Spring this week. Despite highs of 6C during the day, temperatures have consistently fallen below freezing at night, leading to a slow melt of February's snow.

NSSWD needs to help with housing solutions

BY JASON MOGUS

At the root of so many solutions to the affordable housing crisis is water. We have to do better, and in one of the wettest parts of Canada, we know we can.

Our main local water utility's moratorium on any new hook-ups to their system — while created with very positive intentions of protecting our precious resource — has had unintended negative consequences on our community's social sustainability that need to be addressed.

North Salt Spring Waterworks District's 2014 moratorium was a well-intentioned and forward-looking policy that aimed to protect current ratepayers from the increasing impacts of climate disruption (longer, drier summers). As someone who has spent the last decade working on the front lines of climate campaigns locally and around the world, I have a lot of respect for their visionary thinking and leadership.

As it was designed, the moratorium policy puts no pressure on existing NSSWD customers to conserve, and 100 per cent of the impact is put onto new

INDEPTH

hookups. That is not water justice, and as a caring community we have to do better.

NSSWD staff do a fantastic job and deserve our respect. They are working hard within their very limited mandate to manage complex infrastructure, protect their current ratepayers from future climate-induced impacts and protect our precious water ecology.

However, senior staff and the board are not acknowledging the unintended consequences of the water moratorium, and are providing no flexibility or leadership towards finding solutions.

In fact, NSSWD just released a new strategic plan which fails to mention affordable housing at all. They are hosting an open house at the library on Monday, March 11 at 1:30 p.m. to meet with the community and discuss their plan.

I am lucky enough to be able to take time out of my work day to attend (what's with these daytime-only public

meetings?) and encourage others who care about affordable housing to come and make their voices heard.

For folks who are not able to come to the open house, our website — www.SaltSpringSolutions.com — has a handy tool you can use to send a letter to NSSWD about this issue.

Our community needs NSSWD to recognize the housing crisis has been impacted by the moratorium and their water bylaws, make this a priority in their new strategic plan, and work with others to find creative solutions that protect our precious resource while supporting the urgent needs of the community for more affordable housing.

We know we can find creative ways to use the same, or even less, water while supporting smart affordable housing solutions. Salt Spring can lead the world not only in conservation and climate resiliency but in helping people of all backgrounds stay here and thrive, together.

The writer is a member of the Salt Spring Housing Action Committee.



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Rants + ROSES

RANTS

Three rotten apples to the toxic three. Ill-gotten gains seldom prosper. P. Haase

To those who feel compelled and privileged to make comments and discuss a movie during the showing, please notice that your fellow film goers are quietly trying to pay attention to the film, and not to you. Your actions are inconsiderate and rude. Please hold your comments and exclamations until the completion of the movie. P. Meyer

Roses

Wagon wheel roses to the Salt Spring Foundation for your help with "Nobody Left Behind." It made a big difference. Thank you! Jewel Eldstrom for Wagon Wheel Housing Society

Twenty anniversary roses from the Salt Spring Film Festival board to all who made our milestone festival such a wonderful

event! We particularly honour the founders of the festival, Maggie Schubart, Marg Simons, Bob Wild and especially Jane Squier, our gala speaker. We are so grateful to our presenting sponsor Country Grocer, gala sponsor Purica/Beachside, attending filmmaker sponsor Mid-Island Co-op and the many other businesses, individuals, government grantors and media partners who contributed so generously. The staff of GISS graciously host us, our two staff and 120 volunteers handle everything with charm and dedication, the attending filmmakers give extra depth to their films, the social justice displays get us all thinking and acting, and the festival patrons are passionate about the films and the world. Thank you so much!

The EV Group would like to send a lightning bolt of thanks to those kind electric vehicle owners on Salt Spring Island that donated funds to assist in repairing the wands at the ArtSpring parking lot. You know who you are. The new wands are installed and fully operational. Thank you!



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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MUSIC

CD launch for island-born musician

Ocie Elliott at Moby's on Sunday

A fast-rising indie folk duo — with ties to Salt Spring — ends a tour of western Canada with a CD launch show at Moby's Pub this Sunday evening.

Ocie Elliott, featuring island-born Sierra Lundy and Jon Middleton, of Jon and Roy fame, are set to play a dialled-back show, starting at 7 p.m. and featuring tracks off their new CD *We Fall In*, as well as songs from their 2017 EP and select covers.

"Their contemporary indie folk blend is both immediately familiar and yet startlingly unique," notes a recent review in *Monday Magazine*. "Middleton and Lundy's complementary vocals, gently teas-



PHOTO BY SARA LAKING

Jon Middleton and Sierra Lundy are the duo called Ocie Elliott.

ing in their harmonious melodies, layer atop stripped-back instrumentals. Think Angus and Julia Stone with softer

edges, or Gillian Welch sans the twang. Their music seems borne of Vancouver Island's deep green forests, grey-laden

skies and crashing waves."

In the 18 months since releasing their first EP, Ocie Elliott has gained an international fanbase, garnering a huge online following and touring Europe with Aussie folk giants Sons of the East, the western U.S. with Current Swell, B.C. with Kim Churchill and, most recently, western Canada with Carmanah. In April they return to Europe to tour with popular Dutch band Jack and the Weatherman.

They've also opened for well-known folk artists such as Mason Jennings, Roo Panes and Joshua Hyslop, and were "Band of the Month" in February for Victoria radio station The Zone 91.3.

Ocie Elliott has a recording contract with label Nettwerk Records, which released *We Fall In* on Feb. 8.

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THEATRE SPORTS

GISS team qualifies for national competition

Fundraising now underway

Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior improv team is headed to national championships in Ottawa for the third consecutive year, and a fundraising drive is helping to get them there.

The team just missed securing a berth through the Vancouver Island regional championships last month, taking second place behind frequent rivals GP Vanier. GISS came out on top in the Canada-wide online "wildcard" competition, though, so will be meeting their island friends on the national stage from April 1-4.

"That is three years in a row that we've qualified for nationals," coach Jason Donaldson reported. "We won silver last year and gold in 2017."

The team now has just under a month to raise \$10,000 for airfare and accommodation for the team and their coach. Supporters can contribute directly to the GoFundMe campaign under "Help Send GISS Improv to Ottawa" or enter a pledge system. They can also attend a March 14 fundraiser dinner party, a March 23 show at Mahon Hall or an event at the Mayne Island Agricultural Hall. Contact jdonaldson@sd64.org for more details.

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Out + ABOUT

Out + About is a compilation of items about upcoming events on Salt Spring Island.

Carmina Burana

ArtSpring hosts Ballet Victoria this Saturday, March 9, with a production of Carl Orff's epic choral masterpiece *Carmina Burana*.

In a sensational mix of dance and drama, Ballet Victoria artistic director Paul Destrooper explores and interprets the themes of the songs: power, corruption, over-indulgence, humour and beauty.

The show runs at 2:30 p.m. and a post-show talkback will be facilitated by ArtSpring dance outreach coordinator Anna Haltrecht.

Celtic-folk at its finest

Next Wednesday a multi-award-winning artist from Edmonton brings her Celtic-folk show to ArtSpring.

Lizzy Hoyt will deliver an evening of diverse music based on repertoire from her acclaimed album *New Lady on the Prairie*. Hoyt's work on this project was nominated for Songwriter of the Year (Western Canadian Music Awards), Solo Artist of the Year (Canadian Folk Music Awards) and Story Song of the Year (Independent Music Awards).

The March 13 concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

FOR MORE SALT SPRING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT HAPPENINGS, SEE OUR **WHAT'S ON CALENDAR** ON PAGE 12.



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VETTA CHAMBER MUSIC



ISLAND LIFE

- Remember When
- Streets of SSI
- Star of the Week

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

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



THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastronomy.com | sunstarastronomy@gmail.com

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

In the lead up to Mercury turning retrograde, it formed a close conjunction to Chiron in Aries while the Sun came into alignment with Neptune. Together, these can be understood to represent the early stages of a healing process linked to mass delusion and deception. Although it is actually something of an oxymoron, there are many who actually believe that science is settled. Certainly, in the fields of engineering and technology, the progress machine is ever active. Yet, having assumed the position of knowing 'the truth' regarding human origins and the nature of existence some scientists have convinced themselves and many others who have a deep investment of faith in science that their theories are conclusive and absolute. Meanwhile, many new revolutionary movements are on the rise lead by 'other' scientists who strongly disagree with. The doors to a new round of debate on many fronts are opening again.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

One way or another, you feel the need to retreat. This could manifest as an escape. Yet, Mars and Uranus in Taurus may be having the effect of keeping you grounded, literally. Spending quality time with friends is a possibility, yet you are not in the mood for a party. Travel would be ideal but a venture into a good book might suffice.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

A revolutionary momentum has been building and is now coming to a peak. You are determined to make your presence known, to be seen and heard. However, you may be experiencing a temporary disconnect right now. This should shift a little as the week progresses and by next week you will feel connected again, even if under challenging circumstances.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Finding your place in the sun may seem extra challenging right now. Getting the attention you may want and need may not be forthcoming right now. Therefore, the best solution is to simply wait this one out. Accept it as a feature of your destiny that this is not the time to advance your position. Rather, ride this one out quietly.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Sometimes we feel a little less certain than others, like now perhaps. The Pisces influence for you signifies a philosophical and spiritual search, but not one that is likely to be fulfilled too soon. Yet, if you set your intentions and patiently play along, you may receive sublime insights and realizations, even if they take until April to come to consciousness.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

A deep dive into unfamiliar waters continues to keep you busy. Positively, you have entered a creative and inventive cycle. New dreams and designs are the rewards of your diligence. By next week, you will feel inspired to take these to the next level. This could prove to be a special time offering opportunities for public recognition, soon.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

It may seem that things you once considered to be certain are dissolving like a mirage. Everything is up for debate again. The only certainty is the flow of change. This occurs on many fronts simultaneously. So, the challenge is to keep an open mind and be willing to see things differently. This may require letting go of the subconscious urge for control of the outcome.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

There are some yellow flags raised regarding your overall state of health. Or, it may be your current lifestyle that requires that you make some key adjustments. There are indications that you are under a lot of stress these days. Sometimes the stress is obvious and other times it is hidden. Either way, step back and take a fresh look.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

A creative cycle is underway. Some of the impetus is coming from external sources destined to agitate you out of your comfort zone. If they do their work, you will be pushed into your lap, den or think tank. It is important that you think and go big now, somehow. If necessary, feel the fear and use it as fuel for action.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Balancing the urge to lay low in your den versus venture a new highway, or two, is now underway. At worst, you could be dealing with deep feelings of sadness or disillusionment. Positively, you recognize the opportunity to go within and recharge. This can be best achieved by giving yourself a break for a while, like a few weeks.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Well, if anyone is able to make the most of this Mercury Retrograde in Pisces storm, it is you. However, you have arrived at a place in your life where you may be undergoing the preliminary stages of something of an identity crisis. It may simply amount to the desire to explore new horizons. Either way, the answers you seek are about your place in the world.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Circumstances are pushing you to dig deep again. While you feel expansive on certain fronts, it may feel like you are spinning your wheels and not getting the traction you desire. This will not last but could linger for a few weeks. Curb your expectations directed at yourself and others and trust that you will be busy again and with full traction soon.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The Pisces influence will likely work very well for you. Your focus is strong, yet you may feel like you are surfing a wave more than burning rubber. If you can accept this, you can make great strides over the coming few weeks and possibly even realize a dream or two. The hidden message within the wave metaphor is that you have to concentrate and work it.

REC ACTIVITIES

Paddlers seek spot to park boat

Little space needed for low-impact activity

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

After 14 years with the same home base, Salt Spring's dragonboat team is looking for a new spot to keep its boat.

When the Spirit Point Dragons were established, then-team member Marit Christensen's family owned a waterfront property with a dock in Long Harbour where the narrow 40-foot racing scull could be kept. Since the property sold a couple of years ago, its new owners have generously allowed the club to park the boat at the dock during the practice and racing season, but club members do feel it is time to find a new spot.

"We are looking for a more sheltered spot, preferably in Long Harbour, because we compete in ocean conditions for the most part," explained team coach Mary Rowles.

"St. Mary Lake is an option," added board member Barry Green, "but it's not the best option."

"You do notice a big advantage if you are practising on the same kind of water," added Rowles.

A spot that's even closer to the head of



PHOTO COURTESY SPIRIT POINT DRAGONS

Spirit Point Dragons team paddles in a past regatta race. The team needs a new spot to store its narrow, 40-foot boat, ideally in Long Harbour.

Long Harbour would be perfect. Green points out that very little space is needed.

"A lot of the docks that have ramps going out and down to a floating dock, we can tuck underneath them," he said. "A lot of that kind of space is not usable by people."

The 550-pound vessel has only a seven- or eight-inch draw, they note.

On practice nights the boat is taken to the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club outstation on Scott Point Drive and paddlers get into it from there.

"It doesn't take us more than six minutes to load and then we are gone," said Rowles. "We are really low impact."

Practices are held two nights per week

from the end of March through September.

The club has \$2-million in liability insurance and undertook repairs and upkeep at the current spot over the years.

Green said the club is prepared to negotiate if a property owner wants some remuneration for keeping their boat at a dock.

"We don't have a ton of money but we realize that sometimes you have to pay for these things."

If anyone can help the Dragons find a new home, they are encouraged to phone Green at 250-537-1150, or call Rowles at 250-653-4139 (or email her at onthewater181@gmail.com).

UNITED NATIONS

Islander to attend UN Commission meeting

NYC delegation runs March 11 to 22

Salt Spring's Barbara DuMoulin will be in New York City this week representing the Canadian Federation of University Women as a delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

DuMoulin is CFUW B.C. Council president as well as being a member of Salt Spring's CFUW club. She will be in New York for the Commission on the Status of Women's 63rd conference, running from March 11 to 22.

The UN commission is described as the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Representatives of member states, UN entities and accredited non-government organizations from all regions of the

world are expected to attend the session.

"As a non-government organization with consultative status with the United Nations, the CFUW delegation will be actively participating in the discussions at CSW63," a press release explains. "It is the hope of CFUW that states will reach an agreement on how developed and developing countries can work together to accelerate progress and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment remain central to the post-2016 sustainable development goals as both standalone goals and an intersectional theme."

The Canadian Federation of University Women is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization working to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace. The Salt Spring club was established in 1997.

SALT SPRING Stars of the WEEK Jewel + Cherie



MICHAEL MORSE PHOTO

Cherie Geauvreau (left in the photo) and Jewel Eldstrom are this week's Stars of the Week.

The longtime islanders are the founders of and driving force behind the Copper Kettle Community Partnership, a grassroots organization that helps individuals in need, whether by providing food or grocery vouchers, firewood, clothing or shelter supplies such as tents and sleeping bags.

Some of the food

distributed is derived from a community garden overseen by dedicated volunteers.

The Copper Kettle has been in operation for more than 15 years and has helped countless islanders of all ages.

Jewel and Cherie also spearheaded the Wagon Wheel Housing Society, a registered society created in 2016 that aims to address affordable housing issues on the island and to set up a laundromat.

EQUESTRIANS

GIHA holds AGM

Public invited to hear plans for community facility

Islanders are invited to find out more about an initiative to build a public equestrian centre on Salt Spring during the Gulf Islands Horse Association's annual general meeting on Tuesday, March 12.

Coffee and baked goods will be served at the meeting, which gets going at 6 p.m. in the Salt Spring Public Library meeting room.

"You don't have to be horse-ey to attend, just interested in the project's potential for enriching the life of islanders," promised GIHA chair Jacky Cooper.

The association observes that horses have always been a part of Salt Spring's development, toiling alongside the settlers, farmers and loggers in the early days and now contributing to Salt Spring's rural feel as well as its economy. Island horses participate in a broad diversity of activities and riding disciplines, from trail riding, shows and competitions to emotional and physical therapy for individuals with special needs or past trauma.

"Some horses do absolutely nothing apart from bring joy into the lives of those who care for and learn from them," GIHA press material states.

"There is, however, some-

thing missing for those islanders who want to pursue their equine and horsemanship education, to enjoy the fellowship of other horse enthusiasts, or simply to have a place to go and be around horses.

"While Salt Spring offers sports fields, squash and tennis courts, and a swimming pool to provide recreational, competitive and personal wellness opportunities, there is no community-based centre where people can enjoy and participate in equestrian sport."

Travelling off-island to horse-related events and activities is an expensive proposition beyond the financial means of many who would love to participate.

As a registered, not-for-profit society, GIHA wants to remedy the lack of a local public facility.

Initial steps have already been taken to launch a fund-raising campaign to pay for a feasibility study into the plan.

"The Gulf Islands Horse Association hopes to work in partnership with other interested community groups to create recreational, educational and wellness opportunities for people of all ages in a safe and enriching environment," Cooper said. "We invite anyone with or without a horse to come to our AGM, ask questions and get involved with this exciting project."

ISLAND HISTORY

Collins Road explored

Pioneering family faced difficulties

Collins Road is named after John T. Collins, who settled on the east side of St. Mary Lake in 1895.

According to the Salt Spring Archives, John Collins left Buckinghamshire with his wife, her sister and his three sons and one daughter. They sailed from Liverpool, crossed Canada by train and arrived in Vesuvius aboard the C.P.R. steamer "Joan."

The family purchased 100 acres near the Central post office from a black man named Levi Davis. They hired Japanese workers at a rate of 50 cents per day to clear the land and make room for farming. A house was built and they began raising livestock.

The Collins family later started the English Creamery Company and sold cheese and butter. The creamery was not well received, as people complained about Collins keeping a pig yard too close to it. Collins was also jailed for a short time in December 1900 after he was sued by Henry Bullock to recover a debt.

After older members of the family died, the three Collins brothers moved to a home near Southey Point, and faced considerable difficulty doing so. They had to move boxes of fine china, over 80 flintlock and muzzle-loading rifles, boxes of ancient pistols, swords and poniards. Hundreds of books were also moved, as were many family heirlooms and antiques dating back to the 1700s.



D.W. Salty

STREETS OF
**SALT
SPRING**Remember
WHEN

Five years ago

• Despite public pressure to "just say no," the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee decided to let the rezoning process for the Bullock Lake Cottages development float for a while longer to get more input from government agencies. "I believe we need to take the due diligence of further study," said Trustee George Grams. Public sentiment was clearly against the proposal in presentations made at a LTC meeting and in a number of letters and emails sent to the LTC.

Ten years ago

• Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientists were trying to determine the whereabouts of 12 otters reported missing by a south-end resident. Anne Humphries contacted DFO officers in Duncan after the otters disappeared from local waters. Following a discussion with a fisherman, Humphries became concerned that the otters may have been tangled in crab traps set up in shallow waters. A DFO officer said it was more likely that the otters moved on due to noise in the area.

Twenty years ago

• Al Hoskins was hoping that neighbourhood awareness could lead to the re-opening of the Walker Hook bay to shellfish harvesting. The bay was closed due to high fecal coliform counts of 540 parts per 100 millilitres of water. "These are pretty scary numbers when you consider the safe levels peak at 14/100 ml for shellfish and 200/100 ml for swimming," Hoskins said. Hoskins and CRD health officer Michael Riefman said that those living in the area needed to consider possible sources of the contamination: faulty septic fields or animals whose feces may have ended up in the creek feeding the bay.

Thirty years ago

• Local school board trustees looked into the possibilities of making School District 64 a smoke-free zone. The board had made the school board office a smoke-free zone almost a year earlier, and were looking at expanding that to all district facilities. "We left it to the individual schools to make up their own smoking policies," said school trustee Grace Byrne. "We think it would be a good influence on the students if the entire district were to be smoke-free."

Forty years ago

• Salt Spring's first registered massage therapist Barry Dayman had minimal work due to people having misconceptions about what massage therapy actually was. Residents had their doubts about the usefulness of massage therapy, and whether or not massage was a euphemism for something different. "There are some awful misconceptions," Dayman said. "I've always tried to work in conjunction with doctors to make sure people know right away that I'm not running a body rub parlour." Dayman talked to local doctors to emphasize the stress relief and relaxation derived from massage therapy, and 50 per cent of his business came from doctor referrals.

Fifty years ago

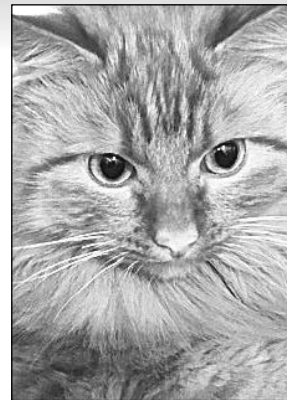
• Helicopters were called into service on a construction job as the first operation of its kind in local history. The helicopters were assisting with the installation of concrete foundations for the power transmission towers on top of Mount Erskine.

The steep slopes and lack of roads made using a helicopter to transport the concrete slabs from Duncan into place a necessity.

NEWS
UPDATES

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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE
CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS
AND FRIDAYS -
MARCH 19 - MAY 11, 2019

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District.

Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Notice of Meeting

Capital Regional District Board 2019 Financial Plan Bylaw Approval

A meeting of the Capital Regional District Board, including budget discussion for 2019, will be held:

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019
Time: 1 pm
Place: CRD Headquarters, 6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

what's on this week



Wed. Mar. 6

Thur. Mar. 7

Fri. Mar. 8

Sat. Mar. 9

Sat. Mar. 9

Mon. Mar. 11

Tue. Mar. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Sacred Music and Dance.
All Saints’ choir, under the direction of music director David Storm, performs a mixed program of music and dance. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Optional tea and treats follow the concert.

ACTIVITIES

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program.
Join Nomi and Hannah on Wednesday mornings in the Salt Spring Public Library program room. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. For parents and children ages 0-6. Sign up at the info desk, by phone at 250-537-4666 or email to info@saltspringlibrary.com.
Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby’s Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Grand(m)others to Grandmothers Scrabble Fundraiser.
Regular and competitive players welcome to play Scrabble games and raise money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation or watch other players participate. Salt Spring Inn. 2 to 4 p.m.
Art Show Opening: Draw the Line Art Collective.
Opening event for the Draw the Line Art Collective’s exhibit of paintings and drawings called Faces by artists dedicated to recording images of Salt Spring Islanders. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Film Screening: RBG. Island Women Against Violence Society (IWAV) and SWOVA join forces to celebrate International Women’s Day by hosting a screening of RBG, a documentary that chronicles the career of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The film will be followed by a panel discussion and dialogue where Salt Spring community women share their own inspiring stories of facing and confronting gender imbalance in their lives and careers. Mahon Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. Film shows at 7 pm.

Fri. Mar. 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Long Haul.
Country band at Moby’s Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryTime. Stories, games and crafts for ages 3 to 6 and their caregivers on Fridays at the Salt Spring Public Library. 11 a.m.
International Women’s Day: Put Women in Politics. Screening of the NFB film Why Women Run by Dr. Meredith Ralston, a documentary that highlights the accomplishments of women in politics and the problems many of them face as they participate in the political process. SS Library Program Room. 12 noon. Discussion will follow. Co-sponsored by Salt Spring CFUW chapter.
Family Movie Matinee. Family-friendly movies every Friday at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room at 2:30 p.m. This week’s film is Kung Fu Panda 2 and the last one in the winter series.
Feminist Gathering. Meet to talk about feminist issues. Seniors Wellness Centre. 7 p.m. All welcome.

Sat. Mar. 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ballet Victoria: Carmina Burana. Ballet Victoria presents Carl Orff’s epic choral masterpiece. A post-show talkback with dancers facilitated by ArtSpring dance outreach coordinator Anna Haltrecht will follow the performance. ArtSpring. Bar open at 1:30 p.m. Show at 2:30.
Ratfish Comedy Show. Ratfish Comedy from Victoria features Chelsea Lou, Steve McMath, Mark Robertson and Darren Millar. At the Legion. 8 to 11 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Fergus O’Byrne.
Irish band at Moby’s Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Get Tapping! Emotional Freedom Techniques. Saturdays in March with Judith Gane at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. By pre-registration only at judithgane@sympatico.ca or 250-537-5322.
Workshop: Writing From Within. Yin yoga, journalling and tea ceremony workshop led by Sarah-Jane Smith, Claire Sicherman and Kari Mathieson. Mahon Hall. 1 to 5 p.m.
Book Launch: Superabundantly Alive – Thomas Merton’s Dance With The Feminine. Authors Susan McCaslin and John Porter present their unique, unified, multi-genre work that includes dialogue, imaginary letters, poems and reflective essays. Salt Spring Public Library. 1 p.m.
Donald Trump & International Relations: UBC Student Workshop. UBC students will present research papers on topics relating to Donald Trump and international relations. Lions Hall from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. (and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 10). See schedule on Salt Spring Forum website.
Grand(m)others to Grandmothers Scrabble Fundraiser Finale. Final games and silent auction for annual fundraiser benefitting the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Penny’s Pantry on the Green. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Unist’ot’en/Gidimt’en Support Event.
Live stream from Wet’suwet’en territory, LNG presentation and more. GISS Multipurpose Room. 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Sun. Mar. 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vetta Presents Horn of Plenty.
Jane Coop, piano, Joan Blackman, violin and Oto Carillo on horn present works by Harbison, Beethoven and Brahms. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.
Ocie Elliott CD Launch. Release tour show for We Fall In album by duo of Sierra Lundy and Jon Middleton. Moby’s Pub. 7 p.m.



ACTIVITIES

UBC Student Workshop: Donald Trump & International Relations – Day 2. UBC students will present research papers on topics relating to Donald Trump and international relations. Lions Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. See schedule on Salt Spring Forum website.
Artist in Residence Talk: Audrey M. Feltham. Audrey M. Feltham will discuss printmaking and fibre art. Mahon Hall. 2 to 4 p.m.
Badminton. All levels of play. Must have your own racquet and non-marking gym shoes. GISS gym. Sundays from 7 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

North Salt Spring Waterworks District Strategic Plan Open House.
Learn about the draft strategic plan and provide input at Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Salt Spring Island Toastmasters. Guests welcome to Monday night Toastmasters meetings at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m. (Please plan to arrive at 6:50 p.m. to get oriented and find a spot at the table.)



Tue. Mar. 12

ACTIVITIES

Landscapes of Injustice. Research project update and lecture from professor Jordan Stanger-Ross will present new analyses of the dispossession of Japanese Canadian-owned real estate, arguing that its material impacts, including on Salt Spring Island, must be understood as long-term legacies of benefit and loss. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Gulf Islands Horse Association AGM. Annual general meeting at Salt Spring Public Library Program Room at 6 p.m. The GIHA aims to create a public equestrian centre on Salt Spring and invites public input at the meeting.

ACTIVITIES

Discussion Group on Spiritual Interests. Discussion group facilitated by Barry Cook on the topic of spirituality at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice. 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Trivia Tuesday. Every Tuesday at Moby’s Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Addressing What We Don’t Know About Salt Spring Island’s Water. Presentation by John Millson at Lions Hall. 7 p.m.
Get Tapping! Emotional Freedom Techniques. See Saturday listing except location is Twisted Oak Studio.

Wed. Mar. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Lizzy Hoyt Concert. Award-winning Celtic-folk musician Lizzy Hoyt from Edmonton performs at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Historical Society: Author May Q. Wong. May Q. Wong, the author of the new book called City in Colour: Rediscovered Stories of Victoria’s Multicultural Past, which contains some Salt Spring stories as well, gives a presentation to the SS Historical Society at Central Hall. 2 p.m. (Doors at 1:45 p.m.) This event was rescheduled from Feb. 13 due to inclement weather.
Music Bingo. See last Wednesday’s listing.
Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. See last Wednesday’s listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **The Favourite** (Oscar Best Actress) runs Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m.
- **On the Basis of Sex** runs from Friday, March 8 through Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. and with an additional 3 p.m. matinee show on Sunday.
- **National Theatre: Antony & Cleopatra** with Ralph Fiennes runs on Thursday, March 14 only with shows at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Draw the Line Art Collective’s** exhibit of paintings and drawings called **Faces**, created by artists dedicated to recording images of Salt Spring folk, shows in the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room** through March. Opening event is on Thursday, March 7 from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

SSI Painters Guild presents their **Workshop and Drawing Show** in the lobby of **ArtSpring** through March, an exhibit of new works initiated during workshops and drawing sessions hosted by the guild.

- **Erotica art show** — a multi-artist sensuous art show about love, sexuality, pleasure and the body — runs at **Salt Spring Gallery** until March 12.
- **Double Vision** presents **Questionable**, an exhibit of contemplative photography by **Karin and John Millson**, at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until March 16.
- **Salt Spring Photography Club** members **Jean, Sylvia, Pat, Fifi** and **Margaret** show photos of women from around the world to celebrate International Women’s Day at the **Country Grocer Cafe**.

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com/events/

see horoscope
on page 10

Author Event: May Q. Kwong - City in Colour
A SS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION
Wednesday, March 13 at 2 p.m.
Central Hall
(Postponed from February)

THRIFTY FOODS
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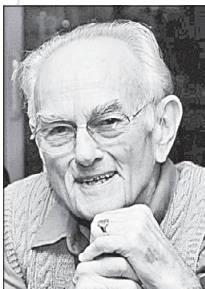
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Obituaries**Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****In Memoriam****Coming Events****Coming Events****HAROLD J PAGE, P. Eng.**

With profound sadness we announce that Harold died peacefully on January 19, 2019 at his residence on Salt Spring Island surrounded by family. Predeceased in June 2018 by his beloved wife Gladie, he is survived by daughters Judy, Louise, Shirley, Yvonne; 4 grandchildren, 4 great-granddaughters and extended family. Harold was an outstanding husband, father, professional and citizen. A true gentleman, his integrity, competence and kindness were widely recognized and will be deeply missed.



A celebration of Harold's life will be planned and announced at a later date.

Taeko Violet Murakami

Violet peacefully passed away on March 1, 2019. She was lovingly cared for at the Greenwood Elder Care facility for two years.

Left to mourn are her sisters Alice Tanaka of Gardena, California, Mary Kitagawa of Tsawwassen and Rose Murakami of Salt Spring Island and her only brother Richard of Salt Spring Island. Violet was predeceased by her parents Katsuyori and Kimiko Murakami, her two brothers Ryoichi and Bruce (Langley). She also leaves behind her nephews, Brian Tanaka of Colorado and Gerald Tanaka of California, Landon Kitagawa of Tsawwassen, nieces Karen Bennett of Cloverdale, Kimiko and Sachiko Murakami of Toronto.

Violet was born on Salt Spring Island in the old Lady Minto Hospital. She went to the new school which was opened in 1940. Her parents contributed money to build that school. However, her stay was short because when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, all Canadians of Japanese descent were labelled "enemy aliens" were uprooted, dispossessed, dispersed, deported, enslaved and put in a Prison-of-War camp. Her father was arrested and sent away. Her mother became a reluctant single parent with five children, one and a half year old to fourteen years old. Violet along with three thousand woman and children were forced to live in a filthy barn in Hastings Park. Life was brutal in that barn where her family was fed in the poultry section of the barn. Unfamiliar, poorly prepared food caused diarrhea and food poisoning. The stench of urine and feces permeated her clothes and hair. After enduring this dehumanizing situation, Vi was sent to Greenwood with her family to live in a tiny room in an abandoned miners' building. From there, the family was moved to the sugar beet farm where life was so brutal that their lives were in jeopardy. As the result, Violet journeyed to many prison camps with her family: Pop Off, Bay Farm, a tent in Slocan, unfinished shacks in Rosebery and in New Denver. Before returning to Salt Spring Island, her family had to struggle through several years working in another sugar beet farm then to run a restaurant in Cardston, Alberta. Violet contributed immensely to the survival of her family during seven year journey through Canada's incarceration of Japanese Canadians.

Memorial service will be held at the United Church on Friday March 8, 2019 at 1 PM. Donations in memory of Violet may be sent to the Katsuyori and Kimiko Murakami scholarship fund at School District 64 Board Office, 112 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2K3.

**Salt Spring Hospice**

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**A MEMORIAL AND Celebration of LIFE**

for
Ingrid Boesel



will be held on
March 30 2019
at 2 pm in the
East Crofton Room,
Harbour House Hotel.

Coming Events**THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY**

on Wednesday 20th
March, 2019 at 7:00 pm
in the lower hall at
901 North End Road.

PUBLIC WELCOME.

Information**LOCAL MATTERS.**

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to benefit Stephen Lewis Foundation's

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Turning the Tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa.



Join games
THURSDAY MARCH 7
at Salt Spring Inn 2-4, and
SATURDAY MARCH 9
at Penny's Pantry
at the Golf Club 6 PM
with Silent Auction.

Information**Information****Gulf Island Horse Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday, March 12, 6pm - 8pm
Salt Spring Public Library Meeting room

Contact Jacky 250-537-2018
jacoo@telus.net

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the**Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society**

will be held on
Monday, March 25th 2019

at the
Lions Hart Bradley Hall at 1:30pm

What's happening at your Library?

Find out at the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 21, 2019
Community Program Room
3:30 p.m.

All active library cardholders are welcome to
attend and are eligible to vote at the meeting.
Refreshments will be served.

Salt Spring Island
Public Library

AVAILABLE NOW**F.E. (Betty) Ball (Bell)**

SEPT. 17, 1924 - FEB. 20, 2019

Betty, aged 94, died 20 February 2019 in Ganges, BC. Betty was born 17 September 1924 in Winnipeg and lived in a log home on a homestead near Chelan, SK (1924-1941). She was educated through Grade 11 in a one-room school, completed high school at Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon (1942), and earned a BHSC (Foods and Nutrition) at University of Saskatchewan (1946). She started her career as a dietician with hospitals in London, ON, Sheffield, UK, and Chilliwack, BC. She then enlisted in the RCAF and spent 21 years as an officer in the food services. She retired in 1973 at the rank of Major, having served in Europe on the front lines of the Cold War and completed the unification of the separate food operations from the three services. Betty rounded out her career with appointments in Ghana, Victoria and other locations in BC.



Betty married Bob Ball in 1976 and they moved to Salt Spring Island, where they built their Mt. Belcher home and she became active in the community. Betty was a lifelong member of the United Church of Canada, serving in youth leadership or congressional committees wherever she lived, and on SSI was active in building and nurturing the social systems and infrastructure that enable seniors to have a happy and healthy retirement. Betty was a life member of the Canadian Dietetic Association, earned an Award of Merit from the BC Dietetic Association and received the Caring Canadian Award (now Sovereign Medal for Volunteerism).

Betty was predeceased by: parents Peter & Della (Fallis) Bell; husband Bob (2018); sister Tanyss (2016); brother-in-law Bob (2006); and nephew Sandy (2013).

She is lovingly remembered by: Brenda, David and Genny Phillips of Vancouver; Peter, Wanda, Alex and Andrew Phillips of Saskatoon; Michael, Jenny, Cristina and Sarah Ball of Victoria; and Tony of England; cousins in the US and Scotland; and many friends around the world.

Until this past November, Betty was a 'super senior' - defying age, with an active lifestyle and mind. Betty touched everyone she met.

Betty's funeral was held on Saturday Feb. 23rd. In lieu of flowers, we encourage you donate to your favourite caring charity.

Coming Events**Coming Events**

The Annual General Meeting
OF THE

salt spring arts council

Sunday March 17, 2019 at 10 am
will be held at Mahon Hall
114 Rainbow Road, Ganges

Everyone Welcome. Memberships available.
Refreshments and light snacks will be served.

Join us find out about SSAC accomplishments in
2018, and plans for 2019.

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OUTDOOR RECREATION

March treks scheduled

Three speaking events this month

On Thursday, March 7 at Lions Hall beginning at 7 p.m., Sarah Patton will present: Protecting the Resident Whales in the Salish Sea. Patton is a research biologist/coordinator at the Coastal Ocean Research Institute, Ocean Wise.

Then on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m., also at the Lions Hall, John Millson will present Addressing What We Don't Know About Salt Spring Island's Water. John is technical chair of the subsurface working group (SSIWPA), a roving director on the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society board, he leads the Freshwater Catalogue initiative.

On Tuesday, March 26, Morgan Black, a PhD candidate and Hakai Scholar at the University of Victoria will present Fish and Invertebrates of Ancient First Nations' Clam Gardens at the Salt Spring Library at 7 p.m.

Hikers

March 12: Bill Goddu will lead us deep in the heart of the Musgrave to see big, big trees, old homesteads, bluffs and waterfalls. Moderately strenuous. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m., Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

March 19: Kees Visser will lead us on trails on Mount Maxwell. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or at the Armand Way trailhead at 10

a.m. It will be a moderate hike, zigzagging along Mount Maxwell, mainly over trails, but there will be a bit of bushwacking.

March 26: Susan Fussell will take us on a shorter hike up the north side of Burgoyne Bay to a lovely lookout for lunch. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 and Burgoyne parking lot at 10 a.m.

Walkers

March 12: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. and carpool to the trailhead at Broadwell and Tern in Channel Ridge. Elaine will be waiting there for the walk to start at 10:20 a.m. As on the Channel Ridge Trail Map, we'll walk to #28, up to #21 and then over towards #25. There is some hill climbing but we'll take breaks if people need a breather. We'll come up at #32 and end up at Canvasback Place and Elaine's deck for lunch and a beautiful view of Vancouver Island. We'll walk back along the trail over to Merganser and then head down Canvasback and over to your cars parked at Broadwell and Tern.

March 19: Ron Hawkins will lead us on a short but scenic hike from Old Divide Road through the Blackburn Reserve and around that area. No lunch stop. Back by noon. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the intersection of Old Divide and Salt Spring Way at 10:15.

March 26: With Angie Trarup starting at 10 a.m. we'll walk from ArtSpring through Mouat Park exiting at the Rainbow Road

What is this? Where is it?



Can you identify what and where this is on Salt Spring? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or send a note to us on Facebook. The first person to submit the right answer gets their name published in this space.



LAST WEEK: Kathy Hafting was the first person to recognize the above photo as the Breaching Orca 3 sculpture by Salt Spring artist Carl Sean McMahon that is situated outside of Mahon Hall.

Aquatic Centre, then along Atkins to Lower Ganges, Booth Canal, Harrison and Baker. Lunch at Baker Beach. Return the same route with variations along the way.

Ramblers

March 12: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. to carpool to Drummond Park. Paul and Donna will take us to the waterfall, and back to their house for soup. Bring a sandwich if you like.

March 19: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m., then Sterling and Maureen will take us from there.

March 26: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m., then Ann will lead us around Mouat Park and back to town for lunch.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

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Information

SAY NO to FAKE NEWS!
63% of Canadians can't tell the difference between real and fake news. Support reliable LOCAL journalism. Join the list www.newspapersmatter.ca.

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Tenders

Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that I, **SS MARINA LTD., INC. NO. 710073** from **Ganges, BC** have applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), for a **Lease - Commercial Marina** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Ganges Harbour**.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **Crown Land File # 1401966**.

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9.

Comments will be received by FLNR up to **April 11, 2019**. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

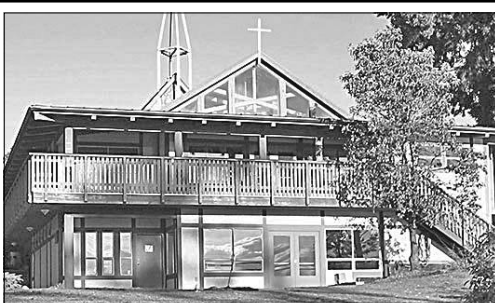
Please visit our website: <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/> for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operation and Rural Development office in Nanaimo.

Community Newspapers
We're at the heart of things™

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island
Parish Office Assistant
Part Time - 12 hours per Week
Wednesday to Friday 09:00 to 13:00
At 110 Park Drive

- Eye for detail
- Highly computer competent
- Proficient in MS Office Suite including Word, Excel, Publisher
- Flourishes in a multi-task environment
- Outgoing, friendly person, meets the public easily
- Knowledge of church life an asset.

Apply with covering email and resume to
ssanglican@shaw.ca

WHAT'S ON
page 12

Help Wanted

Coastal Mountain Child & Youth Services

We are currently accepting resumes for a number of Residential Child & Youth Worker positions within our organization in the Cowichan Valley. 1. Part-Time 28 hours a week (8 am to 4 pm Sat/Sun and 4:30 to 10:30 Mon/Tues) in our 6 - bed residence program. 2. Casual Work in our 6-bed residence program and our 1 to 1 program. Must have minimum 3rd year Child & Youth Care or related education and experience. Please send your resumes to cmcsy@telus.net

getnoticedboard

The free place to list your regular group activities of any kind.

Send your submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop them off at the Driftwood office. Published in the first Driftwood of each month!

WEDNESDAY

SALT SPRING GENEALOGY GROUP meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Mormon church. Info: Email clouidie48@gmail.com
STITCH DIMENSION QUILT GUILD meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m. at the Salt Spring Island Baptist Church, around the back.
SALT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel.
SOUTH SALT SPRING SENIORS meet on the last Wednesday of each month at Fulford Hall at 2 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

5RHYTHMS MOVEMENT & DANCE CLASS led by Shauna Devlin at All Saints By-the-Sea (downstairs). 9 to 10 a.m.
BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC at SS Seniors Centre board room. 10 to 11 a.m. Confidential, accurate, easy and convenient.
BOOMERFIT at Fulford Hall. 9 to 10 a.m. Experience a variety of exercises that will awaken every muscle in your body. Stretch, strengthen, mobilize, BFit! Core strength, stabilization and injury prevention are a main focus. Info: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.
BRIDGE CLUB at the SS Library program room from 12:30 to 4 p.m.
CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP for people caring for individuals with Alzheimers and others. Every Wednesday at Salt Spring Seniors (379 Lower Ganges Rd.) at 11 a.m. Info: Margaret Monro, 250-537-5004.
COMPUTER HELP — Free help with computer, tablet, smartphone issues at Salt Spring Literacy. By appointment at the literacy centre at 1258 Rainbow Rd. or by calling 250-537-9717 or emailing coordinator@saltspringliteracy.org.
DUPLICATE BRIDGE group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 12:45 p.m. (for 1 p.m. start).
FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY offers free access to premium genealogy websites at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 221 Vesuvius Bay Rd. from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.
GAMES AFTERNOON at Salt Spring Seniors. 1 to 3 p.m.
HATHA FLOW YOGA with Dorothy Price at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m.
KIRTAN at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 7:30 p.m.
MEDITATION GROUP suitable for beginners meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10:10 to 11 a.m. Everyone welcome. Info: Deb Stevenson, 250-930-5333.
MEDITATION MEETINGS and teachings with the Salt Spring Vipassana Society. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. Offered by donation with Insight Meditation teacher Heather Martin. 7 to 8:30 p.m.
MEN'S BRIDGE at Salt Spring Seniors at 7 p.m.
PICKLEBALL runs at Portlock Park from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.
SSI PAINTERS GUILD meets at ArtSpring. 9:30 a.m. For activities see website ssipaintersguild.ca.
SSI ROTARY CLUB meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
SWING DANCE at SS Elementary School gym. East-Coast, West-Coast, and Lindy Hop. Everyone welcome. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call Larry Nelson or Wendy Hartnett at 250-537-4118.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
YOGA - Mixed levels with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre. 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. and 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. PLUS Chair Yoga (Seniors) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
YOGA with Dorothy Price at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Info: info@santasha-yoga-retreats.com, 250-537-7675
YOGA FLOW with Li Mei Wong at Duck Creek Farm resumes in warmer weather. Info: limei.wong1@gmail.com
ZEN MEDITATION at 210 Cedar Lane at 7:15 p.m. Call 250-537-2062 for details. Newcomers always welcome.
ZUMBA TONING with Lee Sigmund at SSI Wellness Centre. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets on the first Thursday of the month at SS Wellness Centre. 1 to 2 p.m. Info: ljcharlton@shaw.ca
VISUALLY IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP meets on the first Thursday of the month at SS Seniors Centre, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Info: David at 250-537-8595 or Seniors Centre 250-537-4604.

EVERY THURSDAY

AIKIDO MARTIAL ARTS classes for kids and adults at the SSI Wellness Centre. Kids from 5 to 6 p.m., and adults from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: Alan, 250-538-5549; alanwardroper@gmail.com.
AL-ANON for friends and families of alcoholics holds an Easy Does It Lunch Bunch open meeting at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 12 to 1 p.m.
DANCE TEMPLE at Beaver Point Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.
LUNCH at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
KUNDALINI YOGA - all levels with Shannon Cowan at the Wellness Centre. 8 to 9:15 a.m.
NIA — Discover the delicious music, mindful movement & healing magic of Nia, a fabulous, fun blend of dance, martial arts and yoga. Antler Ridge Dance Studio, 211 Horel Rd., 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.
OPEN MIC NIGHT at the Legion. 7 to 9 p.m.
PICKLEBALL runs at Fernwood Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m.
SQUASH - Have Fun Learning Squash introductory sessions at the squash court at the Salt Spring Golf Club. Bring clean non-marking shoes. First time is free. 7:30 to 9 p.m.
STAY & PLAY DROP-IN at Family Place for ages 0 to 6 and caregivers. 12:30 to 3 p.m.
TAOIST TAI CHI for beginners at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
WOMEN'S YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.
VIJNANA YOGA with Liz Young at Stowel Lake Farm. 6 to 7:30 p.m.
YOGA ALL LEVELS with Dorothy Price at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
YOGA with Jim Dickinson at SS Seniors. 2 to 3 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

COFFEE TIME for seniors is at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
DRUM CIRCLE meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 4 to 6 p.m.
ELEMENTARY BRIDGE COACHING. Beginning bridge lessons (but also with more advanced coaching available) at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
FAMILY MOVIE MATINEE at the SS Public Library Program Room. 2:30 p.m. Check SS library for exact schedule.
STORYTIME at the SS Public Library in the children's corner at 11 a.m. Drop-in program best for kids ages 3-6 and their caregivers.
FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 10 to 11 a.m. Move with less pain and stress by learning how to make any activity more effective and more enjoyable. Info/register: anna@bonesforever.com.
GAMES NIGHT at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. Facilitator Bryan Dubien brings his vast collection of board games, or you can bring your own. 6 to 9 p.m.
MAH JONGG players gather at Salt Spring Seniors from 12:15 to 2 p.m.
MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 to 6 p.m.
MIXED LEVELS YOGA with John Howe at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.
WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENCE with Kaya Reiss at SSI Wellness Centre. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

DAD 'N' ME PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Family Place. For dads and kids aged 0 to 6. 8:30 to 10 a.m.
EFT TAPPING (Emotional Freedom Techniques) intro and demos led by Judith Gane at SS Centre of Yoga. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: Judith, 250-537-5322.
MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 to 6 p.m.
PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.
TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Open practice. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS with Lee Sigmund. SSI Wellness Centre. 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY

BADMINTON at the GISS Gym. All levels of play. Own racquet and non-marking gym shoes are necessary. 7 to 9 p.m. Info: Gayle, 250-653-4613
KUNDALINI YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SS Wellness Centre. 10 to 11:15 a.m.
PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 9 to 10 a.m. for beginners, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for open play and 12 to 2 p.m. for advanced.
RED BALL TENNIS. Indoors at the Salt Spring Island Tennis Centre behind the golf club for adults ages 16 and over. Two hours of fun, exercise and friendship. Mini-court tennis from 3 to 5 p.m. Info: Laura Moore, 250-537-0721.

EVERY SUNDAY

SUNDAY SATSANG at the SS Centre of Yoga. 3:30 p.m.
YIN YOGA with Shelby Luffman at SS Wellness Centre. 12 to 1:15 p.m.

MONDAY

SSI FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT usually meets on the third Monday of each month at the Ganges Fire Hall at 7 p.m. See www.saltspringfire.com.
SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION usually meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the SS Public Library Program Room. 4 to 6 p.m.
YOUTH BOOK CLUB for ages 9 to 12 meets at the Salt Spring Public Library on March 4 only this month. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Check the library for details.

EVERY MONDAY

ACTIVE LEARNING group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 to 4 p.m.
BOOMERFIT at Beaver Point Hall. 9 to 10 a.m. See Wednesday class description (but note different location). Contact: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.
CHESS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
DARTS at the Legion from 6 to 9 p.m.
DUPLICATE BRIDGE meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors Services. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.
EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 1 to 2 p.m.
FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 9 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alicef@saltspring.com.
NIA — See Thursday description, except the location is All Saints Church, downstairs hall. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.
PICKLEBALL runs at Portlock Park from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.
SALT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB holds casual coffee mornings for its members at Penny's on the Green at 10 a.m.
SALT SPRING SCOTTISH DANCERS meet at All Saints from 6 to 8 p.m.
TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. With beginners until 8 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
TECH TUTORING WITH CONRAD at the Salt Spring library. iPad, Tablet and eReader tutoring with Conrad Koke. Sign-up sheets are found in the Info Desk Programs binder. Sessions are available every Monday at 12 and 1 p.m.
THE CLINIC by OPT: Options for Sexual Health is open every Monday at the Çore Inn 2nd floor. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 250-537-8786.
TOASTMASTERS, a dedicated band of public speaking learners and enthusiasts, meets at the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m. Guests always welcome.
VIJNANA YOGA LEVEL 2 with Cathy Valentine at Stowel Lake Farm. 5:30 to 7 p.m.
YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre: Mixed Levels from both 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.; Level 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 4:30 to 6 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

AL-ANON for friends and families of alcoholics meets at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE. All are welcome to join the tango group, Por el Amor del Tango, at weekly practicas. All Saints By-the-Sea. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: ssi.tango@gmail.com
ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 1 to 3 p.m.
CHESS GROUP plays games at Salt Spring Seniors. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
CHOIR at Salt Spring Seniors. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
EFT TAPPING (Emotional Freedom Techniques) intro and demos led by Judith Gane at SS Public Library. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: Judith, 250-537-5322.
FLOOR HOCKEY at Fulford Hall at 7:30 p.m.
LIFE DRAWING GROUP meets at Lions Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. All welcome.
LOST CHORDS seniors choir meets at SS Seniors at 10:30 a.m.
NIA — See Thursday description, except the location is All Saints Church upper hall from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.
MEN'S GROUP - A council of highly supportive men. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Info: John, call/text 1-519-821-9703, reinless@mender.ca or meetup.com/reinless/
PICKLEBALL games are played at Fernwood Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m. Instruction and equipment provided for beginners. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.
SALT SPRING IMPROV WORKSHOP: Free, drop-in improv theatre games for adults and teens 15 and up. Beginners welcome! SS Elementary multi-purpose room. 7 to 9 p.m. Info: sue.kernaghan@shaw.ca.
SQUASH - Have Fun Learning Squash introductory sessions at the squash court at the Salt Spring Golf Club. Bring clean non-marking shoes. First time is free. 10:30 a.m. to noon.
SS SEARCH & RESCUE - Learn ground survival, search and rescue techniques at the SAR Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.
STAY & PLAY DROP-IN for parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6 at Family Place. 12 to 3 p.m.
TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
UBUNTU sacred chants with Barb Slater. SSI Wellness Centre. 1 to 2:30 p.m.
YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE — Slow Flow class at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.



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SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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SAILING

Shifty winds and freighters make race exciting

Handicapping system boosts chances

BY GREG SLAKOV
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The thought of sailboat racing in the middle of winter may seem strange to some, but throughout the winter a group of intrepid sailors from the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club meets every weekend or two to do just that.

On Feb. 24, this stalwart group put on toques, fleece and long underwear and enjoyed a lovely eight- to 10-knot northerly breeze, along with some welcome sunshine, to race to the Channel Islands and back.

Six boats took part in the race. There was a downwind start, with some of the keeners getting good starts right at the gun, notably Bob Jones on Oasis and Kevin Vine on Deryn Mor. The other boats were shorthanded, had sail handling issues, or simply decided to wait a couple of minutes to avoid the pressure of the start line.



PHOTO COURTESY SSI SAILING CLUB

Shingebiss, crewed by Gyle Keating, which finished in the middle of the pack of a winter's day sailing race to the Channel Islands from Ganges Harbour.

The wind was quite shifty and puffy all day, requiring the crews to change course and alter sail trim constantly to wrest the best from the breeze. However, the wind never died, allowing the fleet to maintain good speed from the start

to the finish of the 14.6-mile course.

One interesting component of the race was the very strong ebbing current, moving from north to south in Captain Passage. This required careful consideration, with boats trying to get into this cur-

rent quickly on the way south, and attempting to stay out of it on the way back home.

Many islanders have noticed that Captain Passage now hosts anchored freighters more often. This was one of the first races where freighters affected the running of a race. First, an anchored ship close to the Salt Spring shore required consideration as it blocked the wind to leeward for at least 100 metres. More excitingly, a northbound freighter went between the boats in the fleet and caused Gyle Keating on Shingebiss to elect (in an act of self-preservation) to stay close to the Salt Spring side of the channel on the way home. Up close, these ships are intimidating, and when they are moving at speed, they are downright scary.

The race was tight for the lead boats all day long, with Shingebiss, Radiant Heat, Oasis and Sorcery in touch at most mark roundings. The first three boats finished within 10 minutes of each other. At the other end of the scale, fleet captain Greg

Taylor finished almost two hours back after a few interesting episodes. Taylor is learning fast, illustrating how it is never too late to join in the great sport of sailboat racing. Even though the social gathering on Oasis had died down by the time Taylor finished, the crew of Shingebiss was still on their boat, and heartily invited Taylor aboard for a visit. Great fun was had by all.

A different type of scoring — similar to golf handicapping — was used in this race to make it even more fun for our diverse fleet of boats and skill levels and to invite new boats and crew members to join us. If an individual crew has a particularly good race compared to their typical race, they stand a very good chance of winning. In theory, all boats have a roughly equal chance.

After handicapping, the finish order was Oasis (Jones), Sorcery (Greg Slakov), Shingebiss (Keating), Radiant Heat (Tony Brogan), Deryn Mor (Vine) and Skeena Cloud (Taylor).

BASKETBALL

Boys end season with close game

Reduced squad at south islands playoffs

BY MARC KITTINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary School senior boys basketball team came fifth overall at the South Islands playoffs on the weekend of Feb. 14-16 at St. Michael's University School in Victoria, narrowly missing the slot to the Vancouver Island finals.

The team was down two of their four Grade 12 starters, but coach Myles Wilson explained that it gave some of the younger players the chance to step up in a bigger tournament. Only eight players from GISS played in the first game, where the team was defeated 70-52 by Parkland. However, the boys did get the chance to keep moving up, playing against Pacific Christian School the next day.

"We had to win this game in order to get a chance to play for the fourth spot to go to the Islands," Wilson said. "We knew it would be a hard game and it would be close."

By halftime, GISS was down by 21 points. The team fought back to get the score within 10 points by the end of the third quarter. Within three minutes of the final buzzer, Pacific Christian was up again by 14 points.

"Our boys knew what we needed to accomplish to get back into the game so they put constant pressure on [Pacific Christian] during these last minutes," Wilson said.

Point guard Colton Archer was fouled out near the end of the game, and Matty Schure took his place in the last few

minutes. At around the 10-second mark, Pacific Christian had a slim lead of five points. Grade 9 student Reuben Wright was able to make a three-point shot and the score was then even closer after a foul shot brought the score within one point.

"Nathan Lavalie and Ezra Watson were the two forwards on the floor at the time and if he missed we needed the rebound with five seconds on the clock. It was tense. Matty rimmed the shot and Ezra out-worked his check and got the rebound. He went back up and was fouled in the act of shooting."

Watson sunk both of his foul shots to win the game.

"I must say he was pretty cool stepping to the line," Wilson said. "As a coach, if I want someone at the line to take those shots I would have picked Ezra. Ezra made both foul shots and put us up by one point with 2.3 seconds left on the clock. Pacific Christian was able to get a shot off from their end, which did come close to going in, but GISS pulled off a great comeback and put themselves in a position to go to the Islands. I am sure the kids will remember this game for a while."

The team advanced to the next slot, playing Parkland for the second time. However, they were unable to keep up with Parkland and were defeated 67-60, ending the team's playoff run and their season.

"They really were a young team and they never gave up all season," Wilson said. "We are looking forward to next season and believe good things will happen on the basketball court for GISS over the next few years."

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