

Our
**2019 YEAR
IN REVIEW**
starts on page 5.
See all the highlights
of the year!

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Driftwood

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Jan. 1, 2020

60th year
Issue 1

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makeover begins



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2019 YEAR in REVIEW



Mount Maxwell and Fulford Harbour seen from the deck of the Bowen Queen last week.

PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JANUARY 2020 HNP Z+8

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
1	0203	1.1	3.6	5	0300	2.5	8.2
	1009	3.5	11.5		0510	2.4	7.9
	WE 1727	2.2	7.2		1151	3.2	10.5
	ME 2008	2.2	7.2		DI 1945	1.1	3.6
2	0238	1.5	4.9	6	0402	2.8	9.2
	1035	3.4	11.2		0636	2.7	8.9
	TH 1809	1.9	6.2		MO 1218	3.2	10.5
	JE 2222	2.1	6.9		LU 2015	0.9	3.0
3	0315	1.8	5.9	7	0443	3.0	9.8
	1100	3.3	10.8		0755	2.9	9.5
	FR 1843	1.7	5.6		TU 1246	3.2	10.5
	VE				MA 2047	0.6	2.0
4	0056	2.2	7.2	8	0520	3.2	10.5
	0401	2.1	6.9		0904	3.0	9.8
	SA 1125	3.3	10.8		WE 1318	3.3	10.8
	SA 1914	1.4	4.6		ME 2122	0.4	1.3

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- Instead of sodas, juices, and all other plastic-bottled beverages, eat fresh fruit or drink water or herbal tea using your own portable cup.
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- Instead of buying milk in cardboard or plastic containers, buy it in returnable glass bottles, if available. (All cardboard milk containers are coated inside and out with plastic, not wax.)
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Community Christmas Dinner 2019 – photos by Ramona Lam



Enjoying their time as key volunteers for the 20th annual Community Christmas Dinner, organized by the Salt Spring United Church and other helpers, are, from left, Harvey Moore, Richard Dick and John Lugsdin.



From top, volunteers Tom Mitchell and Leslie DeAthe.



Decorated tables ready for the guests to arrive at Meaden Hall.



ISLANDS TRUST

Trust Council sets strategic plan

Public input still wanted for Islands 2050 project

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council will be focusing on five priorities for the remainder of the current electoral term, having approved its 2018-22 strategic plan in December.

Projects and policy will centre on the areas of climate change, land stewardship, marine and freshwater stewardship, community and communication, and governance.

"The Islands Trust mandate is to preserve and protect," Islands Trust Council chair Peter Luckham stated in a news release. "Having adopted our strategic plan, we will now focus on responding to the challenges facing the Islands Trust Area. We will be working at both the regional and local levels to advance the priorities of this Trust Council."

The plan provides a framework to guide decision-making and resource allocation in addition to forming a basis for 2020-21 fiscal year budget preparations.

Luckham observed that Trust Council joined other voices around the globe to declare a climate emergency in 2019. Therefore, many elements of the strategic plan will address climate change mitigation and adaption. Relationships with local First Nations will also be a major lens for guiding policy.

"As the strategic plan implementation takes place, reconcili-

ation will be fundamental to the Islands Trust's work. Through the Reconciliation Action Plan, Islands Trust Council will strive to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action," the news release explains.

The plan specifically includes 23 strategies in support of nine objectives: to preserve, protect and advocate for forest and terrestrial ecosystems; preserve and protect marine ecosystems; protect the quality and quantity of freshwater resources of the Trust Area; mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts; improve community engagement and participation in Islands Trust work; strengthen housing affordability throughout the Islands Trust Area; strengthen relations with First Nations; improve and modernize the ability of the Islands Trust to regulate land use activity and work with others; and amend the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

Work has already started in regard to the final objective listed. In September 2019 the Trust launched Islands 2050, a public engagement process designed to help revise the policy statement. Multiple in-person sessions took place over the fall, and comments were sought online.

The Trust is still looking for more online input and will be hosting a conversation on the Thought Exchange platform until Jan. 31. Participants can weigh in on what they value about the Islands Trust Area, and voice their concerns for the region over the next 30 years in light of climate change. For more information, visit www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/islands-2050/.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Lions' kids park opens

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation and the Salt Spring Lions introduced a new natural playground structure at Centennial Park just in time for Christmas.

The playground opened on Dec. 20 and has many climbing features meant to encourage creative play, including ropes, natural log posts and a stepping feature.

The berm, slide and wooden stepping stones are currently closed to allow settling. Still to come this spring will be the return of the iconic rocking horse, benches, a water fountain and landscaping. There is also a spot reserved for a new feature once PARC hears from the community about what could make the space even better.

The park's opening will also be celebrated at a New Year's Eve community family event at the park co-sponsored by the Lions Club and Windsor Plywood. It runs from 4 to 6 p.m. and sees hot dogs and hot chocolate served, as well as a fireworks display.

RCMP remind people to lock cars

Salt Spring RCMP are encouraging residents to lock their vehicles whenever they are unoccupied and to report to the local detachment if they believe a theft from a vehicle has occurred, no matter how small.

While RCMP files revealed only one recent report of a theft from a vehicle, a community member told the Driftwood she had heard of a few different thefts occurring. The reported incident was in the 100 block of Beddis Road.

RCMP Cpl. Matthew Crist said if reports to RCMP are made, then the detachment "can gauge the severity of the issue or determine if it is occurring in a specific area or during certain times, etc."

Check Driftwood website

Due to holiday press deadlines, this issue of the Driftwood was sent to press earlier than usual. Readers should check the www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com website or our Facebook page for news updates and the online events calendar.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

EXPLORATION: Liam Wood checks out the new climbing structure at the Centennial Park Lions Club playground that was ready for kids to use on Dec. 20.

Driftwood Decorating Contest Winners



PHOTOS BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

At left, Linda Koroscil of Love My Kitchen receives the best all-round award in the Driftwood's 2019 Christmas decorating contest from account manager Shirley Command, while below, Command gives the second best all-round award and the people's choice award to firefighter Warren Nuyens for the Ganges fire hall display.



Driftwood account manager Eli Wick, left, gives Jeremy Milsom of Salt Spring Inn the best use of lights award.

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OPINION



2019 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)
Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

2019 BCYCNA Awards
Gold - Best Arts & Culture Writing (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best Environmental Writing (Gail Sjuberg)
Silver - Best Multimedia Feature (Marc Kitteringham)
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EDITORIAL

Voices heard

Looking back on a year’s worth of happenings through the Driftwood’s Year in Review feature, one thing that emerges loud and clear is that when islanders act or speak out, change can happen.

Without passing judgement on whether or not all actions are positive ones, the impact that islanders can have is remarkable. In several cases, changes in policies or direction from governing bodies did result due to public pressure.

One example is concerns about unbridled private land logging and the Islands Trust’s inability to control it in any way, and how that connects to climate change. While lobbying by island residents did not see change to private land logging regulations occur at the provincial government level, efforts did see the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee put protection of the coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem on its top priority list in December.

THE ISSUE: Island activism

WE SAY: Speaking out has an impact

A concerted effort by Gulf Islanders For Safe Technology members and other individuals to question the proposed Legion property for siting a CREST emergency communications tower definitely made an impact. Salt Spring’s LTC was sufficiently moved by public concern to ask CREST to investigate other location options.

Island residents speaking loudly about unacceptable ferry-service levels also saw changes made. Flaggers were brought in for both Vesuvius and Fulford villages to improve safety, and BC Ferries announced that the Bowen Queen would be the peak-season vessel on the Vesuvius-Crofton route in 2020.

Most dramatically, the Capital Regional District’s community safety service bylaw was soundly defeated by more than twice the required number of voters taking the time to register their opposition to the proposal. The idea itself came about because some community members identified a problem and helped make a case to the CRD for support, which is also an example of people speaking out to effect change. Many people expressed a dislike of Bylaw 4325 because of the alternate approval process rather than the concept itself, something legislators may take note of for future proposals.

It’s heartening to realize that when people unite and express their concerns, those in power will sometimes listen and respond. Let’s hope that trend continues through 2020 and beyond.



Another world is possible

BY JAN SLAKOV

After a night of spiritual awakening, Scrooge gets out of bed, learns Christmas Day is just beginning and yes, the prize turkey is still for sale.

Christmas 2019 is over, but it is still not too late. The “prize turkey” may be gone, but are there still intact ecosystems and healthy communities working to protect them? Yes!

It can be hard to keep our spirits up though, after so many hopeful efforts have seemingly failed.

One of my favourite authors, Barbara Kingsolver, invites us to figure out what we hope for and then, “live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.”

What might that mean? For Rob Hopkins, co-founder of the Transition Town movement, imagination and creativity are key. Imagining a low-carbon community, and working together to make it happen has been empowering. “When organizers asked participants [involved in Transition work] what was most impactful about taking part, nobody mentioned carbon. Or money. They reported that they felt [...] as though they belonged.” To learn more, check out his “From

VIEWPOINT

What Is to What If” video or get the book.

Hopkins found research showing that creativity and IQ rose concomitantly from the ‘60s till the ‘90s, when creative thinking started to decline. The researcher attributed this to children having less time for play, more time on devices, etc. So it’s encouraging to know that Salt Spring Middle School parents and staff are restricting the use of electronic devices in school.

Let’s collect examples we can revisit, as “talismans,” so we can know what is possible. For example, while I know wars happen, I also know they can be prevented. Exhibit #1 might be this: Once a man, in pain over the loss of a friend in the Vietnam War, came to a Pete Seeger concert, intending to kill the performer. But Seeger saw his banjo as a “machine that surrounds hate and forces it to surrender.” Somehow, for that man, being there with all those people singing together was indeed transformative. The man came up to Seeger afterwards to tell him that the concert had “cleansed” his anger. Most Canadians went

along with residential school policies, some convinced this was helpful for the stolen children. Now we know that thousands never made it out alive, and the policy of separating Indigenous people from their lands and culture continues. The Coastal GasLink fracked gas pipeline is still being pushed through Wetsuwet’en territory, fracking is subsidized in B.C. even though it has been banned in New Brunswick and elsewhere. But people struggling to protect their territory are not alone. Islanders and others have helped to build a healing lodge in the path of the pipeline and legal challenges continue.

For me, a highlight of 2019 was participating in an impromptu solidarity protest for Wetsuwet’en land defenders, a protest blocking Vancouver’s Hastings and Main streets. Often, I find it tough to witness how people there, with no other “living room” than the street, struggle with trauma, addiction, homelessness. But that day many of those people seemed well, standing up for their beliefs, and city police did their job in a respectful, caring manner. Another world is possible. May 2020 help us get there!

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THIS WEEK’S POLL QUESTION:

Have you set any New Year’s resolutions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION:

Unavailable due to technical difficulties.

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.

10 YEAR in REVIEW

PULL-OUT SECTION pgs 5-16

A month-by-month look back at 2019 through the pages of the Driftwood.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Ed Neff stands in mud and rubble that came onto his property after part of Stewart Road washed away in a January storm.

January

- Stewart Road was closed near the 200 block on Jan. 4 after a major slide swept the roadbed over a steep bank and through property owned by Ed and Abby Neff. The slide would end the road's use as an alternate access between Ganges and Fulford for two months while the road was repaired and resurfaced.

- Nur Solay Admoni, Salt Spring's first baby of 2019, was born on Jan. 5 at 7 a.m. Happy parents Maria Robins and Asaf Admoni and their son Luca welcomed the new baby to the family at their Wilkie Way home.

- A man who went overboard in Ganges Harbour was rescued near Grace Point Square. Two BC Hydro workers and a bystander who noticed the boat capsize took a vessel out and performed CPR on the man until he regained consciousness. Emergency crews arrived soon afterward and assumed care of the patient before his transport to Lady Minto Hospital.

- Islanders expressed thanks to paid and volunteer emergency service providers who were active during and after the Dec. 20, 2018 windstorm during the Salt Spring Blowdown Brunch. The event at the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute attracted several hundred people who shared stories and donated food. "There's been a lot of amazing support in this community and I really appreciate all the help," said BC Hydro linesman Josh Rosborough, after accepting thanks from the crowd along with several co-workers. "It really gave me a lot of motivation to just try to 'get one more person on tonight.'"

- Salt Spring home valuations went up

by 15 per cent according to the annual figures released by BC Assessment, bringing the average-assessed residential property from \$537,592 to \$620,297. Property values saw a similar increase across the other major Southern Gulf Islands.

- The Salt Spring Island Rowing Club launched a fundraising campaign to replace five boats that were damaged in the December windstorm, plus another boat prone to leaks. Damage to club property during the storm event was caused by just one tree branch hitting multiple rowing sculls in a storage rack, and was estimated at \$130,000.

- The Capital Regional District stepped back from plans to eliminate compensation for livestock killed by rogue dogs after hearing from farmers who would be impacted by a bylaw change. The policy was to award 75 per cent of livestock loss when dogs that killed livestock could not be identified, but the CRD said there was no budget line for the compensation. Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman said he had no intention of supporting a change to the policy, which he said was infrequently used but helpful to farmers when it was needed.

- The North Salt Spring Waterworks District implemented changes to its parcel tax assessment bylaw, including a new per-home parcel tax and a surtax for modular units located within Brinkworthy Estates. The base parcel tax for the community as a whole was simultaneously decreased. As well, NSSWD established a new townhome taxation class for strata units, based on 83 per cent of the rate for a single family dwelling located on a parcel of land up to one acre in size.

Wishing Everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2020!

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2019 YEAR in REVIEW



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

The Castle Finn smoulders the day after it was damaged by fire the night before. Attempts to remove the vessel from the shoreline near Beachside had failed before the blaze occurred.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Persistent February snowfalls meant numerous vehicles slid off the road, like this truck.

January, cont.

- The non-profit Gulf Islands Community Radio Society submitted an application to the Canadian Radio Telecommunications Commission to re-establish a radio station on Salt Spring. A hole in local broadcasting communications had been left after the privately owned CFSI station, which operated from 2009 to 2015, had its license revoked. The CRTC would issue a call for comments on the viability of a local station in December.

- An application to collect a two per cent tax on accommodation purchases throughout the Southern Gulf Islands was set to go from Destination BC to the Ministry of Finance for approval. The tax was proposed by the newly incorporated Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society to manage tourism and marketing more sustainably through the year.

- Witnesses were sought after five vehicles belonging to Salt Spring Search and Rescue volunteers were vandalized while parked on Fulford-Ganges Road during a training session. The cars were mainly keyed along their length, although one also appeared to have been run across and jumped on. The incident came after a series of vandal attacks against Ganges businesses and organizations.

- Around 250 people gathered for the third annual Women's Walk in Ganges, part of activities being held around the world to promote equal rights and end violence against women.

- The controversial Castle Finn vessel was largely destroyed by a fire that RCMP deemed to be suspicious in nature. The heavy-hulled live-aboard boat had been grounded on a shoal at the head of Ganges Harbour since the previous November, and had inspired multiple unsuccessful attempts by community members to get it back afloat. No one was injured or known to be on board during the fire.

February

- The NSSWD turned down a request to allow a caretaker suite at the Creekhous building in Ganges. The suite was proposed to house a caretaker who could keep the building safe and deter ongoing vandalism. NSSWD determined the suite would be a violation of its moratorium on new connections, despite projected lower water use with planned upgrades.

- Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands were buried under a major snowfall that started on Feb. 9 and ended up making February 2019 the snowiest February on record. Up to 68 cm was measured at Environment Canada's closest weather station at the Victoria airport. Poor road conditions resulted in ferry cancellations between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay on Feb. 10 and caused the Gulf Islands School District to cancel classes Monday through Wednesday. Many businesses were also shuttered. The snowfall also impacted travel on Vancouver Island, where Highway 17 and the Malahat were closed to traffic for periods on Feb. 9.

A community meeting was jointly hosted by the CRD and the Salt Spring Community Alliance at the end of the month to take stock of the response to the recent snow and wind storm events, and to see how individual, community and agency-level action could improve in the future.

- The Capital Regional District joined a list of global communities in declaring a climate change crisis. Victoria mayor Lisa Helps, who introduced the motion, said the declaration would help the regional body plan to eliminate carbon emissions by 2030. Twenty-three members of the public made individual delegations to the CRD's Feb. 13 board meeting to support the motion. The Islands Trust would follow suit with a declaration of their own, which was approved at a March 13 Trust Council meeting. SD64 decided against such a motion but acknowledged a climate crisis at their December board meeting.

- Meaden Hall was filled to capacity with people paying tribute to the late Sam Chan, who died on Jan. 6. The long-time and well-loved public face of Golden Island Restaurant died at age 64, not long after his extended family sold the restaurant they had opened in the 1980s.

- Bill C64, or the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act, received royal assent. The new law would recognize vessel owners' responsibility and liability for their wrecks, and give the Canadian Coast Guard and Fisheries and Oceans Canada new powers to act when that responsibility was neglected.

The issue of abandoned boats cluttering up coastal harbours and beaches had been a major focus of concern for the Islands Trust and other local government officials for years running.

- BC Ferries announced that service on the Vesuvius-Crofton route would return to the higher pre-2014 levels as part of a new agreement between the contractor and the provincial government. Service on multiple minor and northern routes was to be restored after being cut by the previous BC Liberal government as a cost-saving measure.

- NSSWD launched a public engagement initiative, asking for feedback on a draft strategic plan meant to guide the organization through the next five years of service delivery. At the same time, the Salt Spring Housing Action Committee initiated a letter-writing campaign asking the improvement district to look for creative solutions to provide water for affordable housing, despite the ongoing moratorium on new connections.

- SD64 reported the good news that it was on track to balance the 2018-19 budget after beginning the school year with a \$250,000 operating deficit. Financial officer Cindy Rodgers presented an amended budget at the Feb. 27 board meeting that forecast a successful reckoning by the end of the year. The district had implemented some unpopular cost-saving measures to achieve the balance and also saw increased enrolment over the previous year.

Looking forward to making sure you have a perfect 20/20!



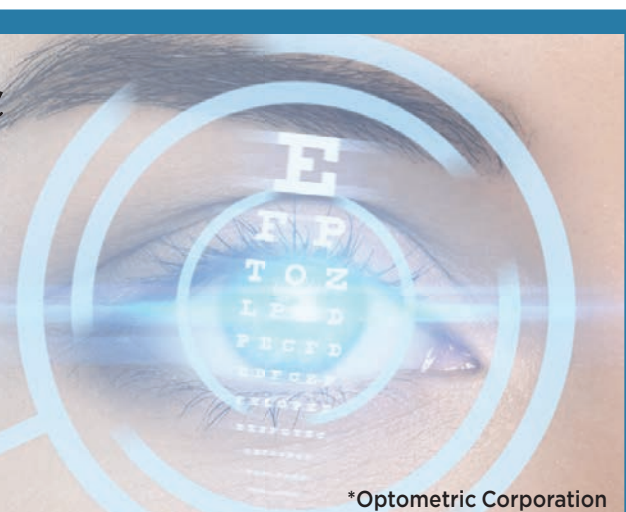
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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

A welcome pole in the Salt Spring Island Middle School/hydro field in Ganges is unveiled.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Area logged on Tsawout and Tseycum reserve lands on Saturna Island, which caused concern among some community members.

March

- Logging on Tsawout and Tseycum reserve lands on Saturna Island attracted opposition from some band members and Saturna residents. Tsawout First Nation member Dan Claxton said the logging operation infringed on rights to practise traditional activities on the reserve, including hunting, medicinal plant harvesting and other activities with cultural importance. Tsawout band council meanwhile argued the logging was necessary to meet various financial needs facing the First Nation, with construction of a new Big House to support community and mental health a high priority.

- Elders from the Tsawout and Cowichan nations, students, teachers, administrators and community members took part in an unveiling ceremony for the Gulf Islands School District's first welcome pole, which was installed at the Salt Spring Middle School playing field. Coast Salish artist Quentin Harris led the carving project at the middle school, which saw students from all over the district join in over three years. "It was a pretty momentous day for the Gulf Islands," said SD64 Indigenous education coordinator Shannon Johnston.

- The federal government announced new rules for seaplane travel stemming from recommendations made after a 2009 crash near Saturna Island and another accident in Ontario in 2012. The new rules would require all passengers and crew on commercial seaplanes with nine passengers or less to wear inflatable flotation devices while on or flying over water bodies. The devices were also to be made available on seaplanes with 10 to 19 passengers, and pilots were to have mandatory training on how to exit seaplanes underwater.

- Island Health announced it would be taking over management of home support services in the Gulf Islands, after 15 years of service delivery by contract to Beacon Community Services. B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix said the change, effective Nov. 1, would help make home-based care more consistent with the province's team-based primary and community care model.

- The Salt Spring Recycling Depot temporarily closed the doors to its book exchange room and was looking for options after American-based company Discover Books announced it was shutting down its Canadian operations. Lady Minto Thrift Store also put book donations temporarily on hold while its committee figured out what to do with the non-sellable excess.

- Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George presented a report to the fire improvement district board asking what direction to take, if any, regarding the regulation of beach fires. The fire

department had recently learned that it had jurisdiction of the local foreshore under its open burning bylaw, and therefore sought direction as to whether a specific regulation was wanted. Community input suggested a permitting approach was preferable to an outright ban.

- The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission opened community consultation on playground replacement plans for Centennial Park. A \$100,000 donation from the Salt Spring Lions Club allowed the commission to double its initial budget for the project.

- Over 1,000 people submitted feedback to BC Ferries on Swartz Bay terminal upgrade plans. Ferries spokesperson Mark Wilson reported the staging and loading for Gulf Islands routes served by the terminal was of major concern to respondents from the area.

- The CRD Board approved its final 2019 budget during a special meeting held on March 20. CRD director Gary Holman reported the total increase for Salt Spring would be 1.8 per cent over the previous year — a number that would be challenged by the Driftwood and other community members for many months to come since it rested on the retirement of a limited, four-year requisition for transportation infrastructure upgrades.

- Islanders concerned about the clear-cut logging of a large private acreage on Beddis Road stepped up their action with a letter requesting a temporary halt to the activity, which was addressed to multiple provincial ministers. The province said authority rested with the Islands Trust, which in turn said it was powerless to act.

- The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee voted to support an application by Bullock Lake Farm to allow their outdoor restaurant and events barn to remain on a portion of the farm located within the Agricultural Land Reserve. Support was conditional on a size limitation and on the farm owners applying to switch a portion of land zoned for commercial accommodation into the ALR in its place. The Agricultural Land Commission would ultimately reject the non-farm use, as reported in October.

- The BC Coroners Service unveiled an interactive map of unidentified human remains aimed at allowing the public to help provide information on cold cases. The map included the body of a man found floating in Ganges Harbour on New Year's Eve, 1976. The case remained unresolved as of the end of 2019.

- The last day of March was a busy one for Salt Spring Fire Rescue crews, who responded to the year's first brush fire near Hillgrove Road in the early afternoon, and then to a Price Road house fire that evening. Both incidents were resolved with minimal damage caused.

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People rally on McPhillips Avenue during a Forest March on April 6, one of several similar events held around the province.



Fire rages at the Ellacott home on Blackburn Road on April 23.

April

- Around 150 people turned out in stormy weather to rally for changes to provincial forestry regulations and practices at Salt Spring’s Forest March BC event. Marches were held in multiple communities around the province on the same Saturday. Event organizers were motivated by similar concerns over clear-cutting, lack of local government ability to regulate and impacts on drinking water, among other concerns.
- British Columbia’s Coastal Ferry Act was amended to include the interests of users and the public interest for the first time since it was enacted in 2003. Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee chair Harold Swierenga said he suspected the new NDP government was hoping to avoid disastrous service cuts with unintended consequences such as those the BC Liberals had imposed as cost-saving measures in 2014. The amendments fell short of returning the company to a crown corporation, though, which many coastal residents had called for after the NDP took power.
- Centennial Park’s new washroom facility opened its doors to the public just in time for the first Saturday Market in the Park of the season on April 6. The project was completed ahead of schedule, although artwork to liven up the exterior walls was still being considered and a delivery delay meant that lights were not immediately installed.

- Atkins Road was shut down for an hour while Salt Spring Fire Rescue attended a call at a cannabis production facility. An electrical malfunction in the building’s HVAC system caused the fire, which was quickly mitigated when workers shut off power to that part of the building.
- Roger Comeau was charged with criminal harassment after an altercation with Dolores Seagrave-Peel on Jackson Avenue, where he had established his home in a tent on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure right-of-way in front of her house. A verbal fight between the two escalated until Seagrave-Peel drove over Comeau’s empty tent with her pickup truck. Charges were also laid against Seagrave-Peel and her son Norman Jay Seagrave after an RCMP investigation. Comeau would incur additional charges of uttering threats to cause bodily harm, uttering threats to burn, destroy or damage property and breach of undertaking just a few days later after he moved his tent to Mouat Park and was asked to leave by CRD staff.
- The Salt Spring Fire Protection District avoided needing to hold an election when two candidates were acclaimed to the board. Andreas Gedeon and Joanne Macdonald took their seats at the table following the April 29 annual general meeting.
- Salt Spring United Church Reverend Chris Levan launched a campaign with other local church leaders to purchase 251 Fulford-Ganges Rd., home of Salt Spring Metal Recycling, with the goal of turning

the property into a full-time homeless shelter and outreach centre. Levan, whose position with the local church ended later in the year, said the plan would help address community concerns about people gathering in the United Church meadow downtown, as well as filling a much-needed service gap. The campaign was dropped after more investigation into the property, which has industrial zoning.

- As president of the West Coast Trollers Association, Salt Spring resident Kathy Scarfo was one of those who voiced surprise and concern when the federal government announced sweeping restrictions to the Chinook salmon fishery in order to help endangered killer whales. Scarfo argued the commercial fishery on the west side of Vancouver Island had been an active partner in a management strategy, and that more focus should be placed on recreational fisheries and strategies to rebuild stocks.
- John and Carla Ellacott faced a devastating loss when fire destroyed their Blackburn Road home, as well as a motorhome and two cars parked on the property. Salt Spring Centre School had to change plans for its students, who were scheduled to have an outdoor classroom week, and other neighbours and business owners were advised to shelter in place until the scene was clear. No humans were hurt in the fire but the Ellacotts did lose a beloved pet.
- Opposition to a Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications tower proposed for the Salt Spring Legion property



Sign in the United Church Meadow with a note emphasizing the need for dogs to be under control after some human and dog conflicts occurred in that space.

was launched with a rally at the Harbour House Hotel in advance of a Local Trust Committee meeting. People against the project said that electromagnetic radiation could be harmful to humans, animals and the environment, and the tower would be located too close to vulnerable populations such as seniors and the hospital. The LTC would ask CREST to come back with other potential sites at their May business meeting.

- Island music lovers were celebrating along with Tree House Cafe owners Mark and Terena LeCorre when the restaurant reopened a fully-serviced patio after five years of facing local, provincial and federal government hurdles.

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2019 YEAR in REVIEW



From top, boarded-up windows at RE/MAX Realty office on Fulford-Ganges Road, and damaged CRD office windows, part of a spate of vandalism.

May

• Gulf Islands Secondary School administrators moved to crack down on student vaping after finding increased activity at school and on school property such as school buses and water taxis. Along with education on the harms, new rules were instituted with stepped consequences that would culminate with week-long suspensions and possible RCMP involvement for a third offense. The minimum age of access to vaping products in Canada is 18 years, while all kinds of smoking, e-cigarettes and vaping are prohibited by the Gulf Islands School District.

• The Bennett family celebrated 100 years on Salt Spring with a reunion at Cedar Beach Resort. Evelyn Lee, the oldest surviving member of the family, would celebrate her 101st birthday in July. She was nine months old when her parents brought her to Salt Spring after the First World War.

• The Salt Spring Sailing Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with an armada of close to 50 sailing and power boats, which circled around Ganges Harbour on May 5.

• Downtown Ganges suffered another bout of vandalism, with windows on three buildings affecting four businesses smashed overnight. RCMP responded to complaints at the Capital Regional District office, RE/MAX Realty, Pod Contemporary and Bumper to Bumper auto parts store. The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce started holding meetings on the subject of community safety, and the Salt Spring Community Economic Development Commission discussed helping fund programs such as a grant for security and lights.

• The federal government announced more new regulations to support the recovery of the southern resident killer whale population, which would include mandatory setbacks on boating traffic, the establishment of temporary feeding



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

Members of the Bennett family, celebrating 100 years since their first family member arrived on Salt Spring Island, during a gathering at Cedar Beach Resort.

sanctuaries, and salmon fishery closures. Enhanced salmon hatchery programs and control on pollutants were also part of the plan.

• A single bull elk visited Hedger Road, marking one of the few times the species had been spotted on the island during the past century — but coming just a little over a year after the previous sighting when two males were seen roaming the south end in April 2018.

• The Gulf Islands Board of Education voted unanimously in favour of closing Windsor House School, a “distributed campus” program located in Metro Vancouver. The district had taken the school over from the North Vancouver School District in 2011, but subsequent loss of the school building, high transportation costs and difficulties supervising a school outside the district’s geographic area made the program too difficult to continue as time went on.

• Good Buds Company announced that Health Canada had granted the Salt Spring-based cannabis production facility an outdoor cultivation licence, believed to be the first awarded in the country. The company was already running a licensed indoor production centre on North End Road.

• David Youngson, creator of the popular PitchFork Social roots music concert series, announced that events would be

moving to Fulford Hall for the 2019 season. The series was held at Bullock Lake Farm in 2017 and 2018, but issues with zoning and Agricultural Land Commission regulations necessitated the change in venue.

• A half-dozen chickens were stolen from a flock on Galiano Island and then returned 72 hours later after community members helped locate the birds and negotiate their release. “We had gone out for dinner and when we came home there were several phone calls from a friend of mine,” said poultry owner Colleen Doty. “The chickens were dumped at the end of our driveway in the dark without a box or anything.” All six chickens were returned without harm or injury.

• The southern resident killer whales’ J pod, often found in Gulf Islands waters, was spotted swimming with a new baby calf near Tofino on May 30. It was the second birth of the year for the SRKW population, which had no documented successful births since 2016.

June

• RCMP were investigating after the artist-designed “Moon Snail” bus shelter on Lower Ganges Road became the latest target of vandalism on June 1. The glass end panels, which had been etched to match the custom-made curved metal roof, had been smashed sometime in the early hours.

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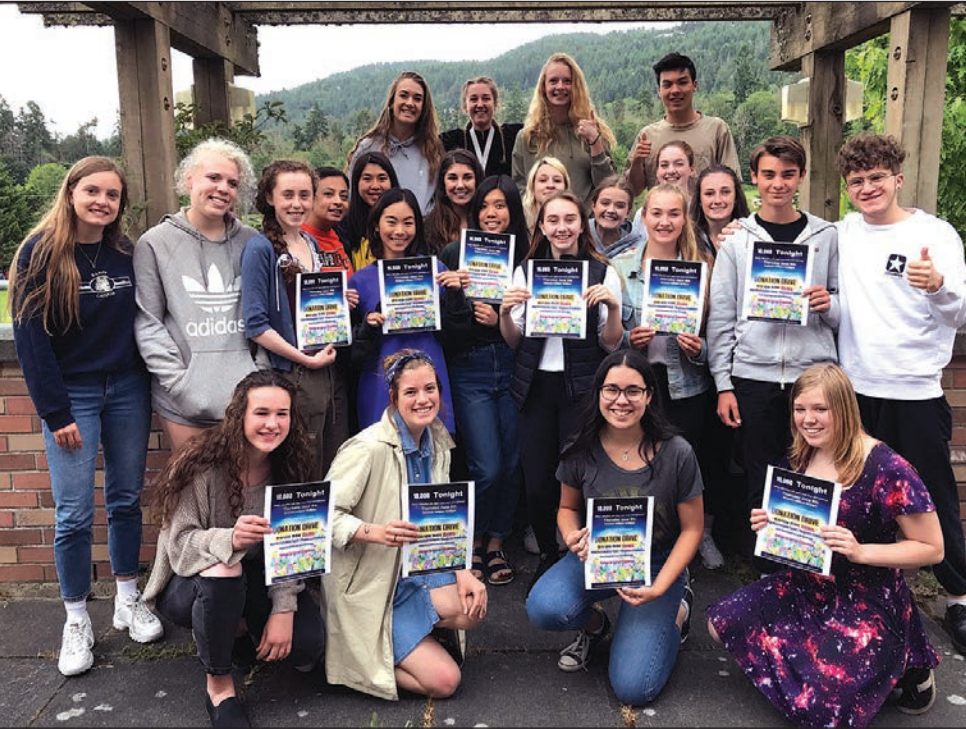


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Some of the GISS leadership program students behind a June 6 10,000 Tonight charitable event they organized to collect 10,000 items and cash donations to benefit local charities.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Cyclists of all ages set out from Fulford Hall for a critical mass bike ride on July 3.

June, cont.

- A team of young Salt Spring sailors set off for a 1,200-kilometre race that would leave from Port Townsend, Wash. and end in Ketchikan, Alaska. Twins Callum and Ciaran McGuffin, older brother Finn and friend Duncan Macdonald made up the four-person crew. The race stood out for being one of the longest such races in North America, and for its human-only powering requirement.
- A Gulf Islands School District bus rolled off the road after the driver stopped to check the engine, sending the driver and three student passengers into the ditch near Salt Spring's Bulman Road. The driver received some minor scratches and was checked to ensure there were no other injuries. The students were unharmed in the incident.
- The Capital Regional District ran into trouble on North Pender Island when it advanced plans to decommission a dam on Gardom Pond as required by the provincial government. Members of the community opposing the project felt the pond was a valuable community resource in a place where drinking water is scarce. The pond would eventually be decommissioned as planned.
- The Gulf Islands School District agreed in principle to partner with the Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association and permit that organization to install an artificial turf field at Gulf Islands Secondary School. Under the proposal, SSIYSA would fundraise for the complete installation cost, estimated at \$2.5 million, while the school district would set aside money for the eventual replacement cost. The school board decided not to pursue the plan any further in December, after finding its share of the replacement cost would be more than the expected savings to be realized in maintenance and watering. Environmental concerns with the plastic field had also inspired opposition from some parts of the community.
- NSSWD denied a request made by the Summerside strata council to refund past payments. The council maintained that a NSSWD meter had been giving faulty readings, which led to inflated bills for the entire complex. The water district said that type of malfunction was not possible, although the meter in question was damaged while it was removed so testing was out of the question.
- A new public feedback period was opened on Penelakut Seafood Inc.'s application to farm oysters and clams on the Baker Beach foreshore. The Indigenous-owned corporation had submitted a revised

foreshore lease application to the province following opposition from Salt Springers concerned about the plastic predator netting indicated in the first version. No decision on the application had been made as of December 2019.

- Island sheep farmers made a plea to dog owners to keep their pets leashed on trails, following several attacks on livestock over the previous weeks.
- The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee received a delegation from the Cowichan region regarding a proposal to install a new outfall pipe and discharge treated effluent into Satellite Channel. Public outreach consultant Judith Cullington explained discharge from the Joint Utility Board Sewage Treatment Plant into the Cowichan River was becoming problematic because of more frequent drought periods, the subsequent extreme low water levels, and Cowichan Tribes' request to have the outfall moved from their property.
- Salt Spring Fire Protection District chair Ron Lindstrom floated the idea of partnering with the Capital Regional District to advance Ganges Harbourwalk completion by including dry hydrants and saltwater piping along its infrastructure. In a letter to CRD director Gary Holman, Lindstrom proposed

the idea would add to the public interest component and therefore aid the district's application for a statutory right-of-way over private lands, necessary to complete the project.

July

- Salt Spring Cheese Co. received a grant of nearly \$115,000 under the B.C. Dairy Processing Investment Fund. The funding was awarded to help provide new packaging and production equipment and a new pasteurizer.
- Pender Island residents were concerned that new sanctuary zones for killer whales introduced on June 1 were not being respected by boaters. Some islanders resorted to initiating their own information campaigns after federal communications and enforcement of the regulations seemed ineffective.
- A group of 25 cyclists, including children, undertook a critical mass ride from Fulford to Ganges to draw attention to the road's poor conditions and to raise money for improvements. "There's just not enough room for the population of Salt Spring to use all the roads safely," explained event organizer Kipp Nash. "We need to present the need for a bike path on Salt Spring."

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2019 YEAR **in REVIEW**



PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

Grant Tamboline gives community members a tour of the St. Mary Lake treatment plant during an open house event in August.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

Event organizer Malachi Savage at the first annual Salt Spring Island Shin Dig Jam at Kanaka Road Skate Park held on Aug. 10.

July, cont.

- The NSSWD and the CRD made a joint application for provincial funding of \$50,000 to study whether service would be best optimized by keeping NSSWD independent, or moving it into CRD administration.

- Saltfest, a mini fringe festival featuring island theatre talent, premiered in the Salt Spring Arts Council's "art tent" outside Mahon Hall. Event organizer Nedjo Rogers lined up 10 local acts for two days of performances running July 13 and 14.

- Slegg Lumber confirmed it would be closing its Salt Spring location by the end of November, leaving 19 employees to either move to a Vancouver Island branch or find other employment. The 67-year-old Vancouver Island company had been purchased by Ontario-based WSB Titan in 2015, leading to some restructuring of the business.

- The superyacht Tamsen turned a few heads while berthed at Ganges Marina: at 52 metres high, its masts were tall enough to require aircraft warning lights. The luxury sailboat was estimated to have cost \$32.5 million USD to build when it was constructed in 2007 for the Firestone family of California.

- Salt Spring Community Services and its

funding partners broke ground on the Salt Spring Commons housing project, scheduled to bring 24 affordable townhome units to Bishops Walk Road.

- Brenda Guiled received a six-month conditional sentence for criminal contempt of court for her role in the March 2018 Trans Mountain Pipeline protests outside a Kinder Morgan facility in Burnaby. Guiled was the only protester of nine islanders charged to persist in a non-guilty plea, arguing the property line was not clearly marked and she had never intended to cross into the no-go zone protected by court injunction.

- The federal Transportation Safety Board released its findings on the incident that left two BC Ferries employees injured after a rescue boat launching mechanism broke on the Queen of Cumberland in April 2018. The investigation determined that improper securing of a painter (rope) produced stress on the rescue boat's hoist cable, which caused it to break as it was raised. BC Ferries said it accepted the report in its entirety. The company had already changed policy to prevent crew from being aboard rescue boats during test launches and was reviewing maintenance procedures.

- The CRD's animal control office took

steps to declare a dangerous dog on Salt Spring after multiple people, including a nine-year-old boy, were bitten or lunged at. The move required the owner to have the dog leashed and muzzled at all times.

- Canada Coast Guard members attended a marine fuel spill in Ganges Harbour, which was first noticed by a boat owner moored at a downtown dock. The source of the spill was undetermined, although harbour authority personnel reported seeing a sheen near the Three Sisters Islands earlier in the week, and suspected the fuel had drifted into the harbour from there.

August

- The 21-metre trawler-style yacht Eagle Mar was destroyed by fire and sank into the waters of Long Harbour near Maracaibo. Salt Spring Fire Rescue was aided by a Canadian Coast Guard crew and Eagle Eye Vessel Assist to suppress the fire and secure the area. No injuries were reported.

- Pender Island hosted its first ever Pride festival from Aug. 15 to 17. The weekend event included a movie night and a social mixer as well as a parade and post-parade celebration.

- Islanders who were feeling like wasps were more plentiful and annoying than usual for the time of year had their thoughts confirmed by local pest control technicians, who reported having 100 calls for service by the second week of August compared to 100 wasp calls in total in 2016.

- The first annual Salt Spring Island Shin Dig Jam brought BMX riders from all over southwestern B.C. to Kanaka Road Skate Park. The fun events encouraged riders aged 11 to adult to try out their skills on the park's different features and socialize with like-minded people.

- The NSSWD celebrated the opening of its new water treatment plant on St. Mary Lake with a community open house. A new facility with a dissolved air flotation system had been planned since 2012, with ratepayers approving up to \$8.4 million to complete the upgrade. The project finished under budget at \$7.9 million.

- The Salt Spring Island Emergency Program started a series of free workshops aimed at getting people more equipped for situations such as storms, wildfires or earthquakes. Sessions would include topics such as FireSmart principles, radio operation, PTSD, hydro line safety and drone use, among others.

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

GISS dance class members perform a tribute to Swedish activist Greta Thunberg during Salt Spring's Climate Strike rally at Centennial Park on Sept. 21.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Ganges sewer plant team lead Luke Sturdy shows "before and after" effluent samples at a plant open house to detail completed upgrades.

August, cont.

- A drone piloted by Salt Spring-based InDro Robotics made several successful test delivery flights of pharmaceuticals, travelling from the Duncan area to Salt Spring. InDro Robotics president Philip Reece said the trial was the first look at what drone technology could do in an emergency situation. "If we had this on Christmas Eve last year it would have certainly made a difference. If you were in need of prescriptions then, they could have been dispatched directly from the pharmacies straight to your backyard," Reece said.

- The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission released its 10-year strategic plan. The three major priorities identified were upgrading the facilities at the Rainbow Road Pool, reconfiguration of Portlock Park and establishing a dedicated parks maintenance facility somewhere on the island.

- The proponent of a development plan for the former Fulford Inn site expressed frustration with the process used by the Islands Trust in dealing with his development permit application. David Fullbrook said he felt "sandbagged" by a Trust planner's report that recommended against issuance of the permit. Many of the issues flagged in the report could have been

dealt with before it was presented to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting, he said.

- The CRD's Ganges sewer plant opened its doors to the public on Aug. 29 to highlight results of its \$3.9-million upgrade, which saw improvements made throughout the plant, which originally opened in 1985.

September

- The CRD Board gave three readings to proposed Bylaw 4325, which would establish a community safety service on Salt Spring, at their Sept. 11 meeting in Victoria. Voter approval through use of an alternate approval process, formerly known as a counterpetition, would be required to introduce the new tax, proposed at \$0.016 per \$1,000 of assessed residential value. That amount would equal approximately \$10 per year for the average-assessed property. Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman said only about half that amount would be requisitioned in the first year of the service, which could fund initiatives such as a citizens' patrol or increased resources for Community Services groups.

- Cell-phone coverage in Fulford Harbour was given a boost thanks to a collaboration between BC Ferries and Telus

Communications. A small-cell antenna was installed on BC Ferries property at the Fulford ferry terminal to effect the improvement. Other terminals receiving improved cell capabilities were Vesuvius Bay, Descanso Bay on Gabriola Island, Saltery Bay on the Sunshine Coast, and Little River, near Comox.

- The third biennial Salt Spring National Art Prize exhibition kicked off at Mahon Hall on Sept. 21. The Salt Spring Arts Council-initiated project saw works exhibited by 52 artists from across Canada. The Parallel Art Show of work by Gulf Islands artists who submitted to SSNAP was mounted at ArtSpring, while the all-new SSNAP Youth Exhibit was held at the Salt Spring Gallery.

- PARC offered its first Lifeguard School to help high school students and others get lifeguard certification. The innovative program aligned all four courses needed to become a lifeguard, and was scheduled to accommodate the lives of busy students.

- A feasibility study on transitioning from diesel to electric school buses was released by the Salt Spring Community Energy group, with the possibility of the first electric bus being used in 2020.

- Islanders added their voices to others demanding climate action around the world on Sept. 21. A climate strike rally

took place at Centennial Park, with various speakers and performers.

- BC Ferries announced that it planned to bring the larger-capacity Bowen Queen onto the Vesuvius-Crofton route in the spring of 2020 to avoid a repeat of the perennial overload situation experienced on that route beginning in June of 2019 when the Quinitsa came on stream to replace the retired Howe Sound Queen. "What happened is the best thing that could happen under the circumstances," said Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee chair Harold Swierenga.

- After hearing community concerns about locating a CREST emergency communications tower on the Royal Canadian Legion property, the possibility of installing a tower on Rainbow Road in part of Mouat Park was being explored. CREST manager Gordon Horth brought the proposal to the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Several groups were marking restoration of the first wetland at Xwaaqw'um (Burgoyne Bay). Quw'utsun elders, along with support from the Stqeeyé Learning Society, Cowichan Tribes, BC Wildlife Federation and BC Parks, had completed the 660-square-metre wetland on the east boundary of the provincial park in September.

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Richard Steel of the Salt Spring Forum introduces the format for the all-candidates debate held at GISS. Federal election candidates were, from left, Ron Broda, Sabina Singh, Elizabeth May, David Busch and Ryan Windsor. Green party incumbent May was elected for a third term on Oct. 21.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Recyclable plastics in a bale at the Salt Spring Recycling Depot. The Driftwood's Marc Kitteringham undertook an in-depth study into local waste streams and the facts behind labels such as "compostable plastic."

October

- A group of residents aiming to help others navigate Salt Spring's complex governance system initiated a service called ASK Salt Spring: Neighbours Helping Neighbours Find Answers. It saw volunteers and elected officials available to answer questions and hold discussions in the community room of Thrifty Foods (upstairs in the florist shop area) on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The project was initiated by the Salt Spring Community Alliance.

- The Salt Spring Transportation Commission approved a concept for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure on Ganges Hill between Seaview and Beddis roads, which the CRD would forward to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to consider. The idea was that improvements would be done at the same time as resurfacing of Fulford-Ganges Road took place. The ministry planned to go to tender in spring of 2020 and start work by the summer.

- Martin Vandenberg was found not criminally responsible for the murder of his mother Heather Jones. Vandenberg, who was 22 at the time, killed Jones on Dec. 6, 2017. B.C. Supreme Court Justice Jennifer Power accepted a joint submission from the Crown and defence counsel that Vandenberg was undergoing a psychotic episode brought on by undiagnosed

schizophrenia and was therefore unable to understand that his actions were wrong.

- A health needs assessment for the Salt Spring population determined that mental health is the most pressing health-related issue on the island, with only half of the people who need services able to access them.

- Plans for a new emergency department at Lady Minto Hospital were entering the schematic design phase. A joint working group had determined the preferred concept was a new single-storey building to be located within the hospital's current upper parking area adjacent to Braehaven.

- A new invasive species was discovered in local waters with sightings of the European green crab reported in Booth Inlet and Fulford Harbour.

- Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May returned to Ottawa for a third consecutive term following the Oct. 21 federal election. As expected, the Green party candidate and national party leader won the riding handily, with preliminary results giving her 48.8 per cent of the popular vote and 32,326 votes. Conservative candidate David Busch was the second-place finisher with 20.4 per cent of the votes (10,275). He was followed by Liberal Ryan Windsor with 16.8 per cent and 11,116 votes, NDP candidate Sabina Singh with 12.7 per cent (8,446

votes) and Ron Broda of the People's Party of Canada with 1.4 per cent (914 votes).

- Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District trustees proposed a 13 per cent increase in property taxes to support the service in 2020. Notable increases included higher consulting fees, a \$15,000 fund set aside for a future fire hall referendum, and creation of a \$150,000 capital reserve fund.

- Salt Spring Community Services' cold-weather shelter received funding to operate year-round as of Nov. 1. The provincial government would provide some \$720,000 in funding to extend operations at the shelter. Previously the shelter was only open from Nov. 1 to March 31.

- The Queen of Cumberland came onto the Fulford-Swartz Bay ferry route on Oct. 28 to replace the Skeena Queen, which was taken out of service in order to receive its midlife upgrade. The Salish Raven was set to replace the Cumberland on its usual Southern Gulf Islands route. Delays were quite frequent on the Fulford-Swartz Bay sailings, especially at the beginning of the Cumberland's transition.

- The Hul'qumu'num Treaty Group expressed new optimism about eventually coming to a treaty agreement with the federal and provincial governments, with transition into the next stage of the pro-

cess secured after nearly 20 years without movement.

November

- MP Elizabeth May stepped down as leader of the Green Party of Canada, paving the way for the party to move into the next generation. May said she would stay on as MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands, and would continue to run in future elections. "It's time for the Green party, the next generation . . . We're 'boldly going where no Green has gone before,'" she said.

- The Driftwood took a deep dive into how the island deals with plastics, covering the industrial composting process, how local plastic recycling functions and how to find alternatives to plastic use. The series uncovered how compostable plastics on Salt Spring are not a viable option, and gave alternatives for people looking to reduce their impact on the planet and its resources.

- Local retail cannabis outlets suspended operations after receiving a visit from the B.C. Community Safety Unit, the provincial agency charged with cannabis regulation enforcement. No charges were laid or merchandise confiscated. Some of the businesses are in the application process with the province to be approved to sell cannabis.

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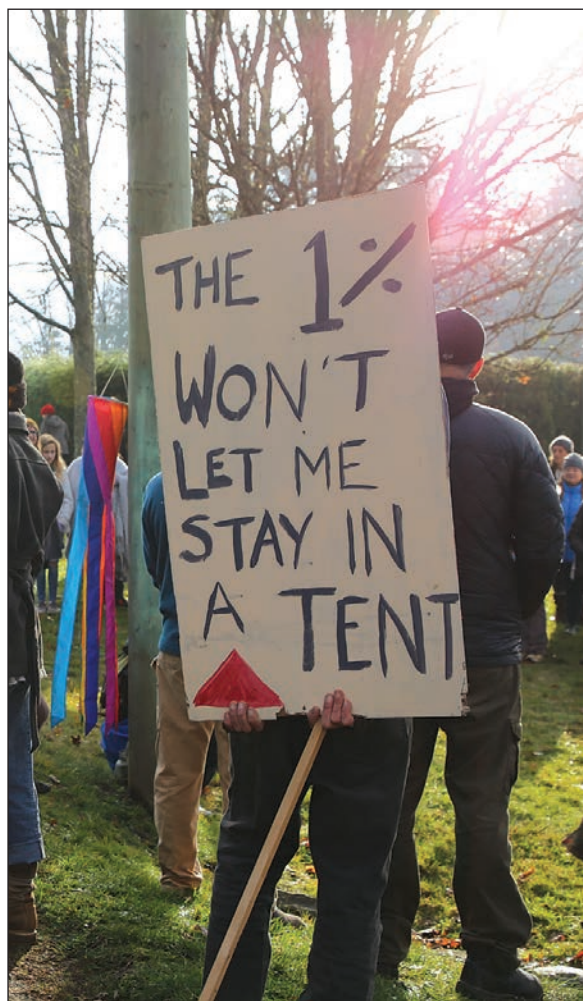


PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

One of many signs at a Nov. 22 housing and climate action rally held outside the Islands Trust office.

November, cont.

- The Gulf Islands School District sat down with the community to discuss the future of education on the islands. The district is undertaking a configuration review, which will look at all the ways education delivery can be improved. A series of seven meetings and an online engagement process were held. The final decisions will be released at the district's September 2020 board meeting.

- Salt Spring Metal Recycling was facing Islands Trust bylaw enforcement. The operation on Ganges Hill was subject to complaints and possible environmental issues, and owner John Quesnel told the Driftwood he was tired of the situation and was prepared to sell his properties and move on. In December, the Trust granted Quesnel a reprieve and extended the deadline by three months to allow him to bring his operation into zoning compliance.

- The CREST tower project for Ganges became uncertain as numerous hurdles were encountered due to zoning, community pushback and difficulties with proposed sites. CREST general manager Gordon Horth said that a small staff also made planning difficult for the project.

- More than 100 people gathered

at the Islands Trust office to speak out about the ongoing housing crisis. The rally, organized by Salt Spring Solutions, brought people together from all walks of life who have been affected by a lack of housing on the island. Spokesperson Jason Mogus said that the group wanted to see real action from the Trust, saying "what we need are bolder solutions that will help with the climate emergency and help with the housing crisis."

- The provincial government announced that care of Ruckle Farm would be staying with the Lane family for another 20 years. The lease was up for grabs as the province took hold of the property following the death of the last member of the Ruckle Family. As with other government contracts, the job was put out to tender. The Lanes' bid was chosen by the province and the family will be remaining on the farm under a new lease beginning on Jan. 1, 2021.

December

- A nighttime rescue involving several parties pulled two people from Burgoyne Bay. Rescue units were called to the area after two people travelling in a small skiff went overboard at around 2:30 a.m. A resident of a nearby float home heard cries for help and rescued the two from the water, bringing them back to his vessel. RCMSAR Mill Bay and B.C. Ambulance Service personnel met

at the government dock to retrieve and assess the patients.

- The Capital Regional District showcased its plans for solid waste in the district, which has the stated goal of reducing garbage going into Hartland Landfill from 380 kg per person per year to 250 kg. Waste was also on the mind of the Islands Trust, as a group of concerned people appealed to the Trust to allow a proposed community composting facility to be built in the Burgoyne Valley.

- Voters defeated the CRD safety bylaw by a large margin. The bylaw was to establish a safety service on the island, funded by tax requisition. Islanders had the chance to oppose the bylaw through an alternative approval process, where a minimum of 910 votes would defeat the plan. A total of 1,850 people registered opposition to the bylaw.

- The Gulf Islands School District rescinded their support of a plan to install artificial turf on a soccer field at GISS. The plan was proposed by the Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association, and had faced backlash from the community about environmental concerns. The district cited financial reasons as part of their rationale to back out, saying that putting \$30,000 per year into the field was not responsible given their current economic state. They said they would be open to finding environmentally and cost-friendly ways to improve the field.

Story of the year: Smaller-capacity Quinitsa causes ferry chaos

The Howe Sound Queen made its final sailing for BC Ferries on the morning of June 5, and was sent off from its long-time service on the Vesuvius-Crofton route with cake and a visit from ferry corporation officials on board two round-trip sailings the previous afternoon.

The change to the smaller-capacity MV Quinitsa would immediately enrage passengers, who had already been dealing with frequent overloads on the Howe Sound Queen, and would continue to do so for the busy summer months to come.

A full house of angry islanders attended the semi-annual meeting between the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee and BC Ferries executives on July 9. The official stance that on-time performance had dramatically improved and that vehicle weight was no longer an issue for deck space failed to impress passengers. Vesuvius village residents meanwhile pointed to extreme-

ly long line-ups of overflow traffic parked along the only incoming lane of Vesuvius Bay Road, and the resulting dangerous situation for other drivers and pedestrians.

Reduced ship capacity also caused problems within the terminal area, as the previous situation of virtually assured loading from the final lane no longer took place. Some drivers left behind in that lane failed to get on twice because with no terminal staff to direct traffic, those cars didn't get priority loading on the next sailing.

BC Ferries responded by changing the lane configuration and adding terminal staff who would direct loading and flag drop-off traffic. The corporation also heeded requests to put the Bowen Queen onto the route as soon as that ship became available, announcing in September that it would become the route's regular vessel in the peak season, starting in April 2020.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Vesuvius parking lot full 90 minutes before sailing time in June. One- and two-sailing waits became commonplace with the Quinitsa on the route.

*Grateful for the past and
looking forward to the future.*

-TROY KAYE



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2019 YEAR in REVIEW

Awards won and milestones reached in 2019



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

SIMS jazz band members, from left, Tessa Bain, Elvin Shoolbraid, El Thompson and Liam Walsh, with teacher Keith Ollerenshaw standing behind. Band members contributed to a gold-medal win at the West Coast Jazz Festival in Nanaimo in May.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From left, siblings Richard Murakami, Mary Kitagawa and Rose Murakami at a special event at the Salt Spring Public Library to mark the 65th anniversary of the Murakami family's return to Salt Spring, as well as the 115th anniversary of their mother Kimiko's birthday.

A few of the special awards bestowed and milestones reached for groups and individuals in 2019

- Susan Wetmore received the Governor General's Sovereign Award for her volunteer work with the Canadian Executive Service Organization.

- Recent island transplant Art Washuta was recognized with the Alberta Lieutenant Governor's Award for distinguished service. The award was presented at the Consulting Engineers of Alberta Showcase Awards Gala in Calgary on Feb. 8.

- The Gulf Islands School District's apprenticeship program received the Youth in Trades Performance Award from the B.C. Industry Training Authority for having the highest enrolment in the Youth in Trades Program in the Vancouver Island region.

- Glass artist Mark Lauckner reached a milestone in his environmentally conscious foundry, having melted his 250,000th pound of scrap window glass to repurpose as giftware during a March 2019 pour.

- The Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior improv team returned from Ottawa in April as gold-medal national champions, having won the Canadian Improv Games for the second time in three years. The same core team also won the silver medal in 2018.

- Pender Island student scientists swept the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair, taking home 20 different awards, including first place in each age category. "We kind of cleaned up. It was shocking to the private schools," said teacher Steve Dunsmuir. The event was held in Victoria on April 7 and 8.

- The Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island celebrated its 50th anniversary in May. Like other Rotary Clubs all over the world, the Salt Spring service club raises money for local and international charitable projects.

- GISS graduate Lauren Utter received a gold medal for having the highest average grade for the final two years of her bachelor of education degree at St. Francis Xavier University.

- The 2018 Salt Spring A's Mosquito baseball team earned the B.C. Minor Baseball Team of the Year Award, which was presented by the Coaching Caravan at a BC Baseball Awards banquet.

- Salt Spring resident Dr. David Goranson received the Fellowship of Rural and Remote Medicine Award for his many years of service in Nakusp. Goranson and islander Dr. Ron Reznick were also working on a piloting an innovative health information and technology centre.

- The Salt Spring Middle School senior jazz ensemble came home with a gold medal after competing at the West Coast Jazz Festival in Nanaimo for the first time. Individual members of the ensemble also received awards, including the "most outstanding drummer of the festival" award for Grade 8 student Salome Cullen.

- Susan Benson was named a Member of the Order of Canada for her extensive contributions to the Canadian theatre world as a set and costume designer. A book about Benson's impressive career was also released.

- Salt Springer Logan Wenzel brought home a gold medal for his part as setter on Team BC, which won the men's U18 volleyball title at the Canada Cup tournament held in Halifax from July 17 to 21.

- Photographer Ann Donahue brought home the top prize from the Cayman Islands' Digital Shootout Competition, earning first place for her underwater photography.

- The Salt Spring Stingrays had a strong result at the B.C. Summer Swimming Association championships, which included member Druehn Pinney bringing home the gold medal for 50-m backstroke, plus a bronze for the Div. 3 regional medley relay. Joseph Schulze also won a bronze medal for his part in the Div. 7 regional relay.

- The Salt Spring Island Foundation marked its 35th anniversary. The foundation's endowment fund began as a \$10,000 seed from John C. Lees in 1984 that has grown to \$7.5 million. In the past 35 years, the sum of \$3.3 million has been disbursed via 550 grants awarded to more than 85 local charities. Special activities in 2019 included an On the Table community dinner and conversation at Meaden Hall on Oct. 19, plus other On the Table dinners at individuals' homes.

- In extreme sports news, Richard Hayden was the first in his age group and 12th overall to complete the Island Extreme Triathlon in Reykjavik, Iceland. Marion Young earned a second place in her age group at the 180-km Ironman Canadian championships in Whistler. Marcia Jansen finished first in her age group, earned a provincial championships and qualified for the Canadian national championship team for the 2020 World Multi-sport Championships in the Netherlands.

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2019 YEAR in REVIEW

Records set and anniversaries celebrated



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Arts Council president David Borrowman introduces Order of Canada inductee Susan Benson at a book launch event at Mahon Hall.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Teacher Jason Donaldson performs at the 2019 GISS grad ceremony. Later in the year Donaldson was named the winner of the Association of B.C. Drama Educators award for Drama Teacher of the Year.

- 2019 was another good year for Salt Spring authors: The novel *Dear Evelyn* earned Kathy Page the City of Victoria Butler Prize for best fiction book by a Greater Victoria area author. Aidan Cassie won the Victoria Children's Book Prize for her first book, *Sterling, Best Dog Ever*. Local BC Book Prizes finalists were Page, Cassie, Margriet Ruurs for *Robert Bateman: The Boy Who Painted Nature*, and Harley Rustad for *Big Lonely Doug: The Story of One of Canada's Last Great Trees*. Brenda Brooks' novel *Honey* was nominated for the *Staunch Book Prize*. *Awesome Grains and Ancient Seeds*, which Dan Jason co-authored with Michele Genest, and *Stowel Lake Farm's Seven Seasons on Stowel Lake Farm* book were shortlisted for *Taste Canada* awards.

- The 65th anniversary of the Murakami family's return to Salt Spring was marked with a showing of a film about the late Kimiko Murakami at the Salt Spring Public Library. The screening was followed by a talk by Mary Kitagawa, one of Murakami's children.

- The Salt Spring Island Sailing Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special regatta on the Sept. 21-22 weekend. Eighteen sailboats from Salt Spring and the Sidney North Saanich Yacht clubs participated.

- The Salt Spring Tennis Association marked its 40th anniversary on Sept. 29 at the Salt Spring Tennis Centre on the golf club property.

- Octogenarian Lynn Thompson earned one silver and six gold medals at the B.C. 55+ Games in Kelowna. Wins came in the 50m, 100m, long jump, triple jump, 80m hurdles and 200m hurdles. The two hurdle races were in times that set both meet records and BC Masters records.

- Grandchildren of Isaburo Tasaka unveiled a historical panel outlining Tasaka's stonework completed on the Mouat's store building foundation in the 1920s. The interpretive panel was created by the Salt Spring Historical Society in conjunction with the Salt Spring Island Foundation and Mouat's Trading Co.

- Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue received a WOW award from Community Living BC for their work with islander Chris Joynson over the past 16 years.

- ArtSpring opened its 20th season on Oct. 18 with a joint concert by Quebec's Saguenay Quartet and B.C.'s Lafayette String Quartet.

- Carol Narod won the Salt Spring Artists Award for her Married and Single fabric art piece in the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lynn Thompson at the 2019 B.C. 55+ Games in Kelowna, where he earned one silver and six gold medals and set records as well.

third biennial Salt Spring National Art Prize event. Top prize winner of the Joan McConnell Award for best piece in the show was Luther Konadu from Winnipeg for his *Figure as Index* photograph.

- The 2019 Salty Awards saw 29 community and business awards given out at a Nov. 14 gala at the Harbour House Hotel. The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce event saw people vote online for nominated businesses and individuals.

- SWOVA's Pass It On mentorship program marked its 10th season in local schools.

- Salt Spring filmmaker Peter Prince was honoured with his film *Bhutan - The Kind Kingdom* being chosen to screen at the CMS Vatavaran Film Festival in India.

- A winning streak by the Salt Spring Old Boys over-40s men's soccer team was being attributed to purchase of new team socks.

- Gulf Islands Secondary School teacher Jason Donaldson earned the highest acknowledgement of his peers, receiving the Association of B.C. Drama Educators award for Drama Teacher of the Year.



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OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"As the strategic plan implementation takes place, reconciliation will be fundamental to the Islands Trust's work."

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL CHAIR PETER LUCKHAM

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What is your wish for Salt Spring in the new year?*

PAUL MURPHY



The laundromat.

BRENDA GUILD



Green anything.

WILLEM BUITENDYK



I hope everyone has a really peaceful, uneventful, non-negative year.

CHRISTY COOK



Affordable housing and fire protection.

PAUL WAY



Maybe people could pull together and get some of these housing and water issues resolved.

LETTERS to the editor

Geoscience

My Dec. 11 In Response article to Timothy Harvey was based on not wanting to scare people and to explain that there is more to the story than what he read in the Nature Communication paper from two Climate Central people.

Climate Central author Scott Kulp is a computer science specialist and co-author Benjamin Strauss is a specialist in ecology and evolutionary biology, and both are well respected in their fields. However, Climate Central is American based, and has no geosciences people on their extensive staff. There are no geosciences people on the Nature Communication editorial staff, so they treat the earth and land morphology as static, not taking into account glacial isostatic and tectonic movements. Therefore, their peer reviews are flawed and their maps are suspect.

At first I did not wish to have a scientific discussion on this topic in the Driftwood. While Mr. Harvey is well intentioned, he should realize that not every-

thing in print is factual. I do not know Mr. Harvey's background, but he is interested and worried about the world's climate and so am I; we are both thinking the same. My background is geology and I know very well (I was born four metres below sea level) the influence of land ice caps, tectonics and the devastation the sea can cause. It is very commendable that he draws attention to the rise in sea level, and I would not like to live in Miami, New Orleans or Bangladesh, to name a few places.

But B.C. is different, and the Change in Sea Level in B.C. document published by the B.C. Ministry of the Environment (and updated in 2017) is much more level headed, and recognizes the isostatic and tectonics which affect B.C. As I pointed out in my response, some deltas with their sediment accumulation will counter the glacial adjustment, and the B.C. Ministry of the Environment points out the possible inundation of Richmond (Fraser River) and Prince Rupert (Skeena River). But Ganges is not under water in their maps, and certainly not within 30 years.

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

I am glad that he agrees with me that I hope our decision makers do not jump to conclusions based on flawed science.

KEES VISSER,
SALT SPRING

Feedback loop

I have following with keen interest the recent dialogue in the Driftwood between Tim Harvey and Kees Visser on the rise of ocean level due to climate change.

Both bring substantial science-based research, analysis to the dialogue, yet their conclusions widely vary.

I am, however, surprised that neither mentions the role of heat in the ocean. You may know from basic science, as you warm water, it expands. And even though the global temperature increase of the oceans is small (so far), there is a lot of water. I have heard that 90 per cent of the heat that is trapped in our atmosphere is then stored in the ocean. I have also heard that till recently, the trapped heat in the ocean was a more significant factor to the

rising ocean level, but that the melting of the ice caps and glaciers is expected to take over the lead as the more significant.

One only has to observe the average temperature of the continent of Australia last week at a record 41 degrees C, to get a sense of the amount of heat being trapped in the atmosphere, and subsequently, the ocean.

Ultimately, there is the feedback loop compounding the two. More heat in the atmosphere = more glacial melt = more water in the oceans. More heat in the atmosphere = more heat absorbed in the ocean = increased volume of water. There will be more water and it will be warmer. The water level will rise from both processes and, from what I have heard, it is happening faster than predicted (scientists being necessarily conservative with predictions). I am therefore drawn to Tim's prognosis.

Would either of you gentleman care to comment on the above?

JIM STANDEN,
VESUVIUS

Canadian medical system keeps everyone ticking

I'm not certain I should be telling you this, but I am not completely natural. Not all of me has been entirely caused by nature, if you get my drift.

The truth is that I am a little bit mechanical and depend on wires and batteries to keep me ticking over. Literally. And the mildly depressing aspect of that is that I am still a long way short of superhero. I am bionic without any of the Iron Man benefits, unless you consider simply existing a "benefit," which I suppose it is. Instead of a three-minute mile, the power of flight and rockets in my underpants, I get a steady 60 beats a minute until I do something strenuous, which is not often enough to trouble my pacemaker.

I am totally reliant on the remarkable little device that rests just beneath the blubber on my chest and persuades my heart by tiny electric shocks to keep doing its business. In fact, I am now onto my third pacemaker and if the tiny engines are themselves small miracles the greater miracle is that all three have been installed and maintained over the past 20 or more years entirely without cost to me.

The most I have had to pay so far has been the 90 bucks for an overnight room at the excellent Accent Inn (concessionary rates for the sick and the sorry-for-themselves) in Victoria so that I could be at the hospital at 7 a.m. in time for my implant replacement. The 6 a.m. alarm was about as painful as the procedure got.

My continued existence is a remarkable testimony to two unmatched health systems, one in the U.K. and the other here in B.C., something that was brought home to me this month as I was being driven home after having my most recent pacemaker installed and was listening on the car radio to the babble of mad discussion from Republicans south of the border on the perils of "social-



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

ist" medicine. Insane just doesn't cover it.

One week earlier I'd been told the battery in my chest was close to running down, which, after nine faultless years, was no great surprise and within those few days I'd had an interview with the heart surgeon and 48 hours later I was on her operating slab having the new pacemaker installed. Voila! Another decade on the clock, although it begs the question of why my pacemaker battery is good for 10 years while I'm lucky to get 10 hours from my iPhone.

But south of the border, where medical debt is by far the biggest cause of personal bankruptcy, I'd now be penurious, my house mortgaged if I still had one, my children hauling coal when they weren't pushing me around in a wheelchair or tending the flowers on my grave. My wife, bless her, would be pumping gas until she's in her 90s.

I know that it is easy to look across the border and sneer condescendingly at the eye-watering cost of ill health down there, but the coincidence of my newest implant and the relentless election and impeachment debates made the comparisons irresistible.

Consider this: in the United States a common-or-garden pacemaker like mine will set you back (or your insurers provided you're not one of the 30 million without insurance of any kind) anything between \$19,000 and \$38,000. That is simply the purchase of the contraption and doesn't even begin to address the wicked cost of the surgery and

short hospital stay, which could add another 50 grand or so to your misery. Your deductibles, meanwhile, will inevitably leave you with a personal \$5,000 hole in your wallet.

As the beneficiary of at least four different welfare states, I will confess to being mostly baffled by the arcane intricacies of the American system, so I looked at some figures provided by Medicarehelp.org, an American website that lists hundreds of medical procedures by state and compares prices. It might just as well be called "I'd be better off dead. org" for all the comfort it offers.

For instance, if you've ever wondered why Los Angeles has so many people living out of shopping trolleys the answer is here. In the Sunshine State a "no complications" pacemaker implant like mine costs \$78,000 of which \$16,000 is covered by Medicare, leaving you and your private insurer (assuming you have one) to pick up the remaining \$61,000.

And the real culprit is the American health service itself which has been ripping off the American indisposed for years, fed by its rapacious insurance and pharmaceutical industries and by doctors who earn exorbitant amounts of money and simply refer you to another even more extortionate specialist.

In the States, according to recent research, 22 per cent of the population missed a consultant's appointment because they just couldn't afford it. The only time I missed an appointment was when I found myself behind about 30,000 other cars bound for Victoria and the ferry only had room for a man on a unicycle.

Look, you don't have to be a hypochondriac to appreciate our system of welfare (although it helps), and I fully realize that over the years I have probably paid enough in taxes to cover a full body transplant, but this week and in the many, many weeks I hope will follow, I will look south and count every British penny and Canadian cent well spent.

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



WEDNESDAY

SALT SPRING GENEALOGY GROUP: Info: Email cloudie48@gmail.com

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

SOUTH SALT SPRING SENIORS meet on the last Wednesday of each month at Fulford Hall at 2 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

SRHYTHMS MOVEMENT & DANCE CLASS

led by Shauna Devlin at All Saints By-the-Sea (downstairs). 9 to 10 a.m.

ALL LEVELS HOT HATHA YOGA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 9:30 a.m.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC at SS Seniors Centre board room. 10 to 11 a.m. Confidential, accurate, easy and convenient.

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 125B 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.

KUM NYE SERIES: OUTER KUM NYE. At the yurt at the Salt Spring Yoga Centre at 355 Blackburn Rd. Wear loose comfortable clothing suitable for movement and sitting. Sign up for four-week series via info@movingpresence.center.

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.

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.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TECH TUTORING with Peter Freeman at Salt Spring Public Library. Times available at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Free training and assistance with tech issues, including Windows, Mac, iPads, eReaders, tablets, using OverDrive, and more.

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@santosh-yoga-retreats.com, 250-537-7675

ZEN MEDITATION at 210 Cedar Lane at 7:15 p.m. Call 250-537-2062 for details. Newcomers always welcome.

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.

ALL LEVELS WARM YANG YIN YOGA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 6 p.m.

DANCE TEMPLE at Beaver Point Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE HOT VINAYASA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 60 mins. 8:30 a.m.

LUNCH at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Phone the centre at 250-537-4604 to reserve your seat.

KUNDALINI YOGA - all levels with Shannon Cowan at the Wellness Centre. 8 to 9:15 a.m.

NIA — Discover the delicious music, mindful movement and healing magic of Nia, a fabulous, fun blend of dance, martial arts and yoga with a welcoming community of women. No dance experience needed. Classes are 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. at Antler Ridge Dance Studio. More 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.

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.

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.

EVERY FRIDAY

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.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Anna Haltrecht, 10-11am.

Move with less pain and stress by learning how to make any activity more effective and more enjoyable. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

SALT SPRING LIONS CLUB GARAGE SALE drop-off and sales at club hall at 103 Bonnet Ave. 10 a.m. till noon.

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.

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.

EVERY SATURDAY

DAD 'N' ME PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Family Place. For dads and kids aged 0 to 6. 8:30 to 10 a.m.

SALT SPRING LIONS CLUB GARAGE SALE drop-off and sales at club hall at 103 Bonnet Ave. 10 a.m. till noon.

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: hafizbhijji@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.

EVERY SUNDAY

FREE POOL at the Legion. 12 to 7 p.m.

KUNDALINI YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SS Wellness Centre. 10 to 11:15 a.m.

PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beginners from 9 to 10 a.m.

SUNDAY SATSANG at the SS Centre of Yoga. 3:30 p.m.

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP meets at Salt Spring Seniors Centre at 10:30 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

ACTIVE LEARNING group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 to 4 p.m.

ALL LEVELS HOT VINAYASA YOGA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 9:30 a.m.

ALL LEVELS WARM YANG YIN YOGA with Sarah Jane Smith at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 6 p.m.

ART STUDIO at Fulford Seniors Annex. 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Info: Ingrid - 250-537-1885.

BOOMERFIT at Beaver Point Hall. 9 to 10 a.m. Exercise classes for the boomer gen. Info: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.

CHESS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

DANCE TEMPLE at Beaver Point Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

DARTS players meet for games at the Legion from 6 to 9 p.m.

EVERY MONDAY

DUPLICATE BRIDGE meets every Monday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Brinkworthy Clubhouse. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorage@shaw.ca.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alicef@saltspring.com.

NIA. See Thursday description, except the classes are held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at All Saints Church - downstairs hall. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.

PARKINSON'S MOVEMENT CLASS with Anna Haltrecht, 12:45-2:15 p.m. Small group class using conscious movement and other innovative techniques to encourage regular safe exercise to increase mobility, strength, endurance and balance. Appropriate for people with PD and other neurological conditions. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

PILATES+ CLASS with Anna Haltrecht, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Pilates is a body conditioning system that builds flexibility, strength, endurance and balance. Resistance bands and other tools are also incorporated. This class uses the principles of the Feldenkrais Method® to illuminate and clarify Pilates exercises. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

QUAKER MEETINGS for workshop are held on Mondays at various locations at 6 p.m. Contact Ruth at 250-537-4075 for more information.

SALT SPRING ISLAND QUAKER WORSHIP GROUP meets in Croftonbrook lounge at 6 p.m. Info: Ruth, 250-537-4075.

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 By-the-Sea Church 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 between 12 and 1 p.m.

EVERY MONDAY

TOASTMASTERS, a dedicated band of public speaking learners and enthusiasts, meets at the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m. Public welcome to attend. See saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org.

THE CLINIC by OPT: Options for Sexual Health is open every Monday at the Core Inn 2nd floor. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

250-537-8786.

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

ALL LEVELS WARM YOGA SCULPT with Howie Baral at The Nest Hot Yoga. 60 mins. 9:30 a.m.

ALL LEVELS HOT HATHA FLOW with Andrea Palframan at The Nest Hot Yoga. 75 mins. 6 p.m.

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE. All welcome to learn the wonderful Argentine tango. All Saints. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: ssi.tango@gmail.com

ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 1 to 3 p.m.

CHAIR YOGA with Cate McEwen at Fulford Seniors Annex. 2 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.

EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

FLOOR HOCKEY at Fulford Hall at 7:30 p.m.

LOST CHORDS seniors choir meets at SS Seniors at 10:30 a.m.

NIA — See Thursday description, except classes are 5:45 to 7 p.m. at All Saints Church - upstairs hall. 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: hafizbhijji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.

SS SEARCH & RESCUE - Learn ground survival, search and rescue techniques at the SAR Hall. 7 to 9 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.

YOGA with Gay Young at Stowel Lake Farm. 5:15 to 6:45 p.m.

AT THE FRITZ THIS WEEK:

• **Frozen 2** shows Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 1-Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.

• **Harriet** shows Friday, Jan. 3 through Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Coming Events

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Lillie Kyler (Johnson)
DECEMBER 12, 1922 – DECEMBER 15, 2019

Our dear mom, Lillie Kyler (Johnson) passed away on December 15, 2019 at Pleasant Valley Manor in Armstrong, BC, three days after celebrating her 97th birthday with family members. Lillie was born on December 12, 1922, the second child of Fred and Lillie Johnson in Sidney, BC, about one mile away from the present day Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal. Lillie was raised in Sidney, BC and once she was married to Pat they moved to Salt Spring Island in 1948 and raised their children there. In 1975 they moved to Kaslo for 6 years, Lumby, Falkland for 10 years and finally to Armstrong in 1991. She was devoted to her family, loved sports, keeping track of the weather, enjoyed cards, playing crib and scrabble. Lillie was an active member in the communities she lived in.

She is predeceased by her mother, father, husband Hershell (Pat) in 1993, brother Bill in 2003, son Phillip in 1986, son Rick in 2001 and daughter Dawn in 2018. She leaves behind her daughter Diane (Ron) Coutts of Vernon, son Ken of Qualicum Beach, daughter Denise Kyler-Funk (Trevor) of Meadow Creek, a loving grandmother to 11 grandchildren, a loving great grandmother to 12 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family would like to thank the friendly staff at Abbeyfield House in Armstrong and the wonderful caring staff at the Pleasant Valley Manor for the care they gave our mother while she was there for 22 months. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Children's Make a Wish Foundation. Expressions of sympathy may be forwarded to the family at www.MyAlternatives.ca.

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NAIRN HOWE

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

on Wednesday Jan. 15th, 2020 at 7.00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.
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- Ability to multi-task and work within deadlines;
- Excellent organizational skills;
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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor-Life Coach Astrologer

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Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19) The most significant feature of 2020 for you, includes pushing harder on public and professional fronts than you have in some time. Attending to finishing touches close to home will be featured in your priority list throughout the first third of the year. Then your focus will be directed towards bringing your lofty visions and plans down to earth to make them actual and viable. Generating ideas and directing your energies to this end has probably already begun. By year's end, you will have entered and will be pushing hard through new territory. Faith in and patience with the process is extra important throughout the year.
Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20) Your drive and ambition are already in high gear as 2020 begins. Although you had to work for it, returns did come in during 2019. This year you will have to remain diligent and persistent. By mid-spring, you will begin to diversify. This includes generating new streams of income. Circumstances will not allow you to lean too heavily on the past, if at all. Very much a foundation-building year, it does include some measure of expansion. Yet, 2021 will prove to be the bigger turning point and your returns will be much more measurable then. So, focus to establish a solid and integral foundation that supports multiple streams.
Gemini (May 21 - June 20) By the end of 2020, you will have completed the metamorphic cycle of Saturn transiting your 8th house. Thus, it constitutes the 3rd and final period, as it were. Jupiter there has come along to lend a supportive boost throughout the year. As well, you could experience a resurgence of your energy levels along with a fresh wave of creative inspiration before summer begins. This will manifest as an assertive impulse. Increasing your social outreach is also featured. Dealings with fiery exchanges with significant others will frame the year on either end activating an especially energetic and perhaps revolutionary push late in the game.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Some major changes on relationship fronts are indicated for you as 2020 gets underway. These could leave you feeling reactive, but perhaps also transcended, as though you have been touched by an angel. The result of these changes could manifest as professional expansion or even the start of a new job or position at work, perhaps even a promotion. The flip side of this implies endings that could come about unexpectedly. An invitation to engage your energies with others in a spirit of unity, cooperation, and team effort is a likely outcome. Commitment and a willingness to function as an equal within a greater whole will prove important.
Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Health is a keyword for you in 2020. It could emphasize that of your career and/or social status at least as much as personal health. A central theme centers on finances and stimulating a healthier flow. Learning and training are indicated. Your ability to focus and take-in new knowledge will increase as the year progresses. Accept familiarization and understanding of the basics as your first major phase of achievement. Fresh inspirations will arrive early in the year and will support you to feel energized, confident and creative. Strengthen your foundation with patient persistence and focus to increase your earning potential.
Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sep. 22) Are you ready to take your career to the next level? This is what is indicated for you in 2020. It will require strategic measures and a well-designed plan. The first boost will arrive even prior to the year starting, thanks to the Solar Eclipse in Capricorn. Jupiter there as well stands to prove especially helpful for you. Overcoming a tendency to scatter your focus will be among your bigger challenges. Activities with friends could diminish, at least for a while, as you direct more time and energy to your career. Expect to dig deep at the get go and get ready to work harder to advance to the next level.

Libra (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22) You have probably been experiencing a real mixed bag of experiences this past year. Unfortunately, this complex of energies is not finished yet. Positively, you have begun to feel more confident about certain things, like having passed through a dark night. However, there could be yet another visitation even prior to the start of 2020 or early into it. The destiny purpose behind it is to push you to lay claim to your hidden power. Yet, it lays buried beneath fears you may not even be aware of yet. As 2020 progresses, you will reach for clarity, truth and perhaps justice as you aspire to balance the scales.
Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Knowing better who you truly are and what you genuinely need and want will be clearer in 2020. This impulse will be activated early on and then about mid-way. Initially, the push will be to gain a stronger grasp of your creative potential backed by imagination power. The biggest challenge will be discerning between what you feel you want and what you truly need. You possibly be able to fulfill both, yet neither fully. So, you will be challenged to decide. This will lead to changes perhaps especially regarding your priorities. Yet they will also have a play on how you perceive yourself and the world and your best role in it.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) 2019 was a year filled with deep changes. Some of these may have caught you by surprise and have had an indelible impact on your lifestyle. This trend will continue well into spring. Your financials may well have been impacted and there may be more changes yet to come. If so, you will know about it early on. It could even feel like a death of sorts. Yet positively, it could also manifest as a spiritual initiation of some kind. As the year progresses, especially during the second half, you will meet new people and friendships and group involvements will begin to take root. These too will have a measurable impact on your lifestyle.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) A powerful series of events will activate a whole new level of power in you. Whether you take the reins of this power or it overpowers you is something you will be contending with right at the get-go. It could activate a whole new level of discipline, perhaps centered on health. It will also likely have a powerful effect on how you feel about your closest family relationships. Positively, this flow of destiny will serve to bring you closer to the ones you love, reminding you just how important they truly are. As the year progresses, you will learn to see the world as with new eyes, through the lenses of your soul.
Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Powerful events occurring behind the scenes or at subconscious levels will bring about changes linked to your power potential in the world. These may prove subtle and virtually imperceptible at first. Yet, they will contribute to some major new beginnings. These will emphasize your creative power and what makes you unique and special. Early on you will feel the urge to push through outer blocks and/or confront anyone who you feel is undermining your power potential or hindering progress. Expect a revolutionary series of shifts and moves throughout the year that may even find you changed and moved, literally and figuratively
Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) You will focus to secure and fortify your base. This could well include your actual home yet could also refer more figuratively to your health, business, mental and emotional center, or all of the above. You will begin the year by pushing harder than you perhaps have for some time. Already your perceptions and interpretations and your priorities are changing. This turn began in the spring of 2018 and then entered a more accelerated pace a year later. This year it will accelerate to full speed. You will learn the value of extending your reach to a wider audience or network that supports more and bigger opportunities.

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PHOTO BY TERRY STAFFORD

COMMUNITY MINDED: Members of Wildwood Self-Directed Learning Centre's Outreach, Philanthropy and Empathy for Children class put together packages for children at Salt Spring Transition House. From left are Lena McGinty, Autumn McQuarrie, Amalea Bickford, Kealani Hill and Lyra Gay. Class participants used donations they had collected in town to create the packs for children who arrive at the safe house with their mothers. They included mittens, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hairbrushes and shampoo, as well as fun items like paper, felt pens and card games. Other projects initiated by the group were to send two girls in another country to school, facilitating KIVA micro loans for two women and purchasing honey bee hives, tree seedlings, poultry flocks and irrigation pumps for people in need through the Heifer organization.

TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB

January hiking schedule all set

Annual General Meeting Hikes

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club AGM will be held at Lions Hall on Thursday, Jan. 30. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. A special presentation by research biologist Aaron Purdy, coordinator of the South Vancouver Island Cetacean Research Initiative in Victoria, follows the business meeting.

Jan. 7: Lynn will lead the first hike of the decade and it's a good one. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or the Burgoyne Bay parking lot at 10 a.m. The hike will take in the Mount Maxwell mines, the ecological reserve and the summit.

Jan. 14: Mount Tuam through the forest for about 90 minutes

followed by lunch on the open meadow with spectacular views. After lunch we will hike down the open meadow, down through the forest on the west side, and finally back along Mountain Road to the cars. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or Drummond Park at 10 a.m. to carpool. Park just past the No Exit sign, 5 km from the start of Mountain Road.

Jan. 21: Charles will lead a tough hike from Mill Farm to the top of Mount Bruce. The hike might include some "bushwhacking." Meet at ArtSpring by 9:45 to carpool or at Drummond Park at 10.

Jan. 28: Beth Hall will lead a hike in Channel Ridge tackling some hills and also the stairs for a bit of a workout before lunch. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 to carpool, or at the gate at the end of Broadwell at 10 a.m.

Walks

Jan. 7: A New Year's walk with the birds! Kathleen and Rob will lead a walk in Ruckle Park with the intention of viewing water birds, and even alcids such as the little murrelets. We will leave from the middle parking lot past the barn at 10:20 a.m. Departure from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to carpool. Along with your lunch, please bring your binoculars and maybe your bird book!

Jan. 14: On a round-trip walk through the Tsawout First Nation Reserve, starting at the trail head at the end of Menhinick Drive. It is a fairly easy hike with some elevation gain, through woods and along shoreline with lovely views. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to carpool or Beaver Point Hall at 10:20 a.m. From there we will carpool to the trail head at the end of Menhinick Drive with the fewest possible cars.

Jan. 21: Bishop's Walk trail. We will meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. and walk through Mouat Park to Drake Road to reach the trail head. We will follow the trail to Charlesworth then to Fulford-Ganges Road to Dean where we will get back onto the Bishop's Walk trail and return to ArtSpring by the same route.

Jan. 28: Andrea Rankin will lead a nice walk along the water in Ruckle Park. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the first parking lot (near farm buildings) in Ruckle Park at 10:30.

Rambles

Jan. 7: Bryan Adderley will lead the ramble. Meet at Centennial Park to depart at 10 a.m. We will have a restaurant lunch.

Jan. 14: Marjie will lead a Burgoyne Triangle ramble. Leave Centennial Park at 10 a.m. Lunch to be advised.

Jan. 21: Ann H. will lead the ramble at Duck Creek, leaving Portlock Park at 10 a.m. Lunch at Vesuvius' Seaside Kitchen.

Jan. 28: Ann K. will lead a mystery ramble.

Interested in joining us? Come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in. Participants need to bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing.

More information can be found at our website at www.saltspringtnc.ca



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