

What's On?

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Payment in advance by Visa or MasterCard

VANCOUVER ISLAND & ALL THE GULF ISLANDS

Monday, February 13

Enbridge: Pipeline to Nowhere?—information night and opportunity to respond • 7:30 pm • Anglican Hall
• All welcome • PENDER ISLAND

Wednesday, February 15

'On the Line'—eco-documentary about the proposed Enbridge oil sands pipeline; preceded by discussion with Nathan Cullen, MP for Skeena Bulkley Valley & NDP leadership candidate; includes potluck • 4:30pm discussion, 6:30–8:00pm film • Meaden Hall • Info: 250-653-4353 • SALT SPRING ISLAND



Saturday, February 18

Salt Spring Chamber Players—music by Rossini, Ravel, Prokofiev and Glinka; Matthew, Laurie & Jim Stubbs • Pre-concert talk 6:30pm, show 7:30pm • ArtSpring • Tickets: \$18 General Admission, \$12 Seniors, \$5 Students @ ArtSpring Box Office • SALT SPRING ISLAND



Friday thru Sunday, February 24-26

Galiano Island Books presents the Third Annual Galiano Literary Festival—writing workshops, readings, and panel discussions with fiction, nonfiction and poetry writers from all over BC including: Linda L Richards, Bob Robertson, Sheryl Salloum, Timothy Taylor, Audrey Thomas, Rhea Tregebov, Robert J Wiersema, Mark Zuehlke, Kit Pearson, Pamela Porter, Susan McCaslin • Galiano Oceanfront Inn • Tickets & info: www.galianoliteraryfestival.wordpress.com or Galiano Island Books: 250-539-3340, 1-877-795-2665 • GALIANO ISLAND



Saturday, February 25

3rd Annual SEEDY SATURDAY Seed Exchange and Sale—bring your local, non-GMO seeds in labeled packages to share; there will be plants and seed sales, Master Gardeners, edible mushroom kits, mushroom log inoculation demo; presented by the Pender Farmers' Institute • Community Hall • 10am-2pm • Info and vendor table reservations: Matilda, 250-629-3829, matildath@hotmail.com • PENDER ISLAND

Saturday, February 25

Pender Film Group—pre-release screening of *My Week With Marilyn* • 7:30pm • Community Hall • By donation • PENDER ISLAND

What's On in your community?
email islandtides@islandtides.com
or call 250-629-3660

ROUND THE ISLANDS

SARA MILES & CO.

MARS Founder Honoured



The Hornby Eagle Group Projects Society (HEGPS) recently honoured Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS) founder Maj Birch by presenting her with two pieces of wildlife art. The artwork was donated by wildlife artist Mary Jane Harman. In addition to the artwork, HEGPS and Friends made a donation to Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society to support its work helping BC wildlife. The money was raised by HEGPS through the generosity of its OurNatureZone forum members, online chatroom participants, and facebook friends.

HEGPS, which broadcast the Hornby Island Eagle Cam, has seen firsthand the wonderful work done by Maj and her dedicated volunteers. When the Hornby eaglet, Phoenix, succumbed to Aspergillosis in July of 2010, MARS was there to transport and examine her, and ensure that a cause of death was found. Later that summer, HEGPS members on Hornby Island were involved in the rescue of three eaglets in need of MARS' tender care. HEART (Hornby Eagle Advanced Response Team) was born!

Both the residents and wildlife of the Comox Valley and beyond are lucky to have Maj Birch in their midst. HEGPS thanks Maj for all she does for the birds and other wildlife who need a helping hand. It is our sincere hope that MARS will be able to continue its valuable and needed work. For more about MARS, see www.wingtips.org.

Salt Spring Chamber Players

The Salt Spring Chamber Players—Laurie, Jim and Matthew Stubbs—will be featuring Matthew on February 18 at ArtSpring (see 'What's On?', page 6). Sixteen-year-old Matt will be performing piano works by Ravel and Prokofiev. Jim and Laurie will join Matt in works by Rossini and Paquito D'Rivera.

In 2010, Matt was the youngest of three piano finalists in the Concerto Competition for the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2009, he performed the Poulenc *Piano Concerto* with the Cowichan Consort and Orchestra. He studies with David Oei, world renowned pianist, in New York City and is in demand as an accompanist both on and off the island. This is Salt Spring Chamber Players' fourth season at ArtSpring.

Cyber Tips

Last edition, we discussed keeping cell phone numbers safe from telemarketers. How about online accounts you no longer want or need? A duplicate Facebook account perhaps, or maybe you decided you don't want to tweet all day long. Sometimes these accounts are tricky to close. At www.accountkiller.com, find direct links to the 'delete' function of the most popular sites, or instructions on what to do. But, it's still impossible to delete Skype accounts. ☹

CRD Invites Input on Strategic Plan

Want to have a say on Capital Regional District planning? The newly elected CRD Board is drafting its 2012-2014 Strategic Plan. You have until February 10 to answer an online questionnaire at www.crd.bc.ca, to help identify your needs, expectations and preferences regarding: new programs and services, infrastructure investments, improvements to the way regional government operates, and improved relationships. The goal of this information collection strategy is for the CRD to get a more balanced understanding of needs, expectations and desired outcomes for the region.

PCT Update ~ Zorah Staar

Pender Community Transition is meeting on February 9 for our School Nut Tree Project. We have eleven little hazelnut and two walnut trees to plant. Pender students, teachers, staff, and community members are invited to the school grounds, to consider the planting community nut trees, there and elsewhere. Thanks to the school, Pender Home Hardware, and Braedon's Big Digem for their support of this project!

'Seedy Saturday' is February 25 at the Community Hall! (see 'What's On?', at left) We are also supporting interested food groups and growers to create a year-round Pender Community Seed Bank—an essential step for future food health and security.

We've started a garden or compost sharing network online, too. For details on this and all of the above, please visit www.pendercommunitytransition.ca.

Fukushima Conference ~ Vancouver

A group of Canadian and US physicians concerned about public health are organizing a one-day conference to explore the potential health and environmental impacts from the troubled reactors in Fukushima, and highlight the need for better monitoring and disclosure.

The conference, titled 'The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster—One Year Later' will bring together experts to share information on what is known about radiation exposures from Fukushima and the local and global impacts on health, the environment and the economy. Participants will also use this opportunity to examine the role of nuclear power for the world's future energy needs.

The conference, at SFU's Harbour Centre Campus on March 11, is being organized by Physicians for Global Survival (Canada) and co-sponsored by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, SFU, UBC Dept of Pediatrics at BC Children's Hospital and School of Population Public Health and Next GenUniversity, in consultation with the Fukushima Medical University. More info at www.pgs.ca.

Langdale Public Dock Open Soon

BC Ferries is working on the installation of a public float for use by private boaters at the Langdale ferry terminal near Gibsons. Engineers have been observing the dock's characteristics in a variety of weather conditions. Once the dock is fully secure and stable, the plan is to open it for use to the public in February. Access to the dock was initially restricted to only the *MV Stormaway*, the water-taxi vessel for Gambier and Keats Islands.

Galiano Restorative Learning Centre a step closer ~ Helen Hall

On January 14, at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Galiano Conservancy Association, the membership overwhelmingly endorsed the Board's proposal to take out a loan to secure the purchase of land which will provide a home for the Conservancy's newest initiative: the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre.

The Conservancy has already raised an impressive \$2.75 million towards the purchase of the land, but is still \$1.25 million short of the total \$4 million needed. With a deadline of February 15, looming to secure the purchase of the larger of two lots, which make up most of the land, the Conservancy needed to act decisively or abandon the project and lose its \$100,000 holding deposit.

Clear endorsement from its membership reflects both their excitement about the project and the belief in the Conservancy's ability to deliver it. It also means that the Conservancy can now finalize the acquisition of the land, providing a vital first step towards the ultimate goal of developing its innovative Restorative Learning Centre, and

what must be one of the most creative and far-sighted projects to be undertaken by a local land trust.

Purchasing the land alone will bring a significant conservation benefit to Galiano—protecting 290 acres (total) that include over two kilometers of undeveloped waterfront, endangered old growth Douglas fir, arbutus, Garry oak and associated species at risk. It will also help to connect existing protected areas in a wildlife corridor spanning the island from Trincomali Channel to Georgia Strait.

The value of the land to conservation is recognized in the support the project has attracted from the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Mountain Equipment Co-op, who are providing significant funding towards the project.

The future planned development of the Restorative Learning Centre will allow the Conservancy to develop and expand its existing successful education program and run a wide range of innovative education projects to benefit people from all walks of life. A key group will be

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LASQUETI ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Website: www.islandstrust.bc.ca Email: northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca

BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2012
THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2012

The Local Trust Committee meetings will start at 11:00 am at the Lasqueti Arts Centre, Main Road, Lasqueti Island, unless otherwise posted.

These are regular business meetings of the Local Trust Committee, where items such as correspondence, applications and bylaws will be considered. Dates subject to change.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Saturna Notes – Priscilla Ewbank

Last week a wind quintet from Montreal, Pentaèdre, played for us at the Community Hall. Wind quintets are rare and the concert was a marvellous opportunity to hear flute, piccolo, oboe, bassoon, clarinet and French horn without stringed instruments claiming center stage. We also had the opportunity to hear them in various groupings.

Bassoon player Mathieu Lussier was the 'voice' of the quintet and spoke to the 70 people at the Hall with humour, and made the repertoire and capabilities of the instruments available to us all. His wonderful use of English delivered in a powerful French accent was entertainment in itself! He gave a hilarious one-minute rundown of the plot of Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte* that made the music rich and familiar.

As woodwind instruments occupied the musicians' mouths, you could see them communicating with each other using animated eyebrows and bodies! Anything you play with your mouth is wet, soggy and slippery pretty soon! I could see why wind instruments are seated behind the string players; all that switching reeds, sucking out air pieces, and tamping in muffers. Woodwind players stand up, generally, with marvelous posture to get lungfuls of air to animate their lovely instruments and make divine sounds.

The first two pieces were less lyrical and melodic than the Mozart and Rossini opera pieces. I tried to like the more modern works but my body became tired and dull. I noticed I woke right up and became lively and 'attuned' when the familiar classical pieces filled the sound space.

The quintet members are close friends who play and teach in the Montreal area and all over the world. They said they love to play together, creating and refining more and more as they get older. They performed three concerts before Saturna and were off to present 23 more in the two weeks that they are on the west coast. Playing is their joy, and the number of concerts in schools, gyms and community halls up and down the coast doesn't daunt them.

Saturna Community Hall has splendid acoustics and provides fabulous tone for the instruments. Saturna is also hospitable to its guest musicians. The Arts and Concert Society, which presented the concert, arranges to have the performers hosted in local homes, arranges a dinner before or after the concert with our fabulous local chef, Hubertus Surm, and organizes an after-concert gathering to meet and appreciate the artists. The Concert Society gives out a gift certificate of \$200 at most concerts to a lucky audience member to buy local Island art. In addition to our hospitality, the Montreal wind quintet was blown away by the beauty of the Islands and the west coast.

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disadvantaged youth who stand to benefit most from the centre's multi-day outdoor education programs. The centre will also aim to run other tailor-made programs for community groups, serve as a research facility for students, and provide restorative retreats for adults.

While the benefits of the purchase are significant, the decision to secure the loan was not undertaken lightly at the meeting. The Conservancy set out steps at the meeting to reassure its members how it planned to guarantee the loan, raise the necessary funding and reduce the financial risk to the organisation.

Guarantors are being sought to cover the \$1 million cost of the loan to purchase this particular parcel of land. The Conservancy is also seeking monthly donors to make the interest only payments. The Conservancy has been pleased by the response so far from supporters, but is still seeking further contributions to cover these costs.

In addition, the Conservancy is also now working to double its fundraising efforts to pay back the loan—looking for contributions from individuals, foundations and funding organisations. If you or someone you know would like to support this exciting project please contact Ken Millard for information: conservancy@galianoconservancy.ca, 250-539-2424. Further information on the project is online at www.galianoconservancy.ca.

Helen Hall, a British ecologist, is on a six-month sabbatical from her job in England. She is currently volunteering with the Galiano Conservancy Association.

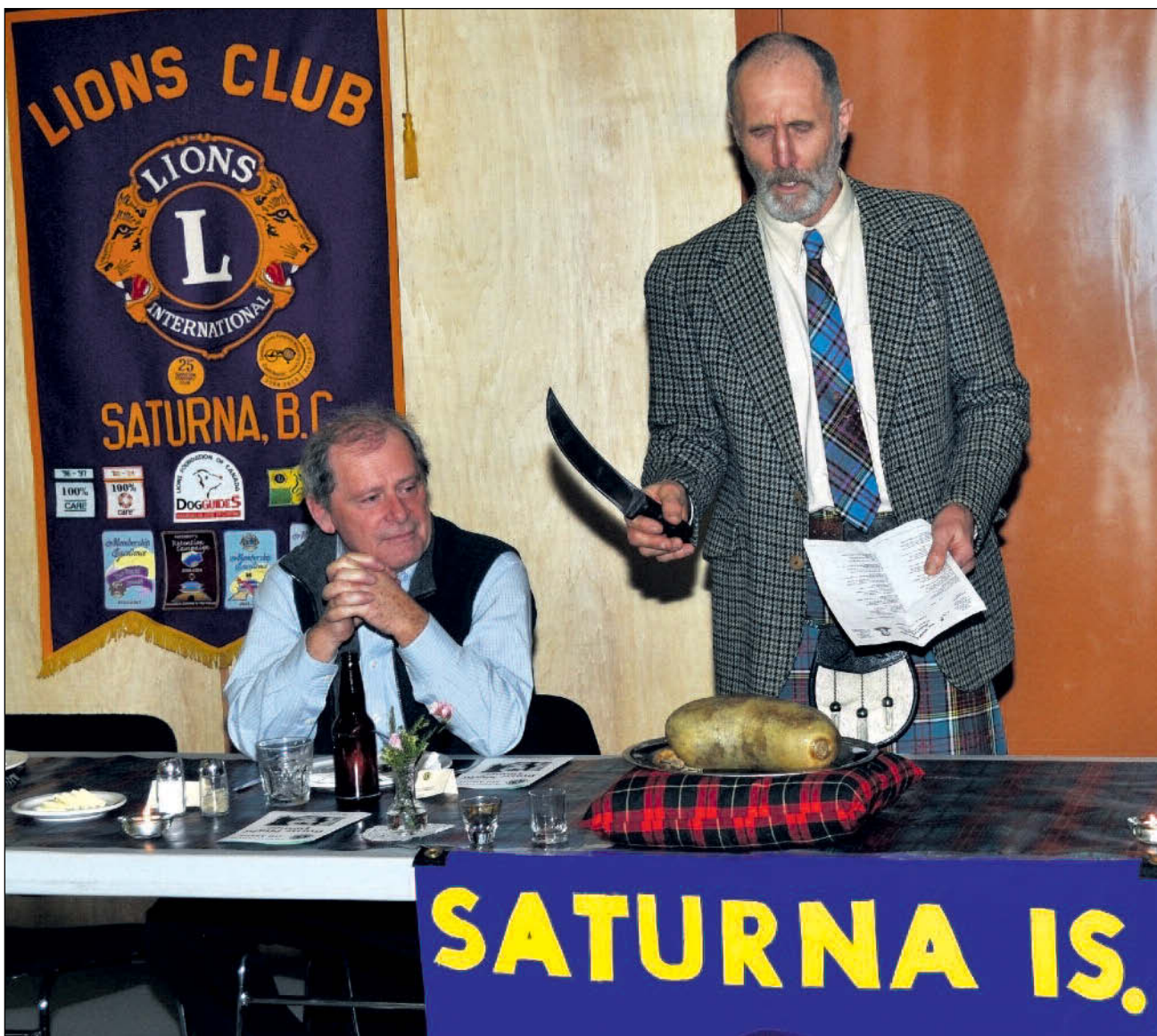


Photo: Jim Hebert

Culinary instrument in hand, Jon Guy addresses the Haggis at Saturna Island's Burns night.

Robbie Burns Night

Last weekend the Saturna Lions held their 21st Robbie Burns Dinner in the Rec Centre. Amidst 50-50 draws and silent auctions was the ceremony to Scotland's famous poet. About 60 people were treated to the time-honoured procession of a Pender Highlander Piper, the Haggis Bearer, the Head Cook (bearing a bottle of scotch) and the person who would give the Address to the Haggis. Strange and wonderful!

The Address to the Haggis was given with proper dramatic rendering. The traditional meal was blessed with the Selkirk Blessing and dinner was presented and enjoyed.

The Immortal Memory, and the Toast to the Lasses and the Response were delivered to the guests.

The speakers were wonderful this year—thoughtful, funny, lively, very engaging. It was clear that they had put much consideration into the evening's presentation, making it clear why Robbie Burns was such an inspiration to other writers and poets.

A new tradition was started with Ron Monk on the guitar and gifted singer Sue Kendall leading the audience in 'tartan tunes'. Ending the evening, the Pender Highlanders played traditional bagpipe tunes. The Rec Centre can easily handle the sound of four pipers, two snare drums, a bass and a tenor drum!



Photo: Jim Hebert

The Burns Night Procession, headed by Pender piper Jim Dunlop playing the bagpipes.

In Praise of Vultures – Dave Manning

Vultures! Some people turn up their noses at the very word. Yet vultures are an intriguing and invaluable species.

I'm a senior living on Pender Island. I've been an amateur birder for over fifty years, often ambling about for hours outdoors in search of my feathered friends. Vultures did not interest me much, until recently, when I happened upon something astonishing: a vulture chick, hunched down in its dark nest cave. It hissed at me. From that moment, I was captivated by *Cathartes aura*.

This little chick (pictured on page 8), a bundle of fuzzy

white with black eyes, was a Turkey Vulture, the only vulture found in BC. It gets its name from its red featherless head, which resembles that of a wild turkey.

Most of the adults arrive in our area in March, so we shall see them in the skies soon—a harbinger of spring. When nesting starts, the female usually lays two eggs and both parents taking turns incubating them. The chicks hatch in early summer, and by late summer they are flying.

Turkey Vultures have keen eyesight and are one of the only birds in North America with a highly developed sense

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