

what's on at mahon hall

WINTERCRAFT runs December 7 - 22.
Open daily 10am - 5pm

Stagecoach School for the Performing Arts dance classes for children **Mondays & Wednesdays**.

On **Tuesdays** - Andrea Rabinovitch's Hip Hop dance classes 5 - 6pm; Sue Newman's adult/teen ballet & Jazz at 6:16 and adult swing at 7:30.

On **Wednesdays** - Sue's adult tap dance 5-6pm

Thursdays - Explorations in performance Art for new and experienced performers. call Kristen 538-9090

Saturday November 24th - SPCA Annual Goods & Services Auction.

January 31 & February 1, 2 & 3 - 'Accommodations' a comedy presented by SS Community Theatre.

in the news

The Salt Spring Arts Council, in appreciation for the work done by the volunteers at the Visitor Information Centre, has presented each volunteer at the Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Appreciation Lunch with an ArtCraft poster.

SANTA'S SCHEDULE SATURDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2007

2:00 pm

ARRIVAL - Welcome Santa as he flies in at the Ganges Float Plane Dock

2:10 pm

Santa heads for Mahon Hall by Fire Truck

2:15 to 4:00

FREE PHOTOS with Santa in Mahon Hall

2:15 to 4:30

Art & Craft activities & goodies

4:30 to 5:00

Caroling & Countdown to the inaugural Light-up of the 60' community Christmas tree.

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS
ARE INVITED!**



salt spring arts council

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see inside

WINTERCRAFT opens

Friday 7th
December

see page 3



Santa Comes to Mahon Hall!

by April Curtis

On Saturday 1 December, "Santa's on Salt Spring" takes place in Mahon Hall. You could say this new event started in the spring when Peter Oro and Gary Cherneff were working on the landscaping in front of the hall and Peter looked up at the last great old heritage tree left on the road and said: "That would make a great community Christmas Tree," Out of that seed, grew the idea of a family event celebrating the lighting of the tree as part of the Driftwood "Light Up" contest.

Driftwood's publisher, Peter McCully liked the concept. Peter arranged to have the free photos with Santa moved from the Bank of Montreal lobby to the larger space at Mahon Hall, which of course is the headliner attraction for families. He liked our idea of arts and crafts activity tables, large screen videos, cookie decorating, warm cocoa and goodies for the children and

parents while they wait for photos. This creative fun time will wind up with a short period of group caroling supported by our piano and Driftwood songbooks in preparation for Santa leading us outside to pull the cord and light up our community Christmas Tree. This, we hope, will become an annual tradition to be enjoyed and built upon. It will be co-sponsored by the Driftwood and the Salt Spring Arts Council.

Thanks to: Island Star Video owners, Tim O'Connor and John Dolman who have offered us the use of their large screen video; the Elementary School for including us in their newsletter; Sue Newman who will accompany the caroling; Anthony Matthews who has offered to bake the cookies for decorating.

We are looking for volunteers to supervise craft activities, and for donations

of refreshments and craft supplies.

The grand old fir, which is the center of our pocket park in front of Mahon Hall, stands 60' tall and will need approximately 1200 feet of warm white LED lights to light it up. The B.C. Hydro guys have agreed to install them. It will be a glowing central beacon, even visible to ships entering the harbour. Ralph Bischoff has commenced fundraising efforts for lighting the tree. We hope other community groups will contribute to this feature.

The momentum for this event will invite participation and provide a wonderful opportunity for community use of the hall and enjoyment of the pocket park. It is moments like these that provide a public showcase for the intentions of the Arts Council and strengthen community linkages. We hope you will come and bring your friends.

The Salt Spring
Arts Council

AGM

Sunday,
24 February
at 2pm
in Mahon Hall.

e-mail:
info@ssartscouncil.com



Cut or Trim by Wendy Kwan

Vice-President's Report *by Celia Duthie*

Seasons Greetings from the (acting) President. On behalf of all our hardworking Board elves, I wish everybody a happy and busy holiday season.

Wintercraft runs 7-22 December 2007. This will be April Curtis's last WinterCraft and we all want to express our huge gratitude and high regard for her many years of enthusiastic and capable management of ArtCraft. We hope she will continue to participate in the Council and ArtCraft in years to come.

The Salt Spring Arts Council AGM is taking place on Sunday, 24 February 2008

We are actively seeking nominations from the membership for positions on the Board. Please contact Gary Cherneff (537-9279) with your nominations or e-mail info@ssartscouncil.com. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The Salt Spring Arts Council is a community umbrella arts organization with a broad purview of the arts. Its mission is to provide encouragement, support and advocacy for the arts on Salt Spring. Our programmes include: ArtCraft & WinterCraft; Artist in the Classroom; Grants & Awards; The management & restoration of historic Mahon Hall.

Mahon Hall is the home and great asset of the Arts Council and is nearly through a refurbishment programme. Fundrasers in 2008 for a much needed kitchen are: **21 March** - Easter Art Show and Chair-ity.

17-18 May - Mayfair, a books, art & collectibles sale. For more information or to book a table for the Mayfair please contact Anthony Matthews (250)538-0366.

cheers,
Celia,

*The Mahon Hall
'Christmas Tree'*
photo by:
Megan Manning



UP... and coming *by Anthony Matthews*

As a gallery director, curator, art/design historian, critic and collector, I have always shied away from photography. Too accessible, not rarified enough, too National Geographic. When placed in the realm of Fine Art, I just never "got" it. It was, after all, "just" a photo. Couldn't "anyone" do it? Well, I stand corrected. After a pleasant and engaging conversation about just these issues, photography has been elevated and de-mystified for me. In the hands of committed, sensitive and talented esoteric individuals such as Russ and Wendy Kwan, photography has the power to evoke emotions, take you to another time and place and create the desire to own such images.

This epiphany happened at the Kwans' opening at Galleons Lap Atelier and Gallery run by Seth Berkowitz - himself a photographer - and his wife here on Salt Spring Island. Seth maintains a rigorous exhibition schedule in what is one of the only galleries devoted to photography in western Canada. This exhibit, titled Vanishing Silver, tells the tale of long ago vacated silver mining towns of Montana - in street views and glimpses of once prosperous interiors - now exhibiting crumbling walls, missing Venetian blind slats and abandoned ornate iron bed frames. Amidst all this chaos, decay and loss, the Kwan's have instilled order and beauty by capturing the interplay of light on architectural details and remnants. Printed in sepia as well as black and white using

the silver gelatin process (itself now being lost to other methods), the apparent agedness is enhanced along with our own nostalgia. The show's title reinforces the loss of the visual subject matter as well as printing method and its cleverness was not lost on this writer.

One of my favorite shots is a compositionally bisected print, an image of a paneled wooden door on the right, visually balanced by the 'paneled' light reflected on the wall behind it as seen through a mullioned window. This, to me, represents an aesthetically cunning dichotomy of composition and meaning. Transparent/Solid. Light/Dark. Disparate/Same. This use of device, technique and skill in printing along with cleverly arranged imagery are



The cup is Always Half Full
by Russ Kwan

evident in myriad other photos in this show. To this writer, the photographic work of Russ and Wendy Kwan indeed must be assigned to the level of Fine Art. I stand corrected.

Contact Galleons Lap Atelier and Gallery to view. 103 Park Drive, Ganges. 250 538 0182 or visit www.gphoto.com

Q&A with Gail Sibley April Curtis

When did you start as Manager of ArtCraft?

Back in the winter of '99, a call came out of the blue asking if I could manage the Guild Sale scheduled to open in two weeks. Board members would pitch in if I could get the show to go on. Well, we did it and they asked me to stay.

Most wanted improvements?

The first thing was improvement in display. We painted the shelving a shade of umber that matched the ceiling. We painted the walls white with a tint of yellow & umber. Some days, when the sun hits just right, the walls have a delicate yellow glow. The idea was to create a neutral canvas or background for all the colourful work. We improved the lighting, added slat wall displays, additional plinths, cash desk upgrade, to name just a few... All of these projects were assisted by volunteer labour and the support of the Board of Directors and Artcraft Committee.

The achievement you are most proud of?

Surviving.

The greatest pleasure?

Watching the quality of the show grow has been beautiful. And I remember the people. I had many special moments, shared sadness and happiness. I was a confidant to some and probably an irritation to others. I have been privileged to work with you all. Support and camaraderie from Board members and co-workers was so appreciated and spurred me on.

Your biggest challenge?

Keeping the show running smoothly. Sometimes it feels like juggling 100 plates in the air. A wonderful balancing challenge.

The most frustrating?

How to get the fence down. It definitely impeded access to Artcraft, but took 5 years of determined effort by dedicated board members to finally satisfy School Board requirements in order to remove that fence and begin landscaping.

Some funny things?

The students gave me great joy most of the time. Their wardrobes were often memorable. Who can forget six foot Trinity up the ladder in her mini-skirt held together with safety pins hanging paintings? Our favorite this season was a grandmother inquiring if one of the Doggie Couture dresses would fit her grandchild. We pointed out it was a doggie pinafore. As she stood there, slightly embarrassed, we said she

didn't have to tell them its original purpose. Then she smiled and said "Oh well, if it doesn't fit the baby, they can put it on the dog."

Words of wisdom for your successor?

Don't sweat the small stuff!

What now?

Well, I am a creative person and I need to get back to doing my own creative work. Change is good.

Anything else to add?

I would encourage all our members to take pride in what we are doing and maintain loyalty to an organization that works so hard to provide such a special venue for our artists. Remember, united we stand! It is important to each one of us to have a healthy, thriving art scene and Artcraft and the Arts Council contribute greatly to that in our community.

See you around,
April



Photo by: Henny Schnare, www.henny.ca

WinterCraft 2007 by April Curtis, Manager

The holiday season has arrived and with it, this year's 32nd annual Wintercraft show & sale which opens Friday, 7 December and continues through Sunday, 22 December.

Mahon Hall dresses up for the occasion with an old-fashioned flair where you can enjoy selecting that perfect something for those special somebodies on your list. Close to home with plenty of parking, WinterCraft is a highly enjoyable experience. The Arts Council has gathered almost 100 participants and craft guild members who have been working like elves to present a wide variety of pottery, clothing, basketry, painting, ornaments, woodwork, jewelry, weaving, glass work, photography, holiday foods, candles, cards, soaps, lotions, wreaths, stocking stuffers, toys, and more within the cozy atmosphere of the 103 year old community hall. Each piece is carefully handcrafted, representing the best of island artistry.

Demonstrations of painting, book signings, weaving & spinning and basket making will be available.

Daily door prize draws will encourage more than one visit to this annual favourite organized by the Salt Spring Arts Council. Have a happy handcrafted holiday!



Photo by: Megan Manning

salt spring arts council

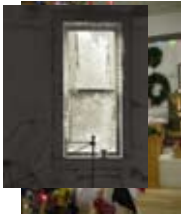
November 2007 newsletter
volume one, issue three

see inside

review of new PHOTOGRAPHY

Exhibit at
Galleon's
Lap.

see page 2



Become a member

Enjoy this newsletter regularly and other great benefits by becoming a member of the Salt Spring Arts Council - Support the arts in your community and apply for membership - individual \$20, full time student \$15, supporting group or guild \$35, friend - up to \$99, contributor - \$100-249, sustainer - \$250-499, patron - \$500-999. Phone 250-537-0899 for assistance or visit our website www.ssartscouncil.com - New members are always welcome!

Salt Spring Arts Council
114 Rainbow Road
Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K2V5

Publications mail agreement
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Please submit to addressee:

The SSAC newsletter is published 4 times a year. Please submit your ideas and articles at least 3 weeks prior to publication date. Submit by email to: newsletter@ssartscouncil.com, headed "newsletter item"

Arts Council Board

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SSAC newsletter

Editor: Gail Sibley
Issue layout: Megan Manning
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We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the BC Arts Council

Welcome new and returning members:

Jeanne Allen; Stewart Brands;
Anne Buckley; Terra Dimock;
Lynne Grooms; Donna
Johnstone; Karin Jones.

*"We need beauty in our lives.
We're hard-wired for it, and
this need has been with us
since the earliest human
groupings. Creating art allows
us to express our deepest
feelings and ideas without
having to put a name to them."
- Robert Dalton -*