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November, 2013

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ISSUE 11-03



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## Craft Junkies

Author: Judy Barlow,  
 Citizen Journalist

Snowflakes on the windows; fresh gingerbread with hot mulled cider; Sarah McLachlan's "Wintersong" on the CD player. Clearly Christmas is just around the corner.

A quaint sign indicates that this is now Noel's, not Santa's, Workshop; the

an empty-nester, she reluctantly admits she's a "craft junkie", crafting all year round.

Unlike Noel, Karen exhibits high-end jewellery at only a few sales where the price of a table discourages dilettantes and a juried panel excludes all but the most professional artists.

In her seventies, Eileen is not a crafter at all. But she is a collector. And as a volunteer at Beacon Community Thrift Stores, she sometimes turns a judicious eye on treasures gifted by

**just provide a space. But sometimes I can help with selling, like advising on pricing and display."**

Organizer Jenny Lee agrees. Jenny's experience goes back to the mid-80s when she started helping to organize events within the Chinese community. "Vendors tend to blame the organizers if they don't do well," claims Jenny. "I took a lot of flak over the years, especially when I was just starting out and learning how to do this. Sometimes I made mistakes."

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hub of a professional crafter's world – where the action is.

Meet Noel. Glue gun in hand, she puts finishing touches on Santa. Every horizontal surface around her is piled with craft supplies and mysterious bags and boxes, overflowing with "stuff".

Two tables are crowded with projects in progress. A third holds a sewing machine, computer, and printer. A sky-scraper of see-through totes reveals pre-priced, pre-packaged product. Stacked empties wait to be filled.

Lining the walls – tools, kits, wobble eyes, wires, and a myriad of supplies necessary for kid-friendly crafts that sell out fast at the school fairs she favours. Books and binders hold patterns and craft ideas downloaded off the internet or cheerfully "stolen" from other crafters. Honeycombed shelves are packed with yarn, felt and fabric swatches, and ribbons in all their glittering, gaudy glory. A flat-screen lets her follow her favourite TV productions without shutting down production.

No phones allowed.

This is not Noel's "Craft Room". This is a factory. She'll carry more than fifty different products, starting at \$1.00. Most sell for around \$5; prices even kids can afford.

A Christmas countdown concerns Noel. She's uncomfortably close to her first craft fair date. Between mid-October and mid-December, with family support, she'll do almost thirty.

Noel apologizes. "Sorry," I have to keep working while we talk. I'm behind schedule."

It's July 5th.

As a young parent, Noel always volunteered to organize (and sell crafts at) a fundraiser school craft fair. Now

generous donors with a view to maybe turning a profit. She showcases her wares at a collectibles table in one venue only, the retro show at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney.

Organizer Trudine Wilson is not a crafter either. When Trudine transferred to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 91 LA (Ladies Auxiliary) in Langford from Esquimalt she dived right in to help the organizers. Thirteen years ago, when duty called, Trudine stepped up and took over.

Every year Trudine oversees hundreds of details, like making sure that every table is rented – to vendors who are not seated close to someone selling a similar product. At the Tea Table Trudine makes sure there are ample goodies for the afternoon tea, prepared on-site by the LA, and served by the 1st and 2nd Colwood Guides. Trudine thinks smoothing ruffled vendor feathers is probably her biggest challenge.

"It's hard trying to explain that it's not your job to make sure their product sells," says Trudine. "We




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What is Saanich Voice Online? It's YOUR community paper; by you and for you. Saanich Voice Online is entirely published by local residents, covering local stories at the ground level from the "citizen journalist" perspective. Our mission is threefold. 1) We are devoted to being a news source for the many communities of the Saanich Peninsula as well as a resource for local businesses that have an interest in a fiscal, socially and environmentally responsible world. 2) To publish regional stories through interviews and investigative citizen journalism about smart growth, local governance and stories of human interest with a commitment to checking sources and facts. 3) To preserve our region as the precious jewel that it is through expanded discussion and citizen engagement. We hope you will contribute your own photos, stories and ads. For questions or comments, please visit our website. Saanich Voice Online is a registered and incorporated company.

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## Tsartlip Plans Major Expansion

Author: Ed Johnson,  
Citizen Journalist

A vacant piece of land in Central Saanich sitting idle for the past 50 years suddenly has a new 'lease' on life.

Tsartlip First Nation recently announced a major project taking place

on their land near Brentwood Bay. The Stelly's Road property will see a gas station and convenience store taking shape over the next few months.

Band member Andy Paul says "our community is really excited about this new venture which brings with it new economic opportunities." Further development on the 11 acre property will be decided by the band council in mid November. Check our website, [saanichvoiceonline.ca](http://saanichvoiceonline.ca), for the update.

After the Peninsula Co-op sud-

denly dropped their plans for a gas bar and grocery store at this location last year, the band decided they could accomplish part of the project on their own. Funding was secured from Bank of Montreal, and petroleum products will be supplied by Esso.

"Besides gasoline, we will be carrying diesel and marked gas at our gas pumps," adds Mr Paul. "With a convenience store it becomes really important to us to have a friendly place where people can gather - a sort of community centre."

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## Glossophobia and The Cure

Author: Elle Colton,  
Citizen Journalist

If the third greatest fear is acrophobia (fear of heights), as popular lore dictates, and the second greatest fear is necrophobia (fear of death) or thanatophobia (fear of dying), and the greatest fear is glossophobia (fear of speaking in public), then is it fair to conclude that perhaps the worst fate imaginable is falling off (bathophobia) a high cliff (cremnophobia) and plummeting to your death while speaking in public? (bathoacrocremnothanatonecroglossophobia?) Huh?!

As with any fear, the proven way

past it is through it. That doesn't mean delivering speeches to undertakers on cliff tops although it suggests that some people would rather die than toast the bride or face a job interview panel.

What it does mean, is that there's a painless way to grow confidence, improve communication, develop leadership skills, and, for some people, overcome fear of speaking in public. And it need only dent your wallet, not break the bank (or your neck).

You could, of course, sign up for a correspondence Dale Carnegie Communication or Leadership Course. It will set you back a few hundred dollars, but, hey, it's Dale Carnegie!

Camosun College will be happy to tap your bank account for several hundred dollars (plus textbooks).

Or you can check out Toastmasters.

Pauline Lyngard did.

"I joined Toastmasters because of its proven formula for success. I wanted to change my career and knew that Toastmasters could teach me what I wanted to know... I'll be facing a lot of interviews in the next few months and I'm going into them with a lot of confidence. I know I'll be able to handle whatever they throw at me... When you have to formulate your thoughts in a matter of seconds," she adds, "and come off sounding like you know what you want to say, well, that's a skill you can use in all aspects of your life."

Continued online at:  
[www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca](http://www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca)

To find a club near you visit:

[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)  
and click on "Find".

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Okay, Mr. Baldy... Let's look at some investment opportunities.

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What does a company have to do to get a low recommendation?

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### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

**First Chance Christmas Craft Fair**  
Mary Winspear Centre,  
2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney  
Nov. 2, 10am - 5pm Nov. 3, 10am - 4pm  
Pay once, return for free both days  
Adults, Seniors and Kids over 12: \$4  
Kids under 12: free  
Tickets are only available at the door

**Pirates of Penzance**  
Mary Winspear Theatre,  
2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney  
Nov. 9 and 10, 2pm - 4pm  
Presented by Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society and Civic Orchestra of Victoria.  
Adults: \$27; Seniors and Students: \$25

**Creative Craft Fair**  
Pearkes Recreation Centre,  
3100 Tillicum Road  
Nov. 9, 10 and 11, 10am - 5pm

**Honouring the Sacredness of New Life**  
Victoria Native Friendship Centre,  
231 Regina Ave, Victoria  
Nov. 22, 2013  
Celebrating babies born November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2013  
To register please contact VNFC by November 8: 250-384-3211

**Studio DB3 - Daniel Boot - Acrylic Paintings**  
The Muse Winery, 11195 Chalet Rd, North Saanich, Nov. 15 - Dec. 31

**Isbjorn** - by Nicholas Fairbank Via Choralis - North of the Arctic Circle  
St. Elizabeth's Church,  
1003 Third St, Sidney  
Sunday Nov. 10, 2:30pm  
Adults: \$20; Students: \$5; 12 and under: free

**Colin James**  
Charlie White Theatre,  
2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney  
Nov. 14, 7pm

More events online at: [www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca/community-calendar](http://www.SaanichVoiceOnline.ca/community-calendar) Submit your event for FREE!

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