

Just Off The Press

The Salt Spring Chronicles

By Roger Brunt

Talus Publishing Group

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The largest of the Gulf Islands off the east coast of Vancouver Island, Salt Spring Island is a tranquil gem for travellers and a safe haven for the people who live there and they cherish their freedom to be exactly who they are.

The Salt Spring Chronicles is a window on this special place and a celebration of all that it stands for.

A collection of sketches written by author and Salt Spring Island resident Roger Brunt, it is a book about the people of the Island, how they live and what

makes their world a special place. Here you meet people like Henry Otto and Art Falardeau and Vikash the bead maker, you step into the colours, the sounds and smells of the weekly market and you meet the furred and feathered characters that share the land with their human keepers. Through the collection of 35 short vignettes, the book allows you to meet or renew friendships with the people of the island.

An award winning-writer, Roger Brunt has been a visitor to the Island for 30 years, a “commuter while building my house” for another seven, a regular columnist for the local newspaper *The Driftwood* since 1998 and a full-time resident since 2000. **The Salt Spring Island Chronicles** is Roger’s tribute to the people of the Island, his neighbours.

The Salt Spring Chronicles is beautifully illustrated by Margaret Threlfall, one of Salt Spring’s best known artists. Working in watercolour, pastels and pencil, she captures the beauty of life on a working farm as well as the cycles of nature around her. A resident of Salt Spring Island since 1984, Margaret and her husband Tony have settled at a heritage homestead, five minutes from Ganges, where they raise prize Border Leicester sheep under the watchful eyes of Aldo, the guard donkey.





About the Author

The Salt Spring Chronicles by Roger Brunt

In the *Victoria Times Columnist* newspaper, award-winning writer Roger Brunt has been called an outdoor wordmaster and he brings all his skills gleaned from 40 years of freelance writing to his book **The Salt Spring Chronicles**.

Few other writers are as qualified as Brunt to bring such a book to the public. Whether he is writing about Tony Spina and his miniature horses or Art Falardeau with his emus, Brunt brings a life-long love of nature and the environment, as well as a wealth of knowledge about the people who call Salt Spring home, to his writing. A visitor to the Island for 30 years, a “commuter while building my house” for another seven, and a full-time resident since 2000, Brunt has written a column in the local newspaper *The Driftwood* since 1998. **The Salt Spring Chronicles** is a collection of the best of those columns.

“Being a writer is the perfect excuse for poking around in people’s lives,” says Brunt. “I’ve always had a great respect and curiosity about people who live close to nature and close to the land, and almost every story in this book reflects that, be it about raising exotic poultry or shoeing horses, raising sheep or providing shelter for orphaned rabbits. These are the people and lifestyle I love”

The Salt Spring Chronicles is illustrated by Margaret Thelfall, one of Salt Spring’s best known artists. She also appears in the book in the story about her and husband Tony’s Willowcrest Farm and Serendipity Studio, with their flock of prize sheep and Aldo, the guard donkey.

It takes a particularly keen eye and understanding of the natural world to bring these people and their animals to life with such warmth and detail. “Brunt certainly has the knack for it,” says Gail Sjuberg, editor of *The Driftwood*.

“Virtually everyone I write about becomes a friend,” says Brunt. “I know of no higher honour than that.”