



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2000

# A slice of Salt Spring history

By TANYA LESTER  
Driftwood Staff

On Salt Spring people joke that a person has to live here for over 30 years before being accepted as a Salt Spring Islander.

John Bennett and his three sisters — Evelyn Lee, June Stevens and Mary Mollet — more than qualify.

They are the oldest island family in which all the siblings are still alive, Bennett recently told the Driftwood at Mollet's home in Fulford.

Bennett said their parents, John and Alice, arrived on Salt Spring Island in March, 1919 after meeting in England during World War I. Their father was an Australian working in Smithers, B.C. for the Grand Trunk Railway when war broke out. He enlisted and found himself in England where he met his future bride.

John Bennett Sr. bought land on the island by accident, said Mollet.

He came over to Salt Spring with a friend and, like a host of other people, fell in love with it.

The couple's globetrotting days ended when they settled on their Dukes Road farm with their nine-month-old daughter Evelyn. The three younger children were born in the hospital when it was located where Community Services is now housed on Fulford-Ganges Road. Mary was born in January 1920; June in June 1922 and John in December 1923.

Mollet said the siblings have lived on Salt Spring for most of their lives.

It was not until around 1929 that the children first went off Salt Spring to briefly visit friends in Vancouver. They took the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) boat which travelled three times a week between Ganges and Vancouver.

Then, in 1934, Bennett took his first trip to Victoria on the Cy Peck



**LOOKING BACK:** Salt Spring's oldest family in which all the siblings are still alive include, from left, Mary Mollet, June Stevens, John Bennett, and Evelyn Lee. The family offers a wealth of memories about early Salt Spring.

Photos by Derrick Lundy.

boat which travelled twice a day between Ganges and the provincial capital. "Oh, the lights were something else," he recalled.

It was not until 1937 that power was hooked up on Salt Spring Island, said Bennett. Up until that time, coal oil and then gas lamps were used in the homes during evenings.

Sister and brother remembered the four of them sitting around the lamp and doing their homework. Mollet talked of making maps and writing compositions.

The grade school the four children attended was on Blackburn Road, not far from where Salt

Spring Centre School is now. Mollet remembers a lot of memorizing, including "quick" math and spelling. If the Grade 7 and 8 students had completed their assignments, she said, they would take the Grade 1 students outside and help them with their lessons.

Bennett said the children never wore shoes at school from April 1 to October. When an inspector visited and found only one pupil wearing shoes, he told the parents that they had to send their children to school in shoes.

That was fine, said Bennett. They left home in shoes and stashed them in the bush on the

way to school.

Not owning a car until 1940, the Bennett family moved into Ganges and rented a place while the teenagers attended the "chicken house" school (which at one time was a poultry exhibition shed for the Fall Fair) located close to where Salt Spring Elementary School now stands.

Brother and sister recall that mailing a letter at Mouat's store cost three cents. A real treat was a loaf of store-bought white bread.

Mollet remembers her mother's wild strawberry shortcake as being especially nice. Bennett liked a dessert his mother made called

roly-poly, a mixture of flour and water smeared with jam before it was wrapped in a cloth sprinkled with flour and dropped in a pot of boiling water.

During evenings and on weekends, there were always chores to do. When those were completed, games were sometimes played. These included Run Sheep Run. In this game, Mollet said, the captain helped his "sheep" hide and then coaxed them to get back "home" before the opposing team caught them.

Baseball scrub was another popular game, Bennett said.

On a Sunday, the horse might be hitched up for a day trip to Vesuvius or there might be a community picnic.

Fishing for trout in Blackburn and Price's (now Ford) lakes was also something Bennett enjoyed.

Simply going for a walk was another pastime.

"You don't miss what you don't have," sister and brother agreed about those less complicated times.

Bennett went on to work as a logger, a trucker and on the ferries. He met his wife, Ellen, when he was in the army hospital in Calgary and she worked in the kitchen there. In August, they will have been married for 56 years.

Mollet and her sisters married into other old Salt Spring families. Her husband worked on the Fulford ferry.

All of the siblings raised their own families on the island.

Bennett is perturbed about how some things have evolved here. "I'm not too happy about how it goes," he said. "Today everyone protests everything."

He also is concerned about the high unemployment rate. Personally, he keeps himself busy and his mind active by making well-crafted clocks and pen stands out of Salt Spring stone.

As an adult, Bennett bought the Dukes Road property from his parents. He built an entirely new house there with his own two hands, beginning with felling the logs for it on the property. It took him four years to complete and was finished in 1962.

When asked what they enjoyed about living on Salt Spring Island, Mollet said it was a good place to raise children with cousins nearby.

Bennett's common-sense reply was, "You have to live somewhere and we live here."



# Talented youth is first winner in Bandemonium competition

Just two days after being named best junior brass player at the West Coast Jazz Festival in Nanaimo, Simon Millerd came home to Salt Spring to earn another musical honour.

Millerd, a trumpet player, was chosen winner of the first annual Bandemonium soloist competition held April 16 at Gulf Islands Secondary.

As a result, he will play his prepared piece, A Trumpeter's Lullaby by Leroy Anderson, with Bandemonium at the community band's spring concert on May 26-28 at ArtSpring.

Millerd, who is in Grade 7 at Salt Spring Island Middle School, also wins a \$100 honorarium and certificate.

Bandemonium director Dawn Hage said all three contestants played extremely well, making the decision a difficult one.

Emily Hickford on saxophone and clarinetist Sarah Howe were the other two performers.

Hage said she was really proud of all three musicians.

"I consider it one of the most difficult things to do — to perform in front of a panel of judges in a little room . . ."

She said a great deal of interest was shown in the competition, although most people did not know what to play, since chosen pieces must have a published band accompaniment. She plans to compile lists of appropriate and available material for each instrument by this fall, giving musicians more time to prepare. Compositions not just for wind or brass instrument players, but voice, percussion, strings and more will be included.

This year's jurors were Hage, Conrad Koke and Deb Toole.

Hage said the soloist competition was even included on a website celebrating "first of the millennium" activities.

## SLICE OF BIG BAND:

Swing Shift is gearing up for a Sounds of the Big Band cabaret/dance Saturday night at Fulford Hall. Members include, from left, Lanny Larson, Conrad Koke, Emily Hickford, Geoff Roop, Jeff Millerd and Murray Hunter. The event is a fundraiser for the high school music program, whose hot jazz band will do an opening set.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



# The show goes on with Mary

She would have been the first one on stage, slicing through the event with a disarming wit.

But Mary Williamson will be present only in spirit as ArtSpring hosts the first annual Mary's Matinee, a three-hour celebration of the life of one of Salt Spring's most treasured performers.

The project was planned even before Williamson's death on March 23.

The May 7 afternoon of skits, songs and at least a joke or two will raise money for a Mary Williamson Scholarship Fund, an annual \$1,000 boost to a local resident taking post-secondary courses in performing arts or journalism.

"This was Mary's wish that this would take place, that there would be some sort of memorial, not just for her but all those who had passed away and for those who needed closure," said Susheela, one of the event's organizers.

Another, Arvid Chalmers, saw it as a Canadian version of Mexico's Day Of The Dead.

Whatever its source, the program will be a fitting tribute to the former Hysterical Society doyenne.

Aside from the scheduled acts of people like Sue Newman and Kate Bragg, there will also be an open-mike portion for those adding their own testimonials to

the proceedings.

"Mary was the first one to use 'the F-word' on stage. There are a lot of people here who have shared a stage with her and remember her for things like that," said Chalmers. "It will be a very special time."

Entry to the event is by donation, although organizers would also like to attract some corporate sponsorship.

Anyone interested can contact Carol at 653-2000.

There is also a call out for desserts that can be sold at the venue or auctioned off. Bakers are asked to contact Barbara at 537-1600.

Gulf Islands Community Arts Council

# BURSARIES 2000

Music, Visual & Performing Arts

This year the Council is offering the following award:

- To a student presently attending a post secondary institution & planning to re-enroll this fall **\$1000**

Application forms and information are available from the GICAC, 114 Rainbow Rd., S.S.I., B.C. V8K 2V5 or call 653-9392 or email gicac@gulfislands.com. Portfolios, tapes, videos, etc will be required for jury. Deadline is June 16, 2000.

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# A Guide to Mourning

A NEW CANADIAN COMEDY

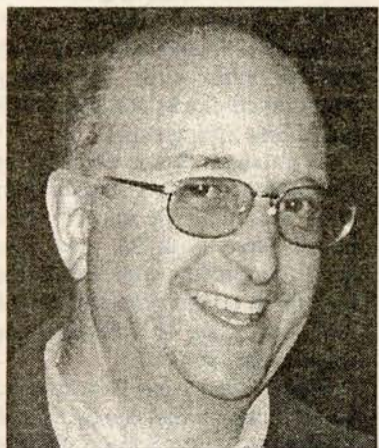
by Eugene Stickland  
directed by Tony Bancroft

**April 27, 28, 29 and May 3, 4, 5, 6**

8pm at Artspring • Tickets \$16 at Artspring • Special ticket price \$13 on April 27 & May 3

# SALT SPRING SINGERS SAY

We asked: Why are you excited about your Spring Concert at ArtSpring May 12, 13, 14?



**Jonathan Yardley**

I am doubly excited about this Spring Concert since I will be singing with both the Singers and Cantus — Early Music



**Hazel Gardner**

I am thrilled to be singing so many of the songs that I learned as a schoolgirl in England. It makes me very nostalgic.



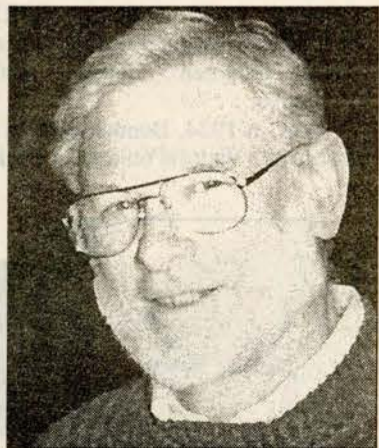
**Linda Koroscil**

This will be a bitter sweet occasion for us all. It is Wendy's last concert with us before she moves on to new challenges.



**Emily Roop**

This concert is going to be lots of fun, especially because the GISS Choir is also being showcased"



**Henry Tabbers**

It is a real challenge to perform these seemingly simple, yet timeless folk songs at their full depth and meaning.

# Salmon find an ally in octopus design

By **TANYA LESTER**  
Driftwood Staff

Robin Gibbard has a special connection to water and he is connecting this love with his passion for hand-forging steel art.

The result is a stylized octopus design that he and his wife Charlene are calling "an aquatic peace symbol."

They are selling copies of the design, which can be worn as a necklace, through the Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society.

The price is \$19.95, with about \$10 being donated to the society to increase the chances of local salmon populations staying healthy.

It may sound a bit confusing, but Gibbard, a forger of iron art for a couple of decades now, insists that it all fits together.

"I love water," said Gibbard, who was born in Powell River and grew up in Bedfordshire, north of London, England. "My father was a scuba diver and as a small boy he once brought an octopus to the water surface to show me."

The octopus is a wonderful West Coast symbol, Gibbard believes.

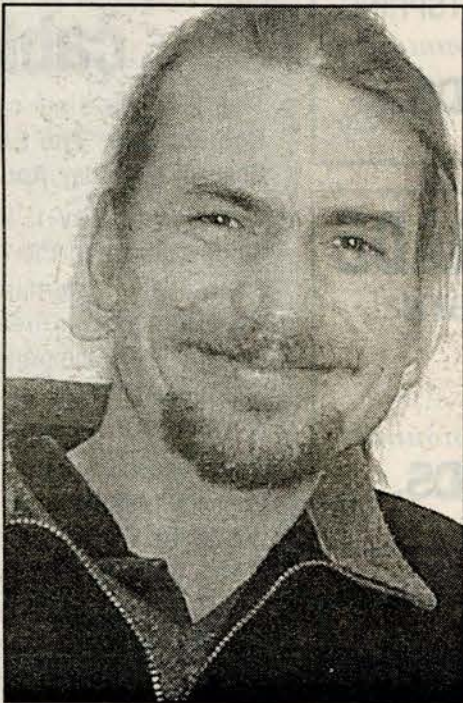
The largest of the species live in the waters around Victoria. In 1885, the biggest-ever octopus was discovered there. It was 32 feet (9.6 metres) in length.

To forge an octopus and have money from it donated to the well-being of inhabitants in the streams and ocean water with which Gibbard has such an affinity made harmonious sense to him.

Gibbard calls his octopus design an aquatic peace symbol because he feels anyone who wears it will feel the inner peace that water in natural settings provides no matter where they happen to be at the time.

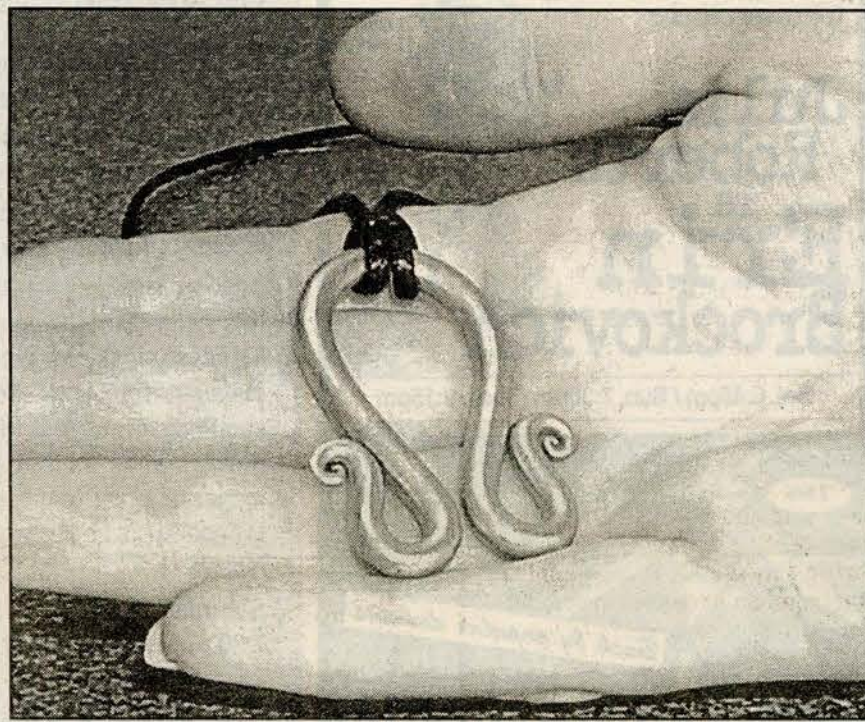
"When I'm around water, it makes me feel so content and calm," he said.

Gibbard, who still marvels at Canada's huge outdoor spaces after experiencing the limited English countryside for many years, often goes for walks with Charlene by streams near their home on



**Robin Gibbard, Charlene Gibbard**

Photos by Tanya Lester



**CONTENT AND CALM:** Gibbard calls his octopus design an aquatic peace symbol, and claims it will fill the wearer with inner peace.

Cranberry Road.

"Once we start being in it, we become very aware," said Gibbard. "All environmental problems make more sense."

He found out the salmon enhancement society could "really use the money," so the connection between them was made.

Gibbard includes a little note in the box where each octopus creation nestles in soft cotton. "The aquatic peace symbol reminds us

of the peace and tranquillity we feel when we are in, on and around bodies of water, and the necessity to preserve these paradises," it reads.

Salmon enhancement biologist Kathy Reimer believes it is wonderful to have an artist contribute to fundraising for the society's important environmental projects.

"I think it's a really great idea for their artwork to benefit the

marine environment," said Reimer.

She added that profits from the aquatic peace symbol will be earmarked for the Ganges Harbour clean-up.

They will also go towards the shorekeepers training program through which volunteers learn to collect data on the health of the harbour.

The aquatic peace symbol can be purchased from the society's booth when it is set up at the Saturday market, fall fair and elsewhere.

To purchase the aquatic peace symbol directly from the society, contact Reimer at 537-9630.

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## Knight, Valentine at recital

Violinist Jean Knight and organist Barry Valentine are teaming up for a Music and Munch recital May 3.

Valentine has played several times at the regular All Saints lunchtime series, but next week's show marks the first time Knight and Valentine have performed together.

They will present a program of light works for violin and organ.

Knight has played with the BBC Concert and Opera Orchestra, Sadlers Wells Opera and Ballet, CBC Radio Orchestra, Vancouver

and Victoria symphonies, among other prestigious groups. She also taught music on Salt Spring for many years.

Valentine, who is All Saints' musical director, has been involved with the musical life of the Anglican church since the age of 13. He was organist at McGill and assistant organist at the cathedral in Montreal.

Next Wednesday's recital, which is free, begins at 12:10 p.m. Lunch is available afterwards for \$4.75.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS from page B7

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# SOON

## OF LOCAL EVENTS

and cultural events. To have your event listed here please call at the Driftwood by noon Monday preceding publication.

<p><b>APRIL 28</b></p> <p>theatre Mourning Development Tea Catherine MacKay</p>	<p><b>sat APRIL 29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swing Shift dance</li> <li>• Garden Club show/tea</li> <li>• GLOSSI spring dance</li> <li>• A Guide to Mourning</li> </ul>	<p><b>sun APRIL 30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David French Trio</li> <li>• Wild Wood Walk</li> </ul>
<p><b>MAY 3</b></p> <p>entire recital y Night Live! Mourning</p>	<p><b>thurs MAY 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Men's Breakfast</li> <li>• A Guide to Mourning</li> </ul>  <p>MOURNING</p>	<p><b>fri MAY 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wisdom Circle</li> <li>• Onion Oak</li> <li>• A Guide to Mourning</li> </ul>
<p><b>MAY 8</b></p> 	<p><b>tues MAY 9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacred Dance</li> <li>• Historical Society meet/AGM</li> </ul>	<p><b>wed MAY 10</b></p> 

ABOVE, SEE SURROUNDING INFORMATION.

Local news, weather, entertainment and more  
<http://www.gulfislands.net>  
**Gulf Islands Online**

**Wood Walk** — a May Day event led by Art and Garlic with your lanterns. Begins at the **Sunday, April 30, 8 p.m.**

**families**  
**Wood Walk** — see "activities,"  
 at Beaver Point Hall on 9-10 a.m., and on alternate dates, 537-5453; Susanne runs every **Thursday** from (excluding March 23) at the

Portlock Park portable from 9:30 to 10:30. For tots aged one to three years (approximately); bring your own toot, rattle, jingle or drum. \$2. Info: Hannah Kahane, 537-4416.

- **Story Time at the Library** — with Jean Voaden, every **Tuesday** from 10-10:30 a.m., for kids aged 3-5 and their parents.
- **West of the Moon** — Story time with Susan every **Monday** morning from 10-11 a.m.
- **Fairy tales and myths with Shauna Grylls**, at Mary Hawkins Library every **Thursday** from 3-4 p.m.
- **Family Place** drop-in hours are **Monday through Thursday**, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Info: Family Place, 537-9176. Counselling by appointment.

**SPRING FLOWER SHOW & TEA**  
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DeAthe, 537-0884, for info.

- **Walking the Sacred Path:** A spring yoga retreat, Salt Spring Centre, **Friday, April 28, 4 p.m.** to **Sunday, April 30, 6 p.m.** Info, registration, 537-2326.

**cable tv**

The last showing of **The Tex-Files** and **Rediscovery: The Eagle's Gift** is on cable Channel 12, **Friday, April 28** at 7 p.m.

- On **Monday, May 1**, Margaret Fulton, Ph.D., guides us along the leading edge of social science in **Transforming Traditional Systems**, describing how hierarchy has proven a catastrophe for the planet and its living creatures, and presenting a new model in which creative change is more likely to happen.

In the second hour, see Fernwood Elementary School's 1998 production of **The Wizard of Oz**, one of the school's most ambitious and popular theatrical productions. With a talented and enthusiastic cast of students, great costumes and sets thanks to creative and caring parents, the classic over-the-rainbow tale is a delightful romp.

**cinema**

- **Erin Brockovich** — Steven Soderbergh directs Julia Roberts and Albert Finney in this fact-based serio-comedy about a sexy, feisty single mom who elbows her way into a job as a research assistant at a law firm and proves instrumental when the firm takes on a polluting utility company.  
**Saturday, April 29, 6:45 p.m.; Sunday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, May 2, 9:15 p.m.**
- **American Beauty** — Back by popular demand, this multi-Oscar-winning film is director Sam Mendes' glossy tragi-comedy about suburban malaise in America. Kevin Spacey heads this satiric, first-rate cast with his superbly sardonic performance as a disdainful, middle-aged magazine writer who decides he's had enough of his cookie-cutter lifestyle and hilariously reinvents himself.  
**Saturday, April 29, 9:15 p.m.; Monday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, May 2, 6:45 p.m.**

**arts & crafts**

- **Salt Spring Island Painters Guild** is joining forces with the garden club for a floral art display at ArtSpring, **Saturday, April 29, 1-4 p.m.**
- **Alliance of Salt Spring Artists** members group show on the theme of Trees is on display in the non-gallery areas of ArtSpring.
- **Rachel Vadeboncouer** and **Osman Phillips** are showing a collection of photographs and photo/paint collages titled **Intricate Rock Formations** — at Moby's during April.
- Ceramic platters and wall hangings titled **From My Life** by **Judy Weeden** at Bristol Hair Cutter Co. until the end of May.
- **Jacqueline Hooker** is exhibiting watercolours until May 18 at Sweet Arts Cafe.
- **Adrien Town's** paintings in oil, watercolour and acrylic are at Roasting Co. in Ganges for one more week.
- Photographs by **Joe Bengé** are at Luigi's pizzeria until June 1.
- Talon's Restaurant is showcasing a selection of paintings by **Diana Dean**.

**for seniors**

- **Bingo for seniors** in the OAP end of Fulford Hall, every **Friday** from 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Seniors Sing-along** at Salt Spring Seniors takes place every **Thursday** at 2 p.m.

**health**

- **Nia Fitness Dance** classes on **Thursday, April 27** and **Saturday, April 29** at 9:15 a.m. at All Saints By-the-Sea, and at North End Fitness on **Tuesday, May 2** at 7 p.m. Drop-in, \$8. Call Leslie

**galleries**

- **Spring Show** — Ewart Gallery of Fine Arts, 175 Salt Spring Way, runs daily, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until **May 30**. Info: 537-2313.

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# stage

- Graffiti Theatre presents **A Guide to Mourning**, an award-winning Canadian comedy written by Eugene Stickland, and directed by Tony Bancroft. It stars Yvonne Adalian, Patrick Cassidy, Vaughn Fulford, Stewart Katz, Siobhan Sintzel and James Wilkinson. At ArtSpring, **Thursday-Friday-Saturday, April 27-29**, 8 p.m. (and then May 3-6.) Tickets are \$16 for adults, except for the April 27 and May 3 shows (\$13). Available through ArtSpring box office, 537-2102.
- **Playback Theatre — Last Chance!** It's the last time in the Spirituality, Ethics and the Arts series to have your story told or witness others' stories being improvised by the talented Salt Spring Playback troupe. United Church upper hall, **Friday, April 28**, 7:30 p.m. \$7 suggested donation. Refreshments served.

# music

- **Music for the Soul** — Celtic harp and song concert by the renowned Caroline MacKay. Central Hall, **Friday, April 28**, 7:30 p.m. Admission free — a gift from the Baha'is of Salt Spring Island.
- **Sounds of the Big Band** — Swing Shift features a lively program of '30s, '40s and '50s big band jazz and swing tunes. The award-winning Gulf Islands Secondary Jazz Band will open the evening. A benefit for the GISS music program. **Saturday, April 29**, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at Acoustic Planet, Mouat's ticket office and the door until 8 p.m. only.
- **GLOSSI (Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island) Spring Dance**, with guest DJ Jean Caha, Lions Hall, **Saturday, April 29**, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 from Island Star Video or at the door.
- **David French Trio**, with Pat Coleman, performs at Sunday Dinner Jazz, **Sunday, April 30**, 7 p.m.
- **Music and Munch** features violinist Jean Knight and organist Barry Valentine performing a free recital at All Saints By-the-Sea, followed by a delicious lunch for \$4.75. **Wednesday, May 3**, 12:10 p.m.
- **Wednesday Night LIVE!** at Moby's, hosted by Charles Wilton, **May 3**, 9 p.m.

### EVERY WEEK:

- **Argentinean Tango Practice** at Lions Hall, every Wednesday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$3 drop-in. Info: Margie, 537-2707.
- **Rose's Cafe Open Stage** — every Friday night beginning at 7 p.m.
- **Alfresco Restaurant** — Barrington Perry plays piano every **Saturday** evening starting at 6 p.m.
- **Harbour House Bistro** — Pianist Murray Anderson performs every **Saturday and Sunday** at lunch or dinner.
- **Harbour House Lounge** — Brent Streeper performs on keyboards most Saturday nights.
- **Fulford Inn** — Buck, Dave and Richard play every **Sunday** from 6 to 9 p.m.
- **Midnight Mondays Cafe** — at Rose's in Fulford. The cafe is open until midnight every **Monday** for an after-hours acoustic jam session with all musicians (and audience members) welcome.

# meetings

- **Salt Spring Island Garden Club** meeting with guest speaker Michelle Nadon, physiotherapist, on "how to garden without injury." Meaden Hall, **Wednesday, April 26**, 7 p.m.
- **Beddies and Cusheon Lake Area Residents' Association** annual general meeting, Salt Spring Seniors Centre, **Wednesday, April 26**, 7:30 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club** social meeting. Financial matter vote, info on Strathcona trip and presentation by Colleen Shantz on the Broughton Archipelago. United Church, **Thursday, April 27**, 7:30 p.m.

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# What

**YOUR CALENDAR**

What's On is a reader service designed to highlight arts and...  
537-9933, fax 537-2613 or email: news@gulfislands.net

<p><b>wed</b> APRIL 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Club meeting</li> <li>• BACARA AGM</li> </ul>	<p><b>thurs</b> APRIL 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Guide to Mourning</li> <li>• GISS fashion show/singing</li> </ul> <p>MOURNING</p> 	<p><b>fri</b> APRIL 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playback Theatre</li> <li>• A Guide to Mourning</li> <li>• World Development</li> <li>• Harpist Carolin</li> </ul>
<p><b>mon</b> MAY 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lady Minto Auxiliary meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>tues</b> MAY 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toy Library</li> </ul>	<p><b>wed</b> MAY 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knight/Valentin</li> <li>• Wednesday Night</li> <li>• A Guide to Mourning</li> <li>• Bill Turner</li> </ul>
<p><b>sat</b> MAY 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Guide to Mourning</li> </ul> 	<p><b>sun</b> MAY 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary's Matinee</li> </ul>	<p><b>mon</b> MAY 8</p> 

**FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE EVENTS ABOVE**

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- **Canadian Federation of University Women** meeting, with Helen Hinchliff speaking on "genealogy before and after the Internet." Lions Hall, **Saturday, April 29**, 10 a.m.
- **Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society** general meeting, Lions Hall, **Monday, May 1**, 2 p.m.
- **Meet Bill Turner**, executive director of The Land Conservancy of B.C. Turner will be at the fundraising and information centre above Barb's Buns/Mobile Market all day on **Wednesday, May 3**, to answer people's questions about the conservancy and Texada lands issues.
- **Genealogy meeting** — Regular monthly meeting. Salt Spring archivist Mary Davidson will give a talk on managing your file cabinet, what to do with all those important papers, and related topics. At Salt Spring Seniors Centre, **Wednesday, May 3**, 7 p.m.

## activities

- **Community Meditation** — United Church, upper hall, **Thursday, April 27**, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **World Development Tea** — Tea and goodies, plant and bake sale, attic treasures and silent auction, at All Saints By-the-Sea. Funds support projects in the developing world. Hosted by the Roman Catholic, United and Anglican churches, **Friday, April 28**, 2-4 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Island Garden Club Spring Flower Show and Tea**, a great flower show with a floral art display by Salt Spring Painters' Guild, at ArtSpring, with tea available, **Saturday, April 29**, 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$4 adults, 50 cents for children 12 and under.
- **Third annual Wild Wood** celebration presented by... Productions — bring your... Mouat Park maypole, **Sunday**

**for families**

- **Third annual Wild Wood** above.
- **Toy Library** is open at B... Tuesday, May 2, from 9-10... Tuesdays. Info: Jo Twaites, Hunter, 653-9783.

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- **Mom and Me Music** runs... March 2 to April 27 (exclud

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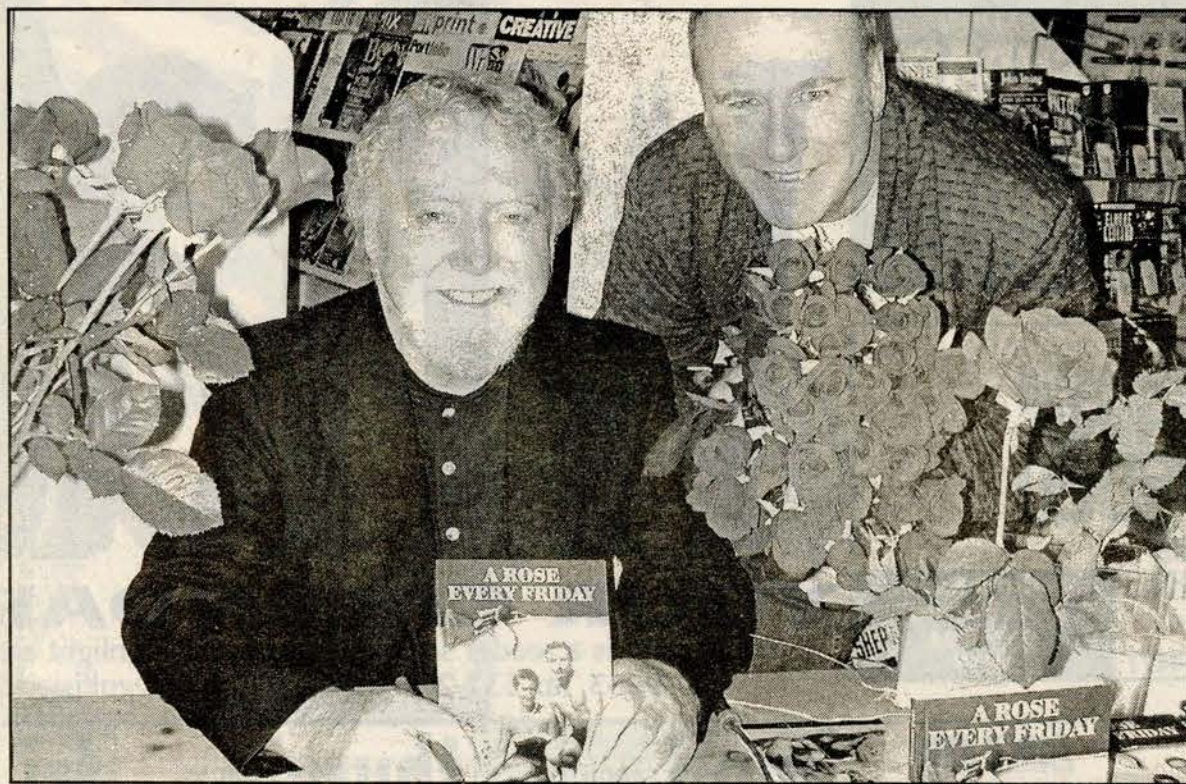
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**A ROSE AMONG ROSES:** Newly-published book writer Alex Mitchell autographs copies of *A Rose Every Friday* and hands out complimentary roses at Salt Spring Books last Saturday. He is seen here with his good friend and book illustrator Bevan Wrate.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## We can all learn from approach to life in Mitchell's new book

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Driftwood Staff

It's tricky to approach a book review with much objectivity when most of its material has previously been published within the pages of this newspaper.

What makes it harder still is knowing the author is such a blatant, devious bribery artist.

Harlan's chocolates, fancy posies and noxious, honey-scented liquids — Alex Mitchell has tried them all in the past, with some success. Just in case the luxurious goods aren't enough, he resorts to some old-fashioned flirting and, failing that, begging.

It makes one suspect that it's taken more than Mitchell's natural charm and sweat to sail him so blithely through life. For when Mitchell's recollections and musings expressed in Driftwood columns are laid together in his 80-page book titled *A Rose Every Friday*, one gets the impression of a man forever buoyed by the updraft, where a dash of optimism

and a dollop of humour make all the difference to sometimes tragic or plain persnickety circumstances.

But who knows how many bonbons, bouquets or bottles have paved the way to this man's fortuitous life.

In *A Rose Every Friday*, we find Mitchell dissecting subjects as diverse as chili cooking, World War II, hormone therapy, Cuba and passionate love, often breaking open veins of laughter in the process.

Yet through a forest of merry-making, Mitchell can also leave piercing treadmarks on paths of sadness. Through all of his writing, there's a sense of acceptance, and that every experience and encounter has value. It's an approach we can all learn from.

Whatever his tricks, Mitchell always makes us care about what happens in his and others' lives.

The book's title refers to his practice of giving his wife Avril, who died from Alzheimer's disease two years ago, a rose every Friday.

It's the first column in the book, and sets the tone well for the pieces to follow.

There's other contributions in *A Rose Every Friday*, including letters from his fans, Driftwood letters to the editor and a few articles related to his various shenanigans. The volume is brightened further by Bevan Wrate's illustrations and photographs of the Mitchell clan through the years.

It's one of the other contributors, Nita Brown, who says it best in a letter to Mitchell. She compliments him on his dedication to Avril, which she witnessed in person and read about through his columns.

"Few men have your ability to live and share such a love, such awareness, such compassion."

Nita's right. If you want some of the Mitchell magic or enlightenment, pick up a copy at a local bookstore. All proceeds benefit the Salt Spring Alzheimer's Society.

*A Rose Every Friday* was designed and printed by Barnyard Grafix.

## Magical Mackay in concert Friday

Salt Spring's Baha'i community is offering a magical voice and Celtic harp as a springtime gift to islanders when the "heavenly" Caroline Mackay takes centre stage at Central Hall.

Mackay, whose "magical voice" is said to "transcend the usual descriptions of folk music," will sing and play the harp in a free concert beginning at 7:30 Friday night.

According to press material, "she chooses to entwine the earthly experience with the heavenly, and allows her audiences to feel the influence of the sacred in modern life.

"Her music casts an ancient spell upon the heart with its subtle movement from simplicity to intensity."

A prolific songwriter, Mackay is also known for setting sacred writings and mystic poetry to harp melodies, as well as performing traditional folk tunes.

In 1995, she was invited to write

an anthem for the United Nations' 50th anniversary. She has several internationally acclaimed songs and four recordings to her credit.

Her CDs are dedicated to "the upliftment of the human soul and to the cause of unity in this challenging age."

Further information can be obtained by calling 537-5071.



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# Only thing missing from tribute evening was Ray Newman himself

By ANASTACIA WILDE  
Driftwood Contributor

The spirit of Ray Newman is alive and kicking, as witnessed by a vivacious packed house at Moby's pub Sunday night.

People of all ages and persuasions gathered to pay tribute to Ray — a talented musician and showman — who gifted our community with years of wonderful, wacky music and fun.

Spontaneous shuffle was the modus operandi of the evening with more than 20 musicians, singers and actors bobbing on and off-stage in a frenzy of multivariational duos, trios and "whatever-goes."

Hats off to organizer Sue Newman, whose smile never faded as she juggled act after act with amazing grace.

Amidst the intimate chaos of like-minded friends, Sue and sister Amy were a dynamite pair of singers and emcees. Their talent and charm ignited eruptions of chuckles throughout the evening, testimony to their father's love of performance.

"Dad liked passing on stuff he loved to do and sharing things that gave his life joy and meaning," said Sue.

Ray's wife Virginia was "just blown away, as the young people say" at Sunday's incredible turnout and the overwhelming amount of love and community support. "I was so exhilarated, the feeling in that room was so high," she said. "The only thing missing was Ray."

Ear-to-ear grins, wiggling hips and the ebb and flow of boisterous laughter blended with an incredible ensemble of jazzy bass, drums, keyboards and horns. The lineup of smashing musicians included Gary Lundy, Ian Van Wyck, Doug Rhodes, Bonnie Sprinkle, Ramesh Meyers, Tom Bowler, Barrington Perry and Stu Salmond.

There was plenty of room for theatrical interpretation and each act seemed to get bolder as the evening progressed.

"Take it easy on me, I'm a virgin," said actor/singer Patrick Cassidy to Amy as they kicked off their duet highlighting the banter and bicker of longtime married couples.

Although Ray was a great lyricist, not everyone in the family is a stickler on words. His wife Virginia had some wobbly advice



**JAZZMATAZZ:** The Newman clan was out in full force at Moby's Pub Sunday night, raising money for a Ray Newman scholarship fund, and having one heck of a good time.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

for those faint-of-heart or first-time entertainers.

"If you can't remember the words, smile and sing la, la, la and no one will ever know," she advised.

A multi-generational event from start to finish, four of Ray's grandchildren made their splash on the evening's sparkle with their musical prowess.

Ray's son Bruce led the eager audience through a labyrinth of tongue-twisting, multi-syllabic melodies against a musical medley highlighting the song Do-Re-Mi from *The Sound of Music*.

Youngsters Sara Gomez and Patrice Bowler commanded attention with a song by Ray called *These Are Things for Everyone*.

The finale of the first set was the hopping tune *Get Happy* by Harold Arlen, with another of Ray's grandchildren, Eric Donnelly, on drums.

The entire Newman family and a small batch of Newman family wannabes belted out the number with extraordinary gusto.

Audience participation in the form of boot tappin', lip smackin' and mucho laughin' was non-stop for this electrifying and slightly chaotic extravaganza which revved on deep into the third set.

When asked what Ray would have said about the tribute in his honour, Sue replied, "He'd be thrilled to see all these people. But he might have said something like, 'Do you have to die to get a full house?'"

Apparently not.

According to those who knew and loved Ray Newman, his house was always full and his heart was always open.

"All he ever wanted to do was play music and have a happy home," said Virginia.

Mission accomplished.

## Two Valid "Cases"

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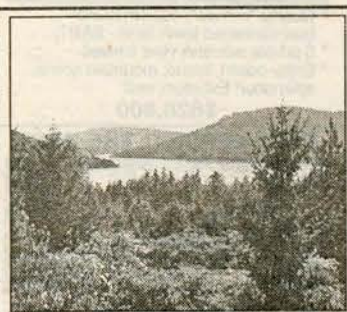


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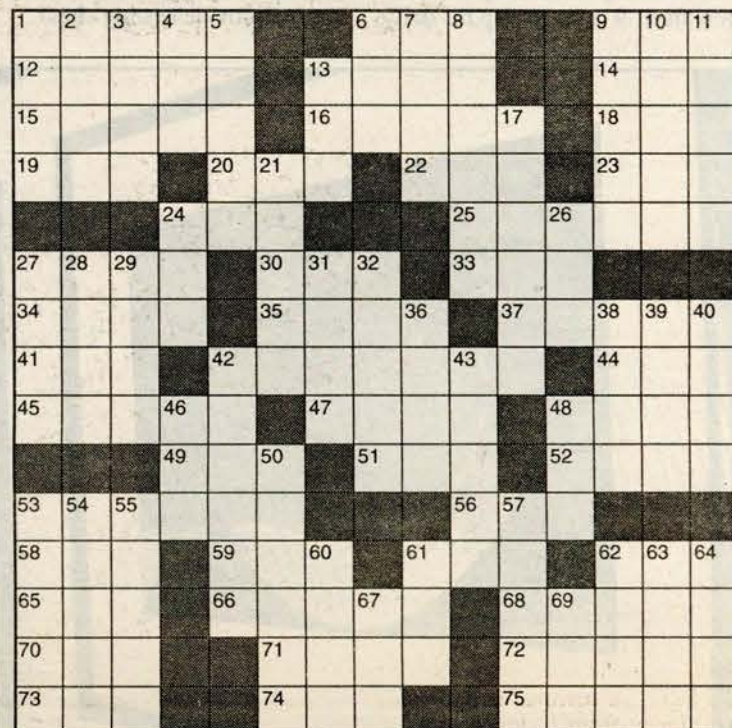
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## Driftwood Crossword



### ACROSS

1. Zingaro
6. Wilt
9. Partner of zig
12. Triple Crown horse of 1935
13. 1/640 of a square mile
14. Cassowary's kin
15. Like a cold-sufferer's voice
16. \_\_\_ share (majority)
18. Channel of education
19. Fido's snack, perhaps
20. Spanish "the"
22. Like Willie Winkie
23. Special favorite
24. Gob's reply
25. Fumes
27. Measure for Dr. Frankenstein
30. Dejected
33. Tavern order
34. Water, in Madrid
35. Peck film, with "The"
37. Typo
41. Get one's goat
42. Brought into action
44. Gregory's *On the Beach* costar
45. Looks from lechers
47. Beach substance
48. Courage
49. \_\_\_ tree (2 wds.)
51. Evergreen shrub

52. Actor Beatty et al.

53. Together
56. Debt memo
58. Moving shot
59. Cygnet's dad
61. Hard-working insect
62. Author Kesey
65. Type measures
66. It might be recessive
68. *Truthful James* author
70. Mamie Eisenhower, \_\_\_ Doud
71. Boy, in Madrid
72. Revises copy
73. Insecticide letters
74. RR depot
75. Bowling button

### DOWN

1. Obstinate refusal
2. *Rubáiyát* poet Khayyam
3. Crow's-nest's locale
4. Just as I suspected!
5. Waste time
6. Bot. or chem.
7. "...maids all in \_\_\_" (2 wds.)
8. Swiss city that's home to the Red Cross
9. A Marx Brother
10. "Waves of grain" color
11. Gales
13. Martino and Pacino
17. Clinched
21. Greek fabulist
24. \_\_\_ snail's pace (2 wds.)
26. Via
27. Colorado resort
28. Mythical monster
29. Skywalker of *Star Wars*
31. Current units, for short
32. Hold up
36. Prime-time time
38. Hard to come by
39. *Heroides* author
40. Darn it!
42. Phase
43. Newsman Newman
46. Furrow
48. Oxlike antelope
50. Decks out
53. Defeat in competition
54. Appointed
55. Embed
57. Turn the \_\_\_ cheek
60. Lure
61. From \_\_\_ Z (2 wds.)
62. *Barbra's A Star Is Born* costar
63. Little: suffix
64. *One Flew over the Cuckoo's \_\_\_*
67. Actress Balin
69. Block or cannon suffix

## Our designer's gone to pot.

Green with envy at potting sheds she'd seen in England, our designer dug around until she came up with an indoor gardening space right off the kitchen far from winter's chill. Now she can pot, plant, and putter while snipping fresh herbs into tonight's salad. Tools, seeds, and soil all conveniently stored in cabinetry that can take the great outdoors. Naturally, it's Merit Kitchens cabinetry with thick vinyl interiors for easy cleaning, durable finishes, & hardwoodworking surfaces. Come by or call 537-4014 and get all the dirt.

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# New Corner Store owners plan few changes

Owners of Galiano's Corner Store for many years, Ron and Connie Minnette recently sold their grocery business to Frank and Francesca Kim of Vancouver.

The new owners plan to run things much as they were.

With the purchase of more freezers, however, they will be able to offer a great selection of frozen food items.

Through bulk purchasing and with a lower mark-up, the Kims hope to price competitively.

Arriving in Canada from Korea in 1981, Frank Kim has operated grocery stores in both Vancouver and Toronto.

He operated a restaurant in Vancouver's Gastown for eight years as well. During some of those busy years he also worked in an autobody shop.

The Kims plan to keep the store open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Their liquor outlet will now be open seven days a week.

Galiano welcomes the Kims, at the same time thanking the Minnettes for their years of friendly and helpful service in the community.

## Bird in the garden

Local resident Mike Hoebel was guest speaker at the April meeting of the Galiano Garden Club.

Hoebel is the fellow who coordinates the island's annual Christmas bird count — an authority on all things avian!

Hoebel suggested that a good means of ensuring lengthy visits from birds is for the householder to provide them with food, water and suitable nesting sites. Trees, of course, provide nesting sites.

## GALIANO NOTES

WITH ALISTAIR ROSS



Simple birdhouses can also be provided. They should be constructed so that they can be cleaned at least once a year and disinfected with a very mild solution of bleach. Generally, birdhouses are best placed from eight to 15 feet above the ground, without an outside perch which might assist predator birds. Hoebel also said it was better to have rough inside boards rather than smooth ones in order to assist the young when leaving the nest.

In other club news, chairwoman Joan Carolan reminded members

to prepare offerings for the group's annual plant sale scheduled for Saturday, May 12.

Featured on the show bench was tender new asparagus and rhubarb. Many varieties of narcissus were also shown.

## Gray whale

It doesn't happen often, but when it does it's a wonderful show. From their decks overlooking Trincomali Channel, two neighbours looked eagerly to the waters below as a gray whale appeared just yards away.

He gave a first-rate performance, rolling, diving and blowing a number of times before moving on. His size, his grace and his barnacled back impressed.

## Dining out

Supper cooks Sylvia Baines and Judy Tocker opened the restaurant

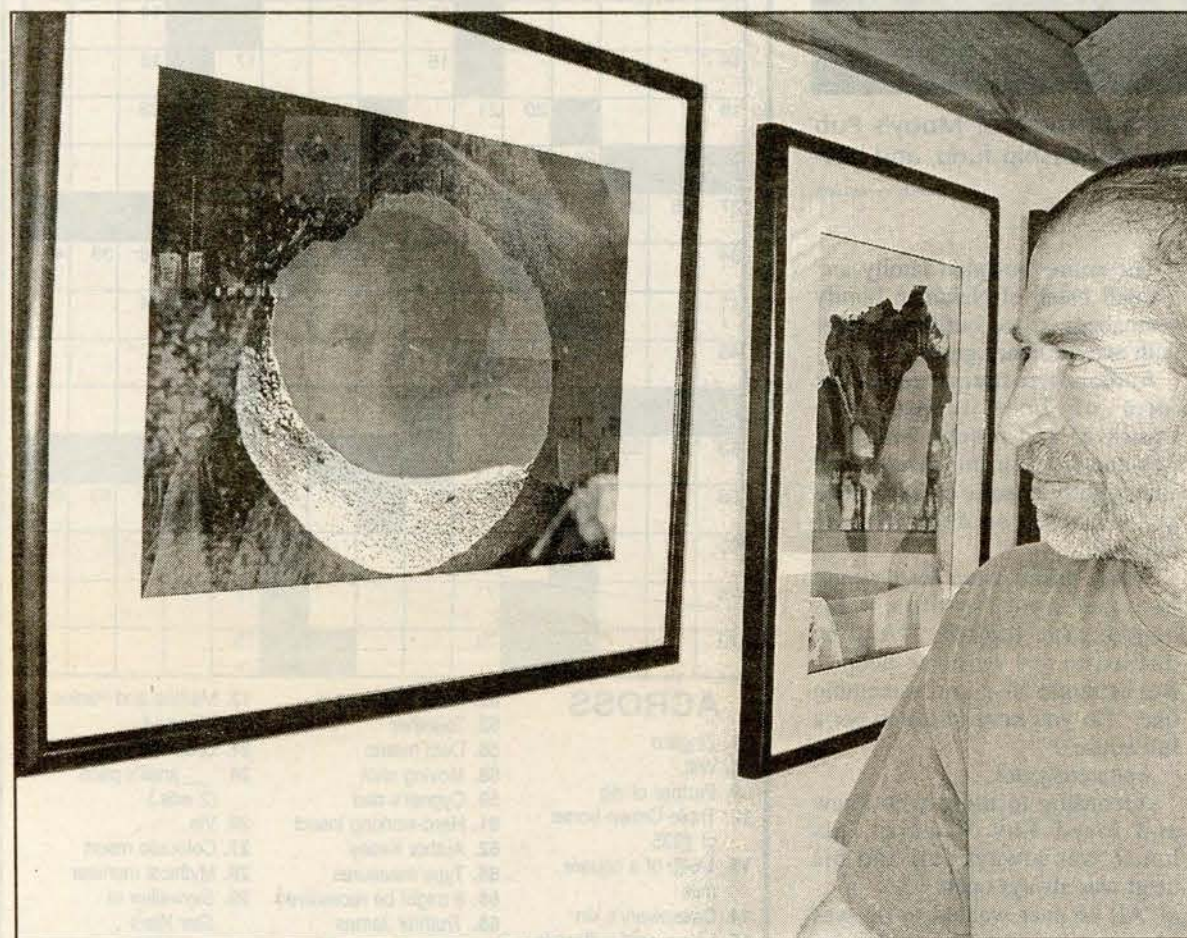
at Bodega Resort over the Easter weekend for dinner by reservation. People from all parts of the island were on hand on opening night to enjoy a five-course meal.

Until July the restaurant will be open only on holiday weekends and for Mother's and Father's days. Phone Barbara at Bodega Resort for bookings.

## Spanish Hills Store

Closed for several years now, owners Anita and Rob were on the island last week, disposing of much of their store equipment. Collectors of "heritage stuff," the couple gave many items to the Galiano Museum Society for use in its about-to-be-opened museum.

The Sale of Modern Antiques, held by the North Galiano Community Association, was delighted to receive goods from the couple as well.



**FROM THE EYE OF A CAMERA:** Salt Spring photographer Osman Phillips stands with one of his images currently on display at

Moby's Pub. Phillips' work is showing alongside art created by Rachel Vadeboncouer. The show runs until the end of the month.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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## People and Community

Islanders at work and play are featured each week in the pages of Driftwood - your community newspaper.

# Blessed by Oahu and Salt Spring

I left Oahu last week and returned to my native Salt Spring. What have I learned?

It has been a feast or, as they say there, a luau. They dug a pit, wrapped a pig in leaves and allowed it to bake for eight hours. Everyone was happy — well, perhaps not the pig and perhaps not the vegetarians, but the rest of us were well pleased.

Hawaii is indeed a paradise and I was utterly overwhelmed. The people were kind and gentle and smiled and hugged; a Salt Spring with a warm February.

I snorkelled off the reef, I visited the Masters estate and just missed John Selleck. I was cosseted by a delightful 300-pound Samoan lady who taught me how to make a rose and an angel fish out of two long coconut leaves. She also shared her betel nuts with me and turned my teeth red. How to explain this to Dr. Bill Lea?

I interpreted for two charming Australian widows and sadly refused their kind offer of a menage-a-trois because of my

## ALEX MITCHELL



ongoing hormone therapy. My God, I can't even handle a menage-a-un — how are the mighty fallen!

I visited Pearl Harbour and was profoundly moved by the 1,100 and more sailors, some less than 20 years old, entombed in the sunken USS Arizona for all eternity.

I was somewhat disappointed when I stood in the centre of a volcano and it failed to erupt.

It was called the Punch Bowl, had been fashioned as a veterans' cemetery and was filled with flowers — the yellow hibiscus, the national symbol was everywhere.

I thought of Joe Clemente and his passion for horticulture and I understood.

Will I go back? Yes, I know I will.

The place is so clean, so tidy (perhaps obsessively so) but there is a feeling for nature and a link

with the environment and a love for our fellow creatures.

Is there a downside? Yes! The Hawaiian alphabet has but 12 letters, five of which are vowels. I find this difficult.

Dialogue and exquisite communication is my life, although when I visited one school I was impressed and excited by the children's ability to converse in both languages.

I am blessed. I have Salt Spring and I have Oahu. I have music by Gershwin. Who could ask for anything more?

## An exile in Hawaii

My heart is in Salt Spring  
My heart is not here  
My heart is in Salt Spring  
A chasing the deer

A chasing the deer  
As they eat all my plants  
A chasing the deer  
And the slugs and the ants

I pine for the rains  
And the cold winds that blow  
I pine for the rains  
When it's 20 below.

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## Book Mother's Day Dinner Now!

<p><b>OCEANFRONT! BEST BUY!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private, sunny, terrific views!</li> <li>• Main home, plus sep. guest/studio!</li> <li>• Stairs to beach! Easy-care garden!</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$398,000</b></p>	<p><b>SPECTACULAR OCEANVIEW!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality, "as new", custom home! (self-contained lower level - B&amp;B?)</li> <li>• 5 private acres! A view forever!</li> <li>• Enjoy ocean, island, mountain scenic splendour! Excellent well!</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$628,800</b></p>
<p><b>TOWNHOME DELIGHT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk to town! Sunny, private siting! Just move in!</li> <li>• "As new", all appliances, attached garage!</li> <li>• Comm. sewer &amp; water systems!</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$142,500</b></p>	<p><b>OCEANFRONT! THE BEST!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sit beside the seaside &amp; enjoy panoramic oceanviews!</li> <li>• Architect-designed home (totally renovated in 1998) in quality area, comm. Water, privacy!</li> <li>• Sunny! A Gem! Just move in &amp; enjoy!</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$758,500</b></p>

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