



COVER WINNERS: Second and third-place winners in the Driftwood's annual cover art contest went to Katie Drummond, whose submission is shown above, and this whimsical snowman, below, which was submitted without a name.



Story judges enjoy meeting kids' Christmas creativity

By **MITCHELL SHERRIN**
Staff Writer

Driftwood Christmas Story Contest judges gleaned a few gems of their own from their recent experience as children's writing critics.

Many of this year's seven judges are retired teachers who remarked how pleasant it was to re-new contact with the fresh creativity of youth.

"It's lovely to be in touch with the kids again," said Dan Davies. "As you get older, you get less opportunity to talk with younger people."

Retired for the past 20 years, Davies taught for 35 years and said he was impressed by the quality of writing from high-school-aged students.

Fellow judge and ex-teacher Don Boyes also commented that it was a pleasure to connect with children's writing.

"It provides me with an opportunity to see how they think," said the 16-year teaching veteran.

"As a drama teacher, my main work was to try to do things to off-set the destruction of normal curriculum processes," he said. "I love to see the creativity and imagination coming from these kids. It warms my heart."

Boyes was particularly impressed by a well-written story about Canadian and German soldiers meeting during Christmas in the trenches of WWI.

"That was an exceptional story . . . accurate and well reported . . . he put himself into the experience."

Boyes was familiar with



TOP JUDGES: Christmas story contest judges were, clockwise from top left: Victoria Olchowecki, Jill Wheaton, Alex Mitchell, Betty Poole, Dan Davies, Audrey Isaacs, Don Boyes.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

the historical events in the story and noted that as fantastic and unreasonable as the tale might sound, the high school student's story is based on factual events.

Library volunteer Jill Wheaton said she felt fortunate to judge the younger writers.

"It was tremendously enjoyable. I was fortunate to have the little ones. I found them absolutely enchanting."

She said that even though she was not a teacher, she has spent the past 15 years volunteering at the library and has always enjoyed reading.

Audrey Isaacs said she was "volunteered" by her friend and fellow judge Betty Poole.

"I enjoyed reading but hated the judging," she said.

Isaacs said it was difficult sitting in judgment of those being creative.

"I can't put down an eight-year-old," said Isaacs.

But she enjoyed seeing peers and gathering for the judging meeting.

"If you say no when you get volunteered, you don't get out of the house."

Alex Mitchell shared sentiments with Isaacs about the difficulties of judging children's writing.

"I'm inclined to throw (the stories) down the stairs to see which one goes the furthest," he said.

But Mitchell said fellow judge and retired high school principal Victoria Olchowecki provoked his thoughts and challenged him to look closely at the quality of submissions.

As an ex-teacher of "30-odd years," Mitchell said he enjoyed seeing the increased levels of literacy this year.

"I'm a wordsmith. I believe in communication and words are very important to me. It's been good to see a difference from year to year."

He said the judges read a total of 105 submissions.

"I couldn't see many atrocious ones . . . I believe literacy is coming back."

Like Isaacs, Mitchell also appreciated getting together with the judges.

"It's wonderful having these judges. They're all such great people."

More winning stories, artwork set for Christmas Eve Barnacle

First and second place winners in the Driftwood's annual story writing contest can be enjoyed throughout the next few pages of the Driftwood.

Judges also selected stories for publishing in the Christmas Eve edition of

the Barnacle, which will be published one day early next week, landing in island mailboxes on Monday.

In addition to having their stories published in the Driftwood, first and second place winners

have won a cash prize.

They are welcome to stop by the Driftwood-Barnacle office during regular hours and pick up their prizes.

Monday's Barnacle will also feature additional cover art contest submissions.

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Mrs. Claus and the Little Elf Save Christmas

By SEAN CUNNINGHAM and LOGAN McLEOD
Age 9 and 11
Second place

It's Christmas Eve and crystal flakes are falling upon the snowy town. You can hear carols drifting through the winter air.

Everyone in the town was ready for Christmas and so excited . . . except the most important people. Way up in the North Pole all the little elves didn't want to spend the day before Christmas making the last bunch of gifts, they wanted to go outside to make snowmen and go for sleigh rides, and poor old Santa has caught the cold.

Mrs. Claus and Santa were so worried because they didn't know how everyone in the world was going to get presents. The elves wouldn't make the rest of the gifts

and Santa couldn't ride his sleigh with his flying reindeer because of his cold.

So Mrs. Claus decided to do it on her own. She rushed to the toy factory but when she got there she realized she didn't know how to work the machines.

Mrs. Claus tried to work them but ended up breaking them. She went to learn how to fly the sleigh instead, but the magic reindeer weren't cooperating and Rudolf wouldn't light up his nose.

Mrs. Claus was tired of doing all this stuff, and she wondered how she was going to go around the world in one night.

While she's worrying, everyone in the town are eating their turkey dinner thinking of all the goodies they'll be getting, but they don't know that they might not get anything!

Mrs. Claus was feeling sorry for

all the families. They would be so disappointed when they wake up to nothing under their Christmas tree. Unless . . . she thought she could encourage the elves to make the rest of the presents, then ask them to help her get around the world that night.

She got on her fur coat and started to search. She found an elf rolling a big snow ball, and asked him if he would help, but he just turned his head and went on playing in the snow.

After hours of getting backfired, Mrs. Claus gives up. She walked up her front steps to her house thinking about how she should have known she would fail.

Just then a little elf came up to her and said he would help. Mrs. Claus jumped with joy and thanked the little elf many, many times. Then he took her to the toy factory and fixed the machines and then showed her

how to use them. Now they just needed to learn how to fly the sleigh.

They decided to teach the reindeer a lesson. Every time they did something right they gave them a treat. When they ran out of treats they thought the reindeer had learned their lesson. Now they needed to test Rudolf's nose.

It worked! Mrs. Claus put on her mittens and hat, packed the toys and got in the sleigh, she picked up the short little elf, put him beside her and set off into the dark night sky lit by the glistening stars and the big bright shining moon.

In the morning everyone was very pleased with all the beautiful gifts and goodies they had gotten, all made by one little elf and Mrs. Claus. (Mrs. Claus and the little elf were a bit plump from all the cookies and milk they had eaten on their journey).

The Snowflake

By KATIE TEMMEL
Age seven
Second place

Once upon a time there was a little girl.

She's seven like me! Her name was Cristel.

One day in winter, Cristel went out to catch a snowflake!

She tried and tried but she could not do it. She figured out that she could not do it.

But on Christmas she got a snowflake!

Whiskers disappears

By DAKOTA VAN HULLEBUSH
Age 10
First place

It was a chilly day in late December when Whiskers disappeared.

I had been sitting on the sofa with her when suddenly she jumped up and ran out her cat door. I wasn't concerned.

Whiskers was always making quick moves. I had noticed that she had been getting a little fat so I had cut down on her food lately. So maybe she was off to catch a mouse.

The house was warm with the sweet smell of cookies drifting through the house. The Christmas tree glistened in the light, and there were already three presents sitting under it.

"Jennifer, Peter please come here," Mom calls.

Peter is my older brother. He never comes out of the TV room. He plays video games all day. At least he shuts the door.

I get up and lumber to the

kitchen. Peter is already there.

"I need you to wash the dishes," Mom says.

"Oh Mom, do I have to?"

"Jennifer." She gives me a look like I know I knew I had to.

The next day was Christmas Eve. Presents were now piled up under the tree, the house was now a bustle of friends and relatives. I was happy tomorrow was Christmas.

Then a thought struck me, where was Whiskers? I hadn't seen her! I walked to the Christmas tree. She loved to sit under there. Nope, she wasn't there.

I checked on the sofa, on my bed, on my parents' bed. I even looked in Peter's room but she wasn't anywhere. Finally it was time for bed. I fell asleep after three hours. All I could think of was Whiskers.

That night it was cold and moonless, and even under the seven covers I was cold. I wondered if Whiskers would freeze to death or

would she survive? (Although she had made her way through a huge storm, but that wasn't very bad — she was only across the road).

When I woke up the next morning I skipped to the table. It was Christmas morning!

But then I remembered Whiskers. The smile on my face faded and my Aunt Alice asked "Jenn, what's the matter?"

"Oh! Nothing. I was just thinking of something."

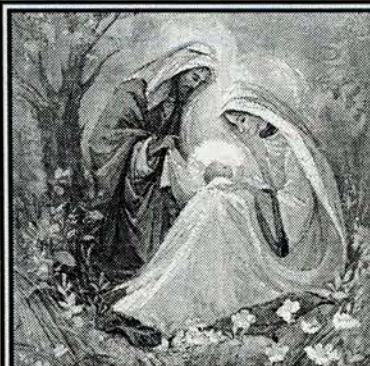
"Well, breakfast, then presents. That's what I say."

"Good idea." I ate breakfast slowly and quietly. I didn't know what was about to happen.

As I walked into the living room I jumped at the sight. It was Whiskers with six kittens cuddled up beside her!

"Oh Whiskers, I love you!"

The rest of the day was brilliant. I named the kittens Twitch, Bites, Pounce, Tilly, May and Skittle.



*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government shall
be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be
called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

— Isaiah 9:6

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island Christmas Services for 2001

December 23

2:30 pm Christmas Carol Sing at St. Mary's

December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Family Eucharist and Blessing of the Creche at All Saints'

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's

11:00 pm Midnight Mass at All Saints'

December 25 - Christmas Day

10:00 pm Holy Eucharist at All Saints'



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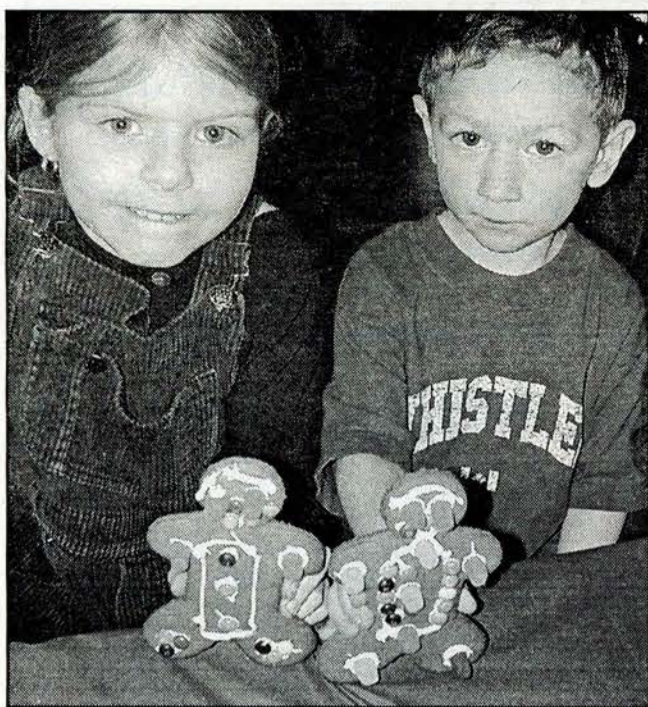
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COOKIE CREATURES: Phoenix McNaughton and Gabi Gold were among the hordes of children who enjoyed craft-making at Salt Spring Centre School's annual Winterfest, held Saturday. Photo by Derrick Lundy

My Best Christmas Ever!

By **MARIA ELSSER**
Age eight
First place

Every Christmas my family and I went to Radium Hot Springs to spend Christmas with my Grandma and Grandpa.

It was very cold in Radium. Since it was called Radium Hot Springs I found this name very funny.

Our favourite thing was going to outdoor hot pools, which is just what we did last Christmas. We went to one of the hot pools that I had never been to before. I was six years old then. It was really fun because it was night and it was all dark and it was so, so cold, that if you would put your head under water, when you brought it back up in a few minutes you would find out that some of your hair had frozen. But the water was so, so hot that there was so much steam you could barely see anything. But that's what was so much fun!

You see, I could sneak up on my Grandma or Grandpa and yell, "Merry Christmas!" I actually didn't. Instead I would swim under water and I would pop up right in front of my

Grandma or Grandpa and say, "Hi there, did I scare you?" I usually got the same answer, "Oh, Maria, I never knew you were there, where did you learn those tricks?"

Soon after, we went back to my Grandpa's house. It was Christmas Eve and it was my turn to put the Christmas star on the tree. Before we opened our presents, Grandpa made each of us do our own little performance.

I sang my favourite song, my three brothers pretended to be the Three Kings, then we opened our presents. I got five presents.

Do you know what I like the best, what made my Christmas so special? Was it the hot pools or the performances, or was it all the presents, or was it just being with my family? Of course, it was being with my family. I did like the hot pools and the performances and I liked all my presents, too.

But out of those things, the most important to me was just a really good Christmas with my family. Now you know why that was my best Christmas ever. Merry Christmas to one and all!

The Christmas Mouse

By **NOAH VAN HULLE-BUSH**
Age seven
First place

There was once a mouse that had never had Christmas before. He wondered about it.

It was December the 19th so he was thinking about having Christmas with his friend Munch. So he got out of his hole and went for a walk to mouse town. It was

full of mice. He went into a toy store and bought Munch a toy car for Christmas.

The next December 20 morning he was so excited. He went over to Munch's house. On his way to Munch's house he was thinking about a Christmas tree. On the way home he found a Christmas tree and bought it. He searched the attic and found some toys and put strings on them, then he put

them on the Christmas tree then he called Munch and said, "Do you know when Christmas is?"

"It is on the 25th of December I think," said Munch.

Chip went into the kitchen and made a cake to have at Christmas. Then Chip got out a big sock for a stocking. Finally he cleared the chimney for Santa and went to bed.

On Christmas morning Chip was waiting for Munch. He went out of the hole because Munch still wasn't there. Then Chip saw the people's Christmas tree in the way of Munch's mouse hole. That's why Munch couldn't get to Chip's house. So Chip ran back to his house and got a ladder to help Munch. Then they both went to Chip's house and had a very fun Christmas.

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Missing Santa Claus

By KAI FISHLEIGH
Age eight
Second place

It was a chilly night when I woke up at 12:00 midnight thinking that someone was there.

The Long Wait

By EMILIA NILSSON
Age 10
Second place

Last year when I was nine, and my brother Sam was six, we had a very long Christmas. It all began on a dark, cold morning, while I was snug in my bed....

I jumped out of bed on Christmas morning and a blanket of cold air met me. I yanked my housecoat out of the closet and ran to the window. Outside it was very dark so I thought the time would be around six o'clock. I ran down the bright hallway to Sam's room.

Inside, Sam was sound asleep. I shook him excitedly and said, "It's Christmas!"

He scrambled out of bed twice as fast as I did. We ran right into our parents' room and yelled, "It's Christmas!"

I froze when I saw the clock. It was 3:45 a.m.

Our parents just said, "Uhhhhhh, too early, go back to bed. Wake us up when it's morning."

We quietly left the room. "I can't go back to bed," I said to Sam.

"Well, I'm not going back to bed if you're not," he replied. "What time does morning start?" I asked.

"Five?" he asked with a shrug. Five sounded good to me.

We walked very slowly to the living room. We counted our presents and guessed what we thought would be in them. We thought it was still too early to wake them, so we rearranged the gifts. Sam got tired so we went to my room and played library. We read the interesting books then got bored.

We tiptoed to the parents' room with Sam behind me. We sneaked our way up to Dad. He groaned and in a dreamy tone said, "Wake us up at seven."

Sam went to my room and I followed. We pretended we were the parents of Teddy and gave him presents and filled his stocking. Luckily Teddy didn't have to wait for his parents to wake up. We finished the game and looked at the presents again before we got really impatient.

"All right, this time you ask the parents!" I told Sam.

We peeked into their room and saw that it was five minutes after seven so we leaped onto them and yelled, "Merry Christmas!"

Now when I look back I don't remember what was in the presents. I do remember a long wait that doesn't seem so bad now and the games I played with Sam.

I hope this year I sleep at least until six.

I got up. Everything looked different and I discovered that it was snowing. I called "Mom, dad" but there was no reply. So I went outside and walked along the snow-covered ground and found a tiny golden door covered in ice.

From behind me a little elf said, "Have you come to help find Santa?" "No," I said. "I'm looking for my parents."

"Well, I will help you find your parents if you help me find Santa." "That's a deal," I said. The elf introduced himself as Erny.

Erny led me inside the gold door. When I got inside I could not believe my eyes. There were elves everywhere and a huge robot making toys.

The rooms were amazing. Mrs. Claus was in the candy room. She greeted us sweetly and gave us a treat and said, "Erny could you please make a few more toys, it's

Christmas in a couple of hours."

So Erny and I went into the toy room. After we had made 100 toys and painted them we went outside to the stalls where the reindeer were kept and we attached them to the sleigh.

We began our search for Santa. We heard a noise like bells jingling and noticed one of the reindeer had gotten loose so we ran after it. Near a small clearing it stopped. We wondered if it might be leading us somewhere.

After watching for quite a long time there came a muffled "help."

We ran towards it, forgetting about sneaking up on the loose reindeer. It was Santa all crouched up in a sack hidden under a bush.

"Santa," cried Erny!

"How did you end up here?" I asked.

"Well," said Santa, taking a deep breath, "a man called

Jimmy kidnapped me because when he was a young boy, your age, he grew up in an orphanage and didn't get any presents."

"Santa, could you help me find my parents?"

"I would love to."

So in 15 minutes we were on the sleigh and off to my home.

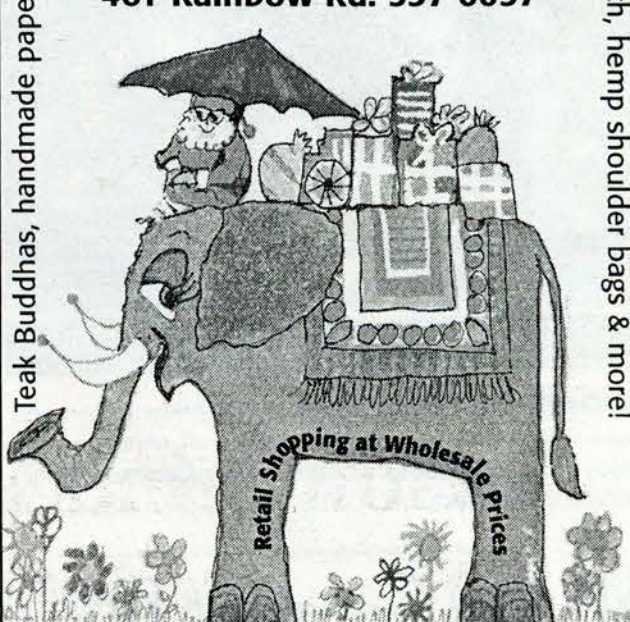
The frost stung my face so I closed my eyes. When I opened them I was in my very own bed as if nothing had happened.

I got up and looked under the tree. My little brother was already opening his presents. At the base of the tree was a package for me.

Inside was a gold ball and a card saying, "Hello, this is Santa. Just wish on the ball and you will come back and visit your friends Erny and Santa."

And I did next Christmas and Santa always remembered to drop off a present for Jimmy.

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Joint Review Panel GSX Canada Pipeline Project

Public Consultation Sessions January 11 to 18, 2002

BACKGROUND

The National Energy Board has received an application from Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline Limited to construct and operate the GSX Canada Pipeline. A three-member independent Joint Review Panel has been established by the federal Minister of the Environment and the National Energy Board to consider this pipeline proposal. The Panel will make recommendations to the Minister regarding environmental assessment matters and make decisions concerning the public convenience and necessity for this pipeline proposal.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSIONS

The Joint Review Panel will be holding public consultation sessions to hear comments from the public on which issues the Panel should consider during the hearing process and what further information should be obtained from the applicant. To allow the Panel to hear from as many people as possible, you will have 10 minutes to complete your oral presentation. The Panel will also receive your comments in writing.

If you wish to present comments to the Panel or participate in the January 12 workshop, you should register with the Panel Secretary by January 7, 2002. To register, please call the Panel at 1-800-899-1265, send a fax to (403) 292-5503 or an e-mail to secretary@neb-one.gc.ca. Panel staff will be on hand one hour before each session to explain the procedures, to answer questions and to accept last minute registration requests.

TIME AND LOCATION

- Vancouver**
Friday, January 11, 2002, 9:30 a.m.
Renaissance Vancouver Hotel, 1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C.
- Sidney**
Saturday, January 12, 2002, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Workshop)
Mary Winspear Community Cultural Centre @SANCHA
2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, B.C.
- Cobble Hill - Monday, January 14, 2002**
9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (three sessions)
Arbutus Ridge Golf and Country Club
3515 Telegraph Road, Cobble Hill, B.C.
- Salt Spring Island**
Wednesday, January 16, 2002, 7:00 p.m.
Harbour House Hotel, 121 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C.
- Victoria**
Thursday, January 17, 2002, 2:00 p.m.
Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe, 45 Songhees Road, Victoria, B.C.
- Saturna Island**
Friday, January 18, 2002, 7:00 p.m.
Saturna Community Hall, Saturna Island, B.C.

FIRST NATIONS SESSIONS

The Panel will also hold sessions regarding First Nations issues on Saturday, 12 January 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the Mary Winspear Community Cultural Centre @SANCHA, 2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, B.C. and on Tuesday, 15 January 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the Comiaken Room, Quw' utsun' Cultural Centre, 200 Cowichan Way, Duncan, B.C. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Mr. Guy C. Hamel, Regulatory Officer, at 1-800-899-1265 or secretary@neb-one.gc.ca (e-mail). Details on all consultation sessions, including the January 12 workshop, will be available on-line at www.neb-one.gc.ca (click on "Regulatory Update" and then on "GSX Canada Pipeline Project") and at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.



TASTY TREAT: Angie Grundy peers out from behind a herd of reindeer candy canes. She was spotted at The Last Minute Christmas Craft Fair, held last weekend at Mahon Hall.

Photo by Derrick Lundy.

How reindeer fly

By **ASYA STAM**
Senior category
Second place

It all happened one cold, dreary winter's night when the snow blanketed the frigid earth and the full moon shone clear on the bare tree branches.

This was the night the reindeer forgot how to fly.

These nine reindeer had worked together as a team for so long to help deliver Christmas gifts to all the good little girls and boys around the world that their trip was flawless every year. Each reindeer had his own part to play during the flight on Christmas Eve, and this is where the trouble began.

Blitzen, a sometimes naughty reindeer, was probably the one who started the whole ordeal, but no one is certain. All Santa knows is that Blitzen began to take Rudolph's position as leader. Rudy, that was his nickname, was furious that someone would try to steal his position, and he sincerely asked Blitzen why he was doing this. Blitzen hastily replied, "Because I am the most talented flyer, and you seem to have the best part. You do not mind if I take your role for just this one year, do you Rudy?"

At a loss for words, Rudy stammered back, "Mind? I actually agree. I think that the best flyer should have the best part, but that is why I am the leader."

It was not like Rudy to be so prideful, but something that Blitzen said triggered his response.

Donner, eavesdropping behind a nearby tree, strutted

out as he said, "I can solve your dispute. While you both are fantastic flyers, I believe that I am the most talented! So, I will take the lead role this Christmas."

Astonished by this, one by one, the rest of the reindeer joined in on the argument, each one claiming to be the best.

This went on for days until finally Santa could not tolerate the dispute any longer.

"I've had it!" he cried. "I have never seen something so incredibly ugly, and I will no longer put up with this behaviour. This is my decision, I am going to take away your flying abilities, and you will have to learn to fly on your own again."

The reindeer, surprised by his response, lifted their heads to look at Santa, and they realized that they had never seen him so upset before. They stood silently in a straight line, all sorry for the anger they caused.

As soon as Santa left, the reindeer began to practise flying, but as they jumped into the air, they stumbled and fell flat on the ground. Rudy became so frustrated with failing over and over again that he began to cry. Noticing this, the other reindeer came to his side to comfort him.

Rudy sobbed, "We will never fly again! Think of all the heartbroken girls and boys on Christmas morning."

Comet gently comforted his friend and gently said, "If we work as a team, maybe we will be able to fly again."

The reindeer gave it a try, and slowly they began making progress. For the next

four weeks, all the reindeer worked earnestly from sunrise to sunset. As they began working together, they began to fly together.

Christmas Eve slowly approached and Santa came to see if the reindeer had made any progress. Cupid walked up to Santa and asked him if they could show him their progress together instead of separately. Santa, slightly confused, agreed and let them proceed. With the swift motion of his hand, all the reindeer gently floated into the starry sky and they all began to fly. Their movements were elegant and graceful, and smiles lit up their faces as they realized how happy flying made them be.

With his face shining like the sun, Santa smiled and his rosy cheeks glistened. He knew immediately that the little boys and girls would have an extraordinary Christmas. A sense of relief filled Santa that night as he realized that all his remarkable reindeer found out that Christmas is truly about working and being together.

His eyes twinkled in the moonlight as he looked up into the clear sky and joyfully said, "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen, on Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen..."

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WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR:

Tuesday Dec. 25

Wednesday Dec. 26

Tuesday Jan. 01



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A CHRISTMAS WISH

The lights of Christmas through our community show with such joy and sparkle how the Island pulls together to celebrate in unity the season. Our family has felt the wonder of how this community pulls together to help an individual family make it through some of the toughest months that a family can face.

We would like to express our very humble gratitude to the businesses, service clubs and individuals who helped Nichola and us celebrate and find joy in what time we had left together, and us make it through her death, then look for joy in our lives as we try to move on.

Nichola's favorite time of year was always Christmas with all the trimmings and we know that she is with us when we say...

May each of you and your families have a Christmas filled with joy and wonder, and a New Year filled with health and happiness.

Best Wishes to all from
Dennis, Heather and Morgan Howard

BABY BLISS: Four-week-old Liam Knox seems happy enough to rest in Santa's arms while elves Syd Stugess-Funk and Loretta Rithaler look on. Santa dropped by Mouat's Saturday to visit with island children. Photo by Derrick Lundy.



Thank you Wendy for helping me choose such a great pair of glasses. My new Felxon frames are so light and comfortable to wear, even when my sunglass clips are on! To have had such wonderful service is truly a treat.



- CATHY DUKE



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10 AM - 5 PM

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Christmas in Flanders Fields

By JOHN MICHAEL MCCOLL
Senior category
First place

Many people today talk about the spirit of Christmas. They say that it is dying. They say that it does not exist in shopping centres and our parking lots.

Well, I've only felt the spirit of Christmas once. It was many years ago and it was in a place far darker than any shopping centre.

I sat shivering in the thickening gloom.

Murmurs of conversation and wisps of cigarette smoke drifted down the trench towards me and my mates.

We sat together, telling tales of Christmas dinners and family traditions that were taking place far away. It was torture, but it reminded me of what I was fighting for. It reminded us all of what we were fighting for.

Suddenly, a hushed silence covered the trench. Then I heard it, drifting across no man's land was the sound of a man's voice, rising and falling with the melody of a German Christmas carol. Soon, he was joined by hundreds of German voices.

To my surprise, moments after the last notes had died out, a chap from B-Company started up Auld Lang Syne. It quickly spread and soon every man's voice was lifted in song.

When we were through, the following silence was shattered by our sentry's cry. Tension seized the trench, men felt their rifles and looked uneasily out into the gloom.

Slowly, a lone German soldier emerged, carrying only the white flag of truce. Quietly, with a slight

waver in his voice, he sang the first few notes of Stille Nacht. Soon he was joined by his comrades, and then one by one we chimed in with Silent Night.

Then one or two men put down their rifles and took off their helmets. They were soon followed by the rest of us. We left our rifles behind and climbed over the trench. We picked our way through the barbed wire to no-man's land, singing all the while. There we met hundreds of German troops doing the same.

There, flares lit a strange and miraculous scene, the like of which the world had never seen.

We saw the faces of the faceless enemy. We shared chocolate, cigarettes and photos from home.

We only knew about four words in German, and they

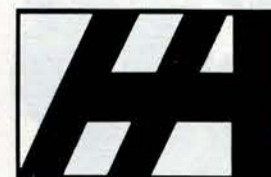
knew a little less English, but none of that mattered when someone produced a soccer ball. Soon we were running, tumbling and cheering. For that moment, men on both sides lost themselves in the joy of sport and forgot the despair of war. When the game was over we stood, exhausted and grinning, panting in the cold night air.

I looked up to find myself face-to-face with the blue eyes and broad smile of a German soldier. He then took me completely by surprise and extended his hand. I hesitated for a second, then took his hand tightly in mine.

It was then, in that brief moment on December 25th, 1914, standing in the frozen mud of Flanders Fields, that I felt the true spirit of Christmas.



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what's on

YOUR TELEVISION GUIDE

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD PAGE B7 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2001

| S - SALT SPRING ISLAND | | O - OUTER ISLANDS | | WEEKDAY DAYTIME DEC 20 TO DEC 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| S | O | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 | 12:00 | 12:30 | 1:00 | 1:30 | 2:00 | 2:30 | 3:00 | 3:30 | | |
| 2 | 2 | CBC | Get Set For Life | | Get Set For Life / TU | Walt Disney Parade | Various | Various | TH F W Avonlea | Various | Neighbor | Various | Emmerd. | | | | | | |
| 3 | | MC | Various Movies | | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | Various Movies | | |
| 4 | | NewVI | Various | Various | Regis & Kelly | Various | Various | Various | TH F M CityLine/TU.. | All My Children | Earth: Final Confl... | Gift of Hope/ Walker | Iyanla | | | | | | |
| 5 | 16 | KING | 7:00 Today Show | Today Show | M. Stewart Living | Ananda Lewis Show | News/TU Holiday | Days of Our Lives | Passions | Basketb'll | Iyanla | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 7 | CH | Various | Carebear | Various | The Price is Right | Ananda Lewis Show | News/ Island | B. Health | Travel | JdgeJudy | Squares | Sally Jessy Raphael | | | | | | |
| 7 | 14 | CTVBC | 7:00 Canada AM | TU Nutcracker Pri.. | The View | Christm's | Gabereau/ Beanstalk | House | B & B | Various | TU B & B | G.Hospital/ Gabereau | Various | D.Carey | | | | | |
| 8 | 8 | GBLBC | 7: Hip Hop on Ice/.. | 100 Huntley Street | Worldvision/ Timothy | Various | Various | News | As the World Turns | Passions | Young & Restless | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 9 | KCTS | Various | Zoboo... | Various | Various | Sesame | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | DragonT. | | |
| 10 | 23 | SRC | 7:30 Matin Express | Variées | Père Noël | Simple comme .../ Messe nuit | Variées | ...midi | Parleurs | Liza | Mon ange | Variées | Tweenies | | | | | | |
| 11 | 5 | KNOW | Zoboo... | BlueClue | Various | Various | Dudley | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | | |
| 13 | 13 | CKVU | RogerR. | Body | Origin Art | Various | Maury Povich Show | First Wave | The Lost World | Various Movies | Various Movies | Book TV | Star TV | | | | | | |
| 14 | | BRAVO | Various | Various | F. 50News | The New Avengers | Various Movies | Various Movies | 45News | Various | Artist on Fire. | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 35 | CMT | Various | Videoflow | Huron Carole / Christmas Mem/ Heart&Home | Various | Various | Various | Quartette/ TerriClark | Various | Videoflow | Various | M Gift | | | | | | |
| 16 | 38 | TLC | Wedding | Wedding | Various | Makeover | Various | DateStory | Various | BabySt. | Various | Wedding | TradingSpaces | Various | Various | Various | Various | | |
| 19 | | FAM | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | 35Houndz | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | | |
| 20 | 31 | A&E | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | | |
| 21 | 15 | TSN | Sportscentre/ Extra | Various | Various | Various | Various | Shell's Golf/ Fitness | Cheerld. | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | | |
| 22 | 19 | SNP | Various | Various | Various | SportCnt. | Various | SportCnt. | Various | Fishing | Various | BowFlex | Various | Various | Various | Various | Lacrosse | | |
| 23 | 17 | KSTW | Screen Gems | Seventh Heaven | CrossOv. | CrossOv. | JudgeJoe | JudgeJoe | The People's Court | Divorce | Divorce | Ricki Lake | Sabrina | Buzz | | | | | |
| 24 | 12 | KVOS | Buzz | Scooby | Various | Various | Various | TH F W Jud.Mathis | Various | Various | Various | Touch Angel/ Montel | Various | Christm's | | | | | |
| 25 | 34 | KCPQ | 6:00 News | The Other Half | Maury Povich Show | Sally Jessy Raphael | Maury Povich Show | Paid | MagicBus | Various | Various | PRangers | Digmon | | | | | | |
| 26 | 20 | NEWS | Various | Various | NewsT. | Sports J. | NwsToday/Benmergui | Life, Times of.. | M TU W Fifth Estate | Various | Canadian | ...of Style/ Politics | Various | Various | Various | Various | Various | | |
| 27 | 11 | KIRO | The Early Show | Justice | Attorney | The Price is Right | Young & Restless | Various | B & B | As the World Turns | The Guiding Light | Montel Williams | | | | | | | |
| 28 | 4 | KOMO | Parade/MorningAm. | Various | The View | News | P.Charles | Children | Football | One Life to Live | General Hospital | Northwest | | | | | | | |
| 29 | | VISION | New Day | New Day | Various | Various | Various | Religion | Youngren | Robison | 100 Huntley Street | Q.Study | Various | Little House/Lit. House | Road to Avonlea | | | | |

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THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

THURSDAY, DEC 20

6:00 PM
13 Kidnapped (1971, Drama) A Scotsman is cheated out of his fortune and sent to North America by his evil uncle. *Michael Caine, Trevor Howard* (2h)

7:00 PM
3 A Christmas Carol (1999, Drama) A film adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, featuring the infamous Ebenezer Scrooge. *Patrick Stewart, Richard E. Grant* (2h)

8:00 PM
10 (23) Les 101 dalmatiens (1996, Comédie) Une femme cruelle charge deux brigands de voler les 101 chiots dalmatiens d'un couple. *Glenn Close, Jeff Daniels* (2h)

23 (12) ★★ Beyond the Poseidon Adventure (1979, Drama) Fortune hunters salvaging Poseidon's cargo encounter a medical team looking for survivors. *Michael Caine, Sally Field* (2h30)

9:00 PM
3 Women of the Night (Drama) Three entwined stories of love, lust, danger and revenge. *Shawnee Free Jones, Seymour Cassel* (2h)

19 ★★ The Christmas Star (1986, Drama) Con man's holiday spirit is renewed when two children believe he is Santa Claus. *Ed Asner, Jim Metzler* (1h35)

10:00 PM
14 ★★ The Chocolate War (1988, Drama) A Catholic boys school is divided by power struggle and boys out of control. *Adam Baldwin, Bud Cort* (2h)

10:35 PM
19 ★★ Always (1989, Drama) An angel guides a young pilot who pursues the same career and woman as he did. *Richard Dreyfuss, John Goodman* (2h)

11:00 PM
2 (2) Jack and Jill (1999, Romance) After breaking up, a man and a woman start new affairs and things get complicated. *John Kalangis, Don Ackerman* (2h)

3 Beautiful Joe (Drama) An extremely nice guy falls for a really bad girl. *Sharon Stone, Billy Connolly* (2h)

11:25 PM
10 (23) ★★ My Fair Lady (1964, Musicale) Histoire d'une jeune vendeuse de fleurs reçoit une éducation par un éminent linguiste. *Audrey Hepburn, Rex Harrison* (2h10)

FRIDAY, DEC 21

6:30 PM
13 The Rat Pack (1998, Drama) A controversial portrayal of the lives of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. *Ray Liotta, Joe Mantegna* (1h15)

7:00 PM
10 (23) Retour au bercail II, perdu à San Francisco (1996, Comédie) Deux chiens et un chat se retrouvent perdus dans la ville de San Francisco. *Robert Hays, Kim Greist* (2h)

3 Beautiful Joe (Drama) An extremely nice guy falls for a really bad girl. *Sharon Stone, Billy Connolly* (2h)

8:00 PM
2 (2) Oliver Twist (1999, Drama) An ill-treated London waif gets involved with the arch-fiend Fagin and his youthful gang. *Sam Smith, David Ross* (2h)

7 (14) Borrowed Hearts: A Holiday Romance (1997, Fantasy) A struggling single mother agrees to pose as her boss' wife to impress someone. *Roma Downey, Hector Elizondo* (2h)

23 (17) Avalanche (2000, Drama) A researcher fights a company's plans to build a pipeline in an avalanche-prone region. *C. Thomas Howell, Caroleen Feeney* (2h)

24 (12) ★★ Look Who's Talking (1989, Comedy) An unmarried woman has baby and begins to look for a suitable husband and father. *John Travolta, Kirstie Alley* (2h)

9:00 PM
13 (13) ★★ Mixed Nuts (1994, Comedy) A suicide hotline tries to muddle through Christmas Eve and make money for their building. *Steve Martin, Madeline Kahn* (2h)

19 ★★ A Christmas Story (1983, Family) Chronicles a little boy's efforts to receive an air rifle for Christmas in the 1940s. *Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin* (1h35)

9:45 PM
14 ★★ Seven Times a Day (1971, Drama) A Quebecois working in Israel consults a psychoanalyst regarding his sex addiction. *Jean Coutur, Dalia Friedland* (1h45)

11:00 PM
2 (2) ★★ Going My Way (1944, Drama) The story of a priest who wins over an aging pastor and some tough parish kids. *Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald* (2h)

11:25 PM
10 (23) La Bûche (1999, Comédie dramatique) Trois soeurs et leurs parents divorcés préparent une fête. *Charlotte Gainsbourg, Sabine Azema* (2h20)

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- * Tuesday, December 25 - CLOSED
- * Wednesday, December 26 - CLOSED
- * Monday, December 31 - 8am-6pm
- * Tuesday, January 1 - CLOSED

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|------------------------|----|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|--|--|
| S | O | 4:00 | 4:30 | 5:00 | 5:30 | 6:00 | 6:30 | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 | | |
| 2 | 2 | CBC | CBC4Kids | Simpsons | SmartAsk | News | News | Christm's | P. Bears | Opening Night | | | | CBC News | | | Jack and Jill | | |
| 3 | | MC | MVP: Most Valuable Primate | Echo Lake | Todd Witham. | | | A Christmas Carol | Patrick Stewart. | Women of the Night | | | | | | | Beautiful Joe | | |
| 4 | | NewVI | Movie TV | Star Trek: Voyager | VI Land News | | | Seinfeld | Simpsons | Talk TV | Dead Man's Gun | First Wave | News | Movie TV | | | | | |
| 5 | 16 | KING | Oprah Winfrey | KING News | News | News | Magazine | Squares | Friends | Schwartz | Will/Grac | JustShoot | E.R. | News | Jay Leno | | | | |
| 6 | 7 | CH | Days of Our Lives | CH News | News | Go! Mag. | Wheel | Jeopardy | Fam. Guy | The Tick | Doc | Largo Winch | SprtPage | CH News | | | | | |
| 7 | 14 | CTVBC | Rosie O'Donnell | CTV News at Five | News | | Little Men | Line? | Line? | CSI: Crime Scene | E.R. | News | CTVNews | | | | | | |
| 8 | 8 | GBLBC | Oprah Winfrey | News | National | News | ET | Friends | Survivor 3: Africa | Will/Grac | JustShoot | Andromeda | News | | | | | | |
| 9 | 9 | KCTS | Zoom | Sagwa | Arthur | Business | News | TravelEur | Connects | Antiques UK | Frontline | Lady Bird | RedDwarf | News | | | | | |
| 10 | 23 | SRC | Tic et Tac | Zack | Mr. Bean | Parleurs | Ce soir | Virginie | Gars, fille | Les 101 dalmatiens | (1996) Glenn Close. | Téléjournal/Point | Sports /25My Fair.. | | | | | | |
| 11 | 5 | KNOW | Wishbone | MagicBus | Art Attack | Kratts' C | Planet.Ed | EntreAsia | S. Space | HealthH. | CanParks | Hist.Land | War of 1812 | Voices of God | DataCafé | Imprint | | | |
| 13 | 13 | CKVU | Star Trek: DSN | Spin City | Seinfeld | News | BlindDate | 5thWheel | Highlander: Raven | Temptation Island 2 | BlindDate | Ed Sock | Spin City | News | | | | | |
| 14 | | BRAVO | Videos | Book TV | Writing.. | Ionesco | Kidnapped (1971) | Michael Caine. | NYPD Blue | Homicide: Life on St | The Chocolate War | Adam Baldwin. | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 35 | CMT | A Celtic Christmas | Country Music Awards | | | | | Christm's | The Gift | Sessions | Top 12 Choice | CMA's | | | | | | |
| 16 | 38 | TLC | Greatest Prisons | Medical Detectives | Special Forces | Navy Seals | Medical Detectives | Special Forces | Navy Seals | Greatest Prisons | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | FAM | Buzz | PepperA. | Tarzan | Recess | Stevens | Jackson | Year Without Santa | ShrunkK. | 45..Dark? | The Christmas Star | 35 Always | Richard Dreyfuss. | | | | | |
| 20 | 31 | A&E | Law & Order | Biography | | | | | Pirot | Law & Order | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | 15 | TSN | ..Hockey | Fitness | Fitness | NBA Ton. | Basketball | NBA Los Angeles vs Houston | Sportscentre | Motor '02 | ..Hockey | Sportscentre | | | | | | | |
| 22 | 19 | SNP | GottaSee | Canucks | Hockey NHL | Vancouver Canucks vs Nashville Predators | SportCnt. | Skiing | Alpine World | GottaSee | Sports Central | Sports Central | | | | | | | |
| 23 | 17 | KSTW | Tarzan | Recess | Sabrina | HomeImp | D.Carey | Frasier | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | WWF Smackdown! | NewsRad | M.A.S.H. | Spin City | Spin City | | | | |
| 24 | 12 | KVOS | HomeImp | Tell Truth | FamFeud | CardShrk | Elimidate | Rendez... | St.Smarts | Ch. Heart | Beyond the Poseidon Adventure | Michael Caine. | S. Susan | Cheers | M.A.S.H. | | | | |
| 25 | 34 | KCPQ | F.House | Fresh P. | 3rd Rock | Simpsons | Simpsons | King Hill | Friends | Friends | Fam. Guy | The Tick | Temptation Island 2 | Q13 News at Ten | Star Trek: Voyager | | | | |
| 26 | 20 | NEWS | Can. Now | Sports J. | CBC: Disclosure | The National/Mag. | The Fifth Estate | Hour Has 7 Days | National | BusNews | The Fifth Estate | Hour Has 7 Days | | | | | | | |
| 27 | 11 | KIRO | JdgeJudy | JdgeJudy | KIRO News | News | News | News | ET | Access | Survivor 3: Africa | CSI: Crime Scene | The Agency | News | Letterm'n | | | | |
| 28 | 4 | KOMO | Rosie O'Donnell | KOMO 4 News | News | News | News | Wheel | Jeopardy | Line? | Line? | ..Be a Millionaire? | Primetime Thursday | News | Nightline | | | | |
| 29 | | VISION | Cosby | TimeGoe | Ballykissangel | VisionTV: InDepth | Main St. | Prayer | VisionTV: InDepth | Ballykissangel | The Lives of Jesus | 100 Huntley Street | | | | | | | |

YOUR WEEKLY PULL-OUT TV GUIDE

Table with columns for S, O, time slots (4:00-11:30), and program titles for Friday Evening December 21.

Advertisement for Bell ExpressVu satellite service: 'I'll Land on Your Roof for Only \$99.00! True North Satellites 538-1705 • 537-6055 (cell)'

Table with columns for S, O, time slots (8:00-3:30), and program titles for Saturday Daytime December 22.

Advertisement for Bell ExpressVu and Panasonic TV: 'BUY A STAR CHOICE OR A BELL EXPRESSVU SATELLITE DISH & A CHANCE TO WIN A 27" PANASONIC TV.'

Table with columns for S, O, time slots (4:00-11:30), and program titles for Saturday Evening December 22.

Table with columns for S, O, time slots (8:00-3:30), and program titles for Sunday Daytime December 23.

Vertical list of movie and TV show descriptions with titles, years, genres, and brief synopses.

Season's Greetings

from all of us at

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From all of us, to all of you, go our warm wishes for the brightest holiday season ... ever!

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By NAOMI VANGINKEL WILDE
Age nine and 11
First place

The Christmas Lamb

Aileen Donovan headed out the door of the old farmhouse she and her family had lived in since she was five.

At that age her parents, Sean and Bridgett Donovan, had packed up and left their home in Londonerry, Ireland and moved to the island of Inishboffin. There they had set up a semi-suc-

cessful sheep farm on its 200 or so acres.

Now, Aileen and her little brother Patrick set out in their brightly coloured dinghy, headed for the mainland. She remembered how many mistakes they had made during those past seven years. Still, they had made it a beautiful place. Steadily rowing she now

wondered whether "Old Runa" would wait to have her lamb till she got home from school.

That very morning Da had told her that "Old Runa" would almost certainly have her lamb that day. "Old Runa" had been Aileen's special charge since they had moved to Inishboffin, or perhaps it had been the other way round. Still whatever way it had been, Da had promised her "Old Runa's" lamb for a Christmas present. Already it was Christmas Day.

"I bet the lamb will be the best of pets!" Aileen was

thinking when the dinghy bumped the dock. Together she and Patrick moored the dinghy, and walked the short way to the school house.

All through school she fidgeted and hoped "Old Runa" wasn't giving birth at that very moment. The hours dragged by painfully slowly. When school was finally let out she urged Patrick to hurry. But her teacher Miss O'Sullivan looked out the window where a storm was brewing and asked worriedly, "Are you sure you shouldn't wait here till the storm blows itself out?" Aileen shook her

head and said that they could make it.

It was a rough trip. Just as the shore came in sight, Aileen and Patrick heard somebody calling for help. Aileen knew that "Old Runa" would almost certainly be giving birth that very moment, if she hadn't already. Still she headed towards the noise, telling Patrick at all costs to stay in the dinghy. When they finally located the boat, the storm was raging like a wild beast. Aileen quickly figured that they were near the cabin that her Da had set up for the use of people caught

in storms like this. She towed the frail kayak and its occupants to the bay and pointed them in the direction of the cabin.

By this time the storm had blown itself out, and Aileen and Patrick were soon home. Though she was wet through, she rushed out to the barns the minute she was home. Her dad smiled at her and said I guess "Old Runa" was waiting for you.

When many hours later the lamb was born into her arms, Aileen smiled down and whispered, "I'll call you Natalie; for only today I learned that Natalie means Christmas in Latin."

At that moment the clock struck midnight . . . it was Christmas.

Paper snowflakes

By KELSEY STURGEON
Age 13
Second place

Christmas used to be my favourite time of the year, but of course, Jason has to ruin it for me. Jason's my little brother. He loves to get me into trouble and ruin all my fun. Between gift wrapping, cookie baking, tree trimming and card sending, our parents don't have much time to look after Jason during the Christmas season and I get stuck with him.

Dad says, "Play games with him, just give Jason some love and I'm sure he'll come around!"

I mean, it's not like I haven't tried!

"Stink face! Dinner time!" Another thing, that boy definitely needs some manners!

I hurriedly finished my dinner and rushed up to my room. Every Christmas I set a goal, unfortunately that goal hasn't been reached yet, but I'm sure this year will be different! Every Christmas, I try to make 300 paper snowflakes. Last year I made 207, the year before that 180, but the rules are that I can't start making them until December 15th and I can't use snowflakes from the year before. Every year I start fresh and try to reach my goal by December 25. It's December 19th and I already have 75 snowflakes.

Suddenly, Jason burst into my room.

"Zoe, what are you doing with all those snowflakes?"

Seeing as he hadn't knocked, I had no time to hide my handiwork. I decid-

ed I might as well tell him, although he definitely couldn't be a part of it and wasn't supposed to know.

I explained it to him and he seemed very interested.

"Can I help?" Jason asked.

"Absolutely not!"

"Fine, I didn't want any part in your stupid game anyways!"

"It's not a game!" I yelled as he slammed the door. As if he would understand anyway.

The next five days were a hectic blur of snowflakes, singing, baking and avoiding Jason. Finally, it was Christmas Eve! I was excited, although, as the night wore on I started to worry; what if I didn't finish in time? The clock would soon be striking midnight, and I had only 299 snowflakes! My worry turned to panic and, although I needed only one more, I had run out of time and paper.

Without warning, Jason came into my room; I was surprised he was up so late.

"Did you finish your snowflakes?" Jason asked.

"No, I was so close but I failed again!" By this point I was in tears.

Jason got the message that I was extremely upset, and he scurried away down the hall. Well, my goal had once more not been reached. Just as I had lost all hope, a little white paper snowflake and a note slid under the door. The snowflake was round and perfect, with just the right amount of glitter. The note read: "To Zoe, Merri Crismas, Luv Jason"

CALVIN'S
SALT SPRING ISLAND BISTRO

Calvin's Bistro will be closed from Dec. 25, 2001 through Jan. 18, 2002 for the Holiday Break.

Hermann & René would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valued customers for making our 1st year on Salt Spring a success.

From all of us we wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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Cost \$150.00
Jan. 11th and 12th
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REIKI LEVEL II
Cost \$250.00
Feb. 23 and 24th
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- Estate preservation, insurance and tax planning services
- Retirement planning services including RRSPs, RRIFs, and RESPs to name just a few.

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*Mutual funds and other securities are offered through Credential Securities Inc., a subsidiary of Credit Union Central of Canada. Unless otherwise stated, mutual funds and other securities are not covered by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any other government deposit insurer which insures deposits in credit unions. Mutual funds and other securities are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated. Credential Securities Inc. is a Member-CIPF.

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Victoria 385-4476

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Season's Greetings from Aino, Jackie & Ian

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HOLIDAY DELIVERY SCHEDULE
Monday Dec. 24; Dec. 27; Dec. 28
Monday Dec. 31; Jan. 03; Jan. 04

Long Iredale story takes 1st

Lauren Iredale of Mayne Island was the first place winner in the age 13 category of the Driftwood's story contest.

Iredale wrote an amazing fiction story called A Solstice Tale, which follows an adolescent girl named Leigh who is joyless about facing her first Christmas without her mother who has died.

Leigh decides to go for a walk on the beach on solstice day, and comes upon a group of singing "figures."

She joins them and becomes part of a ritual where a flickering light is passed around the semi-circle of singers.

Through the passing of the flame and inner realizations, Leigh is able to return home with renewed strength to her still-

grieving father.

Iredale used remarkably vivid imagery and mature plot construction to create the compelling tale.

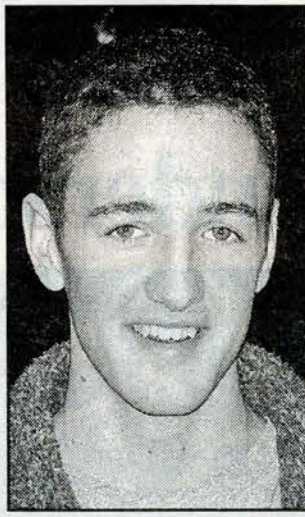
Unfortunately, Iredale's story was 1,577 words in length — more than three times the 500-word limit — and could not be published intact.

The word limit is set to ensure as many winning stories as possible can be run in the Driftwood's Christmas edition.

The newspaper rarely has any page that can accommodate that length of an article or story.

Rather than run a drastically cut version of the excellently-crafted story, we decided to at least acknowledge Iredale's great accomplishment in this article.

GVM worker honoured



Sam Hannah

Ganges Village Market employee Sam Hannah was awarded \$2,500 in a draw at the grocery store's annual staff Christmas party.

The money is designated for travel or computer purchases in a special voucher.

GVM Manager Mike Tyson explained that each week customers and fellow workers vote for the employee showing the most exceptional

performance, and add his or her name to a monthly draw.

"Sam is an excellent worker and an all around good employee," said Tyson.

Hannah is also a Grade 12 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School. He plans to use the money to travel next summer.

"It was shocking at first," he said, "But it's sunk in now."

The Spirit of Christmas

It has often been said that it's too bad the Spirit of Christmas can't last the whole year long.

I was reminded of that when my eldest son, Richard, phoned me up before Christmas and asked me if I knew about the Four Stages of Life.

"No," I replied. "What are they?"

"Well Dad," he said. "They go like this:"

Stage One: First you believe in Santa Claus.

Stage Two: Then you don't believe in Santa Claus.

Stage Three: Then you ARE Santa Claus.

Stage Four: Then you look like Santa Claus.

We had a good laugh about that and our conversation drifted on to other things.

But I've been thinking about what he said ever since. And the more I think about it the more it seems like there is a lot of wisdom in that little gem, especially Stage Three, the part that

FULFORD HARBOUR CHRONICLES WITH ROGER BRUNT



goes: Then you ARE Santa Claus.

For one thing, it's the perfect answer to that dreaded question that every child eventually asks. The one that goes, "Is there really a Santa Claus?"

The standard reply is usually No; it's mummy and daddy that bring all the presents, couched in as gentle a way as possible.

Yet still, the feeling of being gypped out of something special can, for some children, last a lifetime.

But if a child is told that someday THEY will be a Santa Claus themselves, it adds a whole new dimension to the question. It implies that the Spirit of Santa (or, if you like, the Spirit of Christmas) lives in each one of us and lives not only at

Christmas time, but all year 'round.

Every time a child's face lights up with learning, is that not like the Spirit of Christmas?

Anytime you share with others, or do a favour, or undertake an act of kindness or generosity or charity, isn't that an extension of the Spirit of Christmas?

So if this is the year when the kids ask if there really is a Santa, consider telling them about the four Stages of Life. Tell them that one day they themselves will be a Santa Claus.

And that if they think about it, they don't even have to wait for Christmas, or until they grow up and have children of their own, to begin.

And that applies to all of

us, young and old alike. If we all tried just a little harder to make the Spirit of Christmas last the whole year long, what could it hurt?

After all, any child can tell you that every day should be more like Christmas.

Salt Spring Island Community Services
268 Fulford-Ganges Rd.
537-9971
ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE

- **24 HR. CRISIS LINE:** Dial 0 and ask for ZENITH 2262 (no charge). Caller is connected with the Need Crisis Centre in Victoria.
- **EMERGENCY FOOD BANK:** Open Tuesday 11-3.
- **COUNSELLING SERVICES:** Crisis and short-term counselling provided by Community Workers.
- **ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM:** Prevention & treatment service is free & confidential.
- **FAMILY PLACE: DROP IN -** Mon.-Wed. 9:30am-noon. Please watch for coming events. **FAMILY WALK** in Moutat Pk, rain or shine Thurs. @ 10. Belly Talk & Rug Huggers Thursdays 2pm-4pm. 537-9176.
- **RECYCLE DEPOT:** Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am-5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.
- **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- **Emergency Mental Health Services available:** 4pm to midnight. Access is available through the Emergency Rm at Lady Minto Hospital call: 538-4840

"Flowers
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Beth Cherneff
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Over the past year we have had the privilege to serve many new and old friends.

Your thoughts and wishes, your passions and delights are the special sentiments we translate into our floral designs.

Thank you and Feliz Navidad Merry Christmas to you all!

Islander wins cash scholarship

Catherine Franchetti-Benwell of Salt Spring has been awarded the Pereira & Associates Scholarship Award at a ceremony held in Vancouver on November 24.



Catherine Franchetti-Benwell

Franchetti-Benwell achieved the highest standing in Taxation, Finance and Auditing Level 2 and earned a \$1,500 cash award.

She said her long-term goal is to increase participation in the not-for-profit sector, as she finds combining career and community involvement rewarding.

Franchetti-Benwell is pleased with her decision to pursue a CGA designation as it allows her flexibility in both her study and career paths. She works from her home office as she awaits the birth of her second child.

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'Tis the season to be jolly and in the holiday spirit, we want to thank you for your generous support and friendship.

A very special Merry Christmas to all of you!

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Management & staff of

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"Twas Right Before Christmas...

And we always make it our policy to thank everyone for making our year such a good one. We hope all your dreams come true, this holiday season!

Thanks again to all the wonderful people of Salt Spring Island!

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Christmas — Henderson style

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

A much-extended Henderson family welcomed the Salt Spring Folk Club to an intimate Christmas gathering of reminiscing, performing and community warmth at Fulford Hall Monday.

Garlands of cedar boughs, large paintings of ornaments, and floral arrangements of fir swags, grasses and dried flowers decorated the hall.

Bill Henderson started off festivities by inviting his sister-in-law Joan to join him in singing nostalgic old classics Moonlight Bay, Goober Peas and Bird Dog.

Each song held memories and significance to the family like treasured Christmas ornaments. Moonlight Bay was even introduced with a 42-year-old recording of the Henderson family performing the same song.

Bill's brother Ed then introduced his adult children David and Kate to perform a guitar instrumental of On Norwegian Wood.

David strummed strong bass chords, Kate plucked out a gentle melody and Ed doted around his children with sympathetic harmonies for this version of the Beatles classic.

Bill's daughters Camille and Saffron then took the stage to perform songs they had written. Bill provided guitar accompaniment and Camille's partner Chris Hockey swept soft brushes on drum to round out the sisters' sweet harmonies.

Camille even wore her "special outfit" which highlighted the newest pre-natal member of the Henderson clan.

Saffron also gave a lighting strike performance of Sweetness and Joe; a song about facing athletic challenges she had written for her husband and baseball player Chris Pritchett.

Following a brief intermission, Bill and Ed returned to the stage for a phenomenal guitar jam dialogue. The brothers alternated support for each other through dramatic shifts in tempo as they explored far shores of Middle Eastern and Iberian melodies.

Following thunderous applause Bill said, "We like to jam. We grew up doing that."

Sisters Joan and Iris Quinn joined Ed and Bill to sing Angels Among Us, a song about the warmth of aid given by complete strangers.

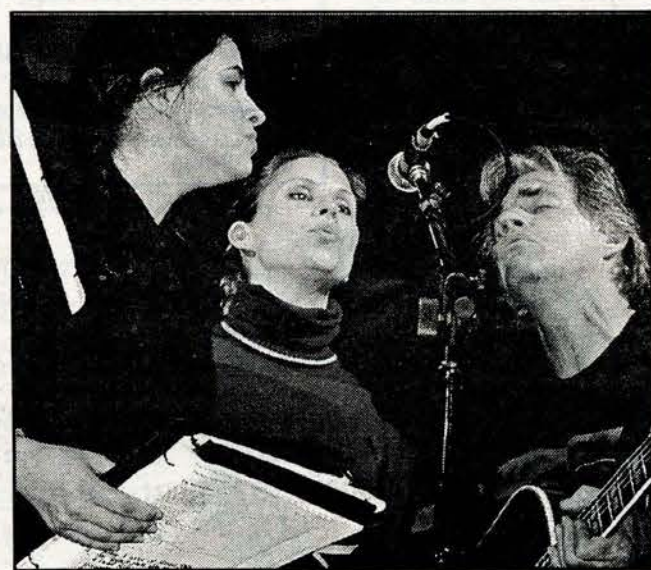
Joan's daughter Bronwyn Schoner then sang seductive lead for Nobody But The Baby (featured in the film Oh Brother Where Art Thou), while Bill undulated slide guitar and Saffron and Joan held backing vocals.

Introducing his half-brother Rob Widdowson, Bill said: "After not knowing Rob for the first 30 years of his life, we found out he was into music just as much as



FAMILY SPECIAL: At top, the Henderson family takes the stage at Fulford Hall, while below, Bill Henderson is joined in song by his daughters Saffron and Camille.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



us."

Rob, Bill and Ed then united in acoustic harmony to perform Rob's country family tunes, Father and Son, and Thinking of You Tonight.

A crisp classical guitar duet of Greensleeves by Bill and Ed then earned riotous applause.

Cousins Kate and Bronwyn took the stage to update musical tastes with a dash of Radiohead for a rich-voiced immersion of Street Spirit.

Saffron, Camille and Bill then performed a set of happy grooved tunes: How Sweet it is, I Can See Clearly and When I Sing (with a hysterical kazoo solo by Saffron).

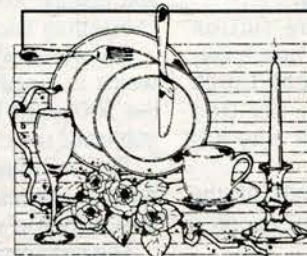
For the final set, Bill's brother Fred narrated a hilarious rendition of Dylan Thomas' A Child's Christmas in Wales with accenting cameos by 13 members of the Henderson family.

The Hendersons then car-

olled the audience with a selection of Christmas favourites including a sing-along version of Twelve Days of Christmas where the singing audience was divided into a 12-part choir.

After the final song in the cozy hall, a standing ovation earned one last carol, O Holy Night, before the crowd rose again to applaud the Hendersons.

Hopefully this talented clan will make a yearly tradition of sharing their Christmas family gathering with islanders.



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a glass of champagne

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at the Legion bar.

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December 21,
7:00 pm

Come join the whole community
for an evening of
music, reading and Christmas treats

Admission is free.
Please bring a contribution for the food bank.

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West Coast
Cuisine

• Mon.-Thursday 8am - 9pm
• Fridays 8am - 10pm
• Saturdays 8am - 10pm

• Sundays
10am - 10pm

Anise Restaurant Inn
132 Lower Ganges Rd.

S - SALT SPRING ISLAND O - OUTER ISLANDS SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 23. Table with columns for time slots (4:00-11:30) and channels (S, O, CBC, MC, etc.) listing various programs like 'A Christmas Carol', 'The Family Man', and 'Vertical Limit'.

Varney, Douglas Seale (2h)
9:00 PM
State and Main A movie crew invades a small town whose residents are ready for showbiz glitz. Michael Higgins I, Michael Bradshaw (1h45)
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989, Comedy) A man plays host to numerous dysfunctional relatives during the Christmas holidays. Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo (2h)
In His Father's Shoes (1997, Drama) A boy receives magic shoes to travel back in time and possess his father's body. Louis Gossett Jr., Robert Richard (2h)
Ernest Saves Christmas (1988, Comedy) Ernest P. Worrel tries to help a retiring Santa Claus hire the new St. Nick. Jim Varney, Douglas Seale (1h35)

S - SALT SPRING ISLAND O - OUTER ISLANDS MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 24. Table with columns for time slots (4:00-11:30) and channels (S, O, CBC, MC, etc.) listing various programs like 'Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas', 'The Nutcracker', and 'The Ultimate Christmas Present'.

10:30 PM
White Christmas (1954, Musical) A musical group travel to a failing Vermont Inn owned by their former army commander. Danny Kaye, Bing Crosby (2h)
The Fisher King (1991, Drama) A radio DJ befriends a street person after he is unable to cope with stress. Robin Williams, Jeff Bridges (2h30)
The Ultimate Christmas Present (2000, Comedy) Two twelve-year old girls stumble upon a mysterious device that creates weather. Peter Scolar, Bill Fagerbakke (1h25)
What Lies Beneath (2000, Thriller) The wife of a professor investigates the murder of a beautiful college student. Michelle Pfeiffer, Harrison Ford (2h15)
The Nutcracker (1993, Family) A young girl is transported to a magical world of toys escorted by a prince. Macaulay Culkin, Damian Woetzel (2h)
TUESDAY, DEC 25
6:00 PM
Ben-Hur (1959, Epic) When a man is enslaved by a Roman friend, he regains his freedom and thirsts for revenge. Charlton Heston, Jack Hawkins (4h)
When Harry Met Sally (1989, Romance) Man and woman's 12-year friendship is tested when they decide to have romantic interlude. Meg Ryan, Billy Crystal (1h45)
La petite princesse (1995, Conte) Tribulations d'une fille qui doit quitter le monde de rêve pour un pensionnat sévère. Liesel Matthews, Eleanor Bron (2h)
Finding Forrester (2000, Drama) A reclusive prize-winning novelist befriends an inner city high school basketball star. Sean Connery, Rob Brown (2h30)
Twas the Night (2001, Comedy) Two troublemakers almost ruin Christmas when Santa gets into an accident on their roof. Bryan Cranston, Josh Zuckerman (1h30)
Must Be Santa (1999, Drama) Santa must be replaced when it's his time to cross over to the angel side of Pole. Arnold Pinnock, Deanna Milligan (2h)
Santa Who? (2000, Comedy) Santa crash-lands in New York City just days before Christmas and suffers from amnesia. Leslie Nielsen, Tommy Davidson (2h)
A Christmas Story (1983, Family) Chronicles a little boy's efforts to receive an air rifle for Christmas in the 1940s. Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin (2h)
Nico the Unicorn (1997, Family) A mother purchases a neglected pony which gives birth to a baby unicorn. Anne Archer, Eisha Culbert (2h)
The Package (1989, Thriller) An Army sergeant searching for escaped prisoners uncovers a plot to start WWII. Gene Hackman, Tommy Lee Jones (2h)
Unbreakable (Thriller) A man learns something extraordinary about himself after a devastating accident. Bruce Willis, Samual L. Jackson (1h45)
A Christmas Carol (1938, Drama) A miserly old man changes his ways after he is taught a lesson in charity. Reginald Owen, Gene Lockhart (1h10)
The Bishop's Wife (1947, Fantasy) An angel comes to Earth to help a Bishop and his wife raise money for a church. Cary Grant, David Niven (2h)
Le milliardaire (1960, Musicale) Un milliardaire s'prend d'une danseuse à qui il cache son identité. Marilyn Monroe, Yves Montand (2h15)
Bedazzled (1968, Comedy) A depressed cook is offered seven wishes in exchange for his soul by the Devil. Dudley Moore, Peter Cook (1h45)
WEDNESDAY, DEC 26
7:00 PM
La légende de Camelot (1998) La jeune Kayley part en quête d'Excalibur, l'épée magique qui a été volée. Frederik Du Chau, Cori Galsig (2h)
Two Family House (2000, Drama) Sharing a duplex, an Italian family and an Irish family learn to understand one another. Kelly MacDonald, Katherine Narducci (2h)
Diner (1982, Comedy/Drama) A group of young men in their twenties find ways to shut out their female partners. Steven Guttenberg, Mickey Rourke (2h30)
Rent-a-Kid (1997, Comedy) A street-wise salesman suddenly finds himself in charge of an orphanage. Leslie Nielsen, Christopher Lloyd (2h)
9:00 PM
Quills (2000, Drama) The life of scandalous 18th century erotic writer Marquis de Sade. Geoffrey Rush, Kate Winslett (2h15)
The Real Howard Spitz (1998, Comedy) A young girl convinces a detective novelist to write a children's book. Kelsey Grammer, Amanda Donohoe (2h)
Made in America (1993, Comedy) A teenage girl discovers that her sperm bank father is an obnoxious, rural car dealer. Whoopi Goldberg, Ted Danson (1h30)
David and Bathsheba (1951, Religious) King David falls victim to the sins of the flesh when he falls in love with Bathsheba. Gregory Peck, Susan Hayward (2h)
The Assault (1986, Foreign) Life of young boy whose family liquidated during WWII. Derek de Lint, Marc van Uchelen (2h15)
Noah (1998, Drama) A contractor is approached and asked to build an exact replica of Noah's Arc. Tony Danza, Wallace Shawn (1h30)
High Fidelity (2000, Drama) A newly dumped record store owner thinks about relationships with aurally fixated clerks. John Cusack, Iben Hjejle (2h)
Minnit (1998, Comédie dramatique) Il ne reste plus que six heures avant la fin du

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DROP-OFF: 8am - 5pm Tuesday thru Saturday
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AN ISLAND FAMILY SINCE 1861
We Thank You For Your Patronage & Wish All A Happy Holiday Season!

S - SALT SPRING ISLAND O - OUTER ISLANDS TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 25. Table with columns for time slots (4:00-11:30) and channels (S, O, CBC, MC, etc.) listing various programs like 'A Christmas Story', 'The Bishop's Wife', and 'The Package'.

9:00 PM
A Christmas Story (1983, Family) Chronicles a little boy's efforts to receive an air rifle for Christmas in the 1940s. Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin (2h)
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WEDNESDAY, DEC 26
7:00 PM
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Two Family House (2000, Drama) Sharing a duplex, an Italian family and an Irish family learn to understand one another. Kelly MacDonald, Katherine Narducci (2h)
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High Fidelity (2000, Drama) A newly dumped record store owner thinks about relationships with aurally fixated clerks. John Cusack, Iben Hjejle (2h)
Minnit (1998, Comédie dramatique) Il ne reste plus que six heures avant la fin du

S - SALT SPRING ISLAND O - OUTER ISLANDS WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 26. Table with columns for time slots (4:00-11:30) and channels (S, O, CBC, MC, etc.) listing various programs like 'Hockey NHL Toronto Maple Leafs vs Carolina Hurricanes', 'The Real Howard Spitz', and 'The Assault'.

9:00 PM
Quills (2000, Drama) The life of scandalous 18th century erotic writer Marquis de Sade. Geoffrey Rush, Kate Winslett (2h15)
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Places to go, things to see and buy this holiday week

The last artisans have packed up their booths from the craft markets and islanders are settling into the holiday season.

It will be a time of visiting family, friends and neighbours. To get you into the true spirit of the season, become part of one of Salt Spring's young but fine traditions. The annual ArtSpring Christmas Sing-along takes place this Friday night at 7 p.m.

Other seasonal events include Christmas With Scrooge from December 20-23, and a nativity

IT'S A WRAP WITH PIRJO RAITIS



play at the Centennial Park bandshell at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Great stocking stuffers might be tickets to upcoming concerts and events: Jeff Hyslop is performing in February, The Vagina Monologues is in mid-February and Canadian classical guitarist Liona Boyd will grace the stage in March.

If you have last-minute gifts to purchase, how about the gift of music?

Check out Salt Spring Island's CD website at www.saltspringmusic.com. On the site you can listen to and order CDs by local recording artists.

The deadline is approaching to register for a Christmas Hamper. If you are in need and could use a boost, call Community Services at 537-9971 for more details and to register.

A number of local businesses on the island are sponsoring a draw for \$1,000 worth of Salt Spring dollars. All you have to do is put

your name in the draw box at any of the participating businesses. The draw takes place on December 22 and the dollars are an excellent way to encourage on-island spending.

Many of the local churches are holding Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's services. Check with the church of your choice for details.

The United Church is hosting a Community Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day at noon. Those wishing to attend are asked to call 537-5812 by Friday, December 21 to let them know you will be coming. The lunch is free.

Sailing off for the holidays? While most people choose to stay put for the holidays, some will be leaving.

Check the B.C. Ferries schedule for updates on sailing times. Information is available on the 24-hour info line at 1-888-BCFerry, or online at www.bcferry.com.

The last Salt Spring Local Trust Committee public meeting takes place today at 1:15 p.m. at Lions Hall.

This is your last chance this year to voice your concerns about land use plans with the local committee.

Merry Christmas!

NATIVITY PLAY
in the bandshell at Centennial Park, followed by a carol sing and hot chocolate.
A free family event on Sunday, December 23, 7pm.
"Proudly supporting our community"
THRIFTY FOODS
Fresh is what we're famous for!

what's on

Your weekly calendar of community events
Also online at www.gulfislands.net

STORY, SONG & SOUP
at Salt Spring United Church features pizza, plus music by Alan Moberg and stories by Hetty Clews on Sunday, Dec. 23, noon - 1pm.
(Call the church at 537-5812 to advise on attendance so the right amount of pizza is ordered.)
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music

Friday, December 21, 2001

Salt Spring Elementary Choir Island Savings Credit Union hosts the choir at 1 p.m.

Ted Hickford Plays flute at Island Savings Credit Union at 3:30 p.m.

Annual Community Christmas Sing-along Everyone gathers at ArtSpring with local choir groups to sing Christmas carols, 7 p.m. Admission by donation for the food bank.

Saturday, December 22, 2001

Pianist Murray Anderson At the Harbour House Bistro during lunch or dinner.

Sunday, December 23, 2001

The Other Brothers At the Fulford Inn every Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m.

Sunday Dinner Jazz Monik Nordine Quartet performs at Moby's beginning at 7 p.m.

Murray Anderson Pianist Murray Anderson performs at lunch or dinner at the Harbour House Bistro.

Monday, December 24, 2001

Ethel and Brad Magnus Soloist Ethel Magnus with interpretive dance by Brad Magnus perform at the Baptist Church on Lower Ganges Road. 7 p.m.

Argentinian Tango See Wednesday listings.

Wednesday, December 26, 2001

Argentinian Tango The group meets at Lions Hall from 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$3 per person. Info: 537-2707.

Wednesday Night LIVE! Open stage at Moby's, hosted by Charles Wilton, begins at 9 p.m.

stage

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Christmas With Scrooge Preview night for the annual Newman musical. At Mahon Hall, 7:30 p.m. All seats just \$5.

Friday, December 21, 2001

Christmas With Scrooge The Newman musical tradition continues. At Mahon Hall, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$9 for adults, \$4.50 for

kids. Tickets at et cetera or the door.

Saturday, December 22, 2001

Christmas With Scrooge See Friday listing.

Sunday, December 23, 2001

Christmas With Scrooge **Christmas With Scrooge** See Friday listing, except show is at 2pm.

cinema

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone — J.K. Rowling's first book about a young wizard comes to life starring Daniel Radcliffe, Robbie Coltrane, Richard Harris and Maggie Smith. Richly textured and beautifully acted, director Chris Columbus pulls off the hard task of adapting this monstrously popular children's serial to the screen with integrity and respect for the source material. A great movie and a must see for everyone!

Spy Game — Robert Redford plays a CIA agent who travels to a foreign country to rescue another agent (Brad Pitt) who is targeted for death.

arts & crafts

Tamara MacDonald is hanging multimedia works at Barb's Buns.

Lise Partridge shows Ship Shapes — paintings of different historical ships — at Moby's through December.

Jack Avison's paintings are on display at the Salt Spring Roasting Company in Ganges.

Images Habitees is the photo collage on canvas exhibit by Rachel Vadeboncoeur at Island Savings Credit Union.

Adrien Town is exhibiting a range of paintings at Luigi's Pizzeria.

Diana Dean's work can be viewed at The Bodyworks Collective in between client sessions from noon to 4 p.m. daily or by arrangement.

Salt Spring Painters' Guild meets Wednesdays at Lions Hall, from 9:30 to noon, unless workshop schedule requires different times.

galleries

activities

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Salty Wheels Square Dance Club Meets at Central Hall on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. For info, call Angela Thomas, 653-9346.

Bingo At Meaden Hall, 7 p.m. Early bird games at 6:30.

Movements of Dance Class Modern dance class for adults of beginner to intermediate level. Every Thursday at Fulford Hall, 10-11:15 a.m. Info: Dana, 653-9549.

Soup's On! Free warm meal offered at All Saints church every Thursday, 11:30-1 p.m.

Community Meditation Led by guest speakers each Thursday at SS United Church, upper hall, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Corinternet Café Runs 1 to 8 p.m. Internet access charges are \$2 per half hour for adults, and \$1 per half hour for youth and seniors.

Survivor! Watch the show every Thursday at The Legion, 8 p.m. Sponsored by Island Star Video. Prizes!

Friday, December 21, 2001

Rollerblading to Music For children and adults runs every Friday at Fulford Hall, 7:30-9 p.m.

Corinternet Café Runs noon to 5 p.m.

Meat draws At the Legion every Friday at 5 p.m.

Solstice Vigil For Peace Join an ongoing vigil for peace. Bring a candle to Centennial Park at noon. Info: Marion, 537-4567.

Capoeira Classes Learn the Brazilian martial art and dance at Mahon Hall on Fridays, 6:30-8 p.m. Info: Shai, 653-4258.

Saturday, December 22, 2001

Salt Spring SPCA Open house every Saturday below the vet clinic from 2 to 4 p.m.

Saturday Book Sale At the Salt Spring Public Library every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Chess Club Meets at the Core Inn Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. Players of all abilities and ages welcome!

Christmas Market in the Park All vendors welcome to set up! 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call David (653-2300) or Heather (653-4809).

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CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Regional district, ArtSpring work out lease agreement

A lease dispute between the Island Arts Centre Society (IACS) and Capital Regional District (CRD) has ended amicably in agreement.

The CRD board last week approved a 10-year licence for ArtSpring to occupy property owned by the CRD and provincial lands granted to the CRD in a sub-licence.

The agreement is subject to a further 10-year renewal period.

IACS president Victoria Olchowecki said, "I'm pleased the licence agreement has been concluded. Now we can proceed with other things."

Olchowecki added that she hoped some funding from the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) — which is funded through the CRD — would follow the agreement.

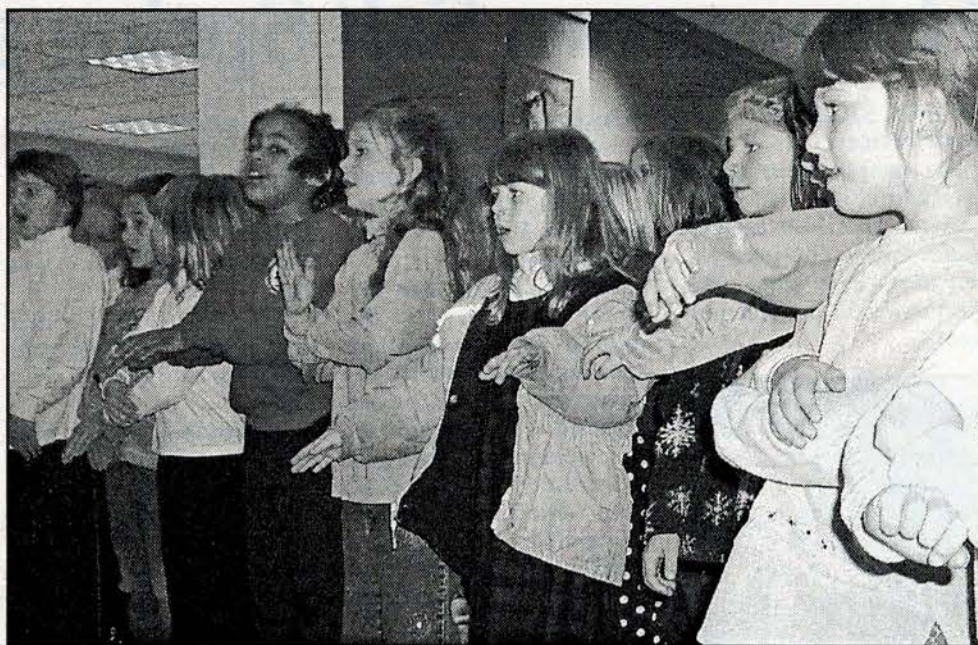
PARC provided regular operational funding to IACS for a period of time until the

parties' agreement to do so expired.

Legal ownership of the building, which had been a point of contention between the parties, was "left alone" for the time being, said Olchowecki.

CHOIR ANTICS: Members of the Fernwood Elementary School Choir entertain at the Credit Union on Tuesday.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin



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ARLENE

Wednesday, December 26, 2001

Cribbage Wednesdays at the Legion, 8 p.m.

Corinternet Cafe Runs 1 to 8 p.m. Internet access charges are \$2 per half hour for adults, and \$1 per half hour for youth and seniors.

Boxing Day Classic Fourth annual disc golf tournament at Mouat Park. Time TBA. Info: Dean, 538-1971; discgolfdan@hotmail.com.

Peace Vigil Silent Prayer and Candle Lighting at SS United Church sanctuary, every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 27, 2001

Community Meditation Led by guest speakers each Thursday at SS United Church, upper hall, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Survivor! Watch the show every Thursday at The Legion, 8 p.m. Sponsored by Island Star Video. Prizes!

Soup's On! Free warm meal offered at All Saints church every Thursday, 11:30-1 p.m.

Corinternet Cafe Runs 1 to 8 p.m. Internet access charges are \$2 per half hour for adults, and \$1 per half hour for youth and seniors.

Salty Wheels Square Dance Club Meets at Central Hall on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. For info, call Angela Thomas, 653-9346.

meetings

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Regular monthly meeting is at Lions Hall, 1:15 p.m.

workshops

Tuesday, December 25, 2001

Flashes of Splashes Expressive painting workshops every Tuesday with Christina Heinemann, 12:30-3 p.m. Info: 653-4764.

families

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Family Place Drop-in See Wednesday listing.

listing.

Bellytalk at Rughuggers Informal discussion group for pregnant women and new moms is at Family Place, 2-4 p.m.

Walk in Mouat Park For parents and children under 6. Each Thursday at 10 a.m., rain or shine. Sponsored by Family Place.

Storytime at Fables Cottage From 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Friday, December 21, 2001

Fairy Tales & Myths Storytelling with Shauna Grylls at the library. A chance to explore wonder and curiosity in myths and tales. For ages 4 and up. Every Friday, 3-4 p.m.

Storytime at Fables Cottage From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Kindergym See Wednesday listings.

Roller Blading to Music At Fulford Hall every Friday, 7:30-9 p.m. \$2 per child, \$4 adults and \$10 (max) for families.

Saturday, December 22, 2001

Kids' Toonie Bowling For ages 5-10, runs at Kings Lane Recreation every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Sunday, December 23, 2001

Live Nativity Play Followed by a carol sing and hot chocolate. Bring the whole family! In the bandstand in Centennial Park. 7 p.m.

Monday, December 24, 2001

Family Place Drop-in See Wednesday listing.

Parent Support Circles Every Monday. Call Janice at 653-4411 or Barb at 537-5828 for info.

Roz & Co. Reading hour for kids at Mary Hawkins Library, 11 a.m. to noon every Monday.

Tuesday, December 25, 2001

Family Place Drop-in See Wednesday listing.

Drop-in for Parents & Preschoolers At Fulford Hall every Tuesday, 10 a.m. to noon.

Wednesday, December 26, 2001

Family Place Drop-in Open from 9:30-noon. Info: 537-9176.

Kindergym Wednesdays and Fridays at Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, 9-11 a.m. Large motor play, circle time with songs and storytelling. Coffee & tea provided, with potluck once a month. \$2 suggested donation. Info: Angela, 537-2437.

Storytime at Fables Cottage From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 27, 2001

Walk in Mouat Park For parents and children under 6. Each Thursday at 10 a.m., rain or shine. Sponsored by Family Place.

Bellytalk at Rughuggers Informal discussion group for pregnant women and new moms is at Family Place, 2-4 p.m.

Storytime at Fables Cottage From 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Family Place Drop-in See Wednesday listing.

youth

Friday, December 21, 2001

Cosmic Bowling At Kings Lane Recreation on Friday nights, 9 p.m. to midnight. Bring your own CDs. Food and drinks available. Book a lane by calling 537-2054.

seniors

Monday, December 24, 2001

Seniors Yoga with Celeste At Salt Spring Centre, 11 a.m. to noon.

Wednesday, December 26, 2001

Move Into Fitness Ideal for seniors. At Meaden Hall from 9-10 a.m. with Rosemary Trump or Ila-Mae Dickson. \$4 drop-in; \$40 for books of 10.

health

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Spin Cycle Classes At North End Fitness, 12:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Mixed Levels Yoga With Laura at Salt Spring Centre, 4-5:30 p.m.

Flexible Strength Classes With Betty-Lou Lake at All Saints from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Drop-in \$6, or 10 classes for \$40.

Body Ball Classes BYOB and meet at All Saints with Betty-Lou Lake on Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. \$6 drop-in or 6 classes for \$30.

Nia Fitness Dance A fun, energizing, low-impact workout for all fitness levels runs at All Saints By-the-Sea, 5:15 p.m. Info: Leslie, 537-0884.

Tai Chi Ch'uan Ongoing class for all levels every Thursday at Cedar Lane Studio, 7-9 p.m. Info: 537-5667.

Friday, December 21, 2001

Move Into Fitness classes See Wednesday listings.

Spin Cycle Classes At North End Fitness at 9:45 a.m.

Saturday, December 22, 2001

Nia Fitness Dance Classes At All Saints, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 23, 2001

Free Intro to Yoga At Salt Spring Centre, 9:30-11 a.m.

Monday, December 24, 2001

Spin Cycle Classes At North End Fitness, 9:45 a.m.

Move Into Fitness classes See Wednesday listings.

Judo Every Monday and Wednesday for kids 6-12 at the Dojo, 4:30-6 p.m.; 12-92 years, 7:30-9. Info: 537-4942.

Dance and Feldenkrais Classes Anna Haltrecht leads classes Mondays at Cats Pajamas Studio. Feldenkrais: Awareness Through Movement, runs at 6 p.m. followed by dance at 7:30. Info: 537-5681.

Taoist Tai Chi Classes Mondays at All Saints By-the-Sea, Ganges, 7-8 p.m.; seniors classes from 10-11 a.m. Call David or Tina, 537-1871.

Tai Chi Ch'uan Ongoing Monday classes for all levels at The Barn, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Info: Osman, 537-5667.

Yoga with Celeste Mixed Levels class at Salt Spring Centre, 9-10:30 a.m.

Tai chi/Qigong See Wednesday listings.

Tuesday, December 25, 2001

Level 1-2 Yoga With Kishori at Salt Spring Centre, 6:30-8 p.m.

Flexible Strength Classes See Thursday listings.

Nia Fitness Dance See Thursday listing.

Spin Cycle Classes At North End Fitness, 12:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 26, 2001

Tai chi/Qigong Traditional Yang-style tai chi/qigong practice. Zong He academy holds classes for children, teens, adults and seniors. All levels. At All Saints By-the-Sea on Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:15-6:45 p.m. Info: Bob Fenske, 537-5135.

Move Into Fitness classes At Meaden Hall from 9-10 a.m. A low-impact workout, an easy start, includes a long warm-up, walking cardio, toning and stretching. \$4 drop-in, or \$40 for book of 10.

Salt Spring Cancer Support Group Meets every Wednesday at Al Fresco Restaurant, except for the third Wednesday of each month when it gathers at Croftonbrook. Info: 653-4524.

Spin Cycle Classes At North End Fitness, 9:45 a.m.

Intro to Yoga With Celeste at Salt Spring Centre, 6:45-8 p.m.

Judo See Monday listing.

Taoist Tai Chi Classes are on Wednesdays at All Saints, 7-8 p.m.; seniors classes from 10-11 a.m. Call David or Tina, 537-1871.

Thursday, December 27, 2001

Mixed Levels Yoga With Laura at Salt Spring Centre, 4-5:30 p.m.

Body Ball Classes BYOB and meet at All Saints with Betty-Lou Lake on Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. \$6 drop-in or 6 classes for \$30.

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Flexible Strength Classes With Betty-Lou Lake at All Saints from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Drop-in \$6, or 10 classes for \$40.

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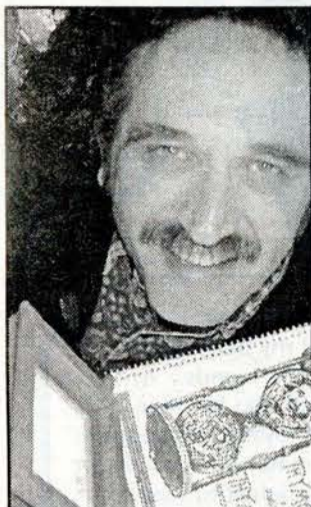
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Homegrown Salt Spring gift ideas

By **GAIL SJUBERG**
Staff Writer

For people wanting to give Christmas gifts with a distinctive Salt Spring stamp this year, a few special items have burst onto the market in the last few weeks.



• The Best of Thyme, The Worst of Thyme (BOT/WOT) is a compilation of, you guessed it, "literary chunks" from the now-retired coffee sheet run by Shilo Zylbergold and Jim Black. BOT/WOT contains Shilo's writings only, filling about 100 pages with a vision of Salt Spring and the world that only our dear Shilo could concoct.

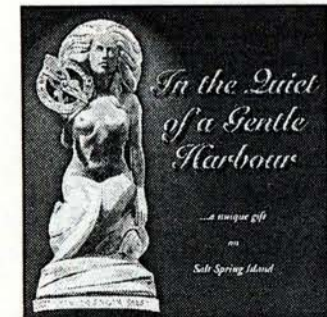
It's disturbing to think of the local mythology that may have been lost if BOT/WOT had not been created: Salt Spring as pyramid-scheme and garage sale capital of the world; our chronically unfinished houses; the ultimate "when does one stop being a newcomer" test, (which includes when you no longer consider deer "cute"); and the new CRD Feng Shui Code.

Shilo also manages to break his charmingly myopic gaze and tackle wider issues such as genetically modified foods; the peculiarities of dogs; music wars in a campground; and why computers don't have clutch pedals.

BOT/WOT is a real treasure, and dirt cheap at only \$11.95 a pop.

Send it to your far-flung friends and relatives who don't believe the stories you tell them about island life.

• In the Quiet of a Gentle Harbour is a CD highlighting the songwriting and performance abilities of Salt Spring pianist Gary Lundy, assisted by other talented islanders.



The 10 minutes of story and light, jazzy music conjures an evocative picture of seaside musing, which Lundy said was inspired by the Rotary Marine Park mermaid statue created by sculptor Tom McPhee.

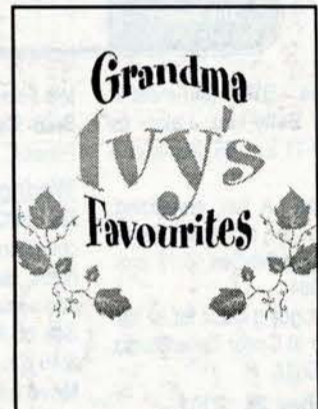
Susheela Dawne narrates a poetic mermaid and sea tale to the accompaniment of Lundy on piano and cellist Jane Phillips in the opening piece.

The inspired musical theme is reworked in the second cut with a piano and bass (Ian Van Wyck) backdrop to the bayan playing of Vlad Konik; and metamorphoses again in the third and final selection, which is performed by Lundy and Phillips.

With an attractive green cover design, In the Quiet of a Gentle Harbour is another way to share a bit of Salt Spring ambiance.

Five per cent of net proceeds of the CD will also be donated to the local Rotary Club.

• Passionate cooks and bakers will love Grandma Ivy's Favourites, a collection of Ivy Waltho's favourite recipes.



Ivy is now 92 years old and lives in Greenwoods. Her daughter Phyllis and other family members and friends helped ensure the time-tested recipes could be spread far and wide in published book form.

Grandma Ivy's Favourites emerge from

every gastronomic corner, with recipes such as Apricot Chicken, Butterfly Cupcake, Garlic Sweet Dill Pickles and the famously-named Sex in a Pan.

The book is also dotted with photos from Ivy's life and bits of culinary wisdom.

Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook, which was printed by Barnyard Grafix of Salt Spring, will benefit the annual Terry Fox Run for cancer research.

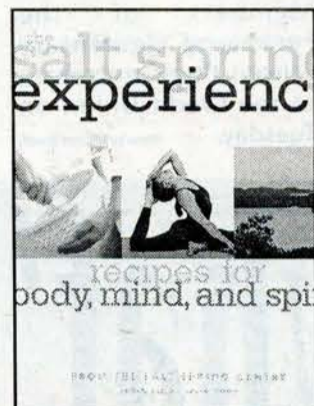
Copies are available by donation to the Terry Fox fund through Bill Waltho, 537-4937, or Phyllis Waltho, 537-4932.

• Just out! The Salt Spring Experience; Recipes for Body, Mind and Spirit is a cookbook, yoga manual and activity-filled collection published by Macmillan Canada. A Salt Spring Centre production written by Sharada Filkow and Mayana Williamson with help from all sorts of islanders, The Salt Spring Experience is an ideal gift for people yearning for personal development in the kitchen, body or heart. It's available for \$28.99 at bookstores everywhere.

• Bibliophiles can spread their passion by wrapping up some art along with poetic words through two new limited edition, handmade letterpress products from Salt Spring's (m)Öthër Tõnguë Press.

Fire in the Cove features 24 previously unpublished poems by Maxine Gadd, and is the west coast poet's first published work in some 20 years.

Also previously unpublished is Poem Canzonic With Love to AMK by P.K. Page. The 11 X 17-inch poetry broadside was six months in the making and is comprised of "handmade deckled paper made with cotton, cedar, copper flakes and P.K. Page's fuchsia linen handkerchief," states a (m)Öthër Tõnguë press release.



Contact Mona Fertig or Peter Haase at: mother-tonguepress@saltspring.com; phone 537-4155; or fax 537-4725.

The company's website is:

www.mothertonguepress.com.

• Still more ideas: Tickets for The Vagina Monologues, set to run at ArtSpring on February 14-15, are now on sale from the ArtSpring box office for \$20; as are Jeff Hyslop tickets for a February 2 show.

• The Islands Trust has stunning satellite images of the southern Strait of Georgia and Gulf Islands in laminated poster form for \$25. Get 'em at the Ganges Trust office or call the Victoria Trust office at 415-5151.

'Tis the season to be jolly and in the holiday spirit, we want to thank you for your generous support and friendship.

A very special Merry Christmas to all of you!

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Painting classes offered

If you have a yen to paint and don't where or how to get started, the Salt Spring Island Painters' Guild may have the answer.

Local and regional artists will be offering workshops to members of the painters' guild from January through May 2002.

Leading off the series of workshops is Margaret Threlfall with a session on watercolour basics for beginners on January 16. Intermediate and advanced members will have a work day at the other end of the hall to paint on their own.

On February 13, Victoria painter Dorset Norwich-Young will spend the entire day showing members how to paint vibrant watercolours.

For two days, from February 20-21, Vancouver Island artist David Goatley will teach a workshop in oil portraits.

More watercolour techniques, composition and value sketches will be taught by Michaela Davidson from March 13-14.

In March, Vancouver artist Suzanne Northcott will spend a full day teaching a multi-media, experimentation, drawing and photo transfer workshop. Her classes on the island have always been well received.

For those members who may wish to get off the island to look at art, a tour of Victoria art galleries is being planned. The tour will utilize either buses or a car pool.

The guild meets regularly on Wednesdays at Lions Hall from 9:15 to noon and membership fees are \$25. New members are welcome.

Space for workshops and demonstrations is limited, so members and interested new members are urged to register for classes or workshops at least two weeks in advance. Workshop costs range from \$5 to \$60.

For more information on the painters' guild, call program chair Elaine McAndrew at 537-0747, e-mail McAndrew at elainem@saltspring.com or call Barb Lyngard at 653-4469.



PASSION FOR PORTRAITS: Salt Spring artist Adrien Town sets up at Mahon Hall during the Last Minute Christmas Craft Faire to create a portrait of Charlotte Junker with her dad, Mark. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Scrooge: an island tradition

An island staple since the early 1970s is back at Mahon Hall this week.

Scrooge is nasty, Scrooge is mean. Scrooge sings "Bah! Humbug! just to scare away the street urchins and the carollers who come to his door.

Mean and miserly Scrooge has wormed his way into the hearts of everyone ever since Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol, and the Newman family's Salt Spring version goes even further.

The story is actually a fable. Like so much that happens in life, people often come to be greedy and mean through pain they have had in their own lives. Scrooge is no exception, but he does at the end of the night see where this attitude has gotten him.

Christmas with Scrooge runs from December 20 to 23. Scrooge is being played this year by Eric Booth, joining a stellar cast in the Newman family production. Audience members will hear some new songs along with old favourites.

Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on December 20 (preview night), 21 and 22, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday the 23rd.

Tickets for Christmas with

Scrooge are available at the et cetera.

All seats for the preview show on December 20 are \$5, while regular ticket price is \$9 for adults, \$4.50 for kids.

IT WAS A Hit!

Thanks to all the sponsors & customers for a successful bowling! To all our customers have a very Merry Christmas!

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Please be advised that **THE VESUVIUS PUB** will once again remain open during the months of Jan. & Feb. with reg. hours of operation 11:00am - 11:00pm 7 days/week.

However, the pub will **shut down at 5pm on Christmas Eve & close Christmas Day.** Boxing Day, the pub opens at 4pm for the annual Boxing Day Bash featuring the music of Salt Spring's own 3 CHORD SLOTH

For all your festival needs, the Vesuvius Pub offers a great selection of COLD BEER and WINE TO GO.

From all of us at the Vesuvius Pub, Happy Holidays and please celebrate responsibly!
DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

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ART EXHIBIT: Natasha Walker, left, and Aija Wright were among the young Fulford Elementary School students invited to tea at Pegasus Gallery last

Saturday. The young artists' work has been on display in Mouat's Mall, outside the gallery.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

Hylands enthralled with Thomas tale

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Sometimes while a stage performance is unfolding, awareness of its value and awareness is immediate.

Friday's reading of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, executed at ArtSpring for the second straight December by professional actor Scott Hylands, was one of those occasions.

Last year's snowstorm admittedly chilled me into not attending as planned last year, but I was determined to be in the audience this time around.

And I intend to be there next time too.

To read aloud with passion

and animation, steaming every millimetre of meaning and image possible from the words, is a fantastic gift.

We were there on the streets of Thomas' seaside town stalking the "horrible-whiskered" cats with the author as a boy and his friend Jim; we shivered in the snow that "came shawling out of the ground and swam and drifted out of the arms and hands and bodies of the trees;" and giggled at tipsy Aunt Hannah singing in the snowbound backyard or the uncles who "jumped and rumbled" when a young Dylan Thomas blew up balloons so big they burst.

With a subtle sculpting of

his voice and facial expressions, Hylands slipped from reminiscing adult narrator to a curious or fearful boy to a panicking Mrs. Prothero.

Hylands also read the end of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. He would liked to have horrified us with a taste of a ghost or two, or a wildly enflamed Scrooge, but found excerpting just didn't work. The story's end came off beautifully on its own, sending us away with full, peaceful hearts.

Hylands has demonstrated his extraordinary acting and directing abilities through a handful of on-island theatre projects over the years:

Beckett's *End Game*, *Under Milk Wood* and the Thomas/Dickens readings.

With decades of TV, film and stage credits to his name, Hylands could exercise his craft off-island only. Instead he has chosen to share his gifts with the community on projects he cares about deeply.

The serving of tea and scones by ArtSpring volunteers, and dulcimer music of Terry Warbey in the partitioned gallery before last Friday's reading, graciously set the tone for the reading.

Hylands can also be heard Friday night at the ArtSpring Sing-along event which begins at 7 p.m.

Entries sought for LOOK 2002 show

It's time for island artists to begin thinking of what artwork they may want to submit to LOOK 2002.

A juried art exhibition, LOOK 2002 is open to all artists working in any media.

Sponsored by the Gulf Islands Community Arts Council, the exhibit is open to all artists residing in Greater Victoria, Vancouver Island south of the Malahat and the Gulf Islands.

Each participant can submit up to two pieces in any media. Work must have been completed within the last two years and be within the maximum size restriction of 48 x 48 inches.

Registration is required by January 31, 2002.

Work selected for exhibit will be on display from March 2-10 at Mahon Hall. Work must be available and remain on display for the duration of the show.

Up to 12 pieces selected by the jury will travel for a further exhibit as part of the B.C. Festival of the Arts.

Registration for members of the regional community arts councils will be \$15 per piece submitted, and \$20 per piece for non-members.

For more information and entry procedures, contact Lorna Cammaert at the GICAC on Salt Spring at 538-0033, or via e-mail to lcammaert@saltspring.com.

Victoria and southern Vancouver Island artists wanting to enter can also contact their local CAC representative for more information.

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Welcomes you to
Christmas &
New Year
Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Monday December 24th: Mass at 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Tuesday December 25th: Mass at 10:00 am
NO MASS AT ST. PAUL'S

NEW YEAR'S EVE:

Monday December 31st
Candlelight Midnight Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Tuesday January 1st 2002 Mass at 10:00 am
NO MASS AT ST. PAUL'S

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David 653-2300 / Heather 653-4809

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY MARKET AT THE FARM SUNDAY DEC. 23rd



Photo by Derrick Lundy

MUSICAL TOUR:

Terry Warby takes the stage with Jack Roland and the Barley Bros. as Moby's Pub offers up a steady stream of great musical entertainment in its annual musical craft fair, featuring island artists, on Saturday.

Season's Greetings

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GISS students give dynamite show

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

With the blistering snow-storm of last December's high school music concert avoiding a repeat visit, young musicians were able to strut their stuff to a full house last Wednesday.

From a saucy junior jazz band to the sophisticated senior jazz ensemble, versatile concert band and now two choirs of singers, Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) students gave their most jam-packed evening of music ever.

The Junior Jazz Band opened the show. For those following the rise of YJP — the Young Jazz Players who

formed while still in middle school — seeing a program plastered with capable soloists was probably no surprise.

Grade 9 saxophonist Addi Perkins was unstoppable as soloist in the junior and senior jazz groups and concert band. Time after time he stepped forward to literally blow us away.

Brother Ed Perkins' prowess on guitar carried the group through a remarkably sensitive offering of Here's That Rainy Day; and then the juniors pitched out a total contrast with the upbeat Doxy.

The second new group at GISS, its junior choir, also

snapped people to attention with three pieces ranging from a reverent Silent Night to a rhythmic Shut De Do with Britney Woods' striking solo voice and their triumph of the speedy I'm a Train.

GISS music teacher Bruce Smith has been blessed with an abundance of male singers in the senior choir, and they were used in good measure in the concert-ending six-song (with encore) segment of spicy Christmas carol arrangements.

Senior student Jack Roland showed what a natural entertainer he is with his reel and jig fiddle tweeners, and even when taking his turn conducting the concert band: he cued

up band members ready to play and then jokingly reversed his command.

Ben McLean and Phil Albert were also feature conductors for the concert band segment, which saw Adrian English execute an inspirational Trumpeter's Lullaby, and a rhythm section go wild in Late in the Evening.

The only hitch was a running battle between the ArtSpring curtain and the chairs and microphones it knocked over.

With only poster promotion of the show attracting an overflowing house, adding a second night could easily be considered for next year.

Filmmaker honoured with Genie nominations

A film produced by Salt Spring resident Elizabeth Yake has received two nominations for the 2002 Genie Awards.

The feature film called "desire" is an international co-production with Canada and Germany, written and directed by Canadian playwright Colleen Murphy, a Governor General's award-winning writer.

Yake's film was nominated for best actress and best actor Genie awards.

Filmed on location in Winnipeg, desire "... has an uncompromising and non-judgmental tone, delving into

the mind of a monster while courageously struggling for compassion," stated material from the Toronto International Film Festival 2000.

Desire's performer's include Katja Riemann (Bandits), Zachary Bennett (Road to Avonlea) and Graham Greene (Dances With Wolves).

The producer's dog, Kayla, also played a supporting role in

the film at only six weeks of age.

Yake lives on the island with husband and film director Brian Nash, whose work includes the award-winning documentary "bp(pushing the boundaries)" on legendary Canadian poet bpNichol, and their two children.

In addition to her work in film, Yake will direct the

upcoming Salt Spring production of The Vagina Monologues.

The Genies, which are the Canadian equivalent to the Oscars, will be televised nationwide by the CBC on February 7 at 8 p.m.

Best Holiday Wishes

May the spirit of the season fill your heart and your home.

Best wishes for the new year. Many thanks for your generosity and support.

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Our Salt Spring office will be closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 1



A LOTTA DOG: Melita Kandler is spotted in Mouat Park where she is often seen walking Great Danes Jake, Daisy and Tessa.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

'Amazing' response noted

A Salt Spring woman who appealed to the community for help in feeding street kids at agathering this week has been "overwhelmed" by the response.

"It has been unbelievable," said Sandie Ferguson on Wednesday. "I am amazed and gratified."

Donations have ranged from food vouchers to cash and have come from organizations — such as the Salt Spring Crime Prevention Association which offered \$200 — and individuals, some of whom left envelopes anonymously in Ferguson's mailbox.

In total, some \$1,500 has been raised, including a \$500 gift from off-island.

Other people have offered to cook turkeys and bring them to Ferguson's home for the December 21 gathering.

Buy the Driftwood for only **92¢** a week.

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Local police nab speeders

Speeders, Christmas tree poachers and driving prohibitions kept the Salt Spring Island RCMP detachment busy over the past weekend.

• Last Friday police responded to complaints of a noisy house party on Cusheon Lake Road. The hosts complied with a police request to keep the noise down.

• No injuries were sustained in a motor vehicle accident last Friday at Fulford-Ganges and Beddis roads. The 37-year-old driver of a 1976 Pontiac was attempting to turn south and pulled out in front of a 1979 International. It braked and skidded into the Pontiac. The International was towed from the scene.

• On Saturday night police clocked a 25-year-old male driver in a 1986 Pontiac Trans-Am traveling 113 kilometres per hour (kph) on

RCMP REPORT

Rainbow Road. The posted speed limit is 50 kph. The driver was issued a violation ticket for speeding against a highway sign.

In another incident over the weekend a 22-year-old male was clocked speeding at 77 kph on the Lower Ganges Road in a 1987 Chev.

A 22-year-old driver of a 1979 Chev was issued a violation ticket for speeding against a highway sign after being stopped by RCMP. He was observed driving at 80 kph in a 50 kph zone with four passengers in the vehicle.

• Police have received complaints of individuals trespassing on private properties in attempts to locate

Christmas trees. Salt Spring RCMP remind the community to ensure permission is received from property owners before cutting down trees, including property that appears to be "public."

• Two males, aged 24 and 18, were issued 24-hour driving prohibitions after being stopped by local RCMP on Beddis and Cusheon Lake roads.

• Police are issuing Notice and Orders citing repairs for vehicle defects, such as faulty lights.

Motorists are reminded that it is especially important to have vehicles in proper working order at this time of the year when inclement weather, such as rain and fog, make it difficult to see other motorists.

Equipment that is functioning properly may assist in avoiding mishaps, police say.

Barge on Trust meeting agenda

Those interested in the ex-tanker floating in Ganges Harbour can get the latest scuttlebutt at a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting taking place today at 1:15 at Lions Hall on Bonnet Avenue.

A delegation from Ganges Marina will be

on hand and letters received by the Islands Trust on this issue will be on the agenda.

John Gauld, the Trust's regional planning coordinator, said Ganges Marina has been given notice to either remove the tanker or make an application.

Wind shuts down ferry service

Winter storms wreaked havoc with ferry service over the last week.

The 6:30 a.m. Queen of Nanaimo sailing to Tsawwassen Monday had to return to Long Harbour after facing 40-50 knot winds in Georgia Strait. The hapless ferry made return stops at Otter Bay, Village Bay and Sturdies Bay before unloading 68 passengers and 17 vehicles to Long Harbour at 11:20 a.m.

The Skeena Queen from Fulford Harbour and the Queen of Howe Sound from Vesuvius also experienced delays Monday due to severe south-easterly winds.

The afternoon sailing from Long Harbour was cancelled Sunday along

with other routes connecting Vancouver Island and the mainland.

And B.C. Ferries also

faced service disruptions between Duke Point and Tsawwassen Saturday and Friday.

Best Wishes

FOR THE

Christmas Season

TO OUR READERS & OUR CLIENTS

Claudia French
Tao Kimball
Andrea Le Borgne
Susan Lundy
Derrick Lundy
Rick MacKinnon
Peter McCully
Pirjo Raits
Robin Richards
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