

Your Community Newspaper Since 1960

\$1.25  
(incl. GST)

Wednesday,  
April 9, 2003

43<sup>rd</sup> year  
Issue 15

328 Lower Ganges Road,  
Salt Spring Island, B.C.  
V8K 2V3  
Tel: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613  
Toll-free: 1-877-537-9934  
e-mail: driftwood@gulfislands.net  
editorial: news@gulfislands.net  
Website: www.gulfislands.net

SSI Historical Archives  
129 McPhillips Ave  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T6  
01/01/2004 F

# Gulf Islands Driftwood

**THIS WEEK'S INSERTS**

- Ganges Pharmasave
- Slegg Lumber
- Ganges Village Market
- Thrifty Foods

**INSIDE SECTION**

**B**



Set for Shakespeare

Salt Spring's Stagecoach Theatre School prepares for its upcoming performance. See arts section, Page B1

**Index**

- Arts ..... B1
- Classifieds ..... B15
- Crosswords ..... B19
- Editorials ..... A8
- Horoscope ..... B19
- Letters ..... A9
- Sports ..... B9
- TV Listings ..... B7
- What's On ..... B14

**Kevin Lockwood,**  
B.A. (Econ.), CIM, FCSI  
(250) 356-4814  
1 888-773-4477



**Weather**

It's going to be wet right through the weekend according to the weather forecast. Highs to 14 C (Thursday and Friday); lows to 5 C.

Internet Solutions  
High Speed ADSL  
Web Hosting

www.imagen.ca  
Local Email Address  
Hardware Sales & Service

537-1950  
**imagen**

The Internet Gateway to the Gulf Islands  
http://www.gulfislands.net



## Tourists down, speculation up

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Staff Writer

Tourist-reliant Salt Spring business owners can't help but be worried about impacts of destabilizing events — from the war in Iraq to loose-lipped politicians and the SARS scare in Ontario.

Early indications hint at a quieter local season than usual, but it might still be too soon to tell.

Fewer visitors have dropped into the Tourist Information Centre in Ganges so far this year, but it's tough to determine why that's the case and the numbers are never large to begin with.

Alan Burrows, who heads the local accommodations group, said discussions with several established members have also indicated "inquiries

are down and advance bookings are down."

At the same time, speculation on relevant factors and what will happen in coming months is decidedly "up."

"I think it's more the weather than anything else," said Alex Kovats of the Seabreeze Inne.

He also thought the SARS epidemic could be scaring more people away

from Canada than the war or resulting rocky relations between the U.S. and Canada caused by explosive political comments.

Burrows said it's easy to imagine that Americans with relatives or loved ones in the war would want to be near the phone these days.

"I think I would be in the same position as well," he said.

Accommodations owners speculate that "everybody is sitting and staying and seeing what happens," Burrows said. "If this thing finishes in the next few weeks, we might see a different picture."

He also suggested some potential travellers may have less disposable income due to recent stock market losses.

TOURISM A2



**COOKIE CRAZY:** Local members of the Girl Guides of Canada group tackle cookies in tandem as they sell their famous cookies at the Ganges firehall on Saturday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Race from law ends for Hollett

By SUSAN LUNDY  
Staff Writer

Nine years of fleeing from child abduction charges have ended for Phyllis Hollett, who spent six months living on Salt Spring with her son Gavin.

Last week RCMP apprehended Hollett, who disappeared from Ontario in 1994, and has been hiding in various B.C. communities since then.

Gavin Hollett, now 12, was known as Justin Stevens when he lived with his mother "Jan Stevens" on Salt Spring between July 2001 and January 2002.

The Holletts' life as fugitives came to an end last week, when retired police detective Jack Morkin alerted RCMP to their presence at a rural colony three kilometres west of Coombs.

Morkin, one of three investigators working with the Missing Children Society of Canada, told the Driftwood he was relieved to finally close the book on the case, which has "haunted" him for two years.

"He was right under my nose," Morkin said from a hotel in Parksville last Friday. "I've been on the property five times — I was bang on the right track."

He said he returned to the heavily-treed acreage — a women's housing complex called Spinster Vale — at

HOLLETT'S A2

## BC Ferries float under new flag

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

A retirement ceremony augmented with a freshly painted ship, a crisp fledgling flag and a newly minted contract marked the beginning of a new chapter for B.C. Ferries at Long Harbour on April 2.

But residual cracks and stains from the old corporation might be resurfacing on the company's glossy new finish before it can even get

underway, as witnessed by Thursday morning travellers bound for Vancouver.

The familiar dogwood banner of the government-run B.C. Ferry Corporation (BCFC) was put to rest after 43 years as a stylized-white-wave flag was hoisted above the Queen of Nanaimo to mark the inauguration of the independent commercial company, B.C. Ferry Services, Incorporated (BCFSI).

"The changes we are embarking on today have been long overdue and will mark an end to the political interference that plagued the corporation in the past," said Transportation Minister Judith Reid in a press release Wednesday.

The minister and BCFSI board of directors vice-chair Tom Harris officially signed a 60-year contract between the province and the new company at the Maritime Museum

of British Columbia in Victoria.

But a small ceremony at the Long Harbour ferry terminal Wednesday afternoon reflected the intimate nature of the island ferry workers community.

The Queen of Nanaimo returned from winter refit just in time for the company opener. And the second oldest vessel in the fleet (launched in 1964) gleamed

FERRIES A3

**BUDGET CAR SALES VICTORIA**



**OVER 100 CARS TO CHOOSE FROM**

- No payments for 6 months • 30 day money back guarantee
- No money down • 0% interest for one year

2224 Douglas St., Victoria 1-866-955-5353

## TOURISM: Two schools of thought

From Page A1

But even if advance bookings are down, Burrows said, local experience is that Americans often travel at the last minute, and especially since 9/11.

Salt Spring accommodations' booking experiences aren't even the same across the board, however. Tom Galvin of Cusheon Lake Resort said he hadn't noticed any difference and Ann Ringheim from the Harbour House Hotel reported bookings from Americans are

actually up over last year.

Kovats observed that there are "two schools of thought" in the industry about how troubling world events will play out.

One is that B.C.'s tourist industry could benefit from the turbulence elsewhere, while the other is that hassles at the U.S.-Canadian border or the SARS scare could be devastating.

If international visits drop off dramatically, especially in the B.C. tourist mega-centres

like Whistler and Tofino, competition for close-to-home tourist dollars could get fierce. "Everybody is going to be scrambling for the local rubber tire."

Kovats suggested island accommodations owners entice American visitors with a room-rate discount and by matching a percentage of room revenue for an international Red Cross donation. But so far local response hasn't been great.

Salt Spring's Chamber of Commerce is also not poised to take proactive action to ensure the tourist tap keeps flowing.

Chamber president Tony Richards said contact has been made with Tourism Victoria and the B.C. and Victoria chamber groups, "to

see what they are doing to counteract the effects of mouthy cabinet ministers."

A B.C. chamber and provincial government delegation is meeting with the Seattle chamber, said Richards, and an Ottawa-based business group has also travelled to Washington, D.C.

"The business community is making some positive efforts in this regard. It's too bad the [federal] government isn't."

If nothing else, trying to read the future with a perplexing mix of signs has made for intriguing speculation.

"I think the jury is still out on what is going to happen this summer," concluded Kovats.

## VIHA reports no SARS here

No cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) have been reported in Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) facilities, which includes Lady Minto Hospital.

VIHA communications advisor Kathy Dargie said a few people have shown up at Royal Jubilee Hospital in the last couple of weeks wondering if they may have the ailment, but they did not.

"This disease looks a lot like a cold in early stages," said Dargie, "so some people who were in contact with anyone who has been travelling thought they may be in contact with people with SARS."

Last week the B.C. Teachers' Federation (BCTF) issued a news release stressing that students should practise good personal hygiene.

At the same time, no quarantine of children or school staff who have travelled to SARS-affected areas in Asia and show no signs of illness is considered necessary by public health authorities, stated the BCTF.

Eleven people in Ontario had died from SARS as of Monday.

Three probable and 23 suspect SARS cases have been tallied in B.C.

## HOLLETT'S

From Page A1

night and finally spotted Gavin in one of the cottages.

Phyllis Hollett was taken into custody on child abduction charges, while Gavin went into care with the Ministry of Children and Family Services until his Ontario-based father, Doug Gibbon, could get to B.C.

Morkin has lived and breathed the case since he picked up the "cold file" from Missing Children two years ago.

He trailed Phyllis Hollett through numerous B.C. communities, and spent two days on Salt Spring last May, following a tip that placed the pair on-island.

Although it was never confirmed by school district officials, the Driftwood learned last year that Gavin Hollett attended Phoenix Elementary School. The two lived at a cottage on Upper Ganges Road and went to services at the Community Gospel Chapel.

Several islanders remembered "Jan" as a flea market/garage sale connoisseur, who often walked around Ganges with a backpack full of used nic-nacs.

She left many of these items behind when the two made a quick exit from the island on January 2, 2002.

From here, Morkin trailed

her to Ucluelet and Tofino, and possibly Vancouver, he said.

But for the past year, "she's been laying low here (in Coombs)," Morkin added.

Although the Holletts often became part of the community they lived in, it appears they lived exclusively for the past year.

Morkin believes Gavin was only allowed off the Coombs property on four occasions — once at Hallowe'en — and only then in disguise.

About this time last year, Missing Children stepped up its campaign to find Phyllis Hollett, flooding the province with 6,000 posters.

One of these posters was instrumental in the final phase of finding the two, Morkin said, adding that a tip helped "verify" other information leading him to Spinster Vale.

A warrant on child abduction charges was issued for Phyllis Hollett in 1994 after she disappeared with Gavin, leaving behind a 14-year-old son from a previous relationship.

Before she vanished and during a period of escalating custody and visitation battles, Hollett accused Gavin's father of sexually abusing their son. However, allegations were proven unfounded by the courts.

Check out our great savings on 2002 outboards!

**HARBOURS END MARINE & EQUIPMENT**  
 122 Upper Ganges Rd. at the head of Ganges Harbour  
 Mon. - Fri. 8:30am - 5pm  
 Saturdays 8:30am-1pm  
**537-4202**

**Tide Tables**  
**AT FULFORD HARBOUR**  
 Pacific Standard Time - measured in feet  
 sponsored by Harbours End Marine & Equipment Ltd.

APR 09	0020	10.2	13	0300	10.5
WE	1600	3.0	SU	0905	7.2
				1325	8.2
				2010	3.3
10 TH	0115	10.5	14	0325	10.5
	1705	3.0	MO	0930	5.9
				1450	8.9
				2055	3.9
11 FR	0155	10.5	15	0350	10.5
	1810	3.0	TU	1000	4.9
				1605	9.2
				2140	4.6
12 SA	0235	10.5	16	0410	10.5
	0900	7.9	WE	1035	3.6
	1140	8.2		1715	9.5
	1915	3.3		2225	5.9

Look good, Feel Great!

Finally, a bra for something you do every day. Perspire!

Introducing Champion® Everyday Double Dry Bras

A flattering collection of bras with Champion® Double Dry fabric that draws moisture away from the skin into a second outer layer where it quickly evaporates. The whispery soft fabric is comfortable and provides remarkable support. You've never worn anything quite like it before. So don't sweat it. Cause now you don't have to.

Champion

MOUAT'S Clothing Co.

7 days a week 537-5551

Treat yourself ... \$5.00 off today!

# FERRIES: *New customer focus touted*

From Page A1

with a new paint scheme of white and blue (no red stripe) with a flashy "white ships on blue seas" wave logo on the smokestack.

Many terminal staff wore plaid shirts as a humorous homage to mark the simultaneous retirement of Long Harbour's human resources advisor Peter English (rumoured to be fond of plaid).

And while the Victoria ceremony saw the transportation minister bequeath a dogwood flag to the Maritime Museum, the casual Long Harbour ceremony saw assistant terminal manager Rob Byron present the same memorabilia item to a long-time B.C. Ferries employee for safekeeping.

"On behalf of the fleet, I ask that Joan O'Connor keep this important piece of our history and hold it in high regard for its many years of service."

O'Connor has worked in crew staffing with BCFC since 1980 and felt deeply honoured by the gesture.

"I'm very proud of B.C. Ferries," she said. "I'm actually going to get a flagpole and put it up on my property."

Cake-cutting BCFSI employee Bonnie Lavallee was another recipient of the dogwood flag. She met her late husband, Donald Edgar Joseph, on the Queen of Alberni in 1994 while they were working together. Joseph died in May 2002.

Strong emotions brought on by sharing memories and respect for their chosen field were evident among the small party of ferry workers.

"Under our new corporate flag we will continue to be proud of our ferry service . . . It provides a vital link for coastal communities and it's



**Joan O'Connor**

a showcase for the province's important tourism industry," Byron said.

But while the transportation minister might have promised a more "customer focussed, financially stable, reliable ferry system," passengers who aimed to catch the first BCFSI sailing out of Long Harbour 6:30 a.m. Wednesday might have found some wrinkles in the message.

The newly refitted Queen of Nanaimo was not able to depart Long Harbour until 8:40 a.m. due to engine problems, and mainland-bound ferry traffic was rerouted through Fulford to catch a sailing from Swartz Bay.

"Our customers were able to get priority loading aboard the 9 a.m. [Swartz Bay] sailing," BCFSI communications officer Stephen Nussbaum said.

B.C. Ferries has always maintained a standing policy to go to extra lengths for delayed passengers but the new BCFSI has a changing

attitude toward customer service, he noted.

"As a part of our customer focus, we do want to make sure those policies work better."

Difficulties with the Queen of Nanaimo Thursday accented the other key thrust of the new company, Nussbaum noted.

"We have a need to renew capital investment in our ships."

Under a new BCFSI contract stipulated under the Coastal Ferry Act (Bill 18), all existing routes and core service levels will be guaranteed for the next five years.

Detailed schedules will be set two years in advance to provide certainty regarding capacity, hours of operation and number of sailings, noted a transportation ministry press release.

Service levels and fees for service will be renegotiated every four years after the first five-year term of the contract.

According to the Ministry of Transportation, BCFSI will need \$2 billion to replace aging ships and upgrade terminals over the next 15 years. The provincial government argues that restructuring B.C. Ferries will allow it to compete for funds in capital markets.

"Accessing outside capital . . . is the only way to reduce the risk to taxpayers of higher government debt," a press release stated.

"The new company will have the flexibility and independence to improve customer service, provide choice and develop strategic partnerships with the private sector," Reid said.

BCFSI will be governed by the B.C. Ferry Authority and regulated by an independent ferry commissioner who will

be appointed to protect customers' interests.

That process has already set an annual 2.8 per cent fare increase over the next five years for routes connecting Vancouver Island to the mainland, and 4.4 per cent on all other routes. The first fare increase under this new regime will occur November 1.

The province plans to continue its social services programs, such as reduced fares for seniors, children on school/sports trips and patients needing medical treatment.

And B.C. Ferries will continue to sell commuter tickets, said Nussbaum.

But the 4,500 member-strong B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers' Union (BCFMWU) unanimously passed a resolution to condemn the provincial government and the Coastal Ferry Act.

"It is unconscionable for Gordon Campbell to hand this valuable service over to the private sector so that a few can profit from the investment made by all British Columbians," said BCFMWU president Trevor Oram.

A union press release argues that the Coastal Ferry Act requires the BCFSI board to "aggressively pursue the contracting-out of present routes and services."

Ferry workers preparing to bargain for a new collective agreement this fall are also concerned that reconfiguration of B.C. Ferries will result in higher fares, lower safety standards and less service to the public.

"We will not stand by and watch this public service [be] privatized and the current services and safety standards [be] jeopardized," Oram said.

**SECURE INVESTMENT**  
*Help us keep growing*




Interested parties call Shirley

GARDEN FAIRE

gallery & nursery  
24 hr. Landscape Dept  
Rainbow & Atkins

Phone (250) 537-4346 • Fax (250) 537-1679

**Kids Books are**  
**our Specialty!**



Teachers on staff to help you find the right book

Great selection plus we do special orders

**Fables Cottage**  
Children's Bookstore

112 Hereford Avenue  
www.FablesCottage.com  
537-0028

seair

SEAPLANES

1-800-447-3247

604-273-8900



FREQUENT FLYER DISCOUNTS

3 Scheduled Flights Daily Between  
Vancouver & the Gulf Islands

**DEPARTS VANCOUVER AIRPORT**  
7:30 am / 11:30 am / 4:30 pm

**DEPARTS GANGES AND THE GULF ISLANDS**  
8:00 am / 12:00 pm / 5:00 pm

GANGES HARBOUR • Montague Harbour • Port Washington  
Lyal Harbour • Telegraph Harbour • Miners Bay  
[www.seairseaplanes.com](http://www.seairseaplanes.com)

## 'Sudden death' under police investigation

The local coroner is investigating a sudden death on the island after the body of a 42-year-old man was brought to the Salt Spring RCMP detachment in the early hours of April 2.

"A sudden death comes under investigation of the local coroner and we will assist the coroner in that investigation, if required," said RCMP Cpl. Dave

Voller. A male attended the police station at 1:20 a.m. Wednesday in a van containing the body of his brother, Voller said. Police were told the man died of a single, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.


"It's out of the ordinary. You don't often have people drive up to the detachment with a body."

Voller believes the two men were not island residents and noted that the vehicle had an Ontario licence plate.

"They appeared to be liv-

ing in the vehicle for that night."

The RCMP detachment would not reveal the identity of the man to allow family members to be notified of



*"For the earth, of the earth."*

www.sirewall.com      537-9355

EIGHT BRANCHES INSTITUTE

of Classical Chinese Medicine



Easter Special

Relaxation ... Pain Relief ... Sore Muscles  
... Tension ... Chronic Health Problems

RECEIVE THREE THERAPIES AND TEA:

- MASSAGE OR SHIATSU SESSION (1 HOUR)
- INFRA-RED SAUNA (45 MINS)
- CLASSICAL CHINESE MEDICINE CONSULTATION AND TREATMENT
- THREE TEA SAMPLES TO TAKE HOME FROM THE **TEA ROOM**
- ENJOY A COMPLEMENTARY TEA IN THE **TEA ROOM**

\$99.99

Give the Gift of Health!!

*Healing Mind, Body and Spirit*

Opposite the tourist information center  
124 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. V8K 1S8  
[info@eightbranchesinstitute.com](mailto:info@eightbranchesinstitute.com)

Phone: 538-1701

TRINCOMALI  
TRANSPORT CO.

(250) 360-7426

[trincomali.transport@shaw.ca](mailto:trincomali.transport@shaw.ca)



- Marine freight service
- Regular propane delivery
- All dock repairs & installations
- Wood Miser portable sawmill

FULLY CERTIFIED  
& INSURED

Are you or a loved one "downsizing"?

Whether leaving your home for an apartment, townhouse, or assisted living, you face a quandary about what to do with the things you love. If you're not ready to abruptly dispose of the treasures and memories that are part of your life —

CONSIDER STORAGE

SALT SPRING  
MINI STORAGE

537-5888

"When convenience and security matter"

Award-winning photography  
by Derrick Lundy.

SUBSCRIBE

and see Derrick's photos every week

Driftwood

Gulf Islands

# Sacked war journalist has island ties

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

While war correspondent Peter Arnett might have been sacked from NBC and National Geographic for his contentious interview with state-run Iraqi TV in Baghdad March 30, he still has at least one fan on Salt Spring.

**"He always said he'd only write about what he'd seen with his own eyes."**

"He's got a lot of integrity and that doesn't cut it with the U.S. media," said Chris Arnett, speaking about his uncle last week.

Peter Arnett won a Pulitzer Prize for his Vietnam War reporting and helped the TV network CNN gain dominance over the news market with his reporting of the Gulf War in 1991.

"He's acknowledged as one of the greatest war correspondents of all time," Chris said.

But the reporter who's covered 19 wars over the last 30 years stepped on a public-relations landmine

with an Iraqi TV interview when he said the U.S. coalition's initial plan had failed because of Iraqi resistance.

"Clearly the American war plans misjudged the determination of Iraqi forces," he said.

The reporter also told Iraqi viewers that opposition to the war was growing among the U.S. public.

"Our reports about civilian casualties here, about the resistance of the Iraqi forces, are going back to the United States."

Arnett later called the interview a "misjudgement" and apologized to the American people for his statement on NBC's Today Show.

"I heard when my uncle got canned . . . He wasn't parroting the official line," Chris noted.

Part of what has made Peter Arnett such an effective reporter is his fearlessness and his dogged independence, the local nephew said.

"He always said he'd only write about what he'd seen with his own eyes."

In the Gulf War, the correspondent discredited claims that the U.S. military had bombed a munitions factory after he visited the site and brought back bags of baby formula from the rubble.

"The U.S. denied it and

that got him into trouble with the first Bush administration."

Continuing to stir the "hornet's nest," Arnett lost his contract with CNN after a 1998 on-air report where he accused American forces of using sarin nerve gas on a Laotian village in 1970 to kill U.S. defectors.

"He said they threw him to the wolves after he made them billions risking his life to cover the first Gulf War."

Arnett happened to be making documentary films in the Middle East for National Geographic when the latest war started in Iraq. He agreed to provide NBC with war coverage as a favour after its own reporters fled, Chris said.

"He was enjoying it until he got sacked. It's the 19th war he's covered."

Chris described his uncle as fearless. Peter Arnett was born and raised in the working-class town of Bluff at the extreme south of New Zealand.

"They used to say, 'You're rough and tough when you come from Bluff.'"

Peter followed his older brother (Chris's father) into reporting and their younger brother also joined the trade with the Southland Times in New Zealand.

Like his father and uncles, Chris pursued an

interest in writing and research to co-author *They Write Their Dreams* on the Rock Forever (1993) and write *The Terror of the Coast* (1999), which discusses land alienation and colonial war on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands from 1849 to 1863.

Chris maintained regular contact with his uncle and Peter used to visit Salt Spring regularly when he was teaching at Western Washington University.

"Listening to his adventures is amazing. He's a real raconteur. Like all Arnetts, he can gab on and on," Chris laughed.

The reporter has previously interviewed Saddam Hussein, Yasser Arafat, Osama bin Laden, Bill Clinton, George Bush and a host of other prominent world figures.

A photo album that included shots with some of those famous dignitaries was given to his mother (Chris' grandmother) in New Zealand for her 100th birthday last September.

Though some editorials across the U.S. trumpeted that the celebrated reporter should be put on trial for treason, the London Daily Mirror, the Belgian TV station VTM and the Greek TV network Net had already hired Peter Arnett to continue war coverage last

# Project aims to prevent sexual exploitation

Helping local youth avoid sexual exploitation related to drug use is the aim of a new provincially funded project.

Stopping the Sexual Exploitation of Youth is the name of the project run by the Salt Spring Island Crime Prevention Association (SSICPA), which recently received a \$2,325 grant from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

SSICPA member Meredith Knox said the program is aimed at halting a problem before it gets going.

"We want to avoid a splashy headline," she explained. "We don't want to wait and be reactive. We want to nip it in the bud and be proactive. That's a lot of what crime prevention is about."

Project funding will enable the SSICPA to host focus groups with parents, youth counsellors, school-based employees and young adults to identify sex-trade concerns in the community, she said.

"Let's be aware and let's talk about it," Knox said. "By increasing their awareness, they are less likely to be exploited."

Some reports have indicated the program is needed.

"Youth workers have been hearing about a handful of incidents involving trading sex for drugs."

And while the problem has not reached alarming proportions, she said, "There's enough to say, 'Hey, let's look at this.'"

When young islanders go to larger communities,

they are often not as wary as the street-smart locals and fall victim to standard exploitation tactics.

"One scenario involves a guy offering a girl cocaine and then telling her she owes him \$80 at the end of the night or the next day."

When the girl says she can't afford to repay the debt, the guy suggests that she can have sex with his friend to call it even, Knox said.

"We have it happening here on a less sophisticated level."

The SSICPA would rather draw attention to the problem now before they learn about a more serious incident.

"Even if it's happening on a small scale, we don't

want it happening to them."

Part of the focus group's mandate will be to determine how pronounced the problem is on Salt Spring and learn what youth think about the matter.

"All of us worry about our young people being mistreated . . . We try to protect them and not have them be afraid at the same time."

Once focus groups have defined their concerns, SSICPA will hold a workshop with experts in the field, said Victims Assistance Program coordinator Kimberly Lineger.

"The third step will be to develop an action plan so these girls are supported to get the help they

Looking for a Competitive Mortgage Rate?

RBC Royal Bank of Canada



BERT BEITEL  
Mortgage Specialist  
PH/FX: 250-653-2328

Are you living on income, from your investments?

Are they tax efficient?  
Call a trusted local Professional



Martin J. Hoogerdyk  
Certified Financial Planner

537-1730  
GRACE POINT SQUARE  
(across from Bank of Montreal)  
mhoogerdyk@berkshire.ca

## EXCEPTIONAL TOWNHOUSE



Spacious 3 bdrm, 2 bthrm townhome with many features: bright kitchen with oak cabinets, breakfast nook, gas fireplace, private patio, skylight, washer & dryer, central vac, air exchange, jetted tub, attached garage & more! Only 8 yrs old, this like-new end unit is located on a quiet cul-de-sac, easy walking distance to the ocean & town. Lovely landscaping, sunny & cheerful!

\$272,500

For details call TOM NAVRATIL (250) 537-5515

Royal Lepage Salt Spring Realty

More photos at [www.saltspringhomes.com](http://www.saltspringhomes.com)

## Outdoor Teak Collection



• Rattan • Linens • Wicker  
• Candles • Silk Plants • Room Accents

## THE WICKERTREE

WHIPPLETREE JUNCTION, DUNCAN  
4705 TRANS CANADA HWY  
TOLL FREE: 1-877-748-1101

NANAIMO, BC  
#1 - 6404 METRAL DRIVE  
390-0310

## HARBOUR AIR SEAPLANES VANCOUVER SERVICES

TO VANCOUVER HARBOUR  
Depart Ganges  
7:45am Mon-Fri, 9:30am Sat, 5:45pm Sun-Fri.  
Depart Vancouver  
7:15pm Mon-Fri, 9:00am Sat, 5:15pm Sun-Fri.

Effective Apr. 7 - May 19, 2003

\$74 ONE WAY PLUS GST

TO VANCOUVER AIRPORT  
Depart Ganges  
7:40am Mon-Fri, 6:15pm Daily, 9:30am Sat-Sun  
Depart Vancouver Airport  
7:10am Mon-Fri, 5:45pm Daily, 9:00am Sat-Sun

Effective Apr. 7 - Sept. 28, 2003

\$69 ONE WAY PLUS GST

1-800-665-0212 or 250-537-5525

vancouver victoria nanaimo gulf islands queen charlottes prince Rupert www.harbour-air.com

Fine Bed Linens by Barbacci Firenze

Gabriel Ross is the exclusive dealer for Barbacci on Vancouver Island

**Gabriel Ross**

BENCHMADE FURNITURE  
LIGHTING • BEDDING • WINDOW COVERINGS

589 A Bay Street in Victoria  
Phone 250-384-2554 / www.gabrielross.ca

# Waterworks check in at two AGMs as lakes recover 'well' from summer

Appropriately wet weather is leading up to annual general meetings for the island's two largest waterworks districts.

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District holds its AGM on Tuesday, April 15, 8 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel on Vesuvius Bay Road.

The following night at Salt Spring United Church in Ganges, the Beddis Waterworks District (BWD) hosts its yearly gathering and report beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Waterworks manager Trevor Hutton will have some good news to share, thanks to lake-friendly winter-spring weather.

"I've just come back from Maxwell Lake and it's still overflowing," he said last week, "and St. Mary is flowing quite a lot down Duck Creek."

"Both lakes dropped pretty low in the last hot summer and they've recovered very well."

Annual tank cleaning and system flushing was also being completed, with a couple of projects for Maxwell Lake on the agenda for the summer.

Taking on maintenance for some other waterworks, including the BWD, required "a bit of adjustment, but we're well into it now and the guys know the systems now," he reported.

Overall, said Hutton, "It's been a relatively quiet period compared to the previous few years with the Maxwell watershed."

Two board vacancies will be filled by incumbents Les Howell and Randy Sloan.

"They're both great guys and they're keen and they do

a good job," commented Hutton.

BWD has had an interesting history in recent years, with the just-failed petition to become a Capital Regional District (CRD) service, followed by a December 2002 vote to approve holding a future referendum on the same question.

Both proposals were contingent on receipt of a "two-thirds infrastructure grant" from the federal and provincial governments, with waterworks ratepayers picking up the final third of the estimated million-dollar cost.

BWD chair Bill Monahan said the district has been informed it could be two years before any infrastructure grant is approved, but that "chances were pretty good" it would come

through. The referendum is expected to be held in conjunction with the Fulford Waterworks District, which also requires a capital upgrade.

Two financial difficulties will be noted at the BWD Wednesday AGM, said Monahan.

One saw controls malfunction in August. "Eight days later when we had water we were about \$12,000 in debt," he said.

BWD has also not escaped escalating insurance costs affecting all water districts since the Walkerton incident.

Monahan said BWD's insurance has jumped from about \$2,500 to \$12,500 per year.

Otherwise, the AGM should be "just the usual minding the store" type of meeting.



ORO LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Peter H. Oro, a.s.l.a.  
(250) 537-1740  
oroland@saltspring.com

**FAMILY DENTISTRY ON SCOTT POINT**  
**DR. HELEN JOHNSTON**  
*wishes to announce the opening of her dental practice at 404 Scott Point Drive in early May.*  
**Appointments may be booked at 537-4059.**

**A MESSAGE FOR THE PATIENTS OF DR. HOLLY SLAKOV**  
*I would like to inform my patients that Drs. De Kock and Strümpfer will take over my practice as of July 1st.*  
*I would like to thank my patients for their loyalty and trust over the years.*

# MP Lunn responds to Hawkins letter

Two private members bills are among MP Gary Lunn's recent activities in Ottawa.

Creating a DNA missing persons database and reforming the Radiocommunication Act to give local land use authorities greater control over placement of radio and cell-phone towers are two issues resulting in Lunn-introduced bills.

The database would link DNA from missing persons

to samples found at crime scenes and those taken from violent offenders.

Lunn said his communications bill would help reduce the number of radio towers needed for cell telephone companies, and revoke the privileges of licensees that did not follow the conditions of their licence.

Lunn provided the update in a response to Driftwood letter writer Ron Hawkins, who had also sent his letter critical of Lunn, published in

the March 26 edition, directly to the Saanich-Gulf Islands MP.

The MP said he has made a number of recent interventions in the House of Commons on topics such as the situation in Iraq, Electoral Finance Reform Bill (C-24), protecting children from child pornography and the need to establish a workable sex offender registry.

Lunn said his Spring 2003 Lunn Report had focussed

on government corruption and waste.

"I believe the residents of Saanich-Gulf Islands should be afforded the opportunity to review the wasteful and corrupt practices of the Liberal government over the past decade — not merely what may be topical in the newspapers today."

Lunn said he was last on Salt Spring on December 2, and "actively seeks" opportunities to visit the Gulf Islands.

**GO AUSTRALIA \$1,499\***

**BOOK TODAY FARE INCREASE APR 15**  
Book Now to Save for the Winter.

**WONDER DOWN UNDER**  
Surfers Paradise Longstay  
28 Days accommodation, airfare with transfers. **fr.\$2425\***

**Aussie Working Holiday**  
Explore, Surf, Sun & Scuba. **fr.\$1575\***

**Roam Australia**  
21 Days campervan hire and airfare. **fr.\$2209\***

**250-385-6655**  
www.ANZATRAVEL.com  
1-800-663-2592

BC Reg. 847-0 E&OE † Conditions \*Ex.Vancouver  
♦ BOOK NOW FOR XMAS & NEW YEARS ♦

# SWOVA schools project honoured with BCSSA's recognition award

A Salt Spring anti-violence group has picked up more accolades.

The B.C. School Superintendents' Association (BCSSA) recently announced that SWOVA (Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse) will receive an Award of Recognition.

The award will honour SWOVA's "exemplary efforts to support the Gulf Islands School District in increasing crime prevention awareness and providing skill-building opportunities for students to develop healthy relationships."

SWOVA's Women and Violence: Education is specifically cited for the award.

The partnership project with the school district aims to help both boys and girls develop attitudes, values and skills needed to establish respectful relationships with peers and partners.

"A key, innovative feature of the project," notes a BCSSA press release, "has been the development of the youth team, made up of high school students who are trained and mentored to play a major part in the program's design and delivery."

Although originally developed as a three-year national demonstration project, the program's funding from the National Crime

Prevention Centre was recently extended for two years.

The BCSSA presents its Award of Recognition annually to individuals and organizations for their "contribu-

tion to enhance public school education" in the province.

This year's awards ceremony will be held April 10 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver.

SALT SPRING ISLAND is a *Welcome Wagon* COMMUNITY

Call Marlie Kelsey who will bring gifts & greetings along with helpful information about your new community.  
**537-5261**

**WELCOME WAGON** SINCE 1930

**NATURAL GOODNESS at Embe Bakery**

*This week at Embe we are featuring Hovis Bread made in the real Hovis pans. We also have our Moist Bran Muffins which are full of raisins, dates and honey as well as 100% whole wheat flour and of course bran. To top the week off we have our super Copenhagens...need we say more?*

APRIL 9 - APRIL 15

Hovis Bread REG. \$1.50 ..... **\$1.20** loaf  
Bran Muffins REG. .85 ..... **70¢** ea  
Copenhagens REG. \$1.70 ..... **\$1.40** ea

YOU CAN REACH US 24 HRS/DAY AT **537-5611**  
Or drop by at the foot of the hill.

OPEN EARLY FROM 4:30AM - 5:30PM MON.-SAT.

**RANTS AND ROSES PAGE 11**

**SAM ANDERSON APPLIANCE REPAIR** **TAIT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS**

*Prompt, Reliable and Professional Service on all Makes and Models, Large or Small Hot Water Tank, Appliance & Pump Installation*

Authorized Warranty for MIELE, SUB ZERO, BOSCH, ASKO ULTRALINE THERMADOR, GAGGANEAU DACOR & DCS

24 Hour - 7 day EMERGENCY SERVICE  
tel: **537-5268**  
pager: **538-9000**

124 Lawnhill Drive, Salt Spring Island BC V8K 1M9

**Spring Special: \$49**  
Dryer clean & maintenance check on all your major appliances.....

**Tree House Cafe**

Check out the new **Treehouse Cafe Deli**

**Grab and Go**  
wraps and sandwiches, salads, salsa, dips dressing & baked treats.

WE ARE NOW OPEN UNTIL 5PM  
**537-5379**

**OPEN FOR DINNER MAY 13**  
*Live Music Nightly*

**CLASSIFIED HOTLINE: 537-9933**

**P.S.** The Chocolate Bunnies are here!

# Volunteers thanked, business discussed at fire AGM

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

Firefighters and trustees of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District (SSFPD) were honoured for community service at their 43rd annual general meeting on March 25.



Martens

"I would like to express my gratitude to all the volunteers for their time, effort and dedication to duty, both to and for their community; both in training and in firefighting," said SSFPD trustee chair Ben Martens.

"It says a lot for the quality of the volunteers when in August, the trustees were able to satisfactorily hire a new paid firefighter [Jamie Holmes] from within the ranks of the volunteers. The quality of the applicants made this task a difficult one for the trustees and a close contest."

Holmes replaced assistant chief Erling Jorgensen, who retired in June after 28 years of service.

"[Jorgensen] had a lengthy and storied career with the Salt Spring Island Fire Department and his legacy lives on today," said chief Dave Enfield.

"He designed our logo, his fire service innovations have been nationally published and we will miss his wood-

working and handyman talents."

Local firefighters and trustees also recalled the tragic loss of Lieutenant Tony Head who died in a fishboat accident on August 13 last year.

"An 11-year veteran volunteer firefighter with a humorous and devilish manner, he enlivened all our lives; and while he will not be forgotten, we all will sadly miss him," Martens said.

Enfield noted that a "Lt. Tony Head Memorial Fund" was able to dedicate more than \$14,000 toward RESP accounts for the firefighter's two daughters.

In addition to assisting Head's family, the firefighters also raised almost \$5,000 for local charities during their annual fundraising day over the May long weekend; sold beef, lamb and corn at the fall fair to raise \$3,400 for Hallowe'en displays; donated \$5,000 to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's expansion fund; and committed \$500 to the Steve Thomas Memorial Bursary for a Gulf Islands Secondary School student pursuing a career in the trades.

Previous fundraising with a truck raffle in 2001 allowed the fire department to hold infant CPR courses for new parents once per month through 2002. They hope to continue the program this year, Enfield noted.

The department's public

education program also saw Holmes, Captain Arjuna George and many volunteer firefighters put on presentations for 596 school children during Fire Prevention Week in October.

As students themselves, the local firefighters participated in more than 4,000 hours of combined instruction for various courses.

The 2002 recruit class of Brent Dick, Rob Grossman, Alisa Owen, Rob Hunter, Mike Bartle and Steve McColl all passed their probationary period to become firefighters with the SSFPD, said Salt Spring Firefighters' Association president Captain Jeff Outerbridge.

He also welcomed eight new probationary recruits who began their training program in February.

Along with scheduled practices and weekend courses, the department responded to 521 emergency incidents in 2002 (up from 424 in 2001) including: 155 first response medical calls, 72 alarm calls, 52 motor vehicle crashes, 37 brush or grass fires, 20 structure fires, 20 chimney fires, and 10 hazardous materials calls.

"Man-hours for incident responses in 2002 amounted to 4,890 man-hours, up from the 2,818 hours of 2001. A lot of man-hours were put in at the Sunset Drive and Mount Tuam fires," Enfield said.

Total loss for 2002 fires was \$138,900 (compared to \$229,000 in 2001) on prop-

erties with an insured value of approximately \$2.5 million.

The department's pre-fire plan program targeting high life-risk facilities for seniors and children has been moving along nicely, Enfield said.

These plans will offer instant access to a multitude of premises, giving firefighters detailed easy-to-read information.

Firefighters also expect to see the new Capital Region Emergency Services Telecommunications (CREST) radio system installed this May, which will aid service in multiple agency emergencies.

Following approval through a counter-petition process, the department opted to purchase a new \$670,000 rescue vehicle this year. The rescue truck will replace an aging mini-pumper that no longer meets WCB and National Fire Protection Association standards.

In addition to increasing long-term liabilities with the new bylaw, unexpected district expenses and new capital asset purchases used the full 2002 operating budget as well as a portion of the surplus, said corporate and financial administrator of trustees Carla Hansen.

"The additional operating expenses were due to payroll changes requiring a payout of banked time," Hansen said.

The department also pur-

chased a vehicle for non-emergency business (\$41,132) and a laptop computer and projector for training presentations (\$7,000).

The truck purchase will allow the fire chief and firefighters to go off-island for district business without leaving the department short a vehicle, Hansen said.

Total operating and administration expenses of \$818,905 for the 2002 year pushed the SSFPD into a \$83,823 loss, given revenue of \$735,081.

A vote for three vacant seats on the board of trustees saw Don Irwin re-elected

along with new trustees Murray Henderson and Mike Schubart.

Irwin has served nine years as a trustee and 17 years as a firefighter with the department. Henderson and Schubart each have 10 years experience as volunteer firefighters.

Incumbents Don Harrison and Ben Taylor were thanked for their generous service as trustees to the department.

And Paul Roach was also officially welcomed to the board after being elected at a special June 25 election meeting.

## Terry's LANDSCAPE HOME & YARD SERVICE

Book now for lawn mowing, thatching or aerating

- Lawn cutting
- Garden maintenance
- Interior, exterior painting
- Fertilizing
- Hedges
- Gutters • Brush cutting
- Tree service
- Windows, skylights, siding
- Retaining walls
- Pressure washing
- Ponds, waterfalls
- Drainage piping

**JAMES**  
1-250-245-7063

References available upon request We do it all: Big or Small • Fair Rates • Seniors Discounts



**Mafalda Hoogerdyk**  
Insurance Advisor  
537-1730

### Win / Win Situation Critical Illness Insurance

- Pay your premiums
- Term coverage
- Stay healthy
- Your premiums are returned

Call for details

1102 Insurance Agency  
across from Bank of Montreal

**"I depend on Windsor"**

*"My customers deserve the best!  
I depend on Windsor's service,  
quality & delivery"*

**P.J.'S PHIXIT SERVICE**  
Household Repairs  
Light Machine Shop & Welding  
**(250) 537-6360**  
PAUL WESTON

Your Island Guide  
to Home and Garden

# SPRINGTIME

OUR ANNUAL SPRING SUPPLEMENT IS NOW 24 YEARS OLD!  
IT'S GETTING BIGGER & BETTER!

This year's edition will contain a renewed focus on islanders with timely stories on home renovation and construction, and special features on gardening and other rites of spring.

Publication date: April 30  
Sales/Copy deadline: April 16

Space is going fast - Book yours today!

Please contact:  
**Peter, Robin or Rick**  
Ph: 537-9933 / Fax: 537-2613  
Email: sales@gulfislands.net  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

**FINISHING... And BUILDING SUPPLIES!**

**Windsor Plywood**  
166 Rainbow Road, Ph: 537-5564 Fax: 537-1207  
Open Monday-Friday 7am-5:30pm / Saturday 8am - 5:30pm / Closed Sundays

Gulf Islands  
**Driftwood**

# PARC members get pool update

A Monday night PARC meeting heard from operations manager Dave Gibbon, who gave an update on the Rainbow Road recreation site master plan.

He said the report of plan consultant Alan Roy was about 90 per cent complete, and he urged commission members to provide feedback on materials distributed at a recent briefing meeting.

"I'm going through it and analyzing it with a fine-tooth comb," noted Gibbon.

Preliminary inquiries about potential government funding have recently been made, including a request to meet with federal Environment Minister David Anderson to discuss incentives for a "green" development.

Commissioners also decided to consistently refer to the property as the "Rainbow Road Recreation Site" and a roadside sign with that name will be erected by the property.

In other PARC news from the March 31 meeting:

- PARC will revisit the idea of letting a community garden grow on its Rainbow Road recreation site this year.

Commission chair Bill Curtin raised the topic and asked for PARC support to investigate it.

He said a group of individuals had approached PARC about establishing a community garden last year, but that the idea then "fizzled out."

Commissioners expressed general support for the concept on Monday, although some concerns were also raised, such as the privacy of tenants currently living on the property and fears of cre-

## PARC BRIEFS

ating expectations of a long-term project.

Curtin urged commission members to not automatically say "no" and to meet with the potential gardeners to see what might be worked out.

- PARC's annual report to the community will appear in the April 9 Driftwood. Text includes a message from chair Bill Curtin, an update on the Rainbow Road recreation site, a report on 2002 Shelby Pool and Camp Colossal operation, and a financial summary for the year.

- Tennis court damage and winter shade problems led to a recommendation to remove trees between the tennis courts and running track at Portlock Park.

- PARC will seek funds from the Salt Spring Foundation for creating a wheelchair accessible viewing area with a park bench at Beddis Beach.

- Scottish dancing will become part of some summer Monday nights in Centennial Park. PARC approved a request from the Salt Spring Island Scottish Country Dance Club for use of the park to perform demonstration dances. The group plans to dance on the boardwalk on the last Monday evening of May, June, July and August.

As club vice-president Harvey Moore noted in his letter of request, "On a fine summer's night this could be a modest addition to the varied fabric of island life."

# Fundraiser benefits SSPLASH coffers

SSPLASH20 indoor pool society members are diving into the deep end of fundraising with a "fill the pool" promotion set to begin within a month.

Considering that a six-lane swimming pool contains about 550,000 litres of water, the group hopes to sell that many litre bottles of water in conjunction with the Carley Spring Water company of Salt Spring.

"We aim to clear between 75 cents and a dollar from the sale of each bottle, which would go directly to the building of the pool," said SSPLASH spokesman Richard Steel. "In effect, as each bottle is sold, the pool gets a little deeper."

Carley Spring Water is generously producing the bottles at a much-reduced rate, "which makes the whole project viable," he said.

SSPLASH20 is currently soliciting retail outlets' interest in stocking and selling the water, which originates from a Mount Bruce spring and is bottled at source.

May 10 is set as the official launch date for the water sale fundraiser.

Anyone wanting more



**WEAVING:** Marketeer Lionel Demandre of the Willow Web works on basketry as he sells at the Saturday Market in Centennial Park, which officially opened last weekend.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

**Breakfast!!!**  
 Scrambled eggs, bacon, hashbrowns & toast  
 This Saturday 9am - 2pm  
 The *Vesuvius Pub* *There's ALWAYS Something Cookin'!*

**Cottage Quilting**  
  
 OPENING SATURDAY MAY 17TH

**NatureWorks**  
 Health Food Store  
  
 JAMIE

# Wholesale Wholesome Foods Sale

ORGANIC Short Grain Brown Rice	1.29 <sup>lb</sup>	Almond Butter	5.59 <sup>lb</sup>
ORGANIC Quinoa	2.69 <sup>lb</sup>	FREE TRADE Ometepe Coffee	10.99 <sup>lb</sup>
ORGANIC Saugeen Yogurt 759ml	3.15 <sup>lb</sup>	<i>"We can grind it for you fresh!"</i>	
ORGANIC French Blue Lentils REG. \$1.99	1.59 <sup>lb</sup>	Mountain Burgers 360g	4.99 <sup>ea</sup>
ORGANIC Spelt Flour	1.49 <sup>lb</sup>	NATURE'S PATH Eco Pac Cereals 790g	6.49 <sup>lb</sup>
ORGANIC BC Apples SPARTANS, GOLDEN DELICIOUS	.99 <sup>lb</sup>	ORGANIC BROWN Flax Seeds	89 <sup>¢</sup> <sup>lb</sup>
GALA	1.49 <sup>lb</sup>	Peanut Butter Reg. \$2.25	1.89 <sup>lb</sup>
SIMPLY NATURAL Reg. \$4.99 Pineapple Salsa 470ml	3.99 <sup>lb</sup>	LUNDBERG Rice Chips	3.49
PRICES IN EFFECT APRIL 9 - 18			

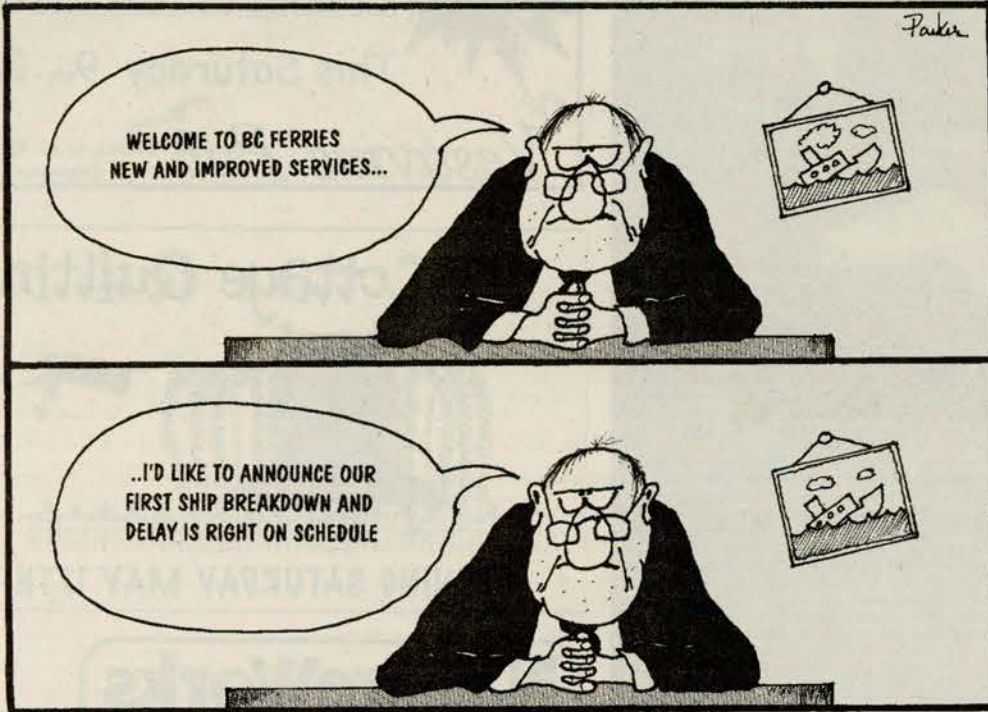
**NatureWorks**  
 Health Food Store  
 116 Lower Ganges Road • 537-2325  
 Open Mon. to Fri. 9:00am - 6:00pm, Sat. 9:00am - 5:30pm

We are pleased to  
**WELCOME BACK**  
 Cecilliea (Ceci)  
 to celebrate her return we are pleased to offer  
**20% off**  
 SERVICES WITH CECI FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2003  
 P.S. John is also available Tuesday-Saturday 9am-6pm  
**STUDIO 103 HAIR DESIGN**  
 Hair styling for men, women, children  
 2103 Grace Point Square 537-2700

Insurance, ICBC, Trip and Fall Professional and Employment Divorce and Family Relations Commercial and Criminal Arts and Entertainment  
*Settlements with or without Litigation*  
 access law centre  
 john allan davies  
 b.a., i.c.t., ll.b.  
 Certified Family Law Mediator  
 537-4061

# OPINION

## Focus on reading



There's a special focus in island schools on reading this month, which is a very good thing. But our goal as parents, teachers and anyone remotely interested in the intellectual health of society should be to encourage an ongoing focus on literacy.

A newspaper, of course, has a vested interest in the cause for a literate society. But so do we all. Only through high levels of literacy can a democracy function, and the democratic function needs all the help it can get.

The members of a society cannot be well informed on the issues of the day unless they can read. Newspapers, magazines, books and the Internet provide the information we need to be full participants in a democratic society. But without the skills to access them we are ill-informed indeed.

The newspaper publishing industry has long recognized competing demands for readers' time, demands that encroach upon the time available for reading a newspaper. Television, in particular, has been a strong competitor. But it is not only newspapers that must be concerned but society as a whole. For the time television has stolen from the publishers of newspapers, magazines and books has taken its toll on literacy.

How do we repair the damage? We do all we can to encourage reading within the home. Parents who read have children who read. For households where reading is not a common pastime, the duty falls to our schools to step in and encourage reading among those children.

The local school district, through a group of educators, has taken a step in that direction by preparing lists of appropriate reading materials for children of different ages. They have also prepared charts indicating reading standards expected of different age levels.

The information, which appears as part of a section in this week's newspaper, should prove valuable for parents who wish to gauge their children's progress. It should also prove useful for raising awareness about the importance of reading and literacy.

The information is published this week, but its use should be encouraged year-round.

**Gulf Islands Driftwood**

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.  
328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3  
Office Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday  
Phone: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll-free: 1-877-537-9934  
E-mail: driftwood@gulfislands.net, website: www.gulfislands.net

**Yearly Subscription Rates**  
In the Gulf Islands \$48.15\* Elsewhere in Canada \$78.11\*  
6 months elsewhere in Canada \$49.22\* Outside Canada \$169.00  
\*Includes GST  
This newspaper acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward its mailing costs.  
Publications Mail Registration No. 08149  
International Standard Serial Number 1198-7782

**Memberships**  
Canadian Community Newspapers Association  
B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council

**President** Frank Richards  
**Publisher** Tony Richards  
**Managing Editor** Susan Lundy  
**Advertising Manager** Peter McCully  
**Advertising** Andrea Le Borgne, Rick MacKinnon, Marit McBride, Lorraine Sullivan, Robin Richards  
**Reporters** Gail Sjuberg, Mitchell Sherrin  
**Photographer** Derrick Lundy  
**Accounting/Circulation** Claudia French  
**Production** Andrea Palframan

## Newcomers support preservation of island paradise

By AMANDA SPOTTISWOODE

Regarding Mr. Moore's In Depth article in the March 26 paper, my first response was that the writer is suffering from a severe attack of "drawbridgeitis."

There are a fortunate few who are lucky enough to have been born and bred on Salt Spring and the rest of us arrived here at some point in time for one reason or another.

Every one of us who has made Salt Spring our home feels we have the right to have opinions about how the island should be run. However, I think the writer should be a little more careful about the groups of people he has lumped together as "evil-doers" out to demolish our beautiful, serene island paradise.

I believe Mr. Moore has been here for considerably less time

### VIEW POINT

that I have, which is a mere seven years, and yet he seems to think that now he has arrived, all development and "immigration" should be halted.

Now, I'm in complete agreement with his comments about the Islands Trust, and I have been appalled in the past by their inability to stop Texada clear-cutting vast tracts of our forest. However, I think his comments about realtors, the Chamber of Commerce and B&B owners are inappropriate.

We have to find a balance between protecting our island from development and enabling those of us who reside here to

make a living. We are not, unfortunately, all independently wealthy or retired. Sure, we can't find a parking place in the summertime (I have addressed that issue in a previous letter), and yes it's annoying to battle our way through crowds of tourists on Saturday just to get to our favourite bread stall at the market, but let's not forget that those tourists enable a whole bunch of people to make a living and stay here year round.

As for the comments about realtors, I really must leap to their defence. Someone has to facilitate the buying and selling of property and most of the island realtors are honest and hardworking business people who, just like the other people who service the tourists, just want to make a living. And just because you are a realtor, does not mean that you want to

turn the island into a mass of subdivisions, or inflate the values of properties so that ordinary mortals can't afford to buy the meanest hovel.

I am also curious about how Mr. Moore "discovered" Salt Spring. Did he, perhaps, read an article or see an ad, or maybe do a search on the Internet? Shame on those realtors who dared to advertise off-island and attract a "foreigner" to our shores!

Many of the people who pick Salt Spring as a place to move to become active members of the community, participating in many volunteer activities and enriching our diverse group of residents. For a recent "immigrant" to lump together anyone who arrived after him along with a large sector of the population is simply ridiculous. By the way, I believe the gentleman who wants to lease his

land to the cod farm/factory is actually an "old timer," so the argument about newcomers being the ones to exploit the island is not a valid one.

We must all be aware of the dangers of over-development and commercialization, and keep a balance between having a viable local economy and preserving the beauty of our environment. Mr. Moore should realize that many of the people who make a living selling real estate, running bed and breakfasts and other businesses are the same people who sit on committees and run for local government with the stated goals of "preserving and protecting" our island paradise.

*The writer has connections with realtors, community volunteers, visitor accommodations and the theatre.*

Last Thursday was the second day of life for the new B.C. Ferries Service. It was also the second day back from refit for the Queen of Nanaimo.

At about 10 to six in the still dark morning, the usual assortment of travellers began arriving at Long Harbour. Some were bound for Tsawwassen and points east, while others were heading for a day's work on Pender, Mayne or Galiano.

Around 6:15, as the first hint of grey light began to highlight the growly features of the sleepy occupants of the cars and trucks, the woman in the ticket booth picks up her microphone and switches on the speakers over the parking lot.

"Uhh. Umm. Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. There will be uhhh — a slight delay in the departure of the Queen of Nanaimo this morning, due

## Ferry service with a smile! And cookies!

to umm . . . engine problems."

Folks begin climbing out of

their vehicles and gathering in small groups to discuss the situation. Many of them are seasoned victims — oops, sorry — seasoned travellers on B.C. Ferries, so they have some ideas as to the real reason for the delay.

"The new company changed the locks and they can't find the key."

"They took out the engines to rebuild them and forgot to put one back."

"The Captain's hung over and the coffee's not ready yet."

Ten minutes later the

### ISLESAY! WITH JOHN POTTINGER



speakers crackle to life again.

"There will be a delay of about 30 minutes while we try to fix the engine problem."

Now the noise level in the parking lot rises as the conversations and comments heat up a tad. People are consulting their schedules and figuring they could make the 7 a.m. sailing from Vesuvius, but that won't help as they can't connect to the 7:45 a.m. sailing to Tsawwassen from Duke Point.

If they head down to Fulford for the 8 a.m. sailing they won't make it on to the

nine o'clock sailing to Tsawwassen because it's always full by the time Salt Spring vehicles unload at Swartz Bay. Tempers and temperatures are climbing faster.

Someone looks down the line of cars.

"What's that?" he gasps.

It can't be what it looks like. It looks like a B.C. Ferries worker going from car to car with a big smile on her face. She's stopping to talk to everybody and she's giving out cookies. Giving out cookies?

"I don't believe this," says a suspicious would-be passenger. "Last time I got something free from B.C. Ferries it took me two weeks of antibiotics to get rid of it."

She arrives at a large and threatening group of people.

"Hi," she says. "Have a cookie. We've arranged for you all to be given priority loading and unloading on the Skeena Queen. When you get to Swartz Bay, switch on your four-way flashers and stick this card in your windshield. You'll be whisked through the line and given priority loading on the nine o'clock sailing to Tsawwassen."

There's a collective "Huh?" from the crowd.

"Okay," says one guy, "that was really funny but April Fool's Day was Tuesday."

"I'm serious," she says with a big smile. "This is the new B.C. Ferries Service. We treat our customers with respect and consideration."

The people climb into their vehicles and the convoy of 20 or more cars heads for Fulford. They're all loaded

onto the middle lanes of the Skeena and unloaded first at Swartz Bay. Then they're directed through the ticket booths and into the "reserved" line for immediate boarding onto the big ferry.

On board the ferry to Tsawwassen they gather together in small groups and talk in hushed tones, looking and sounding like people who've just witnessed a miracle.

"I know I'm going to wake up any second," one of them says. "There'll be a ferry worker pounding on the hood of my car telling me to get moving and I'll realize this was just a bad dream."

They all nod their heads. "I hope you're right," says one. "What are we going to do if we don't have B.C. Ferries to bash around anymore?"

islesay@saltspring.com

# SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What's one of your favourite books?



**Amarie and Maddie Guild**

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. It's interactive. We've got the board book and it's got little holes in it.



**James Cameron**

*Don't Read This Book If You're Stupid* [by Tibor Fischer]. It's a bunch of scary stories in a book. It's really cool.



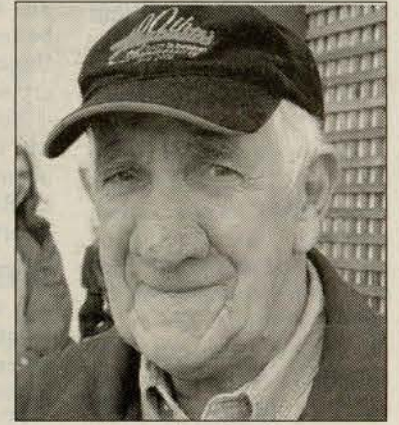
**Melissa Phillips (Surrey)**

*Cinderella*. I like when she gets those new clothes.



**Nina Phillips (Burlington, Ontario)**

*Confessions of a Shopaholic* [by Sophie Kinsella]. It's about this girl who gets into debt because she'd addicted to shopping. It's the first of a trilogy and it's really good.



**Laurie Craig**

The only books I read are motor sports books.

## Letters to the Editor

### Hypocrisy response

I really feel that I must say something in response to last week's column by John Pottinger.

First off, I need to thank him for an honest attempt to correct what he sees as a wrong and it is certainly wrong to blindly vilify anyone.

I have just returned from three weeks in Alabama and I can speak strongly of blind nationalistic and religious support of a leader and nation. However, it seemed prudent to keep quiet and consequently I was not under attack by the flag wavers.

I did, however, have strong concerns about the goal of the president in leading his nation into an illegal and expensive war. He called for \$74,700 billion from his congress to support the effort.

His personal goal and I believe that of his people is "to protect the safety of his nation." I cannot see that as a move to world peace nor do I see the nationalistic and religious fervour of the southern culture as a step toward that peace.

I have lived in East Africa

where Christians and Muslims live in harmony and I know it is possible to contain with respect those who seek spiritual truths in a peaceful world. A holy war never ends as we have witnessed. Peace begins with dialogue and without a U.N. which will be lost in the shuffle we have little hope of that.

Because the religious faction of the opposition is not understood or appreciated by the right wing religious Americans, we could have long-term conflict abroad. The great fear of Islam is the contamination of the West, which they see as materialistic, immoral and under the guise of democracy, very competitive. With education on both sides we could appreciate and learn from the other.

Now the issue John Pottinger raised in regard to Canadian production and sales of armaments lacks factual details. I belong to a small group of letter-writing women who have worked on ethical standards for factory workers supplying goods to be sold in Canada. I personally would follow-up on the issue he raises of Canadian produced materials for warfare.

Mr. Pottinger should also realize that the Voice of Women has been active on many fronts, not just the present war in Iraq issue.

My last comment is in regard to a prime minister who wants to boost the rating of his party. So his action may have been for the wrong reason but by golly he made the right one. I still thank him for that.

**LEE EVANS, Salt Spring**

### Sharing

A big thank you to Richard Moses for his April 2 In Depth on flooding Iraq with food, not bombs.

Without dreams and vision, the people die.

Moses' dream contains a lot more common sense than the spiralling of violence.

The "invasion" by peacemakers around the world would mean that all of us who believe that it is food, not bombs, which will bring peace with justice, must be willing to live in ways that others may live; all of us as human beings who know that sharing is the only kind of "war" we should engage in.

**EILEEN WTEWAAL, Sky Valley Road**

### Slippery slope

Advertising, with its punchy slogans, may have been born when a caveman, selling his new invention, a fish hook, proclaimed, "It Puts Fish in Your Dish!" Without ads our economy would grind to a halt, wouldn't it?

Yes, it would, but this polished persuader can be lethal when used to sell not goods but prefabricated opinions. For example, how much damage is still being done by Stephen Decatur's "My country, right or wrong"?

As some wag remarked, a more nonsensical dictum would be hard to find. You might as well say "My mother, drunk or sober" — but it has been masquerading as indisputable truth for 200 years.

The great thing about slogans is that they don't have to make any sense at all. A century ago, William Randolph Hearst thundered "Remember the Maine" to the readers of his newspapers and, although there was no evidence that Spain had anything to do with the sinking of that warship, the Spanish-American War was on.

More recently, Nancy Reagan solved the addiction problems of the world with her "Just Say No" advice, and American justice continues to be mocked by the twin inanities of "Three Strikes and You're Out" and "Zero Tolerance."

But pernicious as political slogans have been in the past, they are benign compared to the brain-deadeners hurled at the world by Washington since 9-11. "Whoever is not for us is against us" and "Axis of Evil" are idiotic, to be sure, but when they are combined with a "War on Terrorism" we are being lured to an Orwellian state of permanent hostilities against any opposition to a U.S.-led Mammon-Mars hegemony.

Will it succeed?

I don't think so. At a time of deliberately hyped crisis, Americans begin by rallying behind their leader, but as the liberties guaranteed in their Constitution are eroded and the emptiness behind the messianic facade is exposed, that support will be withdrawn, as it was in Vietnam. Abraham Lincoln, that greatest of American presidents, said it best: "You can fool all of the people

some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Even, he might add today, with the help of Hill & Knowlton's best sloganeers.

**ANDREW GIBSON, Rainbow Road**

**MORE LETTERS 10**

## Your letters are welcome

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 400 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication.

Email your letters to [news@gulfislands.net](mailto:news@gulfislands.net)

## Lovely ladies of spring signal hope in sea of pollen

*"Daffodown Dilly has come to town in a yellow petticoat and a green gown."*

I grew up saying this little spring ditty, its author too obscure to find using dozens of Internet search engines. As a child, the imagery of daffodils as girls in fancy dresses with big flouncy skirts captivated me entirely. I spun this fantasy further, seeing every flower as a costumed lady decked out for the great musical of spring, a wedding celebration that went on for weeks.

I wasn't far wrong. I smile each year as I realize again that cherry trees, for example, really are a great froth with little up-ended females waiting for the right bit of pollen to land

on them and start the next hoped-for generation. They're perfumed, of course, to attract insects, which provide a special introduction service.

Larger spring blooms — crocuses, primulas, daffodils, tulips, the whole passing parade — nod on their single stems, glorious variations on the same theme.

Around the core female parts is the stag line of stamens, either within the same flower or on separate male plants. They produce pollen grains by the kajillions, too many to count —

### SPRINGBOARD BY BRENDA GUALED



alas, to allergy sufferers — each wafting on the wind with the hope of landing just right and getting lucky. These days, the air is full of the stuff, which I heard described a couple of years ago on radio as "a sea of male sex cells."

It's all rather blatant, considering what flowers are up to. It's all rather magical and tastefully done too, which people might keep in mind when their fancies turn to such things. Courting humans are similar to blossoms when it

comes to seeking balance between basic urges, putting on one's best, and the delicacies of the dance.

People are different, of course, because like all animals, we can move and make choices. An undesired suitor can be avoided or spurned. Flowers, on the other hand, are truly promiscuous, which means "without order or discrimination," from pro-, which is Latin for "before" or "for," and miscere "to mix."

Alexander Pope (1688-1744) understood this when he wrote that the "scene of man [is] A mighty maze! but not without a plan! A wild, where weeds and flowers promiscuous shoot . . ."

Female flower parts must accept whatever compatible

male genetic material lands on them. They might have some subtle chemical ways, which we haven't decoded yet, of rebuffing a poor match, but they're still sitting ducks to the drakes, so to speak, to a far greater degree than real ducks are.

Because plants have little choice regarding what chance puts together, a far greater range of genetic material gets thrown into the mix and makes up the next generation. They have vastly diverse genotypes, that is, which translates into vastly diverse phenotypes — i.e. their offspring show much greater species variability than animals do. Botanists, in turn, must be good at taxonomy, because there are so many varieties to identify within each plant type.

Memorizing endless obscure names was never my strong suit, hence for this reason and a powerful love of choice in every way, I took a zoology degree and avoided botany entirely. Thus, I anthropomorphized myself out of a whole field of study, but I've kept a broad and poetic appreciation of plants' reproductive strategies and successes, which I renew each spring. Especially this year, with destruction so fiercely in the news, I take heart from all the lovely "ladies" out there in their showy, scented skirts stirring in an airy sea of pollen, reminding us of what's really happening, beautifully and hopefully, in this blessed season.

[b\\_guiled@yahoo.ca](mailto:b_guiled@yahoo.ca)

## Consider source

Congratulations to Mickey and Robbyn of Salt Spring Coffee for embracing the principles of fair trade in their coffee business.

The members of the Ometepe Gulf Islands Friendship Association (OGIFA) have been promoting the fair trade (not free trade) concept for the past 14 years. We have developed a trading relationship with a co-op of coffee producers on Ometepe Island and are delighted to pay them quadruple the world price for their very high quality, organically and shade-grown coffee beans. They reward us with very good coffee, and we reward them with funds for a variety of development projects in Central America.

It is our dream that as time passes, more and more consumers will have the opportunity to purchase products that have been produced by workers who receive fair remuneration.

Unfortunately the large multinationals who dominate the coffee industry — Phillip Morris, (Nabob, Sanka, Maxwell House etc.), Nestle (Hills Bros, MJB, Nescafe etc.), Proctor and Gamble (Folgers), Sara Lee (Douwe Egberts) use "industrial methods" of coffee production — clear cutting, chemical fertilizers and insecticide sprays as well as cheap labour to produce coffee that sells in the grocery stores at very low prices.

OGIFA members believe that not only should coffee be grown organically, it should be grown in the shade of a forest canopy where the insects, birds and other wildlife may also survive and contribute to the health and beauty of our planet.

We feel that plantation workers should receive fair wages and not be exposed to chemical sprays.

We would hope that restaurants, B&Bs and other beverage outlets on Salt Spring would carefully consider the source of their coffee and other beverages, and use only products that are produced in a non-exploitative and ecologically sustainable way.

**BRIAN I. FINNEMORE,**  
Fulford

## Clarified

A story in your April 2 issue stated that I had spoken in favour of the Sablefish Hatchery at Walker Hook.

The fact is that I neither spoke for nor against the hatchery. I asked two simple short questions and made one statement.

Mr. Woodward, who was the first speaker at the meeting, was introduced by Ms. Lineger, who chaired the meeting, and neither one stated that he is a lawyer and was there to represent an interested party. Wishing to have it made clear, I asked if he was acting as a concerned resident of the island. Mr. Woodward then stated his position as hired legal counsel.

My next question was if anyone at the meeting knew

## More letters

just how large the trucks to be used for transporting the fingerlings from the hatchery would be.

You got my statement to Mr. Howat of the MOT just about right.

**LORRAINE NORFOLK,**  
Monteith Drive

## Nerve hit

I was surprised at the length of Mitchell Sherrin's defence of his chess article in the March 26 newspaper.

Obviously Phyllis Webb hit a nerve in her previous letter about his battlefield imagery.

When he started quoting her poetry and talking about post-modern literary theory, Mr. Sherrin sounded like a budding writer who had failed to get the attention of an admired teacher. When he said that Ms. Webb was attempting to censor a fellow writer and or silence journalists in their role as storytellers, he completely missed the point.

Ms. Webb is talking about a writer's sensitivity to language, the writer's power to interpret, communicate, bewitch and transform us all with the stroke of a pen. And our choice not to abuse this power.

**MONA FERTIG,**  
Salt Spring

## Still involved

Like many of you, I called the Foreign Affairs hotline on Iraq last week.

Some of you may have called to complain about our government's cowardly lack of support for our American neighbours now that they're at war. Some of you, like me, may have called to congratulate our prime minister on what I took to be his courageous and principled stand against Canadian involvement in that war. Either way, we've all been conned. It turns out Canada's in this war on land, sea and air.

It's not like there's been no warning. In an article in the Globe and Mail last September — which I even clipped and saved and then forgot all about in my recent rush of misguided

pride in being Canadian — Michael Byers, a Canadian teaching international law at Duke University, pointed out all the ways in which our military forces are so deeply integrated with the Pentagon's that, as he put it, "a firm decision not to support unilateral action would, in fact, require proactive steps to disengage." Steps that our prime minister has no intention of taking.

This Monday's Globe and Mail confirmed all of Byers' warnings. Richard Sanders, a member of the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT), details Canada's current unheralded involvement in America's unilateral "preventive" war. Turns out we're providing war planners to the U.S. forward command post in Qatar, naval protection for U.S. aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf, 31 "exchange troops," six of whom may be in battle zones, crews for Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft that provide guidance for fighter jets and bombers, and the use of Canadian air space, a form of support Washington specifically requested from any country wishing to be counted among the "Coalition of the Willing."

"U.S. aircraft carrying troops bound for Iraq," Sanders writes, "regularly stop to refuel and change crews in Newfoundland."

So before you call or write the prime minister to congratulate (or condemn) him for his policy on Canada's involvement in the U.S. war on Iraq, let's first find out how involved we really are.

**MURRAY REISS,**  
Fulford Harbour

## Blueprint

During Gulf War I, Bush Sr. grandly, if obscurely, intoned about a New World Order. Now Bush II spells out the meaning — a global Pax Americana enforced by U.S. military might abroad and repression at home, served up with fat dollops of hypocrisy and cant.

The blueprint for a global

Pax Americana is laid out in a 90-page September 2000 document entitled *Rebuilding America's Defenses* (see [www.newamericancentury.org](http://www.newamericancentury.org)). This lunatic, and ultimately self-defeating, document calls for: "unquestioned U.S. military preeminence;" capacity to "win simultaneous large-scale wars;" preemptive strikes; nuclear weapons testing; constraining "a Chinese challenge to American regional leadership;" "control of space and cyberspace" and like imperial projects.

Bush, faithful to this document, calls for a \$48-billion annual increase in the 2003 Pentagon budget, giving a projected total budget of \$379 billion. The next largest military budget in the world is \$35 billion (UK).

The U.S. is said to have some 800 military units in 100 or so countries, including many in Japan and Germany (60 years on from WW II). Throughout this time-span there is evidence a-plenty of U.S. government support (often secret, via the CIA) for the overthrow of numerous democratically elected reformist leaders, including Allende (Chile, 1973), Arbenz (Guatemala, 1954), Mossadegh (Iran, 1953), Ortega (Nicaragua, 1990) and Papandreu (Greece, 1967). A motive common

to these illegal interventions is strangling progressive economic reforms (e.g., land reform) that stand to vastly improve life for their many citizens living in abject poverty — but at the expense of continuing windfall profits to U.S. corporations (e.g., the United Fruit Company, 1906-1972).

Meanwhile, the U.S. government seldom tacks away from an accommodating (to U.S. economic imperialism) dictator or semi-feudal regime (e.g. Saudi Arabia), no matter how corrupt or how gross the human rights violations (including assassinations, disappearances, disfigurement, massacres and torture). Familiar examples, among many others, of this easy-going U.S. government tolerance

of the intolerable are: Diem (Vietnam, 1955-1963); Marcos (Philippines, 1972-1986); Saddam Hussein (Iraq, 1979-1990); Pinochet (Chile, 1974-1990); Somoza family (Nicaragua, 1937-1979); and Trujillo (Dominican Republic, 1930-1961).

Now fast forward to Emperor Bush, the latest miscreant thrown up by a highly dysfunctional electoral system, implausibly assuring a largely uncritical public that raining bombs on Iraq is but a prelude to the imposition of a so-called democracy. We witnessed this same desperate folly in the demented destruction of Vietnam and its people. Once gain, Canada is wise to decline participation in yet another unfolding disaster.

**JOHN PROTHERO,**  
Cudmore Heights

**MORE LETTERS 14**

**International Menus!**

Join Us for two nights of authentic food, authentic drinks, great music and a few extras!!



**Latino!!**  
Saturday April 19th



**Germany**  
Saturday May 10th

*The* **Vesuvius Pub** *There's ALWAYS Something Cookin'!*

**Raven Isle graphics**

We are your web site specialists.  
Call us for all of your design needs:

- web sites
- brochures
- illustration
- stationery
- calendars
- training

**& much more!**

New to Salt Spring!

becky@ravenisle.com

**537-8442**

[www.ravenislegraphics.com](http://www.ravenislegraphics.com)

**Raven Isle consulting**

Computer servicing for home and office:

- set-up
- business IT solutions
- repair
- training & more!

Are computer problems making you think about a new PC?

Contact us for a second opinion before you spend your money!

pauln@ravenisle.com

[www.ravenisle.com](http://www.ravenisle.com)

**OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH**

Holy Thursday ~ 7pm

Good Friday ~ 3pm

Easter Vigil Saturday ~ 8pm

Easter Vigil ~ 12 noon

Easter Sunday ~ 10am & 12 noon

NO MASS AT FULFORD  
135 DRAKE RD • 537-2150

**NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15th, at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C.

As required by the Letters Patent of the District the Annual General Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

1. To receive from the Trustees a report on the condition of the works and a statement of the financial condition of the Improvement District.
2. To discuss with the Trustees any matter relating to the works or finances of the Improvement District.
3. To fix the remuneration of the Trustees for the ensuing year.
4. To elect two Trustees for terms of three years each.

**NOMINEES FOR TRUSTEE(S) ARE:**

**LESLIE HOWELL**  
Woodland Drive

**RANDALL SLOAN**  
Woodhall Place

*Trevor Hutton*  
General Manager

# RANTS & ROSES

## RANTS

Islanders upset about the impending tourist season should remember that without the tourist dollars a high percentage of Salt Spring retailers (particularly restaurants and galleries) would not be able to stay open all year for the locals.

Everyone needing to write Salt Spring trustee Kimberly Lineger's name should remember that it is spelled L-I-N-E-G-E-R. While we're not going to name names, almost no one gets it right!

To parents who take young children to adult programs such as slide shows, travel talks etc. It's wonderful that you believe in exposing your children to such an array of events. It would be equally wonderful if you exposed them to a few common courtesies and good manners. I can think of no good reasons why the bad behaviour of a bunch of brats should infringe on the rights of adults to enjoy adult programs.

## ROSES

Roses to Travis Kennedy, who recently received the Grant MacEwan scholarship, donated by Wade and Charonne Hartwell, at an

**RANTS & ROSES** offers a forum for readers to briefly express gratitude or "beefs" concerning issues and events in their lives. The Driftwood will not print personal attacks, and it reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions. **Email R&R** submissions (75 words or less) to [news@gulfislands.net](mailto:news@gulfislands.net); **FAX** to 537-2613; or **drop by** the Driftwood office and fill out a form.

awards dinner held at Old College, Alberta. Travis, a graduate of Gulf Islands Secondary School, is the seventh recipient of this scholarship, awarded annually to a third-year student of horticulture.

Roses to French Immersion students Kaeli and Danica, who used their new language skills to help make a traveller from France feel at home.

Here's a rose for the work-bee volunteers who dug irrigation ditches, created walking paths, protected roots with wood-chips, marked ferns and trillium beds with rock rings and

made a general tidy-up of Mouat Park for the greater benefit of all disc-golfers and other park users.

I hope the course offers a bouquet of aces to all the volunteer disc-golf labourers in recognition for their hard work and park-loving efforts.

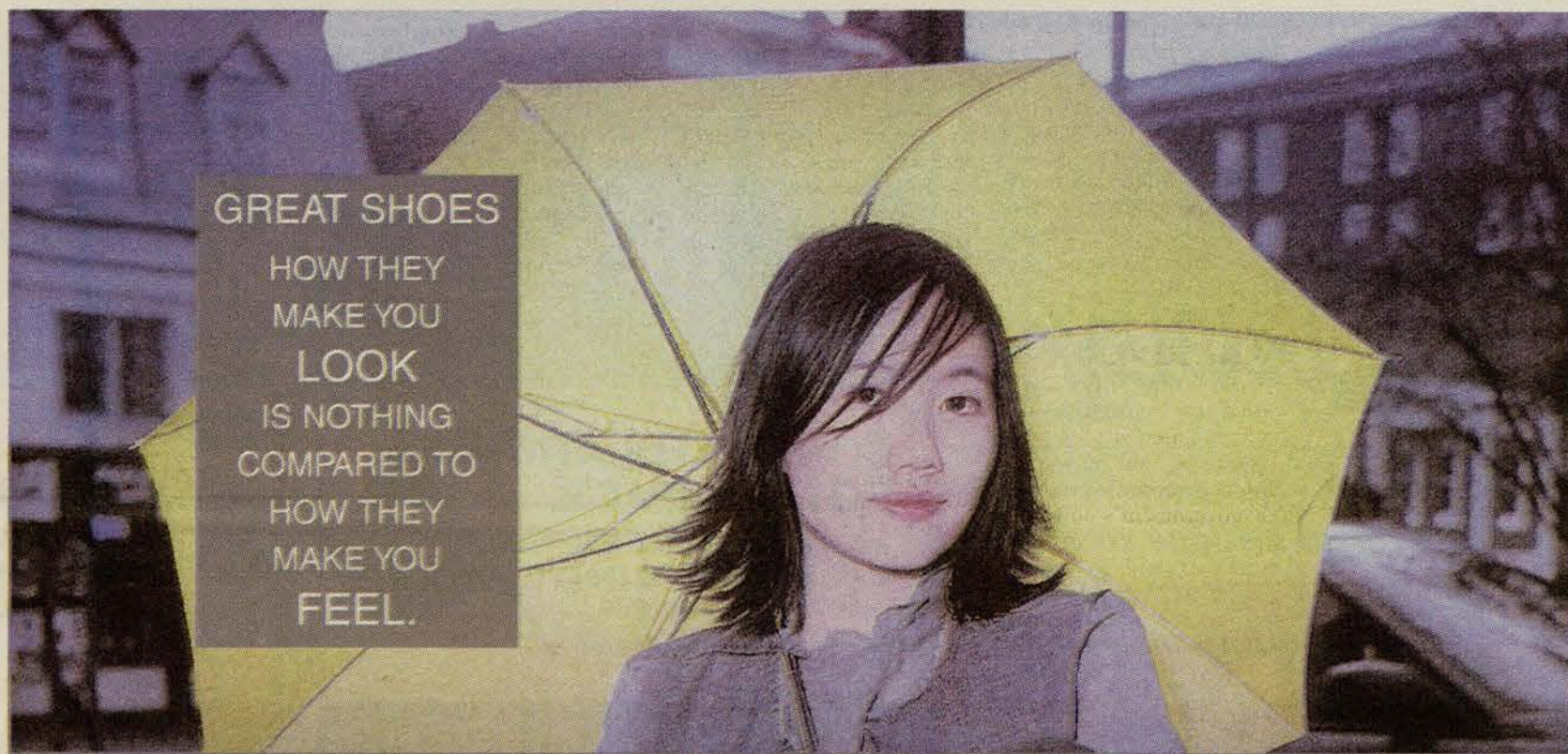
To the Long Harbour ferry worker who passed out cookies and did her best to soothe anxious ferry travellers who were waiting for the late-departing Queen of Nanaimo. Roses also to the new ferry company, which arranged priority loading for stranded Vancouver-bound passengers on the 9 a.m. sailing from Swartz Bay.



**Name:** GEORGE BIELAKIEWICZ  
**537/538/653:** 537  
**Occupation(s):** Owner of the Gulf Islands Bagel Shop.  
**Hobbies:** Collecting books and records.  
**Home finished/unfinished:** I never stop building.  
**Favourite people:** people with a sense of humour.  
**Favourite read:** Any book I can learn from.  
**Best thing about SSI:** It's a unique place.  
**Worst thing about SSI:** Nothing, except maybe grumpy people.  
**Best place to kiss on SSI?:** A full moon at Mount Maxwell.



## DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS



GREAT SHOES  
 HOW THEY  
 MAKE YOU  
 LOOK  
 IS NOTHING  
 COMPARED TO  
 HOW THEY  
 MAKE YOU  
 FEEL.

TRY ON NEW STYLES  
 from all our brands  
 Mens, Womens, Kids and...

TREAT YOURSELF TO 20% OFF  
 today through Monday April 14th



JUNGLE VENTILATOR II  
 WOMENS & MENS SIZES



# AFTERSPORT

7 days a week 537-5551

**ADDRESS REALTY**  
 Full Service / Low Low commission  
**Sherrie Boyte 629-6350**  
 Pender Island lots from \$23,000  
 Houses under \$100,000  
[www.propertyonpender.com](http://www.propertyonpender.com)  
[sherrie@propertyonpender.com](mailto:sherrie@propertyonpender.com)

**FD FIREPLACE DOCTOR LTD.**  
 "We Solve Fireplace Problems"

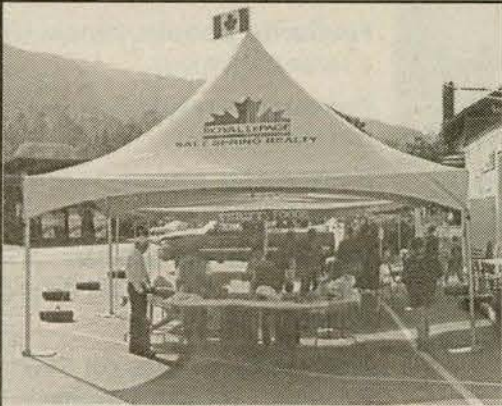
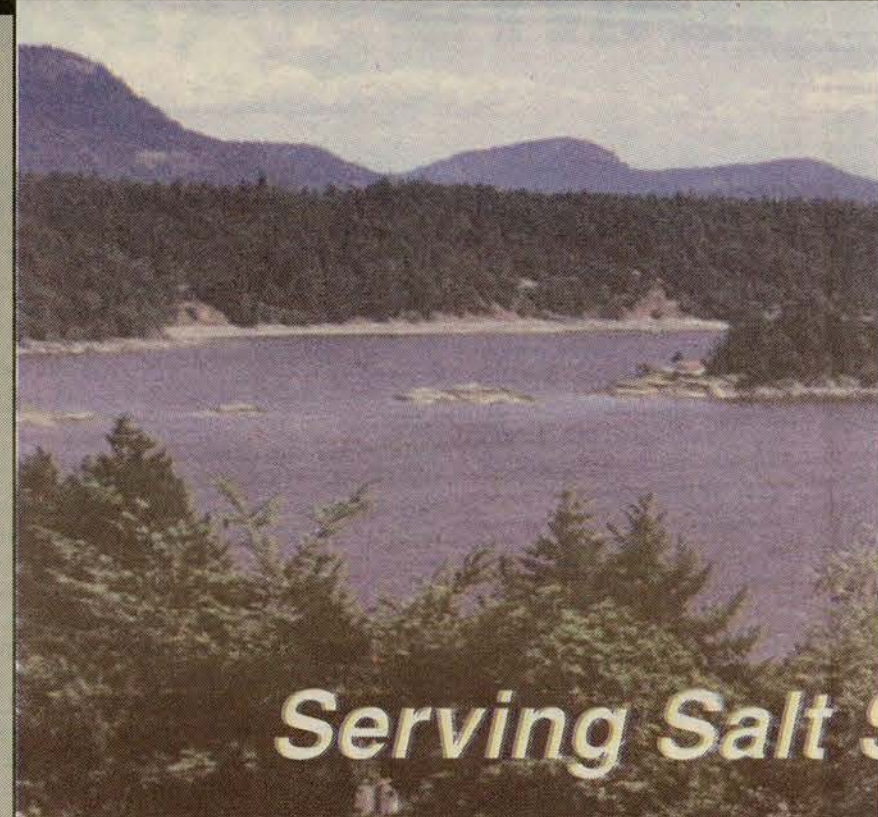
- Smoking Problems
- Draft Problems
- Odor problems
- Leaks
- Damper replacements
- Gas & Wood Inserts & Stoves
- Bellfires Liners
- Chimney Cleaning
- Glass Doors (Custom)
- Fresh Air Kits Available
- Chimney Repointing & Sealing
- Inspections
- Chimney Caps

Serving you over 20 years  
**Make Your Fireplace Energy Efficient**  
[www.fireplacedoctor.com](http://www.fireplacedoctor.com)  
 24 HOURS  
**1-866-596-6790**  
 Fax: 604-532-1147

# SALT SPRING



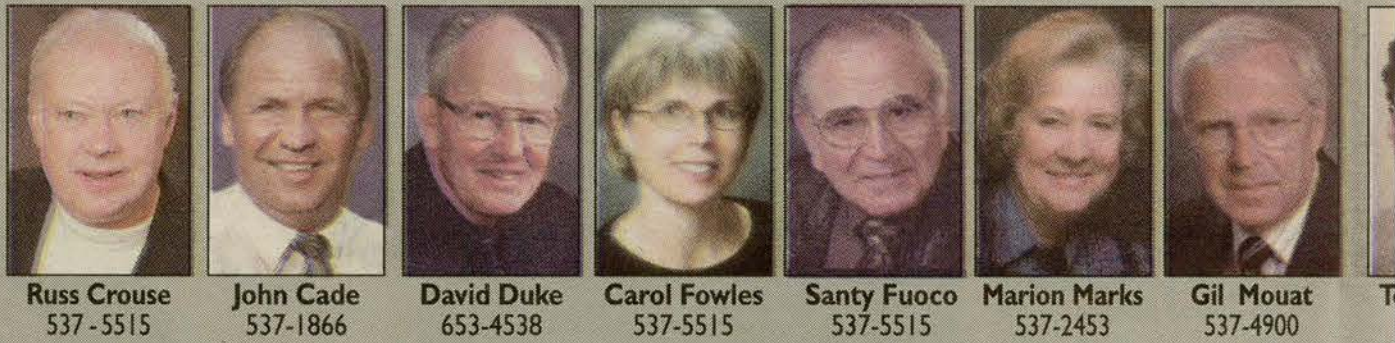
With over 230 years combined experience, our team of Realtors know the Salt Spring and Gulf Island markets. Our company and its antecedents have been serving Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands continuously since 1928. Our team of Realtors have access to all the current technology tools. Our Realtors participate in a wide range of community organizations, from Lions and Rotary to volunteer coaches of athletic teams, from community government to Coast Guard Auxiliary. **Check it out, a member of our team just might be on your team too!**



Our marquee tent is provided free of charge to over 25 community events each year.

*Congratulations!*

Thank you for covering us at our community events!



Russ Crouse  
537-5515

John Cade  
537-1866

David Duke  
653-4538

Carol Fowles  
537-5515

Santy Fuoco  
537-5515

Marion Marks  
537-2453

Gil Mouat  
537-4900

*I like Royal LePage so much, I'm going to give up chocolate to join them!*



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE...

- Debbie Cade

### CONGRATULATIONS ROYAL LePAGE

*we appreciate your business and look forward to the next 75 years.*

-Hermann & René



*Congratulations on 75 years of service and excellence.*

*From all of us at*

### GANGES FLOOR COVERINGS

*"We Cover Your Floor"*

*To the youngsters...*

Russ, you and the staff of ROYAL LePAGE are to be congratulated.

You all look great considering your tenure!

*from the staff at*

**MOUATS TRADING Co.**

**Congratulations & Happy 75th Anniversary Russ, Realtors and Support Staff!**

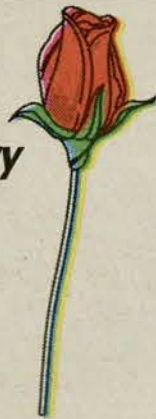
*It's been an honour to help your clients with their mortgage financing over the past 4 years.*

**Wishing you continued success in the future!**



**Arlene**

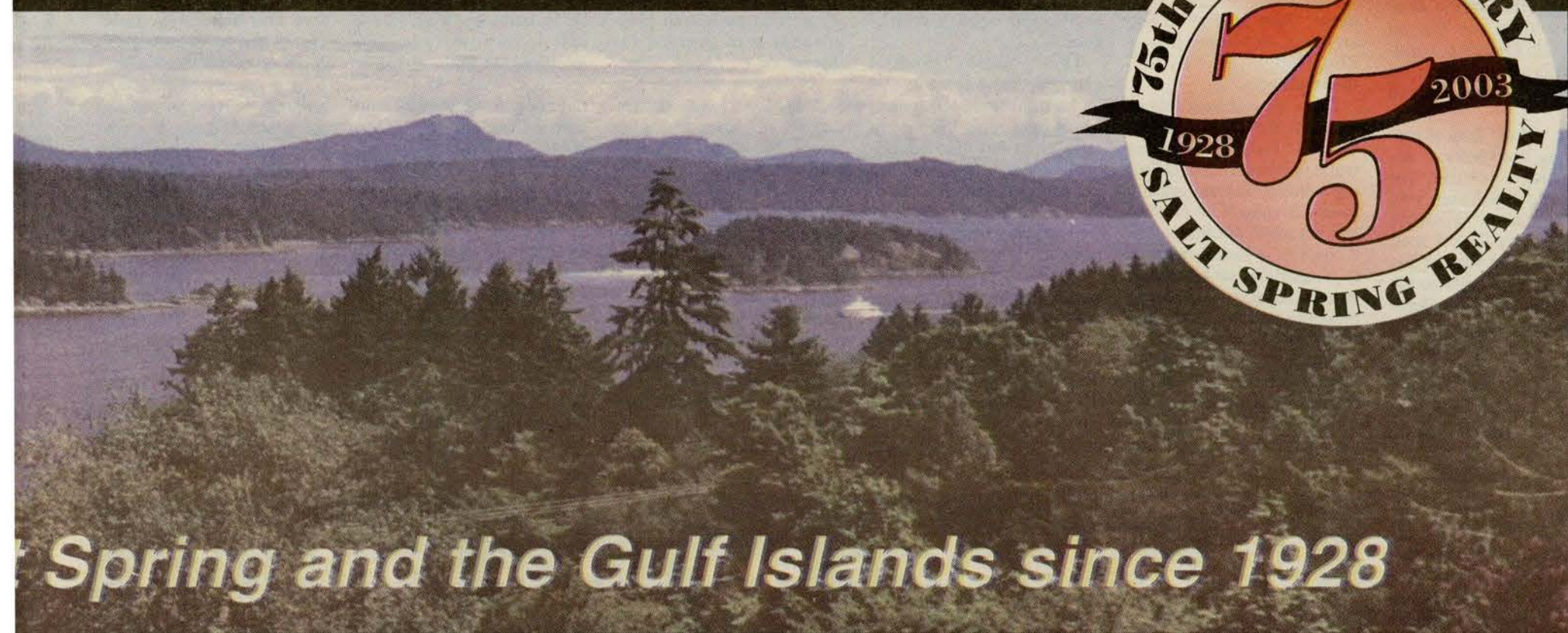
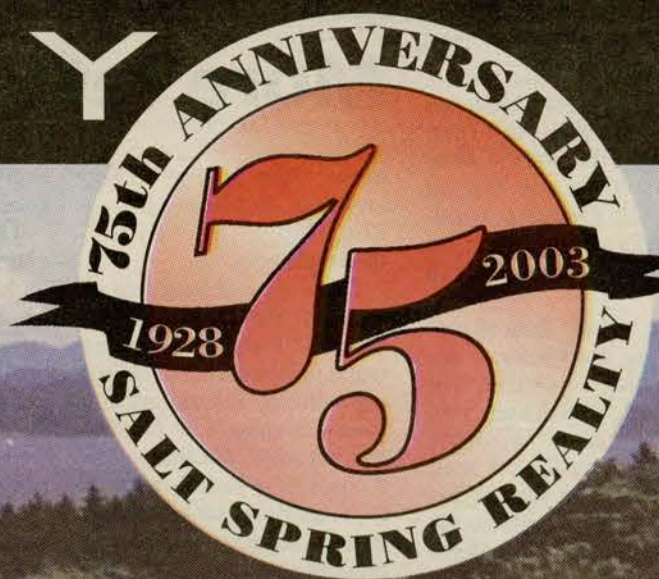
**Arlene Modderman  
537-4090**



Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary, and your excellent service to the Salt Spring community.



# NG REALTY



## Spring and the Gulf Islands since 1928



<b>Tom Navratil</b> 537-5515	<b>Henri Procter</b> 537-5515	<b>Felicity Robinson</b> 537-2374	<b>Patti Speed</b> 537-5515	<b>Norman Rothwell</b> 537-5166	<b>John Steele</b> 537-4606	<b>Anne Watson</b> 537-5515	<b>Myles Wilson</b> 537-7200	<b>Gord Ellis</b> 537-5515	<b>Darlene O'Donnell</b> 653-4386
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------

### Congratulations!

on your **FIRST 75 years**  
on Salt Spring Island

**CRAIG J. CHISHOLM**  
AACI, R.I.(B.C.)  
Real Estate Appraiser



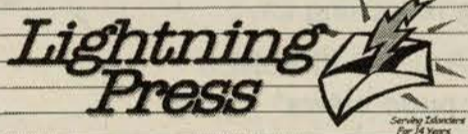
**C.J. CHISHOLM & ASSOCIATES**  
336 Sky Valley Road  
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2C3

Tel / Fax: (250) 537-1274 Cel: (250) 537-7026

### Happy Anniversary

## SALT SPRING REALTY

from your friends at



Fast, Efficient and Accurate Printing for ALL your needs

phone/fax: 537-4422

email: lightning@saltspring.com

320A UPPER GANGES ROAD



CAROL SIMPSON

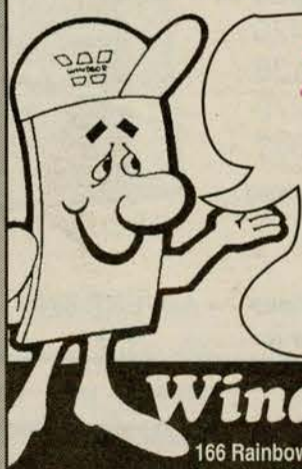
GAIL BEATTIE

SANDY McHARDY

### Happy Anniversary!



From your many friends  
at  
Grace Point Square.



### Happy 75th Birthday!

(we're only 27!)

FROM THE  
MANAGEMENT  
AND STAFF OF

## Windsor Plywood

166 Rainbow Rd., 537-5564 Fax: 537-1207

Open Mon.-Fri. 7am - 5:30pm / Sat. 7am - 5:30pm / Closed Sundays

Uncommon, Unheard of,  
Unbelievable...

### Happy 75th!

Uncommon Toys!

## West of the Moon

105 Purvis Lane 537-1966 / www.westmoonkids.com



# WORK FOR YOU!

**Excellent**

John Pottinger points out the hypocrisy of Jean Chrétien's decision to keep Canada out of the War on Iraq, while Canadian manufacturers are selling weapons to the United States.

Well, at least Jean is representing the views of his constituents, unlike our local MP Gary Lunn, who supports our favourite superpower's latest war, despite the fact that 81 per cent of respondents to his own survey do not endorse Canada's participation without the backing of the UN.

But maybe John is also suggesting that Jean should ban the manufacture and export of arms; what an excellent idea!

**BRIAN SMALLSHAW,**  
Salt Spring

**Light work**

Someone told me not that long ago that information is light. I think it is wrong to let the ringleader of the G-8 gang of thugs off as lightly as Mr. Pottinger has in his April 2 column, but that is forgiven.

I have a question: "Where did you find that 1000-watt bulb, Mr. Pottinger?"

Democracy is supposed to be based on "informed" debate and to my mind, the Driftwood is becoming very relevant to that debate in this area, when one considers the positioning of the mainstream media these days.

I'm thinking perhaps Mr. Pottinger isn't merely a columnist, maybe he is a "lightworker," like William Thomas. Congratulations, very well done.

**ROD MCGUCKIN,**  
Salt Spring

**Cynicism**

I'm quite sure that Jean Chrétien is as venal and corrupt as Mr. Pottinger suggests he is — anybody who goes into politics needs a strongly developed inner scoundrel, and there's no reason to suppose the prime minister is an exception.

But Chrétien's character and motives have nothing whatsoever to do with the rectitude of the Canadian government's refusal to support American adventures in the Middle East. This refusal, however it was determined, and whoever determined it, seems to me morally right.

Similarly, I can't see that the unsavoury role Canada has played in "making the world a bloodier place" disqualifies us from condemning the U.S. power elite's private war for oil. Mr. Pottinger seems to want to demonstrate that he is holier than those of us who support Chrétien's position — and perhaps, generally speaking, he is. But in a democracy, surely, we should affirm politicians when they do the right thing, and denounce them when they don't. The alternative is to fall back into the kind of adolescent cynicism Mr. Pottinger demonstrates in his article.

**JOHN MILLS,**  
Vesuvius Bay Road

**No chemicals**

It's that time of year again. The home improvement flyers come out, challenging us to have perfect

**More letters**

lawns. They urge us to buy an array of chemicals — Roundup, Killex, Weed&Feed.

These were at least four of these in the flyers in last week's Driftwood. The worst is Weed&Feed, claiming it has a "natural organic base." It sounds so healthy and innocent, but the poison it contains is just as lethal as ever, not just to broadleaf weeds, but to songbirds presently building nests, and others migrating through.

The soft milky unripe seeds of dandelion, chickweed, wild cress, etc. are the food for new babies in the nest. One beakful of con-

taminated seed can kill them.

This same product claimed "slow release," so its harmful toxic effects can last a long time, killing not only birds but also beneficial insects, the bees we need to pollinate our crops, ladybugs, butterflies, etc., as well as important soil organisms.

With our spring rains some of these toxins can get into the groundwater, ditches, streams, lakes and even the ocean. It is well known that they can also have harmful effects on pets and children playing on treated grass. The routine spraying

of grass in parks and playgrounds was stopped for that reason.

My lawn is far from perfect. It blooms with daisies, dandelion, clover and other weeds, but when my grandchildren play on it I know it's healthy for them. My chickens enjoy the weeds and grass clippings. My garden and trees are full of birds and I enjoy hearing the frogs singing love songs in the night. And when my dog happily rolls in the grass I know he's not filling his fur with poison. He's still healthy at age 15 and long may he live.

We owe it to the world to

be in harmony with nature and do our own weeding. Besides, the lawn fertilizer without weed killers is cheaper. Save money and save the world.

**NANCY WIGEN,**  
Fernwood

**Awesome**

The support and encouragement I have been the recipient of has been nothing short of awesome.

I owe a big thank you to all the people who have given me words of encouragement and praise for what I'm trying to do with The Ganges Faerie Mini-Shuttle.

I had heard about, and

read about in this paper, of other people who had been fortunate enough to experience this community's positive and helpful attitude. Now I am lucky enough to have received the same. I have so many people now stopping to talk to me and ask how I'm doing. It seems to genuinely matter to them.

I can't begin to tell all of you how much this has helped in making me feel I am doing something important and necessary.

Never have I felt more a part of this wonderful island than I do now. Thanks to everyone for really caring.

**INEKE de JONG,**  
Ganges Faerie  
Mini-Shuttle

**MORE LETTERS 15**

**More traffic for your website**

**More than 20,000 visits per month — and climbing**

Hundreds of people turn to Gulf Islands Online every day for information about Salt Spring and the other islands. And the number is growing. Traffic in March was up 18% over the same month last year. Our website marketing program ensures high placement on search engines, bringing large numbers of visitors. And the depth of content at Gulf Islands Online gives visitors the information they're looking for.

**SOME RECENT TRAFFIC FIGURES**  
Measured in page views\*

Page	Av. # of page views per month
Gulf Islands Real Estate	3,291
Visitor Info about Salt Spring	2,264
Salt Spring Accommodation Search	1,884
Local News	1,425
Events Calendar	1,136
Wedding Planner	270
Health & Wellness	349

\*Page views measure the number of times a page is viewed

*We have been actively marketing Gulf Islands Online since 1997 to ensure its place as the islands' premiere website for local news and information. Here's how we do it:*

**• SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION**

We employ a state-of-the-art software program called Web Position Gold to continually maintain high placement on the major search engines. Pages are optimized for the search engines for the keywords that people are using to find Gulf Islands information on the Internet.

**• PAY PER CLICK**

We complement our Search Engine Optimization program by utilizing the paid placement services offered by Google, Inktomi, Sprinks, Overture and Lycos. This adds even more highly qualified traffic - visitors we can redirect to your website.

**• ADVERTISING**

We reach potential visitors to the Gulf Islands with carefully targeted print advertising in publications such as Islands Magazine, published annually by Tourism Vancouver Island. These ads direct more visitors to our website for tourist information.

**• CROSS-PROMOTION**

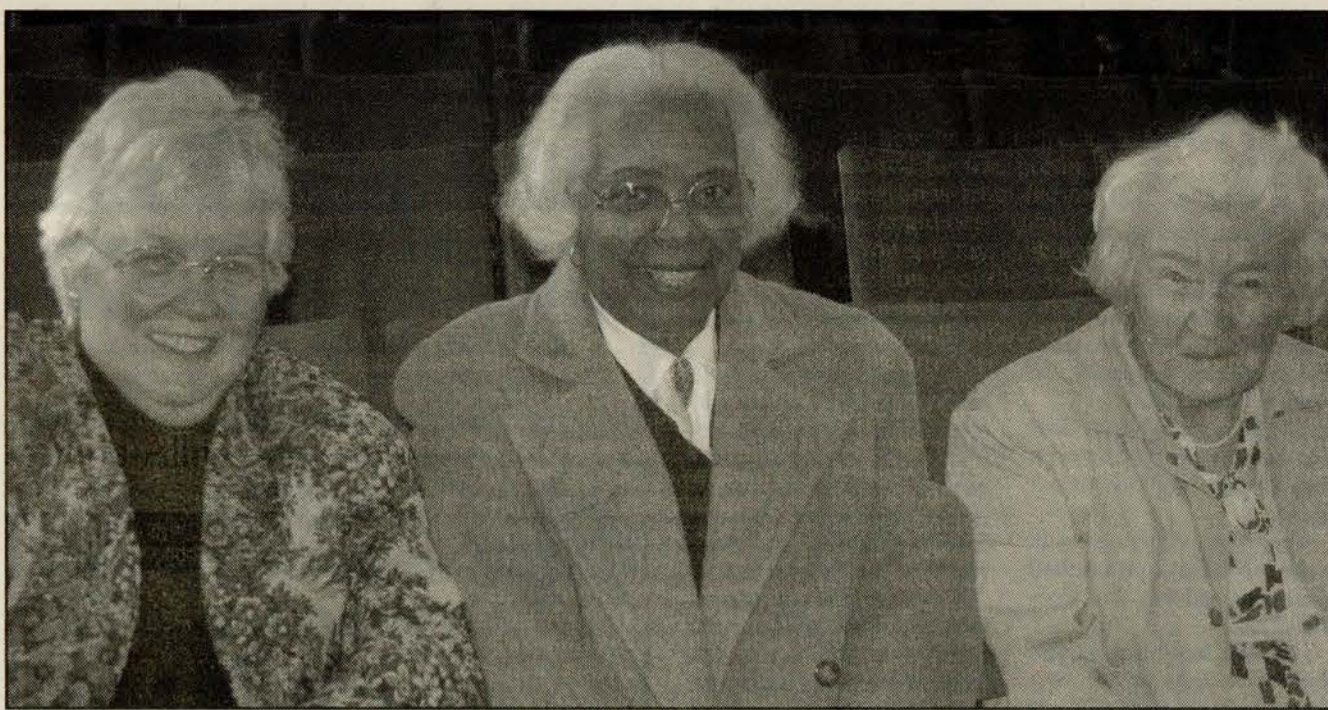
As a division of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., Gulf Islands Online takes full advantage of cross-promotion opportunities in several print publications, including the weekly Gulf Islands Driftwood, the monthly Gulf Islands Real Estate magazine and the annual tourist.



**Gulf Islands Online**

[www.gulfislands.net](http://www.gulfislands.net)

Email: [sales@gulfislands.net](mailto:sales@gulfislands.net)  
Telephone: 250-537-9933  
Toll-free: 1-877-537-9934  
Fax: 250-537-2613  
Office/Courier:  
328 Lower Ganges Rd.,  
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3



**BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE:** From left, Aldyth Levy, Naidine Sims and Evelyn Lee arrive early to Sunday's Central Hall annual general meeting. See related story and photo, Page A21. Photo by Derrick Lundy

## More letters

### Great group

I am a recent graduate of the Salt Spring Island Grief Recovery Program, and feel the need to spread the word.

We have a gem in our midst!

Everyone who is grieving the death of a loved one is welcome.

I am not sure if there is a "right" time to attend, but for me it was six months after the death of my husband.

About now I can imagine that the reader has conjured up an image of a group of widows weeping, wailing and wringing their hands in despair.

Yes, there were tears, but also equal periods of laughter, caring and sharing. There were lots of "aha" moments, as one connected with another person's experience.

I feel it is important to say that the focus of the group is recovery from loss.

One doesn't forget, but finds new ways to re-create life and to make life meaningful again.

There is hope! The group facilitators strive to encourage each participant to share their experiences.

The atmosphere within the group was one of confidentiality and safety. None of us wanted our stories spilled elsewhere, and they were not.

The content of the Grief Recovery Group is based on the work of Dr. Nancy Reeves, an internationally recognized grief counsellor and author who practises in Victoria.

I found the program helped me to focus on the myriad thoughts and feelings I was experiencing. Writing, as a response to the optional assignments we were given, was one of the keys to my recovery.

Do you know someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one and who is uncomfortable with joining a group of strangers to share very personal experiences?

Please encourage them to take the first step and sign up.

A Tuesday night group meeting at Croftonbrook lounge at 7 p.m. welcomes participants.

Please contact Yvonne Johns at 537-2339 for more information.  
**SYLVIA OMMANNEY,**  
Wildwood Drive

### Scam

All B.C. Hydro residen-

tial and small business customers have been told repeatedly by our B.C. Hydro that they do not have any excess electricity in British Columbia after the year 2010.

Our B.C. Hydro was forced to make this statement repeatedly, due to the B.C. Liberal energy policy.

However, the province of B.C. has 1000 megawatts, in excess, available right now from the Columbia River Downstream Benefits, that has been paid for by all B.C. Hydro customers for the last 30 years.

Based on 30,000 new B.C. Hydro customers per year, there are over 30 years of free, renewable, very green electricity available to British Columbia.

It could serve an estimated 1,000,000 new homes.

The natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island endorsed by the B.C. Liberals and their generating electricity policy would have cost us B.C. Hydro customers several hundred million dollars, and will still cost us, if it is not stopped right now.

Who will stop it?  
Scam = trick or swindle, a fraud.

Scammed = obtain in a

manner not considered ethical. (Sidney Library, special dictionary).

What are you going to do, knowing you've been scammed?  
**JAMES (JIM) CAMPBELL**  
Sidney, B.C.

### Derrick's ISLAND PICS



Page 11,  
DRIFTWOOD

## Any week now... "THE LOCAL" in Gasoline Alley

• travel bags • yoga supplies • fashions • gifts • fabrics • bedding •



**blue dragon naturals**

3104-115 Fulford Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2T9  
250-537-5510

## We're trying to Retire

# SALE

We started the sale early, before the tourist season began to give residents who have supported us over the past 9 years the first opportunity to buy merchandise at our below wholesale prices. We have been overwhelmed by the response and will continue to offer these sale prices until everything is sold...then we will retire!!

# 50% off

Everything in the store!



**STONE WALRUS GALLERY**

136 LOWER GANGES RD  
Tel: (250) 537-9896 • Fax: (250) 537-9861

## Light Filled, Luxurious View Home



- Breathtaking ocean/island views
- 2800 sq. ft. custom designed home
- Private, peaceful oasis
- Minutes to Ganges
- A gourmet kitchen is one of many luxurious features!

"Surprise Home" of the 2001 ArtSpring Home Tour

**\$599,000** MLS



**KERRY CHALMERS**  
RE/MAX Realty of Salt Spring  
131 Lower Ganges Rd.  
**(250) 537-9977**  
kerrychalmers@saltspring.com



**FIONA WALLS**  
Creekhouse Realty Ltd.  
164 Fulford Ganges Rd.  
**(250) 537-5553**  
fionawalls@saltspring.com

Salt Spring library

# Captains must sail with the times

By TOBY FOUKS

I was a raw newcomer to the island when I first became a library volunteer, teaching people to use the Internet.

Later I agreed to take charge of the cassette tape collection for a trial period, and still later (until my vision would not cooperate), I worked in the Interlibrary Loan Department.

So, as someone who has been associated with the library in a variety of ways, and feels it to be a vitally important part of our community, I read with great interest Gail Sjuberg's report on the Salt Spring library meeting in the March 26 edition of the Driftwood.

The article mentions that someone "recently arrived on the island" raised the question of a paid professional head librarian, and later the article provided the information that in the audience there were many professional librarians.

I am not sure of the point that was being made, but it has been my experience that in general, and Salt Spring Island is no exception, those who have been part of a situation for a long time tend to support the status quo, and being used to its deficiencies, typically are very comfortable with them. In fact, often they don't even notice them.

It is frequently the outsider, the innocent, who notices that the king is not wearing any clothes.

As the person newly in charge of the cassette tape collection, I was eager to help



build a collection of tapes that would provide a balance, so that those of us who would like to listen to the full piece, the unabridged version, would also be served.

It was a selfish choice: I loved books on tape, having been quite spoiled by the Mississauga Library System, and a look at our shelves indicated to me that this was an area in need of development.

I had been assured I would have carte blanche, and as a former assistant head of English in a large Ontario school, I was more than qualified to make choices.

Everyone was pleased with all the tapes I was able to get very inexpensively through CBC.

However, the first time I ordered an unabridged full-length tape (a mystery, sure to have wide appeal), I was criticized roundly, and told that in future I would require an assistant to help me make ordering decisions. I resigned the position.

I found the attitude to building a collection of full-length readings to be distinctly unprofessional, and despite a clear and detailed e-mail sent to all the board members deploring this unwillingness to serve readers who wanted unabridged tapes, I did not receive a single response.

I do not consider books on

tape to be frivolous: for people who are visually impaired, ailing, perhaps involved in tasks which will permit listening but not reading, or for those who find the writing comes to life when read well, books on tape are wonderful.

The library exists as it does because of the volunteers: they are the lifeblood of our library.

They give of themselves in ways probably unmatched elsewhere, and they do a wonderful job.

But, the fact remains that the person steering the ship should have not only captain's papers, but evidence that he or she is sailing with the times.

There have been so many changes in the last 10 years or fewer because technology has transformed the ways in which we can access knowledge and information. The possibilities for libraries are far more than they were not long ago.

We need at the helm a person who is knowledgeable about public libraries in 2003 — someone well-educated, literate and fully aware of what is going on in today's world of information.

It's wonderful that so many of our volunteers have worked in libraries, and possibly even have degrees in Library Science, but the head librarian must be more than that.

The head must be a professional librarian able to provide the leadership required.

The headship is a time-consuming job fraught with all manner of difficulties and doubtless a host of annoy-

ances, to put it mildly. I'm amazed that we have a person willing to give so much time and energy to the job on a voluntary basis. It's a full-time job.

The person who should have this position, to my way of thinking, would be a professionally trained librarian with a masters degree in library science, who has up-to-date training, and who would be paid accordingly.

If we had that one person, then we could still have our battalion of volunteers. Yes, there would be a change, but with the right person in charge, that change would be for the better.

We have come quite a ways.

We now have a great website, we have computers, and more and more people know how to use them.

We have heart and we have energy and we have commitment. What I think we could use a little more of is a truly contemporary professional awareness and attitude of the role of the library, how the collection should be overseen, and what the library should offer to the community.

I believe that that is even more important than where the facility is located.

When I am able, I hope to return to working in the inter-library loan department. Until then, I will continue to use its facility, and watch for further news in the Driftwood.

The writer is a retired high school English teacher who now enjoys selling her dog treats on Salt Spring.

Opening soon...  
"THE LOCAL" in Gasoline Alley

**LANCER MEDICAL BUILDING**  
OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE  
Call 653-9330 or 1-250-716-8850

**Breakfast!!!**  
Scrambled eggs, bacon, hashbrowns & toast  
This Saturday 9am - 2pm  
*The Vesuvius Pub* "There's ALWAYS Something Cookin'!"

**Specialty Game Meats & Exotic Birds**  
FREE-RANGE BIRDS  
NON-MEDICATED, ORGANIC  
Turkey and other poultry for all your holiday needs.  
**ADMIRAL'S SPECIALTY FOODS & SUSHI BAR**  
537-5088 • 146 Fulford Ganges Road

**Dr. Teresa Strukoff, B.Sc., N.D.**  
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN  
PRESENTS A FREE LECTURE:  
"Naturopathic Approaches to Hay Fever & Airborn Allergies"  
Learn about naturopathic therapies to help alleviate hay fever & airborn allergy symptoms & improve your overall health.  
Monday, April 14th / 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
298 Blackburn Road  
Limited seating, please call to reserve a spot  
Ph: 537-3220  
tstrukoff@hotmail.com

## More letters

### More on salmon

I feel it is important to write in at this time because the misinformation about fish farming is getting thick.

Farm salmon is a high quality, healthy source of protein, containing at least as much omega 3 fatty acids as wild salmon.

It is also tested regularly to insure that antibiotic residue levels are within the safe limits set by the food inspection agencies. Antibiotics are used only with a prescription from a qualified veterinarian and medicated feed accounts for less than three per cent of the feed needed to produce a crop.

The aquaculture industry uses less than half of the

global fish meal supply, most of the global fish meal supply actually goes into pork and poultry feed.

As for the environmental impact, fish feces building up under the farms is limited to a small footprint under the farm. This build-up is then assimilated by the organisms in the environment during a fallow period between crops, which allows the benthic environment to return to its original state.

Many of our wild salmon runs are making a comeback, including areas that have had salmon farms operating for decades.

The pink salmon run in the Broughton Archipelago rose to beyond record returns in 2000. Anyone who understands normal population dynamics of wild

pink salmon would expect a dramatic decrease in population as a result.

The decrease in numbers of the 2002 return were not the lowest ever, in fact they have been lower on five previous occasions, although that was before salmon farms were in the area.

Finally, I understand that salmon is a very emotional issue and therefore a major cash cow for the multinational environmentalist foundations.

It is very disheartening to find that rather than working to protect our environment using science and facts, instead it is all about the money and that smear campaigns are how they generate and spend their millions.

**CRAIG SHERMAN**  
Stewart Road

Salt Spring Island, B.C.

Last of the large acreages for sale. 50 parcels sold, only 6 parcels remaining. Privacy, tranquility and excellent long term investments on B.C.'s largest Gulf Island.

Lot #	Acres	Price	Lot #	Acres	Price
19 & 20	100	\$985,000	48	SOLD	\$499,000
21 & 22	100	\$970,000	52	100	\$309,000
26	40	\$449,000	53	160	\$429,000
27	10	\$225,000	55	SOLD	\$779,000
42	SOLD	\$339,000	56	SOLD	\$249,000
49	SOLD	\$999,000			

RE/MAX Realty of Salt Spring  
Li Read/Pat Akerman  
1-800-731-7131

Ideal properties for hobby farms, vineyards, tree farms, biking, hiking, thinking. Easy access via B.C. Ferries.

50 LOTS SOLD!

For information visit: [www.saltspringislandacreage.com](http://www.saltspringislandacreage.com)

**VANCOUVER ISLAND CANOE + KAYAK CENTRE**  
1-877-921-9365 575 Pembroke St. Victoria BC  
Selection as limitless as the sea

Sales Rentals Lessons Tours Repairs

We have the largest variety of canoes and kayaks on Vancouver Island, friendly staff and free test drives.

[www.canoeandkayakcentre.com](http://www.canoeandkayakcentre.com)

**Dreams Come True**

20 HOUR RELAY FOR THE 21ST

FIRST PRIZE \$10,000  
SECOND PRIZE \$5,000  
THIRD PRIZE \$3,000

Win CASH to make your DREAMS come true!

Tickets available at all Thrifty Foods stores!

TICKETS \$2 each

Please support the Lions Society of BC 24 Hr Relay so that children with disabilities from BC are able to attend Easter Seal Camps.

Raffle proceeds support the Lions Society of BC, #230 - 174 Wilson Street, Victoria, BC V9A 7N6  
1-888-868-2822

Draw date: June 13/03 10:00am  
Thrifty Foods Hillside  
45,000 tickets to be printed.  
Total value of prizes \$18,000  
Open to all residents of BC, 19 years or older. Lic.# 850029

# Salt Spring ripe for permaculture

By **MICHAEL NICKELS**  
Special to the Driftwood

It was 15 years ago that I put in the first garden on my newly acquired farm Seven Ravens. Our first project at the time was to re-establish an old garden site. Full of enthusiasm we decided to take on the "triple digging" raised-bed system, designed to either make or break a novice gardener.



Nickels

After a couple of hours we had dug two long beds three feet deep and were ready to return all the soil. The original soil was then layered with compost. At the end of that day we were so completely exhausted that we all fell asleep at the dinner table.

With equal drive toward a puritan approach to being a "back to the lander," we would scythe the acres of grassland in the orchard and the large back fields and hand-cut cords of firewood with a bowsaw, all in light of being cash-strapped and determined to find some kind of Thoreauian appreciation of simplicity. What we found for sure was that we were simply exhausted, had large calluses which followed many painful blisters, had too little firewood and far too little food.

Since then the gardens improved slightly each year and triple digging fell aside to double digging and has now been replaced to using a backhoe to create large gardens in a matter of hours. It is true that one gets wiser with age, especially when it comes to being gentler on the body.

In the second year of being here I established a single bed tree nursery for a few seeds that I had collected in Ontario. Each year the nursery size increased and by now we have many long beds where more than 100 different types of trees are grown.

Initially the focus was on growing as many types of valuable eastern hardwood species, partly as my own form of RRSP as well as trying to encourage other islanders who had extra land to grow these highly diverse forests as potential future income-generating investments. Some of these forests have really taken off and now offer an incredible display of fall colour and texture to the landscape.

About seven years ago I became increasingly more interested in permaculture. The word was first coined by Bill Mollison from Australia as he tried to define a system of agriculture that had some longer-term permanence to it. I was intrigued when I read that a more complex permacultural approach to farming was more fun, less exhausting, would be able to provide a much larger array of nutritious edibles throughout the year and was all achievable by organic methods of farming. As I am

committed to growing food organically, all this just sounded like it was what I had been looking for.

I subscribed to various magazines, read several books and also decided to head down to Australia and New Zealand where I spent several months for a number of winters "wwoofing" (working as a volunteer helping farmers with whatever was needed in exchange for being on an organic farm and learning a hands-on approach to running an organic farm). Having since had many wwoofers help me out on my land, I was now able to see what fun it is to be the one learning and helping, compared to having to organize everything.

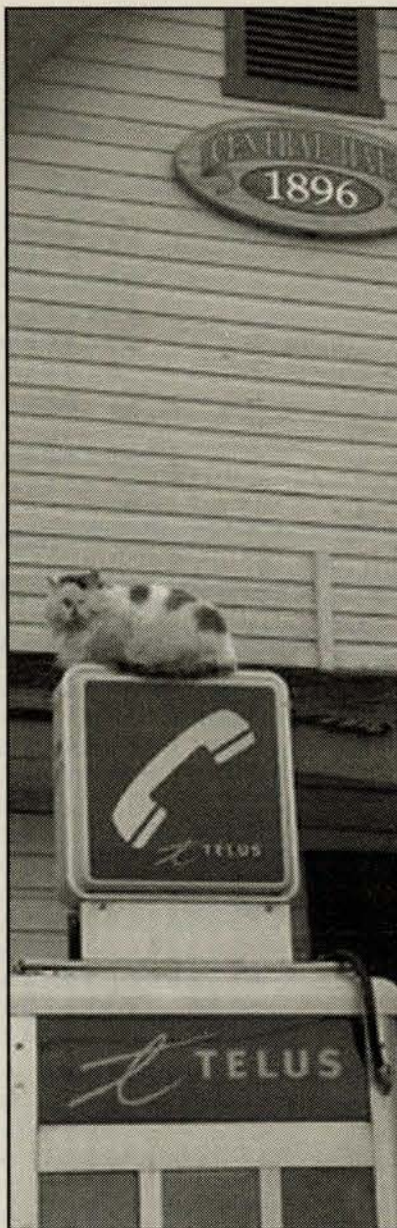
It was during these visits "down under" that I visited many awe-inspiring farms that made me realize the phenomenal potential that exists right here on our own island. We are blessed with the mildest climate in Canada where we are actually able to eat right out of the garden year round. We are also able to grow a huge selection of plants from many different parts of the world, including citrus, olives, edible bamboos, carobs, kiwis, edible water plants, goumis, guavas, almonds, pine nuts, edible oaks, pecans, (amongst at least a dozen other nut trees), Japanese raisin trees, persimmons, high bush cranberries, to name just a few of the more obscure perennials.

We are also lucky enough to have amazing resource people among us. Those include Dan Jason of Salt Spring Seeds with his enormous collection of organically grown, locally acclimatized seeds, Charlie Eagle and his collection of heritage fruit trees, and dedicated botanist Harry Burton, who gives workshops on grafting hundreds of varieties of apples, plums, pears, etc. Needless to say we also have a huge selection of wild edibles straight out of the forest.

In town, several of the retail stores now carry locally grown organic food, which in turn really helps local farmers. The Growing Circle has played a key role in linking farmers with the shopper over the last three years and always has an incredible selection of locally grown organic products. I have travelled extensively overseas, but not yet found another community that has such an enthusiastic community of organic growers and interested gardeners always on the look-out for more interesting trees, shrubs and plants to embellish their gardens with and to provide culinary delights for the kitchen.

I hope this summer to write a selection of articles on permaculture so that other people on Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands can find out some of the methods of simpler farming that I have discovered for myself through years of trials and errors, where the mistakes have become my best teacher of what things do and don't work in our climate.

**FEE-LINE:** Islander Linda Reynolds was heading off to the Vesuvius ferry one recent morning when she spotted the famous Central Hall cat perched on this Telus phone box. "You've heard of EZ-line?" Reynolds writes, "TELUS presents, FEE-line!" The cat, a well-known resident of Central Hall, has its own live-in box and a multitude of care-givers.



It will soon be time @...  
**"THE LOCAL"** in Gasoline Alley

**west coast design**  
INSPIRED LIVING

**Interior Design**

Comfort, style & well being • Floor, wall & window treatments, lighting • Colour, textiles, Detailing, Accents	Planning & concept Floorplans, layout • Global & local experience & resources • Custom finishings, millwork & furniture	
Also outdoor living spaces • Patio & garden		
Salt Spring Island ph/fax: (250) 653-2006	<b>SARA HUMPHRIES</b>	Vancouver ph: (604) 922-7940

## Jean Elwell

---

### Chartered Accountant

---

Taxes - Personal & Corporate  
 Accounting & Auditing  
 Bookkeeping & Payroll  
 Small Business Startup  
 Accounting Software Setup & Support

324 Lower Ganges Road  
 Office: 538-0371

Discovering what works. Creating what matters!

**Personal & Professional Coaching**

- ◆ Overcome stress & depression
- ◆ Increase optimism & resilience
- ◆ Start thriving new businesses
- ◆ Make life/work transitions with ease
- ◆ Create what matters most in life or work!

**FREE CONSULTATION    FREE NEWSLETTER**  
 CALL 537-1177    [www.BruceElkin.com](http://www.BruceElkin.com)

Helping You Realize Your Wildest Dreams

## Spring Specials

**\$2.00 off**  
 ALL 1 GALLON PERENNIALS  
 BARE ROOT FRUIT TREE CLEARANCE  
**\$16.99 ea.**

**Meadow Oak Nursery**  
 1070 Wain Road, Sidney, B.C. V8L 5V1  
 ph: (250) 655-1756 / fax: (250) 655-1786

## Deck Woman

PROFESSIONAL DECK CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- ⚡ Cleaning, Scrubbing, Mildew Removal
- ⚡ Sanding and Staining
- ⚡ Power Washing

**Call Deb : 538-1713**

# #1

**BUILDING SUPPLY ON SALTSRING...**

## Windsor Plywood

**PH: 537-5564**  
**FAX: 537-1207**

**EXPERT ADVICE & TOP QUALITY SERVICE!**

- Doors and Windows • Mouldings • Paints & Stains • Power Tools
- Dock Floats • Hardwood & Laminate Flooring • Lumber
- Roof Trusses • Plywood • Insulation • Door shop on-site
- Engineered Wood Products • And much more!

**"Always a pleasure to service our community!"**

**STORE HOURS: Monday-Friday: 7:00am - 5:30pm**  
**Saturday: 7:00am - 5:30pm • Closed Sunday**

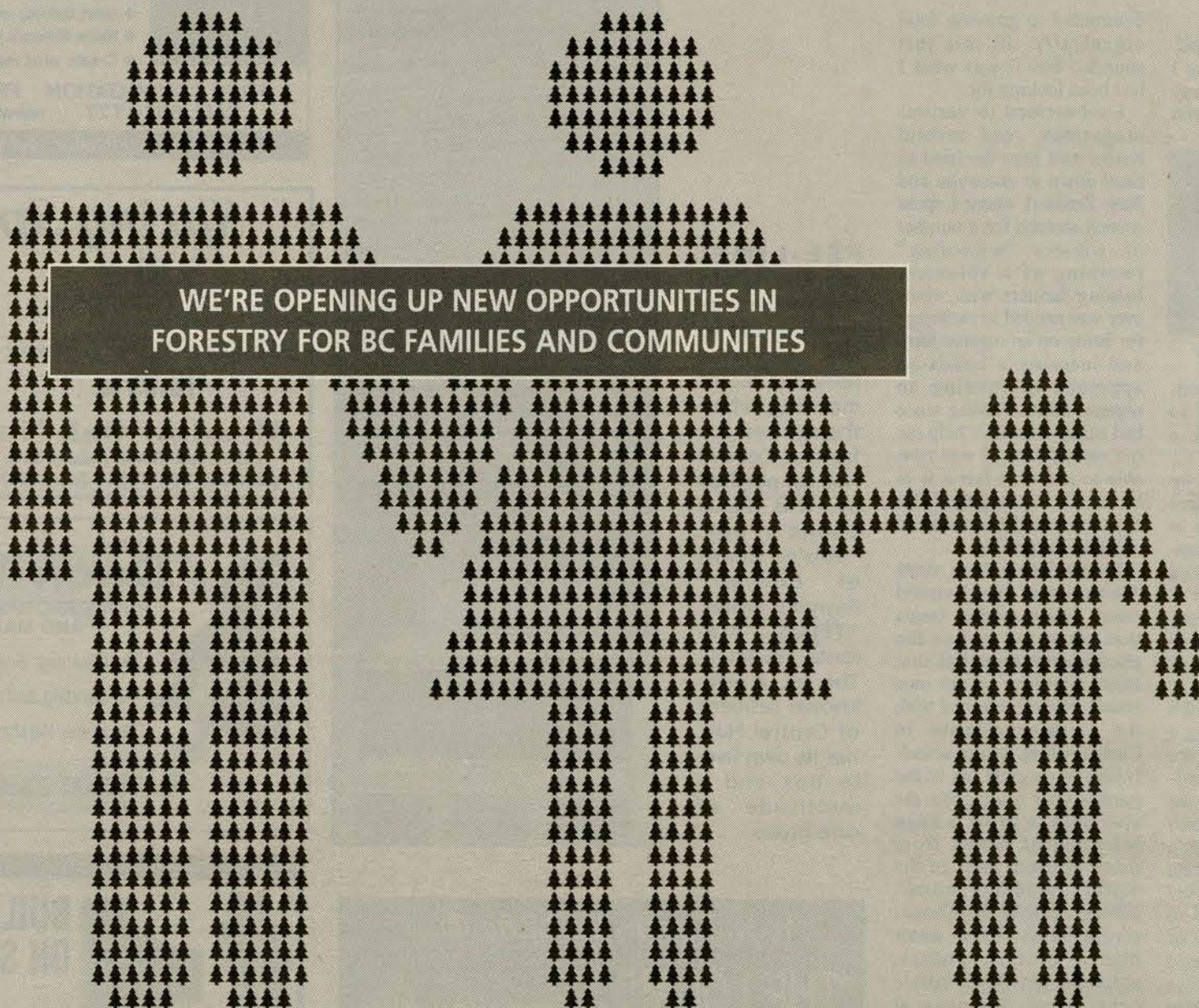
[www.windsorplywood.com](http://www.windsorplywood.com)

Personalized  
 Innovative  
 Bouquets

**"Flowers by Arrangement"**

Beth Cherneff 537-9252

520 LONG HARBOUR RD.  
 Open 10am - 5pm daily



 **BC Heartlands Economic Strategy: Forests**

**CREATING NEW FOREST SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES**

Forestry provides more opportunities for BC families than any other industry. It accounts for half of all our exports, and provides 260,000 direct and indirect jobs. But outdated, restrictive policies are hurting the workers and families that depend on our forest resources, by preventing BC mills from making the best use of available timber. The province's Forestry Revitalization Plan will open up new opportunities for workers, and enhance job creation, economic growth and community stability.

**CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND VALUE ADDED**

Today, the vast majority of BC's timber harvesting rights are held by major forest companies, which restricts opportunities for others to enter the industry or expand operations. We're opening up the forest sector to new participants, so that eventually up to 45 per cent of the province's total harvest will be available through the open market. Twenty per cent of timber now held by major forest companies will be reallocated making more timber available to new entrepreneurs, smaller operators, First Nations, and value-added manufacturers. We're also doubling the amount of wood available for woodlot and community forest licensees, while opening up new opportunities for partnerships with First Nations. The result will be a more vibrant, diversified industry for workers and communities.

**ENHANCING JOB CREATION AND COMMUNITY STABILITY**

Right now, rigid regulations dictate exactly where, when and how timber is processed. Rules require that timber be processed in a particular mill, even if other mills in the same region can create more jobs or generate more value with it. We're removing those restrictions. Timber will now be allowed to flow to where it can produce the most value within regions and within the province – subject to fair competition, and with no change to current restrictions on the export of logs from Crown lands. The long-term result will be more job opportunities and community stability.

**PROTECTING FOREST WORKERS AND FAMILIES**

As we make these important changes, we're also protecting those workers and communities who may be impacted. We're creating a \$75 million trust fund to provide support for forest workers and contractors in adjusting to the forest reforms. For example, pension bridging may be part of this support. And we're providing \$200 million to ensure fair compensation for the 20 per cent of harvesting rights being taken back from large companies. The result of these changes will be a strong, globally competitive forest industry, and a brighter, more prosperous future for BC's forest-dependent workers and families.

**BC FOREST FACTS:**

- ♣ There are over 600 mills of all sizes in BC that support jobs in over 150 communities
- ♣ The forest sector generates more than a quarter of a million direct and indirect jobs
- ♣ The forest sector generated \$14.2 billion in exports in 2001, or \$450 every second
- ♣ BC value-added manufacturers produce specialty furniture, windows, door frames and even musical instruments
- ♣ We plant 200 million trees each year in BC, or six trees every second
- ♣ There are 800 woodlot licensees and community forests in BC, representing two per cent of the provincial allowable annual cut – we are doubling that volume
- ♣ First Nations are currently allocated about three per cent of the provincial allowable annual cut, yet make up eight per cent of BC's rural population – it's time they shared in new opportunities



TO GET A COPY OF BC'S *FORESTRY REVITALIZATION PLAN*, VISIT [WWW.FOR.GOV.BC.CA/MOF/PLAN/](http://WWW.FOR.GOV.BC.CA/MOF/PLAN/) OR CALL 1-888-316-8811.



# Caldicott speaks at Salt Spring event on April 26

The rumours are true. Ground-breaking peace activist Dr. Helen Caldicott is speaking on Salt Spring on Saturday, April 26.



**Helen Caldicott**

Described as "a legend in our own time," she will be at the Gulf Islands Secondary School gymnasium at 8 p.m. The award-winning film called *If You Love This Planet* was constructed around Caldicott's insights into world tensions in the 1970s.

She founded Physicians for Social Responsibility, which was co-winner of the 1985 Peace Prize. Dr. Linus Pauling, himself a multi-laurate, individually nominated Caldicott for the prize.

Caldicott is the author of several books. The latest one, published just last year, is called *The New Nuclear Danger: George W. Bush's Military-Industrial Complex*. Copies of the book will be available for autographing at the April 26 event.

Another recent Caldicott project is the Nuclear Policy Research Institute (NPRI). Headquartered in San Francisco, the organization will soon open an office in Washington, D.C. (It has a website at [www.nuclearpolicy.org](http://www.nuclearpolicy.org)).

Music appropriate to the

## Hay fever help at lecture

Sufferers of hay fever and other allergies might want to take in a free lecture set for Monday night.

Naturopathic physician Dr. Teresa Strukoff presents *Naturopathic Approaches to Hay Fever and Airborne Allergies* at 298 Blackburn Road from 7-8:30 p.m.

Strukoff will discuss available naturopathic therapies that can help alleviate hay fever and other airborne allergy symptoms, while also improving overall health.

Seating is limited, so people should call 537-3220 to reserve a seat or to acquire more information.

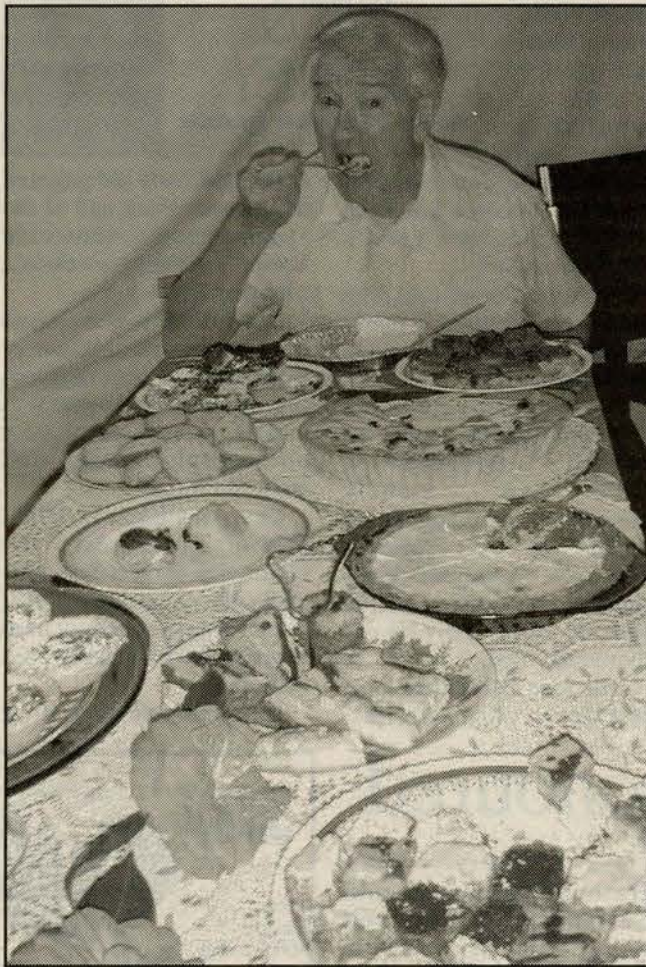
occasion will be provided by Tuned Air and Valdy.

Admission for the event is by donation, but to assure that each attendee will have a seat, tickets will be distributed in advance through et cetera books, *Stuff & Nonsense* and Volume II. Ticket holders will be asked to make a donation when acquiring the ticket.

Sponsoring organizations are Concerned Citizens of Salt Spring Island, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, and Voice of Women.

Inquiries may be directed to Marion Pape, 537-4567; Maggie Schubart, 537-9804; or Irene Wright, 537-5347.

The website to explore is [www.cccsi.ca](http://www.cccsi.ca).



**DESSERT FAN:** Alan Dennis digs into a lemon meringue pie as an appetizer before polishing off a heap of other goodies during the Springtime Dessert Social at Salt Spring United Church last Thursday.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

**30+ Years Combined Real Estate Excellence**  
Buyers and Sellers Agents

*Best price possible!*

*Best service imaginable!*

*We promise...*



**DONNA REGEN** cga  
expectexcellence@saltspring.com



**KERRY CHALMERS**  
kerrychalmers@saltspring.com

Pager 1-800-731-7131  
[www.gulfislandsrealestate.com](http://www.gulfislandsrealestate.com)  
the most up to date real estate website for SSI

**RE/MAX Realty of Salt Spring Island**



**Real People.**

**Deb Toole • Voice Coach  
Member Since February 1**

**537-5217**

**north end fitness**

**NOW**

**Save BIG on a Suzuki!**

**It's True**



**2003 SUZUKI AERIO FASTBACK**  
145 HP, AM/FM/CD PLAYER WITH 4 SPEAKERS,  
DUAL AIR BAGS, POWER WINDOWS  
**\$14,990<sup>†</sup>**  
cash purchase price

**BEST PICK**  
INSURANCE INSTITUTE  
FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY



**2003 SUZUKI AERIO FASTBACK AWD**

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, 145 HP,  
AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION,  
AM/FM/CD PLAYER WITH 4 SPEAKERS,  
AIR CONDITIONING, DUAL AIR BAGS

**\$18,990<sup>†</sup>** or **\$0**  
cash purchase price

**PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS\*** and **0% PURCHASE FINANCING<sup>††</sup> UP TO 60 MONTHS**  
(PURCHASE OR LEASE)



**SAUNDERS SUZUKI** **474-2211**  
[www.saunders.subarudealer.ca](http://www.saunders.subarudealer.ca)  
**1-888-898-9911 1784 Island Hwy., Victoria DL#5032**

<sup>†</sup>Suzuki "50 payment for 90 days" purchase plan means that principal payments are deferred for the first 90 days on a new Suzuki Aerio AWD. Suzuki "50 payment for 90 days" leasing plan means that first month's payment paid by the Suzuki dealer, not by lessee. 2nd and 3rd month's lease payments are postponed. Lessee pays 2nd month's payment at beginning of 49th month and 3rd month's payment at beginning of 50th month. <sup>††</sup>50 security deposit applicable to any new 2003 Suzuki vehicle lease. Participating dealers have additional conditions, details and end of lease purchase options. (Cash purchase price is applicable to cash purchases only of the 2003 Suzuki Aerio Sedan GL MT, 2003 Suzuki Aerio Fastback S MT, 2003 Suzuki Aerio Fastback S AWD AT, 2003 Suzuki Vitara JK MT, 2003 Suzuki Grand Vitara JK MT, 2003 Suzuki XL-7 JK MT ("the featured models") and includes factory to retailer incentives. Freight and P.D.E. included. Taxes, license and insurance are extra. Participating dealer may sell for less. <sup>†††</sup>Suzuki purchase financing is available through Bank of Nova Scotia or Suzuki Canada Credit and applies on up-to full purchase price of any available new 2003 Suzuki Aerio Sedan, Aerio Fastback, Aerio Fastback AWD, Vitara, Grand Vitara, or XL-7. Monthly payment will vary depending on the amount borrowed. Purchase financing at 0% APR is offered for up to 60 months on any 2003 Suzuki Aerio Fastback AWD. Purchase financing at 0.9% APR is offered for 48 months on all 2003 Suzuki vehicles. Example of financing \$10,000 at 0%/0.9% APR, the monthly payment is \$167/\$212 for 60/48 months. The cost of borrowing at 0.9% is \$176 and total obligation is \$10,000. See dealer for details. Freight and P.D.E. included. Taxes, license and insurance are extra. \*Purchase and lease offers are for a limited time only to credit approved customers (D.A.C.) and cannot be combined with any other purchase or lease offer. See participating dealers for details. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown.

# Scrolled any good paperbacks lately?

If you've had the dubious pleasure of fighting your way through any of Canada's larger airports lately, you may have noticed a brand new booth tucked in amongst the sunglasses, ball caps and T shirt boutiques.

It's a service called "Teleporter."

For 20 bucks or so they'll let you rent a DVD player along with a copy of the movie of your choice. You take them on board, watch the movie during the flight, then turn the player and the movie back in at your destination airport.

There's an even cheaper piece of entertainment hardware that's been available at airports for years.

They don't need batteries, cables, modems or discs. What's more you can jam them in your hip pocket, drop them, kick them, even

spill coffee all over them and they still work like a charm.

They call them paperbacks.

Remember how a few years ago some cybertech gurus were proclaiming the death of books?

They assured us that it was only a matter of time before the only paperbacks or hardcovers around would be in museums and we'd all be reading — make that "scrolling" — the latest best-sellers on our laptops.

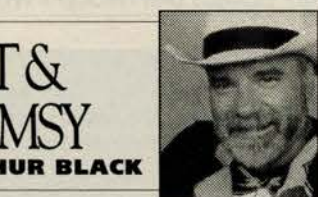
Well, sure. Who wants something cheap and portable like a pocketbook when you can give yourself carpal tunnel damage and a five-alarm migraine staring at the phosphorescent screen of a \$2,000 temperamental piece of gadgetry that's fragile, needs a power source and is prone to crashing unexpectedly?

The success of electronic books has been highly underwhelming while the death of the conventional book has, to cop a line from Mark Twain, been greatly exaggerated.

As a matter of fact, the simple book is turning out to be more durable than anyone ever suspected.

Sixteen years ago, in the first flush of cyberphoria, the British Broadcasting Corporation grandly announced the inauguration of The Domesday Project. It was to be a computer-driven multimedia version of the famous, thousand-year-old Domesday Book.

The idea behind the project was to bring some pizzazz to the dusty old pages of the famous book and at the same time showcase Britain's growing electronic sophistication.



WIT & WHIMSY WITH ARTHUR BLACK

Big thinkers were hired and computational brainiacs were charged with developing special computers to handle videodiscs of text, photographs, maps and archival footage.

That was back in 1986. Earlier this year, the Domesday Project was officially declared dead. Why? Because the technology used to create the project has been eclipsed.

Everything developed for the project is already obsolete. Unreadable. As opposed to the real, 11th-century Domesday Book, which is in near-perfect condition and available to the reading public in The Public Record Office in London.

That's one thing the Webheads didn't count on: incompatibility.

As Katy Hafner wrote recently in the New York Times, "In an ideal world, all the information from an old machine would float effortlessly, invisibly, over to the new one with the click of a mouse."

"But the real world has other plans. New software is incompatible with the old. Ancient cables won't fit the latest machines."

Tell me about it, Katie. I've got a Commodore 64 in the closet that I plan to use

very soon — just as soon as I can figure out how to weld it to an anchor chain.

As for books, I don't think they'll ever die.

Mind you there's a good chance they'll be forgotten by a large chunk of the Internet-infatuated public.

I am reminded of the story told by an instructor for an adult-education program at a community college not far from here.

One day a young student walked into the library area of the school and did a double-take when he saw a wall of Encyclopedia Britannica volumes in front of him.

"Whoa! What are all these books?" he asked incredulously.

Encyclopedias, he was told.

"Awesome" he replied. "You mean somebody printed out the whole thing?"

## Salt Spring writers honoured

Salt Spring outdoors writer Roger Brunt has picked up another award.

### SALT SPRING SNIPPETS



Brunt

The Outdoor Writers of Canada has selected Brunt as the winner of OWC's Jack Davis Mentor Award.

The honour is bestowed annually to an OWC member who has made a "significant contribution to the mentoring of new outdoor communicators."

Brunt runs the North American School of Outdoor Writing.

A new book by Salt Spring author Derek Lundy has been shortlisted for a B.C. Book Prize.

The Way of A Ship: A Square-Rigger Voyage in the Last Days of Sail is one of five nominees for the Hubert Evans Award for best literary non-fiction.

The winner will be announced at a dinner in Vancouver on April 26.

Nine-year-old Anthony Duffy showed he has real taste with one of his contributions to a Fernwood School cookbook created by Wendy Vine's grades 4-5 class. The recipe needed a bagel, but not just any bagel — "a good bagel like one from the bagel shop." He meant, of course, the fabulous bagels made and sold by George and Helena at

Oaks Winery, Long Harbour Vineyards and Saltspring Island Vineyards as well as Saturna Island Vineyards and Winery.

Also mentioned are Glen Echo Farm on Mayne Island, Pender's Morning Bay Farm, and Thetis Island Vineyards.

An entire chapter of the 192-page book is dedicated to Gulf Islands Vineyards and includes several glossy photographs of operations on Saturna Island.

Non-profit arts organizations on Salt Spring could benefit from a Capital Regional District (CRD) grants program.

Deadline to apply for a Special Projects Grant is May 3, at 4:30 p.m.

The CRD offers the grants to organizations to help with arts projects or activities that are unique or primarily developmental in nature.

Guidelines and eligibility criteria are available at [www.crd.bc.ca/arts](http://www.crd.bc.ca/arts).

Cold Beer, Wine and Spirits... "THE LOCAL" in Gasoline Alley

Home Theatre & Audio SALES & INSTALLATION. COMPETITIVE PRICING - custom design new & existing construction - 10 years experience. RUNCO LEXICON LINN • DENON JM LABS HITACHI TOSHIBA SONANCE VANTAGE • NILES. Quantum Audio & Video Systems Kevin Kopetzki 537-9844

Quality Doesn't Cost... it pays! Fine cookware & accessories. Available at Love My Kitchen SHOP 140 Fulford Ganges 537-5882

Sidney SUPER FOODS SINCE 1964. 2531 BEACON AVE. "Sidney By The Sea". WE OFFER YOU QUALITY BEEF, QUALITY MEAT PRODUCTS AND FRESH PRODUCE AT PRICES YOU CAN AFFORD. Includes items like Sirloin Tip, Strip Loin, Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast, and various produce.

# Plaque marks hall's historic roots

A historical plaque presentation and a controversial directors' election added a little spice to an otherwise routine Central Hall Society (CHS) annual general meeting Sunday.

"I'd like to have exciting news," laughed CHS president David Holt.

"Our biggest problem is that we're so boring, it's hard to find directors."

But Holt expects meetings to be more lively now that Ron Milton joined the board through acclamation.

Over the past several years, Milton has publicly condemned the CHS related to use of the hall by the Ganges chapter of the Old Age Pensioners' Organization, a group Milton has tried to keep running despite declining participation.

"It adds a bit of excitement for us . . . He's just the man to do it," said Holt.

Milton will join president Holt, vice-president Tom Navratil, treasurer Paul Konig, secretary Marilyn Cunningham and directors at large Marion Markus, Alan



Cunningham, Irene Atkins and Hilary Clemente.

Meetings about Central Hall have been relatively quiet since a previous board tried to evict Salt Spring Cinema as a tenant five years ago, Holt noted.

"A lot of people believe that the cinema owns the hall. But it's always been a public building."

The basic function of the CHS is to collect rent and maintain the oldest public hall on the island. It was constructed in 1896.

Originally built for agricultural exhibitions and meetings, Central was the scene of the island's first fall fair.

A historic plaque presented to the CHS by Salt Spring Historical Society vice-president Bob McWhirter recognizes the origins of Central Hall, which used materials salvaged from another historical local building.

"The floor and other structural components came from the jail and courthouse that previously existed on the same site," Holt said.

McWhirter researched the history of the British Columbia Provincial Police (BCPP), which was formed during the Gold Rush days in 1858 and later absorbed by the

RCMP in 1950.

A BCPP jail existed at the corner of Upper Ganges and North End roads when Central was the hub of the island community back in the 1870s, Holt said.

Along with a brief presentation about the BCPP, McWhirter gave the hall society a commemorative brass plaque honouring the police force's work on the island.

"We're hoping the historical society might have more items that we can put on display."

The plaque was previously mounted at Mouat's Trading Company.

**HALL HONOURS:** Bob McWhirter, second from left, presents historic plaque to Central Hall just before Sunday's annual general meeting. On hand to accept the plaque were, from left, David Holt, Tom Navratil and Julia Saul.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

**FURNITURE WAREHOUSE**

Visit our website:  
www.meritfurnitureduncan.com

**FURNITURE APPLIANCES MATTRESSES**

Over 20,000 sq. ft. of inventory

**MERIT FURNITURE**  
1-250-746-5527

Located in the old Country Grocer Building  
2956 BOYS ROAD, DUNCAN / Locally owned  
Open Mon.-Sat. 9:30 - 6., Sun. 12 - 5

**richard j. wey & associates**  
land surveying inc.

Richard J. Wey BCLS

Legal, Engineering and Topographical Surveys  
Subdivision Planning

The Oakville-Suite 106-9717 Third St., Sidney, BC V8L 3A3  
Telephone (250) 656-5155 • Fax: (250) 656-5175

We dispense more than drugs.

Need information about your prescription? Get it right here.

**PHARM ASSIST**

**SIDNEY PHARMACY LTD.**  
656-1168  
2416 Beacon

656-0744  
2425B Bevan

## Housing for young adults being undertaken by new youth council

By RACHEL COPPING  
Driftwood Contributor

One of the major issues we are hoping to address as the Salt Spring Youth Council is how to keep young adults on the island.

We want to create an atmosphere that is stimulating and interesting for youth here on Salt Spring. While working on ways to include youth more in the community, we realized there are other reasons young adults leave. A most prominent problem is the issue of housing — inexpensive, conveniently located, youth-friendly housing, to be exact.

The problem can be compared to trying to find employment, as in "no one will hire you without experience, but how do you get experience if no one will hire you" — and on and on.

Now perhaps I write this from a slanted point of view because I feel discriminated against as a teen, but I do feel that we don't get an equal opportunity as renters.

The Youth Council wants to address this matter, and hopefully help make it better. Our idea is to create a database of young renters with personal and professional references and match them up with willing landlords. If there is already a group of homeowners out there who are willing, or

### YOUTH COLUMN

prefer, to rent to responsible and trustworthy youth, I just haven't met you yet! Please make yourself known.

If you would like to help out with this project, have a comment or a question, or a place to rent, please call or drop by the Core Inn and leave your name, information and requirements. We are also hoping to address other problems that have been identified, such as the lack of post-secondary options and finding a career on Salt Spring.

In other Youth Council news, more fun events have been planned. On April 12, there will be a fabulous scavenger hunt. Teams, of no more than five people, should meet at the Core Inn, at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Everyone will be given the same list and set loose to "scavenge" for items. The first team to find all of the items will win an excellent prize!

There is also going to be a "party" at the Core Inn featuring a live band, hip hop dance demonstrations, food, open mike and a DJ.

Watch for the time and date to be announced.

The Hip Hop dance class is still being offered every Sunday at the Core Inn from 7-9 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

As well, the Youth Recreation Night is still going strong every Saturday from 7:30-10 p.m. at the Salt Spring Elementary School Activity Centre.

We're looking for a logo design. Our official name is Youth.comUnity, and we need a brand-new, flashy, eye-catching logo. The contest is open to anyone, so drop submissions off at the Core Inn.

We also need your input for this column and our upcoming television program. Poems, songs, letters, opinions, stories, ideas, resources, "anything!" Send it in!

Youth.comUnity is a partnership between three local community organizations: SVOVA, the Core Inn and the Salt Spring Community Services Society; and the office of Learning Technologies of the federal government's Human Resources Development Canada Department.

## THANK YOU



The Gulf Islands International Program would like to thank the staff, students and host parents who made the recent Korean Friendship Visit 2003 such a wonderful and memorable experience. Thank you for opening up your hearts, homes and classrooms to our young guests from Korea.

#### HOST PARENTS

Sarah Stoffelsma  
Donna May Scott  
Shirley McIntyre  
Gail and Frank Neumann  
Ellie Topaz  
Margitta and Gunther Sandl

Shirley Calvert  
Cathy Buttery  
Mark and Barb Robinson  
Leslie Jackson and Derrick Duffy  
Sharon and Fitz Lee

#### PROGRAM SUPPORT

Mitch Howard - Program Coordinator  
Melanie Thompson - ESL Support Teacher

**FULFORD ELEMENTARY:** Robin Huntley Smith, Linda Quinn, Jim Lightfoot, Stella Weinert, Judy Raddysh

**GALIANO SCHOOL:** Cathy Buttery, Glenn Goring

**SSE:** Tom McKeachie, Rineke Jonker

**SIMS:** Deb Miller, Monika Mayr, Robin Rudolph, John Cameron, Kevin Vine

May our collective efforts at promoting cultural understanding in some small way contribute to a lasting peace for all the children of the world.

Sheri Wakefield, Student Services Coordinator and Dr. Scott Bergstrom, Program Director

The Countdown begins...

"THE LOCAL" in Gasoline Alley



**TEMPTING TEAPOT:** Nita Brown is pleased with the appraisal given to her Japanese teapot as she attends an annual event hosted by the Canadian Federation of University Women. The event took place last Saturday at the Community Gospel Chapel with antique appraisals undertaken by Al Bowen.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

**Salt Spring Transition House:**

Provides temporary shelter, food, practical support, counselling, information and referrals, and advocacy to women and their children seeking safety from violence and abuse. *This 24-hour service is safe, free and confidential.*

For information or support call the Crisis Line at 537-0735 or TOLL FREE at 1-877-435-7544.

**Nature Tech Tree Specialists**

- Dangerous Tree Removal
- Aesthetically Correct View Establishment & Clearing
- Spurless Pruning, Wind Firming Topping
- All aspects of Tree Health Care
- Cabling and Bracing

**Nathen Battaglio Horticulture Tech.**

ISA Member

Salt Spring Island, BC 538-0386

**New books, videos on tap at library**

The library is constantly acquiring new books, videos, and audio cassettes, many of which are found on the shelves just to the left of the library entrance. Here are a few of the new fiction and video titles. The book reviews have been provided by Jill Wheaton, the paperback reviews by Pat Byrne, and the video reviews by Sheryl Taylor-Munro.

**New in fiction**

- Man and Wife by Tony Parsons is a sequel to Man and Boy.
- The Times Literary Supplement review describes The Pleasure of Eliza Lynch by Anne Enright as a sensual feast, a novel that does with superior, discreet art what novels are uniquely fitted to do.
- The Voyage of the Destiny by Robert Nye brilliantly captures the restless nature of Sir Walter Raleigh; a combination of love story, adventure story, ghost story, and historical novel.
- Wonder When You'll Miss Me, a first novel by Amanda Davis, is full of extraordinary events told with extraordinary skill.
- Daniel Wallace's big, wild imagination and his ability to tell a good story makes The Watermelon King very hard to put down.
- In Lucrezia Borgia, John Faunce has Lucrezia tell her own story.
- In A Memory of War, Frederick Busch moves past the smoke and mirrors of wartime memory and troubled peacetime to reveal a spiral of love and betrayal in two generations, one European and the other American.
- Getting It Right by William Buckley Jr. has all the Buckley trademarks — wit, passion, and a heady view of political life. It is a riveting story and an original contribution to the history of postwar America.
- On This Day is a bold and intelligent first novel by Nathaniel Bellows.
- The Lightning Cage by Alan Wall is the rarest of pleasures — a wonderful literary work that is also a gripping read.

Mystery buffs will enjoy the following mysteries:

**LIBRARY SHELF**

Emerson provides a riveting and scary insight into the lives of firefighters.

- Tropic of Night by Michael Gruber draws you down into its dark spell of murder and magic.
- In The Nightspinners, Lucretia Grindle captures the complex bonds and dark secrets between sisters to make this a memorable psychological thriller.
- Martin Stephen's The Desperate Remedy: Henry Gresham and the Gunpowder Plot moves along at high speed, providing very convincing details of Jacobean England.
- Robert Wilson's Blind Man of Seville will no doubt prove as popular as his earlier book, A Small Death in Lisbon.
- One reviewer said that once you've wandered the back alleys of 17th-century Amsterdam with David Liss in The Coffee Trader, you'll never look at your morning cup of coffee the same way again!
- In The Jester, James Patterson has given us another classic tale of good against evil.
- Death of a Village is another Hamish McBeth mystery for all M.C. Beaton fans, while in Beaton's Agatha Raisin and the Curious Curate, middle-aged Agatha is sleuthing again and as difficult and irascible as always.

**New Paperbacks**

- Paper Mage by Leah R. Cutter is a fanciful tale about a young woman who creates magic through the art of paper folding back in the time of the Tang dynasty in China.

- Dhampir by J. C. and Barb Hendee is a fantasy book about vampires and vampire slayers.
- The Best Man contains four novellas dealing with love and passion in a variety of settings. The title novella is by Brenda Jackson.
- Sleeper by Steven Harriman is an adventure tale about a dangerous beast awakened from a cryogenic freeze and looking for human flesh to devour.
- The Fortune Teller's Daughter, a love story by Susan Wilson, explores human relationships and the influence of past events.
- Flashover by Susan Chazin is a story about an apparent arson that may have been committed by a New York firefighter.
- Mrs. Malory and Death by Water by Hazel Holt is a classic whodunit set in a British village.
- The Mummy's Ransom by Fred Hunter is a story about murder that seems to have been done by one of the mummies in a recently acquired collection.

**New in Video**

- Note that the library has not yet received the Film Festival videos except for three — How Can I Keep on Singing, A Score for Women's Voices, and Bacon: The Film.
- The Film Festival organizers have ordered the remaining videos for the library and once they have been received, they will be catalogued and placed on the shelves available for borrowing.

- Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner. Winner of the Caméra d'Or at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival, this film was filmed in Inuktitut with English subtitles. Based on an ancient Inuit legend, this is a powerful drama, not a documentary.
- Bacon: The Film. When Quebec decided to take its hog farming industry to international markets, the result was a huge growth in hog farms, but success had its price in an era of globalization.
- Clone, Inc. This film takes a critical look at the advocates of human cloning and questions whether we are letting eugenics in by the back door.
- How the Fiddle Flows. Following Canada's great rivers west along the fur-trading route of the early Europeans, this film explores the distinctive identity and culture of the Métis, including the fiddle music they played, which blended European folk tunes with First Nations rhythms.
- McLuhan's Wake. This film explores the enduring hold of McLuhan's message 20 years after his death, in the midst of an era of the Internet and virtual and wired technologies.
- Picturing a People: George Johnson, Tlingit Photographer. As a keeper of his culture, George Johnson recorded a critical period of the Tlingit nation north of the Arctic Circle when he took his camera everywhere with him in search of the history of his people.

**MARKETING/WEB MARKETING FREE BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

POWERFUL, CORE IDEAS TO HELP YOU MARKET MORE EFFECTIVELY  
CONNECT WITH YOUR CLIENTS  
DEVELOP A POWERFUL WEB PRESENCE  
INCREASE YOUR BOTTOM LINE

mail to [subscribe@marketing-alchemy.com](mailto:subscribe@marketing-alchemy.com) or phone 537-2228

**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: PARENT CHILD DROP IN - Monday & Tuesday 9:30-1:30, Walk in Mouats Park 10am following by Family Place Drop In 11:00-1pm, counselling by appointment 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

**SALT SPRING**  
Sheet Metal Ltd.

**HOW TO COPE WITH RISING ENERGY COSTS. INSTALL GEOTHERMAL**

Stop paying more for fuel oil, LP or natural gas. A energy efficient ECONAR GeoSource Heat Pump can save you money on your heating and cooling bills. An ECONAR GeoSource Heat Pump uses a small amount of electricity to extract the earth's stored energy. Never again worry about the rising costs of LP or natural gas.

Start saving money on your heating and cooling bills today.

**ECONAR**  
The Leader in ColdClimate™ Geothermal Technology

**Henry Van Unen • 538-0100**

HEATING • VENTILATION • H.R.V.'S • FLASHINGS •

165 Eagle Ridge Drive, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K9

Wait for it...  
**"THE LOCAL"** in Gasoline Alley

**GANGES VILLAGE MARKET**  
"100% Island Owned and Operated"

**TUESDAYS ARE 10% OFF DAYS**  
(some restrictions apply)

**MONDAYS ARE DOUBLE COUPON VALUE DAYS**

**CRD - TRUST - PARC**  
Town Hall Meeting  
Beaver Point Hall

**SATURDAY APRIL 12 - 1PM**

## Auction set to raise spinning money

The Farmers Institute will be rocking with the sounds of an old-fashioned auction on Saturday night as the Spinning Mill Co-operative raises money for equipment upgrades.

Recently accepted as a candidate for an upgrade grant, the mill must put up at least 25 per cent of necessary funds. The auction will help raise that money.

Spinning mill spokesman John Fulker said the public will be able to bid on items ranging from works of art to hand-made clothing, to free accommodations.

The April 12 auction starts at 7 p.m. at the Farmers Institute main building on Rainbow Road.

Auction items can be previewed between 3-4 p.m.

In addition to its prime purpose of raising money for milling equipment, the auction is bound to raise a few laughs too as Mr. "Stir Things Up" John Pottinger acts as auctioneer.

Anyone with an item or a service to donate should call Fulker at 537-4895.

The co-operative was formed four years ago to act as the centre point for a local animal fibre industry.

Originators felt that if processing could be carried out locally it would encourage small lot farmers to pay more attention to the advantages of adding value to their wool and actively market it, rather than treating it as a nuisance product to be disposed of in any way possible.

According to press material, the mill has been a "resounding success, providing regular employment for islanders . . . and having difficulty keeping up with demand."

Machinery purchased by the mill did not meet the manufacturer's production claims, notes the press release, and "as a result, mill operators have been struggling to increase productivity with the existing machines."

Mill organizers hope that between the auction and grant, enough money will be raised to upgrade this equipment.



**WATERPLANTS** are now available

**PARKSIDE GARDENS**  
653-4917

# Test Drive a New Subaru

**Come meet Bob Saunders of Saunders Subaru at Ganges Village Market**



**Thursday April 10th**  
10am - 6pm

**Friday April 11th**  
10am - 4pm

**TEST DRIVE A FORESTER OR IMPREZA**

**MR. JELLYROLL MAGIC TIME**  
Thursday & Friday



### **PURCHASE A NEW SUBARU AND RECEIVE:**

- ✓ One year **FREE** service (no labour charge on regular maintenance checks).
- ✓ Free courtesy cars
- ✓ Free wash and vacuum anytime
- ✓ 5 year 100,000 kilometre warranty
- ✓ 3 year roadside assistance (i.e.: battery boosts, lock outs, out of gas, towing)
- ✓ Parts & service open 6 days a week.
- ✓ Pro-wax once per year at no charge

## **SAUNDERS SUBARU**

**250-474-2211 1-888-898-9911**

DL5932

**1784 Island Hwy**



*The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive.™*

**Proudly providing vehicles to the Gulf Islands for over 25 years!**

#### **GOOD NEWS WANTED**

The Driftwood is always glad to receive your good news tips. Please call 537-9933 and ask for someone in Editorial. Or e-mail us at: news@gulfislands.net

# Foxglove's 14th ANNUAL LAWN & GARDEN SHOW



4" Tropicals  
in bloom  
REG. 2.99  
NOW **\$1.99**

Gigantic Clay Pot Sale all Outdoor Pots  
**20% off**  
ONE DAY ONLY

Rakes  
REG. 9.99  
NOW **\$6.99**  
Shovels  
REG. 9.99  
NOW **\$6.99**

Safers Rose Care Kit  
REG. 14.99  
NOW **\$11.99**  
2kg Bonemeal  
REG. 5.50  
NOW **\$3.99**  
2kg Water-soluble  
Plant Food 15-30-15  
or 20-20-20  
REG. 16.99  
NOW **\$12.99**

4H CLUB  
ANIMAL DISPLAY  
10am - 2pm

**MANY MORE  
IN-STORE  
SPECIALS**

**Join us this Saturday, April 12th  
to Welcome Spring!**

- ☘ Free Coffee & Donuts ☘ Gardening Demos
- ☘ Watergardens with **Tim Cribdon** 11:00am and 1:30pm
- ☘ Feeding your Plants with **Chris Schmah** 12:00 and 2:30pm

**Foxglove Farm & Garden Supply**  
CORNER OF ATKINS AND LOWER GANGES RD. • 537-5531

**NOW OPEN SUNDAYS**