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THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Fields
- Ganges
- Pharmasave
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- Village
- Market
- Gulf Islands Carpet Care
- Pinnacle Pizza
- Thrifty Foods
- Sears

SECTION

B

- People
- Arts
- T.V. listings
- Classifieds
- What's On
- Visitor

From the sea

Salt Spring body workers are excited about seaweed. Page A19



Index

- Arts B5
- Classifieds B14
- Crosswords B18
- Editorials A6
- Letters A7
- Salt Spring Visitor .B9
- Sports A20
- TV Listings B7
- What's On B11

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Weather

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AND THEY'RE OFF: Participants in Sunday's SSPLASH half-marathon head out at a brisk pace just after 11 a.m. See race story below, plus results from the half-marathon and 10-K races on Page A 22.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



Aquaculture views clash at fish meeting

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Opinions flowed both ways when government employees who deal with aquaculture operations met Salt Spring residents at an Islands Trust-organized meeting Friday.

Most people's questions centred on the environmental impacts of the Walker Hook Road hatchery, which the representatives felt were no cause for worry.

Several Ministry of

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) personnel and Lloyd Erickson from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP), said they believed Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd.'s proposal for dealing with effluent and the injection well system of pulling in marine water and sending it back into the ground was environmentally sound.

Erickson, and MAFF regional aquaculture coordinator Andrew Morgan, explained the effluent would be triple-

screened through a 37-micron screen to remove "very small particles" on its way into a drum, then into a settling pond and a septic system that will be pumped out.

As for the sea water being used, Erickson said, "Marine water is taken out of the ground, some very tiny fish swim through it and then the water is pumped back into what we'd call a marine aquifer . . . What is in the

AQUACULTURE A3

PARC takes aim at MOT over skatepark site

Salt Spring's Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) is picking up the gauntlet for the island's skatepark society, which has seen its plans scuttled by the Ministry of Transportation (MOT).

Salt Spring Skatepark Society representatives Bruce Ruddell and John Millerd attended the Monday night PARC meeting to ask if a skatepark could be considered for the Rainbow Road recreation site.

But when commissioners heard the full tale of how the MOT now wants \$27,000 from the Gulf Islands School District for the closed portion of Kanaka Road currently used by skaters and planned for a future skatepark, they opted to advocate for the society instead.

SKATEPARK A2

Taking the SSPLASH running plunge

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

SSPLASH added dash to the island's running calendar last Sunday when over 200 people put running shoe to pavement in the pool association's first major fundraiser.

Runners of all ages competed in either a half-marathon or 10-kilometre run. Another 40 children ran in a one-kilometre fun run.

Overall, the event collected somewhere between \$3,000 and \$4,000, said organizers

Ben Cooper and Rick Laing. But the greatest benefits probably came to a gaggle of island participants who were introduced to a new island event.

Even a local reporter with no previous running-event experience took the plunge to enter the 10-K run along with 88 other participants.

The inner voice called: "How bad can it be? If worse comes to worse, you can walk or even crawl."

Of course, there were some

immediate misgivings from the runner-writer. Having never actually run 10 kilometres prior to computer registration led to some doubts.

"If you do tank out, there will be an audience."

But friendly local faces amongst the crowd on race day helped assuage fears of failure.

"These people wouldn't jeer. They would probably stop to offer a helpful yoga incantation to any athlete writhing in cramped agony

by the roadside."

A friendly wager against a colleague's 11-year-old daughter bolstered that last bit of resolve. Though one could easily see that the bet struck abject terror into both hearts.

"Ha-ha, I am in the best physical shape I've ever been in. I will easily beat this child/old man . . . Oh please, make it be true."

Many inspirational groups were spotted around the start line: couples of all ages;

brothers and sisters; parents and children, soccer cohorts; even spandex-clad running teams.

"Besides, the jelly-leg feeling from that one practice session on Friday will likely shake off."

Butterflies thumped a flurry of intestinal distress-calls as 87 half-marathon runners gathered at the start line and launched themselves into an impossible void.

SSPLASH RUN A2

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SSPLASH RUN: *Thump, thump, wheeze*

From Page 1

One could imagine watching Columbus and his crew depart from Spain.

"Will they ever return?"
 Since many 10-K runners appeared to be stretching, efforts at appropriate postures were adopted. A few last "hi-byes" and "good lucks" were exchanged. And then the assembled crowd gathered to catch the express train down Fernwood hill.

"Where to start the race? At the front of the pack? At the back? Middle? Anyone who's seen enough TV movies knows that the winner starts discreetly from the middle of the pack."

Go! The runner-writer is loping down the hill, careful not to run too fast and injure something. Thump, thump, thump.

"This is it. We're actually running in a race together."

But it actually feels as if the mob is offloading from a ferry at high speed. The crowd thins after a few hundred metres. Long legs zoom ahead. The game of maintaining an even rhythm begins. Thump, thump, thump.

"Maybe hiking boots were a poor choice."

A discovery is made after a kilometre: passing other runners can be fun but dangerously addictive. Wheeze, thump, thump, wheeze.

"Where is Danica, my 11-year-old nemesis?"

Better judgment sets in at two K. It would be poor form to beat a child in a running-bet. It could destroy her self-confidence. Wheeze, thump, wheeze, thump.

"Besides, she is probably behind me anyway."

A young girl bobs about 100 metres ahead after three K.

"Good, I'll just hang back here and we can come in together. I'll speed up at the end, just to make it close. But I won't pass her."

After four K, a young woman grooving with a Walkman is passed, then an athletic woman with cycling glasses and a tall, older, off-island man, his suit and tie notably absent.

"A good position might still be attainable."

The half-way point looms ahead with cheering water-station volunteers. Runners begin streaming by in the opposite direction on speedy return legs. The man at the front of the pack is moving way too fast.

"He'll never make it at that speed. He must be showing off."

The young girl comes to a stop just past the water station. Patting her on the shoulder in passing, the runner realizes with some alarm it is not the girl from the wager. Wheeze-thump, wheeze-thump.

"She must have slipped behind at the water station."

The businessman and Ms. Cycling-Glasses lope by as the runner loses resolve. Then Walkman-Girl slips ahead, which for some unknown reason instills renewed vigour. Wheeze, wheeze, thump.

"No Walkman will pass."

Wheezing with the Walkman and slipping into a groove at seven K., suddenly the breathing gets easier. Thump, thump, thump.

"Wow, this feels great. I could run like this forever. I wonder what she's listening to?"

After nine kilometres, an endorphin-related hallucination suggests that the finish line might have been magically moved to the bottom of the hill. Thump, thump, thump.

"It would be insane to make us run uphill now."

And Walkman-Girl whispers, "Go for it," as a kind of incantation.

Suddenly the runner is sprinting toward the base of Fernwood hill. Thumpity, thumpity; the runner passes Cycling-Glasses before realizing there has been a horrible mistake.

Fernwood hill has never looked so mammoth in proportions.

Wheeze.

Cycling-Glasses slips by with little struggle. The runner throws everything at the hill. Wheezity, wheezity, wheezity.

"No need to save energy now."

Over the top of the ridge onto a gently-murderous incline, Cycling-Glasses is only two car-lengths ahead for the last few 100 metres.

The runner sprints toward the finish with abandon. Cycling-Glasses takes the challenge with a grin. It's an exciting photo finish.

"I can get new legs another day."

Lying on the grass staring at a sky that pulsates, the runner wonders what early signs of heart disease might feel like when a fresh happy face appears above.

"Hi."
 Danica Lundy beat the running-reporter by over a minute. She didn't even appear flustered.

The only consolation lies in the fact that the 11-year-old islander posted that fastest time (49:31) of all female competitors in the 10-K event.

Searching the crowd, the runner-writer finally finds Walkman-Girl to salvage a music-tip from the event as a last-ditch memento.

"Britney Spears," the university student smiles back cheerfully.

"It's the happiest music I know."



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SKATEPARK: *PARC on side*

From Page 1

Commissioners Bill Curtin and Wayne Fraser both recalled past stakeholders meetings where MOT personnel said the government did not want the liability that goes with owning the road and supported transfer of the land to the school board.

"There was never a mention of a penny changing hands," said Fraser. "For them to come and tell the community that one government agency is going to charge another government and put a fantastic project to a halt is untenable."

Curtin said he would call MLA Murray Coell's office about the issue, and suggested regional director Gary Holman approach the Capital Regional District

board to write a letter as well.

Kanaka Road skatepark development had been dovetailed with broader plans to improve the entire area between the middle school and Hydro field for recreation use.

As for fitting in with Rainbow Road plans, Curtin noted site planning there had already progressed quite far.

Various people commented on the ideal nature of the current Kanaka Road venue.

The skatepark society aims to build its facility in the summer of 2004.

"The main problem is that we can't fundraise a penny until we have land," said Ruddell, adding that neither the school district nor the skatepark society has money

to give to MOT.

Ironically, the project has already attracted funding support. PARC has committed \$6,000 of the \$7,500 needed for a facility design and a Molson Local Heroes program grant was just announced Tuesday.

Long-time Salt Spring skatepark promoter Micah Booy was designated a Molson "local hero," with up to \$4,000 promised for skatepark upgrading materials.

Several other funding options have also been explored in detail.

MOT spokesman Jeff Knight told the Driftwood earlier this year that MOT had no record of an agreement to give the road to the school board.

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BEACH RESCUE: Salt Spring Fire Department first responders, B.C. Ambulance paramedics and local RCMP officers attended a man who was found injured on a beach near Lower Ganges Road and Park Drive at 3 p.m. Saturday. Photo by Derrick Lundy

AQUACULTURE MEETING

From Page A1

water that is going to cause an impact?"

But some people remained unconvinced that the system would be 100 per cent benign, especially since no environmental assessment will be done.

One member of the public jumped on Lloyd Erickson's statement that if the system works as it should then "we have a reasonable expectation . . . that there will be no [environmental] damage."

"A reasonable expectation to me sounds very, very weak," the man responded.

Erickson also explained that Sablefin will receive his department's approval to operate for 15 months, with commitments to meet certain standards. If those are met, a two-to-five-year waste management permit will be issued.

Water monitoring will be done by Sablefin and MWLAP will not be monitoring the marine receiving environment or the well water. Depending on what results the company provides, some MWLAP auditing could occur, said Erickson.

To counteract skepticism about the injection well system, Erickson said a professional hydrologist must confirm in advance that it will work.

Resident Julia Hengstler said having a company hydrologist certify the system did not offer a safeguard for the community and she suggested a third-party hydrologist should be used.

Morgan said if an aquaculture operation is out of compliance with its waste management permit, then its MAFF licence, which is issued annually, may not be renewed.

Hengstler was also con-

cerned about residues of antibiotics or fungicides making their way to the Walker Hook beach via the injection wells.

Salmon enhancement biologist Kathy Reimer also felt the plan poses some environmental threat.

"The amount of water they have flowing through their tanks, there is absolutely no way of screening diseases out of the water and they could be released into the wild from the tanks," she told the Driftwood Monday.

Chris Acheson also criticized the well system, and the lack of environmental assessment that takes place before permission is granted for its use.

"It's a cheap way of getting rid of your water," he told the Driftwood, and suggested a proper outfall should be constructed instead.

Rather than pollution being diluted as Erickson suggested, Acheson said a professional opinion he received from Michael Holloran claimed any pollution would be pushed back into the Walker Hook beach area.

Acheson also pointed out how the Department of Fisheries and Oceans conditions for approval stated that no wastewater must enter the marine environment.

Walker Hook area resident Donna Martin said she disagreed with the operation being sited in an environmentally sensitive and archaeologically significant area.

Six First Nations skeletons have been recovered from the site where pipes have been laid for the well system, the meeting heard. A government permit to disturb the registered archaeological site was granted.

"We don't want industrial aquaculture on our island," Martin said. "It puts an industrial complex on the property."

Morgan maintained the hatchery building was small, at 23 by 46 metres, and that all activities and noise would be contained within that building.

He also defended aquaculture, which he observed people regard "as a bastard child of fisheries."

The previous provincial government allowed on-land aquaculture, he noted, and while "it doesn't look like wheat waving in the wind, it's still about food production."

Morgan was also asked to articulate how the project benefited the community. He said employment would be created for 14 individuals and had already been seen through construction, "and a fairly cutting-edge, interesting technology is being developed here on Salt Spring."

Area resident Frank Moore showed visible frustration at the bureaucrats' pro-hatchery positions.

"You guys are justifying why this should happen," he said.

He also wondered why, when the application came across their desk, no one in government said, "Why don't you do this somewhere else? People didn't come here for the factories."

Morgan said he wished residents could view the site to personally judge the hatchery's impact.

Trustee Kimberly Lineger, who moderated the meeting, said future siting conflicts will hopefully be addressed through a protocol agreement for the entire Islands Trust area that will be negotiated with the province.

Hydrant warning given

Local fire district trustees are advising islanders that the mere presence of fire hydrants in island neighbourhoods might not guarantee there will be sufficient water flow to douse house fires around many parts of Salt Spring.

"I know there's one by my house. If you hooked a hose to it, the water might not reach my house. There's not enough pressure," said Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) chair Ben Martens.

Consequently, the SSIFPD has printed an advisory to let islanders know that local fire hydrants may, or may not, be capable of supplying sufficient water to extinguish fires.

"Even though there's hydrants there, they might not supply water."

Martens pointed out that the SSIFPD has no control over the volume of water provided by various island water districts.

"We can't tell water districts what to do."

Water mains supplying fire hydrants vary from 50-300 millimetres in size while the Fire Underwriters Survey of 1999 recommends water mains of 150 millimetres in order to provide sufficient flow.

"However, hydrants are not our main source of water," he said.

The local fire department maintains a fleet of tanker-trucks capable of draughting water from various sources, including ponds, streams and viable hydrants, which would allow firefighters to work anywhere on the island, he said.

"Hydrants are a supplemental source of water."

But home owners should be informed that local waterworks districts are not required to supply water for fire protection, Martens said.

"We would like to see all the water districts come under one blanket but that's not going to happen."

Information about hydrant location may be important for some insurance claims, he noted.

Residents can contact their local water district to find information about water mains in their area.



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"When convenience and security matter"

Nature Trust land questions stall one Trust density transfer bylaw

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Public hearings to designate the Burgoyne Bay parklands and other south Salt Spring parcels acquired from Texada Land Corporation as development potential donor areas in the official community plan (OCP) attracted little attention last Thursday.

But one question raised by two members of the public was enough to give trustees cause to pause when considering a related bylaw up for hearing.

Current regional director Gary Holman and past trustee David Borrowman questioned the status of the north shore Burgoyne lands acquired by the Nature Trust of B.C. just before the provincial government-led purchase of the Texada lands in November 2001.

The 282-hectare (700-acre) Nature Trust acreage, which includes Canada's largest Garry oak woodland, has Forestry zoning, and proposed Bylaw 382 would make it possible for the Nature Trust to sell approximately 35 densities.

Purchasers could transfer densities to OCP-designated "development potential receiving areas," which would require public approval through a rezon-

ing process.

Bylaw 382 was initiated by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) to somewhat offset the effect of the provincial government eliminating the subdivision restrictions on Forest Land Reserve land by at least giving property owners a chance to sell densities rather than subdivide.

But Holman suggested the Nature Trust effect would be out of scale compared to the potential benefit the province, Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks and The Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLC) would receive from Bylaw 380, which is 73 densities from 1,640 acres of land.

In reviewing the history of the 2001 Texada land purchase negotiations at Thursday's public hearing, Holman said the deal made with the province was that one density per existing title could be transferred, in addition to the almost 50 already designated by the OCP in the south shore of Burgoyne Bay "sending area."

If the same one-density-per-parcel deal was applied to the Nature Trust lands, he said, only a half dozen densities would be eligible for transfer.

"I encourage you to invite the Nature Trust over to talk to

them about this," said Holman to the LTC. "I don't think it's in the community's interest to let the bylaw go through without having this discussion."

Nature Trust land manager Jim Hope said Tuesday he had no comment about the issue.

"We only became aware of this last week," he said.

John Gauld, the Salt Spring Trust's regional planning manager, cautioned the LTC against treating landowners differently based on factors such as their financial resources or mandate.

Holman later said he understands that the Trust must deal with property owners in a consistent manner, but the broader issue is how conservation groups or public agencies should approach the potential for selling densities on land acquired for conservation purposes.

The ethical problem is that such groups may solicit public funds or be given tax dollars to purchase and protect a piece of land, sell that parcel's densities, and send the extra development into the neighbourhoods of people who may have contributed to the protected land.

"I think all of these groups need to develop an explicit policy on this issue," he said. "I know that the Salt Spring

Island Conservancy is already working on such a policy."

Borrowman and Holman also suggested the Nature Trust lands, if they are intended as protected areas, should be rezoned Parks and Recreation, which was another effect of Bylaw 380 on the provincial, CRD Parks and TLC parcels.

Nora Layard of Friends of Salt Spring Parks said she felt the community impact of density transfers would be of concern to the island's conservation groups.

When it came to discussing the issue at Saturday's LTC meeting—where all the bylaws sent to public hearing were up for second and third reading—trustees Eric Booth and Kimberly Lineger and LTC chair David Essig agreed further reading of Bylaw 382 could be deferred while more technical information on the topic was gathered by staff.

Bylaws 380 and 381, which affected the non-Nature Trust lands, were given second and third readings and sent to the Trust Council executive committee for review.

Bylaw 384, which regularized the floor space of accessory uses at the Harbour House Hotel, received the same fate.

Nasty notes left on vehicle windshields

Two threatening notes were left on vehicles over the long weekend, reported Phil Kelsey and another Salt Spring resident who did not want to be named.

Kelsey's daughter left her white S10 pickup truck in front of the post office from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon, wrote Kelsey in a letter to the Driftwood.

When she returned she found that a small hole had been punched through the windshield and it was covered by an unsigned note making reference to "gunning around town."

"What the author of the note obviously hadn't noticed is that there are three similar white S10 pickups on the island, one of which has a bit of a reputation for the type of behaviour that they'd found upsetting," wrote Kelsey.

Kelsey stated that his daughter is worried she will be targeted by more misdirected violence.

"The point is not that the right victim should be targeted, but that terrorizing teenagers with anonymous threats and property damage is not the correct solution," wrote Kelsey.

He added that if drivers are a threat to public safety, their licence plate numbers should be noted and they should be reported to police.

"Speaking of the police, the RCMP would like to thank the author for the very fine handwriting sample," he wrote.

Another Salt Spring man received a similar note last Monday when he was parked outside of Glad's Ice Cream Shop. A note left on the windshield of his vehicle, which has American licence plates, said: "Yankee

asshole go home."

The man who owns the vehicle was born and raised in Canada. He lives on Salt Spring for five months of the year, and spends the rest of his time in the U.S. for business.

"I am proud to say I'm from Canada but I'm so disgusted by some people who think they're better than everybody else and who have a hatred," he said.

He has lived here from May to October for four years, and though he can't imagine why Canadians dislike the US, he said he has noticed an anti-American attitude long before Bush's war in Iraq.

"Had I known they were going to treat me like this, I'd be gone tomorrow," said the man, who is building a \$3-million dollar home on Salt Spring. "Maybe you don't want Americans here. If

that's the case, pass a law."

He did not want his name in the newspaper because he was afraid he would become the victim of more threats or vandalism.

"We [Americans] are here to spend our money and enjoy our life, not to have some stupid idiot saying, 'go home.'"

He said that these incidents could tarnish the reputation of Canadians as being friendly and courteous.

"I really am appalled by this narrow-mindedness," he said. "I shouldn't have to tolerate this. Nobody should."

Trincomali rezoning on agenda

A proposal to rezone a 20.2-hectare (50-acre) parcel south of Trincomali Heights Road will be given a public airing in both informal and formal settings.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) gave first reading Saturday to Bylaw 385, which would increase allowable lots from nine to 15 if the owner, Trincomali Land Corporation, donates \$150,000 to the CRD/PARC for purchase of Rainbow Road parkland.

Erik Nordholm, who lives on Stark Road close to the company's lands, addressed the meeting with his concerns about increasing den-

sity in rural neighbourhoods.

Trincomali Heights resident Ian Beare commended Trust staff for producing a report that reflected the neighbours' concerns.

Staff have asked the applicant to address road

safety and potential improvements, and water servicing options.

Prior to public hearing, a community information meeting on the development will also be scheduled by the Trust.

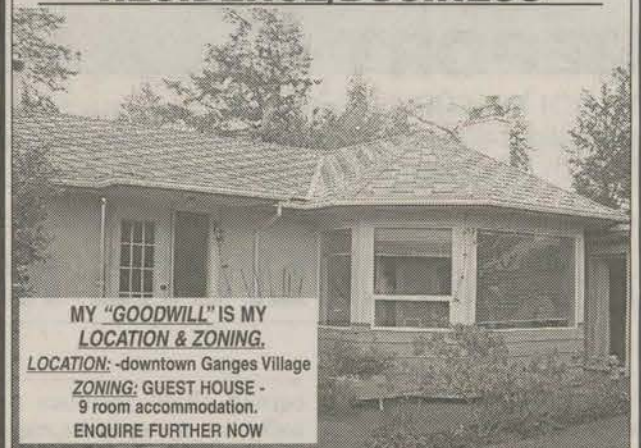
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Police busy with vandals

Friday was a night for vandalism, reported Salt Spring RCMP.

RCMP REPORT

Police received a report on Saturday morning that the Portlock Park bathrooms had been vandalized overnight. Doors were kicked in and windows broken.

Windows were also broken at Mark's Work Warehouse on Friday at approximately 10:20 p.m.

A male in his early 20s, described as tall and with a medium build and short dark hair, was seen in the area at the time.

Anyone with information about either incident is advised to contact the local RCMP.

• Police also received a report of a stolen mountain bike from a home on Beddis Road on May 14.

The house was apparently broken into on May 12, when the bike was stolen.

The bike is valued at \$800 and is described as silver, blue and white.

Anyone with information about the bike is asked to call Crime Stoppers or the RCMP.

• A motorcycle driven by a 49-year-old woman from Manitoba went into a ditch in the 1600 block of North Beach Road at around 1 p.m. on Monday.

Police and the fire department were on the scene when the woman suffered minor injuries, including a broken wrist, and was taken to Lady Minto Hospital.



GOLF TEASE: Gundy McLeod gets into the swing and spirit of things with a special mask as 75th anniversary activities get underway at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club. Photo by Derrick Lundy

No room at the market for any future expansion

Saturday's Market in the Park won't be expanding, even though vendors' demand for space has already hit mid-summer levels this year.

Market coordinator Matthew Coleman has had to turn away several day vendors, a state of affairs not usually seen until July.

There's simply no place to legally squeeze more vendors, the Monday night Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting heard.

PARC member Rosemary Trump, who also sits on the Market Advisory Group (MAG), reported on a Thursday meeting where the topic was thoroughly aired.

"The main thing at the meeting was that the market is full and there is so much demand for space that just isn't there," she said.

Rumours about the market expanding onto the boardwalk or into Centennial Park have

accordingly been quashed.

As both Trump and PARC operations manager Dave Gibbon explained, provincial lease agreements prohibit the market from occupying adjacent spaces.

One option to be explored for creating a bit more space is possibly reducing the maximum vendor booth size down to eight feet from the current 10.

"It would make a few more spaces and they were willing to do that," said Trump.

Salt Spring's fire chief had also expressed alarm at hearing expansion rumours.

His concern was that the parking lot on the east side of Gasoline Alley would be overtaken, which would contravene Section 2.5.1.1. of the B.C. Fire Code. It states that "fire department vehicles shall have direct access to at least one face of every building by means of a street, yard or roadway in conformance with the B.C. Building Code."

However, PARC commissioner Mark Haughey said it appeared emergency vehicle access was already blocked — not by Market in the Park vendors but others renting space from the Gasoline Alley complex.

A 5.5-metre setback from Gasoline Alley is supposed to be maintained, noted Gibbon.

Trump said some Gasoline Alley merchants had also requested help in ensuring access to their stores is not impeded during market day.

She also reported the MAG meeting was "really cordial" and that vendor representatives were obviously thinking of benefits for the market as a whole.

One suggestion arising from the MAG meeting — that a vendors' manual be created — also received encouragement from PARC.

"I think there is room in the market budget for a manual to be done," said Gibbon.

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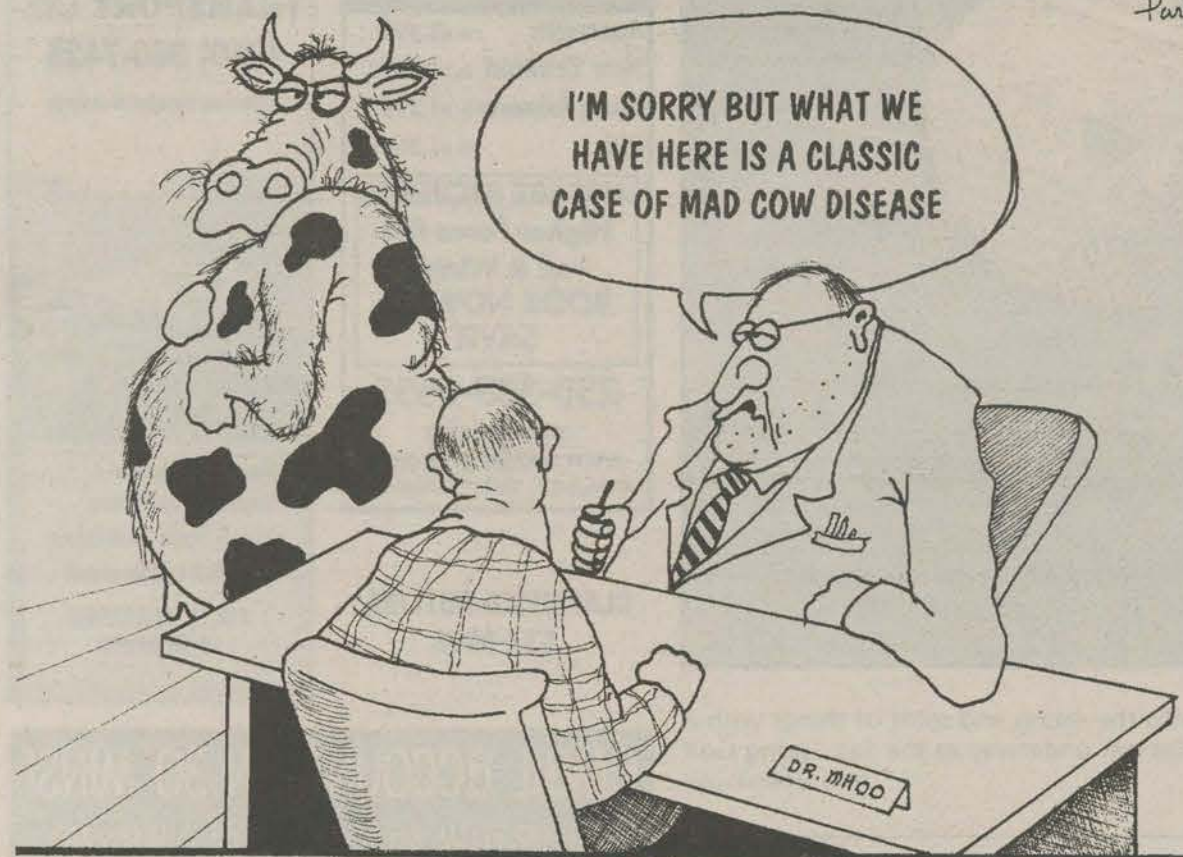
RANTS & ROSES
 PAGE 11 DRIFTWOOD

Congratulations 'Lil

Mouat's Clothing Mary Paul and Lil Irwin

Lil Irwin is the winner of French Dressing's Springtime in Paris Contest, seen here wearing her prize, designer pants from French Dressing. Her name is now entered in the finalists for a trip to Paris. If she wins, she plans to take Don and the Harley!

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Park

Happy trails, grads

If the graduates of Gulf Islands Secondary School know what's best for them, the population of the islands will decline in the near future by precisely 143. That is the number of students who have successfully completed their final year of secondary education and will be presented with their graduation certificates on Saturday.

Many students in the graduating class have already decided to take a look at the broader world out there before pursuing further education or a career. Their fellow students ought to seriously consider doing the same.

Some will view life on the Gulf Islands as safe and familiar, choosing to live with the devil they know. Others will already have identified their choice of career and will waste no time in pursuing it.

But the best education of all will be reserved for those who pack their belongings and board the next ferry.

The islands are a good place to live during one's formative years. We are surrounded by talented people of diverse backgrounds who serve to lessen the insularity found in small communities, bringing the influences of other cultures and other worlds.

But there are more cultures and more worlds out there than anyone can possibly imagine, waiting to be explored and experienced by young and inquiring minds. Education does not end at graduation from high school. Classroom learning has merely provided the foundation for a lifetime of learning ahead. And what better way to continue that process than through travel.

Travel turns maps and pictures in geography into real places. Stunning geographical features such as the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls and countless other places around the world are never appreciated until seen first-hand.

Travel adds realism to history. Inca ruins in South America, the Pyramids of Egypt and the old cities of Europe can bring our history lessons to life, transporting us back in time with their age and antiquity.

And best of all, travel brings us into contact with people of other countries and other cultures, opening the mind to new ideas and ways of thinking.

It is time now for a new phase in the lives of these 143 young people, and time to take a new road. May it carry you on long and rewarding journeys to the many wonders of the world.

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National park: First Nations shouldn't be invisible

By PHIL VERNON

I've been imagining how it feels to be invisible, with the world going about its business as if I didn't exist.

I'm thinking about aboriginal people, particularly those whose traditional territories encompass the Gulf Islands and the new Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

Tsawout, Tseycum and Tsartlip. Saanich names, peoples who still exist. Pauquachin, Malahat. Saltwater people, whose ancestors paddled throughout these islands over countless seasons, setting their reef-nets across the tides to take their share of salmon on the way to the Fraser River, using technology developed over millennia. Living with interconnectedness, every point of land, every beach and stream bearing a name in their Sencoten language.

VIEW POINT

Chemainus, Halalt and Lyackson. The Cowichan, builders of great canoes. The Penelakut of Kuper Island, sea lion hunters. Travelling the shared territories of the islands, through the sling-shot pass to the fishing sites on the Fraser. Living in a world of islands and sea, linked by the seasons, by the teaching stories and place names of their Hul'qumi'num language.

It is said the languages of the first peoples of the coast are based in the land, and their history and culture can be read there, as from a book. Language and culture are inseparable from the natural world,

and I'm beginning to grasp that to deny First Nations access to their traditional territories for hunting and food gathering, for medicinal, ceremonial and spiritual needs is to threaten them with cultural extinction.

It's a good thing for us to set aside areas in the Gulf Islands — lands as well as marine protection zones — to save habitat and protect wildlife. But for well-meaning non-aboriginal people and governments to attempt to preserve ecosystems at the expense of indigenous people is both wrong and terribly short-sighted. It also contravenes the international rights of indigenous peoples, as defined by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

A Gulf Islands National Park Reserve may preserve some of the visual beauty of these islands for

our enjoyment, and will attract tourists from other parts of the earth whose ecosystems are already effectively destroyed. But we stand to miss something if we continue to keep invisible a crucial link between our human existence and the world around us.

The new park reserve removes 20 per cent of the vacant Crown land in the Gulf Islands that is within the traditional territories of the Hul'qumi'num peoples. They are currently in Stage Four of the B.C. Treaty Process, and are calling on governments to negotiate in good faith, and to abide by Canadian law to consult and make accommodation for the loss of these lands from the negotiations.

Meanwhile, the Saanich peoples, whose Douglas Treaties guarantee aboriginal rights to hunt "over unoccupied lands" and to "fish as

formerly," are disturbed, too. Once again, they have not been included in the process, although there is hope they will still have a chance to be heard.

When a single species is lost, our world is diminished. When indigenous cultures are undermined, what is threatened are irreplaceable segments of our "ecological code."

Let's not forget those who have shared these islands with us. In our efforts to preserve the natural wonders of this place, let's not lose the opportunity to learn from, and work with, the people whose knowledge and culture is rooted here.

Out of respect, at least, let's refuse to make aboriginal people invisible.

The writer is chair of Salt Spring Islanders for Reconciliation and Justice.

Canada's Department of Immigration is in chaos. So says Canada's Auditor General Sheila Fraser.

It's one thing for opposition politicians to say the government is out of control, it's a whole different matter when the Auditor General agrees.

In her words, "To say they've lost control is perhaps a little exaggerated, but not far from the truth."

Those are strong words coming from a woman whose official job is to keep an eye on government spending.

In the past 10 years the feds have proudly reduced the number of immigration officers and customs inspectors (along with fisheries officers, transportation safety inspectors, environmental officers, etc.)

Brilliant. Those cut-backs have created havoc. Government departments aren't doing the work they're mandated to do. And we

Easier to break rules than follow them

don't seem to care.

In the case of the immigration department, the situation is so bad that Ms.

Fraser felt compelled to use some plain hard language to get her point across. She says there's a growing backlog of orders to deport people who are in Canada illegally — such as those who have been ordered out for committing crimes or whose refugee claims have been rejected. And she says the government has no plan to deal with it.

According to Ms. Fraser, we have "an immigration system in which breaking the rules is easier than following them."

Her report says the government has no idea whether its

inspectors at borders are effective in screening out people who should not be allowed in the country. It never conducted follow-up evaluations even though two separate reports in the 1990s found that customs inspectors and immigration officers failed to spot a majority of the people who should have been screened out.

The backlog of removal orders sits at 36,000. That's 36,000 people who have already been ordered deported but nobody knows where they are. Over 11,000 people are waiting for an immigra-

tion hearing, and the number is growing by thousands every month. (That backlog may not be as bad as it looks. The immigration department says over half the people scheduled for hearings never show up.)

Now I'll tell you about my friend Paul. He was born in the Moselle Valley in Germany; his family were winemakers. He was a teenager in the '50s, a student in the '60s, an internationally renowned scientist in the '70s.

He and his wife — a wise and wonderful woman from Cologne — raised two kids. In the '80s, like many fellow Germans, they visited Canada and fell in love with the wild spaces.

Eventually, they bought a small piece of land with an old log house on it; a few acres on a small lake in the

Cariboo Mountains. (In the '30s it had belonged to Crazy Louie — no one knew him by any other name — a trapper, miner and dreamer. A man of failed schemes.) Once or twice a year they travelled from their home near Frankfurt to their home in B.C.

When Paul retired 10 years ago, he and his wife began spending as much time as possible at their Cariboo home. They fit in well in the far-flung, but still local, community. His background in science and engineering means that he also knows how to fix a radio. And radios in those parts keep folks in touch — with each other as well as the outside world.

They would love to make Canada their home, but they can't. We don't want people like them. For a dozen years

they tried to get landed immigrant status, now they've given up. For the past 10 years they've travelled back and forth to Germany twice a year, because that's the law. Visitor's visas are only valid for six months, which means they must return to Germany twice a year, for a few weeks, and then come back to their little place in the Cariboo Mountains. A place they bought and maintain. A place where the locals know them and welcome them. A place where they fit in. A place they call home.

But they don't meet the criteria to become landed immigrants. They don't have half a million bucks to buy a business. And they're too old. Worse still, they're honest folks.

If you want to live in Canada, you can buy your way in or lie your way in, but Paul can't do that. Maybe he's too good for us.

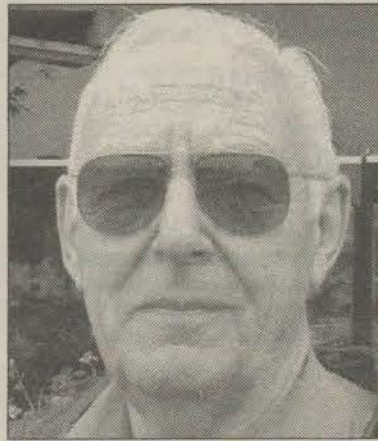
ISLE SAY!

WITH JOHN POTTINGER



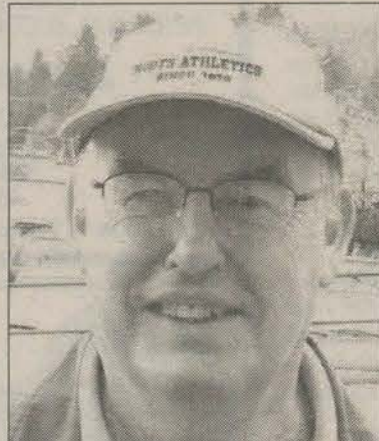
SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What animal would make the best symbol of Salt Spring Island?



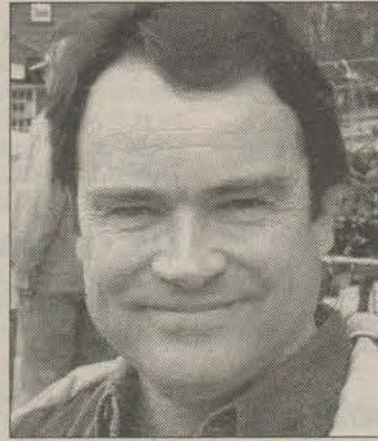
Eric Hamilton

I rather prefer the orca. I just think they're a beautiful animal and symbolize everything that is wild and beautiful.



Peter Stark

Only the sheep; because that's the natural thing here.



Ian Mitchell

The platypus; because the platypus is an enigma; a mystery; a combination of all sorts of animals all seeming to produce a healthy vibrant animal. The sum is greater than the parts.



Vivian Dawson

The obvious, sheep. I think that would be a good choice. I came from the Lake District in England and the things that I missed most were daffodils and sheep. And I found them both here.



Hamish Walde

Snakes, because they're slimy and they slither. I like cobra snakes. They have venom spit.

Letters to the Editor

Roller-coaster

Re: the real estate shortage on Salt Spring.

The Islands Trust mandate is to preserve the unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents.

Recently, real estate on Salt Spring has risen to the point where it's difficult for local islanders to enter the market or relocate on the island.

According to the news, prices have risen phenomenally in Victoria in the last six months and Salt Spring is part of the Victoria Real Estate Board.

One top realtor there said approximately half of the sales were to Americans and the deals were closing within four hours. Residents of Salt Spring are now looking at \$200,000 and up to purchase a home and there are more than 14 listings priced over a million dollars.

How can we stop this roller-coaster ride we're on and keep growth at a human pace?

We need tools to manage change — other than the market system (which favours the American dollar) — especially since the island's habitat is limited.

I recently contacted the

Victoria Real Estate Board and the president advised me to create a lobby for islanders.

The minister of land titles office said, "Go political . . ." He added there will be a conference in September where the provinces and territories can discuss changing the act.

The premier's office said I could possibly contact the new "ministry of foreign investment" which was created two years ago.

As soon as possible, the Islands Trust should consider legislating restrictions for non-resident owners as has been done in other provinces. Perhaps a housing exchange registry should be created to manage and assist islanders.

Longtime residents of the islands should not be forced out by a market system that is beyond their control.

Islanders have created a community which deserves to be protected by the government they have elected.

SUE HISCOCKS,
Salt Spring and Vancouver

Off base

The May 15 letter from Mike Best commenting on David Borrowman's April 30 In Depth article on tourism and vacation rentals is off base on two counts.

Firstly, weekly rentals pose very little threat to most bed and breakfasts. As an operator of a B&B on Pender Island for the last 13 years, I can say that it is extremely rare for a guest to stay for more than one or two nights, although many return the following year.

Furthermore, few B&Bs cater to families with children for various reasons. Often the guests will be a couple taking a respite break the first time away from their children or it may be honeymooners wanting a quiet and private getaway.

Secondly, the writer is wrong to believe he can do what he wants with his property. Every community employs planners so that we don't have a hodge-podge of buildings and commercial activities where we live. That is what zoning is all about.

Neither is the weekly vacation rental a home-based business, which is normally encouraged on the islands.

Finally, the writer is no doubt aware that there is a demand for long-term rentals which supply a valuable community need and do not generate the "holiday hotel" impact on neighbourhoods.

CHUCK HARRIS,
Pender Island

Not justified

In his letter of May 14, Mike Best reveals perhaps too much of himself with his justification for illegality.

His idea of freedom is to junk the rule of law. He has rights and no one else does. If so, the great hulk would still be in Ganges Harbour for no reason except that one non-resident decided to put it there.

Mr. Best would have us believe that the law-abiding B&B operators, who worked with care and diligence to craft one healthy accommodation sector under the official community plan, are somehow to blame for the woes of the illegal vacation rentals industry.

As for being on the tether of the B&B owners, I very much hope I am. Here are the others who have a claim on my loyalties: the commercial hotel operators who complain, with reason, that vacation rentals don't pay commercial taxes; the commercial sector people who complain they can't get staff because housing has been creamed off for illegal use; the renters who get booted out in June; the professional people who can't rent or buy homes; the homeowners driven away by noise; and those

who complain about the loss of community values. These include the old woman who cried on the phone that she doesn't have neighbours any more.

Mr. Best drags out the "no proof" argument about the ills of vacation rentals. But what proof is lacking to show that they are illegal? Does it take research to show that five commercial properties owned by one person are not homes?

Is there anyone, apart from Mr. Best, who needs research to discover that transient commercial visitors do not join the churches, send children to school, shop year round or volunteer for the Lions Club?

Why would we have to research further than the known facts to show that vacation rental owners have never applied for legalization?

Finally, Mr. Best trots out the \$7-million figure which comes from a paper originating within the ASTAR group. This figure rests on the wild assumption that all rents from vacation rentals remain on Salt Spring.

No heed is paid to the fact that much of the rent, perhaps most, is skimmed off by non-residents, whose slight connection with the island is that

they have illegal businesses here.

The paper ignores the much larger economic benefit to the island of full-time, fully contributing residents who would otherwise live here.

DAVID BORROWMAN,
Vesuvius

MORE LETTERS A8

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

Island tourism focus could be 'green' pilgrimages

Tourists — these are not just people who are touring. They can be royal pains with money, about the worst combination going.

The word triggers many emotions, more negative than positive, alas. As P. David O'Flynn wrote in his May 14 letter to the editor, "It's because of the actions of ignorant people like Ms. Guiled's friend that give tourists a bad name."

Not quite grammatically stated, but words are to communicate, and his sentence is perfectly clear.

He's right. Tourists have a terrible reputation. Stripped of their filthy lucre, they're of little use to wherever they're visiting.

I was born and raised in a tourist town, where I quickly learned that hurling the

word was about as insulting as you could get.

When I was four years old and miffed at my dad, I mouthed off, "You stupid tourist!"

He cracked up. Here I was, third generation in the town with roots going back to the beginnings of the tourist trade there, and I clearly didn't have a clue what the term denoted. I was bang on, however, about its connotations.

It took me years to get comfortable with the prejudices (pre-judging) and "post-judices" (judging after the fact, to coin a word)

about tourists. They could be unbelievably stupid — like painting honey on a child's face to get a photo of a bear licking it off.

They'd order orange bread at my grandparents' teahouse chalet and ask if the oranges were local. Oh sure, the last snow melts in early July, and it starts falling again in late August; the grove is up behind the hanging glacier. The odd fool went to look, at great risk if dire warnings weren't heeded, and at public expense if rescue was required.

SPRINGBOARD

BY BRENDA GUAILED



Tourists brought dogs, much-loved furry manifestations of the owners' most juvenile impulses. Some lit campfires in tinder-dry summers. Others poached fish and sometimes game.

Still, the locals had to treat them nicely, because they were our guests. More than that, they were Canada's guests, and even more importantly, they were nature's guests. We could have a little sport with them and call them "gorbies" (etymology unknown), but every resident's job was to smile, be kind and educate them as best we could.

It wasn't until I was in my 20s and touring parts of Europe — yikes, being a hated tourist, what a pain — that I realized there's another way to visit special

places. Tourists come from the outside in, from the top down; they're superficial, looking to be amazed and amused, skimming the cream. I wanted to see and feel the world's wonders from the inside out, from the bottom up, from an inner appreciation, taking with me seeds of understanding to tend and grow for years to come.

This is what pilgrims do. Pilgrimages, however, are always made to human-constructed places, to express reverence for human-centered experiences. In days when people were a tiny force against vast, wild nature, this made sense.

Things have changed radically now. It's time, I believe, that we turned all tourists coming to enjoy

beautiful green places like the Gulf Islands into nature's pilgrims.

The need to communicate effectively with such visitors, to tune them into the local environment and how to treat it, becomes obvious. Education is in order, with the goal of teaching respect and reverence for nature and all the ways we can share it wisely. Passers-through should be taught with as much respect as they are expected to show in turn.

"Tourist" is a sullied word, probably beyond redemption. Could a cluster of small islands become a centre for teaching those seeking a touch of wilderness to be green pilgrims? I would hope so.

b_guiled@yahoo.ca

More letters

Midwives

After reading an article in the Edmonton Journal, I could not resist giving my opinion on midwives.

I recently moved to Edmonton from Salt Spring Island. Last September I had a little baby girl. She was delivered by a midwife at Lady Minto Hospital.

On Salt Spring they no longer have doctors who deliver babies, only midwives. My midwife had hospital privileges at Lady Minto, Victoria General Hospital plus two other hospitals on Vancouver Island.

Last August she was at a major hospital in Vancouver doing training, which involved assisting with very high risk deliveries, to increase her knowledge of trauma births. Men and women in the midwife industry are very knowledgeable and trained in delivery and also the prenatal and postnatal part of the pregnancy. They do not get half the credit they deserve.

Now being in Alberta I was quite shocked to learn that Alberta Health Care does not cover midwives. I think Alberta should look at B.C. and see how beneficial midwives are to their medical community and public.

If my husband and I ever have another baby I would not think twice about having a midwife. It was the most sacred and precious moment of our lives, just like it should be.

Thank god for midwives.
SANDRA DUTCHAK,
Edmonton, Alberta

Right direction

Many thanks to Tom Cmajdalka for his thoughtful May 21 View Point article on working for peace.

Defining what we mean by peace is indeed rather complex and we should strive to get a better understanding of what we wish for and what can be done to achieve it.

Like Tom, I don't believe that "boycotts, rallies and donations . . . even begin to address these issues."

We must get away from eight-second sound bites, catchy slogans and pre-conceived positions, and instead make a serious effort to understand the complexities of today's world before we can pretend to make a valid contribution toward building a better world for everyone.

Tom Cmajdalka's article is pointing in the right direction.

BERNARD ROCHET,
Mayne Island

Fantastic

Sunday was the date of the first SSPLASH races, which raised around \$4,000 for the indoor pool society.

Quite apart from that it was a fantastic community event in its own right. It went off without hitches in near perfect weather and drew in 183 runners in this its first year.

Competitors of all ages were an inspiration to all, as were the event's organizers (Ben Cooper and Rick Laing with Gail Bryn-Jones as volunteer co-ordinator) and the many volunteers and business sponsors whose collective efforts made it work so well.

Participants began to trickle in around 9 a.m. and by the time the first group set off at 10, there was a huge amount of enthusiasm and optimism in a small area.

There was even more of it by the time the trophies were given out, (as well as some tired legs). I just want to say thank you to everyone concerned for a great day.

KATHY PAGE,
President, SSPLASH20

Back again

Kudos to the organizers of the first annual Salt Spring 10 km, half-marathon and 1-km kids run.

Ben Cooper, Rick Laing and all the other volunteers were efficient, on-the-ball and enthusiastic. The course was both beautiful and challenging.

I know everyone has been organizing for months and we runners thank you thank you thank you!

It was a roaring success, with around 150 participants and lots of money raised for a pool on Salt Spring Island.

We'll see you again next year!

AMEI PARKES,
Victoria, B.C.

Patron drivers

Many times I have read the glowing reviews written by Driftwood columnists about programs presented at ArtSpring.

Gail Sjuberg's May 14 description of the Salt Spring Singers and Honour Choir presentation convinced me that without a doubt I am missing much in my life.

I am sure that there are many island seniors like me, in need of a bit of culture, who do not attend evening functions because we do not drive at night. The combination of old age and bi-focals makes us a menace on the road.

Would it be feasible to collect a roster of patron drivers

in different areas of the island who would be willing to pick up would-be attendees and deliver them home again? Compensation either in cash or a batch of cookies could be the reward.

A program like this would have the added benefit of filling those empty ArtSpring seats.

BETTY POOLE,
Salt Spring

Disappearing

As a follow up to your Focus on Literacy insert of last month, I wonder if your readers know that Fernwood, Salt Spring and Fulford elementary schools have had their teacher-librarian and library clerk times reduced, in most cases, to zero, effectively shutting down three libraries.

This is a result of the Liberal cuts to education and a drop in the enrolment, but also reflects school board priorities.

We need to consider where this policy is taking us.

Libraries are at the heart of the school, a common space where students can learn how to do their own research and follow their interests. Reading becomes a habit and a pleasure, and is, or was, available to all, rich or poor. Information is very powerful, and we need the ability to question and validate what we are told.

These school libraries have been built up over 30 years, but without funding, this resource will disappear.

As John Ruskin pointed out, more than a century ago, "What do we, as a nation, care about books?"

How much do you think we spend altogether on our libraries, public and private, as compared with what we spend on our horses?"

FRANCES HILL,
Vesuvius Bay Road

Disturbing

Last Monday I witnessed six people on a soccer field strip down naked in front of over 200 people, all drunk out of their minds, and have a "naked shootout."

I just wanted to play soccer, but all I could see were naked people! It was very disturbing.

I thought nudity and drunkenness in public were against the law.

ADRIAN ENGLISH,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A11

Income Tax

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NOTICE

The Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District would like to advise the people of Salt Spring Island of the following facts:

- The various water works districts on Salt Spring Island are not mandated to supply water for fire protection. They do so, however they are not required to conform to any rules or regulations regarding their ability to supply an adequate flow of water demanded at times of a fire.
- The various water districts on Salt Spring Island have water mains of different sizes within their respective districts. These water mains range from 50mm (2 inch) to 300mm (12 inch) in size.
- An article entitled "Water Supply for Public Fire Protection" published in 1999 by the Fire Underwriters Survey (A Service to Insurers and Municipalities), suggests that water mains be at least 150mm (6 inches) in size to provide an adequate flow of water in times of a large fire.
- This means that the fire hydrants near your residence may, or may not, be capable of supplying a sufficient volume of water when required to extinguish a fire on your property.
- You may wish to contact your local Water Works District to find out the size of the water main(s) in your area. Depending on your fire insurance policy this may, or may not, have an effect on that policy.
- The Salt Spring Island Fire Department equipment is fully capable of dispensing sufficient volumes of water to extinguish large fires if it has a water source from which it can draw water. The equipment is capable of drawing the water from hydrants, tankers or any body of water such as ponds, lakes, cisterns, etc.

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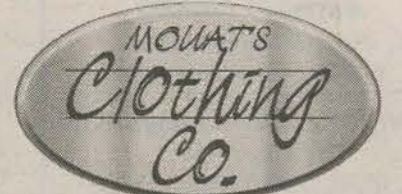
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2003 A 13

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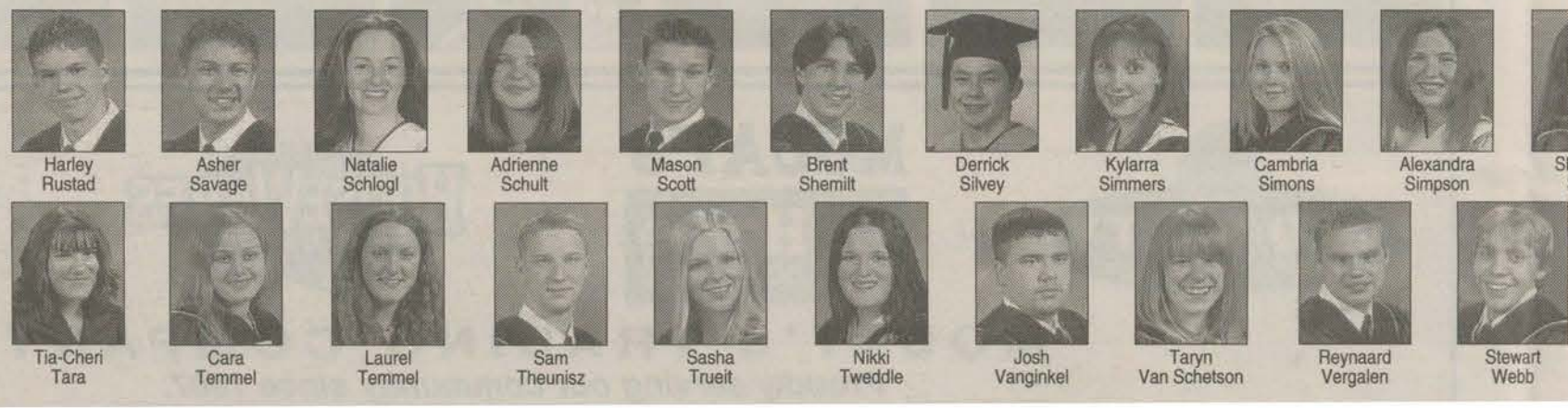


CLASS O

Thank you to the many parents, community members
Safe Grad Celebration. Your contribution has m



<p>Way to go, Meg! Love Mom, Dad and Adrian</p>	<p>Springwater Lodge congratulates the Mayne Island Graduates of 2003!</p>	<p>Congratulations to Laurel and Cara from GANGES AUTO MARINE</p>	<p>Mark's Work Wearhouse Clothes That Work. CREEKHOUSE 537-2999 Congratulatoons & Best Wishes for the future!</p>	<p>Pinnacle PIZZA 2 for 1 PASTA Congratulatoons to all 2003 grads and especially to Phil...we're proud of you. NAN & BOOPS</p>
<p>MICHAEL MILES Congratulations, Mike! MUCH LOVE, MUM & SARA</p>		<p>May you always have time to stop and smell the roses! Flowers & Wine</p>	<p>Congratulations from PAINT PLUS</p>	<p>Best wishes to the Class of 2003 "Set your goals high!" KEN TARA EXCAVATING</p>
<p>The beginning of a new chapter. Congratulations Tyler! LOVE MOM</p>	<p>B SIDE clothing co #3 Creekside, 121 McPhillips Ave. 537-2300</p>	<p>MAMATA You go girl!! Realize your dreams! We love you. MOM, DAD & FAMILY</p>	<p>"Go for it Christina — CARPE DIEM" LOVE MUM & DAD</p>	<p>Hats off to Ciara, Jeff & all the Grads. FROM ALL OF US AT</p>
<p>CONGRATULATIONS KYLARRA! We are so proud of your "many" accomplishments. Love Mom, Dad, Maranda, Rowan, Julie & Jo</p>	<p>Congratulatoons Grads! from Hastings House COUNTRY ESTATE</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS KEIKO We are so proud of you. Love both your families</p>	<p>Blue Dragon Naturals Congratulatoons to all Grads</p>	<p>SeaChange SEAFOODS LTD</p>
<p>CONGRATULATIONS SATURNA GRADS Danica Surm, Katie Jones, Jen Danyliw, Errol Bruce, Natalie Schlogl PROUD SATURNA PARENTS</p>	<p>Please! On Grad Night... Use a Spotter! north end fitness.</p> 	<p>Graduates are an explosive confirmation of genuine force; innocent souls and free thinking minds. Be prepared, you're here to make changes for a better, more peaceful and loving world.</p>	<p>Best Wishes for you Future! Great Canadian DOLLAR STORE plus a whole lot more!</p>	<p>Aroma Crystal Therapy</p>
<p>Congratulations Dustin! This is your first step to a wonderful, successful life! With love and pride, from your family</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!! from Teddy Bear's Takeout</p>		<p>Blue Dragon Naturals Congratulatoons to all Grads</p>	<p>SeaChange SEAFOODS LTD</p>
<p>CONGRATULATIONS MARTINA! We're proud of you Love Mom & Rik</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS GRADS HARBOURS END MARINE</p>		<p>Blue Dragon Naturals Congratulatoons to all Grads</p>	<p>SeaChange SEAFOODS LTD</p>
<p>Ayla, the world is your stage. Act on. LOVE MUM</p>	<p>Congratulations class of 2003 Bank of Montreal</p>	<p>REYNAARD Keep believing in all that you can be. LOVE MOM & DAD</p>	<p>Seize the Day! STANLEY LAING</p>	<p>GO GRADS GO! CONGRATS from Fiona</p>
<p>Congratulations Adam B.C. one door closes 1000's open LOVE MOM & DAD</p>	<p>JEKKA - sing...dance...act...dream...be...enjoy! I YA, MAMA</p>	<p>Congratulations Shelly-wells! The best is still ahead! LOVE MOM, DAD & NICK</p>	<p>"Congratulations to all the Grads" FROM GANGES STATIONERY</p>	<p>Windsor Plywood CONGRATULATIONS GRADS</p>
<p>Congratulations Brent! We are very proud of you. Love Mom & Dad</p>	<p>Jenny - Ohana; No one is left behind. No one is forgotten. LOVE MUM, DAD, COURTENAY & CASEY</p>	<p>Good luck Class of 2003! Patterson Market Ltd. Our family serving your family for generations. FULFORD HARBOUR 653-4321</p>	<p>SKIN SENSATIONS 537-8807 May all your dreams come true!</p>	<p>Wishing you a happy and successful life Evan! LOVE YOUR FAMILY</p>
<p>MICHAEL MIDGETT Congratulations on your graduation Michael. Well done! LOVE MOM</p>	<p>Congratulations to the Grads of 2003 The sky is the limit FROM EVERY ONE AT seair SEAPLANES</p>	<p>ALL THE BEST FROM The Fulford Inn</p>	<p>HARLAN'S Congratulations to Britt Christianson, we hope your future is sweet!</p>	<p>Congratulations Pender Island Grads PENDER ISLAND REALTY</p>
<p>CONGRATULATIONS DEVIN! YOU DID IT! From your proud Mom & Dad</p>	<p>Congratulations all Grads from MOBY'S STAFF</p> 	<p>"Go forth and conquer!" THUNDERBIRD GALLERY</p>	<p>Smooth sailing for a Happy future</p>	<p>Congratulations class of 2003 DON IRWIN COLLISION</p>
<p>WISHING YOU ALL SUCCESS! ISLAND SAVINGS</p>	<p>Congrats TO THE CLASS OF 2003 Salt Spring Auto Parts</p>	<p>"Dwell in Possibility" CALYPSO CARPETS</p>	<p>Smooth sailing for a Happy future</p>	<p>Congratulations Rande! WITH MUCH LOVE FROM MOM, DEMETRI AND STEFFANY</p>
<p>Congratulations Class of 2003 GARY LUNN, MP</p>	<p>JB GROUP</p>	<p>GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR FUTURE everyone at FOXGLOVE NURSERY</p>	<p>WATER TAXI</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS GRADS Joanna & Anthony ISLAND MAGIC TOUCH</p>
<p>Wishing all the grads smooth sailing Ross & Irene Walker & staff of Island Marine</p>	<p>Wishing you a happy and successful life Evan! LOVE YOUR FAMILY</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS GRADS Joanna & Anthony ISLAND MAGIC TOUCH</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS GRADS Joanna & Anthony ISLAND MAGIC TOUCH</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS GRADS Joanna & Anthony ISLAND MAGIC TOUCH</p>
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Name: RITA APTEKMANN
537/538/653: 537
Occupation(s): Housework
Hobbies: A bit of everything — gardening, volunteering, baking.
Favourite people: Volunteers who give of themselves freely.
Favourite read: Humorous satires, newspapers.
Best thing about SSI: It's rural atmosphere.
Worst thing about SSI: Fear of island becoming city-like.
Best place to kiss on SSI?: At home.



DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

More letters

Less stress

I was thinking about genetically modified foods and how I want to avoid them.

When in the grocery store I often feel a low-grade stress about the products I'm buying. "Is this tomato mixed with a puffer fish?"

Or "Is this Round-up-ready canola oil?"

I stopped buying canola oil hoping that other oil will be better. I might buy certified organic tomatoes (I've been told they are not GMO). Or maybe I'll buy the questionable tomato and try not to carry my stress all the way to the salad bowl. This is exhausting.

Who doesn't sell them? Natureworks Natural Foods and the Growing Circle strive to sell non-GMO foods. And there's Indigo Farm, Charlie Eagle and other independents.

Personally, I am a sporadic shopper and usually need to go to a store with all the food groups. So, to start my less stress campaign, I'm going to buy our food from Natureworks, a farm stand when I remember, the Growing Circle, which sells lots of local products (and are finally giving a sizeable member share discount on some foods).

When Thrifty Foods implements its GMO-free Thrifty brand I'll support that with my dollar too.

J. WERNER,
Salt Spring

Be witty

To my mind, the editorial cartoon in the Driftwood too often drags down the overall quality of the paper and frankly, I'm tired of it.

Let's just talk content. Usually this is innocuous, if rather ho-hum, and every now and then it's spot on — I kept Gordon

Campbell with his not-tight-enough tie on my fridge door for months.

But these cheap-shot anti-tourist jokes (i.e. May 14) and gross-farmer-in-boots-with-eyelash-batting-sheep jokes (can't count how many times I've seen this one) have just gotta go.

The thing is, it's not only that they're mean and/or obscene, they just plain aren't funny.

Come on, Mr. Parker, be witty. Make us laugh. Or take some time off. Maybe you could use a sabbatical, leave your gumboots at home and go and be a tourist somewhere. You'd probably find out that they're 98 per cent good folk, just like you and me.

R. DUPUY,
Mountain Road

P.S. I read somewhere, or maybe Rodney Filtness told me, that a tourist in Mexico is called an "amigo qui passa." Nice, huh?

RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

Rants to those who are responsible (legally, and more important, morally) for the travesty known as "arsenic alley." We are all watching and waiting for you to do the right thing. This is a small island and those that you have callously abused in your quest for profit are our (and your) neighbours. They deserve much better than the treatment they are receiving.

Rants to nudity and drunkenness in a public place. I do not need to see five men touting their penises and slapping each other's rear ends, and a naked woman — nor did the children watching the event.

Rants also to the person who drove across our field in a rental scooter with the crowd cheering him on. If

we are to host a soccer tournament like this again, I hope we can keep it clean and under control.

A rant for folks who cut down 450-year-old fir trees to improve the "view" for their bed & breakfast. Can't see the tree for the forest, eh? Peace!

ROSES

A rose to the generous people who pick up hitchhikers. Thank you for helping us get to our work places, to the laundromat, the grocery store, to community meetings and events, and out to see our friends. Thank you for bringing Salt Spring closer together.

Roses to Nick A. for the new cruising tunes. MM

Thanks so much to Brian for returning my dad's camera. There are not many people as honest as you who would return a \$1,000 camera. I am sure good karma will find you! So thank you again. ST

Roses to the mayor of Salt Spring Island, seen cruising the streets of Ganges on roller blades. MC

Water lilies to SSPLASH for such a well-organized and fun race May 25. Many thanks go to all the volunteers and great sponsors. However, I had a brilliant idea as I turned the corner and headed up Fernwood hill towards the finish line after nearly two hours of running. Why don't they move Fernwood school to the bottom of the hill for next year's race? JM

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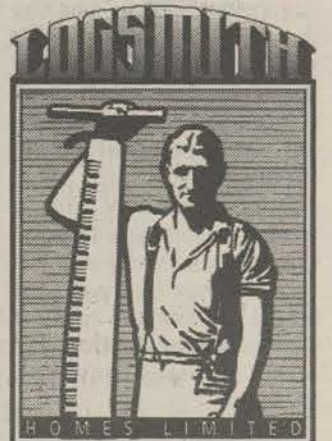
Michael Linehan - Marketing Alchemy, 537-2228

Photo op?

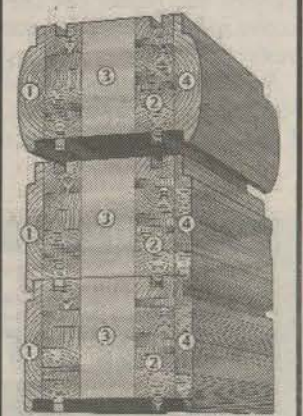
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Community commission is one government option

By GARY HOLMAN

Rumours of my conversion to the "incorporationist" cause, as suggested in recent letters to the editor, are premature.

I have consistently acknowledged, even during the referendum debate, that incorporation does offer some advantages — for example, less fragmented governance.

But I also argued that these advantages did not outweigh the risks of incorporation, such as the financial liability of assuming control of 230 kilometres of substandard roads; the ability to borrow money without the need for direct voter assent; the potential for accelerated development; the potential for balkanization and weakening of the Islands Trust; and uncertainty regarding the implications of the new Community Charter.

I also objected to the demonstrably false notions, still being relentlessly promoted in Driftwood editorials, that every problem on Salt Spring could be solved if only we became a municipality.

Recent articles by trustee Eric Booth focus entirely on the cost of the Trust, not its value, or Salt Spring's responsibility for ensuring that the entire Trust area has the resources necessary to preserve its natural environments and unique amenities.

Also, if the argument that Salt Spring property taxes should not subsidize planning on other Trust islands were extended more broadly, then schools would be financed only by those with school children, our medical system only by the sick, and ferry services only by islanders.

Surely, as Canadians, we understand the value of the social contracts that bind us together and reflect our collective responsibility for one another.

As for downloading of policing and highway costs, if this occurs (the province



has now stated it will not fully recover all policing costs from small municipalities and rural areas), it simply means that tax levels under our current system will be similar to those under a municipality. But again, taxes were not the only reason that incorporation was defeated.

We can and should try to improve our governance system, and not simply wait for that glorious day when islanders realize that incorporation will be our salvation. That is why I supported the Islands Trust's governance renewal proposal.

Despite claims to the contrary during the referendum, one of Trust Council's priorities over the next three years will be to reform local governance.

Principles of the renewal proposal involve increasing the size of local Trust committees on larger islands, integrating land use planning with delivery of other services, and moving to more of a "user pay" principle for allocating tax burden among islands.

Incidentally, reallocating Trust costs could mean lower taxes for Salt Spring compared to incorporation, despite provincial downloading of policing and highway costs.

One way to integrate land use planning with other services would be to empower the Islands Trust as a regional district. This is not a radical proposal — all regional districts in B.C. deliver land use planning in rural areas.

However, as an avowed incrementalist (unlike those wild-eyed incorporationists), and to take advantage of the considerable expertise and capacity of the Capital Regional District as a service provider, I have put for-

ward a more modest proposal as one of the Trust renewal options for islands such as Salt Spring. I have suggested the election of a larger Trust committee that could also be elected as a "local community commission" to administer services on behalf of regional districts like the CRD.

On larger islands, elected local community commissions, which already exist in several other areas in B.C., would oversee all regional district services, ranging from waste management to recreation, in co-operation with volunteer commissions and committees, as the electoral area director does now.

Such a commission represents a "half step" that has similarities to but could avoid some of the downsides of incorporation. A local Trust committee that is also a community commission would mean all members would be elected to explicitly represent the Trust mandate, not just two, as on a municipal council.

Also, land use decisions could not be appealed to the provincial minister, thereby "end-running" a Trust veto.

A commission would not take on the financial liabilities of Salt Spring's extensive road network, and direct voter assent would still be required for any new borrowing.

One of the reasons I ran for the CRD director position last fall was to co-operate with, not fight, the Trust in investigating a more effective governance structure that is more strongly bound by the "preserve and protect" ethic than a conventional municipality.

A community commission should be one of the options considered as part of Trust renewal and vetted by Trust residents in a formal consultation and approval process.

The writer is Salt Spring's electoral area director on the Capital Regional District board.



BUBBLE FUN: Alex Graham is one of hordes of children who enjoyed activities at the Farmers Institute on Saturday as the Salt Spring Co-op Preschool staged an events-packed, fundraising carnival.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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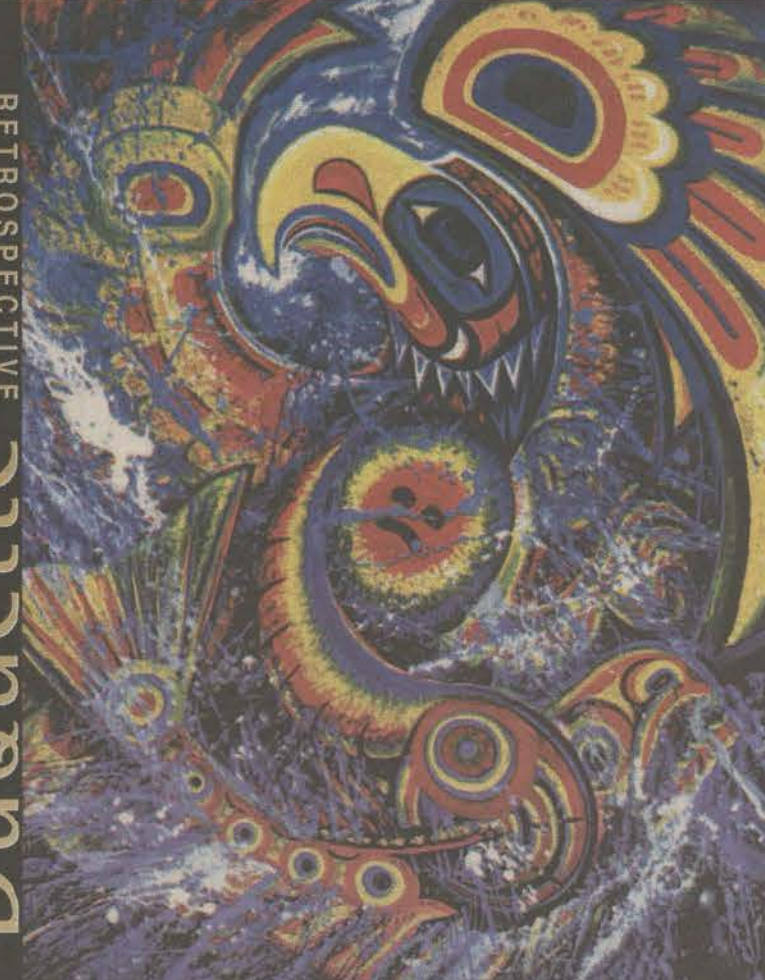
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BOUNTIFUL BOUQUET:

A shock of flower power colour graces a vendor's table at a recent Saturday market in Centennial Park. Flowers and plants of all types are ready for sale and planting at various venues throughout the island.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



Primer on water policy, trade issues

By **RON HAWKINS**

The writer is active in promoting environmental issues.

Wendy Holm, an agrolgist from Bowen Island, gave a talk at the Farmers Institute recently.

She is somewhat of an expert on this subject, having been involved since 1988, and very familiar with the various source documents, some of which she had with her.

The question is: "Is water included in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?"

The answer: "Yes."

So what? So, how would you like to be drained dry?

Few of us, including politicians, seem to be giving active attention to this grave issue.

Most, I suspect, walk around in some sort of limbo or dormant paranoia. Wendy described how the former Minister of International Trade, Pat Carney, believed in approving the document that water was excluded from NAFTA. The exclusion was made at the very last minute and the change quite difficult to notice.

Wendy has been taking this issue to farmers across the country in an effort to build a grassroots awareness of the facts. To date 139 Canadian farmer groups have passed resolutions calling for the removal of water from NAFTA.

In addition, various affiliated groups have also joined in (e.g. the municipality of Saint Georges de Windsor in Quebec, United Church Women, Lillooet, B.C.; Peace Valley Environmental Association; Organic Farmers European Network).

Wendy has written a piece entitled Primer on Water Policy and Trade Issues, which sums up the essential consequences of NAFTA as it now stands on water.

I quote:

"Under the FTA (Free Trade Agreement) and NAFTA (its successor), safe public policy contemplation of water exports is fully impossible. NAFTA provisions such as National Treatment, a ban on export taxes, restrictions and prohibitions, agricultural provisions and investor-state dispute mechanisms, mean that Canada cannot turn off the



IN DEPTH

tap. So long as the buyer wants it, we must provide it.

"If we cut back we have to cut back Canadians by the same amount as Americans and make prices to both the same. If we cut them off we have to compensate. We cannot under any circumstances interrupt 'normal channels of supply.'

A case-by-case evaluation policy for water exports is also not possible.

"The federal government by signing these trade agreements has made it impossible for Newfoundland, for example, to exercise its constitutional rights in a manner consistent with public policy and at the same time has abrogated its federal responsibility to act.

"It is fortunate in a way that Newfoundland's interest in water exports has brought this all forward. Unfortunately, rhetoric has supplanted reason and the discussion is largely unfocused and inaccurate. Instead of accepting responsibility to solve the matter (a federal ban on exports of water until it is exempted from FTA/NAFTA), the federal government is at one and the same time denying there is a problem and making it far worse.

"On a policy level, we are at an absolute crisis. One example: irrigation. Were Canada to decide to undertake an irrigation project to benefit — for example — southern Alberta farmers, Americans would be well within their rights under NAFTA to say 'here's the extra \$2 billion our engineers say it will cost to build a bigger dam, American farmers have both an interest and a right in sharing in these irrigation benefits.' Water is a good managed by the Crown."

To interject in Wendy's piece, a question: "Whose crown? Whose King? King George of course!"

Carrying on:

"The provinces can of course say 'no' to sharing irrigation benefits with American farmers so long as Canadian taxpayers are prepared to fully compensate American farmers and Agri-

Business for profits denied.

"B.C.'s water export legislation offers little security. It is simply an act of the legislature that can be changed at any time by provincial governments with more right-wing agendas. Indeed it is already underway with Sun Belt's case by U.S. interests."

Another interjection. Do you know that a large percentage of Alberta's surface water presently goes into the ground for oil and gas development (largely American-owned) to displace hydrocarbons?

No one knows how long such water may stay there (estimates range to 50,000 years), or in what condition it may be altered.

What is the solution? The solution is you. Any community group that you belong to can draft a resolution to Prime Minister Chretien. Call the writer at 537-5052 for suggested wording or an e-mail copy of the actual resolution form.

Send resolutions to

Wendy Holm, who will add it to the growing number in order to unify a solid grassroots resistance to this issue and force the government to recognize the weight of our voice.

Demand an explicit exemption for water under the goods, services and investment provisions of NAFTA. And, in the interim, Canada must place a moratorium on any new water exports until the above exemption is in place.

A final point. Most of us are not aware, I suspect, that there is a withdrawal provision in NAFTA where in any party providing six months notice can withdraw completely from NAFTA.

If Ottawa is nervous about considering an exemption on water, the appropriate response in my view is that we must insist on it, play hard ball and mean it!

Optionally, Canada can withdraw completely from the entire NAFTA — not a bad idea in my opinion.

Auxiliary picks four as winners

Four high school students were just too good to

choose from, so the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary selected all four to receive scholarship money this year.

Sarah Elliott, Shannon McCaughan, Kara Temmel and Britt Christianson will share the total scholarship amount of \$3,000. Usually, two winners are selected for \$1,500 scholarships.

"The choice was so hard — they were so close together — we just picked all four," noted auxiliary member Vivian Dawson.

Elliott also picked up the auxiliary's \$500 junior volunteer for working a total of 221 volunteer hours in the hospital's extended care ward.

The awards were presented Monday at the society's meeting — rather than at grad ceremonies this weekend — so members could see the winners.

• Wrangellian Gumboot Dancers recently returned from Gabriola Island where they were invited by Bob Bossin to perform at a fundraising event for the Ryan's Well project. (See www.ryanswell.ca)

The goal was to raise \$2,000, which is the cost of one well for a community in Africa, but \$11,700 was raised instead. Music, a silent auction and the selling of child-made drinking vessels were all part of the money-raising event.

Salt Spring's Wrangellian Gumboot Dancers also got to perform in the Gabriola Elementary School with Ryan and Jimmy, who gave a slide-show, speech and answered questions.

"The joy of gumboot dancing is a given but participating in events like this takes

SALT SPRING SNIPPETS

our experience to another level," said dancer Robbyn Scott. "This will be one of the most memorable."

The other dancers were Kate McEwen, Jacky Booth, Rael Reif, Jean Brouard and Jeff Ardon on drums.

• Shelby Pool has its own phone number — 537-1402. Anyone who might need to get a message to a pool user or Leisure Recreation Group staff who run the facility on behalf of the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) should jot the number down now.

PARC chair Bill Curtin said need for publicizing the number became apparent recently when a parent was desperately trying to get a message to a child at the pool.

The PARC office at Portlock Park operates on part-time hours only.

• Both the Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Fund, its conservation land trust, have redesigned and updated their websites. The sites "now offer comprehensive information on the work and services of the Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Fund in attractive, easy-to-navigate formats," says the local government's Victoria office.

The address is www.islandstrust.bc.ca.

• Local photographer John Denniston has created a temporary web page for a montage of red tide photographs he collected at Vesuvius Beach on Friday, May 23.

Check his website (www3.telus.net/johndennistonphotos) to view the colour algae-bloom shots.

He notes that the pictures are not to be archived, sold or used on the web.

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Coast guard to the rescue

A 26-foot sailing boat was reported to have broken down off Beddis Beach last Thursday, but when the coast guard's auxiliary vessel arrived at 8:34 a.m., the boat did not need assistance.

The sails were down and the engine was broken, but the boat managed to make it in, said officer-in-charge Ian Kyle.

The coast guard received a Code-3 call last Friday when a 74-year-old man collapsed on a pleasure craft 10 minutes from Ganges.

The vessel was directed into the seaplane float.

By that time the man had regained consciousness and was assessed by HMS crews.

The coast guard also gave a lecture about boating safety to students in grades 4 and 5 at Salt Spring Elementary School on Friday.

In addition to boating safety lectures, local coast guard personnel will be going to all elementary schools to inspect the kids' life jackets in June, said Kyle.

They will make sure the jackets fit properly and will give each student a waterproof whistle, which Kyle said is more effective than screaming in an emergency.

Coast guard crews will also mark the life jackets with the names of children's parents and their phone numbers.

"If we find a life jacket in the water, we launch a search that can cost thousands of dollars, but [the life jacket] could have just blown off a boat," said Kyle.

He hopes the contact information will save the coast guard money and time by allowing them to determine if a search is necessary.

He said that all life jackets and dinghies should be marked with phone numbers or B.C. drivers licence numbers.

Rentals committee

Interviews for people interested in serving on the Vacation Rentals Resource Sub-committee were scheduled for early this week. A May 7 public meeting had reviewed the sub-committee's role, answered community questions and solicited input about the LTC plan to have its Advisory Planning Commission come up with recommendations for dealing with vacation rentals.



PHANTOM PLAYERS: Arvid Chalmers and Diana Hayes dress in their Shakespearean best to celebrate the Lady Minto Phantom Ball. First prize in the Phantom Ball draw is a trip for two to the Stratford Festival in Ontario, and the draw will be held at the Lady Minto golf tournament on July 12.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

'Non-instructional' days set for 03-04

The Gulf Islands School District is considering a move to make the 2003-2004 school year shorter than dates set by the Ministry of Education.

"It's an extremely long and unusual calendar," said Gulf Islands superintendent Wendy Herbert at a May 14 board meeting.

The ministry has set dates for school to re-commence September 2 and end on June 30, 2004, for a total of 197 days in session.

Typically, school years have been closer to 190 days in length, Herbert said.

Consequently, the district may remove three instructional days over the course of the year to bring the school-session total to 194 days.

"No instruction time or employment will be lost," Herbert noted.

The district has earmarked Friday, November 7; Friday, January 16 and Friday, April 30 as non-instructional days.

"We're approaching this on a one-time basis," she said.

Dates were selected based on studies of employee absences over the course of the year.

"People are falling ill more frequently at this point in time," said secretary-treasurer Rod Scotvold.

The district has also identified six professional development (Pro-D) days for the 2003-2004 school year.

They will fall on: September 29 (Monday), October 24 (Friday), November 10 (Monday), February 10 (Monday), March 26 (Friday) and April 8 (Thursday).

Marina wish list grows; float camp permit wanted

Up to seven units of commercial accommodation have been added to the B&B Ganges Marina wish list for its comprehensive development proposal.

Trustees Kimberly Lineger and Eric Booth agreed to consider an amended plan as suggested by company representative Jim Robertson at Saturday afternoon's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting.

Robertson said the accommodation units would add 3,400 square feet to the current 21,500-square-foot proposal for a mixed commercial/residential building on existing lands and future foreshore fill at the Ganges

Marina site.

Robertson's second request — for a way to quickly process approval for the float camp structure to remain on site until the construction work is completed — was not granted.

A temporary use permit (TUP), which must follow a public process path, would be required.

John Gauld, the Trust's regional planning manager, explained the LTC was obligated to provide public notice of the TUP application and so it could not be dealt with until the June 26 LTC meeting at the earliest.

"There's no way to escape the fact we would have to

have a public meeting," he said.

A request to keep the float camp building in place via a TUP was turned down last October by the LTC under previous trustees Bev Byron and David Borrowman.

The LTC had also demanded it be removed from the waterfront since it contravened local bylaws.

Robertson said the structure will be needed as a base for personnel working on the project as it develops.

Next step in the plan is for B&B Ganges Marina to complete detailed site drawings and work with Trust staff further before a rezoning bylaw is considered for drafting.

School board committee aims to deal with declining numbers

Creative solutions to local schools' funding problems will be investigated by a new school district committee.

"There's an obvious decline in enrolment," said school board chair May McKenzie at the last board meeting on Galiano Island.

"We realize we have to deal with this pro-actively to maintain services; especially with uncertain funding maintained year to year," she said.

Consequently, the district has created the Futures 64 Steering Committee to guide discussion on innovative problem-solving ideas.

"We're hoping a year from now, maybe sooner, to report to the district," she said.

The committee will be comprised of district senior administrators, trustees, representatives from partner groups (principals, teachers, parent advisory councils and CUPE employees) and from members of the community.

Dan Lee of Salt Spring will co-chair the committee with McKenzie.

Fellow community members Jean Elder of Salt Spring, Mike Hoebel of Galiano, Michael Dunn of Mayne, Melanie Gaines of

Saturna and Liz Holovsky of Pender will also sit on the Futures 64 Steering Committee.

"One issue we're all aware of is affordable housing on all these islands; and jobs, of course," McKenzie said.

Once the steering committee determines the direction and scope of Futures 64, various subcommittees will look into smaller issues, she said.

"We've given ourselves a huge job with a huge scope. But we plan to hit the ground running in September."

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OF 2003

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<p>Wild thing... we think we love you! CONGRATULATIONS AUBREY! Love Mom, Dad, Erica & Amy</p>	<p>Good Luck Grads MURAKAMI COLLISION & AUTO REPAIRS</p>	<p>Congratulations Brady! LOTS OF LOVE FROM YOUR FAMILY</p>	<p>Congratulations Class of 2003 </p>	<p>Best Wishes to Grad Class 2003 from all the staff at HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL</p>
<p>Good luck grads 2003 from all of us at ISLAND STAR VIDEO Come in and point out your picture for a free movie</p>	<p>Congratulations & Good Luck to the Grads of 2003 UPPER GANGES CENTRE</p>	<p>You are an inspiration to all of us Adam! LOVE YOUR FAMILY CONGRATULATIONS SHANNON PETERSON May all your dreams come true.</p>	<p>Key Pawn Trucking & Aggregates Congratulations Taryn, Ayla, Susan Brett, Connor, Marcie, Amy, Dan & all the rest of the grads.</p>	<p>Congratulations, Grads! James Pasuta Law Office Go Grads! </p>
<p>Congratulations Sheila Ball. On behalf of the artists of the Waterfront Gallery</p>		<p>PENDER ISLAND GRADS Congratulations from the members. PENDER ISLAND GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB</p>	<p>Yahoo! Way to go! LOVE LEANNE AND JOHN Congratulations Mark! LOVE FROM DAD, MOM, AVERY & KEVAN SSI Voice of Women for Peace Congratulate 2003 Grads Good Luck!</p>	<p>Oystercatcher SIPSTONES A Taste of Old England la cucina c terrazza Congratulations Grads 2003</p>
<p>Congratulations Graham! YOU DID IT! Love Mom & Victor, Dad & Kari & Derek</p>		<p>EMILY MCDUGALL "I can see her beautiful" ALL MY LOVE, ERIN</p>	<p>Congratulations Joss and all the other Grads Live the change you want to see Enjoy a Great Future!</p>	<p>Congratulations Grads! We will continue to support you. ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR. 92 SS PAYLESS Best Wishes Grads!</p>



<p>Best Wishes to the Graduates of 2003 MURRAY COELL, MLA Saanich North and the Islands 1-866-655-5711</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS KIRSTIN Never stop playing! 637-1966 West of the Moon Congratulations Class of 2003! UNIGLOBE PACIFIC TRAVEL SHOP "Chase your dreams" "Reach for the stars" Salt Spring Books</p>	<p>Congratulations Grads of 2003 Jenny Steele Susan Mailey Diana Anglos Taryn Van Schetsen Graham Kitchen GANGES VILLAGE MARKET Emily, the whole world awaits LOVE MOM & DAD Congratulations 2003 Grads! SALT SPRING INSURANCE AGENCIES</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS GALIANO GRADS. We wish you success! GALIANO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Congratulations Grads! CHR ALLAN BRUCE, CREEKHOUSE REALTY "Oh the places you'll go!" -Dr. Seuss 121 Hereford Ave. 537-0028 www.fablescottage.com</p>	<p>Congratulations GISS "Class of 2003" Serving Salt Spring Island ROYAL LEPAGE SALT SPRING REALTY</p>
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<p>Congratulations to all 2003 Grads "WAY TO GO WILLARD" Love My Kitchen</p>	<p>PENDER ISLAND TRU VALUE FOODS would like to congratulate our 2003 Grads. Good luck in your future endeavours. Have a fun, safe grad.</p>	<p>SALTSPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE WISHES YOU WELL</p>	<p>PHOTOS MISSING: Nick Abley, Carmen Addario-Berry, Dayna Byron, Ho-Nam Chan, Alan Cheng, James Coles-Nash, Noah Copping, Myles English, Leah Jakubowski, Jan Korinth, Jasper Larson, Michael Midgett, Jordan Morrison, Tamara Pearse, Mik Sheehan, Tom Shimizu, Phil Wurr CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ADULT GRADUATES Jaesen Biddell, Brenda Hadden, Mariah Haenen, Randy Hoy, Marsha Jones, James King, Tesia Labine, Jeremiah Mathis, John Steele</p>	<p>PHOTOS MISSING: Nick Abley, Carmen Addario-Berry, Dayna Byron, Ho-Nam Chan, Alan Cheng, James Coles-Nash, Noah Copping, Myles English, Leah Jakubowski, Jan Korinth, Jasper Larson, Michael Midgett, Jordan Morrison, Tamara Pearse, Mik Sheehan, Tom Shimizu, Phil Wurr CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ADULT GRADUATES Jaesen Biddell, Brenda Hadden, Mariah Haenen, Randy Hoy, Marsha Jones, James King, Tesia Labine, Jeremiah Mathis, John Steele</p>
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A message from the **CLASS OF 2003**

Thanks to all of the teachers, parents and supporters
who have helped us to get through our final year.

SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE....

- * Our sports teams did well with Senior Boys Soccer qualifying for the Provincial Championships finishing a respectable 10th, the Senior Girls Basketball team hosted the Island Championships placing 4th, and the Senior Girls Volleyball Team placed 4th in the Island Championships. Harley Rustad and Mark Brown coached the Junior Boys Soccer team to a 1st place finish at the Mid Island Championships
- * Our Senior Volleyball Teams went to Hawaii and enjoyed a challenge against many local teams.
- * In the Arts our GISS School Jazz Band was honoured with gold at the Nanaimo Music Festival Spring 2003. The Band and Choirs went to Cuba and performed in various schools. Aubrey Zaccharis received Top Jazz Vocalist at the Surrey Jazz Festival 2003. Grade 12 stars of the "Little Shop of Horrors" included Jekka Mack, Charlotte Curtis, Jess McMahon, Metta McLeod, Christina Penhale, Tyler Wooley, Jeff Millerd, Greyston Stefancsik, & Phil Wurr.
- * The Grade 11/12 dance class took six of their dances to the Greater Victoria Dance Festival. "Hoe Down", choreographed by students Martina Nowak, Christina Penhale, and Claire Miller was called back for Honours.
- * Mathew Davies gathered honours in culinary arts and Natalie Schlogl won 1st place in the Surrey Gingerbread House Competition in the landscape section December 2002.
- * Dustin Fennel, Laurin Kelsey, and Natalie Schlogl, future broadcasters, kept GISS informed every day on the PA.
- * This year GISS got it's first school newspaper. Editors Britt Christianson, Charlotte Curtis and Megan Leitch and a host of writers including Jenny Danyliv, Kristin Flannagan, Katie Jones, Laurin Kelsey, Megan Lapaire, Cory Marshall, Alex Simpson, Nikki Tweedle and Stewart Webb brought us "GISS What?"
- * Laurin Kelsey was the only student present at the first School Planning Council meeting held in Richmond. As a representative of all the students in BC, she was asked to make closing remarks in front of the Minister of Education and 300 Administrators and Educators from all over BC.
- * In the Academics, Megan Leitch scored 100% and Charlotte Curtis 99% on the Math 12 Provincial Exam in January 2003. A grade 12 Physics team which included Charlotte Curtis, Megan Leitch, Kirstin Flannagan, Claire Miller and Lee Fairbrother competed in the 25th annual Physics Olympics at UBC in March 2003.
- * In community service, Nikki Tweedle was very instrumental in helping raise funds for the Heart Foundation. Brittany Grundy and the Leadership group organized several different successful fundraising events. One was a 30 hour fast organized to raise funds to help build a school in Ghana.
- * In the school We worked as Peer Tutors to help our fellow students who are having difficulty with their course work and we also worked as Peer Counsellors to help other students deal with their problems. Grade 12 students continued their involvement with SWOVA as teen facilitators in violence prevention activities and travelled to several schools off island to do presentations. Grade 12 Leadership students helped organize school dances for their fellow students & the Middle School. The Grade 12 members of Leadership have played a major role in the Leadership Group this past school year.
- * We have been accepted at Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, UBC, Dalhousie, McGill, Guelph, Bishops, St. Francis Xavier, Camosun, Malaspina, Capilano College and many more.
- * We have worked all over the Gulf Islands serving you at grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, coffee shops, bakeries, shoe stores, B & B's and various other retail outlets.
- * We are the GISS Grads of 2003. We have had a great four years at GISS and hope that we have left behind a good impression.

We'd Like To Say Thanks...

To the many parents, community members and local businesses who have supported our Safe Grad Celebration by purchasing ads in this section, donating prizes, buying Jellybeans at the Liquor store, and by making other donations big and small. All of your generous support has been much appreciated.



Best Wishes

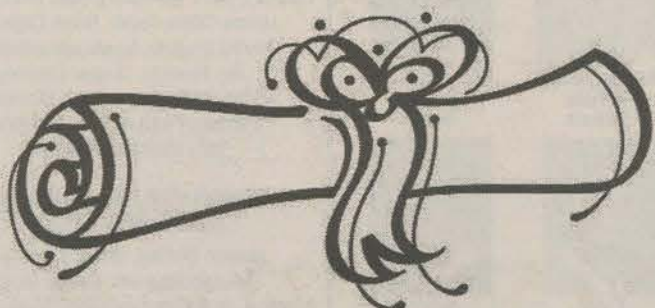
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SIMS student gives SWOVA new name

Thanks to Grade 6 student Sarah Dann, Violence is Preventable is the new memorable name for an anti-violence workshop in schools sponsored by Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse (SWOVA).

"Students have found the title of the program to be quite a mouthful," said SWOVA's Lynda Laushway, referring in a press release to the Developing Healthy and Respectful Relationships Program.

SWOVA replaced the mouthful of words with a big bite of pizza by sponsoring a re-naming contest in the Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS) and awarding a pizza-lunch prize to the class of the person who came up with the winning name.

SIMS students submitted names to a SWOVA youth and adult panel, and program facilitators Pat



VIP: From left, student Nahanni Kay, SWOVA facilitator Ahava Shira, winner Sarah Dann, and SWOVA facilitator Pat Fagan announce the new name of SWOVA's Violence is Preventable program with a pizza lunch at SIMS on Wednesday.

Photo by Debbie Willis

Fagan and Ahava Shira presented the award to Dann's class on Wednesday.

Violence is Preventable, or VIP, will replace the existing name starting in September.

"VIP can also stand for Very Important Person, so it sounds important," said Dann of her winning entry.

"And it [the program] is important."

Dann said that coming up with the winning name was a collaborative effort.

"A bunch of my friends helped me, and my teacher Mrs. Miller."

The program, which is a partnership between SWOVA and School District 64, encourages participants to look at the consequences of violent behaviour and teaches peaceful conflict resolution, said Shira.

The program is presented to students in grades 7, 8, 9 and 11, and deals with topics such as self-esteem, setting boundaries, equality, mutual respect, assertiveness, empathy, communications, systemic violence and the influence of the media.

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Government holds liquor store plans

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
 Staff Writer

Closures of government liquor stores have been temporarily bottled after Solicitor General Rich Coleman announced a sobering re-assessment of plans to privatize liquor sales across the province.

"It's the best news I've heard in a long time," said Ganges liquor store employee Jorge Coelho.

"What that means is they're having a hard time closing liquor stores," Coelho said.

"I want to look at the entire liquor file and come back with a plan and recommendations for caucus," minister Coleman said. "I believe it's my responsibility to look at the entire infrastructure — to take a fresh look."

The provincial government had previously announced plans to be out of the liquor distribution business by July 2, Coelho noted.

"The government brings no special talents or purpose to retailing, warehousing or distributing alcohol," said Competition, Science and Enterprise minister Rick Thorpe in a July 24, 2002 press release.

"Increasing opportunities for private-sector involvement will result in improved services, consumer choice and access, and better use of liquor distribution branch (LDB)

resources."

But it appears Thorpe's plan was tanked after the LDB portfolio was transferred from the competition ministry to the solicitor general this month, Coelho said.

"I take it as positive news. However, it could be something else."

The LDB portfolio has been transferred through half a dozen ministries over the past 14 years he's worked in liquor stores but he takes Coleman's words with a snifter of optimism.

"It works, so why fix it?"

And Coelho credits public pressure for encouraging the provincial government to review its role in controlling liquor sales.

"There was a lot of community pressure to keep liquor stores open."

Vancouver City Council even refused to license private stores, he added.

"That threw a monkey wrench into things . . . It shows that we want it as it is."

B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) president George Heyman also called the temporary halt "good news" for communities in a press release.



Coelho

"At least 65 local governments, as well as addiction and treatment experts and groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, have requested a moratorium and public input on the government's plans," Heyman said.

Noting that the LDB is a socially responsible enterprise, Heyman also questioned the Liberals' plan to shut down a multi-billion dollar public asset (\$3.1 billion net profits in the last five years) without getting any return on the investment.

"That's why British Columbians created the

LDB. We own it. We operate it. It's our tool to ensure that social and community values are not forgotten in a drive for greater profits."

Government-run stores are even beneficial to their privately owned competitors, Coelho noted.

"We treat them nice. We have a professional relationship."

The island's three beer, wine and spirit stores currently use the government liquor store as a kind of warehouse, he said.

"In a way, it's sort of working."



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Persistence helps Faerie shuttle spreads wings

Salt Spring's fledging Ganges Faerie Mini-Shuttle business has now settled in as a regular island fixture.

Business owner Ineke de Jong has even traded her trusty old station wagon for an upgraded luxury van.

"The word is getting around... I just wish people would stop picking up hitchhikers," De Jong laughed.

But the local businesswoman quickly noted that she isn't really opposed to hitchhiking and thinks of the alternate travel mode as a part of the island spirit.

"It's good there are hitchhikers and someone willing to pick them up."

She even maintains a cooperative relationship with her other transportation competitor, Silver Shadow Taxi Ltd.

"We work together," she said.

De Jong informs prospective passengers that her shuttle service only travels to certain locations and that fares are charged for each person.

"If I have a family of four it's certainly cheaper



FERRY SERVICE: Ineke De Jong stands with her new van used in her quickly-growing ferry shuttle service.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

for them to take the taxi."

She is not looking to build a financial empire, just a viable business.

"I'm somewhat staying afloat and I'm learning a lot."

Since de Jong began her shuttle business three months ago, she has

already moved on from a five-passenger station wagon to a customized van.

"My family felt it was a good enough cause to help with getting a van."

She replaced her "old wagon" after the transmission started to fail and the vehicle was deemed a poor

investment to maintain, she explained.

"I felt almost embarrassed at having such a nice van. I've never had a lot of money... In a way it looks good if people think you're successful. They're more likely to use the service. It looks and feels more posi-

tive. People can sit in there and have a nice little sight-seeing trip."

Her Sidewinder conversion van is so roomy it even allows people to get in and out of the vehicle without disturbing each other.

As an added bonus, she can travel in comfort.

"It's a living room that I can take around with me while I wait for ferries."

And de Jong spends a considerable amount of time meeting ferries. She works 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., six days a week.

"Working 13 hours a day isn't as bad as it sounds," she said.

De Jong spends much of her time working on call for regular customers who book in advance. About 50 per cent of her business comes from locals, she said.

"It's more than I thought there would be. I'm very pleased."

Booking in advance helps her to be at the right

terminal at the right time, she said.

"I can't be at three terminals at the same time."

Tourists who arrive without knowledge of transportation options have also been happy to discover the shuttle, she said.

The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, Harbour House Hotel, the International Youth Hostel and Seabreeze Inne all let visitors know about her service. Information about her business is also on the chamber website.

"In fact, somebody found out about me while travelling in Vietnam," she said.

De Jong intends to meet as many ferries as she can manage throughout the tourist season to help spread the word about her business.

"Persistence and tenacity are what I have to practise here."

For more information about the Ganges Faerie Mini-Shuttle, call Ineke on her cell phone (537-6758).

First Nations women invited to forum

The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group (HTG) is hosting a women's forum to discuss treaty issues from a women's perspective.

Organized specifically for women of the six HTG First Nations, it runs at the Quw'wutsun centre in Duncan on Thursday, May

29, from 9-3:30.

"This is the first forum of this nature for Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group and we are honoured to host this exciting event," said HTG communications director Shana Robinson. "Women from the six Hul'qumi'num communities need to actively partici-

pate in this process and we hope that this forum will provide the safe space they need to share their opinions and ideas."

The key issue on the forum's agenda is determining who will receive access to treaty entitlements.

To register, women should call 1-888-

9TREATY.

The HTG is currently in Stage 4 — the agreement-in-principle level — of the six-stage treaty process.

Its core territory includes the Chemainus and Cowichan valleys, the Gulf Islands and traditional village sites along the Fraser River.

Green Café serves 'progressive' talk

By TOM MITCHELL

On June 1 the Green Party of B.C. is launching a new kind of monthly gathering on Salt Spring called the Green Café.

Local Greens invite all ages and political views to discuss the future of B.C. and how we can all help bring about responsible government and a truly progressive society.

"There are approximately 800,000 unregistered voters in B.C., the majority of whom are young adults," said Adrienne Carr, provincial Green Party leader, at a recent meeting in Saanich.

This number represents roughly one-third of potential voters having no say in decisions which radically affect their lives and those of their children. Consider this figure in light of the upcoming Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform beginning in October.

Only 158 people randomly chosen from the voters list (representing an age and gender balance) will decide for all B.C. how the electoral process will change or not, by accepting one of three reform options.

The choice they make

will be the only choice offered in a B.C. referendum to follow that requires 60 per cent majority support for any real change to happen.

This roulette and pendulum politics is leading to further environmental degradation and the dismantling of our democratic rights and social safeguards. Without real choices, we are only offered one reality to accept; the corporate agenda for maximizing short-term profits. The Green Party unequivocally rejects this view and envisions building toward a new path grounded in ecologic and community values. Voice your rights and register your vote!

This new Green Café will include information sharing, questions and answer sessions on Green policies, vision and how to appropriately get there through ecologic and economically sensible governance.

Organic fair-trade coffee by Ometepe will be served and potluck is welcome.

Organizing upcoming ventures, voter registration and fundraising will also be a focus in the first Green Café set for StarBooks in Gasoline Alley on Sunday, June 1, from 1-4 p.m.

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Simply seaweed

By SUSAN LUNDY
Staff Writer

The very worst is the drive there.

Leaving the Driftwood office, I motor along Robinson Road, wind around the shore-hugging Walker Hook all the way to Salt Spring Spa Resort, where I have agreed to undergo — of all things — a seaweed wrap.

Seaweed. The slimy-underfoot stuff my daughters and I avoid on the beach by tip-toeing through the tide pools.

The stuff that reaches up from the depths of the sea ominously brushing your feet, striking you suddenly with the fear of sharks circling below.

Or, ultimately, the black-green squares I spread out on the countertop to roll up sushi — an image I'm having a tough time removing from my head as I try to picture myself on a table, all wrapped up in seaweed.

But seaweed also has medicinal purposes, and spas around the world are using it to replenish the skin and body.

But Diane Bernard, the "Seaweed Lady," oozes enthusiasm as she dives into the deep waters of seaweed trivia. As the tidal force behind Soke company Outer Coast Seaweeds, she is at the spa to introduce her products to island estheticians and body workers.

About eight women crowd into a treatment room as Bernard dangles sea flora tidbits, floats historical facts and sternly counters the seaweed "ick-factor."

(How did she know what I was thinking?)

Her grandmothers' generation on the east coast of Canada used seaweed in mattresses and wrapped lobsters in the stuff to keep them cool.

But today its uses are more varied. Indeed, you might find it cooked to a tender-crisp beside a chunk of salmon on your fancy restaurant dinner plate, or you might find yourself lying on a table firmly embraced by its slender

leaves. Take your pick.

And just as we should never judge someone's garden by her compost, Bernard says, we shouldn't let rotting shoreline seaweed give the living ocean plant a bad name.

Ah, point taken.

Creating a line of spa products marks a different course for the commercial harvester, who has eaten pounds of demonstration seaweed in her efforts to get upscale chefs to include it in their cuisine repertoire.

With an alphabet of vitamins, 12 minerals, 60 trace elements, high fibre and low fat, "seaweed is the perfect food," she says.

But, it turns out, it also has medicinal purposes, and spas around the world are using it to replenish the skin and body.

Because Bernard is seaweed-crazy, it isn't surprising that three years ago she walked into a spa and immediately homed in on jars of seaweed lined up on a shelf. Giving them a closer look, she found "sterile-type creams" inside which conflicted with her understanding and vision of seaweed.

"It shouldn't look like that," she thought to herself, and then set out to discover what it should look like.

Which is why I'm lying prone on the table at Salt Spring Spa Resort, being caked with a roughly-textured, green-grey material that is probably closer in appearance to guacamole than Jergens hand cream.

And the scent is decidedly more — nautical.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The treatment begins with a full body rub of a gritty exfoliant, made from seaweed and sea salt, which leaves my skin happily stinging, and gives me the first sense (believe it or not) that this experience might not be so bad after all.

The next part — a highlight because I'm partial to baths — involves a relaxing soak in the spa's jet-stream tub. At my fingertips sits a dried piece of seaweed, which I'm expected to use as a cloth.

I shrug, dip it into the water and watch it expand into a silky-smooth material. I drape it over my face — it feels like satin and smells like the sea — and, I confess, I like it.

Then it's back to the treatment table and time for me to "go sushi."

I'm coated with Bernard's creamy seaweed-clay mask and then draped with long leafy seaweed (most treatments don't



Island esthetician and body worker Suzanne Ambers applies heated stones as an additional touch to a seaweed treatment given to an off-island client at her Wholistic Studio on Wilkie Way.

Photo by Cheryl Lundy

actually use seaweed leaves — I'm just particularly lucky). Finally, me, muck and plant are all rolled up in towels and blankets. A special-for-the-face mask is rubbed into cheeks, chin and forehead, while another esthetician massages my feet.

I'm feeling pretty relaxed. Of course, I'm all wrapped up like a California roll so it's tough to feel anything else.

The session ends too soon with a shower and another massage, and I'm sent back out into the world all tingly and tranquil.

Before I hit the road, I spend a few minutes with island esthetician and body worker Suzanne Ambers, who has used seaweed in treatments for years but has been limited by the lack of "natural, organic" products.

"I don't like to use what I can't eat," she says, but she still wants to use seaweed, which "re-mineralizes the skin and is so full of nutrients."

Now that she has Bernard's products, she is set up to give seaweed treatments at her Wilkie Way Wholistic Studio.

As well, seaweed treatments are available at Salt Spring Spa Resort, and other body workers around the island are also likely to jump aboard the seaweed wagon.

And so I return to the office, casting a more thoughtful look at the beach and sea. My skin feels refreshed and the day's stress has evaporated.

But, I decide, I'll skip the sushi lunch.

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TOP FORM: The Jones family, from left, Kara, Sid, Lisbeth and Ryan — raised over \$800 as they participated in a Victoria triathlon last Sunday.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

Island Stars steal home: 18-10 View Royal match

Good fielding and back-up characterized an Island Stars Pee-Wee fast-pitch game on Saturday, reported Darin Craig in a press release.

The Island Stars played in Victoria against the View Royal, and the game ended with an 18 to 10 score in favour of the home team.

View Royal had strong pitching, but so did Devon Craig, who got the first batter out in the second half of the first inning.

Deven Miles held runners when she caught a pop fly and Missy Carron threw a ball home to stop a runner on third, but the View Royal team managed to get five walks in the first inning.

Emily Rothwell stole around to home to bring in the first run of the second inning, but when Megan Robinson got out at first, it left two players on the bases.

Again Craig struck the first batter out, and Colleen Hillis got the second batter out when she caught a pop fly. View Royal couldn't get a single run during the inning, and left one runner on base.

The third inning saw no runs for the Island Stars, but strong hitting and five runs for View Royal.

Rosalie Baldwinson got to first on her hit, and stole all the way home in the fourth inning. The trend continued through the inning, with Craig, Miles and Brittany Oakley all stealing home.

The Island Stars brought in five runs. View Royal was held when Katy Haydon brought the ball into second, but when all the bases were loaded, a batter hit a grand slam to bring in three runs. Another hit gave them a total of five runs in the inning.

The final inning included Hillis getting a base hit and stealing home in the fifth inning, and Baldwinson getting a hit for a double.

In other play, the Island Stars faced tough competition against Strawberry Vale in Victoria on Saturday, reported Ted Baldwinson.

The other team was approximately two years older than the local players, and won the match 12-0.

Hillis managed to steal third but with three strikes after her in the first inning

no runs came in. In the second half, Hillis caught a fly at the short stop for the first out.

Pitcher Craig caught a pop-up for the second out, but two runs slipped past the Stars in the first inning.

There were no runs for the Stars in the second inning.

Katie Villadsen made excellent throws, Baldwinson caught a fly, Rothwell made a force out at third, and Hillis snagged a fast, hard hit out of the air, but Strawberry Vale snuck in three runs.

Baldwinson almost stole home at the top of the third inning but was tagged out, and Villadsen was left on base as the inning closed.

Hard hitting and good stealing brought five runs in for Strawberry Vale.

A new pitcher struck out three Stars in a row in the fourth inning, but the local squad showed good fielding in the second half when Baldwinson got a batter out at first base.

Strawberry Vale finished the game by getting two runs.

Island family raises funds in Triathlon for Healing

The "Jones Clan" of Salt Spring might not have posted the most speedy time at a Victoria triathlon on Sunday but the athletic team was happy to raise funds for a worthwhile cause and compete together as a family.

"We're not really fast but we try," said mom Lisbeth Jones.

She ran with her son Ryan (aged 11), while her 14-year-old daughter Kara swam and husband Sid cycled within the Triathlon For Healing at CFB Naden in Esquimalt.

"If you have a goal, it gets you all out there," she said.

It was the second time the family has competed in the triathlon fundraiser to help raise money for the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, she said.

"We like to support this because there's a lot of sexu-

al abuse of women, children and even men."

Coach Ryan helped Lisbeth beat her time from last year by three minutes to hit 38:26. But the duo could have had a much better time running the hilly five-kilometre course if not for a leg cramp, she said.

"There's hope for us 'mamas' over 40. If I can do it, anyone can."

Kara also bettered her record from last year to swim the 500-metre course in 12:44 minutes and Sid beat his time from the previous triathlon to cycle 19 kilometres in 39:15 minutes.

The team actually made the podium with a third-place finish in the family category.

"There might have only been three families," Lisbeth laughed.

But the Salt Spring family also placed third for fundraising by hauling in \$802 to support survivors of sexual violence.

The 188 entries in the fundraiser collected over \$10,000 for the sexual assault centre, she said.

"I'd like to give a big 'thank you' to all my sponsors," said Lisbeth.

She hopes to return to the triathlon next year but noted it's difficult to train for the event without an indoor pool on the island.

"If only we had a pool, more people could do this. Shelby Pool doesn't help in the winter."

The Jones family would have also enjoyed supporting the local pool fundraiser last weekend but had a conflict with the two event dates, she noted.

Judo fighters battle experience but take top national positions

Megan Leitch and Adrian Elliott fought well against competitors above their level in the National Senior Judo Championships in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on Saturday.

Leitch fought against experienced senior players though she should be in the junior age-group. She made it to the bronze medal round, but lost the fight and finished fourth out of 14.

"The people she was fighting were quite a bit older and they were second or third-degree black belts," said Bev Stewart, Leitch's mother, who pointed out that Leitch, 16, got her black belt in December.

Head coach of the B.C. team, René Hock, complimented Leitch for an excellent performance.

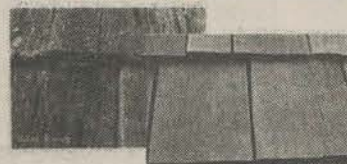
Elliott, 21, won a round against a black belt fighter even though he is a brown belt, and came ninth out of 22.

"He fought really well," said Stewart, who described Elliott's fights as excellent. "It was his best performance yet."

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Island track champ takes on older athletes and wins

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Gulf Islands Secondary School student Sarah Proctor might be only 15 years old but she's proven that she can challenge athletes of any age in middle-distance running.

The local Grade 9 student even beat two university athletes to win an 800-metre race at the Dogwood Invitational Track and Field Meet at the University of Victoria on Sunday.

"At the 600-metre mark, Sarah was behind by 10 metres. She began her sprint to the finish line at that point, and passed her much-older rival in the last 15 metres," said Sarah's father, Jim Proctor.

Sarah also displayed composure by evading a technique designed to throw her off pace, he said.

"One of the university runners ran as a rabbit for the other and turned in a fast 67 seconds for the first 400 metres and then dropped out."

He noted that the race was exciting with lots of cheering for Sarah from the stands. The islander finished the 800-metre dash with a time of two minutes 20.20 seconds.

Sarah also competed in a 400-metre race against athletes aged 16, 17 and 18 as part of the Dogwood Invitational on Saturday.

She finished a very respectable third with a time of 60.45 seconds, Jim reported.

"A very tactical race. Sarah put on a terrific sprint at the end and missed second place by 13 hundredths of a second."

The community track event capped off a week of other triumphs.

Proctor placed first in both



Sarah Proctor

the 400-metre and 800-metre races at the mid-Vancouver Island juniors' track meet in Duncan.

Fellow junior track athletes Roshan Cornwall, Laurel Biagioni and Esther Dewaard also attended the event.

After blasting through the junior mid-islands, Proctor then attended the Vancouver Island senior-secondary track meet with Evan Hartman in Victoria on May 20-21.

Hartman placed 15th in the 3,000 metre and Proctor qualified to go on to the B.C. Track and Field Championships with a personal best of 59 seconds in the 400-metre run.

The islander would have also entered the 800-metre event but she was disqualified after she ran out of her lane, she said.

"It's too bad about the 800."

But Proctor has already proven her mettle in the 800-metre event with a bronze medal from the B.C. Summer Games in Nanaimo last August.

To round off her perfor-

mance at the Summer Games, she also collected a bronze for the 400-metre race and a silver in the 4X400 metre relay.

Middle-distance running has many aspects that appeal to her sensibilities.

"There's strategy involved. In the 800, you have to pace yourself and make sure you don't get boxed in."

Unfortunately, she's found it difficult to practise on Salt Spring since there is no community track club and there are minimal facilities.

"It's hard to get motivated when you don't have a training partner. You've got to find the motivation to run."

Even though she enjoys team sports, she gets the most satisfaction out of track events, she said.

"In track, you know you did it yourself. You get as much out of it as you put into it."

With subtle refinements of starting techniques, she has continued to improve her performance.

"It's all about the milliseconds."

This summer she has a shot at entering the national arena through qualification at the provincials but she is moving to Toronto in August.

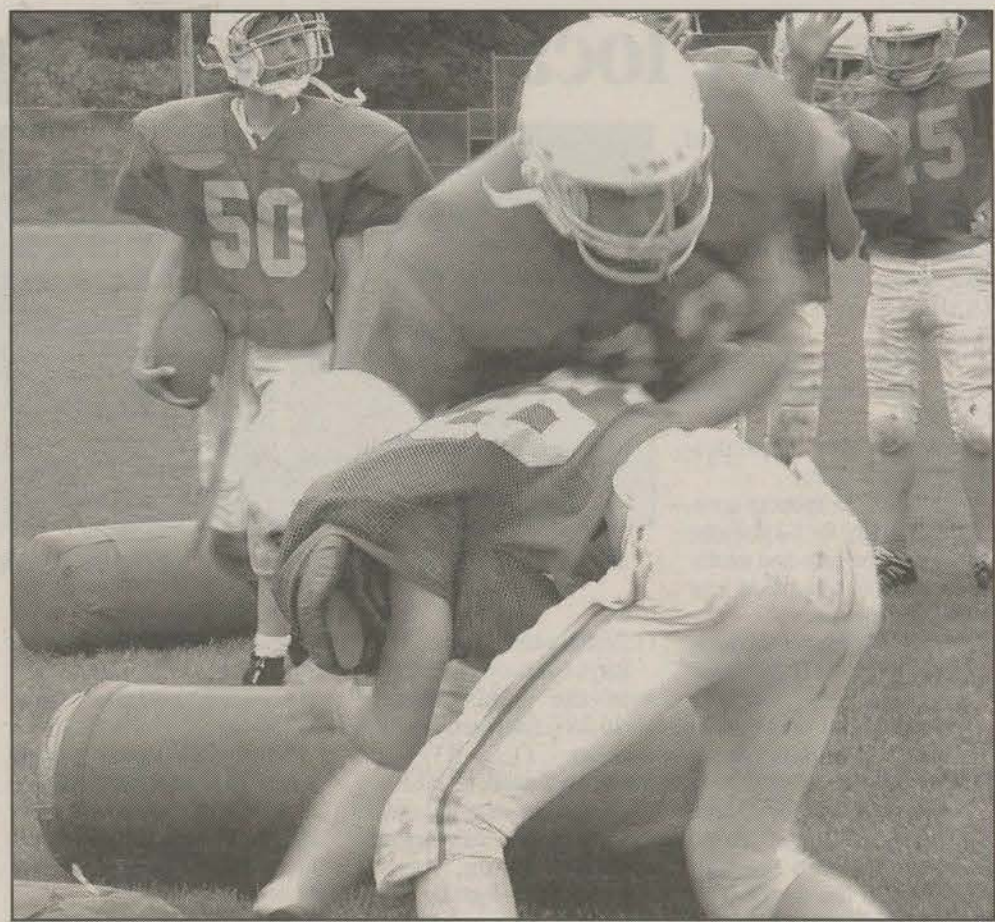
"For track, I'm really looking forward to it. They have indoor tracks for winter training."

Proctor will also likely find a community track program with more support, she said.

"Next year, I'll go hard core. It will be way better."

Though it will be hard to leave her island home and friends, the track scene will definitely be an improvement.

"It just seems to all fall into place."



TACKLE PRACTICE: Members of the new Salt Spring varsity football team are getting ready to tackle another season during after-school practices at the Hydro field Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

Varsity football fielded here

Spring training has begun for Salt Spring's first ever varsity football team.

"It's great to be able to expand the football program so kids who want to keep playing don't have to go off-island," said coach Doug Mitchell.

He plans to test the new varsity squad with players from grades 9 and 10 at the Cowichan Football Jamboree on May 31.

"Football is the most democratic sport I know. There is a place for every size and shape of kid," Mitchell said.

The local coach was a CFL great and served as a CFL commissioner, notes team spokesman John Foley.

As junior bantams last year, the Salt

Spring Slayers team had a very successful season (13 wins, two losses) and made a trip to the league semi-finals, said Foley.

The jamboree will give the local varsity team an opportunity to check out the new competition and have some fun through a series of mini-games, he said.

Another junior bantam team (ages 11-13) will also start practising later in the summer.

Registration is still open for the varsity team and registration forms for the junior bantams will be distributed through the schools in early June.

"We're looking forward to another great year of football on Salt Spring," said Foley, who can provide more information at 537-0083.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee

June 3, 2003

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Swartz Bay Terminal Meeting Room

The *Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee* is holding a meeting as noted above. Members of the public are welcome to attend. If you have any questions you wish to raise with the committee or with BC Ferries, please bring these to the attention of a committee member prior to the meeting. If you wish to address the committee, please provide advance notice to one of the Committee Members noted below.

The *Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee* is appointed by local governments to advise BC Ferries on local ferry issues. The committee also advises the Corporation periodically on broader policy and service issues.

Agenda items for this meeting include:

- Financial Reorganization
- Coastal Ferry Services Contract
- Capital Projects - Update

Minutes of committee meetings will be posted on the BC Ferries Web site at www.bcferrries.com.

The following persons may be contacted as members of your ferry advisory committee:

<i>Saturna Island</i>	<i>Brian Hollingshead</i>	<i>250-539-5191</i>
<i>Pender Island</i>	<i>Dave Dryer</i>	<i>250-629-3381</i>
<i>Mayne Island</i>	<i>Donna Branston</i>	<i>250-539-3622</i>
<i>Galiano Island</i>	<i>David Hutton</i>	<i>250-539-5779</i>
<i>Salt Spring Island</i>	<i>Doreen Hewitt</i>	<i>250-537-1518</i>

For more information, contact one of the committee members (above) or Stephen Nussbaum, Regional Communications Officer at 250-655-6187 or by email at stephen.nussbaum@bcferries.com.

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ROUND SALTSPRING 2003

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West of the Moon

Speedy locals earn top spots in SSPLASH events

Runners from all around the region gathered to compete in the island's first half-marathon and 10-kilometre running events as part of a Salt Spring Pool Association (SSPLASH) fundraiser Sunday.

"I think we met our goals," said race organizer Ben Cooper.

"The number of participants was fantastic."

A total of 87 runners competed in a hilly 21.1-kilometre half-marathon race and another 89 entrants scrambled over a 10-kilometre run.

"We didn't expect so many people from Salt Spring," Cooper said.

He estimated that 60 per cent of participants were locals.

But off-islander Mike Stone of the Island Road Racers club won the half marathon in the men's 0-39 division with a solid margin (1:19:14), Michael Lord of the Prairie Inn Harriers running club placed second (1:21:57) and Joel Werner



10-K runners take off with winner Nick Holm front, centre

Photo by Derrick Lundy

(1:26:02) placed third.

Rhys Harrison of Parksville won the men's over 39 (1:26:28), followed by Gary Duncan (1:29:33) and Stanislaw Lassak (1:30:10).

As a point of note, one of the Salt Spring race organizers, Rick Laing, was the fastest Salt Spring half-marathon participant and he finished fourth in the men's over 39 division (1:32:57).

Among women, Jody Leeti led the 0-39 group (1:36:27),

islander Sheena Bull placed second (1:37:25) and Joan Harmsworth came third (1:38:44).

Victoria's Jenny Taylor won the over-39 group (1:41:05), followed by 100-marathon veteran Janet Green (1:42:44) and Leanne Anglin (1:46:53).

Eleven-year old islander Danica Lundy posted the fastest time (49:31) of all female competitors in the 10-kilometre event.

ran the 10-K course in 34:22 minutes, Andrew Hallam placed second (37:12) in the under 40 division and islander Neil Kerrigan came third (44:20).

Courtenay runner Darren Skuja won the men over-39 category (37:52), Greg Leiman placed second (39:02) and local runner Vlad Pomaizl (39:55) placed third.

Cooper was surprised to see such good times in both the half-marathon and 10-K events.

"I think Salt Spring will go into 'cult-status' for running hills," said Cooper, as one of the organizers.

He noted that race marshal Stan Peters had a hard time keeping ahead of the half-marathon winner.

Cooper, Laing and other key organizers: Perry Newport (registration), Gail Bryn-Jones (volunteer coordination), Rosemary Trump

(refreshment coordination) and Chuck Hamilton (race marshaling); also wanted to offer huge thanks to the legions of volunteers who made the race possible.

Cooper and Laing estimate that the fundraiser collected over \$3,000.

"With any luck, the volunteers will come back out and we could do it again next year," said Laing.

He was happy to finish with a personal best on the local half-marathon course and remarked that it was good to see so many younger runners take the challenge.

Discussing accomplishments by Lundy in the 10-K and Lowell Rockliffe (age 14), who ran in the half marathon, Laing expressed particular respect for the youthful participants.

"I'm always impressed by younger people who can do more than sprint."

Trail, nature club announces activities for month of June

For summer activities, it has been suggested that members who might wish to go hiking, walking or rambling should get together as usual on Tuesdays for an informal outing.

The ramblers would meet at Centennial Park at the usual time (10 a.m.) but the walkers would meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. as they might combine with the hikers.

It should be noted that for insurance reasons, any non-member will be required to sign a waiver, which can be obtained from the cobbler's box.

Ramblers

June 3: A ramble in the north end led by Percy Dewar and Ilsa Foster. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

June 10: We go off-island for a ramble around McDonald Park led by Harold Page, followed by Margaret Allen.

June 17: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. for a ramble around Mout Park led by Margaret Allen. Then we go to Drummond Park for the Strawberry Festival at

noon. Don't forget to bring a bowl and spoon.

Any questions about rambles only, please call Margaret Allen at 538-0331.

Hikers

June 3: Join Peter Lamb and Jean Gelwicks on a north-end adventure. Carpool to leave Portlock Park at 9:45 a.m.

June 10: Today hikers will be trail-blazing and broom-pulling in Arnell Park. Walkers and ramblers will also be welcome to help in this effort. Bring your tree pruners, brush cutters etc. Carpool to leave ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to meet up with south-enders at Arnell Park.

June 17: Join us for a short but brisk hike ahead of the Strawberry Festival. To leave ArtSpring at 9:30 a.m. to meet up with south-enders at Drummond Park at 9:45.

Walkers

June 3: We go off-island today with Anke Smeele to the Cedar Hills golf course area in Victoria. After we finish our customary walk, Anke is offering to provide an optional, one-hour additional stroll through the gardens and grounds of the University of Victoria. We will meet either

at ArtSpring and leave there in carpools at 9 a.m. or wait at the Fulford ferry where we will catch the 10 a.m. sailing. Returning, walkers can get either the 3 or 5 p.m. sailings, depending on your preference.

June 10: Today Diana and Rino Floritto will escort us over to Maracaibo for a walk through this moderately demanding property by the water. Meet at ArtSpring to leave at 10 a.m. to carpool to the parking lot at Maracaibo.

June 17: Our annual Strawberry Festival takes place today. This year we are moving to Drummond Park (no entrance fees here) to eat around noon. Remember to bring your bowl and spoon! No walk planned for today.

June 24: Our final activity for the spring and summer is a volunteer work party to finish the broom-clearing and trail-making efforts started two weeks ago by the hikers at the end of Sarah Way (off Stewart Road and Jasper Road).

If you can help out for a couple of hours today, please bring pruning shears and other tools to help make a trail clear of broom, plus your energy. Meet at ArtSpring and carpool at 10 a.m. to the work site.

Week's top bowlers named

By RICHARD MENZEL
Driftwood Contributor

As many of you know, Rhonda Vine has taken over management of Kings Lane from Paula Bedford.

Rhonda's Place Restaurant is the new name of the restaurant and I am the person to call on matters related to bowling.

Both of us can be reached at 538-0338 for all your catering and bowling needs.

As with all new ventures, some things get lost in transition.

One was the weekly write-up in the Driftwood on the

HIGH ROLLERS

excellent scores achieved by players of bowling leagues that frequent Kings Lane. Our sincere apologies to all for the oversight.

This is to bring you up to speed on the scores we have available for the last few games.

Summer league: May 22: Arnie Hengstler, 233; Art Beaumont, 246; David Carey, 238; Myles Wilson, 210; Ken Ditlof, 227; Lance Leask, 205; Jim Glenn, 204.

Seniors Hi Rollers, Tuesday afternoon:

April 22: Marianne Leber, 216.

April 29: Reg Winstone, 211; Henry Otto, 207; Harold Repen, 210; Clara Hicks, 269.

May 6: Marianne Leber, 224; Clara Hicks, 214.

May 13: Harold Repen, 238; Betty Kane, 238; Reg Winstone, 221; June Webb, 201.

This was the final of the season.

Special Olympics league
May 21: Jason Newport, 143; Sharon Way 227.

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<p>FLORIDA FIELD TOMATOES 2.16 kg 98¢ lb</p>	<p>CHIQUITA BANANAS 1.08 kg 49¢ lb</p>	<p>BC EXTRA FANCY SPARTAN APPLES 1.94 kg 88¢ lb</p>	<p>NEW ZEALAND BOSE PEARS 2.18 kg 99¢ lb</p>	<p>CALIFORNIA WHOLE SEEDLESS WATERMELON 86c/kg 39¢ lb</p>	<p>BC HOT HOUSE GREEN PEPPERS 2.16 kg 98¢ lb</p>

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Historic chess trophy find inspires upcoming tourney

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

A relic trophy of Salt Spring's illustrious chess history has been unearthed by good fortune to inspire a local tournament and renew an honoured island tradition.

Local retiree and veteran Ivan Mouat recently contacted the Salt Spring Chess Club with news of a special discovery.

He had found the original club trophy that had been awarded to local players between 1931 and 1948.

"I think my father won it the first year," said Mouat.

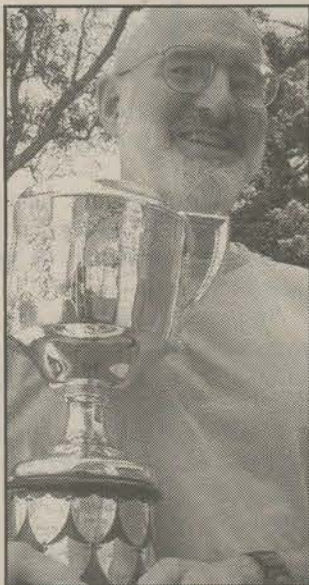
Engraved silver plates attached to the wooden base of the chess trophy note that William M. Mouat won the cup in 1931-32 and 1932-33 while Ivan's uncle Gilbert Mouat won the trophy in 1940-41.

"It ended up at a garage sale. Bob Akerman rescued it. He phoned me and I got it silvered," Ivan Mouat said.

A glance at the trophy indicates that H. Martyn Jenkins was the last man to win the chess club event in 1947-48.

Jenkins had also won the cup four other years in the 1940s and tied with Ted Parsons in 1942-43. Stan Wagg, Cyril Wagg and Gordon Parsons were other cup winners.

It's a mystery what happened to cause the demise of the annual chess championship, but Ivan Mouat remembers that his father



Conrad Koke

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

was a keen enthusiast for the game.

"He and Ted were inveterate chess players and played all night long. Mr. Parsons was very slow."

Ivan Mouat recalled how when he returned to Salt Spring with a friend he'd served with in World War II, the friend and William Mouat made a wager to win the trophy through a friendly game.

"My dad wasn't paying too much attention and he beat him by fluke. The guy picked up the chess cup and my dad said, 'Put that back.'"

Ivan never took a shine to the game himself but his son Greig became competent enough to play against the

senior Mouat.

"He beat my dad once, and that was unheard of. But that wasn't for the cup."

Ivan now hopes his cousin's son, Mac Mouat (another inveterate player), will take up the challenge in a renewed tournament scheduled for this summer.

Tournament organizer Conrad Koke is also hoping to rustle up as many local chess players as possible to vie for the coveted trophy.

"Anyone is welcome to play. The only requirement is that you must be a resident of Salt Spring — and you must agree to pass it on to the next year's winner," Koke laughed.

He would like to organize a double round-robin series of one-hour per-person games (each player plays every other player twice) as part of a free unrated event.

Players would each schedule games at their own convenience. The cup match will begin in June and run for six to 10 weeks depending on how many people are interested, Koke said.

Salt Spring's Grade 2 chess master Farley Cannon has already committed to play for the championship, Koke noted.

Those wishing to compete in the Salt Spring Chess Championship can contact Conrad (537-1304) or check out the local club which meets from 7 to 10 p.m. Tuesday nights at the Seniors Centre.



KEEN CANOEISTS: Salt Spring Island Middle School students from Martin Thorn and Sarah Myers' Grade 6-7 French Immersion class carry up canoes after paddling at St. Mary Lake. The class is preparing for a canoe trip to Wallace Island next month.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

Salt Spring golfers celebrate with 75th anniversary hats

The 18-hole ladies league braved a drizzly morning to play in a just-for-fun 75th-anniversary event on May 20.

First prize for the best "celebration hat" went to golfer Margaret Rithaler, who wore a tartan tea cosy covered with anniversary memorabilia and golf pins from past years.

Babs Ross won the low gross with a 61 in the nine-hole ladies 75th-anniversary tournament, and Norma Allen won the low net with a score of 41.

Barb Allen scored 63 to become the runner-up in the low-gross category, and Ross was also the runner up in the low-net category.

Joan Conlon was the KP winner, and Elizabeth Kirwin won the putt pot.

Jean Haines hit closest to the line on hole #14, Kerwin got closest chip and Isobel Heffernan won the putting contest.

Norma Allen won the chip-in on hole #2 and Marg Lowther won on hole #8.

Dora Reynolds won the low-gross title with 89 and Joanna Barrett the low net with 69 in the business ladies' spring tournament on May 13 and 20.

Eileen Botham hit a birdie on hole #4 with a 75-yard chip-in and became the low-gross runner-up.

Runner-up for the low net was Maureen Rowell, who also won the closest-to-the-

GOLF TEES

pin (KP) event.

Barrett took home the putt pot with 13 putts.

Gus Mitchell won first place in men's medal play on May 22 with a net score of 65. Dave Paul was right behind him with 68, and Warner Woodley netted 70. Colin Lawler came fourth with a retro-

gression score of 71.

David Sheppard won the KP for holes #6 and #15 in the high handicap division, and David Paul won for the low handicap. Don McMahon won the high-handicap KP for holes #2 and #11, and Paul won again for the low handicap.

Tom Locke was the 50/50 winner.

The team with the lowest net score was Conlon, Kirwin, Kay Mowbray and Ross.

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POOL TIME: Members of the Salt Spring Stingrays gathered at Shelby Pool Saturday morning to compete in individual events and relays at a club-only fun meet. Some 60 island swimmers, aged 6-16, have been in the pool since early May practising for their upcoming competitive swim season. "B" and "C" time swimmers head off to Duncan for a meet this Sunday, while the season begins for all swimmers at a meet in Port Alberni June 7-8. Photos by Derrick Lundy

Community rallies to generously help trackshoes group

Coordinators of annual Operation Trackshoes fundraising events have been "blown away" by community generosity.

From a garage sale, hot dog sale and raffle, more than \$1,200 was raised to send developmentally challenged adults and their support people to the Operation Trackshoes meet in Victoria June 13-15.

"In past year we've raised between \$500 and \$600," said support worker Chip Chipman. "This year it was over \$1,200. It was hugely successful and hugely supported by the businesses."

Up to eight Salt Spring adults and their helpers can now afford to attend the sports and social event that sees about 500 competitors and 2,500 volunteers meet at the University of Victoria.

Among the local athletes attending will be Naomi Van Pelt, Carlos Manzano, Pam MacDonald, Christopher Jojnson, Kandra Riley and Andrew Krizan.

"We had fabulous prizes donated to us," said Chipman, "and Krishna, one of the young ladies who works with us, sold more than \$200 in raffle tickets herself."

Krishna also compiled a thank-you letter of businesses and individuals who supported the fundraising efforts.

She gave a special thanks to Mike Tyson at Ganges Village Market, since his support "is always so strong."

Chipman noted the Operations Trackshoes athletes did most of the fundraising work.

Islanders can practise with top team

Local girls with an interest in soccer are invited to meet a top-level team of U14 (under age 14) players who are making a special visit to the island Saturday.

And the Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association (SSIYSA) is hoping the event might encourage girls to take up the sport.

"We're really wanting to promote soccer to more girls," said SSIYSA technical director Sue Spencer.

The SSIYSA is particularly hoping to bolster enthusiasm for girls aged four to 13 with the B.C. Team showcase event, but anyone is welcome to come

and watch the practice, Spencer said.

Soccer builds confidence, interpersonal connections and provides obvious health gains, she said.

"There are so many benefits to the sport."

A number of visiting international students should be entering the program next year, which will be an interesting new aspect of the SSIYSA, she said.

The major registration date for the fall season is still to come, but parents will be able to sign girls up for local teams at Saturday's event.

During the soccer show-

case, the all-star U14 girls' team is preparing for upcoming tournaments with inter-provincial play throughout June and July.

Islanders Elsbet Krayenhoff and Caitlin Pal have been training with the B.C. squad. The team roster will be finalized Saturday, Spencer said.

The provincial team will practise at Portlock Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 31. Local youth will be able to participate in the session between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Spencer noted.

Parents can also use the time to apply for coaching positions or ask questions

about the local youth soccer program, she added.

For more information about local youth soccer, call Sue (537-2287) or check the association website (www.saltspringsoccer.com).

Gymnasts snap up medals

A small team of Salt Spring gymnasts made a strong showing at the Vancouver Island Championships in Port Alberni last weekend.

Competing at level-one open, Kristin Tuttle (age 16) won a gold on beam and a bronze on floor. She also placed sixth on bars and seventh on vault.

Her younger sister, Amber (age 7), scored bronze in all four events while competing at the KIP (kids in progress) level.

Unfortunately, their other sister, Kyla Tuttle (age 13), injured a knee during her first event and had to withdraw from the competition.

"She was in a lot of pain," said Kyla's mother, Kim Tuttle.

But Kyla will now get a good rest to recover before her next gymnastics meet.

"It's the end of the season, so she gets a chance to heal."

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