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Wednesday, June 25, 2003

43<sup>rd</sup> year Issue 26

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# Driftwood

## Assessment letters spark tax fears

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Staff Writer

Salt Spring accommodations providers fear a B.C. Assessment office request for financial and related information will lead to split-classification of their property, higher valuations and a hefty property tax bill.

Between 35 and 50 per cent of the island's B&Bs and non-commercial accommodations (but excluding vacation rental homes), are believed to have received the letters requesting, within 21 days, information such as the number of rooms rented, estimated value of furniture

and fixtures, and financial statements for the last three years.

Commenting on the letters' distribution, local Accommodations Group president and St. Mary Lake Estate B&B proprietor Alan Burrows said, "It seems it's quite diversified — people

from cottages to one bedroom B&Bs to four B&Bs. It doesn't seem to matter if you have farm or residential status, some of each have got it.

"I thought maybe because we've been in business less than three years [we were missed] but then someone

who has been in business only one year got it. We don't see any kind of pattern, just a spectrum."

On Salt Spring the commercial taxation rate is approximately 2.8 times that of residential properties, so a

B&B ASSESSMENTS A2

### THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Agriculture
- Canada
- Better Business Bureau
- Fields
- Ganges Pharmasave
- Ganges Village Market
- Home Hardware
- Thrifty Foods
- Slegg Lumber

### SECTION B



### From books to cases

Part-time Salt Spring resident Celia Duthie looks at moving into the fine furniture business, and talks about book-selling in B.C. Page B1

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### Weather

It's going to be sunny and warm this week with temperatures up to 25 C (Thursday), and lows to 11 (overnight on Wednesday and Thursday). Make outdoor plans for the weekend!

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## Canada's birthday celebrated

Canada Day will fill Salt Spring with cake, crowds, antique cars, and games on Tuesday.

Over 12 hours of activities will be held in honour of Canada Day, starting at 9 a.m. with a pancake breakfast at the Legion.

A disc golf course is a new addition to the traditional Legion activities, which will also include bocce, chip-the-ball-in-the-bucket, horseshoes, and a midway.

Kids will be able to fish toy ducks from the Legion's "duck pond," pop balloons with darts, search for candy in a haystack, and toss coins into saucers, for a quarter per game.

There will also be live music, fire truck tours, and a meat draw. All proceeds from the event go to charities that the Legion funds.

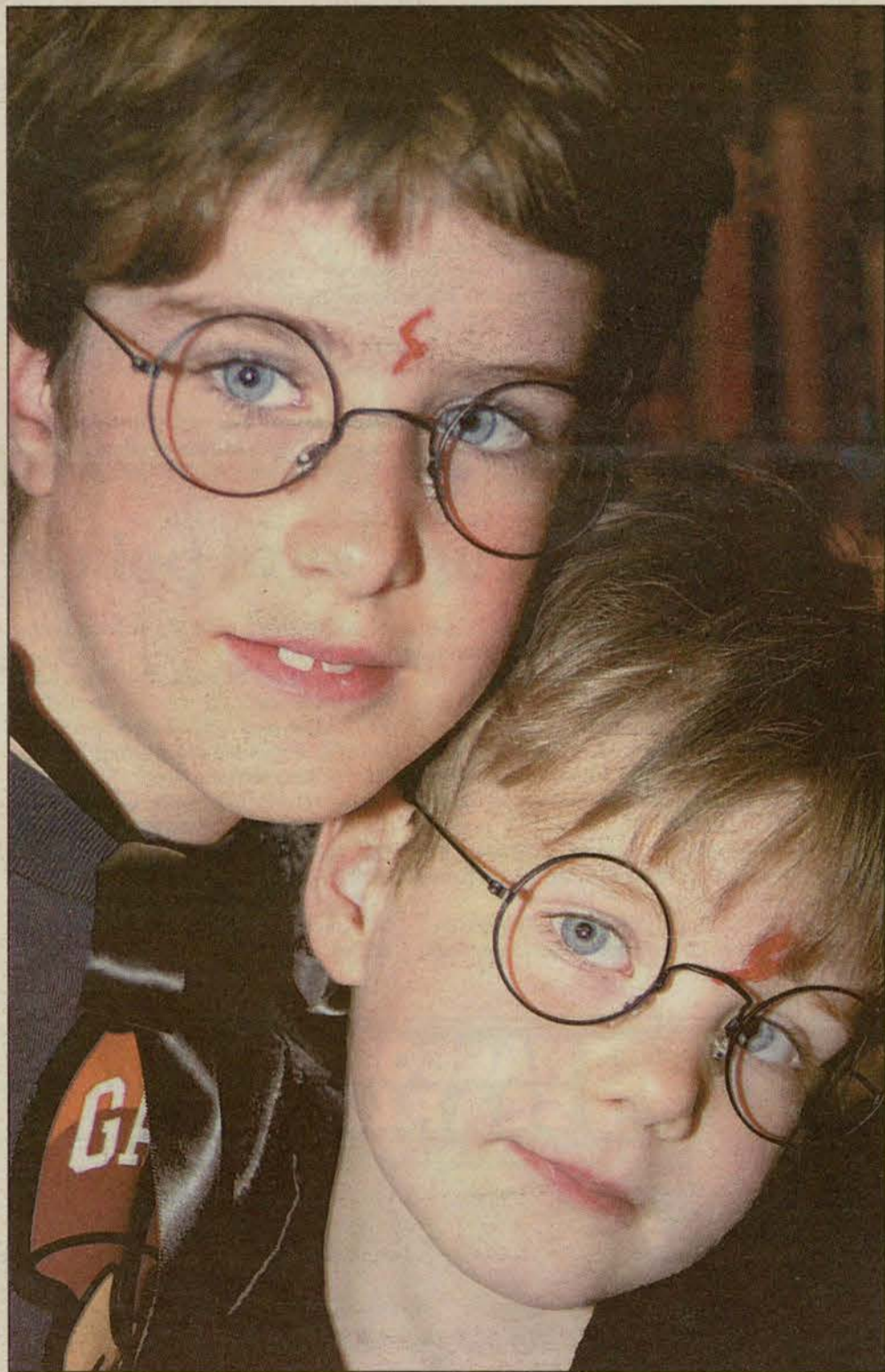
Cake donated by Embe Bakery will be cut at Centennial Park at noon, and free slices will be served to anyone interested.

The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor fireworks that will be set off at dusk by the Salt Spring Island Fire Department.

And for the motor-minded, a free car show will be held during the day in Gasoline Alley.

ArtSpring will host a free, open-house variety show in the evening, with Arvid Chalmers as the MC. The show will include several musical performances and dance pieces, and will showcase local talent, said the event's organizer Jill Tarswell.

"It's fun to have visitors but it really is a local event."



**POTTER TWINS:** Harry Potter look-alikes such as Erick and Christopher Perrins were out in force Saturday in honour of the release of the fifth book in J.K. Rowling's popular series. Several businesses, including Salt Spring Books, Fables Cottage and West of the Moon held parties and events to celebrate the book's release.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Market day in the park

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Staff Writer

It's like a May 1st Québec "moving day" scene from Gabrielle Roy's novel *The Tin Flute*: tables and boxes are piled up on the sidewalk and parking lot next to Centennial Park, while people wait patiently, arms crossed and gossiping in clusters with their neighbours in the same boat.

On a recent Saturday morning in the southern end of that parking lot, everyone is waiting — not for a moving van or landlords with keys, but for a day of vending at the Saturday Market in the Park to begin.

For most craftspeople there, events will unfold as they do every Saturday morning: tables or booths will be set up and wares sold in the same spot as last week and the week before, and probably last year — hopefully blessed by not-too-hot sunny skies, stimulating conversation and some profit.

But for others, the wait that generally begins at 7:30 a.m. could prove pointless if there's not enough room for all the day vendors who want a spot.

And this year there's a whole lot more of those people.

MARKET A3

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# B&B ASSESSMENTS: Split classifications?

From Page 1

change in assessment classification is deemed a serious matter.

"I've already had people call me saying 'if this happens, that's me gone.'"

B&B operators generally "don't make a fortune," said Burrows and run their establishments as a retirement project. "If this happens, it just pushes it over the edge."

Rick McMahon, senior appraiser for the Capital Area office of B.C. Assessment, said Tuesday that a second letter has now gone out to clarify the current classification policy on B&Bs and why the detailed information is needed.

Two issues are being explored through requests for information, he said. One is ensuring an accurate dollar valuation of the property has been made by B.C. Assessment.

The other is to determine if some B&Bs — those with four or more units rented as accommodation for at least 50 per cent of the year — are correctly falling under the

B&B classification policy and considered in a residential/business split-class as a result.

McMahon said some people his office staff talked to assumed that establishments with only two or three rooms were exempt from the information requests because of that "four-room" policy, but that is not the case.

Gathering information is the motivation, he said, because the B&B industry is fairly new and so the relationship between the income produced and what those properties sell for has not been clearly established.

A well-run and maintained B&B on the waterfront is probably worth more than its fully residential counterpart, he noted.

"For the most part the vast majority of the calls were from people who were very well-informed and knew exactly what we were looking for, and our in-basket is overflowing with responses already."

McMahon also noted that

a change in assessment would only occur for that part of the property used to create income.

Burrows said a more ominous concern is that other home-based businesses, from lawyers' offices to artists' studios, would also be targeted for split-classification. With such a large number of those establishments currently with residential zoning, the overall small business impact would be huge, he said.

But McMahon said, "B.C. Assessment has a policy on home-based business as well and this [information gathering] is not related to it at all... home-based business can sort of grow without a lot of attention by the taxing officials... and eventually they get found and are properly assessed and classified."


Ralph Bischoff, who owns Anchor Point B&B and received one of the letters, said some people feel B.C. Assessment valuations should still rely on a property's zoning, noting the big

difference between residential and commercial property values and income potential.

The Western Canada Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers Association has also responded to the perceived move towards split classification. Group member Bischoff said a small contingent and local trustee Kimberly Lineger met with MLA Murray Coell to warn that "doing split assessments for home-based businesses has some pretty serious implications in rural communities or places that thrive on home-based business... basically we got into a heads-up mode with him, which was good."

The Accommodations Group of Salt Spring Island recommends that anyone receiving a demand letter from B.C. Assessment contact the Victoria office at 1-800-990-1159 to request a written rationale for the letter.

McMahon noted the initial 21-day deadline was a "soft" one.



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# Tight school budget predicted for 2004

The Gulf Islands School District has projected a \$15-million budget with the razor-thin safety margin of \$264 for the 2003-2004 school year.

Between declining enrolment and reductions in provincial education funding, the school district will see \$374,000 fewer dollars than it did in the 2002-2003 budget.

One school board trustee even suggested that the 2003-2004 surplus could be used to buy a new overhead projector for the district office during the board meeting on June 11.

"You don't want to spend it all at once," said secretary-

treasurer Rod Scotvold.

Total budgetted expenditures for 2003-2004 will total \$15,046,000 while operating revenue is expected to meet \$14,896,264.

A \$150,000 operating surplus appropriation from the 2002-2003 school year will ensure that the district budget stays in the black.

Total provincial funding for next year totals \$14,025,713.

A full \$844,551 is expected to come from other revenue sources, including \$650,301 from tuition fees paid by international students.

# Bombs and buckles occupy local police

Salt Spring RCMP responded to a possible bomb threat at Gulf Islands Secondary School when a suspicious package was located in a men's wash-room 2 p.m. Sunday.

Careful examination revealed that the duct-tape wrapped parcel contained only papers.

It is unknown if the incident was the result of a prank, or simply a student emptying his or her locker, police sources reported.

In other police news:

- Islanders were reminded to

"buckle up" by Vancouver Island highway patrol officers who issued approximately 40 tickets in a six-hour period on Salt Spring Thursday.

The majority of tickets were for driving without seatbelts, said police. Driving without a seatbelt carries an \$86 fine.

One islander even received two tickets in less than two hours, a press release noted.

Salt Spring RCMP also issued another 12 violation tickets last week,

of which seven were for driving without a seatbelt.

The owner of a Mazda Protege was relieved to discover a note attached to her vehicle after her tail-light was damaged in a parking-lot mishap behind Barb's Buns on Saturday.

Unfortunately, rain caused the phone number to be erased on the note that read: "Pls call re rear light accident."

If anyone has any information about this accident, please call Salt Spring RCMP (537-5555).

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# THE MAKING OF A MARKET: Saturday market bursting at the seams

From Page A1

Anywhere from one to 16 vendors have already been turned away due to heavy demand, which doesn't usually occur until July — although last Saturday's rain ensured everyone had a spot.

One effect of the early space crunch has been some pressure to expand the market, which currently has room for 60 "seasonal" vendors in the Fulford-Ganges Road side of the park, up to 20 farmers and about 70 day vendors.

The space issue was discussed at a May 22 Market Advisory Group meeting, and long-time market coffee vendor Wendy Beatty, who favours exploring expansion further, has organized a meeting of vendors and other interested people for Thursday, June 26, 7 p.m. at Central Hall.

The Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) has already determined the Market in the Park cannot spill into the grass part of Centennial Park, or onto the boardwalk, but Beatty wonders about other Ganges space being used for outdoor vending, such as sidewalks in front of the CIBC and Bank of Montreal, or parts of the Mouat's Mall or Harbour Building boardwalks.

She doesn't want to see the Saturday market, in any guise, become stagnant, and she wants it "to work" for all vendors.

Trying hard to make it work now are market coordinator Matthew Coleman and his two assistants, Minzie Anderson and Brandy Glovka, who potentially juggle the demands of hundreds of people and their feelings, a task made more prickly because peoples' livelihoods are at stake.

Back in the chaotic 7:45 a.m. vortex of setting-up vendors, Coleman fields queries, helps avert collisions of cars, people and dogs, and tries to squeeze a few more square feet of space out of decidedly finite pavement.

A van slowly rolls into the throng, with the young woman driver's voice cutting above the ratty din of the VW engine: "I'm a farmer," she tells Coleman, who quickly points her into the next available spot in farmers' row.

"I'm sprouts," says another guy, with a few bags of fresh sprouts to sell. He doesn't need much more than a TV-tray-sized slot.

With acknowledgement that the Saturday market



**THE TAPE RULES:** Market in the Park assistant Brandy Glovka marks out a day vendor's space in the parking lot between Centennial Park and Gasoline Alley. This year the market has seen unprecedented demand for space much earlier than normal.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

originated as an outlet for the island's farmers, growers are given priority in the weekly doling out of space between the park and Gasoline Alley.

Raj Kreisler has been selling herbs and perennials for 18 years at the market. He sells potted plants for the first part of the season, and his wife Bonnie Curran offers cut flowers for the second.

"We couldn't imagine not doing it because it's so good here," he says while arranging some containers on his trademark cart. "It's always good at the market as a grower."

Since Phillip and Lee Sigmund grow the plants used to craft their Salt Spring Botanicals products, they had hoped to be considered for coveted farmer/grower area space at the market.

But that hasn't transpired on this particular Saturday morning, and they spend those early hours in a state of visible tension, wondering if they will have to leave without a chance to make a dime, as they did the previous week.

Candace Sikorski is also in that category.

Sikorski really wants to sell her soaps and balms and aromatherapy goods in the market.

"This is a really good place to start," she says, noting the advantages of meeting directly with one's clientele, and the fact that it's "fun" to be a vendor. "I like the atmosphere," she says.

The stream of chatter in the day vendors' area is then overtaken by talk of square feet and "the list," and the snap of a heavy-duty tape measure wielded by Anderson.

At around 8 a.m., after the farmers have all set up, she starts reciting names from the day vendors sign-up sheet, beginning with those who have the most seniority.

David Barnes is #1, after five years of chalking up the

necessary "points" (and he's actually been a vendor many more years than that, but lost his seniority when he chose to join the Market Vendors' Association Harbour House market several years ago. That's another story.)

Like most regular day vendors, Barnes takes the same spot every week.

A small crowd bubbles up around Anderson as she calls names, measures out their needed space (up to an eight-foot maximum) and marks the slot with the vendor's initials using a sausage-sized piece of pink chalk.

"They're still on page 1," announces one woman to another.

"Are they?" she responds. "And they're down here already!"

The news sets off a flood of simultaneous calculations being made by the hopeful and the worried.

"I'm really near the end, so it's a wait," comments Sikorski.

But she has figured out one way to improve her chances of slipping in.

"I have a small table and the smaller you are, the easier it is to get in."

Sikorski doesn't expect to know if she'll get a spot until 9:15 a.m.

On this particular sunny Saturday, she doesn't make the cut, along with 15 others, including the Sigmunds.

It turns out that the latter family has made an agreement to take the place of another vendor who intends to leave early.

Beatty is a big fan of the day vendor portion of the market, which she says has vibrancy because of the new sellers and residents who set up there.

"They are selling what they do, which is unique, and it gives them a place to begin to make a livelihood here."

But she also feels the current system imposes unnecessary hardship on the waiting and sometimes disappointed day vendors.

Andrea Palframan, a.k.a. "the Bag Lady," thinks regular day vendors should be spared unnecessary waits

and be allowed to set up right away in their regular spot.

At the Government Street market in Victoria, she explains, the organizer "creates a map at the beginning of each week which places the day vendors where they are going to go. If somebody doesn't arrive, then a waiting-list person is put into that spot. So when you arrive, your spot is already marked off on the cement."

Coleman thinks expansion ideas could be looked at, but that community-wide input is needed. Whether Ganges can accommodate more outside vendors is an issue, along with the effects of that on the present Market in the Park.

The market is an important island phenomenon, he says, and it must be treated "with care and delicacy."

Selling goods in the open air centre of a town; chatting with friends and visitors — it seems like such a simple thing — but in the past 20 years, at least, "the market" may have

spilled more Driftwood ink and other fluids than any other single issue.

Some of the same points being raised today, such as space limitations and farmers' status, have been thrashed out before.

A quick glance through past Driftwood papers finds arguments about PARC assuming responsibility for the market; "make it, bake it, grow it" rules versus open market policies, and the split that once led to another market on the Harbour House Hotel property; use of the Gasoline Alley-Centennial Park parking lot; retail businesses' hostile feelings; holding a Sunday market; and commercial activity in a provincial park.

Things have been pretty peaceful for the past six years, however, and most vendors, PARC and key people such as Coleman, don't want a return to the days of acrimony.

"I'm not nostalgic about those days," comments vendor Barnes.

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**RANTS**

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# A little whine with the chickens

The best stories highlight another person's misfortunes.

**TONY RICHARDS**



Witness the two wine stories published in these pages under my name a few months back. The one in which I admitted paying \$45 for an \$8 bottle of wine generated more feedback than anything I've ever written. (Not even incorporation or vacation rentals come anywhere close.)

Readers revelled in my bad luck, then flocked to the liquor store asking to buy some of "Tony's wine."

In a way, of course, I'm flattered. Somebody read my column and liked it. No published writer gets any pleasure from a silent audience.

So with prospects of

further flattery in mind, let me tell you about my chickens.

They are Alice's chickens, in fact, but they became my responsibility when Alice was temporarily struck down by an ailment from which she is now on the road to full recovery.

I had gone home to make us some lunch when things began going down hill.

It was already one of the worst days in the history of victims of hay fever, a fact I'm aware of because I am one of the chief victims. Slightly dazed, slightly drugged and quite miserable, I threw together a couple of sandwiches. Forced by the circumstances to take in oxy-

gen through the mouth only, my enjoyment of the sandwich was slightly diminished.

My enjoyment suffered a further setback, however, as tomato juice and seeds began spilling out of the sandwich onto my shirt and pants. You can't go back to work looking like that, Alice advised.

Just watch me, I retorted, feeling curmudgeonly, as I vainly attempted to mop up the mess.

My next chore took me to the chicken house, with a quick look at the garden en route. I approached the strawberry bed with some expectation of dessert, but beat a hasty retreat when a jet of water hit me square in the face. Of course, I'd left the water-squirting, sensor-activated scarecrow on to keep the birds away from the berries. So, OK, forget dessert.

I made it to the chicken house without further mishap, intent on gathering eggs.

As I reached to open the door, a shadow flitted by overhead and the next thing I knew something had landed on my head. Thoughts surfaced in rapid, quick-fire succession: bird in chicken house-eating chicken food — escaping through crack above door — startled by my arrival — NO!

Yes. Instinctively I brushed at my head and my fingers came away covered in a runny brown liquid. Bull's-eye for the bird. A bad hair day for me.

I gathered the eggs, returned to the house for a quick shampoo in the kitchen sink and left for work, tomato stains intact, proudly displayed as a memento of misfortune.

Pass me the wine, please.

# JVC stereo stolen

Theft of a large JVC "boom box" from Fulford Hall earlier this month has harmed a local non-profit recreational group.

Salt Spring Gymnastics Association had fundraised for the \$500 stereo unit through its annual raffle.

The theft is considered a huge loss for the children enrolled in gymnastics classes because it is used as part of their regular program and will not be easily replaced.

Anyone with information about the missing stereo should contact parent and association board member Joan at 653-4164.



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# Youth soccer launches 'Howe Tube'

The Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association (SSIYSA) can fill its boots with balls and gear now that a new storage container has been installed at Portlock Park.

"We've wanted this container for months and months," said SSIYSA treasurer Bob Howe.

"We got approval from PARC [the Salt Spring Park, Arts and Recreation Commission] and now we've finally got one."

Howe was so instrumental in getting the project going the new container has even been dubbed the "Howe Tube."

"I guess I was the one who got it going. I just kept

driving with it and they kindly nicknamed it after me."

But Howe wanted to thank many other SSIYSA members and community soccer supporters who made the project possible.

"As usual for Salt Spring, there were so many people who donated their time and material."

Ken Byron donated his backhoe and its operator John Smith, along with his own time and effort; Ron and Sue Spencer donated crushed gravel; John van Schetsen of Key Pawn Trucking gave his trucking costs and some fill.

Local soccer enthusiasts Steve Stairs, Fraser Hope,

Dick Davidson and Mike Bauer also volunteered their time to set up the container.

SSIYSA directors Howe, Stairs, Bauer and Malcolm Legg spent a portion of last week painting the tube.

"You know how it is. We were supposed to be directing but you end up doing."

Even with so much generous assistance from the community, the container still cost the SSIYSA \$5,400, Howe said.

"We were lucky to get some casino money. We've been saving and saving."

The "Howe Tube" will be used to store soccer balls, nets, trophies and new youth uniforms, he said.

As another gem for the soccer season next year, Salt Spring's tell-tale reversible blue and red jerseys will be retired in favour of new silver uniforms sporting a red collar, a red stripe and black sleeves, Howe said.

"We did have to change."

Salt Spring uniforms conflicted with two other club jerseys, he explained.

"I'm just hoping all the kids will be positive with the changes. It's way better than what we had."

In addition to storing jerseys, files, nets and balls, one section of the container might even be turned into a classroom for watching training videos.

# Trust council calls for liquor store consultation

Islands Trust Council joined a long list of local government and school board bodies calling for a moratorium on further liquor store privatization until public consultation has occurred.

At its quarterly meeting on North Pender June 13, council endorsed a resolution request put forth the day before by three members of the B.C. Government

Employees Union (BCGEU), which represents liquor store employees.

Ian Teeple, BCGEU Local 501 first vice-chair, said 72 municipalities and school boards had endorsed the resolution to date.

"We are asking all communities to stand up and say 'we want to be consulted in a meaningful, respectful way.'"

Salt Spring union rep

Jorge Coelho and Shannon McManus from the Pender liquor store also addressed council.

"The system we have works really well," said Coelho. "Why mess with it?"

He explained how Ganges liquor store employees try to keep alcohol away from youths in Ganges as much as possible, but that task has become more difficult due to

privatization.

"We promote social responsibility daily," said McManus.

Salt Spring trustee Kimberly Lineger, who is also the island's Victim Services program coordinator, spoke with emotion in favour of the resolution.

"Everything I deal with on Salt Spring [in my job] is alcohol related," she said. "I do not want any more liquor stores on Salt Spring."

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## Continuing ed program back in stars for SSI

The fledgling Salt Spring Island Council for Continuing Education (SSICCE) has received endorsements of support from both the Gulf Islands School District and the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC).

"We're looking for organizations that not only agree with us but that are involved in a partnership," said SSICCE spokesperson Garth Hendren.

The SSICCE vision is to promote and maintain an array of continuing education opportunities and experiences for islanders, he said.

Hendren and Judi Francis met with PARC and school district representatives to describe long-term goals that would see a continuing education program enhance services for adults in the community and pay for itself over three to five years.

"We want to build a foundation that will function on an enduring basis," said Francis at a PARC meeting on Monday, adding that PARC may be the most appropriate group to form a partnership with SSICCE.

At the school district's public meeting on June 11, the SSICCE presenters acknowledged that many groups have previously offered continuing education opportunities, including the Gulf Islands School District.

"The difference between our learners and your learners is that they are cradle to grave," Hendren said.

Approximately 34 per

cent of the population on Salt Spring is over 55 years old, Hendren noted.

"Many of them have disposable incomes and interests and we want to provide them with opportunities."

Hendren jokingly admitted he became involved in the project because he wants to learn more computer skills.

The SSICCE would also like to learn lessons from previous continuing education programs, such as those offered by Olive Layard, Maggie Warbey, ArtSpring and PARC, said Hendren.

"We want to make new mistakes," he quipped.

Proposed programs could include: arts, computers, fitness, adult literacy, outdoor pursuits and post-secondary credits.

Hendren indicated that natural stakeholders would be found within the school district, PARC, the Mary Hawkins Library, Salt Spring Community Services and the Canadian Federation of University Women.

The SSICCE delegation is looking for partners and in-kind support that will not burden partner organizations with costs, he said.

The group would also like to generate a list of resource people who might present programs not currently offered in the community.

SSICCE hopes to start up continuing education services in January 2004.

"We're giving ourselves time to do this well," Francis said.



**SCIENTIFIC SNOT:** (from left) Malia Banman, Pandora Morgan and Justine Watkins learn to make bags of mucus out of water and guar gum during a presentation in the Salt Spring Island Middle School by Science Venture, a group from UVic.

Photo by Debbie Willis

## Salish maps together one last time

The Islands in the Salish Sea mapping exhibit will meet one more set of viewers next week.

The 30-piece display of art maps depicting life at the turn of the century on islands in the Georgia Strait will be part of The Leading Edge conservation conference at the University of Victoria.

It's in the Vertigo Lounge of the Student Union building from July 2-6.

Some volunteers are also needed to do four-hour shifts at the exhibit. Call Tina at

(250) 539-2402 to offer help.

The mapping project was initiated by Salt Spring residents Judi Stevenson, Sheila Harrington and Briony Penn, and involved artists and other community members on 17 islands working to create representative "maps."

Some region-wide artworks were also made in the last phase of the project.

Coordinators hope an atlas of the maps can be published in the near future.

## New face in district

The Gulf Islands School District has announced the appointment of Terry Corcoran to the position of director of instruction for Gulf Islands schools.

Corcoran will replace the district's retiring director of instruction, Michael Ryan.

"I retired five years ago as assistant superintendent in Saanich. They asked me to fill in here for three years and it's been four," said Ryan.

Corcoran is currently the director of instruction in the Sooke School District. He previously worked as a school-based administrator and a regional superintendent in the Yukon.

He has a background in learning assistance, special education, counselling, French immersion, elementary and secondary instruction.

Corcoran even served a stint as principal of Pender Island School between 1984 and 1986.

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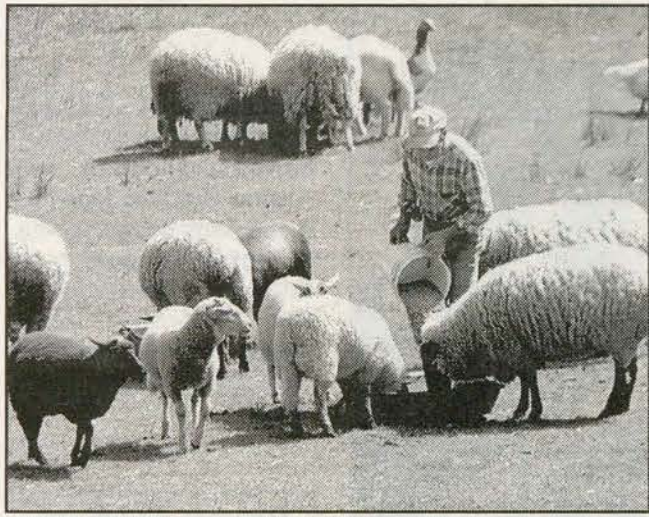
**NOTE: This permit would allow uses that would otherwise not be permitted in the Shoreline 1 (S1) Zone applying to the property.**

Those opposed to this Permit Application should attend the meeting, write, fax, email, or phone:

John Gauld, Kimberly Lineger, Eric Booth

jgauld@islandstrust.bc.ca klineger@islandstrust.bc.ca ebooth@islandstrust.bc.ca

PHONE: 537-9144 / FAX: 537-9116



**DAY IN THE LIFE:** Above, Mike Byron feeds his flock, while below, American boaters motor out of Ganges Harbour. The two photos, taken June 11, were sent to the Provost News in Alberta as part of a Canada-wide photojournalism project.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



## Salt Spring photos part of Canada-wide newspaper project

Driftwood photographer Derrick Lundy recently took part in a national co-operative newspaper project that involved photojournalists from every province and all three territories in Canada.

Participating newspaper photographers took and supplied at least one photograph on Wednesday, June 11 and sent them electronically to The Provost News in Provost, Alberta.

The project aimed to give readers a flavour of the nation during one specific day only.

Lundy sent photographs that featured Mike Byron feeding sheep and an American sailboat leaving Ganges Harbour.

The project was called "One Day. One Country. And One Community" — and was printed in the Wednesday, June 18 edition of The Provost News.

Featured are eight colour pages of photos from across the nation, plus eight more pages from the Provost and district community.

Provost News editor Richard Holmes, who co-ordinated the project, said, "We are very pleased with the results and co-operation coming from the professional writers and photographers who took part in this project with such enthusiasm, and appreciate the encouragement one might need for such an undertaking."

Readers who want to see the photographs and layout can visit [www.provostnews.ca](http://www.provostnews.ca).

# Residents group maintains its hatchery pressure on trustees

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Staff Writer

Islanders opposed to the Walker Hook sablefin hatchery are still pressuring the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) to "clarify" its position on the 20-year lease of those lands.

Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use (SSIRRLU) members are asking trustees Eric Booth, Kimberly Lineger and David Essig to send a letter to the subdivision-approving Ministry of Transportation, and the Agricultural Land Commission, advising those bodies that the LTC "refuse[s] this subdivision application on the grounds that it is against the public interest, conflicts with policies and objectives contained in the OCP and is contrary to the preserve and protect mandate of the Islands Trust."

As reiterated by trustee Kimberly Lineger in the Driftwood last week, the LTC felt refusing to approve the 20-year lease — considered a subdivision because the land is in the Agricultural Land Reserve — would not have ensured any protection for the ecologically sensitive tombolo part of the property.

The LTC neither "approved" nor "refused" the application, but forwarded it with a condition that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) aquaculture licence stipulate no buildings or structures should be placed on the Walker Hook tombolo.

But Chris Acheson, of SSIRRLU, said Monday his group believes there is no formal mechanism between MAFF and the Trust to assure such "protection," so the LTC would have been better off exercising its local government authority and refusing to approve the subdivi-

sion. That would have resulted in three-year renewable leases being executed between property owner Henry Caldwell and Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. instead.

Ministry of Transportation subdivision approving officer Rob Howat approved the subdivision on May 28.

Islands Trust staff have faith that the process will work in favour of tombolo protection. Trust regional planning manager John Gauld responded to Acheson's concern Tuesday.

"Staff are confident that condition [of tombolo protection] will be imposed," he said.

"We recognize that [Howat] did not include it as a condition of the subdivision, however, we feel the MAFF will follow through with its commitment to put that in the aquaculture licence and we're actually just seeking that assurance now."

Gauld said he hopes to have confirmation from MAFF in time for Thursday's LTC meeting.

At that meeting, set for Lions Hall at 1 p.m., SSIRRLU plans to put pressure on trustees to change their previous position by refusing the subdivision application.

Acheson said they also want trustees to demand that an environmental assessment of the hatchery operation be done.

He cites a June 11 letter from Peggy Ward of Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service, which notes the Walker Hook site has salt marsh wetland, sparsely vegetated gravel spit and a coastal bluff/woodland complex — all listed on government Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory maps.

"If the proposed facility cannot be relocated to avoid impacts to these sensitive ecosystems, we recommend that qualified professionals conduct hydrological, engineering and environmental impact studies and work to incorporate designs that are sensitive to the existing natural ecosystems," wrote Ward.

That also mirrors part of a June 11 Capital Regional District board resolution recommending a detailed environmental assessment be done prior to the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's issuance of a waste management permit and that the assessment be released for comment prior to approval.

As well, the board recommended that if a permit

is issued, that monitoring of both re-injection well water and the pre- and post-discharge receiving environments be done — with results made public — along with periodic well monitoring to ensure proper maintenance and functioning.



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# District bombs gifted test, says program coordinator

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

Gifted program coordinator David Astill has tasked the Gulf Islands School District with providing better programs and services for academically oriented students.

But at the June 11 board meeting where he made his presentation, the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) math teacher didn't supply any ready answers.

"I think we've failed miserably on a district level," Astill said.

"We often look at social needs first. Talented kids' needs are more academic and less social."

Astill questioned the current philosophical agenda of determining grade advancement by social factors rather than promotion through academic progress.

"We've got to take a good look at kids on an individual basis and allow them to move vertically through schools."

Gifted students want to move further and faster through the system, he said.

"All through the 1970s

and '80s, and to an extent in the 1990s, peer relationships supplanted students' academic needs for advancement. But it also holds back kids with top-end abilities."

While teachers do all they can for students who need extra help, they also need to be creative when assisting students with special academic abilities, he said.

"You see the flash of brilliance and then the dull light. The problem is with the hook there."

Additional curriculum for gifted students should not be "busy-work" or simply fun, but sufficiently challenging to maintain interest.

"The kids who are good

math students say, 'Gee, I wish we had done more.'"

And students who excel need to be celebrated with enriching programs.

"It is in core academics that I'm worried we are not rewarding superlative work or providing opportunities," he said.

"One reason we have done better as a high school is we've provided arts, drama and music. I'm worried about those kids who are not connected."

Identification of students with gifted abilities is a challenge, he noted.

"A lot of them often miss formal testing."

But Astill has learned to

trust teachers' anecdotal reports more than psycho-educational assessments.

"Most staff know who these kids are in the first two to three years of school."

He described how district schools once used tests to identify gifted students.

"Staff pointed to kids, and lo and behold, they tested quite well."

He also described how special-needs students can be mistakenly thrown into gifted programs by teachers who are looking for abilities to celebrate.

And he recognized the "brain drain" challenge of competing against private schools for talented students.

"Brentwood will say, 'Come on over,' and offer money to come. And I'd take it too. I think the way we prevent that is to present more challenges here."

He's not looking for a pull-out program for gifted students.

"When you pull out kids, you get this group of really skilled kids, but they're not skilled in the same way. It's a really weird group."

Astill believes a mentoring model would be most useful at the high school level.

He also promoted the Phoenix High alternative-education program for self-guided students and the work-experience program

run by Maggie Allison at GISS.

"She's an enormous resource for these kids and they gravitate toward her because she has these contacts."

His main message was that the local school district must try harder if it wants to support gifted students on the islands.

Helping that one group will translate into academic improvement for other kids in the classroom, he said.

"Where we want to be is more important than what we can do. Those kids in the top 10 per cent pull those other kids along and set an example."

## Vesuvius schedule tweaked

A 10-minute change in some B.C. Ferries sailing times between Vesuvius and Crofton kicks in Thursday.

Some sailings leaving Vesuvius have been bumped ahead by 10 minutes to now leave at 12:40, 1:40, 8:40 and 9:40 p.m., and by five minutes (10:35) on Saturday night only.

From the Crofton side, the new times are 12:10, 1:10, 8:10, 9:10 and 10:05 p.m., and 11:05 p.m. on Saturdays.

"The adjustments are there just to assist with on-time performance," said B.C. Ferries communications officer Stephen Nussbaum. "We found we needed a couple of small adjustments to allow the ship to sail more on-time. There's nothing else to it."

New times are printed in the summer southern Gulf Islands schedule that comes into effect June 26.

B.C. Ferries announced a few other changes last week, including the implementation of an online reservation system for the Tsawwassen-Gulf Islands route. Using [www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com), travellers can make online reservations and receive instant confirmation.

People using the three major ferry routes between Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland this weekend are also being offered discounts if they use the last sailing of the day from June 26 through July 2 — and make a reservation. Cost is \$25 for a car; \$40 for an oversized vehicle; and a 25 per cent discount for commercial vehicles.

Phone reservations can be made through 1-888-223-3779 (or 386-3431 in Victoria).

## TRUSTEES, YOU MUST ACT TO PROTECT WALKER HOOK BY WRITING THIS LETTER NOW

Dear Collin Fry, Director Regional Operations, Agricultural Land Commission, and Rob Howat, Provincial Approving Officer, Ministry of Transportation:

We, the Salt Spring Island Trustees, write to clarify our position regarding the Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. subdivision application on Walker Hook.

The Salt Spring Island Trustees have not approved or authorized this subdivision application.

We refuse this subdivision application on the ground that it is against the public interest, conflicts with policies and objectives contained in the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan, and is contrary to the preserve and protect mandate of the Islands Trust.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lineger, Salt Spring Island Trustee

Eric Booth, Salt Spring Island Trustee

David Essig, Chair, Islands Trust

## DO WHAT YOU WERE ELECTED TO DO BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

Show your support by  
attending the Islands Trust Meeting

Thursday, June 26th  
1:00pm Lions Hall

THE SALT SPRING ISLAND RESIDENTS FOR RESPONSIBLE LAND USE

For more information contact

Donna Martin 537-5340

Chris Acheson 537-9649

## NDP renewal

Who wants to lead the provincial New Democratic Party? No one, judging by the lack of interest so far in the leadership race, whose makeup was altered earlier this month by current leader Joy MacPhail.

The party will meet in November to find a successor to MacPhail, who announced June 3 that she would not be in the race. This ought to be good news for the party and for British Columbians, but it is not good news for Gordon Campbell.

First of all, it should be obvious to any New Democrat that MacPhail was a liability. A senior cabinet minister during the Glen Clark years, MacPhail is not only a prominent reminder of the mess Clark made, but stands out to many as an accomplice of the disgraced former premier.

She will long be remembered as a senior member of the government when budgets were fudged and fast ferries built. Voters will not soon forget the horrible impact Clark's government had on this province.

For British Columbians the news is good because it raises the prospect of a functioning democracy. A majority government enjoys sweeping powers. But a majority government facing an opposition of only two members enjoys sweeping powers and more. It does not make for good government under the parliamentary system.

If MacPhail were to continue as leader, the Liberals could conceivably look forward to hanging on to most of the seats they currently hold.

And that takes us to point number three. MacPhail has been an asset to the Liberals and might have continued to be one had the government not said no to a simple and reasonable request just after the 2001 election.

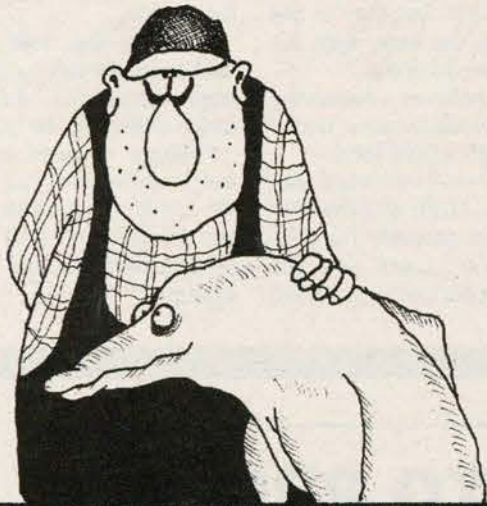
The New Democrats asked the new government to alter the rules and give the defeated party official opposition status. Such a move would have reflected well on the Campbell Liberals as a magnanimous gesture in the interest of democracy. Ironically, had they done so MacPhail might well have stayed on.

With the perks of opposition status — such as a healthy office and research budget — MacPhail might have been happier in her role as MLA and ready to contest the leadership position this fall.

There is no leadership race yet. But the NDP has been a powerful force in B.C. politics long enough that it could mount a strong and successful campaign against the Liberals in the next election.

In private, its supporters must be celebrating MacPhail's departure.

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Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday

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This newspaper acknowledges the financial support of the  
Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance  
Program (PAP), toward its mailing costs.

Publications Mail Registration No. 08149  
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## Memberships

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## Walker Hook protection needs Trust intervention

By CHRIS ACHESON

At the end of May, provincial government officials came to Salt Spring to talk with residents about the merits of the Sablefin Hatcheries aquaculture development on Walker Hook.

One government representative compared Sablefin's waste system to a residential septic field and stated that it would have no impact on the sensitive ecosystems on the site.

Another aquaculture development official compared community concerns about the siting of this facility to not being able to stop a neighbour from painting their house yellow.

Let's set the record straight. This is not a yellow house or a residential septic field, and "the solution to pollution" is not "dilution," as Lloyd Erickson stated at that meeting.

VIEW  
POINT

Walker Hook tombolo is one of the most archaeologically, environmentally and recreationally significant sites in the Gulf Islands. It is one of only three sites in our official community plan (OCP) earmarked to become a public park, with the other two being Mount Erskine and Mount Maxwell.

There are three rare and fragile, governmentally documented sensitive ecosystems on this site, a provincially registered heritage site and a beautiful public swimming beach.

In order to run the hatchery, Sablefin has already dug up Walker Hook tombolo. They've

drilled through one of the sensitive ecosystems on this site for their waste system. They have also drilled through a provincially registered heritage site, digging up a First Nations gravesite and removing six bodies in the process.

To put this development in perspective, Sablefin plans on pumping more wastewater out each day, right next to a sensitive wetland, than the sewage system in Ganges Harbour does. This is only for the first stage of production of 100,000 fish. Sablefin has plans to expand to produce 10,000,000 fish and contemplates buy-out by a "large industry player."

Environment Canada has stated that even minor changes to wetland hydrology and septic system impacts on the Walker Hook sensitive wetland should be avoided. Against government's own policy

recommendations, an environmental site plan and impact assessment performed by a qualified professional indicating that there will be "no effect" has not been required by the provincial government.

Sablefin's management plan makes no mention of what will happen to the dissolved matter in its waste, including: nutrients, pathogenic agents as a result of endemic disease, vaccines or other dissolved chemicals that might be used in operations or might be released into the effluent as a result of a spill. The impact of these fish wastes on the swimming beach on Walker Hook has also received no mention.

It is clear that provincial government officials are trying to sell this project and diversify farmed fish species in British Columbia for short-term gain. Salt Spring

residents need to know what the long-term costs for our island will be if this development proceeds: costs to the environment, the community and the tourism industry.

If there ever was a time for the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee to move to preserve and protect the amenities of island life, it is now.

Our OCP and the Islands Trust Act were drafted to protect sites such as this. Before it is too late, our trustees should act now to make it clear that they to not authorize the subdivision of Walker Hook for the purposes of this aquaculture operation.

*The writer is president of the Canadian Sablefish Association and a member of Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use.*

This past Sunday evening, the 6 p.m. sailing of the Skeena Queen from Fulford to Swartz Bay had a good-sized load aboard. Most were tired but content visitors returning home after a pleasant weekend on Salt Spring.

Of the 12 or 15 foot passengers that were on their way to Vancouver, all but a few were seasoned throughfare users. They wandered over to the ticket machine, deposited their money and retrieved their throughfare tickets. Most then settled their tired butts onto the rough, hard, plastic seats in the lounges. (How can they call those rooms "lounges"? You'd be more comfortable if the RCMP invited you to spend the night in one of their lounges.)

On arrival at Swartz Bay, they walked up to the main

passenger area to wait for the "super ferry." After it arrived — half an hour late — and disgorged its load of foot passengers, the travellers from Salt Spring trudged up the ramp to board, sprinkled among the hundreds of other "walk-ons" from Swartz Bay.

As each of these throughfare folks tried to hand their tickets to the attendant, he told them to return to the ticket booth to get a boarding pass. Some of them protested that these were boarding passes; saying they had used

them on many previous occasions.

"Not today they aren't," was the ever-so-friendly reply. "You're holding up the line. Go to the ticket booth and get a boarding pass."

So off they slunk. Not together, but as individuals or in small groups — however they were travelling. Some tried to hail familiar Skeena Queen faces to warn them not to waste their time shuffling all the way up the ramp with the other passengers. Others

ran quickly back through the waiting area and up the stairs to the ticket booths.

As they reached the top of the stairs, the sight that greeted these laid-back visitors to Salt Spring caused them to freeze in their tracks. Some just stared. Some slumped over and moaned. A few "lost it" and started hollering at the closest ferry workers.

The line of foot passengers trying to buy tickets stretched through the building, out the door, across the concrete and into the parking lot.

The throughfares began to gather in groups as they tried to reason with the "authorities."

Throughfare foot passengers from Salt Spring (tired, confused and with sore but-

tocks): "Excuse me. These people are all lined up to buy their tickets. We already have our tickets. We bought them on the Skeena Queen. You say we need to exchange them for boarding passes, so we should be allowed to go to the front of the line to do so."

Ferry Service employee (probably tired and confused, but with well-rested buttocks): "You have to go to the end of the line. But there's no need to rush, you won't make this sailing anyway."

Passengers (all tired, some now very angry): "OK. Let's forget for a moment that your policy on throughfare tickets is at worst non-existent, at best inconsistent. Let's forget that we bought our tickets an hour and a half ago. Let's

even try to forget that we've been trapped on one of your ferries since 5:45, so you could have found out how many throughfares to expect. Why didn't someone make a P.A. announcement telling us to go and exchange these tickets for other tickets?"

Ferry worker: "Please go to the end of the line."

A delegation of these travellers from the lost continent of Salt Spring finally got an audience with the terminal supervisor. He told them the best he could do was make sure they made it onto the next sailing. (As opposed to what? Making them sit in the office and serve a detention.)

They're now called the "BC Ferry Service." The definition of "service" they seem to be using is: "Time spent in a combat zone."

islesay@saltspring.com

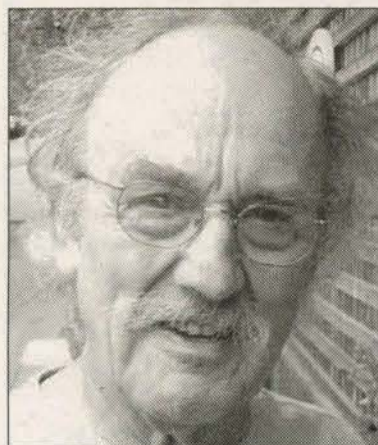
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WITH JOHN POTTINGER



# SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What are your thoughts on same-sex marriages?



**Neil Whittaker**

*I feel kind of ambivalent.*



**Tammy Hunter**

*As long as they're happy.*



**Bryn Finer**

*A commitment's a commitment.*



**Carey Magnusson**

*I don't think there's anything wrong with it. People should be allowed to do what they want to.*



**Kirsten Brand**

*I can see both sides . . . When two people live together for a long time and are devoted to each other, they need the same kinds of breaks. I understand, in the beginning, marriage was for a man and a woman to conceive children. It's hard to change those traditions but I also think churches need to come up with the times.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Spectacular

I am responding to your plea for some good news to report.

Last Tuesday night's SIMS music program concert was a spectacle, the stage spilling over with a concert band too large for the ArtSpring Stage. Well over 100 students participated that evening — playing difficult music very well.

What are the kids doing after school on Salt Spring Island? It would appear that SIMS band students practice, A LOT!

Students enrolled in advanced band are required to submit practice records as part of the course. They fill out a record and have it signed by parents to record the number of minutes they play (practise) their instrument outside of regular band.

This includes the extracurricular activities available to SIMS students, for example: Strings Ensemble, A.C.E. (Advanced Classical Ensemble), Jazz Band, Brass Choir, extra band rehearsals and community band. Private lesson practice is also included.

(Choir and beginning band students are not required to fill out practice records.)

Taking only from diligently recorded student information, SIMS students played a total of 253,234 minutes outside of regular school band! Those 253,234 minutes translate to 175.8 solid days of practice!

This total still does not include all band students, or the second and third instrument lessons that many SIMS students are involved in.

Leading the pack were: Geoff Cronin, averaging 23 hours a week of after-school (and before school and lunchtime) trombone playing and Erica Cronin, who played her tuba for over 22,000 minutes this year.

Charlotte Mellstrom, Daniel Miller, Ryder Bergerud, Caitlyn Pal, Keegan McColl, Dahli Gonthier and Eryn Krieger averaged between eight and 12 hours a week of extra music.

The overall average for all submitted sheets was 6.2 hours of extra playing per week. Those are 6.2 hours on top of homework and soccer and basketball.

Ya know, what we really need at SIMS is a smaller music program. Let's build a mall instead.

Sigh.  
**MITCH HOWARD,**  
SIMS music teacher

### Common sense

If one puts the bile aside, and reads Blair and Melissa Howard's letter of June 11 carefully, it reveals much about the vacation rentals issue.

Special attention needs to be paid to what the letter does not say.

The Howards do not tell us that their business website currently lists 52 vacation rentals. This is far more revealing than the fabrications about taxation, attributed to Mrs. Byron and myself.

And the Howards do not tell us what they know about the Whistler situation.

They apparently treasure a letter saying that Whistler provided no information to the local Trust office. But were they perhaps careful not to find out that Whistler successfully litigated against vacation rentals in the

Supreme Court of B.C., and won again easily in the Appeal Court?

And why would Whistler provide written reports to Salt Spring anyway? Whistler and the Islands Trust have the same lawyers, and it was they who kept trustees and staff abreast of the Whistler case.

The Howards also know that I visited Whistler in September of 2002 and learned of their stringent measures to protect the underlying community of 10,000 from commercial vacation rentals.

There is much to quibble about in Doug Fraser's article of June 18. ASTAR has never applied for legalization of vacation rentals, although they were set up to do so.

There is in fact a paper justifying vacation rentals on some pretty hairy economic grounds, although it is unsigned, and I can see why anyone would want to disown it.

But Mr. Fraser seems solution-oriented, and raises the home-based business provisions of the OCP as an avenue for the vacation rentals issue.

Like Mr. Fraser, I very

much hope that the new research group will pursue home-based business for vacation rentals as far as they can. If it could be done, it would be a means of supporting the resident homeowner who occasionally rents his own home, with little or no harm to the community.

I depart from Mr. Fraser, however, in supporting the home-based business approach where there is no home. That is what the Whistler legal decision said was impossible. It also seems to be common sense.

That being said, if the current study shows that islanders want some free-standing vacation rentals, they should be provided through commercial zoning.

I have enjoyed my recent exchanges in the Driftwood, which make me want to consider a career in local politics.

**DAVID BORROWMAN,**  
Vesuvius

### Looking good

The HMS Ganges chapter of IODE would like to thank the Driftwood for the coverage given to our fashion show.

We were pleased that

Debbie Willis did such a complete interview with all the coordinators, and of course Derrick's photo made everyone "look good."

We look forward to working with you again in the future.

**L. WILSON,**  
Secretary, HMS Ganges  
IODE

**MORE LETTERS A10**

## Your letters are welcome

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

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

## Lots of benefits to ridding world of lawns

The International Congress of Plant Molecular Biology is meeting in Barcelona this week. Just a bunch of scientists at a gravy-train gathering to discuss their arcane ideas and labyrinthine research, right? So what.

German Spangenberg of the Plant Biotechnology Centre at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, will be a featured speaker, bringing glad tidings to the grass-growing world. He and his colleagues "have developed several strains of rye grass in which one or both of the two main pollen allergens are reduced by up to 50 per cent," reports New Scientist. They "exploited similar techniques to those used to produce insect-resistant Bt maize."

Ah. Genetically modified

rye grass, a hypoallergenic plant so hay fever sufferers can have their lawns and not weep over them too. At last, a bit of GM tinkering that "the researchers . . . hope will help shift public opinion around the world in favour of GM crops."

This alarms me, not because this gene-splicing opens a Pandora's box of potential genetic horrors (although it may), but because it's such a thick-skulled, heavy-handed "solution" to a problem.

What amazing conundrums human beings are. On one hand, we're such fine-tuned, sensitive creatures that we feel, for exam-

ple, every barometric pressure shift, react to solar flares, are as moody as the weather and wonder how the alignment of heavenly bodies affect our every move from conception to death.

On the other hand, we lumber over the Earth, thrashing and twisting everything in our path to suit our needs and somehow think that our delicate bodies won't register these impacts.

In the big picture, because humans evolved to love open runs and fields, we indulge obsessively and

excessively in our land-clearing, grass-growing habits. Ever more arable land worldwide is devoted to grasses as crops and lawns each year, forcing the Earth to our bidding. This stresses ecosystems, and to me it's a no-brainer that a stressed Earth means stressed humans who, in turn, develop allergies and asthma. Not surprisingly, these conditions are pandemic now, and worsening.

For supposedly brilliant researchers to think that grass allergies are entirely attributable to grass pollens is short-sighted, knee-jerk thinking. Underlying every allergy is stress, and there will be no cures until the stress is alleviated, including — and starting with, I believe — de-stressing the Earth.

Getting rid of every deco-

rative lawn would be a great start. That they require so much time, money and effort to set up and maintain should tell us something. That so many people suffer from grass allergies should be a sign.

This sort of landscaping works against nature, and it's a fool's chore that we pay for in every way, including our health.

Lawns are a fashion — a deeply entrenched one, yes, but there are lovely, easier, more intelligent alternatives. Many people are starting to clue in.

With a little help and hype from media, especially celebrities of every stripe from heroes to Homers, there could be a fairly quick shift re: what's cool in greenery underfoot. Plant molecular biologists could help us find other flora and

combinations that work with local ecosystems, not counter to them.

What a shame that research continues to serve and extend the status quo, not only in products, but worse, in the thinking behind them.

While it seems a stretch, what happens at an obscure conference in Barcelona can have a monstrous impact on what's in our neighbourhoods just a few years down the road. Spangenberg will be there presenting "GM Grass for Dummies," banking on a world of YIMBYs — Yes In My Back Yard! — eager to buy in.

I hope the stars and smart money are aligned more sensitively and sensibly.

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

**SPRINGBOARD**  
BY BRENDA GUILLED



## More letters

### Bigger fish

So the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints spent a few hundred thousand donations landscaping their new property. Big deal. (June 18 Driftwood letter.)

Let's not consider all the loot buried in Vatican City, or the billions of tax dollars the current U.S. administration spent on a war with Iraq.

We'll overlook the fact that while Iraq's national museums were being robbed, oil fields were being secured by U.S. and coalition forces. So what if Dick Cheney's former company, Halliburton Resources, is a major player in re-building Iraq and so what if you don't like the looks of someone's new digs. Christmas cards are nice.

Before we blame the Mormons for the lack of homeless shelters in the world we should fry up some bigger fish. The following web page will be a good starting point: [www.4.d-r-r-a-t-h-foundation.org](http://www.4.d-r-r-a-t-h-foundation.org).

**SHAWN WALTON,**  
Salt Spring

### Demand it

We should be ashamed of ourselves!

Here we live on one of the richest islands, in one of the wealthiest provinces, in one of the luckiest countries on Earth. We say we want the very best for our children, our grandchildren and our community's children and yet 29 teachers have been given layoff notices, our elementary school library will be staffed for one hour a week, and the middle school music programs will be axed.

Of course we can blame the government for cutting funds, the school board for cutting program and the teachers for belonging to a union.

But do we really want our children taught by a teacher who is in fear of being laid off? Don't we want a full literacy approach to learning; don't we want music to be an important part of every child?

Yes, we should be ashamed for not standing up and telling all parties we demand the very best for all our children.

Yes, we should be willing to pay more for the very best and yes, we should expect to get the very best education.

If not, we can change the government, throw out the school board, and ensure that only the very best teachers are in the school.

It is up to all of us.

**JOHN MYERS,**  
Cormorant Crescent

### Enthusiasm

On Sea Capers weekend, we witnessed a truly wonderful community event.

The parade was full of local floats done by enthusiastic groups that are active in our community. I applaud them for their efforts.

For the last few years the Gulf Islands Shrine Club

has sponsored bringing other Shrine units to the island for this event. Our own club is very small and when we ask for help from the other units we usually get a pretty good showing. Our club doesn't do this to show up the locals, rather to enhance them.

This year our club, thanks to president Les Bedocs, had its own float in the form of an elephant that spouted water and sounded pretty realistic. The elephant was adopted as part of our club crest. It is in recognition of the coat of arms from the HMS Ganges, which was built in India and incorporated the elephant.

We were towing the kayak (on which we are selling tickets up to and including the fall fair.) We have done this for several years and the money raised goes to Shrine charity. Lady Minto knows our club well and each year we donate towards some form of equipment to do with children's care.

We are looking forward to being in Sea Capers next year, so watch for our elephant!!

**RANDY SLOAN,**  
GI Shrine Club

### Tough one

Lovely Sea Capers parade!

I saw cummerbunds where the Driftwood writer saw "cumbmerbuns."

Dictionaries can even help with pronunciation.

I bet they would have a hard time with that one.

**DEB ROTHERHAM,**  
Ganges

### MORE LETTERS A14



*"It's great to be able to bring the produce here, where the people appreciate it."*

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## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT NOTICE OF COUNTER PETITION OPPORTUNITY

### OPERATING AGREEMENT EQUIPMENT LEASE LANDFILL GAS SUPPLY AGREEMENT LICENCE OF OCCUPATION AND ELECTRICITY PURCHASE AGREEMENT

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Directors of the Capital Regional District ("CRD") proposes to enter into four agreements (the "Operating Agreement", "the Equipment Lease", the "Landfill Gas Supply Agreement" and the "Licence of Occupation") with Maxim Power Corporation ("Maxim") to operate a landfill gas utilization facility ("Facility") at Hartland landfill. Maxim will generate electricity from the landfill gas and sell the power to B.C. Hydro. Under the proposed Operating Agreement, the CRD contracts with Maxim to operate the Facility. Under the proposed Equipment Lease, the CRD leases 70% of the Facility equipment to Maxim and receives a monthly lease payment from Maxim. Under the proposed Landfill Gas Supply Agreement, the CRD would make landfill gas available to Maxim who will use the gas to generate electricity for sale to B.C. Hydro. Under the proposed Licence of Occupation, Maxim will have access to the landfill and a portion of land on the landfill site on which to operate the Facility.

Maxim has entered into an Electricity Purchase Agreement with B.C. Hydro for the sale of power. In the event that Maxim defaults under any of the above four agreements, or the quantity of landfill gas falls below a pre-determined level, all contracts will be terminated with Maxim and Maxim will assign the Electricity Purchase Agreement to the CRD.

The CRD and Maxim have entered into a Development Agreement with Maxim under which the CRD will be contributing the lesser of \$1,750,000 or 70% of the total cost of constructing the Facility and will be obtaining a proportionate ownership share in the Facility.

The term of the proposed Operating Agreement, Equipment Lease, Landfill Gas Supply Agreement and Licence of Occupation would commence on March 26th, 2008 and terminate 20 years from the commercial operation date of the Facility, targeted for the 31st day of December, 2003. The term of the Energy Purchase Agreement would commence at any time over the term of the Electricity Purchase Agreement entered into by Maxim and terminate 20 years from the commercial operation date of the Facility, targeted for the 31st day of December, 2003. There are provisions to extend the term of the Electricity Purchase Agreement to compensate for interruptions in the supply of electricity to B.C. Hydro.

Under the **Operating Agreement** the CRD would be required to expand the landfill gas collection system as the landfill grows subject to CRD Board approval and availability of funds. The CRD will also indemnify Maxim against all actions arising from the CRD's breach of the agreement. The CRD may also be required to purchase Maxim's interest in the Facility (including vehicles, equipment and fixtures) in the event of default by the CRD in performing any of its obligations under the agreement or if landfill gas production is insufficient to allow for the generation of 1.4 megawatts of power for 3 consecutive months. The estimated cost of meeting this obligation, should the CRD be required to do so, is approximately \$476,000 in year one of the agreement, declining to zero dollars by year 20.

Under the **Equipment Lease** the CRD may be required to purchase Maxim's interest in the Facility plus equipment, vehicles and fixtures used by Maxim in connection with the Facility if landfill gas production falls below threshold levels sufficient to generate 1.4 megawatts of power for 3 consecutive months.

Under the **Landfill Gas Supply Agreement** the CRD would be required to supply landfill gas to the Facility during the term of the Electricity Purchase Agreement. Such supply includes operational requirements on the part of the CRD to balance and operate the existing landfill gas well field and collection system and to operate existing equipment in order to collect landfill gas from the well field and deliver it to the proposed facility. The cost of meeting these obligations is estimated to be approximately \$57,000 per year. As all of these activities are currently being carried out by the CRD to flare the gas, the CRD does not expect to incur any additional costs in meeting this obligation.

Under the **Licence of Occupation** the CRD will grant by way of licence the use of an area of the landfill to Maxim for the sole purpose of installing and maintaining the Facility and agrees to indemnify Maxim against damages that may arise as a result of the CRD entering onto the Licence Area.

The CRD would be required to assume responsibility for obligations under the **Electricity Purchase Agreement ("EPA")**, only in the event of a default by Maxim under the EPA or in the event of default by the CRD under one of its Agreements with Maxim, or if landfill gas production is insufficient to allow for the generation of 1.4 megawatts of power for 3 consecutive months. Under the EPA the CRD may be required to design, construct, interconnect to the Transmission Authority's Plant, commission, operate and maintain the Facility in compliance with applicable laws, the terms and conditions of all permits and land tenure agreements issued to the CRD in connection with the Facility, good utility practice, and the terms and conditions of the EPA and the Interconnection Agreement. The CRD would be required to provide appropriate documentation and maintain at its expense equipment shared with BC Hydro associated directly with the Facility such as revenue metering equipment. The CRD would also be required to maintain minimum required insurance and to indemnify B.C. Hydro against loss or damages. The cost of meeting these obligations is estimated to be \$2.5 million in the event that the CRD builds the facility, and thereafter approximately \$25,000 per year.

The CRD is to be compensated under the Operating Agreement for the supply of landfill gas by an annual payment of between zero and \$108,000 from Maxim, depending on the quantity of gas supplied and the year of the contract. This payment is in addition to other payments to be made to the CRD under the Equipment Lease, which are calculated to repay the CRD, over the term of the lease, that portion of the CRD's initial contribution under the Development Agreement which is used to purchase equipment use in the Facility.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the CRD may proceed with the Operating Agreement, the Equipment Lease, the Landfill Gas Supply Agreement, the Licence of Occupation and the Electricity Purchase Agreement (in the event that Maxim assigns this agreement to the CRD) if the number of electors' signatures on the counter petitions received by the CRD represents fewer than 5% of the electors of the Capital Regional District. The counter petition must be in the form as established by the CRD and forms are available from the CRD on request. The only persons entitled to sign counter petition forms are electors of the area to which the counter petition opportunity applies. The counter petition opportunity applies within all municipalities and electoral areas of the Capital Regional District.

**The deadline for delivering original signed counter petitions against the proposed Operating Agreement, Equipment Lease, Landfill Gas Supply Agreement, Licence of Occupation and Electricity Purchase Agreement to the CRD is 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 6th day of August, 2003. Petitions must be received by the deadline to be counted.**

The CRD has estimated that the total number of electors within the Capital Regional District is 220,648 and 5% of that number or 11,032 electors must petition against the Agreements to prevent the CRD from entering into these Agreements without the assent of the electors.

Copies of the Operating Agreement, Equipment Lease, Landfill Gas Supply Agreement, Licence of Occupation and Electricity Purchase Agreement and records relating to them, including copies of the Request for Proposals package and related agreements that may be disclosed may be obtained from Larisa Hutcheson, Environmental Services Dept., (Telephone: 360-3057) at the CRD Offices, 534 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2S6 during regular office hours Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) from the date of this notice until the 6th day of August, 2003.

### VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

A qualified elector is a person who:

1. is a Canadian citizen;
2. is at least 18 years of age;
3. has resided in British Columbia for at least 6 months; and
4. has resided in the Capital Regional District for at least 30 days; or
5. has been an owner of the real property within the Capital Regional District for at least 30 days and otherwise meets the qualifications of a non-resident property elector as set out in Section 51(1) of the *Local Government Act*.

To obtain the counter petition forms, or for further information, please contact Carmen Thiel, Administration Dept., CRD offices at 524 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2S6 or by telephone at 360-3129; or toll free 1-800-663-4425 (local 3129).

Given under my hand at Victoria, B.C. this 18th day of June, 2003.

Carmen Thiel  
Corporate Secretary

# RANTS & ROSES

## RANTS

Rants to the man and woman walking their German shepherd dog in Duck Creek Park on the evening of June 10. The dog was off the leash (as is allowed in that park), but was not under their control.

This dog started barking and running toward a man visiting our island, and then made a lunge toward him. Thankfully the owner was able to grab the dog before any physical damage occurred.

Their response to this attack?

"He's never done that before."

No apology or concern for our guest. My real fear is for children, small dogs, or someone frail who might not have fared so well.

Please act responsibly and keep your "out of control" dog on a leash!

To the dog owners whose pets are left outside to bark incessantly all day while you are away at work, etc. (If you are wondering if this is referring to you - it probably is!) Please be considerate of your neighbours.

To all of you drivers who should be aware what that little lever on the left side of your steering column is for: dimming your headlights! When meeting your eyeball-burning high-beams on a dark and twisty road, like many on Salt Spring, everything else is blackness, which could result in me being upside down in the ditch or you getting sideswiped. High beams following behind are also a pain in the rearview mirror. The driver ahead of you is already showing you where the road is going if you will let him see where he's going.

Oh, and by the way, that little lever can also tell others when you are planning to turn right or left. What a thoughtful idea!

To the new ownership of a restaurant that immediately tossed out the local brew in favour of ale imported from Vancouver Island. They are well aware that the brewery is nestled in the heart of the Fulford Valley. Perhaps they should look out across the water and take an example from a place where locals can sip their own beer while dining in an establishment that supports the local economy.

Rants to dog owners who force their dogs to run along with them while they're cycling, especially in warm weather. The stress can be fatal to the dog!

Rants to parents who have not advised their children to check in both directions before crossing the road after getting off a

school bus. Regardless of all the signals on the bus, one driver not stopping can cause a terrible accident.

## ROSES

I would like to rave about the coaches who volunteered their time and energy to support our Operation Trackshoes athletes at the University of Victoria sports festival last weekend. You are amazing!

Roses to Barry and the staff at Oystercatcher for their excellent food and generous support of the champion Grade 8 Tsunami girls basketball team at their end-of-year dinner on June 18. Your community spirit shines brightly and we wish you continued success in all your endeavours.

Roses to the taxi driver who took me to the hospi-

tal's emergency department in the middle of the night.

He carried me from my house to his car and, upon arrival, secured a wheelchair and wheeled me into emergency.

His care and concern and wonderful attitude demonstrate, once again, what a great, caring community we live in. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you! FP

May Diana Lynn Thompson's memories of fragrant roses, delphiniums, daisies, lavender and more in the mandala at Saturday's Community Flower Circle bloom for an entire year.

Roses to the Waldorf school and its wonderful teachers. The creativity that flows from you to our children is awesome. Thanks for everything you do — looking forward to school in the fall.



**Name:** BARBARA WOODLEY  
**537/538/653:** 537  
**Occupation(s):** Photographer (once upon a time).  
**Hobbies:** Piano.  
**Home finished/unfinished:** Which part?  
**Favourite people:** Lynda Blanchette, Linda Vickers, Linda Woodley (something about Lindas).  
**Favourite read:** The cards my husband writes to me.  
**Best thing about SSI:** The "lif-ers" for their manners and the "newcomers" for their ardour.  
**Worst thing about SSI:** The winters. By February we've all stopped talking to each other.  
**Best place to kiss on SSI?:** "Maria's Gate" at Salt Spring Elementary School. It's where I get three kisses a day.

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# Enough rhetoric, posturing and vitriol

By RALPH BISCHOFF

Oddly enough in this time of world financial instability and general collapse of tourism, it seems some Salt Spring Islanders have taken it upon themselves to take shots at each other while far bigger economic arrows threaten our island way of life.

Referring to the Driftwood editorial and past submissions by Messrs. Borrowman, Fraser and Bolton, it would appear as if we were being asked to choose sides rather than come up with a community solution.

Pardon me, but isn't there a well-rounded community subcommittee looking into the complexities of the vacation rental situation and how to come to grips with a facet of tourism that was not approved in the official community plan (OCP)?

What ever that subcommittee researches and decides to bring forward as recommendations for the Advisory Planning Commission and Salt Spring Local Trust Committee will no doubt be presented for the community to give direction.

Let this subcommittee do its work!! There is equally good representation from ASTAR and from other sectors. And thank the subcommittee's members for being so giving of their time. What



better way to spend an afternoon each week during the summer?

This issue would not have arisen if all us islanders were able to see only in black and white and shared the process that had taken place in the development of the OCP in the early 1990s.

Contrary to the headline of Mr. Fraser's piece — "Research will reveal truth in rentals issue" — I believe that research will produce "facts."

Truths are only those things that we collectively believe to hold true.

There is no black or white; but as life is a nuance of colour we now have the opportunity to address how the impact of opening the proverbial barn door will impact and change our community — for the better or for the worse.

Most of the community is probably ho-hum on this issue. And for the most part rightly so. However, the day will come when this rental issue will hit every one of us in the face when we have to deal with what is going on in our back yards.

Hopefully the subcommit-

tee will be able to present recommendations that look at a sustainable triple bottom line of economics, environment and community.

Hopefully there will be options available to mitigate the impact on our neighbourhoods of not only this new form of accommodation on our island, but also the existing conforming modes — be they commercial or home-based businesses.

The Pender document is indeed a good recommended read — albeit written for a community one-tenth the size of our own and with fewer economic intricacies and sector linkages.

Perhaps in our case, bylaws aren't enough any more and we need control mechanisms like licences, use permits and user fees for the full spectrum of accommodation modes.

While licences and use permits provide adherence requirements (and can be revoked), and user fees (when collected by the accommodation provider) can address the impact any operation has on the existing community resources, it remains a question if a non-incorporated body like the Islands Trust can administer these.

Finally, the bigger economic arrows. The BC Assessment Authority has thrown a major wrench in

the works and begun to use split classification assessments to gather tax dollars.

A mainstay of our rural economy — home-based businesses like studios and B and Bs — are now starting to have property assessed at commercial rates that may make artisans and professionals decide to close up shop.

The vacation rentals issue might become moot in several years when there is nothing for tourists to tour and that component of our current island way of life becomes truly unsustainable. (How ironic that taxation by our current Liberal government may be the best "preserve and protect" mechanism devised!)

Enough rhetoric, posturing and vitriol. Let the subcommittee process begin. Let it present some viable solutions to the community that respect the careful planning of the past while looking to a sustainable future.

Fanning the flames (an apt metaphor on a water-starved island like our own) has never been helpful.

*The writer is a consulting environmental engineer specializing in infrastructure management and waste reduction management, as well as being an accommodation provider on Salt Spring.*

## More letters

### Catastrophe

I am watching a tiny song sparrow, one of a pair that has built a nest, hobble in the low canopy as one of its legs has been maimed by a nearby cat — perhaps one that has been left to wander and kill for days at a time while its owner is "away."

Early last week the migratory American goldfinch landed for a few days to feed on thistle seed — another avian massacre along with quail, grouse, towhees, wild birds that do not instinctively associate the sound of a bell or the scent of weed killer with the sound of doom.

House cats are not native to North America, yet the native birds have no protection from them. There are 110 million deaths of song and game birds each year in North America.

Studies have found that urban and rural cats are equally destructive and the feral cat damage is off the chart.

It is a myth that cats must go outside to find feline happiness. Cats crave wide open spaces only if they have grown up having frequent outdoor jaunts. Otherwise, they are happy to stay inside.

Well-fed house cats kill birds just as vigorously as hungry cats. Hunting for cats is a form of amusement. Hunting for food and hunting for fun are controlled by separate parts of a cat's brain.

Those who claim they must be rid of mice, voles and tiny shrews are doing so at the expense of hawks and owls. Hawk nesting is dramatically down where house

cats feed on mice. Shrews and voles are becoming quite rare and domestic cats have been implicated in the population decline of several endangered species. In our neighbourhood, we no longer see grouse or quail, and hawk and owl sightings are very rare.

It's not too late to defend our bird populations. Let's ask pet owners to broaden the scope of their affection for animals and consider how to keep the blood off their little darlings' claws.

With thanks to Robert Alison, a senior consulting biologist, and the (Toronto) Globe and Mail, Saturday, June 14, 2003, p. A15.  
**ANNE HUMPHRIES,**  
Haamea Bay

MORE LETTERS A13

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### ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday June 26th, 2003

TIME: 11am Business Meeting  
Agenda and reports available at the door

PLACE: Lady Minto Hospital meeting room  
Crofton Road, Ganges, Salt Spring Island

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION:** To adopt revised constitution as the constitution of the society (copies of revised constitution available at Greenwoods front office).

**MEMBERSHIP:** persons who have reached 19 years of age, who reside in the Gulf Islands - namely Salt Spring, North Pender, South Pender, Prevost, Saturna, Samuel, Mayne and Galiano - who have made written application for membership in the Society (applications available at Greenwoods business office).

#### VOTING PRIVILEGES

Members in good standing who annually renew membership prior to the commencement of the annual meeting, are entitled to vote.

Persons who have applied for membership during the past membership year, which extends from the commencement of the annual meeting until the commencement of the next, providing applications are received prior to May 28th, 2003.

Penny Polden, CEO  
Gulf Islands Intermediate Care Society



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**SINGING IN THE RAIN:**  
Salt Spring's Raging Grannies entertained market-goers with their rousing ditties in Centennial Park — under wet skies — Saturday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## More letters

### Liquor bicker

About a year ago, after a trip to Alberta, I wrote to the Driftwood that in spite of the hoopla about the joys of liquor privatization, my admittedly cursory observation was that not only were prices there substantially more than in B.C. (instead of substantially less, as they had been before Ralph Klein worked his magic on them) but outlets had so mushroomed that persons cursed with thirst hardly needed to walk more than a block to find one modestly hiding behind a flashing neon sign.

Again in Alberta a couple of weeks ago, with similar privatization in B.C. stalled but still looming, I noted the prices of 17 representative brands of spirits, liqueurs and wines, and have now compared them with what we pay here at our highly efficient and well-stocked Ganges outlet. Of the 17, only one was less in Alberta (by six per cent), but all of the others were more, some by as much as 20 per cent, for an average of 10.5 per cent. (Details on request.)

That's not the only hang-over for our Alberta neighbours of this foolish policy. Excess capacity and higher retailing costs, instead of saving money, have reduced government revenue and since effective control over the industry has been lost, the social cost has also been high, as suggested by the fact that Edmonton and Calgary rank first and third among Canadian cities for impaired driving charges.

Can we not all agree that, of the materials that we ingest, alcohol is not in the same category as bread, beans and butter? To some, it can be benign, to others, a curse, to many others a weakness to be carefully controlled.

To prohibit something so easily created by nature is futile, but to leave it to the tender mercies of private profit is irresponsible, as the Albertan example has shown.

In spite of being hammered by the "Government is Bad, Privatization is Good" mantra being exported by our southern neighbour, the Canadian governments, federal or provincial, sometimes get it right.

Yes — the energy released by private enterprise is the engine of prosperity, but, uncontrolled by government, it can be disastrous. Britain learned this a century and a half ago, as did France, as did Germany.

B.C. needs to look no further back than W.A.C. Bennett, a conservative who also happened to be wise, and who virtually created modern British Columbia, with its Hydro dams, its ferries, railways, its roads and, yes, its liquor control policies, all of which are on the block now by our retrogressive feudalism-fixed government.

It's up to us to say, "Enough!"

**ANDREW GIBSON,**  
Rainbow Road

### Acrimony

I have been reading letters to the editor for about seven months now, since moving to Salt Spring last September.

I just read the recent letters from Terry Bolton on vacation rentals and Marjolin Van Zanten on the new Mormon church in the June 18 issue.

It boggles me how bigoted, arrogant, controlling and narrow the thinking is of so many people here on Salt Spring.

These writers want to impose their values, land usage concepts, architectural and décor concepts on everyone else. Let me point out that unlike the few eyesore, junk-filled yards that are plainly visible from some of our major roads, these are simply matters of personal taste in use and design.

The writers' points of view are obviously biased by self-interest.

With regards to vacation rentals, that should be up to the owner. If noise becomes a

problem, then let's deal with that as the issue, and not tar everyone with the same brush as a bad neighbour. I don't operate or plan to operate a vacation rental, so I have no personal interest in the issue. It's the acrimony and intolerance that appalls me.

With regards to the architecture issue of the new church, what arrogance to try to impose a narrow standard of so-called "West Coast" architecture on everyone on the island and then tell others how to practise their faith.

I am not a Mormon and not even of the Christian faith, so I have no connection to or bias for this group. If I don't like everything about the design of my neighbour's house, so what? One should not have the right to throw stones at them and disparage them publicly. How crass.

It is apparent that although Salt Spring is a wonderful island that attracts people from all over the world, some residents here feel like it's their own personal domain.

And incidentally, just because I am a recent resident does not mean that I have no voice in such matters. That also is an antiquated concept and one I categorically reject. I too pay taxes in this community and support local businesses.

Salt Spring was once a pioneer, rural, backwater community. It is no longer. There will be changes. Some you may like and some you won't. Get used to it.

Learn to be more tolerant, diplomatic and welcoming; everyone's life will be a lot easier, including your own.

**TREV MCLEAN,**  
Vesuvius

### Stick together

I was off island for four weeks and am so happy to be back. The community here is so great, I missed the feeling of interconnectedness that exists here, but is not so present in the big city.

There I was, walking past

the Roasting Company, when I noticed the new store in the old Sears spot. We already have a couple of bookstores in Ganges, and one of them is across the street. We also have two used bookstores, isn't that enough? It seems like a waste of prime real estate to add another.

A friend told me she's heard there is another video store (with American-based owners) opening soon.

What is going on here? Why don't we islanders stick together, support each other in our business endeavours and encourage entrepreneurs to get more creative?

If it's your life-long dream to open a bookstore, a video store or whatever, find a way to do that which doesn't so directly impact other island businesses that were here first.

It just doesn't seem right to go into competition with your neighbour.

**KIM HUNTER,**  
Head Street

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**REPLACEMENT OF FERNWOOD DOCK FLOAT AND PILES INVITATION TO TENDER**

Sealed tenders, plainly marked on the envelope "F-01-03 TENDER FOR FERNWOOD DOCK" will be received by the Director of Finance, Capital Regional District at 524 Yates Street, Victoria, British Columbia.

The Capital Regional District wishes to repair the approach and replace the float and mooring. Tender documents may be obtained from the Main Reception Centre at 524 Yates Street, between 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The invitation to tender is also available on the CRD website at: [www.crd.bc.ca/tenders/](http://www.crd.bc.ca/tenders/). Tenders will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time, Wednesday, July 23rd 2003, at which time they will be opened.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

**Diana E. Lokken, CMA**  
Director of Finance  
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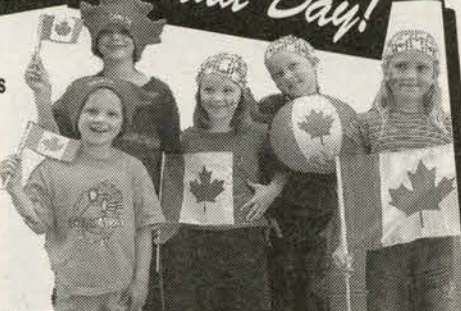
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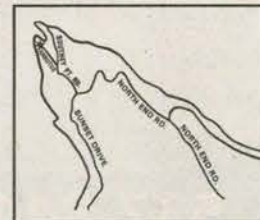
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# Talisman conjures musical power

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

With the onset of summer shimmering in the air, Salt Spring's Interchill Records has released a new dub vibes reggae CD that's been designed as a good-times magical charm for an upcoming season of festive jubilation.

But the Talisman CD has been released during a period of great uncertainty in the recording industry; a time when musicians and producers can use all the arcane protection they can find.

"Talismans have been used since antiquity to enhance existing good in a specific way for a specific purpose," said local CD producer Andrew Ross Collins.

Consequently, Ross Collins has compiled a sampler of 12 energetic reggae re-mixes performed by artists such as Stress Assassin, Ott, the Gargoyles and Salt Spring's Adham Shaikh that seem to have a supernatural power of their own.

"The idea is that if you played it, you would have good times with friends. Talisman would enhance the good times."

Even chores like dish-washing can take on new meaning as the multi-layered sounds of Talisman waft around a clinking kitchen.

Add a bit of companionship to the equation, and the dishes are destined to run away with the spoon in the album's organic-electronica sympathetic rhythms.

But Ross Collins created Talisman with a bigger party in mind.

"I've found dub to be good music in a crowd. You can't please everyone with rock, rap or house music. Reggae has a universalism and a positive message as well. It's a natural fit."

Reggae has many different sub-genres. And dub is at one end of a spectrum that includes roots reggae, ska, mento, two-tone, dancehall and third wave, he explained.

"It's down-tempo ambient music. It's often made by producers instead of bands, but not always. It has an organic, earthy feel to it."

Interchill created Talisman as a kind of dub tour, he said.

"The first six tunes are like a survey of different angles of dub reggae."

The first cut, Temper Dub by Manasseh Meets the Equalizer Feat Knati, is dominated by roots influences, while the second song, Talisman (Dub Praises Mix) by Neil Sparkes, is more melodic, he said.

"It features an instrument called the melodica. It's a traditional instrument developed by Augustus Pablo as a replacement for the vocalist."

The third tune, Eat Static by Caridwen, is more of an electronic trancey trip-hop piece, he said.

"For them to produce a dub tune would definitely create more of a hybrid sound. It's interesting to hear what they did."

The Lily Dub by Jumbo Layer throws in a little deep south blues into the mix; and Lam Tang Way Dub offers south-east Asian influences through a collaboration between the Laotian ensemble Molam Dub and the



Andrew Ross Collins

U.K.'s Jah Wobble and Invaders of the Heart.

The rootsy sounds of Ark of the Argans by Suns of Arga on the sixth cut rounds-out different perspectives on the dub genre.

While the first half of the album shows a diverse panorama of dub, the second half is more of a DJ mix that flows together, he noted.

"After listening to a number of different views, it takes them on a deeper journey."

The 11th song, Sabadub, features the keys and beats of islander Shaikh with fellow locals: Yasmin Amall on percussion, Shai Topaz on berimbau and Catherine Potter on the Indian bansuri flute.

"The flute line comes in just as the track unfolds. It's played live, it's not a sample; he hasn't programmed it. I think you can tell the difference."

Ross Collins is a great supporter of music from other cultures.

"World music deserves lots of respect," he said.

Thanks to technological innovations, bedroom-based record-producers can generate half-decent results very quickly, he said.

"But that doesn't replace talent or years of dedication to one instrument. In my mind, that has greater validity."

He was dazzled by Potter's bansuri playing and charmed by the authenticity of Topaz's berimbau on Shaikh's composition.

"Good music is a universal.

It transcends genres and current fashions."

As a parallel to musical universality, 90 per cent of Interchill's business is in exports and 80 per cent of orders come from the U.S., he said.

"Ironically, it's easier to sell CDs to Germany than Toronto."

Talisman is the eighth compilation in the evolving Interchill series, he noted.

Ross Collins started the independent label on Salt Spring in 1996 after he decided to move on from his previous work as a DJ.

"Being a DJ doesn't mesh with being a family man."

He still performs in the odd music festival, including the upcoming Shambhala event (Kootenays, August 14-16) and the Samothraki Dance Festival (Greece, August 28-September 2).

"I go for quality, not quantity," he said.

In addition to his desire to create more family-friendly employment, Ross Collins also wanted to start a record label offering more support for Canadian musicians who have been overlooked on the world stage, he said.

"I thought it was strange that Canadian artists weren't getting a lot of support from Canadian retailers."

One effort to promote Canadian music, Northern Circuits, even caught the eye of Icelandic pop artist Bjork, he said.

"She was really supportive."

But Interchill is no longer focussed on strictly Canadian content, he noted.

"We just work with whoever we can that supports the project."

And the recording industry is now in dire jeopardy, he added.

"Changes to the way people access music have led to a dramatic drop in retail sales."

He questions whether a company based on CD sales can even remain viable in today's market.

"We're still around because we've got a very low overhead."

Consequently, Ross Collins

started Mariko Music Publishing last year in a bid to stay involved in the music industry.

"We have to get off this ice floe before it gets too small."

He described the move into publishing as another maturational phase. The music-publishing business involves selling music rights to various media industries where copyright laws are held sacrosanct, he explained.

"Film and television work is slightly more grown-up for a young company but the transition is not cheap."

Since music copyright violations have become so prevalent, Ross Collins believes that CDs will simply become business cards for musicians in the future.

"Everyone is conscious that the CD's days are numbered."

Along with the imminent demise of the CD, widespread copyright violations could bring about the death of the recording industry itself, he said.

"Because consequences are perceived as unenforceable and it's considered a victimless crime to copy CDs, the net result will be fewer deals for artists."

And island artists need not contact the local recording company with hopes of getting a contract for their new songs.

"Interchill Records is not currently accepting demos. Our release schedule is full for the next year."

But Ross Collins will continue to sell locally produced albums through the Interchill website (www.interchill.com).



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FOR THE ISSUE OF  
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Display Ad Deadline: 5pm, Thursday, June 26  
Classified Deadline: 5pm, Friday, June 27  
Too Late Too Classify Deadline:  
Noon Monday June 30th

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED CANADA DAY, TUESDAY JULY 1ST

Gulf Islands  
**Driftwood**

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**Is your business facing difficulties because of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) situation?**  
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**What is the Work Sharing Program?**  
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**Who can participate?**  
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**How can employers qualify?**  
Employers must have been in business in Canada for at least two years and demonstrate that the need for reduced hours is temporary, unavoidable and not seasonal.

**Other measures for employees**  
If you have lost your job, you may be eligible to receive regular EI benefits. You may also take advantage of the other programs and services offered by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC).

For more information please visit or contact your local Human Resources Centre of Canada (HRCC).  
To locate the nearest HRCC call 1 800 O-Canada - TTY/ATS: 1 800 465-7735  
You can also visit the HRDC Web site at www.hrdc.gc.ca

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada  
**Canada**

# Swann — waiting in the wings for a move to Salt Spring

While Salt Spring might have lost one police officer to a recent transfer, the local RCMP detachment is scheduled to receive another community-minded constable as a replacement.

The only hitch to getting the new officer to the island is that he must first sell his house in Barriere B.C. before he can move.

"You're getting a terrific guy," said North Thompson Star-Journal office manager Lynda Roberts.

The Barriere-based newspaper is very familiar with Const. Jeff Swann, she said.

"He's much loved up here," Roberts said.

Swann was voted Barriere's "citizen of the year" in 2001 and he received the B.C. Youth Police Network (BCYPN) award in 2002 for exceptional service in the school community.

"You do your job for the reasons you do it, not for the recognition of awards," Swann said during a telephone interview.

Swann has been a scout leader for the past three years, he spearheaded the D.A.R.E. (Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education) program at Barriere Elementary in 2000, he also took the initiative to start-up the Hershey Track and Field program there and he coaches the senior volleyball team at Barriere Secondary School.

"I'm involved in lots of kid's stuff."

The 29-year-old officer has also been known to play floor hockey with kids during school lunch-breaks and organize paint ball adventures as part of Halloween festivities with local youths.

"I can't help but think we're spoiled with kids in this community," he said.

The BCYPN indicated it was inspired to give Swann an award based on a nomination written by Barriere Elementary principal Rob Schoen:

"There is an old saying that you model what is important by what you

do, not by what you say. There is a lot of rhetoric about how important the youth of our country is, but Jeff is an individual who not only believes that statement but also lives it."

Swann has been visible, approachable, positive and professional with the youth of the community, both in and out of uniform; consequently, he's earned a tremendous amount of respect and support, Schoen said.

"The students at Barriere Elementary all admire and respect him for who he is, not because of the uniform he wears. However, with that said, the uniform he wears and the standards which the uniform represents have become a tangible symbol of what students want to model, not mock."

Swann brushed aside the Citizen of the Year and BCYPN commendations as perks of living in a pro-police community.

"They've rallied behind us and supported us with initiatives like D.A.R.E."

He believes that the youth of Barriere have made it easy for him to get involved.

"These kids are responsible and mature."

With seven years in the RCMP, Swann has spent his full term in Barriere thus far.

The interior B.C. community of 1,800 is a 45 minute drive north of Kamloops on Highway 5.

Swann has been working in a three-member detachment that patrols a large rural area of some 4,000 people.

Prior to his RCMP training, he lived in Yellowknife and Calgary and went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton where he obtained a degree in sociology, with a minor in English.

During university, he returned to Yellowknife for summer jobs in construction and the diamond-mines.

But Swann always knew he would join the RCMP. He's a member of a staunch police family; his

father is a retired RCMP officer and his two sisters and their husbands are all police officers on Vancouver Island.

"I've got family all around Tsawwassen, Sidney and Nanaimo. I haven't lived close to my family since I was 17."

And he's looking forward to moving to Salt Spring with his wife of 10 months, Naomi.

Salt Spring RCMP office manager Gwen Denluck has even been sending Swann a copy of the Driftwood each week.

"I've just got a damn house to sell . . . There's no market here because the mills are closing down," said Swann.

And if anyone would like to see the local detachment grow a little stronger faster, Swann's looking to sell a brand new five-bedroom, three-bathroom house with a two-car garage on a quarter acre for \$160,000.

"You can't even buy an empty lot for that over there."

## Coast guard involved in search for missing jet skier on Monday

Local coast guard members searched for a 44-year-old jet skier who was travelling between Cowichan Bay and Mill Bay on Monday night.

According to leading seaman Marco Khalil, coast guard vessels Skua and the Ganges 1, as well as the Auxiliary 34 from Mill Bay, searched from 11:30 p.m. until 2 a.m. when they were advised that the man was found by a naval dive vessel.

The man was reportedly under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and was left in police custody.

Ganges Coast Guard also received a Monday evening call about a 50-year-old woman who jumped off the Spirit of Vancouver Island, near Portland Island.

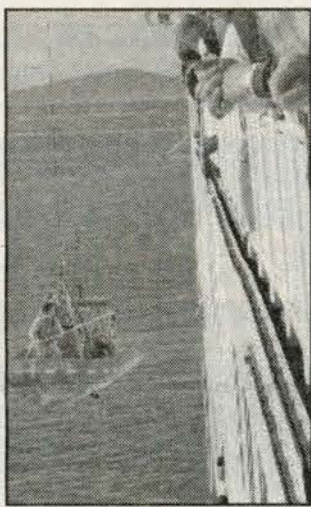
She was recovered by the ferry's rescue boat and did not need medical attention.

Local coast guard crews also received a May Day call on Monday, signifying "grave and imminent danger," when a 33-foot sailing vessel was aground on a reef at Georgeson Island, said Khalil.

The Skua arrived at the same time as the Siyay, a hovercraft from Richmond, but the sailing boat managed to get off the reef with its own power and was escorted to anchorage at Bennett Bay, on Mayne Island.

"It was a beautiful boat, brand new," said Khalil, who inspected the vessel for damage.

Crews were sent to investigate a vessel that was zig-zagging up Trincomali Channel at



Islander Jamin Stocks was onboard the Spirit of Vancouver Island when a woman jumped overboard. He photographed this rescue scene.

12:29 a.m. Saturday night. The wooden cabin cruise-

er's operator sounded disoriented, and was met by members of the coast guard and a member of the RCMP. The boat was given navigational information and set up with a communications schedule with the Victoria Coast Guard Radio.

A concerned citizen reported a 19-foot power boat sitting on rocks off Grace Point at 8:42 the next morning, and Khalil said coast guard crews suspect the boat struck a rock and its operators tied it up on land.

Crews were paged Thursday night when a 32-foot sailing vessel dragged its anchor from Ganges toward Powder Island because of high-gusting winds. The coast guard's rigid hull zodiac towed the vessel back to the harbour.

## FIRE CALLS

A fuel-tank fire at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club last Wednesday is being investigated as arson, said Arjuna George of the Salt Spring Fire Department.

"It seemed to be deliberately set," said George, who did not know when investigations would be completed.

Seven trucks and 22 volunteer firefighters were on scene for about two hours after the call was received at approximately 1:55 a.m., said George.

The damage, including clean-up, has been estimated at some \$5,000, according to a press release from the RCMP.

The RCMP and the fire department are both investigating the incident. Anyone with information should contact the RCMP.

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## SIMS pond idea floats

A school beautification project with ties to the late Nichola Howard has just been completed at Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS).

Between SIMS parents, students and staff, the Howard family and other key people on Salt Spring, the SIMS Millennium Garden courtyard project was finished in fine style last week.

SIMS student Nichola Howard died from cancer two years ago, and the garden project has become a way to remember the active young islander.

According to SIMS parent advisory council (PAC) member Nairn Howe, with the help of some boys in Monika Mayr's class doing "the gruntwork" — moving all the soil, setting it aside, then hauling the sand and helping with cement — a pond was installed in the courtyard.

"The end result is a lovely pond with two beds for plants on either side," said Howe.

First phase of the work was finished about two years ago, explained Howe, and then it took another turn when Mayr's students entered a Ponds Online Canada contest.

While the contest had no borders, the company is operated by Mike Bauer of Salt Spring.



**GARDEN PARADISE:** Some of the many hands helping to complete the middle school pond are parent Nairn Howe (left), landscaper Andrew Lewis (right), Ponds Online owner Mike Bauer and students Hugh Finer, Will Cornwall, Matt Miller and Trevor Cottrell.

Mayr's students submitted a series of stories and essays describing the Millennium Garden project, including Nichola Howard and special trees planted in her honour, to qualify for the pond win.

The Howard family also paid for plants and other materials, and accepted contributions from others for the garden fund, and SIMS PAC contributed some of its own monies to ensure com-

pletion. Fraser's Thimble Farms donated fish for the pond.

Besides providing the pond as a result of the students' contest win, Bauer upgraded its liner from domestic to industrial strength.

Howe said landscaper Andrew Lewis gave the group a reasonable price and Lorraine Hamilton lent her design expertise as she did at the beginning of the

project.

On a day-to-day basis, SIMS staff Mayr and Marie Beaudoin look after the garden, said Howe.

In the fall, more bulbs will be planted for some early spring blooms.

Howe also said that students and staff frequently tell her how much they enjoy the courtyard.

"It's nice that it can be there for the kids starting in September," she said.



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## HERITAGE FEST

Sunday, June 29

- \* Family Picnic @ 5:30pm
- \* Ol'Time Games @ 6:30pm
- \* Hymn-sing @ 7:00pm

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## GISS honour roll listed

Gulf Islands Secondary School released its third and final honour roll for the year, along with the Principal's List, for students attaining a 90 per cent average in all subjects.

### Grade 9

Nicholas Allen, Josh Benloulou, Victoria Budd, Kris Burgess, Jessy Burgess, Jeremy Byron, Bradley Cronin, Elizabeth Cronin, Caitlin Cunningham, Alexia Danyliw, Jacquelyn Girard, Brett Jones, Alex Kaspryk, Melody Kirkby, Kylin Lee, Delie Lohmann, Shoshana Lucich, Grace MacDonald, Jillian Malcolm, Ryan McLeod, Misha Meagley, Hannah Munro, Emily Myers, Tika Okuda, Nikita Pardiwala, Michelle Proctor, Sarah Proctor, Christopher Sandl, Brettney Savin, Julia Slowowska, Laura Stewart, Gwen Temmel, Danielle Viozzi, Jessica Wilson, Caroni Young.

### Grade 10

Siena Anstis, Kathleen Attwood, Devan Banman, Ann Cooper, Anna Delahaye, Rebecca Dixon, Adrian Dom, Hannah Fairbrother, Michelle Footz, Danielle Girard, Zoe Guigueno, Erin Hornell, Sara Howe, Jesse Hranchuk, Cameron Johnson, Jessica Johnston-Hill, Fraser Krayenhoff, Mischa Linser, Miranda Logan-Webb, Garrett MacDonnell, Jenna McBride, Jason McLean, Alyssa Mundy, Lucal Parker, Alex Perkins, Ginger Rippingale, Adam Ruddell, Britta Rustad, Kathleen Sinclair, Amanda Sykes, Nicola Temmel, Meaghen Toole.

### Grade 11

Sebastian Anstis, Jessica Bambrough, Daniel Fogarty, Sarah

Fraser, Jacquie Harkema, Angela Huser, Hali Larsen, Sarah Larson, Mira MacKey, Sydney Manser, Andrew McPhee, Yuko Okamura, Ria Okuda, Edward Perkins, Caylan Piper, James Sharp, Peter Theunisz, Michelle Vezina.

### Grade 12

Amy Burgess, Britt Christianson, Emily Clark, Charlotte Curtis, Sarah Elliott, Kirstin Flannagan, Brad Gordon, Geordie Gordon, Muraco Hranchuk, Melanie Hull, Lauren Iredale, Jani Janzen, Katie Jones, Laurin Kelsey, Jocelyn Langdon, Megan Leitch, Jessica Mack, Amitai Marmorstein, Cory Marshall, Metta McLeod, Claire Miller, Jeffrey Millerd, Pippa Millerd, Martina Nowak, Mary Regan, Harley Rustad, Casey Stepaniuk, Jennifer Sturgeon, Cara Temmel, Phil Wurr, Laurel Temmel.

### Principal's List June 2003

Victoria Budd, Jeremy Byron, Caitlin Cunningham, Kylin Lee, Delie Lohmann, Shoshana Lucich, Tika Okuda, Nikita Pardiwala, Michelle Proctor, Caroni Young, Siena Anstis, Rebecca Dixon, Hanna Fairbrother, Michelle Footz, Zoe Guigueno, Sarah Howe, Jesse Hranchuk, Mischa Linser, Jenna McBride, Alex Perkins, Britta Rustad, Amanda Sykes, Sebastian Anstis, Jacquie Harkema, Hali Larsen, Amy Burgess, Charlotte Curtis, Megan Leitch, Cory Marshall, Ben McLean, Phil Wurr.

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# Wine sleuth exits vineyard salivating all the way home

If there's anything I've learned from the sleuthing game it's to always expect the unexpected.

With this mantra firmly in mind I paid a visit to Salt Spring Vineyards, Winery and Bed & Breakfast.

With my famous powers of deduction I concluded from the name that there was going to be more to this place than just grapevines. Even from the road I could see the great attention to detail and style. First I noticed the rose bushes in full bloom at the end of each row of grapes, then the beautifully constructed barn-style winery building.

After parking the old jalopy and checking the notebook in the pocket of my trenchcoat, I observed the perfectly laid-out, raised-bed vegetable garden, the immaculate pathways, the pergola and outside eating area. I wasn't just looking at a vineyard, no, I was about to experience a way of living.

In the tasting room, cleverly located amidst the bottling machines and fermentation tanks, Janice and Bill Harkley quickly took the initiative, "Here, try this."

Momentarily knocked off guard, my reflexes took over and my hands shot out to grasp a glass of Pinot Gris and some creamy looking cheese.

Yes, an excellent pairing, the silky texture of the cheese nicely complemented the subdued acid structure and light fruit flavour of the wine.

Recovering from my reverie, I opened my mouth to utter some witticism.

"Now, you must try the Gewurtztraminer with this spicy Monterey Jack."

Foretold yet again. With some aplomb I graciously complied. The classic grapefruit nose and spicy, refreshing Gewurtz flavour was augmented by the Jack in a delightful way.

Before my mouth stopped tingling Janice brought out the heavy hitter.

"This really won't be ready to drink until the end of the year but you must try it," she said.

I knew right away that she was testing me. Trying a wine before its time

## WINE FILES WITH STEVE COOPMAN



requires careful analysis of its component parts and then forecasting how they will coalesce as the wine mellows and blends.

Before me a glass of deep, burgundy-coloured wine announced the presence of Salt Spring Vineyards Merlot Bin 653. My wine sleuth nose immediately identified ripe berry, floral notes, dry oak, chocolate and coffee. The taste confirmed all those flavours and more, and although all were somewhat sharp at the moment, the levels showed that in a few months they would blend to create a truly impressive wine.

Now, although my taste buds were satisfied, my curiosity was not. What had prompted Janice and Bill to create this little bit of heaven?

Bill's extensive experience as a commercial airline pilot had given him insight into the world's great wine regions, Janice's accounting background showed a great pleasure in developing and implementing innovative business plans, and together they had already created a successful B&B in Vancouver that received four "kisses" in Best Places to Kiss.

Most of all, I learned, they had been visiting California wine country for years and had developed a taste for the kind of good life found in some of Napa's most famous stores, eateries, hotels and wineries, and they wanted to

share all of that with others. Salt Spring was, of course, the perfect choice.

By now I thought I had the picture and could write up my report with some confidence.

Then "she" walked in. The tall, cool blonde with the intriguing accent was introduced as Colleen Bowen. Her job? Food. Ah yes, the lady caterer whose food and wine pairings I'd already sampled.

Hoping to catch her off guard I snapped a query. "Design me a menu around the wines here at Salt Spring Vineyards, but make it quick, I've got a deadline to meet."

This was not just another pretty face; she looked me straight in the eye and reeled it off.

"A selection of island goat cheese and Pinot Noir Rose; Cajun grilled chicken salad with mango ginger dressing and the Gewurtztraminer's barbecued salmon rubbed with sun-dried tomatoes and garlic with the Pinot Gris; rack of Salt Spring lamb and Merlot Bin 653; and Grand Marnier Chocolate mousse cake with Blackberry Port (a wine that Bill and Janice are planning for the future)."

It was quite a comeback. Exit stage right, salivating all the way.

Cheers!

• Salt Spring Vineyards is located at 151 Lee Road. It's open in June for tastings Friday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.; and Thursday through Sunday plus holiday Mondays during the same hours in July and August.

For information, call 653-WINE (9563).



## POTTER POTIONS:

Harry Potter characters emerged at three Ganges businesses Saturday as the fifth book in the popular series was released. At left, Erin Porter of Fables Cottage, mixes potions as daughter Ella Fisher watches; while above, Bob Twaites appears as the giant Hagrid.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

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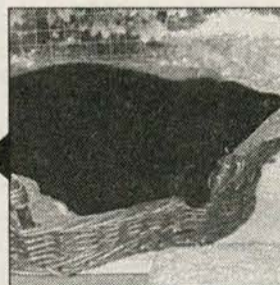
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## Cats of the Week



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# 19 graduated in the Class of '63

## 40 years ago

Nineteen Grade 12 students graduated from Salt Spring Secondary School on June 26. A ceremony in Mahon Hall was followed by a banquet at the Harbour House.

The first daily ferry service between the mainland and Gulf Islands began on July 4. A special ceremony was held at Ganges, with the Honourable W.A.C. Bennett, premier and chairman of the British Columbia Ferry Authority as the main speaker.

## 35 years ago

Children from the B.C. Protestant Orphanage were guests of the Salt Spring Island Lions Club on June 23. They rode horses at R Bar T Ranch, swam near the Cusheon Lake-side home of Mr. and Mrs. Horel, watched a sheep dog demonstration, ate a picnic with ice cream and drove to Fulford in cars.

A firehall was being planned for Mayne Island. The fire district allocated \$25,000 to the purchase of land and hall construction.

## 30 years ago

Students evacuated the school so Salt Spring Elementary could get new heating, fire-proofing,

## DOWN THE YEARS

plumbing, lighting and ventilation. The aim was to bring the school up to modern standards without constructing a new building. Extensions to Gulf Islands Secondary were also underway.

Teacher Florence Hepburn retired after 40 years of maintaining discipline and 250 people came to the secondary school to wish her well. She was given a painting done by Gwen Ruckle of the Divide School, where she taught her first class.

## 25 years ago

Tommy Douglas advised the graduates of Gulf Islands Secondary School not to measure their success by what they get, but by what they give. The MP for Nanaimo, Malahat and the Islands gave a speech to 57 graduates.

Saturna Islanders held the Saturna Lamb Barbecue on July 1. The tradition was over 25 years old, and the island planned to host hundreds of visitors.

## 20 years ago

Crazy hats made an

appearance at the IODE's mad hatters' coffee party on June 15. The annual coffee party was held at P.G. James' garden in Vesuvius and all proceeds went to the IODE.

Two Galiano Islanders prepared themselves for a nuclear attack with a fully-equipped bomb shelter in their back yard. The shelter could hold eight and was equipped with weapons. Mark Matthews and Peter Rabatich warned others to "take cover" because of what they felt was an inevitable war.

## 15 years ago

The Driftwood switched its publication to biodegradable ink. The paper's printer, Island Publishers, began using ink made from soybean oil, as opposed to petroleum-based ink.

Falconbridge Limited, a company considering development of a mine on Salt Spring, launched a consultation program to decide if the venture was possible. The company wanted to explore whether Mount Bruce held reserves of base metals, including copper, zinc, gold and silver.

## 10 years ago

The Community Police Advisory Committee

approached the attorney-general's ministry with the idea of having law-breakers appear before a "council of elders" rather than a traditional court of law on Salt Spring. The council, victim, offender and a mediator would meet as soon as possible after the offence occurred to discuss what the consequences might be.

Over \$9,000 worth of computer equipment, including three Macintosh computers, was stolen from Gulf Islands Secondary School between June 25 and 27.

## 5 years ago

A Cobble Hill woman spent several hours lost on Mount Tuam before she stumbled on a residence and the homeowner agreed to drive her to Fulford. Search and rescue teams spent hours looking for the visitor. She was exhausted and hungry, but otherwise unharmed by the incident.

Kay and George Catlin celebrated their 50-year anniversary on July 6. They had met at the Harbour House Hotel when Kay was working as an upstairs maid for the Crofton family, who owned the hotel, and George "just happened" to go into the hotel for a beer. About a month later, George popped the question.



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- \* **FAMILY PLACE: PARENT CHILD DROP IN -** Monday & Tuesday 9:30-1:30, Walk in Mouats Park 10am following by Family Place Drop In 11:00-1pm, counselling by appointment 537-9176.
- \* **RECYCLE DEPOT:** Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am-5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.
- \* **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- \* **Emergency Mental Health Services available:** 4pm to midnight. Access is available through the Emergency Rm at Lady Minto Hospital call: 538-4840

# Five instructors merge for Tai Chi retreat

Seven Stars Tai Chi Club is holding its second annual, week-long summer retreat on Salt Spring.

Set for July 6 to 12, it will be held at Salt Spring Centre, "well-known for its beautiful and peaceful environment and its fabulous food," states a press release.

Last year's retreat was so successful, says organizer Osman Phillips, that the same teachers were invited for this year.

The five instructors, with a wide variety of knowledge and a combined experience of more than 110 years in the art, will present an overview of tai chi and its principles to all participants, but five special groups will also study one style or aspect in more detail.

Doug MacDonald will teach people who are beginners with little or no tai chi experience.

Jon Camp will offer

hsing-yi, a sister art to tai chi.

Sana Shanti will concentrate on the art of "push hands."

Richard Druitt looks at a chen-style sword form, and Osman Phillips will teach crane-style qigong.

In addition, Rumiko Kanesaka will offer an evening program exploring the world of calligraphy.

Phillips, who founded the Seven Stars Tai Chi Club, began his study of tai

chi in 1977 at the British Tai Chi Chuan Association in London, England.

Phillips has taught tai chi, with his particular focus on energy and spirit, for more than 20 years.

He continues to teach weekly classes on Salt Spring and in Victoria.

For more information about the retreat, people can call Phillips at 537-5667 or visit the website at:

<http://members.shaw.ca/svenstars/retreat/>

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# 8:00 am	9:00 am
10:00 am	11:00 am
12:00 noon	1:00 pm
2:00 pm	3:00 pm
4:00 pm	5:00 pm
6:00 pm	7:00 pm
8:00 pm	9:00 pm

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**BC FERRIES Schedule**

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x 8:00 am	5:00 pm	8:30 am	5:30 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm	# 9:30 am	6:30 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm	11:10 am	8:10 pm
11:40 am	8:40 pm	12:10 noon	9:10 pm
n 12:40 pm	9:40 pm	1:10 pm	10:05 pm
1:40 pm	+10:35 pm	2:15 pm	+11:05 pm
3:00 pm		3:30 pm	

u Wed. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailing. No passengers.  
n The Mon. & Thurs. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailings. No passengers.  
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**CAP COVER:** Pierrette Winter stays dry with a Detroit Tigers cap as she carries flowers from Rosalie Beach's stand at a wet Saturday market in Ganges.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Firefighters out on Saturday with helmets in their hands

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

An increased volume of calls and an enhanced scope of responsibility has transformed the Salt Spring Fire Department away from its roots as a modest community-minded group into a highly trained emergency services unit over the years.

But local firefighters will still be visiting Ganges streets in their work gear to raise money for the annual Boot Drive fundraiser on June 28.

"The fire department has always been around to help people when they need it," said volunteer firefighter Patrick Beattie.

"It's been a tradition for us to support the island."

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has held the Boot Drive since 1954 and the Salt Spring Firefighters Association (SSFA) has been a part of that tradition for as long as anyone can remember.

"People in the past have always been very generous in helping us to support charities," said Beattie.

He's been a member of the department for six years and sits on the SSFA fundraising committee.

Salt Spring firefighters raised \$5,000 for local charities last year, he noted.

"A lot of people donate to us without even knowing where the money is going. That's the kind of faith people have in the department."

Up until three years ago, local firefighters raised money exclusively for the Muscular Dystrophy Association during the Boot Drive.

But the SSFA elected to focus its fundraising on local charities.

"As a group, we decide which charities to support and how much money will go to each one."

Consequently, Lady Minto

Hospital, Greenwoods, minor sports teams and the Muscular Dystrophy Association have all benefited from SSFA Boot Drives in the last three years.

"Firefighters are very proud to support various charities," Beattie said.

The department also raises money for two community Hallowe'en fireworks displays (Fulford and Ganges) by selling corn at the fall fair, he noted.

"We never raise enough money," he laughed.

Some firefighters remember an era when SSFA members spent much more time fundraising and hosting community events than responding to emergency calls.

"Training has become a much bigger focus," said SSFA fundraising committee chair Dale Lundy.

He's been a department member for 11 years and holds the rank of lieutenant.

Lundy remembered a time when the island's musical ambassador Valdy and then CRD director Dietrich Luth became honorary firefighters for the day to help the department raise money for the Boot Drive.

"I think Valdy raised three or four times more money than Dietrich. Everyone was afraid to go near his helmet."

Rivalries also developed among firefighters to see who could raise the most money, Lundy said.

"The old chief [Les Wagg] and long-time firefighter Ken Sampson used to have a friendly competition... The liquor store always went to the senior guy. You might not ever see Les in the liquor store but you'd see him outside carrying a bag."

Lundy also remembered a time when the department held garage sales almost once a month, threw car washes, sold stuffed animals and t-shirts to raise money and hosted

## Theme days planned at Camp Colossal

By DEBBIE WILLIS  
Staff Writer

Camp Colossal's program leaders were busy last week planning a summer full of crafts, games, theme days and trips for kids.

Frank King, Michelle Spencer and Sara Gilmer met for five days to plan activities for the Salt Spring Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) drop-in day camp, which runs from July 2 to August 29.

Camp Colossal runs on a first-come first-serve basis, and registration for each day starts at 8:30 a.m. at Portlock Park. A day at Camp Colossal cost \$28 per child, with a book of tickets for five days available for \$125.

Off-island trips require pre-registration and often cost extra, said Dave Gibbon, PARC's operations manager.

Activities run until 4 p.m. and parents who pick their kids up late face an extra charge.

New theme weeks are planned for this summer, including a space theme from

July 7-11, which will include robot and space-station making, create-your-own-superhero activities and a trip to Cyber City in Nanaimo.

Cave Era Week, which runs from July 14-18, will have activities like cave building, rock art and scavenger hunts for ancient goodies.

Water Week, that runs from July 28 to August 1, will give kids a chance to enjoy what King calls "wacky water activities" like slipping down All Fun Water Slides in Victoria, running water relays and splashing in Thetis Lake on Vancouver Island.

Camp Colossal will also host Environmental Week from July 21 to 25, where kids will make recycled paper and do other Earth-conscious activities.

The camp's regular events will take kids all over Salt Spring, to Ruckle Park, Fernwood School's gym and Shelby Pool, and this summer will include a bigger focus on crafts, said Spencer.

"There'll be lots of cool crafts that they can take home. Not junk," said

Gilmer.

Though each day is different, Gibbon stressed that campers should come dressed for the outdoors.

"The kids are going to be either up a mountain or on a beach, and they should be dressed appropriately," said Gibbon, who advised that parents send sunscreen, water and a packed lunch for their kids.

"We know what to expect and it's helped us to improve," said Spencer, who worked last year at Camp Colossal. "It's nice going into it when it's not all new."

Spencer has completed two years at UVic, with the aim of getting into the education program and becoming an elementary school teacher.

King will also be working his second summer with Camp Colossal, and graduated from UVic last year with a degree in education, his third degree along with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Law.

"I like working with kids," said King, who is an elementary school teacher in Coal

Harbour during the school year. "I had a great time last year, and I look forward to being with the kids of Salt Spring."

Gilmer is new to the Camp Colossal team this summer, but has worked with kids for the past eight years. Though she graduated from UVic with a degree in anthropology and environmental studies, she has worked as a lifeguard and swimming teacher in her home town of Armstrong, B.C.

"I'm really excited," said Gilmer, who has never lived on Salt Spring before. "It'll be good to meet a new bunch of kids and have new places to go."

All leaders are trained in first aid and have the appropriate driver's licences to drive kids in the mini-bus.

Last year an average of 19 kids showed up each day, but registration climbed as high as 27 kids some days, and off-island trips are always very popular, said Gibbon.

He mentioned that kids are often repeat campers, and some come back every day.

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# Box loads of new non-fiction available at library

The library is constantly acquiring new books, videos and audio cassettes, many of which are found on the shelves just to the left of the library entrance. Here are a few of the new non-fiction titles, with reviews provided by Betty Burridge

Note that all new library listings are regularly posted on the library's website — [www.saltspringlibrary.com](http://www.saltspringlibrary.com).

## New in non-fiction

The library has many new gardening books on a whole variety of subjects: stonescaping, raised beds, pruning, gravel gardens, grasses, bamboo, berries and much more.

The latest editions of most B.C. travel guides are now available, including the Guide to B&Bs, Camping British Columbia, the Divers' Guide to Vancouver Island South, Haida Gwaii, Hot Springs of Western Canada, Hiking Trails and Sea Kayaking, as well as Fodor Guides to Alaska and Canada and Frommer's guide to Vancouver Island.

Here are some books for more general reading:

- Alexandria: City of the Western Mind by Theodore Vrettos combines a brief history of this influential city with profiles of the important scholars, scientists, philosophers, and martial and political leaders who contributed to Alexandria's glory.
- The Perfect House: A Journey with the Renaissance Master Andrea Palladio by Witold Rybczynski is a tour of 17 of the Renaissance architect's

## LIBRARY SHELF

villas led by a master writer on architecture.

- Great Fire of London by Neal Hanson provides a striking portrait of pre-fire London and a graphic description of the fire itself, supplemented by period illustrations, maps and photos.

- Opium Wars: The Addiction of One Century by W. Travis Hanes is the story of the wars between China and Britain in the 1800s, as the Chinese endeavoured to prevent the British from trading opium for tea, a trade that created high profit for the British but misery to the addicted Chinese.

- Jumping Exercises for Horse and Rider by Linda Allen offers a series of exercises for horse and rider designed to isolate and master specific skills, ranging from basic to complex, in preparation for dressage competition. Photos.

- The Horse Doctor Is In by Brent Kelley is a Kentucky veterinarian's guide to horse health care, including disease prevention and treatment.

- The Physics of Hockey by physicist and amateur goalie Alain Hach describes the physical principles involved in the sport, dealing with such topics as the biomechanics of skating, why ice is slippery, and why a slap shot is the fastest way to move the puck a long distance.

- The Yoga of Breath: A Step-by-Step Guide to Pranayama by Rosen Richard is a guide to the yogic art of pranayama (the lengthening of the breath or control of the life force), providing a safe introduction to pranayama for modern yoga students

- Emperor of Scent by Chandler Burr features Luca Turin, a scientist who possesses an unusually sensitive nose and who proposes a new theory of smell that promises to unravel the mystery once and for all — if he can only enter the closed world of whiffs, aromas and odors and the people who study them.

- Beethoven: The Music and the Life by Lewis Lockwood contains chapters on Beethoven's life and the times in which he lived, and concentrates on his music and development as a composer.

- Jazz, a Critic's Guide by New York Times music critic Ben Ratcliff contains essays of what he considers the 100 best jazz recordings of all times, as well as a list of a second hundred favourite recordings.

- Rolling with the Stones by lead bassist Bill Wyman provides all you ever wanted to know about the Stones, including an extensive collection of artifacts and memorabilia, all in a "lush, attractive coffee-table book."

- Kitchen Privileges by popular American novelist Mary Higgins Clark is a charming memoir.

- Going with the Grain: A Wandering Bread Lover Takes a Bite out of Life by

Susan Selligson takes you on a trip around the world to far-flung locations and cultures, all of which have one thing in common: their daily bread — in every size, shape, and flavour imaginable. If you love to eat and love to travel, this is for you.

- Choice Cuts: A Savory Selection of Food Writing from Around the World and Throughout History by Mark Kurlansky covers a range of writings from food notables to general authors and historians.

- Step Across This Line by Salman Rushdie contains essays about Rushdie's surreal life while in hiding after

the fatwa, as well as a variety of other subjects that excite and interest him.

- The Woman Who Walked to Russia by Cassandra Pybus is set mostly in British Columbia and recounts the fascinating search the author undertook to trace the itinerary of Lillian Alling, a Russian woman who returned to her homeland on foot, hiking from New York City to Siberia via B.C. and the Yukon in the 1920s.

- The Dig Tree: The Race to Australia's Frontier by Sarah Murgatroyd is the story of the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition which attempted to cross Australia

in 1860, with disastrous results.

- Unsung Hero: Tom Crean by Michael Smith tells the story of a little-known survivor of three Antarctic expeditions — two with Scott and the third with Shackleton when he was one of the trio who crossed South Georgia to rescue their comrades on Elephant Island.

- Voyage of the Catalpa by Peter Stevens presents the exciting adventures of a whaling vessel from Massachusetts that sailed to Fremantle, Australia to rescue six Irish political prisoners and return with them to New York.

# Simpson fuel cell project earns national accolades

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## SALT SPRING SNIPPETS

for the second year in a row at the Canada-wide Virtual Science Fair.

His project on fuel cells in the physics and astronomy category earned Simpson \$250 plus a Hewlett Packard printer and camera.

"I have always been interested in alternative energy," said Simpson. "In Grade 5, for instance, I made a model car and powered it by a solar panel in order to learn as much as possible about solar energy and how much power would be required to drive a model vehicle. This year, I wanted to explore recent issues in the field of alternative energy. One of the topics that came up was fuel cells.

"I decided to examine the effect of ambient temperature on the efficiency of a fuel cell and electrolyser system. This subject could be important because if fuel cells are affected by ambient temperature, or different climates, it will be important for those who design fuel cell products to know this."

Simpson, who is entering Grade 10, does his schooling through the South

Island Distance Education program.

- Fulford Elementary School children were the latest beneficiaries of Island Pathways' helmet program. On June 18 the grades 4-5 students received a safety lesson from bicycle accident survivor Margaretha Nordine, of Island Pathways, followed by their choice of brand new helmets for only \$10. Fort Street Cycle sell the helmets to Island Pathways at cost, and a Legion Branch 92 program donation also ensures island youth can have affordable, safety-certifiable helmets.

- Grade 11 Gulf Islands Secondary School student James Sharp is heading to New York for an Odd Fellows and Rebekahs United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth tour to learn about the United Nations.

Sharp has been active in drama, debating and community services on both Galiano and Salt Spring islands.

He leaves from Vancouver for Toronto on July 3, to join a tour group of 53 students from the Netherlands, the

United States and Canada. They will tour Ottawa, Boston, New York (with emphasis on the UN), Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Gettysburg and Niagara Falls. He returns to Vancouver on July 14.

The Odd Fellows, a non-profit fraternal organization, covers the cost of the tour. They have sponsored more than 37,000 students since the program's inception in 1949.

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**GOODNESS OF THEIR HEARTS:** Above, from left, volunteers at the Lady Minto Hospital's Extended Care unit Mona Doerkson, Violet Austin, and Nancy Holcroft enjoy a volunteer-appreciation barbecue at the hospital last Friday. At right, Helen Hinchliff sings and Murray Anderson plays the piano for Extended Care residents every week.



Photos by Debbie Willis

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# 'Helicopter bug' and drunken pilots

I fly helicopters, or at least I flew helicopters, er . . . I mean I flew one once.

**DR. DAVE**  
WITH DAVE HEPBURN



doctor."

To this day, when a patient comes into the office with "I wanna get tested for that helicopter bug in my stomach." I get a nostalgic taste of Saddam's sea water in my throat.

Helicobacter pylori has become one of the most infamous bacteria of modern times. Since its discovery it has not only completely changed the way doctors treat stomach ulcers, but it has made us now sit up and look at other bacteria and viruses as the possible cause of many diseases that were previously considered mysteries. From arthritis to MS to Crohn's disease, to ADD and even heart attacks and cancer, more research is focussing on investigating infectious etiology.

H. pylori is a spiral-shaped bacteria that gets teabagged deep into our unpleasant stomach fluids. Rather than coming up out of this inhospitable environment gasping for air, it chooses to burrow into the lining of the stomach wall.

There it may sit and do nothing, or it may create an inflammatory mess that

leads to an irritated gastritis, ulcers or even gastric cancer.

Twenty per cent of the population under age 40 harbours hundreds of happy herds of Helicobacter in their stomachs. Most do not develop ulcers or stomach cancer, but some do.

H. pylori is likely acquired in childhood when we tend to eat anything and everything other than what is actually put on our plate. Our stomachs were too full of kitty litter, moldy couch peanuts and whatever was in the dog's dish to bother with Gerbers' pureed peach porridge or that contemptible creamed carrot.

Usually Helicobacter causes no symptoms, in which case it is not considered a real problem. But the lining of the stomach may become irritated and inflamed to the point it causes burning, belching, bloating, nausea, gas, abdominal distention and halitosis. While you may have always thought that these symptoms were simply another disgusting family trait, they may, in fact, be caused by a bug.

H. pylori can be eradicated with appropriate treatment in one week.

Many years ago as an intern I assisted in a surgery that was meant to remove a mystery mass from the

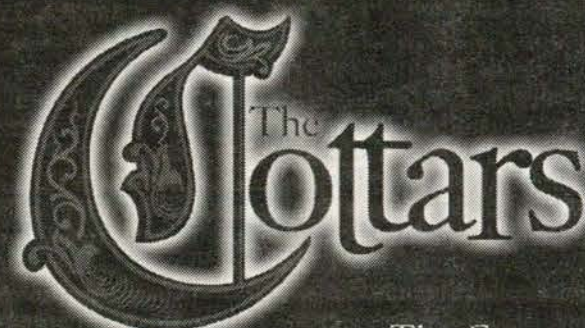
abdomen of a young man in his 30s.

After opening up the abdomen, the surgeon surveyed the mess the mass had made. So much cancer had spread about the abdomen that he said sadly, "I can do nothing, let's just close him up."

I still remember that chilling introduction to gastric cancer. Gastric carcinoma is the second most frequent cancer worldwide and the number one cancer killer in many countries, particularly in Asia.

Each year 25,000 North Americans are diagnosed with gastric carcinoma, most presenting in the late stages and therefore with poor prognosis.

H. pylori is actually now listed as a human carcinogen and may be just about as dangerous as . . . drunken pilots.



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OK, I sat in the cockpit but it felt like I was flying it.

Fine then, I had a couple of extra quarters and was stranded outside a grocery store. While a medical officer in the Canadian navy ("Yes Virginia . . .") during Desert Storm/Gulf War One/Persian Excursion, I was transported from ship to ship via the infamous Sea King helicopters, better described as 100,000 parts hopefully moving somewhat in tandem.

When a medical situation required that the doctor be transferred from one ship to another I would be carefully lowered to the quarterdeck on a winch from the helicopter. I'd dash off to sick bay, stitch up the crew or sober up the captain and then be retrieved by the heli.

Being winched down from a Sea King onto a pitching deck in the middle of the night was tricky at the best of times. But one harrowing day, while being lowered to the deck, the winch stopped some 25 feet above the deck, too far for me to unharness and jump.

All at once the helicopter moved sideways and within a few moments I was no longer over the deck but was dangling over the salty Persian Gulf, an inhospitable body of water full of sea snakes, box jellyfish and possibly a few mines. Suddenly, the winch rapidly let go, making me one of the few men to literally serve my country IN the Persian Gulf.

As I was systematically submerged into the water and then raised up again gasping for air, I glanced up at the pilots, who were laughing like drunken sailors (sorry, that's now politically incorrect) — like drunken pilots.

Hernias popped out their groins and rum spurted out their nostrils. Then they dunked me again and again until either their fuel or their rum ran out, a game they called "teabagging the

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# Fall Fair 2003



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# Ladies' sailing cruise celebrates 10 years

By **DEBBIE WILLIS**  
Staff Writer

A weekend of eating and laughing marked the 10th-annual Salt Spring Island Sailing Club (SSISC) Ladies' Cruise.

Thirteen women sailed three boats over the June 7th weekend, said Irene Gibbs of the SSISC, stopping at Sidney Spit, the Sidney-North Saanich Yacht Club and Port Browning on Pender Island.

"We usually go for two [nights] but we didn't want to come home," said Jill Sydneysmith, who skippered the C+C 35 Hessian and who has been part of the Ladies' Cruise for six years.

Her boat and Gibbs' Formosa 46 Docent sailed all three days and Barb Todd's boat Fanfare was with the group for one night.

This year Mary Neil, Dorothy Thorson, Dawn



**ALL HANDS ON DECK:** Participants in the tenth annual Salt Spring Island Sailing Club Ladies' Cruise prepare to sail from Salt Spring to Sidney Spit and Port Browning.

Photo contributed

Shaak, Heather Lawler, boat; Margaret Barnes, Jane Donna Mort and Jeannie Former and Jean Howell sailed on Sydneysmith's boat; and Sissons were on board Gibbs'

Phyllis Waltho and Barb Todd sailed Fanfare.

The women celebrated 10 years of husband-free sailing with a long trip, good food and champagne.

"It was wonderful weather, lovely wind. A perfect weekend all around," said Gibbs.

The idea for a women-only cruise came 10 years ago when former SSISC member Gail Meek suggested to a group of friends that they go sailing without men.

"There was a gasp in the room, but we did it," said Gibbs.

"A lot of women who sail with their husbands are relegated to first-mate status," she noted.

Gibbs is called "Admiral" by the women on the Ladies' Cruise because of her experience sailing around the world and the organizational help she gives to the yearly

women's cruise, said Sydneysmith.

"It's very good for us to have the responsibility, without having the men around," said Sydneysmith, who feels it's important the women know how to tie knots, navigate, and put the sails up and down, among other skills.

And their husbands don't mind handing over the boats, either.

"The men are all very supportive of this," said Gibbs, whose husband "spent hours" cleaning the boat for the women. "They know it's a good thing for women to be competent sailors."

This year's sailors, none of whom are under 60, have varied amounts of experience, and the cruise was safe and successful as usual.

Not that the women don't face challenges on the water: Hessian's jib split last year,

forcing Sydneysmith's crew to use the main sail for the rest of the way.

And this year the crew woke up to strong winds at 12:30 a.m. when they were anchored at Port Browning. Sydneysmith went up to ensure their anchor hadn't dragged, and found that another boat was heading towards them.

"I yelled to my crew and we were running around in our nighties," she said. "We were bow to bow . . . and it was pitch black."

The crew re-anchored farther out, but had to deal with the same problem later when a power boat was headed towards them.

"We usually have some excitement," said Sydneysmith. "We have our problems and we deal with them and I think that's wonderful."

# Salt Spring men pass the gruelling 'test of metal' mountain bike event

By **DEBBIE WILLIS**  
Staff Writer

John Nilssen and Bruce Grey rode the epic Test of Metal mountain bike race in Squamish in under four hours last Saturday.

The 67-kilometre Test of Metal includes all types of terrain, from forest to a nine-mile hill, and 800 people ride the course every year.

It's known as the most gruelling bike race in North America, said Nilssen, who has been taking the challenge for five years.

The first time he completed the race, Nilssen's time was four hours and 40 minutes. This year he placed

fifth in the clydesdale class, for men over 200 pounds, with a time of three hours and 51 minutes.

"It's was really good. My best time before was 4.02, and I really wanted to get under four hours," said Nilssen. "I've chipped almost an hour off my original time."

Nilssen's strategy to improve was simply to bike more, including doing time trials in Sidney.

"I put more hours in on the saddle. Plus I know the course now, so I know when I can go hard and when to slow down. It's a home field advantage."

Like every previous year, one of

the biggest challenges was the "technical riding" required towards the end of the race.

"When you start getting really tired, your technical skills fade. I just fall all over the place [at the end] but that happens every year."

The best part of the race for Nilssen, other than the overcast, mostly-dry weather?

"Passing all the skinny guys. That's what makes me the happiest, when I pass the little runts."

It had been a few years since Grey rode his last race, and the Saturday event was his first Test of Metal, but he still completed the course in three

hours and 53 minutes, and placed 20th in the citizen men class of ages 40 to 49. That's a major feat, according to Nilssen.

"It took me five years and Bruce broke four hours on his first time," said Nilssen. "He's one of the skinny guys."

Grey found the biggest challenge came from being a new guy on the course.

"Just not knowing what's coming up next, especially after having heard it's so hard [was the toughest part]," said Grey. "You just have to be careful not to do too much too soon because the hard stuff is at the end."

Grey was happiest with his abilities in the final technical section, and was pleased his bike didn't break.

"And now I'm fitter. Many people say, 'I'm not fit enough to race,' but racing is how you get fitter."

Grey had been training for about a month, doing the timed trials in Sidney with Nilssen, and weight training.

Nilssen wants to eventually whittle his time down to three hours and 30 minutes, and both men agree they would like to compete in the race next year.

"It's a pretty good party," said Grey.

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Water Fit 8:00 - 9:00		Water Fit 8:00 - 9:00		Water Fit 8:00 - 9:00		(Closed)
Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Rent	
	Rent		Rent		Everyone Welcome 1:30 - 3:00	
Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	

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**SHELBY FUN:** A slippery watermelon provides endless fun at Shelby Pool as a free swim day — sponsored by Ganges Village Market — gets under way on Saturday. Above are the champions of the greasy watermelon competition.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## GOLF TEES

Dee Hooten of the 18-hole ladies division was last week's low-gross winner with a score of 96, and Jean Cunningham scored a 99 to make her the runner-up low gross winner.

Chris Locke's winning low-net score was 69, and Marie Hopkins was the runner up with 73. Cunningham was also the putt pot winner, with a 29.

Verity McKenzie and Jean Haines of the nine-hole ladies tied to be low-gross winners with a score of 57. Norma Allen was the runner-up with a 59.

Haines also won the low net with a 35, and McKenzie was right behind with a score of 35.5.

Isabel Heffernan was the putt pot winner with a 13.

Colin Lawler came first in the Schwenger Cup with a net score of 64, and Larry Davies was second with a 65.

Fred Broadbent and Jim Good tied for third with a net score of 67, and David Sheppard and Don McMahon came in fourth with a net score of 68.

Broadbent was the winner of the high-handicap closest-to-the-pin (KP) on holes #6 and 15, and John Matheson won for holes #2 and 11. Bruce Watkins won the low-handicap KP for holes #6 and 15, and Skip MacKay won for holes #2 and 11.

Chad Williams was the 50/50 winner.

## Locals raise funds in 24-hour relay event

Islanders joined teams from local businesses such as Island Savings, Thrifty Foods and B.C. Ferries in the Ninth Annual 24-Hour Relay for the Kids fundraising event in Victoria last weekend.

"It was a lot of fun for a 'first-timer,'" said Lynn Stewart.

The B.C. Lions Society event saw 65 teams run around the clock at the University of Victoria stadium to support the operation of Easter Seal Camp Shawnigan, a specialized summer camp for children with disabilities.

Stewart and her 14-year-old son Clayton participated as members of Island Savings' Salt Spring contingent.

While Clayton ran the 3.75 kilometre course, Lynn opted to walk.

"I'm not a runner," she said.

She also assisted in various support roles to help keep the event running smoothly.

"There was lots of things for kids to do between shifts like volleyball, basketball and lip-synching."

The event was organized so that each team would field a member on the track for 24 hours straight, she said.

Along with the Stewarts, Island Savings also sent branch manager Glen Barlow, Mike Sidhu and Sonja Shaw with her 13-

year-old son Brandon.

"Brandon and Clayton each collected over \$100 in pledges themselves," said Shaw.

The 24-Hour Relay raised more than \$500,000 this year, with the Island Savings team collecting \$10,500 of that total, Shaw said.

The top corporate sponsor, Thrifty Foods, hauled in \$80,000, she noted.

Stephanie Maskell represented the Ganges Thrifty Foods store at the relay. Organizers were not able to confirm whether other islanders participated, though they did note that B.C. Ferries fielded a team for the relay.

To collect money for the fundraiser, Island Savings participants sold chocolates at the branches, peddled flowers for Mother's Day and collected pledges, she said.

"It costs \$2,000 to send a child to camp for a week," Shaw said, adding that last year four children from Salt Spring attended.

The relay itself felt like a celebration of the year's fundraising efforts, she said.

"It was a really good time." A mini music festival saw three bands perform. There were also movies for kids, a KidsZone and a beer garden, she noted.

"They want you to come back."

## Swimmers pick up medals and best times in Nanaimo

Just under 30 Salt Spring Stringrays pooled in Nanaimo last weekend, diving, kicking and pulling their way through the water at a two-day swim meet held in Bowen Park.

Members of the local swim club brought home top-place finishes and personal best times as they competed against close to 500 swimmers from all over Vancouver Island and Powell River.

Topping the medal round were Div. 2 swimmers Sierra Lundy (two gold, silver) and Liam Budd (two silver); and Brendan Nickerson (silver, two bronze) in Div. 4.

Div. 5 swimmer DJ Lake picked up gold and bronze in the two events in which he competed; Danica Lundy (Div. 3), won bronze in each of her two races, and in Div. 1, swimmer Eryn Gix came home with a bronze medal.

Liam Budd topped the best times (BT) challenge, swimming to four personal bests.

Taking home three BTs were: Gix, Julian Smith (Div.3) and Div. 4 swimmers Nickerson, Amy Zacharias and Elsbet Krayenhoff.

Kayla Jones in Div. 1 competed at her first meet, while Rebekka Lee swam several 50-metre first-time events, and novice swimmers Liam Sinclair and Connor Budd took in 25-metre races.

Numerous other swimmers made it to finals and top-six placements at this "heats and finals" meet in which athletes could compete in up to four events.

Top-six finishes and BT results were as follows:

**Div. 1:** Eryn Gix, bronze, 4th, 5th, 3 BTs.

**Div. 2:** Emily Gix, 5th, 1

BT; Rebekka Lee, 1 BT; Grace Morgan, 4th, 5th, 2 BTs; Sierra Lundy, two gold, silver, 1 BT; Amalia Smith, 1 BT; Liam Budd, two silver, 4BTs, Evan Nickerson, 1 BT.

**Div. 3:** Maddie Fetherston, 1 BT; Danica Lundy, two bronze, 2 BTs; Meredith Raddysh, 6th, 1 BT; Julian Smith, 3 BTs.

**Div. 4:** Elsbet Krayenhoff, 3 BTs; Amy Zacharias, 4th, 5th, 3 BTs; Brendan Nickerson, silver, two bronze, 5th, 3 BTs; James Cameron, 4th; Isaac Raddysh, 5th, 2 BTs.

**Div. 5:** Victoria Budd, 6th; DJ Lake, gold, bronze.

**Div. 6:** Danielle Viozzi, two 6ths, 2 BTs.

Stringrays coach Kellie Rolston also competed at the meet, taking two gold, silver in Div. 8 events, and winning 4 BTs.

## Following court order judgment: Liquidation of Persian carpets by auction

The Supreme Court of British Columbia ordered a major B.C. retailer to pay its supplier. The B.C. retailer has fallen in arrears and, as a result, arbitrarily agreed to relinquish a larger portion of its assets for a series of liquidation auctions.

Buckingham Auctions Ltd. will auction piece by piece to the highest bidder fine Persian and Oriental carpets to satisfy the Court Order. A good selection of silk and wool, finely handknotted carpets in various sizes ranging from scatter to large dining, living room and oversized carpets will be available by public auction. Also included

in this public auction are items previously seized, jewelry, fine art lithographs such as Picasso, Dali, Miro, Chagall, and many other artists.

Certificates of authenticity and appraisals will be available free of charge on most items. The bid calling will be clear and concise enough for anyone to understand, therefore anyone can bid by just raising your hand.

Public auction will be held at Royal Canadian Legion, 120 Blain Road, Sunday July 6, 2003. Public viewing 12 noon. Auction 1 p.m.

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## Second team added as women's soccer grows

By JOANNE O'CONNOR  
Driftwood Contributor

Salt Spring women can look forward to increased athletic options next year with the addition of another women's soccer team.

The Salt Spring Dragons battled their way to the top of Division 3 in the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association (LIWSA) this past season. With this victory, the Dragons have earned a place in Division 2 for the coming season beginning in September.

Interest in women's soccer on Salt Spring is steadily growing, and a second team

will hopefully meet that demand.

The two teams, one each in Divisions 2 and 3, will provide an ongoing opportunity for women to play competitive soccer beyond the scope of high school and youth teams.

Salt Spring Dragons, started by Sue King and myself in September 2001, grew out of a dream to fill the void in island women's athletics.

Coached by Carol Adam, the Dragons tackled their first season with an effort quite impressive for a largely novice team. The Dragons spent most of their inaugural

season in second place, but were bumped to third in the division towards the end of the season.

An enhanced roster and the same enthusiastic efforts kept the Dragons at the top of the division in 2002/2003.

The only drawback to a year of successes was the staggering amount of injuries sustained by Dragons players. Despite these injuries, the Dragons remained positive about their team's ability and gave their all to come out on top of the division.

As members of the Salt Spring Football Club

(SSFC), the Dragons have contributed to the club's winning streak and have also worked hard to promote women's soccer on Salt Spring.

Many Dragons members have watched from the sidelines for years as their children learned the sport. Now the children cheer for their mothers.

Some women have been absent from the sport for a few years and others have played soccer since they were quite young. This broad range of age and experience makes the Dragons a unique team.

Last season, team members ranged in age from 19 to 51.

The Dragons' goal has always been to learn the skills of soccer, but most importantly to experience the camaraderie of a team and the joy of playing soccer.

Next season will bring changes to the team as some players head off to other pursuits and new faces are welcomed to the team.

Any coaches or players interested in joining or learning more about the teams are invited to contact Sue (537-8989) or me (537-4340).

## HIGH ROLLERS: top bowlers of the week named

Following are high bowling scores from Kings Lane Recreation summer league and Special Olympics play for the past few weeks.

Special Olympics: Jimmy Beck, 140, 171, 172; Terry Swing, 149; Gloria Dale 149, 147; Jason Newport, 152, 182, 140; Dominic

George, 167; Sharon Way, 159; Maggie Reddy, 146; Andrew Krizan, 156; Mahjor Bains, 148.

Summer League: Ken

Ditlof, 244, 228/204; Lance Leask, 207 and 270/231/222 for 723; Julia Hengstler, 243; Shirley P., 217/202 and 230; David Carey, 218; Jim

Glenn, 215, 221; Harold Repen, 228; Bruce Watkins, 293, 222; Arnie Hengstler, 211; Dan Bedford, 242/237 for 665; Art Beaumont, 228.

## Summer soccer league makes a splash on the field and lake

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

Ten island teams hit the fields last week to kick off the Salt Spring Summer Soccer League.

And even though the season is still young, friendly rivalries have already started developing within the recreational mixed-ability co-ed games.

"The whole idea is for everyone to have fun and recreation," said league scorekeeper Fraser Hope.

But Doug Pearson has been cited by league officials for attempting to lure his Old Boy teammates to their destruction over the weekend in a misguided effort to get off the waiting list and onto a Summer League team.

"Several prominent members of the Salt Spring Football Club (SSFC) were almost lost at sea while rowing on St. Mary Lake," said Hope.

"Doug figured if he

could drown a couple of players, he could get in. He abandoned them in the middle of the lake. But they survived without his leadership."

Results of a special draft-pick for players on the waiting list (including the drafting of Pearson, who is still under investigation) were not available at press-time.

After the first week of play, captain Jesse Fisher led Team 5 to the top of the South Division (and the league) with two wins in two games (GF 11, GA 8, 6 points).

Fisher's team beat Mike Brown's Team 4 by 7-6 Monday and then walloped Rainer Funk's Team 1 by 4-2 Thursday.

Team 3, led by SSFC Division 1 captain Chris Jason, stands in second place in the South (GF 9, GA 8, 4 points) with a 5-4 win over Alvaro Sanchez's Team 2 Monday and a 4-4

tie against Brown's third-place South-Division team (GF 10, GA 11, 1 point) Thursday.

The North Division saw Mike Davis' Team 9 take first place (GF 10, GA 7, 4 points) after they beat Graham Tweddle's squad (Team 10) by 7-4 Monday and tied Sue King's Team 8 3-3 Thursday.

Second place in the North is tied between Team 6 under Antonio Alonso (one win against Team 10, GF 5, GA 3, 3 points) and Jonathan Oldroyd's Team 7 (one win over Team 8, with GF 6, GA 5, 3 points).

King's Eights hold third place in the North with a 3-3 tie versus Team 9 and their 6-5 loss to the Sevens (GF 8, GA 9, 1 point).

Summer League teams play at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at the high school upper field and at the middle school "Hydro" field.



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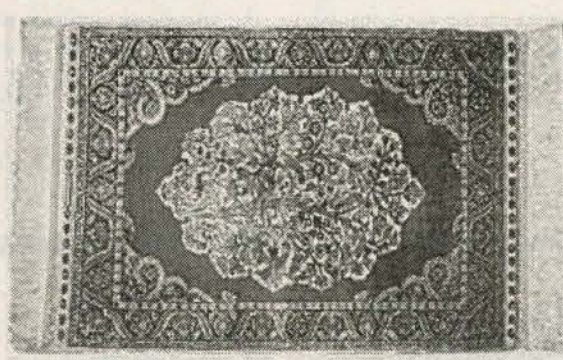
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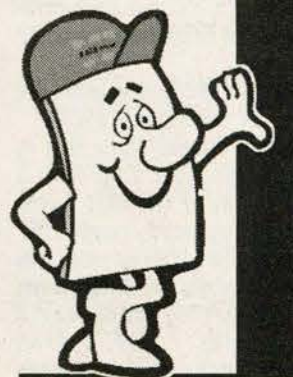
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# Islander sets sights on championship

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

Salt Spring sharpshooter Lynn Durward has been invited to join Team Canada at the 42nd Annual World Archery Target Championships in New York City on July 14-20.

"This is pretty big. It usually takes 10 years to be a good archer and I'm only in my fourth year," Durward said.

While the islander still feels fairly green to international competition, she did walk away with two silver medals at the World Masters Games in Melbourne, Australia last year.

Durward also competed in the World Archery Championships in Beijing as a novice in 2001.

"This is my third year on the Canadian team." She was invited to join

the four-woman compound-bow team on June 12 after she submitted her best scores from three FITA (Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc) events over the past year.

"One competition had to be a major qualifier," she noted.

With an averaged score of 1,339, Durward is ranked third among compound-bow shooters in Canada.

Scoring is determined by flights of 36 arrows at four different distances ranging from 30-70 metres (144 arrows total), she explained.

To get a perfect 1,440 score, an archer would have to hit the bull's-eye all 144 times, she said.

New York City will host 545 archers from 62 nations for qualifying

rounds at the Van Courtlandt Park Parade Grounds in the Bronx.

"I hope to make at least the first cut," Durward said.

"There's also a team round and we have a good chance there."

Durward will join Dawn Groszko of Alberta (1,361), Lillian Meehan of B.C. (1,357) and Charlene Parlee of New Brunswick (1,325) at the World Championships.

Reigning Olympic and world champions are expected to compete in four divisions (men and women in Olympic and compound archery) at the FITA event. Finals will be held at Central Park.

A compound bow is different from recurve bows used in Olympic archery, Durward explained.

"They look different.

They're the ones with the wheels."

A compound bow provides mechanical advantage that makes it easier to pull heavier tension. Sights are also permitted in compound archery.

Durward practises with her husband Greg, who is also a member of the national team (1,327). His name is sprinkled liberally through Canadian Archery Federation (FCA) records from the past three years.

He narrowly missed entry to the world championships himself but tight competition saw the top eight contenders place within eight points of each other.

"We practise pretty much every day," she said.

The two also help coach the local Junior Olympic Program at the Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club.



Archer Lynn Durward

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

## Fifteens dominate Wildcats games

Salt Spring Wildcats girls softball team saw a trio of "15s" in their last two games.

On Thursday they took a 15-8 loss to the Chemainus-Crofton Dolphins, while tying the Duncan Minnows 15-15 in a June 16 match.

Against the Dolphins, both teams scored the maximum-allowed five runs in their first round at bat.

After the first three Salt Spring batters — Katya Cmajdalka, Sarah Robinson and Rebekah Davies — got on base, Cassie Bascom hit a triple to bump all three over the plate.

Bascom scored the fourth run on a single from Chloe Sjuberg, and Alex Crandall got the fifth run when Cmajdalka was walked after her second time at bat in the inning. Short a few players, Wildcats made a quick call to the "farm team" to pick up Abby Rothwell's younger sister Kimberly, who usually plays in the coach-pitch league.

Both teams, who are in their first season as a unit, demonstrated Thursday how much their fielding skills have improved — along with the hitting, observed Wildcats coach Barb Robinson.

Highlights saw Cmajdalka tag out a Dolphin player before she made it to third base and shortstop Sarah Robinson turf out another with a tag. Several other balls were quickly stopped and runners held on base.

Wildcats' scoring pace was stymied in the next two innings, however, with a triple and a single from Sarah Robinson, and singles from Davies, Bascom, Sjuberg and Cmajdalka able to score only three more runs.

During the tie game in Crofton against the Duncan Minnows, the Wildcats came out with a roar scoring three runs on a Sarah Robinson double and further hits from Lani and Cassie Bascom, Crandall and Sjuberg in the first inning.

The score was 5-0 after two innings with Lani Bascom and Robinson coming over the plate in the second. With the Wildcats' hot hitting, the tally could have been more, but the Minnows' defence threw three Wildcats out in split-second plays at home and second base.

Hustling by fielders Cmajdalka and Davies averted a potential Minnows home run in the second inning, but the Duncan team still managed to even the score.

In the remaining fast-paced two innings, both teams scored the maximum-allowed five runs each time out. Salt Spring's longer hits included doubles from Davies and Robinson, a Crandall triple and a home run from Sjuberg.

Cassie Bascom's hefty hits brought in the fifth run both times to halt inning play.

Cmajdalka, Alexandra Kliaman and Lani Bascom also added to the hit-and-run-scoring fest.

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# Loss is Salt(ies) on the wound

The Salties took a stinging 4-3 loss against the defending champions of the McDonald Park Men's Fastball League on June 17.

"This was the first time our defence has let us down," said an unnamed Salties player.

"We made a bunch of bad errors that cost us the game."

The Salt Spring team was also short-handed with only nine players.

But the islanders did score three runs on Victoria Athletics pitcher Pat Bruce, which is a notable accomplishment, he said.

Bob Akerman hit a home run and Chad Little hit two-for-two to help boost the Salties on the scoreboard.

Akerman also played backcatcher while Blaine Johnson pitched against the Athletics.

"They didn't deserve to win. We beat ourselves."

Despite the loss, the Salties remain at the top of the McDonald Park standings.

They face the Athletics for a re-match in Victoria on June 25 and then the team will enter a Canada Day weekend tournament at McDonald Park.



**GRRRREAT DAY AT THE POOL:** Joshua Brown gets some special attention from Shelby Pool's new Tiger mascot. The Tiger appeared at the pool during a special event Saturday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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