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Issue 29

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THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- All Care Home & Building Services
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INSIDE

SECTION

B



Eye to the future

Three of Salt Spring's recent grads talk about their plans for the next few years and beyond.

Page B1

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Index

- Arts B2
- Classifieds B15
- Crosswords B20
- Editorials A6
- Horoscope B20
- Letters A7
- Rants & Roses ... A10
- Salt Spring Visitor .B9
- Sports A15
- TV Listings B7
- What's On B10

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Weather

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Indoor pool options probe urged

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Elected officials were doused with "go for it" sentiments for an indoor pool when about 100 people attended a Saturday town hall meeting dedicated to the topic.

"I'm an optimist and I do believe we will have a beautiful indoor facility," said

Peter Haase to the crowd. "Let's not be fearful. Let's go for it full blast."

None of the citizens speaking their mind on the matter thought anything but an indoor pool should be considered for the Rainbow Road recreation lands owned by the Capital Regional District (CRD) and being developed by the Parks, Arts

and Recreation Commission (PARC).

Two indoor pool options were used for discussion purposes.

Based on figures provided by site master plan consultant Alan Roy, a six-lane indoor lap pool with change rooms and 70-seat viewing area would cost \$3.2 million to build.

The "full-service facility" would add a leisure pool, hot tub and larger viewing area for a total of between \$4.3 and \$4.9 million.

PARC roughly estimates operating costs for an indoor facility at \$600,000 per year.

If \$4.1 million was borrowed for the project, and operating costs are factored in, the estimated tax cost for

an average-assessed residence would be \$144 per year. Meeting consensus was that that amount would not be approved in a referendum.

Per-parcel tax figures for the \$3.2-million pool option are not available.

Members of SSPLASH — the indoor pool society that

POOL OPTIONS A3



HILARIOUS HATS: Margaret Baker, left, and Anne Mouat are amused by the collection of crazy and creative hats donned at the Mad Hatters' Tea Party & Fashion Show, held Saturday at Fulford Hall. See more photos, Page A12.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Park 'gem' on tap

With Rotary Marine Park essentially complete, the Salt Spring service club has set its sights on the new Rainbow Road recreation site lands.

Members of the local Rotary Club met with the parks planning committee of the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) on Monday night to propose creating Rotary Family Park.

As Salt Spring Club president Carol Dodd explains, Rotary International is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2005 and all 30,000-plus clubs worldwide have been asked to identify a centennial project for their community.

With PARC's Rainbow Road property in the early stages of being developed, it seemed a good spot for a multi-phase park, said Dodd.

A children's playground and family picnic area are suggested to start, possibly followed by a covered picnic and barbecue area, band shell and fitness trail.

"When we talked to [PARC] last evening they seemed really receptive," Dodd said Tuesday.

A sub-committee of some Rotary Club and PARC members will now meet to explore the options, she added.

"And of course we would welcome any input from the community if they have ideas on family-oriented facilities they would like to see," said Dodd.

"We're at the beginning stages and I think we need to work through exactly

ARCTIC TREK A2

PARK A2

Islander leads polar expedition

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

After seven months of planning, a local man has set off to lead an expedition to remote Ellesmere Island in the high Arctic as a guide for a Japanese scientific team.

"It's a dream come true for me. What's even better is that I'm able to do some research too. It's not just an adventure," said Arctic guide Bob Howe before leaving last Monday.

The islander works as a part-time paramedic on Salt Spring but describes himself

primarily as the father of Sarah (15) and Christopher (11), and as a husband to Naim.

"He would be up there all the time, if it were not for us here," joked Naim.

Islanders probably know Howe best as a volunteer with local schools and sports teams. But he has previously travelled to the Arctic on three other occasions as a biologist and guide.

"I went to the high Arctic for the first time in 1977. From that moment on, I've always been drawn back."

His first trip to the Arctic took him to Banks Island (800 kilometres north of Tuktoyaktuk) to canoe the longest navigable river in the high Arctic.

"I was able to extend the range of the nine-spined sculpin by 1,000 miles. That's one of my claims to fame, so to speak," he laughed.

Howe also explored an Arctic prairie where the tallest vegetation is 15-20 centimetres in height to create an inventory of the ecosystem for a proposed national park.

"They call it a 'polar

desert.' There's less than two inches of rain per year. Some areas of the Sahara get more rain."

It's not only the cold and lack of precipitation that challenge life in the north, it's the high winds that propel ice particles, he said.

"The Arctic Willow can be decades old and the trunk is the size of your little finger."

Howe is fascinated by polar bears, wolves, caribou and especially musk oxen who have adapted to live in the

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PARK

From Page A1

what the community envisages as a family park and go from there."

She said working with PARC on Rotary Marine Park was a positive experience.

"It's been a very fruitful relationship with PARC for the community and we would like to continue that."

PARC chair Bill Curtin was also pleased with the Rotary Club proposal.

"That is going to be such a gem for the community," he said.

Pot and 'guns' found in vehicle

Ten grams of marijuana and two replica guns were found in a man's vehicle when police checked three men at Centennial Park on Saturday night.

The replica guns were in the glove box and trunk of a vehicle, and one of the three males was charged with possession of marijuana.

A male sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle and who showed signs of impairment was brought to the RCMP office for breath

samples on Sunday.

Charges against him of Care and Control of a Vehicle while Impaired are pending.

In other police news:

A ride-on lawnmower was stolen from a residence on Vesuvius Bay Road on July 5.

The green Sears Craftsman 42" lawn tractor is valued at \$2,000.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the RCMP.

FOR THE RECORD

• Phil Vernon's name may have been on the agenda as the Rideshare program spokesman at the Crime Prevention Association meeting reported on in last week's Driftwood, but he was not there. Ian Beare spoke to the meeting in his stead.

• The unidentified photogenic kayaker on the front page of last week's Visitor section of the Driftwood was Harley Snow of Island Escapades in Ganges.

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ARCTIC TREK: A true adventure

From Page A1

northern climate.

"How the [musk oxen] survive in the wintertime is fascinating; and they just eat a variety of grasses."

Even though aboriginal people have lived in the north for thousands of years, some remote areas have been seen by few or no people.

"Not very many people have that experience; but you know, it's really the vastness, the wilderness and the pristineness that brings you back."

So he returned to Banks Island in 1997 for "ground-truthing" of satellite photos and then went to northern Ellesmere Island in 2001 to assist a group of eight trekkers from Holland and Switzerland with Salt Spring guide Lo Camps.

"Most people would agree it was a true adventure."

During a 100-kilometre hike across a pass through the mountainous northern island, the group encountered an unfordable river in their path.

"We ran out of food for five days because the rivers were much higher than expected and we couldn't get to our food cache," he said.

Even though the group had a satellite-communications telephone, they still had to wait for a plane to come to their rescue.

"We just waited and nibbled on lousewort plants."

But the adventurer-tourists didn't complain, he said.

"This group was well-travelled and experienced."

Now Howe is returning to Ellesmere Island. But this time he is guiding a scientific research team of five professors from the Polar Institute in Japan.

"They're basically studying the whole ecosystem in de-glaciated areas and comparing their findings to other de-glaciated areas."

Howe landed the job through Martin Raillard, who heads the Canadian Wildlife Service for the western Arctic.

The two Arctic researchers worked together on Banks



Bob Howe

Island in 1997 and Raillard guided the Polar Institute team two years ago.

"I asked him if he had anything and he offered this to me."

The 25-day trip to the Arctic will be the third visit for the Japanese team as part of a four-year study, Howe said.

All the project supplies are currently waiting at Resolute Bay on Cornwallis Island.

The professors have requested Japanese short-

grain rice, Salt Spring fish, Canadian beer and red wine as part of their supplies for the study.

Resolute Bay, where the team will collect their supplies, is a short distance from a meteor crater where NASA is conducting research, he noted.

"The Jet Propulsion Lab and NASA decided that the Devon Island site is the best location to compare to Mars."

After collecting their supplies, the research team will fly three and a half hours north of Resolute Bay in a Twin Otter to Oobloyah Bay off Greely Fiord on Ellesmere.

Once the team lands, they will be ferried 15 kilometres by helicopter to their base camp.

"I'm very privileged. This is going to cost them a lot of money."

Air travel for the team to

fly from Edmonton to Oobloyah Bay will run over \$17,000 each way, he said.

The 4,300-kilometre trip from Salt Spring to Ellesmere is comparable to the distance between the island and Nova Scotia.

While the team of Japanese geologists and biologists studies lichens, mosses and plants under different soil conditions, Howe will be looking for mammals and birds and monitoring weather as part of his own research.

"It's such a shame more interest hasn't been shown in the high Arctic."

There has been very little research in the Arctic since a big push related to oil exploration in the 1970s, he noted.

"Sometimes the government will try to figure out where all the beluga whales are . . . but for the size of the area, we don't know a lot about it."

Howe returns to Salt Spring on August 2.

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Two new markets sprout

For islanders wary of Saturday market crowds or wanting more purchasing options, two new markets are sprouting on Hereford Avenue.

Fresh local greens and food products can now be bought on laid-back Tuesdays in the "meadow" next to the United Church. Organic orchardist Harry Burton is coordinator of the new weekly farmers market which begins July 22.

An "overflow market" for vendors who can't get day permit space in the Saturday Market in the Park has also opened up at Fables Cottage on Hereford from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"We are trying to find ways to use our front space and people had been talking to us about how they can't get in the market and so we thought we could put those two things together and offer space," said Fables co-owner Erin Porter.

The store has tables in its front yard, but vendors may want to bring their own tables. Kids and their creations are also welcome. The Saturday market's make-it, bake-it, grow-it standards will apply, notes Porter.

People can phone the store at 537-0028 or drop in for more information or to register.

The Tuesday farmers market will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and is open to any grower selling produce or food products, whether they're organic or not.

Besides giving locals a second weekly option for buying directly from growers in town, the Tuesday event means produce can be sold more often — at its ripeness and freshness zenith.

Vendors need only show up on Tuesdays with tables that will be set up along the woodchip paths. Pedestrians can use the foot paths and vendors will be positioned on the grass behind their table.

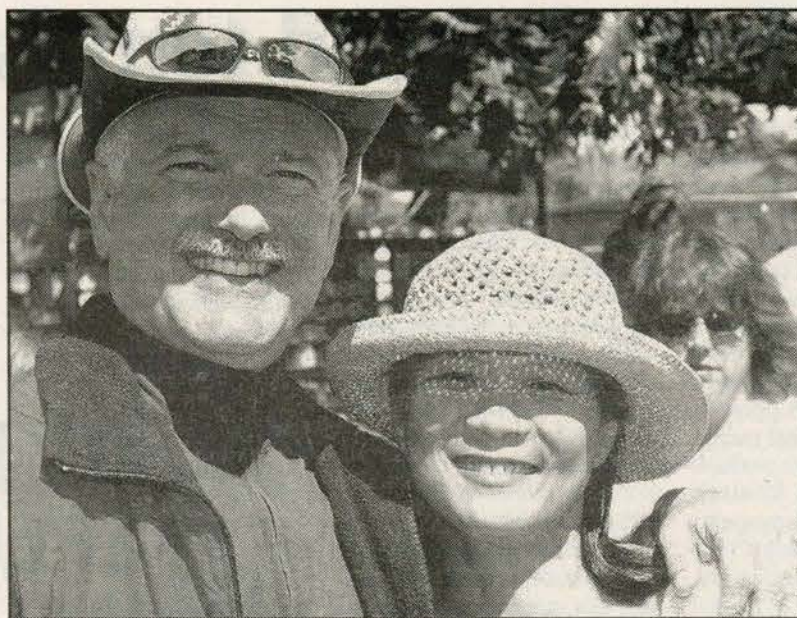
The lesser of a 10 per cent commission or \$15 per vendor fee will be paid to the United Church for use of the property, with Burton collecting the sum and passing it on.

"The church [group] has been really supportive," said Burton. "They really came through."

Burton is pleased the meadow location was available.

"It's just a nice, natural venue. There's no traffic, it's green and quiet."

People wanting to indicate participation in the Tuesday growers market can call Burton at 653-2007.



N D P CHIEF: Federal NDP leader Jack Layton is seen with his wife Olivia Chow as he meets with people on Salt Spring at the Saturday market in Ganges.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

POOL OPTIONS: Explored

From Page A1

has been researching the topic and developing fundraising plans for over a year — urged PARC to investigate all funding options before committing itself to any one idea.

PARC chair Bill Curtin confirmed that no facility decisions had been made by PARC and that it was committed to exploring all options.

SSPLASH president Kathy Page outlined her group's vision in a prepared statement. She noted that while a separate leisure pool, hot tub and swim meet-capacity seating were desirable concepts, many members stressed those were considered "very much additions."

Members also expressed "overwhelming consensus" on the importance of an energy-saving "green" design.

On the financial aspect, Page said, SSPLASH "finds the figures as alarming as the next person. However, we feel this is only a first stage. What's needed now is to look at how we can get those numbers to an acceptable level."

Various fundraising ideas surfaced at the meeting.

Electrician Haase offered to donate a week's wages to maintaining any facility and challenged other tradespeople to do the same. Islands trustee Eric Booth suggested membership fees could subsidize annual operating costs and islander Steve Peterson wondered how much money a Nike "swoosh" in the bottom of the pool might net.

Guest speaker David Speed, who has 22 years of professional parks and recreation experience, said he saw "a lot of opportunity for partnerships" in facility planning these days, including federal government infrastructure money and some available for "green" projects.

Eric Bientjes, who manages aquatic facilities for the City of Kamloops and just happened to be on Salt Spring visiting family members, urged people to consider the leisure pool-added option.

"From an operators' point of view, a six-lane tank scares me," he said. "How will it generate revenue?"

Speed agreed that attention must be paid to the revenue side of a pool facility, with a bare-bones lap pool facility not likely to attract as many users.

In Esquimalt, he said, 40 per cent of people use the pool on a "semi-regular" basis, a figure which added to optimism expressed at the meeting.

Page said while she understood referendums had been "painful" experiences in the

past, that it is "the one means we have of measuring what people want in this community." Since PARC is not an elected body, she added, a vote is the only way for people to express their desires.

Elected CRD director Gary Holman noted that everyone understood people's preference is for an indoor facility, but that all options needed to be fully explored.

"I don't want to take it to a referendum just for the sake of taking it to referendum," he said.

In a related topic, Holman said the provincial government's downloading of policing costs to rural communities is expected to raise taxes next year by about \$80-\$90 on the average Salt Spring property.

On July 10, SSPLASH and PARC also established a joint committee to explore all pool and funding options "in depth."

Anyone wanting to contribute expertise or research skills is encouraged to contact Garth Hendren (537-1567) or Curtin at 537-5561.

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PARC explains numbers behind tennis facility

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

When it comes to constructing a two-court indoor tennis facility on Rainbow Road recreation site lands, the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) is adding up the costs and how to ace them.

This week PARC's operations manager Dave Gibbon and PARC chair Bill Curtin outlined the anticipated expenses and revenue.

Based on figures provided by Rainbow Road site master plan consultant Alan Roy, some \$240,000 worth of site work would be required underneath the tennis court building, said Gibbon.

The structure itself is pegged by Roy at \$550,000.

Gibbon feels those figures may be somewhat high, as they do not reflect the benefit of donated services and materials,

while other stated expenses - such as high project management fees - would not be incurred.

In addition, Roy calculates some \$905,500 is required to completely service the site for all future facilities - not just the tennis court. That includes rough grading, site preparation, parking, road access, hydro, off-site services, water and sewer services. Within the sewer estimate is the cost of bringing the Ganges sewer line some 800 feet down Rainbow Road, and PARC's share of upgrading the Ganges sewer plant, which is nearing its capacity.

Income sources identified to pay the required capital costs are:

- \$130,000-plus held by the Salt Spring Tennis Association, raised from tennis bubble rental fees over the past several years.

- \$150,000 that could come through an amenity rezoning proposal by the Trincomali Development Corporation if the plan is approved by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

- \$111,000 per year borrowing capacity authorized by the September 2000 Bylaw 2809 to pay off the \$450,000 debt on the Rainbow Road property and establish a capital reserve fund. Those funds are available after the remaining \$290,000 in Rainbow Road property debt is paid off, which Curtin reports could be very soon, using, in part, the \$124,000 currently in PARC's parkland reserve fund.

- An undetermined amount that could be raised from a new CRD borrowing bylaw which, if it commits taxpayers to more than five years of debt, would require voter assent through a counterpetition process.
- PARC also has a capital

reserve fund, specifically for the Rainbow Road project, of about \$20,000.

On the tennis revenue side, said Gibbon, PARC estimates the indoor courts to bring in between \$31,000 and \$34,000 per year over a 10-year period, which would be applied to the debt on borrowed funds. The figure is arrived at from \$46,000 anticipated annual court rental revenue, less maintenance costs of between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

The tennis club currently has 120 members, said Gibbon, and that number could rise to 150 over the next 10 years.

He also stressed that exact revenue and expense figures are not known at this point.

PARC also has existing legislative ability to increase its annual property tax requisition, said Curtin, generating up to \$92,000 in revenue (at about \$14 per average-assessed

household). However, those funds would not be targeted for Rainbow Road capital costs, he said, but would help PARC repair, replace and maintain its facilities with an eye to limiting its liability.

"It would also put us in a stronger position when we go

to address the pool issue, however the community directs us to do it," he said.

A recommendation from regional director Gary Holman and the Capital Regional District board would be required to effect the annual requisition change, said Curtin.

Final hospital project funding gets CRD's nod of approval

The Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD) board has approved the funding increase required for the Lady Minto Hospital renovation project.

Salt Spring's electoral area director Gary Holman said only one director voted against the July 9 meeting motion to increase the CRHD contribution from the previously approved \$719,783 to \$1,091,824. The sum represents 40 per cent of the total project cost.

Cost of the operating room upgrade and palliative care suite project rose

to \$2.7 million from the 2001 estimate of \$1.8 million after the project went to tender this spring, and the project's scope was expanded.

The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and Lady Minto Hospital Foundation have agreed to pay the other 60 per cent of the increase.

Regional district staff had pointed out to board members that building an entirely new acute care Lady Minto Hospital would in the long run have been more cost effective than the planned three-phase reno-

vation.

Holman said, "The board certainly understood the issues - that replacement in an ideal world would have been more cost efficient, but they understood that it was impossible for VIHA and the [foundation] to consider another alternative, so the directors recognized that this was the only option left, and they weren't willing to leave Salt Spring in the lurch because of a fundamentally arbitrary provincial policy of not borrowing money for hospital facilities."

Red tide warning issued

The entire west side of Salt Spring was officially closed to shellfish harvesting last week due to red tide, with more areas expected to follow suit.

Ian Kyle of the Ganges Coast Guard station said the entire island would probably be closed soon - a situation which usually occurs during the summer - and he did not recommend consuming any Salt Spring-harvested shellfish.

Kyle said the time between the sample being taken and analyzed in the Fisheries and Oceans Canada laboratory is usually about a week, so the warnings, once issued, are not completely up to date.

The July 9 Fisheries notice had closed Subareas 17-9, 18-7 and 18-8 to harvest of all bivalve molluscs, including clams, oysters, mussels, geoducks, scallops and cockles due to paralytic shellfish poisoning.

Some people have mistaken the red tide discoloration of marine waters as pollution, noted Kyle.




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Treasures to be unearthed at fair

Those yearning for a life-size teddy bear made of wolf pelts or pining for a trip to the Swiss Alps should drop by the third annual Island Treasure Fair.

This year's fair, billed as ArtSpring's major fundraiser, is not just for people with the means to buy an original Beatles LP, noted Rita Gauld, co-chair of the acquisitions committee: it's for everyone, young or old.

"There's a broader spectrum of items [this year]," she said. "We wanted to reach people who wouldn't come because they think it's too expensive."

The items will be auctioned over three days at ArtSpring, from Thursday through Saturday, with a Friday-night performance of Double Exposure as a feature event.

People can see and bid on items in the silent Treasure Auction from Thursday morning until Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in ArtSpring's exhibition area.

Other items will be auctioned off in the Grand Auction at 8 p.m. on Saturday in ArtSpring's theatre, and a booklet of the items is available now.

The community Treasure Swap in the park outside of ArtSpring will run Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and include performers like Jack and Lefty, a samba band, and clowns.

Saturday also includes a Pirates Picnic, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside of ArtSpring, with food from the Oystercatcher.

"You can basically come on and off all day," said one



BEAR HUG: Organizers of the Island Treasure Fair (l-r) Rita Gauld, Barbara McCaffrey, and Darlene Steele get snuggled by a life-size teddy bear made of wolf pelts that is up for auction.

Photo by Debbie Willis

of the Island Treasure Fair chairs, Darlene Steele.

All items in the auctions have been donated by the community, and most of the money raised goes to ArtSpring, as well as to the Mary Williamson Scholarship fund, SSPLASH, and the Rotary Club.

Last year the Island Treasure Fair raised \$32,000, and organizers are hoping to top that amount this year.

Some highlights of the auction include pieces created by local artists, such as a rocking chair by Ilyd Perkins, Raku fish by Lee Sollitt, and a hand-painted kimono by Elaine Potter.

One of the Island Treasure Fair chairs, Barbara McCaffrey, has her heart set on a stained glass lamp by Jerry Ringrose.

If she could walk out with

anything, chair Darlene Steele would take a sterling silver George III tea pot.

And Gauld, who is a "flea market buyer from way back," would take the Russian samovar.

"There's just about everything," said Gauld, who was grateful to all those who donated items and to the over 125 volunteers who will help with the event.

People can also bid on an Indian feast for eight, a hiking expedition with Charles Kahn, a concert harp performance by Cassandra Miller, and a helicopter ride.

"The 'experiences' are priceless. They would be worth different amounts to different people," said Steele.

People could also walk out with their own antique pump organ, 100-bottle wine refrig-

erator, 12-string guitar, or 100-year-old book of aphrodisiacs and anti-aphrodisiacs.

Some items do fall under a more conventional definition of 'useful,' like the barbecue and exercise equipment.

"Calling all health buffs," said Steele. "You can jog from here to Nanaimo without leaving your home."

Gauld said exciting items will be showcased in the Treasure Auction as well as the Grand one.

"We try to get really neat and interesting things in both. Some lend themselves to thinking about it over a few days, and some we want to catch people on impulse," said Gauld.

Choosing which items go where is done "with a great deal of wisdom," said Steele. "You need to be a wise old lady."

Jail lunch aids sentencing

A local youth spent a few hours cooling his heels behind bars after he complained to a judge during sentencing at Ganges Provincial Court on July 8.

The name of the 17-year-old islander must be withheld as required by the Youth Criminal Justice Act. The youth had pleaded guilty to a charge of uttering threats but he had been initially charged with kidnapping and robbery in an incident that occurred on August 14, 2002.

Court heard that the accused had been driving in a vehicle with three other males when they picked up a young male hitchhiker by Embe Bakery on August 14.

The hitchhiker was taken against his will to the top of Mount Maxwell where the vehicle's four occupants ordered him to give them \$15 under threat of being thrown off the mountain if he did not pay them.

The hitchhiker was returned to town unharmed after he paid the four young men, but the defendant also threatened him with a gardening implement, said Crown prosecutor Nils Jensen.

The youth defendant was identified as the group's main spokesman, Jensen said.

Defence lawyer Tybring Hemphill indicated that the victim and accused were previously known to each other and that the dispute was over a refund for a dissatisfied marijuana purchase.

The accused also produced a note to indicate he had made amends with the victim.

Even though the young offender had a prior record for assault, the Crown prosecutor recommended that the youth also see robbery and kidnapping charges waived in favour of counselling and 12 months probation in

exchange for the uttering threats guilty plea.

"I think you were lightly charged," said Judge Jane Cartwright.

Consequences of the kidnapping and robbery crimes could be far more severe if the youth was 18 years old, she said, with robbery carrying a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

She began to institute a 12-month probation order but the youth protested vigorously that he would rather go to jail than receive probation again.

The judge then issued two warnings for the youth to compose himself but he continued to complain.

"Do you have cells here?" Cartwright asked the sheriff.

The defendant appeared considerably more agreeable to the probation sentence after spending the lunch recess behind bars. He also received 30 hours of community service and an order to attend school or seek employment.

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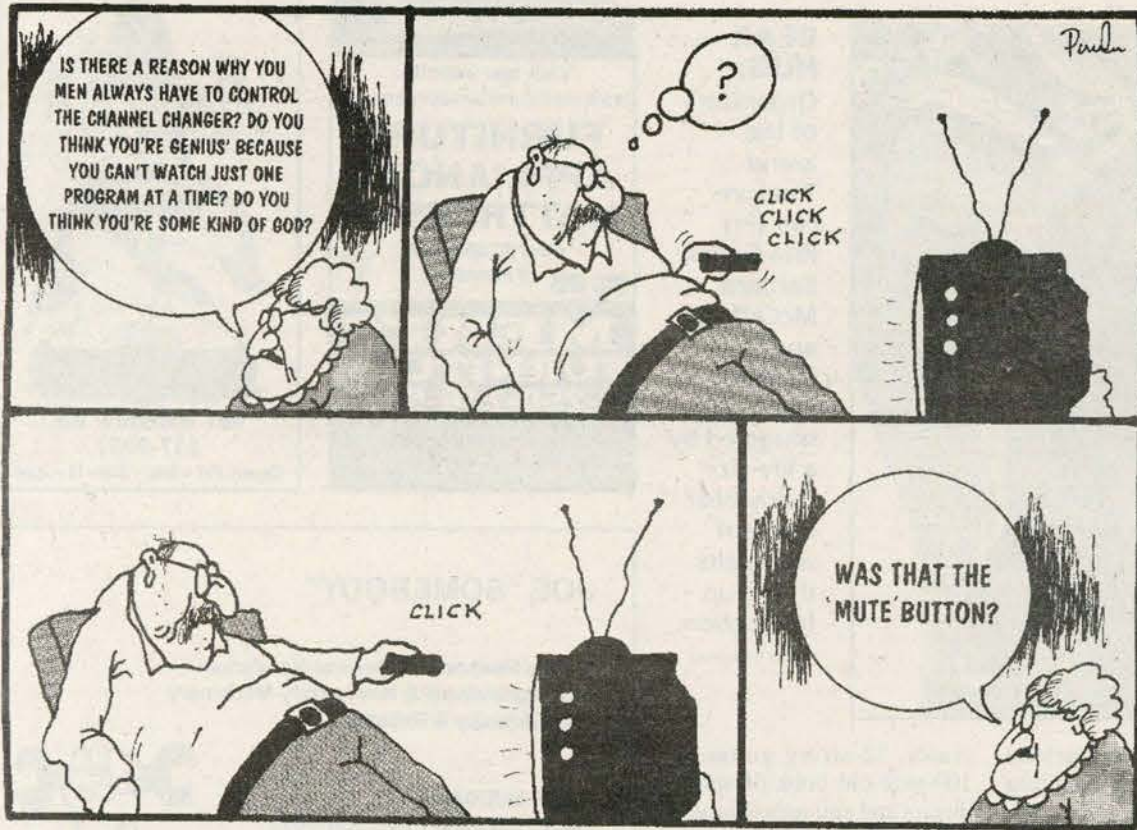
Some suites subsidized by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) are still available for low income seniors requiring home support services.

For information about Meadowbrook contact
Mary Toynbee, 538-1995 or 537-1147.

For information about VIHA subsidies contact
Lorcan Pitcher, 538-4887.

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A non-profit "supportive-living" seniors' residence for the Southern Gulf Islands by



Regular gas at premium prices

A steady increase in the range of goods, services and amenities available to Salt Spring Island residents - thanks in large part to tourism - has been good for consumers.

It has also been beneficial for local businesses in that a wider selection of products on local store shelves offers incentive for shoppers to spend more money on-island.

But when the price of one important commodity rises to ridiculous levels in comparison with outlets on Vancouver Island, there is a compelling incentive to buy that commodity off-island, along with other important personal and household needs.

This newspaper attempted last week to determine why gasoline prices are considerably higher here than on Vancouver Island. The attempt provided no definitive answer. It did, however, seem to eliminate the old, time-worn excuse for higher gas prices on Salt Spring: additional transportation costs.

A spokeswoman for one oil company cited crude oil prices, wholesale prices and local competition as the chief contributors to the retail price of gasoline, and discounted transport of fuel as an important factor.

Many islanders had already discovered that fact through journeys by car to far-flung destinations on Vancouver Island, where gas prices can be significantly lower.

But there is little consolation in the news that the island's geographic location has little or no bearing on fuel prices. It appears we are at the mercy of a market with insufficient competition. Yet it seems unlikely that the local gasoline business is lucrative enough to support additional gasoline outlets.

The lure of lower prices on Vancouver Island for one product is enough justification for many residents to buy almost all of their household needs on Vancouver Island. Given that we have no control over fuel prices, all we can do is appeal to islanders to consider the impact on the local economy by shopping off-island.

The impact is felt by everyone, from those who rely on local jobs to those who benefit from the large sums of money directed by local businesses to support local charities and community endeavours.

But local fuel suppliers could help the situation by dropping their prices so islanders feel less compelled to make a day of shopping elsewhere.

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Ten bucks gets local drivers to off-island gas station

By PETER VINCENT

Let me say off the top that I am a staunch supporter of local business.

Every watering hole and coffee shop on the island can attest to this. I buy my lunch at Thrifty's, my dinner at GVM and keep my car chicken-wired together at Murakami's Repairs.

I do not carry a Safeway Club Card in my wallet. But in the 15 years I have lived on Salt Spring, I have never put more than \$20 worth of island gas in my car. Usually 10 bucks. Just enough to carry me over between junkets to Victoria or Nanaimo.

For one reason or another, my various businesses demand weekly trips off island... that, coupled with a borderline pathological addiction to Costco, Winners and

VIEW POINT

Starbucks.

My first stop to the big island is always a gas station. It's not that I have anything against the service at the Salt Spring pumps. In fact, my dogs go into some kind of Pavlovian frenzy at the sight of the gas pumps in anticipation of the dog biscuit at the end of the transaction.

No, it just pisses me off that the owners expect a 10 per cent per litre "Salt Spring tithe," simply because they can.

And the story in last week's Driftwood by investigative reporter Debbie Willis has just

added fuel to the fire. For those of you who missed it, the query was a simple one: "Why do you charge so much more for gas than the gas stations on Vancouver Island?"

Sensing trouble in the air, the local gas stations circled the wagons. Answers ranged from "I'm just a powerless lackey of the multinationals," to blasé indifference, to divulging the phone numbers of "head office," where the reporter was deftly brushed off by some suit from the oil patch.

The only tidbit the reporter was able to squeeze out of these guys was the approximate cost of floating the gas to Salt Spring from Vancouver Island — about two cents per litre. I would be more than willing to pay the two cents — hell, I would be ecstatic to pay

double that difference. After all, the people at the pumps are my friends and neighbours and feed my dogs treats.

But after four cents — at the risk of repeating myself — it really pisses me off.

Whoever sets the gas prices here — whether the evil gas companies with the blood of the proletariat on their hands, or the local owners with a nice winter Caribbean cruise on their minds — whoever it is — someone is making way, way too much money off Salt Springers.

So the question is, how far should one bend over just because a business' postal code begins with "V8K?"

I guess as in any capital market, people will vote with their cheque book and when the price gets too

high, they will follow the growing number of islanders who opt out for the "10 bucks worth" option.

This week I filled up in Crofton — four or five miles as the crow flies from Ganges. Due to an ongoing gas war in the Duncan area, the amount I saved at the pumps paid for my ferry ticket. Bonus!

Even on a regular day in a regular market, the savings range from 10 to 15 bucks.

And until the time comes when I don't have to get a second mortgage just to fill my car up in my own neighbourhood, I will continue to join the line-up of Salt Spring cars, running on empty, at the Crofton Shell Station.

The writer is a local businessman and columnist for CBC Radio.

Summer's finally here, and with it swarms of smiling tourists buzzing about.

Ahh, those delightful damned tourists. Talk about a bittersweet relationship — for a few mad months they clog up the roads, parking lots and stores. They cause ferry overloads and delays. They loudly inhabit all the tables in the pubs and restaurants.

But, without all those tourist dollars island businesses would suffer, people would move away, land prices would drop, there'd be fewer cars on the road and life on the island would return to the way it was 30 years ago. Hmmm?

Okay, I guess if the tax base was reduced we'd have worse roads and fewer community services. Try to picture that! Even a theoretical mathematician couldn't fit more potholes on Stewart Road. And fewer services? There's no pool, no ice rink, no community centre

and no night-school program. Okay, I lied. We've got a small, above-ground pool that we originally bought from Eaton's. It probably ranks somewhere around ninth or tenth in size when compared with in-ground pools at private homes on Salt Spring.

Even if I can be persuaded that we need the tourists, we sure as heck don't need their cars. On Saturdays in July and August there are far too many cars in Ganges.

This is another of those issues that nobody wants to face. We have an uncanny abil-

There's no place like home

ISLE SAY!
 WITH JOHN POTTINGER



ity on Salt Spring to avoid dealing with serious problems by simply ignoring them. Well folks, denial is the surest way to scuttle this little island Paradise.

"Parking problem? No big deal. It's only in the summer."

"Affordable housing problem? No big deal. Real estate prices will eventually drop and things will return to normal."

"Vandalism problem? No big deal. It's just kids acting out."

"Drug problem? What drug

problem?"

Okay, we'll ignore the more serious issues for now (see — I'm even doing it!) and deal with the volume of vehicles in town on Saturdays. How do we reduce the number?

Well, we could ban vehicles from the centre of town and turn the whole place into a giant walking and biking-only area (as some American and European towns have done). What do we do about the folks who want to buy a lawnmower from Mouat's or a washer/dryer from Sears? Do they get a special permit from Wolfgang?

We could try to convince the CRD or the provincial government that we need a transit system. Public transit exists in places on Vancouver Island

and the interior of BC that have less population density than Salt Spring.

We could subsidize and support a summer bus system to and from Ganges. (Gee, if we were incorporated we could simply decide to do that...) If the folks coming from Vancouver Island for the day knew they could take buses around Salt Spring, most wouldn't pay the extra dollars to bring a vehicle — and they wouldn't have to worry about ferry overloads.

Okay, if I'm so wise in the ways of tourists, why in heavens name did I go grocery shopping at 5 p.m. on a Friday? Even the customer service desk has a dozen people lined up. With the push of bodies and buggies, Thrifty's

feels like a Tokyo subway.

A woman in front of me is laughing as she tries — unsuccessfully — to weave her cart through the crush of shoppers. She turns to her companion and says, "This is exactly what we were talking about last night. Canadians are so polite. If you stand here for a moment and listen, all you hear is: 'Sorry. Ooops, sorry. I'm sorry. Excuse me. Oh, sorry.' What a difference from back home."

Wow. As a Canadian who visits the US as infrequently as possible, I'd forgotten how different the two cultures can be. No wonder Thrifty's have no stores in Texas. The same scene would have very different sound effects: "Hey! Watch where you're goin' fella."

"You talkin' to me?"

"BANG!"

"Clean up in aisle three."

I guess parking's not such a big problem after all.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What does 'real food' mean to you?



Jim Webb

Organically grown. Not genetically engineered. No hormones, no pesticides.



Stan Knight, visitor

Natural, I guess. Without MSGs and everything like that. Without sugars and fats. It certainly doesn't mean junk food. I'm on a diet right now. I'm doing good.



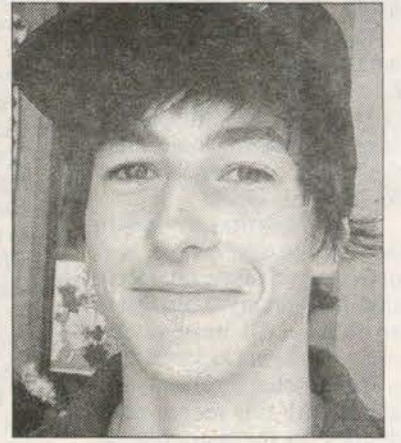
Li Read

Something that I would cook at home after having bought it at the organic store. Something like wild spring salmon from the local fish store and organic veggies.



Candie Thorne, visitor

It depends where I am I guess. If I'm on Salt Spring it means something from the seafood store: fresh salmon, shrimp, crab. At home it means chicken.



Evan Hardy

Food that is prepared and doesn't just come out of a box. Healthy food. Salad.

Letters to the Editor

Outdoor rink

Last week's article headlined "Tennis court deal signed; pool next on the block" cites the imminence of a pool, with little real mention of an ice rink.

I'd like to offer a few points regarding a remedy for the fact that we are the largest population in the country with such poor skating.

1) An ice rink cannot be built in a swamp. It eventually turns the swamp from muskeg to permafrost, and the associated heaving destroys any building above it. Burnaby's Four Rinks made the architecture books on how not to fall into this quagmire. Save a dry site for the rink!

2) An outdoor pool makes excellent sense, especially if heated by an outdoor rink. Yes, we can have an outdoor rink here; the temperature in an artificial rink is not that different from our outside temperature here in winter. It might take more compressor power, but the waste energy and the heat drawn out would warm the pool. The old Victoria Arena compressors are for sale in Saanich — speak to Art Sutherland.

3) A simple metal roof over the rink boards, with protective glass all around, would suffice, and you also create a lacrosse/roller rink as well as

an exhibition and concert space for summer.

I feel like an idiot having to mention this in Canada, but stand up for hockey and skating, and please reserve some planning, a site and modest funding for something the kids deserve as their heritage.

DWIGHT JONES,
Langs Road

Radio report

Let's talk about that Salt Spring radio station.

Ernest efforts have been underway for nearly seven years now to bring to our island it's own broadcasting facility.

The first board, formed in 1996, beside other preliminaries, attempted for three and a half years without success to obtain charitable status for a community station in order to donate a tax benefit to donors and contributors.

The Federal government invited a court challenge to its denials, but was otherwise uninterested. Should the board decide instead to build picnic tables, attention might be paid.

Exhausted, this board segued into a second with some of the same members and a new chair. The idea now was to establish a co-op facility by rounding up \$20,000 in loans, donations, pre-payments, etc. from area commercial concerns and

other investors with which to carry out technical preliminaries—license, broadcast frequency, transmitter site, etc. — and then "go public" with a year to get on-air.

A fellow even arrived here from Nelson for the express purpose of repeating that community's radio success.

These attempts, and other minor sallies, have so far failed.

In the meantime there is every indication that islanders definitely want their own radio station. Hundreds of dollars worth of cash register receipts continue to be stuffed into the society's GVM lock-box, and not a week goes by without an inquiry as to progress on the case.

This is by way of a report to interested parties that the idea is very much alive, and a suggestion that success will require more than high spirits and willing bodies. A supply of money would certainly help; the charity court challenge (funding for which can, I understand, be obtained) must be mounted at some time; new ideas would be welcome.

Otherwise the whole concept — like the Ganges boardwalk and the bus service and the other unfinished projects on the island — could just stay stuck in the "Save as Draft" folder.

The Gulf Islands Radio

Broadcasting Society is alive and well; it's just resting.

RICHARD MOSES,
Brinkworthy

Tear for Jim

Life marches on. We will sail off the beaches; we will devour deli food; we will down a few at the pubs; we will always cherish Lady Minto. But we shall never surrender our memories of Jim.

Thanks for being with us, pal... goodnight now.
TOM VARZELIOTIS,
Salt Spring

Why more?

I was on Hornby Island last weekend. It takes two ferries to get there.

Gas was 74.9 a litre. It is as high as 87.9 on Salt Spring.

Why are we paying 13 cents a litre more?
WENDY BEATTY,
Vesuvius

Special gift

Would the person or persons who took a new tractor from Barnyard Grafix have a conscience and return it with no questions asked.

This tractor was a special gift to our son and daughter-in-law for helping us through these later years.

The tractor was delivered on a special day with a huge red ribbon on it. We don't want the ribbon but we do

want what was under the ribbon.

We hope this can get to someone's heart and conscience.

PHYLLIS and JOHN MALCOLM,
Salt Spring

Sickening

I am writing to comment on an incident that happened this past weekend.

While in downtown Ganges on Friday, July 11, at about 7:30 p.m., my family and I witnessed an individual speed down Fulford-Ganges Road and come within inches of running over a man, his wife and their toddler as they were crossing the street at Purvis.

In fact, the driver was going so fast that his tires squealed as he tried to stop and he would have struck the young family had he not laid on the horn of his Isuzu Trooper, giving them just enough time to jump out of the way. A couple of more inches and this incident could easily have ended in tragedy.

Where was this older man going in such a hurry? The liquor store.

The driver of the blue and grey Trooper then had the audacity to berate and threaten the pedestrians after he had parked. The driver, out of his mind with anger at

this point, did manage to express his absolute loathing for tourists — how he knew that the pedestrians were from somewhere else I'll never know — perhaps he is psychic.

The driver's attitude towards this young family, tourists or not, was sickening. I would hope that the majority of residents on the island find his behaviour unacceptable too.

Salt Spring is a wonderful place to live, have a family and enjoy the outdoors — it would be nice to keep it that way.

S. HUGHES,
Salt Spring

Great depth

Unforgettable Dr. J. Buchan curiously had the ability to make us love him.

I knew him from the beginning when he arrived at Lady Minto Hospital.

Any dealings with Dr. Buchan were always of an intense nature. He was truly an unforgettable person — he had great depth of feeling and drew it out in all those he encountered.

He dared to go where most of us would never go.

It mystifies me, feeling so broken-hearted at his leaving.
MARLENE RICE,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS 8

Prejudices resurfacing in youth-targetted ICBC rates

A couple of years ago, I sorted through many boxes of things I'd inherited from Grandma.

Items from her dressers came complete with drawer liners made from newspaper pages of various vintages. A small news item from 1974 caught my eye.

BC Tel was proudly announcing its removal of higher installation and monthly fees for single female subscribers. I'd forgotten that for the first few years I had my own telephone service they made me pay more than they charged single guys and couples. Their reasoning was that young women were poorly paid, so were less likely to pay their bills. The opposite was true, but it took BC Tel years to acknowledge this

SPRINGBOARD BY BRENDA GUILLED



and stop gouging. Discrimination of this sort was so rampant — Canada's first female RCMP officer was in training that year — that it was just another of countless potshots aimed at the "fair" sex. I showed my teenage kids BC Tel's old news and they could scarcely believe that such dark ages persisted until less than a decade before their births.

Well, wake up, kids, because such nasty prejudices are coming back, and they're aimed at you.

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's president Nick Geer announced this past week that 16- to 24-year-old drivers will pay more for optional coverage, starting next year, to level the playing field for private insurers.

"Should you be subsidizing your neighbour's child?" he asked. "I don't think so," he answered.

He's implying that every neighbour's child is a risk-taking, accident-causing liability at the wheel. Yes, every one of them. They

must be, because actuarial tables show that 16- to 24-year-old drivers have two to three times more accidents than the average rate.

What about the young women in this cohort? Are they exactly as bad as the young men? They didn't used to be, and I doubt that they are now. What about all the new drivers who are older than 25? Is this a young driver problem or a new driver problem? If it's mostly a new driver problem, then immigrants getting their licences for the first time come into the picture. And what about old drivers, the seniors whose bad habits and eroding skills cause frustration and grief on the road?

"We're not looking at senior drivers as a special group," Geer said. Or any

other touchy subset. Just the neighbours' children, the only group ICBC dares to lump together and hit in the pocketbook, all in the name of fairness to private business.

The Ministry of Finance is in the process of overhauling the Insurance (Motor Vehicle) Act and the Insurance Act. One of the proposed changes is to appoint a "statistical agency, for the purpose of collecting detailed claims loss and other data and insurers with the information needed to set optional automobile insurance premiums."

The agency will then "(a) compile aggregate information from the information provided by insurers in accordance with the regulations and (b) make the

aggregate information available to the superintendent, insurers and the public in accordance with the regulations."

This looks hopeful and hopeless at once because the aggregates will probably be the same old ones used by private insurers, who've never stopped dinging new drivers by their age. They should have made their BC Tel-type corrections and apologies for this way back in... oh, about 1974, when ICBC was the new kid on the block.

As ever though, they'd rather just kick the kids on the block, good drivers and bad, all guilty by association. Now they've got ICBC back doing it. What a shame.

b_guiled@yahoo.ca

More letters

No flip-flop

This letter is to clarify what I said, and what the Local Trust Committee (LTC) said and did at the June 26 meeting regarding the subdivision application for Walker's Hook.

I clarified that my position on the application had not changed since our decision in February. I also stated that I still believe we made the right choice in forwarding the application, along with our recommendations, to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). I reiterated my belief the hatchery would proceed with, or without, the subdivision approval, as there are a number of legal avenues available for the owners and Sablefin, should subdivision approval not be granted.

I also stated my belief the LTC had the "legal ability" in February to quash the application by not forwarding it to the ALC. In February I referred to the sections in the Agricultural Land Reserve Act specifying our ability to do just that.

Why then, a few minutes after making my position clear, did it appear to the Driftwood I had "flip-flopped" on the issue? It comes down to this — the difference between two words: authorize and approve.

In February, by forwarding the subdivision application to the ALC, the LTC "authorized" the application. Authorized. However, nowhere in the comments forwarded to the ALC did the LTC "approve" the application.

Woodward and Company, representing the Salt Spring Island Residents For Responsible Land Use, had, in their recent letter to the LTC, asked for the LTC to clarify its position by writing to the ALC and saying that the LTC never "authorized or approved" the application.

When the motion was made to send such a letter from the LTC to the ALC clarifying we had never "approved" the subdivision, I specifically asked that the motion be reread, so that I was clear on what was being asked. When I was clear that the motion was to clarify that we had never "approved" the application, I had no problem in seconding the motion, and subsequently approving it. By doing so, we were, in fact, stating a fact, and hopefully clarifying our position.

However, we did, without a doubt, "authorize" the application. And, for further clarity, even if I could, I would not vote to rescind the decision I made in February. It remains the right decision, given the circumstances.

Now, would the Driftwood please tell me how, by doing what we were asked to do — (a) by clarifying our position to our constituents and the ALC — and (b) by restating, in no uncertain terms, that my mind had not changed in the past four months — I am guilty of "flip-flopping"?

And please don't worry, if you would like to report that your flip-flopping allegations were unjustified, I won't accuse you of flip-flopping. In fact, I'll commend you on good, solid,

perfectly clear, clarified communication.

My last concern, of course, is your choice of potential headings for such a clarification. "Trustee found not guilty of flip-flopping charges" or "Trustee does a double flip-flop."

Instead, how about "Driftwood flip-flops on flip-flopping allegations" or, better still — "We stand corrected — local trustee stands firm on decision."

ERIC BOOTH,
Local trustee

Blessed

We want to thank Gail for her sensitive and complete word-picture of our friend, Jim Buchan, in last week's Driftwood.

We also want to thank Mary and Barb for being there for Jim; it comforts us greatly to know that at the end Jim was with people who loved him and whom he loved.

We want to thank the many, many friends of Jim's, both on and off island, who gave us an opportunity to share Jim's spirit and our memories with so many of his island family on Saturday.

Our world is a funnier, kinder, more accepting, better place because Jim walked here alongside us all.

We were blessed to know him and call him "friend." Like so many fortunate others, he touched our lives and we love him for it.

TERRY, MAGGIE and ROBIN WARBEY,
Salt Spring

Wheel-less Porsche

Kudos to PARC for responding to the need for a new pool on Salt Spring. Kudos also for their research and efforts to discover the feasibility of such a project.

At Saturday's meeting to discuss this matter there were approximately 100 people. Opinions were voiced and PARC offered options varying in cost and amenities. The overwhelming desire of the audience was for an indoor pool.

I would ask WHY an indoor pool except that there are good reasons to substantiate this position. However, the expense of such a project makes the likelihood of its conception questionable.

By automatically thinking indoor — as SSPLASH advertises — I think we limit the chances of success for this project. I think the following should be considered as PARC progresses.

One hundred people at a well-publicized meeting does not represent an active interest from an island of well over 10,000 people.

How much are people willing to pay to have any pool? Our guest speaker said that any annual tax increase over \$100 had a very slim chance of passing. An indoor pool would exceed that limit. The last referendum proved this point.

An outdoor pool can be built at a cost that would not require a referendum — with funds that are currently available.

"Bubbles" are commonly used to cover pools in cold months. The heat from the

water automatically heats the air.

A facility could be built with a design that enables further development as funds become available.

Salt Spring has at least four months of beautiful weather. By using a bubble we could enjoy outdoor swimming during that time.

Once again, thank you to PARC for the efforts. We do need a pool very badly. I am just concerned that trying to buy a Porsche on a Ford budget will leave us without any wheels.

FRANKIE WATKINS,
Salt Spring

Best care

All of us who live here want the best care when emergency sicknesses are upon us.

Our local Lady Minto Hospital must pay \$2.7 million for more equipment and to complete the work that has to be done so patients won't have to be sent out for surgeries or treatments.

Let's get together to help. Even \$50 for each family or more or less will be welcome.

Think about it!
ALICE (BIBEAU) TESTER,
Pioneer Village

Possibilities

Saturday's town hall meeting on the future of a pool for Salt Spring proved invaluable.

Final pieces of the puzzle came from comments made by the keynote speaker, David Speed, and his experiences in seeing the fruition of similar projects in other smaller B.C. communities. The key, as simple as it sounds, requires individual interest groups and the community as a whole agreeing on the form and function of the facility.

We must all share a similar vision and have similar expectations when presented with a referendum on the final plan. Those in attendance indicated that only an indoor facility would pass a referendum with certainty. So the question now becomes how to fund such a facility.

PARC rightly maintains that partnerships provide the only solution, the possible participants being government, business and charity. According to Mr. Speed, governments are more forthcoming of late, a positive, but they will want to see others at the table.

Six or eight million dollars is a lot of charity so business is needed if we hope to achieve the vision expressed by those at the meeting. Business prefers profit but a pool provides the opposite so we must be creative.

What can we offer business in return for their support while meeting our community values? Business likes to be associated with charity. Would a corporation pay a million dollars to have its logo painted on the bottom of the pool? Does one exist that would be willing to donate funds or even pay for an entire pool if allowed to build a corporate training centre alongside?

Would this benefit our local economy in the off-season? What we need to do is identify the possibilities acceptable to the community with the goal being to pass a referendum.

PARC indicates we can expect an annual operating budget of somewhere between \$600,000 and \$800,000. In my mind, the operating cost has always been the stumbling block. But Mr. Speed again provided very useful information. Two in five locals could use the pool with some frequency.

Based on a population of 10,000, those two people need to contribute \$175 per year for the pool to break even — that's \$3.37 per week. That's without increasing anyone's taxes. What about a single annual adult membership fee of \$250? This could include \$50 of coupons honoured by the adjoining snack bar, still leaving \$25 for a pot to cover admission fees for less fortunate people in our community. Family memberships, memberships with complementary guest passes, memberships tied into other area pools encouraging tourism — the possibilities are endless.

Salt Spring's changing demographics involve other serious issues like housing costs, rental availability, foreign ownership and other weighty topics. A decent pool would help steady enrolment levels in our local schools and maybe even increase them. This in turn would increase provincial funding for the school district, thus encouraging more families to Salt Spring and helping solve those other weighty topics.

The other benefits have been done to death: our existing youth benefit, boomers benefit, seniors benefit, local businesses benefit from less off-island shopping, tourists benefit.

In closing I tip my hat to the members of SSPLASH and Kathy Page for their initiatives. Not only are they raising much-needed cash, but with Shelby Pool going into forced retirement very shortly, they have highlighted the urgent need to resolve this frustrating issue.

STEVE PETERSON,
Salt Spring



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By **KIMBERLY LINEGER**
Islands trustee

Further to the June 26 Local Trust Committee (LTC) decision to write a letter to clarify our position to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) on the Sablefin Hatchery at Walker Hook, I am concerned that the community has the expectation that this will in some way stop the hatchery at Walker Hook from proceeding.

While it may provide leverage for an island group to launch a lawsuit to challenge the ALC decision, it does not in the meantime guarantee that construction and operation of the hatchery will stop. As grand political gestures go, it could very well provide little force or effect in halting the activity at Walker Hook.

It was a difficult decision in February — a three-year lease with no provision for the protection of the tombolo or a longer lease (20 years) with the possibility of including provisions within the subdivision process to protect the tombolo and the surrounding beach area. How best could we protect the tombolo for future park acquisition at the end of the lease period? What is a new trustee to do? Erring on the side of caution, I was not willing at that time to forego some form of protection measures, limited as they were, for the tombolo.

Although I did not approve of the subject matter of the subdivision application, I made the decision to allow the application to proceed to the ALC with LTC and community comments to provide an expression of the public's interest in the ecological and historical significance of the area.

In seeking legal advice on the matter, Trust lawyers have responded that the February resolution does not provide support for the application, nor does it do the opposite.

It is neutral and all it does is authorize the application to proceed to the ALC for its consideration and decision. Further, the resolution provided a series of useful comments and recommendations related to the ALC's consideration of the application.

The resolution is ambiguous in such a way that to "not approve" the application may

Tombolo protection can be pursued

TRUSTEE REPORT

be seen as not authorizing it to continue in the process as opposed to authorizing it to continue, but expressing non-support in substance. It should be noted here, for the record, that the application was given authorization to proceed although we did not support approval of the application by the ALC.

For some, this decision has not been acceptable as it has not halted the subdivision process or the hatchery operation.

In the meantime, the aquaculture licence and a 15-month interim waste management permit will be issued. In the next 15 months the hatchery will not operate at its full projected capacity, but it will still be operating.

In this regard, I think it is helpful that the local trustees be willing to work with the property owner and fish hatchery operators to develop ways to minimize any environmental impacts on the ecologically sensitive and historically important tombolo and wherever possible put strategies in place to help mitigate any environmental damage that has occurred on the site to date. It is my hope that these measures will create a sense of certainty around how hatchery operation will impact the tombolo now and in the future.

Several suggestions have been proposed:

1. Include language in the aquaculture licence that would prevent further buildings and structures on the site without consultation with the Islands Trust.

2. Use the letter submitted by Peggy Ward of Environment Canada to request an environmental impact study prior to the issuing of the permanent waste management permit and reiterate the requirement that the Islands Trust be a referral agency for any future waste management permit amendments.

3. Enter into a conservation covenant between the proper-

ty owner/hatchery operators and the Trust Fund Board and another local conservation agency or First Nation to provide further protection. This could trigger a baseline environmental assessment of the tombolo and surrounding beach area and provide for local monitoring of the site on an annual basis, and;

4. Work with the property owner/hatchery operators to address and, if possible, undertake site remediation to address current environmental damage from hatchery facility construction.

The hatchery operators have expressed their desire to work with the LTC to address community con-

cerns. It is very likely that we could obtain significant conditions to protect the

tombolo. And this is what I believe I have been elected to do as a trustee on behalf of the community, despite what others might say.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

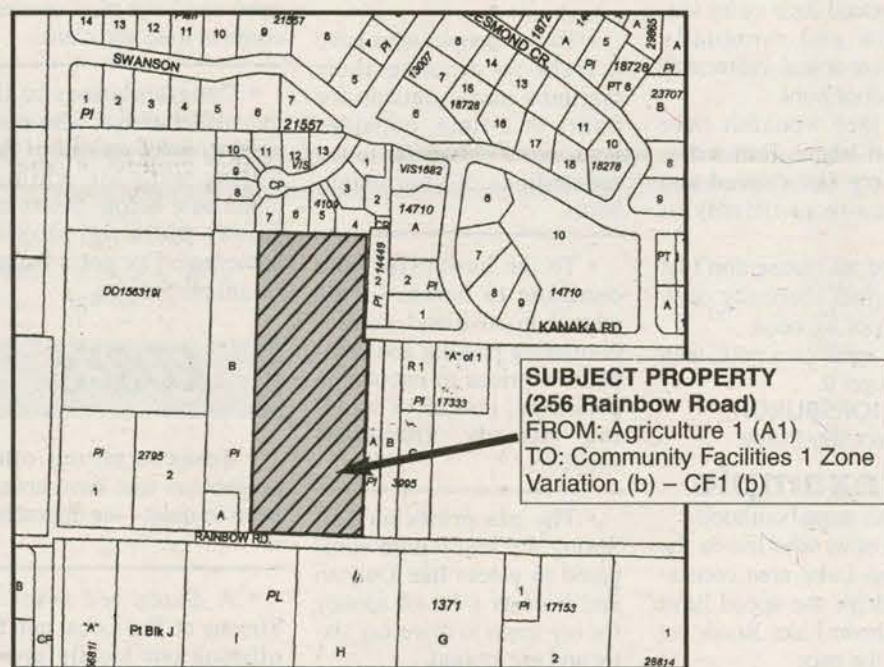
SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE PROPOSED BYLAW NO. 386

NOTICE is hereby given that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will hold a public hearing concerning Proposed Bylaw No. 386, cited as "Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 3, 2003", for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw. At the public hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the bylaw. The public hearing is scheduled to take place at the following time and location. A public information session will precede the public hearing.

DATE: Saturday, July 26, 2003
LOCATION: Hart Bradley Memorial Hall (Lions Hall)
103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island
TIME: 10:00 am – Public Information Session
10:30 am – Public Hearing

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 386 is to amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 to permit the use of the property at 256 Rainbow Road for a variety of community facilities by rezoning the property from Agriculture 1 (A1) to the Community Facility Zone Variation (b) – CF1 (b). The proposed rezoning would permit development of the 3.16 hectare (7.8 acre) parcel for a multi-use community recreation centre including indoor tennis courts, an indoor aquatic facility, accessory uses including offices, meeting rooms, washrooms, and potential future expansion to include related indoor recreation amenities.

BYLAW NO. 386 – PLAN 1



SUBJECT PROPERTY
(256 Rainbow Road)
FROM: Agriculture 1 (A1)
TO: Community Facilities 1 Zone Variation (b) – CF1 (b)

Copies of the proposed bylaw and any background material that may be considered by the Local Trust Committee, may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, Room 1206, 115 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing Monday, July 14, 2003, and up to and including Friday, July 25, 2003.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2)(e) of the Local Government Act, additional copies of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Victoria Office of the Islands Trust, #200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, commencing Monday, July 14, 2003, and up to and including Friday, July 25, 2003. A copy of Proposed Bylaw No. 386 is also available on the Islands Trust website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca

Enquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to planning staff at (250) 537-9144 or by Fax at (250) 537-9116. For Toll Free access, request a transfer to the Islands Trust via Enquiry BC: in Vancouver at 660-2421, and elsewhere in BC at 1-800-663-7867.

Written submissions may be delivered to:

1. the Islands Trust by mail at Room 1206, 115 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T9, or by Fax to (250) 537-9116, prior to 4:30 pm on Friday, July 25, 2003; and
2. after 4:30 pm on Friday, July 25, 2003, by delivery to the Local Trust Committee at the Public Hearing at 10:30 am on Saturday, July 26, 2003 until the close of the hearing.

All applications are available for review by the public. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

NO REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BYLAW WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Pauline Brazier
Deputy Secretary

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Letters

Let's agree

Why was a meeting about our future pool held on Saturday, July 12 when many of Salt Spring's arguably most knowledgeable and interested participants could not attend?

Swim team members, their families and coaches were at a meet in Campbell River.

Swim meets equal money. Think eight teams of 30 to 100 swimmers each plus families and coaches staying two nights and do the arithmetic for Salt Spring's tourist trade. But for this we need a pool that can host swim meets.

A six-lane, 25-metre indoor pool with hot tub and kiddie pool add-ons would be ideal. But half a loaf is better than none.

Nanaimo has an outdoor pool and hosts swim meets. If we cannot afford an indoor pool, then let's build an outdoor pool, preferably covered, with infrastructure in place to enclose it later.

Our swim team is "the little team that could." They win despite a pool that's too short and too shallow to practise turns and racing dives.

With a covered pool, seniors, parents and kids could extend their swim season now and eventually enjoy year-round swimming in an indoor pool.

And they wouldn't have to go off-island. Half a day, plus ferry fares saved and spent more profitably at home.

Above all, please don't let politics and obstinacy deny us the pool we need.

Let's agree on a pool, then work to get it.

JANE HORSBURGH,
Brinkworthy Place

Set example

It's our neighbourhood.

If all of us who live in the Cusheon Lake area consistently drive the speed limit on Cusheon Lake Road, we can set the pace.

We can control the speed for those using this road as a thoroughfare.

Those who insist on travelling faster can use Fulford-Ganges Road.

This is our neighbourhood. Let's set the example!

K. LANDRY,
Horel Road



DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

Name: BANANA JOE CLEMENTE

537/538/653: 537

Occupation(s): Work for Parks and Recreation (CRD).

Hobbies: Pushing the limits of all exotic plants (exotic gardening).

Home finished/unfinished: Finished, as far as I know.

Favourite people: My wife Hilary and my three kids.

Favourite read: Palms and Cyclads of the world.

Best thing about SSI: The climate and the friendly people.

Worst thing about SSI: Too close to the mainland.

Best place to kiss on SSI?: My wife's lips — under a banana plant, of course!

RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

- To the people who have a right to practise their marimba music outside for hours at a time, consider your moral obligation to the sensibilities of your neighbours.

- To the businesses who continue to berate locals who shop off-island, consider offering parking and competitive prices to encourage patronage, instead of scolding already frustrated islanders.

- The gas prices on Salt Spring are really high compared to places like Duncan and it costs a lot of money for my mom to drive my sister and me around.

- Jeers to neighbours who play/perform music loudly outside their home. We like music as much or more than the next guy, in fact we are an instrument-playing household, but you wouldn't know it since we practise our music indoors so as not to

force you to listen to it. We work at home and it's summer so we have our windows open and your mini-concerts come in loud and clear.

- Congratulations to the inconsiderate oaf who managed to wake up half of Salt Spring with his whining chain saw before seven last Friday morning; stop by sometime: I've got a banana cream pie for you.

ROSES

- Roses to all our other neighbours who have always been so quiet - we appreciate it!

- A dozen red roses to Simone at The Local pub for offering our locally grown palm seedlings to pub patrons. You couldn't ask for better advertising than those four huge palms growing right in front of the pub. Keep up the good work, Simone. Banana Joe.

- Roses to those who use rakes and brooms

rather than leaf blowers to clear their decks, driveways and property. Your neighbours thank you as well as your body and the environment.

- Roses to my eager test subjects who helped test my culinary safaris. Thanks to Perry, Sylvaine, Cherry, Michael, Anne, Joan, Sam and James. WH

- I love you guys at Moka House for letting me use your electricity to charge my wheelchair so I can make it back to Greenwoods. Great community spirit. Thank you. John Petrie.

- Roses to the Lions Club for the hard work put into the 23rd edition of the Salt Spring Directory. It's a very informative gift to our community. I very much appreciate this free gift.

- Thank you to the kind people who helped our lost American friends find our house on Quebec Lane. Karen

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Take notice that **Hope Bay Rising Holdings Ltd.** (Formerly 666884 B.C. Ltd.) **Pender Island, BC**, intends to make application to Land and Water British Columbia Inc. (LWBC), Vancouver Island Region - Nanaimo Service Centre, Land and Water Management Division office, for a **Commercial Building for Shops** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Hope Bay, Pender Island**.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **File # 1412194**. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Senior Land Officer at 501-345 Wallace St, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5B6. Comments will be received by LWBC until **September 3, 2003**. LWBC may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit our website at www.lwbc.bc.ca under **Current Land Applications** for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at Land and Water British Columbia's regional office.



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First six months were drier than 20-year average

By **ROBERT ASTON**
Special to the Driftwood

For much the same reason that I was late with my end of 2002 report, so have I missed my "end of winter" report. In the great scheme of things, I doubt this tardiness matters very much!

So, as Peter Warren on radio so often says, "Let's get on with it"

Starting with our very mild January, which was almost frost-free, we did have, at 7.48" (190 mm) and no snow, rather more than our average precipitation, but since the bulk of this fell on only seven days, with no less than 12 days rain-free, it really was a good month.

February also was extremely mild for the first three weeks with many very fine days. Precipitation, all rain and no snow, was a mere 0.65" (16.5 mm) and that is less than 15 per cent of our average. As you may remember me writing in my year-end report, this wonderful weather brought us record early flowers etc. (my peas, planted January 26, were up on February 22).

We experienced frost on only four of the last five days.

March was not nearly such a nice month with well-above-average precipitation and 2.5" of snow. I should note here that there was a great deal more snow at the higher levels. There usually is, of course, but this was a much greater amount more than normal.

The month could be described as cool.

April, until the last three days, was a definitely cool month and we recorded our last frost of the winter overnight on the 3rd/4th. Although this frost was only 0.0 C (32F), it happened to be one of those very visible ones. By this time, plant growth had slowed appreciably and was pretty much back to seasonal normal. Precipitation, at 3.16" (80 mm), was well above normal.

In May, we had many significantly cold nights (down to 2.5 C/36.5 F overnight on the 5th/6th) although the temperatures did improve appreciably in the last week. Precipitation was back below normal.

Now comes June! We have a record. The 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th all produced spectacular temperatures, peaking at 90 F (32.2 C) on the 6th.

In 38 years of keeping weather records, first on Galiano and for 28 years here, I have never recorded 90 F until well into July so this sent me looking in my B.C. record book. Lo and behold, back in some undefined year between 1941 and 1970, and no specific day, there they show Salt Spring's record high for June at 90 F. So, whilst we can't claim an all-time new record, I'm personally willing to bet that it occurred on a much later day of the month!

For no good reason, just for fun, I mention that my (new) station at Galiano was designated, federally, as G.G.C.C. — the Golf Course.

Precipitation for the month was 0.24" (6 mm) which is less than one-fifth our 20-year average.

All in all and commenting strictly personally, the month was truly lovely and equals the childhood memories of summer that most of us seem to have.

For comparison purposes, our total precipitation for the first six months of the year is as follows. This year, 17.94"/45.6 cm with snow at 2.5"/63.5 mm versus the 20-year average of 19.92"/50.6 cm with snow at 8.1"/20.6 cm.



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT: Sophia Burke sells her self-created "crow bars" in the Saturday market. The Rotary exchange student is raising money to pay for travel to Italy. Photo by Derrick Lundy

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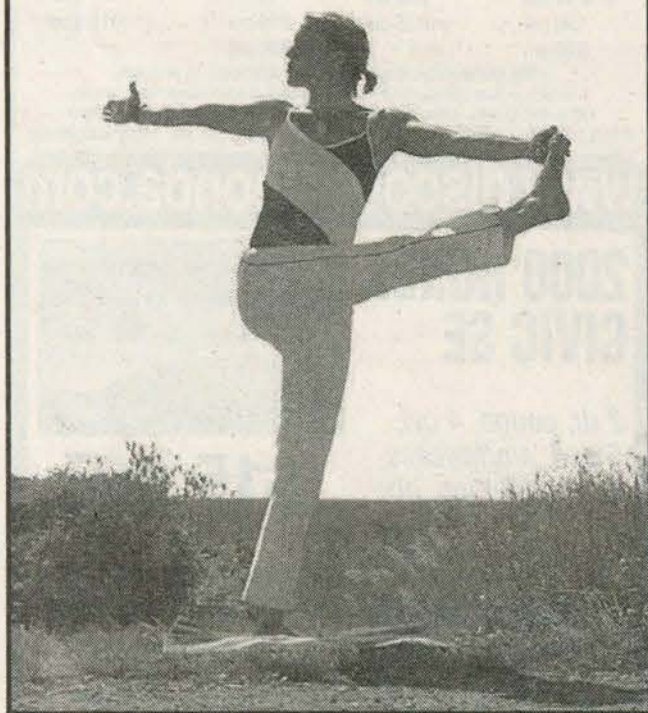
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Bob Ellison

blue dragon naturals

3104 - 115 Fulford-Ganges Rd.,
Grace Pt. Square
537-5510



Broom-bashing helps out local butterfly population

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

A skein of butterflies flitting around Salt Spring might have some islanders thinking relaxing thoughts under summer sun, but biologist Wayne Hallstrom is busy collecting data to learn more about the breezy insects' relationship with Garry oak meadows on Mount Maxwell.

"This is probably the best site in B.C. to spot some of these varieties... People have never seen some of these butterflies anywhere other than Mount Maxwell."

Hallstrom is visiting island meadows for a second year as part of a research project for his master's degree with the University of Alberta.

"I'm studying meta-populations of butterflies," he explained.

The researcher observes fluttering pale-grey Propertius dusky-wings, little blue spring azures, black and white Moss's elfin, large orange-and-black zere fritillary and aptly-named purplish coppers.

"I go to each meadow and survey them for five different butterfly populations. While I'm there, I also record which plants were flowering, what types of trees and shrubs were present and I make notes about the density of trees and shrubs."

Overall, Hallstrom collects data for 10 different variables while surveying more than 100 Salt Spring meadows. He also collects information at sites on Maple Mountain (across Sansum Narrows) and his study spans two years.

"This year, I've been observing individuals to see

what flowers they use as nectar sources."

Once all the data is collected, he feeds it into a computer that creates a 10-dimensional scatterplot using matrix geometry.

"You can't picture more than three dimensions in your head but a computer can do it just fine," he noted.

Hallstrom hopes to discover which factors exert influence on where people find various species of butterflies.

"I suspected that they would be influenced by the density of oak trees and the aspect of the hill, and amounts of certain flowers as a nectar source for food as an adult."

Using statistical analysis, he found that only 20 types of flowering plants out of 80 varieties observed proved to be predictors for the study's five butterfly populations.

While Garry oaks proved an important food supply for dusky-wing larvae, Scotch broom is one plant shown to be a detriment for meadow-loving butterflies, he said.

"What I've learned so far is that broom has a significant negative effect and that the smaller meadows aren't used by the butterflies."

Meadows under 100 square metres in size don't tend to support butterfly populations. But quality factors can be just as important as the size of meadows, he noted.

"A little tiny meadow might have lots of oak trees and flowers."

He was surprised to find that the Salt Spring Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society had removed a lot of broom from the Burgoyne Bay area since

his studies last summer.

"I can imagine it was a huge amount of work."

But he did not observe any immediate change in butterfly populations as a result of the broom removal.

"I suspect it would take more than one year for things to change. The broom could have been there five to 10 years and it could take a few years for other species to come in."

Anyone who would like to help support local butterfly populations could encourage more host plants to grow around their own property, he said.

Spring azures prefer the taste of oceanspray, dusky-wings munch on Garry oaks, coppers dwell around stonecrops, swallowtails like nettles and fritillaries feed on violets.

"You would be more likely to see them if you provide their food sources."

Various indigenous lilies, vetch, yarrow and camas are also great butterfly attractors, he said.

Hallstrom recently collected a tiny sample of butterflies for collections at the Royal B.C. Museum and three universities. Some of the beautiful specimens were previously not on file with any of the four institutions and they will help other researchers identify the varieties and maybe even inspire some students to learn more about local butterflies.

"I noticed that the UVic collections didn't have some of these and I'm going to keep one or two myself as a memento; they're pretty."



MAD HATTERS: Clockwise from top left, Evelyn Lee, Bev Cartwright (aided by Elisabeth Socher) and Victoria Woodman, are among numerous hat-wearers who attended last weekend's Mad Hatter Tea Party & Fashion Show, staged by Burgoyne Bay church women.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

BRIDGE TRICKS

On June 30, Isabelle Richardson and George Laundry had a humongous win, with a score that was positively stratospheric.

Second were Don and Gail Sharp, third were Blanche Poborsa and Joan Conlan, and Irene Hawksworth and Bob Morrisette were fourth.

On July 7, there was another of our close results. First were Ian Thomas and Conhor Vane-Hunt, and, only half a point behind, there was a tie for second, between two of our returning players — Cassie Cherniwchan and Gerry Nicholson — and Poborsa and Conlan.

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BC FERRIES Schedule

Salt Spring Island
VESUVIUS BAY - CROFTON

CROSSING TIME: 20 MINUTES
YEAR-ROUND SCHEDULE

LEAVE VESUVIUS BAY		LEAVE CROFTON	
• 7:00 am	u 4:00 pm	* 7:30 am	4:30 pm
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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- **ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM:** Prevention & treatment service is free & confidential.
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- **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
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Salt Spring Island (Fulford Harbour) - Swartz Bay Departures

IN EFFECT JUNE 26 CROSSING TIME: 35 MINUTES

Depart Fulford Harbour		Depart Swartz Bay	
6:20 am	Daily	7:00 am	Sat. only
7:45 am	Sat. only	7:10 am	Daily except Sat. & Sun.
8:00 am	Daily except Sat. & Sun.	8:30 am	Sat. only
9:15 am	Sat. only	9:00 am	Daily except Sat.
10:00 am	Daily except Sat.	10:00 am	Sat. only
10:45 am	Sat. only	11:00 am	Daily except Sat.
12:00 pm	Daily except Sat.	11:30 am	Sat. only
12:15 pm	Sat. only	1:00 pm	Daily except Sat.
2:00 pm	Daily	1:10 pm	Sat. only
4:00 pm	Daily	3:00 pm	Daily
6:00 pm	Daily	5:00 pm	Daily
8:00 pm	Daily	7:00 pm	Daily
		9:00 pm	Daily

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Cordylines add to garden array

By BANANA JOE CLEMENTE
Driftwood Contributor

Well, folks, here is another write-up on a plant we sort of take for granted.

I love to write about species of plants not all gardeners are familiar with and this way I hope to broaden your gardening horizons.

There are so many other wonderful and exciting species that can be added to existing landscapes to really make heads turn. Any of you that have strolled through my garden know exactly what I'm referring to.

A species of plant grown primarily as a centerpiece for flower pots is often labelled by nurseries as *Dracaena* or *Spike*. However, the proper name is *Cordyline*, and it's the *australis* — which is most frost-resistant — that you will find 99 per cent of the time.

Also known as the New Zealand cabbage palm, this species can attain great heights if planted out in a fairly sheltered garden area. Unfortunately, most gardeners just toss these poor little plants out at the end of the growing season, when their annual baskets have expired.

In the mildest growing locations of Salt Spring are found *Cordylines* with nearly 20 feet of trunk and branched crowns.

The cold hardiness of this species is somewhere in the neighborhood of -9 degrees Celsius, so once every decade or so those Arctic blasters challenge the hardiness of this plant. If the plant should freeze to the ground it will resprout again from the base of the trunk, and grow at a rapid rate once spring rolls around.

If you are fortunate enough to have your *Cordyline* survive out in the garden for several years, you will see it produce plume-like panicles, up to

IN THE GARDEN

three feet long, of super fragrant, cream-white flowers in June or July.

The fragrance reminds me of the very tropical *Plumeria*. Once flowering has completed, *Cordylines* will start to develop another crown, and each year even more flowers will grow.

This plant is very drought tolerant, and I have not seen the deer eat it "yet."

Since *Dracaenas* are very inexpensive to purchase, you may want to consider a group planting of them for a nicer effect.

There is also a bronze form, with nice reddish foliage, that is much less common, but in recent years it seems to have made its way into local nurseries. This one is a tad bit less cold hardy than the green, but still worth the risk.

A large one of this type grows in a milder oceanside garden here on the island. I had the opportunity to visit this garden and photograph a big specimen in full bloom this past June.

So when the time comes to plant out your *Cordyline*, make sure to give it a sunny location with well-drained soil. You can give it just enough irrigation to get established.

Cordylines grow at a rapid rate, and in a short time you'll have a very impressive ornamental plant to show off to your gardening friends.



FUN FOR ALL: Sanchia Seward is spotted at the "Go Fish" booth as All Saints By-the-Sea holds a church July Fete with games, activities, sales and food. The event took place last Saturday on the church grounds.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Buddhist author reads at SS Books Saturday

People aiming to incorporate Buddhism into their daily lives will want to visit Salt Spring Books on Saturday evening.

That's when Michael Lisagor will read from *Romancing the Buddha: Applying Buddhism to Daily Life*, which was released by the Xlibris publishing company this spring.

Lisagor visits Salt Spring every year and is part of the island's large Buddhist community, said Adina Hildebrandt of Salt Spring Books.

Romancing the Buddha is described by the publisher as the book version of the author's successful website at: www.romancingthebuddha.com.

"Lisagor shares how his 33 years of applying Buddhist principles have helped him successfully deal with depression, his wife's serious illness, raising two daughters and finding hope in a turbulent society. Seeing his website gain enormous popularity and positive feedback encouraged him to put those entertaining insights permanently in print," states the Xlibris press release.

The July 19 reading begins at 6:30 p.m.



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Levitt fingerpaints on the moon with new book

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Grabbing hold of the roller-coaster end of this story forced some contortions, I confess.

It demanded writing about a writer and his new book about writing. In the chum-it-out trade of weekly journalism, it would call for the "feature story about creative people and their product" formula dictated by safe convention and spoil-sporting space limits.

But with Peter Levitt and his new book from Random House called *Fingerpainting on the Moon - Writing and Creativity as a Path to Freedom*, my bountiful material from a Levitt interview and the book was not plugging itself into the mold. Even the usual whip-cracking deadline muse had skipped town on me.

"What's the problem?" asked my reliable sounding board at home. "You write 'Nice man writes nice book. Come to his book launch.' The end."

I hissed him out of the room.

But I vaguely sensed he was not far off the mark, and so I calmly revisited Levitt's book in the hot tub.

Fingerpainting on the Moon — which is being celebrated tonight (Wednesday) with Levitt reading and some great music from Jaime Rokeby-Thomas and friends at All Saints By-the-Sea (7 p.m.) — is not what you would call a writing self-help book, although it would be immensely helpful to writers, among others.

It doesn't discuss plot crafting or how to chisel fictional characters from the dusty marble of memories, but it encourages people to try some unimpeachable exercises that will free one's mind, nourish powers of awareness and spark a thirst for taking creative risks.

"Everything is permitted in the imagination," Levitt says both in the book and from the deck of his home looking out to Cusheon Lake on a pristine June morning.

With a mind wide-open to the possibility of wonder in each moment, both the in-print and breathing Levitt sees significance and connections in all things, which he shares with ease and delight.

The voice in *Fingerpainting*

on the Moon seems so much the storytelling, eager-to-grin and gently-share voice of Levitt in person.



Levitt

That makes sense when I remember him telling me that the book was written "completely intuitively - in the same way I write a poem... I didn't know the book until it made itself known."

Becoming a poet similarly insisted itself on Levitt when he was a young man and frankly seeking more lucrative ways to spend his time.

In the book he writes: "It may sound like a wonderful realization — and in its own way it was - but it was also an agonizing moment of self-revelation when I finally knew that, against all odds, what I loved doing most in the world was making a poem. A poet, for God's sake! I could hardly say the word. But by then I knew that even making a bad poem - which I was very good at - was better than not making one at all."

Levitt went on to write countless poems, publish several volumes worth and was awarded the Lannan Foundation Literary Award Fellowship in Poetry in 1989.

As a young poet in the late 1960s in Buffalo he also met "the whole gang" of Beat poets, and became particularly close with Diane Di Prima and Robert Creeley.

"Their personal support, generosity and vision encouraged me to stick to it as a poet despite the practical vagaries of such a life."

Levitt also attended Naropa Institute's Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poets at times during the 1970s.

For three decades Levitt has taught writing, spirituality and creativity at various institutions, and translated numerous texts from Chinese, Japanese and Spanish.

Also just published is *No Beginning, No End; the Intimate Heart of Zen*, edited by Levitt and written by his teacher Jakusho Kwong-Roshi, who was taught by Shunryu Suzuki-Roshi of Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind fame.

Levitt has led Zen groups for 20 years, including the sitting group he established on Salt Spring in 2001.

Fingerpainting on the Moon draws on Levitt's decades of Zen practice, and of his personal studies with people like Kwong-Roshi and Thich Nhat Hanh; and his lifelong passion for fables, stories and spirituality.

The book can be opened to any chapter, even if it's already been read three times, and you'll find something alarmingly fresh.

As we talk on Levitt's deck, he highlights a few parts of the book: how to feed "hungry ghosts" — the daily visitations of destructive self-criticism part of all people; the importance of being one with all things; or taking the time to be still or wander in the forest as prime nitrogen for creativity.

Undeveloped lands offer "mind space, imagination space" and "a mirror of our own untrammelled life," he notes.

Seeking a life of "human scale" and a goodness-nurturing environment was partly behind Levitt's migration

north to Canada with his son Tai, now 6, and his wife Shirley Graham.

Graham is a registered psychologist, but she also wanted a healthy place to raise Tai, write poetry and work on her pottery.

In California, fears of his family's safety in the world became part of daily life. Some of Levitt's poetry class students obviously shared that fear and carried guns. Beckoning to them in contrast was Canada — a country that had taken "the ethical and moral stance" declared by universal health care.

Levitt tells the story of how they first came to Salt Spring seven years ago, soon after Graham was pregnant with Tai. Five days earlier, they had bought a house in the Santa Monica mountains. But from the top of rocky Mount Maxwell "on a cold, misty, rainy day," they decided Salt Spring was where they wanted to live. It took them awhile to find a home and make the transition, but a few years later they arrived.

Whatever forces spun to bring this family to Salt Spring, I'm glad

they've joined us, and anyone who takes the time to meet and talk with them will no doubt feel the same way.

Watermark Books is handling sales of Levitt's book at tonight's launch, and has it featured prominently in the McPhillips Avenue store's window next to Roasting Co.

Here's one last story (not in the book) that Levitt tells me on the deck. It has kept me smiling for weeks.

It's about a time he was in a room with a Zen master who picked up the bell on his desk and asked, "What is the true nature of the bell?"

Inexplicably, Levitt picked up the bell and threw it out the window.

The master looked at him and said, "Good mind. Wrong answer."

The laughing tones return a few days later when I'm perusing Levitt's 1992 book of short haiku-like poems called *One Hundred Butterflies*. Somewhere in the middle I read: "The bell/speaks/for itself."

And bells, laughing, remind me that stories can write themselves if we let them.

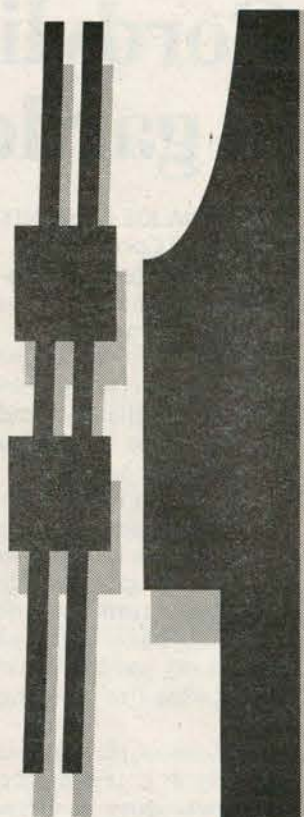
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BOATERS BEWARE: Naomi Tweddle holds a huge piece of melted rope that broke the propeller blades on Steve and Kathy Ball's boat on Thursday. The Balls speculate it must have been from the Saturna dock fire and want to warn other boaters to be on the lookout for more damaging debris.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

10 attend intensive volleyball camp

By **DEBBIE WILLIS**
Staff Writer

Ten high school athletes faced the challenge of an intensive, five-day girls volleyball camp at UBC last week and came out smiling, said students Jesse Johnston-Hill and Anna Hosie.

"It was hard but it was fun," said Johnston-Hill, who plays the position of libero on a Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) girls volleyball team. "They expected a lot from you, but it was good. I think everybody learned a lot."

Aleesha Bird, Kathleen Sinclair, Johnston-Hill, Amanda Sykes, Erin Hornell, Hosie, Sarah Howe, Sarah and Michelle Proctor, and Joanna Gauld, who are all entering grade 10 or 11, attended the camp from Sunday night until Friday afternoon. The girls did position-

specific training, practised passing, spiking and jumping, competed against other school teams and "went out for dinner every night," said Johnston-Hill.

Over 100 girls from across B.C. were coached by 21 leaders, ranging from former Team Canada players, current UBC players and head coach Doug Reimer, the former national women's team chief who now coaches UBC's women's team.

"It was a bunch of really nice girls," said Hosie of the players she spent five nights with on the UBC campus. "We made a bunch

of new friends."

Five days of the "high performance" camp cost each player \$360, and according to parent Nairn Howe, the GISS girls got their money's worth.

"The kids really dig in and learn a lot more in an intensive week-long camp," said Howe.

Training also went beyond the court by offering instruction on nutrition and sports psychology, and the players even got some time to shop in downtown Vancouver.

"Above all, I learned more confidence," said Hosie, a setter who has

played for about six years and has "a passion for volleyball."

The experience reinforced Johnston-Hill's love of the game as well. She has played for about four years and plans on keeping it up most of her life.

"I'll try to play a lot on community teams," she said. "A bunch of us wanted to start a beach volleyball team but we couldn't find anywhere to do it."

Both players agreed they would love the chance to return to the camp and Howe understands why.

"It's a great opportunity and it's close to home."

Swimmers 'sing' to top spots

Cold muscles, damp towels, rain and howling winds did not dampen the enthusiasm of 33 Salt Spring Stingrays who joined more

than 500 other competitive swimmers in Campbell River last weekend, for the region's most popular (and chronically damp) meet of the season.

Every year swimmers from all over Vancouver Island trek to the outdoor pool in Campbell River, apparently to race, but actually to compete in the annual air band contest.

Stingrays entered three "bands" in the highly competitive competition, with junior swimmers picking up third spot for their "Willie Wonka's Helpers" number, senior swimmers taking third for an Austin Powers piece, and a full-club Mary Poppins number winning second place in the senior division.

Swimmers could compete in a total of four individual events at this meet, which was swum in heats and finals.

Liam Budd once again topped the best times (BTs) challenge, coming out with five, while CC Coelho and Callam Gunn swam four BTs. (Last week James Cameron nailed four BTs at the Juan de Fuca meet, but was missed in the Driftwood article.)

Miranda Logan-Webb and coach Kellie Rolston took

three first-place finishes at the meet, while Katie Temmel swam her first 50-metre event.

Top six placements and BTs at the Campbell River meet were as follows:

Div. 1: Eryn Gix, two 4ths, 6th, 3 BTs.
Div. 2: Emily Gix, 6th, 1 BT; Adriane Harkema, 2 BTs; Sierra Lundy, 1st, three 2nds, 3 BTs; Amalia Smith, 1 BT; Liam Budd, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 5 BTs.

Div. 3: Lara Coelho, 1 BT; Danica Lundy, 1st, 2nd, two 3rds, 3 BTs; Meredith Raddysh, 5th, 1 BT; Callum Gunn, 4 BTs, Mack Rankin, 3 BTs; Julian Smith, 1 BT; Justin Temmel, 3 BTs.

Div. 4: Olivia Budd, 1 BT; Sarah Penhale, 1st, two 2nds, 4th, 1 BT; Amy Zaharias, two 5ths; Brendan Nickerson, 2nd, 4th, 5th.

Div. 5: Victoria Budd, 5th; CC Coelho, 4 BTs; Erin Toole, 5th, 1 BT; DJ Lake, 2nd, 4th, 5th; Lowell Rockcliffe, 6th, 1 BT.

Div. 6: Miranda Logan Webb, three 1sts, 5th; Meaghen Toole, 5th, 6th, 2 BTs; Danielle Viozzi, 5th, 1 BT; Noah McColl, 5th, 1 BT.

Div. 8: Kellie Rolston, three 1sts; Chris Brodie, 1 BT.

GOLF TEES

Dee Hooten of the 18-hole ladies division had a low-gross score of 21 in July 8 medal play.

Janet Butler was her runner-up (94) and the low-net winner (68).

Chris Locke was runner-up with a low-net score of 70, and the putt pot winner with 28 putts.

Barnie Cowan was the low-gross winner in the business ladies game on July 8. Heather Lawler was low-net winner and low-net runner-up.

Runner-up for low net score was Leslie David.

Carolyn Mouat and Barnie Cowan tied as closest-to-the pin (KP) winners and Ruth Archer was the putt-pot winner.

Leslie David and Ros Woolley had the lowest team net score.

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Kids climb up the wall

Kids' ability to effortlessly scamper up trees will be harnessed for The Climbing Wall's summer camp program which started this week.

Camps run Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and teach wall-climbing skills to youths aged eight and up.

The combination of kids and climbing is a natural one, according to camp instructor Charlotte Curtis.

"Kids climb all over the place. It's when they get older they learn a fear of heights."

Participants will be grouped according to their level and abilities, and Curtis stressed that the camp is for any youth interested in climbing, even if they are just beginners.

"It's not like a daycare. It's for people who are

actually into it."

Each two-day session is limited to five participants, and those 12 and older will learn to belay.

Cost is \$45 for each two-day session, with registration through Salt Spring Community Services.

Most days will start with team-work games and trust exercises, which are important components in climbing, said Curtis. Participants will then learn how to put on equipment and do safety checks. Before the serious climbing begins, kids will try "bouldering" exercises — low climbing on the wall.

They will then "climb a lot" and learn techniques

like ways to grip a hold and how to do a "smear" against the wall.

And for parents who might worry about their kids shimmying up a near vertical wall, Curtis stresses the activity is safe.

"They all wear helmets and the equipment can hold up to 2,000 kilograms."

Curtis learned to climb at The Wall and has a belaying certificate. This is her first year running the camp, but she looks forward to the experience.

"Most kids really enjoy climbing," said Curtis. "I've seen kids kicking and screaming because they didn't want to leave [the wall]."



TO RUSTY: Salt Spring disc golf players give a "flying salute" to Rusty Collins — a fellow disc golfer who died in a car accident earlier this summer. The players gathered at Mansell Farm in a two-day fundraising event set to help out Collins' family.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Trio trumps triathlon

Doug Slater, John Nilssen and Tyler Sayer won first place in a relay team race in the Cowichan Triathlon at Fuller Lake on Sunday.

Slater swam the 1,000-metre open water swim in 14 minutes; Nilssen cycled a hilly 34-km in one hour; and Sayer ran a challenging 9-km trail in 36 minutes, according to Caroline Rowley of North End Fitness.

The team won first out of between 10 and 15 teams, and also took third place out of around 150 total entrants, said Nilssen.

"We were pretty happy," he said. "I'm too heavy to go uphill fast. Even with all the hills, I still did really well."

Sayer, who ran the course for the first time on Sunday, was similarly nonchalant.

"I had a good race," he said. "If I ran it again, I could have done it faster."

The team enters an average of four or five triathlons a year, and each individual time is most important, said Nilssen.

But he said the team works well together.

"We usually win. When we have our team together, we haven't been beat yet."

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true. The original campaign centered around "The duck stops here!", was really successful for Salt Spring Soapworks, and our "Duckies Unlimited" has been even more so.

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