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THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- ArtSpring
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- Newsletter
- Hardware
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- Pharmasave
- Kenmore
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- Days Flyer
- Village Market
- Thrifty Foods

INSIDE

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Weather

The sun promises to shine hot and bright right through the weekend. Highs to 28 C today (Wednesday); overnight lows to 13 C on Saturday.

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visitor
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is on the Net**



COOL DOWN:
Tammy and Alexis Hunter have the right idea as temperatures soar on Salt Spring — they enjoy some summer fun in the water at Shelby Pool.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

Trustees give approving nod to rec site rezoning

By **DEBBIE WILLIS**
Staff Writer

Despite concerns from four island residents, the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) approved rezoning of 256 Rainbow Road, taking a major step toward construction of a community recreation facility.

The LTC approved the rezoning of the land from an Agricultural 1 zone to a Community Facility Zone (CFI) Variation at its 1 p.m. meeting at Lions Hall.

The new zoning will permit the parcel to include tennis courts, an aquatic facility, and other amenities.

At a morning public hearing, concerns about the construction noise, wasted soil, and the creek that runs through the property were heard.

"Is there anything I can do

to change your mind about this?" asked Alice Henderson, who has lived next to the Rainbow Road site for 11 years.

"It's going to alter my lifestyle, everything I do at home," she said. Henderson was concerned about the construction of big buildings and the loss of a rural area.

Rebecca Smith echoed these concerns when she brought up the good-quality soil that would be lost through construction of the facility.

"My biggest concern is protecting the soil. It's the huge water system which makes it what it is and moving it will change it," said Smith at the public hearing portion of the morning meeting. "Digging up the soil and putting it in piles will change how it works."

LTC chair David Essig said

the Islands Trust does have the authority to enforce the soil conservation act, and regional planning director John Gauld said that "soil would be conserved on the site."

Smith was also concerned about the creek that runs through the site, and through other properties where it is used to feed livestock.

Henderson mentioned that a sign had been erected on the site, calling 256 Rainbow Road "the future home" of a recreation facility, though at that time the rezoning had not been approved.

She felt the sign showed that the decision on the fate of the property had been made prematurely. But trustee Eric Booth said the LTC had not "jumped the gun," and Essig agreed.

REZONE A2

Increased violence noted on island

By **DEBBIE WILLIS**
Staff Writer

Salt Spring has seen an increase in the number of domestic violence cases making it to the courts recently, but it's not necessarily the result of more incidents, says Kimberly Lineger of Salt Spring's Victim Assistance Program (Victim Services).

Four cases reported from April 1 to July 1 this year have gone to court, compared with two cases that went to court the entire year before.

There have been seven domestic violence cases reported from April 1 to July 1 of 2003 compared to five in the same three months of 2002.

"We're probably on par with the number of cases. But more are going to court," said Lineger, who specified that domestic dispute files include spousal assault, threatening, criminal harassment, family disputes and assault.

"There's always reported cases of family disruption. They get called in and never go anywhere," said Lineger. "What we're seeing is on-going problems. They're getting to the point where they getting charges."

Last year, Victim Services dealt with 17 domestic dispute files, and the bulk of them fell under the

VIOLENCE ON THE UP A2

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REZONE VIOLENCE ON THE UP

From Page A1

"This is not a done deal. Our minds are not made up," he said.

Drew Curry of Atkins Road acknowledged that there's "no such thing as a quiet construction site," but requested that the neighbours be taken into consideration.

"For god sakes, do it with some sensitivity to the neighbours."

Wayne Hewitt brought up the wording of the LTC's "Notice of Public Hearing," which stated that the proposed rezoning would permit "a multi-use community recreation centre including . . . an indoor aquatic facility."

"The notice doesn't mention an outdoor pool," said Hewitt, who worried that such an option had been dropped.

Gauld said that a CFI zone has a wide variety of potential uses, including space for churches and recycling centres, so the notice's wording was "simply to give an indication" of the intended uses of 256 Rainbow Road.

"Any rezoning application does impact the neighbourhood," said Essig at the afternoon meeting. "But if every impact is taken into consideration, nothing would ever move ahead. It's our job to mitigate these impacts."

Essig also mentioned that there had been "no opposition from any of the agencies that have been referred to the bylaw."

Trustees Booth and Kimberly Lineger agreed that rezoning to allow a recreation facility would be a benefit for Salt Spring.

"I took what the neighbours said to heart," said Booth. "But having said that, it will be a worthwhile addition to the community."

Lineger felt the rezoning should be approved because "the location was chosen by the community."

From Page A1

family disputes category and did not go to court, said Lineger. With such "low-level" cases, the role of Victim Services is to provide support and to set up counseling.

When a case goes to court, that role expands to include support for victims as they make their way through the justice system. The result of more cases in court means Lineger and her volunteers are kept busy.

"It means more time spent in court. I used to have one case per month, and last month I had four," she said.

Lineger does not know why more Salt Spring domestic dispute cases are going as far as court, and says it's impossible to pin any one reason down because victims come from varied backgrounds.

One factor could be the nature of domestic violence itself.

"Domestic violence is a cycle," explained Lineger. "As the relationship progresses, the incidents of violence progress. They have enough now to go for charges."

Lineger also said the increased court case load could be due to a good Victim Assistance Program.

"When they know the woman has support through the system, they tend to go

ahead. When the woman doesn't have support, charges tend to get dropped," she said.

The incidents of domestic assault seen by the police are also up this year, said Sgt. Mike Giles, but he did not say this would mean an increase over the entire year.

Nine cases were reported in the first six months of this year, and at this time last year the number of incidents from January to the end of June was five.

"It's safe to say that we're seeing more cases. Our methods of investigation have not changed in these years; we're using the same measuring stick," said Giles, but he cautioned that the increased pace may not continue.

"If we have nine cases now, does that mean we'll end up with 18? I don't know. I hope not. Quite possibly we'll end up with fewer."

Giles said that the increase of incidents was not resulting in much more pressure on police officers, and he called the RCMP's approach to domestic violence a "proactive" one.

"An area when we're extremely diligent is when the event hasn't happened yet. When people contact us about a potential situation, we use the available laws and services of the island," Giles mentioned the

effectiveness of Salt Spring's victim services, the Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse (SWOVA) educational programs in schools, and the Salt Spring Island Transition House.

The Transition House is seeing a slight increase in the number of distress calls and the number of women using the house, said executive director Nancy Boyce in mid-July.

"Our numbers are up a bit overall from previous year, but there's been no dramatic peak," she said.

The crisis line usually receives an average of 20 calls per month, not necessarily related to abuse, and the six-bed Transition House provides shelter for about 65 to 70 women and children every year.

"There's been an increase in crisis calls that are stress related, around the government cuts. Women with huge housing problems, on disability, stressed by paperwork," said Boyce.

She disagreed with the notion that Salt Spring was experiencing an overall increase in domestic violence.

"It's fluctuating. That's the nature of the beast," said Boyce, who has worked for the Transition House for 12 years. "I don't find there's any consistent pattern, but little microcosms turn up."

FOR THE RECORD

A famed island skateboarder — known as A.K. — was misidentified in a photograph in last week's

Driftwood. In the caption underneath the photo, he was identified wrongly as A.J.

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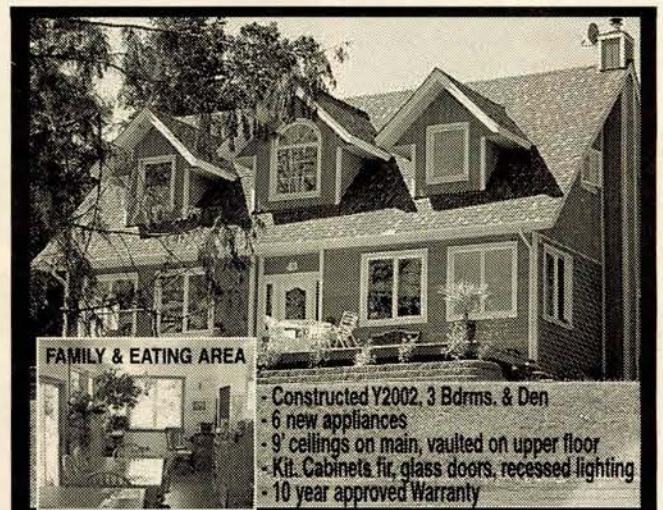
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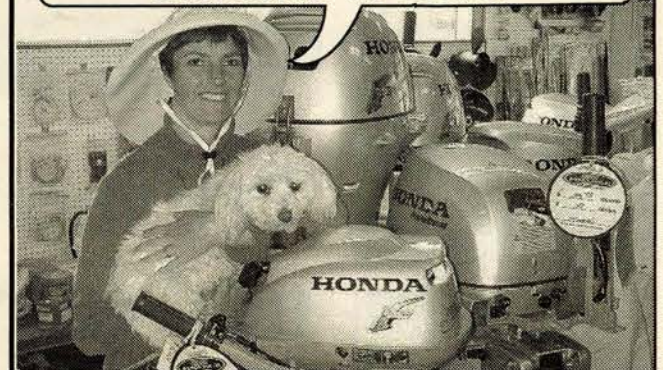
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	WE	1120	1.0	SU	0800	8.2
		1930	10.8		1355	4.6
AUG	1	0205	8.9		2105	10.8
	FR	0425	9.8			
		1200	1.6	4	0355	4.9
SEPT	2	1955	10.8	MO	0950	7.9
					1435	5.9
					2130	10.8
OCT	1	0110	8.2			
	FR	0525	9.2	5	0450	3.9
		1235	2.3	TU	1155	8.2
NOV	2	2020	10.8		1530	7.5
					2155	10.8
				6	0540	2.6
DEC	SA	0205	7.2	WE	1400	8.9
		0630	8.5		1640	8.5
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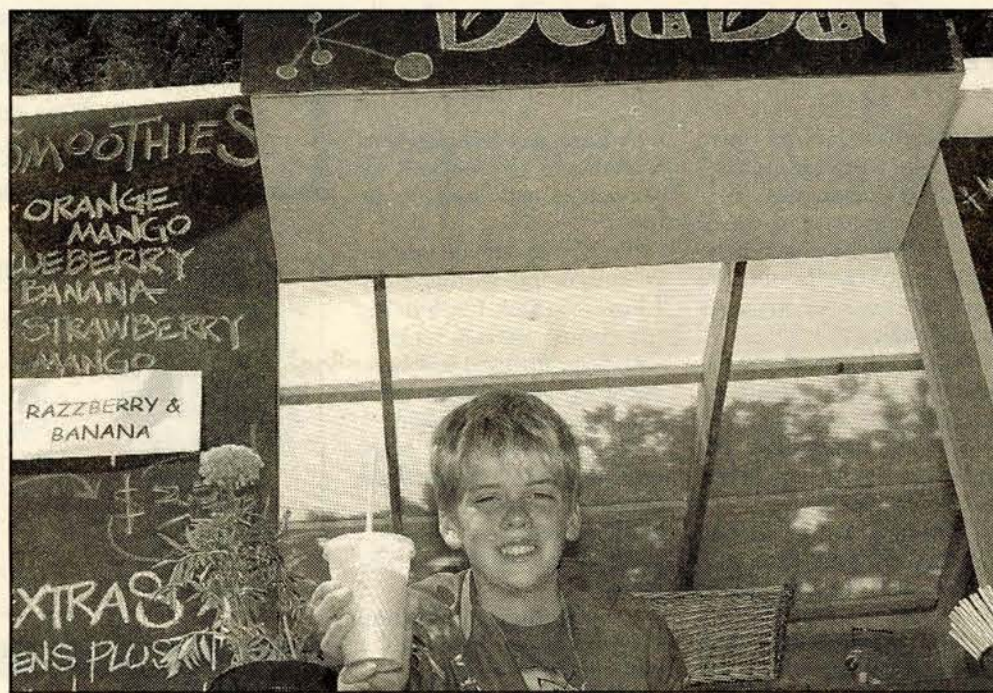


1993 CHEV

SMOOTH(IE) KID:

Chris Newman serves up smoothies at his newly-launched business outside of Fables Cottage. The young business man will be selling his concoctions in the Centennial Park market this Saturday and at the garlic festival on Sunday. Watch next week's Driftwood for a story.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



PARC master plan outlines options

A master plan was released for the Rainbow Road recreation facility at the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting on Monday.

Two layout schemes were provided in the plan, but Scheme A is identified as the preferred layout of buildings for the slightly sloping site.

Scheme A is a C-shaped layout which would represent an efficient use of the area, according to architect Alan Roy's report. The north treed area would be left undisturbed except for pathways.

The options for an aquatic facility include Pool Option 1, a 440-square-metre building with a six-lane lap pool of approximately 1 to 1.8 metres (3'6" to 6') in depth. It includes on-deck spectator seating, a lobby, "dry" viewing, public washrooms, male, female and family change rooms, and other amenities.

This first option has a base construction cost of

\$1,505,000 and a "soft cost" of \$545,000. Soft costs include "consultant and project management fees, furnishings and equipment, correlated costs (legal, survey, insurances), contingencies, GST and financing," according to the report.

At the other end of the spectrum is Pool Option 5, which is a 1,600-square-metre lap pool that includes all the features of options 1 through 4, as well as a whirlpool in the leisure pool area, a sauna, a handicap lift, water features like sprays, fountains, and arch jets, among other things.

The cost for this option would be \$4,320,000 for base construction, plus soft costs of \$1,535,000.

Option 5 was included mostly as a demonstration of what an aquatic facility with "all the bells and whistles" would look like, said PARC Operations and Project Manager Dave Gibbon at the Monday evening meeting.

Pool Option 4 is preferred by PARC, with base construction costs of

\$3,150,000 and soft costs of \$1,125,000 for the 1,260-square-metre six-lane pool that includes a leisure pool, hot tub, but not a handicap lift, sauna, or water features.

Roy lays out three phases for construction "based on funding availability."

Phase 1 projects \$1,105,000 costs for infrastructure; Phase 2A allows for \$302,000 for the tennis foundation; and Phase 2B projects a cost of \$714,000 for the tennis building. Phase 3 is the aquatic facility, and Roy calculates costs at \$4,942,000, based on Pool Option 4.

The cost estimates were created using "reasonable unit rates multiplied by the anticipated floor areas," says the report, and Roy specifies that the "level of design detail does not allow for more a more finite estimate of costs."

Once funding is in place and design can commence, more detailed estimates will be carried out, says the report.

The plan includes a section on the Leadership in

Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, and states that the project will comply with "as many LEED initiatives as possible within the project budget. Most LEED initiatives require additional expenditure and will be considered if they can be separately funded."

PARC has produced "a small number" of copies for distribution and placement in the Mary Hawkins Memorial Library, and will keep copies at the PARC administration office for public reference.

Copies will also be distributed to the New Pool Joint Review Committee, which includes members of SSPLASH and PARC.

A consultation with appropriate "public groups" was suggested by commissioner Susan Russell to get input and narrow down the list of options before the public information meeting is held.

The public information meeting will likely occur in the fall.

Mathias case put over

The Salt Spring Island man accused of hitting a police officer and running into an RCMP vehicle with his car on July 18 appeared in court Monday.


At the hearing, Jeremiah Mathis' case was put over until an August 8 court date, according to the crown prosecutor's office.

Mathis faces three counts of assault with a weapon, and charges of assault with attempt to resist arrest, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, and theft under \$5,000.

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Wheelchair bus service needs help

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

The Salt Spring Island Lions Club has been quietly providing decades of transportation services for islanders with physical disabilities, but now the group needs an influx of new volunteer drivers to keep the program on track.

"We don't have sufficient Class-4 drivers. There's only one other and myself," said Lions transportation committee member Don Cunningham.

Along with Stan Sage, Cunningham has been volunteering to drive islanders to medical appointments in the Lions' special buses for over 20 years.

"Unfortunately, we're the only two who are licensed."

And Cunningham believes the Lions Club will need new drivers to keep the program going.

"The age of the drivers is getting such that we need new drivers to drive. . . I'm getting a bit of osteo-arthritis. I could [eventually] lose my professional driver's licence."

The club has had many drivers over the years but it's been difficult to retain volunteers, he said.

"We have trained other drivers but it doesn't always work out for us."

Over the years, a number of volunteers have moved away from the island, left the club or joined the B.C. Ambulance Service (BCAS), he said.

The Lions operated ambulances on the island before the province legislated unification and standardization of ambulance services to form the BCAS in 1974, he noted.

After that occurred, the local club converted its ambulances into wheelchair-lift buses once the BCAS assumed emergency services.

Three wheelchair-lift buses are currently operated by the Lions. Two 12-passenger buses date from 1993 and 1994 and an older 1981 bus acts as a back-up, if required.

"There's no charge to clients but they have to meet the requirements of being wheelchair-bound and of

needing the bus to go to medical appointments," explained Cunningham.

"Unfortunately, a lot of people think we're a Handy-Dart, which we're not. We just don't have the drivers or the capability."

The BCAS provides transportation service home from the hospital, but the rates could be expensive for someone with a fixed income, he noted.

"It would cost us \$20-25 per trip to break even and that's not even counting a driver."

Cunningham suggested that a private operator could provide a Handy-Dart-like service for islanders in wheelchairs but thinks it's unlikely that the business would be viable.

"If a person were to have \$70,000-\$80,000 at their disposal, they could offer a bus service as a business, but they would likely go broke in six to eight months."

It costs the Lions approximately \$30,000-\$50,000 per year to maintain its buses up to certification requirements, he noted.

A Lions bus has also been available to Greenwoods for out-patient and day-program use.

The transportation service is supported through the Lions' various fundraising programs, which include donations, the local telephone directory, garage sales and a kindling business, he said.

"Another thing that helps us is that some clients make donations to offset expenses. We don't ask for it, we don't solicit it, but we don't turn it down."

Cunningham indicated that the Lions also need a different kind of support.

"We're always looking for newer, younger members to be involved in the community."

He offered his own 20-year experience as a volunteer with the Lions as an example.

"I've found this is very satisfying. To help people less fortunate than myself gives a deep-down inner satisfaction."

Prospective volunteer drivers can call Cunningham at 537-2983.

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Police seize booze

Over 60 bottles of beer were seized when two vehicles were checked by Salt Spring RCMP over the weekend.

Minors were in the vehicles, and two tickets were issued under the Liquor Act.

In other police news:

- Eighteen grams of marijuana were seized from an man in Centennial Park on Saturday evening.

- Police issued three driving prohibitions in 24 hours

on Sunday, two in Fulford and one in Ganges.

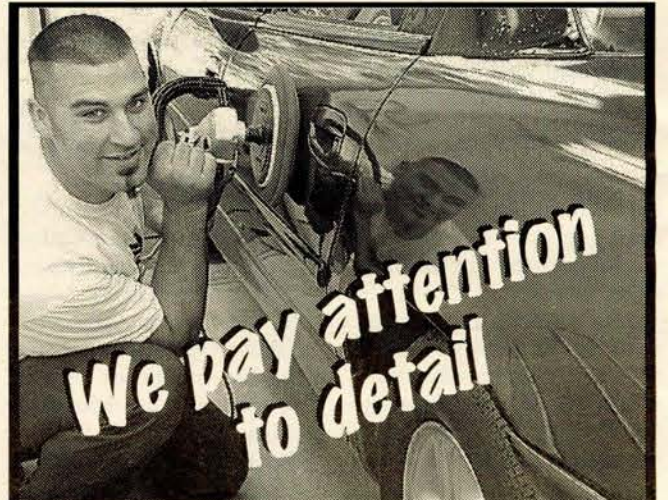
- A blue salon chair was stolen from outside a hair-dressing salon on Vesuvius Bay Road on Sunday, and a laptop computer was taken from a residence on Fulford Ganges Road on Friday.

The computer is a Pentium Comp44.

Anyone with information on these thefts is asked to call the RCMP.



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BON VOYAGE: Uniglobe Travel manager Vicky Blevins (left) and President of the hospital foundation Wendy Shea congratulate Val and Ernest Haigh (middle) on winning the Lady Minto Phantom Ball's grand prize of a trip for two to the Stratford Festival in Ontario. Photo by Debbie Willis

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B.C. Day protest planned for park

A birth will take place in Centennial Park this holiday weekend.

The Coalition of Concerned Citizens of Salt Spring is staging a birth - as opposed to last year's funeral procession - in the park this Monday, beginning at 2 p.m.

While last year's BC Day event featured a Day of Mourning, this year the "perspective is much more optimistic," notes a coalition press release.

"With less than two years left in the Campbell Liberals' mandate, the CCC-SSI considers it time to see the good that can be born out of our experience."

The "upshot" will be a birth hosted by Arvid Chalmers and other "local creative islanders."

"Who will the baby be? What will he or she be like? Who will be the midwives and husbands to deliver the baby? What celebrations will accompany the good news?" questions the coalition, as it promotes the occasion.

Everyone is invited to attend the festivities which will last about one hour. Balloons and other treats will be part of the event.

As well, the coalition adds, "We understand that 'Gordon Campbell' is likely to make an appearance."

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Pender Lady sinks in Naden Harbour

By MARY SMALL
Special to the Driftwood

Many islanders will be saddened to hear that the "old faithful" ship the Pender Queen sank recently in Naden Harbour in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

This ship had a long history of serving both locally and in Vancouver.

The vessel was built in 1923 for the C.P.R. Steamships by Yarrows Shipyards of Victoria and named the Motor Princess.

With diesel power she was a prototype and, according to records, the first "roll-on-roll-off" motor vehicle-carrying ferry in the world.

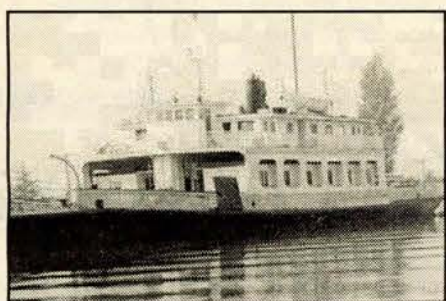
In this capacity she plied the waters from Steveston to Sidney before being purchased by a group of Salt Spring Island investors.

Ownership changed again when the B.C. Ferry Corporation took her over and renamed her the Pender Queen. There are still several islanders who remember serving on her with fond memories.

In 1980 she was put on the auction block and bought by Don Small and Alf Carter of Salt Spring. At that time the ferry required the name to be changed so she became the Pender Lady. They converted her to a fishing camp with accommodations on the car deck. As this was the early 80s the viability of this venture was not there so she sat idle for a number of years.

Her next owners moved her to the Queen Charlotte Islands where she was used as stationary camp until she fell into disrepair and sank at her moorage.

This wooden ship was launched just 90 days after the original order was placed, an amazing feat for timber construction. The vessel had a long life for a west coast ship.



Skatepark thanks

SALT SPRING SNIPPETS

The Salt Spring Skatepark Society has expressed heartfelt thanks to Cpl. Dave Voller and the Salt Spring RCMP.

"The \$5,000 presented to us last week from the Mounted Police Fund is hugely appreciated, and what is valued as much as the money is the endorsement that it represents.

"Cpl. Voller applied to Ottawa for this grant on our behalf because he recognizes the need for this facility in our community. Partnered with the support of PARC and many other local organizations it won't be long until we see our skatepark realized."

• Salt Spring's Rebekka Keough, a recent graduate of St. Michaels University School, received the parents' auxiliary scholarship and the coveted Ker Cup "for outstanding leadership, character and all-roundedness."

Keough was also head girl and co-head of her Symons Residence boarding house, and described as a valuable player on varsity volleyball and basketball teams.

• One generous island visitor believes Salt Spring needs an indoor pool. A \$700 donation for SSPLASH was left with an island B&B last weekend.

• Anyone who attempted to identify the piece of equipment sported by Tony Threlfall and the Farmers' Institute at the Real Food Faire recently got it wrong. Give up? It was a machine used for cutting window shades.

Gulf Island Glass

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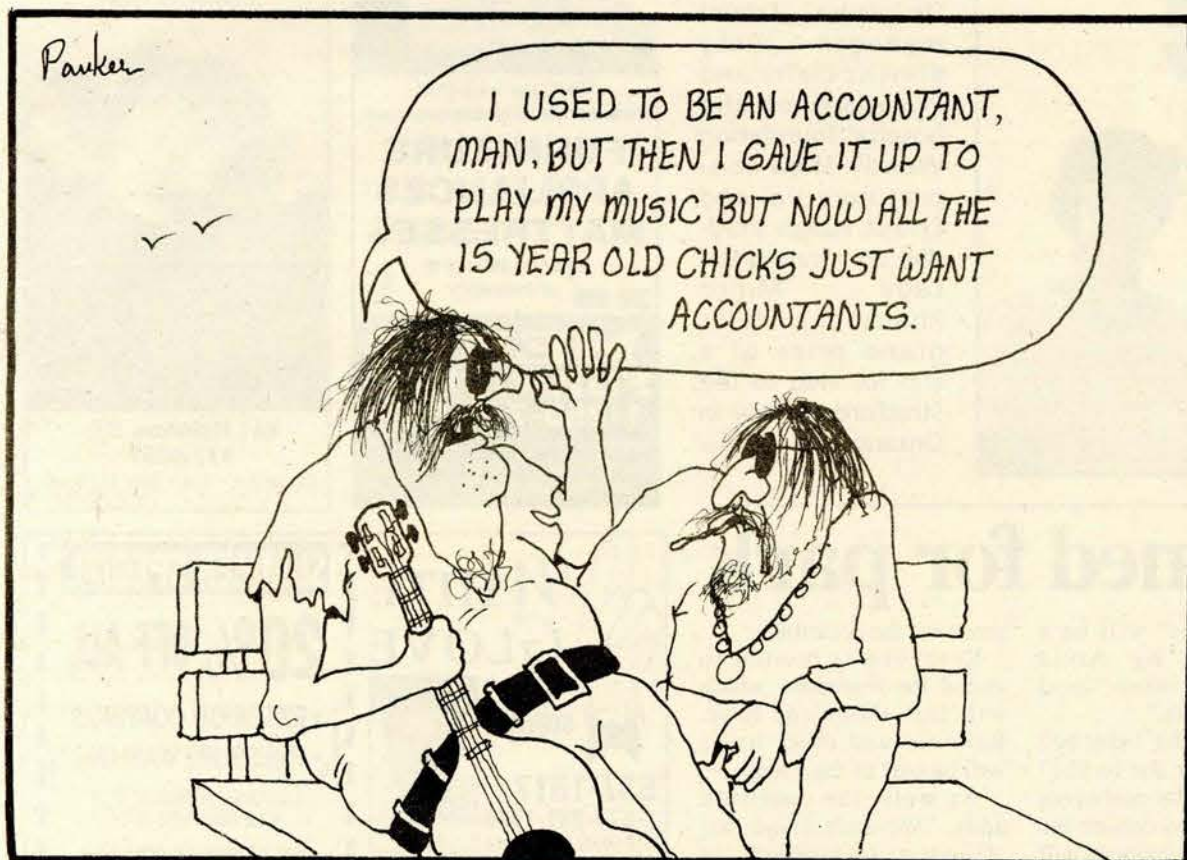
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Traffic woes

Back in the days when cavemen were just about to realize the benefits of the wheel, the current Ganges traffic pattern was created. Then, as now, it is likely that the good people of Ganges had to go cap in hand to the appropriate authorities to have their plan implemented, and it was probably rewritten several times by another tribe of cavemen in Victoria.

The plan today is undoubtedly a petroglyph somewhere, and so it should remain, because any new one should take into account some of the modern hazards of either walking or driving through Ganges.

We all know the hazards, but for the benefit of newcomers and the descendants of the Victoria cavemen, who are still in charge of our highways, here are some of the more notable ones, along with a few warnings as to how they might be avoided.

- Never plan on a left turn from Rainbow Road on to Lower Ganges. It's worth the drive up to Atkins, whether you're going to the upper village area or beyond. This will likely be the scene of Salt Spring's first violent case of road rage, triggered by the simultaneous arrival in Ganges of traffic from all three ferries.

- Avoid left turns as well from McPhillips on to Lower Ganges, although you can often count on courteous drivers to give you room if they're waiting for pedestrians on the crosswalk in front of the Shell station. At the same time, watch for pedestrians jaywalking in front of Moka House.

- Watch for pedestrians jaywalking everywhere. Why use a sidewalk when the road is just as handy?

- When you're in a line of cars waiting to turn left from Lower Ganges into the GVM parking lot, don't wonder why there isn't a left-turn lane. It's beyond the ability of most of us to understand.

- If you're heading north and waiting for someone to cross the crosswalk just south of GVM, take no notice of impatient motorists sneaking up past you on the right-hand side. Pedestrians will quickly realize the danger and nimbly cross the road. They're used to it.

- If you're a newcomer to walking in Ganges, consider buying one of those bright orange vests that flagpersons wear. Because even if you do decide to use crosswalks, there's no guarantee that a) anyone will stop or b) that anyone will see you.

- When continuing on Fulford-Ganges Road through the Lower Ganges intersection in front of Centennial Park, making your way towards Mouat's, wave at the line of drivers waiting at the stop sign. They've probably been there some time and could use cheering up, particularly if you didn't signal your intentions.

We could go on, but in the interest of sanity we won't.

Driftwood

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Advertising Manager Peter McCully
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Reporters Willis
Photographer Derrick Lundy
Accounting/Circulation Claudia French
Production Andrea Palframan

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

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

Memberships
 Canadian Community Newspapers Association
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Vacation rentals: community at the crossroads

By GEORGE EHRLING

The current review of vacation rental properties hasn't yet hit the radar screen for most islanders, but it is an issue with potentially devastating consequences for our community. We stand on the verge of legitimizing these long-illegal businesses, and, if we do, we run the risk of turning Salt Spring into a version of Whistler, Tofino, the San Juan Islands, and many other places, where essentially there's no real "community" left, only a collection of rotating tourists.

We have a long history of recognizing the detrimental impact of vacation rentals on the island. They have been illegal for about 30 years, and every single review of the issue to date has recommended that they remain illegal. Yet, as a result of pressure by a small but vocal group of property owners who have turned vacation rentals into big money, we may be about

VIEW POINT

to open the door to them.

The fact is, vacation rentals are very lucrative — for the owners and their property managers. Typical weekly rents vary widely, of course, depending on the property, but many are over a thousand dollars a week, and rents over \$2,000 are not uncommon. You can make a lot of money in a very short time. No wonder there's such interest in keeping them alive.

In order to rent out a house, of course, it must be empty. Many vacation rental properties are occupied in the off-season by long-term tenants, who are unceremoniously kicked out of their homes when spring comes around to make way for better-paying tourists. Other vacation rentals remain vacant for the rest of the year

— taking much-needed rental housing stock out of the community.

Because vacation rental properties are located in residential neighbourhoods, the owners don't pay commercial tax, yet these are clearly commercial businesses. This gives them an unfair advantage over our resorts, hotels and motels, which pay much higher commercial property tax.

And let's not forget: the tourists are on holiday; they are here to have a good time. With no one on site while these properties are rented — unlike a B&B, resort or motel — there's no one to supervise. Most tourists may be considerate and careful, but what about those who aren't? Noisy parties, unrestricted water use, and the increased risk of fires all contribute to unpleasant or dangerous situations in residential neighbourhoods.

On top of that, if you live near a vacation rental, you don't get to know who your neighbours are. The constant flow of next-door tourists leaves

many permanent residents feeling unsafe and insecure, hesitant to leave their homes unlocked, or to let their kids play in their own yard. What price do we pay for that peace of mind?

Think this is just a tempest in a teapot? Then check out a few websites, with their toll-free numbers and Visa and Mastercard bookings, and see the kind of commercial activity that these vacation rental properties really are. Look at www.westcoastvacationsonline.com, which proudly lists "over 70 vacation rental homes," 55 of them on Salt Spring, not to mention the six-bedroom Normandy Chateau on Mayne Island, that goes for a mere \$7,500 a week.

Or visit Island Explorer at www.island-explorer.com, which has 18 Salt Spring properties, and 41 in total. And Salt Spring Vacation Rentals, at www.vacations.bc.ca, with 21 properties. That's a sample.

They'd like you to believe that

vacation rentals are doing our community a service, when what they're really doing is lining their own pockets. They kick out permanent tenants, they take housing stock out of the community, they pay residential and not commercial tax, they provide completely unsupervised accommodation, and they bring revolving-door tourists to your neighbourhood. On top of that, they invite off-island speculators and drive up the price of housing, making our community less affordable for the people who actually want to live here. And don't forget. They're illegal. At least for now.

Concerned about it? Call the trustees. Write to the Trust, and to the subcommittee undertaking the review. Or you can wait until one opens next to you.

The writer is a member of the Advisory Planning Commission's Vacation Rentals Resource Subcommittee.

Bald eagles, sea lions and orcas. Bright white glaciers, shimmering blue fiords and dusky green forests. These are the images that spring from Alaska cruise brochures.

For some reason they don't mention the crap — as in sewage. I guess "dun brown inlets dappled with streaks of yellow and beige" doesn't cut it.

Early in this year's cruise season, the Norwegian Sun, one of those mega-ships operated by Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL), accidentally dumped 60,000 litres of toilet sludge into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. That's 40 tons of human guano.

Luckily, that gigantic dump took place in American waters. I don't mean we're lucky that it did-

n't pollute Canadian waters; I mean we're lucky because we wouldn't have heard about it if they'd jettisoned their excrement on our side of the line.

Why? Because it happens every day in B.C. coastal waters. You're allowed to dump as much crap — or any other garbage — in Canadian waters as your 24-hour-buffet-gorging, champagne-swilling passengers can muster.

Immediately after the 32-

Cruise ships leaving 'legacies'

ISLESAY!
 WITH JOHN POTTINGER



minute long "spill," Norwegian Cruise Lines issued a statement apologizing for the incident, saying it was against company policy to discharge sewage in Washington waters.

Of course it's against company policy to dump their giant load there — it's against the law. So, if it's illegal to dump the ship's sewage in the U.S., but not in Canada, where do you think

they're going to dump it? My back yard and yours. Which is the front yard — or even the living room — for hundreds of orcas, thousands of seals and millions of fish.

As Linda Nowlan, of West Coast Environmental Law says, "A ship that sails from Seattle to Alaska can't dump sewage in Washington's waters and it can't dump in Alaskan waters. But it can dump raw sewage for most of the thousand kilometres it travels in B.C."

Left unchallenged, the policies and priorities of our federal government will cause the destruction of our marine environment. Eventually that will also ruin our way of life.

Remember, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans was entirely responsible for destruction of the Atlantic cod fishery. We don't know enough, or care enough, to stop poisoning the beings that live, eat and breathe in our oceans. We let cruise ships (and, incidentally, the city of Victoria) dump millions of litres of crap into our local waters daily. That's right, I said "millions" and "daily."

A single cruise ship discharges approximately 1.3 million litres of waste water per day, more than the port city of Haines, Alaska. Approximately 14 million kilograms of waste was produced in 2000 on the Alaska-

Canada route.

In the U.S., cruise ships have accrued over \$60 million in environmental fines over the last five years. In Canada there have been no fines despite the fact that these same ships visit our waters. The only explanation is a lack of Canadian regulations, monitoring and/or enforcement.

Over the last three years there has been a 300 percent increase in cruise ship traffic in Victoria, so the grand ships of these wonderful corporations will be leaving behind more and more souvenirs.

According to NCL and the US Coast Guard, the dump by the Norwegian Sun was "an accident," as it wasn't intentional. In Canada they can do it intentionally, because we don't give a shit.

islesay@saltspring.com

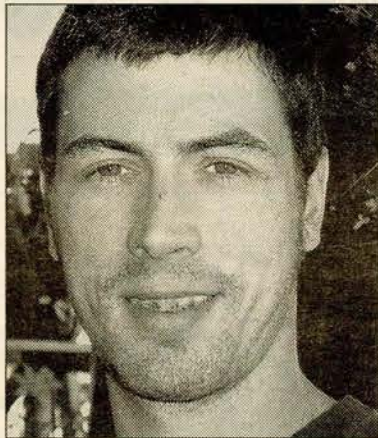
SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What's the solution to the Ganges parking crunch?



Brigit Mitchell

I think there's a couple of things that shouldn't be here, and one is the firehall. Also, I don't know if there's been talk of Thrifty's moving to a bigger building, or of making Ganges a walking town, and moving parking to the periphery.



John Finlay

Stack 'em!



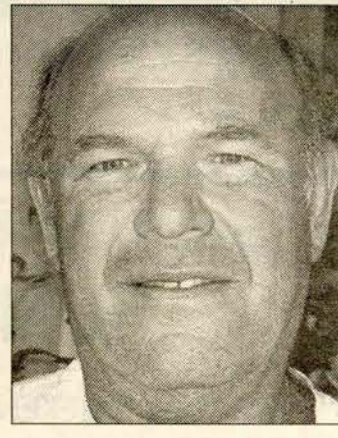
Melynda Okulich

I'd like to see a mini-bus. There could be parking outside the area and a shuttle bus in.



Ora Cogan

Cut down on the amount of cars we use because as people I think we're very selfish and decadent. Myself, I hitchhike because I don't have a family and I don't need [a car] to do my work. I get around quite well and with more adventure.



Wayne Tepper

I think that Ganges needs to strongly consider a public transportation system. I think that's the most important thing really. You can't just rely on hitchhiking as the only means of transportation.

Letters to the Editor

Traffic ignorance

Having come to your fantastic island a few months ago, and now being a permanent resident, I decided to take a short bike ride on a recent Sunday morning.

After cycling a pleasant 20 km or so, I rode via North End Road towards St. Mary Lake, when a bright red truck appeared behind me and started to overtake me in a curve when other cars approached from the opposite direction.

Traffic laws state that the car should stay behind me and overtake me when it is safe to do so. This driver decided, however, to turn the truck towards me, cut me off and push me from the road, clearly endangering my life. I was lucky to survive this without major problems.

About 100 metres further, the driver stopped. He appeared to be a young man neatly dressed with a tie, with two kids in the back. Angrily, he started to tell me that cars have the complete right of way, therefore the road was free and he had all the right to cut me off and to endanger me.

I encountered a few dozen other cars on the road, with drivers who were all aware of

the rules of the road, and who were also courteous.

Clearly, people like this need more driver education in order to keep our roads safe.

KEES VISSER,
Rourke Road

Market option

Having recently relocated to Victoria, I was delighted to discover the Salt Spring Saturday Market. It reminds me of the numerous rural weekend markets scattered around southern Ontario. The Salt Spring market seems to present a diversity and richness of offerings that I have not previously encountered in just one location.

It is distressing to read that with a limit of 150 vendors, many gifted people lose out on an opportunity to display their wares. A possible solution may be to schedule both a Saturday and Sunday market with the following strategy: arrange a group of 150 vendors with a balanced range of diversity for each day and then switch market day for each group weekly. This would allow all vendors the security of having a weekly presence at the market without the stress and uncertainty of the early Saturday scramble for space. An added benefit would be a potentially much larger number of buyers

while easing the "one day only" congestion. Also, other hospitality and service businesses in Ganges should see an increase in sales. It would be sad to see the market become an unintentional victim of its renowned popularity. Hopefully a larger, more efficient, and more famous market will result!

ANDRE NAMASTE,
Victoria

Schizophrenia
There are about 40 to 60 people on Salt Spring who have schizophrenia. Following the incredible tragedy of a mother who killed her child, as many of you have heard and viewed on TV and read about in the newspapers recently, I would like to shed some light on schizophrenia.

Double personality has nothing to do with schizophrenia. That is one of the very common misconceptions about this devastating illness.

I have a mild case of schizophrenia. How it manifests is the presence of voices which appear external, and visual hallucinations. Personally, I like visual hallucinations. It's the voices that are a problem.

They, in my experience, are always negative. These voices are, for a schizophrenic, terrifying. They always (in my experience) debate me, suggest that I throw myself under a Mack truck, tell me "this is the day we have been afraid of," i.e. suggesting that I might kill someone, or myself.

Although these voices are always threatening, I have never heard them tell me to hurt or even kill someone.

At the other end of the schizophrenia spectrum, voices are so loud and compelling that they override rational and moral judgment.

Most schizophrenics never get this kind of prompting. The vast majority of them keep these voices under control through personal discipline, appropriate medication, psychiatric care, and peer encouragement.

Please do not be in the least afraid of people, young or aged, who have schizophrenia.

You are less likely to be harmed by a person with schizophrenia than by a so-called "normal" person. Another issue I want to bring up is the post-traumatic stress syndrome that many persons, including myself,

have experienced as a result of our involvement in combat missions.

P.T.S.S. can bring about symptoms of schizophrenia. That does not mean that, for the most part, post-traumatic stress syndrome causes schizophrenia.

It is a "facilitator" factor, yes, but not a cause.

Nobody knows why so many of us are afflicted by this mental illness, but we do know that social, environmental issues, food additives, and medications of all sorts play a part with this affliction.

Let us not forget, however, the wider picture, wherein we draw this illness to ourselves, for learning purposes, or whatever.

I am not a "victim" of schizophrenia.

As mentioned many times in the past few weeks in the Driftwood, more and more people are acknowledging their responsibility in "causing" illness within themselves.

For some obscure, yet no lesser valid, reason, I chose schizophrenia as a mind-heart expansion tool to learn a very valuable lesson.

Eventually, we will realize that we are actually sisters and brothers, of whatever

race, creed, geographical aptitude, and on and on. Let us take responsibility for our ailments, yet realize that in many instances, such realization is simply beyond our grasp.

For example, I have acute insomnia. I have a hard time accepting that I hold the key to this syndrome.

But there are no exceptions; we do whatever we feel is inflicted to ourselves.

To the French officials who try to tell me that the 6th commando Marine unit never existed, and of which I was a member of 10 months, I say nothing.

It is my karma to have been involved in covert operations in the late 1960s, and it is my karma that these officials deny the existence of the 6th commando unit.

Am I going to challenge them?

No way, because I don't want any harm to come to my family, especially my beloved mother.

Thank you for the Driftwood providing a forum in which all islanders can bring up their cause, and be heard.

FRANCOIS JAUBERT,
Corbett Road

MORE LETTERS A10

Pan-Ea Ma-at garden midwives birth new 'baby'

Ah, these garden islands, where beds aplenty have been busy with gardening foreplay and fertile engagement. They're yielding their fruits now, and none more exuberantly than at the new "Hugging Garden" at the Pan-Ea Ma-at Light Centre at 181 Beaver Point Road.

It's a baby yet, say garden midwives Mhora Hepburn and Joy Nahimick, as they celebrated its birth at a garden party last week, just nine months after conception. It's the biggest newborn garden going, spreading around three ponds and their large straw-bale home, with more to go before it reaches to the trees and covers the full six-plus acres.

Their garden is exactly

my kind of garden: they do all the work, I go and enjoy it.

If I had many gardening cells in my being, they shrivelled as a child in the Canadian Rockies, where wormy radishes and foot-high corn stalks were triumphs. Peonies appeared by August and glads by frosty September, sometimes.

If I had to feed myself by my own efforts now . . . well, I'd better have other skills and things to trade with green-thumb neighbours. Gardening to me is fighting nature, and the old

girl always wins. Turn your back for a few months, and a joyous succession of wild growth takes over. Stop working at it for a few years and - unless it was your pantry - you might as well not have bothered.

I did learn a little about how to work with nature, rather than against it, during my decade of tending an ever-more lovely city yard before moving to Salt Spring.

Mhora and Joy know all this stuff in spades, so much so that unofficially they call their handiwork

"God's Garden."

"I can give you a thousand examples of how we garden with nature," Mhora said.

To start with, it meant sculpting the earth, turning a field flattened for traditional crops back into a hummocky wetland. The dirt they've dug for ponds and ditches made the mounds; the rocks Mhora's farming grandfather moved to the side early last century got scattered about again.

As I learned from my karate master, who oversaw the creation of an exquisite Japanese garden for me, the "bones" of the earth ARE the garden.

Place them right, and whatever grows will be right. Once such a garden is established, little weeding

and watering are required.

Next, Mhora and Joy have planted nearly all perennials and self-seeding annuals. They've mixed flowers and vegetables in delightful ways, with burgeoning success. Spare seeds get tossed here and there, coming up and thriving where it suits them best.

"There are no borders or boundaries in nature," Mhora explained, which her garden exemplifies.

Joy and Mhora obviously employ what I call the Zen of gardening, or knowing how to look at a garden and work from what works. My mother-in-law, Norma Gillespie, taught me this. She lavished praise on the tiny parts of my first pathetic efforts that pleased her expert eye. By her kind focus and gentle sugges-

tions, I gradually got more and more little areas that worked, until they all connected picture-perfectly.

Joy and Mhora have done in nine months over acres what I managed over 10 years in a big front yard. Now that their "baby" is up and running, they're inviting the public to "Come and wander and wonder and be hugged by a garden. Enjoy our high tea with a difference."

A reasonable fee gets you admission, food, and drink, from Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. There'll be special art events and creative experiences at 2 p.m. too, to be announced. Call 250-653-4250 for info and updates.

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More letters

Roundabouts

The island is busier on all roads and at all intersections. I believe a stop light may not be far away. I suggest that the Ministry of Highways be asked to consider traffic circles or roundabouts as an alternative to stop lights. The first one could be called "Roundabout Now", the second could be "Roundabout There", and the third could be "Roundabout 10 Minutes".

ARVID CHALMERS
Salt Spring

Stand up

Some would say we are losing our country and can't do anything about it because we are so small. I would like to see us here on Salt Spring take a stand and stop the engulfing of Canada by the huge multinationals by acting now. The trend to homogenize our culture in North America continues. It's happened with bookstores, hardware stores, lumber yards, fast food outlets, coffee shops and now on Salt Spring comes a mega video outlet. Will Movie Gallery support our local youth programs, the film festival and other community events? I think not. Our local video outlets are part of our community giving back and supporting this "secondary rural market" called Salt Spring Island. I'm not against competition but what really galls me is how we continually get sold out by a few freebies, cheap prices and glitzy logos. With all the talk lately in the paper about gouging, I must remind my friends and neighbours that we live on an island, if we don't support our local merchants we may wake up one morning and find them gone. Don't compare us to the big cities of Victoria and Vancouver. We live in a paradise and in a wonderful country. It's worth a few extra dollars to me. Now, we have the opportunity to fight back and take a moral stand. I urge everyone who watches videos, send an e-mail to the big guys down south and tell them, we do not need another video outlet here (www.moviegallery.com).

And, if they do get here, don't get sucked in by the come-on cheap (introductory) rates. Support Canadian and local merchants, they are our friends and neighbours. Make your consumer dollar count, we can make a difference.

SUSAN PAYNTER,
Salt Spring

Cosy exercise

I have waited a few weeks before responding to the charges in this newspaper that because I am unalterably opposed to vacation rentals I am therefore vitriolic and a bigot. I waited in order to give the self-described "well balanced" Resources Sub Committee a chance to get operating. So what have I observed?

If an oil company was flagrantly transgressing a community's bylaws and that community formed a "royal commission" to study the matter, would you expect to see that commission include the oil company's CEO as the vice-chairman? Would you

expect to see a head of another company who directly profited from the oil company's illegal activities also on the commission? Would you expect to see a representative of the same Chamber of Commerce that struck from their ethics requirements the need to conform to the local bylaws in order to allow that oil company committing the illegal activities to be members of that chamber? And what would you expect the outcome to be? Slightly tilted?

Well that's what we have going on here and it has been called "the Salt Spring Solution." Flagrantly violate both the Official Community Plan and LUB 355, then form a pressure group to justify such a violation, then get yourselves appointed to the committee that will study the issue. Rather than have a completely independent group of residents with no attachments to the accommodation industry study whether vacation rentals provide a net "triple bottom line" positive benefit to the community, we have the foxes setting the rules for the chicken house. This Resources Sub Committee is marching inexorably toward making vacation rentals legal. The ASTAR group is so convinced of their ultimate success that they have sent out a July 8 circular to all their members to make sure they renew in order to ensure they get "grandfathered."

Should you be worried about this cosy little exercise? Well how many communities such as ours are running around advertising that they want more vacation rentals? You're right, none. And how many are desperately trying to reduce or eliminate vacation rentals? A lot! Ironically, given the makeup of the "well rounded" RSC, I have been accused of having a "conflict of interest" regarding this issue because I happen to own a B&B. I guess who is in a "conflict of interest" depends on whose interest we are talking about. The smell emanating from downtown Ganges on Tuesdays has nothing to do with the sewer plant.

TERRY BOLTON,
Salt Spring

Cats, birds

In his Viewpoint of July 23, Dr. Jack C. Hallam tells us not to worry about cats affecting bird populations. Jack is my friend and once was my leader on biological surveys. He has always been a good biologist, but Jack, apparently you have not kept up with the literature on this topic.

This year, the World Resources Institute released a 72-page report on "The Decline of Birds." More than a quarter of North American birds are "declining or in danger." As Jack says, the biggest cause is destruction of habitat, but that is precisely why birds need protection from other problems. The institute lists the second greatest threat as non-native species including cats. Reviewing all evidence, the report estimates that each feral or wandering house cat has an average kill of at least seven to 10 birds a year. (An earlier Canadian study had estimated eight to 14 birds.)

The numbers are a believable minimum, being a bird every month or two (the estimate of two per year cited by Jack is too low). The best scientific appraisal, Jack, is that your 11 cats might kill 77 to 110 wild birds a year. The total kill in North America would be over a billion birds per year.

If readers are unhappy with such destruction, cats should be kept inside, especially in mornings and evenings and the breeding months from May to July. And by the way, another major problem is tall buildings, towers, and as we all know, windows of ordinary houses. Windows bigger than two by three feet, or deck railings with glass, probably kill about a bird a year for every three or four glass panels. It depends on location and design, but studies have estimated one to eight birds per year for a house, probably meaning tens of thousands for Salt Spring houses. The best safeguards are netting or hanging strips outside the glass, which can be a solution for the deck railings. Windows are helped by drapes, curtains, and things hanging outside. Stick-on decorations and bird silhouettes are not much use unless there are many, preferably on the outside of the glass. I can provide the references for this information if anyone needs them.

JOHN B. SPRAGUE,
Salt Spring

Crisis

The local housing crisis appears to have found a voice through this printed forum, and to quote Maggie Schubart, I write "to keep the housing crisis in the forefront of islanders' attention." When islanders like Phyllis Webb and those with families are desperate for housing, it does seem to attract our focus... and rightly so.

This crisis is reaching near-epidemic proportions. The cause? One obvious and irremediable reason is the influx of wealthy buyers, which pushes property and rental values up and beyond the reach of many less affluent. However, two other causes do appear to offer resolution: the large number of vacation rentals (over 300 at last count—roughly 10 per cent of housing units that are occupied full-time!) and the rigidity of the Islands Trust bylaws preventing homeowners to easily rent out long-term their rooms, in-law suites or secondary dwellings. If we can bring pressure to bear just on these two aspects of the problem, it should significantly alleviate the housing crisis on Salt Spring.

The impact of vacation rentals on neighbours overflows into major concerns such as water, property taxes, fire and noise. This increasingly virulent form of investment has the built-in incentive of being exempt from regulations that normally apply to commercial ventures. Here on Salt Spring, a resort destination, a cluster of vacation rentals is an ideal vehicle for the off-island, callous investor — who've been frequently known to evict their tenants from their off-season homes so that the owners can jack up the rent and make a greater

profit off vacationers in the summer. Unfortunately, vacation rentals also come at the cost of community solidarity and working class families. Dismayed RCMP officers, disgruntled teachers and health professionals, hard working, stable and decent residents and whole families are forced to rent and to either move nearly every year or leave the island.

I know of one well-known and reputable family in crisis right now: Pam Miskey and Alex Faster and their two children have been looking in vain for a rental home for the last three months with a September 1st deadline quickly approaching. Where will they go and how many other families share their predicament as we read? Hopefully, our trustees will have the resolve and foresight to promptly free homeowners from the over-regulation of long-term rental requirements and to severely rectify the under-regulation of vacation rentals.

RICHARD KRIEGER
Salt Spring

New market

Great news. We finally have a Real Farmers Market on Salt Spring Island. It happens every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Ganges, in the United Church Meadows behind the Credit Union.

Farmers will set up along the pathway from Hereford to McPhillips.

There you can buy the freshest, best tasting, healthiest and most interesting varieties of the produce available, directly from your local growers. Your best assurance of quality food is to know the first name of the person growing it.

This is a beautiful, peaceful and green location, which is not crowded. As an added bonus, there is lots of parking available on Tuesdays.

I believe this will become an incredible Salt Spring event which demonstrates the incredible food which we are blessed with on this island.

HARRY BURTON
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A11

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More letters

With the Hiroshima Day commemoration approaching it is time to again reflect on that terrible event that we thought would put an end to war 58 years ago. Unfortunately, with the enormous profit to be made in the manufacture of arms, including nuclear arms, we are still not rid of them.

At the same time we have an economic system called globalization which is causing social havoc, having exactly the opposite effect to what it initially claimed to do. For example in Mexico where the effects of privatization of over 1,000 of their state enterprises over the last 10 years have been so drastic that even the World Bank officials who recommended the privatizations in the first place are now admitting that it didn't work (La Jornada, July 21, 2003) and it has almost totally destroyed the Mexican economy (I read news from Mexico regularly and am always struck by the parallels to what is happening here in Canada, although the effects are usually more immediately evident in Mexico.)

Another type of failure seems to be appearing in the U.S.: After many calls for clarification of the reasons given by the president and his closest associates for the invasion of Iraq, we hear that George Soros, a "billionaire philanthropist, ran full-page ads in major U.S. newspapers on Sunday, July 27, challenging the honesty of the Bush administration's case for waging war in Iraq. The ads in the New York Times, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and the Houston Chronicle, are titled, "When the nation goes to war, the people deserve the truth." A dozen statements made by President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld making the case for war are reprinted and described as either exaggerated or false.

Can these events that

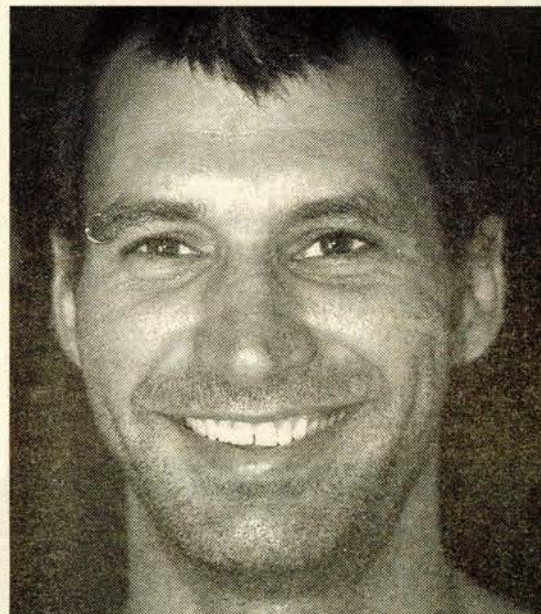
demonstrate on one hand a failure of corporate globalization and on the other the lack of credibility of the U.S. administration be seen as signs that change is in the wings? Many political analysts would say "yes," while pointing to the growing "solidarity movement" of people throughout the world who are dedicated to creating an alternative. This movement is based in the belief that there IS an alternative and it is happening all around us, if we would just look — a world in which both people and the environment are protected and respected.

We can see it on Salt Spring and we can see it around the world by people working to protect the

environment, to develop new forms of alternative energy, organic gardening, protection of all people's basic rights, etc. This alternative is the meaning behind the peace symbol that will be created at the Hiroshima Day ceremony on August 6. Dedicating ourselves to it seems to be the best way to honour the memory of those innocent people who perished there in the bombing we can't afford to forget on August 6, 1945. The ceremony begins at 5 p.m. in the Peace Park across from ArtSpring.

SHEILA REID,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A12



Name: PHILLIP DU PREEZ
537/538/653: 537
Occupation(s): Fibre and ceramic craftsman; emerging DJ.
Hobbies: Making, finding and playing groovy music.
Home finished/unfinished: Finished and still evolving.
Favourite people: Folks high on a happy vibe.
Favourite read: Deepak Chopra's 7 Spiritual Laws of Success.
Best thing about SSI: The beauty, people and peace it brings to my world.
Worst thing about SSI: I don't go there . . .
Best place to kiss on SSI?: All over the body, all over the island.

DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

To the road crews who patched the roads in Fulford but left loose sand on the pavement. The sand has made the road surface slippery and hazardous for cars and motorbikes (not to mention tourists!) Don't wait for an accident to happen — clean it up.

To the young water skiers on Booth Bay — do you really need to play a boom-box at full tilt while you are water skiing? What about the safety of the skier?

Rants and triple rants to those who drop off worn out shoes, dirty, stained, torn and filthy clothes, chipped and cracked dishes and just plain garbage, disguised as donations, to the Thrift Shop. Shame on you!

To all the people who feel they must have their music blaring as loud as they possibly can while waiting in the ferry line-ups or sitting on the ferry . . . just remember, not all of us like the same kind of music. How about closing your windows, or perhaps finding the volume? TL

Rants to the pea-brain butt heads who break their bottles in Centennial Park. Are you absolute no-minded to smash your bottles on the grass? Don't you realize

how many people could slice up their feet from the shards of sharp glass scattered in the lawn? Children play in that park everyday, and I would hate to see them suffer from your stupidity. I clean up your broken glass on a regular basis, and I'm getting sick of it. I'd personally like to smash a bottle over your head to knock some sense into you!

ROSES

We would like to extend a rose to the emergency response vehicle drivers who had an accident involving our beloved cat on their way to a call, but were kind enough to come back later to make sure things had been dealt with and to offer an apology. J&D R-T

Many thanks to the B.C. Hydro employees who came out on a beautiful warm evening to restore power to the residents of Baker Road.

Kudos to the many volunteers at Artspring and on the weekend for a very successful Island Treasure Fair.

Roses to CBC Radio who has penned the word that so aptly describes middle age, balding men with pony tails . . . as ponis! So next time you meet someone of that description be sure to say "Hi, I like your ponis!"

Roses, and dozens of them, to the people who donate good, clean gently used clothing and surplus household articles to the Thrift Shop. The money raised is for your hospital and other good causes.

Roses to Helene Meurer for her fabulous job on the Salt Spring market website (www.saltspringmarket.com)

Roses to all our family and friends for helping organize our special day — and to Aron for being my husband for 10 fabulous years. Kim.



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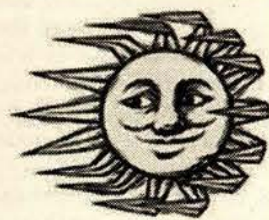
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Woofie, Jeremiah are 'gentle giants' that run away

By SANDRA LEE

I have a dog mis-named Woofie – he came with it. He should be named "Wookie" as he looks and talks like one. He doesn't woof. Everyone who meets Woofie loves him because Woofie loves everyone. He is extremely gentle. He makes a great dog for hospital visits as his biggest desire is to be a lap dog. If he can put his head in your lap he's in doggie heaven. Woofie has the size of his Great Pyrenees ancestor and has the sweet face and disposition of his Newfie ancestor.

Woofie came to me when he was almost full grown. He had been found wandering the roads and was adopted by a woman who subsequently found she could not afford to feed him. He was put in a "doggie foster home" by the SPCA. I took Red, my other dog, to meet him and they became best buddies from the instant they met. He's now bigger than Red, but Red rules. My eight-pound part-Siamese cat uses his tail for batting practice, and they do their best to wash each other's faces – Woofie does a much more extensive job.

Shortly after Woofie came to live with us I picked up a three-foot fallen branch and called to Woofie so we could play "fetch." Woofie came bounding over. I raised the stick to throw it. He wheeled around and tore off in the opposite direction, tail between his legs. Obviously, Woofie had been beaten. It



IN DEPTH

took a whole lot of cuddling to get his tail up again.

The property we then lived on had a two-acre field surrounded by a seven-foot fence. The dogs would go down to the gate to greet whoever passed by and were especially happy if another dog somehow appeared. About two years after Woofie joined us a big German shepherd appeared at our gate. Red and Woofie went bounding down, tails wagging.

This dog responded by snarling, baring his teeth and growling. When he charged at the fence something happened that I found hard to believe. Woofie stood up on his hind legs which put his paws less than a foot from the top of the fence, bared his fangs and gave a deep growl. He looked very like a bear.

The shepherd took off – fast. I didn't think Woofie had it in him. Under threat a whole other side emerged. In the six years that passed, it has never emerged again.

Jeremiah Mathis is Woofie in human form. He is a young gentle giant who looks for the good in everyone. He approaches people with a gentle humour. He had some unhappy years in growing up and doesn't have all the social defenses most

of us have. He's proud that he has made a happy life here. He's got his high school diploma and transferred from the pipe-fitter apprenticeship he had in Alberta to a plumbing apprenticeship here. He also delivers pizza for Pinnacle and works part time for a couple of other people on the island, including me.

Supposedly he cuts my lawn. In reality he bails me out constantly – fixing my printer, installing a cabinet and a closet organizer, hauling innumerable boxes and moving furniture. He is a hard worker, honest and trustworthy. He is a pleasure to have around.

He plays in two bands on the island. Possibly some of you have enjoyed the outstanding performance of the Marimba band at the Saturday market. If you have, you've seen Jeremiah. He's the big one with the sweet smile.

I grieve at the approach taken by Cst. Ellis and the subsequent "man hunt" employed (Driftwood, July 23). The other two young men involved had normal social defenses. They said "I'm sorry" and although Jeremiah had joined in whatever activity was already going on when he met up with them, no charges were brought on them and they were allowed to leave on the ferry. Jeremiah, being Jeremiah, offered to share his cookies. It was his way of making amends. The RCMP

focused on Jeremiah's walking stick; Jeremiah focused on sharing his cookies.

When scared, like Woofie, Jeremiah put his tail between his legs and tore off in the opposite direction. He was hunted for eight hours.

Jeremiah had just been through a very stressful week due to a rare visit from his father. He just didn't have any emotional reserves left. He panicked. He became disoriented. He kept running and looking for help. One woman called the RCMP and told them they needed to call a mental health worker. No attempt was made to do this, although all agencies know Roberta, the psychiatric nurse, is on call.

Instead a battalion of law enforcement agencies were called in, further escalating the situation, culminating in the RCMP shooting at Jeremiah, firing five tazers into him and setting the police dog on him resulting in both his cheeks being torn open past the jaw line and also tearing the inside of his mouth.

He had surgery and will have permanent scarring. So you know this is the truth, I have provided the newspaper with two pictures of Jeremiah taken on Wednesday, several days after the surgery. The RCMP have pictures of the damage before surgery, yet they told the paper Jeremiah had received "minor injuries."

Was Jeremiah's behaviour inappropriate? Yes. Did he

handle the initial RCMP encounter badly? Yes. Was all this necessary? No.

I grieve for Jeremiah. He has worked so hard to make a good life for himself. He has so much to lose. I also grieve for the RCMP's loss of respect and credibility with the young adults of this community. Due to Jeremiah's usual gentle and

good will and reliability he has made many friends here on this island. They don't understand how this could happen here. Some are angry. Some are scared. No one wins in this kind of situation.

The writer is a registered clinical counsellor who has lived permanently on Salt Spring for the past 18 months.

More letters

Pool needed

I do not love to swim. My reasons for supporting the movement to get Salt

Spring an indoor pool have nothing to do with the love of water.

Of all the facilities that I can imagine, an indoor pool will serve a broader spectrum of the community than any other. I know that it costs a lot to build a pool, and a lot to maintain one.

But, I am hoping that if we work together, take advantage of funding beyond our community, and uncover new, and creative ways to raise money, that an indoor pool will become a reality for Salt Spring.

Yes, it is likely to add something to our taxes, but it would be a good use of the money, and there are ways to decrease the amount we would have to pay.

I don't love to swim, but I do care about my health and staying fit, and when I think about the community, I care that we be a healthy community.

There are few kinds of

exercise as good for us as swimming is, and for a place like Salt Spring, with a generous supply of over-50s, fitness becomes increasingly important.

When I used to think of swimming, the images that came to me were kids in the summer, splashing in the water.

Or, I pictured young people, and others who love the water using the facility. Now the images are changed. Sure, I think of the kids, the students, folks who love to swim, and others

training for competition, but I also picture toddler lessons, aquafit, sessions for people who need water exercises to alleviate pain and strengthen muscles. One of these days I could be one of those people. One of these days many of us could be! Having fun in the sun is a seasonal thing, but becoming and remaining fit has to be a year-round endeavour.

The healthier we are, the more fit we are, the less medical attention we

will require. This is good for the community, and of

course good for the entire health system.

If we were a community of this size with land access to an indoor pool, then we could cite costs as a reason not to work together for an indoor pool. Certainly it is going to take a concerted group effort to get one and maintain one – but it can be done.

Because surely we care about our community, it seems to me that being able to have access to a swimming pool 12 months of the year is a goal we should all work toward.

Many people have shown a keen interest in having an indoor pool, and local businesses (for example, GVM and Island Star Video are two that I know of right now) have stepped forward to help SSPLASH raise funds.


This is a start – the will is there.

Let's focus on the will, not the won't!
TOBY FOUKS,
Sandpiper Place

MORE LETTERS A13

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More letters

Free swimming

For anyone pondering the pool debate there is a recent study done in Sweden, reported in The Globe and Mail, that attributes the soaring incidence of asthma in children and adults to the off-gassing of chlorine at indoor swimming pools.

There are other reasons why I personally avoid such places - particularly "public" hot tubs for goodness sake; however, I have occasionally visited the outdoor pools at Kitsilano and Second Beach in Vancouver (among four others) which are tremendously popular and open mid-May to mid-September. I recommend going on a rainy day.

But I wonder if even an outdoor pool on Salt Spring would out draw the lakes, ponds, and seashore spots in summer. After all, what could possibly be better than a rope swing over a water hole, or a swim and a picnic and then another swim on a hot afternoon?

One has only to pass along St. Mary Lake most any sunny day (please slow down to avoid hitting people looking for access to the water) to realize what surely should be obvious; we need safe and attractive parks on the water.

In our obsession about building a swimming "facility" we may have forgotten that some of the best things in life are free. Or should be.
DAVID GRIEG
Salt Spring

Gas prices

Finally the issue of gas gouging on Salt Spring has

made it into the paper! You really have to wonder how the Hornby Island gas co-op gets away with charging three to four cents more than the Petrocan in Buckley Bay, or what makes Gabriola Island stations raise the Nanaimo price by only one cent. Are gas stations here too ashamed to even post their prices, or are they just a shameless cartel? Maybe the Payless station should call itself Pay Less Everywhere Else.

But, hey, Elizabeth Nickson informed us in her National Post column last week that "the island does, after all, sit on a giant crystal that reaches down to the centre of the earth, where said crystal balances on the back of a giant turtle who is the Mother of All Things". Now I know why we, who live here, are supposed to pay the Mother of All Prices.

DIANE ENGELHARDT,
Salt Spring

More on cats

Hearty thanks to Jack Hallam for his July 23 piece about house cats and songbirds. We have all heard the bird depredation charges against house cats countless times, but I have rarely if ever heard them put with such vehemence as I have here on Salt Spring. Might this be a particular local hobbyhorse?

We arrived here about three years ago with our dogs and one aging, somewhat portly house cat. In the interval he has availed himself of two juncos and one young towhee, the latter having been killed or disabled

by striking a window. He once made a half-assed move on a jay, to no avail. He has taken many mice. I know all this because he deposits his take at the front door. His impact on local bird populations has been zero.

That is because the natural attrition rate of double-brooded songbird species (say, robins) has to be close to 80 per cent - or we would be up to here in robins. That is in normal, unspoiled habitats. Then there is the loss of breeding, feeding and migratory stop-over habitat to agricultural clearing and poisoning, logging, urban blight, suburban "development" (what a bizarre euphemism for nature scarification), the devastating impact of tall buildings in large cities on migrating flocks of songbirds, and the relative effect of house cats turns out to be peanuts.

The feral cat is another matter. It may have some impact on birds, but I shouldn't think much. Predation is a tough way to grind out a living, and all predators take the path of least resistance, which for

a cat would mean, mostly, not birds but small terrestrial animals.

I would only add that our cat shows keen alertness and apparent deep respect when, from hiding, he observes the ravens working on the dogs' abandoned marrow bones. He seems to know his place. And we know he has a place with us.

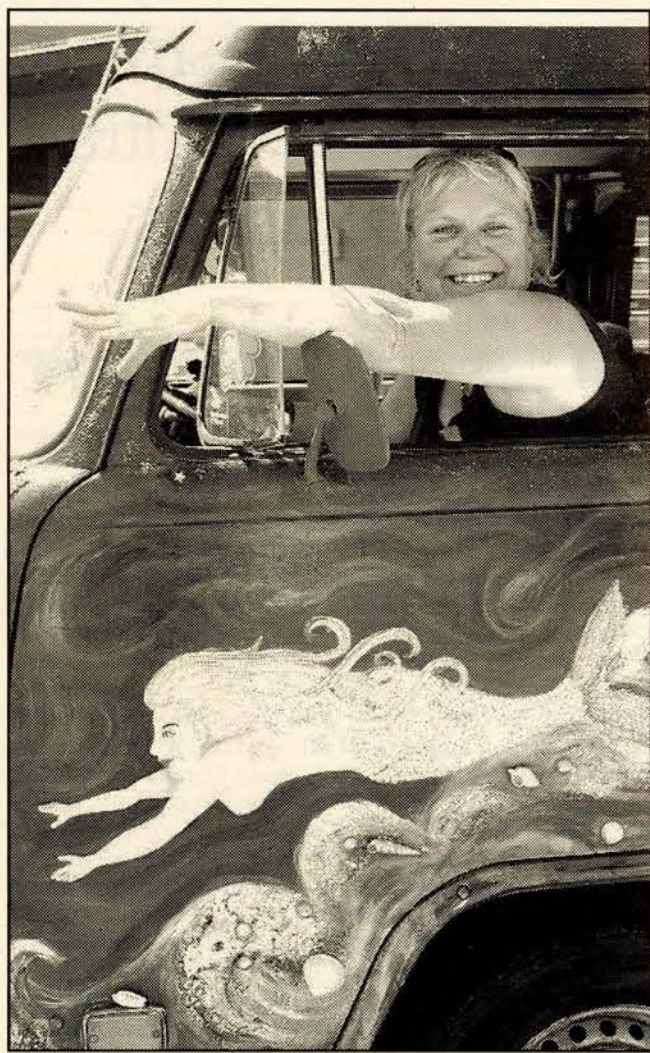
JOHN LIVINGSTON
Wilkie Way

Expensive gas

Re the letter in the July 23 edition of the Driftwood from Andrea Le Borgne about gas prices.

I don't know where you would pay 79.9 cents per litre unless you were buying premium. Almost anywhere on lower Vancouver Island regular gas sells for about 74.9 cents. By comparison, regular gas on Salt Spring is 84.9/litre, not 80.9 as she stated. That's a difference of 13 cents. Also, diesel on Vancouver Island is as low as 63.9 cents. Here we are paying 80.9, a difference of 17 cents.

Can anyone explain why?
K. BARNES,



VAN ART: Bonnie Delziel's highly decorated, 1977 VW van drew lots of attention in Ganges last weekend.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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Tiles still available

When Salt Spring Rotary Club members get down to fundraising for a new family park on the Rainbow Road recreation site, they hope to see the same kind of support they received for Rotary Marine Park in Ganges.

For that project, selling stone tiles inscribed with donors' names — or with celebratory, memorial or commercial messages — became a popular fundraiser and created a unique, alternate park surface to walk on and peruse.

According to Rotary Club president Carol Dodd, some tiles even contain the names of visitors and where they are from, or the name of their boat.

"Kids love to stand on their stone and businesses have used it as advertising,

so there is a wide variety of stones there."

Dodd said it's part of an ongoing project and she invites anyone wanting to be "immortalized" in Rotary Marine Park to contact the club.

People can call Dodd at 538-0079 or write to the club at Box 513, Ganges PO, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2W2.

Last week the Rotary Club proposed creating a family park on the Rainbow Road recreational lands via a presentation to a parks planning committee meeting of the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission.

The club hopes to see the first phase of the park completed in 2005, which is the 100th anniversary of Rotary International.

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Support, activism needed to stop future finfish operations

By KIMBERLY LINEGER

Beyond what is happening locally with aquaculture, as I reported last week, the bigger issue at hand is what is currently underway provincially.

This is where community support and activism is vital if we, as islanders, truly have a desire to prevent future finfish aquaculture operations, whether in the marine waters or on land, in the Salt Spring Trust area or the broader Trust area.

The provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Bill 48 would restrict local Trust committees' (LTCs') abilities to regulate fin fish aquaculture in the Crown foreshore and on Crown lands. Bill 48's purpose is to allow Cabinet to designate Crown land (including foreshore) as a "farming area" to which the Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm Act) would apply.

LTCs would not be able to prohibit aquaculture in areas designated as "farming areas" by the provincial Cabinet. Farming areas would be designated through a planning process which could include local communities. Given our recent experience in dealing with the provincial agencies responsible for aquaculture on the Sablefin Hatchery, I have doubts whether consultation (if any) between the provincial government and local communities will be meaningful in terms of addressing community concerns.

I am even more doubtful that the Island Trust's preserve and protect mandate will provide our island some protection in the selection process of future farm areas as sites for aquaculture, given this government's drive to expand the finfish farming industry in our province.

Given the intent of Bill 48, I am adamantly opposed to further expansion of finfish aquaculture development within the Salt Spring Trust area. As several community members have stated repeatedly at Trust meetings, there is insufficient science to support the province's or the finfish farming industry's claims

TRUSTEE REPORT

that there are little or no environmental impacts as a result of finfish farming in marine waters (or on land for that matter).

Until such time as there is sufficient evidence to determine the risks to the marine and upland environment and what mitigation measures are required to eliminate or minimize environmental impacts, I firmly support the suspension of aquaculture application processing, specifically finfish farming applications, in the Trust area.

In response to Bill 48, the Trust executive has drafted a resolution for the Union of B.C. Municipalities meeting in September asking the provincial government to withdraw Bill 48 and implement measures to achieve provincial goals for agriculture and aquaculture through collaboration and consultation with local governments.

Another important Trust initiative under way is to seek agreements with MAFF and the Agricultural Land Commission regarding guidelines for the development of farm regulations to address the scale and intensity of agriculture (including on-land aquaculture), in a manner consistent with the provincial object of the Islands Trust and with the scale and character of small island communities.

If Salt Springers are to have a choice about how aquaculture is regulated within the Trust area, we must act now to pressure the provincial government to collaborate and consult with the Islands Trust on future agriculture and aquaculture regulations to ensure that the appropriate due diligence, community consultation and environmental assessment is undertaken prior to new legislation and regulations being introduced.

If you want to know more about how you can get involved, please e-mail me at:

klineger@islandstrust.bc.ca or call me at 538-0042.



FIBRE FUN: Seen at last weekend's fibre festival held at the Farmers' Institute were, clockwise from above, women in the sheep-to-sweater (in a day) event; Christy Robley of Sunset farms shearing sheep; weaving a spinning display.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



BRIDGE TRICKS

On July 14, with six tables, there were four placings; first, Gerry Nicholson and Blanche Poborsa; second, Bill Buckler and Brent Vickers; third, the Laundrys; and fourth, Ian Thomas and Conhor Vane-Hunt.

On July 21, having seven tables, players enjoyed a Mitchel. N/S first were Nicholson and Poborsa; second, Ron Dickson and Irene Hawksworth; and third, Isabelle Richardson and Joan Conlan. E/W first were the Laundrys; second Boodie Arnott and Gillian Mouat; and third, Ima Krayenhoff and Patricia McFarlane.

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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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 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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- **EMERGENCY FOOD BANK:** Open Tuesday 11-3.
- **COUNSELLING SERVICES:** Crisis and short-term counselling provided by Community Workers.
- **ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM:** Prevention & treatment service is free & confidential.
- **FAMILY PLACE: PARENT CHILD DROP IN** - Monday & Tuesday 9:30-1:30, Walk in Moutats Park 10am following by Family Place Drop In 11:00-1pm, counselling by appointment 537-9176.
- **RECYCLE DEPOT:** Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am-5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.
- **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- **Emergency Mental Health Services available:** 4pm to midnight. Access is available through the Emergency Rm at Lady Minto Hospital call: 538-4840

Riders trot back home victorious

Riders and horses from the Pringle training barn put in winning performances against fierce competition at the recent Region 17 Championships held in Chilliwack.

Some 430 top show horses, all purebred Arabian, half-Arabian or Anglo-Arabian from the U.S and western Canada, competed in an impressive roster of classes designed to showcase the Arabian horse's versatility over the five-day event.

Three of the four horses taking top honours were bred by the Pringle family.

SS Montague, a purebred gelding owned and ridden by Andrea Pringle, took a top five award, placing third out of a class of 30 in First Level Dressage.

SS Bak Street, owned by Genny Rae McGregor and ridden by Andrea Pringle, took a top five, again out of a class of 30, in Training Level Dressage.

Bak Street also took a top five in the Half Arabian Sport Horse in Hand class where he was handled by John Pringle. This horse's finest moment came in the Half Arabian Hunter Pleasure Junior Horse (horses five years of age and under) class where he scored the Reserve Championship spot. Andrea Pringle was in the saddle. McGregor rode Bak Street in Road Hack and Hunter Seat Equitation classes.

T.K. Bronson, a purebred gelding owned by Patricia Lockie, made a stellar return to the show ring after an absence of five years with two top fives and a championship win. Bronson's showing in the Sport Horse in Hand class was dramatically interrupted by an order to evacuate the arena because of an electrical fire. After a short and stress-filled intermission the class resumed. Bronson seemed not at all put out, while handler John Pringle showed complete composure finishing the class and winning a top five award.

Bronson's big win came later that night in the Arabian Sport Horse Under Saddle Championship. Andrea Pringle rode him to the top spot amid tough competition in a very arduous, challenging class.

Later in the week, Bronson also took a top five, placing in the Purebred Road Hack class and in the

Purebred Hunter Pleasure Adult Amateur to Ride Class, which was so large it had to be divided into two sections with 20 horses in each. Bronson made the cut to the finals with Patricia Lockie in the saddle.

Sophie Beswick, showing her Half-Arabian gelding TR Cinabar, took home a top five award in the Road Hack Championship class. Beswick also rode Cinabar in Dressage and Hunter Pleasure classes where she had very polished rides.

Jeff Pringle, 12, showed he's got the right stuff to be a competitive halter handler. Following in his father's footsteps, Jeff showed young horses in several halter classes and won the approval of older, veteran handlers who predict a promising show ring career for him.

Jody Pringle rode her purebred mare SS Kaserra in the Pleasure Walk/Trot 10 and Under Championship in both English and Western, as well as in the Equitation classes for the same age group.

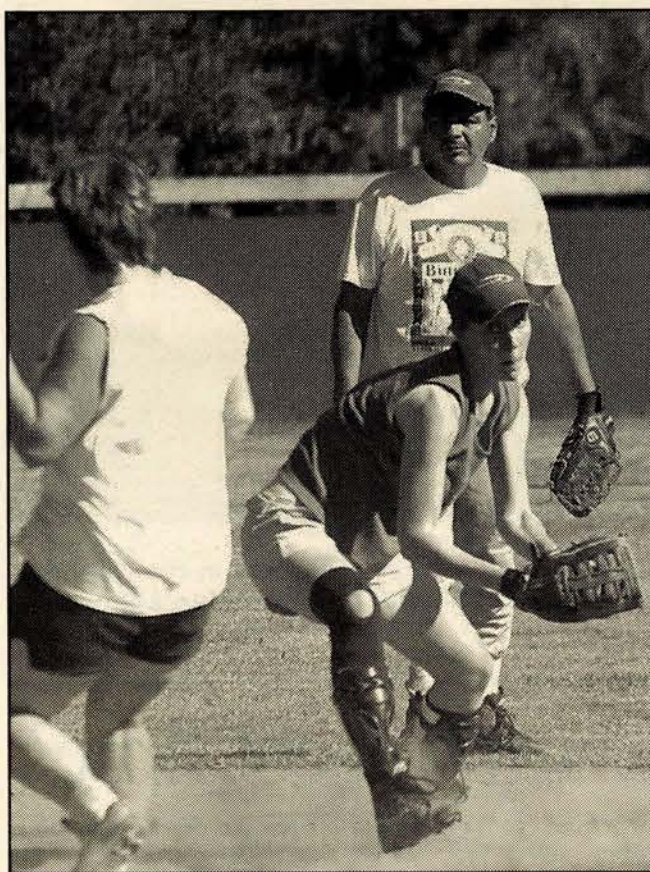
Sasha Kazakoff, attending her first regional show, rode SS Tushira in the 10 and Under Pleasure Walk/Trot and in Hunter Seat Equitation. Judges and spectators were in agreement that this is a class to watch closely.

Twelve-year-old Alexa Hardy showed her new horse, a dark bay purebred gelding named FF Candarr, in equitation, showmanship and Hunter Pleasure classes. Andrea Pringle rode Vicki Moore's five-year-old purebred gelding, I'm Extatic, in Training Level Dressage and Hunter Pleasure for the Junior Horse.

The Pringle barn competitors were supported throughout the show by the good humour and diligent work of groom Sidney Sinclair.

Regional championships represent the culmination of a year of effort for horse, trainer and student. In order to ride at this level, riders must have qualified their horses at qualifying shows throughout the season.

It was no mean feat, then, for a small barn from Salt Spring to go head to head with the big boys south of the border and on the mainland and come home victorious, said Patricia Lockie about the results.



YEE'ER" OUT: Dawn Sawchuck tags out an FC player as FC and the Vultures battle it out for the Tony Head Memorial trophy. FC won the event.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Judo club closes as Adams moves

After years of training athletes in the art of combat, owner and coach Shaun Adams has closed the Salt Spring Judo Club.

Adams moved to Victoria in 2002, but kept the Salt Spring club open until recently because students were training for the National Judo Championships in July.

Adams did not return calls for an interview, but student Sasha Floercke said the club closed because of high rent and a lack of participants.

"It was quite sad to close the Salt Spring club," said Megan Leitch, who had trained there for six years. "It was something of a legend because we always beat the big, rich mainland clubs."

Leitch will continue training in Montreal when she attends McGill University, but hopes islanders won't give up on judo.

"It was a very good club and Shaun was a very good coach as well. Now there will be a club in Victoria, and hopefully people from Salt Spring can go there."

Soccer registration due this Thursday

By MALCOLM LEGG
Driftwood Contributor

Have you forgotten something? Yes, it is true, the soccer season is over a month away but the registration deadline is this Thursday, July 31, after which a late fee will apply, so you need to register now!

Some of your delay with registering this year may be due to some myths that have been circulated about our association's fee increase this year. Myths such as:

- the fee increase is a money grab,
- the fee increase is in place to cover the costs of new uniforms,
- players registration is complicated and expensive, especially with a uniform deposit required.

It is time to clear the air and debunk the myths surrounding registration.

Firstly, the executive of the Salt Spring Island youth Soccer Association (SSIYSA) is foremost attempting to provide the best program we can for the youth of Salt Spring Island. To that extent our proposed budget for the 2003-2004 season is \$74,500 and is broken down as follows:

- 22.8 per cent ferry travel costs
- 9.4 per cent balls and equipment
- 8.8 per cent referees fees
- 8.1 per cent storage container
- 7.3 per cent tournaments and trophies
- 14.0 per cent administrative costs (manual, advertising, photos, etc.)

The players fees are set to cover these costs, which this year works out to be: off-island: \$185; Euro: \$120; Mini: \$100.

These fees are not expensive when compared to other Victoria associations and other sports, and considering the season runs September to

April, this is a great deal!

Registration is due July 31 because the association needs to be able to plan teams, equipment, and uniform needs for the new season now, not in September. A late fee of \$15 will be applied to all late registrations and there is a discount for families of three or more.

Please note, these fees are not to cover our new uniforms (gray and red shirts, black shorts and socks) as this money came through a provincial grant of \$16,000 we received last season.

Regarding uniforms, the association will be making a serious attempt to not lose uniforms this season by requiring a uniform deposit cheque of \$50. The cheque must be dated April 1, 2004. It will not be cashed, but returned in full when the full uniform is returned. This cheque must accompany the registration or at least be in the association's hands prior to your players' teams' first game (no deposit, no uniform).

The whole goal here is to streamline our whole association process with registration and uniforms and create a smoother operation.

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Rower off to Worlds

By DEBBIE WILLIS
Staff Writer

A man who calls Salt Spring home will head to the August 2003 Rowing World Championships in Milan, after recently winning gold at the 2003 World Cup in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Barney Williams, who lived on Salt Spring until he was nine, is one fourth of the Canadian men's team that won a top place at the July 11 to 13 race.

"It's the most important regatta outside of the world championship," said Williams, who now lives and trains in Victoria. "It was a fantastic start to the season."

According to Williams, the team is celebrating the win cautiously.

"We realized before we left that we had been training very hard. But we also realized that we'd never raced [together], and we were going against the Germans who hadn't lost in two years," said Williams. "It's unexpected but it didn't give us any delusions that we can do that every time."

Williams' team had previously won the Stewards' Cup Challenge, an open race for boats of four at the renowned Henley Royal Regatta in Oxfordshire on July 6.

Though the Henley Royal has a different set-up than the Olympics, it is considered a significant event in the world of rowing.

"For a great majority of people, the Henley regatta is a very important race," said Williams, who is the stroke, meaning he leads his crew.

Williams, Jake Wetzel, Cam Baerg, and Tom Herschmiller were teamed up only weeks before the actual race but clicked quickly.

Williams, 26, has been rowing since he was 14 and attending Upper Canada College in Toronto.

He made the commitment to work toward the Olympics two years ago, and has been training full time since September. His next event will be the World Championships in Milan on August 24 to 31.

The races in Milan are qualifiers for the Olympics, which Williams says is "absolutely" the goal. And despite the string of wins, Williams still has a lot of work to do, training for six hours a day, six days a week.

"After a win, everyone is gunning for you, so there's almost more pressure to defend that title," said Williams. "Immediately after we got back [from Lucerne], our coach decided there's room for improvement."

With his past two years dedicated almost solely to rowing, Williams can hardly see past the 2004 Olympics in Athens, but he hopes to live later in the same city as his wife, Buffy Williams, herself an Olympic rower now training in London, Ontario.

"We see ourselves being on the west coast," said Williams. "I really feel like my roots are here. Victoria is really nice and quiet, but Salt Spring is definitely unique, like all the Gulf Islands."



WIND SWEEP: Avery Brown and Jess Wilson participate in the Saltspring Island Sailing Club's summer program, sailing a Laser II during a Bronze IV course.

Photo by John Cameron

Athletes swim to best times

Thirty-three Salt Spring Stingrays swam to over 100 personal best times (BTs) at a recent competitive swim meet held at the Saanich Commonwealth pool.

Matilda Morgan (Div. 2) and Nicola Temmel (Div. 6) topped the BTs challenge with seven each, while Miranda Logan-Webb (Div. 6) and coach Kellie Rolston picked up six personal bests.

A number of swimmers — Eryn Gix, Sierra Lundy, Lara Coelho, Meredith Raddysh, Olivia Morgan, Sarah Penhale and Brendan Nickerson — each scored five BTs.

Results for the meet, which weren't available at press time last week, were as follows:

Div. 1: Eryn Gix, 3rd,

two 5ths, 5 BTs; Kayla Jones, 3 BTs; Maddi Mackay 2 BTs; Katie Temmel, 1 BT.

Div. 2: Emily Gix, 7th, 2 BTs; Rebekah Lee, 8th, 3 BTs; Sierra Lundy, two 1sts, three 2nds, aggregate trophy, 5 BTs; Grace Morgan, 4th, 5th, 8th, 4 BTs; Matilda Morgan, 6th, 7th, 8th, 7 BTs; Amalia Smith, 3 BTs.

Div.3: Lara Coelho, 5 BTs; Danica Lundy, three 3rds, three 4ths, 2 BTs; Kara MacKay, 2 BTs; Meredith Raddysh, 2nd, 5 BTs; Julian Smith, 4 BTs; Justin Temmel, 2 BTs; Bradley Watson, 2 BTs.

Div.4: Olivia Morgan, 5 BTs; Sarah Penhale, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5 BTs; James Cameron, two 7ths, 2 BTs;

Brendan Nickerson, two 2nds, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 5 BTs; Isaac Raddysh, 8th.

Div. 5: CC Coelho, 4 BTs;

Div. 6: Miranda Logan-Webb, three 2nds, 5th, 6 BTs; Nicola Temmel, two 2nds, two 3rds, 5th, 8th., 7 BTs; Danielle Viozzi, 3 BTs; Noah McColl, 6th, 8th, 3 BTs.

Div. 8: Kelly Rolston, five 1sts, 6 BTs; Chris Brodie, 2nd, 1 BT.

This weekend, swimmers head back to the Commonwealth pool for the regional championships.

Top three swimmers in each event, and top two relay teams in each division, will qualify for the provincial championships, set for August 15-17, also at the Commonwealth pool.

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