

\$1.25
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**Wednesday,
August 27, 2003**

**43rd year
Issue 35**

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Driftwood Gulf Islands

Boycott urged as gas hits 99¢

One Salt Spring man is so outraged about the island's gas prices that he's urging a boycott of all stations selling fuel far above the going rate on Vancouver Island.

On Tuesday the cost for regular unleaded fuel in Ganges was 99.4 cents per litre at Salt Spring Payless and Save-on Gas (and \$1.094 for premium), but only 95.9 at Shell (\$1.049 for premium).

Bruce Patterson's Sheep Island Fuels in Fulford was selling a litre of

regular gas for 94.9.

Patterson noted the buying price of fuel went down two cents on Monday, and that at 94.9 he was still making his regular margin.

Stations in Duncan were charging 85.5 Tuesday, down from 88.5 Sunday.

Sid Filkow said he felt there was "no reason" for Salt Spring having such high gas prices.

Just before the last regional price jump, Filkow was on Hornby Island, where gas cost 81.9 cents a litre, only

one penny more than in Courtenay at the time.

The Hornby price should be higher than Salt Spring's, he said, since the station has a monopoly and requires transporting of the fuel on two ferries, he said.

"There is something terribly wrong here and it may be something for the [federal] unfair competition branch to investigate because it is just too suspicious," he said.

"If Bruce [Patterson] is close to the

Vancouver Island price, that's where we should buy gas," said Filkow.

The islander also complained about local stations not advertising their prices so consumers could make an informed choice before pulling into the pump.

Filkow indicated that Salt Spring's stratospheric gas prices will be featured at the next instalment of the *Scrotum Dialogues* on September 27.

"There'll be a lot of talk about hoses," he said.

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Field's
- Ganges
- Pharmasave
- Ganges
- Village Market
- Gulf Islands
- Carpet Care
- RBC
- Investments
- Thrifty Foods

INSIDE



They want you to dance

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Weather

Head for the beach: it's going to be hot again. Highs up to 28 C on Thursday, with sunshine continuing into the weekend. Lows ranging from 13-15 C.

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Quarry plan draws critics

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Environmental protection advocates have started blasting letters at a mining application permit after a local company signalled its intentions to quarry rock from a Jasper Way property last week.

"Get these ecological pirates off our island and let them mine rock where it poses no health, safety and ecological threats!" wrote Stephen and Carol Arnold in a letter to the *Driftwood*.

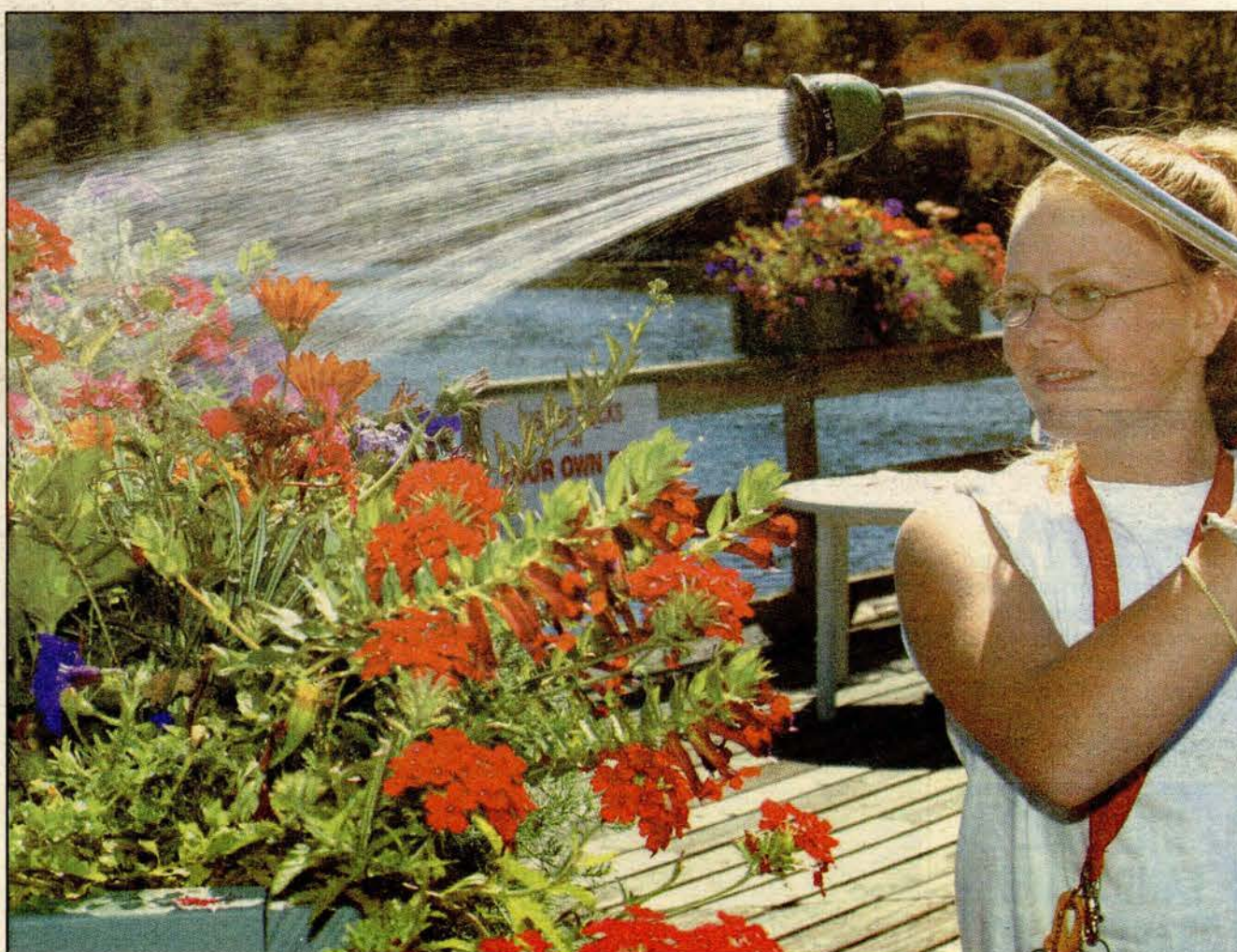
"Or are we going to allow their (apparently not our) Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) to convince us that rock is in short supply in less sensitive, less vulnerable places on our island?"

The Arnold letter acts as a call to arms for like-minded community members to organize opposition against the proposed gravel mine on the nine-acre property.

"We have been given only 30 days to register any concerns, and we have many, nearly all of which should be shared by other islanders, not just by our neighbours."

The letter outlined the Arnolds' concerns about noise, impacts on wildlife, damage to water supplies, the toxicity of dust clouds, degradation to Stewart Road and safety from flying rock debris that will follow as

QUARRY A3



WELCOMING DISPLAY: Amanda Sykes waters the flower boxes at Salt Spring Marina, making for a warm welcome for water-borne visitors. More flow-

ers and more visitors can be expected this week as good weather is in the forecast.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Islanders rally to aid fire victims

A Salt Spring woman is planning to take a van load of donations to Kelowna-area fire victims, and other islanders are collecting cash for the cause.

Gail Bryn-Jones said on Monday she is looking for bedding and household items which she will deliver to Vancouver later this week. From there they will be shipped to Kelowna by Simply Computing, a company that owns computer stores on the Lower

Mainland and in Kelowna.

Information from the company on Monday indicated that pet food was another need in the Interior city, where 30,000 people were evacuated from their homes in the past week. More than 200 homes have been destroyed in the Okanagan Mountain forest fire.

Bryn-Jones would also like donations of children's toys. Donations should be new, or like new, she said.

Goods may be dropped off at either the *Driftwood* office, 328 Lower Ganges Road, or Salt Spring Centre School, 355B Blackburn Road.

People wanting to help fire victims with cash donations while listening to music at the Tree House Cafe can do so tonight (Wednesday) when Susan Cogan plays from 7 to 10 p.m. Cogan is donating the proceeds of "the hat" that is passed around each evening

for Tree House musicians.

Island sculptor Allan Sherman has been collecting money for B.C. fire victims the last two Saturdays at the Saturday Market and is pledging 20 per cent of his sales to the Red Cross fire fund.

"I am asking other artists in B.C. to do the same this Saturday. Many of the visitors to my booth have even asked me to pass along small donations for them," he said.

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Local fire force prepared for potential disaster

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

B.C.'s raging forest fires have sparked concerns among islanders about what could happen if a blaze broke out on Salt Spring during the current fire-hazard conditions.

"The Salt Spring Island Fire Department (SSIFD) has received numerous requests for information regarding, 'What if a major interface fire erupted here on the island,'" said local fire chief Dave Enfield.

Interface fires — fires that move between wilderness and populated areas — like the ones around Kelowna, Kamloops, Chase and Okanagan Falls could easily be replicated on Salt Spring, Enfield said.

"With the current forest fires travelling at up to 75 metres per minute, and our distinctive and non-accessible terrain, it would not take long for any fire to overrun any portion of the island."

But the SSIFD has already formulated a plan for that possibility, and the fire chief wants to reassure the public about its preparations.

"We have had a contingency plan in place for quite some time now and it was upgraded at the end of July."

All 32 SSIFD members have personal first responder medical kits, all are alerted via pager and 15 volunteer firefighters have portable radios offering instant communication.

The fire department constantly practises readiness and firefighters work and live throughout the island, he added.

In the event of any island forest, brush or interface fire, the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program would be notified and the Emergency Operations Centre would be opened immediately, Enfield said.

The SSIFD would also receive automatic air support through the Coastal Fire Centre and the B.C. Forest Service.

Fire department personnel and equipment from neighbouring communities such as North Saanich or Crofton could also be made available if requested, he said.

"Under the current declaration of the state of emergency, any fire department can be called upon to assist us if deemed necessary."

The fire chief also offered a number of tips to help local residents in the event of a major interface fire.

"The most profitable thing you can do for the fire department and first responders is to ensure that your civic address is correctly displayed. If you don't have your address displayed, from all directions of travel, then we may be delayed in locating you."

Additionally, residents can also clean debris from gutters, move combustibles (such as woodpiles) away from homes and manually clear dead undergrowth from their properties, he said.

"There is currently a ban on the use of any power equipment on the island; so any work will have to be done by hand, removing dead grass or raking up any twigs, leaves or dry needles."

Should fire occur near your home, sprinklers and hoses can be valuable assets before firefighters arrive.

"If possible, keep the area close to your residence dampened down. A slow moving fire may be stopped if it hits some non-combustible fuel."

It is also important to keep driveways clear to ensure emergency-vehicle access, the fire chief emphasized.

"We don't like to put fire department vehicles and personnel into situations where they have egress problems."

Driveway access is a constant problem on the island, he noted.

"The SSIFD inspects all new building construction on the island. One of the most notable things is that people like the solitude our island offers. They put in a driveway that just meets B.C. building and fire code standards, offering us difficult access. They wish to maintain their forest setting but these two items cause us great concern."

He also recommends that residents have the appropriate insurance in place. Check policies or contact local insurance agents, if in doubt.

If SSIFD personnel were fighting an interface fire on

the island, reports about current situations and required actions would be available on CHEK TV and CFX (1070) or CKNW (980) radio stations.

Imagen would also send e-mails to all of its clients with updates, Enfield said.

Since a local fire might require evacuating homes, the fire chief recommends that residents take prompt action to prepare a list and/or pack items for a hasty departure.

In the event of an emergency evacuation, there are five Emergency Social Service (ESS) reception centres on the island: Central Hall, Fernwood Elementary, Fulford Elementary, Gulf Islands Senior Secondary and the Royal Canadian Legion.

ESS reception centres would be running as soon as possible and evacuees would be asked to check in with them, Enfield said.

"If an evacuation order or alert were given, we would hope that you heed

the warning. Don't leave it till the last minute. We have all seen reports on the television of people not heeding these warnings. If you plan on staying, please advise someone of your next of kin so they may be contacted."

Reception centre personnel would need to know about unaccounted people or those left behind. They would also want contact numbers for evacuees and the addresses of vacated homes.

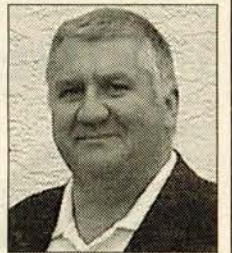
Evacuees should notify relatives about their safety to reduce the volume of

local phone calls, he said.

For additional information about interface fires, visit the fire department website (www.saltspring-fire.com) or the firehall to pick up a pamphlet.

"If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the fire department during office hours. And lastly, don't be afraid to report any incident to us any time. We would rather respond and find nothing wrong than to be not afforded an early opportunity to mitigate a situation."

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FOR THE RECORD

• The driver of a Gabriola water taxi that hit Nose Point August 16 said he did not fall asleep at the wheel as described in an August 20 Page A4 coast guard story.

• An August 13 story that described the attractions and amenities of Fulford Harbour omitted to mention one of those amenities. Morningside Organic Bakery & Café was inadvertently left out of the story

entitled Funky Fulford.

• Miscommunication between the Driftwood and a freelance photographer resulted in the wrong photo appearing last week on Page A1. The swimmer identified as Sierra Lundy was in fact her sister Danica.

Both are daughters of managing editor Susan Lundy, who was on vacation when the error was made. Swimming experts may have noticed that Danica was doing the butterfly and not the breaststroke, in which competition Sierra won a gold medal.

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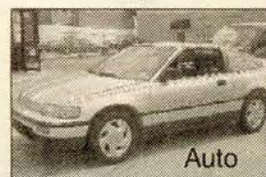
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ROLLOVER: RCMP Const. Darren Hewitt examines the tires on a vehicle that rolled over Monday morning on Booth Canal Road while paramedics (in background) attend to the driver.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

QUARRY: Neighbours critical of permit application

From Page A1

result of extracting 75,000 tonnes of construction aggregates from the Jasper Way property each year.

Area resident Arnold Brown expressed particular concern about increased traffic on Cusheon Lake Road and Stewart Road.

"The proposed Stewart Road quarry could mean that I'll soon be sharing the road with dozens of fully loaded gravel trucks, thundering along the same narrow stretch every day. How long before there is a tragedy? A child lying in the dust beside the road?"

Proximity of Peter Arnell Park bordering the proposed quarry alarmed islanders Joanne and John Harris.

"Blasting, crushing and processing would occur very close to the park hiking trails and within a fragile wetland . . . We are concerned with the safety of all visitors to the park."

Stewart Road residents Stefan and Amy Gessinger reviewed the mining plan and would like to see the company provide more information.

"The land described is zoned residential. With the permit issued for five years and the area over nine acres (3.8 hectares), we think it would be fair to inform the

public with an impact study looking at environment, safety and noise affecting surrounding homes."

The Islands Trust has been bombarded by calls about the quarry proposal.

"We've obviously received a number of concerns from area residents about the impact [of the proposed operation] on the neighbourhood and we have a bylaw investigation complaint that is still active," said regional planning manager John Gauld.

He noted that rock crushing is not a permitted use of residential property.

"We received an application referral from MEM asking us whether the proposed operation was in compliance with our bylaws and we responded to say it is not because it doesn't allow for the processing of materials. They would need a rezoning or a temporary use permit."

Quarry applicant Larry Bader believes islanders should read an application permit prepared by Jeff Tomlinson, of the engineering firm J.E. Anderson and Associates, to become informed about protective measures for the business.

"The permit itself covers most of the concerns," Bader said.

He believes that many issues would simply dissolve if islanders took the time to read the permit application.

"The concerns that people have raised are what I expected. I would have the same concerns. So I tried to address most of them in the permit itself with the blasting consultants and environmental issues by getting [local biologist] Kathy Reimer on board to have stewardship of the land."

The quarry application provides an overview of several protective measures Salt Spring Rock Products Ltd. plans to implement during operations.

Recognizing a natural wetland south of the quarry site, Tomlinson recommends that the quarry floor remain two to three metres above the water table and that the wetland be further protected from run-off with a clay-lined ditch that will direct storm water into a siltation pond.

The Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society noted that proposed settling ponds will not negatively impact the wetland. The group, guided by Reimer, expressed willingness to provide ongoing monitoring of the site and supervision of any work in

the immediate proximity to the wetland.

Vegetated swales will also be excavated to provide sediment control and stormwater run-off. Crushing and screen operations will be watered to assist in dust suppression.

During blasting operations, guards will be placed at public accesses and a sweep of the park area will be conducted. Blast signal signs and operation signs will be posted around the quarry and property boundary.

Tomlinson also proposed construction of an eight-foot-tall wire-mesh fence along the five-metre vegetated buffer zone bordering the park to protect the public.

An accompanying letter by David Sly of Maple Leaf Powder Company indicated that the quarry rock is soft, easy-breaking and absorbent of explosive gases.

"It therefore breaks well with minimal 'powder factor' (the amount of explosive per cubic metre of rock). This fact assists greatly in creating a safe and effective blast design," Sly wrote.

The application also notes that the nearest residence is 500 metres from blasting operations and the closest well is 400 metres from the quarry site.

from the University of B.C. and is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport.

Under the new Coastal Ferry Act, the commissioner is charged with protecting customers' interests and has wide-ranging powers.

Ferry boss named

Martin Crilly has been appointed the new B.C. Ferry Authority commissioner.

The Comox resident has 30 years' domestic and international experience in sustainable development, strategic urban planning, transportation policy and logistics.

The former executive director of the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, he was also project director for the Greater Vancouver Regional District's TRANSPORT 2021 project.

Crilly has an M.A. in physics from the University of Cambridge, an M.B.A.

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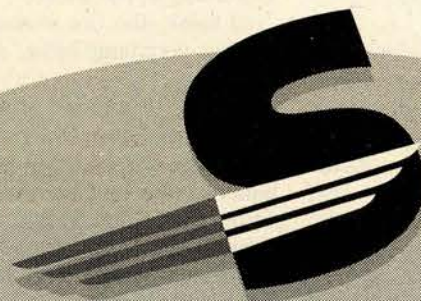
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Meeting to examine amenity zoning proposal

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Salt Spring's first major amenity zoning proposal is being put under the microscope with a public information meeting set for next Thursday.

If a rezoning and subdivision proposal by Trincomali Land Corporation is accepted by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee, a 50-acre parcel off Trincomali Heights would be granted 15 rather than its current nine densities.

In exchange, Trincomali Land Corporation would provide a \$150,000 "amenity" to the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) via the Capital Regional District to help pay for servicing of the Rainbow Road recreation site lands.

A secondary request would see seasonal cottages allowed on up to 60 per cent of the lots if a smaller-lot, bare land strata subdivision is registered. (A bare land strata development would preserve more green space but create lots smaller than the three-acre minimum for seasonal cottage rights.)

Bylaw 377, which would effect the rezoning, has been given first reading with no date set for public hearing.

The Islands Trust information meeting is at All Saints By-the-Sea on Thursday, September 4 at 4 p.m.

PARC has previously given its blessing to the amenity zoning concept and PARC chair

Bill Curtin reiterated the commission's approval Tuesday.

"We think that's a great provision in the community plan and it allows the community to do what they otherwise would not be able to do."

But some area residents have organized to oppose the density increase, citing concerns about traffic and road safety, impact on water quality and quantity, and on the area's green space and wildlife habitat.

Samantha Beare is one of those residents.

Beare said the Trincomali community is not opposed to landowner Paul Darc developing his company's land, but is not in favour of the increased density proposal. She said the higher density would potentially boost the area's dwellings, including seasonal cottages, by 26 per cent — from 93 to 117 — and urged all islanders to get up to speed on the density transfer concept.

"This is rather a test case for the island because there are so many densities floating around that anybody's neighbourhood — if it's in a 'density receiving area' — could be next. What you think you have or you think you are purchasing, or the community you think you are building is not what you can expect if these density transfers or rezonings go ahead," said Beare.

"That is really the question. The community has to say, 'What are you prepared to accept and what are you not prepared to

accept?'"

An issues paper compiled by Beare and others notes several safety problems with the access road.

When it comes to water, residents say quantity could be compromised since all development in areas drawing water from St. Mary Lake or the Highland Water District is not nearly complete, with more demands coming on stream all the time.

Water quality will be compromised, they say, with additional septic systems in the watershed, and Highland quality is already under stress.

"Water quality in the Highland system did not meet Canadian Drinking Water guidelines on a number of occasions in 2002, which resulted in increased flushing of water mains," states the residents' report.

The property also borders Stark Road, where property owners are worried about their groundwater supply if the development uses individual wells instead of hooking up to the Highland system.

Loss of a wildlife buffer zone and green corridor from Stark Road to Walker Hook Road to North End Road is also a concern.

"It's great to create parkland and retire densities but it's defeating the purpose to transfer them to neighbourhood areas that will now lose green space that allows locals to walk their dogs and recreate on the roads and trails without getting in a car and driving

to a park."

Residents are also questioning the calculation used to come up with the \$150,000 amenity value for PARC.

Section H.3.3.2 of the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan (OCP) states that the dollar value of a community amenity provided by a developer "should usually approximate 75 per cent of the net appraised value that accrues to the property owner due to the increased density."

The residents' position paper values the six-lot profit at \$600,000 (\$150,000 gross, less servicing costs of \$50,000). Seventy-five per cent of that amount is \$450,000, they note, not the \$150,000 agreed upon by the Trust, PARC and Darc.

However, Trust planner Mark Head said property appraisal information shows the company is actually providing more than the 75 per cent required.

"What we are giving the developer is zoning. That is all we are able to give him. If we put the zoning change on the property and the owner sells that property [for a profit], that is the value that accrues to him," said Head. "Interestingly, if you did work it out based on developed profit, the formula still works out."

Curtin agrees that the amount complies with the OCP. "And we're just so happy to be the recipient of that kind of thoughtful thing."

Dismissal didn't conform to bylaws; issue brings fire trustee resignation

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Following a Fulford Hall meeting and receiving a copy of the fire district's operating bylaw, dismissed Salt Spring fire captains Bruce Patterson and Jeff Outerbridge hope residents' pressure will bring about their reinstatement.

Close to 50 people attended an unadvertised August 21 meeting to resurrect the South Salt Spring Residents Association.

What action, if any, to take in response to the loss of Fulford's volunteer first responder Patterson was a "major topic" on the agenda, said resident Mary Davidson.

South-end residents are feeling scared about the perceived lack of fire and emergency-service protection resulting from Patterson's dismissal from the department, she said.

Those attending left with more clear information after hearing from Patterson and

Outerbridge, she added.

"I think [the fire trustees] made a very large error," she said.

A copy of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's operating bylaw (#59) was also received by Outerbridge from the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services last Thursday.

It describes the procedure for firefighters' suspensions, noting it must be done by the fire chief, not the board of trustees.

A written appeal must be made within seven days, with the board required to hold a hearing within two weeks' time. An order to reinstate or confirm the fire chief's action then flows from that.

In this case, the pair's dismissal came about via letters from the board of trustees.

Patterson also said, "the appeal process we were given . . . to appeal our suspensions originally is completely different from what

the district bylaw stipulates is the appeal process."

Outerbridge and Patterson were simply unable to get a copy of the bylaws. When asked, trustee Don Smith responded in a July 6 e-mail message: "There are no bylaws which set out the guidelines under which we operate. We operate under the authority of the Letters Patent . . ."

Patterson said he and Outerbridge could take "the legal route" for a ruling on their dismissal, but thought a potentially long process would not benefit the community, which would also end up paying the fire district's legal costs if the fire captains were successful.

They'd rather see the trustees change their mind due to public pressure.

"I guess basically it boils down to the rest of the island saying this is either inappro-

priate or unjust," he said. "They need to respond to the trustees because they are their representatives, and theoretically the trustees have to respond to the community that they represent."

One trustee uncomfortable with the recent personnel saga resigned last week.

Murray Henderson, a former firefighter and one of two new trustees elected at the 2003 AGM, said that considering his long relationship with most trustees, Patterson and Outerbridge, he felt he was "between a rock and a hard place" on the issue of their dismissal and could not continue serving on the board.

"Whether it's the firefighters or the trustees, they've been there for [many] years and done a really good job," he said. "It's just a very unfortunate thing all the way around."



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Island fire crew helps battle Kelowna blaze

Five island firefighters are currently assisting crews in Kelowna after the Salt Spring Island Fire Department received a request for assistance from the office of the Fire Commissioner.

Fire chief Dave Enfield, captain Dale Lundy, and firefighters Rick Kilbourn, Rob Grossman and Mike Bartle left early Saturday with the chief's vehicle and a mini-pumper to help the community of Kelowna, said Salt Spring fire captain A.J. George.

"Plans are not confirmed but chief Enfield said they may be fighting fires up there

until Friday," George said.

Salt Spring's crew was already dousing hot spots in subdivisions and protecting million-dollar homes as of Saturday, George noted.

"Fire chief Enfield said the area was eerie and more like a war."

The Fire Commissioner's office called the Salt Spring Fire Department Friday to ask for aid in fire fighting efforts.

"When there is a provincial disaster, many firefighting units can be commandeered, but they have found the province and its firefighters more than willing to help out and protect B.C.," said

George.

As of Sunday, over 250 structural firefighters were at the Kelowna conflagration. Approximately 32,000 firefighters are currently combatting over 800 B.C. forest fires.

"Our crews are working alongside other departments from Crofton, Saanich, North Oyster, Sidney, Vancouver and many others... This is an incredible crisis that Kelowna is having, and having our members assist is very honouring and something to be very proud of."

The generosity and outpouring of support from communities across the

country has been great for the morale of people in the Kelowna area, George said.

"If Salt Spring ever came across such a crisis, it is very heartening to know that we would also have the aid from so many fire departments from all over B.C."

B.C. Forestry may be able to get a hold of the fire within three days if the weather stays as it was on Sunday, but the wind is their enemy right now, George said.

"With all of this fire activity, please be very careful in our woods and parks. Avoid smoking. And all fires, including campfires, are strictly prohibited. We are

still very much in an extreme fire hazard."

When the crews get back to the island, the Salt Spring Fire Department will post photos on their web page (www.saltspringfire.com). Captain George also recommended another website to view photos and information on the worst fire in recent B.C. history (<http://castanet.firewatch.net/>

firepics/)

Cash donations to fire victims can be made through the Red Cross by calling 1-800-418-1111, or going online at www.redcross.ca.

The Salt Spring Fire Department's Ganges office is also collecting donations to aid in the recovery. As of Sunday, total cost of the blazes was estimated at \$150 million.

Trust awaiting compliance by marina

The Islands Trust is still waiting for B&B Ganges Marina Ltd. to comply with local bylaws regarding "Boatel" rooms at their float-camp barge, following complaints that began last month.

"I can't say there's been any progress, no," said Islands Trust regional planning manager John Gauld.

The Islands Trust received a complaint in July regarding use of the float camp for tourist accommodations and commercial rentals, and because the marina car-rental business was using the road allowance to park rental vehicles.

"We've been attempting to seek compliance with the first two complaints about the commercial tourist accommodation and commercial offices in the float-camp barge building. The

parking the vehicles on the road right-of-way is really a matter for the Ministry of Transportation and the highways people to deal with," Gauld said.

But the Trust has had little success with compliance from the marina thus far, he noted.

"Our bylaw investigations officer has not had a reply from Ganges Marina."

Gauld will submit a report at the Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting Thursday to outline bylaw difficulties with B&B Ganges Marina Ltd. and provide the status of a temporary use permit (TUP) for the float camp, as proposed at the June LTC meeting.

"Trustees at the June meeting expressed their support for issuance of a TUP conditional upon the applicant completing three items. And none of those

have been completed to date. So we'll be reporting to the LTC the fact that we have still not issued the TUP."

The three TUP conditions included: written approval from the Capital Regional District for the building's connection to the Ganges sewer system, approval from North Salt Spring Water District for connection to the waterworks; and a letter of unconditional and irrevocable credit to ensure that the float-camp building is removed at the end of the TUP.

"We will be recommending to meet with the owners as soon as possible to resolve those items and report back in September

for further action, if necessary."

If B&B Ganges Marina Ltd. cannot meet Islands Trust requirements, Gauld will present options for progressive enforcement or legal actions that could be taken by the LTC.

FIRE CALLS

Salt Spring firefighter A.J. George reports the fire department is still "swamped" with reports of people working in the woods or burning.

"There's still people disobeying the burning ban," he said. Fire officials saw a campfire on Tuesday. Several people are also continuing to log or use chain saws in the woods, contrary to regulations.

"With the stuff that's going on in Kelowna, it's pretty scary that this is happening here."

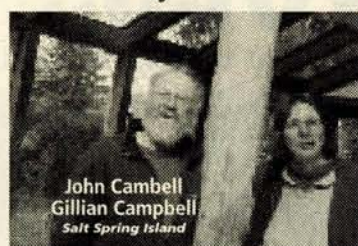
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OPEN LETTER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Ben Martens, Chairman
Board of Trustees
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Dear Mr. Martens,

The Fulford Harbour Residents Association is very concerned about the firing of fire captains Bruce Patterson and Jeff Outerbridge. Since Bruce lives and works in the South end of the island he has been able to respond to emergency calls in a very short time, providing necessary support and action until others could arrive. Especially at this time of extreme fire hazard we are disturbed by the lack of the immediacy that Bruce has provided for many years.

We are also concerned at the loss of two men with years of training and experience. We are unclear as to what these men have done that is so inappropriate as to require summary dismissal after so many years of satisfactory service.

South End residents are worried about effective fire and emergency service. We are concerned about apparent disenfranchisement with the loss of Bruce Patterson and the seemingly arbitrary dismissal of both men. We need to be assured that the Board of Trustees is acting in the best interests of the whole island.

Sincerely yours,

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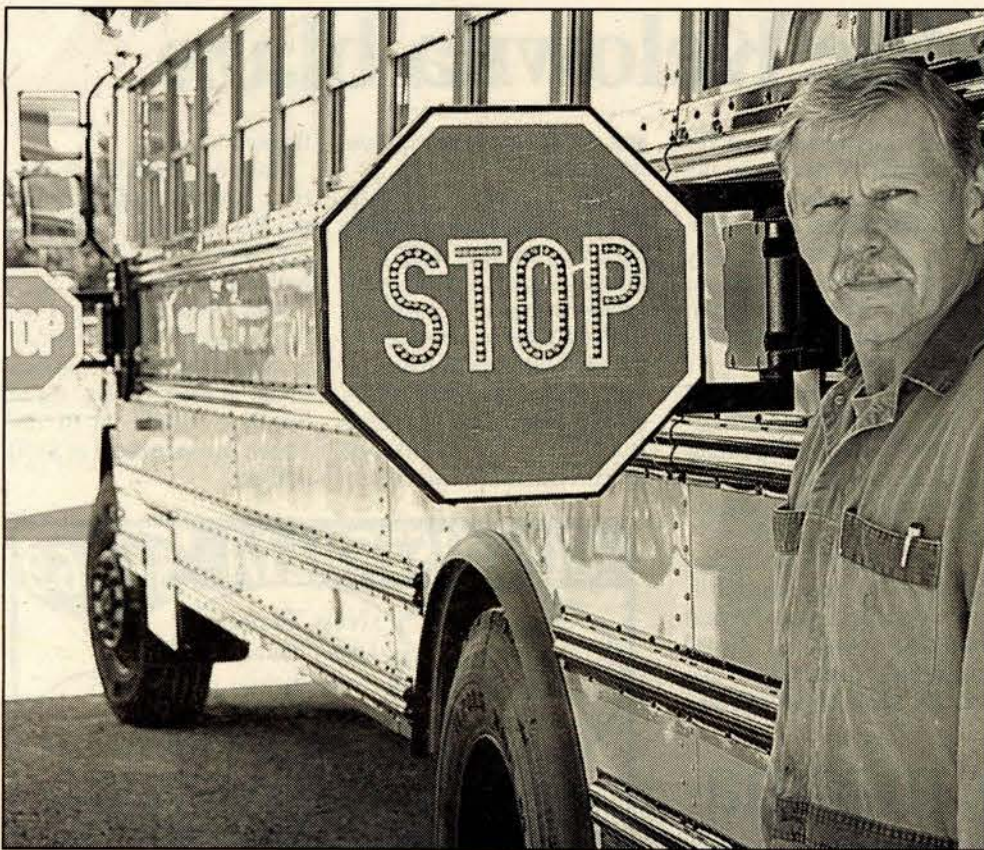
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WELL MARKED: School bus driver and mechanic Ken Garner with a bus all set to go with new stop arms to warn motorists.

New stop arms installed in bid to halt motorists

Stop arms on two new Salt Spring buses will help combat the on-going problem of people passing stopped school buses, said the school district's transportation supervisor, Ken Garner.

Last year liquid crystal (LED) lights were installed on many of the district's buses to encourage drivers to stop when a bus is picking up or dropping off stu-

dents.

"They are effective," said Garner of the lights. But even in the face of "very bright, noticeable" lights, people still pull out and pass the buses.

Garner hopes the stop arms will drive the message home.

"It's very dangerous, of course," he said of people passing school buses. "When buses stop they're

either picking up or dropping off. Kids aren't aware. They just walk out onto the road, and bang."

Most of all, Garner wants people to think more about the safety of kids when they drive.

"We want everybody to be aware and to stop when a bus stops. [The buses] are not just stopping in the middle of the road. There are kids involved."

No police integration planned

Concerns about Salt Spring's RCMP detachment becoming integrated with other detachments were raised at the recent community policing meeting, but then quickly laid to rest.

A B.C. policing study is looking at "how to best deliver services to the region," which may include "synergies" of RCMP detachments, said the RCMP's regional director, Robert Jorssen, at the August 12 meeting.

But Sgt. Mike Giles specified that Salt Spring is one year into a five-year plan to study the question of integration, which means the study itself may still be far off.

"I've not heard of Duncan swallowing our administration, or Sidney," said Giles, who added that Duncan's detachment currently handles Chemainus, and potentially Ladysmith.

"One of the aims of inte-

gration is to get more officers on the road. The administration burden on a small detachment is heavy," said Giles, who mentioned that Pender Island's RCMP deal with much of the same administrative work Salt Spring does.

"That's what the spirit of integration is about: let's get these desk jockeys out there, and have one place for administration."

But he also said that integration would make it more difficult for the public to contact anyone higher up in the RCMP.

"It's a tough issue. Integration means we can send more officers and more dogs to investigate a crime. But on the other hand, people who want to talk to inspectors can't get near them," said Giles.

More officers "on the road" could be positive for

Salt Spring in light of other discussions held at the meeting about the island's RCMP staffing levels.

It was pointed out by the Capital Regional District's director of finances, Diana Lokken, that Salt Spring has more officers than many other small unorganized areas.

But Giles said the island could use more officers.

"I don't feel uncomfortable with staffing levels, but they should be higher," he said. "If they were higher, it would be better for the community and it would be better for my constables... I've been told they're tired."

More officers would be most useful from April to the end of September, and especially on weekend nights, said Giles.

Currently, Salt Spring has six officers and three RCMP auxiliary members.

Provincial gaming rules thwart swim group's plans

SSPLASH is regrouping after raffle plans screeched to a halt when its gaming licence was revoked Friday.

The not-for-profit group fundraising for an indoor pool on Salt Spring was hoping to bring in up to \$20,000 from a raffle with an estimated \$13,000 in donated prizes.

"It was quite a blow," said SSPLASH president Kathy Page Monday. "Kind of stunning."

SSPLASH's special events coordinator Heather Biver had applied for and received the licence from the provincial Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, but it was revoked a few days later when the application was scrutinized again.

As a registered society for only the past year, it appears SSPLASH hasn't had enough

time to do the good deeds that would qualify it for a licence.

"It's not good enough just to be a not-for-profit society," said Page. "You have to have done certain things in the community for a sustained length of time and you have to prove that... [The gaming branch said] If you already had the pool then you would be able to run the lottery to improve it."

But Page said the society was hopeful the donations and business support offered for the raffle could still be tapped into.

"If anyone in the community has any experience or ideas that would bear on this we would be happy to hear from them," she said. "Although it's a blow, there is so much goodwill there we will make something out of it."

Islander on mission to prevent fires

Nora Layard is on a one-woman mission to help keep Salt Spring fire free.

The Salt Spring resident has created signs to remind islanders to think about their activities, and has a long list of tips to keep the island safe.

Of course, she recommends that people "enjoy the stars" instead of campfires, and that drivers keep their cigarette butts in their cars.

"And don't hang them outside your window as you drive along."

She recommends not idling a car near dry grass, and keeping water nearby every time you barbecue.

She wants parents to discuss fire safety and prevention with their kids and for people in the tourism industry to remind their customers to be vigilant even when they're away from home.

She also recommends that people don't put the possibility of fire out of their minds, but come up with plans for worst-case scenarios.

"Think about what you would do if you started a fire, or found one on your property or by the side of the road. Do you have the means to get water quickly? Do you carry a fire extinguisher?"

And she wants the fires in other parts of the country to serve as a reminder of the need to be extremely careful here.

"Put up signs on your property to remind visitors and neighbours that this is a fire-free island."


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Beaver dam helps prevent island water crisis

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

B.C. has been baking under one of the most parched summers recorded and water districts all over the province have been experiencing shortages.

The public was even urged to conserve water by Water, Land and Air Protection Minister Joyce Murray earlier in the month.

"This year, the southern half of the province faces one of the driest summers on record and we must all take steps to conserve water during this driest point in the year," Murray said.

But Salt Spring appears to have dodged the drought with a mixture of conservation efforts, including rated billing structures, alternating watering schedules and a first-rate beaver dam.

"Were getting down but lake levels are still pretty good," said North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) general manager Trevor Hutton last week.

St. Mary Lake is still 40 centimetres higher than it was in 1987 during the biggest recorded drought in the NSSWD and Maxwell Lake is over a metre above recorded levels in 1987,

Hutton said.

Lake levels will continue to decline until significant rains come in the fall. Consequently, the NSSWD sent a water-conservation pamphlet with its last billing.

"It will go down lower until the rains come and it will only turn around in November."

But NSSWD has not had to prohibit sprinklers or enact any other conservation measures, said Hutton.

"We do still like [water users] to be careful."

He credits much of the abundant water supply to the engineering efforts of beavers at St. Mary Lake.

"In March, the beavers built a fantastic structure. It's a couple of feet higher than last year."

Beavers have helped to maintain St. Mary Lake levels by damming Duck Creek, Hutton said.

"Just by coincidence, their structure is the same height as the structure we're planning to build in the near future."

As a condition of its water licence, the NSSWD plans to build a 1.3-metre-tall dam sometime between 2004 and 2006 in order to maintain

water levels at 40.7 metres above sea level, he noted.

"The problem [with the beaver dam] is if someone pulls it down."

The man-made structure will ensure the water supply is protected, he said.

To protect their diminished water supply at Weston Lake, the Fulford Waterworks has prohibited lawn watering and only allows hand watering or drip-feed hoses for gardens, said trustee Nell Bushby.

"We're great conservationists down here," she said.

While Bushby couldn't provide figures for lake levels or water usage, the lake is meeting demand, she said.

"It seems to stand up to the amount of water we pull from it."

Beddis Waterworks has implemented a heavily tiered billing structure to help conserve levels at Cusheon Lake.

"It goes up quite steeply; it's a built-in incentive to conserve," said Beddis Waterworks treasurer Andrew Peat.

After a \$25 bi-monthly base rate, Beddis-district consumers pay \$1.60 per 1,000 gallons (4,546 litres)

for their first 10,000 gallons, \$4.90 per 1,000 gallons up to 50,000 gallons, and \$16.30 per 1,000 gallons after that.

"Consumption rates have doubled in the last few years," Peat said.

Even though Beddis Waterworks hasn't hit its licence limit, it serves 122 active accounts.

"Previously, there was no incentive to conserve."

But Beddis doesn't have the highest rates on the island, Peat noted.

Scott Point Waterworks (SPW) charges a base \$60 bi-monthly, \$12 per 1,000 gallons up to 6,000 gallons, \$50 per 1,000 gallons up to 10,000 gallons and \$100 per 1,000 gallons above that threshold.

"The upper limit is 12,000 gallons for two months and people are informed that if they go over that, they will be getting a visit from one of the trustees," said SPW trustee Phil Hume.

The SPW serves 58 properties from three wells, he said.

"Nobody has gardens; nobody waters."

The group adopted a severe rate structure three

years ago to replace its capital reserve after the district invested in a reverse-osmosis plant to improve one well's water quality. It had suffered from salinity problems, Hume said.

"We force conservation by putting rates up, but people here are pretty good anyway."

Though Hume has found SPW wells standing up to user demands, Isles West Water Services has been busy assisting Salt Spring homes with well problems.

"More than normal at this time of year," said Isles West Water Services owner Bob Ellison in assessing the demand.

He's seen an abnormal number of mechanical failures and even a couple of well collapses this year.

"It's not the new places that are having the problems."

Homeowners with an old 80-foot well might find that the neighbourhood has developed with 200-foot wells around them to drain water away from their reach, Ellison said.

Other residents might suffer from "lazy wells" that still produce enough water for the household

with the aid of a storage tank, he noted.

"You may have a water demand of a few 100 gallons in an hour period. A well might collect that over the course of a day but not all at once."

Ellison has also seen a lot more interest in roof-top rainwater collection systems for use on gardens and lawns.

A recent University of Victoria research project titled Flushing Our Future? Examining Water Use in Canada determined that, on average, Canadians use 343 litres of fresh water per person, per day.

Canadian consumption rates are second only to the United States and more than double those recorded by most Europeans.

Of the cities surveyed in the UVic report, Charlottetown used the least amount of water residentially at 156 litres per capita per day while St. John's, at 659 litres, used the most. Victoria and Vancouver used 340 and 357 litres per capita respectively.

Water conservation pamphlets with more information are available at the NSSWD office.

CRD approves four local grants

Four grants-in-aid to Salt Spring groups were approved by the Capital Regional District (CRD) board at its last board meeting.

The Farmers' Institute, Earth Festival Society, Salt Spring Transportation Society and Salt Springers for Safe Food will receive grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000.

The safe food group will see \$250 to help cover costs of the July 19-20 Real Food Faire held at Fulford Hall.

A \$400 cheque will help the transportation society with start-up costs for

its proposed ride-share program.

The Earth Festival Society, which plans to create an energy plan for Salt Spring, will add \$2,000 to the same amount approved by Islands Trust Council as well as its own funds to complete the first phase of its plan.

"Basically it's to look at our energy use patterns," said regional director Gary Holman. "The next phase would be to develop strategies for energy conservation."

Holman said the CRD is also looking at developing a region-wide energy

strategy.

The \$5,000 grant will help the Farmers Institute complete its new agricultural centre, which will provide more room for displays at the fall fair.

Holman was pleased that each group "brought matching dollars to the table, so the grants-in-aid are all leveraging additional monies."

He also said he was working with the transportation society on possible funding for a study to analyze options and identify potential financing partnerships for a Salt Spring public transit system.

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Gambling's costs

The high costs of gambling were detailed in a story in these pages last week, a story of tragic proportions and tremendous implications for some Salt Spring Island families.

Some people believe that such stories should not be told, that they reveal personal issues that ought to be kept private. Obviously, this newspaper disagrees, otherwise the story would not have appeared. And all the information published last week was already in the public domain, having been released through proceedings in Ganges provincial court.

But that, perhaps, is an argument for another day. The more important issue in this story is the life-wrecking potential of gambling, a practise whose popularity has increased with its accessibility. It wasn't very long ago that determined gamblers had to board a bus or an airplane to take them to places such as Las Vegas or Reno.

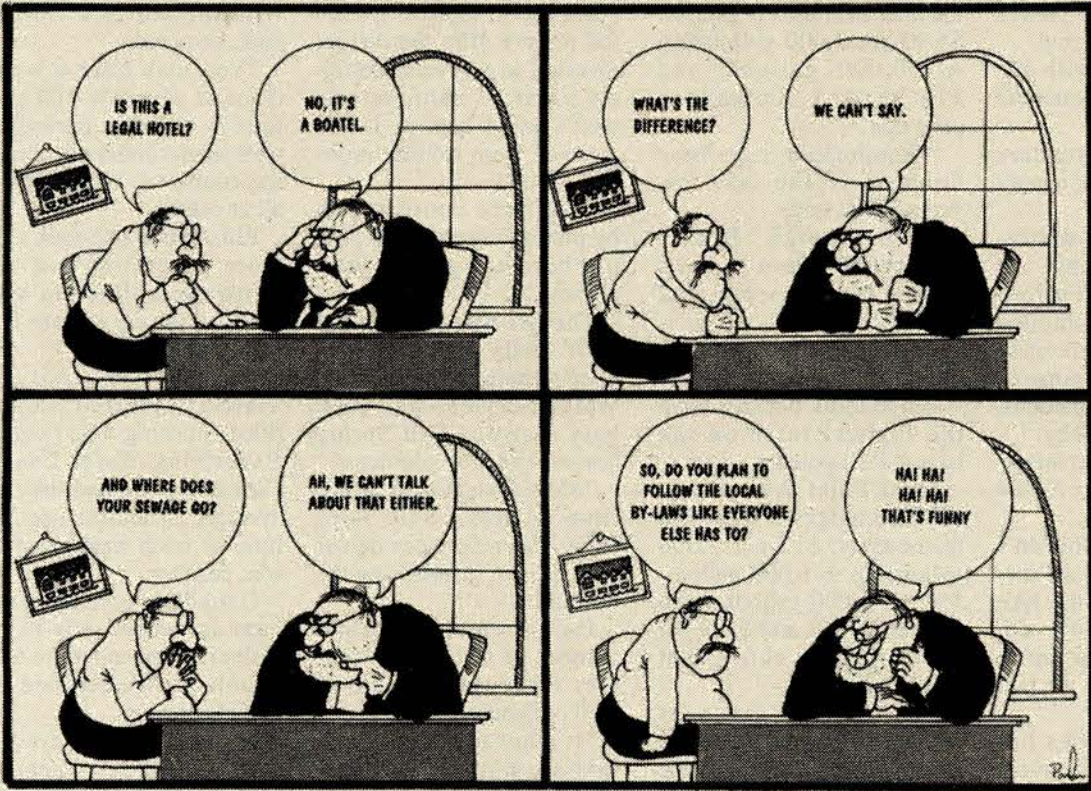
Today you need nothing more than a computer with Internet access and a credit card. And if you live in larger centres in British Columbia, a casino is never far away.

Gambling has long had its critics. It is still widely regarded as a vice, but for cash-strapped governments it represents a revenue source. Casino and slot machine licensing are in the news more and more, and will continue to be the focus of much public debate for years to come. And governments, determined to avoid running deficits, will continue to grant the licences.

And there is no reason why they shouldn't. There is no reason why government should take it upon itself to protect individuals from the damage they can do to themselves and others by outlawing gambling. But at the same time there are steps that could be taken to mitigate some of the fallout.

In Ontario recently there was publicity over a gamblers' assistance program that was failing those who signed up for it. The concept is a good one: voluntary signing of a document that gives casinos the authority to bar admittance to anyone whose name appears on it.

Such a program does nothing to help those problem gamblers who are ensnared by gambling websites. But it's a move in the right direction, and a move the B.C. government should make now.



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Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.
328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
Office Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday
Phone: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll-free: 1-877-537-9934
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This newspaper acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward its mailing costs.
Publications Mail Registration No. 08149
International Standard Serial Number 1198-7782

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Documenting the death of an island neighbourhood

By SHARON MCCOLLOUGH

In the early 1970s, our neighbourhood was a typical island mix of colourful dwellings with equally colourful inhabitants.

Creatively modified trailers and faded leaning cottages were tucked into well-treed lots among architect-designed homes. Except for the occasional cherished flower gardens, there were no fences.

The 140-pound logger lived next door to the cranky retired cardiologist and his genteel choir-director wife. The guy who drove the freight truck and the Reiki practitioner were further down the street.

None of us were truly friends but someone would host the neighbourhood barbecue where the conversation never got more

VIEW POINT

complex than "should we write our MLA about the potholes." While not exciting social whingdings, these gatherings acknowledged our fundamental connectedness as human beings living next door to one another.

A few neighbours were troublesome, like the English colonel who regularly got into the gin while recounting battles from "the good war." For unknown reasons, these reminiscences would often lead him to disrobe outside and plunk his 6'-5" frame in the middle of the road, sometimes in his

underwear, sometimes not.

Eventually, we learned that with a rousing rendition of It's a Long Way to Tipperary we could establish a camaraderie sufficient to lurch him safely back down his driveway.

Other neighbours were helpful, like the farmer who used his considerable arm strength to save a pet doe that was struggling to deliver a stillborn fawn.

And the two women from around the corner who took turns nursing the bleeding, traumatized doe throughout the night. The doe survived.

Our neighbourhood was far from Disney perfect. We never linked elbows to highstep down the yellow brick road. In fact, mailbox conversations often got extremely brief after particularly

contentious local elections.

But when the snow came and we waited for the plough, the 4-wheel-drive owners would bring back groceries, prescription drugs and, of course, gin for the colonel.

Years passed. People passed away. Many sold because they could no longer afford the taxes. Trees got cut, houses got bigger. Then came the fences, walls and gates.

I no longer know the first names or faces of my "neighbours." They don't live here. Most of the year, I can walk to the mailbox and back passing neither man, woman, child nor dog.

Suddenly in August, the property owners arrive in SUVs from Washington, California, Alberta,

California, California, California, California. There are parties, power boats, yachts, seadoos and seaplanes.

Then abruptly, like turning off a TV set, all the activity stops with the clank of a security gate.

Now, ours is the only flag hung out on Remembrance Day. In our neighbourhood there are no festive lights during the holiday season, only white sentry floodlights protecting vacant properties.

Coming from town, I pass bank clerks and teachers heading for the Vesuvius ferry because they can't find homes here. I turn onto my street and stop.

The rain glistens on the security gates guarding the ghost houses that stand cold and empty.

The writer operates Spindrift at Welbury Point.

Thanks to television and wars and immigrants, we've all become knowledgeable about the distinct cultural differences between groups of people around the world.

What we don't pay as much attention to is the vast differences that exist between some cultures right here in Canada.

For the past 11 years I've spent a good deal of time in the North Cariboo — the Cariboo Mountains, to be precise.

The differences between the Canadian Gulf Islands Cultural Sub-Group (as a professor of sociology would call it) and the Cariboo Cultural Sub-Group are huge. The attitudes, opinions and philosophies of Gulf Islanders have been more significantly influenced by several generations of hippies, critical thinkers, visionaries and whackos.

On the other hand, people

who've immigrated or migrated to the Cariboo seem to be more traditional folks: more "like thinkers" as opposed to the "contrary thinkers" on Salt Spring.

Obviously part of the difference also lies in the economic base of the Cariboo. Things up there haven't changed much since the first white guys moseyed in: Mining, logging and ranching still drive the economy.

While spending a few days up there last week, I looked through a couple of local newspapers. Wow! The dif-

ferences between Salt Spring and the Cariboo are reflected clearly in the pages of those papers.

A look at the Driftwood classifieds any given week reveals a large and diverse offering of lessons or therapy sessions covering everything from A to Zen. Yoga — once thought of as a new age study — is now a well-established, even traditional, method of heightening one's physical and spiritual well-being.

To islanders, even the less

When two cultures clash . . .

ISLESAY!
WITH JOHN POTTINGER



well known or more recent additions to the field of mind and body healing are commonplace. The enlightened folks of the island are familiar with such offerings as Feldenkrais, reiki and coning — not to mention the delightful-sounding "Rolfing."

The ads in the corresponding sections of the newspapers of the Cariboo are much more — how do I say this respectfully? Conservative. The most daring ads offer tea leaf readings or gypsy fortune tellers. In the true spirit of Cowboy Country, the most intriguing ad read as follows: "Psychic Gunslinger for hire!"

I'm guessing it's the Wild West version of Voodoo: for a couple of hundred bucks, the Psychic Gunslinger will lasso

up a spell and fire a black-magic bullet into the head or heart of your chosen enemy. Fifty bucks probably gets your victim a foot-full of virtual buckshot, leaving him limping around for a few months.

A quick read of the rest of the paper shows a vast difference between the issues considered important by the good people of the Cariboo and those of Salt Springers.

To a Gulf Islander, "protecting the environment" means recycling, cutting down on vehicle emissions and the like. To most folks in the Cariboo it means stocking the lakes with enough trout that the fishing will be just as good next year, or shooting enough bears to make sure

they don't become pests.

Not many folks up there know the word "compost;" the closest most of them come to recycling is letting Mother Earth slowly reclaim their various pieces of equipment, appliances and motorized vehicles, though some of them do go a step further and pour their used motor oil back into the ground.

"Organic" is another seldom used and even more rarely understood word. When I asked a local farmer how he felt about GM foods, he said, "If it's made by the guys who make Chevy trucks it must be good for you."

I better be careful; if someone in Williams Lake reads this column I'm apt to receive a late-night astral visit from the Psychic Gunslinger. If you see me limping you'll know what happened.

islesay@saltspring.com

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What are you looking forward to about going back to school?*



Ceilish Divers, 12

I'm a little scared [about starting middle school]. We just came from Phoenix and it's really small.



Sean Luckie, 12

I feel kind of excited about going back because the summer's boring.



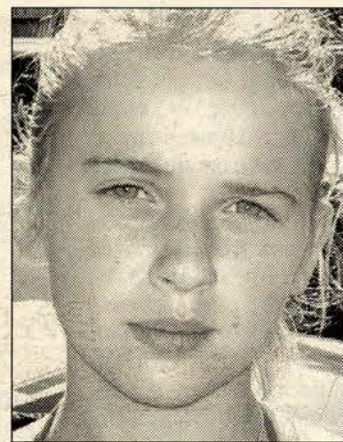
Klara Hill, 6

Doing the printing. Going to the playground.



Matthew Pentecost, 12

Just seeing my old friends. My school has a computer lab we can hang around in in the mornings and recess so I just stay there and talk to them for a little bit.



Sappho Dawn-Prince, 12

Seeing all my friends. Some of them I haven't seen all summer.

Letters to the Editor

Get a grip

It was very unsettling to read that two very experienced firefighters have been dismissed.

It is particularly disturbing to me, being a south-ender.

I have on three occasions over the years dialled 911 on behalf of other people. In all cases, Bruce Patterson, as first responder, has been on the scene in under 10 minutes. He is both professional and calming to the victims.

Is the response time to double or triple? Is a spot fire to become a forest fire? Does an injury victim have to lie on the road for another 10 to 20 minutes?

Mr. Martens has been known to me for over 20 years and is a proven manager of people. What went wrong?

It seems to be a personality conflict.

There are many ways to solve this problem, from binding arbitration to use of an off-island mediator.

At the height of the worst fire season on record, two experienced firefighters were dismissed!

Get a grip. Reinstate these two men immediately and then sort out the problems. As a ratepayer, I demand it.

I have spoken to both

Bruce and Jeff to ask if they would accept reinstatement, and both responded, "Of course."

It is the residents of this island who will suffer from this decision.

GEOFF SWIFT,
Fulford

Queasy

Occasionally, I find an errant copy of the National Enquirer somewhere, and am briefly titillated reading about the sins and foibles of various celebrities. Then I get that guilty, queasy feeling when I realize I've been reading trash.

I got the same feeling reading last week's Driftwood. This usually great paper devoted a whole two pages to detailing the pain and grief of the Villadsen family; not the rich and famous, but our friends and neighbours.

In the '70s and '80s, my husband Bill was a local contractor along with Kent, and our son Gary went to school with his kids. We were all disheartened reading about their troubles: I imagine this long, drawn-out saga has caused them enough heartache without having it splashed all over our local paper. They need to continue to live and work

amongst us.

Was this news? Did I, or anyone else, need to find out all the lurid details?

"Well," someone countered during a heated discussion at work, "it went through the courts, so it's news."

Someone else noted that the Driftwood has been strangely silent in the infamous case of local residents who found arsenic in their domestic water supply and other similar stories.

Was there a shortage of great stories last week? I found it a lot more interesting to read that the local marina continues to flaunt our bylaws with apparent impunity, and I didn't feel sick afterwards, but merely pissed off.

Come on Driftwood, perhaps this could have been a two-paragraph item on Page 7 with your court news. We all have skeletons in the closet.

LINDA QUIRING,
North End Road

Rescues disputed

Re Tom Galvin's letter (Driftwood, August 13):

Undoubtedly Galvin is an American, historically ignorant, enjoying the benefits and freedoms of Canada. I imagine he wrote to provoke

us, otherwise why would he say his country is the future, having "rescued" us twice in the last century.

Where was his country when Hitler took over the whole of Europe, and when England was standing alone for so long?

"U.S. rescued us twice in the last century," said Galvin. It wasn't until the last year of both wars that the U.S. entered. In 1940, the U.S. begrudgingly gave England lend-lease destroyers. (My brother sailed one from New York to London across the U-boat-infested Atlantic.)

By 1941, England was so short of air crew that it formed the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. I served for four years, replacing ground crew personnel so they could fight as air crew.

Galvin should not provoke our veterans and the Canadian public by such remarks. I can only think that his aim must be to stir up anti-American sentiments.

DIANA SETTERFIELD,
Salt Spring

Unfair formula

I urge people to protest against the unfairness of the new "fair" Pharmacare plan.

This is not "fair"

Pharmacare, but "fare" Pharmacare. The fare is high and, as usual, it is the poorest and least able in our society who are being taken for a ride.

Setting aside the cuts to what is now covered, I wish to draw attention to the table describing the formula for the assignment of deductibles and of maximums households must pay before Pharmacare first kicks in and, second, takes over 100 per cent of eligible costs.

Incomes under \$15,000 (i.e. up to \$14,999.99) are assigned no deductible to pay before Pharmacare pays 70 per cent of all eligible costs and must pay "only" 30 per cent of costs until the maximum for that income category is reached at \$300 annually — the point at which Pharmacare pays 100 per cent of all eligible costs.

So far, so good. But, unlike our scale for income tax, this scale for Pharmacare does not give everyone that break on the first \$14,999 of household income, and then assess a deductible and maximum based on the amount of income falling into the next higher category.

Comparing the lowest and the next-lowest categories, an additional one penny of

income takes an individual to an even \$15,000 a year, entering a category where all have an initial deductible of two per cent of net annual income and a maximum payable of three per cent of net income. Thus, one cent in additional income costs a household a \$300 deductible and a maximum to pay of \$450.

The same ludicrously unjust formula applies all the way up, with the cost of one penny more in net income making the most dramatically inequitable difference at the borderline between one income category and the next.

At the number given for lodging complaints, my partner talked to someone who got the point and said (my translation): "Duh. I hadn't noticed that. It does seem unfair, doesn't it? But I didn't write the formula and there's nothing I can do."

Who does have the authority to correct an injustice? To complain of this one, call 1-866-952-2646, or write to Complaint Centre, P.O. Box 9655, Station Prov. Gov't, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9P2.

DONALDA MACKENZIE,
Park Drive

MORE LETTERS A10

Warming ourselves at the 'Driftwood campfire'

"The campfire of community" is how a classmate of mine in journalism school three years ago described local newspapers. (Cheers for Sonya Klausat, a bright spark from a farm near Williams Lake.)

I love the image of everyone coming together to warm themselves, tell tales of their forays into the world, and work out their thoughts about it. It's an ideal, of course, and a great one to strive for.

Since I'm now writing here every second week and apparently a new island newspaper will appear soon, I think it's timely and appropriate to talk about the role such publications play in our lives. A big one, obviously.

Some prominent island people I met recently said that they've added 10 years to their lives by excluding certain newsprint materials.

SPRINGBOARD

BY BRENDA GUILD



Are we up to this discussion? Perhaps my thoughts, formed as a weekly opinion columnist for more than five years, could serve as a springboard to clarifying the type of press — the type of campfire — around which the majority of people wish to gather.

First, let me say that publisher Tony Richards has been a fine and fair man to me. He took me on and has let me run. A columnist's life doesn't get luckier than that, and I say my thanks every day for it.

I don't, in general, try to stir up controversy, because it seems

to exist abundantly without my help. What I try to do is look at what's going on from different angles or with a different spin. I'm excited by ideas and creative, smarter possibilities.

I do my best to build each opinion piece around three elements: some take I've formed on a subject over the years, something timely that triggers thoughts about it, and other people's experiences and comments that relate to it.

I've had some column ideas on the back burner for ages, then suddenly one or two missing pieces appear and it comes together. They're thought pieces, I hope, by which we can all stay friends by the campfire, however

deep our differences.

What bothers me when controversies get raging isn't anything to do with the subject matter and the logic or illogic of each person's arguments. My hide's thick enough for the flak, but through the insults, I get glimmers of what life would be like if we didn't have the type of society and governance we do.

When the nastiness comes out, I can see how, in a totalitarian regime, neighbours can get riled enough to persecute, drive out and even kill others who don't share their views, ways of doing things, looks, etc. We have the seeds of the worst among us, and they scare the hell out of me. I don't want any part of distressing people so they work up deep and abiding uncharitable thoughts about me or anyone else.

I saw Atom Egoyan's film Ararat recently, after which his

father Frank talked about the accusations, denials and justifications that lace through Armenians' lives, past and present, at every level.

"What is the truth?" he kept asking.

How do we live with our differing ideas about how things were, are, and ought to be? How do we reconcile our disparate truths? We all struggle with this, even on these paradise islands. Maybe especially here.

I'm no genius about fashioning truth and reconciliation, but I embrace the concept and its goals. A free and lively press plays a huge role in forwarding it.

I take my responsibility from this corner most seriously, at the great wienie roast and s'mores toast around the Driftwood campfire.

b_guild@yahoo.ca

MORE LETTERS

From Page A9

Low class

My husband brought home the Driftwood last Wednesday evening and showed me in shocked silence the front-page headline.

I read the article in total disbelief and was so stunned I couldn't speak. Instead I moved to the piano where I played a piece by Chopin. I'm not a regular church-going person but my spirituality comes out through my music. I played for Joanne and her children and the tears started streaming down my face: tears of anger, a rage that I have never felt before, so much so that I just have to write this comment.

I have known Joanne for 10 years when she first came to the island. She baby-sat my son, who loved her company and now as a teenager, still reflects on those days with great memories.

Now she is a mother of her own and has raised four wonderful children who are an absolute joy to be around, who respect and admire their mother very much. She has a charismatic way with children; they flock to be around her and want to be with her. They are happy with her.

I know this as I've been with her on many occasions and have experienced it. It is a rare gift to have this attribute and I admire her for it.

I also know the true facts that have happened to Joanne during the last year and a half. I have known almost every day the ongoing battle with her disease that she single-handedly faced: her awareness that something was not right, her solo trips to the hospital, to the psychiatrists, to the counsellors, to the doctors and back for more testing and more testing.

Singlehandedly she faced these hurdles with the constant support of her parents and friends. She had the determination and strength in her to get to the root of this horrid nightmare so that she could carry on with her life and her children. Such determination has now paid off. Joanne has come full circle and has accomplished the unbelievable.

What I read in the Driftwood was an article totally full of distorted, incorrect so-called facts misrepresenting the truth, resulting in an out and out vicious, venomous one-sided attack on Joanne. How can an article so poorly written by an obviously easily-influenced rookie reporter be allowed to go to press?

I used to enjoy reading the Driftwood every week. For a

small paper, it was quite well written. I've certainly spent many advertising dollars in it.

However, I have changed my mind now. It feels to me as a bit of a low-class rag bordering on voyeurism and slander. Until it improves to its former level of success, I think that I will pass on reading it for now.

I'd rather play Chopin any day.

HEATHER J. BRIGHT,
North Saanich

Serious error

Regarding the dismissal of volunteer firefighters Bruce Patterson and Jeff Outerbridge, those of us who live in the south end of Salt Spring Island are particularly concerned with the termination of Bruce Patterson.

This action by the board of trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District leaves the south end of Salt Spring without adequate fire and inhalator protection.

Bruce Patterson has always shown himself to be a completely reliable and conscientious firefighter, as well as an excellent citizen and public-spirited member of our community, highly respected and respectful, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

My personal experience of the commitment of Bruce Patterson to his service as a firefighter is when my husband died suddenly and, upon finding him, I called 911. Bruce, with the inhalator, was first to arrive at my rather remote home. Not only were all the necessary procedures followed, I was extended the care and concern so much appreciated in a time of grief and shock.

Another shared experience was when a relative suffered a severe attack in the middle of the night. Again, Bruce was first to arrive and with the inhalator provided not only the necessary lifesaving equipment but also support and care for the family.

The board of trustees has made a serious error in judgement in dismissing two of the most caring and committed members of the Salt Spring Island community, princes among their peers, and stable and thoughtful public servants, giving far more than is ever asked of them.

It is time to reinstate these men with an apology for a gross miscarriage of justice.

MARY DAVIDSON,
Fulford Harbour

Speaking up

I don't know the fire chief and I don't know the fire district trustees, but I do know

Bruce Patterson.

He is a man who is an outstanding example to us all; a man dedicated to serving his community and well-known throughout the south end (if not all the island) for his honesty and dedication.

It is a great shock to hear that Bruce and fellow firefighter Jeff Outerbridge were dismissed from the fire department. In firing these two men the board is denying us the many years of experience and dedication they bring to our community.

I am also concerned that the removal of Bruce from the fire department leaves us without a firefighter on location in the south end. Some of the facts leading to the loss of these dedicated men and their 30-plus years of experience are clouded in secrecy, it seems, and have now become hidden in legal actions. But it appears Bruce and Jeff were dismissed for voicing their concerns regarding fire protection issues on Salt Spring. When those from among one's ranks express concerns, they do so on behalf of all us. When they speak up for the people they serve so well, they speak for me. And now I wish to speak up for them.

With this in mind, I request that the trustees have the nobility to take a step back from this drama and reconsider their actions. Perhaps an experienced mediator could help resolve this conflict.

My hope is that safety and security to the people of Salt Spring will be restored by reinstating Mr. Patterson and Mr. Outerbridge to their former positions.

JUDITH HARRISON,
Morningside Road

Hyperbole

I would like to comment on Jan Slakov's Viewpoint (Driftwood, August 6) and Tom Galvin's letter (Driftwood, August 13) replying to Jan's article.

Like Jan and many others, I am not a "whiner" nor am I pursuing a "ridiculous agenda." For those of us who grew up in a war-torn Europe and experienced the horrors of war during World War II, we view peace and fairness in the world as a worthwhile agenda.

It is indeed true that the United States did enter the First World War, albeit in 1917, and the Second World War in 1942.

But to say that they "rescued" Europe is the height of hyperbole.

I think it would be commendable if the United

States now joined the many hundreds of thousands of Americans who are working towards peace and phasing out war as a way of solving the world's problems. That,

indeed, would be a "leadership" role.

VALERIE PITMAN,
Salt Spring

P.S. A statistic for Mr. Galvin to ponder: More

civilians were killed in one day in Hiroshima in 1945 than American soldiers killed in World War I.

MORE LETTERS A11



CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT MAYNE ISLAND WATER SERVICE REFERENDA

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO VOLUNTEER AS A SCRUTINEER AND ADVANCE VOTER REGISTRATION

SURFSIDE PARK ESTATES WATER SERVICE REFERENDUM

Take notice that the assent of the electors is required with regard to proposed Bylaw No. 3087, *Surfside Park Estates Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003* and Bylaw No. 3088, *Surfside Park Estates Water Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1*. Qualified electors of the proposed Surfside Parks Estates water service area, on Mayne Island, in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will be asked to vote on the following question on Saturday, November 8, 2003:

"Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District Board adopting Bylaw No. 3087, *Surfside Park Estates Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003* to create a service to operate a water supply system and Bylaw No. 3088, *Surfside Park Estates Water Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2003* to permit borrowing of up to \$272,000 for constructing new waterworks?
YES or NO"

SKANA WATER SERVICE REFERENDUM

Take notice that the assent of the electors is required with regard to proposed Bylaw No. 3089, *Skana Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003* and Bylaw No. 3090, *Skana Water Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2003*. Qualified electors of the proposed Skana water service area, on Mayne Island, in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will be asked to vote on the following question on Saturday, November 8, 2003:

"Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District Board adopting Bylaw No. 3089, *Skana Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003* to create a service to operate a water supply system and Bylaw No. 3090, *Skana Water Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2003* to permit borrowing of up to \$157,700 for constructing new waterworks? **YES or NO"**

SCRUTINEERS

Applications to act as a scrutineer for those organizations for and against the bylaws shall be received at the offices of the Capital Regional District (CRD), P. O. Box 1000, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2S6 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. from **Monday, September 22, 2003 until Wednesday, October 1, 2003**. Application forms are available at the CRD by telephoning Toll Free 1-800-663-4425 local 3129 or 250-360-3129.

LIST OF REGISTERED ELECTORS

Beginning Wednesday, August 27, 2003 until Wednesday, September 24, 2003 a copy of the list of registered electors for the Mayne Island, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will be available, **upon signature**, for public inspection at the CRD offices listed below. You may also call the following offices to enquire whether your name is on the Voters' List:

- **CRD Administration Dept.**, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Mon. to Fri., excluding holidays) Telephone Toll Free 1-800-663-4425 local 3129 or 250-360-3129
- **CRD Building Inspection** (Southern Gulf Islands), #210-771 Vernon Ave. (Gateway Village), Victoria, BC (Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) Telephone 250-475-1581

ADVANCE VOTER REGISTRATION

Advance Voter Registration closes on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 for the Mayne Island, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Voters' List. You may also register on voting day if you meet the qualifications set out below:

You are entitled to vote as a **Resident Elector** if you:

- are 18 years or older on voting day (November 8, 2003)
- are a Canadian Citizen
- have resided in British Columbia for six months
- have resided in your community (ie. one of the water service areas described above) for 30 days.

If registering on voting day, you must provide two documents proving identity and residency, one of which must have a signature.

You are entitled to vote as a **Non-Resident Property Elector** if you:

- are 18 years or older on voting day (November 8, 2003)
- are a Canadian Citizen
- have resided in British Columbia for six months
- have owned and held registered title to property within the boundaries of the local community (ie. one of the water service areas described above) for 30 days
- do not qualify as a Resident Elector

You are entitled to vote as a **Non-Resident Property Elector** provided that you:

- (a) have registered on or before September 24, 2003, **OR**
- (b) have applied for and received a certificate, prior to voting day, which entitles you to register as a Non-Resident Property Elector (certificate **MUST** be presented at the time of voting); **OR**
- (c) apply for a certificate, at the time of voting, which entitles you to register as a Non-Resident Property Elector, if the following information is provided at the time of application:
 - a recent land title registration of the real property **OR** a property tax notice, which will show the names of all the registered owners; **AND**
 - 2 pieces of identification (one of which must have a signature), **AND**
 - in the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property.

For more information about registering as a Resident Elector or a Non-Resident Property Elector, call Toll Free 1-800-663-4425 local 3129 or 250-360-3129.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2003.

Thomas F. Moore,
Chief Election Officer

Raven Isle

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MORE LETTERS

From Page A10

Mean-spirited

It was disturbing to read Tom Galvin's derisive, mean-spirited letter (Driftwood, August 13) about peace group's ideas and recent action on Hiroshima Day on Salt Spring Island.

As peace-loving Americans who live here part-time and participated in the event, we have appreciated the Canadian spirit of peacefulness that we have experienced (especially on this island). We strongly agree with Jan Slakov's viewpoint (August 6) regarding the U.S. and, especially, the bullying, aggressive nature of the current U.S. administration.

We hope that Canada will continue to serve as an example by opposing involvement in the national missile defence program, in order to promote true security in our world.

While Mr. Galvin is entitled to his own opinions, as we all are, perhaps he could think about communicating in a less hostile, more respectful way.

**CORRIE HOPE FURST,
WENDY JUDITH CUTLER,
Salt Spring**

No debt

Since when do communities owe businesses a "debt of gratitude" for their contributions to community services? (Driftwood editorial, August 13).

For one thing, charitable donations are tax-deductible, which has as much influence on management decisions as their desire to do good for the community.

For another, businesses generate revenues, and hence profits, from locals and tourists who pay for goods and services. Those of us who can calculate and don't throw our money around know that prices of said goods and services (from gasoline to dispensing fees, rentals, real estate, organic produce, etc.) on Salt Spring are over-inflated.

A thriving business that returns some portion of its profits to the community only enhances its image by acknowledging where that profit comes from. It shouldn't blow its horn, nor does it really deserve loads of awe and praise, or free advertising in an editorial.

I challenge those who believe that by patronizing the retailers named in last week's editorial they are keeping their business at

home to examine what they buy and then to tell me how many products were not made or grown outside of B.C. or Canada by transnational conglomerates. If you don't detect a contradiction in the "support your local chainstore" cry, then you've wandered from paradise into La-la-land!

As for my habits, I shop at Thrifty's and Mouat's, Pharmasave and Fields because I can conveniently find what I need and like, and I buy these items when they're on sale.

As for local causes, I make my donations directly to the organization of my choice. That way, I'm not obligated to line up and pay off any debts at the till.

**DIANE ENGELHARDT,
Salt Spring**

Don't give in

How many bylaw infractions can the community tolerate, you ask? (August 20 Driftwood editorial.)

Obviously in Mr. Barbieri's game plan for his marina, as many as he decides to flout.

We should not be bullied or threatened into giving the marina what it wants and ignoring its history of total disregard for our OCP and bylaws.

The marina is neither a good neighbour nor a good community partner, showing nothing but contempt and disrespect for the community of Salt Spring in the guise of being our economic saviour.

I respectfully ask other concerned people to look beyond their pocketbook. Stand behind our OCP and be proud of it and the amount of community work that went into it, and encourage our authorities to do the same.

Enough bending of the rules to suit the master plan of B&B Ganges Marina Ltd. Follow the bylaws and say good-bye to the float house and the sky will not fall in.

Please, Salt Spring, do not give in to these bully tactics, as they will only breed more of the same.

**CATHERINE BENNETT,
Salt Spring**

Support

What would our community be without our volunteers?

Anyone who has fundraised for local events, coached kids' sports, etc. knows that without the handful of people one can usually count on to step forward again and again, our community would truly suffer.

That there are people here willing to give their time, talent, means and money, as well as some who are willing to risk life and limb to ensure our comfort and safety, makes this island a wonderful place.

Having people here who choose not to contribute, whether it be time, money or a cooperative attitude, matters not. They benefit as well.

Without overstating the obvious, our fire department, especially, search and rescue volunteers and all those who contribute to the community, petty differences aside, deserve our support, appreciation and thanks.

**SHARON PUKY EVANS,
Morningside Road**

Shallow

John Pottinger's August 13 column about Arnold Schwarzenegger's run for Governor of California misses by a country mile.

Pottinger concludes that Bush's endorsement of Arnold means he would be a terrible governor. However, George Bush is at least smart enough to know that it would be political suicide not to endorse him, and in any case, the clip I saw on the BBC showed Bush to be distinctly unenthusiastic about this endorsement.

And rightly so, as Schwarzenegger has also

been endorsed by several high-profile left-leaning Democrats, including hard-line lefty film star Jamie Lee Curtis and the left-leaning political commentator Bill Press on CNN.

Indeed, Schwarzenegger is in favour of gun control, same sex marriages and is pro-choice on abortion, which means he could just as easily be a centrist Democrat. His wife, after all, is Ted Kennedy's niece.

My guess is that Schwarzenegger is playing a very astute political line. By calling himself a Republican he is assured of their vote, and by expressing progressive views he will also attract moderate Democrats.

And in any case, what have his movies got to do with his candidacy? I'm sure if Steven Spielberg, a left-leaning Democrat who has made his share of violent movies and would certainly not be endorsed by Bush, was running, Pottinger would not hold that against him.

And Jesse Ventura, the former World Wrestling Association Champion (not exactly the most peaceful profession) has by most accounts done an excellent job of governing Minnesota.

I don't expect world-class political commentary from the Driftwood, but Pottinger's article is so shallow and devoid of insight that it wouldn't even make it into the National Enquirer.

**SIMON ROOK,
Ganges**

Clean sweep

Is it just me or can everybody see that it is the height of stupidity to fire two outstanding members of our fire department when the risk of fire is at its maximum?

The two firefighters in question have risked life and limb on hundreds of occasions on behalf of hundreds of islanders. They have also given up thousands of hours for training and meetings only to be kicked to the curb without a warning even.

I also find it ironic that they were the only reps for


our volunteers on the trustee board. Ben Martens certainly made a clean sweep. Mr. Martens should disclose what would entice him and the other trustees to take such drastic and unfair measures towards Mr. Outerbridge and Mr. Patterson and at the same

time put us all at risk. As for myself, I think we should keep all our firefighters and treat them well, but maybe we could get rid of a trustee instead?

**KEITH NEWMAN,
Rainbow Road**

MORE LETTERS A14

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Back To School **DAD**

Get an A+ for Planning Creative School Lunches



Preparing children for the upcoming school year can mean buying a new school wardrobe, purchasing notebooks, pens and other supplies, and of course, coming up with new lunch ideas.

Research has shown that there is a definite link between good nutrition, health and learning. If your child is bringing his or her own lunch to school, you will want to pack a meal that contains a variety of healthy options.

• First, it is important to acknowledge the tastes of your child. Ask your child to get involved with the lunch planning, preparing and packing process.

• Use the Canada Food Guide for creating healthy meals. Try to include at least one serving from each of the food groups: dairy, fruits, vegetables, grains & cereal, & meats & poultry.

• Try to include foods with varied tastes, textures and colours. Remember, variety is

the spice of lunch as well as life.

• The average lunch period lasts between 20 and 45 minutes. This includes the time children spend chatting and using the restrooms, so be sure to include snacks that are simple to eat.

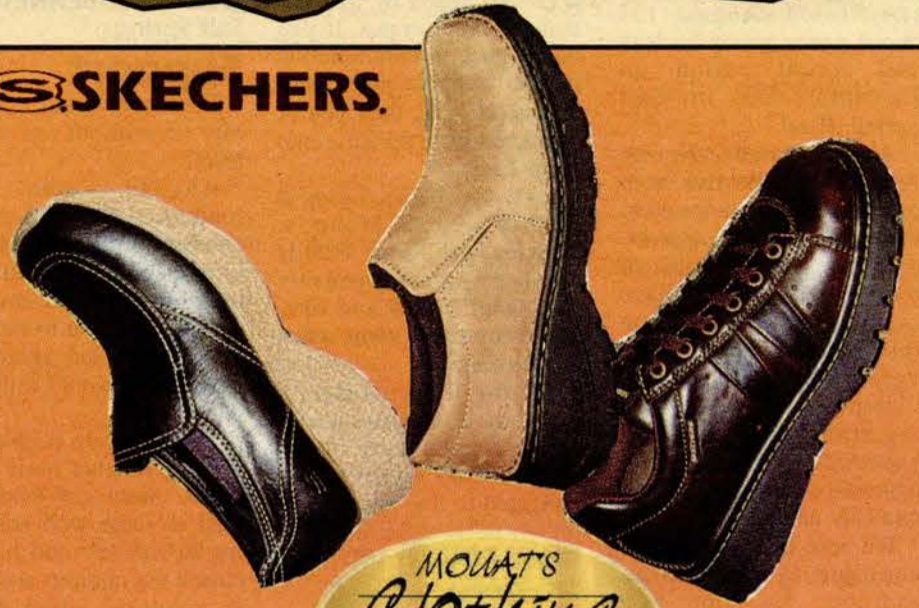
• Add a few condiment packets from fast-food restaurants, like ketchup, mustard & mayonnaise to your child's lunch box, rather than placing the condiments on the sandwich directly. This keeps sandwiches from getting soggy.

• Vary bread offerings for sandwiches: try using pita pockets, mini bagels, tortillas and even mini dinner rolls.

• Cut vegetables into bite-size pieces, pack in a sealed plastic bag for freshness, and send alongside a container of flavoured cream cheese or salsa for dipping.

• A cup of soup, kept warm in a sealed thermos, or a container filled with pasta salad are healthy and delicious lunch ideas.

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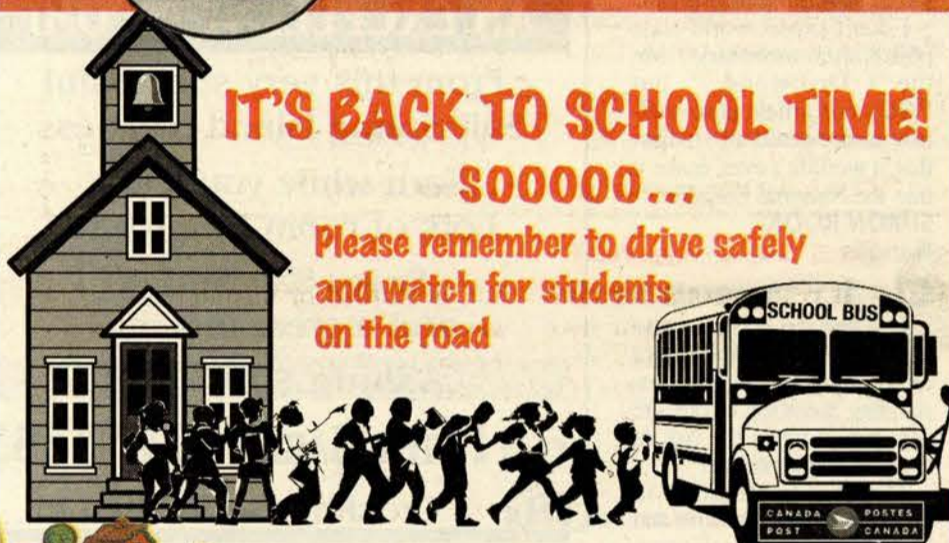
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Ways To Teach Children Responsible Behaviour

Children learn by observing the world around them. By imitating what their parents, friends and teachers do they often learn what "proper behaviour" really involves, from follow-through with tasks to following directions. It's important to show your children that you take satisfaction in acting properly and accomplishing difficult tasks.

Here are some easy tips on how to inspire children to act responsibly.

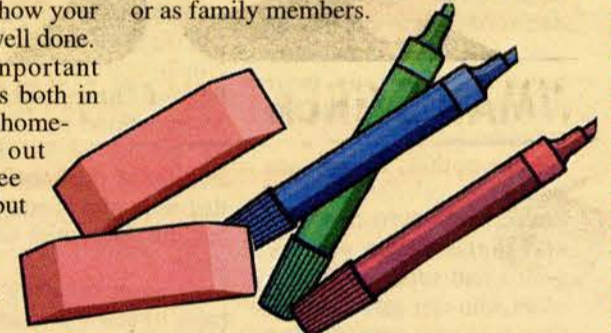
• Through your daily activities, show your children that you care about a job well done.

• Perhaps children's most important tasks are their school assignments both in and out of class. When you check homework and constructively point out mistakes, you help teach them see not only how the error occurred, but how to read over their own work. By allowing them to correct their own mistakes, parents can inspire

self-confidence. Be sure to congratulate your child on his or her good efforts.

• Teaching self-respect does not mean complimenting everything they do. Children also need honest criticism from time to time. When you do criticize, be sure to do it constructively; it should be about things your child has done, not him or her personally.

• Most of all, help children form the self-confidence and self-respect that come from opportunities to do good work as students or as family members.



Help Kids Get 'Wrapped Up' in Learning

Math, vocabulary, science, and geography — many children flee for cover just at the mention of going back to school. After all, doesn't their time for fun and adventure end once the school bell rings? It doesn't have to.

One of the easiest ways to help your child excel in school is to make learning fun, not a chore. Think of all the teachers who made a difference in your life. They probably made the subject matter seem compelling, opened your eyes to new ways of understanding difficult topics, or they

may have used interesting learning tools and strategies that made remembering math formulas or history dates that much easier.

With this in mind, there are several ways you can give your student a boost by changing the way he or she looks at learning.

- Be supportive of your child.
- Rely on learning aides that are educational and fun.
- Look to your local neighbourhood for hidden lessons.
- Think visual.
- Share your experiences with others.

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AYS ARE HERE AGAIN

'Brainy' Tips to Help Kids Make the Grade

It's scarcely secret that practice, organization and paying attention in class are key to making the grade, from kindergarten through college. With back to school season right around the corner, here are some easy "brain training" tips to get on track at school:

- Train your brain. Set aside a regular time and place to do your homework everyday so that it becomes a habit.
- Organize your schoolwork and supplies. The process doesn't need to be a brainteaser. Have a notebook with sections for each subject and write down all of your assignments in one place. Set up a monthly calendar and schedule in homework time, tests, reports and extracurricular activities.

- Prioritize your homework. You can alternate easier and tougher assignments, but it's a good idea to do the tougher homework first, when you're feeling alert and focused.

- Don't strain your brain! Plan short study breaks as rewards for getting work done. Take a five to 10-minute doodle break for each hour spent studying.

- Don't be afraid to pick someone else's brain. If you get stuck on an assignment, don't hesitate to ask for help from a teacher, classmate or parent.

- Listen up. Give the teacher your undivided attention — keep those brain waves focused. Take notes in class and try to review them daily.

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Famous People with Learning Disabilities

Learning disabilities can be overcome, as this list shows.

- Albert Einstein: He did not speak until age three. Even as an adult Einstein found that searching for words was laborious. He found school work, especially math, difficult and was unable to express himself in written language. He was thought to be simple-minded, until it was realized that he was able to achieve by visualizing rather than by the use of language. His work on relativity, which revolutionized modern physics, was created in his spare time.
- Thomas Alva Edison: He was unable to read until he was 12 years old and his writing skills were poor throughout his life.
- George Washington: He was unable to

spell throughout his life and his grammar usage was very poor.

- Tom Cruise: Is unable to read due to severe dyslexia. He is able to memorize lines and perform on the stage and screen. Others notables include: Galileo, Mozart, Wright Brothers, Leonardo da Vinci, Cher, Bruce Jenner, Thomas Thoreau, Charles Schwab, Henry Winkler, Danny Glover, Walt Disney and John Lennon.

If you suspect your child has a learning disability, you should speak to his or her teachers and school counsellors, talk with other learning experts, and consider a formal evaluation. It's important to remember that a thorough evaluation of your child's skills must be done by a professional.

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Did You Know?

It is important for children to review their own test results. They can learn from graded exam papers. They will show where they had difficulty and, perhaps, why. This is especially important for classes where the material builds from one section to the next, as in math.

Discuss the wrong answers with your children and find out why they answered as they did. Sometimes a child misunderstands the way a ques-

tion is worded or misinterprets what was asked. The child may have known the correct answer but failed to express it effectively.



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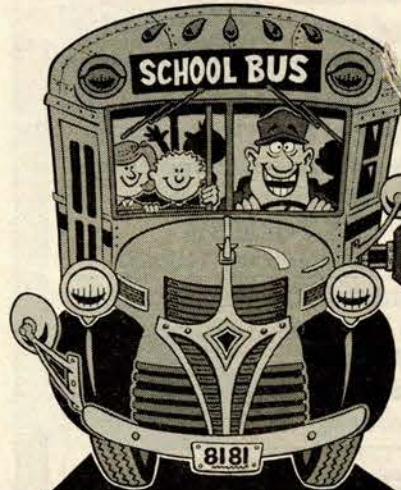


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MORE LETTERS

From Page A11

Nonsense

First let me congratulate Penny Bray and Louise Coutu for their first same-sex marriage of Salt Spring residents and I wish the happy couple a long, healthy and harmonious marriage.

Second, if we needed further proof of the Roman Catholic Church's increasing irrelevance in the 21st century, then its recent disgraceful document on same-gender marriage provides it.

The most offensive (to me) was the sentence "allowing children to be adopted by persons living in such unions would actually mean doing violence to these children . . . in an envi-

ronment that is not conducive to their full human development" — what evil and arrant nonsense! Irony of ironies! This pronouncement from a church in which one archdiocese alone (Boston) reported 789 cases of sexual impropriety over six decades, most, but not all, involving boys and priests and church workers, with such activities minimized or covered up by Bernard Cardinal Law and his predecessors.

My lesbian mother was a loving mother. My father's younger gay brother, who was gassed in the First World War, had a good and loving relationship with his

two non-gay sons. My father's youngest non-gay brother was an equally good father to his five sons and the youngest two were gay.

Most of the Pope's minions in Canada are telling the politicians how to vote but the bishops of Quebec, our most Catholic province, are refusing to follow this interference in the democratic process. Quebec in some ways is our most civilized, enlightened and tolerant part of Canada.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops in Canada is urging Catholic members of Parliament to vote no on the forthcoming legislation approving "the marriage of

two persons to the exclusion of all others."

Finally, I am hopeful that this 12-page document of the church and some silly bishop's comments will have little effect, as we know that many Catholic women have had abortions and Catholic men (gay or otherwise) use condoms.

I have seen no report on what I believe is the ulterior motive behind the church's attack on the extension of full rights to gay and lesbian couples. We know that a significant minority of priests are gay. If gay men contemplating a career in the priesthood now have the option of forming a happy marriage with adopted children then the seriously depleted ranks of the priesthood would be further reduced.

Recently the Episcopalian

church in the U.S.A. confirmed a gay priest as Bishop of New Hampshire. The United Church of Canada at its meeting last month approved of same-gender marriage. Society is certainly evolving much faster than some people would like.

JACK HALLAM,
North End Road

Outrage

Conversation at table 17, Tree House South, continues with many additional comments from other regulars. The unanimous consensus is outrage and disbelief.

The folks in Kelowna are lining their roadsides with placards expressing appreciation for their volunteer firefighters. Salt Spring is dismissing experienced, dedicated volunteers in the midst of the worst fire conditions

many of us can remember. The volunteers of the SSI Fire Department would act with the same dedication should events demand.

Perhaps we could take a lesson from Kelowna.

BRIAN ROWLEY,
KAY CATLIN,
MARIE AND STAN
TEITGE,
Fulford

MORE LETTERS A15

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Is Your Child Ready... TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL?

Back-to-School Safety Pointers for Parents
The back-to-school season presents the perfect opportunity to reinforce lessons and advice that you've gone over with your kids. Safety should be at the top of this list.

- Be sure your child knows his or her home phone number (including area code) and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult, and how to use 911 for emergencies. Make sure he or she has enough change for a phone call.
- Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings. Test the route with your child.
- Teach children — whether walking, biking or riding the bus to school — to obey all traffic signals, signs, traffic officers and safety patrols.
- Make sure they walk to and from school with others — a friend, neighbour, brother or sister.
- When car pooling, drop off and pick up children as close to school as possible. Don't leave until they have entered the school yard or building.
- Teach your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children doesn't know well or doesn't trust.

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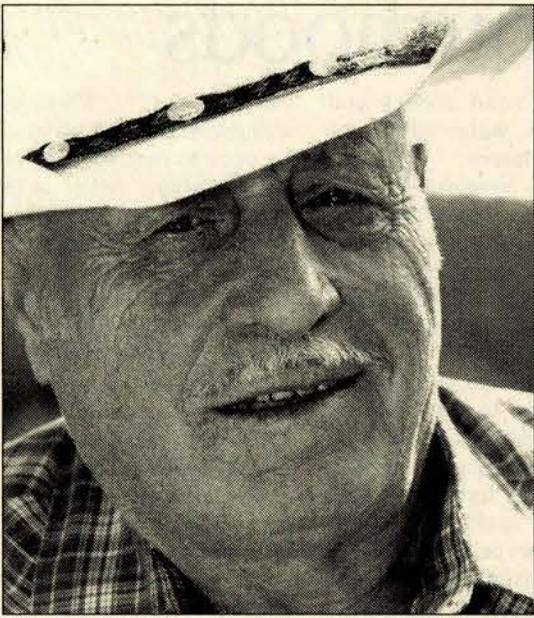
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Hobbies: Reading, old-time music and horses!
Home finished/unfinished: It's always changing.
Favourite people: Family and friends.
Favourite read: Books written by Diana Gabaldon and Western stories.
Best thing about SSI: Its people and the mild winters.
Worst thing about SSI: Bicycles on narrow roads.
Best place to kiss on SSI?: Out behind the barn.



DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

Rants to JJM: filling three out of 300 potholes on Bridgeman Road is not road maintenance.

Rants to the person whose garbage I found dumped in Arnell Park. I can see from your off-island receipts that your diet is also full of crap. All that junk food has made you senseless.

Rants to drivers who have neither the courtesy nor the education to slow down when passing a horse and rider. Most of us ride horses that are quiet in traffic, but you never know how a horse will react.

Rants to the individual who left a large plastic bag of garbage (containing tins and jars which should have been recycled) at the northern end of Canvasback.

ROSES

A bouquet of roses for John Dolman and Tim O'Connor as they continue to help SSPLASH with fundraising for an indoor pool. This weekend it was Starlight Cinema in the park — thanks a big bunch, guys.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy would like to send lovely B.C. wild roses

to Cordula Vogt, Oda Nowrath and Martin Williams for their generous and significant contributions to the protection of ecologically sensitive land on Salt Spring Island for all of us to be able to appreciate forever.

Roses to those who brought the performances to ArtSpring this summer, particularly Paul Gravett. The shows I attended were excellent and varied. It has been wonderful. MM

A rose to Donna Krupowski for living here, loving and leaving us better people. May the goddess guide your creative journey.

A dozen roses to "massage artist extraordinaire" Gina Horrocks for interrupting her holiday and having such deep compassion for my sore back.

A rose to the person who returns the cream and blue silk scarf taken from my car at Blackburn Lake. Yarrow.

(537-8858)

Buckets of roses to those thoughtful, courteous drivers who slow down and sometimes even stop to be sure we can pass each other safely. After all, safety is the bottom line. Why is it necessary to be in such a hurry?

A rose to Gary Letour and friends who saved my drifting sailboat until I could deal with it after work. Thank you so much. DB

Thanks to the person who turned in the wallet to the gas station (and a rant to the person who removed the \$300). The person who lost the wallet originally could not afford to lose the money, financially or emotionally, as they were a recent evacuee from the Kamloops wild fires.

Roses to the Ganges Coast Guard for rescuing our boat . . . again! You do an excellent job. You look after us all!

MORE LETTERS

From Page A14

Values violated

Islanders might be surprised to learn that we're not the only ones "sensitive" to the Movie Gallery moving into our community.

In the United States, the American Family Association (AFA) has been leading a national boycott of the controversial video retailer for several years. Devout Christians, AFA members aren't against globalization, they've got no beef with capitalism, as far as I know they're all for consumer choice and I doubt they're disturbed by the chain's drive to dominate rural markets.

No, they just don't like the Movie Gallery peddling pornography. Their campaign is aimed at persuading the company to remove the "back rooms" where, they claim, "hardcore pornography of every description is rented or sold."

In Movie Gallery's home state of Alabama, the mayor, city council, and church leaders of Fayette vowed to continuously picket the chain's new store there if it rented porn. The company, in the end, backed down.

Fayette mayor Ray Nelson was quoted in the AgapePress account of the confrontation as saying he "believes the victory could inspire other towns to take a stand . . ."

While I almost never agree with the Christian Right on anything — I'm more offended by a company out to buy up every "mom and

pop" operation in sight masquerading as a champion of choice — still, you've got to figure that any company that can violate such a wide range of values has got to be doing something very wrong.

MURRAY REISS, Fulford Harbour

Just one minute

Recently I had to pick up an elderly friend by car from Vancouver and booked ferries both ways.

I left Long Harbour at 6:20 a.m. The Queen of Nanaimo arrived 20 minutes late in Tsawwassen. Since I have lived on Salt Spring for 15 years, I do not get excited about 20 minutes. I do not blame the crew; they do a good job.

My reserved return sailing was at 2:10 p.m. I managed to pick up our friend and was at the ticket booth in Tsawwassen at 1:30, according to my watch.

"No," said the attendant, "you are one minute late. We have cut you off. Another car has already taken your place."

I had no choice but to take the Swartz Bay route. So I asked the same woman to give me that ticket.

"You have to go to another booth."

Since there was no car behind me, I started to back up.

"No, you have to turn right, drive across the employees' parking lot and come back that way." Again I had no choice.

The next booth attendant

wanted to deduct a \$10 cancellation fee. I told her that I did not cancel my reservation, they did. It took some time to win that argument. By the time my throughfare was printed it was 1:42.

Soon I found out that the 2 p.m. sailing to Swartz Bay was full. So was the 3 p.m. and the 4 p.m. It was very hot in the parking lot. We did get on the 5 p.m.

When we arrived in Swartz Bay, the Skeena Queen was in her berth. However, since the parking lot was full, the quick U-turn was closed. After I took the overpass for the "long" U-turn, the traffic on the Pat Bay Highway, which had come to a stop, blocked access to the ticket booth. I missed the 7 p.m. sailing to Fulford.

While waiting for the 9 p.m., I needed to buy a bottle of water. All were sold out.

Anyway, I did not get home till 10 p.m. instead of 4 p.m.

I urge the new ferry corporation to be more considerate towards islanders, especially if they have a handicap sign in their car as we do.

Also, it must be possible to load Salt Spring Island traffic on the Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay route on the lower left-hand deck so that these passengers can turn directly onto the Fulford ferry lane when unloading.

MARJOLYN VAN ZANTEN, Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A16

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Density transfers erode rural neighbourhoods

By WENDY KAYE

If the Trincomali Land Corporation succeeds with its rezoning application to the Local Trust Committee, it will pay \$25,000 for each of six new densities purchased which, even unserved, would today be appraised at \$125,000 each.

That's a cool \$600,000 profit for the developer before the ink is even dry on the approval paper, added to the profits he will derive from the nine lots he is already zoned for on the 50-acre parcel of land he bought at the top of St. Mary's Highlands last year for \$350,000.

Until recently I hadn't heard the words "density transfer." I didn't realize that a developer "purchasing densities from the density pool" could get permission to change my neighbourhood, increasing traffic and noise, compromising water supply, eroding green space and destroying wildlife habi-



IN DEPTH

tat in exchange for a "community amenity."

Okay, what the heck am I talking about? Here's the background. It's a little technical, but don't give up. It's something we all need to understand and act upon as the issue of density sales and transfers unfolds in our community.

Densities held in a "bank" by Islands Trust can be sold by property owners to a developer applying for rezoning to increase the number of lots allowed on a parcel of land. The price has been pegged by the Islands Trust at \$25,000 per density sold.

These densities (in the range of 100 now in Salt Spring's bank) have been "created" to provide a cash

source for "community amenity" funding.

Isn't there something wrong with this picture? Won't developers be flocking to Salt Spring to participate in this community largess? Is this what we as a community want? This is a huge issue of which this case is but the first example.

I moved from Vancouver and bought in St. Mary's Highland four years ago, after serious illness, to create a healthy life for myself. My objectives were peace and quiet, natural habitat and a stress-reduced lifestyle. Many of us moved to the island looking for a healthier lifestyle and we don't want to see the rural character of the island eroded.

A lot of time was spent developing a community plan (our OCP) that let us know what future development we could expect in our neighbourhoods. With the prospect of density transfers to fund community ameni-

ties, we don't know what to expect.

In this case the suggested amenity for this application is the "CRD Salt Spring Island Park Land Acquisition Fund for the purchase of public park and recreation lands at 256 Rainbow Road."

Surely, if the community decides to proceed with a new pool in any form, the whole community should pay equally, rather than one neighbourhood being changed forever inequitably to provide funding.

This issue may be coming to your neighbourhood if it is designated on the OCP as a "receiving area" which, by the way, ours isn't. But the hillside above it is. Confused? Don't give up. Try to learn more. It may be important to you.

Any rural-zoned land may have been designated as a receiving area based upon its rural zoning alone, with no consideration having been

given to road access and condition, water supply or other key issues.

Isn't it time we (again) stood up to protect what we have here, not only for ourselves, but as a beacon of sanity in a world gone crazy with greed, corruption and power-mongering?

Yes, development is bound to continue to some extent. But let's make sure the plan is well constructed, and let's not give the farm away, and let's not make some pay while others benefit.

Let's insist that development happens in a way that acknowledges our limited water, our rural road systems and the people who have already invested heavily in a rural neighbourhood culture and a way of life that is quickly disappearing from this island and this earth.

The issue of density transfers has to be addressed. Let's do something before it's too late.

I believe the trustees and

Advisory Planning Commission members would be open to hearing from you on this issue, either at the public information meeting regarding the Trincomali Land Corporation application on Thursday, September 4, 4 p.m. at All Saints Church, or by any other means you choose.

Otherwise watch for it, this picture could be coming to your neighbourhood.

The writer is a resident of Trincomali Heights, an outdoors-person, and an interested participant in maintaining a sustainable and healthy community.

MORE LETTERS

From Page A15

Form group

Listening to the appalling news from the Kelowna fire, I've become extremely worried about our own danger from fires.

The island is drier than I've ever seen it — and hunting season starts in a couple of weeks. Unfortunately, off-island hunters have a habit of building roaring bonfires when they come over here to camp, no matter what the forest conditions. Last year I saw a group of them loading firewood onto a six-foot-high blaze right underneath a huge red NO FIRES! sign.

Is anyone interested in forming a group to greet off-island trucks driving up Musgrave Road on weekends and ask the occupants to be extra careful — and perhaps, to leave matches and lighters behind when they go up the road?

If so, please call me and leave a message: 537-7277.

SUSAN BERLIN, Musgrave Road

Craziness

Re: Jasper Road Mines Act permit application

In an ideal world, there's no way that a permit could be issued for a mining operation which involves blasting, rock crushing and screening on property which is zoned residential, is adjacent to a popular public park and is surrounded by family homes.

But unless Larry Bader is prevented from getting his permit, that is exactly what is going to happen in my neighbourhood.

The Ministry of Mines does not have a mandate to consider the merits of the proposed mine from a zoning or land use planning perspective, but the ministry has powers that supersede

many of those of local government.

The Texada people have been gone for some time, but their spirit lives on here. Let's get together to stop this craziness.

MICHAEL WALL, Sarah Way

Dangerous

We have just heard about the proposed gravel pit on Stewart Road.

As a property owner on Jasper Road, we protest strongly against this unnecessary project, which will completely ruin the quality of life for the residents in the large area around this site. This sort of thing should not be allowed on residentially zoned land.

We know from personal experience that allowing regular use of trucks like this on residential roads is dangerous to the extreme.

And from the information we have received, this could become another example of ruining the Salt Spring way of life by catering to private interests which have no interest whatsoever in the public good.

DAVID and GUERDA CHEEKE, Sarah Way

Stupidity at its best

It's 9:45 a.m. on a Sunday and I just heard all the sirens go by our road. I hope to God it's not a forest fire.

It really makes me wonder how we managed to have a volunteer fire department still going, after ousting Bruce and Jeff out of the fire department.

I'm surprised that the whole department didn't leave in their defence! What we fail to remember is that these guys are volunteers. They are doing this work

for the good of our community and not for themselves.

Every time they are called out they are putting their lives on the line. We can't afford to lose any of these valuable volunteers because of a little in-house bickering.

It doesn't matter what the argument is, these guys are volunteers and are more than willing to protect our island and keep it safe. I don't know what is behind the arguments that they are having and I don't think it's my business, however, I do know that everyone is entitled to their own opinions because it's only words and not actions.

Please swallow your pride and reinstate these valuable volunteers. Who knows, it may be your

home, or better yet your life, that they are saving.

HENRY SCHWAGLY, Sky Valley Road

Poor taste

I found it tacky to see the Villadsen story printed on the front page of our local paper.

This is a tabloid write up. I totally feel for the family. Don't you think they have been through enough?

I am reluctant to purchase a Driftwood again for the simple fact that your writers have nothing better to do but dig up dirt on the islanders. Extremely poor taste and actually embarrassing for the press.

What comes around goes around dumb-ass! DIONNE KITCHEN, Salt Spring

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Salt Spring Island (Fulford Harbour) - Swartz Bay Departures

IN EFFECT JUNE 26 CROSSING TIME: 35 MINUTES

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

BC FERRI Schedule

Salt Spring Island
VESUVIUS BAY - CROFTON

CROSSING TIME: 20 MINUTES
YEAR-ROUND SCHEDULE

LEAVE VESUVIUS BAY		LEAVE CROFTON	
• 7:00 am	u 4:00 pm	*7:30 am	4:30 pm
x 8:00 am	5:00 pm	8:30 am	5:30 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm	# 9:30 am	6:30 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm	11:10 am	8:10 pm
11:40 am	8:40 pm	12:10 noon	9:10 pm
n 12:40 pm	9:40 pm	1:10 pm	10:05 pm
1:40 pm	+10:35 pm	2:15 pm	+11:05 pm
3:00 pm		3:30 pm	

u Wed. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailing. No passengers.
n The Mon. & Thurs. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailings. No passengers.
Mon., Wed. & Thurs. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailings. No passengers.
• Daily except Saturdays. *Daily except Saturdays & Sundays. + Saturdays only. x Daily except Sundays.

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Mouat's window site of fall fair trophy display

By **CATHY UNRUH**
Special to the Driftwood

You may not realize just how many trophies are available to be won at our fabulous fall fair on September 13-14.

There are more than 150 and you have a chance to view many of them when a small group of volunteer "window dressers" get together before the Labour Day weekend to transform

one of Mouat's Home Hardware window display areas into a delightful array of trophies. They will be on display only until the following weekend. Speaking of trophies — if you won one last year and haven't returned it yet, NOW is the time to do so. (See page 8 of the entry catalogue.)

Each year more trophies are donated by "fair-minded" individuals and businesses. Have a gander at this list of new (and a few that aren't new but should be mentioned) trophies — there just might be one (or several) more that you'll want to compete for!

- Section 1, flowers, under dahlias, there's the Ray Lauzier Trophy for best novice entry in classes 24 and 25.

- Section 6, field crops: Beech Trophy for potatoes, classes 9 and 10.

- Section 9, baking: Embe Bakery Trophy for best quick bread, classes 9-11;

- Seward Trophy for best pastry (donated by Sanchia Seward).

- Section 11, home wine and beer making: Gulf Islands Brewery Trophy for best overall beer.

- Section 12, hobby arts: Windsor Plywood Trophy for best entry in woodworking, classes 41 to 44;

- Newman's Great Outdoors Trophy for best class 53 (fly tying);

- Brinkworthy Trophy for best in seniors open, class

- 61.
- Section 13, needlework: highest aggregate points in knitting and crocheting, trophy donated by Terra Tepper.

Attention quilters! There just may be another prize available on fair day. Sandy of Cottage Quilting is hoping to donate a prize.

- Section 26, pet show: Salt Spring Coffee Co. trophy for best trick; Bark Avenue trophy for cutest dog; Bow Wow & Co. trophy for favourite pet.

- Section 28, mechanical restorations: Ganges Village Market Trophy for excellence in mechanical restoration.

Horse Show Trophies were not indicated in the program. A list as compiled by Violet Reynolds is as follows.

- Gladys Pringle Memorial: best brood mare, won the last two years by Canadian mare Delice and handler Rebecca Smith.

- Salt Spring Island Riding Club: highest aggregate points for senior.

- Salt Spring Island Riding Club: highest aggregate points for junior.

- Bob Blundell Perpetual: best in show.

- Harkema Challenge: best junior showmanship.

- Lancer Contracting Perpetual: Most sportsman-like horseperson.

- Melinda & Kathy Jones: junior equitation.

- Eileen Tyson Memorial: best show hack.

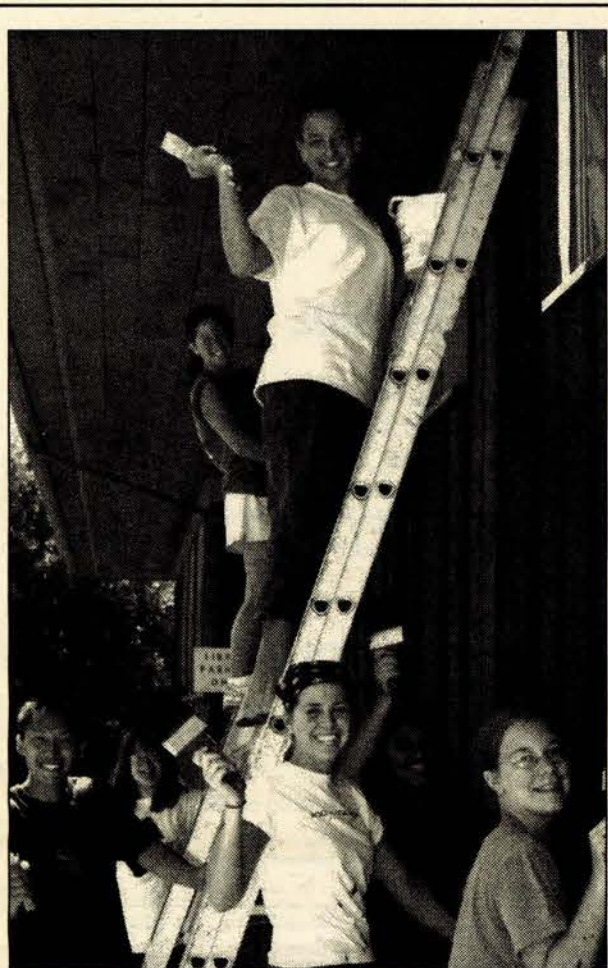
- Salt Spring Island Trail Rides: high point pony.

- Foxglove Farm & Garden: high point horse.

- Derek Sowden Custom

Homes: high point draft horse.

And one last thing: if you don't get your entry form in by Saturday, September 6, you definitely won't be taking home any trophies!



VOLUNTEERS: Youths from a South Delta Baptist Church group paint the Ganges library last week in "a random act of kindness."

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Share the Vision...



a home for Seniors on the south end of Saltspring Island.

You are invited to an Information Session

September 22nd

7:30pm

OAP Meeting Room, Fulford Hall

Learn more about the Saltspring Island Abbeyfield Housing Society...

- our vision for an Abbeyfield House
- our mission, goals and progress
- Abbeyfield Canada and International
- our plans for raising funds and acquiring land on the south end of the island

...and how you might support this project and help us realize the vision.

For details call: Elaine Head 653-4125

Wine search leads around the world

Carmen was on the warpath, again. After a day of shopping in the city she had decided that I must find her some "bargain wines" to celebrate all the money she had saved by buying everything in sight that was on "sale." This kind of logic has always left me shaking my head. Nevertheless I was on the wine trail yet again.

My first bargain was from Spain. Nuviana 2001 from northeast Spain is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. Deep red tending toward garnet in colour, the nose is muted ripe berry with some vegetal and floral notes and the taste has a ripe berry attack, a hot pepper development and a vegetal/artichoke finish.

Overall not as complex as you might expect from the blend and still young but very drinkable and excellent value at \$7.95. Carmen thought this a great bargain and it went well with the grilled steak crusted with black and green peppercorns.

The second find with which I presented my passionate Latin partner was Yellow Tail Shiraz from Australia. Luscious ripe red in colour with a huge fruit nose and equally big fruit attack this is a fantastic example of why Australia is

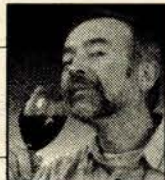
so well known for Shiraz.

At \$12.95 this is a great

bargain given the quality of the wine. Carmen nearly swooned with pleasure when I served this with braised lamb shanks.

I had to top myself with my third "bargain." Searching high and low I finally came upon

WINEFILES
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Roodeberg Western Cape Red Wine 2000 from South Africa. This is a wine that has been around for a long time and I guess there is something in the old adage that practice makes perfect.

Intense dark ruby in colour, rich complex nose

of ripe fruit, green pepper, chocolate and coffee, and a well balanced taste with soft ripe fruit, tannin, licorice, oak and earth. Not only is this wine reminiscent of a good Bordeaux but with a couple of years in the cellar it will get even better and all this for only \$13.99.

I thought about what food to serve this with but knowing the effect a good wine has on Carmen I suspected she'd develop a different kind of appetite. I was right. Cheers!

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School District #64 (Gulf Islands) it's back to school time!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

GULF ISLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL

537-9944

School is open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for registration of new students. Pick up of Student Schedule Packages and collection of Student Fees will take place on **Thursday, August 28** and **Friday, August 29** from 9:15 am to 3:30 pm. The student fee is \$25 for everyone. **OPENING DAY ONLY**, Tuesday, September 2 will be early dismissal (9:15 am to 12:30 pm).

Principal: Ms. Nancy Macdonald

SALT SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

537-9928

School will be open **August 25 to August 29**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for registration of new students. **OPENING DAY ONLY**, Tuesday, September 2 will be early dismissal (8:30 am to 10:00 am).

KINDERGARTEN

STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND DURING THE FIRST WEEK. Parents of Kindergarten students will be contacted by their teacher **during the week of September 2.**

Principal: Ms. Rineke Jonker

PHOENIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

537-1156

Family meetings will be held on **September 2** and staff will contact families regarding times. Regular classes will begin **September 3.**

Principal: Ms. Shelly Johnson

PHOENIX ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

537-1009

Phoenix staff will contact families of students already enrolled prior to opening. If you are interested in the services that Phoenix High could offer you or your high school aged child, please contact Kevin Vine at 537-1159.

Principal: Mr. Kevin Vine

SALTSPRING ISLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

537-1159

School will be open **August 25 to August 29**, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm for registration of new students. **OPENING DAY ONLY**, Tuesday, September 2, will be early dismissal (8:25 am to 10:00 am).

Principal: Mr. Kevin Vine

FULFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

653-9223

School will be open **August 25 to August 29**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for registration of new students. **OPENING DAY ONLY**, Tuesday, September 2 will be early dismissal (8:40 am to 10:00 am).

KINDERGARTEN

STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND DURING THE FIRST WEEK. Parents of Kindergarten students will be contacted by their teacher **during the week of September 2.**

Principal: Ms. Judy Raddysh

FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

537-9332

School will be open **August 26 to August 30**, 8:35 am to 3:00 pm for registration of new students. **OPENING DAY ONLY**, Tuesday, September 2 will be early dismissal (8:40 am to 10:00 am).

KINDERGARTEN

STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND DURING THE FIRST WEEK. Parents of Kindergarten students will be contacted by their teacher **during the week of September 2.**

Principal: Mr. Richard Bennett

PLEASE CONTACT THE PRINCIPALS FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS

- **GALIANO SCHOOL** - Ms. Jean Way/Mr. Glenn Goring, 539-2261, August 27, 28 and 29 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **MAYNE SCHOOL** - Mr. Martin Blakesley, 539-2371, August 27, 28 and 29 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **PENDER SCHOOL** - Mr. David Nickoli, 629-3711, August 27, 28 and 29 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *Opening day only*, Tuesday, Sept. 2 will be early dismissal (9:10 to 11:15 a.m.) *Kindergarten* will begin Sept. 10. During the week of Sept. 2, teachers will host personal visits to Kindergarten students & parents.
- **SATURNA SCHOOL** - Ms. Marie Mullen, 539-2472, August 26, 27 and 28 -10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

School District #64 (Gulf Islands) SSI BUSING SCHEDULE 2003/2004

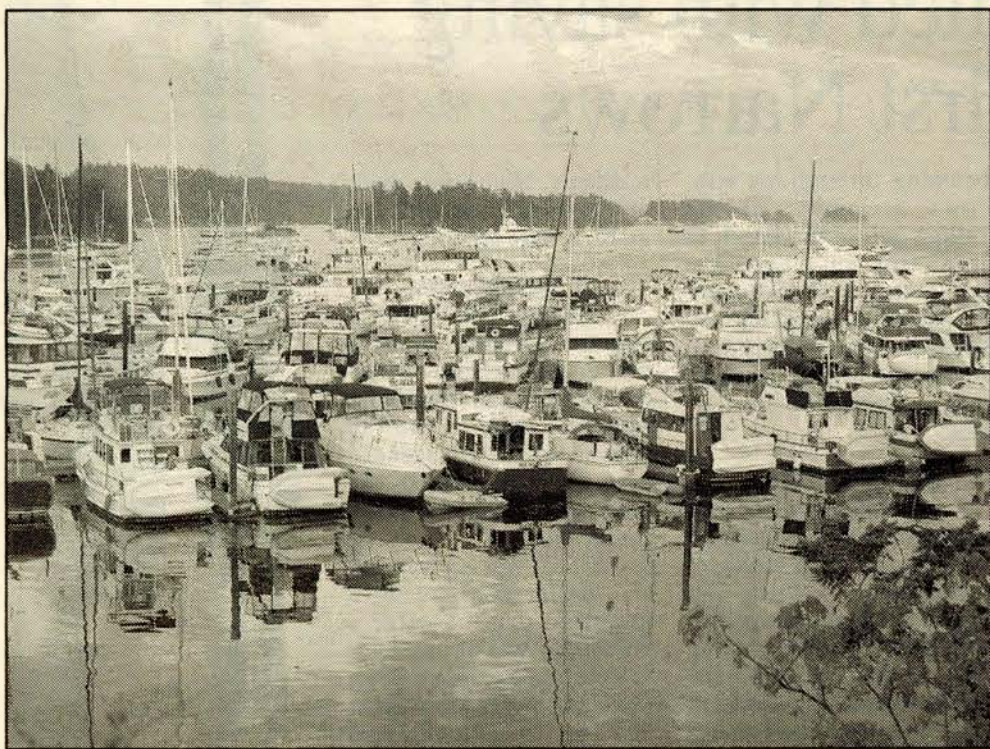
Fernwood Elementary School				Start Time 8:40 am — End time 2:40 pm							
BUS				BUS							
#4	Walker Hook/Stark Rd.	Lv from SIMS	8:06 am	#5	Vesuvius/Sunset	Mobrae 1	7:46 am	#5	Cont.	West Eagle Drive	8:06 am
		Central	8:11 am		Channel Rdg./Sunset	Chu-Ann/Humphrey's H.	7:48 am			Southey Point	8:10 am
		Stark/Robinson	8:17 am		North End	Stonecutter	7:50 am			Epron Road	8:16 am
		Grantville Rd.	8:20 am			Mobrae 2	7:52 am			Fernwood School	8:19 am
		Maliview Rd.	8:24 am			691 Ves. Bay Rd. (Ves/Sunset)	7:55 am				
		Fernwood School	8:27 am			Channel Ridge/Sunset	7:58 am				

Fulford Elementary School				Start Time 8:40 am — End time 2:40 pm							
#1	Fulford/Ganges Rd.	Leaving from SSE	7:55 am	#2	Isabella Pt. Rd.	Holmes Rd.	7:44 am	#2	Beaver Point	Forest Ridge Rd.	8:13 am
		Blackburn Rd.	8:04 am			Roland Rd.	7:49 am			Bullman Rd.	8:21 am
		Top of Lees Hill	8:11 am			Musgrave Rd.	7:51 am			Reynolds Rd.	8:24 am
		Fulford School	8:19 am			Fulford School	8:00 am			Fulford School	8:30 am

Salt Spring Elementary School				Start Time 8:30 am — End time 2:30 pm							
#3	Old Divide Rd.	Old Divide/Cranberry	7:50 am	#6	Toynbee Road	Toynbee Road	7:33 am	#7	Fulford/Ganges	Fulford hall	7:57 am
	Cusheon/Beddis Rds.	Cusheon Lake Rd.	7:54 am		Long Harbour/Eagleridge	Old Scott Rd	7:50 am			Garner Rd.	8:06 am
		Stewart Rd.	7:57 am		Mansell	Quebec/Eagleridge	7:56 am		Drop off Phoenix @ Seaview	& Jackson	8:14 am
		Samuel Cr.	8:02 am		**Leisure Lane	Thomas Rd.	8:07 am			SSE	8:16 am
		Drop off Phoenix @ Artspring	8:16 am			150 Leisure Lane	8:12 am				
		SSE School	8:18 am			Drop off at SIMS for SSE & Phoenix	8:15 am				

Saltspring Island Middle School				Start Time 8:25 am — End time 2:30 pm							
#3	Old Divide Rd.	Old Divide/Cranberry	7:50 am	#6	Toynbee Road	Toynbee Road	7:33 am	#7	Beaver Point Rd.	Forest Ridge Rd.	7:38 am
					Long Harbour/Eagleridge	Old Scott Rd.	7:50 am		Isabella Transfers	Reynolds Rd.	7:46 am
	Cusheon/Beddis Rds.	Cusheon Lake Rd.	7:54 am		Mansell	Quebec/Eagleridge	7:56 am			Top of Lees Hill	8:02 am
		Stewart Rd.	8:00 am		**Leisure Lane	Thomas Rd.	8:07 am			Garner Rd.	8:05 am
		Samuel Cr.	8:06 am			150 Leisure Lane	8:12 am			Kitchen Rd.	8:07 am
	Drop off for SIMS @	SSE School	8:20 am			SIMS	8:15 am		Drop off for SIMS @	SSE	8:16 am
#4	Walker Hook/Stark Rd.	125 Stark	7:37 am					#8	North End	Epron Rd.	7:36 am
		Maliview Rd.	7:46 am						Channel Rdg/Broadwell	Channel Rdg/Broadwell	7:53 am
		Whims Rd.	7:51 am						Vesuvius/Sunset	691 Ves/Sunset Rds	8:01 am
		Cedar Beach Resort	7:55 am							Stonecutter Rd.	8:05 am
		SIMS	8:03 am							SIMS	8:18 am

Gulf Islands Sen. Secondary School				Start Time 9:15 am — End time 3:30 pm							
#1	Beaver Point Rd.	Forest Ridge Rd.	8:35 am	#2	Isabella Pt. Rd.	Mountain Rd.	8:46 am	#3	Old Divide Rd.	Old Divide/Cranberry	8:35 am
		Reynolds Rd.	8:43 am			Isabella Rd. stop sign	8:52 am		Cusheon/Beddis Rds.	Stewart Rd.	8:44 am
		Cusheon Lake Rd.	8:58 am			Garner Rd.	8:58 am			Samuel Cr.	8:48 am
		GISS	9:05 am			GISS	9:10 am			GISS	9:02 am
#4	Walker Hook/Stark Rd.	Fernwood School	8:30 am	#5	Vesuvius/Sunset	Mountainview	8:34 am	#6	Long Harbour	L.H. Ferry Terminal	8:33 am
		Grantville Rd.	8:40 am		Channel Rdg/Broadwell	Southey Point Rd.	8:43 am		Mansell	Cedar & Mansell	8:44 am
		GISS	8:50 am		North End	Epron Rd.	8:50 am		**Leisure Lane	150 Leisure Lane	8:48 am
						GISS	9:04 am			GISS	8:53 am
#7	Toynbee Rd	Toynbee Rd.	8:28 am	#8	Vesuvius Loop	Broadwell	8:27 am	#8	Vesuvius Loop ...cont	Stonecutter	8:41 am
		GISS	8:38 am		Incl. Broadwell/Channel Ridge	Broadwell/Challen Ridge	8:32 am			Portlock Park (Mail Boxes)	8:47 am
						691 VeBay Rd.	8:36 am			GISS	8:53 am
						Stonecutter Rd.	8:38 am				



SIGNS OF SUMMER: What appears a full house at Ganges Marina is one of the signs that summer is in full swing on Salt Spring. Things will be a little more quiet next week, however, as students return to school and visitor numbers decline.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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Killing computer mouse brought satisfaction in this Age of Rage

I have a dead mouse nailed to my office wall. I killed it personally.

With my bare hands. Don't call the SPCA — this is not the four-legged, furry cheese-lusting kind of mouse. My wall trophy is plastic. It's the gizmo that you palpate to move around the little arrow on your computer monitor.

I've never been abidingly fond of my computer, but one day, when it did something profoundly annoying, I was, as they say, somewhat overcome with emotion. I felt an intense desire to wrench the device from my desk and pitch it overhand through the window, but that would have been expensive.

It would also have let the flies in.

That's when my eye fell upon my wee mouse, quivering on its mouse pad. I balled my right fist and brought it down like the hammer of Thor.

Set me back \$19.95, but my, it felt grand.

I'm not the first person to go postal over a computer. As a matter of fact, a recent study revealed that 50 per cent of web surfers lose their tempers at least once a week.

It's not just computers of course — we're living in the Age of Rage.

Testosterone-heavy drivers who used to glare at each other and perhaps tap their horn once or twice now exchange obscene gestures, foam at the mouth and cut each other off. Road Rage.

And of course, there's Air Rage. A British banker by the name of Finneran flipped out on a flight from Buenos-Aires to New York last year, assaulting three flight attendants and defecating on a food trolley.

A simple "I'm not hungry" would have been sufficient, sir.

But when I heard about the assault on the woman dressed as an Italian sausage, I knew that Rage Rage was getting out of hand.

Happened during a baseball game in Milwaukee last

month. A woman dressed as an Italian sausage, accompanied by a colleague wearing a hot dog costume (I am not making this up) was running around the bases between innings as part of a fast-food ad campaign.

One of the ball players teasingly tapped the Italian sausage impersonator with his bat, the sausage lost its balance and knocked over the human hot dog and Hey, Presto! — An Incident. The ball player was (I'm not making this up either) led off the diamond in handcuffs by gun-toting cops.

An advertising executive speaking for the jostled meat puppets (perhaps overreacting ever so slightly) intoned, "This is one of the most outrageous things I've ever seen inside a ballpark or outside a ballpark. It sickened me to see it."

Yeah. Mascot Rage. Life doesn't get any uglier than that.

Or maybe it does. Come with me now to a quiet, leafy cul-de-sac in the city of Lincoln, England. You see that yellow line of police tape encircling that modest cottage? Murder investigation. The cottage owner got shot to death last week. By his next-door neighbour.

Because his hedge was too high.

That's right — Hedge Rage — and it's not the first fatal case. Last May, a 74-year-old homeowner in Louth, Lincolnshire died of a heart attack following a fistfight with his neighbour over a hedge dispute.

WIT & WHIMSY
WITH ARTHUR BLACK



I should point out that we're not talking little Mulberry bushes here.

The hedges that are causing all the trouble are Leyland cypresses — monster trees that shoot up like bamboo on steroids. They easily grow to 30 feet and they're very popular with Brits.

Well, with some Brits. For those who hate 'em there's Hedgeline. It's a support group with its very own website and it lobbies on behalf of people with grievances. About hedges.

A spokesman for Hedgeline estimates there are more than 100,000 victims living involuntarily in the shade of their neighbours' hedges throughout the U.K.

Well, fine — but a WEBSITE?

That's all I'd need. My neighbour throws up a giant wall of cypresses that plunges my home into perpetual darkness. Do I protest or sneak out with a chainsaw during a thunderstorm?

No. I'm a good, polite Canuck. I turn on my computer and tap in WWW.HEDGELINE.UK.

And an hourglass appears. And I wait. And wait. And wait.

And finally, as cobwebs begin to enshroud my keyboard, my screen tells me THIS PAGE CANNOT BE DISPLAYED.

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11-12noon BODYBALL	11:15 - 12:30 NIA	11:15 - 12:30 BODYBALL			11-12:15 NIA	
				4:30-5:30pm RESTORATIVE/SUN SALUTES		
6:00 - 7:00pm YOGA OPEN	5:30 - 6:30pm YOGA OPEN BEG.	5:00 - 6:00pm YOGA OPEN	6:00 - 7:00pm BODYBALL	5:45-6:45pm YOGA OF WHIRLING		
7:30-9:00pm PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSION	7:00 - 8:30pm YOGA FLOW/RESTORATIVE		7:30 - 9:00pm MEDITATION (STARTING OCT.)			

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Lighthouse keeper was credited with saving several lives in 28 years at First Narrows

40 years ago

• Salt Spring resident Arthur S. Dickinson, 77, passed away on August 21. Dickinson was a lighthouse keeper at First Narrows Station for 28 years before living in Ganges, and was credited with saving three lives one night, and preventing many would-be suicide attempters from drowning after they had jumped from the Lions Gate bridge.

• St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church at Fulford Harbour opened its doors after several empty years. The church was called the "pioneer" church of the island, and was built in 1880 by Rev. Father Doncke.

35 years ago

• A sewage-disposal scheme whereby effluent from 85 lots would be discharged into Trincomali Channel was approved by the Pollution Control Branch. A permit was issued to discharge 21,250 gallons per day of septic tank effluent into the channel.

• Plans were in progress for the first general meeting of the Gulf Islands Community Arts Council. The meeting was meant to provide people with an understanding of the work of the council.

30 years ago

• Gulf Islands Secondary

DOWN THE YEARS

School student Barbara Thomas won the Salt Spring Lands Scholarship, awarded for the highest average in the government scholarship examinations. She won \$300.

• Salt Spring photographer Marshall Sharp died on August 21. Sharp had arrived on the island in 1960 and soon became known for his "ready wit and infectious good humour." He was a school board trustee and chair of the library board. The retired R.C.A.F. squadron leader had also invented the "Sharp's Fire Lighter," a flint and steel device incorporated in a small wood holder.

25 years ago

• The cost of transportation and the difficulties of travelling could prohibit some Saturna children from attending school in the fall, reported the Driftwood. Students had to go to Mayne Island, but the water-taxi service could not afford to transport only three students twice a day.

• A cross-Canada petition to show the people of Quebec that Canadians wanted the province to stay within the nation was

launched, with a copy located at the Driftwood office.

20 years ago

• The Mr. Salt Spring Island contest was being planned for the fall, and island women could choose the lucky winner. Male contestants representing local businesses and organizations would be invited to show their best dress, talent and favourite bathing suit. As the Driftwood stated: "Sexist the show will be."

• Salt Spring pot growers "weren't feeling so high" when marijuana plants were stolen under a full moon. About 15 marijuana growers were hit on August 23. "How can they enjoy getting high off something they've stolen?" asked one farmer.

15 years ago

• A motor-vehicle accident involving five Salt Spring residents on August 27 was called a "mini-disaster" by Lady Minto staff. The hospital brought in extra personnel to deal with the accident that took place on Fulford-Ganges Road. Accident victims were treated for lacerations, shock and broken bones.

• A local resident living near Booth Bay said the "nuisance factor" of commercial clam diggers working near his home was out of control. Richard Goodhue had lantern lights

beaming through his windows at night, people yelling across the beach to each other and diggers living in vans near his house. He shared his story with 50 islanders who gathered on August 24 to vent concerns over "rampant" clam digging.

10 years ago

• An evening of billiards and eight-ball on August 24 was the first of a series of events meant to bring Salt Spring youth and senior citizens together. The evening was an initiative of the Student Leadership Council.

• Overpopulation and a lack of natural food were bringing raccoons into closer contact with Salt Spring

residents. Night-time raids on gardens, chickens and garbage were reported.

5 years ago

• Nearly 800 people danced during Moby's Street Dance and raised over \$5,500 for the Core Inn. The turnout and the money raised far exceeded former years, when the event was staged in a different location.

• A Salt Spring woman was being charged with impaired driving after a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle while walking down Maliview Drive on August 22. The 19-year-old had been knocked into a ditch by the hit-and-run accident.

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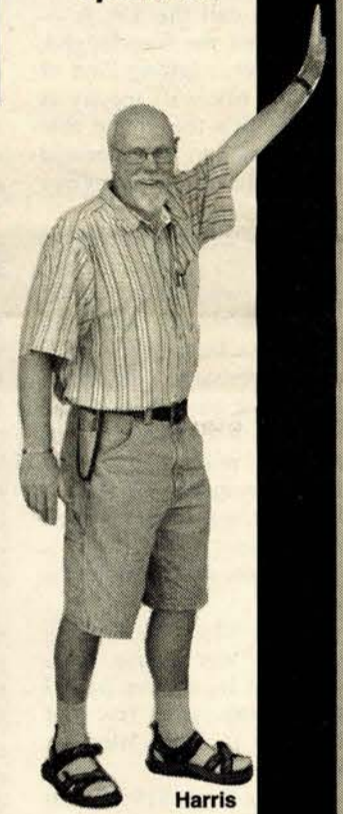
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Hefty grant helps fund digitization project at Salt Spring Archives

Thanks to \$15,000 in grant monies and Frank Neumann's expertise, the Salt Spring Archives is moving ahead with some critical work to preserve island history.

Archivist Mary Davidson said the welcome funds, donated by the B.C. Arts Council and the B.C. Museums Association, have enabled the purchase of equipment and materials to digitize parts of 89 oral tapes and some 500 pictures.

Davidson said some of the archives' cassettes originate from 1958 and were deteriorating but Neumann has been able to enhance the sound quality of the original

cassette and reel-to-reel tapes.

A large scanner that can handle slides for placement on the archives' website was also purchased with the grant monies.

A program to create a database for the entire archives will be purchased once Neumann has identified the best one to buy.

"Frank is researching all kinds of different ones and contacting other archives to find out what they have and what really works," said Davidson.

Salt Spring Archives' website can be accessed at <http://saltspringarchives.com>.

Phoenix Elementary School has a few openings in the primary class for September 2003

Phoenix Elementary is a publicly funded, alternative school offering programs for Kindergarten to Grade Seven students. Located on a beautifully treed acreage near Ganges, Phoenix School strives to ensure a peaceful, cooperative family-centered approach to learning. It is a place where students, teachers, and parents have a voice, and are extensively involved, in the educational process.

Phoenix Elementary:

- Has small, multi-age classrooms
- Encourages student responsibility and decision-making
- Allows for flexible attendance to accommodate home-schooling needs
- Draws on the passions and skills of the parents and community to enhance student exposure to the arts (both fine and practical)
- Encourages the development of the whole child in a respectful atmosphere
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For more information please contact Shelly Johnson, principal at 537-1156



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY: May David flashes a 90th-birthday smile during a birthday party with family and friends at the Masonic Hall. Photo by Derrick Lundy

RCMP REPORT

A visitor from the United Kingdom who was walking around Salt Spring naked was escorted by police to Lady Minto hospital on Thursday.

He left the hospital on Friday morning, again without clothes, and was picked up by police under the Mental Health Act.

He was transported to the Eric Martin Pavilion in Victoria.


• A vehicle stolen from Salt Spring on August 8 was found in a Sidney parking lot on Friday.

It had been parked in a Thrifty's parking lot for a long time, which aroused suspicions that it was stolen. There was no damage to the vehicle.

• One 24-hour driving suspension was given by police to a person driving with a missing tail light on Sunday.

What is John Pottinger ranting about this week? Subscribe to the Driftwood and find out!
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BRIDGE TRICKS

On August 11, Flo Laundry and Kit Kosier finished first. In second place were Isabelle Richardson and Joan Conlan; third, Blanche Poborsa and Gerry Nicholson, and fourth, Ima Krayenhoff and Patricia MacFarlane.

On August 18, Richardson and Conlan came in first, followed by Nicholson and Poborsa. Third were George Laundry and Kosier, and fourth, Flo Laundry and Bob Morrisette.

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Island athlete wins second place

Salt Spring triathlete Lowell Rockliffe is bound for the Kids of Steel Western Regional Championships in Summerland this weekend after he qualified with a second-place finish at the Kelowna Appleseed Youth Triathlon August 16.

"It was my best race ever. I felt really energetic," Rockliffe said.

The 14-year-old islander led his group in the open 500-metre swim, but four athletes edged ahead, he said.

Rockliffe clocked 9:58 minutes for his swim and then hopped on his modified road bike for a 15-kilometre ride.

"I drifted back in the cycle part but nobody passed me."

His competitors had some flashy hardware, but Rockliffe wasn't deterred.

"Some of these guys had \$9,000 bikes that you can lift with a pinkie . . . But I always say, 'It's not what's in your wallet that makes a good triathlete.'"

A 29:58 finish left him almost two minutes behind the four boys he was trying to catch in the 14-15 age category.

But Rockliffe was just saving energy for the four-kilometre run that ends the event.

"Running is my favourite part of the race, for sure."

Some onlookers who saw him smiling on the course thought he wasn't challenging himself, but he was actually in pain and exhausted.



BEST RACE EVER: Lowell Rockliffe is off to the regional championships after placing second August 16 in Kelowna.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

"My sister kept thinking I wasn't pushing hard enough. But I was thinking, 'Fake it till you make it true.'"

He caught up with the lead group and passed three of the other boys as he clocked 16:09.

"I was pretending I was having a lot of fun as I passed them."

Now the island athlete is hoping to better his rivals at the upcoming Summerland event.

Kelowna was Rockliffe's fourth triathlon this season. He also placed third in Vancouver earlier in the month to qualify for the Kelowna event.

Skaters contest Saturday

By **DEBBIE WILLIS**
Staff Writer

Saturday's skateboarding competition is a chance to see one of Salt Spring's best kept secrets: its skateboarders.

"There's a lot of talent on this island, and you don't have much opportunity to see it," said Mel Divers, owner of B Side Clothing Company.

Because they don't hit downtown streets and parking lots until the place is nearly empty, most islanders don't often see skaters doing their thing, she said.

B Side is the main sponsor for the second-annual Skate Comp, which focuses totally on island youth, according to Divers. The event begins at 1 p.m. at the Kanaka Road Skate Park and will last for approximately three hours.

Admission is by donation, and there will be a raffle to win a gift certificate from B Side.

The competition will raise money for a newly formed Youth Fund, which will donate to projects like the Kanaka Road skate park.

According to MC Dustin Carlson, the competition will be split into three categories: new school, old school and hot shots.

New school competitors

are the "younger kids, the new blood," said Carlson. "They're really talented. They do sick jumps."

Old school skaters are the intermediate lot, and the "hot shots" are visiting skaters who are sponsored by boarding companies, as well as island youth whose "talent level exceeds everybody's," said Carlson, who MCs under the name Dirty Deed.

Pros Arron Johnson, David Bollerup, Mike McKinlay and Cyrus Thiedeke will show off their skill, and Ted Degros and Sean Hayes are also likely to appear.

Prizes for competitors, including those for the youngest participant and for the best bail, are provided by B Side, but Divers is still looking for donations to give the visiting pros.

"It's a lot for them to come over, but it means a lot to the kids," said Divers, who hoped the pros could get complimentary dinners.

Thrifty's, the GVM, Island Star Video and Sam Graci have donated raffle prizes or provided necessities for the riders. Divers is also still looking for more donated raffle prizes.

According to Carlson, the competition is "anything but

serious."

Hip-hop will keep the energy up and the event will be, in essence, "something new, something fresh."

Twenty-five skaters competed last year and Divers expects this year's event to attract about 30 participants. Audience members can come and go as they please, and last year Divers estimated there were about 150 spectators at any given time. She expects people of all ages to watch the competition.

And according to Carlson, "It's going to be a tight show."



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Life before the Driftwood: Came to Salt Spring from Ontario, where she worked in the financial services industry for 12 years. Graduated from the University of Waterloo.

Life outside the Driftwood: Gardening and more gardening, and talking about gardening at the SS Garden Club and the Veggie Group. Volunteers with the SS Conservancy and practises yoga with Celeste when she can. Married to Ian.



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Swartz Bay ramble kicks off September schedule

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club members should note that the Blackberry Festival is on Tuesday, September 16 in Mouat Park, immediately following the scheduled hike, walk or ramble. Please bring along a favourite blackberry dessert.

The September schedule follows.

Ramblers

September 9: Today we go as foot passengers (no cars needed) on the 10 a.m. ferry to Swartz Bay. Jack and Betty Sharp are taking us on a ramble from Swartz Bay, followed by lunch at the Stonehouse Pub. Meet at the Fulford Inn at 9:15 a.m. or the ferry terminal at 10 a.m.

September 16: Rita Sagness takes us on a ramble through Dunbabin Park before the Blackberry Festival. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

September 23: Dick and Chris Pattinson lead us on a favourite ramble of theirs in the area of the Grandmother tree, followed by lunch on the beach. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m., or at Beaver Point Hall at 10:15.

September 30: A popular ramble through the Indian reserve at the end of Menhinick Drive, led by

Anne Gosse, and followed by lunch on the beach. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m., or at Beaver Point Hall at 10:15.

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

Walkers

September 16: Bring your lunch and an appetite for today's Blackberry Festival at Mouat Park in Ganges. Bud Williams will lead us today from the park just above ArtSpring (where we will eat later on) down to Ganges Harbour and, if tides permit, along the shore and wending our way back for lunch on an easy walk. We will start at 10:30 as the walk will take only an hour or so. Remember to bring a blackberry treat of some kind.

September 23: John Myers will show us around the new Channel Ridge village site today, on a moderate walk. Either meet at ArtSpring and leave at 10 a.m. or go to the top of Broadwell Road around 10:15, by the gate just beyond Tern Road.

September 30: We head off-island today for a new walk on Gabriola Island. Ron Hall will co-lead this outing with Jeff Wisdom, a member of Gabriola's trail and nature club. Meet at Portlock Park before 8:35 a.m. when we will carpool to the Vesuvius ferry to take the 9 a.m. sail-

ing (or meet at the ferry). We will drive to Nanaimo to catch the 10:35 morning crossing to Gabriola so there will be ample time to get there, where we can park in the mall near the lot and walk onto the boat directly across the street. Our walk will be reasonably easy and we will likely be finished in time to take the 1:20 p.m. return boat to Nanaimo. If you would like a little more time up there (about 1.75 hours), we could make the 4:30 p.m. Crofton ferry instead.

Let Ron know your preference before we leave Salt Spring so we are aware of the group's plan — or be a rebel and do your own schedule!

Hikers

September 16: Prior to the Blackberry Festival, meet within Mouat Park at 10 a.m. for a walk about within limits of the park.

September 23: Martyn Day will take us from Isabella Point through the ecological reserve. Carpool to leave ArtSpring at 9:45 and meet up with south-enders at Drummond Park at 10.

September 30: Fred Powell will lead us trail breaking (bring some brush-cutting tools) through the Martin Williams Mount Erskine property. Carpool to leave ArtSpring at 9:45.

Charlton wins Crofton Cup

Jim Charlton was Crofton Cup low gross winner with a 154 score at the 2003 men's club championship at the Salt Spring golf club.

Pete Schure (158) and Gord Hollingsworth (160) followed.

Jim Good was Humphreys Cup low net winner (130), with Keith Lavender in second spot (131) and Schure with 134.

Gundy McLeod, 161 score, was Captains Cup low gross winner for players 55 and over. Jack Gunn and Colin Lawler followed with 163 scores.

Men's day results on August 21 saw Barry Scotton win the Brown Trophy with a net 65 score, followed by Gerard Webster (66) and Good (67).

Scotton also tied with Jack Gunn for the best gross score (79), and an 18-hole

GOLF TEES

playoff round between the two men will determine the Butt Trophy winner.

McLeod had the next-best score with an 81.

Regular play saw Eric Taylor top the field with a 69, followed by Tim McBride (71).

In Business Ladies play, Deb Hamilton was low gross winner with a 49 score at The Par Event on August 19. Alice Fraser was runner-up low gross, while Ruth Hopping was low net winner (37), followed by Sharon Farquharson.

Pars were scored by Deb Hamilton (holes #2 and 6), Ruth Hopping (#2), Joyce Scott (#2), Dora Reynolds (#6) and Carol Pearce (#7).

Heather Lawler birdied the ninth hole.

Marj Cade won the Libby Noble Cup with a 35.5 score on August 20, receiving the cup and a gift voucher from Margaret Rithaler, who was last year's winner. Runner-up was Babs Ross with a 36.

Five 18-hole ladies joined the nine-hole women's group for the competition.

In regular play, Joan Conlon and Ruthe Grant tied for best low gross score with 60. Grant was also low net winner (38).

Melanie Iverson emerged with the best low gross score (90) in August 18 medal play for the women's 18-hole division. Dee Hooton followed with a 92 score.

Marie Hopkins was low net winner (69), with Connie Hardy hot on the trail at 70.

Gord, Brook Speed win 20-team adult/junior tourney — again

The Speed team successfully defended its title at the fourth annual Adult/Junior Tournament at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club.

Twenty teams consisting of one younger and one older player competed in a Texas scramble format August 17, with Brook and Gord Speed winning for the third year in a row with a 32 score.

They were closely followed by the team of Natasha Hollingsworth and Steve Marleau.

Third-place honours went to the team of Zander and Phil Ritson.

Organizers thanked Sea Otter Kayaking, Dagwood's Diner, Steve Marleau and the 19th Hole Restaurant for their generous donations, which resulted in all teams leaving with a prize.

FULFORD DAY 2003



Thank You!

"Fulford Day 2003" was supported by many local and off-island businesses, organizations and individuals.

In particular, we thank:

See you at
"Fulford Day 2004"
Saturday, August 7, 2004
The Fulford Day Society (653-9383)

- | | | |
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| Fulford Inn | O.A.P.O. 170 | Tim Collins |
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| Golden Island Restaurant | Parks, Arts & Recreation Commission | Vesuvius Inn |
| Gulf Islands Brewery | Patterson Market | Windsor Plywood |
| Gulf Islands Driftwood | Paula Marcotte | and all the other volunteers. |
| Gulf Islands Picture Framing | | |

We also thank the Musicians:

The Wrangellian Gumbo Ensemble, Jim Raddish, Royal Canadian Legion Pipe Band, Norfolk Convention, Harry Warner and Friends, Barley Brothers, Y.J.P., Simone and the Soul Intentions, Atomic Blues Band, Drop Radio.

Community Raffle Winners:

Peter (Germany), Andrea Kuric, Gavin Johnston, May Jones (Victoria), Mike Varey, Geoff DeVries (Toronto), Pam Donnelly, Victoria Olchowicki, Avery Hunter, Carla Hansen, Susan Paynter, Heather Campbell, Dan & Laureen Beauchamp (Calgary), Briony Penn, Gordon Savage, Gail Sjuberg, Barry Long, Jerry Varey (Orillia), Murray Parr, Robert Kraljii (Vancouver), Larry Starke, Jean Brouard, Sheila Walker, Anastacia Wilde, Linda Reynolds (Edmonton), Ted Akerman, Brenda Bowes, Dewey Snetsinger, Judith Humphrys.

Quilt Raffle Winner: Steve Gilchrist (Scarborough)

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Peace reigns over Old Boys and French team

Though Salt Spring's Old Boys might have conquered "Team France," the Peace Arch team from White Rock won a friendly over-35 soccer tournament on the island over the weekend.

"It was spectacular, to say the least," said tourney organizer and Old Boys player Jonathan Oldroyd.

Salt Spring hosted Peace Arch, Point Grey and "Team France" in an impromptu tourney when the French team reciprocated a visit from their Point Grey brethren, Oldroyd said.

"It was initiated by Point Grey. They brought a team with them from southern France."

The Point Grey and French squads are linked through one family that has a brother on each team, he noted.

But the French team also extended brotherly bonhomie to Salt Spring players.

"They brought with them berets for our whole team and emblems

from their home town. There was even a 20-year-old Armagnac."

Every team got some recognition, Oldroyd noted.

To add a little more zest, teams sang the national anthem before international matches.

Salt Spring beat both France (4-1) and Point Grey (3-0) to head

into the final Sunday. But Peace Arch eked out a 3-1 win over the islanders to win the event.

"It was a very tight game." Oldroyd wanted to thank Martin Milner of the Salt Spring Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission for opening the soccer fields two weeks early for the occasion.

Hardest race ever, says Nilssen

Four Salt Spring cyclists pedalled their hardest for over two hours on Sunday in what John Nilssen called his hardest race ever.

"It was the largest time trial we've ever done. There's no coasting. All you do is pin your ears back and pedal as fast as you can," said Nilssen, who had never entered the B.C. Championship Cycling Time Trials before.

Nilssen finished the 80-km race from Duncan to Youbou and back in 2:15:41, placing third in his age class and beating the international standards by five minutes and 43 seconds.

Beating the standard is "a big thing," he said, because it will allow him to compete in larger events.

Local rider Sandi Thibault finished first in her age class with a time of 2:43:54.

Denis Ross finished third in his age class with a time of 2:18:35, and Bruce Grey finished sixth in 2:29:17.

"It's a difficult event for sure," said Grey, who had also never cycled the race-against-the-clock before.

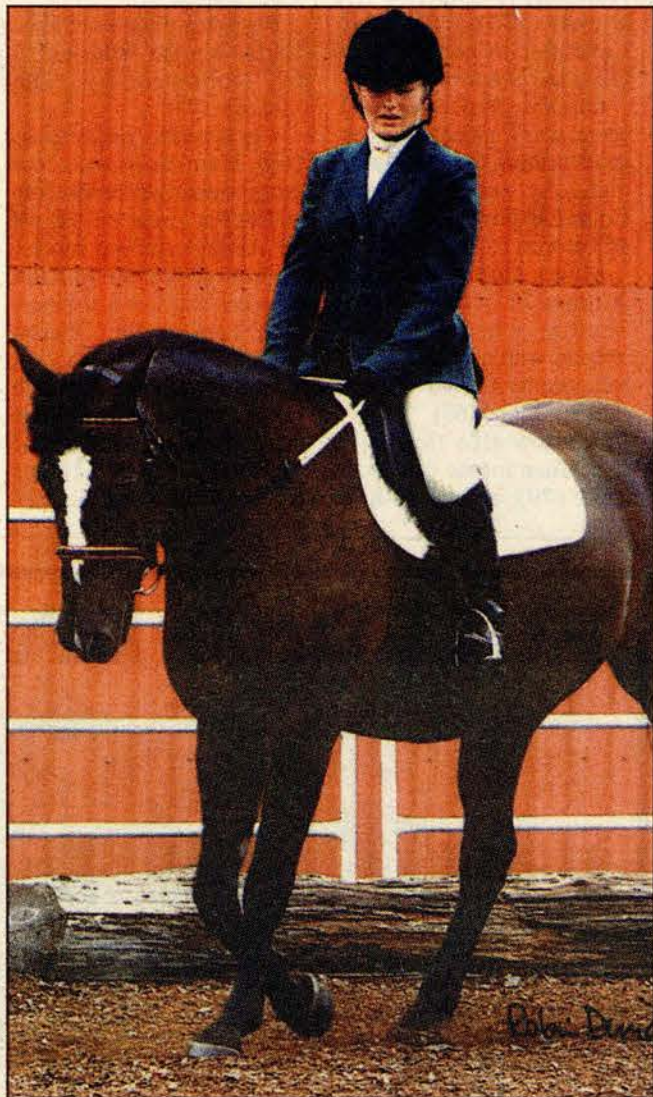
He said the road is not very hilly, but the challenge is keeping up speed for over two hours. "It's difficult just to keep focussed."

The cyclists worked up to the event by pedalling 18-km time trials in Sidney every Tuesday.

"There's no strategy, no team tactics," said Nilssen. "You just peddle as fast as you can."

But Grey did have one strategy.

"Try to think happy thoughts."



WINNING HORSE AND RIDER: Ashley Moore and Jura earned first place in Showmanship and Junior Western at last weekend's show in Nanaimo.

'Big history' event draws local riders

Salt Spring horses and riders participated in what Rebecca Smith called "big history" last weekend.

Glenmiquay Farm sent horses to Nanaimo to compete in the world's biggest show of Canadian breed horses. Over 60 of the endangered breed of horses were present for the competition, said Smith.

Smith's horse Jura, ridden by local Ashley Moore, picked up first place in Showmanship and Junior Western riding categories.

Jazzi Tinsley drove during the horse-and-cart events and came third in the Lady's Cart category. Tinsley and Moore finished third as a team in the Ride and Drive event.

Smith's horse won a breeding award as well, in the "Get of Dam" class, and Moore also came home with a third place in the Western Horsemanship competition.

Smith's Salt Spring farm has seven Canadian horses. She said there are only about 3,500 in the world at present.

Juniors play off at Blackburn

"Calm and collected" were two words that did not come to mind after the first round of the third annual Blackburn Meadows Junior Club Championships Sunday.

The field of juniors ranging in age from seven to 18 were posting scores all over the board, reported the club, with Vassa Drobysheva in the lead by one stroke in an opening round of 35 just ahead of Jack Barrieau, Steven Severn and Cam Johnson.

Drobysheva continued to play a steady game into the final round and edged out a two-stroke victory over Severn, who scored 36 and 35 shot rounds for a solid second-place finish.

Honourable mention goes to Jesse LoBalbo, who took low net for the championship and won one of the tournament KPs.

Nico Reynolds placed first in the under-13 division and also shot a KP.

Other winners were Liam Johnson with KP, Paolo D'Atillio with the longest drive and seven-year-old Nicholas Boyd with closest to the line.

The tournament was described as "a lot of fun and a great success thanks to volunteers Herb Burnett, George Ehring, Bill Boyd, Judy and Mike Tyson and the staff of Blackburn Meadows Golf Club."

Special thanks were given to Ganges Village Market for generously

donating food and to Beddis Road Garage for its prize donations.

People are urged to sign up now for the Blackburn Meadows Club Championship on Sunday,

August 31.

Call to register at 537-1707 or drop in to the pro shop.

Registration fees are \$25 and include 18 holes of golf, food and prizes.

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