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Wednesday,
August 25, 2004
44th year
Issue 34
328 Lower Ganges Road,
Salt Spring Island, B.C.
V8K 2V3
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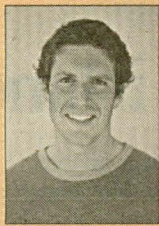
THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Ganges Pharmasave
- Thrifty Foods
- Ganges Village Market
- Field's Stores

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Salt Spring's Barney Williams won silver in Olympic rowing Saturday. Page A21

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Weather

Islanders will get a little bit of every kind of weather this week, with rain, variable clouds and some sunshine in the forecast. Highs 22 C. on Thursday and lows to 12 C.

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Keep Five Alive steps up school week protests

By ROB WILTZEN
Driftwood Contributor

Resistance to the four-day school week persists as local and province-wide efforts kick off campaigns to reverse its implementation.

On Salt Spring, the Keep Five Alive coalition of parents, teachers, students, workers and citizens is planning a public demonstration in front of the school board office on September 7, the first day of school.

Accompanying petitions, bumper stickers and posters have been produced by the coalition as part of the public campaign to reverse the shortened school week decision implemented by the Gulf Islands School District.

The group has also organized a public information and discussion evening for Monday, September 13. The event will feature keynote speaker Jinny Sims, president of the B.C. Teachers' Federation (BCTF), along with other representatives of parents, unions and the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association (GITA).

"We believe that the government has a responsibility to fund education properly in both rural and urban schools," Sims told the Driftwood last week. "We have had 114 school closures in the province since the Liberals came into power

and we now have 2,500 less full-time teachers than three years ago. There is no educational justification for keeping schools closed."

The BCTF is part of the Coalition for Public Education, which launched its Opening Doors for Every Student campaign on Friday. The public awareness and political action campaign is designed to challenge the provincial government's funding of both kindergarten to Grade 12 and post-secondary education.

"We really believe that students K-12... have really had the door shut in their faces, and it's time to open some doors for them," said Sims. "Students are very much underfunded and we will continue to advocate and use whatever means we have."

Education cuts have resulted in a variety of measures, she said, such as a loss of library time and services for special needs children, as well as the four-day week in school districts such as the Gulf Islands.

"The four-day week is only financially motivated and we don't believe that education should be a profit centre," said Doug Appleton of Pender Island's Kids First group.

Appleton is spearheading **FOUR-DAY A2**



FEEDING TIME: Wildlife centre director Jeff Lederman feeds some of the centre's huge number of orphaned seals. Photo by Derrick Lundy



ON TASK: Firefighters attack Park Drive fire Thursday. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Blaze doused at Park Drive home

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

A crowd of concerned community members watched 22 firefighters and volunteers respond to a three-structure fire at the corner of Park Drive and Desmond Crescent Thursday afternoon.

On August 19 at about 1:40 p.m., clouds of black smoke rose high over the

burning buildings, visible from far across town. Fire trucks lined up along the two streets bordering the corner lot, where a shed, motor home and main home smoldered.

Alfred Gemperle, who lives next door to the site of the fire, said he was babysitting at the time the trouble started.

FIRE A3

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Parents fear four-day week impacts

By **ROB WILTZEN**
Driftwood Contributor

With the four-day school week looming close on the horizon, locals are worried about what it means for Salt Spring Island while some parents question their own future here.

How Gulf Islands registration figures compare to other years remains to be seen when school actually begins in September, but anecdotal evidence suggests that more parents are considering alternatives to the public education system while others consider leaving the school district altogether.

"We've decided to give it a year and see what's happening and then we'll consider moving elsewhere," said Kathy Page, a Salt Spring parent of two children.

"Education is a priority and we feel our children will be facing an educational deficit here. We're going to try and fight it, but if it sticks we'll see a younger generation badly qualified and badly educated."

"Everyone should support the fight against this, not just

parents," she added. A threat to leave the island was echoed by another Salt Spring parent, who wished to remain anonymous.

"I firmly believe that our children's education is at risk. It seems the system is crumbling, and our board is letting it happen," she said. "I am prepared to give our board one year to reverse this decision, and then will move from this district, as the Cowichan Valley is looking better by the day."

A concern for many islanders is the ability to attract new families to the area and what a shifting demographic could mean for the islands.

"In the long run, the cuts are so harmful not only on education, but on the broader community," said Cindy Brooks, a Salt Spring parent who recently moved here with her family from New Mexico.

"The area won't attract new families, so extracurricular activities being offered in the community are impacted. It affects business people as well, since less kids on the island changes the market

for local businesses." Brooks speaks from her experience of looking in depth at various countries and locations to decide where she and her husband wanted to raise their children.

"One of the big reasons was education for us," she said of the decision to move here.

"We were very impressed when we came here so we bought a house and applied for residency. A month before we moved, we found that they had passed the four-day week.

"We probably would not have moved here if we had known," she said. "It wasn't the only factor but education was a priority. We're here now, so we will have to see how things play out."

Mike Morgan is a Salt Spring grandparent who is so concerned about the broader community impacts that he made an appointment with Murray Coell, local MLA and Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Womens' Services in Victoria.

"I talked to him for about an hour," he said. "His

response was that he is going to talk to the minister of education, but that he is watching the 'experiment' very closely.

"So why do we get to be an experiment," Morgan wonders.

"There is an enormous social effect and the impacts on the community will be in many more ways than foreseen," said Morgan who is heavily involved with the raising of his grandchildren on Salt Spring.

Private off-island schools are another option reportedly being investigated by an increasing number of island parents. Queen Margaret's school in Duncan has seen the number of Salt Spring students more than double this year, along with an unprecedented raft of inquiries, according to their director of admissions, marketing and communication.

But that, along with the other programs being offered on Salt Spring for fees on Fridays are seen by the Keep Five Alive Coalition as steps towards a two-tiered education system.



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Public bus explored as an option for island

By **JENNIFER MCFEE**
Staff Writer

On behalf of the Salt Spring Island Public Transportation Society (SSiPTS), Peter Lamb answered questions and asked for input about the feasibility of starting a bus service on the island at a residents' meeting last week.

"We'd like some feedback as to whether you think public transit makes sense on Salt Spring," Lamb said to Beddis and Cusheon Lake Area Residents Association members gathered at the United Church Thursday evening.

Lamb said he examined the changing demographics and economies on the island, including increases in population and gas prices.

"We're working very closely with the Community

Energy Strategy to move more people out of cars and onto public transit. Cars are the second-largest user of energy on the island," he said.

By implementing a public transit system, air quality will improve, parking problems will be alleviated and low-impact visitors will be encouraged to come to the island, he said.

"One option we have is to opt into the Greater Victoria Transit System," Lamb said. To become part of this larger system, all residents on the island would have to pay a tax levy, plus an extra 2.5 cents per litre gas levy.

"The other option we're looking at is a municipal system. We don't have to be a municipality to do it," he said.

In this scenario, B.C.

Transit would work with the Capital Regional District, as well as with an experienced private operator contracted to run the system.

Two routes are being considered, Lamb said. A ferry bus would connect Fulford Harbour and Vesuvius, while a shuttle bus would transport passengers in the Ganges area.

"It would service all the townhouses and seniors' residences in the area and the recreation centre when it's done. It could be extended and expanded," he said. "The key is getting a service that is regular so people can rely on it."

Lamb suggested two fare zones, with a \$2 inner zone around town and a \$3 outer zone to the ferries. Discount fares would apply for children and seniors, and passes

would be available.

Any public transit system operates at a loss, he noted, but B.C. Transit could provide a subsidy.

The first option would cost around \$600,000 while the second option would be in the \$200,000 range, which would be a nominal cost with a provincial subsidy, Lamb said.

"B.C. Transit has been very impressed with the extent of the work we've done. We've been encouraged to put a proposal in. It's a question of whether or not people think it's a valuable community service," Lamb said.

"The key for us is to get a proposal into B.C. Transit sometime soon to work towards getting funding."

To provide feedback, contact Lamb by e-mail at gellam@saltspring.com.

FOUR-DAY: Challenged

From Page 1

efforts to launch a legal challenge against the four-day week.

"We are close to getting the funding required to launch legal action," said Appleton, who was involved in a successful court case of a similar nature in Alberta.

"We've met with lawyers who believe we have a case based on charter rights. Ini-

tially the challenge will be in the form of an injunction against the school district from implementing the four day week."

Chip Chipman, a local CUPE executive member, said he was inspired by the level of ongoing activity to reverse the cuts.

"The four-day week is not, in any way, shape or form,

a dead issue on this island," he said.

But school board chair May McKenzie said the board decision about the four-day week would not be rescinded for the coming year.

Principals and administrators have put a great deal of time into making the new system work, she said.

"The staffing is in place and everything is in place for the year, she said. "Actually, I think people are quite excited about getting down to making it work," said McKenzie.

"The critical thing to remember is that we are setting up a task force to evaluate the effects of the calendar changes."

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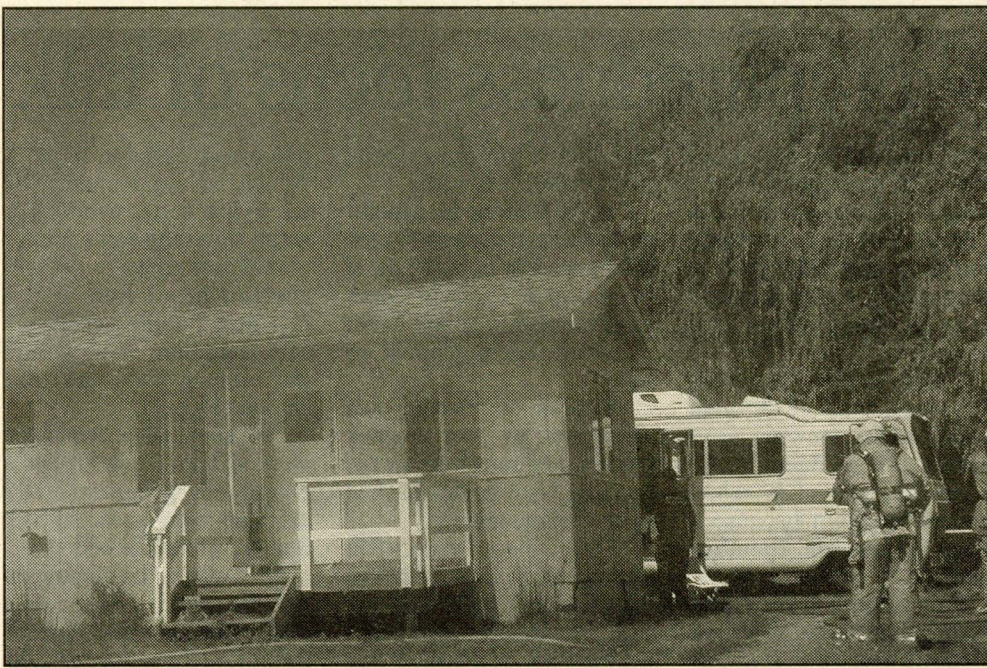
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BRAVE CREW: Salt Spring firefighters get set to extinguish fires that burned in three structures at a Park Drive residence Thursday afternoon. Photo by Jennifer McFee

FIRE: 22 fight Park Drive blaze

From Page 1

"I was going into the living room to play a game when a friend of ours came banging on the door. She said there was a fire next door and to call the fire department."

While Gemperle was making the call, he heard three or four explosions coming from the neighbouring rental property owned by a family in New Westminster.

When he went outside and saw the thick black smoke, Gemperle was quick to take action to protect his own home by spraying water over his roof and lawn.

"I saw the flames were already in the bushes by our house. One tree caught fire that borders our property. We were worried because we have quite a bit of wood

there," he said.

"The back end of the motor home, there's nothing left. The porch, there's nothing left. The shed's totally gone. Being so dry, it was quite worrisome."

Gemperle's neighbour Jim Spencer, who lives two doors down from the home that caught fire, said he could feel very intense heat.

"We watched the whole thing. The largest cinders that landed on our dry grass were about five inches long and three-and-a-half inches wide. I was out hosing down the lawn," he said.

His wife Carol said the fire department contained the fire quickly.

"I thought we didn't stand a chance. We're all interconnected by an old fence. I feel it could've been huge. The

whole thing was so scary. It was probably the scariest thing we've been through," she said.

"I think our fire department is pretty awesome. They did an amazing job. They had to have been there within three minutes. It was that fast, and things were going up that fast."

She said she couldn't believe the size of the crowd that gathered across the street.

"I know people are drawn to tragedy, but it was really kind of awful how many people came to watch," she said.

Salt Spring Fire Department Captain Dale Lundy said the cause of the fire is unknown and is still under investigation.

"The fire started in the

shed, and it was pretty much destroyed. There was a motor home with extensive damage, and lots of damage to the main mobile home," he said.

"They were there probably three hours to get it out and clean up. They were making sure all of the hot spots were out."

In addition to the Thursday afternoon blaze, the fire department responded to 16 incidents this week, including burning complaints, medical calls, false alarm bells and a motor vehicle accident.

The fire hazard level has dropped to moderate due to the weekend showers, but there is still a complete burning ban.

"There is no outdoor burning at all," said Lundy.

Low attendance cuts crime prevention meeting short

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

A low turnout at a Salt Spring Crime Prevention Association meeting made for short discussions of community matters last Tuesday.

Sgt. Mike Giles gave an RCMP report, which was cut short due to a 911 call for an emergency situation. Giles told the room that the RCMP have had more calls than usual this year.

"The RCMP are having a typical Salt Spring summer. We had about 3,100 calls last year. We'd never had more than 3,000 before. This year, we're one month ahead of where we were last year. I think we're at about 2,100 or 2,200 right now," he said.

About 50 people have been charged with impaired driving this year, which is about four times as many as this time last year, he said.

Nancy Boyce from Gulf Islands Women's Resource Network (GIWRN) spoke next, reporting that Salt Spring's transition house has been receiving more referrals from Vancouver Island and the other Gulf Islands.

"Like the RCMP, we tend to get busier in the summer. We are a little bit ahead of

our statistics from last year too," she said.

"We have been getting more women calling and coming to the house from the Outer Islands, probably because of all the networking we've been doing. We've made them more aware that we're here as an option."

Some people feel safer when they are further away, and the RCMP provides transportation services, she added.

GIWRN will work towards getting volunteers trained on the Outer Islands, she said.

Kimberly Lineger, facilitator of the meeting, said that Victim Services is short on volunteers.

Because of provincial funding cuts, they are no longer receiving funding to train new volunteers, she said.

Despite a lack of volunteer help, Lineger has several projects on the go for Victim Services.

She is working on an RCMP website that will also provide contact information and links for local resources.

A hard copy paper display will be available at the library next to the computers. Lineger anticipates the project will be completed

some time in September.

She also plans to set up an on-island legal clinic in conjunction with law students from the University of Victoria. The Law Foundation will provide grant funds to cover travel and workshops, she said.

"I need someone at the Community Centre who wants to manage it," she said.

Lineger noted that no members of the youth and drug use sub-committee were present at the Tuesday afternoon meeting.

"They wanted this meeting today and they're not here," she said.

The group also discussed an initiative to get Internet service providers to block child pornography.

"I think it's something that once we introduce it into the schools, it will go a long way," Lineger said. "Right now, maybe we want to start a letter-writing campaign to the government agencies to regulate this. I'll set something up so we can maybe do something at the fall fair."

More information about the pornography-blocking campaign is available online at www.1clicklobbyist.ca/index.php.

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Emergency preparedness focus of talk

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

Islanders should be prepared to help themselves, their families and neighbourhoods in the event of an emergency, a Thursday night meeting was told.

The Beddis and Cusheon Lake Area Residents Association hosted a United Church gathering to hear Salt Spring Search and Rescue coordinator Chuck Hamilton present information about emergency preparedness.

Hamilton separated emergency situations into three steps.

"When an emergency happens, think about yourself first. Are you prepared?" he asked.

One part of being prepared is getting first aid training, he said.

"To me, that's something we should teach in the high school. It's a standard life issue. You never know when something will happen.

"Step two is to think about your family. Is your family accounted for? Are they safe?"

He stressed developing escape routes, alternate routes and meeting places outside the home away from trees and overhead power lines.

"These are things that I stress to members of the Search and Rescue because I want them to be prepared and know that their family is okay so they can be focussed in a Salt Spring emergency," he said.

"Once you know your family's okay, think about your neighbours. How is your neighbourhood doing?"

Neighbourhood Watch is a great program because it keeps homes safe, Hamilton said.

"You automatically know each other better. You have a phone tree to spread the information through."

Another part of emergency preparedness is having emergency water, lighting and other supplies on hand, he said.

Hamilton said he uses a large Rubbermaid tub to store first aid supplies, extra kitchen items, bedding, tools and old clothes.

"It doesn't have to cost much. Old tools are fine. Put away a little bit of food at a time. Don't put it in the basement. Put it somewhere you can get to easily," he said.

Another area to store basic equipment is under the bed.

"Under the head of the bed, it's necessary to have a working flashlight, leather gloves and hard-soled shoes. Most of the time, hopefully all they do is gather dust bun-

nies, but if you need them, they're there," he said.

"We're overdue for a major earthquake in our area. These things are not unheard of. If we do have a quake, count on the windows going. Don't count on [having] power or light."

Hamilton emptied his own "grab and go" bag to show community members at the meeting what he has packed in case of emergency.

"Put the things you need first on top," he said as he pulled out a flashlight and a back-up, a slip-on traffic wand, glowing light sticks, a map of Salt Spring and a notepad with a felt pen and pencil.

From the next layer, Hamilton extracted water, toilet paper, a toothbrush and dental floss for removing ticks or repairing clothing.

He suggested packing a spare pair of glasses, medications, small bars of soap, a sewing kit, high visibility flagging tape, a plastic whistle and a single-blade knife. He uses film canisters to store surgical gloves, wooden matches and coins.

Hamilton dug a little deeper in the blue bag and pulled out a high visibility vest, a hands-free light, a first-aid kit with an airway and space blankets, as well as a hat, wool socks, bootlaces and gloves in a Ziploc bag.

Near the bottom were gar-

den-sized garbage bags, a wool balaclava, more matches, nylon rope, candles, a small stove and some food.

"I'm not going to get any comfort at all from a bag of lentils in an emergency," said Hamilton, as he pulled out raisins, chocolate and smoked kippers.

"We have had the benefit of working with Pender Island's emergency program. They are light years ahead of Salt Spring," Hamilton added.

On Pender, the island is divided into community pods. Each pod has contact numbers for a phone tree and a meeting place within every neighbourhood.

"Each pod knows their strengths and their weaknesses, but each one also knows the pod on either side," Hamilton said.

"Pender bought about 100 radios to distribute among pods. The range is excellent. They're relatively inexpensive and they're great community communicators."

Hamilton suggested that Salt Spring residents begin to prepare for emergencies now, as opposed to putting off the task.

"It's not as onerous as you would think. The main hardship is getting going," he said.

For more information about emergency preparedness, see the Driftwood insert on pages A17-20.



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Waldorf offers alternative

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

Waldorf on Salt Spring is offering an art-based alternative full of Friday activities designed to enhance the four-day school week taking place in the Gulf Islands School District this year.

Artisan Fridays will be part of the regular school week for students enrolled in Waldorf on Salt Spring, but the Friday program will also be open to six- to 10-year-old children from other schools.

Three one-and-a-half-hour art workshops will take place each Friday, along

with a lunch hour and a slot for free time.

Tentative workshop topics include making beads, candles, dolls, drums, jewellery, masks, pottery, soap and stained glass. Other activities will focus on woodwork, painting, sculpting, glass blowing, felting, juggling and story telling.

The school also plans to start a children's choir this year.

"It would be part of the Friday program, but if people wanted to join the choir independently, they wouldn't have to sign up for the whole day," said Waldorf teacher

Marsha Flad.

Flad explained that the Waldorf system is based on the philosophy of anthroposophy, or the study of human development.

"The education arises out of the understanding of human development. From age seven to 14, the emotional life is most prominent, so everything is done artistically," she said.

Starting in September, the school will welcome Desmond Murray, an experienced Waldorf teacher who will lead the Grade 1 and 2 classes.

"A teacher takes a class from Grade 1 to 8, the same class all the way through. You're developing a relationship with the students and you work with the families. It's a real commitment," said Flad.

Waldorf is based on oral tradition, where information is passed from teacher to students verbally instead of through textbooks, she noted.

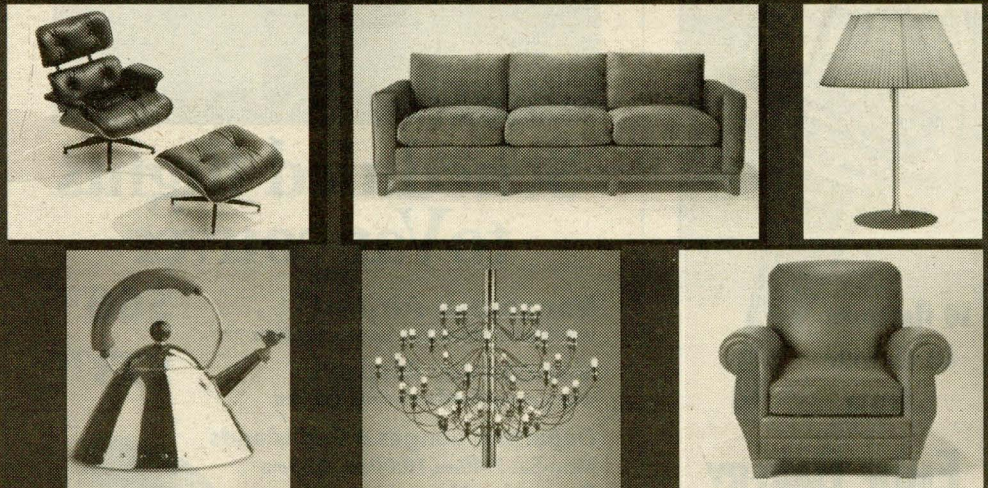
"There are around 2,000 Waldorf schools all over the world. It's the fastest growing independent school in the world," she said.

Artisan Fridays begin September 17 and run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$15 per day, and parents must register for an entire month session at a time. Some additional fees may be charged, based on the workshop being held.

Flad asks that anyone interested in Artisan Fridays, the children's choir or Waldorf education contact her as soon as possible at 537-5804.

More information about Waldorf on Salt Spring is available online at www.waldorfsi.com

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Release of density cap pursued by Channel Ridge

Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. (CRPL) is seeking release of the restrictive covenant that limits development of its Channel Ridge lands to 577 densities.

The company would then apply for a rezoning that could add 130 more residential units, a hotel and pub to the north Salt Spring development.

CRPL spokesperson Deborah Folka confirmed the company has initiated discussions with the various agencies holding the covenant, to see if they would consider its release.

The covenant-holding bodies are the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, School District #64, Salt Spring Water Preservation Society and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

"They want to develop 'the [residential] pods,' a hotel and a pub," said trustee Kimberly Linerger.

"Some of the options they've put out there would really freak Channel Ridge [home owners] out," she said. "As long as the covenant isn't released, we are OK."

Linerger said it appears CRPL is not accepting the 1986 covenant, created after

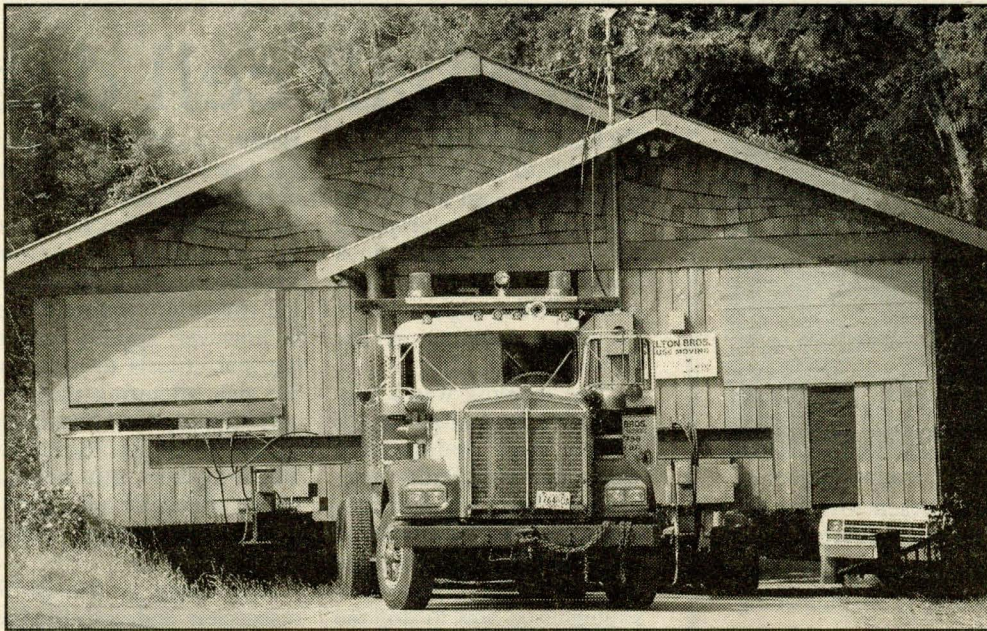
the previous Channel Ridge developers agreed to concentrate development capacity in a village.

"There was a change over the years — whether that was a bylaw or a regulatory change," said Folka, "and now there is a question as to what takes precedence . . . I don't know how that will be resolved and that's probably something the lawyers are looking at."

According to a June 24, 2004 Islands Trust staff report, development capacity for those lands set out in Salt Spring's Land Use Bylaw (LUB) would be 710 residential units — not the 577 stipulated by the restrictive covenant. However, Islands Trust lawyers have advised that the 1986 covenant — "as it represents a lower development density — takes precedence over the LUB."

Linerger said the contentious second-road issue is related. CRPL may even consider building another access road if extra densities are approved, she said.

Folka agreed. "We've always said about the road — we'll do it if it's needed. So far all the traffic studies have indicated that the numbers aren't there."



ON THE MOVE: Belton Bros. Structural Movers Ltd. gets set to take away the Mouat Park caretakers cottage to its new salmon enhancement society location.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Violent incidents shake up camp

Fulford Freedom Camp members are concerned following three incidents of aggressive behaviour experienced early Thursday morning.

Tomiko Koyama said three buckets of pig manure were thrown across the camp garden and walkways at approximately 5:30 a.m.

"Then the yellow bus was side-swiped" while a woman and her two young children were asleep inside," said Koyama.

The incidents were reported to Salt Spring RCMP. The same morning, she said, two campers woke up at first light to see "an agitated fellow storming around the camp flicking a knife."

She said the incidents were frightening because they are a step up in violence from the name-calling and other negative actions inflicted on the settlement established at the head of Fulford Harbour.

ISLAND BARGAINS & SECOND HAND DEALS!
YARD SALES ON PAGE B19


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Trincomali hearing postponed for now

An Islands Trust public hearing into a Trincomali Heights rezoning and density transfer application set for Tuesday at 5 p.m. was cancelled at the last minute.

The Trust aims to reschedule the meeting sometime before the next Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting at the end of September, said regional planning manager John Gauld. A new date will be advertised.

"From a procedural point of view, the binders available to the public did not contain all the information that had been provided by the applicant to Islands Trust," said Gauld.

Land appraisals given by the applicant to the Islands Trust weren't in the binder, he said. All of the information will be included in the binders for the public at the rescheduled meeting.

Driver flees accident scene on Fulford-Ganges

A single-vehicle accident took place in the 2500-block of Fulford-Ganges Road on Wednesday, August 18 at about 10:30 p.m. A 1987 Buick went off the road to the right and struck a utility pole.

The 37-year-old male driver fled the scene before police and fire personnel arrived. He has been charged with failure to remain at the scene of an accident.

In other police news:
• On Friday, August 20 at 3

RCMP REPORT

p.m., a 24-year-old man was charged with assault following an incident in Centennial Park.

• Over the past week, seven people were lodged in cells for being drunk in a public place. They were held for their own safety and were released when sober.

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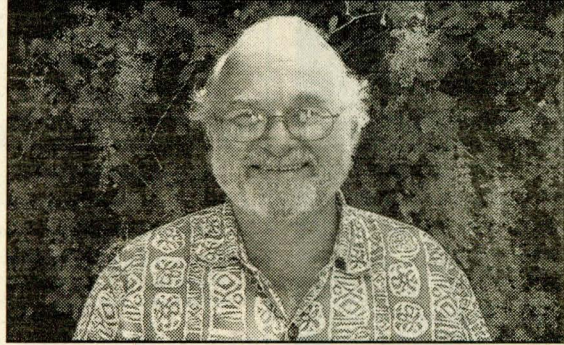
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We are pleased to announce the appointment of Bruce Coney as Marketing Representative for the Gulf Islander Magazine. A resident of Salt Spring Island for the past three years, Bruce has 28 years of marketing and sales experience in the publishing industry.

Bruce will be pleased to help you market your business through the Gulf Islander Magazine and the Gulf Islands' best tourist website, Gulf Islands Online.

You may contact Bruce at
537-9933, extension 213.

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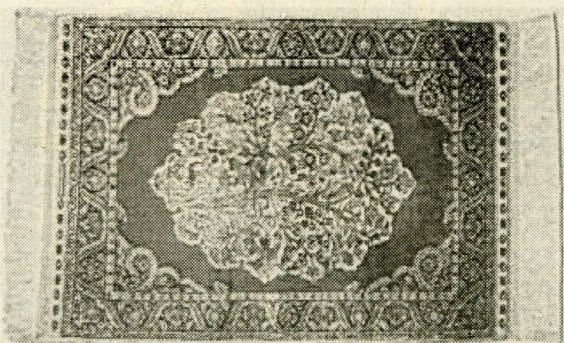
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Fire hall cell debate continues

By **ROB WILTZEN**
Driftwood Contributor

The campaign to stop the Telus cell antennae proposed for the Ganges firehall clock tower began to take shape with a Friday night citizens planning meeting at the United Church.

"The meeting was a success. We had close to 30 people who dedicated a warm summer Friday evening to learning and discussing about this threat to public health, and who came up with some very creative strategies on how to stop the Telus transmitter," said organizer Chris Anderson following the meeting.

The meeting was aiming to discuss strategy development to kill the proposal to install a microwave cell transmission tower in the downtown core, but also featured three speakers providing background scientific and political information.

Recounting the history of other communities' battles against similar installations provided context for the local issue.

The evidence is overwhelming, maintained the speakers, that the emission of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from the towers has a negative impact on human health with symptoms ranging from mild to serious.

Health Canada, however, is satisfied that there is no health risk posed by the tower according to the criteria they use.

"The problem lies in that

Health Canada applies Safety Code 6 to measure the risk of antennae," said Milt Bowling, executive director of the Electromagnetic Radiation Task Force and a speaker at the meeting. "Safety Code 6, however, applies only a thermal criteria to measure the risk, dictating that the radiation must not heat body tissue beyond specific limits. The long-term non-thermal health effects are not considered by the standard setting agencies."

According to the EMR researcher and activist, the physical damage associated with radio-frequency radiation is known to include DNA strand breakage and can manifest in a range of conditions from learning disorders to cancer clusters.

Bowling has been involved in over 100 cell antennae battles against telecommunications companies and shared some of his experience in developing a citizen-based strategy to counter proposed installations.

Anderson, head of the Island Residents Opposed to Cell-phone Antennae (IROCA) group, provided examples of cancer clusters around installed cell-phone antennae, adding that some people develop an EMR sensitivity whereby they can't tolerate even very low levels of the radiation. The local EMR tester and former antennae installation company owner provided an extensive history of the issue and elaboration of the politi-

cal problems.

"Although the proposed installation will emit .048 microwatts per square centimetre, the measurement means nothing," he said. ".048 on a wet day can turn into two or three times that number with other factors such as a reflective object behind you also potentially raising the measurement considerably . . . There is also the issue that the measurement is an average of the peaks and valleys of emissions so at any one time there can be considerably higher EMR than the average," said Anderson.

"The negative health effects are so well established that it really requires no more discussion," said Walt McGinnis, a low EMR electrician, designer and installer of low radiation wiring and equipment. McGinnis said that the potential consequence of allowing the antenna is that it could open up the area to other carriers installing their own towers due to co-location telecomm agreements.

"I have helped with gathering signatures on the petition opposing the transmitter and find that most people don't want this installation especially at such close range to where they spend so much time," said McGinnis. "I suggest that the fire board agree to engage with the community on this important issue and participate in a public forum with world-class scientific representa-

tion. Telus and their government associates would also be invited to show the community the studies proving that this radiation won't cause harm. This should take place before installing any equipment."

McGinnis' presentation moved the discussion towards strategy development for concerned local citizens. Strategizing was, however, interrupted by recurring debate and dialogue over the science of EMR health impacts.

Fire trustee Ken Lee said he was not convinced that the EMR emitted from the proposed antenna would be dangerous, although he said he would be willing to re-examine the evidence.

"The proposed contract has an escape clause allowing the contract to be terminated at any time if there is any evidence of health effects," he added.

The proposed contract allows Telus to install a one carrier antenna on the fire hall for \$1,000 per year.

Lee said the purpose of allowing the installation was not related to lease money.

"The fire board's aim is to optimize communication for fire protection on the island," he said.

Attendees offered several tactics and strategies for stopping the installation. Suggestions included stepping up an education program for island residents and business owners and launching public demonstrations.

Hospital urges use of free NurseLine

Lady Minto Hospital's emergency department is feeling the stress of a busy summer, but has already come up with a partial solution.

Use of the toll-free B.C. NurseLine could cut down on the number of patients unnecessarily showing up at the hospital.

"We're just finding that a lot of people are still unaware that the [NurseLine] service is available and it really streamlines things because a lot of medical situations can be triaged through that line and people may or may not decide they need to come to Emergency," said Lady Minto Hospital spokesperson Diana Hayes last week.

People calling the phone number will discuss their symptoms with a nurse, who will help them decide if they should wait to see a health professional or proceed to the emergency department.

The number is 1-866-215-4700. Deaf and hearing-impaired callers should dial 1-866-889-4700.

Fridge magnets with the NurseLine numbers are available from the hospital admitting window area.

While hospital personnel hope increased NurseLine use will lower demand for emergency service, they stress that people with serious health concerns should still come to the hospital.

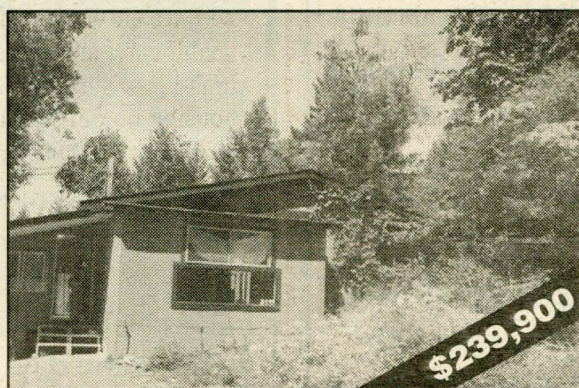
"We always encourage anyone with an urgent concern to come in. This [phone service] is for people who sprain their ankle and don't know whether or not to come in."

The NurseLine also has a pharmacist on call from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. to answer questions about medications, which may be critical when pharmacies are closed.

"It's just another step to try to make the health care system more efficient for people," said Hayes.

People who call Lady Minto Hospital with a non-emergent question will also be referred to the B.C. NurseLine, said Hayes.

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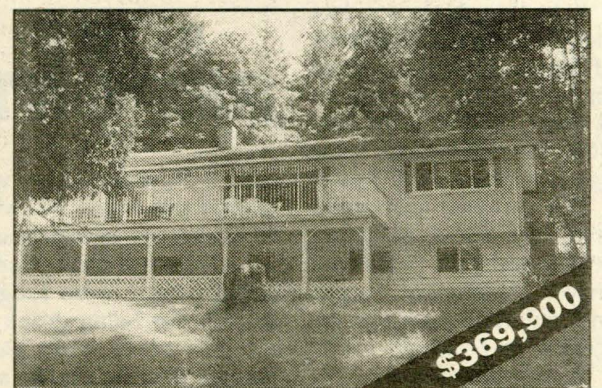


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Larmour questions accepted water demand predictions for Salt Spring

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Some conclusions of an Islands Trust-commissioned report on water supply and demand in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) are being questioned by a former long-time manager of the island's main water utility.

Mike Larmour, who retired from his post about three years ago, has composed a critique of the Water Supply and Demand Analysis for NSSWD, which was completed in July 2003 by Aqion Water Technologies Ltd.

He comes up with contrasting water supply and consumption predictions and conclusions, with a cautionary note for all consumers of island water.

"I think the community has to look at the problem coming up and we either face it as a crisis or we try to face it ahead of time and manage where our water goes," Larmour told the last Salt Spring Water Council meeting.

The Aqion report concludes that the total available water supply from Maxwell and St. Mary lakes would be 225 million gallons (plus or minus 20 per cent) which "may be 100 per cent allocated between 2020 and 2030, if supply augmentation and/or demand management measures are not undertaken."

The NSSWD's 1,923 single family dwellings (SFDs) will consume a projected 87.1 million gallons by 2020, notes the Aqion report.

But Larmour feels that figure is too low. "It works out to 45,294 gallons per year per SFD, whereas current demand is at about 57,000 gallons per year per SFD," he writes in his report. "I would expect demand to increase markedly over time as houses are used as home-based businesses, suites are rented out, houses are enlarged, seasonal cottages are rented."

He calculates the difference in the two per-dwelling consumption figures results in a discrepancy of more than 22 million gallons — water the NSSWD should not presume to have to sell — by the year 2020.

Larmour told the Driftwood he has two other main concerns about the Aqion report. One is a suggestion that groundwater could augment lake supplies for the NSSWD. The other is part of Aqion recommendation #21: "Approval of new develop-



LEISURE LAKE: Boaters enjoy a summer day on St. Mary Lake, which forms a major part of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's water supply. A water supply and demand study completed last year on available water supply is now being questioned by former Waterworks manager Mike Larmour.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

ment, water allocations for rezoning applications, density transfers and amenity zoning can occur provided there is regular monitoring of water supply and community growth and incorporation of water conservation approaches within existing and proposed development areas."

He interprets that to mean the NSSWD can relax from the straitjacket imposed by Salt Spring Official Community Plan (OCP) policy C.3.1.2.2, which states, in summary, "the target for zoning changes within the district's boundaries will be to achieve no net increase in water demand."

However, Islands Trust regional planning coordinator John Gauld said the Trust has a different interpretation.

"From the long-term planning perspective, the OCP cautionary notes concerning no increase in development without consent by the NSSWD remain in place," he said.

He notes the LTC adopted Aqion recommendations #4 through #7, which stress the need for coordination of land use planning and water supply management, creation of a St. Mary Lake watershed stakeholder group and the implementation of other proactive measures to conserve NSSWD water supplies.

The study also suggests that water conservation technologies form "an important component of a water demand management plan. Water-saving devices for use in homes such as low or dual flush toilets and water-efficient shower heads and faucets conserve an appreciable amount of water."

Several recommendations were made that applied to the NSSWD.

But on the topic of available groundwater resources the NSSWD could tap into, Larmour does not believe they exist in sufficient quantity to be a reliable source.

"The problem with groundwater is that very little research has been done."

He recalls various north end areas where the groundwater supply is remarkably scarce, and notes the process of tapping into such supplies is extremely expensive.

Larmour's arguments were set to be raised Tuesday evening by opponents of proposed Bylaw 385, which would increase by six lots the subdivision potential of a 50-acre parcel of Trincomali Heights area land. Reducing water demand is one of the community's concerns, explained resident Wendy Kaye.

Following Larmour's pre-

sentation to the Salt Spring Water Council, that body agreed to convey to the Islands Trust its concerns about the Aqion report and its conclusions, suggesting it be subject to further technical review before recommendations are adopted.

NSSWD general manager Trevor Hutton said Monday that Larmour's critique and the Aqion report were discussed at the district's recent monthly meeting and historical information is being gathered.

"We are reviewing it and we are going to first of all put in our numbers and see how they compare with [Aqion's] numbers, and see what sort of discrepancy we find, if any. And once we have done that we might have him in to look at the whole thing again."

"It would be a pity just to agree with the opponents of the report, so we first want to have a look at it. We probably wouldn't even say we don't agree with it. . . we would probably have [Aqion's] Wayne Lee put out an addendum."

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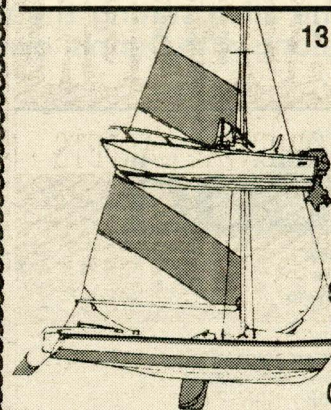
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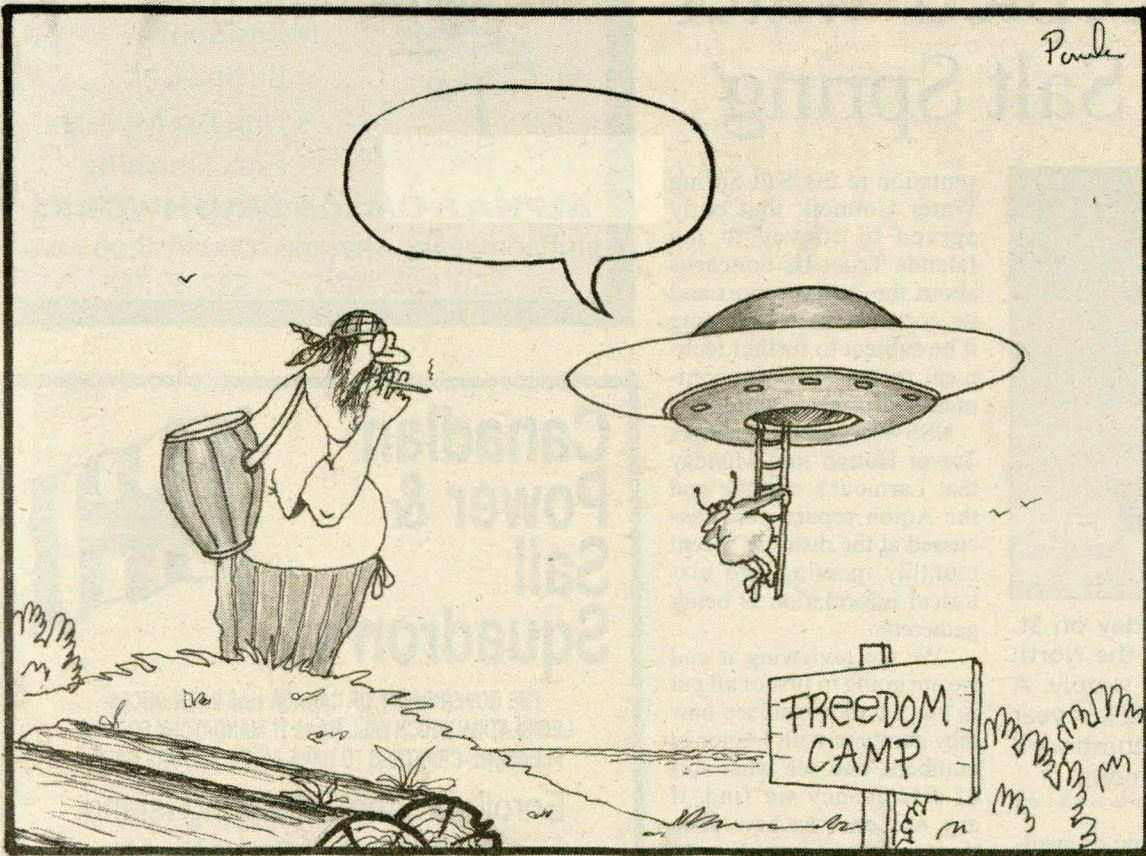
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What would you write in the balloon for this week's cartoon? Driftwood cartoonist Dennis Parker suggested we ask readers to fill in the comment — with the human and/or the alien stating the words. Next week we'll share the answers received — along with Dennis' own idea.

Island tourism plan needed

The short-term vacation rental debate is one that shows no signs of gradually abating like the annual summer tourist season.

People who feel they and/or the community's economy will be seriously impacted by a lack of available vacation rental homes are outraged at the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) decision to not consider stand-alone homes as a legal land use.

Those who see the ultimate decision as being made by an off-islander — LTC chairman David Essig — are upset at the current government process that allows that to occur.

Islanders who strongly oppose the use of residences for vacation rental purposes are thrilled with the LTC decision, but skeptical about the actual outcome and the Trust's ability to enforce its bylaws.

Contradictions in information and rationale for opinions touted by both sides only add to the confusion, and compel ordinary citizens to exempt themselves from the conversation entirely.

Ample time was spent thrashing out vacation rental issues in the last two years, but the discussion occurred out of context from the rest of the tourism topic.

As a result, islanders' vision of how Salt Spring tourism should be managed still remains murky.

A healthy tourist industry is essential for the Salt Spring community, but the definition of "healthy" has not been addressed at all.

Official community plan policies could also be revisited to see if they still apply.

While other issues such as affordable housing are paramount for the community at present, suggestions made at some point by our local trustees to create a tourism management plan for the island should be initiated as soon as possible.

Gulf Islands Driftwood

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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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Yearly Subscription Rates
 In the Gulf Islands \$48.15* Elsewhere in Canada \$78.11*
 6 months elsewhere in Canada \$49.22* Outside Canada \$169.00

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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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Stop the junk dump

People who leave their garage sale remnants outside the door of the Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop epitomize thoughtlessness.

They should be made to return the next day to witness the unselfish volunteers of our community struggling with the rained-upon mess that is left behind.

The Thrift Shop's business hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday and that's when donations should be brought to the back doors.

Outside of bill payments being squeezed through mail slots, no other establishments accept after-hours "business." Why should the Thrift Shop be any different?

Study authors not hallucinating about health effects

By MICHAEL LINEHAN

Do you think these people below are just hallucinating?

How can anyone just brush aside this kind of information and install a cell antenna 200 feet from a busy children's playground?

I'd certainly trust these data and opinions rather than Telus, who are just a bit prejudiced — to the tune of billions of dollars!

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) 1996:

"Exposure to EMFs has been linked to increased risk of diseases, including cancers such as childhood leukemia."

Martin Halper, the EPA's Director of Analysis and Support:

"I have never seen a set of epidemiological studies that remotely approached the weight of evidence that we're seeing with ELF [extremely low frequency] elec-

VIEW POINT

tromagnetic fields. Clearly there is something here."

The Freiburger Appeal:

Over 2,000 German doctors have signed this appeal expressing their concern about the harmful effects of cell antennae and cell phones. They say, "One can no longer evade these pulsed microwaves. They heighten the risk of already-present chemical/physical influences, stress the body's immune system, and can bring the body's still-functioning regulatory mechanisms to a halt. Pregnant women, children, adolescents, elderly and sick people are especially at risk."

Dr. Neil Cherry, May 2000,

presentation to the New Zealand Parliament, to Italy, Austria, Ireland and the European Parliament in Brussels. This paper has 122 references representing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 person-years of scientific research. "Effects of microwave radiation documented as caused by long-term low level electromagnetic radiation are: Heart problems; blood problems; interference with bone marrow; tumours; increased arthritis; skin problems; ear problems; risk to leukemia; childhood cancer; sleep problems; depression; memory loss; difficulty in concentrating; mental conditions; neurological illnesses; headaches; dizziness; fatigue; miscarriage; and infertility."

Guy, 1985: Rats exposed to pulsed microwaves, in ranges that simulated the levels allowed by current

standards for humans, had increased incidence of adrenal medulla tumors, malignant endocrine and endocrine tumors, and increases in carcinomas and sarcomas.

Michael Repacholi, 1997: "... significant increase in B-cell lymphomas in mice exposed to long-term, low-level frequencies in the cellular, PCS range. This has implications for those living near transmitter sites, as changes in B-cells are implicated in 85 per cent of all cancers."

Dr. David Carpenter, Dean at the School of Public Health, State University of New York:

"I believe that 30 per cent of all childhood cancers are associated with EMF exposure."

Insurance: Two of the world's largest insurance companies, Lloyds of London and Swiss Re, won't even insure the cell industry

and have recommended to other insurance companies to write in exclusion clauses against paying compensation for illnesses caused by continuous long-term, low-level radiation.

This is only a tiny sample. So Salt Spring fire trustees, you know there is a great deal of evidence of harm — far, far more than a little doubt. And you also know that the whole cell industry has arranged exemption from legal responsibility.

Does that not say something to you? I truly do not understand how you can, in any kind of good conscience, proceed in the face of facts such as those presented above.

Please reconsider your decision to allow Telus into the Ganges firehall clock tower.

The writer lives on Salt Spring.

Anti-cellphone cause fed by fear and pseudo-science

By NORBERT SCHLENKER

I hoped that the fuss about the fire district's proposed Ganges cell antenna contract with Telus might blow over quickly.

However, as antenna opponents continue their campaign in letters to and articles in the Driftwood week after week, I feel compelled to have my say as well.

Susan Foster Ambrose says she learned the art of argument over the dinner table from her father, a lawyer. Apparently she also learned the art of burying inconvenient facts in order to mislead an audience.

IN RESPONSE

Ms. Ambrose did sit on a San Diego County panel regarding antenna installations and was involved in the drafting of the ordinance regulating their placement.

Interested readers can find everything on San Diego County's website, sections 6980 et seq of the county's zoning ordinance.

Ms. Ambrose neglected to mention these key items: (1)

The county defers to FCC rules on power output from antennae, rules which are similar to those we have in Canada; (2) The entire tone of the ordinance has more to do with aesthetics than safety; (3) The ordinance specifies "preferred locations" for such antennae and among those locations are "county or other government facilities (e.g. fire district buildings)."

Ms. Ambrose worked for this ordinance and presumably supports it. How odd then that, in her half a page of text, she forgot to tell us that the ordinance recom-

mends placement of cell phone antennae in buildings like fire halls. How odd also that Ms. Ambrose continues to live where she does. If her own estimate of thousands of antennae in the county is correct, San Diego County has a cell phone antenna for every two or three square miles, yet she isn't moving out.

Salt Spring is about 70 square miles in area and the proposed fire hall antenna would be only the fourth on the island. If Ms. Ambrose can manage where antenna density is six to eight times what it will be here, even if

Telus gets its way in Ganges, then perhaps we should pay more attention to what she does — or in this case, does not do — than what she writes.

I attended the IROCA meeting last Friday and was impressed by many who were there. I love to see idealism, fervour and people who want to change the world for the better.

It is tragic to see such energy wasted in a cause fed by misinformation, propaganda and pseudo-science. Some were obviously scared. To them I can only say that "Fear is not danger."

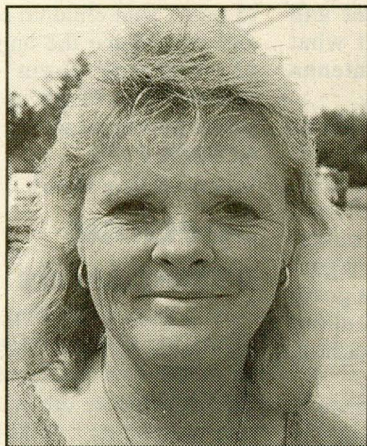
The fire district trustees should do their work. Amid all the attempted scaremongering on Friday night, one good question was asked of Ken Lee.

I encourage the fire trustees as a group to state publicly why they are renting the space to Telus for a pittance like \$1,000 a year. That sum seems far below market and hardly worthwhile, even to someone like me who wishes IROCA members would stop their endless nonsense.

The writer is a resident of Salt Spring.

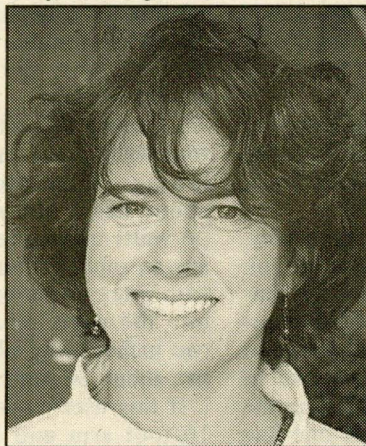
SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What is your favourite Olympic sport to watch and why?*



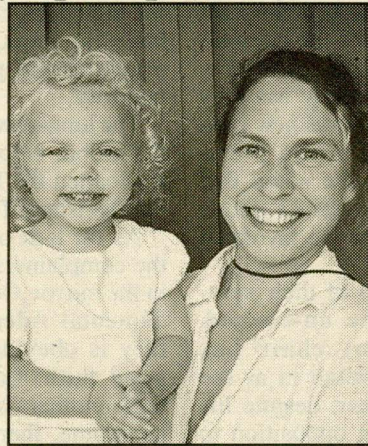
Jeannette Krum

For me, gymnastics because I just love it. I used to do gymnastics when I was in junior high and high school, and it's fun to watch.

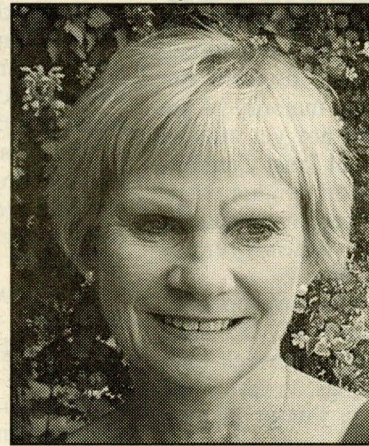


Lucia Gabber

Rhythmic gymnastics because of its grace and beauty.

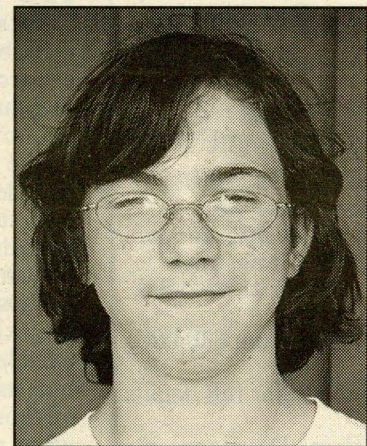


Jocelyn Ferguson with Annie Bateman
Women's hockey in the Winter Olympics because Canada does so well.



Joy Coupland

Soccer because I've got soccer in my blood.



Jake Upex

Probably hockey because I like how they put players from different teams onto the same Canadian team.

Letters to the Editor

Be proactive

Central intersection — that being Lower Ganges Road and North End Road where they intersect with Vesuvius Bay Road — is unsafe and a danger to motorists and others.

It clearly needs improvement in highway construction to improve visibility and nothing less than a four-way stop at this section.

As a community, the citizens of Salt Spring should be proactive about this situation.

GORDON MCCREA,
Woodland Drive

Precedent

The Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee strongly objects to any change in watershed zoning.

We feel that no matter how worthy other issues or projects may be, or what amenities they may offer our community, protecting the fragile and finite watershed must be the first priority. It is for this reason that we oppose changing the zoning from Watershed 1 (W1) in regard to the proposed Salt Spring Island Community Housing and Land Trust Society application at 161 Horel Road.

While we are, of course, deeply concerned with the quality of the potable water supply on Cusheon Lake, we are equally concerned that the intent and specifics of the island's official community plan (OCP) with regard to W1 zoning not be changed to accommodate any development proposal whatsoever. History has shown us repeatedly that any crack in the door will eventually lead to the door being forced from its hinges, and where real estate development is concerned, this has been proven time and time again.

We understand that the OCP will allow application to be made for rezoning for the purpose of "community housing." We also realize that any application for rezoning of W1 property should be rejected, as the people of Salt Spring Island are determined to care for all land in watershed areas.

The Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee, the Cusheon Lake Watershed Management Plan Committee, the Salt Spring Conservancy, the Water Preservation Society and the Water Council are some of the groups formed by the determined people of Salt Spring with the purpose of caring

for watersheds. If rezoning occurs to accommodate this "community housing," then other developers could jump on the bandwagon and, in the end, force the issue again and again, therefore further destroying the watershed and the island that the Trust is mandated to protect.

We ask you to note that in our neighbouring communities of Victoria and Vancouver, no traffic of any kind is permitted in the watershed areas. This shows how even in urban environments, the importance of watershed zoning is respected and protected.

We ask the Trust to remember their mandate and to work with the community housing group to find a property that will not split the community or threaten, through a precedent-setting act, the protection of the precious and finite resource of potable water on this island or anywhere else. This would best serve the community as a whole and be a position for which the Trust, and all residents of the island, can be rightfully proud.

TOM VOLQUARDSEN,
Chairperson,
Cusheon Lake
Stewardship Committee

Use signals

Turn signals are so easy now, so why is it that a lot of drivers do not use their signals? Inane, lazy, don't give a damn?

I was brought up in Winnipeg, before automatic or at least semi-automatic signals were invented. In 30-below weather you got in the right lane and opened the driver's door to indicate a turn. A left turn was done in the door open fashion from the left lane or side.

We all remember the arm signals but in 30-below the windows were frozen shut!

It's always good to know what the car in front of you is going to do.

From a signal-minded person.

DON MADSEN,
Brinkworthy Road

U.K. masts

The authorities tell us they are safe, but evidence is suggesting that mobile phone masts can cause cancer, especially among the very young. So far, 18 sites in the UK have been identified as health hazards.

Planning authorities throughout Europe have dismissed residents' concerns, and have said that

base stations have not been responsible for clusters of illnesses, even though they have happened only after installation.

In one street in South Woodford, Essex, five people contracted cancer after 16 mobile phone antennae were placed on top of a block of flats 30 yards away.

Of just 180 people living within 250 metres of a 15-foot mast, three died of brain hemorrhage and one child contracted epilepsy.

A housing development in Leeds has the highest cancer incidence in the area. It also happens to have the greatest density of masts.

In Wishaw, Warwickshire, of the 50 people living within 500 metres of a base station, 34 have reported medical problems, including seven cases of cancer. The residents have pulled down the mast.

In Paris, Orange, the mobile phone operator has dismantled a mast it had erected on a schoolhouse roof after eight children who attend the school contracted cancer.

In Valladolid, Spain, four young children were diagnosed with cancer after a mobile phone base was installed 50 metres away,

seven times the average national incidence. "In 32 years there had never been a case of childhood cancer here," said the local doctor Luis Martin.

This vital report is included in the August issue of *What Doctors Don't Tell You*. It provides all the available evidence on the dangers — and what you can do to protect yourself and your family.

Too many of us live close to a base station, and it's essential you find out what you can do.

PAT BARCLAY,
Salt Spring

No light

I am a Salt Spring school bus driver.

Therefore you should assume I would think a stoplight at Central would be good.

Please find a more rural way to solve the problem.

I always said, "When Salt Spring gets a stoplight, that's when I have to move."

I don't want to have to eat my words!

KATHLEEN MOUAT,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

While swatting the wasps, praise their natural genius

Everyone and everything has its genius. The lowliest cluster of cells, even lumps of mud, are particularly good at something. The trick for us is to see and appreciate this innate brilliance — an ability that's a cornerstone of human genius.

I've been trying, this hot, doors-open summer, to view the wealth of wasps in my life from such a positive perspective, but man, they make it hard. While I'm aware, beyond sight and hearing, of their vital role as bug-eaters supreme, in reality, their close-up genius seems to be to annoy. Their persistent, desperate buzzing gets on my nerves, augmented by nasty threats to get under my skin — and venomously a few weeks ago, when I thwarted a little sister's mission in life.

They don't have to make all

SPRINGBOARD

BY BRENDA GUILLED



that dire racket. Sure, the way their wings work — new research shows they get lift from vortexes under the leading edges of their gyrating front pair — produces a certain amount of noise, but they can up the volume to excite others about a food supply or to mount an offensive.

I had an unusually quiet wasp at my table recently, and for its grace and consideration, I let it stay. Why aren't they all so smart, to increase their odds of scarfing a meal?

Meals, of course, are what impel them to be such nuisances — meals for their offspring, which

are carnivores. Early to mid season, wasps are scavenging for protein to take to their larval babies. (By season's end, the larvae have pupated, and the adults have only themselves to feed. They want sugar then, for their starving last feeds before dying.) As a reward — this is the maggots' genius — the grubs exude a sweet nectar that their nursemaids gobble up, happy to fly off and repeat the exchange.

Other workers rasp away at likely materials to build nursery chambers into which the queen deposits eggs. Some use mud, others mulch wood. This much more subtle noise can be annoying too, the tiny crunch-crunch of the deck rails being chiselled down in narrow strips. Twenty summers at the pace set this year,

and my rails will be entirely converted into wasp paper.

Okay, so now we're talking genius. These little devils make paper out of woodfibre, and they've been doing it for at least 70-million years. Humans have been making paper for a couple of thousand, aren't we clever? Only in the last 150 years has paper as we know it, from sieved wood pulp, come into existence. The tip-off that fine sheets could be made from such a previously unprocessable source came from Frenchman Rene de Réaumur in 1819, who reported that if wasps can do it, then why can't people?

He didn't try, but the word was out and spread. Nova Scotia's Charles Fenerty made the world's first woodfibre paper in 1838, but fellow Canadians, of course, put no faith or money into their quirky neighbour's inven-

tion, and his genius got swamped by Americans and Europeans who followed suit, took out patents, and started the modern paper-making revolution.

Reading this very paper is a gift tracing back to the paper wasps' particular brilliance, which is a connection I keep in mind while waving it to urge the little pests to take their genius elsewhere.

Now that we're such rapacious papermakers, clearcutting the world's forests to fill insatiable demand, I wish we'd pay more attention to the quality and scale of wasp papermaking, which the Earth has sustained since dinosaurs walked it.

We can imitate better; we can harvest smarter. Nature, as ever, will show us how.

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More letters

No resolution

Vacation rentals will be prohibited through bylaw enforcement despite the fact that the majority of the public has not yet spoken on the Local Trust Committee's decision to ignore their own staff recommendations regarding vacation rentals on Salt Spring.

Those who have opposed the existence of VRs have attended the midweek daytime meetings, as have some of those in favour (a time when many employed people are working and unable to attend).

Our two trustees, Kimber-

ly and Eric, have apparently been speaking to a different "90 per cent of the community" regarding this issue, although Kimberly has only recently found this new constituency since at a previous meeting she noted that she had received 25 phone calls in one day in favour of STVRs.

As a result of their split decision, the un-elected, non-resident chair has decided to weigh in as the decision-maker, despite his long-standing opposition to vacation rentals and his non-involvement in the economic health of our island.

It bears remembering that the public meeting held in the evening and well publicized in advance took place at the high school last fall. The moderated, well-attended meeting was a true cross-section of our community, as those for and against VRs encouraged their people to come and of course many others came to learn what all the fuss was about.

Richard Kreiger, a public signator to anti-vacation rental publicity, called for an on-the-spot vote, perhaps anticipating an overwhelming show of support for his position. He seemed chastened at the result, for as the three-part question was clearly posed by the moderator David Wood, it was found the vast majority in the room responded to the middle ground to permit vacation rentals, limit the number and enforce operational standards and regulations.

It is time to ask the public this question again if it can be heard above the vitriolic din of the vocal minorities. Put the question to referendum. Perhaps David Wood could lend his supreme clarity to the drafting of the question.

Until then, the public has not spoken, but a guy from Thetis Island has. **ARLENE DASHWOOD**, for ASTAR (Association for Short Term Accommodation Rentals)

Outsiders

Let's face it. If Trust chair David Essig had supported trustee Eric Booth on vacation rentals, the recent hubbub about lack of democracy and outsiders determining our fate would never have arisen.

When people who cannot get their way in a public

process blame "outsiders" for their loss, it means they have no facts, reasons or arguments to persuade the majority.

The long-serving Essig, by definition, belongs, because it is called the Islands Trust, not the Island Trust.

As for lack of democracy, the complainers should look in the mirror. One of the fundamental rules of democracy is obeying the law in good faith. Losers live to fight another day, but, in the meantime, there is one law for all. In this regard, might we expect an undertaking from the Dashwoods, the Frasers, the Howards, etc. that they will, in fact, cease and desist?

Not likely, but one can always hope that they will acknowledge their duty as citizens.

Furthermore, trustee Booth, as an elected official, is obliged to enforce the bylaw. If he will not or cannot, he should resign. In any case, resignation might be a good idea, because Booth has made it amply clear that he does not believe in the principles or the purpose of the Trust. Booth for mayor, indeed.

CHARLES BRETH,
Harbourside

Proof of harm

There continues to be an outpouring of horror, rage and paranoia about the cell antenna in the downtown fire tower.

Very little of all of this is based on any scientific fact or proof of harm.

I have never seen the expression of the "inverse square law" used, the actual Effective Radiated Power, or ERP, of the downtown antenna, over what horizontal plane pattern.

Just as there cannot be an estimate of expected usefulness of the cell signal, no argument of possible harmful effects can be made until the above three specifications are made.

To the above one would have to add the attenuation by vertical separation, which, unless you are walking around downtown on 40-foot stilts, would greatly reduce the signal at ground level.

When a statement such as "0.048 microwatts" is made, people should know that micro is "one millionth," that is, it's a 48 thousandths

of one millionth per square centimeter transmitter and this must include at what distance from the antenna this level exists.

To bring this into focus somewhat, consider the following: A handheld cell-phone has a 600-milliwatt (.6 watt) transmitter radiating an omni pattern signal with about 40 per cent going into the users' head about two inches away, absorbing, say, about .24 watts.

If this user could grow a 10-foot arm and hold the cell-phone 120 inches away, the signal would be reduced to 0.000468 watts! This is 512 times less effective power. This is the "Inverse Square Law." Power level is reduced by four every time the distance is doubled. (2-4-8-16, etc).

Because I don't have a 10-foot arm, I try to use my portable cell frugally unless I hook it up to an external antenna, which gives me a considerable safety margin.

The same rule applies to the downtown cell transmitter signal. In addition there would be a huge reduction in the level due to the fact it is up in the tower — "vertical separation".

Is there a positive factor to supplying a closer central transmitter? Yes there is. A portable, or a mobile car unit, is told by the central transmitter to reduce power automatically when less power is needed due to the fact that it is closer. Typically the handheld unit would most probably be told to reduce its transmitting power to 0.1 watts. This reduction by six times is very important to our personal environment. Further benefits are shorter time on efficiently completed calls and battery life.

Specifications quoted in the pros and cons of cellular radiation discussions should be complete, otherwise they don't make much sense.

PAUL NAAYKENS,
Salt Spring

Prevention

I don't know very much about cell phones and cell towers, but I do know something about brain tumours, having lost two of my children to them in the last five years.

Nobody knows what caused their cancers, but if you knew there was the faintest possibility that by installing the cell tower in

the fire hall you would have to watch your children suffer and experience the anguish of watching them die, wouldn't you do all in your power to prevent it?

NORMA EVES,
Vesuvius Bay Road

Specious safeguards

At a public meeting last Friday, Mr. Ken Lee informed us of the two "safeguards" the fire trustees are writing into the contract with Telus concerning the proposed cell antenna.

1. This proposed antenna would be the only one and its intensity would not go up — unless agreed to by the fire trustees. Hmmm. Hardly reassuring, since they are completely blasé about installing an antenna now right next to the children's playground and a few hundred feet from the school.

2. They will have an "escape clause" by which, if they have enough accumulated evidence of harm, they will be able to withdraw from the contract. So by that logic, if they become REALLY convinced they've been harming us, they'll stop. Withdrawal from the contract at that point will be cold comfort indeed to the children whose health will have been permanently harmed, perhaps to the extent of brain damage or leukemia.

Who are they trying to kid? Their "safeguards" are no safeguard at all!

CHRISTINA SCHLATTNER,
Salt Spring

Sad to hear

I was shocked to hear that a man I met not much older than me passed away last Tuesday of a heart attack.

It was the second attack in two weeks.

Steve Gillespie, may your soul rest in peace, and may we find that same peace when we come to it.

My deepest condolences to his father in Victoria and to anyone who knew him here on the island where he made a home.

JAMES FALCON,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A11

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Tourism tolerance needed on island

By JACKIE BERRY

In October of 2001, my husband and I had the pleasure of visiting Salt Spring Island for the first time and we spent a glorious weekend at a local spa resort.

In June 2002 we returned to the island to further explore its beauty and lifestyle. While staying at a Ganges hotel, we were able to explore the unique character of the island, its beaches, mountains, valleys as well as the character of the people at the Saturday market and the local businesses.

Having fallen totally in love with the island we wanted to share it with our two teenage children. The accommodations we previously stayed in either didn't allow children or the cost to accommodate and feed us was going to put the vacation out of reach of our budget. Fortunately, I discovered that there were island homes that would allow us privacy as a family, a separate room each for our daughter and son, a yard and deck to enjoy the days and evenings as well as permitting us to cook our own meals! Perfect!

In August 2003, we spent a sun filled week on the island as a family, seeing the beauty of its nature as well as enjoying local events and happenings. Our busy days were filled with fun and our house allowed us to relax in the evening and get a good night's rest so that we could start all over the next day.

Returning home we were unable to stop thinking of the island and on January 31, 2003 our family arrived to begin our life on Salt Spring Island.

I tell you all this so that you can see how much I love this island and to show you that I have appreciated Salt Spring as a tourist and now as a taxpaying resident.

However, some days, the attitude of my fellow islanders makes me wish I was a tourist again!

I am shocked by the lack of tolerance that is displayed toward tourism! There is constant complaining about everything, except of course

IN DEPTH

the money that goes into our community.

One of the main considerations when assessing our move to the island was the strong economic base resulting from the tourist/service industry on Salt Spring. We felt this economy would sustain the infrastructure of the island: the hospital, law enforcement, schools, parks and recreation, roadways and public facilities. Now I am extremely concerned about the future of this island as there seems to be no other industry, seasonal or otherwise, to replace tourism.

The recent decisions relating to the short-term vacation rentals (STVR) together with the potential changes to the rules relating to B&Bs, seasonal cottages and camping facilities included in the recent Trust staff report seem to follow along the same road leading to even more restrictions on tourism.

I find it hard to believe that countless amounts of time and tax money have been expended over the last few years to rid the community of approximately 170 STVRs. This represents less than five per cent of the total homes on the island and even a lower percentage of the total permanent residences! To what benefit? Limiting tourism to wealthy couples rather than working people and their families?

May I suggest that the time and money should have been expended on assisting my fellow islanders to learn the art of tolerance!

When the neighbours become annoyed by occasionally noisy visitors in an STVR they could exercise some tolerance for one evening rather than go running to the Islands Trust calling foul.

My neighbourhood contains owner-occupied or long-term rentals, as well as some home-based businesses rather than STVRs. If there are "issues" we discuss them with each other.

For example, while settling into a new home with a busy street out front, my dogs have been prone to barking. My neighbours have discussed it with me and we have worked out some compromises. In the spirit of community, they have been very tolerant.

Some neighbours, after working all day, come home and relax with noisy hobbies sometimes destroying my evening peace and quiet with their pounding, drilling and grinding! We have discussed it and worked out some compromises. In the spirit of community, we have been tolerant.

In the summer, when the youth in our neighbourhood enjoy the warm evenings outdoors and a party or two gets going, we know that it doesn't happen every night and winter is quieter. When we have friends and family from out of town we know that we may be a bit noisy but we also know that probably next week one or the other of our neighbours may be doing the same thing.

In the spirit of neighbourhood harmony and community, we all attempt to be tolerant.

As tourism dwindles on Salt Spring Island, an economic domino effect will take place. Fewer tourists means fewer dollars to the local businesses. Fewer dollars to the local businesses means fewer jobs. Fewer jobs means fewer families and individuals on the island. Fewer families means fewer people needing our schools, hospital, parks, facilities, services and goods. Again, fewer jobs.

And so on and so on and so on! Soon we have totally depleted our economic base and perhaps the wealthy won't even want to be here as there will be no one to provide them with goods and services.

Amongst others, our renowned artists whom islanders are extremely proud of will be forced off the island to places where their talents will earn a wage and there will be people to enjoy and acquire their art.

With the reduction in the economic base, our contribution to the tax base of the Island Trust will be drastically reduced. Therefore we won't have to worry about pursuing the "issue" of tax equity.

It is time for the island-elected trustees and the off-island council chair to sit back so that they may see the forest rather than the trees. It is time to make a big decision — to implement tourist accommodation that is obviously in demand in such a way that it can be controlled and supervised.

If our trustees truly believe that the majority of people that they represent want to eliminate tourism on Salt Spring Island, then they must provide the leadership that will ensure that the residents who live and work and contribute year-round to the island community have some other way of making a living.

If they cannot do that, then they should find a compromise such as suggested by their paid staff, to allow all forms of tourist accommodation to co-exist legally. And they might encourage some of the people they represent to practice more tolerance.

If the decision is to eliminate tourism on Salt Spring Island I'm sure that the balance of the South Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast, and our neighbours to the south will be rubbing their hands in glee, gladly accepting our castaway tourists.

When our trustees were elected we chose them because we felt that they would make the best possible decisions to sustain our island. We expected that the "preserve and protect" mandate included an islander's right to work and live with dignity, whether they were housecleaners, clerks, artists or homeowners.

I hope the decisions that are made will meet our expectations, but, if not, we always know that the next election will allow us to make another decision.

The writer is a Park Drive resident.

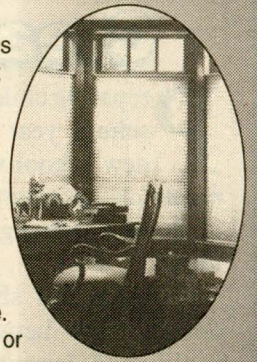
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Back To School **DA**

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



Gentle Fawn
los angeles

"Trendy and hip" says Jess, senior GISS



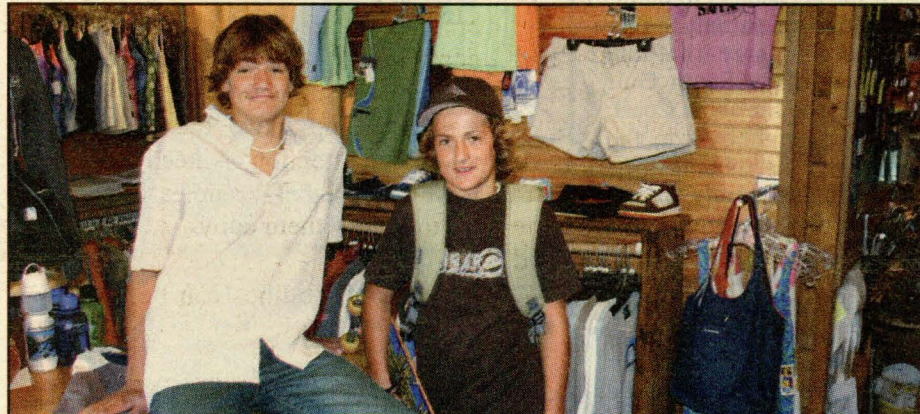
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a variety of healthy options.

- 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.

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- 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.

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

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clothing co.

YES ARE HERE AGAIN

by changing the way he or she looks at learning.

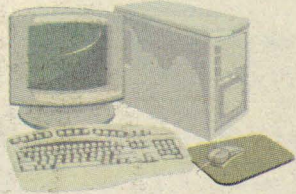
- Be supportive of your child.
- Rely on learning aides that are educational and fun.

- Look to your local neighbourhood for hidden lessons.
- Think visual.
- Share your experiences with others.



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"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.

Learning disabilities can be overcome, as this list shows.

About Learning Disabilities

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.

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.

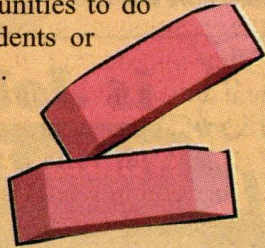
- Through your daily activities, show your children that you care about a job well done.

- 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

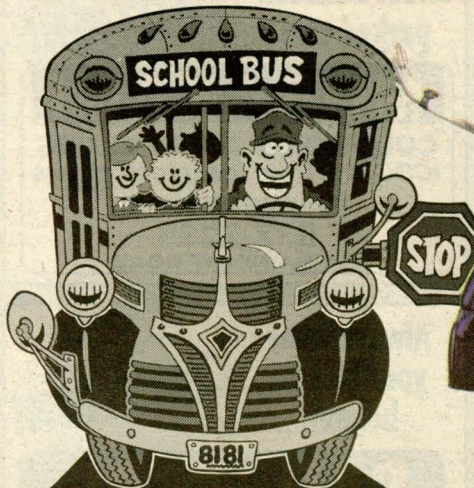
read over their own work. By allowing them to correct their own mistakes, parents can inspire self-confidence. Be sure to congratulate your child on his or her good efforts.

- 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.



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ROYAL LEPAGE

More letters

Central needs four-way stop

Yet another potentially fatal vehicle collision last week at the Central crossroads.

Will it, indeed, take a fatality before commonsense prevails and this area is made into a four-way stop?

I doubt many of us have not experienced the heart-stopping moment when we believed the North End Road in a southbound direction was clear of traffic, only to discover a vehicle was hidden from view by the dip in the road.

I will be writing to the Ministry of Transportation about this. I hope others will join me.

J. STEWART,
Salt Spring



Name: **ADINA HILDEBRANDT**
537/538/653: 538 that wants to be a 653
Occupation(s): Mother, wife, bookseller
Hobbies: Mothering, wifing, bookselling, house dreaming
Home finished/unfinished: Foundation started, hemp bales in storage
Favourite people: Andrew, Aidan and Chloe
Favourite read: Anne Michael's "Fugitive Pieces"
Best thing about SSI: Our eclectic population
Worst thing about SSI: Moments when we all take this place for granted
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DERRICK'S **ISLAND PICS**

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 don't know well or don't trust.

If your child will be home alone for a few hours after school:

- Set up rules for locking doors and windows, as well as answering the door or telephone.
- Make sure he or she checks in with you or a neighbour immediately after school.
- Agree on rules for inviting friends over and for going to a friend's house when no adult is home.
- Create guidelines for Internet usage or place parental blocks on those sites you don't want your child to view.

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

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RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

Rants to the people who dumped a huge amount of items — some saleable, some not — on the deck of the Thrift Shop on Monday night, so the volunteers had a huge wet mess to deal with Tuesday morning. C. French.

ROSES

A dozen, very fragrant, very expensive roses to Jo at Lady Minto and to Kim. Thank you both for being so wonderfully nurturing. And another bouquet for Kris, Pete and Zorro for lending a helping hand/paw. Helena Jaya

Buckets of roses to all the performers, patrons, chefs and abundant helpers who make Music and Munch in the summer such a pleasure to produce. We look forward to continued musical and culinary delights beginning monthly on September 1. Music Makers of the Anglican Parish.

An ever-blooming bush of sweet and tasty roses to the kind folks at Rainbow Trading for their baby-deer fence. Jo L.

An armload of roses to everyone who donates to the food bank boxes at GVM and Thrifty Foods and more roses to all the wonderful gardeners who bring us organic produce and fruit every Tuesday. A special, long-stemmed rose to Fernwood School and the parents there. Thank you! The food bank volunteers.

Many thanks to the 911 response team and medical staff at Lady Minto for rescuing us so efficiently from our recent problems. Bob & Jean V.

Great bunches of roses to fire department personnel for your quick response to and containment of the house fire on Park Drive on Thursday. Jim & Carol Spencer.

Bouquets of lovely red roses to Dr. Ross Richardson

for taking such good care of my visiting relatives and giving relief to my father's sciatic problem. You made their stay much more enjoyable. Myranda.

Bundles of roses to all the musicians, friends and family who made my Michael's 60th birthday so memorable. MO'B.

Roses to Liz for coaching us through a great session. All of your time and effort are much appreciated. Looking forward to next year. The Works.

Roses to Bob McIvor of RCM-Tech Computer Services Limited, who lent me a CD burner for free, which allowed me to bring my 100s of digital pictures from my Salt Spring visit with my parents home to Ottawa. Our saviour! Peter Hicks.

A rose to the guy in the white Chevy who waved me to turn onto Lower Ganges Road ahead of his car on Monday afternoon while I gazed desperately from

McPhillips Avenue at the huge line of traffic coming behind him. Ditto to all similarly considerate drivers.

Big bouquets to Simon and Nina for their wonderful Stagecoach leadership and creativity exhibited with the 16 kids on a "quest."

A rose to the gentleman who regularly cleans up garbage on Long Harbour Road.

Long stem roses to Mary S., Barry H., and the SS Fire Dept. for their quick response to the Desmond Cres.-Park Dr. Fire last week. Park Drive was saved! Many thanks. S&A

A garden full of roses to Pam for giving me a place to stay during my summer on Salt Spring. Jennifer

Bouquets of roses to the Killer B's. I'd never heard them play before and they were excellent performers, especially the cellist. Trent Bondue

Roses to the Tree House Cafe and Harry Manx for the wonderful music on Friday night.

Roses to the bands at the Street Dance. A bouquet of roses to Atrium band members, especially Denham. You guys ROCK!

More letters

Ignorance as bliss

The other day I was asked to comment on the local Freedom Village phenomena. (August 18 Salt Spring Says.)

Having a beautiful young woman come and ask you a personal and serious question and take your picture can in some ways be destabilizing. Even seen as a surprise attack by an agent of the media.

Whatever the self-perception or image one may have been seeking to extend, perpetuate or project, consciously or unconsciously, inevitably such an experience forces one out into the circus-tent public arena of Salt Spring opinion in order to (as is done ad nauseam) clarify, restate or elaborate on the mugshot caption that brought on such instant recognition and exposure of the colour of one's subjective underwear.

Resultantly, I must follow suit and indeed fervently attempt to salvage and defend the little left of my previously hard-earned dignity, the stoically postured private visibility now coaxed into an animated voice of activism.

For here I stand naked in the storm of local controversy.

Thusly, even though — what a joke — we live in that now house of mirrors called "global village," the rampant ignorance as bliss continues.

To isolate and intolerably dehumanize the condition and quality of the average individual's reality, all the tricks of consumerism, all the hard and soft ware of silly conned technology remains but the lunatic yardstick that the tyrant ignorance sadistically lashes its votaries with, since it has not meaningfully eliminated the inequality that now overwhelms a planetary un-culture.

The reason that the majority will not shift one degree is their fearful reluctance to envision a liberation from the private isolation and ignorance of individualism and pray tell where would that lead them if not to that which is our destined fate. Yes, our local peace village, where all is shared equally.

RUDY SIEGERS,
Salt Spring

Great trip

Greenwoods residents, friends and volunteers had the opportunity once again to enjoy a fabulous afternoon aboard the Gulf Islands Water Taxi vessel The Scholarship.

Thanks to the generosity of owners Jack and Leslie Hughes and to our most talented crew — Captain Don and Alicia Baxter — for the wonderful memories.

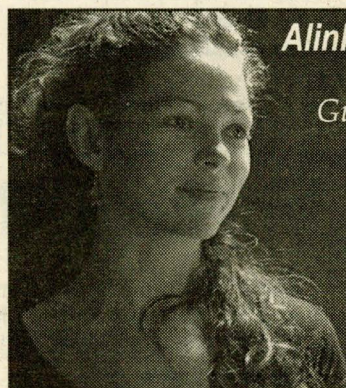
All 23 of us aboard got to see many unforgettable sights, like Glenthorne Bay, Secret and Prevost islands, as well as some harbour seals and a shoal of dolphins.

Our trip has been cheerfully reminisced for over a week and we all look forward to another voyage next summer.

A huge "thank you" to everyone who made this possible, including Thrifty Foods, Jill Louise Campbell Gallery, Mouat's and the Oystercatcher for making our parking so easy and accessible.


The community of Salt Spring is like no other; everyone is so thoughtful, generous and kind, and it really showed on the smiling faces of our seniors.

With thanks from everyone at Greenwoods.
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Fri	9:15 AM	Level 1/2 Pilates



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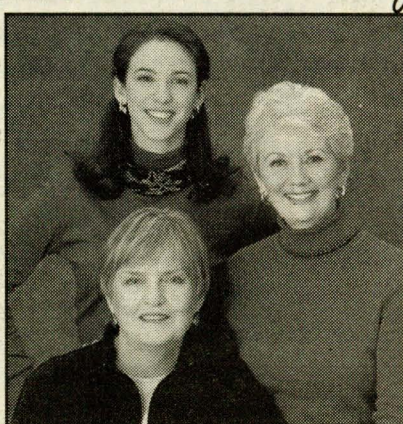
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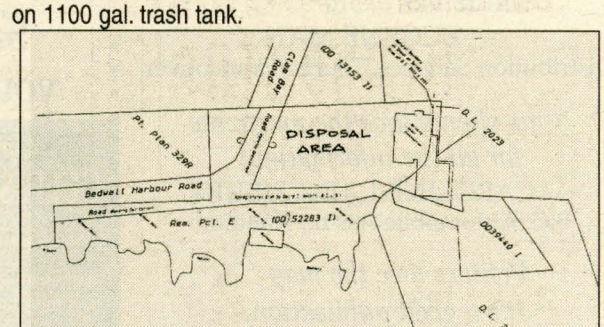
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A permit has been issued by the Ministry of Health to construct a sewage treatment and disposal system for an estimated daily flow of 1149 gpd. The treated effluent will be discharged to a sand mound by pressure distribution. The sewage will be pre-treated by the provision of two 600 gal. grease traps and on 1100 gal. trash tank.



In accordance with Section 8 (4) of the Health Act, if a person is aggrieved by the issue or the refusal of a permit for a sewage disposal system, they may submit a Notice of Appeal by hand or by registered mail to the Chairman of the Environmental Appeal Board within 30 days from the date of issuance of the Permit to Construct.

Environmental Appeal Board Address: Mailing Address:
Fourth Floor, 747 Fort Street PO Box 9425 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC Victoria, BC
V8W 3E9 V8W 9V1
Telephone: (250) 387-3464
Facsimile (250) 356-9923

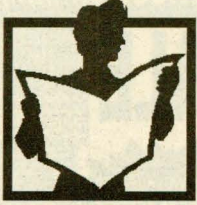
GANGES VILLAGE MARKET

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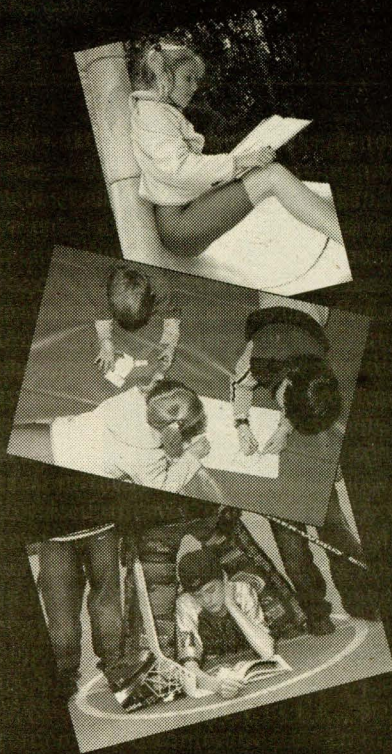


Fall Courses Start Sept. 27

Look in next week's Driftwood for full course details.

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To tour the school and meet the Phoenix Family, call Shelly Johnson 537-1156 or 537-1932.



TAKING REFUGE: Wendy Hartnett keeps dry at the market on the first rainy Saturday in weeks. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Spiritual teacher returns

Healer, counsellor and Toltec wisdom practitioner Allan Hardman returns to Salt Spring next month to present his Living in Spiritual Relationship workshop.

The workshop begins with a public talk on Friday evening, September 10, and continues through Saturday and Sunday, September 11-12.

According to a press release, Hardman's presentation for singles or couples will offer participants "the opportunity to create relationships based on authentic love, that is free from conditions, obligations

and expectations."

The weekend will include experiential exercises and wisdom to help individuals "perceive the divine presence of life in all beings."

Hardman will also explore how his "Five Agreements for The New Relationship" can be applied to all interactions in life.

Hardman is a spiritual teacher with an extensive background in emotional healing and counselling, who spent the last nine years as a personal apprentice of Miguel Ruiz, author of The

Four Agreements.

For the last five years he has taught the Toltec path to students and apprentices, and brings Toltec wisdom into his teaching and relationship counselling.

Hardman also presented a workshop on Salt Spring in June.

For more information about Hardman, go to www.joydancer.com.

Workshop information is available from Liz Forrest at 653-2046.

Pre-registration and a deposit are required.

Lake District visitor illuminates England's National Trust concept

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy will host a September 3 slide show and talk by a leading conservationist with the National Trust of England.

Laurence Harwood, from the Lake District in England, has been with the National Trust for 36 years and is currently the National Adviser on Countryside and Coastal Strategy Planning for the Trust.

A keen traveller and mountaineer, Harwood was awarded the Order of the British Empire for service to Conservation in 1996.

Laurence's talk about his godfather, C.S. Lewis, entitled Memories of a Godfather, has taken him to a variety of venues both in the U.K. and the U.S.A.

The National Trust was founded in England in 1895 by three individuals whose aim was to achieve a balance between the needs of conservation and those of access, not only for present enjoyment but also for the benefit of succeeding generations.

The National Trust, with three million members, cares for 612,000 acres of countryside in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and almost 630 miles of coastline along with 200 buildings and gardens of outstanding interest and importance.

Harwood's presentation is at Lions Hall next Friday night at 7 p.m.

Suggested donation is \$7.50 for non-members and \$5 for members.

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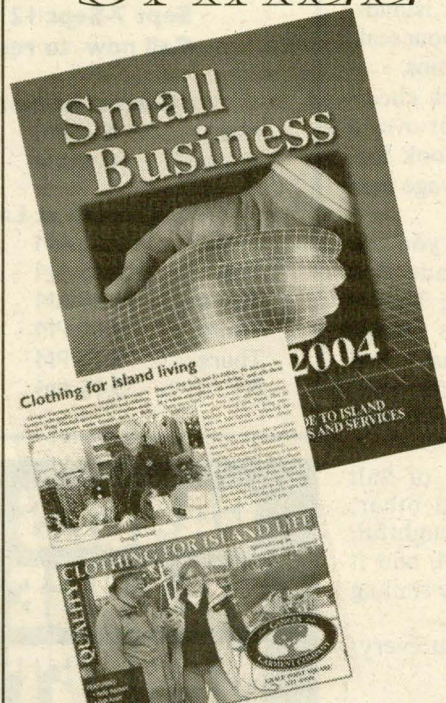
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PLAN IN HAND: Fire Chief Dave Enfield is Salt Spring's emergency program director. Updating emergency and evacuation plans in concert with other agencies is an ongoing process. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Emergency services groups prepared for disasters

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

As if structure fires, brush fires, car crashes and medical emergencies weren't enough to contend with, local Fire Chief Dave Enfield has the task of planning contingencies for almost any possible community calamity.

"Even with a wildfire, it would be some time before we could get any outside assistance," Enfield said.

In addition to his duties as Salt Spring Fire Chief, Enfield serves as director of the Salt Spring Emergency Program, responsible for the Salt Spring Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), which would become active in the event of a region-wide catastrophe.

"There's an extensive emergency plan in place. It covers anything and everything from aircraft crashes right through to wildfire, A to W," Enfield said.

If an earthquake, major wildfire, toxic spill or other bane struck the island, the EOC would open and start organizing the required response. The local EOC responders meet monthly to keep each other updated on their groups' activities.

Agencies involved with this committee include

RCMP, B.C. Ambulance Service (BCAS), Search and Rescue, B.C. Ferries, Water Districts, B.C. Hydro, Vancouver Island Health Authority, School District 64, Emergency Social Services, the amateur radio group, coast guard, Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Salt Spring Harbour Authority.

"We do at least one major field exercise per year and we meet to do a table-top exercise as often as possible."

The CRD recently received a \$25,000 grant to update emergency plans for Juan de Fuca, southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring electoral areas, he said.

The latest edition of our emergency plan was written in 1999 and is updated as needed.

As an additional boon, the Salt Spring Fire Department is currently creating mutual-aid agreements with neighbouring island fire departments and is exploring these agreements with both North Saanich and Crofton. This was due to the findings of the Filman Report issued after last season's wildfires.

Meanwhile, Salt Spring RCMP and the Search and Rescue group have been

working with emergency planning staff to create an evacuation plan for the island, should one be required. This plan will also look at animal evacuation, he said.

Members are currently going around the island trying to identify docks and low-bank beach access for water evacuation routes. They are also plotting helicopter landing sites and alternate water sources, he said.

Communications for events such as an evacuation could be relayed to the public through Vancouver Island radio stations, Salt Spring Cablevision and e-mails through local Internet service providers. As well, the island's amateur radio group is looking at an automatic dialer program for this, he said.

The radio group coordinates all communications through its facility at the local EOC, he said. We've got a very active radio group that would be relied upon heavily if the need arose.

Emergency Social Services (ESS) is also setting up neighbourhood groups that could provide assistance if formal communication channels were disabled. This is modelled on the Neighbourhood Watch principle in

that one member of a neighbourhood could be contacted and the information relayed from there.

"ESS has established local reception centres. We're making sure they've all got communications with the EOC."

Community reception centres in the event of an incident include the Gospel Church,

Fernwood Elementary, Fulford Elementary and Gulf Islands Secondary School.

To verify their safety, islanders would be asked to check in at the centers. Lodgings would also be available for people displaced by an emergency.

"If you don't go there, at least check in so we don't have to go looking for you."

Enfield also urges islanders to create their own emergency plans and emergency incident kits. (See suggestions in this issue.)

The Provincial Emergency Program website (www.pep.bc.ca) is also invaluable.

"We'll probably be on our own for 72 hours if there is an earthquake," Enfield said.

Enfield offers extra tips

Fire chief Dave Enfield has a few other tips for islanders preparing for an emergency.

"One of the most important things for us as first responders, be it the RCMP, BCAS, Search and Rescue or the fire department, is your address sign. If it is up, check it and ensure we can see it, not only in the daylight but also in the dark," he said.

"It is hard to locate a lot of residences because they either don't have one, it is located 10 feet up a tree or overgrown with bushes or can't be seen because it is too small or not visible. People actually think they are doing the right thing when they put their address sign up, but they place black letters on a nice piece of light-coloured wood, which weathers and then becomes black on black and we can't see it," he said.

"We'd hate to see something deadly happen, like a fire or heart attack, and have the first responders driving up and down the road trying to guess which driveway is the correct address."

As recommended in recent Fire Smart workshops, Enfield encourages islanders to clear brush from around properties to reduce the chance of fire spreading from the wilderness to structures.

"Clean out your eavestroughs of the debris," he said. "And you don't have to clear-cut your property but establish some green space to make your property more defensible."

Establishing a family meeting place for emergencies is another idea he endorses. "What would you do, where would you go to contact other members of your immediate family if an earthquake happened at 2 p.m. on a work day?"

Overall, Enfield encourages islanders to use common sense and follow the Boy Scout motto: Be Prepared.

Evacuation planners prepare for island emergencies

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

Salt Spring's emergency evacuation plan presents organizers with unique challenges due to a decentralized population and island locale.

"The evacuation plan is a living document. There's no beginning or end to it. It's a work in progress," said Salt Spring RCMP Sgt. Mike Giles.

While island Fire Chief Dave Enfield is the island's emergency co-ordinator, responsible for deciding when to declare a state of emergency, the police would

be highly involved.

"Under a declared emergency, evacuation is the responsibility of the police. That is our goal while we participate in the larger emergency preparedness program," said Giles.

In an emergency situation, Salt Spring's search and rescue members, dressed in



Sgt. Mike Giles heads local RCMP

uniform, will hand-deliver amber-coloured evacuation alert pamphlets across the island.

"When an emergency is occurring, we'll be very busy pumping information out to the community through different media. Door-to-door leaflets have already been drawn up. They just need to be tailored to the emergency," said Giles.

"There will be media updates through radio, TV and the Driftwood. We know all of the players involved that we can draw upon."

Salt Spring's marginalized

or at-risk populations, such as those at Greenwoods or the hospital, will treat evacuation alerts like evacuation orders, Giles said.

"If we don't go to an evacuation, we'll apologize to them and bring them all back. But the point is they're safe."

Once evacuation has been ordered, Emergency Social Services will set up reception centres in public areas around the island where residents will register and be given a number. People will park at the reception centre and, once registered,

will board a bus to the ferry terminal.

"Moving people out of harm's way is job number one. Job number two, close on its heels, is finding out who we're moving and where. Working with B.C. Ferries, we know they can handle a large volume of foot passengers. One of our challenges is to deliver the people to the ferries," said Giles.

"If everyone converges at the ferry terminal trying to get off the island, no one's going to get off the island. Police will set up road blocks and tell people where to go."

If roads are blocked by fires, arrangements will be made to pick people up from beach areas.

Emergency planners hope to get volunteers from each neighbourhood to serve as block captains, said Giles.

"We want to train them to train the neighbourhood on what to do. Officers become preciously few when an emergency happens, so we need all the help we can get."

"It's crucial that we have the volunteers and interested people to take precautions, learn and most importantly to come on out and help."

Ferries ready to lend a hand

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

B.C. Ferries is a major player in island emergency situations, aiming to maintain the safety of ships, terminals and residents.

"We work in conjunction with Salt Spring Island Emergency Operations Centre, the head of which is the fire chief. He would be the incident commander working with the RCMP. We would put our services at their disposal," said Ed Dahlgren, B.C. Ferries emergency preparedness representative for the Southern Gulf Islands.

In the case of an island evacuation, the ferries would be the prime mode of transporting Salt Spring residents to safe destinations.

"We can't preplan which terminal or which ship we'll be using. The ferry would basically just go as a shuttle

with people standing. We can move very significant numbers, and we can divert ferries from other routes," he said.

"The destination depends on the situation. You don't want to sail to an area which also may be threatened."

All onboard ferries staff undergo a safety training and certification regime to meet standards established by Transport Canada, he said.

"Everyone has a degree of training. Depending on their position, they have greater or lesser requirement levels. We always work to exceed that. Our long-term goal is to always be in excess."

"Our training is geared towards shipboard emergencies, but we have staff with a variety of safety backgrounds," said Dahlgren, who learned additional aquatic safety skills when he worked for the Canadian Coast Guard.


Ferries staff regularly go through a number of scenarios to prepare for emergency situations, with over 1,000 drills conducted each year.

"We practise moving cars and people every day. We've put in place some protocols which we would follow. We also might be needed to deliver heavy materials to the island or to use the ship as an off-shore operation centre because the ship has cell phones, generators and sanitation," said Dahlgren.

B.C. Ferries has had to deal with very few major incidents, he said.

Small incidents, such as onboard car fires, are quickly resolved, which he said is a tribute to the training and experience of crew members.

"We always try to learn from incidents. It's our intention to support and help our fellow islanders."



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Preparation crucial for animals' safety

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

Pets and livestock are of particular concern in any emergency situation, and special steps must be taken to ensure their safe evacuation.

The Islands Farmers Institute is in the early stages of developing a livestock evacuation plan and has recently formed a four-member committee to take on the task.

"It's important that we do it," said John Fulker, chair of the Livestock Evacuation Committee. "A lot of farm livestock would end up on the roads and impede humans getting off the island."

The first step involves preparing an inventory of all livestock on the island. Farmers Institute members will be handing out questionnaires at the Salt Spring Fall Fair to determine numbers

and location.

Fulker asks that anyone with livestock contact him or other committee members George Laundry, Conrad Pilon or Garnet Lee so animals can be added to the list.

The next step is to divide the island into zones and, for each zone, create a fenced area clear from woodlands that can hold a large number of animals.

To complete the plan, the committee needs to find Salt Spring residents who can help move animals off-island.

"We want to identify people on the island who have means of transporting animals," Fulker said.

The Farmers Institute will supply loading chutes to help with the process.

Since the livestock evacuation plan does not apply to household pets, owners ought to

devise their own animal emergency procedures.

The B.C. SPCA recommends writing out a plan and giving copies to each family member. Each person should also be assigned the responsibility of one pet to avoid later confusion.

Ensure that pet vaccinations and identification tags are up-to-date, and prepare an extra two-week supply of pet medications for an animal emergency kit.

The kit should include at least a week's supply of water and food in spill-proof bowls for each pet. Pack a manual can opener if needed. Make sure kennels, leashes and litter boxes with extra litter are accessible. A list of emergency phone numbers and a copy of current vaccination certificates will be useful, as will a supply of newspapers or paper towels. Favourite toys, beds and recent pet photos are optional.

The B.C. SPCA recommends training animals to enter kennels on command, and creating a pet file so that all important information is kept in one place.

Possible boarding arrangements should be planned in advance, with a back-up list of friends and family. In case pet owners are not home during an emergency, they should arrange for a neighbour to aid their animals.

If it is impossible to bring animals along during an evacuation, leave a highly visible sign in a front window to let rescue workers know how many pets are inside. Do not tie up animals.

Leave plenty of water in a large open container that won't tip, and prepare dried food in timed feeders.

For more information, visit the B.C. SPCA website at www.sPCA.bc.ca.

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Emergency personnel ready to help island

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

In cases of public and personal catastrophes, Emergency Social Services (ESS) is there to help.

The provincial program, which runs through the Ministry of Human Resources, provides short-term assistance to those who need it. So far this year, ESS programs throughout the province have aided over 1,200 B.C. residents due to house or apartment fires, forest fires, flooding, propane leaks and police incidents.

"Emergency Social Services has a 72-hour mandate, which basically provides 72 hours of food, clothing and shelter. It doesn't have to be a massive

disaster. It can be a personal disaster for a family that's not insured," said Salt Spring's ESS alternate director Jacqui Walton.

The three-day assistance period can be extended in the case of a major disaster, Walton said.

In a widespread community emergency situation, ESS volunteers will work to set up reception centres around the island to house people who need to be evacuated. ESS can set up one site or many sites, depending on the extent of the emergency.

"We have different reception centres in different areas. You don't automatically go to them until you're told to go to them. We have the high school, Fernwood

and Fulford schools, Central Hall, Beaver Point Hall, Gospel Church and Fulford Hall," Walton said.

"Our reception centres will be in communication at all times with our Emergency Operator Centre, where all of the head people are at the time. If they're not already equipped with ham radios, ham radio operators are equipping them."

Most people are more than willing to lend a hand once they get to the sites, she said.

"It's amazing when they come in because they want to help. They want to do as much as they can."

Another task for ESS is to set up registration and inquiry centres in situations that require residents to be evacuated off the island.

"We have to register people so we know who we've got and get a confirmation," Walton said.

ESS also hopes to set up neighbourhood training sessions and provide leaders with 72-hour emergency kits.

"Sometimes if it's a real crisis, we can't get to everyone. The kits will help people to help each other," said Walton.

"It's volunteer and we need help. If we don't get more trained volunteers, we're in a mess. We're so small that we cannot bring mobile units here to help us. There's no room to bring people in. We have to be able to help ourselves. We're all we have."

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Disaster safety kits essential Homes can be made safer in the event of an earthquake

All homes should be equipped with basic safety equipment, a three-day supply of food and water, personal hygiene supplies, first aid kit and an evacuation bag.

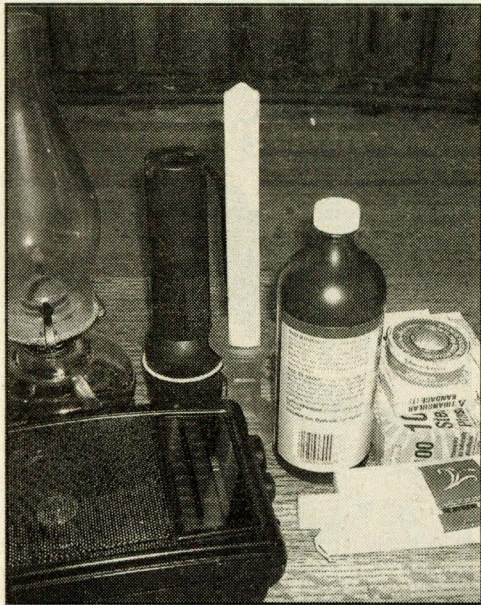
Everyone should set aside a day to compile the needed kits. The following items are suggested by the Provincial Emergency Program and the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction.

Basic safety equipment

- flashlight with spare batteries
- radio with spare batteries or crank radio
- emergency candles and waterproof matches
- first aid kit
- pocket knife

Food and water supplies

- three-day supply of bottled water (4 litres per person/day)
- purification tablets
- three-day supply of non-perishable food (per person)
- manual can opener
- disposable plates, cutlery, cups



Kit items range from candles to radios

Evacuation bag

- one change of clothes for each person
- special items for infants, elderly or disabled
- gloves, toques and warm socks
- rain gear
- extra keys for the car or building and some cash
- personal medication and prescriptions for medication/eyeglasses
- whistle

First aid kit

- One box of bandages
- 2 elastic bandages (7.5 cm X 4.6 cm)
- 2 elastic bandages (10 cm X 4.6 cm)
- 2 abdominal pads
- 6 sterile gauze pads, 5 cm X 5 cm, 10 cm X 10 cm sizes
- one roll of adhesive tape, 7.5 cm X 4.6 cm
- one roll bandage gauze (cling strip 7.5 cm)
- six triangular bandages
- one thermometer
- current first aid manual
- heavy-duty clothes cutting scissors
- splint forceps
- pain tablets
- anti-nausea tablets
- bottle of hydrogen peroxide
- antibiotic skin ointment

Other essential items

- blankets for each person
- photocopies of personal documents, including insurance policy
- recent photos of each person
- activity books and/or playing cards
- three-day supply of food and water for pets
- safety pins
- whistle

Items should be stored in a waterproof container placed in an accessible location.

Kits should be checked every six months and food and water supplies updated at that time. Make sure batteries are in working order and that medication expiry dates have not been passed.

Gulf Islanders know they live in an earthquake zone, but few homeowners have given much thought to how property damage can be minimized and personal injuries reduced.

As the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction points out, protective measures inside your home are not expensive and can be done by almost anyone.

Most injuries during an earthquake occur because objects fall. Take time to make your home safer.

- Anchor bookcases and

filing cabinets to nearby walls.

- Install latches on drawers and cabinet doors so they are less likely to swing open.

- Install ledge barriers on shelves, place heavy objects on lower shelves, and secure large, heavy breakables directly to shelves.

- Use closed eyescrews and wire to securely attach framed pictures and mirrors to the walls.

- Attach computers and small appliances to desks, tables or countertops.

- Secure ceiling lights,

suspended ceilings and other hanging items to the permanent structure of your house.

- Apply safety film to windows and glass doors.

- Anchor large appliances to walls using safety cables or straps.

- Lock the rollers of any large appliances or pieces of furniture.

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Horan wins junior golf title with Johnson play-off

A sudden death play-off decided the winner among a 16-player field of junior golfers vying for the title at the 2004 Junior Club Championship.

At the August 16 event, Mike Horan and Cam Johnson both finished the 18-hole round with a gross score of 79, forcing a sudden death play-off. Mike Horan won low gross, and Cam Johnson followed up with a low net of 65.

Josh Benloulou won second low gross, scoring 82, followed by Vassa Drobyshev with 83.

With a net score of 69, Liam Johnson took second low net, followed by Evan Eyles with 70.

Brett Savin, the only female in the tournament, won fourth low gross, and Tobin Eyles took fourth low net.

Closest to the pin winners were Brad Cronin on hole #2 and Mike Horan on Hole #11.

The Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club extends thanks to Connie Hardy and Larry Nelson for their help

GOLF TEES

in the tournament, which was greatly appreciated.

In other golf news: In the second round of the Legion Cup, Marg Rithaler and Joyce Thompson of the 9-Hole Ladies League tied as low gross winners with scores of 115 at the August 18 event.

Jean Haines was the putt pot winner with 14, and both Vi Austin and Verity McKenzie scored one under par on hole #2.

The players beat the heat with an early morning first round game held on August 11, with Susan Russell as the putt pot winner.

On August 17, at the ladies 18-hole medal play event, Irene Hawsworth cleaned up as low net winner (72), putt pot winner (28) and low gross runner-up (102).

On August 14 and 15, women golfers teed off in the hot sun for the two-day 2004 Salt Spring Island Golf Club Women's 2004 Championships.

Linda Overholt was named Ladies Club Champion and won the Wilson Cup for her score of 190 over 36 holes.

Runners-up Mona Coulter and Pat Lavender tied with gross scores of 193. The two women also tied for the senior title and La Belle Senior trophy. The winner will be decided in a play-off.

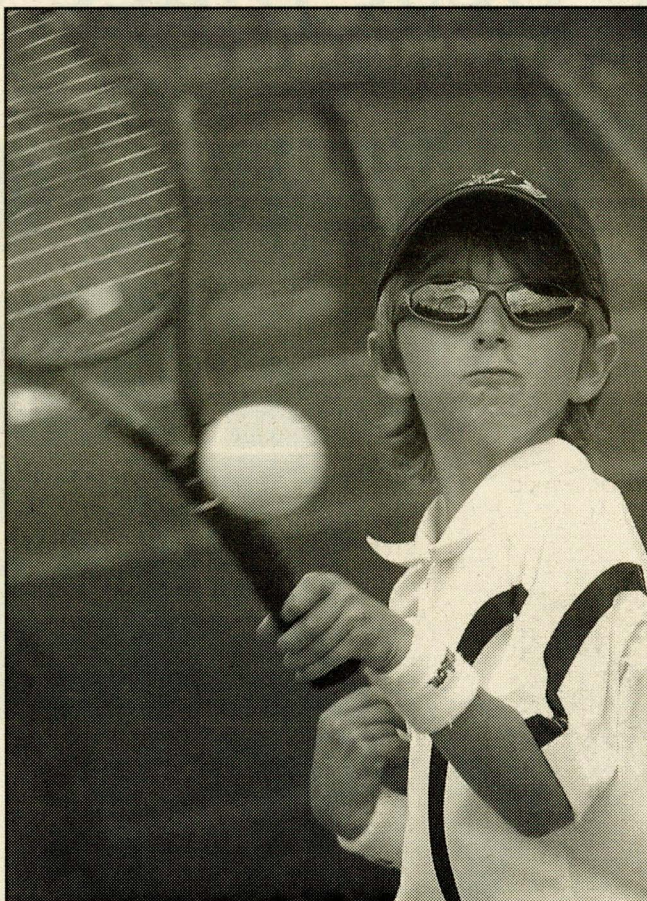
Darlene Wellington with a 36-hole net score of 136 was the champion in the low net competition and winner of the Bramhall Cup. She was challenged by Gladys Campbell, who scored 138 for close runner-up position.

Many golfers had season's best and personal best scores over the weekend.

At the August 12 Butt and Brown Tournament, Don Sharp was the winner of both the Butt Cup with net 64 and the Brown Cup with gross 79.

Gary Coulter placed second for the Butt Cup with net 69, followed by Mike Morgan with 70.

Gundy McLeod was second place winner for the Brown Cup with gross 80, followed by Mike Morgan with 83.



MAKING CONTACT: Patrick Hall gets ready to make the shot at Portlock Park tennis courts on Monday. Cooler weather in the past few days has made outdoor activities a little easier for local athletes.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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Salt Spring rower takes silver

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

Barney Williams of Salt Spring Island helped the Canadian men's fours rowing team earn an Olympic silver medal on Saturday, in a race that saw them trail Britain's team by only eight one-hundredths of a second.

Along with teammates Cameron Baerg, Thomas Herschmiller and Jake Wetzel, Williams reached the finish line of the 2000-metre Schinias Olympic rowing course in 6:07.06, narrowly beat by Britain with a time of six minutes, 6.98 seconds. The Italian rowers took bronze with 6:10.41.

The photo-finish race was so close that rowers from both Canadian and British teams were unsure who had won until the results were posted.

Just before the neck-and-neck race, Williams watched his wife Buffy place fourth in the women's pairs rowing final with partner Darcy Marquardt, just missing an Olympic medal. His wife's bronze-medal win in the

women's eights at the 2000 Sydney Summer Olympics inspired Williams to set his own sights on the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Local woman Gay Utter remembers Williams and his family as the first Salt Spring residents to greet her and her husband Bob Lynch when they moved to the island from California in 1980.

"We didn't know a soul on Salt Spring. It was snowing. It was January. We saw a family walking through the snow. Barney must have been three years old," she said.

When the Williams family bought a house on Weston Lake, Utter went to visit them at their new home and found a surprising sight. Young Barney and his brother Rainbow had woken up earlier than their parents and decided to decorate their bedroom by painting the walls with honey.

"I haven't seen the kids since they were little," said Utter. "Their parents still live at Weston Lake. They were so friendly."

Following court order judgment:

Liquidation of Persian carpets by auction

The Supreme Court of British Columbia ordered a major B.C. retailer to pay its supplier. The B.C. retailer has fallen in arrears and, as a result, arbitrarily agreed to relinquish a larger portion of its assets for a series of liquidation auctions.

Buckingham Auctions Ltd. will auction piece by piece to the highest bidder fine Persian and Oriental carpets to satisfy the Court Order. A good selection of silk and wool, finely handknotted carpets in various sizes ranging from scatter to

large dining, living room and oversized carpets will be available by public auction.

Certificates of authenticity and appraisals will be available free of charge on most items. The bid calling will be clear and concise enough for anyone to understand, therefore anyone can bid by just raising your hand.

Public auction will be held at Meaden Hall, Royal Canadian Legion, 120 Blain Road, Ganges, Sunday, August 29, 2004. Public viewing 12 p.m. Auction 1 p.m.

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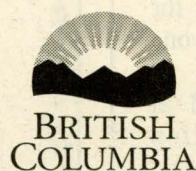
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Stingrays parallel Olympic swimmers' luck while battling rain at provincial championships

By **SUSAN LUNDY**
Staff Writer

By the end of the first day of the provincial championships, Salt Spring Stingrays swimmers were feeling very "Canadian" as medals fell just out of reach and devastating seconds were added to swim times.

In fact, like speculation about "early peaking Canadian swimmers" at the Summer Olympics in Athens, Salt Spring's top swimmers were wondering if they had peaked two weeks earlier at the regional championships.

But other facts may have contributed to slower swim times at the provincial meet, held outdoors in Burnaby amid Saturday downpours, a thunder and lightning storm and a poor estimation of time that had swimmers at the pool for 14 hours Friday.

For sure, one number Salt Spring swimmers weren't fond of was "4" — as fourth-place finishes for all of the island medal contenders put the "hardware" out of reach.

Swimmers competed in lanes made unusually narrow as organizers converted a six-lane pool into a necessary eight-lane facility, and started races on the bulkhead in the centre of the pool because each end was too shallow for diving.

Swimmers in outside lanes raced alongside pool jets, ladders and steps. In addition, Salt Spring swimmer Nicola Temmel felt the pool was a few degrees cooler than normal, another factor that may have contributed to slower swim times.

Fourteen-year-old Brendan Nickerson was the first Salt Spring swimmer to nail a fourth-place finish on Fri-

day. Initially seeded sixth following the regional championships, he moved up two places and swam a best time in finals to take fourth place in the 200-metre individual medley (IM) with a time of 2:30.52.

Temmel, 17, was seeded for a silver in the Div. 7 200 IM but added three seconds to her regional championship time and also came out fourth (2:41.31).

In other events on Friday, coach Kellie Rolston, swimming with an injured knee, took fifth in the 200-metre IM (2:42.62).

And sixteen-year-old Miranda Logan-Webb placed eighth in 50-metre freestyle, 29.63 — after being seeded fifth.

Eleven-year-old Sierra Lundy was seeded 12th going into the 100-metre IM and came out 11th with a time of 1:22.57.

Div. 4 swimmer Olivia Budd failed to make a top 16 finish in 50-metre free, eliminating her chances to swim in the finals (top eight) or consolation finals (ninth to 16th place).

Overcast skies during heats Saturday morning turned to a solid heavy rainfall by 11 a.m., and it didn't let up for four hours. Salt Spring's Div. 4 relay team of Olivia Budd, Nina Fletcher, and Danica and Sierra Lundy was in marshalling just minutes away from swimming when the meet was shut down for 30 minutes for a lightning scare.

The four huddled under cover in towels as the rain bounced off tarps around them.

When it came time to race, they added five seconds to

their regional time and failed to make finals.

Twelve-year-old Fletcher also had a bad swim in her morning heat of Div. 4 50-metre fly — adding three seconds to her time and failing to place in the top 16, although she was seeded 10th going into the race.

Also in Div. 4 50-metre fly, Sierra Lundy took one millisecond off her best time to take her seeded spot (12th, with a 37.88).

Danica Lundy, seeded 14th going into 100-metre backstroke, finished 10th with a time of 1:19.75.

Temmel kicked off a series of fourth-place finishes Saturday, just missing a medal in 100-m back (1:14.29) and again in 100-metre fly (1:14.08). She was initially seeded for bronze in both events.

Logan-Webb, seeded bronze in 100-m back, came out fifth (1:12.08).

The Div. 8 girls free relay team of Logan-Webb, Rolston, Danielle Viozzi and Victoria Budd moved from its seeded placement of third into fourth.

Rolston picked up the lone Salt Spring medal of the day with a third-place finish in 100-m fly (1:11.86) and also found a fourth-place finish in 100-metre back (1:17.30).

The rain held off Sunday and Salt Spring hopes were higher as the team's breaststrokes prepared to swim, but even they couldn't pull off medal finishes.

Seven-year-old Connor Budd, swimming his first of two years in Div. 1, had to race a swim-off for second alternate for the position of consolation finals, after tying for 17th, and came out 18th.

Thirteen-year-old James Cameron put six seconds into his 100-metre breast time (1:31.03) and failed to make consolation finals after being seeded 12th.

Danica Lundy, initially seeded 14th, came out 12th, even after adding two seconds to her time (1:30.23).

Nine-year-old Eryn Gix, who took bronze in the Div. 1 breaststroke event last year, placed fifth in her first of two years in Div. 2, with a best time of 44.86.

Sierra Lundy, gold medalist in the event the past two years, and seeded third in Div. 3 breast-stroke, took fourth with a best time of 39.94. Lundy also swam to a 15th-place finish in 100-m freestyle (1:13.65).

Nickerson took eighth in 100-m breast-stroke (1:19.13), on Sunday, and 12th in 50-m fly — 31.60.

Temmel placed eighth in 50-metre fly (33:40), while Rolston placed another medal in the same stroke, with bronze in 50-m fly (32:02).

Swimming with an ear problem Sunday, Logan-Webb failed to make the top 16 in 50-m fly (35.46); and placed 12th in 100-m freestyle.

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The last chance for earning Salt Spring hardware occurred with the regional relays, where island swimmers represented Vancouver Island, alongside swimmers from other teams in the region. Two Stingrays won medals here, with Gix's relay nailing bronze and Cameron's team picking up the silver.

Fifth-place finishes went to regional relays swum by Logan-Webb, Connor Budd and Sierra Lundy.

But, by the end of Sunday night, Salt Spring swimmers had forgotten medal chances and disappointing swims as they scurried around getting e-mail addresses and snapping pictures of swimming friends made over the summer.

"Memories of finals are more enduring," two younger swimmers agreed, a conclusion Canadian Olympic swimmers may also have to reach.

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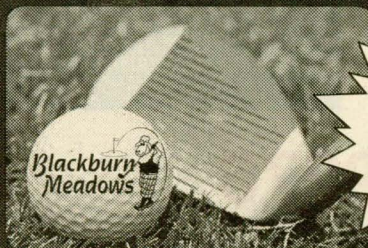
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x 8:00 am	5:00 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm
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1:40 pm	+10:35 pm
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LEAVE CROFTON

*7:30 am	4:30 pm
8:30 am	5:30 pm
# 9:30 am	6:30 pm
11:10 am	8:10 pm
12:10 noon	9:10 pm
1:10 pm	10:05 pm
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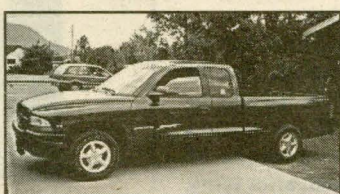
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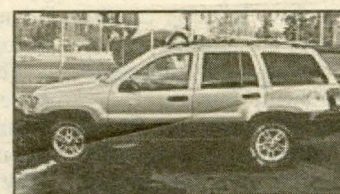
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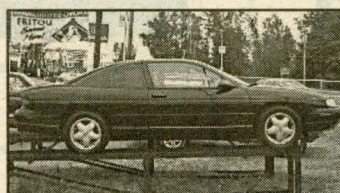
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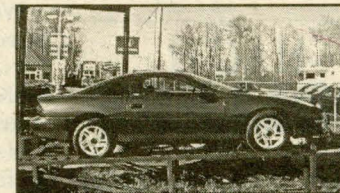
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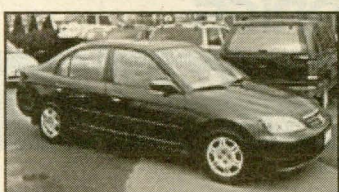
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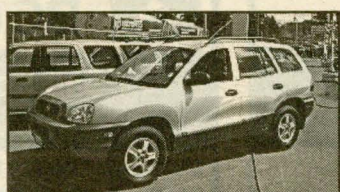
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