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Gulf Islands Driftwood

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Ganges
- Pharmasave
- Mout's Home
- Hardware
- Ganges Village Market
- Thrifty Foods
- Mark's Work Warehouse
- Lifestyle Markets
- Field's Stores
- Bosley Flyer
- Slegg Lumber

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**Just in time
for Christmas**

Annie MacGuffie is selling treasures to raise funds for Thai orphanages. **Page B1**

Weather

Islanders can expect to get wet this week with chance of showers most days and rain on Friday. Highs to 10 C on Thursday; overnight lows to 3 C most nights.

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Study debunks parking woes

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Despite claims on local bumper stickers, a new parking study reveals that Ganges drivers are better off than their city counterparts, while Fulford might still have a serious case of vehicular congestion.

Volunteers participating in a parking study last summer found premium spots in less than a minute 87 per cent of the time, even during peak traffic hours in the tourist season — except on Saturdays.

"The fact is, life is not that bad," said Chamber of Commerce board member and parking-study volunteer Kevin Bell.

"If you have to park a block away, it's not bad. If you went to Victoria, you'd be happy to park three or four blocks away from your destination."

But drivers in Fulford could only find comparable results 47 per cent of the time and would often be left to wait or seek parking farther from the core in at least half their visits.

"The message here is that Fulford is a mess and that Ganges is not as bad as everybody thinks," Bell said.

That doesn't mean that parking in Ganges won't need a plan for the future, Bell said.

"I think we're having difficulty now with 10,000 people and the official community plan says the population will be between 18,000-20,000. Then we better get the infrastructure in place to allow us to live comfortably in Ganges."

According to the summary report of the Commercial Parking Inventory designed by Scott Iverson, half a dozen volunteers completed 723 visits to 10 locations in Ganges during the three and a half months before the fall fair in mid-September.

PARKING STUDY A2



LITTLE LIGHT: Islanders Lorne and Hyrum Bascom were among families celebrating Advent with songs and a candle-lighting ceremony at Salt Spring Centre on Monday.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

3-storey health care facility goes ahead

By ELLEN YEUNG
Staff Writer

The Islands Trust has given the green light to Ganges' first three-storey residential structure, a Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) assisted living seniors' facility on Blain Road.

The Greenwoods Independent Living facility, to be built next to the existing Greenwoods Intermediate Care Facility, will consist of 30 dwelling units.

At last Wednesday's Salt Spring Local Trust Commit-

tee meeting, VIHA received the development variance permit needed to increase the structure to 10.8 metres (35.4 feet) from the maximum allowable height of 7.6 metres (24.9 feet) and to boost the number of storeys to three from the two outlined in Land Use Bylaw (LUB) 355.

Cliff Plumpton, who owns property on nearby Howell Lane, told trustees he strongly opposed the structure's height, and did not buy their position that Gulf

Islands Secondary School had already broken the LUB height barrier in Ganges.

"The high school is in the valley; this is at the top of a hill," he said.

An emotional Plumpton, who is a retired pilot, argued that turbulence caused by the new building when winds blow from the north or northwest may render the hospital's helicopter landing pad unusable. However, the project architect told trustees that Transport Canada and the Ministry of Transporta-

tion have no problems with the proposed building site.

"The location of the building has no impact on the helicopter whatsoever," Don Brown said.

The facility will be run by the Gulf Islands Intermediate Care Society and has received funding from B.C. Housing. The Capital Regional District's health facilities planning committee has also approved some funding to cover related costs.

CARE FACILITY A2

PARC takes prudent first steps on pool

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

The Parks and Recreation Commission's first post-referendum pool decision made Monday night was characterized by the prudence that will likely be a constant PARC companion until the facility is complete.

Already in receipt of a construction management services bid it feels is too high, PARC decided to explore further options that would bring that number down.

"As everyone is well aware, the budget is very tight," said PARC opera-

tions and project manager Dave Gibbon in introducing the topic at PARC's regular monthly meeting.

That's why PARC was not prepared to accept "holus bolus" — as PARC chair Bill Curtin described it — the \$280,000 fee first proposed by Task Construction Man-

agement of Burnaby.

Task is an established public recreation facility builder chosen from three submitting firms using technical evaluation criteria set out by the Capital Regional District (CRD).

POOL A3

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Gulf Islands national park reserve now looking for input for the public

By ELLEN YEUNG
Staff Writer

Parks Canada is seeking public input into the management of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

"What we're hoping is that the public will let us know whether they think we're on the right track, whether there are particular management directions that are listed [in our newsletter] that they think are excellent, and ones that they don't agree with," said Carolyn Stewart, planning coordinator for Parks Canada's coastal B.C. field unit.

"The more input we have from people, the more likely we are to get it right, and have it managed really well," she said.

She suggests people get a copy of the park management planning newsletter, which lists possible management directions.

They can call (250) 654-2000 for a copy or get them at Parks Canada offices in Sidney and on Mayne, Pender and Saturna islands, and Islands Trust offices on other Gulf Islands.

The park reserve is quite fragmented, spreading out over 15 different islands, islets and reefs throughout the southern Strait of Georgia.

Lands belonging to the reserve include parts of Saturna, Mayne, North Pender and South Pender, as well as Prevost Island, Russell

Island, Portland Island, Sidney Spit and D'Arcy Island. No Salt Spring or Galiano properties are in the reserve.

Overall, the park reserve's land base totals 34.4 square kilometres while the marine areas cover 26.3 square kilometres.

The park reserve was established in 2003, although the actual transfers of authority and land from B.C. Parks, provincial Crown land and private donors didn't occur until April 2004.

Since then, Parks Canada has sought out feedback from local communities, First Nations, user groups and other interested members of the public regarding the direction of manage-

ment. Preparing a park management plan can take up to five years, said Stewart. In the meantime, Parks Canada is developing interim guidelines for dealing with critical operational and management issues.

"We've got some 30-odd issues that can't wait that long," Stewart said.

Stewart hopes people will take time to review the newsletter and provide feedback.

"It is managed on behalf of all Canadians. That is our mandate to look after this area as one of Canada's gems," Stewart said.

"The public should be interested because it is their national park."

CARE FACILITY: *Some opposition*

From Page A1

Trust staff were informed by VIHA that the facility's efficiency and function would be improved with a three-storey building.

Plumpton later told the Driftwood he felt "a trust has been broken" and decried the limited public awareness of the proposal.

The LTC is required to give notice of the proposed bylaw variance only to

nearby property owners.

Norton Road resident Mark Garrison also opposed the change. In a letter to the Trust he stated: "When you allow for this height increase, you in essence allow for the island at large to become susceptible to increased development, eroding the special rural environment we enjoy so much on Salt Spring."

Although institutional buildings are

exempt from the development permit guidelines regarding form and character, the applicant has made some attempt to minimize the obtrusiveness of the building, said Trust regional planning manager John Gauld.

For example, the main floor of the building will be approximately 1.5 metres (five feet) below the grade of the road.

PARKING STUDY: *Fulford results less encouraging*

From Page A1

"We're looking at it from a standpoint of what people actually experience when they are trying to park," Iverson said.

His study confirmed that Ganges visitors typically walk one third the distance of someone shopping at Victoria's Mayfair Mall.

"It's perhaps not as bad as you think and the walk is more pleasant than walking through a parking lot on the way into a mall."

As a study volunteer, Bell was surprised at how quickly he found spots when he timed himself.

"You time it and say, 'Geez, I did that in two minutes. That's not so bad. And I'm not that far away.' Quickly, people do get frustrated here and maybe more frustrated than they ought to because typically, you can find a spot."

Study data confirmed commonly held beliefs that

parking is more difficult on Saturday Market days, and on other days between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Sunday drivers never cited a problem.

"We can't really design for the peak, it's not cost effective and it's also not pleasant. You'd have an awful lot of empty parking lots that are empty waiting for that Saturday market all year round," said Iverson.

Additionally, the report found that spots were hardest to find in the area between Thrifty Foods and the post office between noon and 2:30 p.m.

Fulford results were less encouraging.

After measuring parking-wait times and distances from desired locations on a scale of one to four during 126 visits, drivers experienced the worst level of service during 54 per cent of attempts.

Drivers were also half as likely to find the best level of service in Fulford on weekends.

As a note, the volunteers found few parking difficulties Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, especially outside of ferry departure and arrival times.

Bell also surveyed islanders at the Fulford Harbour ferry terminal to find that only four per cent would leave their cars in Fulford and walk on the ferry if a parking lot was available nearby.

"We found that wasn't very strong," Bell said.

And four per cent is likely a larger number than would actually use the facilities, he said.

The Commercial Parking Inventory was designed as the first phase in a larger program and was jointly funded by the Chamber of Commerce, the Capital Regional

District and B.C. Ferry Services Inc.

The study's second phase group on December 12 for stakeholders who will brainstorm solutions to parking problems.

"We're going to be coming up with alternatives and interventions," Bell said. "We've got all of the people who are the important stakeholders in this at the table and agreeing that something has to be done."

The third phase of the study will involve forecasting parking demand over the next five, 10 and 15 years.

Phase four will see the group implement plans to improve the parking situation.

"We're not totally boxed in," said Iverson. "I think that some neat things can occur that will be exciting for both Ganges and Fulford."

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POOL:

From Page 1

Before the referendum vote, PARC put out a request for proposals for the project and construction management services needed to oversee the facility's construction.

Gibbon has also investigated the Sooke pool experience, where the CRD provided similar services through its staff for about \$81,000. However, that option would depend on the availability of key CRD individuals.

PARC members agreed to continue negotiating with Task, to approach the CRD about using its services, and to set up a community advisory group with engineering and financial expertise to help guide the process and keep costs down.

Commissioner Susan Russell applauded the advisory group plan.

"The more you can involve different people in the community who have expertise in making these decisions, the better it will be."

Gibbon noted the Sooke pool took one year to build.

Two new faces were also at the table Monday, when newly appointed commissioners Carol Dodd and Steve Peterson joined the group to observe proceedings before become fully-fledged PARC members.

On November 24, the CRD board approved the nominating committee recommendation that Dodd and Peterson be appointed.

"The remaining three applicants all have good qualifications, however, the two nominated did impress the committee with their depth of experience and overall interest in community affairs and the issues that PARC will be addressing in the next few years," explained a staff report to the CRD board.

They fill seats vacated by Alix Granger and Susan Russell, who retired from the board after several years of volunteer service.

Curtin and commissioner Brian Little were also reappointed to three-year terms.



TOY RIDE: Pat and Margaret Byron lead the pack as a Christmas toy and food bank ride gets underway with Salt Spring's new trail riding group. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Supreme court sets bank robbery trial

An islander charged for a local bank robbery set his trial date in Victoria Supreme Court on November 24.

Charles Crossland was arrested on July 8 and charged with two counts of armed robbery from an incident at the Ganges branch of the Bank of Montreal on June 22.

"You can't charge someone for robbing a bank, you rob individual people," said Crown prosecutor Colleen Smith in explaining the two armed robbery charges.

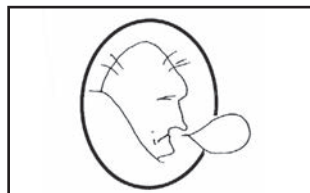
Crossland also faces charges of unauthorized possession of a firearm and disguising his face with the intent to commit an offence.

Defence counsel Hans Doehring represented Crossland at the Victoria Law Court for a bail hearing in July and a preliminary inquiry in October.

Crossland will face jury selection and a trial beginning on February 28, 2005.

The trial is scheduled to last three weeks but the first week will likely be filled with pre-trial applications, Smith said.

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Trincomali subdivision on hold

By ELLEN YEUNG
Staff Writer

Islands Trust members have deferred second reading of Bylaw 385, which would increase density in a Trincomali Heights subdivision from nine to 15 lots in exchange for cash for the Rainbow Road recreation site.

Trustees Eric Booth and Kimberly Lineger said they want to remove the use of any seasonal cottages on the subdivision. As well, Booth proposed the amenity amount be reassessed.

Under the proposed bylaw, the owner would donate \$185,625 to the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve Fund for recreation facilities.

The Official Community Plan includes the policy that "the value of the community amenity should usually approximate 75 per cent of the net appraised value that accrues to the property owner due to the increased density."

Booth suggested the amenity amount should be reassessed based on what the property is worth 30 days

prior to subdivision approval, likely resulting in a higher dollar value of the amenity. Booth estimated the new amenity value at about \$737,000.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee will commission a reappraisal that will be paid for by the applicant.

Trustees placed additional conditions on bylaw approval.

The applicant must propose a tree preservation plan for the area and sort out with the Ministry of Transportation which party is responsible for improving the road.

LTC chair David Essig told the public he likely would have voted against the bylaw.

"The amenity needs to be tied to land use and for the benefit of people in the subdivision, not just in the entire community," he said.

Lineger, who has just moved from the Trincomali Heights area after living there for two years, said she had no issue with the size of the lots because "that whole neighbourhood [is made up of] half-acre to three-quarter-acre lots."

ter-acre lots."

Although several Trincomali Heights residents told trustees at a public hearing the previous day they wanted to protect the natural environment of the property, Lineger pointed out the property is privately-owned and construction — of either nine houses with seasonal cottages or 15 houses — will proceed.

"We take for granted that property as our personal park," she said.

At the public hearing, McAllister Road resident Gordon Keel said he was opposed to any amenity zoning that doesn't have a land-based benefit.

Amenity zoning, if used, should only increase density in core areas, not randomly in rural areas, he said.

David Green, a representative for Paul Darc of Trincomali Land Corporation, noted a park or trail dedication will occur pending subdivision approval.

Southbank Drive resident Wendy Kaye received prolonged applause from the audience at the hearing after reading a letter opposing to

the subdivision.

"My concern is not just about amenity zoning in my neighbourhood. It is about amenity zoning period," she said.

"There is not connection between the PARC project and the applied-for upzoning on Trincomali Heights. This isn't a true amenity dedication. It could be construed as PARC and the developer seizing an opportunity for fundraising and profit under the guise of amenity zoning," Kaye said.

She further pointed out the development proposal would increase density at almost the very end of a "long, winding, subsiding, steeply graded, dangerous, dead-end road."

"There is no alternative access. There is no public water service, and both lake and groundwater sources in the area are already stressed," she said.

If the developer hooks up to the Highland Water District, ratepayers would need to approve that first. However, the applicant has noted a groundwater source is an option.

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The Islands Farmers Institute, in partnership with the Pender Island Farmer's Institute, Mayne Island Agricultural Society, Island Natural Growers and the Island Agri-Food Initiative is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to complete a feasibility study which will assess and evaluate the relative economic viability of Gulf Islands land based, mobile or off-island abattoirs.

Contact Project Manager Margaret Thomson at: almargthomson@uniserve.com for Request for Proposal document outlining objectives, criteria, budget and format. Proposals must be sent by mail no later than December 9, 2004, to Islands Farmers Institute, Box 661, Ganges P.O. Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2W3.

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Isabella density transfer gets nod

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) gave second and third readings to a bylaw which sees two densities transferred from a Sansum Narrows property to lands at the end of Isabella Point Road.

The transfer allows subdivision of the Isabella Point property next to the ecological reserve to create two new lots.

Trustee Kimberly Lineger noted at the November 24 LTC meeting that she voted against a previous incarnation of the bylaw with a four-density transfer. Since then, however, an environmental advisory committee has been struck, the density proposal was decreased to two, and a protective covenant will be placed on the lands.

Bylaw 399 also prohibits seasonal cottages on the new lots.

Trustee Eric Booth said he approved the bylaw because the owner has agreed to maintain a buffer for the ecological reserve.

"I see a fair amount of preserving and protecting," he said.

Several Isabella Point area residents expressed opposition to the density transfer plan.

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FLOOR RESTORATION

Cougar family spotted

A Sunset Drive resident is alerting area residents to the island's latest cougar sighting.

Carolyn Creswick has told neighbours about the up-close cougar family sighting, but wants everyone possible to be aware of the trio.

"This is a huge female with cubs. I got out of the car the other day and she was within 10 feet of me."

A neighbour who saw the animal said it was the biggest cougar he had ever seen, said Creswick, whose family lives at 653 Sunset Drive. She and her husband Bruce also heard the unmistakable sounds of an animal being killed outside their bedroom window.

Creswick contacted the Duncan Conservation office Tuesday. The number is 1-800-663-9453. Anyone sighting a cougar should call the Duncan office.

People should remind themselves and their children to not run from a cougar, but to slowly back away.

GANGES VILLAGE MARKET



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AIDS CROSSES: From left, Aidan Sutherland, Jimmy Steele, Patrick Little, Sophie Douglas, Stevie Hoesel and Alexandra Barnes hold some of the crosses that will be used in an AIDs walk on Sunday (see story Page A22). The Salt Spring Centre School students were getting ready for an African Day being held at their school on Wednesday.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

Library eyes next-door land

Salt Spring's library board has placed an offer to purchase a property bordering the east side of the current library site on McPhillips Avenue.

Loomis Courier Service currently occupies the location.

The property will cost \$650,000, with half paid by the first quarter of 2005, said board chair Garth Hendren.

He said the official community plan limits the new library location to the Ganges core.

"So we've had a great deal of difficulty these past two years locating land that we could put a library on," he said.

The board's preliminary

plans are to tear down the present 4,700-square-foot library and build a two-storey, 15,000-square-foot library on both properties.

The board's dilemma, said Hendren, is that in order to accommodate the population of Salt Spring in 20 to 25 years, the library should ideally be at least 16,000 square feet. But because of parking requirements, the two-storey library would be limited to a 15,000-square-foot maximum.

"So the dilemma for us is how serious do we consider the purchase of the adjoining property if we're not going to be able to meet the needs of the community for the next 20 to 25 years?" he

said. "That's a real thorny issue for us."

Hendren also said it would be easier to find property further from the core, perhaps on the Rainbow Road recreation site land, that would be cheaper, larger and easier to build on.

The board is scrambling to raise money for a new library and is concerned voters may defeat a referendum on paying higher taxes for a new library, Hendren said.

"I can see lots of people saying one thing [the pool] is enough, I don't want to pay any more taxes," he said.

Residents create coalition

Residents dealing with land use challenges have banded together to form the Salt Spring Neighbourhoods Coalition.

According to a November 22 press release, the group's aim is "to support and enhance communication and cooperation among residents associations on the island."

Members to date are the Channel Ridge Owners Association, Isabella Point Residents Association, South Salt Spring Property Owners and Residents Association, Beddis and Cusheon Lake Area Residents Association, Stewart Road Residents Association and Lee's Hill Residents Association.

Individual members from Trincomali Heights, where a residents association is in the process of being formed, are also involved.

"Our objectives are to share information; to identify issues of common interest; to speak with one voice and take appropriate action including seeking legal advice, if needed, on issues in common."


Other residents groups interested in joining can call chairperson Maureen Moore at 538-1732.

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 **CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT**
Environmental Services

Request for proposals

Salt Spring Island Recycling Services

On behalf of the Salt Spring Island Solid Waste Advisory committee, the Capital Regional District (CRD) invites interested consultants to submit proposals to conduct an analysis, including a comparison of the costs of the SSI recycling depot to other options delivering an equivalent level of service.

For more detailed information about the criteria outlined in the Request for Proposals, please visit the CRD Web site at www.crd.bc.ca/tenders or contact Tom Watkins at 360-3197.

Two copies of proposals should be submitted in sealed envelopes to the CRD Environmental Services department by **Monday, December 13, 2004 at 4:30 p.m.** at the following address:

Tom Watkins, Senior Solid Waste Programs Planner
Environmental Services
Capital Regional District
625 Figgard Street P.O. Box 1000
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Telephone: (250) 360-3197
Fax: (250) 360-3079
email: twatkins@crd.bc.ca

The contract will be awarded on or before **Friday, December 17, 2004.**

LTC meetings set to return to Thursdays

Beginning in January, Local Trust Committee (LTC) meetings will be held on the last Thursday rather than Wednesday of each month.

The change was made because Gary Holman, Salt Spring's regional director for the Capital Regional District (CRD), expressed his desire to attend LTC meetings. So far, he hasn't been able to attend because CRD board and committee meetings are held on most Wednesdays.

Until this year, LTC meetings were held on Thursdays.

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Community Advisors Needed

Crofton Division is inviting applications from representatives of the public health and First Nations sectors to participate as members of its Community Advisory Forum.

The forum provides an opportunity for community members to make recommendations on NorskeCanada's programs and plans. Meetings are expected to be held every two months for the first year.

People interested in participating are asked to submit a one-page document outlining their ability to represent the public health or First Nations sector before Dec. 3.

Applications will be reviewed by current advisory forum members at the forum's Dec. 7 meeting.

To request more information about the forum or to submit your application, please contact:

Julie Douglas, Communications Coordinator
Box 70, Crofton, BC, V0R 1R0
Telephone: 250.246.6054
E-mail: julie.douglas@norskecanada.com

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The Government of Canada has contributed funding to these initiatives. 

More great islanders get nomination nods

Following is the second batch of nominees for the Greatest Salt Spring Islander, with the first group running in the November 24 Driftwood.

South Salt Spring Island Women's Institute members, 1920

Val Gyves nominated all the women in the South Salt Spring Island Women's Institute, who initiated fundraising for Fulford Community Hall in 1920. (Group members also aided fundraising after two fires forced rebuilding of the hall in subsequent years.)

They are:

Mrs. Thomas Reid, Mrs. Horel, Mrs. Lillian Mollet, Mrs. H. Lee, Mrs. Emily Maxwell, Mrs. Ringwood, Mrs. Wagg, Mrs. T. Akerman, Mrs. J. Hepburn, Clara Maxwell, Bertha Daykin, Ellen Akerman, Mrs. Cairns, Mrs. M. Gyves, Mrs. McLennan, Mrs. G. Drummond, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. P. Pyatt, Mrs. Walter Cravely, Mrs. T. Stewart, Miss Castle, Mrs. Lassiter.

Richard Murakami

"Richard is always helping others. He keeps the island moving with his auto repair business. His family has deep roots on Salt Spring that not even their imprisonment and dispossession during WWII could sever. Richard is a UBC graduate who gave up his career plans to live on Salt Spring. He is incredibly hard-working and very successful. Despite the hardships he and his family have endured, he meets the community with unfailing generosity and kindness."

— Mearnie Summers and Caffyn Kelley

Mary Toynbee

"Mary has done much for others in many areas, including the Meadowbrook seniors housing complex, Seniors for Seniors and the Tourist information Centre."

— Dianne Parsons

Lois Deschamps

"Lois Deschamps was an active and vocal champion in all issues relating to mental health and home care. She was the executive director of a non-profit society, worked for the B.C. Association of Community Living, was President of the Community Residential Service Providers Association and a founding, long-standing director on the board of the B.C. Special Olympics. Lois carried the message of Special Olympics around the world and here at home."

"Lois was a foster parent and caregiver for over 16 years to the lovely ladies of the D&S home. Lois embodied service before self."

"I had the pleasure of working with Lois through Special Olympics and I was inspired by her commitment to equal opportunities for special needs people in all areas of life."

"Lois's activism in Special Olympics here in B.C. can only be matched by the Kennedy family in the U.S."

"Special Olympics continues to this day and thousands have benefitted from this wonderful program throughout the province and the world."

— John Martin-McNab

Margaret and Tony Threlfall

"Margaret is a quintessential Salt Springer, a farmer, a wonderful artist and a tireless volunteer who creates community through her

work for the Farmers Institute, the Painters Guild and many other organizations. She and her husband Tony do so much to create the Fall Fair. Their farm, Willowcrest Farm on Robinson Road, is a joy to visit. Margaret is caring, committed, gracious and kind."

— Caffyn Kelley

Jane Mouat

The hard-working matriarch of the Mouat-Toynbee family, who was also nominated by Salt Spring historians Sue Mouat and Mary Davidson in an October 27 Driftwood article, got the nod from an anonymous islander who dropped off an article about Jane Mouat written by Lynn Bowen in her Those Island People column of the Victoria Times Colonist on October 31, 2004. As a result of the reference to Jane Mouat's Shetland Islands birthplace in the Driftwood article, which was posted to the Driftwood website, reporter Mitchell Sherrin was interviewed about Mouat on BBC radio the following week.

Ruby Alton

"Ruby was my godmother and a close friend of my mother, and the only reason I grew up visiting Salt Spring Island."

— Elaine Litster

Kathy Reimer

"My vote would go to Kathy Reimer as one of the many people who have given so much and helped to make this island so special, for the environment, fish, clean water and, of course, people."

— Nancy Wigen, in Nov. 24 Driftwood letter

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Radiology room seeks digital world

By **ELLEN YEUNG**
Staff Writer

Lady Minto Hospital is awaiting approval from the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) to proceed with the second phase of its expansion, which includes expanding the laboratory, pharmacy and radiology departments.

But in the meantime, the Hospital Foundation is fundraising for computed radiography (CR) equipment so the radiology department can ditch X-ray films and go digital.

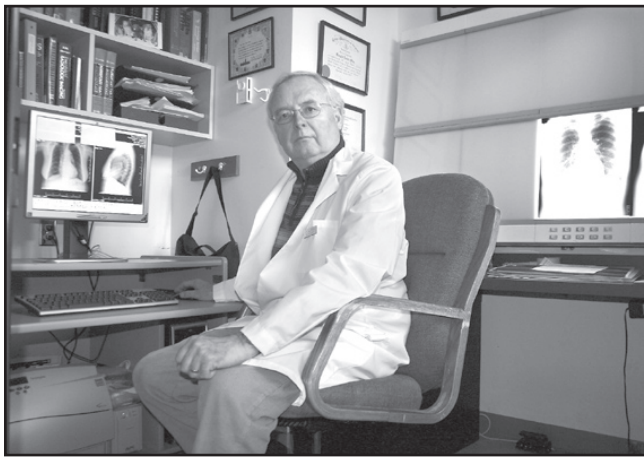
All other radiology departments in VIHA South have gone digital in the last two years.

"We're the last one to become filmless," said radiologist Dr. Don Shea.

X-rays are used for a variety of purposes, including determining if a bone is broken, seeing if an internal organ is infected and looking for cancer. CR serves the same function, but captures these images digitally rather than on film.

Images are transmitted electronically to central archives at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria.

Then when medical specialists anywhere in the region want to view an image, they can access the image on their computer by typing in a password. Doctors can also view images of a patient that were taken at different times, in order to compare changes.



INTO THE LIGHT: Lady Minto Hospital's radiologist Dr. Don Shea views a digital image of a patient's chest (left), which was taken at another radiology lab and transmitted electronically for him to access on his computer screen. Lady Minto doesn't have computed radiography technology to take digital images yet. Behind Shea are X-ray films, which are becoming obsolete in the health region.

Photo by Ellen Yeung

Using CR would eliminate transfer and clerical delays, said chief technologist Judith Harrison. As well, patients wouldn't need to lug the single hard-copy X-ray film from the radiology department to their specialist and risk losing it along the way.

CR also allows viewers to manipulate the image to enhance a particular structure, such as ribs, to look for fractures.

"You can zoom in, or make it darker or lighter," said Harrison.

CR will have many other benefits in terms of saving time, reducing costs and environmental impact.

Radiation exposure to patients and staff is reduced. Hazardous chemicals are not used, and large amounts of water and time once used in film processing are saved. And, the hospital would save money because the silver in the film is expensive, Shea said.

The hospital has also been running out of storage space downstairs, Harrison added. Before, the radiology department was required to keep X-rays for seven years. Due to legal reasons, they're now required to keep them permanently.

The hospital foundation aims to raise \$350,000,

Grier, who plans to participate in the vigil weekly. "I am so thankful to be in a country like Canada, but I can't forget what's happening in Fallujah, Palestine, Sudan, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Columbia — I could go on and on."

The Salt Spring vigil is part of a loosely organized international peace network known elsewhere as "Women in Black."

Women in Black is not an organization, but a means of mobilization and a formula for action, explains Grier. Men are especially invited to participate.

Women in Black vigils

were started in Israel in 1988 by women protesting against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Women in Black has spread over the globe to England, Italy, Spain, the United States, Azerbaijan and in FR Yugoslavia, where women in Belgrade have stood in weekly vigils since 1991 to protest war and the Serbian regime's policies of nationalist aggression.

Women in Black of Jerusalem and Women in Black of Bosnia have been nominated for The Nobel Peace Prize for their silent vigils held every Friday for over 10 years.

approximately half of which will go toward CR and the rest for a digital fluoroscope for the radiology department.

Fluoroscopy uses X-rays to produce images of intestinal tracts, including the esophagus and stomach in motion, which are then displayed on a video monitor.

To make a donation or for further information, contact the foundation office at 538-4845.



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Women in Black set peace vigils

Every Friday from 4 to 4:30 p.m. in front of Centennial Park, a silent vigil to protest war, rape as a tool of war, ethnic cleansing and human rights abuses and all forms of violence in the world will be held.

All who wish to silently mourn for victims of violence everywhere, and to contemplate peace everywhere are invited to participate, states a press release. People should wear black or dark clothing and they can bring candles.

"War is an anachronism and we need to find other ways to solve conflicts," said Carol

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Pick a number

The Gulf Islands School Board and administrators have been accused of all kinds of pernicious deeds since choosing to implement a four-day school week rather than gut programs.

The latest comes from an analysis of school district finances that suggests the school district has a \$20,000 rather than \$350,000 deficit problem this year.

John Malcolmson was hired by CUPE B.C. to find money in the district's budget that could lead to the reinstatement of five days of school (and therefore CUPE jobs).

Given reams of raw data, without bothering to talk to the school board or district for clarification of any anomalies, he found what he was hired to find.

He also made a 10-person error in counting of international students, and chose to include all of a potential holdback amount from the education ministry. It has just been announced that the district will get \$71,000 in holdback funds, not the \$126,000 Malcolmson included in his calculations.

Malcolmson found a reported increase in principal and vice-principal staffing. If he had been paid to ask why that was the case, he would have learned there was an actual decrease in that category of staffing.

The issue of next year's anticipated deficit was also not acknowledged.

This is not to say Malcolmson's findings have no use or that scrutiny of public body accounts is not a good thing. In terms of educating the public and keeping the school district on its toes, such a report is an excellent tool.

However, it would have been much better if Malcolmson had "ground-truthed" his numbers through discussions with secretary treasurer Rod Scotvold, not made the international student error or automatically and incorrectly assumed all the holdback funds would fall into the district's lap.

Now his figures are smudged with as much doubt as the district's budget numbers.

School district budgeting is a hairy and complex process at the best of times, never mind in a highly politicized environment.

Ultimately, the only numbers that really matter will shake out when the district is properly audited, as it is each year.

Gulf Islands Driftwood

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Citification of island complete with pool boondoggle

By CONHOR VANE-HUNT

So, a combination of blandishments, cajoling, wheedling, arm-twisting, bullying and bad-mouthing — plus very expensive advertising, and not forgetting to get the Victoria Times-Colonist on-side; with such guilt-induced remarks as "if you vote no, you don't love children," has produced an approximately 2:1 vote in favour of the most expensive version of an indoor pool — another albatross to hang around our necks. (Isn't the awful example of the non-theatre, which I call ArtSprung, enough to be going on with?)

Now, before all you short-sighted zealots bask in the glory of what you have achieved, pause and reflect for a moment on the reality, on the facts.

There is only a laughable

VIEW POINT

amount of funding in place. (We were brought up to adhere to the tenet "Don't buy it until you can pay for it — don't use credit." Couldn't you at least wait until the grant — still only a maybe — had actually been secured? I don't like your attitude of — "Oh, if we get the grant, we'll reduce your taxes.")

Talk about putting the cart before the horse!

There is only the vaguest estimate of the ever-increasing cost of running the facility. You put forward two possible figures, then try to suggest that the lower one is more likely. Bad idea — always

go for the worst possible scenario when estimating.

"Oh, we can't give you any site-plan until you vote yes."

Methinks some of the money you splashed about so freely to obtain our consent should have been spent on producing such a plan for us to consider. You could always have said that it was "provisional — subject to amendment," etc. to cover your backsides.

Talking of plans, it is devoutly to be hoped that a properly-qualified architect will be employed. There are several living on the island.

In my opinion, this mad dash-to-splash is ill-conceived and utterly unplanned. I think that I see a parallel situation to Dubya's oil war. (Go for it now, before you think about it, and damn the consequences.)

In short, it's another boondog-

gle. Before the same, or another group completes our "citification" by a no-holds and no-expense-barred campaign for — of course — an indoor rink, for ice-hockey, skating and curling, there is a very pressing problem that requires your immediate attention; you must now make a concerted effort to ban swimming in our drinking water — by which I mean all lakes used for this purpose, and especially St. Mary.

The benefits — if you expend as much effort and money, not forgetting full-page advertisements and getting the Times-Colonist on side, are obvious: there will be no humungous operating costs, no buildings required and increased revenue (however miniscule) to help offset the cost of the pool, as all lake-swimmers will be forced to use the facility.

Is the complete "citification" of Salt Spring what the majority of islanders want — or is it that the yes-vote campaign was so well-organized (give credit where credit is due), and the no-vote too apathetic to mount a real protest?

I believe that the majority of islanders — here and elsewhere — knowingly and willingly chose to forfeit the amenities of city life, and wish to preserve the relative peace and continued ruralization of their chosen abode.

"Times change," you say — to which I reply, "Pity."

So I'm an ante-deluvian Lud-dite? So be it.

Enjoy your (chlorinated) pool, which I'll have to help pay for, faute de mieux, but will not use.

The writer is a long-time Salt Spring resident.

Repeater as dangerous as more ominous 'base station' term

By CHRIS ANDERSON

So what is this proposed fire hall cell antenna — really?

Telus tells us that it's just an eensy-weensy antenna. Their representatives trivialize and misrepresent this issue. They impute absurd statements to our informed citizens' group that were never made, such as that we think antenna "death rays" would "cook the produce at Thrifty Foods" (October 20 Driftwood), as well as other untruths.

What Telus hasn't been telling us about is the radio-frequency "searchlight" beam to be focused on the fire hall from Pender Island. There are also many other hazards posed by the proposed cell antenna that have not yet been revealed.

It is not widely understood, for instance, that the

IN RESPONSE

high frequency — 800 MHz — signal is only a part of the emissions from a cell antenna. The signal is also modulated by low frequency — ELF — pulses that occur in similar frequency ranges to those used by our bodies. These components are part of how cellular systems work, and can be very disruptive to our physical functioning.

In addition, there are "reflection" and "coupling" factors, creating new radiations to add on to them, misleading, computer-projected radiation levels that are claimed to be so much lower than Canada's exposure levels.

It bears repeating that our

Safety Code Six "thermal" standards are not safe to begin with, as they concern only huge radiation levels sufficient to heat bodily tissue. The guidelines did not consider well-established, "non-thermal" (lower) level bioeffects from wireless technologies.

The Telus computer-projected radiation level of 0.048 microwatts per square centimetre means nothing. In real world conditions there are many factors that distort these abstract guesstimates. With wet conditions, for example, radiation levels can more than triple. There is also the crucial issue that radiation affects different people in different ways. Some are chemically and/or electrically hypersensitive and — like children and elders and immune-compromised individuals — are far

more affected by this than are healthy adults.

Also of serious import is the way the cell phone calls would actually be received and transmitted to and from such a "repeater" antenna.

One of the worst aspects of the proposed Telus antenna is the focused, high-energy beam connecting to the base station on Pender, 17 kilometres away. No system is perfect, and there is always a "spillover" effect, resulting in radiation scattering all around and behind the target antenna (in the fire hall clock tower). This unfortunate feature would result in hazardous levels of EMR throughout the downtown core, which would therefore be a good place to avoid.

Signals to and from cell phones within a few kilometres of the proposed antenna

would get "relayed" via this highly energetic and toxic beam — this "point to point" microwave feed — to and from a transmitter on Pender. So it's called a relay or repeater rather than a base station because signals are picked up and delivered — then sent into the networks — via this beam rather than straight out through the airwaves.

So the talk of an innocent-sounding "relay" station actually means that something much more powerful is also involved. The technical euphemism for this transmission method is "pencil beam."

It's like a massive microwave searchlight, focusing harmful radiation — from a Pender cell tower — right on the core of Ganges.

This is where Telus gets

off assuring us the radiation factor would be low, in that they're not asking the proposed fire hall equipment — at least not for now — to radiate enough energy to reach Pender via a broadcast signal.

Instead, the signal would be just strong enough to interact with local cell phones. A base station proper, on the other hand, relies on its own higher signal power to blast out energy to other base stations. The repeater or relay is in effect the satellite of the base station, serving a small area, broadcasting omnidirectionally. It's still very dangerous — it just sounds nicer than "base station."

The writer has been involved in and researched EMR and related topics for several years.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *How can we reduce drinking and driving in our community?*



Judith Borbas

I hope the places that are providing alcohol are being responsible . . . Maybe we need a service from the pubs, like the free seniors [shuttle] service.



Fiona Foster

Be responsible parents and set a good example for our children and remind them that there are consequences.



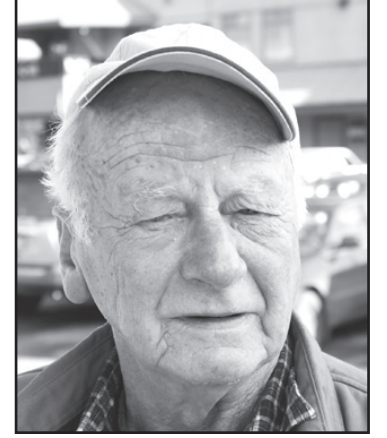
Doug Dunlap

I'm going to hope that these recent [alcohol-related crash] incidents will have an impact on the young folks here.



Michael Levy

The bottom line is you have to let kids know they are not immortal. The consequences can be death or disability for life.



Don Layard

I think more police enforcement would help. The trouble is they're bogged down with too much bloody paperwork . . . I think we need more education in the schools, too.

Letters to the Editor

Olin's line

In the hush of pain and loss that blanketed the crowd gathered for Olin Brosseau's memorial in Beaver Point Hall on November 19, many shared a need to find a way of dealing with the tragic story of life lost through momentary circumstance.

One of Olin's most poignant verses, placed for our reading in a very beautiful display by his grieving friends, spoke of the dangers of drinking, drugging, and driving. It hurt to read those words on the day of his funeral.

An idea seemed to surface in the crowd: could we create a fund that would ensure that anybody who needed a ride home could be sure of having one? We have an excellent taxi service, but a ride across the island is an expensive trip for some.

Genevieve Price told me that at one of the meetings such an idea had been suggested, and somebody had called it "Olin's Line." We agreed it would be a fitting memorial for Olin.

Let's raise some money and place it in a bank account administered by somebody who will pay the taxi company as the rides are given.

There are few sums that can compare with the material, physical, emotional and spiritual cost of a life taken through accident. No abuse of such a community endeavour is possible, since anytime an individual who is impaired is safely driven, rather than endangering others on the road, we are all winning.

I think we should offer these rides with no strings attached, no judgements given, and no possibility of direct re-payment of the trip cost. Of course, anybody could contribute to the general fund, and some may find they wish to give their own money for such a community fund after receiving a benefit, but it should not be obligatory. This would ensure that concerned friends, seeing a need for a ride, could call for the service for the impaired individual, and know that the whole island was helped through their caring.

The deep learning inside such an open-handed giving by our community would also come from the humble acceptance of help, and the educational process of calling for the ride.

Could we begin collecting money for this right away? In the memory of Olin Brosseau, we will have created a meaningful memorial in Olin's Line.

I would be grateful to hear suggestions from people by e-mail (yantara@telus.net) or respond in the pages of the Driftwood.

YANTARA WALKER,
Salt Spring

Sharp dealing

This past week, the Supreme Court of Canada has again ruled that where land and resource issues affect First Nations, governments must deal fairly, without "even the appearance of sharp dealing."

First Nations are not opposed to development on their traditional territories but they want to ensure that that development is sustainable for a "win-win" solution of eco-

nomie certainty to the Crown, business and all Canadians, in the accommodation of First Nations' aboriginal rights and title through good faith negotiations.

The B.C. government's immediate reaction to the Supreme Court decision has been to congratulate itself on the opportunity to now open a new era in relation to our First Nation communities. It seems we heard this at the end of the provincial referendum in 2002.

But forests have continued to be logged, mines opened and ski resorts expanded, with government support and without negotiation with affected First Nations. Any certainty languishes.

This is especially the case on Salt Spring Island where the B.C. Environmental Appeal Board has just dismissed the First Nations' objections to the discharge of industrial sewage into an aboriginal cemetery in an extremely important archaeological site on Walker's Hook.

It is apparent that their reasons reveal little or no con-

nection between the environment ministry, the minister responsible for treaty negotiations, sustainable resource management and Heritage preservation laws.

As well, to use a long-registered B.C. heritage burial site for waste disposal to accommodate a business venture is hardly a way to improve relations towards certainty and reconciliation.

In fact, we can at best call this "sharp dealing."

EILEEN WTTWAALL,
Sky Valley Road

Obsessed

No sooner is the referendum over, approving increased taxes of over \$4,000,000 for an indoor pool, when both PARC and Ssplash are campaigning for even more money.

Neither Ssplash — "now we're going to raise a million dollars" nor PARC — "we intend to pursue every available source of additional funding starting this week" — seem to have any concept of what is reasonable or fair.

As a community, Salt Spring is very generous with

approving increased taxes (witness the pool referendum) and donating for many causes. But there is a limit to this generosity. There comes a time when fairness has to come into the picture.

Surely, it's time that other causes needing funds should get a break. Surely it's only fair for PARC and Ssplash to back off and accept the over \$4,000,000 they have just been given, go with the barebones pool and stop competing for the limited tax dollars and donations that our community can afford.

If PARC cannot make the pool happen for the approved amount, then one has to conclude that they had not done their homework and that they had not been frank and open with this information prior to the referendum.

As a community, we should all say a resounding "no" to more requests for funds from these two pool-obsessed organizations.

BEN GOODMAN,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

Right to save, trade and sell seeds being threatened

By **DAN JASON**

Last week two pieces of outrageous news found their way to me.

The first was that Iraqi farmers will no longer be allowed to grow their own crops or save their own seed. They will be permitted to grow only what U.S. agents deem legal, namely seed patented and/or genetically modified by U.S. corporations.

As a young school kid, I remember learning that the Tigris-Euphrates Valley, in the nowadays location of Iraq, was the cradle of civilization. Later, as a student of agriculture, I learned from reading works by the great plant scientist, Vavilov, that the Tigris-Euphrates was one of the main centres of diversity for agriculture on the planet and that many of our most important foods were first developed there. What a harsh insult it is that such a goldmine of goodness will now be officially reduced to a monoculture of greed and disempowerment.

It would be easy to think that at least this kind of coercion is not yet happening in our own country. However, my second piece of news was that the very same

GUEST COLUMN

process is indeed underway in Canada.

Our National Farmers Union (www.nfu.ca) has mounted a campaign in opposition to the federal Seed Sector Review that could make it illegal for farmers to save, reuse, select, exchange and sell seeds. Petitions against this are at locations in Ganges, including Natureworks, Thrifty's, Foxglove and Salt Spring Books — we have a thousand signatures already.

It is a bit scary to consider the kind of power that is being exerted here. Last year our own Salt Springers For Safe Food conducted an extensive survey that found 94 percent of island residents wanting genetically modified foods to be labelled. This was right in line with the 94 percent of all Canadians wanting such identification found in national surveys. Yet somehow such doubts about GMO foods are overridden by the real powers-that-be.

It's sobering how those powers-

that-be call the shots these days. For example, American authorities hammer safety concerns about Canadian beef because one cow in millions gets mad cow disease and then they close U.S. markets to Canadian meat. On the other hand, they declare that GMO foods are totally safe. Never mind that since the beginnings of agriculture 10,000 years ago in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley, no one has ever before blasted genes of foreign species into our food crops. Never mind that no scientific tests have ever confirmed the safety of GMO foods.

The official line has always been that we need seeds to be patented to reward scientific research and we need GMO foods to feed the planet and save us from diseases.

As a farmer for 20 years now, I have seen the lie in such posturing. Since the early '90s, when genetically modified seeds were first introduced, virtually all GMO crops have been bio-engineered to tolerate herbicides and pesticides, and none for increased nutrition or health. At the same time, the ability of plants to adapt to biocides has resulted in the ever-greater need for more poisons and

ever-increasing farmer servitude to agrochemical corporations.

The truth is our planet would be far better off without such tinkered seeds. If we create an agriculture predicated on poison, we all end up poisoned. If we permit an agriculture owned by a power elite and based on massive inputs of energy, we all end up pawns in a global power game.

What works best for the ongoing health and vitality of our earth is what earth has provided us: an incredible diversity of possibility. In all my years of growing gardens, I've never had any serious pests or diseases. I attribute this to the abundance of different foods, herbs and flowers that I cultivate and the fact that I honour the integrity of the land.

An agriculture dictated by "globalization" that relies on fossil fuels to transport goods thousands of miles is going to have a short life. It seems crystal clear to me that smaller-scale agriculture where local sustainability is fostered is the only option for large-scale sustainability.

The powers-that-be don't want autonomous local communities. They want total control of people and resources. Never has the word

"freedom" been so dishonoured in its use as in the rhetoric we are now hearing about bringing freedom to people.

What can we do in the face of such brutal denial of freedom and diversity?

The first obvious answer is to not buy into such manipulation and control. Eat locally grown organic food. Learn what food products are GMO. Salt Springers for Safe Food (saltspringersforsafefood@telus.net) is our local educational and lobbying group. Our Islands Trust Council has commendably declared its support for avoiding the use of GMO crops in the Trust area.

On another level, I think it is crucial to remember to take deep breaths and remind yourself who you are in the midst of the accelerating climate of pressure and fear. The world is becoming polarized, with those who love the planet on one side and those who want to own it on the other.

We must learn to fearlessly own ourselves with such love, joy, and creativity that no one can take away our birthright.

The writer is a 28-year resident of Salt Spring Island.



ANNUAL APPEAL

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10am - 4pm**

Check next week's Driftwood for more information.

More letters

Need exists

By the implications of certain recent articles, one would think that the homeless and poverty problem on Salt Spring has been solved because out of sight means out of mind.

Homelessness, poverty and need exists on our island and we can not turn away from it. Temperatures are about to drop below freezing and there are possibly 50 young and older people sleeping nightly in wet tents and clothes, caves, in doorways around town, shacks, or crammed into side rooms of some kind soul.

Not everyone can get work or steady work here, or a decent home even when they have money; especially when they don't. Many people here do not have enough food to eat on a daily basis, let alone being able to have a healthy diet.

These are things many of us don't think of, nor can we imagine that happening here, but it does . . . today and every day. This is not a time for judgment by, or upon, anyone.

Winter is upon us all and our community needs to act now. Please. We can come together and help our children and cousins, total strangers, good people, to live here safely, well fed and warm.

Several programs exist on Salt Spring Island directly addressing these problems: Soup's On at the Anglican Church, In From The Cold at the United Church, the food bank at Community Services, the super-heros at Copper Kettle, and the "Food Not Bombs" volunteers at StarBooks — supported by Barb's Buns and

the GIFTS program.

Combined, these groups provide groceries once a month, a free meal once a week, warm places to go to, free warm clothes/tents/sleeping bags, emergency shelter in freezing temperatures, and occasional opportunities for housing and employment.

This loose network does excellent work but is largely unknown, under-funded and not organized enough to meet the immediate needs of members in our community.

If you can help, please do. Meetings are held 2 p.m. on Fridays at the United Church, and donations can be made through the Copper Kettle, or dropped off at StarBooks in Gasoline Alley.

"Do not wait for leaders to do the good work; do it yourself, person by person," said Mother Teresa.

KEN ROULEAU,
Salt Spring

No trust

Tina Kempling is to be loudly applauded for her letter to the Driftwood last week. She expressed her frustration at the methods used by our school board to "assess" the impact of the four-day week, and explained her decision to remove her children from the school system. She is certainly not alone. Many parents have told me of similar feelings and decisions. Some have said that their concerns were dismissed by school staff they spoke to, others said that they are afraid to speak out publicly regarding the four-day week because they feared being branded as trouble-makers and that their children might in some way be penalized.

Yet others are afraid to

school board has responded to parents' concerns by telling us that "this is not supposed to be scientific."

Whether or not those fears are justified, if we want change, there is no way forward but to speak out.

It is a disgrace that our school board insists on using opinion-gathering methods which will exclude those who are most hurt by the four day week, i.e. the significant number who have left the system as a result of it, and those who, in the future, will most likely be impacted, i.e. those with pre-school children.

Whether by accident or design, the current survey appears to be created so as to minimize the amount of negative feedback the board receives about the four-day week. This is just plain wrong and it does not create an atmosphere of trust. The current survey contains no question about the economic impact of the four-day week and in any case, some parents have not yet received their copy.

I could go on, but the biggest disgrace of all is that the board have not considered this huge issue to be worthy of a properly designed survey asking detailed, specific questions. Instead, they will be using a poorly designed questionnaire, but treating the results as if they were of some value!

It seems to me that the current questionnaire document was put together in haste and without opportunity for proper consultation or participation in democratic decision-making by the non school-board members of the task force. It has been roundly criticized by a professional in the field and the

school board has responded to parents' concerns by telling us that "this is not supposed to be scientific."

May we ask why not?

The school board has yet to answer serious challenges to the reasoning behind the budget they used to justify the four-day week.

I add this question to the growing list: Is this issue not important enough to warrant gathering good information upon which to base decisions which impact our lives and our children's futures? Answer, please.

**KATHY PAGE and
RICHARD STEEL,**
Salt Spring

Food drive

The First Salt Spring Guides group is having a food bank drive on Saturday, December 4 at the Bank of Montreal Santa Photo Day.

Don't forget the SPCA pet food donations!

SARAH ROWSE,
And First Ganges Guides

Choices

I just came across a letter in a magazine written by Laura Dewar, coroner for the 100 Mile House and Clinton, B.C. area.

That community has a program called PARTY (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth).

It has been in effect for two years.

"It helps youth make smarter choices and promotes a positive peer system in the schools — without nagging or lecturing."

For more information, see www.partyprogram.com
RACHEL JACOBSON,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A11

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Valid Sunday thru Thursday until Dec 21/04.

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Mouat's Landing on the Waterfront

Alternative

My family and I have actively participated in the local 4-H clubs and have enjoyed successfully raising sheep for the past several years here on the island.

We have taken those sheep to many events in the province, proudly promoting Salt Spring Island Lamb and related fibre products. However, we have had to make a hard decision to give up any hope of a future in agriculture, due to the fact that we have no pasture or farmland of our own and are not likely to be able to afford to purchase any in the future.

Yet, it has come to my attention that just across the lane from my own front window, we have someone proposing the development of 26 houses on a five-acre piece of a 12-acre parcel of agricultural land. The remaining seven acres he will keep for his own single private residence.

Now I really wonder whether this proposal will actually create the much-needed affordable housing on the island or whether it is more about the potential profit he will gain from this development.

I agree we need "affordable" housing. However, I have a few queries about this particular development proposal. Is \$200,000-plus for a 1,000-square-foot house considered "affordable" for low-income families?

Where is the water coming from? It is a small island and we do have limited fresh water resources, which are already stretched to the max.

Will this small single lane road handle the potential of 50 more cars travelling up and down it? There are already two dangerous sections of road known in the area. Do we need to put at risk the endangered western screech owl habitat located on the property? Haven't we learned anything from Nina Raginsky and the blue herons?

And last, but not least, for goodness sake, why do we need to put it on land that can feed us? Can we not find more suitable locations for additional housing than on agricultural land?

If we allow this to go ahead what will prevent others from wanting to do the same with the rest of the agricultural land between Ganges and Central? Do we want Salt Spring to become like Richmond, where sprawling suburbia has been allowed to cover some of the most valuable, fertile, agricultural soil in B.C.?

Accepting this proposal would accelerate the avalanche, which is threatening to bury island agricultural land with housing. Salt Spring, in the past, has proven itself capable of being self-sustaining. Instead of using our island's valuable agricultural land for housing, let's find a more acceptable alternative to meet the very real need for "affordable" housing.
CYNTHIA TUPHOLME,
Norton Road

Polluting

In the October 20 issue of the Driftwood, you had an article about the One Tonne Challenge listing some of the things we might do here on Salt Spring to help prevent the death of our planet. One of the biggest pollut-

ers of the atmosphere, and contributors to the depletion of the ozone layer is the automobile.

In your article you mentioned that we must "make sure our vehicles are running as efficiently as possible." In conjunction with this, we should organize our trips in the car so that we reduce the number of trips made and certainly avoid having the engine idle unnecessarily. Apparently, running the engine more than 10 seconds uses more gasoline than turning off the engine and restarting it.

I know the weather is getting colder, but I have been astonished to find automobiles with their engines running and no one in the car in parking lots at Ganges and also by GVM.

By the way, you can always dress more warmly and, if you are waiting at the ferry, you might consider going into the waiting room before running your motor just to keep warm. (We do go outside in winter, you know.)

Happy Holidays!
JODY SLAKOV,
Salt Spring

Disgusting

The picture in the advertisement on the front of the arts and entertainment section of the November 24 issue (It's the Christmas Show) is disgusting. Pornographic material is not supposed to be available to children under 18 years of age. It is sad to see it is available in our community newspaper.

We are disappointed with the Driftwood for publishing it and the stores for selling it.
B. & D. HOGG,
Salt Spring

Forest

Being mentioned as a candidate for Greatest Islander is an honour and I thank the generous people who might have seen me in that role.

However, I share the opinion of those who feel that choosing such a person is an impossibility. Our community is blessed with so many generous, resourceful, public-spirited people that, in my opinion, we would be admiring a single tree when a whole glorious forest surrounds us.

MAGGIE SCHUBART,
Old Scott Road

MORE LETTERS A18



Name: CATHY WARD
537/538/653:537

Occupation(s): Owner/manager of Family Jewels.

Hobbies: Rowing my boat, playing backgammon, yoga.

Home finished/unfinished: Small but finished.

Favourite people: #1 Polish guy, church group, diamond club and Saturday afternoon choir members.

Favourite read: The Driftwood cartoon.

Best thing about SSI: The interesting people, including our tourists.

Worst thing about SSI: Parking in beautiful downtown Ganges.

Best place to kiss on SSI?: On my dock.

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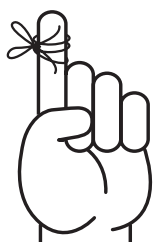
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Belgian work horses on Booth Canal Road bask in the winter sunshine.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



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Malcolmson's analysis is 'incorrect and misleading'

By MAY MCKENZIE

In the spring of 2004, the Board of School Trustees (SD #64) passed a motion to move to a four-day school week.

We had to address a two-year forecasted shortfall of \$1.1 million due to declining enrolment and a change in the Ministry of Education funding formula. We made the decision in order to maintain our diverse programs and choices for our students.

If the district had remained with the five-day week, we would have not been able to sustain our unique and valued programs for our students. Program loss would be a direct result of 9.5 FTE teacher layoffs over two years.

We have reviewed the Funding Allocation, Budget and Staffing Report for District 64 Gulf Islands report prepared for CUPE BC by John Malcolmson and we strongly disagree with his financial analysis of our district's funding shortfall.

Projected shortfall: Malcolmson claims that the district's shortfall is not the projected deficit of \$350,000 for the 2004/05 year, but rather only \$20,000. He also claims the rationale for implementing the four-day week rests on outdated and erroneous information.

We do not agree that the district's projected shortfall has been reduced from \$350,000 to \$20,000. We have updated our analysis based on current enrolment and on current and projected

IN DEPTH

levels of expenditures. We estimate that our 2004/05 shortfall still remains in the order of \$350,000.

Malcolmson's analysis of the shortfall amount is incorrect and misleading. For example, he states, "The estimated provincial operating grant for 2004/05 used to calculate the \$350,000 shortfall was at \$13.883 million, about \$126,000 less than what was announced in the spring 2004 funding allocation."

But the \$126,000 in additional funding is designated as a "Possible Allocation of the Holdback" by the education ministry in its "Estimate of Operating Grant for 2004/05." Allocation is dependent on final provincial enrolments as at September 30, 2004.

The district was not advised of the holdback allocation until November 22 when the ministry released the final operating grant for 2004/05. The amount of allocation holdback represents 40 per cent of Malcolmson's projected increase in district funding.

Malcolmson also states that net revenue will increase by \$150,000 based on early September enrolment numbers for 2004/05. But, this figure should be reduced by approximately \$50,000 when based on our September 2004 actual enrolment (Ministry of Education Form 1701) and including changes in funding for students with unique needs.

Malcolmson claims, "International student enrolments continue to grow — this year 68 students are compared to 58 last year . . ."

Our international student numbers have not increased. We remain static at our 2003/04 enrolment of 68 (Form 1701, Report 8035). Therefore, we should not anticipate an increase in funding of \$100,000 for international students over our 2003/04 funding level.

Malcolmson does not address the magnitude of the financial challenge which the district will face in 2005/06. It is very important to clarify that the board implemented various cost reducing measures, including the four-day week — not only to help offset the projected \$350,000 deficit in 2004/05 — but also to help offset another significant revenue shortfall in 2005/06 resulting from ministry changes to the funding formula and a further projected decline in enrolment.

The net result of our measures is to deal with the shortfall in 2004/05 and complete the year with a modest surplus to help address the 2005/06 funding reduction and enrolment challenge.

Variances: Malcolmson is critical of budget variances. Variances in budget are dealt with as a matter of process throughout the year, as the budget process is cyclical — develop preliminary estimates, obtain updated information, develop final estimates, compare final estimates to actuals, develop preliminary estimates for

next year. It is a continual process of forecasting and adjusting.

Malcolmson identifies variances in comparing reports. It is important to note that the two years under examination were years of significant reporting changes. These changes included:

- Revisions to the Chart of Accounts as directed by the ministry.
- Move to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as directed by the ministry.
- Greater Reporting Entity (GRE) financial submissions as directed by the ministry.

Each variance is notated in the financial audit review, including the appropriate action taken to correct allocation errors. The auditors compare final budget to actual revenue and expenditures, and current-year to previous-year revenue and expenditures, all by program and employee group.

Staffing: Malcolmson asserts that "The only category not to face a staffing reduction this year was Principals and Vice Principals, which will see a reported increase of 1.80 FTE positions this year."

Ministry of Education Form 1530 records the actual time for principals and vice principals, including the Director of Instruction, as 14.4 in 2003/04 and 14.6 in 2004/05. In fact, there were 14.8 positions in 2003/04 but a vice principal on partial medical leave was replaced .4 by teacher staff. The net change in principal/vice principal staffing is therefore an actual decrease of .2 for 2004/05 (14.8-14.6).

Malcolmson would also see that out of the 14.6 positions, only 6.8643 positions are responsible for school administration. All our principals and vice principals teach from .2 to .8 as part of their full time assignment.

Conclusion: This report has many inaccuracies and leads to many incorrect conclusions. If Malcolmson had chosen to include information from Ministry of Education Forms 1701 and 1530, this entire report would be more balanced and would better reflect our budget process.

2004/05 Projected Shortfall: The main question raised is, "Were our projections accurate?" Yes.

The second question is, "How is it that we still have a \$350,000 shortfall?"

The shortfall figure is comprised of revenue and expenditure data.

Revenue, excluding education ministry funding for GAAP and holdback:

- Reduced funding (original projection \$250,000) \$230,000

Expenditures:
Increased expenditures 2004/05 (updated)

- Unfunded teachers' pension: \$110,000
- Increased benefits: \$40,000
- Increased supplies and services (energy): \$40,000
- Increased staffing to address student reconfiguration in K-5: \$70,000
- Less 2003/04 surplus carried forward: (123,186)
- Total budget shortfall: \$366,814
- The "holdback" amount amount will be \$71,000.

The writer is chair of the Gulf Islands School Board.



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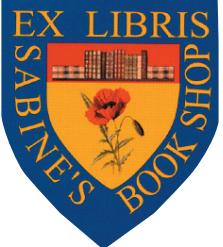
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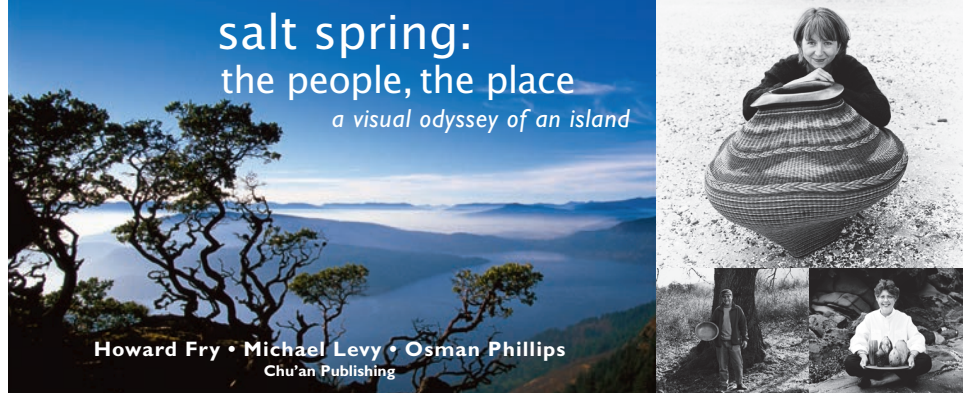
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Draw December 21st



Salt Spring Island CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Tel: 537-4223

*Receipts can total \$100/includes grocery receipts



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As well as fresh cut flowers and poinsettias from the floral dept.

We're ready for you! 537-1522

THRIFTY FOODS™
 Christmas is at our place.

RANTS

Rants to School District 64, which has failed to convince me and this community that a four-day school week is educational or financially sensible. There was no scheduled day for November 11, and another three and one-quarter day week for completion of report cards. Is less really more? Dan Harvey

Q: Why did the man dressed from head to toe in dark clothes leisurely cross the road in the rainy night?

A: He probably didn't care if a car hits him.

Please, people, wear bright clothes or a reflective vest when walking at night. I'm a fairly young and a careful driver but I'm still scared about hitting you all. E. Yeung

ROSES

A huge bouquet of roses to my wife Kathleen. You just turned 40 and you are

RANTS & ROSES

more beautiful than ever. You bring a smile to all you meet, especially the children you greet each day. Love, M

A dozen of the best for Dr. Jan Malherbe for his consistent care and caring. RO

Roses to my son Deva for being the best son a mom could ask for! Thanks for 12 years of growing and playing together! Happy birthday, from mom.

Roses to Henry and Betty Anne, and the many generations of Caldwells before them, for the excellent care and preservation of Walker's Hook. I am honoured to be a tenant on their island.

A bouquet of 12 long-stemmed red roses to all the wonderful donors and the

wonderful supporters of the SPCA auction. It was a great success.

A big bouquet of roses to Tim of Island Star Video for appearing in the nick of time at the Salt Spring Conservancy's rare plants talk to give us some technical assistance. You saved the day!

Roses to all members of the public and businesses of Salt Spring Island for supporting our poppy campaign by purchasing either a wreath or a poppy. We raised

over \$11,000, which will go to endeavours helping our veterans and families in time of need. JM

Apple blossoms and roses/ for all the poses/that Apple Photo doth print/ We scurry and hurry/but no need to worry/as into the printer we sprint. Thanks for all the quality help and great products. VT

I would like to give a long-stemmed rose to each volunteer — Sue Wood, Jackie Beehler and Kathryn Kusy-

szyn — for their help with our fundraiser last Saturday. Thank-you ladies. As well, a large bouquet of yellow roses to Cathy Stringer, who not only is there when I need her, but because she is my friend. I couldn't do it without any of you! M.

Ten dozen cedar and fir hand-carved roses to Dan, Henry and family for the true gift of warmth and love delivered to my door. Thanks so much. You have no idea how much that load of wood means to me.

Three sweetheart roses from Copper Kettle to Pam Miskey, Richard Krieger and Tina Kempling for conceiving and production of Maid on Salt Spring 2005 fundraiser calendar. Bouquets to all the maids too!



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Make a point this holiday season.

To celebrate another outstanding year, we're pleased to offer three term deposits, each with a great return on investment in the form of a superb percentage point.

What's more, every Island Savings term deposit is insured* so you can be assured you will never compromise your principal.

And because one good thing leads to another, we'd like to make a point about our commitment to the community by making a contribution to Christmas hampers in your community with every term deposit we sell.

So make a point to get a term deposit from Island Savings. And you'll make a point about the joy of giving this holiday season.

3.25% 90 DAY NON-REDEEMABLE
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More letters

Decisive message

Well, the 70 per cent of us who voted no to a Salt Spring Island incorporation are hopeful that Murray Coell, our MLA and Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, doesn't take a cavalier attitude towards our hard-won democratic victory over this nonsense.

Clearly our friends on Gabriola have sent a decisive message (87 per cent voted it down) about how islanders in general feel about importing more bureaucracy and so-called "self-governance"

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... the 30 per cent who voted for this option on Salt Spring should not be allowed to force us through this whole charade again!

I think Coell owes it to his constituents, especially the many who voted for you to honour the island's democratic voice.

When we say no I think we should be respected as having meant no! When we say yes to taxes we get tangible things like a pool, not the ensuing bureaucracy.

I also suggest that Mr. Coell researches the continued increasing tax burden that Bowen Islanders are experiencing. They were very helpful in defeating this issue on Salt Spring and will be called upon again to tell us how horrific this experiment has been to their sense of community.

Municipalities fail at the community level time and again for the simple reason that they replace community involvement by paradoxically taking power out of the community's hands, resulting in people sitting back and saying, "Hey, let them handle it — what are we paying our taxes for anyway?"

This sentiment evolves into leaving government influence to the special interests who have the time and money to buy into local governance. It is a corrupt system and everyone knows it. It's nobody's fault, it just doesn't work.

Municipalities are a victim of the way our litigious society has evolved, and the costs and burden of administration always outstrip the trickle-down economic benefits to the community.

I beseech Mr. Coell to reconsider and consider again, and then do it one more time before he wastes any more of our time and tax money on re-igniting this debate.

We now have the Gabriola vote to point to and solicit support from and those Salt Springers you met with in October by invitation-only were not representative of the rest of us!

Listen to our CRD director Gary Holman too! He is not an idiot, he knows the island.

PAUL MARCANO,
Salt Spring

Facts and fears

Arguments by IROCA against having reliable cell phone service at Ganges seem to be based on fears born of ignorance.

Honour thy fire board. Support the best interests of the community and not those of a misguided campaign.

Despite numerous revisions, the set of IROCA claims, now dated October 29, 2004, is still not true as the following four examples will show:

FEAR: "The health of members of this community — and particularly our children — is being threatened." In support of this claim, radio frequency electromagnetic radiation (RFR) experts were named, such as "Dr. Henry Lai, possibly the world's foremost authority on this subject."

FACT: Dr. Lai wrote, "It is apparent that not enough research data is available to

conclude whether exposure to RFR during normal use of mobile telephones could lead to any hazardous health effect." (See <http://www.wave-guide.org/library/lai.html>)

Note that under normal conditions the radio-wave field strength from the proposed cell-phone antenna would be in the order of a thousand times less than the local field generated by a mobile telephone.

FEAR: "Canadian regulations for cellular radiation . . . allow 500 times more radiation than many other countries."

FACT: On rare occasions the proposed cell phone antenna would develop an absolute maximum radio wave field strength, two metres above ground level, some 4,700 times below the safe limit set by Health Canada. Usually, the radio wave field strength would be more than 25,000 times below this safe limit.

FEAR: ". . . Potential negative effects of long-term, low-level exposure to MICROWAVE (emphasis added) radiation are extremely well documented . . ."

FACT: The proposed cell phone station would operate on a standard RADIO frequency channel. It is NOT microwave.

FEAR: "A full-scale, massive cell tower could be placed literally feet from your child's day care . . ."

FACT: There is no interest in "a full-scale massive cell tower." The Islands Trust jurisdiction is recognized and Islands Trust would not allow such a structure.

These four examples were taken from IROCA's local fear campaign and are typical of their hysterically exaggerated claims. Please don't be misled.

R.S. FRITH,
Salt Spring

Lunch with Bush

CBC Radio has been playing with the idea of a virtual lunch with George Bush. For your amusement, here is my proposal:

If I were to invite President George Bush to lunch I would want to include his wife Laura and my wife Birgit because women usually bring sensitivity and common sense to the table.

I would wear my conservative blazer and slacks with my World Wildlife Fund tie, but hiking shoes because I would propose a walk afterwards in an ecological reserve on Salt Spring Island. We would dine at one of our many, good local restaurants that serve organic options and I would suggest ordering wild-caught, local salmon. Dessert would be heritage apple pie with a no-trans-fat crust, an original recipe supplied by our daughter Sarah.

I would hope for an honest, candid conversation on the story behind the story of Enron, Carl Rove's technique to get Mr. Bush elected, the details of Mr. Cheney's secret meetings to set U.S. energy policy, as well as what was said at the secret meetings the president and vice-president had with the 9/11 commissioners. All of this would be in the strictest

of confidence, of course.

In view of the fact that his ranch is environmentally run and Laura's mother is a birder (she really is), I would want him to give his real motives for the hundreds of executive orders he signs (usually on Friday afternoons) which are destroying nature all over America.

In the spiritual department I would enquire how he squares his Christianity with his policies towards big business and warfare. My reading of the Bible sees Christ as opposed to the rich and money changers, as well as to killing and revenge.

If he wishes to reduce abortions I would suggest that he follows in the footsteps of Holland that has achieved the lowest abortion rate in the world through wise family planning and social policies.

I would also expect that he and Laura would be curious about Birgit and me and life on Salt Spring Island and so we would be glad to answer any questions he might have.

I might suggest that to protect his identity and my reputation he come in disguise.

ROBERT BATEMAN,
Salt Spring

Much to do

By the time this letter is published, Bush's visit to Canada will have passed.

Let's hope that the many vigils and protests organized to mark that visit will help ensure that the struggle for peace and justice will continue and grow rather than succumb to discouragement.

Recently, Jon Rainwater of California Peace Action wrote: "Despite the 51 per cent mandate claimed by the president on Election Day, we have obviously sent a clear message to Congress that bipartisan and grassroots opposition to nuclear weapons funding is strong."

Rainwater explained that Congress recently refused to approve funds for a new generation of nuclear weapons (through the Omnibus Appropriations Bill).

Canadians can help with this work. Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA) urges us to contact our MPs to insist they work to end the "Launch-On-Warning" status of U.S. and Russian nuclear missiles.

"The future of the human race is too important a matter to be decided in three minutes by military officers in the US or Russia."

We can also help get out information about what is really happening. For instance, even though Bush said the torture at Abu-Ghraib was un-American and would be dealt with, he appointed as attorney general one of the legal architects of this torture: Alberto Gonzales. As U.S. journalist Bob Koehler points out, this means we are turning "our own children . . . into war criminals."

Let's not leave the protection of our children and the earth we love in the hands of Bush and others whose political ideas would be laughable if they were not in power. There is much we can do, despite the obstacles.

JAN SLAKOV,
Deer Park Road



Christmas Carol Festival

Sunday December 5 at 3pm
Central Hall

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Please drop by for coffee, cake
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Owned & Operated by the Gulf Island Women's Resource Network

Banana Joe muffins to geezer soul food; Maggie's cookbook is 'truly Salt Spring'

By MURRAY RITCHIE

Special to the Driftwood
Salt Spring is famous for many things. From its temperate climate to the abundance of arts and artisans, many things make this island paradise unique, and none more so than the traditional Salt Spring potluck.

For decades folks have gathered during good times and bad to support one another and celebrate island life surrounded by good home-cooked meals.

Now, just in time for the holiday season, Maggie Warbey, the "uncontested Queen of Desserts," has published her first cookbook: *Maggie's Kitchen — Good Food Everyday Cookbook — Volume 1*.

What began as a weekly newspaper feature, *Maggie's Kitchen* has now been printed and ring bound into a delightful collection of great food recipes and island stories. Sharing over 50 creations from around the globe, Maggie has captured each and every one with a Salt Spring twist. There's everything from appetizers, soups and salads, including Maggie's own Deluxe Bean Salad Dressing, to vegetarian and seafood dishes (with apologies to Nimo), vegeta-



QUEEN OF DESSERTS: Maggie Warbey sits with her new book, *Maggie's Kitchen — Good Food Everyday Cookbook — Volume 1*, which offers a real taste of Salt Spring. Photo contributed

ble side dishes, breads and, of course, cakes and desserts. Those include cookies and bars, and a grand finale of tasty jams, sauces and other magic such as the Soul Food for a Geezer steak and kidney pie recipe as handed down from Arvid Chalmers' dearly departed mother (and modified by Maggie for a more modern appeal).

Each recipe is introduced by a story detailing the origin of the dish and the person or people who inspired it. While the collec-

tion is truly global, including instructions on creating such delights as Seneca's Thai Squash Soup and Sonora-style Enchilada, the flavour is truly Salt Spring with creations of blackberry custard tarts, blackberry glaze and, of course, blackberry and purple plum jam. And what Salt Spring Island cookbook would be complete without the Banana Joe Muffins?

From beginning to end this project has been home-grown. Printed on Salt Spring by Lightning Press,

the book also features line drawings by islander Leslie Corry with design and layout by Lynne Richardson and the forward written by Maggie MacCaffrey (Arvid Chalmers' best half).

Those who know Maggie Warbey know that the University of Victoria professor has two passions beyond teaching. One, of course, is the passion for good food and cooking for her friends and neighbours, and the other is for elephants. In joining the three passions, Maggie will donate 10 per cent of the net proceeds from the cookbook to the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee.

Books are now on sale at a cost of \$20 each and are available at The Waterfront Gallery, Love my Kitchen, Volume II Books, Pharmasave (uptown), Thunderbird Gallery and Thrifty Foods in Ganges.

For those who would like a personalized copy, Waterfront Gallery will host a book signing between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 4.

From the hearty to the healthy, this book is a must have for island kitchens and the food lovers on your Christmas list everywhere.

Irresistible shortbread recipes

I'm so obsessed with shortbread I have to hide it on myself. Here's a couple of recipes which are a little bit unusual — try and resist them for a couple of weeks so they ripen!

Classic Shortbread

1/2 lb. butter
1/2 c. icing sugar
1/2 c. cake flour
1/4 c. rice flour
1 1/4 c. all purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
Blend softened butter with icing sugar and salt til fluffy. Add rice flour and cake flour; blend.

Then add all-purpose flour slowly til the dough is soft.

Press into shortbread mold. Bake at 350 degrees til golden lightly.

Cool slightly; remove from mold. Roll in sugar, cut into wedges.

Prize Shortbread

2 c. all purpose flour
1 c. butter
1/2 c. icing sugar
1/2 tsp. salt

1/8 tsp. nutmeg
1 egg yolk

Blend sugar, salt, nutmeg and egg into softened butter. Add flour slowly, turn onto a floured board and knead til all flour is incorporated. Roll dough to quarter-inch thick and cut into shapes. Bake @350 degrees for 10 minutes.

LET'S EAT WITH LINDA KOROSCIL



CLASSIFIED
HOTLINE: 537-9933

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Coordinator: Sharon Glover 537-4607



December 2004

Arthritis Self-Management Course

Do you have arthritis? Is improving your health worth 12 hours of your time? Join our 6 week class of information and support in a friendly group to help you:

- understand your arthritis • learn to cope with pain
- take an active role in your own care

Led by Michelle Nadon and Judith Beaglehole, two well respected physiotherapists on the island
Thursday afternoons from 10 February Register now to ensure yourself a place! Call Sharon at 537-4607.

Important Support Service for Seniors!

Peer Support Program

Individual support is available free to seniors who need support emotionally or socially. Trained volunteer seniors will visit at home to listen and support. Do you, or a friend or relative, need this kind of caring? Please call 537-4607 for more information. This free confidential service is offered through Salt Spring Seniors Services.

Menopause Phone Support?

If you are interested in making phone connections with other women to discuss & problem-solve the challenges of menopause, please call Sharon at 537-4607. We are beginning to compile a list of women willing to support each other in this way.

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GIRL GUIDE GAMES: Angela Anderson leads a group of girls in some games at the Farmers Institute Saturday morning as a Girl Guides of Canada district rally gets under way. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Boardwalk Greens opening part of the shopping season

Christmas shoppers will be happy to hear that **Boardwalk Greens** opens on Saturday, December 4. That's the great little shop located near **Tree House** in Purvis Lane.

New business owner **Diane Nichol** is from Toronto and invites everyone to drop in. She'll feature lots of holiday treasures for Christmas plus one-of-a-kind botanical artworks. Welcome to Salt Spring.

It's great to see these new owners relocate to our community and we wish them all the best.

• **The Shop, Eat, Snack, Shop** promotion got off to a roaring start on Friday night. Free oyster bars, discounts, free gift wrapping and more are part of the fun of Friday night shopping at all

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

WITH PETER McCULLY

Mouat's Stores now through Christmas Eve.

Four restaurants — **Oystercatcher, La Cucina, Tree House and Shipstones** — are also involved.

• Families and grandparents should check out **Honey Pie** — **Gently Used Kids Clothing and Shoes** located in Fables Cottage at 120 Herford Avenue.

Thanks to Fables Cottage owners **Erin Porter** and **Mary Applegate**, Honey Pie business owners **Lisah Smith** and **Melissa Ollsin** were able to use the space that was once their craft room at the rear of the store.

“Erin, Mary and all the amazing staff at Fables have helped us achieve what was once just an idea and we feel very fortunate to be able to provide Salt Spring islanders with a quality consignment shop just for kids. The sizes range from newborn to five years and we are constantly getting in new stock. We are also always taking appointments for those with items to consign.”

Contact numbers are Melissa, 537-2127; and Lisah, 537-7058.

• **Curves manager Cheryl Leukefeld** is understandably proud of the charitable achievements of her Curves members this year. They've

raised a ton of food for the Salt Spring Food Bank; \$1,800 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation

on the Big Bike Ride; two boxes of school supplies for community house; raised \$1,000 in the Ssplash 10-K run; \$1,100 for the Breast Cancer Awareness cause; \$4,600 for Transition House through the second-annual auction and dinner event; and they participated in the Sea Capers parade.

• Salt Spring Islanders **Denise Heaton** and **Tony Richards** have launched a new magazine called **Just for B.C. Doctors**.

A glossy, standard-format publication, it's designed as a lifestyles magazine with a focus on travel, leisure and recreation.

Heaton, the magazine's publisher, is the wife of **Dr. Ken Heaton** and a former newspaper advertising manager.

Richards, the owner of **Driftwood Publishing Ltd.**, is the managing editor of **Just for B.C. Doctors**.

In the first issue, Salt Spring's Dr. Gerry Scott is featured for his painting hobby.

• The next **Business Breakfast Club** meeting is on Thursday, December 9 at the Oystercatcher — 8 a.m. “Discussing the successes of the past year and the challenges of the next” will be the topic.

IODE Christmas sale set for Dec. 8

On Wednesday, December 8, the HMS Ganges Chapter of the IODE will hold its annual Christmas auction

and bake sale in the lower hall of the Salt Spring United Church.

“This event has become a popular feature of the holiday season, when members donate items of use, beauty and interest to be auctioned, and contribute home-made cookies and cakes for sale,” said IODE communications officer Nancy Holcroft.

The local chapter of the IODE, which this year celebrates its 90th anniversary, is part of a national women's organization dedicated to raising funds for the benefit of children and adults in the community.

The event starts at 2 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

A donation to the food bank is requested as an admission fee.

GANGES CHRISTMAS LIGHT UP! THIS FRIDAY, DEC. 3RD

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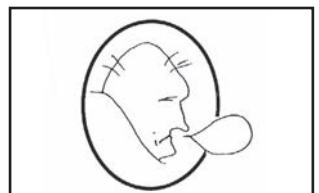
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- * **RECYCLE DEPOT:** Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am-5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.
- * **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- * **Emergency Mental Health Services available:** 4pm to midnight. Access is available through the Emergency Rm at Lady Minto Hospital call: 538-4840.

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Eight Branches Holistic Health Centre is a full-service, alternative health clinic, which caters primarily to locals, and is conveniently located in the heart of Ganges. We offer a range of services including Acupuncture/Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), Massage Therapy, Infrared Sauna, Reflexology, Shiatsu, and more.

The Infrared Sauna a form of deep-heat therapy is excellent for detoxification, pain relief or simple relaxation. Sessions are completely private and very affordable.

Acupuncture, acupressure and herbal therapy are the main treatment methods used by TCM Practitioners. Acupuncture has been shown to be effective in the treatment of many of conditions, including among others sciatica digestive disorders, allergies, fibromyalgia, arthritis, migraine, tendonitis, asthma, addiction, eczema, menstrual and menopausal issues. TCM, at Eight Branches, is practiced by Alinka Porebska, D.TCM, R.Ac. Alinka completed the 4-year program at the Nelson Academy of Oriental Sciences. Alinka combines her formal training and clinical expertise with great compassion and intuition for a comprehensive treatment.

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Gift Certificates are available for all of the services offered at Eight Branches, and make a wonderful, thoughtful gift. Holiday Specials are available now thru December 24th.

For more information about Eight Branches Holistic Health Centre, and all of the services we provide, visit www.8branches.ca, call us at 538-1701, or drop by 124 Lower Ganges (across from the Visitor Info Centre).

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World AIDS Day events today

December 1 is World AIDS Day, intended to bring the world's attention to the millions of women, children and men who are affected by HIV and AIDS.

SOLID, the Salt Spring Organization for Life Improvement and Development, is focussing this year's efforts on one of the most AIDS-afflicted areas on the planet, the Vaal Triangle of South Africa.

In 2002, a group of Salt Springers visited the Vaal and established a permaculture garden to provide healthy food for girls and women who might otherwise have to resort to transactional sex to eat. The garden also contributes to the effectiveness of antiretroviral drugs, as these medications will only work in a well-nourished person.

Today (Wednesday), a number of local businesses are participating in a fundraiser in which they will donate 16 per cent of their proceeds towards the maintenance and expansion of the Evaton West Community Garden.

"Your support of these committed local businesses is greatly appreciated," states a SOLID press release.

SOLID is also hosting a fundraising dinner and dance at Anise on December 1. Dinner tickets are available by calling SOLID at 537-8735. Everyone is welcome from 9 p.m. on to dance to the Toronto band Nine Mile, with entrance by donation. "Dance for seeds, sprouts and salads," urges SOLID.

International AIDS day at Salt Spring schools is being

observed in many ways. At Gulf Islands Secondary, the students are conducting a supply drive, to gather notebooks, pens and pencils, erasers and other supplies required by children in Africa to attend school.

High school students are also conducting weekly coffee sales and organizing concessions at various Art-Spring events as a way to generate money to send to a sister school.

At Salt Spring Island Middle School, the students are also conducting a supply drive, and have already organized a lunch-time dance to fundraise for the African students.

In Fulford, students are collecting Change for Change, and at the Salt Spring Centre School, the students are

having an "African Day" on December 1, creating artwork, doing African dances, and selling second-hand books to gather funds.

Wrapping up the week, on Sunday, December 5, SOLID is hosting a contemplative walk at the Salt Spring Centre.

Participants are invited to silently walk a path of thousands of crosses arranged in the shape of Africa. The trail is open to the public from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and SOLID will provide hot chocolate, tea and coffee.

This will be a beautiful event to end a week of community solidarity.

For information about any of these events or about SOLID, you can visit the website at www.solidssalt-spring.com.

Three head to AIDS front lines in Africa

A group of Salt Springers is gearing up for a journey to Africa as volunteers on the front lines of the AIDS pandemic.

They are members of SOLID, an organization devoted to fighting the AIDS pandemic through grassroots development work.

Local pharmacist Anna Callegari will travel to Africa in February and March to participate in patient care work in Evaton West and Lesotho.

"The challenge of under-funding for antiretroviral therapy remains a critical issue in the care of HIV

patients, and much work needs to be done in the education of community health workers on the use of AIDS treatment medicines," said a SOLID press release.

Callegari will join the team of physicians, nurses and pharmacists currently working in Lesotho under the Ontario Health Associations' African Initiative.

In January, Sarah Kostiw is off to Kenya and Ethiopia, to raise awareness and funds for coffee communities dealing with HIV.

Coffee is the second-largest traded commodity in the world, after oil, and Ethiopia

has the second-largest number of HIV infections in the world, after South Africa.

As coffee makes up between 50 and 90 per cent of East Africa's national exports, and the HIV prevalence among coffee producers is so high, Kostiw will help facilitate social responsibility in coffee companies and their consumers around the world.

Gail Meyer goes to Kenya in January to work as a volunteer with the African Canadian Continuing Education Society (ACCES). ACCES runs an HIV/AIDS education program, primary

education program (funding eight schools), post-secondary scholarship program and business loans program. ACCES strives to help other people to help themselves; provides equal opportunity for both women and men; does not seek to change or interfere with another culture; and has no religious affiliations. Meyer believes that education is the key to fighting HIV/AIDS and poverty in Africa.

Anyone wanting to get in touch with these three women who are raising funds for their journeys should call SOLID at 537-8735.

Did you know?

As part of the 100th Anniversary of Rotary International, the Sidney, Brentwood Bay and Sidney By the Sea Rotary Clubs donated furnishings and decor for the 10 rooms in the new Palliative Care Unit of the Saanich Peninsula Hospital.

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Contemplative walk part of activities

On Sunday, December 5th, SOLID (Salt Spring Organization for Life Improvement and Development) is hosting a contemplative walk at the Salt Spring Centre on Blackburn Road.

This will be the last of several HIV/AIDS awareness events scheduled for the week around World AIDS Day, which is December 1.

According to a SOLID press release, the walk's purpose is "to bring people together in a spirit of mind-

ful contemplation, and to raise both collective and personal awareness around the HIV/AIDS crisis."

Participants are invited to silently walk a path of thousands of crosses arranged in the shape of Africa: the continent that has lost more than 14.8 million of its people to the virus; the continent with more than 14 million orphans. The crosses represent the 8,000 people that will die from AIDS on that day.

A \$10 suggested donation for Sunday's walk will go to the Evaton West Community Garden, in South Africa, a project that receives ongoing support from SOLID.

The trail will be open to the public from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and SOLID will provide hot chocolate, tea, coffee and snacks at the information booth between noon and 3.

People should bring warm clothing and waterproof gumboots.

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Mariners relax in style with hand-built boat

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

That old Black Magic has Bill and Donna Egeland caught in its spell.

Though the local couple has retired from decades of boat building and commercial fishing, they couldn't resist the tingle of building one more vessel, a sleek pleasure cruiser this time, with an aim to revisit their favourite fishing haunts.

"This is still a work boat. We're just not going to work very hard," said Bill dryly.

"This one is pure fun," agreed Donna.

Bill built the aluminum-hulled, 60-foot Black Magic III from scratch in an old shop on Musgrave Road starting in the winter of 2000. Moreover, he constructed the boat without formal plans.

"He just sort of wings it. Don't ask me how he does it," Donna said.

But Bill did make a series of drawings and a three-foot model, she noted.

"I watched him do it and I'm still amazed," said Donna.

They didn't set out to build a vessel. When the Egelands decided to retire from fishing and get a pleasure boat, they started looking around with an eye to buy. But Bill kept drawing over plans in the yachting magazines.

"I knew it was going to be another boat-building project," she said. "He's got a knack for seeing what makes it look good."

And the Black Magic III is a testament to his sense of design that weaves the practical with the elegant.

"It's easy because you don't need to make anything straight," Bill grinned.

The narrow, black-painted hull cuts a dagger-like image on the outside but still provides surprisingly roomy berths within.

"As far as wiring and electrical and all of that, it's as



ENCHANTMENT: Boat builders Donna and Bill Egeland are casting the final charms on their new pleasure craft, the Black Magic III in Ganges Harbour.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

simple as it gets. If it breaks, it's gas or a dead battery," Bill said. "With modern yachts, if it breaks, you need to call in a computer expert."

And since the boat is equipped with two 400-horsepower Yanmar diesels, the Black Magic III isn't likely to spin like a leaf that's caught in the tide.

"The engines are just for resale. People seem to want all this power these days. We'll be cruising at half throttle," Bill said.

Incorporating work-boat practicality with their relaxing style, they built a wheelhouse-galley cabin that includes two captain's chairs (to avoid arguments), a handmade oval teak table and elegant appliances.

For added touches, they had local artist Jerry Ringrose embellish glass works and carpenter Roger Donnelly do interior woodwork with teak, cherry and cedar.

"It will be scary to get this dirty," Donna laughed.

Bill credited his wife with the jet-black finish of the exterior paint job.

has 30 years of experience that seems to claim otherwise.

His first boat was the 62-foot Westerly, a steel trawler that still plies West Coast waters after it was built from scratch in 1973.

"It was cheaper than buying a boat at the time," said Bill.

"It was cheaper but it wasn't easier," noted Donna.

They launched the 40-foot Nor-Star in 1986 after constructing the boat for two and a half years.

When they sold the Nor-Star to a friend, Bill recalls the fisherman was delighted with the straightforward quality of design.

"He said, 'This is just like running my truck. You jump in, turn the key and go.'"

And the last they heard, the Nor-Star was still working out of Prince Rupert.

While building the Black Magic III, the Egelands kept their hands in the commercial fishery when they took a three-month break to build a 20-foot aluminum crabbing boat.

They continued crabbing over the last four years until January.

"We seemed to have got it backwards. We went from a 60 foot, to a 40 foot to a 20 foot," Bill smiled.

He's happy he got out of the fishing business when he did.

"We fished the good years. We worked hard, made lots of money and had lots of fun."

It's barely worth going fishing these days, he said.

"Thirty years ago, you got a dollar a pound for pinks. Now it's 15 cents. It's totally backwards."

And a licence can be worth more than a boat, he said.

"Fishing just got too complicated."

Now they want to return to some of their favourite fishing spots with a couple of rods instead of seine nets.

"We'll just catch fish to eat," Donna said.

And once the Egelands start cruising around local waters next year, Bill doesn't plan to entertain more thoughts as a shipwright.

"This is it. I'm not building another."

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6:20 am	7:10 am*
8:00 am*	9:00 am
10:00 am	11:00 am
12:00 noon	1:00 pm
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6:00 pm	7:00 pm
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x 8:00 am	8:30 am
9:00 am	# 9:30 am
10:00 am	11:10 am
11:40 am	12:10 noon
n 12:40 pm	1:10 pm
1:40 pm	2:15 pm
3:00 pm	3:30 pm
u 4:00 pm	4:30 pm
5:00 pm	5:30 pm
6:00 pm	6:30 pm
7:00 pm	8:10 pm
8:40 pm	9:10 pm
9:40 pm	10:05 pm
+10:35 pm	+11:05 pm

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



FOOTBALL STARS: Among Salt Spring football players honoured at an awards event last week were, from left, Ian Barrett, Oliver Schnare, Braeden Simmonds, Taylor Stibbards, Travis Bantel, Steve Portingale, Alex Hanna and Mike Windsor. Photos by Derrick Lundy

Youth players munch on football awards

Salt Spring football players huddled to honour their best during an awards ceremony at the Community Gospel Church on November 23.

Among the junior-varsity Scorpions from Gulf Islands Secondary School, Travis Bantel won the most-valuable-player award

(MVP), Taylor Stibbards was recognized for best offence contributions, Mike Windsor tackled a best defence award and Mike Shipley earned the best lineman award.

Additionally the Scorpions celebrated John Foley Jr. with the unsung hero award.

The junior bantam Slayers, featuring players from Salt Spring Island Middle School, gave their MVP award to Ian Barrett.

Miles Raposo collected best offence yardage, Braeden Simmonds hit the mark for best defensive player and Oliver Schnare dug in for best lineman.

Grid-iron Slayer Roy Banks-Bywater earned the Slayers' unsung hero award.

Converting for an added treat, the players gave chocolate footballs and gift certificates to Scorpions coaches John Foley and Doug Mitchell, and Slayers coaches Bill Barrett and John

Raposo.

Mitchell, an ex-CFL player, was particularly happy to get the chocolate because it is normally forbidden to him, said parent supporter Chris Bywater.

"Apparently, you can win two Grey Cups, but you don't get chocolate," Bywater grinned.

Lakehill lances Dragons in Sunday match

Suffering a 9-0 blow from Lakehill United on Sunday, the Salt Spring Dragons are mending their scales so they can soar to their full potential.

"It's definitely tough to lose by that much," said player/manager Joanne O'Connor.

"I'm confident our team can play better. It's just a matter of connecting and making it happen."

The team just needs to start scoring goals, O'Connor said.

"As a team, I'm confident we will win. It's just a matter of time."

The loss to Lakehill needs to be taken in perspective since they are one of the top teams in the division, she said.

"They've got perfect passing and communication and

they just ping it around."

Winless so far this season, the Dragons are still trying to find their playing style after they were promoted to Division 2, she said.

"Every game is different for us because every team plays differently and we're working on just sorting ourselves out. And then, every time we face a different team, we have to re-assess

how we're playing."

O'Connor found some success to build on from Sunday's match at Braefoot Park.

"We had a couple of shots directly on their net that their goalie scooped up, so that was good."

Salt Spring also held Lakehill to two goals in the first half, which was no mean feat against such a potent team.

"A lot of our work was to try and jockey them and force them to the outside. And that was working a lot of the time."

The Dragons will get a chance to test their efforts when they return to Braefoot Park to face Lakehill Heat on Sunday.

SOCCER KICKS

Pony-tail luck brought a stunning 10-2 win for the U10 Salamander girls against their Gordon Head counterparts at Lambrick Park Saturday.

In a blistering display of passing skill and determined offence, Ruby Barnard, Una Conradi, and Kimberly Rothwell scored two goals each, and Kayla Pultke scored four.

An unstoppable Pultke also gave an impressive performance in net for the first half.

Creating several assists with drives up the wing, Harianna Brooks (with her charmed pony-tail hat) took

Salt Spring's net for the second half and continued to help offence with her saves and strong passing.

Both Melissa Roach and Maya Dammel-Sherin broke away from their favoured defensive positions to help scoring with great attacks.

• On Saturday, Salt Spring's U14 boys tied the Juan de Fuca pool-2 silver team 1-1.

James Cameron, assisted by Cayce Fedberg, scored the tying goal from outside the 18-yard line with about 20 seconds left in the game.

The team, which has lost only one match in the first 11 of the season, was missing some key players in last weekend's game. The team's trademark is determination and to "never surrender."

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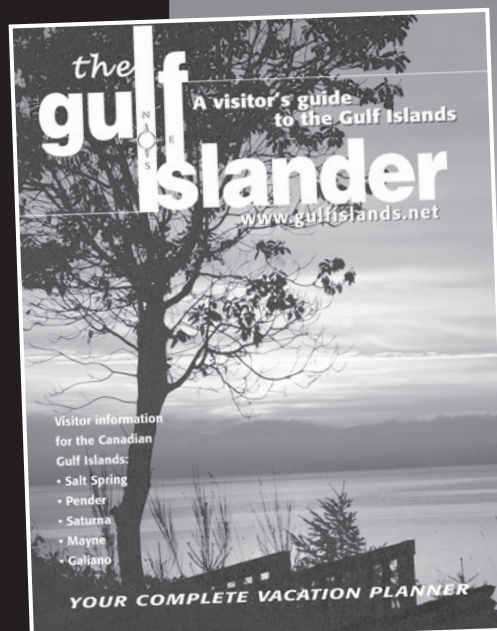
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We are preparing the 2005 edition in a new improved and glossy format. Publication date: March 2005.

Old Boys' shot on goal reminiscent of World Cup controversy in 1966

By FRASER HOPE

Special to the Driftwood
Salt Spring Old Boys' 4-2 loss to Prospect Lake Saturday saw a replay of the 1966 World Cup final controversy between England and West Germany.

During the 1966 game, the Swiss referee awarded a goal to England after consulting with his Russian linesman when a Geoff Hurst shot hit the crossbar and came out — the only time that all Scots have agreed with German Soccer fans — the ball did not cross the line!

In the Old Boys match, Lyle "Hurst" Brown took a shot from 25 yards that came off the crossbar and, by the backspin and all laws of physics known to man, must have crossed the line

for a Salt Spring goal.

Unfortunately our referee was not Swiss, our assistant referee was not Russian and, in the gloom of Adam Kerr Park, no goal was awarded.

Photographer John Cameron, where were you when definitive digital evidence was needed?

Despite the non-goal, it was a spirited and well-played game, which saw Old Boys "prospects" dimmed by a 4-2 defeat at the feet of Prospect Lake.

The Old Boys fought back after a disastrous start, losing a goal in the first attack from Prospect Lake to take a 2-1 lead into the interval.

Good defensive play and intelligent lead-up play generated a fine goal from sharpshooter Mike McCormick.

Old Boys added to their score when Campbell Blair, using all his golfing skill and technique, crossed in a fine ball with a little fade and draw which came off the woodwork for Dave Norget to alertly head home for the lead.

In the second half, a quick series of goals gave Prospect a 3-2 lead that, despite constant pressure by the Old Boys, they added to with a late goal when Salt Spring strove forward seeking the tying goal.

Mike Davis went for a long, powerful run, which ended with Antonio Alonso narrowly missing Davis' cross to the far post.

Old Boys had difficulty coping with the inconsistent lighting at Kerr field and

missed the services of Kerry Walker, who pulled a muscle in the first half.

Mention must be made of Dennis Shaw and his performance in goal.

It takes a great deal to follow John Oblati's role in net, but after a horrendous first few minutes, Dennis performed when it was needed in difficult conditions for a goalkeeper.

Old Boys had several chances to score in both halves, which would have made the "Hurst Brown" goal academic, but they came up short while Prospect scored on four of their five or six chances.

The Old Boys next play Sooke United at the high school field at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Environmental Update

Rainy Days

November marks the start of our rainy season. Rainwater flows across rooftops, lawns, driveways, sidewalks, streets, and parking lots. It crosses playing fields, golf courses, agricultural land and construction sites. Along the way the water can pick up litter and pet wastes, sediments and dirt, fertilizers and pesticides, automotive fluids and paint residues, among other things. It is no longer just plain rainwater; it's stormwater.

In urban areas, stormwater flows into storm drains and then travels through underground pipes to the nearest stream. In rural areas, it seeps directly into the soil and becomes part of ground water. Most stormwater goes untreated.

Contaminated stormwater is one of the largest sources of pollution of our fresh and saltwater systems. Bacteria and pathogens from failing septic systems, poor agricultural practices and domestic animal wastes can create community health issues. Besides being unsightly, litter can block drains and cause flooding. Washed-off fertilizers and sediments can destroy aquatic habitat and hazardous wastes like pesticides, paint, and used motor oil can poison aquatic life.

Stormwater contamination is even more of a concern during the wet season due to increased volume and speed of runoff. However, most stormwater contamination can easily be prevented. Here's what you can do this winter to protect our storm drain systems and keep our waters clean:

Around Your Yard

- ▶ Rake up your yard waste and leaves and compost them or get them picked up.
- ▶ Use natural gardening methods instead of pesticides and fertilizers.
- ▶ Cover piles of soil, sand or mulch to stop them from being washed down drains.
- ▶ Build barriers around your garden beds to contain the soil.
- ▶ Plant vegetation where soil is exposed to avoid erosion and sedimentation.

Around your Home

- ▶ Recycle or properly dispose of household hazardous products.
- ▶ Dispose of litter in the garbage.
- ▶ If you have a septic system, get it inspected and pumped every three to five years.
- ▶ Where possible use permeable pavement or stepping stones rather than traditional concrete or asphalt.

Around Your Car

- ▶ Maintain your car regularly and fix leaks immediately.
- ▶ Use a commercial car wash or service station car washing bay to clean your car. (These facilities are required to treat wastewater from their facilities)
- ▶ When washing your car, place the vehicle on a grassy area or over gravel if possible.
- ▶ Use environmentally friendly car wash detergents.

There are increasing concerns about the quality of our stormwater. The good news is that we can prevent most stormwater pollution — before the next rainy day. If you would like to learn more about the CRD Integrated Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds program, please contact:

stormwater@crd.bc.ca

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Day 6 \$6,000	
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LOOKING FOR THE BIG ONE: Andy Fournier and Sandy Chess fish for bass in St. Mary Lake on a recent weekend as part of a Westcoast Bass Anglers Association competition. The island lake was the final in a series of B.C. fishing holes.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



Classified Ads start on Page B18

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Div 5 men grind Gorge team

Salt Spring FC's Division-5 men whisked-up a 5-0 victory against an appetizer-sized Gorge squad at Portlock Park Sunday.

"We were just all over them, all over them and all over them. Finally they got popped in," said coach/player Chris Griffiths.

Tyler Dakin scored the first goal off a scuffle in front of the net when Jude Shugar, "the new kid," scored the second tally before the half, Griffiths said.

"They were just scrambles in front of the net. That's

how a lot of our goals were scored."

Playing an energetic game, Tom Berry curled a 22-yard free kick low into the far corner to beat the keeper.

"It was just placed in the right spot. That was the only real shot that went through."

Zoltan Kodaly scored off a cross when Colin McDougall unselfishly left the ball, Griffiths said. McDougall then cleaned up to round out Salt Spring scoring. For highlight play, Roben Doobenen played a helpful role on left back and Cameron Sweet

dominated the midfield.

"Cameron had a whole bunch of shots on goal. There were lots of 'oohs and aaahs,' but he didn't ripple the mesh."

An undermanned Gorge squad couldn't keep up with the islanders because they didn't have substitute players, Griffiths said. But the visitors kept good spirits.

"They were pretty cheerful, even after the game. It was a really friendly game."

The Div. -5 men next play Sooke United at Fred Milne Field on Sunday.

Slayers drop finale to Nanaimo

By CHRIS BYWATER
Driftwood Contributor

The Slayers junior bantam football team ordered a season-finale platter with the works last Saturday, but the Nanaimo Renegades just wouldn't deliver.

Nanaimo opened the game by running the ball into solid tackling from Ian Barrett and Oliver Schnare, but the Renegades finally broke through the middle for a touchdown.

Salt Spring cranked up its patented battering-ram running game with Miles Raposo, Stuart Garside and Barrett, and drove all the

way to the Renegades' six-yard line, but the islanders couldn't break in.

Garside was forced to the sideline due to an injury from practice, but Braeden Simmonds stepped up and delivered a big tackle, popped the ball loose and recovered it.

Minus a running back, Salt Spring stalled at mid-field and the Renegades went to the end zone during a confused call that caused the Slayers to stop playing.

Salt Spring juggled its line-up in the second half but couldn't get back on track.

The Renegades took two more drives to the end zone for a 27-0 final.

Selects sampler reigns over Renegades

Even when outnumbered, the Salt Spring Selects proved a dominating adversary against the Renegades at Stelly's Secondary School Saturday.

The women's Division-3 islanders won 5-2 even though they started with only nine players and were reduced to eight by an injury during the game.

"It was a good challenge for the girls," said coach Dave McColl.

"We played with eight for quite a big chunk of the game."

For highlights, Thea Wood must have had six break-aways, Joelle Morrison had a great goal off a shot from 25-30 yards and Jordan Davignon scored a couple of headers, he said.

"The first half, we played quite strong and then not having the full team started to kick in near the end of the second half."

The islanders' feat was not unprecedented. During the first game of the season, the Selects beat Peninsula by 10-0, starting with only eight players, and reduced to seven by injury. With Sunday's win, the Selects finished the first half of their season undefeated to take the top of the division. Though they are hoping to organize an exhibition match, the Selects will now have a break from scheduled play until January.

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Bays Blue drops ball to FC in 3-1 match

Even a sucker punch couldn't stop Jordan Haenen from scoring the first goal in Salt Spring FC's 3-1 victory over Bays United Blue Saturday.

"Our first goal was off a free kick and Jeremy Morrison crossed it in . . . It flicked off one of the defenders to Jordan Haenen," said FC player Dave McColl.

"He went up with the keeper and he got to it just before the keeper and then the keeper gave him a two-handed punch to the head.

But we scored, so that's all right."

Haenen seemed unfazed by the blow and went on to play a great game, McColl said.

"In the second half we scored a couple of strange goals. It was weird because their keeper is so good."

Bays keeper Dan Kilpatrick has played for the Canadian National team in his age group.

But he didn't seem to be on his game against Salt

Spring on Saturday.

"The two that went in, the goalie went up, he had the ball cleanly and then he dropped it."

Tom Berry, called up from FC's Div.5 squad, was standing in the right spot to capitalize on one goal, while Harrison Jason touched another dropped ball to sink the third island tally, McColl said.

"I don't even think [Jason] kicked it into the net. I think he ran it in. Those are the two strangest goals I think

I've seen so far."

The match against Bays was characteristically tough but the islanders weren't shy either.

"There was a lot of rough stuff. That's fine. We can take that."

Now that Salt Spring FC has settled into Div. 1, other teams are learning to play a different style against the islanders, McColl said.

"They used to play us with a lot of nice passing . . . Now they are trying to go up the middle. I can't figure it out

because our defence is so big and strong but it works for us; so we're pretty happy about it."

FC will play one of their toughest adversaries when they face Gorge at Portlock Park at 2:15 p.m. December 5.

"This game is huge. We haven't beaten Gorge yet. We've tied them but we've never beaten them. It was the same thing with Powell River and we finally beat them this year. So hopefully we can step up to the plate."

HIGH ROLLERS

Recent high scores in Kings Lane bowling league play were:

Special Olympics, Mon., Nov. 15: Jimmy Beck, 144; Carlos Manzano, 151; Mahjor Bains, 163, 165; Stuart Elliott, 163; Jason Newport, 191, 175.

Circus League, Mon. Nov. 15: Lance Leask, 218, 235/620; Don McMahon, 228.

Tuesday p.m. Seniors, Nov. 16: Carol Kaye, 200; Marg Farup, 212; Jim Glenn, 209; Henry Otto, 217; Roger Blount, 235; Ken Robinson, 215.

Special Olympics, Wed., Nov. 17: Stuart Elliott, 143; Terry Swing, 148; Mahjor Bains, 167; Jimmy Beck, 184; Carlos Manzano, 173.

Mon., Nov. 22: Becky Clair, 145; Carlos Manzano, 155; Jimmy Beck, 160, 156; Terry Swing, 170; Jason Newport, 231; Mahjor Bains, 234, 199.

Wed., Nov. 24: Mahjor Bains, 177; Dominic George, 165; Carlos Manzano, 153.

Tuesday p.m. Seniors, Nov. 23: Jim Glenn, 202; Roger Blount, 213; Henry Otto, 203; Reg Winstone, 224; Carol Kaye, 236, 208.



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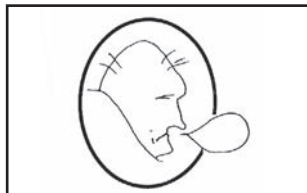
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BRIDGE TRICKS

On November 15, John Jefferson and Brent Vickers were first, followed by Ron Hall and Bob Morrisette. Third were George Laundry and Conhor Vane-Hunt. On November 22, it was Jefferson and Vickers in front, then came the Laundrys, and third were Isabelle Richardson and Jean Elder.



MAKING THE RIGHT MOVES: Danny Chamblin spends a sunny lunch break at the new skatepark on Kanaka Road. johncameron.ca

Photography
www.johncameron.ca
537-5873

SIMS volleyball girls serve some big wins amid tough play

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Two girls volleyball teams from Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS) rose to the challenge of high-calibre tournament play Thursday.

While the Grade 8s posted a third-place finish in Chemainus, the Grade 6-7s spiked a win at a 10-team tourney in Lake Cowichan.

"They steamrolled through round-robin play and even snuck in an extra match," said Grade 6-7 co-coach Daphne Taylor.

SIMS took the Central Vancouver Island tourney with seven straight wins, Taylor said.

"They all served and were stellar at serve receiving. They stayed focused and they were determined to have a lot of fun," she said.

During a tied final against Quamichan, Grade 6 player Sarah Keenan even made a "tide-turning play" at the net.

"One of our girls played it off the net while the other team was celebrating what they thought was a finished

point. We got that point and the next two and that was that."

Grade 8 SIMS girls won two games and lost two, but competition was very close, said coach Mike Miles.

"It was the luck of the serve, really," Miles said. "If you served it and got it in, you won."

The islanders only lost games by 26-24 and 25-20, he said.

"They were progressing and there were some good rallies, some of the best rallies we've had."

The Chemainus event was the first exposure to a big-tourney experience for many of the players, he said.

"Getting off-island and getting those butterflies out of the way was really good."

He credits parent support from Taylor, Jacqueline Ingram, Karen Hillis, Karen Hosie and Julie Sweetnam, who assisted the volleyball program for girls in Grade 6-8.

"Without the parents, we can't run these programs."

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