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Issue 49**

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**THIS WEEK'S
INSERTS**

- Thrifty Foods
- Ganges Village Market
- Ganges
- Mark's Work
- Pharmasave
- Mout's Home Hardware

**MORTGAGE QUESTIONS?
... ask Arlene**



**Lighting up
the season**

Christmas decorating winners are named following the Driftwood's annual business Light-up contest. Page B1

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Weather

Cloudy with a chance of showers today (Wednesday) will turn to a mix of sun and cloud for the rest of the week and through the weekend. Highs to 6 C (Friday); overnight lows to 1 C most nights.

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SANTA SUNSHINE: Children of all ages were on hand at the coast guard dock to greet Santa after he flew in with Salt Spring Air's St. Clair McColl. Santa then set up at the Bank of Montreal to meet with the kids and pose for photographs. The event was part of the annual Driftwood-sponsored Light-up festivities. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Alcohol suspected in fatal weekend crash

By **SEAN MCINTYRE**
Staff Writer

A man is dead and a Salt Spring Island firefighter is recovering following a tragic weekend collision on Upper Ganges Road.

New Salt Spring RCMP Sgt. Danny Willis confirmed a vehicle driven by a 36-year-old male from the Comox Valley area veered into the opposite lane and collided head on with the Salt Spring Fire Department's Ford Expedition command vehicle shortly after 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Fire captain Jamie Holmes

said there was little he could do to avoid colliding with the oncoming vehicle as it crested the hill in his lane near the 200 block of Upper Ganges Road near Churchill Road.

"I tried to veer off to the side, but there just wasn't enough time or room," said Holmes Monday afternoon.

He said he was not responding to an emergency call at the time and confirmed both he and the other driver were travelling well within the speed limit.

"Basically, I was just driving home and the other car

just crossed over the centre line," said the 10-year veteran firefighter.

"Since the fire department vehicle is quite a bit larger, it was only partially damaged in comparison to the other vehicle, which was pretty much totalled."

Holmes called for assistance and got out of his vehicle to provide what help he could, but the other driver had died upon impact.

Emergency crews blocked the road until 10 p.m. due to the crash investigation.

CRASH A2

Two girls hit at intersection

By **GAIL SJUBERG**
Staff Writer

When Bob Funk of Pender Island scanned the route his daughter Nadia would be walking to Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS)

for the first time last year, he was not impressed — he was alarmed.

He saw a poorly marked and dangerous crosswalk at Rainbow and Lower Ganges roads, a view-obstruct-

ing hedge at the intersection, cars parked on Rainbow Road shoulders and otherwise narrow walking paths, and way too many cars whizzing by.

PEDESTRIANS A3

Red tape snags Santa Ship pipers

By **MITCHELL SHERRIN**
Staff Writer

Whether they've been naughty or nice, bagpipers from Pender Island might still be joining Santa for a Christmas visit to Salt Spring this year.

Jim Dunlop of the Pender Highlander Pipe Band believed his group's annual Christmas trip to the island aboard the U.S.-flagged Santa Ship would be cancelled because of new anti-terrorism regulations.

"It's because of Homeland Security in the States. They've been instructed to not take any — I'd guess you'd call us foreigners — on an American vessel when they are in Canadian waters," Dunlop said.

As captain of the Santa Ship and chairman of the Bellingham Lions Christmas Ship program that provides transportation for Santa to the San Juan and Gulf islands, Don Wight also heard that Homeland Security had concerns about transportation of Canadians aboard U.S. vessels around the Gulf Islands.

"We can't have anybody getting on the boat and getting off again. That's because they're afraid that people would get on the boat, carry bombs on, set them on there and get off again."

Homeland Security measures have been growing at an alarming rate in the last few years, Wight said.

"They've been coming in since the 9/11 incident. They just keep making up new ones and making up new ones."

SANTA SHIP A2

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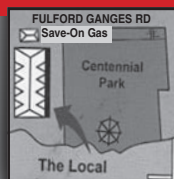
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SANTA SHIP

From Page A1

But Wight doesn't want to rock the boat by complaining to Homeland Security about how the issue affects the Santa visit.

"We don't want to do anything to get them upset because then they'll go to the customs people and shut us off."

Mike Milne from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office (which operates under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security) is not concerned about Pender pipe band movements within Canada.

"It's not our issue. We're not the Grinch here. It didn't come from us," Milne said.

The customs officer also spoke to the port director in Bellingham, who has no knowledge of a problem between Canadian bagpipers and Santa on U.S. vessels.

"They said they do everything they can to accommodate them."

It turns out that Homeland

"It wouldn't be an issue about them playing bagpipes, it would have to do more with transporting them . . ."

Security won't restrict travel of paramilitary organizations armed with chanters, kilts and pressurized bladders within Canada.

"We wouldn't have any influence over who they pick up or don't pick up in Canadian waters," Milne said.

While the U.S. Maritime Transportation Security Act requires vessels to report to regulated ports with security plans, vessels can move within foreign countries including Canada without restrictions, said Lt. Commander Rick Rodriguez of the U.S. Coast Guard.

"Between Canada and the U.S., they have this agreement that the ship would arrive in a regulated facility that would have secu-

rity measures and a plan approved in accordance with the host country."

But he didn't believe Pender pipers had been profiled as a threat to U.S. security and suggested that the Canadian Border Services Agency might have some answers.

"It wouldn't be an issue about them playing bagpipes, it would have to do more with transporting them within Canada from point to point," said Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) spokesperson Janis Ferguson.

She noted that a U.S. company would have to adhere to cabotage regulations that restrict transportation of passengers within Canada. But

Fergusson was uncertain if trade regulations from the Canada Shipping Act would apply to a non-commercial venture.

"We would have to look into the specific circumstances and regulations that would apply in this case," she said.

However, the Victoria office of the CBSA was familiar with the 55-year-old Santa Ship program and they decided to take action once they heard there was a problem as a result of the Driftwood inquiry on Tuesday, Ferguson said.

"They are aware it's happened in the past and they don't have any issue with it. So they will be proactive and contact the organizers to ensure that there is no problem."

So there might even be 11 or so Pender pipers piping on Salt Spring with Santa on Saturday after all — which seems an appropriate ending to a Christmas story.

CRASH

From Page A1

Willis said alcohol may have led the driver to lose control and veer into the opposite lane. He added that dark and wet driving conditions could also have been a factor in the accident.

"Right now it's all speculation," he said. "The coroner is investigating the exact

cause of death and the accident reconstruction team came over from the mainland."

Test results are expected in three to four weeks, he said.

The RCMP is withholding the deceased's identity until his next of kin are notified.

They could not confirm why he was visiting Salt Spring Island.

Holmes is recovering at home and expects to resume duties as soon as possible. He is amazed that he was able to walk away from the accident virtually unharmed.

"The biggest thing that I've learned from this experience is how important it is to get air bags and use a seat belt," he said.

Holmes was taken to hospital after the accident as a precautionary measure, but was released that same evening.

"I'd always heard stories of airbags malfunctioning, but from my perspective, the only reason I don't have any major injuries is thanks to the airbags," he said.

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TILE EXCHANGE: Gulf Islands Secondary School students, left to right, Jordan Wilson, Amber Rowse-Simmons, Michelle McBride, Cassandra Storey and Emma Webber hold multi-media tiles they've created as part of an exchange with children in Lesotho. The event took place on World AIDS Day. *Photo by Shari Macdonald*

Ice park society ready to issue arena surveys

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Beginning on December 14, the Salt Spring Ice Park Society (SIPS) will seek answers to a series of questions aimed at testing the public mood for constructing an ice rink on Salt Spring Island.

At a meeting held last week, SIPS' Dwight Jones said issuing surveys in the Driftwood is the most cost effective way to measure the public's attitude about a local arena.

Though support has been relatively low key thus far, he said, group members are optimistic islanders will rally behind the prospect of an arena once the survey is made available.

"These things tend to stir the pot and once you get enthusiasm building around the national game it reaches a certain pitch," he said.

Jones acknowledged the community is currently under pressure to complete several different facilities, but said there's no better time to construct an indoor rink next to the Rainbow Road Recreation Centre.

"Many things are constricting plans to move ahead, but there is no use waiting for a soft spot while the land is available," he said.

Freshly re-elected region-

al director Gary Holman said building the arena may sound like a great idea, but SIPS members will need to demonstrate the public is not only interested in the project but also ready to support it financially.

"Personally, I would love to have an ice rink, but the real question is about the community's best interests," Holman said.

He suggested SIPS remain open to a public-private partnership whereby user fees or private sponsorship would help cover costs.

To proceed, any plan would have to provide the public with a detailed list of anticipated costs and potential funding strategies.

"If you can make that kind of project work with minimal taxpayer commitment, then the chances of its success are much higher," he said.

With over \$6 million being spent on the Rainbow Road pool and Portlock Park tennis courts, it is important to take a broader look at other priorities in the community, he said.

Any attempts to acquire money already allocated to the recreation facility from the pool referendum, as suggested by SIPS members in a November meeting, would require an additional referendum, Holman added.

Speed-skating coach and SIPS member Jon Suk said many creative ways to ease the burden on the public purse could be explored.

Money provided by the provincial government in advance of the 2010 Olympics, effective ice time scheduling, corporate sponsorship and memberships can all raise money without impacting taxpayers, he said.

"While getting everything on budget will be a serious psychological hurdle, at least there are signs of hope once again," he said. "It's one of those things where, if you have an outlet for an activity, people will really take advantage of it."

SIPS members anticipate the project will cost \$2 million to get started. Once the basics are in place, extras could be added as the community sees fits.

The SIPS questionnaire will ask residents to submit comments regarding alternative uses for the space, including concert, trade show and indoor recreation space for sports like floor hockey, basketball and volleyball.

"This rink wouldn't just be restricted to a few die-hard hockey fans," Suk said. "There will be an opportunity for many different groups."

PEDESTRIANS

From Page A1

"To me there are endless safety problems there," he said.

At that time Funk sent two e-mail messages to an Islands Trust representative about his concerns, but did not receive a reply.

Then last Tuesday afternoon Funk's un-ease took on concrete form when Nadia, now in Grade 10, and her friend Liane Lafrance, a Grade 12 student, were struck by a vehicle as they crossed Lower Ganges Road in the crosswalk at Rainbow Road on the way to the water taxi dock.

Both girls were injured and Salt Spring RCMP are investigating the incident.

"We're just waiting and seeing with the injuries," said Funk on Monday. "[Nadia's] knee is quite swollen and it's just under observation. She's in good spirits and she is able to get around."

Liane's mother Sylvie Lafrance said her daughter's sore arm is less of a concern than the accident's emotional impact.

"It's more the trauma from seeing a car coming towards you and not stopping," she said.

Funk is now determined to work for safety improvements on the route from the water taxi to GISS.

He's even contacted MLA Murray Coell, who has agreed to look into the situation and talk to Ministry of Transportation (MOT) personnel about what can be done.

After his daughter was struck, Funk walked the route taken four days a week by many GISS and middle school students from Pender, Mayne, Galiano and Saturna islands.

"I felt like I was at risk the whole time I was there," he said. "I had to do a 360-degree take on everything going on around me just to feel safe. You shouldn't have to feel like you're in a shooting gallery."

He also points out how Rainbow Road traffic will be further increased once the swimming pool is opened next to GISS.

A pedestrian safety committee is looking at how to address Ganges trouble spots, with hopes to spend some federal government gas tax funding due to come Salt Spring's way through the Capital Regional District. (See related story, Page 5).

"They need to fix it somehow," said Lafrance, referring to the Rainbow Road and Lower Ganges area.

"We don't want a child to die because the issue hasn't been looked after."

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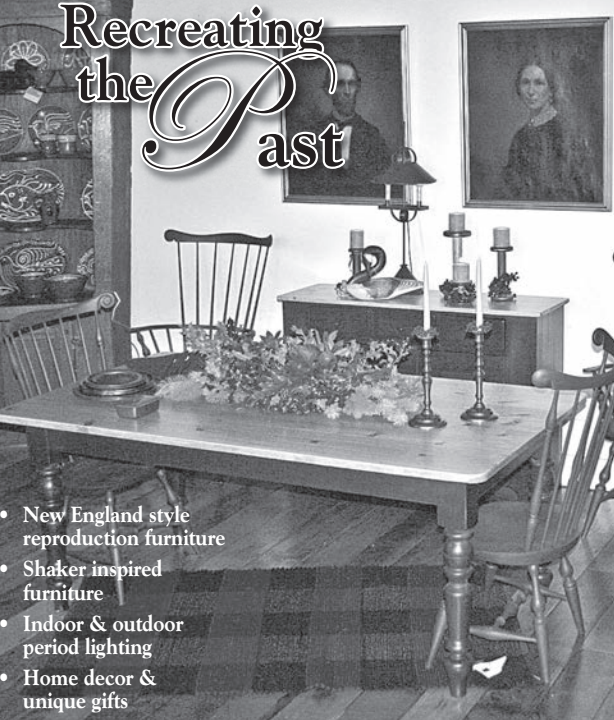
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'Tis the season for electioneering

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

One can be forgiven for mistaking Ottawa for Santa's workshop this past week. Covered in snow and decked in holiday lights, Parliament Hill is only lacking a band of pointy-eared elves running about the halls.

Barely nine days after a federal election was called for January 23, candidates have wasted little time promising increased funding and improved services for everyone in the dominion's great extended family.

The holiday atmosphere has even made its way to the coast as candidates in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding prepare to spread the goodies in hopes of a pleasant thank-you note in January.

Incumbent MP Gary Lunn said he is looking forward to spending time in the Gulf Islands, an area where he feels anger over Liberal corruption will allow the Conservatives to make inroads.

Beginning next week, Lunn will begin a Gulf Islands tour, hoping to lure voters with the promises of

responsible governance. "Our record speaks for itself," he said from his campaign office in Sidney earlier this week. "My intention is to have a positive campaign that focusses on matters important to my constituents."

Taking a closer look at the environment, trimming the GST and restoring "fairness and accountability" are some of the ways Lunn is hoping to maintain his popularity in the Gulf Islands.

"If we make 100 promises and only honour 99 of them, we will have lost all our accountability," he said.

During the 2004 federal election, Lunn picked up the seat with 35 per cent of the popular vote.

People are looking for change, he said, and the Conservative party is the logical choice.

If Salt Spring's Andrew Lewis has his way, the big three will get a run for their money now that the Green Party has access to \$1 million in federal campaign funding after receiving 4.6 per cent of the popular vote in the 2004 election.

Despite the additional money and a full slate of candidates running from coast to coast, Lewis remains outraged the Green Party will not be invited to join fed-

eral leaders during televised national debates.

Lewis said the additional funds have allowed the party to hire 15 full-time staff members and believes the party must continue doing what it has always done to attract island voters.

He urged the public to vote with its conscience and dismissed concerns that "strategic voting" may hurt his chances.

"Nothing is going to happen overnight; we are still in the growth stage," he said. "People are slowly realizing that if we keep voting for the same old parties, we'll always be getting the same old results."

Following a third-place finish in 2004, NDP candidate Jennifer Burgis said increasing voter turn-out is the best way to precipitate change.

In spite of preliminary campaign promises made by her competitors' parties, Burgis doubted many people are overly keen to digest political rhetoric until the New Year.

"The first few weeks may be important to get organized," she said. "But the real campaign will begin in January."

Burgis is using the campaign's early stages to rekindle public interest in the political process.

She said declining voter turn-out over the past several elections is an indication that politicians must act on restoring public trust.

The 2004 federal election saw the lowest voter participation rate since Confederation in 1867. At 60.5 per cent, it just barely beat the previous record of 61 per cent set in 2000.

"The general disaffection with politics will only help ensure the same government gets re-elected year after year."

Within the next six weeks, she said, her aim is to demonstrate how voting at a local level is directly connected with federal policies in Ottawa.

Pensions, health care, provincial accountability, income assistance and infrastructure grants for safer roads, she said, all have to do with federal funding and all depend on who gets elected.

Former Victoria-Hillside provincial Liberal MLA Sheila Orr replaces David Mulroney as the riding's Liberal candidate. She did not respond to an e-mail request for an interview and has yet to provide campaign office contact information.

Mulroney is taking a run at the Victoria riding formerly held by veteran MP David Anderson.



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Rain grants sprinkled on Trust

The Islands Trust has received two grants totalling \$15,000 from the provincial government to study rooftop rainfall collection systems and the availability of harvested rainwater on Mayne Island.

"With increasing water demand on the Gulf Islands, sufficient water supply and more storage capacity are major challenges — and rainwater is certainly part of the solution," said Islands Trust Council David Essig.

"We are delighted that

our applications for funding these two projects have been successful."

Each project receives a grant of \$7,500.

The Islands Trust will go through a tendering process within the next few weeks to find qualified consultants to undertake the work. Projects will be completed by spring of 2006.

"These are going to be practical studies that should apply to all the islands. We hope the results will lead to new policies for official community plans to support

and encourage rainwater harvesting," added Essig.

One project will assess the suitability of rainwater as a supplement to groundwater supplies and the other will assess the supply and demand elements of rainwater harvesting by looking at typical Gulf Island rooftops and water consumption patterns.

Grants were provided through the Ministry of Community Services under the Local Government Grants Act for infrastructure planning.

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Pedestrian safety a top priority — Holman

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Help is on the way for those afraid to walk Ganges' dark and busy city streets, according to Salt Spring's regional director Gary Holman.

Thanks to gas tax funding from the federal government expected to provide Salt Spring Island with \$100,000 in 2006 and up to \$400,000 before 2010, some safety concerns along Lower Ganges Road can now be addressed.

"We now have a source to work on infrastructure and now need to work on an accountable method to apply the funding," he said.

Salt Spring funds will be disbursed via the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Holman said an island-based transportation commission — yet to be created — would be the proper body to improve the island's pedestrian infrastructure once the funding begins to arrive in early 2006.

Holman said money should go towards a decent cycling and pedestrian infrastructure

for the village core.

While public transit would demand high, long-term costs for staffing, equipment and maintenance, he said, the gas tax funding is ideally suited to the relatively low cost of installing trails, paths or bike lanes.

Safety issues on Lower Ganges Road between Blain and Crofton roads near the Ganges Village Market would be tackled first, he said.

"From there, we could create a model to use along busier roads further into the downtown core."

The news comes after two high school students were struck at the Lower Ganges and Rainbow Road intersection last Tuesday. (See separate story.)

The incident marks the second time in less than a month a pedestrian has sustained injuries while walking along Lower Ganges Road. It comes just under a year after 88-year-old Norman Zacharias was killed by a vehicle further north on the road while walking home at dusk.

Despite the continued dan-

ger and pleas from residents to improve sidewalks and lighting along highly travelled areas in the Ganges core, changes have been slow in coming, in part because there is no single government authority responsible for those items on Salt Spring.

"We believe that improving pedestrian safety along Upper Ganges Road is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed by our elected officials," wrote Ashley Hilliard in a recent letter to the Driftwood. "Why do we tolerate a situation that forces pedestrians, many of them elderly, to walk on the busiest road on the island?"

After hearing about the latest incident, Hilliard said it was only a matter of time before another pedestrian falls victim to what is clearly a major community safety issue.

Hilliard said he is encouraged by Holman's commitment to improve the situation. He also suggested the new islands trustees do their part by placing an onus on developers to upgrade road-sides adjacent to their prop-

erties as has been done in several areas on the island.

Such a step would be consistent with the official community plan's call for greater pedestrian access to Ganges, he added.

Since Hilliard moved to Salt Spring in the late 1980s, the infrastructure has failed to keep up with population growth and traffic congestion, he said.

"In so many places, the sidewalks just seem to disappear when you need them most," he said.

According to Ministry of Transportation (MOT) south island area manager Greg Galpin, any sidewalk located on the MOT right-of-way would first need approval from the ministry. However, he added, it will only be approved if a public body such as the Islands Trust or CRD accepts responsibility for them.

"In unorganized territories like Salt Spring, we will sometimes issue permits, but the CRD or Islands Trust will be required to install and maintain them."

Galpin said the MOT's

mandate only extends from "curb to curb" and does not cover the high costs of maintaining and insuring sidewalks and bike paths, mainly because of liability concerns.

Galpin has met with the island's pedestrian safety committee and believes the formation of a transportation commission could be a step in the right direction.

Since the provincial government has no dedicated funds to build sidewalks in unincorporated areas like Salt Spring, the new gas tax funding and forcing developers to build and maintain infrastructure for new projects in the core may be the only viable ways to proceed, he said.

Committee tasks ferries rate hikes

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Islanders balked over B.C. Ferries desires for another "fuel surcharge" during a meeting of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (SSIFAC) meeting last Wednesday.

But long-term plans could mean more increases and improved service, said senior managers from B.C. Ferry Services Inc. (BCFSI).

"I'm upset that we've seen all these raises in fares," Betty Pinchin told BCFSI senior managers, staff and SSIFAC members.

SSIFAC met two days after B.C. Ferries announced plans to ask for its second fuel tariff surcharge in the last six months and one month after its last regularly scheduled rate hike.

BCFSI recently asked the B.C. Ferry Commissioner for a 2.5 per cent increase on major routes and a six per cent increase for minor routes like the Gulf Islands.

"There's nothing like a potential fuel charge to get people attending ferry advisory committee meetings," observed SSIFAC chair Bob Jones.

Pinchin noted that BCFSI is currently spending \$14

million on a renovation to the Queen of Nanaimo as part of a \$175.5 million investment in capital projects this year.

"We're not paying for fuel, we're paying for renovations. I'm feeling cheated," Pinchin said to stone-faced BCFSI executive officers.

Another member within the crowd of some 35 islanders at the meeting recalled how ferries were recently viewed as an extension of the highway system before they were privatized.

"We seem to have lost this concept."

Capital Regional District regional director Gary Holman also expressed concern about the possibility of escalating Gulf Islands' tariffs once the current Coastal Ferry Contract expires in 2008.

"The intention is that cross-subsidization is to be eliminated in the next performance term," acknowledged BCFSI fleet deployment manager Steve Anderson.

All ferry service within the southern Gulf Islands is part of one route group, he noted.

"None of the minor routes are viable in and of themselves so the government provides a contract service fee," Anderson said.

B.C. Ferries is required through the Coastal Ferry Act to eliminate cross subsidy between route groups, he said.

"This allows the corporation to manage routes that are commercially viable."

Provincial contract service fees of \$107 million and a \$24.3-million subsidy from the federal government accounted for 18 per cent of BCFSI revenues in 2005 to make up for unprofitable routes. (BCFSI collected \$345.9 million in tariffs, \$67.8 million from retail sales and \$19.5 million from reservations and other income sources in 2005.)

"In fact, for the most part, we are not cross-subsidizing the routes now," Anderson said.

He plans to complete a draft of the new ferry services contract by October for the agreement that takes effect in 2008.

And Anderson is investigating options to replace the Queen of Nanaimo, Mayne Queen, Bowen Queen and Howe Sound Queen between 2014 and 2020.

While those deadlines might sound far away, planning has already started, he said.

"The reality is that we'll have to have it all sorted out by 2009. That's not a long time."

He sees the new ferry contract and deadlines to replace local ferries as an opportunity to completely re-jig services in the Gulf Islands.

"When you look at this level, it becomes a clean slate. You can look 10-50 years down the road of what do we want to do on the Gulf Islands."

On that note, Holman asked B.C. Ferries to consider using a larger number of smaller vessels to serve Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands.

"Please don't dump more cars at larger terminals," he said.

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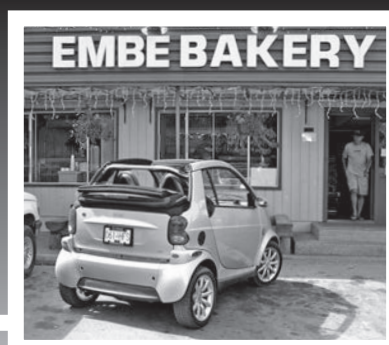
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Future Fulford terminal plan charted

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Fulford ferry terminal has popped up on the long-term radar screen for B.C. Ferries planners. But islanders could still founder on snags caused by ferry traffic in the tiny community.

"You know how the traffic backs up there much more than I do," B.C. Ferry Services Inc. (BCFSI) consultation manager Gary Leitch said to some 35 islanders at the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (SSIFAC) meeting on November 30.

"The ferry terminal there grew up organically over the last 50 years."

Leitch told SSIFAC members and guests that B.C. Ferries will launch a planning process to determine functional design criteria for future changes as part of a master-planning process set for all 47 terminals leased by the corporation.

"Fulford comes up next on our list of terminals to be planned."

He indicated that BCFSI has "under-invested in the terminal for some time" and said that the corporation is not satisfied with current efficiency at Fulford Harbour.

This year B.C. Ferries spent \$12 million on the Tsawwassen terminal, added \$3.9 million of additional lands to leases at Horse-shoe Bay and Swartz Bay



FERRY BERTH: Passengers disembark from the Skeena Queen at Fulford Harbour. The south Salt Spring terminal is due for upgrades — but travellers shouldn't expect a quick fix.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Holman suggested that Fulford might benefit from a collaborative initiative such as the extra lane added to a section of the Pat Bay Highway this year, which relieved congestion at the Swartz Bay terminal.

"It may be that there are land transfers that are possible," responded BCFSI fleet deployment manager Steve Anderson. "I don't think that the lane you referred to is outside the master-planning process."

Ferry worker Kerry Fraser even suggested that B.C. Ferries could ask the Ministry of Transportation to expropriate land for a terminal expansion.

"I don't think any wild expropriations are imminent," responded SSIFAC chair Bob Jones.

Holman, SSIFAC members and B.C. Ferries representatives all urged cooperation between community groups, the corporation and different levels of government to assure an integrated long-term plan for Fulford.

"B.C. Ferries won't take the lead, but they will be full partners," Leitch said.

Holman noted that he's currently working on plans to establish a local parking commission that could help alleviate congestion in Fulford.

B.C. Ferries will initiate a public-consultation process and complete a list of its engineering requirements in the next year before creating a conceptual design.

in exchange for highway improvements, and completed master plans for Swartz Bay, Alert Bay and Crofton.

But islanders shouldn't hold their breath waiting for imminent changes at Fulford, Leitch cautioned.

"A master plan doesn't imply that construction will start nine months from now."

And B.C. Ferries management won't take the helm to address issues that plague the community as a result of traffic congestion.

"As a private company, we can only improve any property we own or have a long-term lease on," said BCFSI fleet operations vice-president George Capacci.

Consequently, B.C. Ferries

can't build a large parking area or widen Fulford-Ganges Road, Capacci said.

Gary Holman, Salt Spring's regional director on the Capital Regional District board, held B.C. Ferries to task.

"Ferry line-ups create a safety and traffic hazard on that hill and the corporation has a responsibility to address that," Holman said.

He also noted that B.C. Ferries' greater emphasis on through-fare transfers to the mainland via Swartz Bay has exacerbated traffic problems at Fulford.

"Long Harbour doesn't work as well as it could, which affects Fulford Harbour. The two are interconnected."

Schedule change gets thumbs-up rating

The "10-minute solution" was commended by islanders attending the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (SSIFAC)

meeting on November 30. A 10-minute adjustment to the ferry schedule between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay, implemented this past

summer, has given islanders several advantages, pointed out B.C. Ferries senior master Tom Schnare.

On the one hand, islanders get ahead of traffic from the Spirit class vessels that used to disembark at the same time, but travellers also connect with sailings to the mainland much better and ferries serving the Fulford route are also able to sail at a more economical pace.

"Just a couple of minutes means a lot in fuel savings."

SSIFAC chair Bob Jones acknowledged Schnare as the author of the schedule change after islanders at the SSIFAC meeting applauded the revision.

"There's a bit of a double-edged sword," noted Schnare.

The schedule is now so tight that the Fulford ferry can't wait for transfers or travellers who might trickle

in a minute or two late.

"It's a tight turnaround."

Schnare noted that the last sailing from Swartz Bay waits for transfers from mainland ferries, if necessary.

"The trick to that is that people must let the chief steward on the Spirit-class vessel know that you are going through to Fulford."

The chief steward can then notify the Swartz Bay terminal and Fulford ferry about potential transfers, he said.

SSIFAC is still working on other plans to improve through-fare connectivity between Tsawwassen, Swartz Bay and Fulford Harbour.

B.C. Ferries staff are also looking at revisions to the summer schedule (with a January 2006 deadline) and revisions to all routes for the 2006/07 schedule (deadline March 2006).

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Driftwood

'Nanny' might not be home for season

B.C. Ferries hinted that islanders' Christmas wish lists might not get filled since dry-dock crews are struggling to complete work on the Queen of Nanaimo for a December 23 deadline.

"I think we need to be realistic and have a little bit of concern," said B.C. Ferry Services Inc. (BCFSI) fleet operations vice-president George Capacci.

"We're crossing our fingers to have the work finished and the ferry back on time."

The smaller 128-car Queen of Tsawwassen has been filling in on the Gulf Islands route over the past two months while the 192-car Queen of Nanaimo receives a life-sustaining refit.

"We're doing everything we can to get this ship out on time," Capacci told islanders gathered at the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee meeting on November 30.

The vessel is currently "completely ripped apart," he said.

As part of the \$14-million refit, B.C. Ferries upgraded life-saving appliances under regulatory requirements from Transport Canada and replaced significant amounts of steel on the vessel, he said.

Capacci described a "cascade effect" that occurs when replacements in one area would expose further work.

"Our maintenance plan is that once you find something wrong, you have to fix it."

The Queen of Nanaimo will also receive a new gift shop and bonus cosmetic refit. And Capacci compared the new life-saving evacuation chutes to amusement park rides.

"It's probably a 'B ticket' at Disneyland," he said.

But the four evacuation chutes are much safer than the life rafts and life boats that were removed from the vessel, he said.

"The idea of jumping into the water and being fished out into a life boat is no longer acceptable."

As a result of the refit, the Queen of Nanaimo can remain in service until 2014.



SIGN OF THE SEASON: Malaya Hart-Weller is among those taking part in a Christmas tradition on Salt Spring. She is seen here amid wooden toys at the annual Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Local relationships program explored at Toronto seminar

SWOVA coordinator Lynda Laushway found herself in the company of Gloria Steinem and others working to prevent violence against women and children when she presented a workshop at the *Finding Common Ground* conference in Toronto last week.

Laushway's workshop was based on the *Respectful Relationships* program that has been successfully delivered in the Gulf Islands School District for the past five years. It was one of four school-based violence prevention programs featured at the conference and the only one presented from west of Ontario.

"Some of the best minds in the field of prevention of violence against women and children were in attendance at this conference, with many of the best practices in this field in North America presented," said Laushway.

"It was an honour to have our *Respectful Relationships* program included among them."

Steinem, founder of Ms. Magazine, "and the most influential, eloquent and revered feminist in North America," opened the conference with the keynote



Lynda Laushway with Gloria Steinem at Toronto violence prevention conference.

address, said Laushway. "She once again spoke about her determination to advance women's equality."

Well-known Canadian filmmaker Deepha Metta also addressed the conference and showed her film *Let's Talk About It*.

This film documents the dark corners of family abuse among immigrants and is a call to action on the global problem.

Metta's award-winning film *Water*, about the plight of widows in India, is currently playing in theatres.

"This was an important inaugural conference,

sponsored by the Ontario Women's Directorate.

"There is great work being done in our province of British Columbia to make our communities safer.

"With so many problems occurring with youth in so many cities and towns, it is important that we know about established best practices and help each other to learn from our experience," said Laushway.

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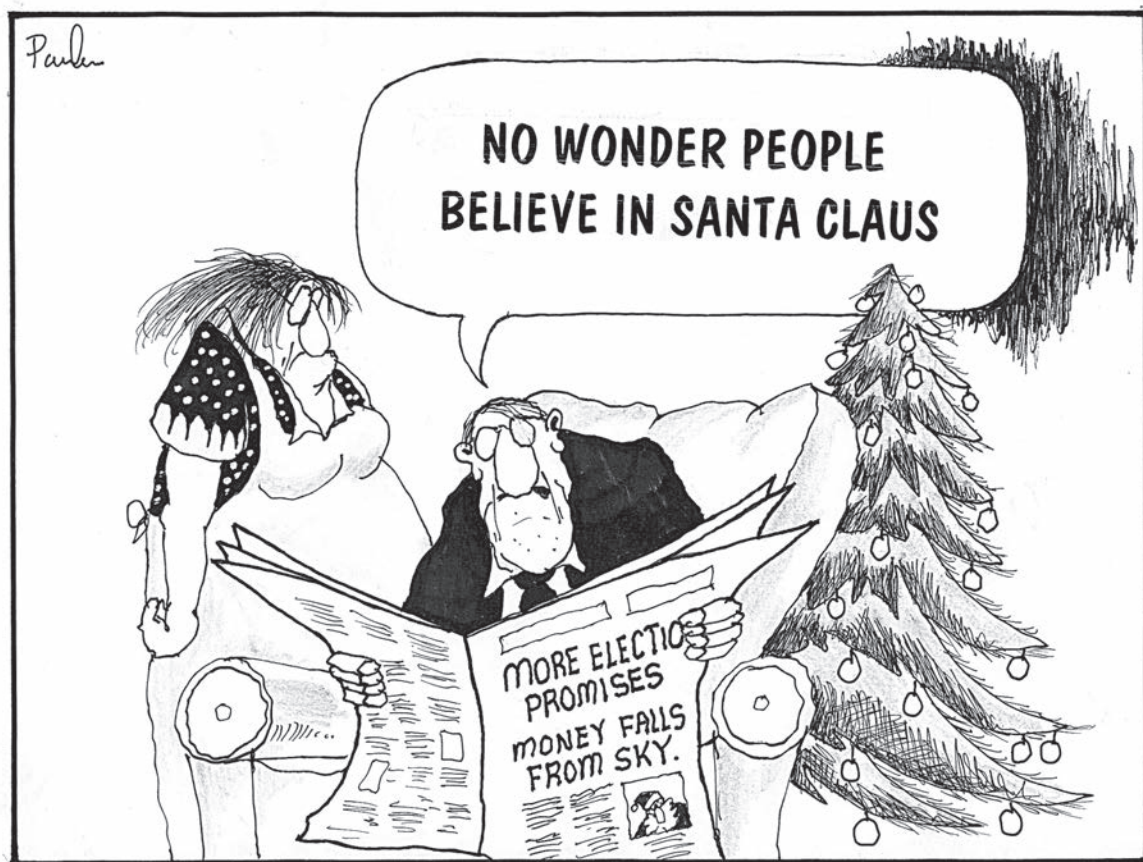
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Letters to the Editor

Real letter

My letter regarding my radio drama production in late January was inadvertently published last week. I had no intention for it to be in the newspaper. Nonetheless, in typical Salt Spring Island fashion, I had a huge and wonderful response from many, many islanders. To answer a few questions:

1) Sorry, there won't be

any children in this show (although kids are welcomed audience members).

2) I have not scheduled auditions yet, I promise to give plenty of notice.

3) I do need volunteers, but I'm not sure in what capacity at this time. I'm still getting my "ducks in a row."

4) The best way to contact me is by e-mail: janrab@voicetraxwest.com

Thanks again to everyone

— the production is moving along, it's a lot of work — but I promise, it will be a great show.

Mark your calendars for January 27 and 28. See you there.

JAN RABSON,
Salt Spring

Descendants

I would like to thank many people for their help in tracing my ancestry on the island, just to mention a

couple, such as Mary Davidson and Usha Rautenbach.

My great-great grandfather was Henry William Robinson, one of the first black settlers to arrive on Salt Spring.

I am an off-island descendant of one of your early farmers of Salt Spring, who had a part in the organization 110 years ago.

He is mentioned in the Salt Spring Island Parish and Home, November 1900

edition as — "The biggest pumpkin was shewn by H.W. Robinson."

I have just received an invitation to come to the celebration next Wednesday, December 14.

What an opportunity! I will be coming over from the mainland, and I am so looking forward to the event. I understand other descendants will be guest speakers, and there will be a chance to talk with them after the slide

show and introductions.

What a wonderful website the folks at the Salt Spring Archives have created.

I gather web wizard Frank Neumann will be there to show the site, and that he had a hand in the making of the booklet, which I am very pleased will be for sale at the celebration.

Hoping to see all my dear Salt Spring friends.

MARGO BROWN,
Langley, B.C.

Circulating own dollars helps solve 'problem with money'

By **KEN ROULEAU**

We hear this often: the problem of money. Usually this means "not enough" or the commodification of everything; greed, inflation, or the "root of all evil." Keep the following in mind during this federal election.

There is no shortage of money in Canada for our healthcare and social programs. There is a shortage of political willpower and an abundance of other priorities, such as massive corporate tax breaks, military spending, Olympic games, and games of all kinds — as the sponsorship scandal reveals.

However, this is just the surface. The real problem of money in Canada is how it is issued and by whom. In the words of Prime Minister Mackenzie King:

"Until the control of the issue of currency and credit is restored to the government and recognized as its most auspicious and sacred responsibility, all talk of the sovereignty of parliament and of democracy is idle and futile. Once a nation parts with control of currency and credit, it matters not who makes the nations laws . . . usury (debt interest) once in

VIEW POINT

control will wreck any nation." (1935)

Most Canadians don't know that Parliament has the sole constitutional right to issue currency through the treasury department, but that right was given over to the Bankers Association in 1913 (then to the Bank of Canada, 1934) and has been wrecking our nation ever since. This might sound excessive, but Mackenzie King was right. Consider:

1) Federal Parliament can issue treasury bonds (T-bills) spent directly into circulation for national projects, social programs, rental of government buildings, to pay civil servants . . . and did so for the first 46 years (1867-1913) by issuing Dominion Notes, guaranteed by basic taxes. In 1913, federal MPs, elected through large political donations by bankers, gave away our right to issue currency.

If Canada needs \$1 million we print \$1 million worth of T-bills, sell them to the banks as collat-

eral and borrow back the money (as a line of credit) at high interest. Is this understood? Instead of spending the million into circulation, we give it to the banks, who give it back at compounding interest. We then borrow more money to pay the interest, creating more debt.

2) The Canadian Auditor General's 1993 report showed that from 1867 to 1992, the accumulated (yearly) deficits amounted to a total national debt of \$423 billion. Of that \$423 billion, the governments over 125 years spent a mere \$37 billion or nine per cent for actual goods and services!

The other \$386 billion, or 91 per cent, consisted of interest charges paid to the private banks who "lent us our money." This is an interest of 1,043 per cent and is called "usury," an unnecessary burden upon all Canadians.

At present, Canada still issues about three per cent of its currency through the treasury department — the other 97 per cent through the banks.

The only way we will ever be rid of this debt is to do what the Constitution states: Parliament must issue currency directly without

debt interest to Canadians — as Mackenzie King said — or there will be no chance for democracy in Canada.

(The other major reform must be to stop corporate donations to political parties, as this has led to all major parties being subject to influence and corruption.)

Some people will recognize this solution as "social credit" but it is actually our constitutional right and law to do this.

It has always worked. Solon of Athens did this to be rid of the Babylonian control of money; the British did it for 700 years using a wooden stick for taxes (!) and built an empire, then lost it to the banks.

According to Benjamin Franklin, the American Revolution was caused by England demanding the Union colonies to stop printing their colonial scrip dollars.

For nearly 200 years, the British island of Guernsey has issued its own money for local taxes and public projects, eradicating disparity while creating community opportunities.

This is a local solution that we on Salt Spring are only a step away from.

We already have our own currency and it is accepted widely in many shops and banks here, but has yet to mature into what it could be.

There are local programs employing people in the summer, paid in debt-free SS Dollars and all spent into our local economy.

On a much larger scale we could quickly ease unemployment and erase poverty, pay regional taxes and fund needed public projects . . . among many possibilities.

All we need to do while waiting for the federal government to return power to the Treasury is to massively circulate our own dollar.

During this election, ask the federal candidates what their party's position on the Constitution is.

If we uphold it as the highest law in Canada, then enact it. If we issue money through the Treasury we will not need to tax ourselves for money we never borrowed. It is a double-win situation for all Canadians.

The writer was a candidate for the Islands Trust on Salt Spring in the recent local election.

Safety solutions

When news that two Gulf Islands Secondary School students were struck in the crosswalk at Rainbow Road and Lower Ganges Road hit the streets last week, it hardly came as a surprise.

There's something about that crosswalk, more than most others on the island, that makes it a magnet for close calls and potential accidents involving pedestrians. Without a conscious effort on the part of drivers to carefully dissect the multi-faceted scene at that intersection, the crosswalk appears almost invisible. In non-daylight hours, it may as well not be there, the lighting is so poor.

Not surprisingly, south-bound drivers fixate on what other vehicles might be attempting at the intersection, somehow blotting out pedestrian images in the process. If a vehicle is set to turn left onto Rainbow Road, crosswalk visibility is worsened even further.

Ironically, the father of one of last week's victims felt alarmed when his daughter started attending Gulf Islands Secondary School last year, having to walk from the water taxi dock in Ganges Harbour and up Rainbow Road. Not knowing which government department or official to contact, he sent two e-mails of concern to an Islands Trust representative, but received no response.

However, in the absence of a municipal authority with full responsibility for road issues, traffic and pedestrian safety on Salt Spring requires a coordinated political and bureaucratic effort, which in the past has been difficult to muster.

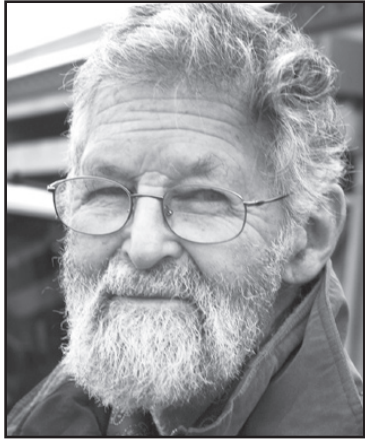
We're heartened to hear that MLA Murray Coell and others have been responsive about trying to help find a solution and that a pedestrian safety committee is now in place to address what is a growing problem, especially along Lower Ganges Road.

It should be up to traffic safety experts to analyze the Rainbow-Lower Ganges Road area and propose a solution, but if a traffic light is simply too dramatic to consider, something like a three-way stop leaps to mind as being a simple and acceptable possibility.

Traffic through Ganges needs to slow down. That's a good place to start.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *Are you concerned about pedestrian safety along Lower Ganges Road?*



Ernest Haigh

It's bad, but what can be done? I suppose being aware and slowing down are the best things drivers can do.



Winsome White

I am definitely concerned and think something should be done considering all the seniors who walk near GVM.



Carol Knox

It is very muddy and treacherous. Anything would help.



Seamus Robertson

The shoulders are definitely too narrow. They should be big enough to ride a horse on, everywhere on the island.



Marcus Dowrich

I've seen far too many people take it in the ditch. The worst is when you see wheelchairs going over. Most of the time people are nearby to help out, but what happens when they aren't?

Letters to the Editor

Release funds

I came away dazed and incredulous from the Ssplash AGM meeting held Friday at which a very small group of members attended.

Despite requests from a considerable number of members and donors to release the donated funds received so far for the building of the multi-purpose swimming pool, most of the board members were reluctant to release the funds. It resulted in a vote of 15 vs. 12 for the release of \$50,000 to PARC, with Ssplash retaining \$200,000.

Originally Ssplash was pushing for an indoor pool and through its hard work and determination it has raised a quarter million dollars to-date.

With the passing of the referendum, Ssplash has met its objective. This chapter of Ssplash's involvement is closed and it should gladly release the funds.

Some members want to have a leisure pool as a legacy to their grandchildren. We all want the best for our grandchildren.

It is admirable that Ssplash wants to again take on this challenge. It should now raise new funds for the leisure pool and not use the money designated

for the multi-purpose pool. If Ssplash disregards the wishes of the donors it may seriously call into question its credibility and jeopardize future fundraising.

Already we were told by the board members that it is hard to get volunteers because most of them thought the swimming pool is a "done deal." Rightly so!

I urge the board members of Ssplash to think thrice before withholding the donated funds. I am sure the president of Ssplash is aware of the Charitable Purposes Preservation Act. I sincerely hope that Ssplash is not contravening the act.

ANGIE MILLS,
Ssplash member,
Salt Spring

No garbage

First of all, we would like to thank all the people who are so generously giving new and slightly used toys to Santa's Workshop.

Unfortunately, we recently picked up three large boxes from one of the drop-off points. Of the three boxes we were able to salvage a few books.

The rest was garbage (including a sock with a half eaten lollipop stuck on it). Santa does not give broken toys like plastic trucks with only three wheels!

Some of the money we have to buy toys with now has to be used to dispose of other people's garbage.

If you would not like to see that toy under the tree on Christmas Day for your children, then please do not give it to us.

Thank you.
**SANTA BOB and
LARGE ELF JUDY,**
Santa's Workshop

Booth's call

Maybe your readers can help me. Does anybody know J.P. Booth in Fernwood, and the 110th reunion he is calling for on December 14?

I saw his ad in the Driftwood a while back, and now I have seen his poster at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga, and I heard there was one outside Fulford Hall too. And what the heck does "MPP" stand for?

MARK E. KNOX,
Beaver Point Road

Bridge it

Can we agree on some definitions? Reading the last installment of the Driftwood (letters, View Point, opinion), I see the phrases "development moratorium" and "sustainable economy" pronounced in the same breath. Those are mutually exclusive notions, at least as understood on this island.

What about balance, you ask? Not hereabouts. We now have, as trustees, men who opposed the most virtuous balance between public interest and private profit that we are ever likely to see.

I don't really care which route we choose; I'll adapt. Just stop driving me nuts with confused economic thinking.

Affordable housing? Not if we have to subsidize amenities such as a library, covered pool and ice rink through increasingly higher property taxes.

Let me use this opportunity to suggest a solution to all of our problems. Take a deep breath — bridges. If we can get to Sidney or to Duncan in 30 minutes, then we don't need amenities on Salt Spring Island.

All we need are trees and water. Property taxes plummet. We all go for hikes together instead of trying to throttle each other at public meetings. And Sunday drivers are not going to cross a toll-bridge just to see our trees.

Face it; Salt Spring's amenities are compromised. Oh, we can be proud of what we've accomplished with so limited a funding source as taxes on residential property. I contribute to several of our cultural institutions; how-

ever, by any of the standards used to measure these things, our library, hospital, theatre, future pool and future rink are quaint.

Why the hang-up over Salt Spring as our community? Just because we're an island? Aren't there larger collectivities to which we feel equal commitment: Saanich; British Columbia; Canada? A more efficient link with this larger community will allow access to full amenities. And we can return to Salt Spring for solitude.

We can be Slow Islanders here, but let's grant ourselves the opportunity to be Swift Islanders there.

Insularity, you know, may not find its ultimate expression in allegiance to the whole of Salt Spring Island. The south end may have sufficient cultural integrity to become an independent community; better yet, Fulford Harbour alone.

That's it: no money, goods or services shall leave the city-state of Fulford. Visitors will be met with darts and pike poles.

Residents will be able to spend the rest of their living days without leaving that glorious little patch of geography.

True, at levels of material well-being on par with

Tajikistan; but, Fulforders (Fulfordites? Fulfordists?) will know who they are.

Gumboots unite. Liberty or death. Or something.
MICHAEL FRIEDMAN,
Sky Valley Road

Open hearts

As the joyous holiday season approaches, my brother and I are regrettably reminded that our fair island can be a hungry home for some. We have therefore put pen to paper in order to remind our friends and neighbours that they can help.

Ganges Village Market and Thrifty's have provided collection boxes in their fine establishments for you to tuck something into on your way out the door.

And all through December whenever you come to Art-Spring to enjoy an event, you can bring something along and put it near the Christmas tree in the lobby.

We sincerely hope you all will open your hearts and wallets in thinking of those who particularly need a little extra at this time of year.

**MARTHA
AND TIM CRATCHIT,**
Via Jill Tarswell,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

Ever-morphing Salt Spring just keeps landing on its feet

Moby's has been Oysterized! The famous watering hole at the head of Ganges Harbour has reinvented itself, blending the best of Moby's storied past with the Oystercatcher's talent of turning sows' ears into silk purses.

Does anyone remember all the wailing and caterwauling some six months ago when Moby's shut down — you know — that with Moby's closing its doors it marked an end to Salt Spring Island as we know it? That once again star-spangled investors were steam-rolling the life blood out of this island? Isn't it funny how this island seems to right itself?

Fact is, that little piece of the island is a microcosm of Salt Spring. In the past year, we have seen some very nice townhouses sprout up in a very ugly piece of scar tissue in front of the Harbour House.

HEAD TO HEAD BY PETER VINCENT



The Harbour House itself seems to morph itself annually, as the parade of new owners over the past decade or more have transformed a smoke-filled bowery bar into a respectable little multipurpose hotel.

The ramshackle strip mall across from the Harbour House has seen bakeries, dairies, laundromats, dive shops, vintage clothing, glass shops — you name it — as short-changed entrepreneurs try to find a niche on this fickle island. As one business moves on, another comes in.

Keep walking. We've got "Lois Lane" on the market for a gazillion dollars, followed closely by

the doomed marina project. The owner is making not so subtle statements that the marina closure will take \$20 million out of the pockets of Salt Spring-ers, which will apparently lead to massive unemployment and soup lines. Ain't going to happen. The sun will come up tomorrow over Ganges Harbour just like always, marina or no marina.

Keep walking. Ah, the school board office. The four-day school week. Despite its problems, society has not collapsed. There are no more gangs of marauding teens on the streets as there were when we had a five-day school week.

Despite the hardships, parents and students have learned to adapt. And something new! Some parents are actually spending Fridays tutoring at the kitchen table.

The Anise Restaurant (a.k.a. The Tides Inn, a.k.a. the Ships Anchor) which quietly went away in the spring, seems poised to unlock its doors once again . . . as what, God only knows.

Keep walking. The health food store, Barb's Buns, Calypso Interiors, Pegasus Gallery, even the venerable Harbour Food Market — all have changed hands. Embe Bakery has pushed out its walls to accommodate more than the coffee and donut crowd. Radio Shack is now The Source. Are you keeping up with me?

Stella's is now La Cucina. The Venters' former Grace Point store becomes Sabine's Fine Used Books. Boardwalk Greens becomes, well, Boardwalk Greens — with a new owner. And finally, The Kanaka Restaurant, a blue-plate-special liver-and-onions

mom-and-pop diner becomes Oystercatcher. And we are back where we started.

There is an old Ojibwa saying . . . "Sometimes I go about in pity for myself, and all the while a great wind is bearing me across the sky." It doesn't really matter if the new islands trustees are bright green, or if the marina owner folds up his tent, or if Moby's gets reinvented. Salt Spring seems to have an innate ability to land on its feet. Constantly changing. Constantly staying the same.

This Christmas, I'm going to forget about the potholes, forget about the rotting Ganges Boardwalk and the dangerous high tension hydro lines and the price of housing and ferry travel, and just raise a glass to whatever angel planted me on this best of all places. Here's to Salt Spring Island.

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**More letters****Strategic voting**

We've had our island election and now we're faced with a federal one.

In ours the election of one school trustee was a disappointment. He relegated the things that really make life worthwhile — music, art, theatre, library and another language — to a low priority.

It's been nearly 60 years since I forgot everything I knew about the periodic table in chemistry, the working of levers and pulleys in physics and all the mathematics (algebra, geometry, and trigonometry) which I was actually very good at. In my day, at my high school, art and music were considered unimportant and I've rued that fact for half a century.

The federal election next January 23 should be fascinating (yes, I am a bit of a

political junkie). I have two observations to make. In the last election my neighbour, who normally votes New Democrat, was so afraid of Stephen Harper and his dinosaur policies that she voted Liberal. She claimed it was "strategic voting." It was anything but.

In Saanich and the Islands the only party capable of defeating the Reform Alliance Conservative reactionary is the NDP. Since the federal New Democrats have a strong environmental platform and record it should not take much of their considerable intelligence and dedication to environmental issues for the Greens to vote strategically this time and vote NDP. When I arrived on Salt Spring 15 years ago we had a very able NDP MP, Lynn Hunter.

I am sure the "big L" liberals will hold their nose

and still vote Liberal. I hope the "small L" liberals will be so ashamed of the Chretien/Martin corruption and cronyism that they too will vote New Democrat, strategically.

The second observation is that there is a strong reason why women and the men that support them in their reproductive choice will definitely not vote Conservative because of their attitude on abortion. Conservatives will counter that at their last convention the resolution to re-open the abortion question was defeated by approximately 53 per cent. But this was only because the more socially progressive Québec Conservative delegates voted 70 per cent to not re-open the abortion question. We all know how many Conservative MPs there are in Québec! This means that the Western Conservatives, most formerly Reform/Alliance

members, were in favour of re-opening the abortion question in Canada.

Why do the present "conservatives" so slavishly try to emulate the reactionary Bush policies south of the border? It should be clear to most decent and intelligent voters how they should vote federally.

JACK C. HALLAM,
North End Road

Invite Sam

Sam Graci's health lecture last Wednesday, to celebrate his new book, was extraordinary. He delivered new and critical information in a lively and comprehensive manner to a packed house at ArtSpring.

The importance of good health in today's stress-filled world cannot be overemphasized. It is important that our youth, as well as others, be informed. I highly recommend that the GISS PAC group invite Mr. Graci to speak to the high school students.

I am positive it would be an opportunity that would enlighten many teenagers, (as well as parents and teachers), increase knowledge of body and health science and increase their ability to learn and live, well into the future.

MONA FERTIG,
Ganges



British Columbia Transmission Corporation ("BCTC")

**Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN")
Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project ("VITR")**

Sea Breeze Victoria Converter Corporation ("Sea Breeze")

Application for a CPCN for Vancouver Island Cable Project ("VIC")

Notice of Town Hall Meetings

Saturday, January 7, 2006
Commencing at 11:00 a.m.
Salt Spring Island
Artspring Exhibit And Meeting Area
100 Jackson Avenue
Ganges, B.C.

Tuesday, January 10, 2006
Commencing at 5:00 p.m.
Delta/Tsawwassen
Coast Tsawwassen Inn
1665 56th Street
Tsawwassen, B.C.

THE APPLICATIONS

By Application dated July 7, 2005, BCTC requests a CPCN to construct and operate the VITR to reinforce the electric transmission system serving Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. BCTC proposes to replace an existing 138 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line between South Delta and North Cowichan with a new 230 kV line that will be entirely within the existing 138 kV right-of-way. The VITR is estimated to cost \$245 million and is scheduled to be in service by October 2008.

By Application dated September 30, 2005, Sea Breeze requests a CPCN for the VIC. Sea Breeze proposes to construct a High Voltage Direct Current Light® transmission system between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island that it estimates will cost \$302 million and is scheduled to be in service by March 2008. Sea Breeze proposes the VIC as an alternative to the VITR to reinforce the transmission system serving Vancouver Island.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission Panel has consolidated the review of the BCTC VITR Application and the Sea Breeze VIC Application, and has established the Regulatory Timetable for the consolidated proceeding. The Oral Public Hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 23, 2006 in the Commission Hearing Room on the Second Floor at 855 Homer Street in Vancouver.

The Commission also plans to hold Town Hall Meetings to provide participants with an opportunity to make presentations to the Commission Panel on the VITR and VIC Applications. Each presentation at a Town Hall Meeting will be limited to 10 minutes, and the presentations will be recorded.

SCHEDULING PRESENTATIONS AT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Parties wishing to make a presentation to the Commission Panel at a Town Hall Meeting should contact Mr. Gordon Fulton, Commission Counsel by email at gfulton@boughton.ca or by telephone at 604 687-6789 by December 15, 2005. To assist parties who wish to use Power Point for their presentations, the Hearing Officer will provide a screen, projector and a cable to connect to the standard monitor port of the presenter's computer. A party wishing to make a Power Point presentation should bring a computer with the Power Point presentation, and must provide a hard copy of the presentation. All parties making submissions are encouraged to provide a hard copy of their submissions if convenient. Commission Counsel will provide a letter to participants outlining what they can expect at a Town Hall Meeting. The Commission Panel may cancel a Town Hall Meeting if less than six presentations are scheduled by the notice date of December 15, 2005.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Brian Williston, Director, Engineering and Commodity Markets, as follows:

Telephone: 604 660-4700
Facsimile: 604 660-1102

E-Mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
Telephone: (B.C. Toll Free) 1 800 663-1385

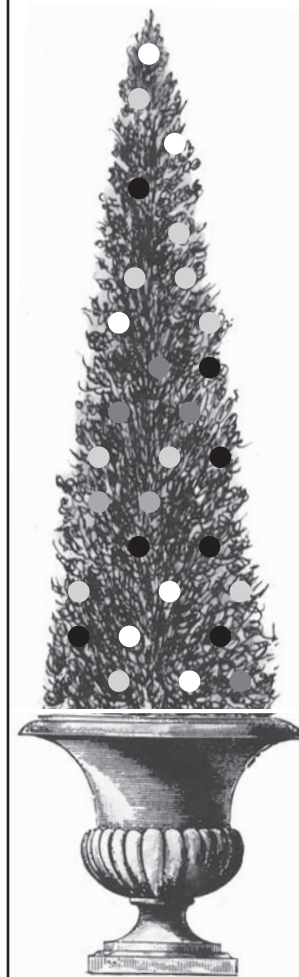
BCTC05-67

MORE LETTERS A11

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CHRISTMAS SHARING: Cassi Little has a good old chat with Santa as children line up to meet with him at the Bank of Montreal on Saturday. The event was part of the annual Driftwood-sponsored Light-up.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

More letters

Eager to help

There's a group of kids I know, who have a remarkable amount of energy. Naturally, these kids are looking for places to put this energy, and like rivers destined for waterfalls, they will — and do — find them.

The young people I'm referring to are our very own Salt Spring Island Middle School kids.

Specifically, there are 22 youth who are destined for a night of goodness called "Midnight Madness," whereby they search for positive ways to expend their energy like stealth, benevolent vigilantes.

Upon brainstorming ideas over lunch the last two weeks, they have come up with a variety of wonderful ideas that are designed to bring joy to the community.

As one of their accomplices for the Midnight Madness, I agreed to collect their ideas, and write this article to ask the community for some help to accomplish their goals. Specifically, they want to know:

- If you noticed a place in our community that needs TLC;

- If you have a great idea for an altruistic act of kindness.

They already have many of the tools and cleaners they need, but they are wondering if you have any of the following items kicking around your house that you don't need or use anymore:

- Flower bulbs
- Soil/planter pots
- Bird seed/feeders
- Big toys (mountain bike, games, stuffies, sports equipment, CDs, etc)
- Little toys (Pez dispensers, stickers, knick-knacks, bubbles, action figures, school supplies)
- Christmas stuff!

Anything donated will find a suitable home connected to the hearts of these youth. They are hoping to be given the opportunity to give for the sake of giving, and help for the sake of helping.

Your donations are needed by Friday, December 9. If you are interested in donating, please contact me, Tiffany Curran, at SIMS. 537-1159 ext. 229.

TIFFANY CURRAN,
SIMS counsellor

Down to business

Just a follow-up to the November 23 Driftwood story about my idea to build 90 affordable housing units on my Leisure Lane land.

After a meeting with former trustee Kimberly Lineger in February of 2005, it was decided that I and the Trust would apply jointly to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) sometime in May of this year.

A joint application would be more or less a "slam dunk."

Come May it was, "Well, we better wait till the powerline issue is dealt with." (They are a long way from my property.)

On August 22, I invited the trustees and planner John Gauld for an on-site meeting. Finally a reply came November 23, but there was no mention of a meeting, only a suggestion that I should submit an application.

As I told John Gauld in the spring, I want the ducks to be in line before an application. In affordable housing projects there is no room for the "I submit, they reject" game.

How can a realistic application be made if I have no idea what the density will be?

A stroll on site by the trustees, John Gauld and perhaps Community Housing Task Force chair Elizabeth White could go a long way to make me feel I am not wasting my time.

John Gauld said in the spring that any number of units over 26 would likely not get the support of the planners.

Also, Neddy Harris did an affordable housing study for the Trust. She also has a set of plans and she was here on two occasions.

The known costs so far are the sewer and paving.

Unless a substantial number of units are built we are right back to the non-affordable projects that are here by the bushel already.

It all comes down to whether there is a need or not. If there is, let's get down to business.

The density I am asking for is five units per acre, a mere fraction of what is hap-

pening next to the Harbour House Hotel.
I. STRAARUP,
Leisure Lane

MORE LETTERS A13



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More letters

Health ethics

Many thanks to those who supported the "Saving Medicare" rally outside the Hotel Vancouver on November 11, which was a huge success. Health Authority brought information regarding the contracting out of surgeries, which increased costs to Medicare, not decreased them. David Chudnovsky (NDP MLA Burnaby) thanked the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations (COSCO) of B.C. for work in defending Medicare, which he called the bedrock of democracy.

The drug safety issue revolved around drug reaction in seniors. Many drugs are tested on 30-year-old males, and the reaction of seniors is entirely different. We need to push the government into a national drug regulatory system, instead of permitting drug companies to push drugs (or any freebies) onto doctors.

A forum on ethics and the pharmaceutical industry talked of direct sales to patients, the cost of drugs being out of reach and government regulations. A number of drugs proved dangerous have been pulled off the shelf in recent months. A few pharmaceutical companies have been charged under monopoly regulations. We have all been bombarded by TV commercials for new drugs — "Ask your doctor." Ethics in the pharmaceutical



Name: SABINE SWIERENGA
Occupation(s): Bookseller.
What would you like to be: I'm doing it!
How long on SSI: Almost 20 years.
Hobbies: Researching and reading beautiful old books.
Favourite read: Of-all-time? "Stone Angel" by Margaret Laurence. More recently: any of Alexander McCall-Smith's books.
Home finished/unfinished: Don't ask.
Best thing about SSI: The people.
Worst thing about Salt Spring: The people minding each other's business.
Advice: Remember Sabine's Bookshop is a great place to do Christmas shopping!



DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

industry?

Ethics: the discipline dealing with what is good and bad with moral duty and obligation. Corporate ethics are a moral duty and obligation to make as large a profit for their shareholders — is that what it means?

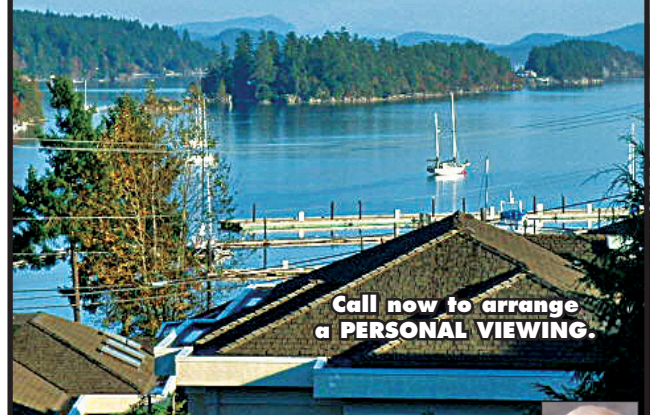
Adapted from COSCO delegates meeting, November 18, 2005.

RONALD MILTON,
Salt Spring

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monthly fashion page

style

on Salt Spring

Article and photo by Emma Yardley

Ulrieke Benner has always had a keen interest in textiles, be it stitching, embroidery, appliqué, or collage, so when she began to create her “wearable art” it was a natural extension of her already present passion.

Ulrieke uses a process of wet rolling and felting merino wool and silk to make a single piece of soft and durable fabric. Each piece is hand dyed until it reaches the desired rich colour, which is then used to create a plethora of multihued scarves, tops, and vests.

Ulrieke’s “wearable art” is internationally recognised, with her scarves and shawls being displayed and sold in exclusive boutiques across North America. Later this month she has a solo exhibition at Jergen Lehl in Tokyo, Japan.

For those who are closer to home, Ulrieke’s waterfront studio is open throughout December and will be well stocked with things on everyone’s Christmas wish list: silk and felt scarves, mittens, cards, hats, and necklaces.

Designer Ayla McIninch creates finely detailed jewellery with handpicked gemstones and pearls worked into her own innovative hand-forged sterling silver and gold.

Trained in jewellery making and fibre art at the Kootenay School of Art & Design, Ayla says that, “people are drawn to the incredible rich colours of the gemstones and luscious pearls,” which adorn each of her original pieces.

Her contemporary designs have had an undeniable presence at the Saturday Market for the past two years. When commenting on feedback from the public, Ayla said, “My customers appreciate my attention to detail and uniqueness of the designs.”

As an artist, she receives great satisfaction when customers “feel as though a piece has been made with them in mind.” Ayla’s studio is open by appointment or to get a feel for her creations visit www.mayalily.com.



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More letters

Helping orphans

I'm going on a trip to East Timor where the people are very poor. They earn about 50 cents a day.

There are 20 orphanages in the main city because there have been wars there and lots of the parents died. Other parents couldn't afford to keep their children.

Our class is raising money to give to one of the orphanages. We are also collecting running shoes that are in really good shape, which I will take in my suitcase.

My friends and I already raised almost \$70 outside of GVM on Monday. We will be there again next Monday. Also, our class will be selling popcorn at a school dance and putting jars up around town.

On Thursday our class is planning a "not-luck" instead of a potluck, which means we'll bring money instead of food. We plan to have a famine that night, not eating dinner and then sleeping at the school.

A little bit of money can help a lot in East Timor. Twenty dollars will buy five kilos of rice, enough for 20 children for a month. Thirty-five dollars will buy enough fruit and vegetables for 20 children for a month. One dollar buys five litres of clean drinking water. The money will also buy cooking utensils, towels and bed covers, mosquito nets and medicine.

Lots of the children don't have shoes. One dollar buys a pair of flip flops.

After I visit the orphanage and take the money and shoes to them, they will tell our class how they spent our money.

We hope that people on Salt Spring will help us fund-raise at GVM next Monday after school, and put their change into the jars around town.

SIERRA LUNDY,
Martin Thorn's 6/7 French Immersion class, Salt Spring Middle School

Celebration

Thank you for letting us know about the Farmers Institute booklet, Agriculture — Our Island Heritage.

I read the interview with Usha Rautenbach in the November 16 Driftwood, and

bought a copy from her. Her number is in the Lions Club Salt Spring phone directory.

Now that I have read the booklet, I need more. At \$5 each, and not too heavy, they make great gifts to add to packages I will be sending to relatives and friends for Christmas. I plan to buy more copies at the December 14 event, which I won't miss for anything.

Usha told me it was an invitation to everyone, and free, even the refreshments — because it is a celebration party. I love this island. I hope many people will be there. It sounds like a wonderful afternoon.

IRINA DROBYSHEVA,
Salt Spring

Dog search

I frequently climb Mount Maxwell from Burgoyne Bay as part of my exercise routine.

In late summer I had the misfortune to run into two pitbull cross dogs. They were with a man, but neither dog was on a leash. As soon as they saw me they ran at me; I managed to fend off the younger dog, but the much bigger dog, right behind the first one, bit me on the upper arm before the owner got a hold of the dog.

I ended up with a much bruised arm and three distinct indentations of the canine teeth.

We discussed the situation, with the owner saying he had not seen anything.

Anyway, he seemed like a nice enough guy and he apologized so I continued my way down the trail as we were in a location where I could not do much more about it.

Unfortunately I have recently run across fresh dog tracks on the mountain, thanks to the new snow, which indicate there are two dogs running free; one with very large paw prints and a somewhat smaller set. One of the tracks was over 1,000 feet from fresh male boot tracks, which they eventually joined up with.

I don't want a repeat of my earlier brush with uncontrolled dogs and I am not about to relinquish my hikes, so I must now carry a heavy stick, something I have never had to do during a lifetime spent walking the woods of B.C. If the owner is reading this (these recent tracks may indeed be two different dogs), please keep your dogs

on a leash when you are on Maxwell. They approach and leave the mountain from the Seymour Heights/Armand Way direction.

If anyone in the area knows of two pitbull cross dogs with the following descriptions, I would appreciate information regarding ownership and their address. Call me at 653-9210. The older dog is dark grayish with lighter markings, weighing an estimated 70 pounds. It may have a canine missing. The younger dog is rusty coloured, about 30 to 35 pounds. Phone calls will be treated with confidentiality.

RAY HATCH,
Salt Spring

Field trip

Do island schoolteachers and the newly elected school board members know about the new booklet about the Salt Spring Island farmers of 110 years ago? It is called Agriculture — Our Island Heritage, costs \$5, and is the story of the Islands Farmers Institute and the fall fairs.

I think every school library would benefit from having a copy. It would make a great lesson, to read it through, with a map of the island. And what a great field trip, to arrange for a SIMS or GISS class to see the Power Point show on December 14 (which starts at 2 p.m.)

and stay on to hear about the guests. The formal part will last about an hour.

It would be even better to stay on to go through the museum afterwards. I wonder if they would open the museum to a class of stu-

dents before the show? If I was still teaching I'd telephone immediately to find out. I believe John Fulker is in charge of the museum.

SHARADA FILKOW,
Blackburn Road



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'Listen first and then speak' among Essig's lessons, advice

The following is the second of two installments of an interview with just-retired Islands Trust chair and Thetis Island trustee David Essig. As a new set of trustees begin their terms in office this week, Essig reflects on his 13 years with the Trust and ponders where the federation is headed.

Driftwood: What lessons have you drawn from your time with the Islands Trust?

Essig: To listen carefully, to try to listen first and then speak, to try to explain things clearly, to not take it personally, to take a deep breath, practise compassion and remember: "It's not about you."

Driftwood: Can you recall both a high and low point of that time?

Essig: There have been so many high points and so few low ones. But if I had to pick singular incidents, I'd say the high point: the huge acceptance by our trustees and our islands communities to the cultural regeneration process we began four and a half years ago.

Low point: being called an "idiot" by a constituent here on Thetis.

Driftwood: What other places/communities did the Trust look at when trying to determine what to do or not to do when it comes to creating policies?

Essig: Since the Islands Trust Act is unique legislation, at least in North America, we haven't been able to use many of the experiences of other communities as much as we might like. A huge exception to this is our ongoing relationship with San Juan County, Washington.

The San Juans seem to be about seven to 10 years ahead of the curve, compared to the Trust Area, so they've been tremendously helpful in making us aware of what's coming in the future.

They also have a natural area tax exemption program that's been in place for generations. We were able to draw on their experience and expertise when we designed the program that's now in place here in the Trust Area.

Driftwood: What are the biggest challenges facing the islands in the immediate future? How can the Trust best address them?

Essig: I believe that, given the tools we have to work with, we are doing a good job of protecting the natural environment and of creating symbiotic balances between our natural and human environments. I believe the biggest challenge in the immediate future is potential negative change to our communities from the commodification of our island cultures.

At present, the Islands

Trust can regulate only the use of land, not its tenure (and some would say that's the way it should stay). But whether it's through tenure regulation or some other creative means, eventually the Province is going to have to look at giving the Islands Trust more authority to do its job, if they want to see us continue to "preserve and protect."

Driftwood: How does Salt Spring fit into the overall federation of islands?

Essig: Obviously Salt Spring fits in as the largest and most populated island in the Trust Area. We are all aware that, through its large tax base, it contributes greatly to the financial well being of the Island Trust. But I believe of equal importance is Salt Spring's contribution to our islands culture.

So many innovative, thoughtful and creative ideas and initiatives come from Salt Spring and those of us on the other islands in the Trust Area are all the richer for it. Good example: all of the research and policy development being done right now by the SSI Community Housing Task Force.

Driftwood: What can be done to appease concerns Salt Spring is getting a raw deal out of the federation arrangement?

Essig: I don't agree with the use of the terms "raw deal" nor "appeasement." We all know that Salt Spring contributes more in revenues to the Trust than it receives in direct services. But we need to put the emphasis on that word — "direct" — Salt Spring also receives a great many indirect benefits from being in the Islands Trust,

not the least of which is being part of a confederation which represents the interests and needs of Salt Spring to the province generally.

We now have an allocative internal accounting system at the Trust — a first — so that we can accurately assess the direct contributions to revenue and direct receipt of services for each of the Local Trust Areas. This is a tool that Trust Council can now use to inform its discourse on whether the principle of direct revenue-benefit equity is appropriate for the Islands Trust. I personally believe that it is not.


Driftwood: Do you have any advice for Peter Lamb and George Ehring, Salt Spring's new local trustees?

Essig: Listen carefully; try to listen first and then speak; try to explain things clearly; try not to not take it personally; take a deep breath, practise compassion, and remember: "It's not about you."

Driftwood: What are your plans for the future?

Essig: I'd like to do more work in government, especially if there were some way to use the experience of the Trust work to help those in less well-advantaged societies. But foremost, I plan to continue my professional career in the arts.

A great thing about being chair of the Trust was that it has afforded me time to do my own work, albeit on a reduced schedule. So I'm now looking forward to being able to put all of my energy and attention back into the main job of my life — using words and music to frame the human condition with compassion and loving kindness.



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Judy Burch

Stats

Name: Judy Burch

Lived on Salt Spring: 24 years

Spouse/kids/grandkids: Two children on Salt Spring, four grandchildren.

Likes: Running, gardening and playing with my grandkids.

Dislikes: Traffic on the road that goes too fast when I'm running or walking with my grandkids.

Future ambitions: I want to continue working with the emergency program and improving my skills.

Words of advice for potential volunteers: If you're prepared to make the commitment, it's really really rewarding.



PHOTO BY MITCHELL SHERRIN/GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

Judy Burch has worked as a Salt Spring search and rescue volunteer since 1991. She also volunteers with the island's Amateur Radio Club and is a member of the communication section for the emergency program.

Volunteer tracker trusts search and rescue

By MITCHELL SHERRIN

Staff Writer

Islanders might recognize Judy Burch as the friendly face who greets children at Fernwood Elementary each morning, but there are times when she can be an even more welcome sight — as a search-and-rescue volunteer.

Burch first got started with Salt Spring Island Ground Search and Rescue (SSIGSAR) when a friend asked her to come out and help in 1991.

"From search and rescue, I've learned so many skills," Burch said.

SSIGSAR members learn skills in areas like tracking, communications, rope rescue and inland water safety, she said.

"The skills aren't only important in finding a lost person, but in everyday life."

After more than a decade with SSIGSAR, she's become specialized as a Tracker II, she's earned a ham radio licence and she's recognized as an assistant team leader.

Burch has also learned how to be prepared outdoors and how to take care of herself in a disaster situation.

"These are really important things for me, but they are also things that I can share with my family, friends, neighbours and the school that I work in."

While Burch is currently working as a special education assistant, she has a background in nursing. And she has always enjoyed working with people, she said.

Accordingly she values the trust and teamwork that are vital in SSIGSAR, she said.

"Being part of a group that's dedicated and committed to helping others who no longer can help themselves is really important to me."

Given the spate of recent disasters around the globe, islanders have started to question more about how they would cope if a disastrous event struck locally.

"So neighbourhoods are now trying to work together," she said.

In addition to her work with SSIGSAR, Burch also volunteers with Salt Spring's Amateur Radio Club and she is a member of the communication section for the emergency program.

"I also look after the emergency ham radio at Fernwood school."

Approximately 20 active members volunteer with SSIGSAR, ranging in age from 20-65, she said.

Prospective SSIGSAR recruits should be physically fit and they complete a one-year training program. In addition to weekly practices, the group also conducts periodic weekend exercises and members attend an average of three to 10 calls for assistance each year.

"We look and we bash our way through the bushes. It can be pretty thick sometimes."

For more information about SSIGSAR, including recruitment information, Judy invites islanders to give her a call at 537-1868.

The skills aren't only important in finding a lost person, but in everyday life.

JUDY BURCH

Judy Burch

You continue to inspire others by your example. It is people like yourself that make our Salt Spring community so special. **Thank You!**

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RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

To the person with the blue and red floatplane, who has been rattling our windows during take-offs and landings on St. Mary Lake for the past hour (11-11:45 a.m. on Dec. 1). What part of "electric motors only" do you not understand? I have made a complaint with Transport Canada, Civil Aviation Enforcement. K. Butler

ROSES

50 beautiful blooms to you wonderful people who made my birthday so surprisingly memorable and enjoyable. PF

Thank you to John and Jehanne for providing and serving the wonderful coffee

at the SPCA auction. CG

More roses and thanks to Peter and Simon for the restoration of our bathroom. Thanks so much to Peter for his complementary gift. B&H

A very special thank you to Rainbow Trading Company for sharing so generously in creating many "winter comfort kits" for members of our community who need some extra help during these cold days. "We are, each of us, angels with only one wing; and we can only fly by embracing one another." Thank you for embracing me. DL

Phenomenally healthy roses to Sam Graci for giving so much to this community (all the proceeds from the sale of the books went

to our food bank). Thanks also for all the goodies you "threw" our way. Your presentation was a lot of fun, while informative and motivating. MS

Luscious roses and tail-waggin' hugs to Craig and Cathryn at Natureworks for caring and sharing, and to all the people who work there and frequently go above and beyond the call of duty. S

Dozens of roses to Robert for having found my purse and returned it to me. With much gratitude. Sylvia



WREATH WRAPPED: Eolie Herbert and Dora Colombe ham it up for the camera as they sell handmade Christmas wreaths in Fulford. Photo by Derrick Lundy

More letters

Clean undies

"Friends" have suggested I announce in these columns that, out of a profound sense of gratitude to Salt Springers for their support and encouragement over the years — before we were greeted with such acclaim by the world beyond these shores — we will make a special break in our World Mega-Tour "Wellies on Fire" to perform our last gig of 2005 on Salt Spring at the Tree House South on Friday, December 16.

Slotted in between our three-night engagement at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam and the 24-hour Super-Concert in Milan's famous San Siro Soccer Stadium, the Fulford date will be a welcome chance to relax in the company of our many appreciative fans on the island.

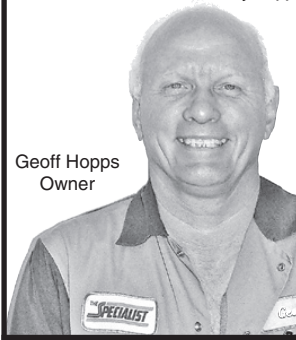
Actually, I think it very unlikely that I will have much trouble fitting in this appearance between doing the laundry sometime on Friday morning and going to the recycling depot on Saturday afternoon.

But I'm sure it will be a comfort to our audience (should there be one)

that I am performing in clean underwear. Paul has expressed his intention of doing some laundry too. **MICHAEL WALL, for Mowbray + Wall**

To our friends on Salt Spring!

"Thanks for stopping by!"
- Geoff



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Short cuts to cooking for one or two @ with Sarah Lynn

Carrots: A taproot which grows downward into the soil and swells. Native to Afghanistan, carrots were known to both the Greeks and Romans. Because of their natural sweetness, carrots were used during the Middle Ages to sweeten cakes and desserts throughout Europe. Buttered carrots, considered common today, are thought to have originated in the royal kitchens of Queen Elizabeth I of England when a Dutchman presented her with a diamond studded wreath of bright orange carrots and a tub of butter from his country. This is the second recipe of four for the perfect holiday feast. **Please come into the Ganges Village Market for any recipes you miss. All recipes will be at the demonstration counter for your convenience after they have been published in the Gulf Islands Driftwood.**

Steam or boil **4 cups baby carrots** until soft. Drain & set aside. Melt together in a small saucepan **2 tablespoons butter, 1-tablespoon honey (or brown sugar), 2 teaspoons fresh ginger, one pinch nutmeg & 1 tablespoon orange zest** (use a rasp or the smallest side of a grater to acquire zest from the orange). Stir over medium heat for 5 min. Remove from heat & pour over carrots. This sauce can be made up to a week in advance. If made in advance, simply reheat before pouring over freshly cooked carrots.

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I've been called a lot of things in my life, but never a "S.N.A.G." - a Sensitive New Age Guy. In fact, buying a vegetarian pizza is going out on a limb for me. And so when my friend started trumpeting the benefits of an infrared sauna, I was more than a little skeptical.

The benefits claimed by infrared devotees could fill this page. It burns 600 - 900 calories per session. It promotes cardio vascular conditioning. It aids in the removal of heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury from the body. It results in healthy, glowing skin. But the one that really got me interested was the claim that it relieves pain in joints and muscles. I am entering that point in my life where everything is sore.

So I gave it a shot. After a single session I was sold. Not only was all the stiffness gone, but I came out of there completely relaxed. Stress free. I knew I had to install one at North End Fitness.

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Peter Vincent
Owner, North End Fitness

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ENCORE: Members of the Fernwood School Choir rehearse in preparation for the EnChor! elementary school choir performance set for this Thursday at Art-Spring, beginning at 2 p.m.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Volunteers saluted at start of campaign

December 5 marked International Volunteer Day and the launch of the I Will Volunteer 2006 campaign, which urges British Columbians to volunteer their skills and time in the coming year.

Beginning this week, the Driftwood will run a series of profiles on Salt Spring volunteers. Some are highly visible in the community and some work behind the scenes, but all of them are pumped about donating their time to island groups and projects.

Search and rescue/emergency program volunteer Judy Burch is the first to be featured.

One way people can resolve to be involved is to visit the I Will Volunteer website (www.iwillvolunteer.ca) and register their commitment.

"If you currently volunteer, we want to hear your story, so it might inspire others to do the same," said Sultan Sandur, a Kamloops volunteer and one of 32 participants from the first-ever Volunteerism Academy hosted by the B.C. Network for the Canada Volunteerism Initiative in October. "And if you don't currently volunteer in your community, the website lists many resources to help you get started."

Some forest lot owners reach deal

The Galiano Local Trust Committee announced Monday afternoon the signing of the first heritage forest covenants for three forest lot properties.

Under the island's official community plan, nearly 100 owners of forest lot properties totalling more than 7,000 acres must covenant 75 per cent of their property as heritage forest land in order to obtain a residential use permit for the remaining portion of

their property.

The decision to grant three permits comes amidst controversy over the pending eviction of three families currently contravening regulations by living on their land.

Despite ongoing debate, outgoing trustee Louise Decario welcomed the news as a step in the right direction.

"This is a win-win situation for everyone," she said.

"The community receives the benefit of a protected working forest while the developers achieve increased residential density."

The heritage lands will be covenanted to the Habitat Acquisition Trust of Victoria

and the Galiano Conservancy Association for a 30-year minimum term.

Residents facing eviction believe the conditions are too stringent and represent a violation of their rights as property owners.

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Bench sales raise \$\$

Kanaka Road Skate Park is well used by island youth, but it still needs some finishing touches to make it a complete family facility.

That's why the Salt Spring Island Middle School Parent Advisory Council and the Salt Spring Skate Park Society are holding a "Buy a Bench" holiday fundraiser.

The two groups hope people will purchase a park bench, which costs \$250, or contribute to the water fountain fund.

Purchases will be acknowledged with a brass plaque on the equipment.

Charitable receipts are available. For more information, call 537-2553 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.



SPECIALTY ITEMS: Volunteers at the Lady Minto Thrift Shop display some of the hot items up for grabs at a special sale and silent auction this Sunday. The event runs at the thrift store's Lower Ganges location from 1-3 p.m.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

NORTON ESTATES



Announcement

Norm Elliott, President of Salt Spring Housing Corporation, is pleased to announce the appointment of Trish Murray to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Norton Estates project, a 26-unit stand-alone community-oriented development.

Trish has worked in both national and regional businesses, and brings her communications and co-ordinating skills to the Norton Estates project. As an islander for a number of years now, Trish is an enthusiastic and approachable contact for those living or working on Salt Spring Island who wish to express their interest in an affordable home in Norton Estates.

For more information or to set up a meeting, contact Trish at 250.537.1033 or email: info@ssahc.com



Salt Spring Housing Corporation

HIGH ROLLERS

Recent high scores in bowling at Kings Lane Recreation were:
Special Olympics November 23: Mahjor Bains, 166.

Special Olympics November 30: Jimmy Beck, 145; Gloria Dale, 146; Mahjor Bains, 155; Andrew Krizan, 162; David McEachern, 194.

November 17: Jake S., 202; Russ C., 209; Myles W., 218; Harold R., 218, 236.

November 21 Circus League: Val W., 251; Ken S., 210, 229; Don M., 227, 219, 268/714; Brian R., 225; Connie H., 214.

November 24: Myles W., 200; Peter M., 239; Brenda O., 224; Harold R., 205, 288/640; Roger, 200; Don M., 215, 206/610.

Medicine hand delivered to Rwanda on World AIDS Day

The following is a report from Peggy Frank and Peter Bardon, who are currently in Rwanda.

Our time in Rwanda has been wonderful. We have visited everything on our list except Andre's mom and the Village of Hope.

But let me tell you about yesterday — World AIDS Day! We were picked up early and headed to the local mobile phone company — one of the biggest employers of young people in Rwanda. We were the guests of the Rwanda Women's Network and also the president of the National Commission on AIDS. It became apparent that they were launching a company policy on HIV and AIDS in the workplace.

When I was asked to say a few words I mentioned the work that we have been doing in Canada to raise the profile of the effects on women of the disease and the Blueprint for Action on Women and HIV Manifesto. But it seemed more important to encourage them to get tested and know that positive things could happen to those who were HIV+. It seemed very well received.

Then we were treated to

beautiful choral singing and a play act that explained why the prevalence of HIV is so high in the Kigali area. It seems young girls are attracted to sugar daddies and then these men introduce these girls as cousins to their wife.

After discovering that the man in the play was HIV positive, his parents yelled at him and beat him then took him to a witch doctor, who suggested that he have sex with a virgin. In the end he was arrested. Peter found it very sad but I think it is great that they talk openly about things like this.

We have also been to an amazing orphanage where there are children of all ages, and also adults who are mentally challenged.

The precious cargo of medicine arrived safely. In fact, no one checked our bags at the airport.

We delivered the medicine to the Polyclinic of Hope on World AIDS Day. There were about 50 women waiting for us and they were very full of smiles when we arrived.

There is one woman from the Village of Hope who gave us the most enveloping hug that I have ever had. She was certainly glad to

see us and knew us from a photo that they have up at the clinic.

I was asked to speak again and when I told the women that we had waited so long for this day — they seemed to understand how important they are to us. I also explained and Peter reiterated that we didn't come alone, but that there was a huge supportive community in Canada. After a few verbal exchanges we opened the boxes of medical supplies and there was dancing — of course.

The women looked better than they had when Judy [Jackson] filmed them a few years ago. Their faces were fuller and they had smiles on them.

There were two babies in the room and the people packing the medical supplies had thought to put in three little crocheted dolls. They were well received immediately by the two children.

Peter and I were very happy and let ourselves be mauled. As we left among a throng of people wanting our addresses and to have friends in Canada to write to, Peter said, "This is the closest I have ever been to being a movie star."

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page B18

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NATIVITY: Sister Hanson of the Mormon church on Salt Spring is seen with one of numerous nativity displays featured at the Vesuvius Bay Road church last Saturday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

University group gives hope through education project

By **MARILYN MCDOWELL**

Special to the Driftwood
Fundraising for scholarships for girls with potential in less developed countries, known as the HOPE Project, has become a Christmas tradition for the Salt Spring branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW).

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of local businesses and artists, and enthusiastic bidding by members and their guests at the annual Christmas luncheon December 3 at the Harbour House Hotel, just over \$4,500 was generated at a live and silent auction and sale of items at a hostess table.

This topped last year's inaugural effort by 50 per cent.

Funds will continue sponsorship of three girls selected last year, and add perhaps two more, to enable completion of their secondary school education.

This past year, support was initiated for three girls.

Moipine of Lesotho is an AIDS orphan. At 14 years old, she struggles as head of the household to support three younger sisters. There are no other living relatives. In spite of caring for terminally ill parents until recently, she excelled in school.

She entered secondary school and needs four or five years to finish A levels, or high school completion.

Tracy, of the Solomon Islands, lives in a rural area of one of the outlying

100 per cent of donated funds go to pay for school tuition fees, books, uniforms, examination fees, and residence fees if required.

islands, New Georgia.

She is the only girl in a family of six children: her father is dead and her mother struggles to raise her family.

Tracy was the only applicant from her area selected from entrance exams to attend the most academically prestigious school in the Solomon Islands.

Tracy is determined to work hard to become an air pilot, in a country where she claims such aspirations are mocked — but she wants to achieve her aim and inspire others.

"I believe I can make it," Tracy told her CFUW sponsors, "but my only worry is finance over the five years of study required towards writing the senior exams."

Paramesware, of Tamil Nadu in the southern part of India, has one more year of secondary school to complete before she writes her senior secondary school exams.

Paramesware's parents are stone quarry workers who cannot keep her in school without financial assistance. Paramesware is an outstanding student and hopes to gain a seat in the engineering college.

Several members of the local CFUW wish to sponsor, or to help sponsor other girls in addition to the club's endeavour.

The Salt Spring club is working through the Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund, a registered charity headquartered in Great Britain.

An entirely voluntary organization, 100 per cent of donated funds go to pay for school tuition fees, books, uniforms, examination fees, and residence fees if required.

Funds are issued directly to the school, and an annual accounting and report from the school is required. Girls write letters outlining their goals and their progress.

Local members on the ground liaise with schools to select deserving candidates and to monitor the program.

The Salt Spring CFUW also awards scholarships to two local graduates of Gulf Islands Secondary School each year, upon their entrance to university.

Anyone wanting more information or wishing to sponsor a girl's education, may contact CFUW president Joyce James, or Lindsay Mundy, Canada's representative for the Commonwealth Countries League.

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Theatre, travel, lights in Light-up tour

By **SUSAN LUNDY**
Staff Writer

Art, illumination and even a bit of theatre met Driftwood Light-up judges as they toured Ganges Friday night.

Fourteen island businesses competed in the annual competition, dressing their storefronts with the glitter and glimmer of the season, and impressing judges with new levels of creativity.

Late-night openings by many of the stores livened up the tour (and gave judges a chance to momentarily thaw freezing fingers), and made for a homey trip through town.

Several businesses will also be open late this Friday, making it a good night to get a visual taste of the season by checking out local businesses' Christmas decorating.

Talk of the town Friday night was Love My Kitchen's addition of live theatre to its old-fashioned Christmas theme.

A crowd gathered outside the storefront as Eric Booth's Scrooge sat and slowly ate (he chewed and swallowed for an hour before judges arrived) a turkey dinner. The theatrics included lighting a blue flame to the Christmas pudding, and shooing away any children who happened to be watching.

Love My Kitchen's unique entry grabbed the "most creative" prize.

Several businesses rose to the top of discussion as judges later determined winners in three categories: most creative; best use of lights; best use of material.

Boardwalk Greens' delightful outdoor display excelled in all three areas, giving it the "best overall" title.

Other topnotch entries included Harlan's, Island Savings, Mouat's Trading,



Diane Nicol holds Light-up contest rosettes at the Boardwalk Green display.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

ArtSpring and the Thrift Shop.

Not on the competition list, but thoroughly enjoyed, was Island Star Video's mammoth decorations, which must be seen rather than described.

Following are some of the stops the judges enjoyed on their tour of Ganges:

- Lady Minto Thrift Store's angel theme uses lace and billowy fabric to create an angels-and-clouds Christmassy aura. Faced with tough competition in the "creativity" and "materials" categories, the Thrift Shop was awarded honourable mentions in each. It's definitely worth a look, and makes a good starting point for a tour.

- Mouat's Clothing served up a seasonal something with a difference. The store's windows and interior feature over a dozen sound-activated marshmallow-like snowman that give a jolly jiggle, all the while singing *Frosty the Snowman*. Unfortunately, they activate each other and never quite manage to get the song in sync. Still, one can't help chuckling and kids will really get a kick out of it.

- Jill Louise Campbell's fine art gallery appropriately features some Christmas-hued (although not thematic) paintings in the window, and an added touch of the season with snowflakes, candles and brightly-lit outdoor planters.

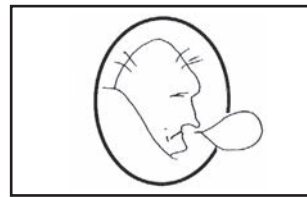
- Mouat's Trading picked up window design kudos for a *Twas the Night Before Christmas* theme, and took first place for best use of lights. Using material from the store, the window scene features a sleigh full of toys, child's bed, crackling electric fire and even a cushioned bed for the family hound. Later, walking along the main road, the judges could see the dramatic effect of the building's light show, which ultimately generated its first-place prize.

- Gardening centre Boardwalk Greens took the judges' collective breath away with its ingenuity and design. A unique outside window display features a mossy background with decoratively placed gold-glittery tools of the trade, surrounded by gems of creativity such as bells made from spray-painted upside down flower pots,

a burlap bow, and outdoor candles-in-cones. Boardwalk Greens took the "best overall" award, as well as "best use of material."

- Harlan's got the sweet-tooth vote for its candy-created buildings and a poster board town, again all made out of different-coloured candy. Much thought and effort went into the display, which uses different textures and colours of candy to give contrasting effects. One multi-floor house looks good enough for the Salt Spring Home Tour. Harlan's took second for "best use of material."

TOUR B2



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SHOW STEALER: Local youths, from left, Sarah Robinson, Tess Eddington and Jessica Fettis help Jozef and Bibiana Demcak hold Banana, a four-year-old albino python. The crew is set to perform magic shows this Saturday (2 and 7 p.m.) at Fulford Hall.
 Photo by Derrick Lundy

TOUR

From Page B1

• Love My Kitchen's King of Christmas Grouch sat amid a period-appropriate setting. Who could beat the unique quotient behind that idea?

• ArtSpring is dressed to be viewed from afar, with a Christmas tree and wreaths brightly lighting its high windows. For those walking along Seaview Avenue towards Jackson Avenue, the elegant light show warmly brightens a dark area of town. ArtSpring took second place for "best use of lights."

• Once again, Island Savings outdid itself, dressing each of its many windows with props from around the world, adding up to a Christmas-time travelogue. Much effort and thought went into the window designs, which take sidewalk travellers to places such as Tibet, Mexico and Africa, and also back in time to a Victorian Christmas. Island Savings grabbed second place for creativity.

• A beacon of Christmas cheer all a-glitter, Stone Walrus is a blaze of seasonal light, using its eclectic stock to the fullest, and dressing its window with original ornaments — including camels-as-reindeer pulling a sleigh. Stone Walrus got an honourable mention for best use of lights.

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Tuned Air hospitality embraced

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Islanders snuggled up for a cozy Winterfires II concert at ArtSpring last weekend.

Hosted by Salt Spring's beloved Tuned Air choir, Winterfires II welcomed numerous talents from around the island's thriving music scene in a kind of old-timey variety show that warmed hearts with familiar nostalgia.

The show ignited with Stan Rogers' rousing sea-shanty *Barrett's Privateers* featuring sturdy masculine timbre and a "broken man" solo by Bo Curtis, who also arranged the famous piece.

Tuned Air kept the old-time theme roaring with another vibrant three-part traditional shanty called *All For Me Grog*, about a sailor who's cashed in all his assets for rum, women and tobacco.

And *Rising of the Moon* rekindled a favourite Celtic traditional hit from the Winterfires show last year.

Among other concert highlights, Chris Kodaly provided sumptuous selections from *Petrarch's Sonnets* by Franz Liszt.

Touching on delightful expressive elements that ranged from tenderness and apprehension to bounding joy and surrendering tranquility (in a vein that wilts modern efforts at compositional complexity) — there was something about Kodaly's rendering of Liszt that seemed to say: "Here lies the answer to any deep metaphysical question, if one should just listen closely."

The only prosaic question for Kodaly would be: "When will he perform next?"

For islanders who seek a little more caffeine in their music, IROKO and Laurent Boucher hit deep djembe rhythms that could be felt on the cellular level with traditional African pieces such as *Zaouli* and *Sewa Foli*.

Kicking off the second set of Winterfires II with a regal march called *Balakulania* from upper Guinea, the

"Here lies the answer to any deep metaphysical question, if one should just listen closely."

drummers created a finely tuned engine that might power the island if poly-rhythmic sound could only be harnessed into a viable energy alternative.

Showing the full range of an islandpaloosa-type variety event, Jaime RT (formerly known as Jaime Rokeby-Thomas) combined with Andy Hillhouse (of Mad Pudding fame) to kick out some original northwest Celtic-style jigs on fiddle and guitar.

Who would think guitar could be used to fill in for a bodhrain?

Along with Jaime RT's lush sweeping *Big Tree Medley* and some fern-tendrill complexity in *Twenty Seven*, the islander offered a glistening Arctic landscape with *Falling White* and some summer-flutter wonder in *Dragonfly*.

Hillhouse also shared a haunting version of Richard Thompson's lamenting love song *Beeswing* that was etched into memories with his honest performance.

Folksy and sincere in her own style, Lisa Maxx also won hearts with her singing and songwriting that included a sentimental celebration of life, *In the Silence*; a nostalgic tribute to her grandmother, *Still Hold True*; and spiritual-type songs inspired by a workshop with Leon Bibb.

The only disappointment of the show was how little Tuned Air actually performed.

Apart from the opening set, they only presented five other songs — one on each side of the intermission in conjunction with other artists and three songs to wrap up the evening (not counting an operatic *Happy Birthday* sung for director Bruce Ruddell's wife Barbara on Friday).

with a comforting nightcap, Tuned Air provided a jazzy scat-like rendition of the *Swingle Song* for the hip-cat set (it's amazing how much can be communicated with "doo bah doo" lyrics) and then the choir polished off the crowd with a spiritual swig of traditional gospel liquor in *Let Me Fly* before they touched on Sarah McLachlan's pop hit *I Will Remember You* for an impassioned encore.

Clearly, islanders would have enjoyed an extended concert featuring more from the choir, but ArtSpring will feature Tuned Air working with celebrated spiritual singer Leon Bibb on March 16-17 in 2006.

Based on chatter around the sumptuous bake feast provided by Salt Spring Cooperative Preschool at the intermission, the wistful Iberian serenade of *Tango to Evora* by Loreena McKennitt was a crowd favourite.

And the traditional Senegalese ostinato *Kaki Lambe* offered a fantastic fusion of voices and rhythm (beats provided by IROKO and Boucher).

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Dawn Hage, Director

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JOZEF MAGIC SHOW

Saturday 2pm & 7pm
Fulford Hall



WARMING UP FOR SCROOGE: Cast members of Christmas With Scrooge stretch their vocal cords in Ganges to promote the 20th anniversary of the show, which runs December 16-18, and 22-24. This is the final year of the Newman Family Productions show, so get your tickets early.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

SALT SPRING SINGERS PRESENT A Christmas Story

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ARTSPRING
Friday December 9 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 10 8 p.m.
Sunday December 11 2 p.m.

Hilles launches his latest work at Lions Hall event

Salt Spring Island poet and novelist Robert Hilles launches his 17th book — *Calling the Wild* — on Thursday, December 15 at 7 p.m. at Lions Hall.

Through stories and memories from his childhood in northern Ontario, he provides glimpses of his formative years, when it was still possible to believe that the wilderness he took for granted would always exist.

Hilles retells several of his father's stories, including



Calling the Wild

Robert Hilles

Chickadee's rifle alongside the hides of a dozen wolves, but his body is never found.

Early critical response to the new book has been very positive:

"... a fiercely fantastic read... This collection is an unguarded, haunting and fresh addition to Canadian literature," said *The Windsor Star*.

Last year Hilles published his second novel, *A Gradual Ruin*, which is available in paperback at local bookstores.

The book was widely praised and the *Edmonton Journal* called it a "tightly written, muscular epic."

He won the Governor General's Award for Poetry in 1994.

Hilles will read from his new book and sign copies at next Thursday's event.

the opening one, *Chickadee*, which begins with his father narrating, "Have you heard the one about Chickadee Brant?"

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HEALTH CALLING: Salt Spring's Sam Graci signs and sells his latest book *The Path to Phenomenal Health* at Salt Spring Books on Saturday. Proceeds are being directed to the local food bank. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Santa Ship sails the islands again

Islanders can join a 55-year tradition by greeting Santa in Ganges Harbour when the Christmas Ship comes to town on Saturday.

"It's a tremendously fun thing to do. You get to go out and see all the little kids who are all excited to see Santa Claus," said Don Wight, chairman of the Bellingham Lions Christmas Ship program and captain of the 110-foot Victoria Star II.

In addition to visits at Salt Spring, Pender, Mayne, Galiano and Saturna, the Christmas Ship — referred to locally as "the Santa Ship" — also visits six islands in the San Juans before a return to Bellingham on Sunday night.

Traditions have evolved in each community over the past 55 years to include a Santa sleigh pulled by fire-fighters on Mayne and a serenade by bagpipers from Pender.

"We've got children of

children of children that went to the first time. I can remember seeing the Santa Ship come to town when I was a kid," said Salt Spring Lions Club member Don Cunningham.

The whole program almost foundered six years ago, Cunningham said, but the Bellingham Lions Club took it on with phenomenal success.

Wight expects the ship to arrive in Ganges Harbour by 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

The crew will set off fireworks when they arrive, islanders can greet Santa at the coast guard dock and then the jolly elf will hear Christmas wishes at Salt Spring elementary before visiting the hospital and Greenwoods.

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Concert fuses music and drama

The Salt Spring Concert Band (SSCB) is planning a Christmas event that may well be an "island first."

A Christmas-themed play will unfold at Fulford Hall on December 16-17 with musical selections nestled in between the five short acts to create a seamless collaboration between the two art forms.

SSCB music director Dawn Hage said she's had the concept in her mind for years, but wasn't sure how it could be pulled off.

"I was originally planning to feature the Honour Choir on our Christmas show, but they became unavailable and I needed to come up with another group or idea to fill

out the evening," said Hage. "Around the same time, I went to see *Death of a Salesman* with WordPlay and I was absolutely blown away by the production. I realized that a simple reading from a script, with skilled actors and great material, was an incredibly effective way to present a play and that kind of presentation could work with the band. I called Richard Moses, who plays French horn in the concert band and was also a starring reader in *Salesman*. I asked him if he could think of any play that would possibly work in this format that would also be appropriate for the Christmas season."

Moses was excited about the concept right away.

"It's a great idea!" he said. "At first I thought about some sort of reading — a story, etc. Then my favourite story of all popped into my head and I asked Dawn if she knew *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. She lit up like a Christmas tree."

Amahl and the Night Visitors is actually a short modern opera written by Gian-Carlos Menotti. Moses had extracted the script from the

opera for Readers Theatre and with a "bit of trimming" it was ready to go. Hage knew immediately that they had found their play.

"Richard kept saying, 'Wait till you read it and see what you think,' but I was ecstatic. I knew it was perfect," said Hage.

The next step was finding an available cast, including a child to play the important role of Amahl. The play requires six characters: Amahl, his mother, the three kings and a page. Moses took on the task of casting and found some exciting readers for every part.

"We have two young people who are dying to play Amahl: Sam Neville and Amaranta Macallister," said Moses. "They are best friends and may share the fun. Karena Macallister will be the mother, Marck Shipley, Lindsey Neville and Alex Mitchell will be the three Kings, and Tom Gilligan, the page. In a moment of sheer madness, I asked Alex Mitchell to play Kaspar, the somewhat daft and slightly deaf King and to my 'modified rapture' he agreed."

The setting will be simi-

lar to past WordPlay productions, with "sketch" costumes and a few small props.

"I studied the play to determine the emotional mood the listener is left with after each act, and also the dramatic feel at each point, and then programmed music that would highlight that mood for the listener," said Hage. "For example, when Amahl's mother is struggling with the decision to steal or not steal the gold, and also seeing the comparisons between the child just born and her own child, we perform a beautiful version of *Ave Maria*. When the play is upbeat and comical, our music is boisterous and fun with selections like *Rhapsody on Spanish Carols*, and when the mood is sombre, we perform works like *Pacem or Veni Emmanuel*. I had a lot of fun working out the program and imagining how it will all come together for the audience."

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. both nights. Tickets are \$12 and \$5 and available in advance at Stuff 'n' Nonsense, Acoustic Planet, and from SSCB members.

Mexico sights, sounds beam down for fiesta

Islanders can get a taste of the hot sun in winter when Mariachi del Sol performs at a Mexican Christmas Fiesta at the Harbour House Hotel next Friday.

Mariachi Del Sol, from Vancouver, is one of Canada's outstanding Mexican music ensembles, delivering the authentic flavour of Mexico, complete with traditional mariachi costumes.

Formed by Octavio Carrillo in 1987, it blends the traditional sounds of Mexico, from the soft romantic ballads to lively rancher songs.

In 1993, Vancouver became the band's base city.

Their traditional Black Charro costumes identify them as professional Mariachi Musicians of serious repute. Since its formation Mariachi Del Sol has performed in many venues in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

In September 2004 and 2005, Mariachi del Sol performed along with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver, and

the Royal Theatre in Victoria with the production "Mariachi — The Spirit of Mexico."

Five or six members will be present at the Salt Spring event. A real jewel in this band's sombrero was to represent Canada at the International Congress of Mariachi music in Guadalajara City, Mexico in 2001 and 2002.

The Harbour House Hotel's Mexican-style buffet dinner is included in the \$50 ticket price. Tickets are available until December 14 through the ArtSpring ticket centre, and VISA and Mastercard are accepted.

The event runs from 6 p.m. to midnight on December 16.

A donation from the proceeds will be made to the Copper Kettle whose services for low-income and homeless people on Salt Spring include providing subsidized showers, a firewood fund and community woodpile, supplemental food and Christmas hamper programs and an outdoor survival kit for under \$20.

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What's On?
 see page B18



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FULFORD TRADITION: At left, Louise Faulkner is seen with Arbutus Accents products, while above, Don Monteith peers through his "sun catchers." Both were spotted at the annual Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair, which took place at the south-end hall last weekend.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

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Awards pile up for Island Savings

Island Savings has risen to the top as the second best place to work in B.C. and the best on Vancouver Island, according to B.C. Business Magazine and Watson Wyatt's 25 Best Places to Work annual survey.

"We are proud to top this list," said Pam Marchant, president and CEO of Island Savings in a press release. "We set a goal to be the best place to work on the islands and making the top 25 list for the fourth time is truly gratifying. It is particularly rewarding for an island-based company to receive

a number two placing. We share this award with our members, the community and, of course, our staff because going forward we'll continue to grow stronger on the islands and be a leader in the community and in the workplace."

Some examples considered in the surveys are:

- A weekly internal newsletter is created to showcase Island Savings' community sponsorship and events. Staff send in photos and stories of their volunteerism in the community.
- Marchant sends personal

notes of congratulations to staff and every employee on their birthday receives a birthday card signed by each executive member.

- Marchant and executives host a quarterly luncheon for Island Savings' top performers.

- At Christmas, the company hosts a Christmas party for staff and spouses.

- Senior executives regularly visit each branch to touch base with employees.

- Annually, the company hosts a gala event with entertainment where staff members are honoured for

achievements over the previous year.

This award follows on the heels of other recent awards that Island Savings has received for its leadership in the community and workplace.

In October it was recognized as one of the Top 20 Employers in BC by Maclean's Magazine and received an Ethics in Action Award for Community Care.

Earlier in the year, Pam Marchant won the Women of Distinction Award for Workplace Leadership.

Medicare film touches on Salt Springer's hip saga

Salt Spring will again be flashed in the limelight on Thursday, December 8 when a documentary called *Medicare Schmedicare* runs on CBC TV's Passionate Eye.

But this time the coverage has nothing to do with development issues, tourism or controversial residents.

Islander Peter Vincent, who is on a wait list for a hip replacement, is one of the patients profiled in the film, which illustrates that two-tier health care already exists

in Canada.

The film portrays Vincent, 55, unable to even connect with a specialist in Vancouver, while a 92-year-old woman paid \$20,000 to receive an artificial hip in the U.S. through a medical services broker in Vancouver.

Shots from the Salt Spring Fall Fair and around the island are also part of the film, which runs from 9-10 p.m.

However, anyone with an interest in the state of

Canada's public health care system will find *Medicare Schmedicare* of interest.

Medicare Schmedicare was written and directed by Robert Duncan, and produced by Carolyn Schmidt of DOC TV.

Duncan and the film's editor Janice Brown maintain a part-time residence on Salt Spring.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK
see page B22

JOZEF MAGIC SHOW

Saturday 2pm & 7pm
Fulford Hall

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- * **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- * **Emergency Mental Health Services available:**
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COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS
Coordinator: Sharon Glover 537-4607

December 2005

WE NEED New FRIENDLY VISITORS!!
Can you volunteer a little extra time to help a senior?
Warm & caring people are needed to give time on a weekly basis to seniors who are lonely or would look forward to a bright spot in their week.
Friendly Visitors go to seniors' homes or take them out for about an hour once a week.
Spend time going for a walk, going into town, playing cards, or sipping tea + looking at photos of days gone by.
Please call Sharon at 537- 4607 for more information.

NEW TELEPHONE PROGRAM!
"The Peer Connection" is starting a new service - regular or daily phone calls for single seniors who would like a telephone visit with a friendly person.
We need volunteers to make calls and seniors to receive them - would you like to be part of this?
Call Sharon at 537- 4607 for more details!

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - returns in January!
Monday 30 January 10:00 - 12:00
at Salt Spring Seniors (across from GVM)
Volunteer nurses take + record your blood pressure.



MILESTONE: Birthday cake is part of a noon-time bash at Transitions Thrift Store in Ganges on Friday. The store is celebrating 10 years at its downtown location. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Blue Christmas service runs Dec. 15 at church

By PAT BARCLAY
Special to the Driftwood

If you're feeling blue at the very thought of Christmas this year, you'll know something of what Elvis Presley meant when he sang:

"And when those blue snowflakes start falling

That's when those blue memories start calling

You'll be doin' all right, with your Christmas of white

But I'll have a blue, blue blue Christmas."

(By B.Hayes, J.Johnson ©1948)

There can be so many reasons why we might feel blue at Christmas, from ill health, a broken relationship or unemployment, to

the loss of a loved one or a loneliness that goes unacknowledged until we find it surfacing at Christmas, the traditional season of happiness and celebration. Nobody wants to be a grinch, but there does come a time for being honest about our feelings.

To Salt Springers with painful thoughts and feelings at this time of year, the United church in Ganges extends an open invitation to attend its annual Blue Christmas Service on Thursday, December 15, at 2 p.m. This will be a relatively brief service, lasting only 30 to 40 minutes, but the ambience of the decorated church, the carefully

chosen music, and the healing symbolism involved in the casting off of stones and the lighting of candles, will offer lasting meaning to troubled hearts.

Also on offer will be special refreshments after the service, for a time of fellowship and sharing.

If you choose, bring a friend as your support, or invite someone to join you for the Blue Christmas Service if you know that the merry-making season is not on the agenda for them this year. By doing so, you'll be helping to make the true message of love and hope, which the birth of the Christ child embodies, a living reality for you both.

Annual Winterfest offers music, crafts and food

Salt Spring Centre School celebrates its annual winter festival this year on Saturday, December 10.

"As with every year, this is a wonderful opportunity for the school families, as well as the community at large, to come together and share an afternoon of craft-making, conversation, good food and music," said school principal Erin Porter.

The Salt Spring Centre

will be transformed into a festive room to sit and chat with friends new and old around the comfy couches. Ongoing and changing crafts and games will keep children excited, occupied and creating.

Families will also be treated to some live entertainment as children, their parents and friends graciously exhibit their musical talents.

Delicious vegetarian fare will be available through-

out the day in the dining room.

A raffle draw takes place toward the end of the event.

"This is a magical day for both children and adults and a wonderful way to celebrate the winter season," said Porter.

Winterfest runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Salt Spring Centre, 355 Blackburn Road.

For more information, phone the school at 537-9130.

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When poems are stories

Distance From The Locus by Murray Reiss, *Salt Spring Island: (m)Öthêr Tônguê Press, 2005, 20 pp., \$20 paper.*

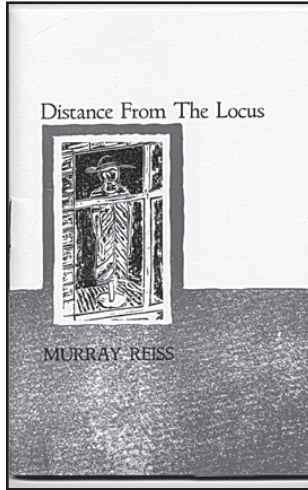
By **TANYA LESTER**
Driftwood Contributor

The narrative poems in Murray Reiss' chapbook, *Distance From The Locus*, have such a strong storytelling ring that I found myself thinking about them as prose when I recalled them later.

These poems are the marks of a mature poet; their twists and turns surprised me and held my interest.

In *The Mannequins' Graveyard*, for example, I had settled in to believing the piece was about the poet's parents mourning the dead they had lost in World War II as a backdrop to the dress shop they owned in Sarnia.

Then the poem moves to the burden the Jewish family's loss placed on the shoul-



ders of the only son. From there, it goes on to the shop's employees:

"... They had no husbands or sons. Once a year, at the party table, the salesgirls drank hard liquor and plotted revenge. They propped me against their pillows and dressed me like their doll. Tomorrow was their sav-

our's birthday; everything was allowed..."

Reiss is old enough (in a good way) to want to go back and re-examine his youth.

To perhaps, once and for all, settle things.

Although he writes about his father's familial loss in Poland, Reiss' poetry reminds us that many death camps still exist today.

References are made to his birthplace of Chemical Valley in Ontario, the African AIDS epidemic and the East Vancouver women who were slaughtered at the pig farm.

His repeated themes strengthened the final impact of the chapbook's 11 poems for me.

I did not feel depressed by the subject matter because the poet not only writes about the injustices but about the actions he and others take to bring about change.

Spirit of Salt Spring



Call them Angels in the Night, the Invis Mortgage Brokerage team from left Margaret Mots, Lynell Vipond, Carolyn Maycock and (foreground) Rob Hafer at their Open House Dec. 1 at ArtSpring. The project is a part of a nationwide effort by the brokers to collect items for distribution to organizations who assist with shelters and those in need. Donations may be dropped off to the Chamber info centre until Dec. 9.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations.

First-come, first-served basis as space permits.

Call Penny for details.

Driftwood

328 Lower Ganges Rd
537-9933

SIMS releases honour roll

The following Salt Spring Island Middle School students were placed on the December 2005 Honour Roll. Their grades in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Languages were all B or better. Congratulations to all of them!

Corey Abbott, Josh Bedford, Courtenay Bolton, Ella Bronstein, Pilar Brooks, Eleanor Brouard-John, Kaitlin Brunt, Samantha Brunt, Arlo Bryn-Thorn, Liam Budd, Rowynn Butler, Sami Clemente, Silken Conradi, Alex Crandall, Sean Cunningham, Shannon Davenport, Max Ditlof, Rebecca Edwards, Maria Elsser, Coleman Everest, Maddy Fetherston, Kaitlin Fraser, Jeff Fraser, Keaton Giles, Katie Goeujon-Mackness, Rudy Gummeson, Dylan Hatchard, Noah Havelaar, Paige Hickman, Janean Hickson, Lind-E Hoban, Marina Holding, Torrie Holmes, Anna Hoskins, Ben Hunter, Tyler Irwin, Hayley Jackson, Megan Jarman, Delaney Johnson, Seanna Johnston, Glen Keough, Ashley Kilbourn, Ryan Kopetzki, Kaylea Kray, Aaron Kyle, Jasmin Lundy, Sierra Lundy, Heather Macdonald, Kara MacKay, Jeremy Marchi, Alexa Matheson, Geoffrey McFarlane, Anna Melious, Clea Mihalik, Robyn Millerd, Grace Morgan, Derek Oswell, Keegan Pearson, Rebecca Price, Bronte Renwick-Shields, Kelly Retallack, Erica Rimmer, Sarah Rowse, Abbie Sherwood, Chloe Sjuberg, Karen Slakov, Nick Slakov, Leh Smallshaw, Victoria Smith, Amalia Smith, Cameron Sutherland, Erica Tarissan, Danielle Topaz, Walker Tottman, Clayton Upex, Deena Whitcutt, Cassandra Victorin, Graham Wrigley, Emily Wypkema, Braden Young, Bona Yun.

The Living Word

Matthew 1-23

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emanuel - which means, "God with us".

WINSOME WHITE

Please Read: MATTHEW 1-18-25
ISAAC 7-14

JOZEF MAGIC SHOW

Saturday 2pm & 7pm
Fulford Hall

Thank You Saint!



Thank you, Saint Clair McColl and the staff at Salt Spring Air for delivering Santa Claus safe and sound on Saturday, Dec. 3 for the Annual Fly In. This annual tradition wouldn't be possible without your generosity. Many thanks to the Bank of Montreal, Thrifty Foods, and Pharmasave for their donations for the kids!

SALTSPRINGAIR

Driftwood
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Sat., January 7, 2006
Commencing at 11:00 a.m.
Salt Spring Island
Artspring Exhibit & Meeting Area
100 Jackson Avenue
Ganges, B.C.

THE APPLICATIONS

By Application dated July 7, 2005, BCTC requests a CPCN to construct and operate the VITR to reinforce the electric transmission system serving Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. BCTC proposes to replace an existing 138 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line between South Delta and North Cowichan with a new 230 kV line that will be entirely within the existing 138 kV right-of-way. The VITR is estimated to cost \$245 million and is scheduled to be in service by October 2008.

By Application dated September 30, 2005, Sea Breeze requests a CPCN for the VIC. Sea Breeze proposes to construct a High Voltage Direct Current Light® transmission system between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island that it estimates will cost \$302 million and is scheduled to be in service by March 2008. Sea Breeze proposes the VIC as an alternative to the VITR to reinforce the transmission system serving Vancouver Island.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission Panel has consolidated the review of the BCTC VITR Application and the Sea Breeze VIC Application, and had established the Regulatory Timetable for the consolidated proceeding. The Oral Public Hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 23, 2006 in the Commission Hearing Room on the Second Floor at 855 Homer Street in Vancouver.

The Commission also plans to hold Town Hall Meetings to provide participants with an opportunity to make presentations to the Commission Panel on the VITR and VIC Applications. Each presentation at a Town Hall Meeting will be limited to 10 minutes, and the presentations will be recorded.

SCHEDULING PRESENTATIONS AT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Parties wishing to make a presentation to the Commission Panel at a Town Hall Meeting should contact Mr. Gordon Fulton, Commission Counsel by email at gfulton@boughton.ca or by telephone at (604) 687-6789 by December 15, 2005. To assist parties who wish to use Power Point for their presentations, the Hearing Officer will provide a screen, projector and a cable to connect to the standard monitor port of the presenter's computer. A party wishing to make a Power Point presentation should bring a computer with the Power Point presentation, and must provide a hard copy of the presentation. All parties making submissions are encouraged to provide a hard copy of their submissions if convenient. Commission Counsel will provide a letter to participants outlining what they can expect at a Town Hall Meeting. The Commission Panel may cancel a Town Hall Meeting if less than six presentations are scheduled by the notice date of December 15, 2005.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, or Mr. Brian Williston, Director, Engineering and Commodity Markets, as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
Telephone: (B.C. Toll Free) 1-800-663-1385

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Water society flush with year's triumphs

Newly elected Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society (SSIWPS) president Wayne Hewitt predicts the island's new trustees will help usher in an era of water conservation.

"I am confident they will go back to the preserve and protect mandate, but we'll still be watching the trustees closely," Hewitt said after the group's AGM last week.

"The more people who are

looking at something, the more effective it will be."

But the election of Peter Lamb and George Ehring to the Islands Trust, he said, will not mean raising awareness about the island's watershed is a done deal. Instead he called it a wonderful opportunity for greater community involvement.

"Basically what it's boiled down to is that we need public input," Hewitt said.

"Most people who come to the meetings are already converted and we need more outside input because it is those people who tell us if what we're doing really works."

Hewitt said he noticed it was getting difficult to attract more SSIWPS members not due to a lack of interest but, rather, because there are so many community organizations to choose from, he said.

He said the group's top priority over the next year would be ensuring the Cusheon Lake Management Plan is adopted under the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Hewitt admitted it is difficult for a smaller grassroots community organization to accomplish the feat, but added getting the plan officially recognized is essential

before its recommendations can proceed.

"Until we get the province to support us, I'm not sure the Cusheon Lake Management Plan will be as effective as we intended it to be," he said.

The plan's latest draft will be available in early 2006.

Hewitt also noted how the society had successfully worked alongside the new Channel Ridge development team to ensure protection of 270-acre property northwest of St. Mary Lake.

"No matter what happens we anticipate getting a conservation covenant on land acquired on Channel Ridge," he said.

"The new management team seems to be a lot more interested in protecting the lake."

Other highlights from the past year, Hewitt said,

included preventing a housing development on Horel Road and helping stop an amendment to the island's Land Use Bylaw 355 that would have eased density restrictions in watershed areas.

The 20 members in attendance were also treated to a short video on septic maintenance.

Hewitt recommended homeowners contact SSIWPS for more information or visit the Capital Regional District office to borrow a copy of *Septic System Maintenance — Pure and Simple*.

Andrea Collins will continue as the group's vice-president, Ron Hawkins was acclaimed treasurer and Doreen Hewitt became a member-at-large to round out the society's executive.

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CANADA GR. "AA" BEEF BONELESS TOP ROUND Oven Roast 7.67kg 3.48/lb	CANADA GR. "AA" BEEF BONELESS TOP ROUND Marinating Steaks 7.89kg... 3.58/lb	FRESH BONELESS PORK SHOULDER Butt Roast 4.37kg... 1.98/lb
FRESH FRYING Chicken Drumsticks 3.26kg 1.48/lb	FRESH FRYING Chicken Thighs 3.92kg... 1.78/lb	FRESH PORK SHOULDER COUNTY STYLE Spare Ribs 4.37kg... 1.98/lb
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4.49 NABOB Tea Bags 120s	2.99 POST 100% Bran 575g	3.49 QUAKER Quick Oats 2.25kg	2/4.00 QUAKER * Chewy * Dips 6-8s	55¢ JELLO Jelly Powder 85g	98¢ ROYAL EDINBURGH Shortbread Fingers 125g	2/3.00 DARE Breton Crackers 275g long box	3.29 MAXWELL HOUSE Ground Coffee 326g

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GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD PAGE B11 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005

S - Salt Spring Island			ExpressVu			StarChoice			WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 7									
S	Channel	Time	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
257	308	CBC	Dragon	C. Beach	Simpsons	JFL: Gags	News		R. Mercer	Corrie St.	This is Wonderland	the fifth estate	News: The National	News /25 ZeD				
320	621	MC	Daniel & Superdogs	Secondhand Lions	Michael Caine.	Sleeper Cell	The Sopranos	The Sopranos	15 Underworld (2003)	Kate Beckinsale.								
256		CITY	Daily	Inside Ed.	A Channel News at 5	Fortune	Jeopardy	Everwood	Too Cool for Christmas	Ryan Mcdonell.	News	35 Daily						
287	379	KING	Oprah Winfrey	KING News	News	News	Magazine	Inside Ed.	E-Ring	Apprentice: Martha	Law & Order	News	35 J. Leno					
255	358	CH	Days of Our Lives	CH News	News	News	Grow	70s	Pope John Paul II	2/2 from Dec 4	The Shield	News						
250	321	CTVBC	Tyra Banks Show	CTV News	News	News	eTalk	Access	Law & Order	Lost	CSI: NY	News	News					
251	336	GBLBC	Oprah Winfrey	News	National	News	ET	ET Can.	E-Ring	Apprentice: Martha	The Tragically Hip	News						
291	383	KCTS	Arthur	Maya&M.	Cyberch. Business	News	The Heart of Pilates	Colours of Infinity		Roy Orbison and Friends	Helmut Lotti: Russia							
120	702	SRC	La fosse aux lionnes	Véro	Le Téléjournal	Virginie	L'Épicerie	Match-étoiles	Juste pour rire	Téléjournal/Point	Journal	Mélie						
268	354	KNOW	Koala	George	Madeline	Arthur	Mechanic	D. Smith	Wildness	LeadEdge	Industry	Science	R. Sci.	Food	Bernard Slade	Scatter.	Dotto	
253	359	CITY	CityLine		Ellen DeGeneres	News	Million?	Friends	Top Model (SF)	How to Lose a Guy	in 10 Days							
620	523	BRAVO	Videos	Thomas Highway	Lunch With Charles (2001)	Sean Lau.	45BINews	Law & Order	NYPD Blue	Earth (1998)	Aamir Khan.							
522	506	HIST	JAG		Antiques Roadshow	Digging For Truth	Turning Points	JAG	Antiques Roadshow	Digging For Truth	China Beach							
521	560	TLC	Younger	Younger	Faking It	Faking It	Going Hollywood	Going Hollywood	Faking It	Faking It	Going Hollywood	Going Hollywood	Younger	Younger				
557	541	FAM	15 Young	40Recess	05 Kim P.	McGuire	Stevens	Darcy	So Raven	Smart G.	8 Rules	Boy MW	Brotherly	Roscoe	Popular			
615	520	A&E	American Justice	Bounty	Bounty	Inked	Inked	Knights of the South Bronx	Bounty	Bounty	Inked	Inked	Knights of South...					
400	400	TSN	MolsonH.	Hockey NHL	Calgary Flames vs. New Jersey Devils	Curling Canadian Trials					Poker World Series	Sportscentre						
407	419	RSP	Basketball NBA	Los Angeles vs Toronto		Hockey	News	Basketball NBA	Phoenix vs Golden State		Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News						
23		KSTW	Bernie M.	Bernie M.	WifeKids	WifeKids	Queens	Queens	Seinfeld	70s	Top Model (SF)	Veronica Mars	Seinfeld	70s	SouthPk	SouthPk		
24		KVOS	Montel Williams	F. Feud	Yes, Dear	Elimidate	Elimidate	Becker	Queens	Home Alone (1990)	Macaulay Culkin.	W&Grace	Queens	Cheers	Serve P.			
290	382	KCPQ	SaveBell	Fresh P.	Shoot	King Hill	Simpsons	Malcolm	Simpsons	Malcolm	70s	Stacked	Trading Spouses	Q-13 News	Simpsons	King Hill		
502	390	NEWS	Can. Now	Can. Now	CBC News: Hour	News: The National	Wild Canada	CBC News: Hour	News: The National	CBC News: Hour	News: The National	CBC News: Hour						
289	381	KIRO	Judy	Judy	News	News	News	ET	Access	Pope John Paul II	2/2 from Dec 4	CSI: NY	News	LateShow				
288	380	KOMO	First News @ 4	KOMO 4 News	News	News	News	Fortune	Jeopardy	G. Lopez	Freddie	Lost	Alias	News	35 News			
65	394	VISION	Touched By Angel	Minister	Cheff!	Doc Martin	The Fires That Burn	Little Men	Minister	Cheff!	Doc Martin	7th Heaven						

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

Salt Spring Driftwood: Main Movie Breakout for Dec 7, 2005 to Dec 13, 2005

- WEDNESDAY, DEC 7**
- 7:00 PM
- 20 **Knights of the South Bronx (2005, Drama)** Teacher David MacEnulty struggles to improve the lives of children in the South Bronx. *Ted Danson* (2h)
- 8:00 PM
- 6 27 **Pope John Paul II (2005, Religious)** Karol Wojtyla who went on to become Pope inspired millions of people during his papacy. *Jon Voight, Cary Elwes* (2h)
 - 24 **Home Alone (1990, Comedy)** A boy is accidentally left behind when his family goes on a holiday at Christmas time. *Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci* (2h)
- 9:00 PM
- 4 **Too Cool for Christmas (2004, Comedy)** A fashion enthusiast joins Santa on his rounds and learns the true meaning of Christmas. *Ryan Mcdonell, Adrienne Carter* (2h)
 - 13 **How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003, Comedy)** Two New Yorkers attempt to get ahead in their jobs by starting a false relationship. *Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson* (2h35)
- 10:00 PM
- 14 **Earth (1998, Religious)** Families of diverse religious beliefs struggle during the independence of India in 1947. *Aamir Khan, Nandita Das* (2h)
- 10:15 PM
- 3 **Underworld (2003, Fantasy)** A beautiful vampire warrior is torn when she falls in love with a werewolf, a sworn enemy. *Kate Beckinsale, Scott Speedman* (2h15)
- 11:00 PM
- 20 **Knights of the South Bronx (2005, Drama)** Teacher David MacEnulty struggles to improve the lives of children in the South Bronx. *Ted Danson* (2h)

- THURSDAY, DEC 8**
- 7:00 PM
- 3 **The Sea Inside (2004, Biography)** The real-life story of Ramon Sampedro, a Spanish man who fought 30 years for his right to die. *Javier Bardem, Belen Rueda* (2h15)
- 8:00 PM
- 24 **Forrest Gump (1994, Drama)** A simple man finds himself in extraordinary situations throughout the course of his life. *Tom Hanks, Sally Field* (3h)
 - 28 **Head of State (2003, Comedy)** When a presidential candidate suddenly dies, he is replaced with an unknown politician. *Bernie Mac, Dylan Baker* (2h)
- 8:30 PM
- 13 **Scrooged (1988, Fantasy)** A callous executive learns the true meaning of Christmas when he is visited by ghosts. *Bill Murray, Karen Allen* (2h)
- 9:00 PM
- 29 **Lullaby of Broadway (1951, Comedy)** A movie star falls in love during a party that her mother hosts in a borrowed mansion. *Doris Day, Gene Nelson* (2h)
- 9:15 PM
- 3 **The Singing Detective (2003, Musical)** A writer, who suffers from a skin disease, confuses himself with a 1950s homicide detective. *Robert Downey Jr., Mel Gibson* (2h)
- 11:15 PM
- 3 **Who's Your Daddy (2003, Comedy)** An adopted high school student discovers he is the heir to a porn empire. *Brandon Davis, Ali Landry* (1h45)

- FRIDAY, DEC 9**
- 6:00 PM
- 14 **Real Women Have Curves (2002, Comedy/Drama)** A young woman with aspirations of going to college must work in the family dress factory. *America Ferrera, Lupe Ontiveros* (1h45)
- 7:00 PM
- 3 **Son of the Mask (2005, Comedy)** A cartoonist's son displays amazing powers that can be linked to a mythical god's mask. *Jamie Kennedy, Alan Cumming* (1h45)

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S - Salt Spring Island			ExpressVu			StarChoice			WEEKDAY DAYTIME DECEMBER 7 TO 13									
S	Channel	Time	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30
257	308	CBC	Clifford	DragonT.	Poko	Various	Various	Nanalan'	Dressup	Zoooboo	News		Da Vinci's Inquest	Various	Various	Air Farce	22 Mins.	
320	621	MC	Movie	Movie	Various Movies	Various	Various	Various	Various Movies	Movie	Movie	Movie	How To Deal/F	45 Duplex	Various	Various		
256		CITY	6:30 A Channel	CityLine	Movie TV	Careers	Ellen DeGeneres	All My Children	One Life to Live	Days of Our Lives	Passions	Dr. Phil						
287	379	KING	7:00 Today Show	Today Show II	Tyra Banks Show	Ellen DeGeneres	News	Days of Our Lives	Passions	BodyH'lth	Myst.Ink	Fear Factor						
255	358	CH	BodyH'lth	Various	Oprah Winfrey	The Price Is Right	Young & Restless	News	Various	Gabereau/Gabereau	Planet	Bold & B.						
250	321	CTVBC	6:30 Canada AM	Regis & Kelly	The View	eTalk	Balance	Planet	Bold & B.	Gabereau/Gabereau	Planet	Bold & B.						
251	336	GBLBC	6:00 News	100 Huntley Street	World Vision	Insider	Various	News	As the World Turns	Passions	Young & Restless							
291	383	KCTS	Various	DragonT.	Zoooboo	Barney	Sesame Street	B.Lions	Rogers	Various	Various	W Roy Orbison & Friends	Reading	Piggley	Postcards			
110	702	SRC	simondurivage.com	Coup de pousse	Ricardo	durivage	Journal	durivage	Urgences	ME Chance/Rome	CapRandom	Bocelli						
268	354	KNOW	Various	Various	15 Arthur	Various	20Padding	45Wumpa	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various		
253	359	CITY	6:00 Breakfast TV	Various	Cooks	Relic Hunter	CityLine	Cooks	Various	Various Movies	Maury							
620	523	BRAVO	Various	Various	Various	Law & Order	Street Legal	Various Movies	45BINews	Various	Various	Street Legal						
522	506	HIST	Disasters	Move	JAG	Antiques Roadshow	Various	The Sea Hunters	Timelines:Conflict	Tour of Duty	Move	Disasters						
521	560	TLC	Dating	Makeover	What Not to Wear	Younger	Baby St.	Baby St.	Baby	Clean Sweep	Trading Spaces	While You Were Out	Martha					
557	541	FAM	15 Lilo	45 Pooh	Various	35 Farm	Various	25 King	45 Lilo	Various	35Aladdin	Various	45 101 D.	Hercules	Fillmore	Various	Barbarian	
615	520	A&E	Various	Various	City Confidential/ Case	A. Justice/ Cold Case	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	City Confidential/ Case						
400	400	TSN	Sportscentre	Various	Various	Various	M UEFA	Various	Various	W Soccer Man. U/Ben.	Interrupt	Various	Various					
407	419	RSP	Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News	Various	F EPL	Various	F Soccer	Sportsnet News	Various	Various	Prime Time Sports						
23		KSTW	6:00 The Daily Buzz	The 700 Club	Frasier	Frasier	Divorce	The People's Court	Alex	Alex	The People's Court	Home I.	Sabrina					
24		KVOS	Various	TH F Paid	Your Day	Various	Paid	Funny!	Funny!	The People's Court	Cagney & Lacey	Twilight	Twilight	Matlock				
290	382	KCPQ	5:00 Q13 Fox News	Judge Greg Mathis	News	Justice	Tony Danza Show	Starting Over	Maury	Jerry Springer	Maury							
502	390	NEWS	Various	News	CBC News: Today	CBC News: Today	CBC News: Today	CBC News: Today	Various	CBC News: Politics	News	Business						
289	381	KIRO	The Early Show	Montel Williams	The Price Is Right	Young & Restless	News	Bold & B.	As the World Turns	The Guiding Light	Brown	Brown						
288	380	KOMO	7:00 Morning Am.	Regis & Kelly	The View	KOMO 4 News	All My Children	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Northwest								
65	394	VISION	It's a New Day	Mass	Various	Various	Youngren	Crede	Various	Various	7th Heaven	Various						

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Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Thursday Evening December 8. Includes programs like Dragon, Simpsons, The Sea Inside, and The Singing Detective.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Friday, Dec 9. Includes programs like The Ultimate Christmas Present, Copenhagen, and No Sex Please, We're British.

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Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Friday Evening December 9. Includes programs like Edible I., Kinsey, Son of the Mask, and Hellboy.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Saturday, Dec 10. Includes programs like The Chamber, Alexander, and It's a Wonderful Life.

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Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Saturday Daytime December 10. Includes programs like Curling Canadian Trials, Paycheck, and The Legend of Johnny Lingo.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Saturday Daytime December 10. Includes programs like Die Hard, The Chamber, and All I Want for Christmas.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Saturday Evening December 10. Includes programs like Hockey NHL Dallas Stars vs. Toronto Maple Leafs, The Maltese Falcon, and The Chamber.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Sunday, Dec 11. Includes programs like Angela's Ashes, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and Promised Land.



Home for the Holidays!

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Plus two cash prizes of \$250.00

We're giving away the ultimate Christmas Gift...
\$1000.00 in travel dollars!

YOUR CHOICE!

- Bring someone home to Salt Spring
- Treat yourself to a trip!
- Treat someone else

Trip provided by The Driftwood and Canadian Travel Team (arrangements must be made with the Travel Team)

- Plus two cash prizes of \$250.00 (Salt Spring Currency)
- Weekly prizes of Salt Spring product baskets!



Shop at any of the participating businesses in the Driftwood Gift Guide and enter to win.

CONTEST CLOSING THURSDAY DECEMBER 22



GIFTS under \$25



'Hiccup' invites you to deck your halls at

Boardwalk Greens 537-5787

- Ornaments, evergreens, wreaths, decorations, floral sprays & more.
- Ornaments & brooches from Russia.
- Glittering glass tealight candle holders, indoor pottery.
- Baskets and ribbons.
- 10% off or a \$5 gift certificate with every \$25 purchase.
- Every purchase eligible for the weekly wreath draw.

* Hiccup not included



We've Got Christmas All Wrapped Up!



Great Canadian **DOLLAR STORE**
 plus a whole lot more!

Christmas Wrapping Paper, Gift Bags, Tissue Paper, Bows, Ribbon, Gift Tags, Wine Bags & more!

GANGES VILLAGE MALL
 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 537-2480

FREE GIFT WITH PURCHASE

A \$25 purchase of cosmetics or fragrances and you receive a 2pce. appetizer bowl set.



Live well with



DOWNTOWN 537-5534
 104 Lower Ganges Rd.
 UPTOWN LOCATION 538-0323
 372 Lower Ganges Rd.

OPEN MON.-SAT. 9-6 / SUN & HOLIDAY MON. 11-5

GIFTS for every BUDGET



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Grace Point 538-0025
Open every day
& Friday evenings



Handy Gift Ideas

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Sat. 9-5
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- Golf Bags

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AFFORDABLE NEW & USED SPORTS

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'Gnome' for the Holidays

West of the Moon

Open Fridays 'til 8pm 537-1966

Bigger than BIG Christmas Sale

New stock...low prices!

ACOUSTIC PLANET MUSIC

#2-150 Fulford-Ganges Rd. • 537-9668

Volume II Bookstore

YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

New Bestsellers, Calendars,
Local Authors, Gift Certificates

* Terrific selection *
* Helpful friendly staff *

Dockside, Mouat's Mall 537-9223

This gift delivers 52 weeks a year.

Driftwood

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

- In the Gulf Islands: \$47.50/year
Save \$14.17 on the newsstand cost!
- Elsewhere in Canada: \$80.00/year*
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*plus GST

GIFTS *for every* BUDGET



GEAR BRAND MENS GOLF SHIRTS
Reg. price 39.99 ea

\$24.95 each

CHRISTMAS SALE PRICE

All Womens Golf Clothing 20-50% off

Open 9am-5pm 7 days a week

537-2121

3SIDE Clothing Co.

- Hoodies
- Tees
- Jeans...

10-50% off

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
*free gift wrapping

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ICOM

LOWRANGER • FINDER PRO handheld gps **\$299**

ICOM MARINE RADIOS Starting at **\$249.00**

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537-4202

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Free miniature BC Lighthouse with purchase of any radio.

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Salt Spring's Outdoor Adventure, Gear & Clothing Co.

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, WE HAVE SPECIAL GIFTS FOR YOU!

- *Free Down-filled Slippers with the purchase of a down jacket — North Face, Sierra Design, Orage, Misty Mountain, Siver Cartel...
- *A complimentary pair of Merino Wool or Sport Socks with any regularly priced hiking, walking or skate shoe purchase.
- *Buy a Snow Sport Jacket and you'll receive 25-50% off the price of a pair of Snow Pants.

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163 Fulford-Ganges Rd 537-2553 Open Mon-Sun 10-5, Fri til 8pm

20% off Art Supply sets
December 7 - December 14, 2005

Enter to win **\$30.00** worth of puzzles and games

Selected Cookbooks **30% off**

Salt Spring Books
104 MCPHILLIPS AVE. • 537-2812 • OPEN TIL 8 FRIDAYS

Give the Gift of Light from **AVANTI GLASS STUDIO**

*The finest in Contemporary Glass jewellery: Rings, Bracelets, Necklaces, Earrings

NEW! *Garden Ornaments: The Garden Night Light for Angels & Fairies.

Complex flowers

NEW! *Wine bottle stoppers with torchwork toppers: chrome and glass

ART GLASS: VESSELS AND GIFTWARE • GIFT-WRAPPING SERVICE
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Open daily December 10 - 24, 10 am - 5 pm and by appointment

Santa is coming GANGES VILLAGE MARKET

Visit with Santa in store!

Saturday December 17
10am-12pm
1pm-3pm

OPEN DAILY 8am - 9pm
LOWER GANGES RD. 537-4144

Pamper your Pet!
CHRISTMAS SALE DEC. 7 - DEC. 10

CUSTOM CAT NAPS & DOG BEDS

MOUAT'S \$99.99 TO \$149.99

THE HOUSEWARES Bosley's PET FOOD PLUS

Reg. \$149.00 - \$199.00
Shop til 8pm Fridays

SHOP LOCAL *and* WIN!



This Holiday Season the Chamber of Commerce and The Driftwood are giving away great prizes in the "Home for the Holidays" contest.

FIRST PRIZE:\$1000 Travel Voucher

SECOND PRIZE: ..One of 2 cash prizes of \$250 in Salt Spring currency

THIRD PRIZE:One of 3 giant gift baskets

Enter often at the
Visitor Info Centre



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Radio Receiver \$199.00
CD home Audio System \$199.00

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MIGHTY MIKE ROBOT
Remote control
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Always a favorite for home or office, our beautifully prepared platters, baskets and trays are now easier to order than ever! Drop by and ask for our holiday entertaining brochure, it contains everything you need for entertaining.



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- Bakery Platters (5 favorites)
- Deli Platters (27 favorites)
- Gift Baskets (16 favorites)

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.

S - Salt Spring Island												ExpressVu					StarChoice					SUNDAY DAYTIME DECEMBER 11											
S	☆		8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30															
257	308	CBC	Corrie St.	Corrie St.	Corrie St.	Curling	Canadian Trials						CBC News: Sunday					To Be Announced															
320	621	MC	Movie	Mystic River (2003)	Sean Penn.				Two Brothers (2004)	Guy Pearce.			Under the Tuscan Sun	Diane Lane.				Are We There Yet?															
256		CITY	INSIDE	Boat TV	Sportfish	Compact	Driver	Old Auto	The Lost World	World Vision			CityLine	Q Scene	N.Music			Speaker's Careers															
287	379	KING	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Backroad	Inside Ed.	USGA Review	NASCAR Review	Ice 2005 Pt. 2 of 2 from Dec 10				Driving	Homes	D. Down	Collectors	Tech KO	Divas															
255	358	CH	Ernest Angley	VanImpe	Listen Up	Football NFL Teams	TBA		Eagle C.	Balance	Travel	Jeff's Adv	Question Period	W-FIVE Presents	Treacherous Beauties	Emma Samms.																	
250	321	CTVBC	7:00 Morning Canada	Eagle Commun.					Driving	Ride	The Hour of Power	News	Football NFL Teams	TBA																			
251	336	GBLBC	Sunday Morning News						Driving	Ride	The Hour of Power	News	Football NFL Teams	TBA																			
291	383	KCTS	Caillou	Arthur	Maya&M.	Zoom	Serious \$	Wealth	McL'ghlin	NOW	Ending AIDS		Gospel of Elvis		Rick Steves' European	Christmas																	
120	702	SRC	Raconte..	Henri	Le roi	Lyoko	Le Jour du Seigneur	Couilluses	pouvoir	Journal	La semaine verte	Regard	Illes insp.	Histoires	Chiens des neiges																		
268	354	KNOW	Todd	40MigB.	05 Arthur	MissBG	C.Bear	Babar	Swap TV	Heads Up	Outta	ReachT.	Inventors Special	Canada: History	B. Clues	Dora																	
253	359	CITY	CityLine	Cooks	Paid	NegaraeshTelevision	Count.	Fashion	Ethnosonic	The Story Of...	Listed	INSIDE	ArtsMinds																				
620	523	BRAVO	The Terry Fox Story (1983)	Eric Fryer.	Nora (2000)	Ewan McGregor.			Iris (2002)	Judi Dench.			Inside the Actors Studio																				
522	506	HIST	7:00 The Man Who Would Be King				Full Throttle		The Great Train Robbery (1979)	Sean Connery.	Manhunt	Battlefield Britain	Gun, Germ, Steel																				
521	560	TLC	While You Were Out	Trading Spaces			Trading Spaces		The New Detectives	The New Detectives	The New Detectives	The New Detectives	The New Detectives																				
557	541	FAM	15Z&Cody	40Zoey101	10 Raven	140 Phil	10Stevens	Boy MW	05 Ned	Brotherly	Santa /25 S. Claus	Christmas	Christmas	05 Rudolph	SmartG.	Z&Cody																	
615	520	A&E	Agatha Christie's Poirot				Agatha Christie's Poirot		House	House	Move	Design	Buy	House	Flip This House																		
400	400	TSN	NFL Countdown				Bowling Keystone State PBA	Lumbr'k	Golf Target World Challenge	PGA			Sportscentre																				
407	419	RSP	Sportsnet News	Curl TV	Fish TV	WrldSport	Race	Skiing	Alpine World	Skiing	Miller TV	Poker Party	poker.com World Open	Sportsnet News																			
23		KSTW	Jack Holt	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Spaces	D.Buy	Paid	Paid	Trading Places (1983)	Eddie Murphy.																				
24		KVOS	Paid	Paid	Hour of Power	Day Disc.	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	APNA TV	Paid	The Twilight Zone	Bang The Drum Slowly																			
290	382	KCPQ	FOX News Sunday	FOX NFL Sunday			Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Gameday	Football NFL San Francisco 49ers vs. Seattle Seahawks																					
502	390	NEWS	CBC News: Today	Ballot	Ab. Can.		CBC News: Today	Antiques Roadshow	CBC News: Sunday			Hot Type	News	Ballot																			
289	381	KIRO	7:30 Sunday Morning	The NFL Today			Football NFL Indianapolis Colts vs. Jacksonville Jaguars		Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	L.Town	Go Diego																			
288	380	KOMO	6:00 KOMO 4 News	This Week			F. Skate Marshall's U.S. Challenge	USFSA	Golf Target World Challenge	PGA			NBA Ins	Animal R.																			
65	394	VISION	Islam	Hour of Power	J. Meyer		Living Truth	Faith Live	Food Life	Credo	700 Club	Nations	KeyDavid	Potter's	World	Martin	Ministries																

SUNDAY, DEC 11
7:00 PM
7 ★★★★★ **Shrek (2001, Animated)**
A green ogre and his faithful donkey companion set out to rescue a beautiful princess. *Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy (2h)*

8:00 PM
2 ★★★★★ **The Santa Clause (1994, Comedy)**
A father mends his relationship with his son after he is transformed into Santa Claus. *Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold (2h)*

3 ★★★★★ **Elephant (2003, Drama)**
A violent act brings unexpected tragedy into an ordinary day at an American high school. *John Robinson, Alex Frost (2h)*

4 ★★★★★ **The Life of David Gale (2003, Drama)**
An advocate of eliminating the death penalty is convicted of murder and sent to death row. *Kevin Spacey, Kate Winslet (2h)*

23 ★★★★★ **Steel Magnolias (1989, Comedy/Drama)**
Five women regularly gather at a small-town Louisiana beauty shop to share stories. *Sally Field, Dolly Parton (2h30)*

9:00 PM
13 ★★ **Home for the Holidays (1995, Comedy)**
A down-on-her-luck single mom files home to spend Thanksgiving with her eccentric family. *Holly Hunter, Robert Downey Jr. (2h)*

14 ★★ **The Brothers McMullen (1995, Romance)**
Three Irish brothers discuss love and life when they find themselves temporarily reunited. *Edward Burns, Jack Mulcahy (2h)*

19 ★★ **This Time Around (2003, Comedy)**
A woman has the opportunity to get back at the guy who humiliated her in junior high. *Brian Austin Green, Carly Pope (1h30)*

10:00 PM
3 ★★ **Seed of Chucky (2004, Horror)**
Chucky's son brings his parents back to life, and is shocked by their violent ways. *Jennifer Tilly, Billy Boyd (1h30)*

23 ★★ **Flash Gordon (1980, Sci-Fi)**
A football player and his friends must save Earth from an evil interstellar tyrant. *Sam J. Jones, Melody Anderson (2h)*

19 ★★ **The Kid Who Loved Christmas (1990, Drama)**
A young orphan must fight against social workers in order to remain with his dad. *Trent Cameron, Gregory Sporleder (1h40)*

14 ★★ **Deep End of the Ocean (1999, Drama)**
A family is plagued with guilt when their kidnapped son returns to them ten years later. *Michelle Pfeiffer, Treat Williams (2h)*

11:30 PM
3 ★ **The Whole Ten Yards (2004, Comedy)**
A hitman's quiet life is shaken up when his former neighbour's wife is kidnapped. *Bruce Willis, Matthew Perry (2h)*

S - Salt Spring Island												ExpressVu					StarChoice					SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 11											
S	☆		4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30															
257	308	CBC	World a Village		I'll Be Home for Christmas				MarketP.	Venture	The Santa Clause (1994)	Tim Allen.	CBC News: Sunday	Reflect.	X-C Ski																		
320	621	MC	Movie	45 The Manchurian Candidate					Sleeper Cell	Elephant (P) (2003)	John Robinson.	Seed of Chucky	Jennifer Tilly.	Movie																			
256		CITY	A Very Brady Christmas		The Dead Zone				Home Videos	The Life of David Gale	Kevin Spacey.	Missing	INSIDE	Skiing																			
287	379	KING	Matthews	Upfront	KING 5 News		News	News	Dateline NBC	The West Wing	Law & Order: C.I.	Crossing Jordan	News	Sports																			
255	358	CH	Myst.Ink	BodyH'ith	CH News		Ins.Ent.	2Chance	Caitlin	Tech KO	Ext. Makeover: Home	Half Men	Practice	Ins.Ent.																			
250	321	CTVBC	Alias		Twins	Acc.Jim	News		Shrek (2001)	Voices of Mike Myers.	Law & Order: C.I.	Grey's Anatomy	News	News																			
251	336	GBLBC	1Football	O.Bounds	Simpsons	News	News		FamilyG.	Simpsons	Survivor:Guatemala (SF)	Survivor (SF)	News	35 Caitlin																			
291	383	KCTS	2:00 Rick Steves' European Christmas				Great Scenic Railway Journey				Great Performances		Great Performances																				
120	702	SRC	3Chiens des neiges...	Journal	5 sur 5		Union	Découverte	Lafaque	Tout le monde en parle		Journal	Pleins feux																				
268	354	KNOW	Zoboo	50 Arthur	15 Sagwa	George	Heartbeat		National Geographic	The Royal		Sahara	Kick Butt	Imprint																			
253	359	CITY	World Poker Tour				News	ColourTV	Movie TV	Star! TV	Stories About Love	Home for the Holidays	Holly Hunter.	Sex TV	Pink...																		
620	523	BRAVO	ArtsMinds	Jefferys	Joseph Giunta		Angela's Ashes (1999)	Emily Watson.			The Brothers McMullen	Edward Burns.	Deep End of Ocean...																				
522	506	HIST	Gun, Germ, Steel				1492: Conquest of Paradise (1992)	Gérard Depardieu.			Gun, Germ, Steel	Gun, Germ, Steel	Gun, Germ, Steel																				
521	560	TLC	Man Never Was	Nap Attack			The 750 Pound Man	Jackie's Story	Nap Attack		The 750 Pound Man	Jackie's Story	Man Never Was																				
557	541	FAM	15 Proud	45Fillmore	10Maggie	35 Kim P.	05 Sadie	Darcy	SoRaven	45Roscoe	158 Rules	40Movies	This Time Around	Kid Who Loved Christmas																			
615	520	A&E	Flip This House	The First 48			Inside Harry Potter	Intervention	CSI: Miami		The First 48		Inside Harry Potter	Intervention																			
400	400	TSN	Billiards	NFL PrimeTime	Football NFL	Detroit Lions vs. Green Bay Packers					Sportscentre	Motoring	Hall of Fame	Sportscentre																			
407	419	RSP	Motocross	T.Tennis	T.Tennis	CMI	News	Tennis World Team			Poker Canadian Tour	Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News																				
23		KSTW	2:00 Trading Places	Queens	Queens	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	70s	70s	CSI: Crime Scene	Flash Gordon (1980)	Sam J. Jones.																					
24		KVOS	Business	Paid	Nine to Five (1980)	Jane Fonda.		Serve & Protect	Steel Magnolias (1989)	Sally Field.	Queens	S.Susan																					
290	382	KCPQ	Gameday	Raymond	Raymond	Simpsons	Friends	Malcolm	King Hill	Simpsons	WarHome	FamilyG.	Amer D.	News	35 Q It Up	Stargate Atlantis																	
502	390	NEWS	the fifth estate				CBC News: Sunday	The Passionate Eye			CBC News: Sunday	The Passionate Eye																					
289	381	KIRO	Stars	WildA.	News	News	News	60 Minutes	Survivor:Guatemala (SF)		Survivor:Guatemala (SF)	News	AccessH																				
288	380	KOMO	McCarver	Insider	KOMO 4 News	Miracle Season	Home Videos		Ext. Makeover: Home		Grey's Anatomy	News	35 Ebert																				
65	394	VISION	Day Disc.	VanImpe	Jeremiah	Spirit	Songs	Facts	Love	D.Hope	Youngren	Power	P. Popoff	Armor	Songs	Credo	Quiet	Songs															

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DROP-OFF: 8am - 5pm Monday thru Saturday
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PICK-UP: Commercial Residential
Curbside
Large Clean-ups & Recycling

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AN ISLAND FAMILY SINCE 1861

**Please note: Due to lack of storage space, the 'Art Thing' pictures are for sale, by donation, Mon. thru Sat. Many thanks to those supplying the pictures and those supporting our local charities, Core Inn, Greenwood's & Lady Minto. *Laurie & Nancy Hedger*

MONDAY, DEC 12
7:30 PM
10 Séraphin : Un homme et son péché (2001, Drame) En 1890, une femme épouse le maire du village afin de sauver l'honneur de son père. *Pierre Lebeau, Karine Vanasse (3h)*

8:00 PM
23 ★★ **Home for the Holidays (1995, Comedy)**
A down-on-her-luck single mom files home to spend Thanksgiving with her eccentric family. *Holly Hunter, Robert Downey Jr. (2h)*

10:00 PM
3 ★★★★★ **Zatōichi (2003, Action)**
A blind swordsman comes to a town that is controlled by a gang, and encounters two geishas. *Takeshi Kitano, Tadanobu Asano (2h)*

TUESDAY, DEC 13
8:00 PM
3 **Crazy for Christmas (2005, Drama)**
On Christmas Eve, a single mother finds herself having to chauffeur an eccentric client. *Andrea Roth, Howard Hesseman (1h30)*

24 ★★★★★ **Heat (1995, Crime Story)**
A detective becomes obsessed with nabbing a professional criminal and his daring crew. *Al Pacino, Robert De Niro (3h30)*

9:00 PM
4 ★★ **The Twelve Days of Christmas Eve (2004, Comedy)**
A busy executive is granted 12 chances to achieve the 'perfect' Christmas Eve. *Steven Weber, Molly Shannon (2h)*

29 ★★ **Shirley Valentine (1989, Romance)**
A middle-aged Liverpool housewife escapes to a Greek island where she rediscovers romance. *Pauline Collins, Tom Conti (2h)*

9:30 PM
3 ★★ **D.E.B.S. (2003, Action)**
Four young women are recruited by a secret agency to become members of an elite team. *Shanti Lowry, Jill Ritchie (1h45)*

11:00 PM
14 ★★ **Duets (2000, Comedy/Drama)**
A professional karaoke hustler reconnects with his daughter at her mother's funeral. *Gwyneth Paltrow, Scott Speedman (2h15)*

11:15 PM
3 ★★ **Ned Kelly (1970, Biography)**
The story of the legendary 19th-century Australian outlaw, whose story outgrew his life. *Mick Jagger, Sue Lloyd (2h15)*

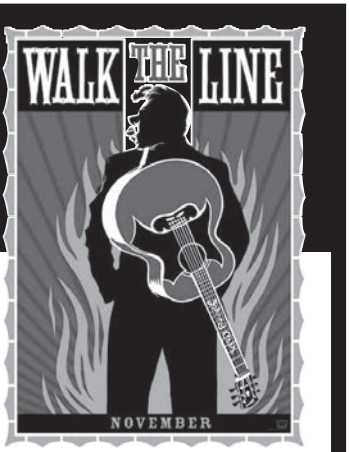
11:25 PM
2 ★★★★★ **Anne of the Thousand Days (1969, History)**
The story of Henry VIII's ill-fated marriage to Anne Boleyn and all its intrigues. *Genevieve Bujold, Richard Burton (2h)*

S - Salt Spring Island												ExpressVu					StarChoice					MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 12											
S	☆		4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30															
257	308	CBC	Dragon	C.Beach	Simpsons	JFL:Gags	News		W.Pooh	Corrie St.	Christmas	Frosty	Legend of Frosty	News: The National	News /25 La Vie																		
320	621	MC	3:30 Pieces of April		Third Man Out (2005)	Chad Allen.			Sleeper Cell	Terminal City	Stargate Atlantis	Zatōichi (P) (2003)	Takeshi Kitano.																				
256		CITY	Daily	Inside Ed.	A-Channel News				Fortune	Jeopardy	Elton John	Smallville	Cityline: Makeover	News	35 Daily																		
287	379	KING	Oprah Winfrey	KING News	News	News	Magazine	Inside Ed.	Christmas	Las Vegas	Medium	News	35 J.Leno																				
255	358	CH	Days of Our Lives	CH News			News	Homes	'70s	Surface	Las Vegas	Doc	News																				
250	321	CTVBC	Tyra Banks Show	CTV News			News	eTalk	Access	CornerG	Degrassi	Medium	News	News																			
251	336	GBLBC	Oprah Winfrey	News	National	News		ET	ET Can.	Arrested	Kitchen	Fear Factor	The Closer																				
291	383	KCTS	Arthur	Maya&M.	Cyberch.	Business	News		Command Performance				California Dreamin'																				
120	702	SRC	La fosse aux lionnes	Véro	Union	Journal	Zig Zag	Virginie	Séraphin : Un homme et son péché (2001)	Pierre Lebeau.	Téléjournal/Point	Journal																					
268	354	KNOW	Koala	George	Madeline	Arthur	ArtAttack	Moving	S. Region	ReachT.	Child of Our Time	Superkids	Minor Keys	Canada: History																			
253	359	CITY	CityLine		Ellen DeGeneres		Football NFL	New Orleans Saints vs. Atlanta Falcons				Star TV	Stargate: SG-1	News	35 J.Leno																		
620	523	BRAVO	Videos	Eva: The Price of	Save the Last Dance		45BINews	Law & Order			Sex&City	45 Sex and the City	BNNews	45 Sex & City	Sex&City																		
522	506	HIST	JAG		Full Throttle		Worst Jobs		Turning Points	JAG	Worst Jobs	Full Throttle	China Beach																				
521																																	

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A chronical of country music legend Jonny Cash's life, from his early days on an Arkansas cotton farm to his rise to fame with Sun Records in Memphis, where he recorded alongside Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis & Carl Perkins. Starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon.

Times: Fri.-Tues. 7 pm PG: drug use, coarse language 2 hrs. 15 min.



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Canadian Travelteam
 BC reg 3235

What's On This Week

wed. december 7	thurs. december 8	fri. december 9	sat. december 10	sun. december 11	mon. december 12	wed. december 14
live entertainment Songwriters' Showcase. Hosted by Gene Grooms and featuring Dave Halliwell at the Glass Onion, 8 pm Simon Rook. Plays Alkan, Schubert and Liszt on the Steinway at All Saints for Music & Munch. 12:10 pm Fulford Community School Christmas Concert. In the gym, 6:30 pm other activities Dr. Bob Crossland Talk. This event has been CANCELLED. Christmas Auction & Bake Sale. IODE event at United Church, upstairs, 2 pm Gulf Islands School Board. Trustees meet at the school board office, 1 pm North End Toy Library. Wednesdays at SS Elementary multi-purpose room, 10-11:30 am	live entertainment Jaiya — Winter Solstice Celebration. Upbeat Celtic band from Mayne Island performs at All Saints, 7:30 pm other activities EnChor! Elementary school choirs & SS Singers. ArtSpring, 2-3 pm Business Breakfast Club. Moby's Pub, 8 am. \$5.00. Contact Perry 537-4223	live entertainment Jaime RT. Canadian Celtic fiddle at Tree House South. A Christmas Story. Salt Spring Singers concert at ArtSpring, 8 pm. other activities Drop-in Free Play. Wednesdays at Family Place, 1-3 pm La mere oie. Mother Goose in French at Family Place, 10-noon.	live entertainment A Christmas Story. Salt Spring Singers concert at ArtSpring, 8 pm. Planet Music. Original urban jazz at Tree House South. Sagittarians Party. At The Local, 8 pm Jozef Magic Show. Two shows, Fulford Hall, 2 and 7 pm other activities Pet Pictures With Santa. SPCA fundraiser at Mouat's The Housewares Store. 10-2. NDP Holiday Season Bazaar. United Church, 9-1. Community Christmas Dinner. LDS Church, 6:30 pm Yoga Workshop. With Ty Chandler at Ganges Yoga Studio, 10-3:30 pm Winterfest. Craft-making, music & food at SS Centre, 11-4. Bellingham Lions Christmas Ship. Ganges Harbour, 6 pm (approx); SS Elementary at 6:30 pm	live entertainment A Christmas Story. Salt Spring Singers, ArtSpring, 2 pm. Barley Bros. Fulford Inn, 6 pm other activities Family Christmas Sale. Lady Minto Thrift Shop, with Santa's elves. 1-3 pm Unitarian Fellowship. Fulford Hall, 10:30 am mon. december 12 live entertainment A Winter Celebration. Phoenix Elementary School concert & potluck desserts, 6 pm other activities Life Drawing. Drop in, Core Inn, 3rd floor, 1-3 pm Skin Sensations. Open house at Grace Point Square, noon to 7 pm	other entertainment SSI Abbeyfield House Society. Fulford Hall, OAP Room. Business meeting, 7:30; open forum, 8:30. tues. december 13 live entertainment Christmas Concert. Fernwood Elementary, 6 pm other activities Circle Dance Group. Meets at Core Inn, 7-9 pm. Info: 537-5784 Women's Basketball. Tuesdays at GISS gym, 6:30-8 pm SSI Prostate Cancer Support Group. Farmers Institute, 1:30 pm Friends of Salt Spring Parks Society. AGM at 331 Roland Rd., 2:30 pm. Info: 537-2158.	live entertainment Henrietta's Twelve Crazy Days of Christmas. Whole-school play at SS Elementary, 7 pm Winter Pageant. SS Centre School show at SS Centre, 5 pm other activities Islands Farmers Institute 110th Anniversary. Celebration event at the Farmers Institute, 2 pm Annual Christmas Tea. Door prizes, entertainment and choir perform at SS Seniors Services Society event at Lions Hall, 2 pm North End Toy Library. Wednesdays at SS Elementary multi-purpose room, 10-11:30 am Pre-school Board Book & CD Give-away. To first 40 kids at SS Library, 10-6.

What's On is online at
www.gulfislands.net

cinema
 • **Walk the Line** — A chronicle of country music legend Johnny Cash's life, from his early days on an Arkansas cotton farm to his rise to fame with Sun Records in Memphis, where he recorded alongside Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. Starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon.

cable TV
 SSTV Cable Channel 12 broadcasts continuously for 24 hours beginning at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.
Salt Spring Archives — This week's program recounts a recent meeting of the SS Historical Society, where members shared details of their work on a new website: www.saltspringarchives.com. The site features many great images of the island's early days and stories of pioneers.

exhibitions
 • **Christmas Showcase** of SS Painters Guild members in the ArtSpring open space, Dec. 1-18.
 • **SS Woodworks Open House** on Sat., Dec. 10, noon to 5 p.m.
 • **Avanti Glass Studio anniversary and Christmas show** on Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Show continues daily through Dec. 24.
 • **Landing Party Gallery Holiday Sale** runs from Mon., Dec. 5 through Dec. 18.
 • **Jill Louise Campbell Fine Art Gallery** is open until 8 p.m. on Friday nights leading up to Christmas. Features **Spirit Calls**, from Jill's **Native Northwest Collection**.
 • **Ella Topaz** shows mixed media work at **Island Savings Credit Union**.
 • **joji** has paintings at the **Glass Onion/Barb's** and at **Salt Spring Books** for the month of December.

SALT SPRING Painters Guild Christmas Showcase
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PETER baljet



ALL THE RIGHT MOVES: Frank Cullis celebrated his 90th birthday Saturday doing one of his favourite activities: tai chi in the seniors class led by David Honour at All Saints. Class members range in age from their 60s to their 90s.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Old Boys tie one on with Alumni

Salt Spring's Old Boys made little headway in their quest for the top of the table with a 1-1 draw against the Peninsula Bobcats Alumni on Sunday.

cats (5-3-2).

Salt Spring will clash with the Titan Sports at Tyndall Park on Saturday in an effort to close the gap.

Leading by a goal in the first half, Salt Spring suffered a penalty shot in the second after a defender brought down a Bobcat in the box.

The Old Boys currently hold second place in the Masters' C division with six wins, three losses and two draws over the past 11 games (25 points). But the islanders lag five points behind the Gordon Head Titan Sports (8-1-1) and have only a three-point lead on the Bob-

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RK Name	G	ASS	TP	DF
1. Baker Brent	189	284	473	24
2. Johnson Liam	202	270	472	35
3. Neufeld Rick	206	265	471	42
4. Tamboline W	208	263	471	34
5. Field Marilyn	207	258	465	32
6. Johnson Cam	192	273	465	29
7. Dekleer Rene	196	266	462	43
8. Langdon Jack	198	263	461	29
9. Speed Glen	208	253	461	37
10. Eyles Gail	187	272	459	35
11. Butler Janet	195	258	453	34
12. Hoban Rypawn	193	259	452	41
13. Moldon Dennis	196	253	449	30
14. Langdon Jocelyn	178	271	449	29
15. Charlebois Jason	191	257	448	27
16. Lam Ramona	201	242	443	31
17. Marmorstein Yoni	181	261	442	38
18. Luke Kevin	190	252	442	25
19. Eyles Tobin	175	267	442	32
20. Anderson Dennis	189	252	441	25
21. Eddie Cole	184	257	441	28
22. Hardy Mike	186	252	438	31
23. Hitchcock William	186	251	437	30
24. Tamboline Philip	182	253	435	33
25. Lam Huy	192	243	435	28
26. Eyles Evan	177	253	430	30
27. Newton Norma	169	259	428	29
28. Lynch S	192	234	426	27
29. Gillham Jerome	190	235	425	31
30. Doerksen Hank	179	242	421	28
31. Smith Donald	185	234	419	20
32. Kopetzki Kevin	187	232	419	33
33. Cunningham Jean	180	239	419	28
34. Steele John	161	257	418	29
35. Courtney John	185	233	418	26
36.2 At SSHU (P	175	241	416	37
37. Lynch Brian	183	230	413	25
38. Watson Tracey	171	241	412	32
39. Newton N	168	242	410	29
40. Irwin-Campbell Ar	171	238	409	28
41. Hoban Lind-e	177	231	408	22
42. Reinholdt Kim	183	223	406	30
43. Smith Shirley	165	240	405	35
44. Byron Leah	170	234	404	32
45. Byron Josh	184	219	403	29
46. Shaske Ed	142	261	403	28
47. Ellis-Stairs Tila	145	257	402	29
48. MacKinnon Jucie	164	237	401	18
49. Huser Christian	189	212	401	26
50. Shaske Lucy	166	232	398	27
51. Temmel Wolfgang	166	231	397	32
52. Dekleer Bruno	158	238	396	24
53. Marleau Gerry	162	234	396	25
54. Lynch T	169	222	391	29
55. Stocks Jamin	157	233	390	25
56. Torok Les	134	255	389	36
57. Laitinen Tyler	171	218	389	35
58. Marleau Steven	176	211	387	35
59. Coeino Lara	164	222	386	32
60. Longeau Fiona	165	220	385	25
61. Brown Kevan	170	214	384	27
62. Shantz Lorne	153	230	383	31
63. Watson Bradley	175	204	379	27
64. Watson T	149	230	379	24
65. Reinholdt Rocket	154	224	378	36
66. Watson Bradley	153	225	378	32
67. Coles Don	147	229	376	29
68. Gillham Jeffrey	163	213	376	31
69. Liquor Store Staf	151	217	368	32
70. Laycock Bob	169	199	368	25
71. Hitchcock Dorothy	156	212	368	26
72. Sloan Randy	155	210	365	19
73. Torok Sah-Ryan	158	205	363	32
74. Coles Don	149	210	359	25
75. Hosie Kate & Kare	151	208	359	35
76. Field Owen	143	215	358	26
77. Nolan Elizabeth	154	204	358	29
78. Shaske Lucy	154	204	358	26
79. Thomas Emma	140	217	357	34
80. Coles Shelley	130	225	355	37
81. Jensen Jackie	149	206	355	28
82. Shaske Ed	152	201	353	27
83. Lynch Steve	151	200	351	27
84. Shantz Colleen	139	211	350	35
85. Temmel Max	144	204	348	29
86. Weir Jacob	127	218	345	37
87. Irwin Jasper	143	202	345	24
88. Courtney Scannett	140	199	339	26
89. Coles Shelley	130	204	334	28
90. Doerksen Mona	128	203	331	25
91. Baker Jonah	142	187	329	25
92. Ellis-Stairs Tila	132	192	324	24
93. Marleau Deanna	120	200	320	37
94. Bosnell Pierre	112	179	291	31
95. Bosnell Elsie	116	174	290	25

Biggest Gain: 7. Dekleer Rene - 43

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Dragons soar in Div. 3 standings

The Salt Spring Dragons soccer club has now collected five points in its past three games after a 1-0 victory against Gorge last weekend in Victoria.

The latest victory puts the Dragons in a two-way tie for third place (with a 3-4-2 record) and only one point out of third position in the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association Division 3 standings.

"They are quite a rough team and it felt good to hold them off because they'd managed to beat us last

time," said Dragons midfielder Sue-Anne Donaldson.

Donaldson scored the game's lone goal midway through the first half after an exquisitely placed throw in from team manager Joanne O'Connor.

After receiving the pass, she wasted little time riffling a shot out of the keeper's reach and into the top left corner.

Strong defensive play from sweeper Christine Godlonton and a stellar effort by keeper Lindsey Kovats,

mind goal in place of the injured Kym Sheppard Belavance, prevented any hope of a Gorge offensive.

"We managed to break down their defence early in the game by changing our approach," Donaldson said.

Outstanding team play limited Gorge players to only 10 shots on goal and, according to Donaldson, players are demonstrating more versatility with each passing week.

"Our players are playing all types of new positions

and are doing really well because they are no longer nervous," she said.

The Dragons will need their newfound confidence when they land in Victoria to take on the undefeated Castaways (7-0-2) on Sunday.

In their last meeting the Dragons managed a draw with the first-place squad.

This is a perfect opportunity for the team to keep its momentum with only two games remaining before the mid-season Christmas break, Donaldson added.

Selects crunch on Juan de Fuca morsel

Salt Spring Selects haven't gotten sick of gorging themselves on easy pickings within Division-2 of the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association.

The Selects snacked on Juan de Fuca

with a 5-1 win on Sunday to create their eighth win of the season.

Currently sitting on 25 points (8-0-1) and a 5.66 goal average, the Selects are ranked first with Cowichan pushing for

second with 21 points (7-2-0).

Salt Spring is next scheduled to play Cowichan on January 22 unless they catch up with a make-up game in the interim.

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John Nilssen wins cycling time trials

Though he might just be a blur for many islanders, Salt Spring's John Nilssen was recognized as a speedy cyclist during the Sidney Velo Time Trial award banquet on Saturday.

Nilssen received an award for the fastest time in the masters 45-49 division when he notched 25:27 minutes for the 20-kilometre course during his best showing of the season (average speed: 42 km/h) on August 2.

Other island participants in Tuesday Night Time Trials hosted by Sidney Velo Cycling Club included: Dennis Ross, who placed second among masters aged 40 to 44 with a best time of 26:03; and Sandi Thibault, who posted a 31:03 during her one showing.

(Award winners had to race in at least three events.)

Sidney Velo Cycling Club held 17 time trial races between May and August.

GISS basketball squad stings Lions

By MITCHELL SHERRIN Staff Writer

Roars from the Lambrick Park Lions proved hollow after senior boys Scorpions from Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) stuck a thorn in their paws for their second meeting this year.

Lambrick Park might be ranked second among AA schools in B.C., but the unrated Scorpions beat the Lions 60-54 on Thursday.

"Their defence was amazing," said GISS sports correspondent Kayla Gromme.

Lions led by 12-0 at the first quarter, but GISS rallied and pulled away for the six-point win, said Gromme.

Scorpions point leaders were captain Jeremy Byron and Jordan Borth, who each scored 11 points during the match.

The win was no fluke. A previous meeting between the Scorpions and the Lions during a summer basketball camp saw GISS defeat Lambrick Park at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

"The [Lambrick Park] coach came up with some stupid excuse that it was because their best player wasn't there. He told the [Scorpions] that once the normal season rolls around, they'd be sorry," said GISS sports reporter Kristi Lee.

But even when the Lions' star was on hand, Lambrick Park still couldn't handle the Scorpions' defence, she said.

Buoyed by their solid win against the Lions, GISS went on to beat the Reynolds Roadrunners 70-39 on Friday.

"They played down to Reynolds level," said Gromme. "But they played a good game."

Junior Grade-10 players Bob Byron and Martin Lannan made valuable contributions to the senior squad, she said.

"Bob had lots of assists and Martin came up with some good rebounds."

Borth, Josh Benloulou and Yoni Marmorstein led scoring against the Roadrunners.

"Jordan had the most amazing block in the world," Gromme said. "It was huge."

Senior boys and junior boys also played regular season games on Tuesday, with results unavailable at press time.

In upcoming GISS events, senior boys are shooting for a tournament in Campbell River, senior girls have a 32-team tourney in Victoria and junior girls will attend a tourney in Cedar this weekend.


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Team settles for tie

This is the first Kicks article submitted by the U13 boys, not because they haven't played some great games, but rather because the team did not want to focus on score but on player development.

This past weekend the team played a preliminary "B" cup playoff game, noted coach Mike Barter.

"It was a fantastic game which reinforced that what we have done with the boys really works. This is a team that until two weeks ago had not won a single game but continued to have fun, work hard and actually become a team, understanding each other's strengths and weaknesses and finding a way to make it all work.

"The season has been a challenge in terms of final results, but not in terms of development and I, as coach, would like to congratulate each of the players for their hard work and attitude. They are a great bunch of kids.

SOCCER KICKS

"As it is difficult to name them all within a small story I would like to do so now: Ben Barter, Ben Hunter, Erik Rothwell, Erik Barba, Dylan Hatchard, Dylan Hillis, Noah Havelaar, Noah Van Hullebush, Justin Rainsford, Austin Steffich, Jeff Fraser, Arlo Bryn-Thorn, Daniel Finer, Liam Budd, Matthew Hollingsworth, Charlie Holmes and Oliver Cannon.

"Each of these athletes has been a joy to work with and I look forward to the balance of the season.

"As an aside, the cup game was tied 2-2 after regulation and two 10-minute overtimes and the other team finally won it in a shoot-out.

"While the boys were saddened by the loss, they know they played a great game and deserved a victory."

Sports Schedule

Check this space out every week for upcoming sports events on Salt Spring. Come out & cheer on your team!

MEN'S SOCCER
SSI Div. 5 vs. Gorge
Sun., Dec. 11
2:15 p.m. at GISS

BOYS SOCCER
SSI U17 Gold vs. Cowichan U18
Sun., Dec. 11
10:30 a.m. at Portlock Park

GIRLS SOCCER
SSI U16 vs. Peninsula
Sat., Dec. 10
2:15 p.m. at GISS

SSI U18 Silver vs. Peninsula
Sun., Dec. 11
10:30 a.m. at Fernwood School

All events subject to change



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Lease and finance offers are from Honda Canada Finance Inc., on approved credit. †Based on a 2006 CR-V SE, model RD7756EX. Lease for 48 months at \$328.00 per month plus applicable taxes with 96,000 km allowance (12c/km exceeding allowance). \$4,378.66 down payment or equivalent trade acceptable to dealer (\$0 down on approved credit from Honda Canada Finance Inc.). Initiation payment of \$5,539.50 includes down payment, first monthly payment, registration, tire & battery levy, a/c tax, security deposit of \$0, freight and P.D.E. and taxes. PPSA is additional. Total lease payment is \$23,113.73. Option to purchase at lease end for \$14,650.00 and taxes. CR-V leases calculated with finance rate of 4.9%. Rate may change effective November 1st, 2005 and will affect down payment, security deposit, residual value and initiation figures. Dealer may lease for less. †Offer valid through October 31st, 2005 at participating dealers only. See participating dealer for full details. Offer subject to change by manufacturer at any time. Not combinable with any other promotion. ‡MSRP includes freight & P.D.E. of \$1,455.00. Taxes extra. †Based on the retail value of installed additional equipment and price difference of CR-V SE, model RD7756EX versus 2005 CR-V LX, model RD7755E with accessories installed. ‡Figures estimated. See dealer for 2006 EnerGuide published by NRCAN when available.

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This Christmas Shop locally with Santa

Christmas shoppers dreading city crowds, ferry and parking mayhem can take a deep breath and put aside those worries this year — as long as they shop on Salt Spring, that is.

Island stores are decorated to the nines for the season and their owners and staff are eager to show off the huge selection of gift ideas inside.

Santa and one of his elves made a special trip to the island recently to preview Salt Spring shopping choices. In the following pages they'll share some of the treasures they found to fill any size of stocking and meet every possible budget.

Besides the great deals waiting to be discovered on the island and the sanity saved by not wading into the city in December, there are other compelling reasons to shop locally.

- Money spent on Salt Spring stays on Salt Spring. Business owners hire your friends, family members and neighbours, which helps keep the wheels of a healthy economy turning.
- Diversifying the island's tourist-dependent economy relies on islanders spending discretionary income locally year-round.
- Enjoy running into people you know and catching up on the latest news while you're out shopping.
- Several stores are open late on Friday nights. Enjoy an early dinner at a Salt Spring restaurant before checking out the selection of retail gifts and services.
- Save money by not spending that ever-rising ferry fare.
- Reduce unnecessary gas consumption — remember the One Tonne Challenge!

December 7, 2005

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Christmas Events

- Fulford Community School Christmas Concert, in the gym, on Wed., Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.
- enChor! Elementary school choirs and the SS Singers. ArtSpring, Thurs., Dec. 8, 2 p.m.
- Island Savings hosts youth choirs on Thurs., Dec. 8. SS Elementary at 11:30 a.m.; Fernwood at 1:15 p.m.
- A Christmas Story — SS Singers' annual concert at ArtSpring. Fri.-Sun., Dec. 9-11. 8 p.m. on the 9-10th; 2 p.m. on the 11th.
- Bellingham Lions Santa Ship arrives in Ganges Harbour at approximately 6 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 10, after visiting people on the other Gulf Islands. Visit Santa at SS Elementary at 6:30 p.m.
- Winterfest, a day of craft-making, music and food, runs at Salt Spring Centre on Sat., Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Phoenix Elementary School Winter Program - A Winter Celebration, at the school. Concert, potluck desserts and coffee. Mon., Dec. 12, 6 p.m.
- Fernwood Elementary School's Christmas concert is on Tues., Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.
- Salt Spring Elementary School Winter Program — "Henrietta's Twelve Crazy Days of Christmas," A fun and whimsical whole-school play based on the song the "Twelve Days of Christmas." In the school gym (Activity Centre), Wed., Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
- Salt Spring Centre School's Winter Pageant is at the SS Centre on Wed., Dec. 14, 5 p.m.
- Annual Blue Christmas service at SS United Church, with music, prayers, meditation and refreshments. Thurs., Dec. 15, 2 p.m.
- Pacem — music and drama for Christmas from the Salt Spring Concert Band. Fulford Hall, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 16-17, 7:30 p.m.
- Christmas With Scrooge — Newman Family Productions' 20th anniversary musical play at ArtSpring. Last one! Fri.-Sun., Dec. 16-18, and Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 22-24. 7 p.m. on the 16th, 17th, 22nd and 23rd; and 2 p.m. on the 18th and 24th.
- Mexican Christmas Fiesta — Buffet Dinner and Dance with Canada's own Mariachi Del Sol band at the Harbour House Hotel Green Room on Fri., Dec. 16, 6 p.m.
- Last Minute Christmas Craft Faire is at Mahon Hall, Dec. 16-18, 10-4.
- Fourth annual Viking Yule potluck feast is at Beaver Point Hall on Sat., Dec. 17, from 6 to 10 p.m.
- Breakfast With Santa — annual Fulford Hall visit and breakfast. Sun., Dec. 18, 9 a.m.

Ways to help the island's less fortunate at Christmas time:

- Food bank collections at Ganges Village Market and Thrifty Foods. The latter store also offers two sizes of pre-packaged bags to purchase.
- ArtSpring has a food bank collection box in place.
- The Gulf Islands Driftwood has a food bank drop-off box.
- Salt Spring Island Middle School classes challenge each other to create the biggest construction of items for the food bank.
- Angels in the Night program continues to accept donations for Salt Spring's disadvantaged and homeless. Items and donated funds benefit Copper Kettle Community Partnership, Transition House, Family Place, Seniors Wellness and Salt Spring Community Services. Drop off at the Visitor info Centre until December 9. See Page A14 letter in the November 30 Driftwood for wish lists.
- Santa's Workshop: drop off new or like-new gifts or gift certificates for children up to age 14 to collection boxes at Mouat's, both branches of Pharmasave, GVM and North Salt Spring Waterworks. Applications to receive toys are made to Community Services Society at 537-9971.
- The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce puts up its Angel Tree, with each angel representing a boy or girl of a certain age needing a gift. People bring gifts back to the tree with the angel attached.



Have a Safe Holiday

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