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Driftwood

Gulf Islands

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Ganges
- Thrifty Foods
- Pharmasave
- Uniglobe
- Lifestyle Markets
- Island Quest Realty Ltd.
- Slegg Lumber
- Bow-Mel Chrysler
- Ganges Village Market
- Field's Stores
- Joni Ganderton

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A whirlwind musical tour

Salt Spring Concert Band's Midwinter Escape holiday provides antidote to winter blues. Page B2

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Weather

Rain forecast for today (Wednesday) should return to sun by the weekend. Highs to 13 C Thursday and Friday; overnight lows to 0 (Thursday).

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School funding claims nixed

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

A huge budget deficit aired at a Gulf Islands School District public meeting may shrink after closer examination of education ministry 2005/06 operating grant figures detailed Tuesday.

School district secretary-treasurer Rod Scotvold painted a grim picture of more shortfalls, staff layoffs and reduced services when he outlined the preliminary budget for next year during a public meeting on March 9.

"We have to look at it as a worst-case scenario," said Scotvold.

He forecast a \$705,000 shortfall for next year as part of a rationale to maintain a four-day calendar as a cost-saving measure.

"Picking that number as a reduction in funding is not done casually," Scotvold said.

Islanders seem to forget that the district adopted a calendar change to preserve programs, schools and class sizes in the face of declining enrolment and underfunding, noted Salt Spring trustee Judith Boël.

"What would you rather have us do, cut 20 per cent of teachers from the high school?" Boël asked.

Under a five-day calendar, the district would face a further shortfall of \$370,000 as a result of increased costs for staffing, transportation and services on more school days, Scotvold said.

"It would cost us an additional 4.625 FTE (full-time equivalent) of teachers to pay for a five-day week."

But the Ministry of Education announced a \$14,061,689 estimated operating grant for School District 64 in 2005/2006 that indicates a net gain of \$12,000 after various funding adjustments

SCHOOL FUNDING A3



SCHOOL OF FISH: Makayla Kilback adds some creative colour to one of the fish swimming along the fence at Salt Spring Elementary School. The Rainbow Road school plans to attach 150 painted fish to its fence as part of a salmon enhancement awareness project. Further information can be obtained at the website www.streamofdreams.org.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

Island pays extra for VIZ

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Islands Trust Council made history Friday when it approved a separate Salt Spring Island property tax levy to pay for the highly anticipated Community VIZ land-use planning program.

"We have turned a page in the history of the Islands Trust," said Trust chair David Essig after council members voted unanimously in favour of the levy at the Trust's quarterly meeting held on Pender Island last week.

The decision means property owners on Salt Spring Island will pay up to an additional 40 cents on every \$100,000 of their property's assessed value for a program Trust Council would not add to its \$4.3-million budget at the request of Salt

Spring's trustees.

Kimberly Lineger and Eric Booth won the right to impose the levy after an 11th-hour request to use money from the Trust's contingency fund was rejected.

Although the need to support the Community VIZ program was widely encouraged, many trustees felt the process by which Salt Spring obtained the funds was problematic.

"This is a difficult one for all of us. I believe there are ways to avoid this from getting political," said council vice chair Tony Law. "I support the objective but have doubts concerning the process."

Many felt that the spirit of the Islands Trust would have been better honoured if Booth and Lineger looked

for the additional funds in the budget's overall program expenses.

"We didn't know about this until now and people shouldn't be surprised," said Gabriola trustee Gisele Rudischer. "There were opportunities to bring it up during the committee meetings but [Lineger and Booth] didn't ask in time."

Lineger stressed that public opinion was behind the levy and that Salt Spring was within its rights to tax itself on a program from which it stood to benefit.

"We didn't feel like we needed to consult. We've looked at the levy and we felt comfortable with that move," said Lineger. "We see this as a very valuable

VIZ COSTS A2

Mouat dies

Funeral services for long-time islander Ivan Mouat are set for Friday, March 18, following his death from cancer on March 11.

Mouat, 84, was born and raised on Salt Spring and returned to live on the island after retiring from a career as a teacher, principal and schools superintendent in various parts of Canada. Mouat, a World War II fighter pilot, was known for his volunteer work with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92, the Lady Minto Hospital board, Salt Spring Historical Society and as a school board chair.

The funeral is at the Legion at 12:30 p.m.

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	1535	3.0			
17	0030	10.2	21	0350	10.5
	0455	9.2		1000	8.2
	0735	9.5		1240	8.2
	1625	3.0		2015	3.3
18	0145	10.2	22	0415	10.2
	1725	3.3		1010	7.5
				1400	8.5
19	0235	10.5		2100	3.6
	1830	3.3			



NOT SO SILENT AUCTION: From left, Emily Brestat, Alyssa Pringle and Ernie Wood staff a silent auction display at Island Savings Credit Union. The auction aimed to raise funds for the Salt Spring Transition House.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Bowen Queen on today

Travellers between Swartz Bay and Fulford Harbour will be riding the Bowen Queen today (Wednesday).

The Skeena Queen is out of service for one day only for a planned right angle drive exchange.

Because the Bowen Queen is smaller than the Skeena Queen, some overloads can be expected and customers should plan on arriving at the terminal earlier than usual.

All sailings remain as scheduled.

VIZ COSTS

From Page A1

tool to jump the queue. We want Community VIZ now and this is what the special levy is for. It is not a political debate."

The additional funds for the program are needed because Salt Spring's higher population and larger area mean more mapping data must be entered into the Community VIZ database.

According to trustee Eric Booth, the program stands to change the way planners, conservationists and anyone else dealing with land use view the island.

"It's a planning tool that allows us to create a 3-D model to show virtually everything in terms of data," said Booth. "People will have a better idea of where they live."

The software will supply planners with maps showing lot lines, zoning use, environmental information, topographical features and property assessments.

By combing the data in various ways, individuals using the software will be able to view the consequences of basic planning choices

4-day notice given, calendar vote axed

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Citing claims of declining enrolment and reduced funding, school trustees moved a step further to a four-day week for next year, tossed an outdated parental-approval bylaw and planned a consultation makeover during a spring-cleaning public meeting at Salt Spring Island Middle School on March 9.

School Calendar Approval Procedures Bylaw 7 was deleted with a unanimous vote by school trustees, despite protests from parents.

"It's simply superceded by current legislation. It's housekeeping," said Gulf Islands School District board chair May McKenzie.

Created in 1994, Bylaw 7 required the board to seek parental approval before adopting calendar changes while a 2002 School Act revision calls only for community consultation.

"We want to continue to collect data," said Galiano trustee Bonnie MacGillivray. "A vote is not data."

Immediately following discussion on the parent calendar approval bylaw, trustees proposed a notice of motion to adopt a four-day calendar again next year.

Trustees said another questionnaire on the four-

day school week would be sent to parents before the end of the school year.

The board invited parents, staff and community members to mail or e-mail submissions, notify partner representatives, attend consultation meetings set for all Gulf Islands or address the trustees' public meeting in April when they will vote on the four-day week.

But some islanders were still unclear about the purpose of proposed questionnaires, feedback opportunities and community meetings.

"The consultation process doesn't have the same kind of muscle as a vote," said Elissa Poole.

"Why consult when it's already a done deal?" asked Peter Haase.

Salt Spring trustee Mike Krayenhoff noted that while on the one hand the board is legally required to consult with the public, they might also be agreeable to change.

"I, for one, am willing to shift," she said.

Trustees and administrators will hold public meetings at schools on Mayne (5:30 p.m. April 4), Saturna (8:30 a.m. April 5), Galiano (4:30 p.m. April 5), Pender (6 p.m. April 6) and Salt Spring (7 p.m. April 7 at Gulf Islands Secondary School).

in areas such as preservation, social policy and development.

"Where Community VIZ gets applied is crucial because we are at a community housing crisis on Salt Spring," said Booth.

"The initial application for the benefit of the community is to lay out the problems today, see what it will look like today and determine what steps can be taken to fix the problem. It's a very valuable tool."

He said the public will eventually be able to access

the community VIZ program over the Internet and stressed that the true benefits of the technology would be noticed at public meetings where community planners could run scenarios informing participants about where they live and how decisions made today will affect the island in years to come.

Booth said a vote for the levy was a move favouring "the spirit of the council, the spirit of the federation and the spirit of an individual island to plan for its future."



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FIGHTING FIRE: What began as a routine chimney fire on the morning of Wednesday, March 9 turned into a full-fledged structure fire that forced fire-fighters to spend much of the day dismantling the chimney of an older home on Scott Point Drive.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

SCHOOL FUNDING

From Page A1

(based on 2004/2005 enrolment).

"Districts can use the funding for whatever programs or services they require that improve student achievement," said ministry spokesperson Corrina Fillion.

The ministry claims the district will receive an increase of \$345 per student next year to address any educational needs, which the district has estimated as totalling \$449,250.

But during the March 9 meeting, trustees and administrators announced that \$400,000 of that local money would be targeted to libraries, music and special education.

"We won't get specific instructions about how it will be targeted until we receive budget instructions later this month," Scotvold said.

Additional funding would be used to bring those particular areas back to pre-2002 service levels, said board chair May McKenzie.

"We anticipate it would be based on losses from the past."

And targeted funds would not free up other money to address shortfall problems, she said.

Fillion disagreed. "No, the funding is not being targeted," she said. "The minister is hoping districts will address those concerns."

Districts will simply be asked to submit a plan detailing how they plan to allocate

funding, she said.

On Tuesday McKenzie said Fillion's funding information was all news to her and the district had no written direction about targeting.

"This was just the wording we used to put this preliminary stuff out," McKenzie said. "The words we used, 'Less targeted expenditures' were simply precautionary until we heard for sure."

Scotvold also said Tuesday that ministry officials previously told him that "targeting" was too strong a word.

If the new funds are not targeted, a \$705,000 shortfall might be whittled to \$255,000 and the district holds a surplus of over \$200,000 from implementing the four-day week last year, he agreed.

On the black side of the budget, the district is still holding \$123,186 as a contingency fund from a 2003/2004 surplus and Scotvold projects a surplus of at least \$56,500 for 2004/2005.

Another ministry holdback grant could provide \$62,500 to \$125,000 in 2005/2006 once final enrolment is calculated in September.

During the public meeting, Scotvold said the district forecasts 67 fewer students arriving in September since schools received only 75 kindergarten registrations and they will lose 142 Grade 12 graduates this year.

"Those numbers are not

negotiable. They are fact," Scotvold said.

Reduced enrolment of 67 students will cut local funding by \$228,635. Fewer students with "unique special needs" will also reduce funding by \$132,025. And funding reductions for unique geographic factors will be cut a further \$214,340, he said.

"With the best information we have available, we have a reduction in funding of \$575,000."

Additionally, the district expects increased mandated and unfunded expenditures for staff benefits and salaries of \$60,000, an increased water-taxi contract of \$30,000, extra costs for an electronic student information system under a provincial initiative (\$30,000) and increased costs in supplies and services (\$10,000) for another \$130,000 in total.

The projected loss of funding and enrolment would also prompt \$318,750 in teaching staff reductions (3.75 FTE) and \$194,000 in cuts to special education support, Scotvold said.

"A potential loss of students is something we have to deal with," he said.

If the district hires more staff than necessary for enrolment, they would be bound by contracts that could force them into a deficit situation, he said.

"It's conservative, but we have to do it."

Capers on the rocks?

Salt Spring's annual June nautical festival could be sunk again if someone doesn't throw it a life ring now.

"Somebody has to step up to the plate," said Lions Club member Pat Spencer on Monday.

When the Lions Club saved Sea Capers from oblivion in 2002, it agreed to coordinate the day for three years and that time is now up.

Recent advertisements thanking past volunteers and calling for new leaders have not yielded results, said Spencer, but planning for the June 11 day should begin soon.

With an organizational template in place and lots of support offered from the Lions Club, many individuals and businesses, it's not a daunting task, noted Spencer.

"It takes three to five people to get things coordinated," she said.

Anyone wanting more information or to volunteer should call Spencer at 653-4700.

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Citizens' Assembly supports BC-STV

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer
First in a Series

Members of the Citizens' Assembly met with more than a dozen Salt Spring residents at Gulf Islands Secondary School last Tuesday in order to encourage the electorate to vote in favour of the Single Transferable Vote (BC-STV) on May 17.

"The more we explain it, the more the project tends to snowball and get bigger," said Wendy Bergerud of the Citizens' Assembly. "The question we face now is: Will we get in touch with enough people?"

In April of 2003, the provincial government convened the Citizens' Assembly by asking 160 randomly selected members of the public to step forward to revitalize the democratic tradition.

The members spent 11 months touring the province collecting input from British Columbians on methods to improve the province's electoral system.

Bergerud admitted creating the Citizens' Assembly "took some guts" on behalf of the Liberal Party since most panels, forums and delegations are made up of lawyers, judges and politicians who often have hidden agendas.

The current electoral process, often referred to as the First Past the Post (FPP) system, has voters elect one official per riding. The winning candidate must simply obtain more votes than the others on the slate.

The system is praised for its simplicity, but detractors say the FPP system sometimes distorts the true political diversity of individual ridings since candidates often get elected without receiving a majority of votes.

Such was the case in the last provincial election when the Liberals' 58 per cent popular vote netted 77 of the available 79 seats.

Despite the drawbacks of the current system, the KNOW STV movement recently launched its campaign to inform voters that better options to the BC-STV system exist.

"We don't want to keep the First Past the Post System," said Citizens' Assembly and KNOW STV member Rick Dignard. "Our concern is if BC-STV were to get in, it wouldn't work and the people wouldn't want to try anything new."

According to Dignard, there was a fundamental problem with the campaign to educate members of the Citizens' Assembly about

the potential alternatives to the FPP system.

"I like to hear the positive and the negative when making a decision," he said. "I didn't hear a lot of negative and was forced to do my own studies."

Although the BC-STV system has been used in Ireland and Malta, Dignard said the sheer size of British Columbia and the proposed new riding boundaries would mean that rural communities would end up losing representation since ridings with higher populations would elect more representatives.

BC-STV advocates admit the proposed system is more complicated but insist it will more accurately reflect the will of the people.

Instead of electing one representative, an election under the new format would have voters select between two and seven candidates, depending on the population of their riding.

Instead of marking the circle beside the candidate's name, voters would be asked to rank their preferred candidates.

Candidates would be elected after reaching a quota determined by calculations involving the total number of voters and total number of

candidates.

Once a candidate achieves the quota, all additional votes for that candidate would be transferred to the voters' number two choice and so on until the required number of candidates is achieved.

Voters who cast votes for candidates not meeting the quota would have their votes transferred up to the next candidate, depending on their alternate choices.

Citizens' Assembly member Cary Laing said although the system may be more accurate and representative of the population's views, people may be initially turned off by its complexity.

"There are a lot of technical details," he said. "As long as you put your faith in the system it will pay off."

Laing said the BC-STV system would require both politicians and the electorate to change the very way they interact with the political system.

"The new system will place more emphasis on the individual candidates to get out there and convince electors to get involved," he said. "It will also require electors to get informed about the candidates and become involved with the political system."

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Pender School dumps early French proposal

Despite enthusiastic vocal support, low enrolment quashed plans for an early French immersion (EFI) program on the Pender Islands.

"Everyone in the school community felt like it was a good idea," said Gulf Islands

School District board chair May McKenzie. "But it's not the right time."

Challenged to make the EFI program cost neutral by finding a minimum 19 students (with kindergarten students counting as 0.5), only 10 students enrolled by a February 23 deadline, she said.

"We'd like to do it, it just wasn't feasible," said Pender trustee Russ Searle.

"There's no question about the advantage of an EFI program but the school population is not big enough," said director of instruction Terry Corcoran.

Pender Islands school projects enrolment of 99 students next year, including 11 kindergarten students.

The EFI plan lost support once staff and parents realized that in order to maintain staffing levels, the school would see split-grade classes with spans of three, four or five grades in each class as a result of an added EFI program, Corcoran said.

"There were some people who wanted French immersion regardless and there were people who said, 'We have a community and we don't want to split it down the middle.'"

The district will investigate ways to improve the existing French second-language program on Pender, said Corcoran.



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QUILTING MARATHON: Eileen Botham is among the 113 volunteers of all ages that showed up for the community quilting bee held Saturday at Community Gospel Chapel. The quilts will be distributed to people with life-threatening illnesses or injuries through the Island Comfort Quilts organization.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Islander banished from area in city

An islander was banned from visiting a Vancouver neighbourhood after he pleaded guilty at Ganges Provincial Court on March 8 to a six-year-old charge of drug dealing.

Don Paul Johannes was ordered to serve 12 months probation and 40 hours of community service as part of a suspended sentence after he pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana for the purposes of trafficking.

One probation condition stipulates that Johannes stay at least one block east or west of Commercial Drive between Broadway and

Hastings Streets.

Court heard that Johannes was arrested on March 18, 1999 when police observed him making a hand-to-hand transaction at Grandview Park on Commercial Drive in Vancouver.

Police found nine grams of marijuana and several small baggies when they searched Johannes.

He has a previous record of marijuana possession from 1992.

Johannes is also set to appear in Ganges Court for a charge of trafficking a controlled substance on April 12.

Fire seats up for election

Four people are vying for two available seats on the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board of trustees.

Voting by qualified Salt Spring property owners takes place at the Ganges fire hall with an advance poll

on Saturday, March 19 and a week later on March 26 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Candidates are David Bartle, Mary Catherine Gillies, Hans Hazenboom and Bruce Patterson.

Nominations closed Friday afternoon.

Meeting dissects CRD/Trust taxes

Local government budgets are the subject of a special meeting set for Lions Hall on Friday, March 18.

Both the proposed 2005 Capital Regional District (CRD) budget and the Islands Trust budget, approved at last week's council meeting, will be discussed. Meeting time is 3:30 p.m.

The proposed 2005 CRD budget for Salt Spring of


about \$3.1 million (excluding CRD water and sewer utilities) will be finalized at the March 23 meeting of the CRD board.

The CRD tax increase of about 12.7 per cent is largely attributable to the successful pool referendum in November 2004, said regional director Gary Holman. "The remainder of the CRD tax increase is due almost entire-

ly to property values that are rising faster on Salt Spring than the rest of the CRD, which increases Salt Spring Island's share of region-wide costs such as the hospital district and regional parks."

Holman is also proposing small tax increases for the library, emergency services and the new arts service.

The Islands Trust passed a \$4,299,410 budget.

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KEEP FIVE ALIVE COALITION

STATEMENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

- (1) The four day school week is educationally unproven and demonstrably unfair to those students from families with fewer resources and those who are already struggling and has caused serious socio-economic problems for families. KFAC calls on the board to immediately develop strategies that will enable them to reverse the four day week for September 2005.
- (2) That the Board respect the rights of parents to directly sanction significant calendar changes as enshrined in Bylaw 7.
- (3) That in the case of calendar changes, the burden of proof should lie with the Board that any policy change will not injure academic achievement or lead to decreased achievement. We demand a professional independent longitudinal study. The precautionary principle should apply.
- (4) We oppose the Trustee's decision to move towards the privatization of our public school system through the creation of the SD #64 Business Company. The trend towards two-tiered education, encouraged by the current Trustees, will increase inequities in the community.
- (5) We believe it is unethical for the School Trustee Chair and Secretary Treasurer to be sitting on a 3-person Board on the private for profit corporation in SD #64.
- (6) Should the Trustees continue to misrepresent the will of the community then the community will challenge their moral legitimacy to govern by voting in a new school board November 2005.

Delivered to the Trustees of School District #64,
MARCH 9, 2005, SALT SPRING ISLAND B.C.

THE KEEP FIVE ALIVE COALITION is fighting to save public education in BC and restore the 5-day school week in SD #64. KFAC is a coalition of parents, teachers, students, workers and concerned citizens on the Gulf Islands.
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Pool at critical public input phase

Editor's note: Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) is providing a series of information articles outlining the indoor pool construction process and choices to be made in the next few weeks. PARC wants public input on any aspect of the project.

Salt Spring PARC is now embarking on the next phase of construction of the indoor pool approved in a referendum last fall. It's taken a lot of time and community energy and funds to get to this point, but now it's time to start making some of the big decisions about the final aquatic facility.

To date, the major completed phases of the project include:

- Successful referendum to purchase the Rainbow Road site.
- Completion of public consultation phase to

determine preferred nature of aquatic facility (indoor/outdoor) and willingness to pay, to be put to referendum vote.

- Successful referendum to approve borrowing of funds and taxation increase to fund construction and operation of indoor aquatic facility.

- Installation of off-site utility services to construction site, including, domestic water, sanitary sewer, and provision of pipe and connections for future use of recycled water from the Ganges treatment plant.

As we now enter the design and construction phase of the pool, the pace of decision-making increases. Identifying and hiring the expertise to get maximum value for the limited funds available has been the first priority. As announced in the March 2 Driftwood, on the recommendation of the pro-

positional Review Team and subject to CRD board approval, PARC has appointed Alan Roy Architect Ltd (ARAL) as the prime consultant for the indoor pool.

ARAL brings to the project a design team of engineering consultants with a wealth of related experience and expertise.

Upon CRD board approval (expected March 23) and contract finalization, it is full steam ahead with the design team. The next phase, estimated to take four to six weeks, is developing a schematic design.

This critical phase includes the researching of cost effective systems and providing a conceptual layout. The design team will provide a "shopping list" of cost-saving options, which will outline clear choices on priorities within our budget.

Some of the important issues that will be considered

are: alternate pool construction technologies, flexibility of programming, selection of pool water treatment system, pool floor and wall finishes, air quality, revenue sources, and energy efficiency and source (i.e. geo-thermal).

PARC is inviting public input to help make these decisions in order to proceed to the next step — detailed plans of the selected systems. Watch this space for a series of articles that will focus on alternatives being considered and timelines for decision-making.

PARC will also hold public information meetings that, along with various other methods of public input, will help shape the final design of the pool.

Please provide your input on these issues by writing to us.

PARC, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, SSI, V8K 2M3
parc@saltspring.com

Bruce nominated for Democratic Reform slate

B.C.'s newest political party nominated its Saanich North and the Islands candidate on Thursday.

Professional biologist Ian Bruce will be on the ballot representing the Democratic Reform B.C. (DRBC) party for the May 17 election.

Bruce primarily works as executive coordinator for the Peninsula Streams Society, an umbrella organization comprised of six stream-stewardship and three marine

conservation groups on the Saanich Peninsula.

Through his consulting firm incorporated in 1989, Watershed Eco-Logical Services Ltd., Bruce also provides ecological and fisheries services to industry, governments and First Nations.

Bruce was born and raised in Victoria, graduating from the University of Victoria in 1978 with a marine biol-



Bruce

ogy degree. He has worked as a tugboat owner/operator, commercial fisherman and salmon hatchery/habitat consultant to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and First Nations.

He started the first salmon farm in Clayoquot Sound in 1985 and was an industry consultant until 1996.

A move to North Saanich in 1997 was followed by work in various capacities in the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, and the provincial fisheries ministry.

Bruce recently served on North Saanich council's

Environmental Advisory Commission. While in Tofino, he served on Tofino council's Clayoquot Sound Advisory Group, the Task Force for Clayoquot Sound Land Use and Sustainable Development for Clayoquot Sound.

Bruce is a life-long sportsman, avid salmon fisher, and has coached, refereed, and played many sports over the years. He is married and has five children.

DRBC candidates will be running in all ridings.

For more information about the new party, see www.drbc.ca.

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Driftwood

Co-op preschool vandalized

Salt Spring Island Co-op Preschool staff were shocked to learn their school was vandalized over the weekend.

RCMP officers responded to reports of a break and enter just before 5 p.m. on the afternoon of Sunday, March 13 to find that individuals had broken a school window, stolen supplies from the school's earthquake kit and caused damage to the playground.

"It's kind of like a slap in the face," said employee Sylvia Louwman. "We work so hard to make the place nice

for the children and then this happens."

Louwman said the school had taken steps to improve lighting and has requested the RCMP to increase patrols in the Aldous Road area.

Police are investigating the incident and asking people with information to contact the RCMP or Crimestoppers.

In other RCMP news: An RCMP emergency vehicle was forced out of service for an hour on the night of March 11 after an adult male managed to deflate one of its tires.

The vehicle was left unattended while the officers were busy responding to a noisy party complaint. The suspect was apprehended at the scene when officers returned to their vehicle.

The matter is still under investigation and charges are pending.

• Police wish to remind members of the community to be particularly mindful of speed limits and driving safety over the next two weeks while school children are on Spring Break and visitors attend the island for vacation.

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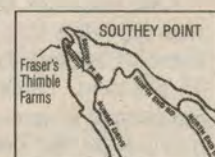
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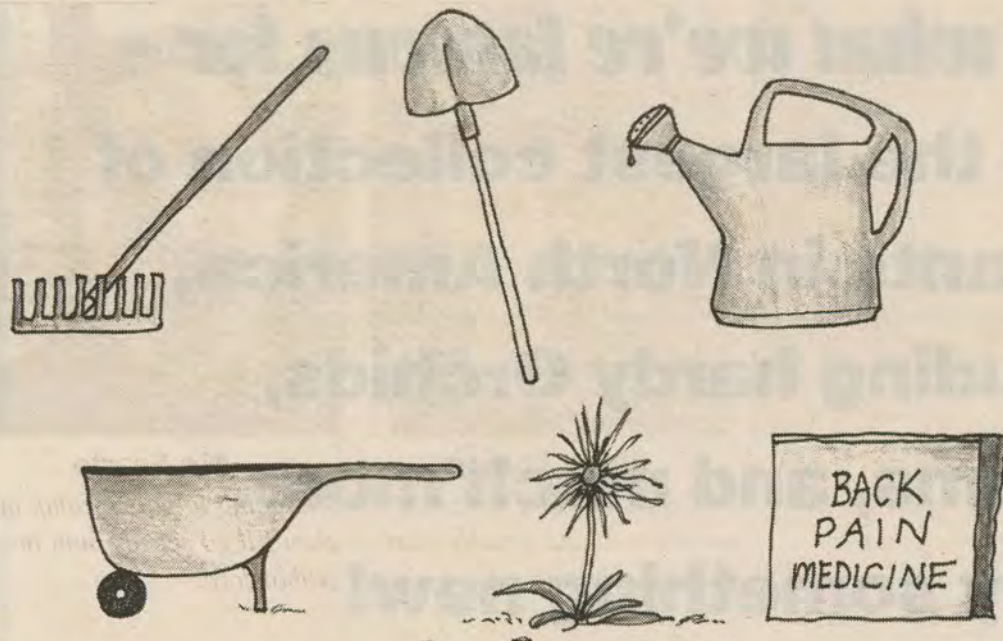
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THE 6 EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF SPRING

Paul



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Watch STV debate

With the referendum on changing B.C.'s electoral system to a proposed Single Transferable Vote (STV) scheme still two months away, it's no wonder the public is still in the dark about the idea.

If this referendum is like most, beacons of interest won't start flickering until about three weeks before the vote date.

But this question has such major implications that it demands more thought than most referendum questions, which generally involve giving permission to spend voters' money for a specific purpose.

The current "first past the post system" has long been criticized as inadequate for achieving representational government, and the last provincial election result proved that in spades.

It appears the STV system would ameliorate that problem, but more discussion and debate is required before its full merits and faults become clear.

STV proponents, including Citizens' Assembly members, have been the first to voice their support, with detractors now emerging.

Islanders should take every opportunity possible to educate themselves on the proposal — and well before voting day on May 17.

Time for Capers heroes

There's no other way to say it: the annual Sea Capers festival won't happen this year if a coordinating group doesn't take it on now.

Salt Spring Lions valiantly rescued the orphaned event three years ago, noting at the time they could only take care of it for a three-year period.

Organizers point out the template is set, that abundant community support can be tapped into and it really only needs three to five people to get the ball rolling for another year.

Sea Capers manages to bring the community together one last time before the tourism and vacation seasons begin in earnest, and is a tradition worth continuing.

In the alternative, the Sea Capers parade and fun competitions could be combined with Canada Day festivities, which have also grown in popularity.

It only takes a handful of noble souls or a group stepping forward now to prevent the sinking of Sea Capers and a feel-good community event.

Letters to the Editor

Astonishing

Last July, almost a year after being diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer, I received a comfort quilt in the mail from an organization in Ontario.

The quilt was requested for me by a friend in Campbell River and it was delivered to me at no charge to my friend or to me. It made me feel so good that I emailed the group in Ontario and asked them to send another one to someone else on Salt Spring. My cousin and my sister were so impressed with the quilt and how it made me feel, they asked to have quilts delivered to others on Salt Spring.

Then we began to toy with the

idea of starting a comfort quilts group here on Salt Spring. After all, we have a huge quilting community here and Salt Spring is an amazingly caring and compassionate community. How could it fail?

So... we asked a few friends and they agreed with us. We had our first meeting last October and from that meeting we went out into this wonderful community fundraising for money and asking for donations of fabric working towards a Community Quilting Bee for March 12, 2005.

Salt Spring... you outdid yourself! The generosity of islanders continues to astonish. Your donations of fabric, cash, embroidery thread, services and products have

been wonderful.

Our first Community Quilting Bee was held this past Saturday and the response from the community was truly outstanding. We had a great team setting up on Friday night and they all came back and helped to break it down at day's end on Saturday.

Then 113 volunteers of all ages showed up to sew/pin/tie quilts, to make carry bags for the quilts and to work in the kitchen feeding all their fellow volunteers. We had a great time making lots of quilts and carry bags.

There are too many people to thank individually in this letter, but we would like to offer up special thanks to Mouat's Clothing, which

made the first cash donation to get us started, to Carl Graham at Lightning Press, Salt Spring Drycleaners, Mrs. Clean Laundromat, Ganges Village Market, Thrifty Foods and Embe Bakery, Curves, Pastor Chris Cormack and the Community Gospel Church, the volunteer firefighters and Stitches Quilt Shop.

To everyone who helped in any way, whether on Saturday or in the days and weeks leading up to Saturday's Quilting Bee, we can only say "thank you!" It was a tremendous success thanks to all the volunteers. It was a day full of fun and camaraderie, of laughter and some tears, of hard work and of great accomplishment.

We look forward to seeing you all again at the 2nd Community Quilting Bee... we'll be in touch.

CAROL SIMPSON,
 For ICQ organizing committee

Rainbow spot
 I think it's time the library stopped beating around the bush and sold the building we are in.

They should then take that money and build a new building that would meet the community's needs on the land that we already bought on Rainbow Road.

BRUCE MILLS,
 Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A9

Salt Spring gets 'rammed' with tax equity failure

By ERIC BOOTH

This month marks the two-year anniversary of my attempts to persuade Islands Trust Council to live up to their recognition of the inequity surrounding taxes on Salt Spring, North Pender and Mayne Islands.

From my failed proposal for tax equity, which included a weighted voting system on financial matters, we have also seen two proposals from staff and one from another trustee.

The latest staff report (which I believe is extremely conservative) on the resource allocation model (RAM) indicates that Salt Spring pays over \$450,000 a year more than what it receives in services. I suggest the actual cost is more in the range of \$800,000 per year. Council last year endorsed a motion that was intended to include the RAM as an integral part of the assumptions and principles of this year's budget.

However, since it has now become extremely evident that tax fairness is low (perhaps lowest) on the priority list of other trust-

ees, the RAM was not included. And, although it is now scheduled to be discussed in June, it has now been put off for another budget year, past the end of our terms as trustees.

The unwillingness of council to act on this matter has redefined the term Slow Islands Movement. The financial result to Salt Spring, over the course of the last three years, is over \$2 million dollars in over-taxation. Given a choice, how would Salt Spring Islanders have decided to spend that money? Or, would they have preferred to have had their taxes actually reduced?

And, consider this: in 2002 it was reported that Salt Spring's share of Islands Trust taxes was 33 per cent. Three years later it has risen to 41 per cent. That additional eight per cent equals over \$280,000. And remember, that doesn't include other increases

of over \$98,000 for a grand total of \$380,000 — a 35.7 per cent increase in taxes over 2002.

And, just when I thought it couldn't get much more ridiculous, when we asked Trust Council this week for \$10,000 to apply to our Community Vision project (community housing), our request was soundly rejected. I immediately asked for permission to apply a special tax levy to cover the \$10,000 request. In other words, I asked for council's permission to exercise Salt Spring's right to tax itself.

The ensuing discussion around the table highlighted the last two years of dancing around this subject. Those speaking against my motion used a wide range of reasons why my request should not be supported. A "we're damned if we do and damned if we don't" scenario was expressed by a couple of trustees. Damned if they supported the motion, because by doing so, they would be highlighting the fact they have done nothing over tax equity except add to the tax burden on Salt Spring which they already

know is unfair, and, damned if they didn't support the motion, thereby refusing Salt Spring's inherent right to tax itself.

Other trustees apparently tried to block the motion by expressing concerns surrounding process, rather than helpfully suggesting ways to make my proposal work. There was also a suggestion that we could possibly immediately earmark a Trust Council "contingency fund" for the \$10,000, which, in my stated view and that of accountants around the world, would redefine the word "contingency."

While I fully expected some reaction, I was staggered by the level of opposition and many of the statements made.

In my last plea, I asked council members to live up to the spirit of the Islands Trust, to recognize my request was only the result of the council's unwillingness to live up to its apparent commitment to deal with the tax equity issue and to allow Salt Spring's elected representatives the effective ability to deal with our largest challenge — the community housing crisis.

When the vote was called — all those in favour? — the hands slowly went up around the table until the last person, the chairman of the Financial Planning Committee, realizing the vote would be unanimous without him, exclaimed — "oh, what the hell," and raised his hand.

In spite of the unanimous vote, I couldn't help but wonder at those who had just spoken so passionately and eloquently against the motion, but didn't have the courage or conviction to stand behind their own arguments.

Because I just can't believe my final plea was so convincing as to change their minds, I am left with the feeling that the "political optics" of the situation had more to do with the outcome than "political conviction."

Now the only remaining question is this — at the June council meeting when the topic returns to the agenda, will Salt Spring finally get the RAM or just continue to get rammed on taxation?

The writer is a Salt Spring trustee.

VIEW POINT

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What are your plans for Spring Break?*



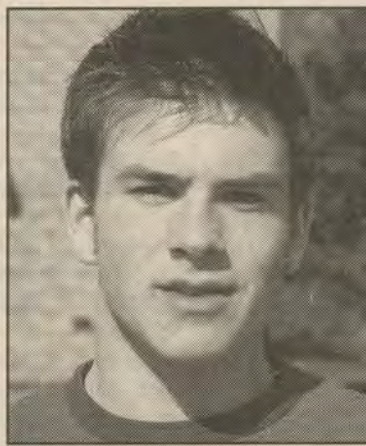
Kayla Gromme

I've got a whole lot of basketball tryouts for a regional team in Nanaimo.



Devan Banman

I plan on slacking off and doing nothing but having some fun.



Marlow Hart

I'm just working for a while and then maybe going to Long Beach with some buds.



Corey Francis

I'll be working at a restaurant on Mayne Island. I really want to go into Vancouver for a while.



Mo Searle

I'm going to police camp and then I'll go see my aunt in Abbotsford.

Letters to the Editor

Unsound

I've been a subscriber to the Driftwood for the same number of years that I was a teacher, counsellor and administrator in the West Vancouver school system.

In those three decades plus I've not read much in your paper that is more depressing than the Gulf Islands School Board decision to operate schools on a four-day week.

Apart from any inconvenience it might visit upon parents, students and teachers, it is, simply put, unsound educationally.

Twice during the early years of my career I participated in a temporary "shift" timetable. Each of these schedules ran for several months. For half of each session, half of the classes were held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; the other half from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The difference in spirit and effort between the two groups was astonishing.

The "early" group was energetic and motivated; the second, somnolent and apathetic. (It's an uphill battle for even the most inspired

teacher to counter post-luncheon lethargy.)

I would suggest that your board members look around at how class scheduling is done elsewhere. They will find that where they can, administrators will schedule academic courses in the morning, and P.E. and elective classes in the afternoon.

If a pro tem radical solution is required to cope with their current financial difficulties, then the school board might consider an 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. school day, Monday to Friday. The current overlong day, four days a week, just makes no sense.

TOM TAYLOR,
Salt Spring

Basic safety

While travelling on the big island of Hawaii recently, I noted some parallels and contrasts to our island home. Real estate development is booming, and affordable housing is sorely needed for those working in the dominant tourist industry.

Invasive species and ruminants continue to threaten indigenous plants and animals. And the town of Kona

seems like one big parking lot.

However, there is one striking difference between that island and this one (aside from volcanoes and ubiquitous lava flows). The roads are superb — well engineered, well maintained, well signed. Clear yellow markings down the centre, clear white stripes along the margins. Often these lines have reflectors and "rumblestrips" embedded in them, so at night you always know where you are in relation to the road.

There are wide, paved shoulders for bikes and walkers, guardrails with reflectors along ditches and banks, and descriptive signage letting you know what's coming.

I'm all for the rural nature of Salt Spring, and I minimize car trips to town. But a standard of safety is something we expect on ferries and in hospitals: why not on roads?

Driving at night in rain and fog is truly dangerous when roads have no centre and margin lines. Those that exist are mostly worn off — all but gone around Ganges

and on the approach to the Fulford ferry, for example. So let's have the bare minimum of road safety and take the deadly guesswork out of night driving.

Bring over the paint, Mainroad South Island Contracting!

WENDY HILLIARD,
Salt Spring

No vote

I agree 100 per cent with the comments made by Mona Fertig, Peter Haase and Kathy Page in Driftwood letters.

I well remember May McKenzie's early comments on how "excited" she and her fellow board members were on implementing the four-day week "experiment."

As grandparents, and parents of a single mother, and also child minders who know full well the effort required to keep young children constructively busy on Fridays, plus pro-D days plus longer spring breaks (upcoming) I say why should our lives and hundreds like us be so disrupted to enable this incredibly stupid "experiment" to continue?

The school board knows

we cannot wait to vote them out, so what have they got to lose by taking a full steam ahead and damn the torpedoes attitude?

Give us a vote with a simple, straightforward question like: "Do you want to return to a five-day school week? Yes or no? And can any more idiotic surveys.

MIKE MORGAN,
Salt Spring

Build walkway

I was stunned by the front-page article in last week's Driftwood regarding the waterfront walkway at the head of Fulford Harbour.

Back in 1978 the planning committee of the South Salt Spring Residents' Association produced a Fulford Harbour Specified Area Plan dated September 12, 1978, which was submitted to the Islands Trust at that time so that its aims could be incorporated within the community plan.

Under Section 8 of that plan on Recreation and Open Space Areas is the following policy guideline:

"Drummond Park and Beach access.

a) Area should be increased as noted on the plan map. Public use of the beach and the adjacent water is desirable for swimming and beach activities.

A public beach walkway along the waterfront should be developed by clean-up of old log dump site."

The above was the opinion of the majority of the residents at that time and there was no connection whatsoever to it being instigated as a ruse to eliminate people from living on the beach.

It should be further noted that these recommendations were indeed incorporated within the 1998 Official Community Plan: "Recommended Walkways leading from Fulford Village (Map 18 and clause E.1.4.14)."

I trust that the above clarifies why the walkway from Drummond Park to Fulford Harbour village should be built.

JONATHAN YARDLEY,
Isabella Point Road

MORE LETTERS A10

Ferocious islanders could compromise on Bullock Lake

If you are driving out Robinson Road just past Mansell Road, you will find the three gates to Salt Spring Island Village Resort.

The original perimeter fence is gone, as are the guard dogs and glaring metal halide lamps that used to cast a pall over the construction site reminiscent of a Romanian detention centre rather than a luxury resort.

There is nothing going on. From the locked main entrance, you can see the main lodge, designed to house restaurants, a conference centre, treatment rooms and an indoor swimming pool — intended to serve the 123 residential units surrounding it on the 36-acre lakefront property.

The lodge and about 50 units were as far as this project progressed before it ground to a halt, bogged down by allegations of questionable back room deals, shaky financing and local outrage.

The local outrage was spearheaded by one of our present Islands Trust people, Eric Booth,

HEAD TO HEAD

BY PETER VINCENT



who took offence at one of the project reps referring to the hometown rabble as "Island Goofers."

At the time, Eric owned the property across the lake from the project. Any and all prospective buyers were subjected to Eric's fluorescent pink billboard proclaiming "Goofer's Pig Farm" on their drive to the main entrance.

Spurred on by local support, he soon painted his car fluorescent pink and graced it with a "Goofer" vanity plate. When islanders got wind of the magnitude of the project, the floodgates opened.

It was difficult to find a single islander who was on the side of the project, and for good reason. It was simply too large.

Zoned Commercial-4 for tourist accommodation purposes, the developers were able to build 123

resort units, all crowded around a small ecologically sensitive lake.

It didn't take much to envision a parade of giant SUVs with jet skis in tow, coming off the Long Harbour ferry every Friday afternoon, running roughshod over the small country road, disturbing the peace till all hours of the night.

But this is all ancient history now, as the caterpillars and dump trucks have long since gone away, amid a sea of red ink.

The project is once again showing some signs of life. It is listed for \$9 million, substantially below the \$19 million rumoured to have been spent thus far.

But who in their right mind would be foolish enough to revive such a project in its original form? Who in their right mind would willingly take on the wrath of Salt Spring's battle-toughened goofer brigades, who have successfully run giant logging companies out

of town and sent the Channel Ridge developers scurrying back to the drawing boards, who have made life a living hell for hopeful gravel pit owners, B.C. Hydro planners and even "motherhood" low-cost housing developers? Who in their right mind would step into that nest of vipers?

On the other hand, the site must be slowly deteriorating.

The web site (www.landquest.com) describes the lodge and 50 units essentially at lock-up stage. The near-decade of wet, cold West Coast winters must be taking their toll on the structures.

The vacant buildings must be a paradise for rats, otters and all other manner of wood-chewing organisms. It really is in no one's best interest to see the buildings slowly crumble into a giant compost heap, leaching God knows what into the lake. A compromise is in order.

Is it possible to limit further development to the completion of the 50 small units already sub-

stantially completed?

The award-winning Hills Health Ranch at 100 Mile House has a similar layout and theme, with a central lodge surrounded by clusters of self-contained housing units. Would Salt Springers pull in their claws?

Would Roland Cook withdraw his pig farm application? Or will it take a complete abdication, where nothing will tame the beast short of turning the fast-approaching Freedom Campers loose on the property?

The original owners are long gone, and all that bad blood should have washed away by now.

Do you think we might just ease up a little on the Salt Spring Island Village Resort? Isn't 10 years a long enough sentence for a project gone bad to lie in fallow, before us Salt Springers, apparently renowned for our hospitality and forgiving ways, give the project a little slack? I think it is.

pvincent@saltspring.com

EVERYONE!



LET'S
START TO
GET READY!

By SANDY BARCLAY

The planning is well underway for this year's Fall Fair!!!

The theme has been set, FARMING-FOOD FOR THOUGHT, which will encompass many of the various aspects of farming and farm life.

The dates for this year's fair are September 17 and 18, and will be held at the Farmers Institute on Rainbow Road.

The entry catalogue release date has been set for July 6, which will allow time for all to plan for the various entries in this year's fair. The booklet will be distributed in The Driftwood.

Articles will also be appearing in the Fall Fair focus column in the Driftwood. A variety of articles will begin bi-weekly starting March 23 until July 6, then on a weekly basis until September 14.

So let's start thinking about our entries for this great community event!

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

More letters

Magic island

A popular story about Salt Spring tells that the Dalai Lama visited here, detected the presence of a Ley line and proposed the site of the Mount Tuam monastery.

Ley lines are believed to be an alignment of special Earth energy, which were allegedly known to the Ancients, and along which ancient sites like Stonehenge were located.

Here is another magic story!

The Living Word

John 15:13

Greater love has no one but this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

WINSOME WHITE
Please Read: ROMANS 5:6-11
ISAIAH 53:8-11

Because our home faces east, my wife and I are rewarded by spectacular sunrises, especially in the spring and fall, as the sun rises from behind the stark peaks of the coast range.

Five years ago, I observed that the sun rises behind Mount Baker, exactly at the spring and fall equinoxes, on March 21 and September 21. Unfortunately a cloudy morning can obscure any observation.

On two occasions, however, I have noted that just before the sun's disc appears above the horizon, its light is refracted through the glacier ice on the mountain.

Our particular view of Mount Baker presents the main peak and two lower peaks on each side.

During the 15 seconds before the appearance of the sun, two simultaneous brilliant green flashes occur, as the light passes through the ice on each side of the peak.

I am hoping that one day one of our keen island photographers might capture this remarkable event with a telescopic lens, and have it published in the Driftwood.

KEN LEE,
Amblewood Drive

Real issues

A miscellany of comments related to the film festival *Our Island, Our World*.

I am very grateful to the organizers of the film festival that took place at the high school and at Cinema Central March 4-6. It is such a relief to see documentaries that actually inform us about

real issues around the globe.

I was dismayed that the Driftwood did not offer its usual pull-out supplement giving the times and contents of the films. I wonder if the absence of this excellent contribution by the Driftwood to such a valuable community event reduced festival attendance?

At the festival I presented a film on same-sex marriage called *Let No One Put Asunder*. Attendance was low but I was not surprised since most Salt Springers seem to believe that same-sex marriage is a non-issue.

Same-sex marriage is now legal in seven provinces and one territory. One would think therefore that the bill for same-sex marriage is going to pass easily. That is not necessarily so.

Pro same-sex marriage MPs are requesting letters in support of the bill.

Equal-marriage.ca is a website that will inform you of the alarming extent of the backlash from the right wing, which includes the demand that lesbians and gay men be exempted from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Equal-marriage.ca also lets you send an email to all 340 MPs at the press of a button. When we take care of one group's human rights we take care of all groups.

ROWAN PERCY,
Salt Spring

All welcome

The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce would like to assure Bob Simonds from Los Ange-

les that he, his family and fellow Americans are most welcome as visitors to Salt Spring Island.

They always have been and always will be.

An individual did suggest expropriating foreign-owned land at the Trust Forum in Nanaimo, but was not taken seriously.

The forum admittedly had an anti-tourism flavour and, as the Driftwood editorial summarized, "some not so subtle manipulation was involved."

However, the group was not a broad-based representation of our community and our island's economic health took a back seat at the forum as a result. Salt Spring's business community recognizes the significance of tourism — it accounts for 25 per cent of island income.

A formal "Tourism Attitude" survey recently conducted by Malaspina College in concert with the Chamber of Commerce found overwhelming community support (over 90 per cent) for tourism on the island.

The Trust was tasked to establish a Tourism Advisory Committee seven years ago — and we are still waiting.

To assure the objectives of sustainable tourism as outlined in our OCP are met, we need a formal strategic plan developed by island residents. Now. And Bob, you are welcome on our island, as are all those who tread lightly here.

PETER ALLAN,
President,
Chamber of Commerce
MORE LETTERS A12

British Columbia Transmission Corporation

Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project

Comment Invited on Draft Terms of Reference for BCTC's Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate

British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC) is a provincial Crown corporation responsible for managing, operating, and maintaining most of the provincial power transmission system and its interconnections with the larger North American grid. In order to meet current and projected electricity demand on Vancouver Island and to maintain reliable grid operations, BCTC is proposing to replace and upgrade the two existing 138 kV overhead transmission lines and submarine cables (1L17/1L18) connecting southern Vancouver Island, Salt Spring Island and Galiano Island to the Lower Mainland with two new 230 kV transmission lines.

The Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project is subject to review under British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Act, S.B.C.2002, c.43. As part of the review process, BCTC's Draft Terms of Reference for an Environmental Assessment Certificate application (Application) are being made available for public comment. The purpose of the Terms of Reference is to identify the information that must be included in BCTC's Application. Approved Terms of Reference will be issued by the Environmental Assessment Office following consideration of comments on the Draft Terms of Reference. BCTC will then be required to prepare its Application in accordance with the Approved Terms of Reference.

An electronic copy of the Draft Terms of Reference, as well as additional information regarding the Project and the environmental assessment process, is available through the Environmental Assessment Office's Project Information Centre at www.eao.gov.bc.ca. Copies of the Draft Terms of Reference are also available at:

Ladner Pioneer Library
4683 - 51st Street
Delta, B.C. V4K 2V8

South Delta Library
1321A - 56th Street
Delta, B.C. V4L 2A6

Vancouver Island Regional Library
Cowichan Branch
2687 James Street
Duncan, B.C. V9L 2X5

Salt Spring Island Public Library
129 McPhillips Avenue
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2T6

Islands Trust Office
#1 - 500 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2N8

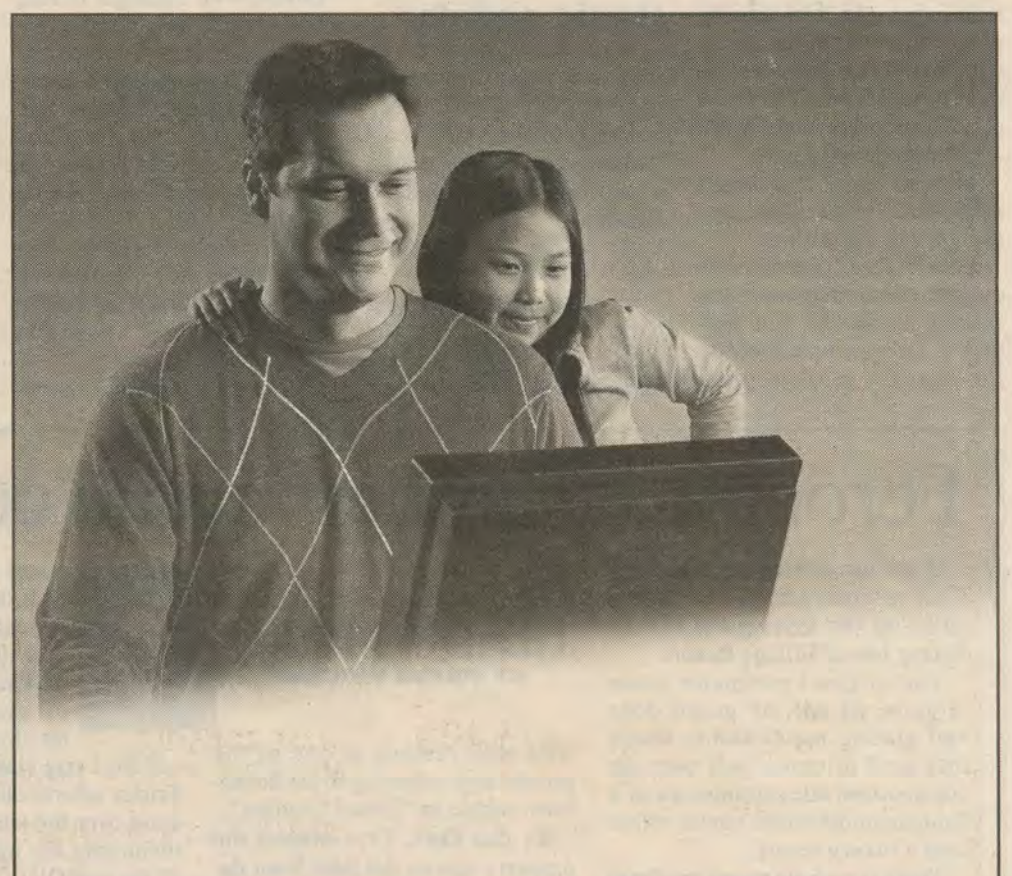
Galiano Island Community Library
2540 Sturdies Bay Road,
Galiano Island B.C. V0N 1P0

Comments submitted by the public will be posted, as originally submitted, on the Environmental Assessment Office's Project Information Centre. Personal information such as full address, e-mail address, and telephone number, will be made public unless your comments indicate that this information should NOT be made public. Also, unless you indicate otherwise, your name and personal information will be also be added to the EAO database.

Comments on the draft Terms of Reference must be received by the Environmental Assessment Office by April 22, 2005. Please mail your comments to:

Derek Griffin
Project Assessment Director
Environmental Assessment Office
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9V1
Fax: (250) 387-2208

Comments by email are encouraged and may be directed to eaoinfo@gems5.gov.bc.ca.



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- BUFFET & HUTCH**
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- JOYCE CHAIR**
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- HALL CONSOLE**
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- ANTIQUES 2000 COFFEE TABLE**
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- STYLUS SOFA SLIPCOVERED**
Was \$1599 **NOW \$1129**
- SLIPCOVERED CHAIR & OTTOMAN**
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- PALLISER 3 PC. LEATHER HOME THEATRE**
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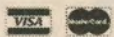
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**Easter Holiday
Schedule Change**

For the issue of:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Display Ad Deadline:
5pm, Thursday, March 24

Classified Deadline:
4pm, Monday, March 28

Too Late to Classify Deadline:
Noon, Tuesday, March 29

**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25**

Gulf Islands
Driftwood

ROSES

A giant roll of paper towel roses to St. Clair McColl for his utmost graciousness during our travel trauma. You truly are a saint.

Roses of love and thanks to the wonderful community of friends and neighbours for the absolutely uplifting love and support for our family. NH

Sweet wild roses amid the daffodils to Beate Denz. Her daily single-handed dedication to cleaning up garbage along our roads is — or should be — a model of generosity-in-action to us all.

A truck full of roses for our best friends. Thank-you Tracy, Dawn, Chris, Chad, Colby, Alex, Fiona, Darren

RANTS & ROSES

and Thomas Sr. for volunteering your sunny Saturday to help us move. T&K

Roses to Drs. Woodley and Cameron at Victoria General Hospital. The orange is gone. M&S

Hey Wilderness Stone-works, Thanks. You "rock!"

Roses to Rob at Thrifty's deli department for saving the day by providing pizza for 30 kids on such short notice. MM

Swishing baskets to every-one who made the SIMS

Tsunami basketball league a fun and skill-developing happening this year: coaches, referees and timekeepers, who were parents, community members and SIMS/GISS students.

Thanks to Rev. Sharon Cooke, the United Church and AA, I have just completed 10 years of sobriety. So, big bouquets of roses to all of them, and a little punch in the nose to the pub. S

An infinite bunch of brilliant-coloured fragrant roses

to all of my incredible family and friends who supported me on my journey, and empowered me with the courage to be me and be free. Skinny Lizzy

We would love to send buckets full of roses to all the fabulously kind souls who helped create our wedding of love. White roses to Bryn and Carol for their song of unity; yellow roses to Jill, Stan and the Tree House staff; hot pink roses to Talula Belle, Lawrence and Tay for their open hearts and doors. S&A B

More letters

What mandate?

This is a letter to all of the people like myself who voted for Gary Holman for CRD director, thinking that they were voting for someone who was community and environmentally minded.

We were wrong. After

Holman was elected he came to the recycle depot where I work and stated that the future of the depot was grim.

Since that time, committees have been formed and surveys have been done — all with the same conclusion: that the Salt Spring Island Recycle depot recycles the most material per capita, is

the least expensive per ton and takes the widest assortment of recyclables in the Gulf Islands.

The depot was founded by volunteers and had donated land which was then sold to the CRD by the province for a dollar. But like any successful venture, it has begun to attract outside interests and greed. Holman behaves as if it is a done deal and perhaps it is.

The point of recycling as an environmental necessity has been lost. Not to mention that the recycle depot is a large financial contributor to the already beleaguered Salt Spring Island Community Services Society.

Since Gary Holman has been elected it has become apparent to me that he misunderstands his position.

He is supposed to represent the community to the CRD, not the other way around. He has the power

to direct the CRD — that is why they call him a director.

I'm disappointed and want to ask Gary Holman what mandate is he working for? The CRD, private industry or the community?

Also, I would like the community to ask themselves: do they want a blue box program, which takes a lot less variety of materials, or another private garbage transfer station on the depot's existing site?

Or here's a thought: allow us to continue to do what I think is a good job.

It is interesting to me that the private off-island company that has appeared on our site checking property lines and asking questions is the same one operating on the Lee's hill site which seems to have the blessing of Gary Holman, the CRD and who knows where the Trust is.

CATHERINE BRANNAN,
Salt Spring

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**SALTSPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

Public Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Saltspring Island Fire Protection District an Election by Voting is necessary to elect, for a three year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on March 29th, 2005 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2008, to fill the offices of two (2) Trustees on the Board of Saltspring Island Fire Protection District and that the persons nominated as candidates at the Election and for whom the votes will be received are listed below:

TRUSTEES - two persons to be elected:

Surname	Given Name	Residential Address
BARTLE	David	143 Maliview Drive
GILLIES	Mary	206 Roland Road
HAZENBOOM	Hans	138 Acheson Road
PATTERSON	Bruce	2914 Fulford-Ganges Road

VOTING DAY for the election of Trustees will be open on **Saturday the twenty sixth (26th) day of March 2005, TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SALTSPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** at:

Ganges Fire Hall, regular training room

AND SUCH VOTING PLACE SHALL BE OPEN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF **eleven (11:00) A.M. and five (5:00) P.M.**

ADVANCE VOTING for election of Trustees shall be open on **Saturday the nineteenth (19th) of March 2005 TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SALTSPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** between the hours of **eleven (11:00) A.M. and four (4:00) P.M.** at the Ganges Firehall, regular training room

Given under my hand at Ganges, B.C. this twelfth (12th) day of March 2005.

Thomas F. Moore
Returning Officer

ELECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

You are qualified as an Elector if you are:

- (a) A Canadian Citizen
- (b) eighteen years or older on Voting Day
- (c) a resident in the Province for at least six months before Voting Day
- (d) an owner of land within the boundaries of the Saltspring Island Fire Protection District
- (e) an authorized agent, designated in writing as the said agent, of a Board or Corporation that owns land within the Saltspring Island Fire Protection District

If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners are entitled to vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis. **Please note that when checking the list of owners provided by the B.C. Assessment Authority the multiple ownership of some properties may not have been recorded. If the property that is being used for voting purposes is held in multiple ownership it is recommended that the persons intending to vote bring suitable identification, as listed below, to avoid any inconvenience.**

If you are not on the List of Registered Electors you may register on Voting Day providing you produce two pieces of identification, one of which has your signature, preferably with pictorial identification, e.g drivers licence, and documentation proving ownership of the land for which you are owner, e.g tax notice, assessment notice or duplicate certificate of title.

*Thank You
Salt Spring!*



We are pleased to announce the opening of our new office on Salt Spring Island.

We are located at 1206 Grace Point Square and can meet by appointment only.

To show our appreciation of your support we would like to invite you to join us for coffee and donuts this Thursday, March 17 at Grace Point Square, 1 pm – 3 pm.

We look forward to seeing you.

Carolyn Maycock
Margaret Mots

invis

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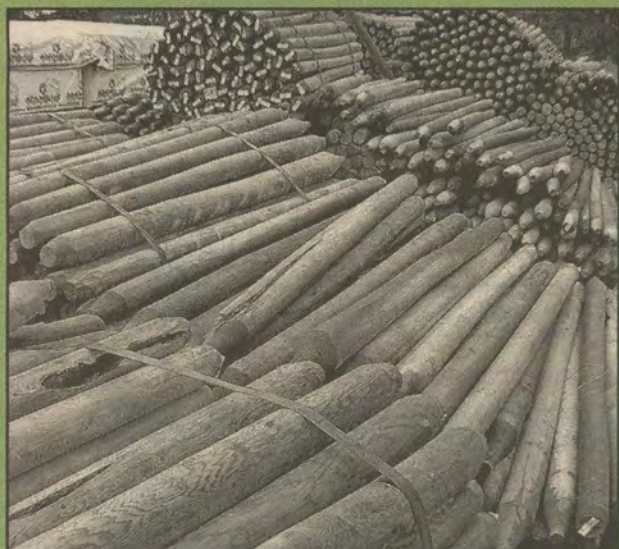
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5 picket **\$43.88** ea. stock only

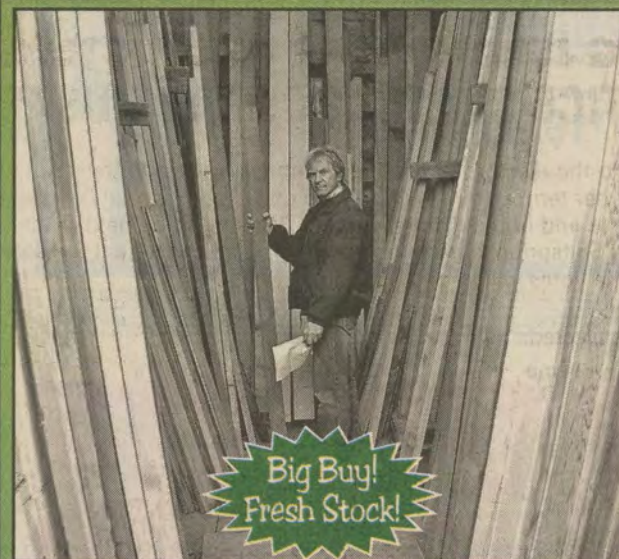


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Torque	335lb-ft	293 lb-ft	295 lb-ft
Fuel Economy City/Hwy	16/23 MPG	16/23 MPG	16/23 MPG
Max Towing	6500 lb	6500 lb	7101 lb
Autotrac - Automatic 4WD	STD	N/A	N/A
Locking Rear Differential	STD	N/A	N/A
Dual Zone Air Conditioning	STD	N/A	N/A

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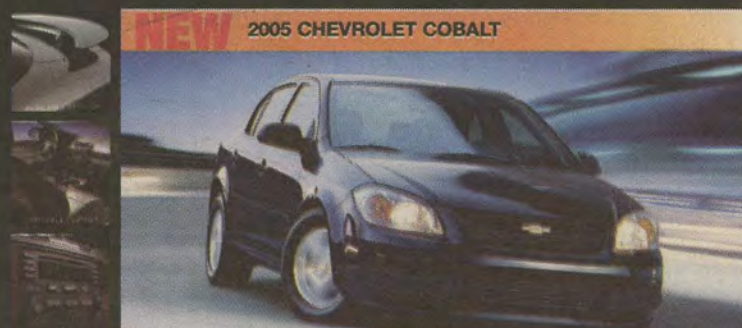
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CD PLAYER	STD	N/A	STD
STANDARD WHEELS	15"	14"	15"
ELECTRIC POWER STEERING	STD	N/A	N/A
VARIABLE INTERMITTENT WIPERS	STD	N/A	N/A
AUTOMATIC HEADLAMPS	STD	N/A	N/A
DRIVER INFO CENTRE	STD	N/A	N/A
POWER TRACTION RELIABLE	STD	N/A	N/A

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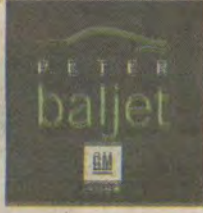
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BECAUSE WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

BC Hydro's purpose is to supply reliable power at low cost for generations to come. Meeting that challenge presents all of us with choices and requires us to make some important decisions, together. Through our Integrated Electricity Planning process, we're developing options to meet the province's growing energy needs. With your involvement, this plan will ensure that the resources we inherited will be just as valuable to our children.

WHAT BC HYDRO IS DOING TO ENSURE RELIABLE POWER

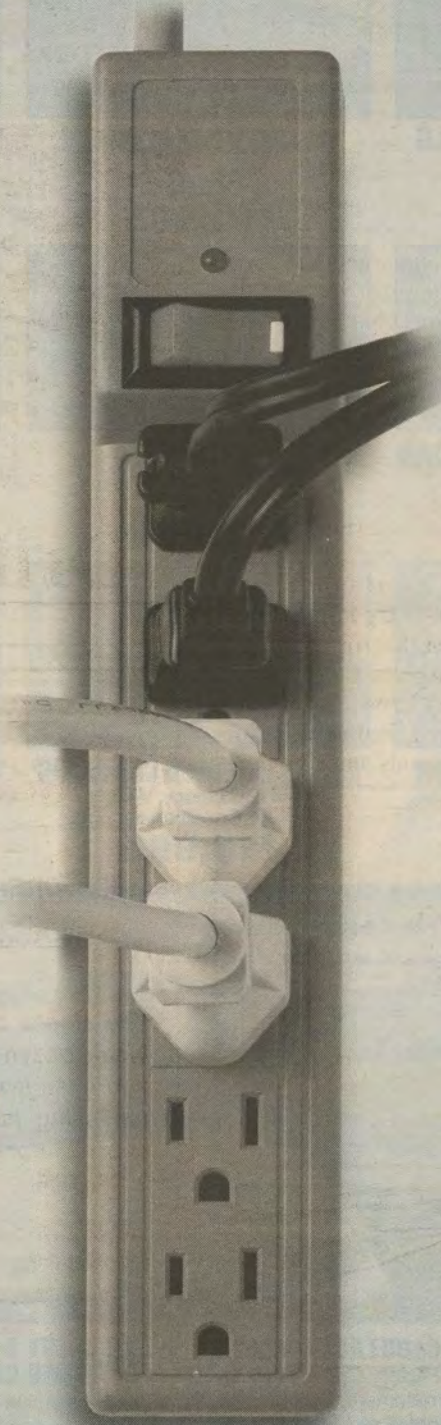
Our job is to deliver a non-stop supply of power. For our customers, reliability means that their homes and businesses are able to operate without interruptions by outages. So we're planning ahead to make sure enough power generation is available in B.C. to meet all of the province's energy needs. To do that, we need to examine all of the generation options available and to work with our customers to better understand their reliability needs. We're also targeting our maintenance and investments on those parts of our system that most need improvement.

WHAT BC HYDRO IS DOING TO ENSURE LOW-COST POWER

British Columbians enjoy the third-lowest electricity rates in North America. Our plan is to maintain that competitive advantage, by promoting Power Smart as an important and cost-effective part of the solution. By buying energy from independent producers through open and competitive processes. By making the most of electricity trading opportunities and constantly searching for better and more efficient ways of doing what we do.

WHAT BC HYDRO IS DOING TO ENSURE OUR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

At BC Hydro, our long-term goal is to ensure that we minimize our impact on the environment. For example, we have low greenhouse gas emissions. We have made a commitment to meet half of B.C.'s new energy needs through clean generation sources. We work constructively with communities on water use and other conservation plans. Our Power Smart conservation initiative leads the world in promoting reduced consumption. Naturally, we can do even more. And we intend to.



RELIABLE POWER

THE CHOICES WE FACE TOGETHER

We believe that B.C. should be energy self-sufficient and that our plan to invest in greater reliability is a good one. Demand for electricity continues to grow at roughly 2% every year. To be energy self-sufficient and to meet our rising demand, we have to make some choices and decisions together. We'd like to hear your thoughts.

LOW-COST POWER

THE CHOICES WE FACE TOGETHER

We need to decide together what type of energy we want to use to generate electricity. New energy resources can take a long time to become operational – 8 to 10 years is not uncommon. Sometimes it's hard to anticipate all of the costs associated with 50-year investments, especially environmental costs. Are we prepared to invest in more expensive clean generation today to avoid other costs tomorrow? What generating resources are we willing to accept in our communities?

OUR ENERGY FUTURE

THE CHOICES WE FACE TOGETHER

Another long-term goal we've set is to encourage a significant and permanent reduction in the amount of electricity consumed in B.C. We know we can all consume less. Yet a typical B.C. home today uses about 6% more electricity than in 1995. If we all reduced our consumption by 20% it would reduce the need for new generation sources and make a huge contribution to protecting our environment. Is that a change we're all prepared to make?

To find out more about BC Hydro's 2005 Integrated Electricity Planning process, please visit our website. BC Hydro will also be hosting open houses throughout the province. Be sure to watch your local newspaper, or visit our website for details.

RELIABLE POWER, AT LOW COST, FOR GENERATIONS.



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BC Hydro 

More letters

Not sinister

As a long-time visitor to Salt Spring, Bob Simonds (March 9 Driftwood letter) should be aware of islanders' celebrated propensity for strong opinions, voiced at every opportunity open to them.

The Islands Trust Forum held in Nanaimo was one such opportunity and just about everything was on the table. That's not "communitic," Bob, that's democracy.

Those of us who live here know that the Islands Trust has been hampered in carrying out its mandate, which is seen as protecting the island lifestyle (values) and preserving the rural environment that defines us.

How to be effective is of particular concern to those who live on islands, finite spaces after all, where stresses cause disproportionate harm. We look to our provincial government to provide the support to our local representatives to do the job we expect of them.

To call this a "power grab" shows ignorance of our particular form of governance. It also denies the contributions of widely diverging opinions represented there, which included businessmen, ferry and provincial ministry officials too.

We are saying, "Hold on a minute. Why don't we think about that for a while? Slow down a bit, think of the consequences."

Mr. Simonds' overwrought language stands in stark contrast to the focussed and earnest demeanor of those attending.

There was no "debauching" (we should be so lucky). Islands Trust Council chair

David Essig was right to feel empowered by the show of support for more tools to do the job.

There are those among us who quail at the provincial government's vow to increase tourism by 20 per cent.

Personally, I deplore the world-wide trend to substitute tourism for a real economy based on real needs. It makes of us a commodity and our island homes a theme park.

How to build a framework which maintains a sustainable future for the people who live here is what we are all about and there is certainly nothing sinister about that.

RUTH TARASOFF,
Dukes Road

Come back

It was disheartening to read Bob Simonds' letter in the March 9 Driftwood.

I apologize for all the narrow-minded, bigoted and just plain blind people who have not been American-friendly (or any other group-friendly) to tourists on Salt Spring.

On my street alone there are two homes owned by Americans.

They are all really nice people. They take care of their properties, they pay their taxes, they spend some of their money helping the island economy, they are friendly and, best of all, they are the kind of people who appreciate a place like Salt Spring enough to make a financial commitment to living here.

These Americans are not the ones sitting in Washington making political decisions. They are people just like ourselves, with simi-

lar values, seeking a lovely place to live in for as much of the year as governments will allow, or coming here for vacations.

In fact, I believe that it is to the advantage of the island that we have part-time residents. Part-time residents pay their full share of taxes, but use less than their share of utilities. In other word, they maximize the tax intake and minimize the tax burden.

Generally they live in homes that people struggling to buy their first home would not be purchasing, so no one can blame them for taking away opportunities for home ownership.

They make really good neighbours, and in a community that says it is devoted to human rights, they should be accorded the same welcome as anyone else.

Other Americans, as well as people from a variety of countries and Canadian provinces come here to vacation. We would be idiots not to love the fact that they do this. What greater compliment can we be paid than to have people want to return to our beautiful island?

So, on behalf of what is surely the majority of Salt Spring residents, I want to apologize for any boorishness Mr. Simonds may have encountered last summer.

As for the Islands Trust forum in Nanaimo — well, he might consider doing what a lot of others probably do — try to ignore any craziness that some hotheads might express at meetings.

I don't know exactly what transpired, and neither does Mr. Simonds since he really

only has the report of someone else who attended the forum, but generally in these parts there will be off-the-wall opinions expressed in gatherings.

If you had lived here for five and a half years, as I have done, and had been reading the Driftwood letters to the editor on a regular basis, then you would realize that just as we are a top site for intelligence and creativity, we seem to be well endowed with the most originally illogical, even mad, thinking one could encounter.

It is possible, because people feel rather free here, that the lunatic fringe is just less silent around here.

Mr. Simonds, if you love the island, do come back. Most of us will be glad that you have, even if we don't have an opportunity to say so to your face.

TOBY FOUKS,
Salt Spring

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Q. I am a single parent, living alone. I pay my mother \$50 per week to look after my two-year-old son while I am at work. Can I claim anything for this?

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If the child is disabled, the maximum dollar limit is \$10,000.

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Driftwood 537-9933

Gulf Islands



School District #64 (Gulf Islands)

Re: Consideration of Local School Calendar Option for 2005/06 Notice of Consultation and Meetings

The Board of School District #64 (Gulf Islands) implemented the Four-Day Week based on a two-year financial plan resulting from enrollment decline and changes to the funding formula. Ongoing review indicates that programs are being maintained and cost savings are being realized. As the financial shortfall continues the Board is again considering school calendar changes for 2005/2006.

We are inviting you to be part of a consultation process to provide feedback. Considering all the options already explored when faced with this dilemma last year, is there anything else regarding our budget that we could explore that would be feasible, meet the constraints we deal with, and meet the needs of our students.

Opportunities to provide feedback and to engage in the consultation processes include:

- Email through www.sd64.bc.ca - click on "Local School Calendar (Notice of Motion)";
- Individual written submissions addressed to the Board of School Trustees, through Dawne Fennell, Executive Assistant;
- School/community consultation meetings:

April 4	Mayne Island Elementary/Jr. Secondary School	5:30 p.m.
April 5	Saturna Elementary School	8:30 a.m.
	Galiano Community School	4:30 p.m.
April 6	Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School	6:00 p.m.
April 7	Salt Spring Island schools and community (at GISS)	7:00 p.m.
April 7	School District employees	4:30 p.m.
April 7	Salt Spring Island schools & community (at GISS)	7:00 p.m.
- Representation through formal submissions made by partner groups including the Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, Principal and Vice Principals' Association, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 788, and the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association;
- Public Meeting of the Board of School Trustees - April 13 at Gulf Islands Secondary School at 1:00 p.m. At this meeting the Board will make a decision on whether or not to adopt the local school calendar for 2005/06.



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Thai exchange planned

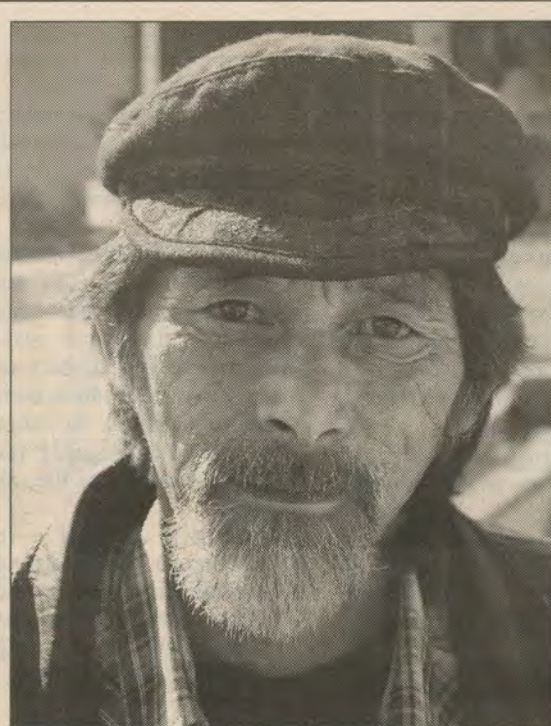
Earth Track Education is hosting a cultural exchange and wilderness study program in April.

Nineteen students and three teachers will spend three and a half weeks in the Gulf Islands, with some staying on Salt Spring and others on Galiano Island.

Two-day programs will take place at Salt Spring Centre School, the middle school and Queen Margaret's, and with homeschoolers on Salt Spring.

"The focus of all our programs will be to allow the Canadian and Thai students to discover what is different and similar in their cultures and where those differences and similarities come from by looking at the environment, history, beliefs, flora and fauna of the respective regions," said David Krieger of Earth Track.

Two host families are still needed — one for a 13-year-old boy and one for a teacher. Contact Tashmyra on Galiano Island at 539-9866 for more information or to help.



Name: **GARY LEMARCHANT**
537/538/653: 537
Occupation(s): Crab fisherman.
Hobbies: Selling crab.
Favourite people: Crab customers.
Favourite read: How to catch crab.
Best thing about SSI: Palm trees.
Worst thing about SSI: N/A
Best place to kiss on SSI?: 222 Victoria Street.



DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

Women's groups and elders honoured at March 8 event

Some 90 women packed the ArtSpring gallery on March 8 to mark International Women's Day (IWD) 2005 with accolades and song.

This year the IWD planning committee decided to honour Salt Spring's numerous women's groups and their "elders."

Participating groups were invited to nominate women for special mention as elders.

"I think people really got into the spirit of it and had a good time," said committee member Patricia Flanagan.

Nominees included Dorothy Drubek for the Raging Grannies; Sue Mouat, Gwen and Lotus Ruckle, Kay Booth and Nita Brown for the hospital auxiliary; Evelyn Lee, Gladys Slingsby and Val Gyves for the South Salt Spring Women's Institute; Melinda Okulitch for the Cancer Support Group;

Gwen Temmel for the Girl Guides; and Marylynn Hetherington for the Salt Spring Madhatters.

Unfortunately, SWOVA's nominee — Lorna Cammaert — could not attend the function because her car broke down in Duncan that day.

"Many people commented on how impressed they were with the long-term contributions of the women," said Flanagan.

Singer Lisa Maxx performed one of her spirited compositions, Women of Note brought an international flavour to the evening and the Raging Grannies did a funny song called Adam's Rib.

The event concluded with everyone singing the inspirational anthem Bread and Roses.

Participating groups were SWOVA, Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary, United

Church Women - Ganges, Transition House, South Salt Spring Women's Institute, Daughters of the Nile, Raging Grannies, Catholic Women's League, Salt Spring Madhatters, United Church Women - Burgoyne, Royal Canadian Legion Women's Auxiliary, Women's Cancer Support Group, Girl Guides of Canada, Women of Note, H.M.S. Ganges Chapter IODE, Voice of Women, SEALS, Educating Girls in Africa and the Canadian Federation of University Women Salt Spring chapter.

Beautiful carnations given to the women were donated by Thrifty Foods, and Love My Kitchen helped out as well.

Flanagan, Jean Elder and Victoria Olchowecki were event MCs.

International Women's Day has been celebrated on March 8 every year since 1977.



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Power line tree pruning and hazard tree removals

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When: March 2 to March 30, 2005
Where: Southern Gulf Islands, Gabriola Island, Thetis Island and Mudge Island

The snowstorm of this past winter has required us to do some vegetation management work that is beyond our regularly scheduled preventative maintenance work. We'll be doing some tree pruning and removal on the Gulf Islands over the next couple of months. We need to do this work to ensure your safety and to make sure your electric service remains reliable.

Hazard trees are a major cause of accidents involving power lines. They are also by far the most common cause of power interruptions. Unhealthy trees become a hazard when they are no longer stable. Unstable trees may fall onto power lines, endangering people and animals. Even healthy trees become hazardous when they grow into power lines. Healthy trees can simply be pruned, but trees with inner rot need to be completely removed.

Any trees that are removed will be recycled as wood chips, firewood or raw logs.

If you have trees on your property that concern you with regards to proximity to power lines, please do not hesitate to call us to discuss their pruning or removal.

For more information, please contact Judy Hopewell at 250 755-4792 in our regional vegetation maintenance office.

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Folger's Instant Coffee 200g jar 3.99	General Mills Original Cheerios 300g box 2/4.00	SunRype All Juice 1L ctn 4/5.00 +dep	Dad's Cookies 350g pkg 2.49	Carr's "King" Crackers 200g pkg 1.99	Minute Maid 5-Alive 12x355mL 12-pack 5.48 +dep	Pepsi "Original" 12x355mL 12-pack 2/7.00 +dep	Roger's White Sugar 10kg bag 7.99

ATTENTION

Victims of January 2005 Extreme Weather

Victims of the recent January extreme weather (ice jams, flooding, landslides, mudslides) may be eligible for financial support under **British Columbia's Disaster Financial Assistance Program**.

Assistance is available to qualifying homeowners, residential tenants, small businesses, farm owners, charitable organizations and local government bodies that incurred more than \$1,000 of *uninsurable* damage during the period **January 17 to January 31, 2005**, and that are situated within the geographic boundaries of the following regional districts:

- Capital
- Central Kootenay
- Comox - Strathcona
- East Kootenay
- Fraser - Fort George
- Greater Vancouver
- Okanagan - Similkameen
- Sunshine Coast
- Cariboo
- Columbia - Shuswap
- Cowichan Valley
- Fraser Valley
- Nanaimo
- Squamish - Lillooet
- Thompson - Nicola

Assistance is limited to providing 80 per cent of allowable items that are considered essential to a home, livelihood or community service, for the portion of the claim that exceeds \$1,000.

To initiate an application for financial assistance, claimants must complete and return an Intent to Claim form. Intent to Claim forms are available for downloading from the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) website at: www.pep.bc.ca, from Government Agent offices, municipal government halls, or by calling PEP toll-free, at 1 888 257-4777.

Forms should be submitted as soon as possible but **no later than May 25, 2005**, to:

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Provincial Emergency Program
 PO Box 9201 Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria, BC V8W 9J1
 Fax: 250 952-5542
 Toll-Free Phone: 1 888 257-4777



WEED:
 Ingrid Vopel and Brian Pharis examine burweed, which is invading Ruckle Park. Islanders are invited to help eliminate the weed in a "blitz" effort this weekend.

Photo by
 Derrick Lundy



Botanists start Burweed Blitz

This weekend's Burweed Blitz opens Friday night with a talk from the botanist who discovered the plant's invasion at Ruckle Park.

During a 1996 visit to Salt Spring, Adolf Ceska found carpet burweed in the campground area in the park and has since worked tirelessly to get rid of it.

Ceska and his wife Oluna speak at Beaver Point Hall at 7 p.m.

The Ceskas will look at the impact of invasive species on endangered ecosystems.

Adolf Ceska is known for his work in inventorying rare and endangered species in Garry Oak meadows. Oluna Ceska specializes in fungi and also does botany-related contracts.

Other Friday speakers will be Briony Penn, Jean Brouard and Kathy Reimer.

The Burweed Blitz, which sees people manually remove carpet burweed, takes place Saturday and Sunday, March

19-20 at Ruckle Park campground.

Parking is free and for every bag of burweed picked, Salt Spring Coffee Co. is donating a free coffee.

The free event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Pickers are advised to bring something to kneel on.

The small winter annual originally from South America is now growing at the park campground.

"It will start to flower in a couple of weeks and by late spring will have set seeds in a burr with very sharp thorns," said Nora Layard of Friends of Salt Spring Parks. "It outcompetes our native plants and threatens several endangered species found in the park, especially the Macoun's Meadowfoam, a plant that likes similar habitat."

Fulford Community Nature School students are also set to pick burweed on Thursday.

For information, call 537-2158.

Women in Business Gala Event

Thursday, April 14
 5 to 7pm
 Harbour House

- Enjoy wine & appetizers
- Network - Music
- Guest Speaker
- Draws

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE.

The Gala is open to advertisers in our Women in Business section.

- Call the Driftwood for details.

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- SPCA
- TRANSITION HOUSE

Our partners:

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Joyce Carlson
 Guest Speaker

Joyce Carlson will tell a compelling story as guest speaker at the Gala Event. Known to many Salt Springers, she was publisher of the Driftwood from 1989 to 1995. She returned to her hometown and launched a brand-new newspaper, The Powell River Peak.

A community activist, successful entrepreneur, mother and grandmother, she has met with Prime Ministers and Premiers from across Canada. She is chair of the Ayjoomixw Spirit of Community Committee that is ensuring Powell River benefits from the 2010 Olympics. She chairs her Rotary Centennial Committee and is vice president of United Way.

She returns to Salt Spring to address the Women in Business Gala, a speech you won't want to miss.

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Welcome Tracy



Advertising Account Rep
TRACY STIBBARDS

The Gulf Islands Driftwood announces that long-time Salt Spring resident Tracy Stibbards has joined the advertising sales staff at the newspaper.

Tracy will be responsible for assisting local businesses with their advertising plans in The Driftwood and its special sections, said publisher Penny Sakamoto.

A Gulf Islands Secondary School graduate, Tracy has lived on Salt Spring for 35 years and has a diploma in Visual Arts from Camosun College in Victoria. She joined The Driftwood a year ago on a part-time basis selling special projects and moved into the full-time position on March 1.

Tracy has two sons, Taylor and Ethan. She enjoys photography and reading and considers herself a "Jacqueline of all trades".

Welcome Tracy!

Ph. 537-9933 **Driftwood**

email: tstibbards@gulfislands.net



Salt Spring Island's



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Congratulations to our Winners:

We love pets and it's clear from the success of the Driftwood's Second Annual Pet Hall of Fame that you do, too – over 60 photos were submitted. Our goal was to honour the family pet in its many forms and assist the SPCA in getting their message to the public.

Thanks to all who participated. Winners can contact The Driftwood for their prize. Pick up photos by March 31.



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"Just hanging around."

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Owner: Sam Sydneysmith
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Owners: Drs. David MacDonald & Sacha Edgell
"Dr." Critter – always willing to help out at the vet clinic.

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"Magik cutting her first C.D."

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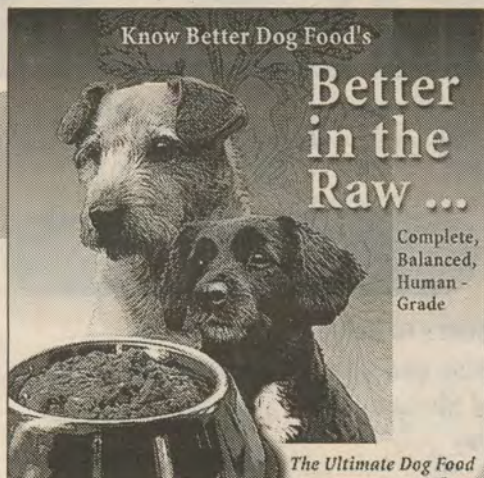
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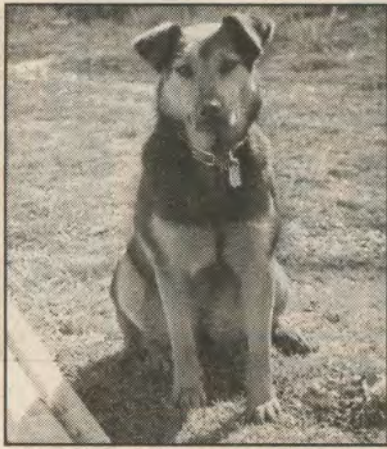


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PUDDER

Owners: Kishori & Brian Hutchings
CLAIM: Loves walks and playing Kong. Thinks she's a 50 lb. lap dog. Knows how to shake both paws. Can sit and lie down. Catches treats from 4-5 feet away. Loves raw carrots.



SHADOW
 Owner: Brian Holshoe
CLAIM: He's always ready for an adventure!



SPIRIT
 Owner: Sandy McNeil
CLAIM: Spirit lives with three cats and loves snow. Spirit - Santa's Helper!



ALISTAIR

Owner: Caroline Hickman
CLAIM: The little donkey that could... ready to perform his community service. Alistair is 20 years young. Donkeys live for donkey's years!



JAMIE

Owner: Margaret Hodges
CLAIM: Most outstanding quality is his friendliness - loves every person and every dog.



WOODY & CHELSEA

Owner: Barb Archer
CLAIM: Swimming, begging, and being best friends.



CASEY

Owners: Hal & Donna Keown
CLAIM: Loves rabbits, especially the Easter Bunny.



PEEBO

Owner: John Paul
CLAIM: A smashing wee dog and a great golfer.



BAYLI

Owner: Jean Stewart
CLAIM: Hates rain, won't walk through puddles. Asks to be picked up. A great little back warmer. Snores.



TAZMERE

Owners: Mike & Darlene Valcourt
CLAIM: Tazmere thinks that she is a big dog and is a great chick magnet.



CHEYENNE

Owners: Kathy & Dave Thomas
CLAIM: "I love my hat."



YOSHI

Owners: Stibbards Family
CLAIM: He loves his family.



KONA

Owner: Kyla White
CLAIM: Likes music.



SUKI

Owner: Lainey McLellan
CLAIM: Loves playing police dog keeping the resident cats in line. A little miss busy body.



ROSIE

Owner: Lynn Demers
CLAIM: Loves to eat and sleep.



CHANCE

Owner: Tracey McCormick
CLAIM: Farm Boy.



SCAPA

Owner: Steph Maskell
CLAIM: Coffee lover.



DONAVAN

Owner: Mel & Lorraine Topping
CLAIM: He likes to lie around.

Pets to Adopt:



Can anyone help me? My name is Hamish and although I am quite handsome, my luck lately has been terrible. I am a pretty chill guy full of pizzaz. I even get along with dogs. I'm looking for that special home to call my own.



I'm Chico. A young mellow boy with a displaced soul. I was abandoned on the streets of Salt Spring several years earlier only to end up at the cat shelter. I'd love to try at love again. Please consider coming to meet me.



Sam's the name and Sad's the Day. This is my 2nd arrival at the cat shelter and I am beginning to grow hopeless. I am very loving and a happy guy to have around. All I am looking for is a place to call home and hang my hat.

S.P.C.A. Salt Spring Island

Thank You

Shell & Island Garbage Express for continuing free service & support;
 Robert at Arvana Computer's for his technical genius,
 Our true Fairy Nymph Brenda for her daily support & endless energy;
 Steph Rhodes, all performers and the lovely gentleman who donated the soundsystem for taking the time to sing for us;
 Endless support from the Driftwood, Thrifty's, GVM and The Local;
 Peter Young & Spring Meadow Woodworking for Wood Shavings.

Wish List:

- ✓Volunteers to help fundraise and take care of Shelter business
- ✓Gift Certificates from Foxglove, the Gulf Island Vet Clinic or Salt Spring Veterinary Services.
- ✓Cat Food (especially wet).
- ✓Foster homes for Special Animals.
- ✓Computer paper or a fairly new printer.
- ✓That you say "Put it on 48, please", at Thrifty's and The Local."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Walkathon - TBA
- Auction in October
- Rabbit Sunday - coming soon
- Garage Sale - spring
- Raffle ideas welcome



AIDAN

Owners: Rick & Sharon MacKinnon
CLAIM: Loves boating, eating, running, and helping in the kitchen!



AUTUMN LILY

Owner: Beth Holshoe
CLAIM: Sweet as pumpkin pie.



SPAZ

Owners: Mike and Darlene Valcourt
CLAIM: Spaz loves to bask in the sun.



WALTIE "THE BOSS"

Owner: Sylvia Sikundar
CLAIM: He loves baths and is very fond of food and cookies. He is extremely well behaved and very protective.



PIA

Owners: Melissa Dollheiser
CLAIM: Best pillow hugger/cuddler.



CHARLEY

Owner: Baker Beach B&B
CLAIM: Charley is Baker Beach Cottage's ambassador - he will sell his soul for a tennis ball!



GIDGET

Owner: Thea McCormick
CLAIM: Pretty loving girl.



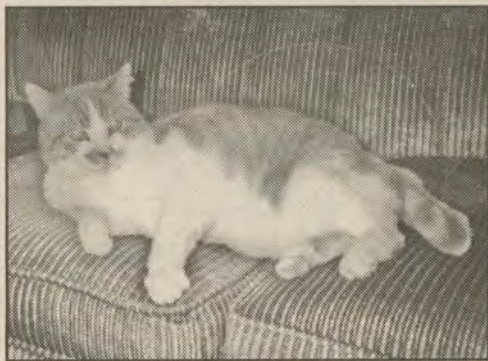
BUBBY & AZERI BUMPSTER

Owner: John W. Lang
CLAIM: The dogs travel back and forth from Prince George to Salt Spring Island. They love it here.



ASIA

Owners: Tony & Alice Richards
CLAIM: My 2-year-old grand-dog Asia, a Rotti-Shepherd cross.



TOM

Owner: Vicki Miller
CLAIM: World's most cuddly cat!



LOLA

Owner: Lynn Demers
CLAIM: Loves to give kisses and play.



MUGGS

Owner: David Hallam
CLAIM: Muggs' tongue is too big for his head!



DAWKINS aka DOGGINS

Ken Maskell
CLAIM: He's the "Albert Einstein" of dogs.



TUXEDO

Owners: Ed and Jean Davis
CLAIM: Tuxedo does it all: boating, flying, riding and will give you a big sloppy kiss.



TIGGY

Owner: Jean Taylor
CLAIM: "It's 12:02 - where's my lunch?" Makes his needs known. Loves dogs.



LULU

Owners: G.I. Vet Clinic
CLAIM: Most maligned. She has a bad reputation but is a real sweetie deep down.



NELLA

Owner: Larissa Spain
CLAIM: Great babysitter!



SERGEANT MAJOR FRITZ THE FIFTH (SARGE)

Owners: George & Cheryl Leukefeld
CLAIM: Deputy Dog - guards the property like he owns it on North Beach.



LIBBY

Owner: Karen Wolst
CLAIM: Wherever there is sun, Libby will be found - totally relaxed.

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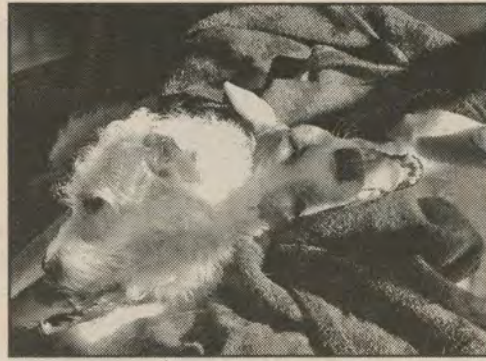
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TESSA

Owner: Ron Holcroft

CLAIM: We like our waste paper baskets with paper bags. Once she found something edible. She has never given hope of another.



MAGGIE & BOB

Owner: Christa Schadt

CLAIM: Maggie and Bob are going to be proud parents to a passel of puppies mid-March!



BAKED ALASKA

Owner: Kelly Waters

CLAIM: Had to leave Toronto 'cause the heat was on.



RIP

Owner: Bill Kirby

CLAIM: Loves to swim.



MUFFIN

Owner: Mike Price

CLAIM: Music lover!



SADIE

Owner: K. Preddy

CLAIM: "Do I know you? Should I bark?"



DUKE

Owner: Amber Davis

CLAIM: Loves swimming, running, and smooching.



BUDDY

Owner: Samantha Pultke

CLAIM: Great ball catcher.



THEO

Owners: Gail Hay & Patrick Larouche

CLAIM: "Did someone say cookie?"



ROCKY

Owner: Maryann Hobbs

CLAIM: He does absolutely nothing to contribute to his board!



TESSA

Owners: Stan and Roberta Shapiro

CLAIM: Most loved. Even gets ship to shore phone calls when mum and dad are away.



SPUD

Owner: Van Schetsen

CLAIM: Spud experiencing a little jealousy over the new puppy.



PHOEBE

Owner: Elsie Boswell

CLAIM: I adopted her from the SPCA. She's a Norwegian Forest Cake. She loves to be brushed.



INDIGO

Owner: Zak Abramyk

CLAIM: Loves to play in the water.



BIGLEY

Owner: Irene Heron

CLAIM: Loves to swim and also likes to sing.



SAMMY & CLEO

Owner: Leslie Northey

CLAIM: Sammy takes up most of the chair when he cuddles up to his little black mum, Cleo, for a nap. Yes, he's HER baby!



NOOTKA

Owners: Kathy & Dave Thomas

CLAIM: Coach potato.



DONAVAN

Owners: Mel & Lorraine Topping

CLAIM: He likes to lie around.



BRANDY

Owner: Mardie Banko

CLAIM: "Welcome aboard!"



PUSS

Owners: John & Ina Curran

CLAIM: Puss, the sea-going cat!

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BATTLE FOR THE BALL: Salt Spring FC player Chris Langdon is first on the ball against Gorge as the local squad battles to a hard-fought 3-3 tie at Portlock Park on Saturday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

FC TRUMPS RED CARDS

Short-handed with two penalized players, Salt Spring FC made a heroic 3-3 stand against top-ranked Gorge at Portlock Park on Saturday.

"They were shocked. They were full on expecting to beat us," said FC captain Chris Jason.

Ranked first in Division 1 with 12 wins, three ties and no losses, Gorge defenders had only allowed five goals all year.

But Salt Spring led 1-0 at the half after Tyler Laitenen planted a shot off a well-placed cross some 15 minutes into the match.

Unfortunately, Chris Jason was ejected in the second

half following a skirmish with Gorge players in the corner. Harrison Jason was also carded after he spoke against the decision.

"Two red cards were handed out in a matter of minutes, which knocked us down to nine men, which is basically impossible," Chris Jason said.

"I had to watch the last 20 minutes from the parking lot."

Amazingly, Jeremy Morrison scored a second goal only two minutes after FC was penalized.

"It was kind of a shocker because we were down two men."

Gorge pressure finally

wreaked havoc to create a 3-2 lead.

But with five minutes remaining, Laitenen in the corner sent a cross to Dion Hackett, who headed it to the bottom right corner.

"I felt we should have won the game and we would have if the officiating was anywhere near where it should be."

The referee never had control of the game and threatened to cancel the match when fans heckled his calls.

"We're still in the hunt to go to the provincials," said Jason.

FC next faces Powell River Villa at Portlock Park with a 2:15 p.m. kick-off Sunday.

Peninsula grounds Dragons with loss

Salt Spring's Division-2 women Dragons found little succor in a 1-0 loss against a Div.-3 Peninsula squad during Doug Day Cup play Sunday.

"We had two solid scoring opportunities," said manager-player Joanne O'Connor.

"We just didn't have that little bit of extra effort that would have been needed."

Striker Liz Wilson had a Portlock crowd cheering when she made a breakaway, beat Peninsula's defenders and the keeper, but she missed the net by inches.

"That was a groaner because she's been gunning for a goal all year," O'Connor said.

Shannon Keys and Jeannie Grey both had great games in the centre, she said.

"Jeannie stopped a number of shots and Shannon plays with such a cool head. She never panics and she always makes great decisions."

Madeleine Challies also played a strong game on outside midfield.

"She took a lot of balls up from our centre and drove toward their net."

The Dragons next play the Victoria Athletics over-30 team for a cup game at the lower high school field at 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Every Canadian loves a challenge, right?

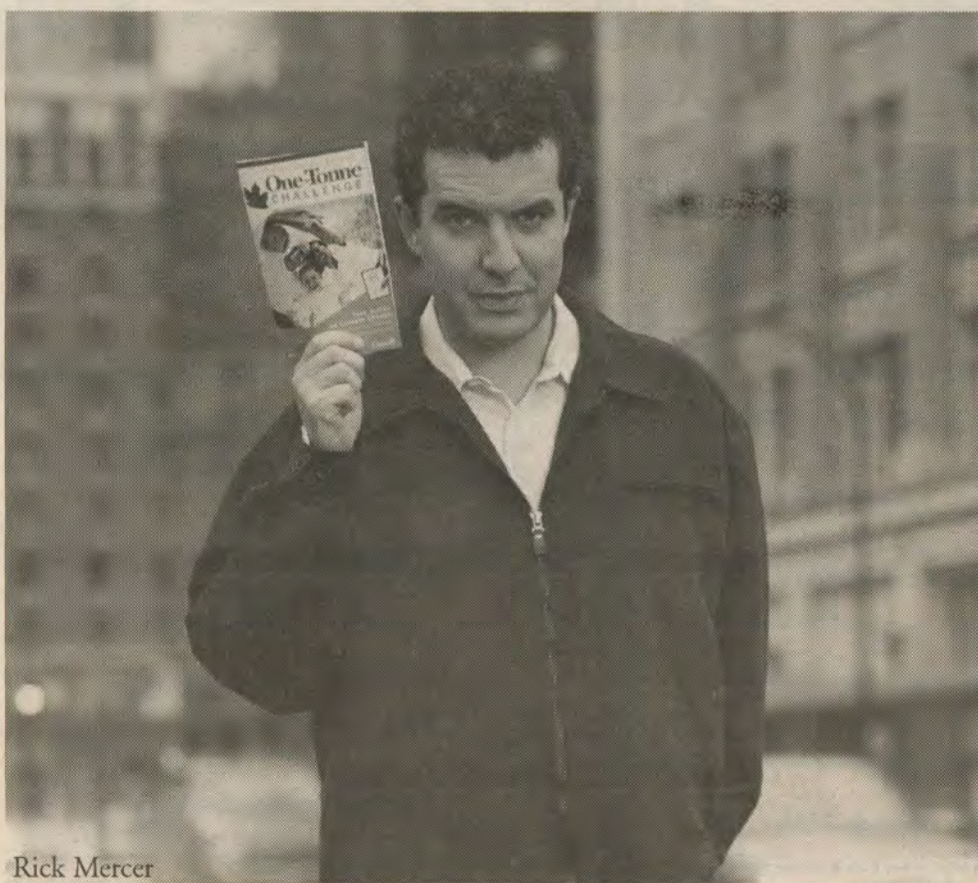
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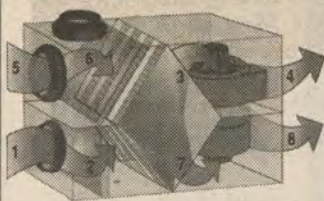
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Close games mark hoop provincials

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

A local Cinderella story had a humble finish when Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) senior girls qualified for B.C.'s AA Basketball Championships in Kamloops last week.

"We just had an awesome time," said Scorpions coach Jack Barclay.

"They played their hearts out and had some close games."

Seeded 15th out of 96 B.C. teams striving for the provincials, GISS players held their ground after winning one of four games in the four-day tournament.

"It was very inspiring for me as a coach to know we too could get there if I had the right players and if we were to practise with more intensity and play with more intensity," Barclay said.

Kayla Grommé even received an honourable mention trophy among awards for valuable players.

Tourney organizers didn't

expect to see GISS at the event, he said.

"We were somewhere under the radar."

But GISS senior girls created an upset when they placed second in the Island Championships last month, which propelled them to the provincials for only the second time in 30 years.

Unfortunately, a 15th-place ranking matched them against the second-ranked Little Flower Academy Angels for their first match on March 9.

"The chances of us winning were so slight," he said.

The Scorpions lost by 73-43 to the eventual finalists, which forced them into the consolation side of the draw.

"Some of these private-school teams are like well-oiled machines."

The second day of the tournament saw the Scorpions lose a close match against the Steveston Packers of Richmond by 54-47 on Thursday.

"It could have gone either way."

Nicola Temmel led scoring with 13 points against the Packers, Becky Acheson tripled her three pointers for 11 while Grommé (six defensive rebounds) and Avery Brown (three defensive rebounds and four offensive rebounds) each added 8 points.

Friday's match saw the islanders almost catch the J.L. Crowe Hawks of Trail in a 51-49 effort.

"The team played well and the good offence and extremely good defence could have resulted in a win except for an unintentional foul during the remaining minute in the game."

Grommé led the team with 18 points (three three-pointers, 8 defensive rebounds and five steals) while there was very good play by Acheson (nine points), Brown (nine points) and Eri Yoshikawa (5 points, four defensive rebounds and four steals), he said.

"By Saturday the Scorpions were playing their style of game," Barclay said.

While the Little Flower Angels lost the final to York House 66-38 on Saturday, the islanders defeated the Prince Rupert Rainmakers by 74-32 at the other end of the spectrum.

"This was a nice ending for the Grade 12s, who were playing their last game."

Grommé hit three three-pointers and racked up 20 points, Temmel collected 15, Acheson made 13 and Yoshikawa hit eight.

The Scorpions appreciated support from several donors, Barclay noted.

"Community support was overwhelming."

He will start next season with provincial veterans Brown, Grommé, Yoshikawa and Val Harkema.

"Now they know the expectations and the standards of a provincial championship and they are looking forward to challenging themselves to get there."

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HIGH ROLLERS

High scores in recent bowling league play were:

Legion League, Thurs., March 3: Harald R., 220; Ken A., 206; Dan B., 227, 214, 322-763.

Circus League, Mon., March 7: Owen Benwell, 281; Don McMahon, 254; Lance

Leask, 239, 207, 217-653.

Seniors, Tues., March 8: Dan Davies, 203; Rita Dods, 232; Jim Glenn, 240; Barb Howell, 234; Carol Kaye, 212, 213 - 610.

Special Olympics, Wed., March 9: Stuart Elliott, 145; Terry Swing, 156; Jason Newport, 175; Gloria Dale, 198.

Legion League, Thurs., March 10: Dennis M., 223, 201; Ron W., 243-602; Ken D., 202.



Church schedules for Holy Week and EASTER

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Good Friday ~ 3pm

Easter Vigil
Saturday,
March 26 ~ 7pm

Easter Sunday ~ 10am &
12 noon

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 20th

9:15 am: Palm Parade to Centennial Park for Joint Service with Anglicans

10:00 am: Worship at United Church

Maundy Thursday, March 24th

7:00 pm: Service of Foot Washing and Communion

Good Friday, March 25th

10:00 am: Worship Service including Chancel Drama

Easter Sunday, March 27th

7:00 am: Sunrise Service at Centennial Park

10:00 am: Worship at Church including Flowering of the Cross

Holy Week and Easter Services

"Walking the Way of the Cross"

March 20 - Palm Sunday

9:30am - Liturgy of the Palms
4:00pm - Passiontide Evensong

March 24 - Maundy Thursday

6:15pm - Foot Washing, Eucharist & Divesting of the Altar (All Saints')

March 25 - Good Friday

12:00 noon - Solemn Watch by the Cross (All Saints')

March 26 - Holy Saturday

9:30pm - The Great Vigil of Easter (All Saints')

March 27 - Easter Sunday

9:30am - Holy Eucharist (BAS) at All Saints'
10:00am - Holy Eucharist (BCP) at St. Mark's
10:00am - Holy Eucharist (BAS) at St. Mary's

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

Warthogs take all six games in Prospect Lake tourney

• Last weekend the Salt Spring U10 boys Warthogs soccer team were again on the rampage, winning all six of their games at the Prospect Lake Soccer Tournament in Victoria.

The Warthogs entered two teams with Team 2 playing on Saturday. They trampled Gorge FC 4-2, then the Lakehill Jueventas 5-0, and Gorge FC 3-1.

The next day, Team 1 ran amuck, disposing of the Cowichan Jaguars 5-0, Peninsula United 6-1 and the Gorge Pythons 3-2.

Both teams were commended for their tremendous commitment and sporting attitude since they played an extra third game against strong teams who had played just one or two games on the day.

SOCCER KICKS

The victory over Gorge Pythons was particularly sweet, as they are the only team to have ever beaten the Warthogs.

• Mouat's U10 Salamander girls weathered three gruelling games and netted a convincing win during the Prospect Lake tourney at Braefoot Park Saturday.

A sluggish start saw the Salamanders warm up after a 6-0 loss against the Juan de Fuca Fireballs.

Despite determined goal-keeping from Rachel Fraser and Maya Dammel Sherrin, the Fireballs were just too fierce and well organized for

the Salt Spring girls.

But the Salamanders returned to the pitch with fire in their bellies to melt the Gorge Icebergs with a 3-1 win.

Kayla Pultke opened scoring with a blistering shot after a searing breakaway in the first half.

Tied at the break, Linda Herbert then nabbed her first goal of the season when she crashed the net with Fraser and Una Conradi.

Pultke and Conradi played aggressive keepers and Hariana Brooks grabbed an insurance goal with a rocket to end the game.

Even chances then saw Peninsula Typhoon luck win out over the Salamanders with a 4-0 decision in the final match.

Keepers Herbert and Mae-

gen Bruce made numerous saves and the island girls kept making strong attacks with organized passing by Ruby Barnard, Melissa Roach and Kimberly Rothwell.

• The Salt Spring U12 Stinger girls wrapped up their season Saturday with a tight 3-2 win over Bays United.

The win was the 12th of the season for the girls; out of 15 league games, they lost only one and tied twice.

Salt Spring got on the scoreboard early when Sierra Lundy sent the ball past the keeper on a long, low shot from the wing.

Bays rallied back to tie it at 1-1, just minutes before Lundy got number two on a Jody Pringle pass. Bays tied it up again near the end of the second half, but

with less than a minute left in the game, Grace Morgan sent a hard shot at the Bays keeper and Lundy put in the rebound.

Both Tilly Morgan and Megan Jarman made some great saves in net; Kai Fishleigh sent a blast from out-

side the box which nailed the post and almost went in; Pilar Brooks and Liz Fennell also got some good hard shots on goal; while Emily Wypkemas, Alex Crandall, Christine Villadsen and Sofia Dammel Sherrin made some key defensive moves.

Raiders steal Div. 5 hopes in 4-0 game

Salt Spring's Division-5 men were plundered by the Shell Beach Raiders during a 4-0 rampage at Portlock Park on Sunday.

"We were just outplayed," said coach-player Chris Griffiths.

As top scoring team in the division, second-ranked Shell Beach scored three goals in a span of 25 minutes in the first half, he said.

"Our midfield didn't have too bad of a game. It was our offence and our

defence that suffered yesterday."

The addition of Marlow Hart from the U18 team was the highlight of the game, said Griffiths.

"He had lots of energy and he was very tenacious going after the ball."

Salt Spring was still pumped to equalize in the second half, but the Raiders sunk a fourth goal to deflate their hopes of advancing to Division 4 next year.

"They are a better team. They will be moving up and they deserve it."

Griffiths noted that few players attended recent practices while the team prepared for critical games to determine the season outcome (currently tied for fourth place).

"It's difficult for a team to function well together if they don't practice together."

Div. 5 now has two remaining games to schedule.

"We look forward to moving up next year."

Local disc golfers take top honours

A contingent of 11 Salt Spring disc golfers made a strong showing on the podium at a Duck Golf Tournament Series event held at the Goldstream Eco Lodge on Saturday.

Joah Chlopan won the amateur men's division with a 111 score and Mike Boughton tied for second (113), Jason Dyck tied for fifth (119), Eric Vanderwek-

ken placed seventh (122) and Dennis Murray shot a 127.

After clinching a Duck Golf series win among grand masters, Ted Hickford tried his hand among open pros to take third place (108). Scott Chapman also played open pro with a 126 result.

Salt Spring was represented in the grand masters by Fritz Arnold (131) and Brook Holdack (142), Gor-

don Murphy tied for fifth in advanced masters (123) and Tanya Van Ginkel shot a 140 in the open women division.

Van Ginkel went on to win Salt Spring's random doubles tournament on Sunday when she teamed up with young amateur Braeden Simmonds to score a 40 (14 under par). Chlopan and Gray Railer placed second with a 43.

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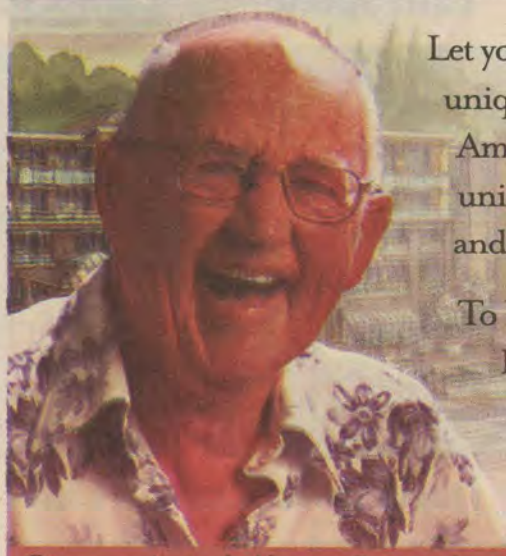
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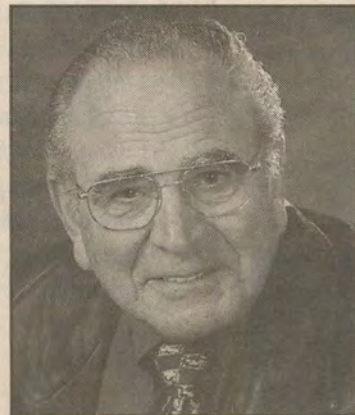
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