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Driftwood Gulf Islands

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Thrifty Foods
- Ganges Pharmasave
- Mouat's Home Hardware
- Ganges Village Market
- Island Quest Realty Ltd.

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Arlene 537-4090

Gold, silver and bronze

Salt Spring swimmers bring home medals from the provincial championships. Page B17

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Weather

Mainly sunny skies could include cloudy periods on the weekend. Highs to 24 C today (Wednesday) and tomorrow; overnight lows to 11 C tonight.

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SURVEY SAVVY: Derek Adams with Bullock-Baur Associates surveys the initial layout for a retention pond at the forthcoming recreation centre on Rainbow Road. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Water district help needed for fire service

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

A lack of cooperation between the island's water districts and the fire department is the greatest setback faced by the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD), according to an island fire services survey released to the public last week.

"There seems to be a communication breakdown between the water district and the fire department," said fire trustee Bruce Patterson. "We need to get through this because it's clearly in the best interests of residents and the fire department."

The Fire Underwriters Survey was conducted to assess the insurability of the island's residences and businesses based on data collected in August 2004.

Because the island's water

supplies and distribution system represent 30 per cent of the report's total findings, cooperation with water districts to obtain accurate information is considered critical.

While the report did receive water data from North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD), Beddis Waterworks District and the Highlands water utility, the island's seven other water districts did not supply data.

In the absence of current data, the report used information collected in 1990.

Patterson said many smaller water districts refused to submit data because they did not understand the process and "just decided not to get involved."

He said water district offi-

FIRE AND WATER A2

GISS exam results break local records

Island students from the Class of 2005 broke academic records at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) when the Ministry of Education reported provincial-exam results earlier this month.

"Local Grade 12 students qualified for 25 provincial scholarships," said GISS principal Nancy Macdonald.

"We broke our record of 17 in 2002. That was a pretty major breaking of the record," she said.

Additionally, this year's class had three 100-per-cent scores and numerous marks in the 90s.

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS A2

Regional district lets island tennis bid stand

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Capital Regional District (CRD) staff and Salt Spring's regional director Gary Holman are satisfied with the process used to acquire bids for an indoor tennis facility at Portlock Park.

"Having discussed the issue extensively with CRD Finance, and the specifics of the request for proposals with Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC)

operating staff, I don't think there is anything to be gained by re-opening the bidding process," said Holman Monday.

"However, I do think we have learned some lessons in this bidding process that will stand us in good stead for the pool project."

Specifically, he said, "We can be more thorough in soliciting bids from companies with Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC)

Diana Lokken, head of the CRD finance department, confirmed the process met CRD requirements.

"We reviewed all the documentation and the process and determined that they had indeed met the requirements of the RFP process. As far as I am aware, the recommendation to award the work to the sole respondent to the RFP will be going to the [CRD] board for September 14."

Since the sole bid provided by Cover-All Pacific to deal with all components of the project — from tennis court resurfacing to lighting to the fabric and steel structure — came in at \$180,000 higher than the \$600,000 PARC has available — PARC is now in the process of scaling down the project to meet the \$600,000 target.

PARC chair Bill Curtin said all project components except the steel-framed, fab-

ric-covered structure itself are being revisited.

"The building or structure price of \$285,000 is the only firm price we have," he said. "We cannot afford two new courts and all the high-tech drainage, groundworks, lighting and 18-inch pony wall that were contemplated in the original RFP. We do now know the cost of all that at this point in time."

TENNIS BID A2

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	1340	6.2		1755	9.5
	2005	10.8		2110	9.5
25	0315	3.6	28	0600	3.0
	1035	8.9		1505	10.2
	1430	7.9		2040	9.2
	2025	10.5		2145	9.2
26	0410	3.0	29	0700	2.6
	1230	9.2		1550	10.5
	1540	8.9		2135	9.2
	2050	9.8		2300	9.2
			30	0750	2.6
				1630	10.5
				2200	8.9

TENNIS BID

From Page A1

Lokken said adjusting the scope of the project is provided for in the process.

Curtin said PARC will ask the two companies that bid on the site-work part of the contract (which Cover-All Pacific intended to subcontract as part of its winning overall bid) to "requote on limited drainage improvement, resurfacing of the existing courts and a six-inch curb upon which to mount the structure."

He also said incorporating a heating system, recycling the existing lighting and salvaging the fencing is being worked on, and volunteer help from Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) members has been offered.

"The tennis club has a number of retired engineers who have said they will volunteer expertise, labour and supervision."

Curtin said revised costs will be available imminently. "We want to keep the cost

as small as possible and should have an estimate in a few days of the total required to complete the scaled-back project," he said Monday.

In the meantime, island resident Mike Best has organized a Public Forum on the Tennis Structure set for Sunday, August 28 at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Church on Lower Ganges Road.

He invites anyone wanting to ask questions about the project to attend. He is inviting Holman, Curtin, PARC operations manager Dave Gibbon and the SSTA board to attend and answer questions.

Best has also created a petition to the CRD requesting a formal public inquiry and that it be halted until the investigation is conducted.

"Furthermore," states the petition, "another RFP should be issued, this time with proper notification and invitation to competitors in

the field, and a three-bid minimum requirement should be made so the process can be considered properly competitive. This will optimize the use of taxpayer funds by PARC."

It can be signed at the Salt Spring Coffee Company, North End Fitness and the Saturday market.

PARC, Holman and the SSTA are confident revenue generated by rental fees will cover the debt-servicing and maintenance costs of the facility, based on a business case created when a traditional, permanent structure of similar cost was planned for Rainbow Road two years ago.

Annual revenue was estimated at \$46,000, which would be offset by maintenance costs of between \$12,000 and \$15,000, for net revenue of \$31,000 to \$34,000.

However, Best questions the financial rationale, wonders what the fees will be and

if SSTA members will still get a preferential rate. He is also concerned that putting the structure over two courts at Portlock Park will reduce access to free outdoor tennis during the summer when demand is highest, since only two free courts will be available at Portlock, rather than the existing four. (At present, the tennis bubble is removed from its one court in warmer months.)

Best also believes not resurfacing the courts as initially planned is a mistake.

Holman said he believed court fees will pay off the costs over time, which is why he has always supported the indoor facility concept.

"Operating costs for the facility will be kept to a minimum by tennis volunteers," he added. "Therefore, the proportion of costs covered by taxpayers is very minor, certainly compared to the pool, and public access is still guaranteed."

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS

From Page A1

"As to average scores, we were well above provincial averages, in some cases, quite a bit higher — which is very exciting."

More than 150 kids met graduation requirements this year to yield a particularly strong graduation rate.

International student Robin Yin (who scored 100 per cent in Chemistry) would have also qualified for a scholarship if he was a Canadian citizen, due to his exceptionally high marks.

"I think this particular group of kids was extremely

hard working and kept at it right to the end of the year."

She also commended GISS teaching staff for their help with supporting student results.

"They've been working really hard on collaborating in terms of curriculum and

methodology."

And she thanked the community for support.

"It's part of the bigger picture for the community to be supportive of the school and jumping in to do what they do to make everything work around here."

FIRE AND WATER

From Page A1

cialists fear aging infrastructure is unable to provide water for high-powered machinery.

The report highlights the lack of cooperation as an impediment in SSIFPD services to islanders.

"In addition to working towards a common emergency protection governance structure, the SSIFPD should work towards petitioning the various water supply boards to improve upon their water supply systems where necessary in the delivery of adequate fire protection, as well as system expansion," it reads.

NSSWD manager Trevor Hutton said poor organization and explanations led

many districts to overlook the request.

He said other districts may have hesitated due to privacy reasons or because they know they cannot provide adequate water supplies for fire protection purposes.

According to the report, the lack of a comprehensive strategy between different districts had a significant impact on the island's rating.

"Generally, fire/emergency protection within a community improves if there is a common strategy towards its implementation," states the report.

"In communities such as SSI that have various layers

of higher government or local government autonomies, this is difficult to achieve."

Overall, the SSIFPD fared well, obtaining a Class 6 rating on a 10-point scale, with 10 being the lowest available grade.

Smaller budgets and the largely volunteer staff found in rural departments mean they tend to fall in the level five and eight range.

A stronger rating usually translates into lower fire insurance rates for business owners and residents.

While the report commends the SSIFPD's administration, recruiting, management, public education and

equipment, the uncertainties regarding water supply are now a high priority.

To that end, Patterson and other fire trustees said they would circulate a questionnaire to water district representatives and hopefully arrange a meeting within the next six months.

"It won't change anything in terms of the rating now that the report is done, but will benefit the fire department and the community in the long-term," he said.

The full 38-page report is available to the public at the Ganges fire hall and the library.

Bowen off Long Harbour route

Supplementary sailings on the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands route are cancelled until Thursday at 2:30 p.m. while the Bowen Queen replaces the Queen of Cumberland on the Swartz Bay to Southern Gulf Islands route.

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IN (AND OUT) OF THE SATURDAY MARKET: Vendors like Bob Makela from Madrona Valley Farm (above) and entertainers like The Golden Goddess statue (at left) enjoy the Saturday market at Centennial Park. Only the dogs feel left out.
Photos by Derrick Lundy

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Police crash party, apprehend drunken roof walkers

Late in the evening of Friday, August 19, police were called to a house party attended by more than 100 youths following reports of a disturbance in the area.

RCMP REPORT

After arriving on scene at

the North End Road residence, police officers managed to promptly break up the celebration and send the partygoers on their way. No arrests were made.

In a separate incident at 11:15 p.m. Sunday night, RCMP officers were called to the scene of the government liquor store after receiving reports of two

drunken males being seen on top of the building.

Once back on land, the males were held in police cells until the morning. No charges were laid.

Salt Spring road lines repainted this fall

Salt Spring drivers will soon be following the straight and narrow after an upcoming visit by line-painting road crews.

Centre-line painting is scheduled to hit the island in late August and early September, said Mainroad South Island Contracting local road foreman John Charlton.

"I've got quite a list; there's about 20 roads that are being done."

All arterial roads including ferry routes, bus routes

and connectors will receive new centre lines under a contract from the Ministry of Transportation (MOT), he said.

MOT crews will also install a new 50-metre barrier on Stewart Road near Peter Arnell Park.

The barrier will only extend around the sharp curve along the new roadwork, said MOT district engineering technician Bob Webb.

"Everything comes down

to money. If you really wanted to reduce your risk to zero, you'd put a barrier from one end of the road to the other. But you'd do the whole island. It would look like the Berlin Wall."

As a more economical safety measure, MOT will also install one-metre-tall delineator posts with reflectors to help motorists spot the edge of the road at night, he said.

For added protection, Stewart Road is graded

toward the hillside in case motorists lose traction during wet or icy conditions, he said.

Grass seed will be spread on the Stewart Road embankment once weather is more favourable for sprouting to wrap up the work in September.

"That was a very expensive and tough job, considering the length of road," said Webb. "The sad thing is that we've only heard one positive comment."

Teachers seek support for lake float project

High school shop teachers hope to start the year with a splash by helping students build a new swim float for St. Mary Lake.

Extensive renovations at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) could affect access to shop facilities into the beginning of September. So technology teachers Ron Edmonds and Jim Watkins have a plan to engage their students with a meaningful project that could serve the greater community while they wait for access to classes.

Watkins sees a number of advantages to building a swim float for St. Mary Lake as a project this year.

"This is a project that will engage the students. It is way easier to get students to buy into community-service type projects when it is themselves that will benefit."

Moreover, a float could be

beneficial for St. Mary Lake swimmers in a number of ways, he said.

"A common destination for swimmers is the semi-island off the public access. Now if the swimmers are a little weak, then that distance is a bit of a stretch."

A float at a closer range would offer a "stepping stone" in physical conditioning, he said.

He also believes a float would give swimmers a place to hang out instead of congregating along the busy North End Road shoulder.

Another class of high school students built the

existing float at Cusheon Lake at an earlier time, he noted.

"I believe the original plans are still kicking about here somewhere in the chaos of renovation," he said.

Watkins has been impressed by community support for school projects in the past and he's noticed particularly strong sponsorship from construction-related businesses such as lumber yards and tradespeople.

"The background of this support is that they know that investing in future tradespeople always pays. I would like to think that these future

taxpayers deserve support from all sectors of the community as well."

He believes the project would cost several thousand dollars without donations of materials.

"Any float placed in that lake will have to be strongly built and strongly anchored if it is going to last for years," he said.

Tax receipts can be issued for contributions to the float project. Cheques can be made out to Gulf Islands Secondary School, Woodwork Non-Public. For more information, contact Jim by e-mail at (jwatkins@sd64.bc.ca).



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Ganges Harbour is not 'dead,' says Save Our Shoreline group

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Plans to construct a multi-level waterfront condominium and retail project along Lower Ganges Road will cause irreversible damage to an already strained Ganges Harbour, according to speakers at a Save Our Shoreline (SOS) meeting last week.

"We all know we have a very vibrant harbour and an ecological harbour, but I think we are beginning to realize we are right on a tipping point," said Briony Penn, the last of four speakers to take the stage at Community Gospel Chapel. "No one can tell me and I don't think anybody can prove Ganges Harbour is dead and that we should just give up on it and line it with massive residential areas."

Penn received applause from more than 100 residents attending the SOS campaign's official launch.

The group seeks to stop an Islands Trust bylaw that would allow construction of a 16,500-square-foot hotel and retail complex on the current site of the Ganges Marina.

SOS is a citizens' group formed after Salt Spring Island trustees gave first reading to Bylaw 404 in July.

Penn, along with representatives from the Salt Spring

Conservancy, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Islands Farmers Institute, spoke against B&B Ganges Marina Ltd.'s plans to infill and develop a site along the harbour because they said it contravenes numerous recommendations set out in the Official Community Plan (OCP) and sets a dangerous precedent for other areas along the harbour.

"A healthy Ganges Harbour helps sustain our tourism industry, helps us feel happy with life and contributes to just about everything we hold sacred," said Penn.

Trustee Kimberly Liner reminded the public that a bylaw's first reading does not mean anything had been finalized.

Speaking from a seat at the back of the church, she reiterated her belief that first reading encouraged debate and moved the process closer to a final decision.

A public information meeting on the proposed bylaw is scheduled for September 1 and a formal public hearing is set for September 13. A vote on second reading is expected for the September 27 Local Trust Committee meeting.

Spokespeople from SOS were unanimous that a first step should include an independent ecological assessment of the proposal's impact

on the harbour.

They did not question the need to complete a boardwalk from Rotary Park to the Salt Spring Marina property, but said the community was being asked to give up too much in this case.

"All we're asking for at this stage is to hold off on going any further," said Penn. "Let's develop a plan and see what people in this community have in mind for the harbour and the shoreline."

In an advertisement published in last week's Driftwood, Ganges Marina project manager Robyn Kelln said the community stands to gain from the development.

Among other concessions, he said, the company is prepared to construct and maintain 840 linear feet of boardwalk, make necessary improvements to Lower Ganges Road, set aside 540 linear feet of land as a "public open green space," provide parking and landscape the area at no cost to the community.

Proposed changes would, according to Kelln, contribute towards making the stretch of Lower Ganges Road between Rotary Park and Upper Ganges Road cleaner and safer for the island's visitors and residents.

"One can imagine so many

further and future tangible amenities that could result from the completion of the B&B Ganges Marina project," he wrote.

"By starting with this B&B Ganges Marina project, the future benefits to the community, through careful stewardship, have great potential to the overall visions of the community everyone would like to see."

At the August 17 meeting, the Salt Spring Conservancy's Peter Lamb voiced concerns over the increasing dominance of commercial activity along the shoreline.

"We need to manage the riches we have, not erode them further. We don't want to make major precedent-setting decisions before we understand the implications," he said.

"We think there is another way for the harbour to be developed, an alternative vision should be examined and it should be one that evolves not from a piecemeal approach to planning."

Lamb said any final decision should wait until an official community plan review and a planned tourism management study.

"We need a long-term plan for Ganges Harbour before anything is approved," he said. "It's already getting very congested and we question whether there has ever been an environmental study."

Starbooks' Rouleau prepares for novel approach

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Starbooks may now be locked up for good, but former owner Ken Rouleau is not prepared to close the book on his quest to help the island's homeless.

"I'm not one that can rest on the work that I've done in the past," said Rouleau, taking a break from cleaning out the store on Monday afternoon. "Community and social justice work can always go on."

For those who depended on Starbooks services, the Gasoline Alley bookshop meant much more than a place to pick up a good read.

While the shop started from humble roots, Rouleau

spent three years developing it into an island outreach centre and anti-poverty headquarters.

"Originally it was designed as a friendly space for people to hang out and talk," he said. "It just kept on growing to meet the demand."

Salt Spring Community Services director Rob Grant said the bookstore's role was especially important during emergency situations like last winter's snowstorm.

Community Services lacks the funding, facilities and programs to deal with the island's homeless and he said Starbooks offered a grassroots support network for people in need.

"In terms of the community, I don't think the bookstore itself will be missed," he said. "There are quite a few bookstores in town, but few places that cater to the island's homeless."



Rouleau

season and increasing rental costs forced him to shut the doors earlier this week.

He plans to remain active in the community, but expressed concern about the island's growing homeless population, which seems to double each year, he said.

"I'm pretty worried about the people coming through," he said. "I really don't know what will happen to the community's needs."

As a Green Party candidate in the last provincial election, Rouleau's personal

activism took on a public face. He has now cast his focus on the Local Trust Committee elections scheduled for November.

He has made no official commitment as of yet, but said the Islands Trust provides an ideal forum to address some of the issues he has come to know firsthand from his work at Starbooks.

"It's a good direction that's perfect for dealing with the community's problems," he said. "I've heard a lot of talk from people concerned about the changing face of Salt Spring and many have expressed fears they may have to move off island to make ends meet."

For now, Rouleau said he intends to take a short break, spend a month writing and begin preparing for the birth of his first child in March.

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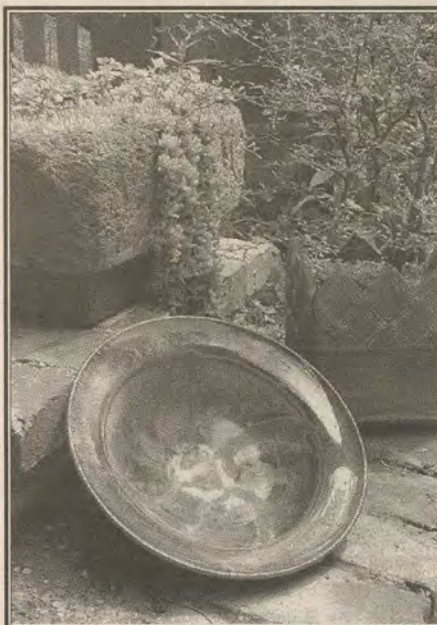
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NIGHT LIFE: Ganges was bursting with the sound of music last weekend as Red Shag Carpet performed at Glass Onion (above) and Harry Manx took the stage with other musicians, playing to an outdoor crowd of several hundred at the Tree House Cafe.

Photos by Derrick Lundy (top) and Shari Macdonald



Disconnected and discontented

Salt Springers were left holding the phone in the wake of a service disruption that affected local and long distance calling service on Saturday night.

Between 9 and 11 p.m. callers wanting to make long-distance calls from the island were met with an out-of-service message while Telus managerial staff rushed to fix a power supply problem at the company's Oak Bay terminal.

According to Telus vice-

president of business solutions Bruce Okabe, the problem meant telephone lines on the island were unable to cope with the regular volume of calls.

"We have lines stretching for thousands of kilometres and from time to time disruptions in service will occur," he said. "We're here to ensure service does not get impacted."

Telus managers were forced to fix the problem as a labour dispute with employees is

now entering its fifth week.

On the Telus picket line out on Lower Ganges Road, employee Doug Sykes said customers could expect more problems if contract negotiations remain unresolved.

"Usually there are crews working overnight to make sure everything is working," he said. "The more we're off the job, the more stuff will begin to go wrong."

Both sides dismissed rumours that vandalism was a factor.

Ridge, vacation rentals on agenda

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee holds its monthly meeting in the Baptist Church on Lower Ganges Road at 3 p.m. on Thursday, August 25.

Items on the agenda include a development permit request from Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. to proceed with its revised proposal to build 327 residen-

tial units and approximately 3,068 square feet of commercial space.

Trustees will also consider the first reading of a bylaw amending the OCP to allow for temporary use permits for short-term vacation rentals.

Applications to rezone the Rainbow Road "fish plant" property for a 30-unit affordable housing project

and a request to exclude land from the Agricultural Land Reserve will also be addressed.

No delegations were scheduled when the agenda was drafted last week, but members of the public are invited to voice opinions during the town hall session held at the start of each meeting.

Youth must stay off island

An 18-year-old former Salt Spring resident ordered to remain off-island for 12 months after he was found guilty of assault in February was denied permission to return by Justice Brian Mackenzie in Ganges court earlier this month.

The man, who was a youth at the time of the assault incident, sought permission to return because, he said, his mother was returning to Salt Spring and better employment opportunities existed on the island.

Defence lawyer Tybring Hemphill claimed the youth's probation officer indicated there was no room for concern and, in addition to extending his curfew to accommodate any potential job offers, he should be allowed to return to the island.

Crown counsel Barb Penty said her conversation with the probation officer in Nanaimo indicated things were not as simple as Hemphill made them out to be.

While he had been doing well, the applicant had not received any offers of employment on the island.

"There are a number of good reasons to not allow [the youth] on the island," she said. "It was [the youth's] wish to not be on Salt Spring Island in order to separate himself from these bad influences."

According to the ruling, the youth will only be permitted back on Salt Spring with the written consent of his probation officer.

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Also King's Lane Recreation & Moby's, which sadly have closed.

For their past support of the community's pool, we are also indebted to Embe Bakery, Eight Branches, North End Fitness, Royal LePage, Salt Spring Coffee Co., Sports Traders and Vesuvius Store.

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Following court order judgment: Liquidation of Persian carpets by auction

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

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

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

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

Public auction will be held at Meaden Hall, Royal Canadian Legion, 120 Blain Road, Ganges, Saturday, August 27, 2005. Public viewing 12 noon, Auction 1 p.m.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Backyard burning bylaws lack spark

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
 Staff Writer

It could be high time to quit burning toxic garbage on Salt Spring.

Currently, no burning of any type is allowed on the island and burning permits are not being issued by Salt Spring Island Fire Department.

But fall weather will inevitably invoke the primitive urge to burn leaves or wood trimmings, developers will want to burn slash piles and a few residents might even want to continue the archaic practice of burning their garbage.

And, according to fire, health and environmental specialists, open burning

is a fire hazard, it's a leading cause of nationwide air pollution and it exposes residents to increased health risks.

Under the island's current governance system, burning is regulated by a myriad combination of agencies: the Salt Spring Island Fire Department, the Capital Regional District (CRD), the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

The fire department stipulates when and how burning can be conducted.

The CRD enforces a fire regulation bylaw within the local service area and the province addresses issues for commercial and development burning.

"We write our burning bylaws and 99.9 per cent of people abide by them," said Salt Spring fire chief Dave Enfield.

But he has no enforcement capability, he said.

At most, the fire department can send residents a bill for their services or bring in MOE or CRD bylaw enforcement officers.

"We're not a CRD fire department. We're an anomaly. I can't enforce CRD bylaws," Enfield said.

But if the Salt Spring Fire Department entered an agreement with the CRD, it could enable the fire chief to enforce current CRD bylaws, he said.

The CRD's chief bylaw enforcement officer Don Brown noted that their Fire Regulation Bylaw #1958 is rarely used and it also lacks enforcement clout.

"There is no schedule in there for fines so you can't issue a ticket. A person has to be charged as a summary-conviction offence, which means it has to be prosecuted," Brown said.

He believes it would be useful to add a municipal ticket information (MTI) schedule for Bylaw #1958 so his officers could issue tickets.

"Rather than going from warning to court, it would be an in-between step."

Locals should heed burning dos and don'ts

Under both the provincial Waste Management Act (WMA) and the CRD's Bylaw # 1958, burning must not include: asphalt, asphalt products, drywall, fuel and lubricant containers, manure, paint, plastics, railway ties, rubber, tar paper, tires or treated lumber.

The WMA further stipulates that biomedical waste, demolition waste and domestic waste are banned from open burning, which is any burning without a chimney.

But the Ministry of Envi-

ronment (MOE) does not regulate residential or backyard burning, said provincial air quality meteorologist Warren McCormick.

MOE regulations are targeted at the level of burning for land-clearing purposes, factories and pulp mills, he said.

Additionally, the province's Open Burning Smoke Control Code of Practice places stringent requirements on disposal burning and forestry management burning in the Capital Region.

Among various requirements in the code of practice, smoke release can only occur on a parcel of land for 72 consecutive hours on a maximum of four different occasions each year and there must be a 15-day smoke-free period preceding each burn.

However, McCormick recommends against burning in general and against burning prohibited toxic materials in particular.

The more complex the

material burned, such as plastics, and the lower the controls on combustion, the more pollutants are put in the air, he said.

And even burning just a small bag of garbage is contributing to a major problem, he said.

"Locally, it will affect your neighbours directly. Combine that all up together and you end up with a situation where in Canada and the United States, one of the top three sources of dioxin release in the atmosphere is backyard garbage burning."

He recommends that people consider alternatives to burning such as recycling garbage, chipping wood waste or composting garden refuse.

If people must utilize backyard burning, burn clean dry wood and pick a day with a good venting index, he said.

According to the B.C. Lung Association, even wood-smoke exposure increases risk of respiratory tract illness such as cough-

ing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness.

Wood smoke also includes: fine particulate matter (linked to numerous respiratory problems), carbon monoxide (a colourless, odourless, poisonous gas), nitrogen oxides (linked to lung infections), and carcinogens such as volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins and furans (as identified by Environment Canada and Health Canada).

People who use woodstoves and fireplaces are also asked to curb garbage burning. The Burn it Smart brochure from Natural Resources Canada states, "Never burn garbage, plastics, cardboard or Styrofoam. Burning garbage releases poisons."

For more information about backyard burning, check out the following websites: (www.saltspringfire.com), (wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/air/particulates), (www.bclung.ca) or (www.burnbarrel.org)

IF YOU LIVE ON SALT SPRING, THEN YOU NEED TO READ THIS

PARC has accepted a \$780,000 bid from a sole source bidder to construct a two-court indoor tennis structure at Portlock Park to replace the one-court bubble currently owned by the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) and 'bubble stakeholders'. PARC has budgeted and committed \$600,000 of taxpayer money toward this project that will be owned by PARC but used primarily by the SSTA. Because the amount is below a certain threshold, a public referendum is not required.

But concerned taxpayers on Salt Spring would like to ask questions of those that made this decision.

Therefore, **Gary Holman**, CRD Director, **Bill Curtin**, Commissioner of PARC, **Dave Gibbon**, Operations Manager at PARC and the **SSTA Board** are invited to discuss and explain this decision with concerned residents that will be attending a

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Stubbs packs shop, moves house

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

After 16 years of building inspection on the island, Dick Stubbs is leaving his job and Salt Spring in search of new adventures.

Now that the kids have left home for college, the house is just too big, he said.

So Dick and Patti Stubbs are planning a move back to central Vancouver Island to be closer to his mother in Comox and pursue new interests.

"For someone who came at 40 and leaves at 56, it's been a pretty good mid-life span," Stubbs said.

And from his insider vantage point checking out the closets and crannies of local buildings, he wanted to pass along a few thoughts about community direction for the island.

"We're a community of every different stripe," he said. "I've learned a lot about human nature just by the strength of the job — a lot of it good."

In his years as a contractor and inspector, he's watched the construction industry mature from basic-building techniques to the creation of complex housing systems. "Even now, a lot of people don't know how a house works and houses have become very complex; they need to incorporate a lot of things to make it work over the long haul."

Consequently, Stubbs defined his building-inspection role with the Capital Regional District as an educator and resource for builders.

"The system has become so complex that it's hard for the average guy in the street to know what's required of them."

Contractors today require a dizzying array of skills in the modern building market — including a solid grasp of



NEW ADVENTURES: Well known as a building inspector on Salt Spring, Dick Stubbs is leaving his job and moving on.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

psychology, he laughed.

"It's sort of like a marriage, except [the building process] is going to take all of your money, not half."

And homeowners should ask questions and learn more about building before they enter the process.

"Sometimes I think our shortfall is that we embark on something without research. We can make four trips to Victoria to buy runners and then turn around the next day and buy a house."

Stubbs also encourages contractors and prospective homeowners to look beyond regulated minimum requirements.

"If you are building only to the minimum standard, that's a scary thought."

But Salt Spring builders generally have a higher

standard of construction and the local building inspection office has had successful relations with island contractors, he said.

"The proof of it is that contractors come and talk to us. They want to know what to do and they know the door is open."

However, he has some misgivings about the current regulatory system for construction in B.C.

"In the big picture, the system doesn't work."

He believes the industry could use a solid educational grounding with programs such as apprenticeship. Fortunately, Salt Spring is graced with a "very capable" construction community, he said.

"If everyone in the industry was well educated, you

wouldn't need as many building inspectors."

Analogous to the situation in the construction industry, he believes that the many diverse island organizations tend to weaken the resolve of the community.

"We don't have to become Ladysmith or Nanaimo. We can be different. But we have to have a clear vision and a clear-cut plan to move in that direction and I don't think we have that."

For example, he believes it's still possible to build affordable and well-constructed homes on Salt Spring. But islanders have to want to make it happen, he said.

"In some instances, when consultants come and look at what we're doing here, they say we're light years ahead of what is occurring in other communities, but we feel like we're just scratching the surface."

Given the local talent, the relative isolation and size of the island, he believes Salt Spring still has the ability to be a shining example for many other communities, big and small.

"I hope the community has the strength to ensure that Salt Spring remains a special place."

And Stubbs plans to keep touch with islanders through a few projects.

"It's a community that cares. I think our kids and ourselves benefitted hugely by contact with people here."

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Retiring Stubbs rides across Canada

As soon as Dick Stubbs wraps up 16 years as the local building inspector on Friday, he's fulfilling a dream to cycle to Halifax.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," Stubbs said.

He's very comfortable with cycling since he's ridden to work every day for more than a decade.

"We gave up a second car 14 years ago and I've been riding ever since then," he said.

"It's a lovely way to come to work in the morning and it's a great way to flush out the stresses of the job at the end of the day."

And long-distance trips are nothing new for Stubbs.

"I tend to have a bent for things like this. I used to run marathons."

He's taken periodic long-distance cycling trips with friends to the Kettle Valley and pedals 175 kilometres to Comox every month or two.

After cycling extensively on Salt Spring, Stubbs isn't daunted by the Rocky Mountains either.

"You don't see a hill as steep as Fulford-Ganges Hill on the Trans Canada Highway."

Stubbs's wife Patti will drive along the route and meet him each day so he won't be loaded down with camping gear, he noted.

The 5,900-kilometre trip to Halifax will take about five weeks at 150 kilometres per day.

"We should be there before the weather changes."

They aren't set on visiting any particular sites along the way, but hope to touch base with a few friends.

"The biggest thing, other than getting to the other side, will be seeing our son Toby at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec."

His ambitions are simple and humble.

"You get to see a certain part of the country at a much more reasonable pace than thundering down the highway. You also tend to meet some interesting people."

He's been across Canada a couple of times, but his last cross-country trip was back in the 1970s, he said.

"We've got a big wonderful country and often we forget."

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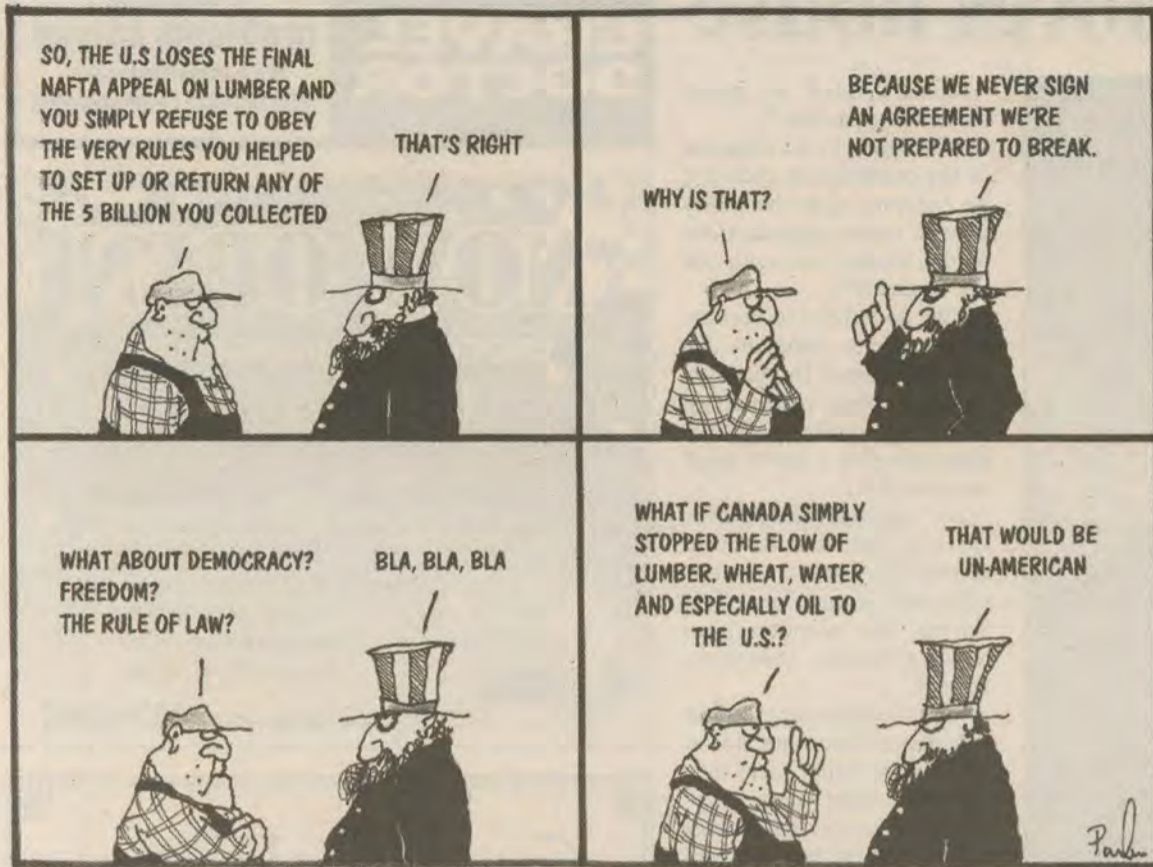
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Critical part of island

Few days go by on Salt Spring Island without the sound of racing sirens being heard at least once.

As the island's population grows, and especially during summer months, emergencies of all stripes are unfortunately a commonplace occurrence. Then in winter, inclement weather changes the scene and calls emergency services personnel into action for other reasons.

A huge number of people are involved in responding to emergencies on the island, whether they're involved with the Salt Spring RCMP, Salt Spring Fire Department, B.C. Ambulance Service, Canadian Coast Guard, Ground Search and Rescue, B.C. Hydro or Telus.

This week's Driftwood contains stories in a special In Case of Emergency section that give us a peek into the experiences of emergency response organizations and individuals. Reading them will hopefully help islanders understand the needs and limitations of those groups, and even consider volunteering, if appropriate.

Whether in paid or volunteer positions, the men and women, people who deal with life-threatening or dangerous situations to help island residents and visitors are a critical part of our community.

Before the next storm or crisis strikes, we take this opportunity to salute them.

Smooth paving

While we're in a praising mode, roadwork completed this summer on Salt Spring has made getting from some parts of the island to others much more pleasant.

The much-anticipated paving of the final stretch of treacherous Stewart Road, plus improvements to others such as Robinson and Beaver Point roads, are welcomed, although we have concerns that smoother roads will translate into higher speeds and more accidents. Installing a 50-metre barrier and delineating posts with reflectors on Stewart Road as planned, is a good move.

Ministry of Transportation district engineering technician Bob Webb noted he had heard only one positive comment about the Stewart Road paving. Thoughts of gratitude can be sent to MOT at 240-4460 Chatterton Way, Victoria BC, V8X 5J2; (250) 952-4515.

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Letters to the Editor

Not fair

Tennis anyone? About 140 members of the Salt Spring Tennis Association have said, "Yes please, all year."

One member told the Driftwood last week that all she/he wanted was a covered, warm facility for winter play. Fourteen years ago the club erected a bubble so that this could become a reality.

The old bubble has served the club well but now it apparently needs to be replaced. Given today's costs, a new tennis bubble would probably cost a little over \$100,000. The SSTA has \$140,000 "to contribute to the indoor facility project" (Driftwood, August 17). These funds, generated by rental fees for the bubble, should be put to use by those interested in maintaining their club.

Gary Holman has assured us that he wants to ensure taxpayers are getting fair value for their money. Using

\$600,000 of the taxpayers' money for a pay-for-service (and therefore limited access) facility, which is mainly used by a private club, is not fair value.

SUE WOOD,
Salt Spring

Disheartening

It was heartening for those of us in favour of our new swimming pool to find that we have the support of so many of our local physicians (August 10 Driftwood letter), and we were hopeful that PARC would take heed of their expertise regarding the therapeutic benefits of a leisure pool.

It was disheartening to read Bill Curtin's response to their letter in last week's Driftwood, which made it evident that they will not.

If he had done any real research, Mr. Curtin would know that the lap pool is too cold for those unfortunate people suffering from such conditions as multiple scler-

osis, arthritis and stroke, or recovering from joint surgery. To bring the lap pool up to a temperature where it would be of benefit is not practical, considering the time it takes to warm the pool and then to cool it for regular use and the cost to do so would be prohibitive.

The economic benefit of a leisure pool is not being considered. From the information I have been able to gather, the pools in B.C. that do not have a leisure/therapy component are the ones that do not prosper or make a profit. Does PARC have information that shows that this is not so?

There was a Ssplash/PARC/CRD survey that recommended a pool with the leisure component. PARC is now disregarding that study.

Worse, they are disregarding the large majority who voted for a recreation centre complete with a lap pool, hot tub and leisure/therapy pool in the referendum last fall.

What are we going to end up with? A pool yes, but without the leisure/therapy component that will in all likelihood not pay its way and will not serve our community as well as it should. Where will we be in two years time when the question of a leisure/therapy pool comes up again?

LORRAINE NORFOLK,
Monteith Drive
Stop PARC

PARC is spending our tax dollars without any kind of competency (re: August 10 and 17 articles on approval of tennis court cover).

For one, no other club on Salt Spring is publicly funded except through playing surfaces for sports at various parks on the island. The rod and gun club, sailing club, rowing club (on St. Mary Lake), two golf facilities, just to name a few, are all privately funded. So why is PARC so determined to build an indoor tennis facility that

will only serve eight people per hour and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars?

Second, what other community in BC the size of Salt Spring (10,000-12,000) has a publicly funded indoor tennis facility? The answer is none — not one.

Third, if you call the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) and ask about lessons for your child, their response is that there are no lessons because there isn't the interest in the sport! So if that is the case, why are we spending so much money on a handful of adult tennis players instead of putting the money toward another sport where there is interest from kids?

Fourth, SSTA claims 140 members, partly because to use the bubble last year, you were required to join the SSTA! If you counted the active tennis players in the SSTA — those who play at least once a week, and remove the duplications between

mixed doubles and ladies doubles, etc., you would have about 45 (or 50 tops) actual, real tennis enthusiasts.

Fifth, what is wrong with the current situation? There is a bubble, right? So I guess the SSTA thinks it is falling down or tearing or something. So they have the infrastructure in place, why not buy a new cover to replace the one we use already? That surely can't cost more than the SSTA has to spend, and it has already proven to have better than a 10-year life, so we know the revenue would cover the expenditures. Spend the SSTA money on it, then PARC can contribute what it did have budgeted for tennis toward the leisure pool and make it a reality!

I pay taxes on this island. I am being zapped for Art-Spring, the pool and now, without even asking about it, a tennis complex.

SHIRLEY LAMBERT,
Salt Spring

PARC reports on 'long and public' tennis facility process

By **BILL CURTIN**

With regard to the recent issues over the tennis structure planned for Portlock Park, some clarification over the process and the funding is necessary.

Over the last few years, PARC and the Salt Spring Tennis Association have evaluated a variety of options for replacing the Portlock Park bubble, including double bubble structure and steel building structures. We have recently settled on the rigid fabric structure due to its portability and demonstrated reliability. The process has been long and very public.

Request for proposal

IN RESPONSE

nine companies and advertised in the appropriate locations. The RFP included the features that were decided upon in consultation with the tennis association and proponent interviews. The "or equivalent" phrase was intended to apply to all components of the project and was explained as such at the proponents meeting and to any prospective proponents who made inquiries so as to allow bids on any com-

technology, as is standard. Mike Best, who spearheaded the complaint process about the RFP process, picked up a package (as a citizen). Mr. Best and a Sprung Instant Structures representative attended the proponents meeting on July 25 and were assured that PARC would welcome a bid from Sprung even at this late date. Sprung did not, in fact, enter a bid.

It is important to keep in mind that the actual installed building itself represents approximately \$280,000 of the two-part RFP. That is the only portion of the entire project materially impacted by the choice of awarding the building portion of the

two parts allowed us to evaluate the merit of completely building two new tennis courts separate from evaluating the merit of the building structure itself. Proponents were asked to bid on both or either part of the RFP. As it turned out, we got two bids on the court/ground work (they were competitive) and only one bid on the building itself.

It was immediately apparent that we could not afford to build the two new courts, however, that information will be valuable to us in the future.

We have consulted with recreation staff in Penticton, which has a tennis struc-

ture that bid on ours. They are happy with the cost and performance of their structure. After searching the Internet for relative square footage costs of these rigid fabric structures, we were comfortable that we were delivering good value to our community should we accept the one bid we did get for the building.

The tennis club welcomes putting the new facility over existing courts because the side of the structure adjoining the other two courts can be rolled up to ensure no visual or physical impairment between the four courts at Portlock Park.

A second issue that has

payers (Driftwood editorial of August 17) has provided incomplete and misleading information. The fees collected for play in this facility will pay for its operation and the balance of the fees will be applied against the capital cost of the project over its life.

It is hoped and intended that this facility, which will end up costing the taxpayer very little, if anything, in the end. It is aimed to be a self-funding facility and is not, as inferred, a disproportionate tax burden for non-tennis players.

The writer is PARC chair-

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What is your vision for Ganges Harbour?*



Carlyn Burchill

Any development would have to be quaint and unique like the rest of the island. Anything too severe or prominent would probably take away from the area's beauty.



Brenda Carpenter

I'd probably make a bigger marina with more facilities for the boaters. People are always asking where they can shower and do their laundry.



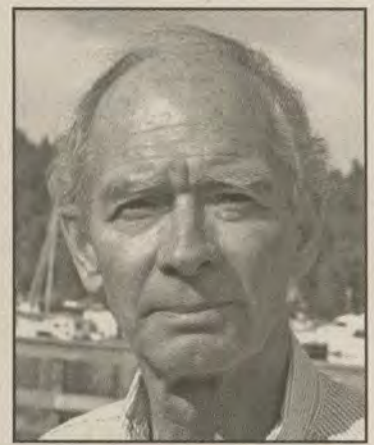
Peter Martineau

I like it the way it is and think it should be left alone.



Elizabeth Clark

If anything is done, they should try to clean it up a little bit.



Elmar Heimbach

As it is, it doesn't leave a very good impression. Improvements to the harbour could be done to make it appear friendlier and not so decayed.

Letters to the Editor

Cash flow

Ben Goodman gets a 10 for casuistry, but, alas, only a two for math. For basic research of the subject matter he gets a zero.

Over the 14 years of operation, the tennis group has paid off the original bubble cost of \$62,000 and accumulated a kitty of \$150,000. That works out to a positive cash flow of about \$15,000 per year. Admittedly, this achievement is on the backs of a workforce that only gets paid in doughnuts.

The new facility will have two courts instead of one. With growth in population and the growing emphasis on exercising for health, I think we can safely assume that the cash flow will double to \$30,000 per year. The budget figure of \$600,000 for the two courts, less the association's contribution, will be paid off in 15 years.

At that date, 2020, the hole dug by the swimming

pool will be so deep that the sun ain't never gonna shine down there and a bit of positive cash flow from a recreational facility will be most welcome to PARC.

If Ben Goodman is worried about his tax dollars I suggest he's looking at the wrong project. The tennis group has always paid its own way and will continue to do so.

Always assuming the price of doughnuts doesn't skyrocket.

PHILIP MASON,
Salt Spring

Swim count

I add my voice to the many who support the inclusion of a leisure pool in the first phase of the Rainbow Road Recreational complex.

On my last visit to the Nanaimo pool on a weekday afternoon, I counted three people in the lane pool and 53 in the leisure pool.

WENDY BEATTY,
Vesuvius

Support drawbridges

"If you love the island, please don't come, please don't come, please don't come,

If you love the island, please don't come,

There's no more room for anyone."

With the (possibly immortal) strains of this rousing chorus from Paradise Lots still ringing in my ears (after finally getting around to seeing it last week), I write in support of the drawbridge mentality.

"Drawbridge mentality" is a phrase that's most often used derisively (by those with an axe to grind). But in my case I own up to it freely, have had it for a long time, and see no signs of it going away anytime soon.

This probably stems from having grown up in Cordova Bay, where my first job (at age 11) was picking beans

on Bill Mattick's farm across the street. The first signs of trouble in that particular paradise showed up in the 1950s, when the local grapevine began predicting the imminent arrival of sewers down our quiet rural street. Soon after, a couple of neighbours beat a hasty retreat to Campbell River, but it wasn't until the '90s that the finishing nails were driven in.

Today, if you plan to explore the developers' dream that Cordova Bay has become, it's wise to dress upscale to allay fears you could be casing the place for purposes of theft.

More drawbridge mentality doubtless took root when I was lucky enough to live for three years in Scotland and visit a few castles with drawbridges that actually worked. Their original function was, of course, to protect such places from would-be invaders. Anyone who chose to

make their home in such an isolated environment would have been in full agreement about the urgent need for protection and preservation.

So, too, in nature. There can be few species (apart from our own), which don't possess some built-in and effective means of avoiding excess predation. (Even those of us who espouse peace in all other respects have been known to march out to battle against invasive species such as broom.)

So I'd like to encourage the so-called "drawbridge mentality" for Salt Spring. Here's to protection and preservation, in full working order!

PAT BARCLAY,
Salt Spring

Magnificent

We had the great pleasure of attending a recent concert by The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Canada's first professional choral group dedicated to Afro-centric music.

Named after a pioneering African-Canadian composer, the 21-voice ensemble was founded in 1998 and has since brought its soul-stirring mix of sacred, classical, jazz, blues, gospel and folk music to thousands of bedazzled listeners, including Nelson Mandela and Muhammad Ali.

Well aware of the rich multi-racial heritage on Salt Spring, Dett Chorale founder and director Brainerd Blyden-Taylor expressed his hope that the Toronto-based group would one day honour our island's pioneer spirit with a concert at ArtSpring.

Here's hoping that Salt Spring audiences will soon have the chance to offer the thunderous applause and rousing shouts of "Amen" that the chorale generated at the magnificent Vancouver performance we saw.

EVELYN C. WHITE and
JOANNE BEALY,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

Slow chewing suggested for hypocrisy food-for-thought

By **ERIC BOOTH**

Further to the August 17 letter entitled "Cheap shots," by Wayne Lee of Aqion Water Technologies, I would like to add some food for thought.

Maxine Leichter and Mike Larmour have recently, through the Driftwood, taken me to task on various aspects of local water issues. Maxine, a recent addition to the island from Los Angeles, and the newly elected president of the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society (SSIWPS), suggested that any increase in density in a watershed should be forbidden. Sounds good at first glance, doesn't it? However, I disagree. (Insert audible gasp here.)

Why do I disagree? Simply because this whole island is a watershed and should be treated as such, with respect. Whether you are drawing water from a lake, stream or well, the water is indeed being drawn from a watershed. We live and work in watersheds, every septic field is in a watershed and, pretty much every dog, cat, raccoon, beaver, duck, eagle, great blue heron, goose, chicken, cow, horse and deer on this island "dumps" in someone's watershed.

GUEST COLUMN

The fact that people live and work in watersheds is not the problem. The potential problem lies in the level of impact each and every one of us has on our watersheds. And that, is our personal responsibility to our community.

Everyone, including the most ardent environmentalist, who has moved here in the past 150 years has had, to some degree, a detrimental effect on the island's natural environment.

When we look at Salt Spring's three primary lake watersheds — Cusheon/Blackburn, St. Mary and Maxwell — only Maxwell has the degree of protection one usually associates with a watershed. The other two have major roads and development around them. Septic fields, functioning and non-functioning alike, are within feet of both. We swim, fish and boat in them.

The primary question for me becomes this: What constitutes a level of development that has a potentially significant impact in

a watershed? Some will say any level. In those extreme cases, I suggest they practise what they preach and stop living in, driving through or hiking in, those watersheds.

Along with fellow SSIWPS members Andrea Collins, Mike Larmour, and Wayne Hewitt, Maxine's primary battle cry is "Stop all development, the island is running out of water."

Hogwash. Ask long-time island well drillers Albert Kaye or Terry Dow about groundwater supply. Look to the sky and tell me it is going to stop raining a yard/metre or more a year here. Convince me people are currently doing their best at conserving water. Did you know the CRD currently issues building permits based solely on rainwater catchment systems?

Or ask Mike, who has consistently tried to use water as a limiting factor in development on the island, why, in his many years as manager of NSSWD, he never had the water meters under his care calibrated, never put summer watering restrictions into effect, never instituted a consumer water conservation program and wouldn't allow NSSWD to service Cusheon Lake owners through his personal property

or allow a Sky Valley connector route through his property which would have seen traffic bypass Cusheon Lake?

I'm sure he has good answers and equally good reasons. I just haven't heard them yet.

Wayne Hewitt, on the other hand, runs a B&B within a stone's throw of Cusheon Lake, something Mike never mentions while decrying the potential impact of vacation rentals and B&Bs on water supply or watersheds.

While there are a few properties on this island with wells that have dried up, I'm not aware of any lot that doesn't get rained on. However, in a twisted "the sky is falling" rationale, some would have you believe the rain is going to stop falling from the sky. And yet, global warming projections show likely increases in annual rainfall in this part of the world.

Potential development on this island should be tied to reality and good planning, not wild speculation or mistruths.

And remember, "development" includes the homes you live in, the roads you drive on, the grocery stores you buy your food in, the restaurants you eat at, the schools where your children are taught, the churches you attend, the play-

ing fields, the tennis courts, the swimming pool you hope to swim in, the community and seniors' housing, the hospital, and Drummond, Centennial and Rotary Parks (not to mention Portlock Park and a couple of cemeteries in the St. Mary watershed).

While a few members in our community may point their fingers at realtors, developers and politicians as being the "culprits" responsible for the creation of the above community amenities we use daily, I'm reminded of the saying, "When you point your finger at someone else, your other three fingers are pointing back at you."

The latest Ganges Harbour infill protest meeting was held in a drinking lake watershed and I expect next to see watershed protests held on the infill we now call Centennial Park.

The hypocrisy in a few small circles around here is so thick it could choke the proverbial horse and, like many others on this island, I'm tired of it.

Just a little food for thought, which should perhaps be chewed on... "slowly."

The writer is an islands trustee.

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Keith Oliver

More letters

More thorough

I sincerely hope that the Driftwood's news writers are better informed than its editorial writers seem to be. Two recent editorials have been devoted to the letting of the contract for the new tennis facility.

The controversy was started by one part-time resident who has his own agenda for seeking a reversal of the decision made by PARC.

Although your editorial writer seems to have talked to Mike Best about the island's tennis needs — and encourages us all to follow the advice of this person because of his 30 years experience in tennis — (for

example the last editorial sought to raise doubt as to the need to cover two courts presumably based on Mr. Best's "expert" knowledge), the writer doesn't seem to have talked to anyone that knows anything about tennis on the island. Perhaps some discussion with the people who paid for the bubble and voluntarily operated it over the past 14 years and those who have devoted hundreds of hours to finding the best options that would meet the needs of the whole community would have been warranted?

Was there any attempt made to obtain the facts and figures on the operation of the bubble and what is factually known about what can and can't be afforded in a new facility?

Apparently not — it is much easier to cast doubt on the people and process involved — a made-to-order scandal delivered to your editor by a dubious source.

Let's hope that in the future the Driftwood will be a little more thorough in assessing their sources and checking the background on issues before weighing in with their opinions. Even editorial writers should adhere to some standards.

ROY RAJSIC,
 Salt Spring

No doubt

Re: "Cheap shots" letter, August 17 Driftwood.

Questioning Michael Larmour's knowledge of the water situation on Salt Spring is comparable to a medical student doubting a

neurosurgeon's diagnosis of a brain tumour!

NORMA EVES
 Vesuvius Bay Road

Leave harbour

I find myself totally against any rezoning for Ganges Harbour and the use of trucked-in fill. Building on artificially created land should be stopped.

There is no policing of the height bylaw of 25 feet as evidenced by the building permission given to the townhouse complex in front of the Gulf Clinic. Bayside is the most beautiful project on Salt Spring, but too high by far.

Permission is given to build to grade, or to fill in to grade, and therein lies the rub. This property has been filled into grade step by step from front to back. On the back units we now see ramps leading up to basement garages, with more back filling allowed on top of already dumped fill to create window wells. It is now on a level minus a couple of feet with the Gulf Clinic, where in previous years one could look down onto the roofs of cars entering the hotel driveway below! Far below!

What kind of APC would advise a three-storey building with a high-pitched roof at the base of a hill? Standing at front of said building, it towers above you. Oh, but it's all to grade, my foot!

I have a topography map showing original land levels and if today's survey of land contours were superimposed on top, it would bear no relation to the land God created.

At the Gulf Clinic, from the beginning, professional offices were allowed to fill in downtown empty commercial spaces, leaving C-2 null and void. When we applied for rezoning to C-1 to give us some privileges, we were turned down because of too much unde-

veloped commercial property downtown. That situation has not changed.

We are now C-4 with two acres of undeveloped specialty shops, offices with residences allowed, and downtown still has vacant spaces.

The harbour should be kept as a harbour, and a park and picnic area with a boardwalk for all to enjoy natural creation. There was always a picnic table there.

ROWENA DIXON,
 Salt Spring

Help doctors

While the rest of us were basking in the sun and enjoying our good fortune this last week, one of our number, Jamie Squier, was heading for Niger to work once again with Doctors Without Borders, bringing hope and saving lives.

This time his project is to stabilize the health of as many infants as possible to give them and their country a chance for a future. I have sent a cheque to this amazing organization to support Jamie's efforts. I am writing this message to encourage others in our community to do the same.

While I enjoy our blessed existence, I am grateful to Jamie and to others like him for enabling me to share my abundance with those around the world whose very lives are in peril.

Everyone can share our good fortune by sending a donation of any size to Doctors without Borders, Medecins Sans Frontieres, by going online: www.msf.ca/donate or by Canada, 720 Spadina Avenue, Suite 402, Toronto, Ontario. M5S 2T9.

All donations are tax deductible.

MAGGIE WARBEY,
 Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A11

Fulford Day 2005



Thank you!

Fulford Day 2005

was supported by many local and off-island businesses, organizations and individuals.
 In particular, we thank:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Allan Hoskins | Island Ice | Pharmasave |
| Anna Hoskins | Island Savings Credit Union | Quilters |
| Anonymous | Island Star Video | R.C.M.P. |
| Apple Photo | Jambalaya | Rogelio Langevin |
| Barry O'Connor | Jana's Bake Shop | Roger Donnelly |
| BC Ferries | Jean Brouard | Roemer's Landing |
| BC Hydro | Jill LeBlanc | Ron Pultke |
| BC Parks | Jim Fogarty - Tax Consultant | Ron Spencer |
| Bev & Mike Byron | Jim McGuckin | Rosemarie Roemer |
| Brenda Bowes | John Rowlandson | Royal LePage Realty |
| Carol Evans | John Ellacott | Salt Spring Coffee Company |
| Carron Carson | John Nicolson | Salt Spring Kayaking |
| Catherine Trudell | Jon Korrison | School District #64 |
| Craig Sherman | Jordy Sharp | Shar |
| Chris & Stella Weinert | John & Verna Elliott | Slegg Lumber |
| Daphne Taylor | Just Mike's Water Company | Stuff & Nonsense |
| Dave Astill | Karen Brown | Ted Akerman |
| Dave Beck | Lee Morris | Thrifty Foods & staff |
| Donna & Ron Ateah | Little Red Schoolhouse | Tim |
| Edwina | Marine Harvest | Todd Klatt |
| Foxglove Farm & Garden | Markus & Dee Tessman | Tom Pickett |
| Fred Wood | Merv Walde | Tree Frog Daycare |
| Frontrunners | Mike & Marjorie Lane | Tree House South |
| Fulford Elementary School | Mouat's Home Hardware | the barbecue crew |
| Fulford Hall Association | O.A.P.O. 170 | the bingo crew |
| Fulford Inn & staff | Ometepe Coffee | the pie bakers |
| Ganges Village Market | Oystercatcher & La Cucina | the refreshment garden crew |
| Golden Island Restaurant | Pacific Produce | the serving crew |
| Gordon Lee | Parks, Arts & Recreation Comm. | the setup & teardown crew |
| Gulf Island Brewery | Patterson Market | The Garden |
| Gulf Islands Driftwood | Patti Bardon | Wardrobe |
| Harbour House | Paula Marcotte | Windsor Plywood |
| Harry Burton | Pegasus Gallery | Willard Davies |
| Howard Fry | Pepsi | and all other volunteers |
| Island Fruitsicles | Peter Calerhead | |

We also thank the Musicians and Dancers:

Blackberry, High Water, Isadora, the Jam Tarts, Jim Raddysh, KC Kelly, Richard Cross, Soul Shakedown, Stephanie Rhodes, Wrangellian Gumbo Ensemble and MC Kaaren Arsenaault.

Community Raffle Winners:

Aggie Sutherland, Jean Brown, Samantha Pultke, Dale Howell, Joan Villadsen, Clay Johnson, Bruce Bartle, Jacqueline Thomas, Lisa Keen, Michael Berendt, Steve Kuric, Brian Finmore, M. Lacy, Sophie Jackson, Sylvia Spayne, Tom Flemons, Susan Lercher, Delaine Faulkner, Linda Hayes, Sharon Doobenen, Arthur Black, Veronica Hylands, Shauna Klem, S. Wagner.

Quilt Raffle Winner: Darlene Wellington of Oliver

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DAY 3

Salmon cakes with wild rice

DAY 4

Spicy prawn & carrot stir-fry

DAY 5

Turkey tetrazzini

DAY 6

Sundried tomato stuffed
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 With orzo

DAY 7

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BC Adult Graduation Diploma

In September GISS will be offering classes for completion of the BC Adult Graduation Diploma. For students 19 years and older five classes are required for grade 12 graduation. Starting at 10 week intervals, these courses will be offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings at 6:00pm:

- Communications 12,
- English 12,
- Geography 12,
- Math 11e (Essentials),
- Social Studies 11,
- Business Information Management 12,
- Math 11.

Other courses are available through Home Study or On-Line if specific courses are required for college entrance or job placement.

Many options are available. Students can take courses to complete an unfinished Dogwood, can start or finish at any time during the year, and can take two years to finish the required courses. In some cases work experience can count as a course. Students are not required to write the Provincial Examinations.

For further information check the Gulf Islands Secondary School Website, the GISS Counseling office, or School District #64.

Len Sokol 537-9944 ext. 248 lsokol@sd64.bc.ca

More letters

Numbers don't jive

Did I miss something? Where did this \$600,000 to \$780,000 tennis centre come from and why is it being paid for with my tax dollars?

I contributed to ArtSpring, then had a pool thrust down my throat, but at least in both cases, there was a referendum asking for my support.

Now I am paying a whopping sum for a useless tennis centre that few will use, and PARC is just spending the money without even asking? How is this fair? The numbers are way out of whack.

Stop the project, I've had enough!

JON EHLY,
Fulford

Seniors strategies

"Cost containment," a fancy expression for living within one's means, is a very hot topic for seniors and those on fixed incomes these days.

With an economic boom and prices booming in B.C., particularly on Salt Spring, it has a different connotation for those seniors marooned here, housebound or without a car to enable them to shop off island. Adjustments have to be made: Stop or reduce donations to charities. Stop subscribing to magazines, your sight is failing anyway. Stop buying the TV Guide and use the Driftwood TV listing, it is simpler to follow.

Look for senior discounts for entertainment, most ticket outlets have seniors prices listed. Restaurants might have seniors' menus and prices, or a two-for-one special.

Pharmasave has a seniors' discount day on the last Thursday of each month and Fields has a 55+ discount event on the first Monday of the month.

Make sure to take advantage of the grocery markets' flyer specials, and day-old sales in baked goods and meat departments. Farmers markets normally have lower prices on vegetables and fruit.

Shopping at the thrift shops for clothing can boost your wardrobe and not make a dent in your wallet. Grow a few vegetables in the garden — wonderful fresh produce for early summer.

Back to reality. Salt Spring gas stations are aiming for the Guinness Book of Records with the highest gas prices in Canada for the longest period. I guess islanders are a captive audience.



Name: **MARY NEIL**
537/538/653: 537
Occupation(s): Retired.
Hobbies: Lady Minto Thrift Shop.
Home finished/unfinished: Finished.
Favourite people: Salt Springers.
Favourite read: All mysteries.
Best thing about SSI: Water, trees and hills.
Worst thing about SSI: Tourists.
Best place to kiss on SSI?: Right in my own back yard.



DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

Collectively seniors are the major contributors to the overall economy of the island. The tourists are fleeced today and gone tomorrow. Seniors devote their overall spending on basics such as food and shelter, and are residents all year.

Like the Campbell government, Salt Spring is not senior friendly. There were no gestures of celebration events to honour our elders during seniors month in June. There is no regional support from Parks and Recreation to organize seniors' physical activity programs, no entertainment, no day bus trips, and Salt Spring does not have a recreation centre.

Two principles for programs for the elderly are affordability and accessibility. Both are very difficult to find here. Few commercial establishments are accessible for the handicapped.

Golda Meir said, "Being 70 is not a sin." With a little luck you might make it to 70 or more. Try it. All the best.

RONALD MILTON,
Salt Spring

Utopian reality

Island conversation this summer often turns to the future of Salt Spring.

The magical, rural, easy-going Salt Spring many of us came here to be part of is fading under a burden of development pressures, traffic, environmental degradation and community strife. Many groups and individuals seek solutions, but new developments proceed while

community assets and wild places disappear.

The growing population would not be such a concern if we lived in energy-efficient homes with rainwater catchment systems, grew much of our own food, generated our own renewable energy, lived, worked and played in small and self-contained communities, and travelled by foot, bicycle or in small electric or biodiesel vehicles.

Utopian vision? Certainly. An impossible dream? Not entirely — such communities exist elsewhere in the world. Salt Spring will soon decide if it wishes to support a small agricultural community that will demonstrate all of the above.

The Saltspring Ecovillage Education and Development Society (SEEDS) has the opportunity to purchase 93 acres between Isabella Point Road and Musgrave Road. We plan to remove speculative value from the land — an essential step to ensure ongoing protection — and to cluster dwellings on a rocky area, leaving the balance of the land for agriculture and ecoforestry. We hope to publish a series of articles about this remarkable project over the coming months.

SEEDS (www.IslandSeeds.org) is seeking community support and feedback for the concept and financial support from individuals and organizations interested in living and participating in a sustainable community. If you would like to get involved, would like to offer technical assistance, or want more information, please call me at 537-2616 or email elizwhite@saltspring.com.

ELIZABETH WHITE,
Vesuvius Bay Road

Memos

Memo to Peter Vincent: re: the Big Stick Mentality column. Peter, you forgot George W. Bush and the Iraqis, and Lyndon B. Johnson and the Vietnamese. You'll remember the pertinent details now, I'm sure.

Memo to Bill Curtin: I hope you won't be as condescending with the rest of us Salt Springers on the bidding process and general financing of the swimming pool as you were with the doctors and their question regarding the leisure pool. Most people know the difference between a therapy pool and a leisure/tot pool.

Memo to Gary Holman: Anything on an elected parks board yet? Or at least fixed terms?

MICHAEL MURRAY,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A14

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CRD

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Environmental Services

Dick Stubbs Retires

CRD CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BUILDING INSPECTION
Environmental Services

Dick Stubbs
Senior Building Inspector
Salt Spring Building Inspection
(250) 537-2711
email dstubbs@crd.bc.ca



Open House at CRD Building Inspection

After 16 years as Senior Building Inspector for Salt Spring and other islands in the Gulf, Dick Stubbs is retiring.

Please join us on Thursday, August 25th or Friday, August 26th at the CRD Building Inspection Office (above the Post Office) to wish him farewell and good luck in all his future adventures, including his bike trip across Canada with his better half Patti, and faithful companion Wojo!

And congratulations to Uli Temmel in his new position of Senior Building Inspector

8:30am to 4:30pm (Closed between 12pm -1pm)

Light refreshments will be served

We'll miss you Dick!

Enjoy Your Retirement Dick!

Staff at the CRD Building Inspection Office would like to take this opportunity to thank Dick Stubbs for being a dedicated, understanding and fair boss.

Most of us have worked with Dick for many of his 16 years on Salt Spring and beyond his role as our boss, we value our friendship with Dick and his wife Patti.

We would like to wish them the "BEST" that life can offer in any new ventures and adventures they may have.

We would also like to Congratulate Uli Temmel on his appointment as our new Senior Building Inspector.

Bon Voyage Dick

Uli Temmel, Lisa Butler-Cole, Barb Haydon, Darryl Janyk, Michael Cole and Laurie Fiander.



Note the following dates from School District 64's draft calendar for 2005-2006.

- Schools open Tuesday, September 6, 2005 and close June 29, 2006.
- Schools will be closed on the following Fridays: September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 21, 28; November 4, 18, 25; December 2 and 9; January 13, 20 and 27; February 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17 and 31; April 7 and 28; May 5, 12 and 19; June 2, 9, 16 and 23.
- Christmas vacation runs December 19 to January 2.
- Spring break runs March 13-17.
- Other holidays are Thanksgiving Day, October 10; Remembrance Day, November 11; Good Friday and Easter Monday, April 14 and 17; Victoria Day, May 22. Subject to change!



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Homework tips for secondary students

- * Develop homework routines. Try using a weekend morning or afternoon, or Fridays, for big projects, especially if it involves getting together with classmates.
- * Encourage your teenagers to explore magazines on subjects that interest them. The library carries a selection.
- * Have teenagers take 20 minutes each night to review their notes for the day or re-write them using highlight colours.
- * Keep an assignment calendar on the fridge for quick reference of due dates & exams.

BACK to are here

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GICEL is a non-profit society registered in 2003, created with the support of School District #64. According to the GICEL website, the curriculum is "an integrated package combining the knowledge and understanding of marine, forest and freshwater ecosystems, food growing and local First Nations knowledge. Different learning methods are used, including natural science, multi-sensory experiences, art, theatre, story telling, music and play."

Watch the Driftwood for news of upcoming events, many of which take place on Fridays. For more information, see www.gicel.ca.

The Driftwood supports education in the Gulf Islands.

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SCHOOL DAYS

e afternoon

Getting kids to eat a wider range of healthier lunch foods is always a challenge.

Health Canada outlines these activities to encourage diversification of choices.

- * Ask children if they would like to eat the same thing all the time. Then, lead a discussion on how choosing a variety of foods can make eating fun.
- Have younger children draw pictures of two or more breakfasts, lunches or dinners that they like to eat. Help them complete their meals using suggestions from the Food Guide.
- Get older children to talk about different ways they can combine foods to make salads, pizzas and sandwiches.
- Ask children to think about foods coming from other countries, which bring variety to our menus. Here are a few examples: pita bread, French "baguette", souvlaki, chili, tofu.



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Literacy tips for families

- * Set up a homework area away from the TV.
- * When it is time for them to do homework, do yours. Balance your chequebook, pay your bills, or immerse yourself in a book. It will reinforce strong study habits.
- * Help your children figure out what is challenging homework and what is easy homework. Do the difficult work first so they will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.



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FRIDAY CLASSES AVAILABLE



Last year some 70 international students went to school in the Gulf Islands School District, while others came for shorter stays.

These students need families to stay with while they are attending school. People wanting more information should contact Sheri Wakefield at swakefield@sd64.bc.ca or 537-9944.

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RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

Rants to the lout who dumped a large old hot water tank on our property. Does he think it will decompose back into nature? If he will provide the vehicle to come back and pick it up I will (albeit reluctantly) pay the \$25 it will cost to dispose of it at the recycle depot. Bob Rush

Piles of rants to the horse carriage business on Saturday — just what we need for Salt Spring traffic — horses love exhaust? Jesse Telep

Rants to the scruffy, dark haired "gentleman" who

called me a f**** wh**** when I pulled into a parking spot he thought he was entitled to. This was on a Saturday and all I can say is if increased tourism, coupled with the market, has created a situation where people are behaving like morons, then the revenue generated is not worth it. Mandy Spottiswoode

ROSES

I would like to send a big bouquet to Gord Hollingsworth for doing such a good job with the kids baseball/

softball association. This was his first year as president and I hope he will continue on for a few more years. D

Roses to the captain and crew of the Skeena Queen who put the ramp down and let us on the ferry — even though we had no official travel documentation — for a very important medical appointment in Sidney. S&E

A ham-fist full of roses to Peter Vincent, for supremely True North strong (and even some free) service in solving Bill's satellite receiver problem and providing interim relief. M&G

Roses to the white-haired lady driving the white sedan that was blocking traffic on Cranberry Road on Wednesday. By calling me an a**hole you certainly put me in my place. MI

Roses to our local experts who so ably support the GICEL Summer Ecological Exploration Program: Chris Arnett, Donald Gunn, Tom Graham, Briony Penn, Cate McEwen and Michael Cook. We all learn something new from you each time.

Billions of gorgeous roses to Lisa for covering for me at work so I could do my exam; to Jacky for all her time and effort put into helping me to pass the exam; Barb for lending me her fantastic horse and everyone else who supported me. J

A dozen roses to the guys at Waterworks for putting their coffees down and stopping the water flowing. PO

Roses to honest, decent, good-hearted people, who treat others with respect, loyalty and fairness. Having a contrasting experience helps us appreciate these qualities. Roses to Mike and Eva, who are all these things and more.

Dozens of red roses to Maggie Ramsey, the angel in a bath robe who rose from her sleep to help when I crashed my car near her home in the wee hours. S

MORE LETTERS

Solution

As a "blue" American who is embarrassed by his government's dealings on softwood (and Iraq, treaties, the UN — where do I stop?), I wanted to offer a way that Canada can get the message across to the current administration that Canadians have had enough, but do it in a very "Canadian" way.

A government that rigs elections and illegally invades a country can still be put in its place. Retaliatory sanctions will only make the neo-cons in D.C. more vindictive and punitive than they already are however, so Canada needs to be more "creative."

Canada should immediately impose a "Kyoto Equalization Fee" for every plane, ship and vehicle that enters Canada from any country that has not signed Kyoto. The reasoning behind it is that the pollution caused by the entry into Canada of any of the above-mentioned forms of transport has not been factored into the equation at the originating end, so it must be paid for on Canada's end. This is not a retaliatory tax against the States, as the Aussies, Chinese, Indians and others would also have to pay it.

It's unfortunate that U.S. airlines, shipping companies and average citizens would be affected the most because of the proximity, but Canada must pay for its reductions in its Kyoto commitment, and it certainly shouldn't subsidize those who did not sign the accord.

Billions would be generated from the new fee, which could be spent on mass transit or other social and environmental programs, or be used to buy tracts of land as green zones that can't be cut.

Of course just the "discussion" of this possibility will have American companies yelling and crying, and putting pressure on the U.S. government. Until the U.S. signs Kyoto, Canada has a major trump card, and they need to play it, as should the Euros.

The Kyoto Equalization Fee isn't retaliation, it's just an "equalization fee" for those who add to Canada's greenhouse emissions and haven't had them factored in by their own governments."

"Any questions, George? Oh, and about that softwood lumber issue . . ."

PETER LAVINA,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A15



Islands Trust

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

Proposed Bylaw No. 404

A Bylaw to rezone the B&B Ganges Marina Properties located at 161 Lower Ganges Road and 118 Rainbow Road

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is considering a proposed bylaw amendment to rezone lands at 161 Lower Ganges Road and 118 Rainbow Road for commercial and residential uses. This bylaw proposes to:

- rezone the north portion of the waterfront property at 161 Lower Ganges Road (referenced as lots 1 and 2) from a Residential 6 zone to a Parks and Reserve 6 zone;
- rezone the foreshore area adjacent to the south portion of the waterfront property at 161 Lower Ganges Road (referenced as lot 3) from the Shoreline 1 and Shoreline 6 zones to a Commercial Accommodation 1(d) zone to permit a variety of residential, commercial accommodation and commercial uses in a building with a total floor area not to exceed 1,533 square metres (16,500 sq. ft.); and
- rezone the property at 118 Rainbow Road from a Commercial Accommodation 1(d) zone to a Residential 1 zone variation to permit not more than 6 dwelling units within a residential building.

A community information meeting will be held at the following time and location for the purpose of providing information and responding to questions concerning the proposed bylaw. A subsequent advertised public hearing will be held prior to further consideration of the proposed bylaw.

Copies of the proposed bylaw are available at the Islands Trust office in Ganges, and may also be viewed at the Islands Trust website at www.islandstrust.bc.ca (Island Governments/Salt Spring Island/Bylaws/Proposed Bylaws).

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING:

DATE: Thursday, September 1, 2005
TIME: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
(An informal open house format from 4:00 to 5:00 pm will be followed by a chaired meeting from 5:00 to 7:00 pm)
LOCATION: Baptist Church - 520 Lower Ganges Road
(Please note that additional parking is available at the rear of the church building)

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- Chop **1 cup cooked chicken (or tofu), 1 spring onion, 1 large stalk of celery, 1/2 small green apple.** Put all ingredients into a bowl. Add **3 tablespoons sweet pickle relish, 2-3 tablespoons mayonnaise, 1/4 cup unsalted cashew nuts.** Stir to combine. Place 1/2 of mixture between 2 slices of toasted fresh Ganges Village Market Bakery wide pan Sourdough Bread. Enjoy!

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- Fresh Ganges Village Market Small green apple
- Sweet pickle relish
- Ganges Village Market bulk Unsalted cashew nuts
- Mayonnaise
- Fresh Ganges Village Market Bakery wide pan Sourdough Bread

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More letters

LeRoy gathering

LeRoy Jensen was one of the most committed islanders I have ever known.

He passed on a few months ago and I waited until now to write, say a few words, and encourage those who knew him to join the celebration of LeRoy's life on Saturday, August 27 from 2-7p.m., at 765 Vesuvius Bay Road.

There isn't a day that goes by that something doesn't remind me of LeRoy.

He was invaluable to us during the Texada turmoil. He could be counted on to be the "sign man" and he was there when we needed him.

I loved one of his many great signs that read, "Greed Kills!"

He was a strong Green supporter and the world would be a better place with more people like him.

Somehow, I wish I didn't have to write this. I wish LeRoy was still among us.

One of my fond memories of LeRoy will always be

from last summer, in Victoria at the Egyptian exhibit. We both shared a real interest in ancient stuff.

We looked at the open mummified remains of a little boy more than two thousand years old.

I joked with LeRoy, saying, "Imagine if we could look that good in two thousand years!"

LeRoy, wherever you are, stay in touch. One day, we will be with you too.

JAMES FALCON,
Lower Ganges Road

In the dog house

Last year I helped a friend have a garage sale.

For those who are not familiar with the process, it requires lots of work and preparations that need to be done before the gates open. It makes for a long day.

That's why advertisers request "no early birds."

Unfortunately, our needed space and time was not considered, and I was nearly bowled over by early-turds

who refused to respect my boundary. Signs abounded, but were futile.

They climbed over the gate, walked past me and my "halt!" pose, and exclaimed "I'm just gonna look to see what you've got, I won't bother you," and "how much d'ya want for the lava lamp and La-Z-Boy?"

Well, yes you did bother me, and I hadn't yet got the pricing figured out because it was still one and a half hours before the gates opened!

The thing is, yes we want to sell our crap, but we also want to enjoy the process and give the masses a fair shake at our deluxe junk.

Heck, we're departing with some sentimental memorabilia, show some respect!

It's sad to say that last year's experience left me in fear of the same when I had my own garage sale last weekend.

I owe an apology to the woman who I believe now was an innocent early bird, who knew-not of garage sale etiquette.

Although I am typically a

kind person, I barked out the bedroom window at her with a sharpness that freaked out my fiancé.

All she wanted was the dog house, which was "perfect for her Jack Russell," and she was sorry, she was just passing through and had her babe in the car.

She'd been looking for a dog house and thought it was destiny. She would come back in an hour, "when you're ready, sorry . . ."

Boy, did I feel like a jerk when she left. Once again, I am reminded how past experiences can impact our reactions to situations.

What I'd like to say is sorry, and I've saved the dog house for you, if you still want it. Peace!

TIFFANY WIGHTMAN,
Salt Spring

Horse cheer

I am writing in response to a recent rant in your Rants & Roses section.

S. Lynch rants about the disgusting mess left behind by a horse in Ganges and rails against the owner for

not cleaning up after themselves.

Well, S. Lynch, please be aware that horse manure is an environmentally friendly substance.

Some people have a hard time dealing with reality like the poisonous discharge from the thousands of vehicles that plague the streets every day.

As a non-car owner I would certainly appreciate you cleaning up my air after yourself.

It is truly obnoxious to have to breath the foul-smelling stench you leave behind every time you drive through town.

You are willing to jump up and down screaming bloody murder at a little natural fertilizer but fail to know what poisons you leave behind every day.

I'll be much happier when you gain a small amount of real understanding and begin to appreciate the beauty of the horse and the value of its manure for gardening.

Don't forget the horse and owner have as much right to

use the roadways as you and your polluting machines.

Let's send up a cheer for the horse and carriage that have brought such joy, beauty and charm to the town.

The value of that alone negates any small problem of a few piles of horse droppings on the road. The wise would grab it and use it in their gardens.

Roses love horse business and the gardens in Centennial Park would benefit greatly from a shovel full or two.

The waste from the horse brings life while vehicles only produce poison, death, destruction of habitat, stress and noise.

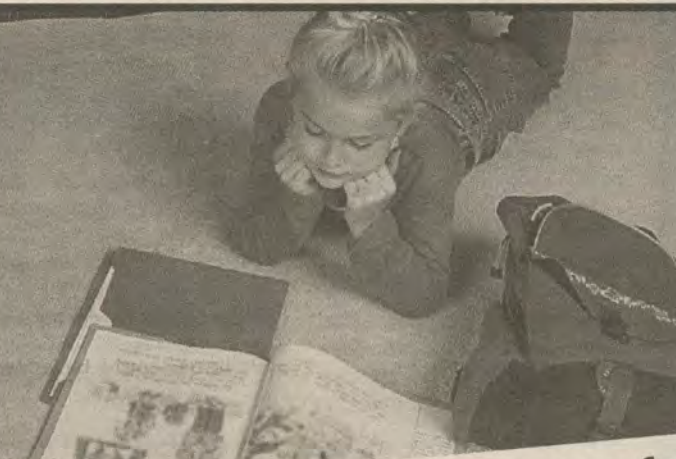
Give us more horses and fewer cars.

Live and let live means don't poison your neighbour.

So let me say: tons of roses for all the horse owners, especially the ones that bring them to town.

They will help you slow down to a more natural speed.

TIMOTHY HUME,
Beddis Road



Back-to-School Safety Pointers for Parents

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

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

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

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

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LAMA-BLESSED YAK: Salt Spring's first yak was born Sunday after Ian Kyle's Beddis Road herd was blessed by a Tibetan lama.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Lama blesses yak birth

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Blessed by a Tibetan lama, sired by an alumni of the Vancouver Zoo and greeted by local llama farm denizens, Salt Spring welcomed the first island-born yak on Sunday.

And islander Ian Kyle believes a visit by a Tibetan monk may have influenced events at his Beddis Road hobby farm.

Even though the Kyle family was away camping at the time, a lama named Bunnima visited the local yak herd when he came to Salt Spring on August 16 to share his teachings.

"He came by and blessed the herd," Kyle said. "Lo and behold, a couple of days later we've got a baby yak."

The new calf looks like a little black lamb, Kyle said. In the last couple of

months Kyle has acquired a herd of eight yaks, including the new calf, six yaks from Enderby and a bull from the Greater Vancouver Zoo.

"He's going to be the main breeding bull. He's beautiful. Even this lama said he was a unique colour."

Though Kyle works for the Canadian Coast Guard, he studied animal science in university and raised livestock on the island as a child. Currently, his farm also houses llamas and Highland cattle.

"I'm just putting the family farm back into farming," he said. "My son is the fourth generation to live in this house."

Kyle was inspired to pursue farming as a youth through the agriculture program then run by Mike Byron at Gulf Islands Secondary School, he said.

"It's too bad to see that program has gone. It was a really good thing for a lot of youth on the island."

Since Kyle acquired yaks, he's learned that the animals indigenous to the Tibetan plateau like to stay in herds, they are fairly quiet and are easy on fences.

"In Tibet, they use them for pack animals, they milk them, they use them for meat and they live with the herd."

While the animals are common in the Himalayan regions of Asia, they're still relatively rare in North America — which was part of the appeal for Kyle.

"It's still in the pioneering stage. It's interesting to be,

like the people who started out with llamas and alpacas, at the forefront of the industry."

Mature yaks weigh significantly less than equivalent cattle, can withstand cold temperatures and they are extremely hardy, he said.

"They are a lot more easy-going animal than a cow."

Fibres from their coats can be used for spinning to make highly sought-after warm yarn, he said.

"They are beautiful animals. When they run, they throw their tails up like a horse. They are very bushy with long fibres. And they don't moo, they just grunt."

Yaks are also three times more efficient than cattle in meat production and they are much leaner (three per cent body fat — compared to 18 per cent for cattle).

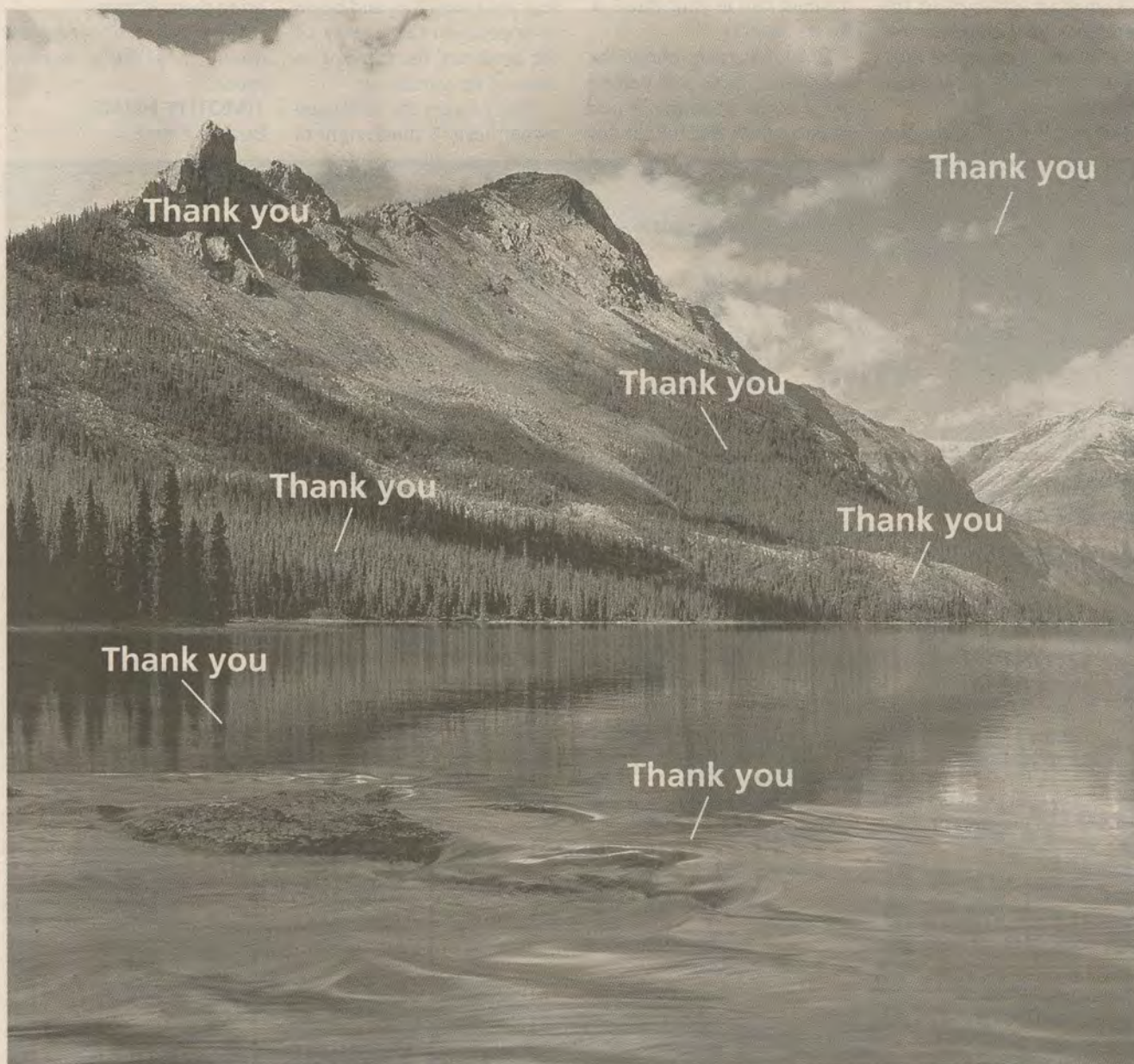
The Hastings House has already expressed interest in yak meat, Kyle said.

"We'll explore that option in a couple of years when we get some dress-weight animals."

So islanders could soon fill their hankering for a big yak attack when the herd matures to full size.

Additionally, Kyle plans to crossbreed his yaks with Highland cattle and Indian Zebu cattle and he also plans to produce bulls for other farmers who might want to cross-breed yaks.

Many islanders have already popped by his farm to visit the yaks and Kyle welcomes guests, especially if they can give him a call in advance (537-4450).



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- Natural Resources Canada, Office of Energy Efficiency, "ENERGY STAR® Market Transformation" award
- Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance (CEEA), "Outstanding Leadership in Energy Efficiency" awarded to BC Hydro Chair Larry Bell
- Natural Resources Canada, honourable mention for Energy Efficiency in Outreach programs

Congratulations.

There's still much more to do, but with your continued support, the future looks bright for British Columbia.



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Stewardship project seeks out advisors

The Islands Trust is seeking members for a public advisory group to provide input on a new publication intended to provide information about island life to newcomers.

The project is a joint venture between the Islands Trust, the Islands Trust Fund and the San Juan Preservation Trust. It will include information on water conservation, tips on building, siting and landscaping, preserving rural character and island services.

Terms of reference and an application form for the public advisory group are posted on the Islands Trust website at www.islandstrust.bc.ca under stewardship programs.

Application deadline is Friday, September 16 at 4:30 p.m. The group, which will consist of three B.C. residents and three from Washington, is expected to begin its work in October and be completed by March 2006.

For more information, contact Linda Adams, the Islands Trust's chief administrative officer, at (250) 405-5160.

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

This special section provides tips and advice on preparing for unforeseen emergencies.

Island poses unique policing challenges

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Salt Spring's image as a laid-back spot tucked away in the Strait of Georgia is not enough to guarantee an easy ride when it comes to policing the island.

Having served with the detachment for seven years, Cpl. Dave Voller said the biggest change has been the ever-increasing numbers of people coming to the island.

Over coffee at the RCMP station on Lower Ganges Road, he explained how growing crowds are usually accompanied by higher crime rates.

"The days of going to Ganges for the afternoon, leaving your house unlocked and the keys in the car should have been long gone," he said. "Though we're not at the point where you need a Doberman on the deck and bars on the windows, little things like locking the house and closing the windows are important to remember."

When an island's population doubles during the summer season, he said, there are bound to be noticeable effects besides having a hard time finding a parking spot or long ferry waits.

When reminding people about the importance of lock up, Voller often hears how Salt Spring is unlike other places. Many islanders are unwilling to let go of the rural ideal that has for so long defined the island.

Even without the crowds, the island's isolation and busy roads are enough to keep the detachment busy.

Between the wildlife, darkness, blind corners and sharp turns, island drivers have enough to contend with.

"Some of the turns and engineering layouts we have on the island would probably not get passed if they



REPORTING FOR DUTY: Const. Jeff Swann gets set for another shift of island policing. Increasing numbers of visitors make summer even more challenging than usual for Salt Spring RCMP members. Photo by Sean McIntyre

were constructed today," he said. "The roads can be very deceptive."

Narrow winding lanes, sightseers and deer bouncing out of the grass all provide additional challenges for drivers on the island.

On an island where the maximum speed is only 80 kilometres an hour, Voller said people often forget some basic rules of the road.

"The island demands that people drive in a much more defensive manner than anywhere else I've worked," he said. "On Salt Spring, you just have to prepare yourself for the unexpected."

Despite long campaigns asking drivers to buckle up, Voller said he still comes

across people driving without their seatbelts.

He said there is no excuse for not buckling up.

Similarly, he said, a lack of public transport is no excuse for driving home after a couple of drinks.

"A person who says a lack of buses running here and there every 15 minutes is the reason they got caught for drinking and driving just doesn't hold water," he said.

Voller advised people to use a designated driver or make alternate arrangements if they plan to go to the pub. A lack of public transportation will really pose a problem if one's driving privileges are suspended.

"If you lose your licence on Salt Spring Island you're hooped," he said. "You can either get a designated driver for one night or for 365 days, the choice is yours."

While community policing helps create a personal link between the force and island residents, the detachment's isolation from neighbouring forces provides it with a number of challenges.

RCMP officers are, for the most part, on their own when it comes to handling situations.

While other communities can call up a neighbouring detachment for back-up or help from specialized teams, that's not an easy option on the Gulf Islands.

"The logistics are a little harder here," he said. "On Salt Spring, it's only us and the ferries stop running at nine o'clock."

Without being able to rely on outside resources, he said, it is especially important for everyone to pull together.

Close cooperation between the Coast Guard, RCMP and Search and Rescue groups ensure they act like different spokes on the same wheel, he said.

"In some communities you hear of little rifts and tiffs between various departments, but you sure don't see that here," he said. "Everybody has a common goal and that's the good of the island."

Practice offers auxiliary lessons

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Searching for missing bodies with the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary takes a special kind of dedication.

But there I am — a non-swimming reporter with an inclination for motion sickness — donning a special survival suit at the Ganges Coast Guard dock and tagging along with an Auxiliary Unit 25 crew aboard the Ganges One rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) for a search near Sidney.

My presence means one less auxiliary member can participate in the search, but I am still welcomed aboard by coxswain Tom Navratil and crew members Arthur Thorn and Philip Sigmund.

While we ready to depart, Thorn informs me he's a retired project manager, he's been in the auxiliary for one year and joined because he "likes messing around in boats."

The RHIB skims along at 33 knots (61 kilometres per hour) — seemingly just shy of lift off for a floatplane — and light rain stings my face like a flight of miniature arrows.

With about five years in the auxiliary, Navratil is the senior member on the boat and he instructs Sigmund in a hand-sig-

COAST GUARD A18

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COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

From Page A17

nalling tap code to communicate with Thorn — who is steering — over the deafening roar of the engines.

After a few minutes of cruising among stunning Gulf Islands scenery, we arrive at a rendezvous point with the CCG Skua, where we learn more about our mission from scenario planner Amanda Spottiswoode — who is also Navratil's wife.

The story she shares with auxiliary crews echoes a recent tragedy in Sansum Narrows where a 33-year-old recreational diver went missing on July 5, and is now presumed dead.

In this situation, however, four divers have become separated from their tender near Gooch Island and searchers aboard several boats will scour rocky coastlines for survivors.

Fortunately, the incident is a practice scenario for auxiliary crews and no lives are at stake. In effect, everyone is practising a giant nautical game of hide and seek.

The Skua, with regular coast guard crew members aboard, will play the role of various agencies during radio transmissions. Observers will also take note of the practice to help improve operations.

Navratil is assigned as incident commander and he receives support from two more RHIB auxiliary units based out of Saanich and Brentwood Bay, along with

an auxiliary-manned cabin cruiser from Galiano.

"It's incredible that these people come out here. They're all volunteers," notes Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society member Amarah Gabriel.

The flotilla attends the scene of the tender floating near Gooch Island and one diver — an auxiliary member in a wet suit — is found almost immediately on the west coast of the island.

But other divers prove to be trickier to locate. Auxiliary members comb islets, rocks and small islands in an ever-widening fan.

Navratil is bombarded with radio traffic from the numerous boats involved in the search — that now includes an additional unit from Oak Bay.

Aboard the Skua, officer-in-charge Ian Kyle even simulates radio calls from a Canadian Armed Forces Search and Rescue helicopter with karate chops to his throat as he guides rescuers to a floating dummy.

Auxiliary members aboard one boat recover the dummy and practise their C.P.R. on the deck of their RHIB.

But two other divers remain undiscovered as light begins to fade. To the untrained eye, the number of searchers seems impossibly small to cover the growing search area before sunset.

Scanning rocks and beaches, I wonder, "Do we go slower and check every



AUXILIARY MEMBERS: Arthur Thorn, left, and Tom Navratil, aboard the Ganges One rigid-hull inflatable, perform a practice exercise along with crews on the Skua and other Canadian Coast Guard vessels.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

cranny to risk taking too much time before dark or do we speed up to cover more distance in a faster time but risk an oversight?"

Fortunately, another auxiliary crew discovers a lost diver on Comet Island.

But then a fourth diver must be picked up when time expires on the practice two hours into the search.

All the crews raft their boats together at a dock on Comet Island for a debriefing session to look at scenario successes and elements

that need improvement. It's evident that not everyone is completely satisfied with the outcome of the practice.

A few people chat about a condition dubbed "exercisitis" where scenario participants experience difficulty following standard protocols because of the artificial nature of practices.

But before the debriefing session can begin, pagers start beeping to alert coast guard members to a real emergency.

Apparently, ambulance

attendants on Galiano Island require assistance to transport a patient with a badly fractured arm.

Auxiliary members start to move clear of the Skua as Kyle assigns crew members to respond.

But the officer-in-charge calls the auxiliary members back.

"Don't take off. I can use you guys."

The Ganges One and other high-speed RHIBs with auxiliary members aboard are dispatched ahead and the

Skua follows for the trip to Montague Harbour.

The small boats disappear in the distance and Kyle makes note of the quiet radio — so different from the constant crackle during the scenario.

In this real incident everything flows smoothly, each person knows their job and the patient receives a professional level of care — even though the bulk of the rescuers are volunteers.

Clearly, the hours of practice have paid off.

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CANNED FOODS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Powdered Milk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soups
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pasta
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rice
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beans	BASICS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Milk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Batteries
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soup	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Opener
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Inspect your kit periodically and replace outdated items.

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FIRST AID SUPPLY:

1 triangle bandage	1 - 1/2" cloth adhesive	25 safety pins
25 - adhesive bandages	tape	1 tweezer
5 - 4x4 gauze pads	10 cotton swabs	1 scissor
5 - 2x2 gauze pads	1 rubbing alcohol	1 ice pack
1 - 1" roller bandage	1 sterile water	5 pairs latex gloves
1 - 2" roller bandage	1 thermometer	1 emergency blanket

MEDICATIONS: (should be checked every 6 months for expiry date)

1 topical antibiotic	Special medications required by family (inhalers, epi-pens, etc.)
1 painkiller (acetaminophen)	1 oral re hydration solution.
1 antihistamine (ie: Benedryl)	

OPTIONAL MEDICATIONS:

antacid	antidiarrheal	anticonstipation	antifungal cream
---------	---------------	------------------	------------------

OTHER:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pens/pencil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> emergency candles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> paper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> duct tape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> power bars
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> garbage/ziplock bags	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> twine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sufficient food for 1 week
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> flashlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bleach/iodine	

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Be prepared for emergencies by creating special kit

Last winter, snow and wind combined to give some Gulf Islands residents a prolonged period without power.

Following are suggestions for basic emergency kit contents to help cope with power outages caused by storms, or the results of other emergency situations such as an earthquake or road closures caused by slides.

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

Loss Reduction.

Kits should include:

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

Food and water supplies

- three-day supply of bottled water (4 litres per person/day)
- purification tablets
- three-day supply of non-

perishable food (per person)

- manual can opener
- disposable plates, cutlery, cups

Evacuation bag

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

Personal hygiene kit

- toothbrush and toothpaste (per person)
- shampoo and hairbrush
- sanitary napkins
- towel and facecloth (per person)

First aid kit

- One box of bandages
- 2 elastic bandages (7.5 cm X 4.6 cm)
- 2 elastic bandages (10 cm X 4.6 cm)
- 2 abdominal pads
- 6 sterile gauze pads, 5 cm X 5 cm, 10 cm X 10 cm sizes
- one roll of adhesive tape,

7.5 cm X 4.6 cm

- one roll bandage gauze (cling strip 7.5 cm)
- six triangular bandages
- one thermometer
- current first aid manual
- heavy-duty clothes cutting scissors
- splint forceps
- pain tablets
- anti-nausea tablets
- bottle of hydrogen peroxide
- antibiotic skin ointment

Other essential items

- blankets for each person
- photocopies of personal documents, including insurance policy

- recent photos of each person
- activity books and/or playing cards
- three-day supply of food and water for pets
- safety pins
- whistle

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

Kits should be checked every six months and food and water supplies updated at that time.

Make sure batteries are in working order and that medication expiry dates have not been passed.



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Support for victims available

The Salt Spring RCMP Victim Services Program offers a variety of services to victims of crime and people dealing with other traumatic events.

Referrals may be made through the investigating police officer, other agencies, or assistance can be obtained by contacting Victim Services directly.

This program is staffed by civilian personnel and volunteer support staff. Victim Services staff are trained and skilled in dealing with matters of criminal victimization and trauma.

Who is the victim? A victim is the individual, family or friend who has suffered or been adversely affected by a crime or tragedy, such as: Homicide, sexual assault, assault, residential break-in, robbery/armed robbery, sudden death, suicide/attempted suicide or a serious motor vehicle incident.

These events and many others may cause people or those close to them to feel victimized.

For more information, contact program coordinator Kimberly Lineger at 537-5555.

The Driftwood office will be closed:

2 pm Tuesday, August 30 until 2 pm Thursday, Sept. 1.

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- Propane cylinders for cookstove
- Bottled water - should be 2 quarts to 1 gal. per person/day
- Batteries - for lights & radios - keep fresh
- Briquets for cooking (* Not for indoor use)
- Lamp oil
- Containers for storing all emergency supplies
- First Aid kit - make one up with essentials (bandages, etc.)
- Canned food and can opener
- Fire extinguisher
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Food for pets
- Toiletries (toothpaste to toilet paper)
- Tools - axe, shovel, hammer, screwdriver
- Plastic trash bags
- Flashlights
- First Aid book
- Essential medication
- Change of clothing
- Candles

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Search and Rescue crews ready for duty

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

It's just after seven o'clock and the Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) team is hard at work learning the ropes at their weekly Tuesday night meeting.

In the old RCMP station parking lot on Fulford-Ganges Road, rescuer Liz McClean manages to pull a large SUV several metres without even breaking a sweat, thanks to an intricate network of ropes, knots and pulleys.

McClean joined the GSAR earlier this summer and gets more excited with

every passing week.

In their last meeting, she said, the team spent time honing their tracking skills on the island's north end while they spent the previous week rappelling off the side of Mount Tuam.

The group's wide-ranging activities and training exercises reflect the 23-member unit's ability to deal with nearly any land-based emergency situation in the Gulf Islands.

According to area coordinator Chuck Hamilton, GSAR is prepared to deal with fires, floods and snowstorms, not to mention res-

cues of lost or stranded individuals.

"We are getting busier as more people are venturing into the outdoors," he said. "With an island this big, calls can come at pretty much any time of the year."

The group is increasingly called upon by RCMP, coast guard and the fire department to assist or lead rescue operations.

In 2004, the group completed a record 10 rescues and plans to help the federal government with search operations in the region's national parks will be sure to keep them busy for years to come.



KEEPING WATCH: Search and Rescue volunteers Robin Logan and Liz McClean keep an eye on Salt Spring Island. They said joining up is a great way to give back to the community, learn new skills and have a good time.
Photo by Sean McIntyre

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Hamilton explained most rescues involve people who get lost in the bush while hiking or hunting, but said the team also gets occasional calls to rescue elderly people or young children who have wandered away from their homes.

To ensure a job well done, GSAR puts all new recruits through a free provincially accredited training course to give them some basic tracking, first aid and disaster response skills.

Each week, new techniques are taught and occasional weekend activities allow members to practice their moves in simulated rescue operations.

Hamilton already has a number of scenarios set up in the event a major natural disaster should befall the island and is now working on coordinating GSAR's efforts

with other emergency service providers in the southern Gulf Islands.

As its presence on the island grows more important, so does the group's need for new members.

Hamilton said anybody interested in helping the community is more than welcome to just drop by the old RCMP station any Tuesday night.

The membership is a diverse group of men and women and the group's camaraderie is evident after only a few minutes at the meeting.

Hamilton said the goal is to give people the confidence and skills needed to deal with wilderness rescues.

"You don't have to be Joe Outdoors to get involved," he said. "Some people tend to have more life experience and are calmer in emergency

situations."

What is perhaps most incredible about the force is the members' dedication to the team and commitment to the island.

When Robin Logan joined up just over a year ago, he admitted to having few, if any, practical rescue skills.

"Signing up was a combination of wanting to do something for the community and having a little fun, while learning some new skills," he said.

Even though the group has no official vehicle, equipment budget or funding, GSAR members have learned to make do with what is available.

After 15 years of service, Hamilton said, the time has come to recognize the growing importance of having a specialized local GSAR group.

All outdoor treks require planning

People heading into the outdoors can take some simple steps to ensure the Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) squad is not put into action.

GSAR area coordinator Chuck Hamilton admitted those actions can be overlooked because individuals just don't think anything can happen to them.

"A lot of people don't bother because they figure they're adults," he said.

"As adults we tend to think we're responsible and too good for that kind of stuff."

Hamilton recommends having a back-up plan, leaving an itinerary with another person, and carrying some extra food, water and clothing, even on a short afternoon hike.

"These are all very easy things to do," he said. "They don't infringe on your Daniel Booneism and don't threaten

your reputation as an outdoorsman."

The area's unstable weather and drastic temperature changes mean people can easily be caught in the bush unaware of the dangers they face and unprepared to deal with them.

"If you're out there and something happens, it's no good saying 'I wish I had done this or that,'" he said. "By that time it's often too late."

The government of Canada recommends you maintain a detailed emergency plan and a well stocked emergency kit. We agree and suggest the following be included in your emergency kit.

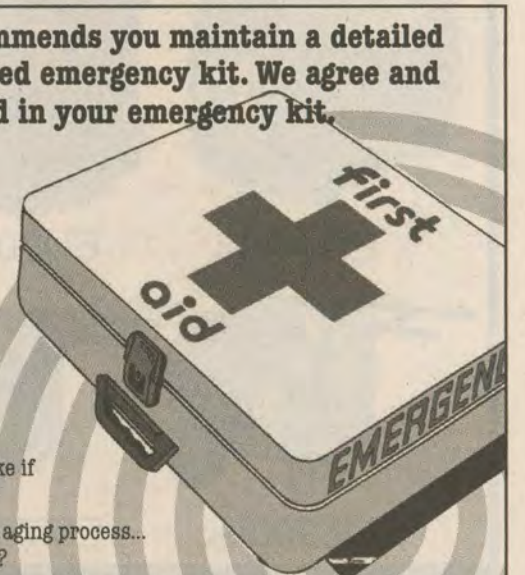
- At least 1kg of dark chocolate
- Two Hurtles
- 3 Island Creams
- 2 large containers of Gelato
- Dozen Chocolate Shot glasses
- Licorice
- Chocolate Covered Espresso Beans

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Corporal & acting NCO



Length of service on Salt Spring: 7 years

Interests outside of work: Fishing, woodworking, camping, and attempting to golf.

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269 Blackburn Rd. 537-1707

Length of service: 9 years

JEFF SWANN
Constable



Length of service on Salt Spring: Almost 2 years

Interests outside of work: Newborn baby at home, scuba diving, and snowboarding.

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Interests outside of work: Running, shopping, sewing, hanging out with Paul, friends and our dog. Also reading.

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Length of service: 4 years

PAUL ELLIS
Constable



Length of service on Salt Spring: 3 years

Interests outside of work: Golf, hiking, camping, snowboarding, hanging out with my dog and Lindsay.

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NICK WIDDERSHOVEN
Constable



Length of service on Salt Spring: 1.5 years

Interests outside of work: Golf, basketball, coaching kids, spending time with my wife & doing whatever she tells me to.

We appreciate your commitment to our community



269 Blackburn Rd. 537-1707

Length of service: One month

MATT MEIJER
Constable



Length of service on Salt Spring Island: One month

Interests outside of work: Rocking climbing and dogs.

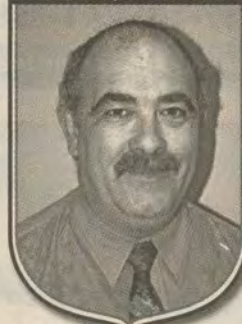
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JEAN-PAUL KRAUSS
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Length of service on Salt Spring: 3 years

Interests outside of work: Sailing, bass fishing, woodworking, cooking, and photography

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Constable



Length of service on Salt Spring: 4 years

Interests outside of work: Soccer and running.

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Length of service: 1.5 years

JOSIE RIPLEY
Detachment Clerk



Length of service on Salt Spring: 1.5 years

Interests outside of work: Spending time with family.

Thanks for all your hard work!



Hydro workers remove a tree that fell across Cusheon Lake Road and cut power during last January's big snowfall on Salt Spring. Driftwood file photo

Tedium and terror mark lives of Hydro linemen

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

One group of people who are usually plunged into emergency response mode under the worst possible weather conditions are B.C. Hydro linemen.

Widespread power outages caused by heavy snowfall in January this year tested Hydro's resource coordination abilities to the max.

"It was really something to see," said Hydro's Victoria field services manager Tom Cook. "That is probably one of the most severe storms I have ever seen and among the most amount of damage."

And if islanders feel grateful for hydro workers' skills and willingness to brave the elements — they should.

"They are extremely devoted and extremely motivated . . . and they do whatever it takes to get the power back on," said Cook.

As was the case in January, that can mean 16-hour days for several consecutive days.

"It's long, arduous hours in horrible conditions, but the end product is such that you're just so happy to get people's power restored."

While being a lineman can be challenging and

rewarding, he also shared a "humorous" industry definition of the position: "Years and years of tedious boredom intermingled with periods of sheer terror."

There's often valid reasons to be terrified and, while Hydro officials know people are often desperate to have their power restored, making the call on whether to send out crews before storms have abated is a serious question for Cook and his Gulf Islands-Duncan counterpart Bob Washburn.

"Do we want to send our people out to start restoring power when it is still snowing, the roads are bad and trees are falling down?"

Once a safety level has been set, how to get service restored to the most people as soon as possible is nailed down.

"That is typically what I am doing, going out in the field, seeing what the most damage is, where we have the most amount of customers out and . . . prioritizing things. We try to get our feeders on first and then the branch circuits off of them."

Linemen aren't the only workers involved in restoring electricity, however, especially in a mass-fleet

situation like January.

Truck and equipment problems are inevitable, which means sending out mechanics.

It's also important to ensure workers have weather-appropriate clothing, food and drinks.

Hydro also has a large contractor base to draw from in extreme cases, either in restoring power or removing trees, if needed.

"We probably had 10 tree-trimming crews working alongside our crews in January."

An electronic dispatch system now in place in Victoria will soon be implemented on Salt Spring and Vancouver Island.

Communication with linemen on the Gulf Islands is currently handled via cell phones or radiophones, but computers will be installed in trucks in future.

B.C. Hydro's excellent Power Out? brochure, which is available online at www.bchydro.com, gives the complete lowdown on what people should do if their power goes out — they should always report the outage to 1-888-POWER-ON — and what the company does to identify and fix an outage.

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Island Couple Embrace New Innovations

Three years ago, almost to the day, Donn and Maddy Tarris cut ties in Maple Ridge and set sail (with the help of BC Ferries, a friend's moving truck, and another truck rental for overflow) for their new home - Salt Spring Island! That was the beginning.

The island is inhabited by a great number of entrepreneurs, and cottage industries abound. One walk through the famous Saturday Market shows only the tip of the iceberg that is Salt Spring's creative force. In true Salt Spring fashion, the Tarris' set out to define ways to offer their skills to the community. Tarris Innovations was first to be set up, selling new and used Apple Macintosh computers into a market that was beginning to dry up where the happy face Mac was concerned. Donn's arrival as a Mac specialist was greeted with open arms and smiles, plus audible sighs of relief. Although Donn's company no longer sells Apple's new products because of differences of opinion on after sales support, they do offer support, training, and upgrade options to the growing number of Mac users. Tarris Innovations can get your Mac computers up and running and keep them that way, for home or business use.

Donn's background includes being a graphic designer, recording engineer/producer, musician, trade school instructor and technologist. These skills have enabled him to operate a commercial recording studio (1977 to 1982), start western Canada's first graphic arts service bureau (1985), train prepress staff at one of Canada's top fine art printing companies

(Hemlock Printers 1991), supply custom job tracking systems (databases) for publishers (BC Business) and design studios, as well as a custom product management system that helped the

Tarris Innovations and Tarris Imaging are the two main endeavours Maddy and Donn have tackled since moving to Salt Spring three years ago.

Revy chain of home hardware stores produce their numerous flyers for over twenty stores.

Donn still designs custom database systems and teaches folks how to make the best use of a Mac computer at home or in the office.

After helping out a number of local businesses with accounting duties, Maddy decided to embark on a new business venture - Tarris Imaging



Maddy Tarris checks out a reproduction of Chris Johnson's "School's Out" on Epson 9600 large format inkjet printer.

was created to offer high quality archival prints on canvas, watercolour paper, and other fine art media to the island's artists and photographers. What began as a company to service local Gulf Islands and Cowichan Valley artists has grown to include artists and photographers from as far away as the Yukon and Ontario. Recently, Tarris Imaging provided prints for Birgit Freybe Bateman and Alan Bibby for the annual Photo Synthesis Exposition held at Art Spring.

Before opening the new venture, the need for such a service was discussed with Duart Campbell of Salt Spring and Charronne Douglas of Crofton. Duart supplies the technical know-how for creating reproductions of his wife's works. Jill Louise Campbell's gallery is a very popular attraction on Salt Spring Island.

Charronne's partner, Chris Johnson, is a superb painter of native themes, doing so under the name "IceBear". His show of original paintings and

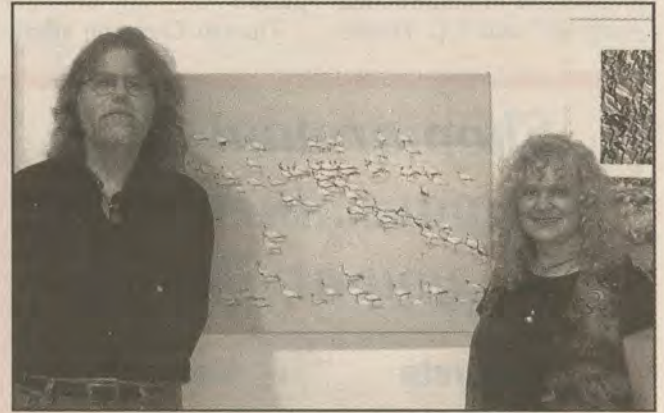
sculptures just finished at the Thunderbird Gallery.

In July 2003, Maddy, Donn Chris and Charronne began to explore the possibilities in the giclée business. Giclée is the name given to a fine art reproduction printed on a high quality ink jet printer using special archival inks and stocks. Prints produced in this method will last more than 80 years, when treated as one would an original piece of artwork.

Together, they decided IceBear would purchase a large format Epson 9600 printer through Donn's company, and Donn would act as technical consultant for IceBear's print reproductions. Maddy's company would use the printer for her own clients, again with Donn acting as technical advisor.

Tarris Imaging has printed giclée reproductions for local artists and photographers Sekoya Dawn, Rick Jacksties, Birgit Freybe Bateman, Elehna De Sousa, Warren Langley, Amarah Gabriel, Alan Bibby, Chris Johnson, Zephania Boro (Sav), and Jerry Davidson. Another client, Jacqueline Meredith, has since acquired her own Epson 2200 printer to do her reproductions, purchasing her supplies through Tarris Innovations.

Recently, Tarris Imaging has added a 4 x 5 view camera and high resolution scanner to their toolset, enabling them to shoot their own large format photographs of artwork for reproductions in house. The company has also begun offering the same high quality print services to the general public for creating wonderful keepsakes



Maddy and Donn Tarris in front of a photograph they printed and stretched on canvas for Birgit Freybe Bateman's showing at the recent Photo Synthesis Exposition at ArtSpring Theatre Gallery. They also worked with photographer Alan Bibby on two of his entries in the annual photographic art show.

such as wedding or graduation photos on stretched canvas or watercolour paper.

With technology racing ahead and prices coming down on computers and high quality printers, many artists and photographers have decided to go the route of "do it yourself" production. For those choosing this route, Tarris Innovations can provide software, Epson printers, inks and papers or canvas, plus the services of pre-sales consulting, system setup, training and maintenance.

And is this the same Donn Tarris whose name appears on the board of the Salt Spring Folk Club? Yes, Donn is also getting back into record engineering and sound; that is, when he's not playing his slide guitar on stage with the island's Synergy, Sun Dogs, Jim Simis, Valdy, Charles Wilton or Alan Moberg...

Returning from a weekend of performing in concerts un-

der his own name, as well as being a guest for the band Tusket at the annual Maple Ridge Jazz and Blues Festival and Music on the Wharf series, Donn figured his plate wasn't quite full enough and, persuaded by persistent requests from his island clients, has decided to begin classes for the Macintosh computer and OS X Tiger in September. Those interested should call 537-5931 for more information. Classes will be limited to a maximum of five participants and cover basic topics such as set-up, email, browsing, file management and the iLife products, as well as more advanced applications such as FileMaker, Photoshop, and audio applications.

For more information on the Tarris' companies, please check out their web sites at: www.tarrisimaging.ca www.tarrisinnovations.ca www.tarris.ca www.vintageaudio.org

Tarris Imaging

Fine Art Giclée Printing

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- Scanning
- Colour Preparation
- Proofing
- Printing to canvas, watercolour paper, photo and fine art papers
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- Canvas Stretching
- Photo Retouching



Reproduction of original painting "Burns Red" by IceBear

Watch for information on our upcoming free seminar on Giclées

www.tarrisimaging.ca

Visit a gallery of our clients' work at:

www.tarrisimaging.ca/gallery/
250-537-4492

*Our photography is limited to capturing original artwork for reproductions, we do not do commercial photographic work.



Donn Tarris

- Mac Specialist 20 years
- Recording Engineer/Instructor 30 years
- Electronic Prepress Specialist 20 years
- FileMaker Pro Specialist 15 years
- Currently specializing in support for music and the arts on the Mac computer

Products

- Mac software - Steinberg, Adobe, Apple and more.
- Mac compatible hardware - printers, scanners, hard drives, digital audio interfaces, monitors and more.
- Epson printer supplies - inks and papers for fine arts and photography.

Current In Stock Specials

- Used Mac iBook (white) G3/500MHz/320Mb/10Gb/CDROM/Tiger \$839
- Factory Refurb Brother MFC-3220c Multifunction colour printer/copier/scanner/fax \$139
- Used Canon i450 Colour Printer \$39

Now featuring Mac classes!

Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced - classes restricted to five participants maximum. All classes are two hours starting at \$49, computers supplied*.

Sign up for a class and get Tiger for \$139!

Check our web site for current offerings.

www.tarrisinnovations.ca
250-537-5931

*Use your own computer and get all your updates done over high speed for free before the class! Only applies to software that you own and you must make arrangements to show up at least one and a half hours early.

EPSON

Tarris Innovations specializes in selling Epson large format printers and supplies to artists and photographers.

Printers

- Epson Stylus Pro 2400 \$1089
- Epson Stylus Pro 4800 \$2489
- Epson Stylus Pro 7800 (Fall 2005) \$3699

Scanners

- Epson Perfection 4490 \$320
- Epson Perfection 4990 \$600

Inks (full sets)

- Epson Stylus Pro 2200 (7) \$119 or \$19 ea.
- Epson Stylus Pro 2400 (8) \$139 or \$19 ea.
- Epson Stylus Pro 4800/7800/9800 (8 x 110 ml) \$659 or \$89 ea.
- (8 x 220 ml) \$999 or \$139 ea.

Papers

- Epson Premium Luster 13" x 19" (50) \$149
- Epson Watercolour Paper Radiant White 13" x 19" (20) \$38
- Other Epson fine art media \$Call

We can assist you in setting up your Epson printer. If you don't see what you're looking for here, please call or email for a quote. Our prices are competitive and we'll stock what you need.

Call Donn at 250-537-5931 to order.

Schedule extended in Vesuvius

B.C. Ferries has decided to extend the summer schedule on the Vesuvius Bay-Crofton route until September 30.

"During September things are still pretty busy and there is still a lot of construction going on," said B.C. Ferries

communications director Nancy Cameron.

"[The summer schedule] seemed to work well over the past season and we've decided to keep it in place."

Though Cameron admit-

ted there remained delays during busy summer weekends, she said the 6 a.m. sailing from Vesuvius Bay and a 6:30 a.m. departure from Crofton, now in effect from Monday to Thursday, managed to reduce waiting times for weekday users.

Recent weekend delays at Fulford and Vesuvius terminals, she said, are not the result of mechanical troubles, but merely part and parcel of the island's busy tourism season.

Cameron said the company would look at projected usage later in September to determine whether the schedule should be kept in place for a longer period.



PRETTY IN PINK: Passersby stop to enjoy the sunset as the sky and ocean are awash in pink at the Vesuvius ferry terminal. Photo by Derrick Lundy

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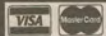
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Sunday bus meeting rolls out private firm plans

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

A Vancouver Island-based transportation company will hold an information session about plans to expand its service to Salt Spring Island at Croftonbrook Hall on Sunday, August 28.

For the past 10 years, five vehicles in the Pacific Companion fleet have been helping the mobility impaired run errands and make appointments throughout southern Vancouver Island.

According to owner David Davenport, the service has grown to fill a gap left by public transit and taxi companies.

"If there proves to be a need, then we will provide a service," he said. "This is a

good opportunity for us and for Salt Spring."

Davenport said his company's qualified drivers and staff would help passengers get around the island and be able to provide additional assistance if it is requested.

Though the service is intended for people with disabilities, he said there was no reason why the service could not grow to include able-bodied people as well.

"Even if it just starts with one day a week, we are willing to get this started," he said. "The more people see it around town, the more the word will start to spread."

Salt Spring's Paul Cummings discovered the need for a solution after flipping through the yellow pages in search of a ride.

His work with the local Brain Injury Disease Society (BIDS) showed him there was a real need to help people get around on the island.

Cummings said at least one member of the group was spending an average of \$300 per month just to attend medical appointments.

He said taxi costs are too high for daily use and existing shuttle services were hard to organize.

"Everything that's on the island comes up short," he said. "The toughest thing is getting around the island."

A vehicle able to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers and even stretchers could be made available to the public on a per-trip basis with reservations being accepted up to two days in advance.

"We've been complaining about the situation for years now," Cummings said. "Every time we look at government propositions, we hit the government wall. This is a transportation concept that finally fits this island perfectly."

This Sunday's meeting, which begins at 1 p.m., will address questions about costs and availability.

Davenport will also determine whether there is a demand for the service. Public participation is encouraged.

He said the company would provide free transportation to the event. Interested parties are asked to contact Pacific Companion at (250) 652-0400 to make a reservation.

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