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Oldroyd questioned for liability

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Sued for misappropriating funds from the estates of three island families valued at \$4.8 million, former Salt Spring lawyer Jonathan Oldroyd faces cross-examination in Victoria Supreme Court today.

Justice Robert Edwards ruled against Oldroyd, his wife Evelyn and four companies in July after the former island lawyer was accused of fraudulently converting funds from his clients' estates to assist purchase of some 30 properties on Salt Spring and in Ucluelet.

The amount of liability is

currently under discussion after court issued judgment against defendants on July 22, said the plaintiffs' solicitor, Margaret Sasges.

"That order was finding liability. The evidence that's being cross examined on is going to the quantum of that liability," she said.

Jonathan and Evelyn Oldroyd were listed as defendants along with four businesses: B&D Enterprises Ltd., Cody Whyac Corporation and two numbered companies.

Assets of those companies were frozen in May 2004,

OLDROYD A2

Ssplash to ask CRD for release of funds

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Splash is set to make some waves with the Capital Regional District (CRD) board.

The indoor pool society, which fundraised for and promoted passing of the November 2004 referendum to build a facility on Rainbow Road, is addressing the CRD board in Victoria on September 14.

"What we want the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) to do is to enact

Bylaws 3206 and 3207 in the manner and intent with which they were voted upon by the public," stated Ssplash president Darlene Steele in a letter to CRD board chair Don Amos.

The two bylaws authorized borrowing of up to \$4.212 million to build an indoor pool facility and establish a service to operate it.

Splash wants PARC to spend more of the \$4.212 million authorized by ref-

POOL FUNDS A3



SWING YOUR PARTNER: Margaret Reid, left, and Mirelle Earle enjoy square dancing at the Farmers Institute as the Salty Wheels Square Dance Club holds its 6th annual Swing 'n' Wheel event.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Tennis plan blasted at Sunday public meeting

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

About two dozen people talked tennis at a Sunday night meeting at the Baptist church, with some urging regional director Gary Holman to halt the awarding of a contract committing \$600,000 to covering two existing Portlock Park tennis courts.

The meeting was organized by island resident Mike Best, who became alarmed

last month when he saw how the process of acquiring proposals for a two-court fabric-covered indoor tennis structure was unfolding and complained to the Capital Regional District about it.

"I am first and foremost a taxpayer, ahead of being a tennis player," said Best, a long-time tennis coach both locally and internationally.

He said he is also concerned about removing access to two now-free ten-

nis courts during busy summer months.

Best said the original plan to build a permanent steel structure to complement other recreation facilities at the Rainbow Road property would have added two courts to the island and made sense, as did having a bubble at Portlock Park for winter tennis.

But the project has now become a completely different animal. With the recent

change in plans, he said, "What had been a horse became a camel."

Sunday's meeting discussion flowed from outrage at the tendering process to questions of how the debt would be paid back to suggestions the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) simply purchase another tennis bubble to put up during winter months.

"I came here because I was so appalled this proj-

ect should proceed on the strength of one bid," said Bob Brewer. "I suggest there's not just a legal requirement, there's a moral obligation... to the taxpayers."

PARC discussed the fabric-covered structure plan with the Victoria branch of one supplier — Cover-All — used that company's information and specs in writing a request for proposals and

TENNIS PLAN A2

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OLDROYD

From Page A1

Oldroyd resigned from the Law Society of B.C. in April 2004, his practice was sold and his 35.3-acre oceanfront property on Stewart Road is currently listed for \$3.6 million.

Four more companies were added to the list of defendants on July 22. These included Raincoast Village Inn Ltd., Salt Spring Cinema Central Inc., Ucluelet Lodge Hotel Ltd. and Skomahl River Lands.

Oldroyd faces cross-examination after he provided affidavits on July 19, August 22 and August 25.

Counsel representing plaintiffs — executors and administrators for the estates of Margaret Alton, May Cree Shaw and Quentin Wilson — attempted negotiations with defendants outside court earlier in August.

“The negotiations did not conclude with any result so the hearing reconvened this past week,” said Sasges.

Several non-profit organizations on the island are affected by the court proceedings since they hope to recover funds that had been bequeathed by the Alton, Shaw and Wilson estates.

Missing money includes approximately \$1 million Alton had left to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, the Greater Victoria Hospital Foundation and the Salt Spring Island Foundation (SSIF), and money earmarked for an Islands Trust Fund-held nature reserve at her Isabella Road property.

The SSIF is also hoping to recover \$700,000 from the Shaw estate, of which \$250,000 was earmarked to help pay for a restoration of Mahon Hall. Greenwoods and the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation are seeking

almost \$1 million missing from the Wilson estate.

Even though the civil suit was launched in May 2004, the matter might not be decided for some time, Sasges said. A notice of appeal was filed on August 23 regarding the judgment from July, she noted.

“In terms of actual argument, the case for either side has not been presented and that won’t happen until the entrance of evidence is concluded.”

Court has already reviewed 21 submissions related to the application.

TENNIS PLAN

From Page A1

ended up receiving only the Cover-All bid on July 28.

Ross Walker, of Island Marine Construction noted that he is most-often contacted by government agencies, including the CRD, when a request for proposals is made. He wondered why that was not done in this case.

Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) chairman Bill Curtin, PARC operations manager Dave Gibbon and the SSTA board were invited to attend the meeting, but declined.

Commission member Carol Dodd was at the meeting, but did not speak or identify herself to the crowd. However, Roy Rajsic, a former SSTA president, spoke in favour of letting the project proceed. He insisted the structure planned for Portlock Park would not cost taxpayers a nickel, since

user fees would more than pay back the debt on any borrowed funds.

Countering criticism about the loss of free tennis, Rajsic said that allowing free access to the covered courts in summer has been considered by PARC.

He also questioned why access to tennis facilities should be free at all.

Two other active tennis players criticized PARC’s plan.

Chris Anstis said PARC and the CRD should consider how much of the community would benefit from the new structure. The SSTA may have 140 members, he said, but well under half use the tennis bubble on a regular basis.

Reducing access to free courts also did not help promote tennis among young people.

While exact fees for use

have not been set, they have been estimated at \$14 per hour for SSTA members and \$16 for non-members. (A two-year-old cash flow forecast had also set rates at \$8 and \$10 respectively in summer.)

“Why is a new bubble built from the proceeds of the previous bubble not okay?” asked Anstis.

Jack Barclay, who runs the high school tennis program, was also concerned about loss of free courts for youth and thought court resurfacing should be a priority.

“The courts need to be resurfaced. You own something, you should maintain it.”

Hal Stone asked about the political “chain of command” and how the proposal could be stopped.

Holman said the CRD board was the ultimate authority, and would likely approve the tennis facility contract at its September 14 board meeting.

While initially stating he would not change his mind about supporting the recommendation, by the end of the meeting, under pressure especially from speaker Brook Holdack, he said it was “possible” he could

change his mind.

Holman said CRD finance staff found the RFP process “met the [required] legal standard; it did not get the gold star for process.”

He reiterated his belief that no money would be saved by re-opening the tender process.

He also said he was hearing conflicting messages from speakers at the meeting. Some people wanted PARC to resurface the courts, or not charge for use of the indoor courts in summer months, which would end up costing taxpayers more.

“The point is being made here that PARC should pay more for tennis, while others are saying they should pay less.”

Best said later he was pleased with the meeting.

“It was well-attended and is a good start because it demonstrated very few residents are aware public funds are going toward a user-fee structure for tennis that reduces ‘free play’ on this island. I would like to thank those who attended and, as well, the hundreds that have so far signed petitions to stop this misuse of taxpayer money.”

Anthony Thorne, who is president of the Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society, was incorrectly identified in a Coast Guard photo last week as Arthur Thorn.

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JOB WELL DONE: Building inspector Uli Temmel "nails" a "stop work" order on Dick Stubbs as a farewell open house is staged at the building inspection office, marking Stubbs' retirement.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

POOL FUNDS

From Page A1

erendum so a leisure pool can be built. So far PARC has borrowed \$2.5 million. PARC promised both before and after the referendum to only spend \$2.212 million of that amount on the project, even if it meant a scaled-down facility.

However, since that request was made by Steele, regional director Gary Holman has floated the idea of holding another referendum in November that would clarify whether islanders want the entire \$4.212 million spent on the pool.

As of Tuesday morning, Holman was not sure if he would put that on the September 14 CRD meeting agenda.

"I think a referendum would clear the air, but the question I have to grapple with is 'is it the right thing to do at this time or should we wait?'"

PARC would like to build Phase 1 of the project — the lap pool and hot tub — and get some operating experience with it before proceeding to the second phase, which includes a leisure pool.

Holman agrees that it's a valid perspective.

He said the disagreements between PARC and Ssplash are "unfortunate and what I am trying to resolve is this ongoing acrimony between Ssplash and the commission. We need to resolve this so we can move forward, and we're losing sight of what we've accomplished here."

"I'm trying to get this issue resolved and it would be great if Ssplash could contribute their dollars wholeheartedly for this project for which they worked so hard."

PARC chair Bill Curtin said PARC reps would also

attend the September 14 meeting to oppose Holman's proposal if it hits the table.

Ssplash also addressed PARC at its Monday night public meeting, asking for agreement on a definition of a "leisure/therapy/tot pool."

Ssplash board member Wendy Rosier said the request was prompted by the terms "leisure pool, tot pool and therapy pool" being banded about as if they might be different things, which has resulted in a "skewed image of what this water tank might be."

If Ssplash is asking the CRD to include a "leisure pool" in Salt Spring's facility, the group wants to know what that would be.

Splash has assumed it's the 130-square-metre body of water, with a zero depth ramp access, eight-inch-deep tot area, with 20- to 42-inch water depth elsewhere, and a moving water stream (lazy river), as outlined in facility architect Alan Roy's design presented at a May 3 meeting.

"We want to know if you agree on the definition," said Rosier. "If you don't we want to come to some sort of agreement."

Curtin said no definition would be agreed on until Phase 1 — the lap pool and hot tub — of the facility was complete and plans were in motion for the second phase, if it was determined a second phase was feasible.

"I don't think we've agreed on anything or are set

on anything at this point," he said.

Earlier this summer, Ssplash advised PARC it would not provide the \$200,000 it had promised for the pool project if a leisure pool was not included. The group has since announced it is fundraising specifically for a leisure pool, which has been earmarked in the design for possible addition in future.

The Ssplash board will meet September 6 to vote on its final presentation to the CRD.

In the meantime, PARC and its pool community advisory committee of volunteers are working with architect Alan Roy and Liberty Contract Management personnel to iron out details of the pool project before going to tender.

PARC recently approved using a construction management process, rather than a conventional stipulated-sum general contract, citing concern about project delays and a need to keep costs down.

"It allows us more control over how quickly we can get going on various components," explained PARC operations manager Dave Gibbon. "Under construction management, each one is divided up and contracted separately. If there are local resources available then they probably have a better chance of getting involved rather than if there is one general contractor who would be from off island."

Vacation rental bylaw gets 1st nod

Salt Spring moved toward allowing operation of up to 100 vacation rental units when the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) gave first reading to proposed Bylaw 409 on August 25.

After numerous studies, meetings and pages of legal advice, the LTC is ready to consider changing the official community plan to allow short-term vacation rental (STVR) tourist accommodation through a temporary use permit (TUP) process.

First reading means a public hearing on Bylaw 409 will be scheduled.

"We've come a long way over the last three years," commented trustee Kimberly Lineger.

If the bylaw is passed, potential STVR operators would have to meet various conditions related to sewer, water, parking, buffering, and health and safety matters before receiving a TUP to operate. Arlene Dashwood, president of the Association for Short-Term Accommodation Rentals, told the LTC meeting her group applauded

the "first step" being taken to legalize a limited number of vacation rental homes.

However, she noted the proposal's stringent requirements created several obstacles for potential operators, and she hoped a long-term Islands Trust goal would be to review all accommodation units on the island.

"At this point it seems to be quite discriminatory and we hope that in the future the bylaw will evolve to treat all accommodations with equality."

Copies of proposed Bylaw 409 and related documentation are available at the Ganges Islands Trust office.

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Walker Hook picnic revisits controversy around burial site

By MARY FOWLES
Driftwood Contributor

Walker Hook beach drew over 30 people to its shores on August 23 for a lavish potluck picnic and to discuss ongoing concerns about developments that have taken place at the Coast Salish burial site and shell midden over the last three years. "We have come to show that we will not forget about our burial ground," said Penelakut First Nations elder August Sylvester as the barge transporting him and other Kuper Island residents pulled up on the white sandy beach.

"It's a disgrace. If I dug up a white man's burial ground they would put me in jail and throw away the key. And they didn't even ask our permission. That hurts a lot of our people. It hurts to have two funerals in one lifetime."

Walker Hook, a low-lying coastal sand spit, has been privately owned and held as a pioneer family farm over

the last century. In 2003, part of the property was leased to Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. for a black cod fish hatchery and the company soon found itself in a tangle of controversy.

Black cod, a previously undomesticated fishery, represents a new aquaculture industry which is actually quite exciting, said Eric McLay, an archaeologist with the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, representing Vancouver Island Salish Nations.

"The problem," he explained, "arose when Sablefin placed its wells and utility pipes through the midden area as a natural filter for its industrial effluent into the marine environment."

Backhoe trenching of over 250 metres through the site unearthed the remains of at least 13 individuals. Those bones were recovered by Penelakut elders and reburied on Kuper Island.

Protection of their ancestors' bones is an important part of Coast Salish cultural beliefs and practices, as the dead are believed to interact with and remain part of the living family.

Disturbing the bones is believed to have severe consequences for the living, such as illness, death and misfortune.

"Our people don't die," said Sylvester, adding it is common practice to pray for and feed the dead every year by burning food such as crab and salmon. "They're here with us as our guardian angels."

Sablefin president Gidon Minkoff told the Driftwood Monday that the Penelakut elders had agreed to all the digging that was done on the midden. "We wouldn't have done it without their approval," he said, in contradic-

tion to claims of the elders and documentation from the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, which requested preliminary archaeological studies be completed before any digging happened on the site.

"This is really a very minor issue," Minkoff said. "The First Nations are looking for political gains and it is plausible they created this [controversy] in order to go into land claims with a stronger footing. I got the feeling we were taken for a ride by them. If it was major you would see a very different reaction and you would see the government reacting as well."

Sablefin was granted provincial government permits to dig wells and discharge effluent through the midden, but no preliminary Archaeological Impact Assessment study was required to evaluate the site's exact size, depth, content and scientific and/or cultural significance.

"We have no way of knowing what is gone or damaged because there was no baseline study," said Kim Kornbacher, an archaeologist and member of the Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use. That group has accused Sablefin of causing unknown environmental harm to an ecologically sensitive area, as well as disturbing a culturally significant site.

In January of 2005, the archeology branch of the ministry of Sustainable Resource Management denied Sablefin a permit to do further digging in the area which would have resulted in 45 more metres of excavation. "This is one of first times that the cultural

significance of the site was protected," said McLay.

The Penelakut Elders continue to say their "interests and needs have not been met" and the next step must be a settlement agreement between themselves, Sablefin, the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection, the Ministry of Sustainable Resources Management and land-owner Henry Caldwell.

Sylvester told the Driftwood he would like to see a monument erected in honour of the burial site. "We might as well mark it now that they've desecrated it," he added, highlighting that "settlement" is about respect and not about money.

Following the potluck lunch of barbecue salmon and a fresh salad buffet, elder Laura Sylvester (August's wife) led a prayer circle atop the Walker Hook tombolo, chanting a song passed down from her father's grandfather.

"The song says, 'teach me to pray, oh Great Spirit, teach me how to pray,'" said Sylvester, a grandmother of 17 and great-grandmother of six. "I prayed for those that are [buried] and I pray for those that are still here," she said.

Laura Sylvester remembers camping as a child under the shade of the trees that line the end of the tombolo. Her family would stay three to four days to fish ling cod and harvest eel grass for basket weaving, or for insulation for a longhouse. They also harvested clams.

"No body came to bother us," she said. "We knew that we weren't allowed to step onto the spit because it was a gravesite and our own mother's ancestors were buried there."



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Channel Ridge permit closer

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) had another look at the Channel Ridge development proposal during its August 25 meeting.

Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. (CRPL) can now work with Islands Trust contracted staff to form the final development permit for Phase I of its north end development.

"There's still lots to do," noted planner Jim Moodie, adding, "We'd like to be back here for the October LTC meeting."

Once final development permit approval is received from the LTC, CRPL can begin the process of acquiring a building permit from

the Capital Regional District.

As it stands, Phase I calls for the construction of 118 residential units and 671 square metres of commercial space.

The plan will include six single-family homes, six bare land strata homes, 64 two-family duplexes, 18 triplexes and 12 four-plexes, totaling 248 residences.

Conditions for approval include ensuring developers provide a survey plan recognizing environmentally sensitive areas, trail networks and parkland once the final development plans are in place.

Despite assurances the village's structures, park benches, light fixtures and waste bins were being designed to match the island's aesthetics, trustee Kimberly Lineger voiced skepticism on the project.

"When I look at this village, I think I could be anywhere in Surrey or White Rock," she said. "It does not feel like Salt Spring."

CRPL project manager Jim Rogers later told the Driftwood that the company was doing everything in its power to ensure the project met the interests of community groups voicing an interest in the project.

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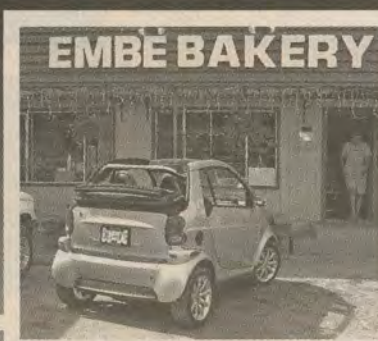
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ANIMAL CRACKERS: Lind-E H. works on her hand-painted animals as she sets up a booth at the Saturday market in Centennial Park.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Rainbow housing gets first reading

A plan to convert the former fish packing plant at 167 Rainbow Road into a 27-unit affordable housing complex took another step forward as local trustees gave first reading to proposed bylaws on Thursday.

"This is the beginning, not the end," observed Salt Spring Local Trust Committee chair David Essig. "This gets the ball rolling, but there will be plenty of opportunity for comment."

The current proposal would see extensive renovations of the existing structure and landscaping around the building.

Project manager Janis Gauthier asked that the bylaw respect residents' rights to engage in some forms of home based-business and requested that parking requirements be lessened to allow for increased floor space.

"We would really like lower-income people living here to have the same opportunities as anybody else," she said.

Gauthier said the project's proximity to town and lower-income tenants would mean many tenants would not need or would not have vehicles.

According to Gauthier, regulations associated with a grant from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation ensure all units will be subject to strict rental controls.

She added that property owners Richard and Rose Murakami do not stand to profit from the venture and are only interested in providing a service to the community's lower-income families.

"This is our way of giving back to the community for the support our family received upon our return," said Rose Murakami, referring to her family's return to Salt Spring in 1954 following their internment and loss of property during World War II.

A public hearing date on the proposal will be announced.

'Grove' real estate hits phase 2 sales

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Property sales will soon be flowing in Phase 2 of the Rainbow Grove subdivision, with water not an issue as it was in Phase 1 five years ago.

"We're confident the water meets all drinking water quality standards," said developer Bonny O'Connor of Parks, O'Connor & Parks Investments Ltd.

Clearing up a murky problem that plagued Phase 1 of the subdivision, no arsenic has been found in any of the new wells drilled on 25 lots and 16 strata-title properties on the 48-hectare (119-acre) development, she said.

"On all of the wells we've got tags that have the results of the tests. If anyone has any questions, they can go straight to the well. That way the report won't get buried somewhere."

The property, off Rainbow Road, was rezoned by the Islands Trust a couple of years ago and lot sales are expected to begin within two months.

"There are lots of little steps to complete," said O'Connor. "[Local realtor] Mel Topping is heading up all the rest of the details... It's like checking off things on a list."

Another step involves approval by the Ministry of Transportation for the final road work.

Islands Trust planner Leslie Clarke still had loose ends to tidy up with a hydrology report, O'Connor said.

"She had some questions about the water report. But they were all esthetic. They were not health hazards."

Manganese and iron found in the water at Juniper Place is not a health concern, she said.

Clarke confirmed that she received one hydrology report and a summary of that report is pending.

"At which time we'll review it to make sure that it satisfies the [land use]

Bylaw #355 requirements," said Clarke

O'Connor and her partners are looking forward to the project actually registering, she said.

About 10 lots have been pre-sold.

"I'm sure some of the people who bought the lots are anxiously waiting to start building."

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Teachers prepare for strike vote

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
 Staff Writer

After a year without a contract, local teachers are heading back to school and sharpening their pencils for a strike vote on September 20.

"We are looking for exactly what we said all along. We want our class size and class composition [provisions] back," said Gulf Islands Teachers' Association (GITA) president Jean Claude Levesque Monday.

"We are still sticking to our guns. We said if they

hadn't made any moves towards this come September, we would be looking at a strike vote. We really want to bargain."

Some 42,000 teachers have been working without a contract in B.C. since June 2004.

"We want job parity with our colleagues in Alberta — who just settled — and Ontario," Levesque said.

But at this point, the B.C. Teachers' Federation (BCTF) has received nothing from the B.C. Public School Employers Association and

teachers can't get a meeting with the Minister of Education, he said.

Strike votes from individual districts on September 20 will be submitted to the BCTF head office on September 21 and reported to the public on September 23.

"It's a simple question, 'Are you willing to go on strike — yes or no?'" Levesque said.

"The stronger the strike vote, the stronger the message that we want to negotiate. And our objective is to sit down and negotiate," he said.

Gulf Islands School District superintendent Wendy Herbert reassures islanders that schools will open on September 6 as planned.

"At this point, nothing is happening. Schools will be opening as usual and remain open as usual," Herbert said.

The two parties still have time to meet and talk and, even if talks break down, there will still be time to notify the public about alternative arrangements, Herbert said.

"There's a lot left to happen, so don't panic."

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Booth offers a partial apology

By SEAN MCINTYRE
 Staff Writer

If an August 25 Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting is any indication of the tone for fall election campaigns, islanders may need to prepare for a wild ride.

During the monthly town hall session, trustee Eric Booth was denounced for insulting community volunteers and conduct unbecoming an elected representative.

Water Preservation Society President Wayne Hewitt demanded a public apology

for comments Booth made in a guest column appearing in the August 24 Driftwood.

Hewitt said that in addition to levelling personal attacks on "dedicated members of the community," much of the article contained erroneous information, including a claim that Hewitt's own B&B operation was located within "a stone's throw of Cusheon Lake."

In response, Booth said he stands by what he wrote and refused to offer an apology. Booth did, however, apologize for the stone's throw

comment, confessing he could not throw a stone 100 metres.

Later in the meeting, Booth opposed trustee Kimberly Lineger's request to take \$15,000 from the LTC's official community plan (OCP) review fund to cover increasing bylaw enforcement costs.

"I think we owe the community," she said. "If we are not prepared to fund bylaw enforcement, we are not meeting our commitment to the community."

As the money would not be used before the end of the current fiscal year, the reallocation would not delay next year's OCP review, she said.

Despite increasing reports of bylaw infractions and delays of up to three weeks before complaints are even acknowledged, Booth said he refused to support proactive bylaw enforcement for the very reason that it would strain Islands Trust resources.

"As one of the two trustees [at Trust Council] who spoke out against pro-active bylaw enforcement, I am hesitant to spend this money," he said.

The motion was defeated when LTC chair David Essig voted with Booth.

Trustees also renewed a two-year temporary use permit for Ganges Marina to operate a float camp building for marina services.

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Sandy, our Resident Homemaker, is very good at what she does and we are enjoying the meals.

I really enjoy cooking too and I help with the barbecue dinners occasionally. I love being able to look after our own flowers on our own patio and we have a nice outdoor space where we sit and watch the deer, usually listening to Pavarotti. Nobody else in the building can hear our music because the building is so soundproof. We have quite a bit of company that visits and some stay here with us. We're very glad we came in while we're still active and can really enjoy life here.

I'm the only man here in Balsam House right now and I get very special treatment from the ladies. There is another couple moving in soon down the hall and I'm looking forward to having another man in the House...but then again, I'm not really sure I want to share my harem!

Bill Williams

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Bullock Lake resort launches sales

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Developers are already marketing cottages at the Salt Spring Island Village Resort (SSIVR) and soon they will be ready to start selling units again on Bullock Lake.

"We are still finalizing details," said project coordinator Ron Behr. "By the end of this week, we will have a far better indication of when property sales can begin."

Behr confirmed that developers intend to proceed with plans to complete and sell 123 resort units in 71 buildings on the 14.5-hectare (36-acre) site.

"The permits are there and that's in place and that's all part of the reason why the new group has opted to move forward with it."

The "new group" is still in the process of registering a name, Behr said.

"Right now it's just all these different individuals and we need to be able to steer people in the proper direction."

Original developer Brian Hauff serves as a director of the numbered company that purchased the partly completed resort in May, but Behr could not confirm his involvement in the project.

"I've been asked not to share the names of people who are participating at this time."

SSIVR was purchased by 607984 B.C. Ltd after the resort project was listed for \$9 million. Gibraltar Mortgage Ltd. offered a mortgage on SSIVR for \$21 million as part of an investment opportunity and cited an estimated appraisal of \$38 million for the project.

"It's really exciting that the project has been able to clear some obstacles and move forward again," Behr said.

Maverick Real Estate began a marketing campaign about "the Cottages" at SSIVR with ads and a website (www.thecottagesonsalt-spring.com) in mid-August.

And workers are currently conducting clean-up work and landscaping at the site.

"There's a lot of work to be done and we're still very much in the preliminary



FOR SALE: Lakeside view of Salt Spring Island Village Resort.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

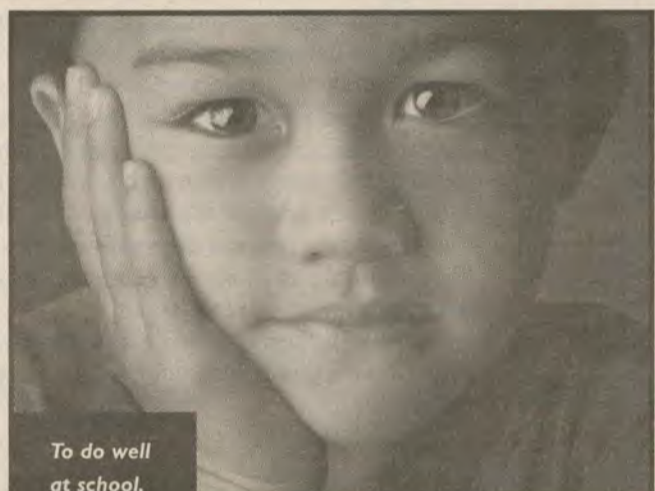
stages." Behr doesn't foresee any problem with buildings on the site that were left vacant for almost a decade.

A stand-alone lodge at the resort will include a restaurant, spa and meeting space for use by islanders, he said.

"There will be a fitness

area, not so much a gym, but a fitness area for people who are visiting but also for people who wish to come in from town. We wish to include the community as much as possible in things."

SSIVR developers are reviewing the history of the project that originally com-



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menced in 1996 before it went into receivership in 1998 when 50 units were partially completed, he said.

"We want to address everybody's concerns because there were some concerns. We want to work with the community and provide them with reassurance that things are moving forward in a productive and beneficial manner to the community."

Design elements are still under review and disclosure documentation needs to be reviewed, he said.

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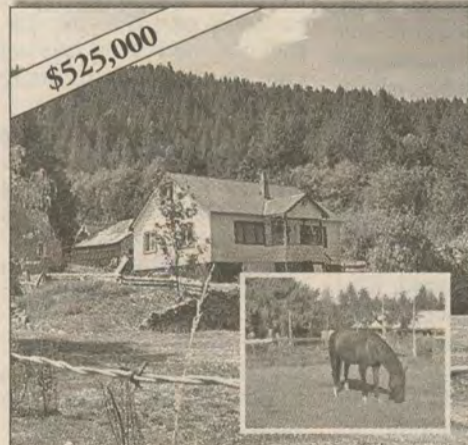
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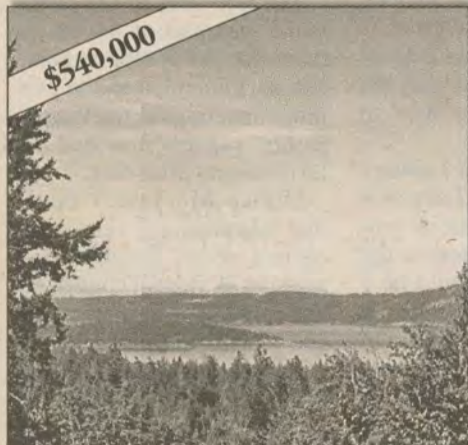
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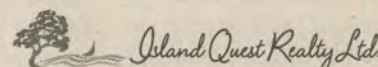
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Letters to the Editor

Maintain ALR

I strongly object to the proposal to remove the old Beddis Road mill site from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

The following points are a summary of my concern for both the loss of ALR property and the potential impact on Beddis Road.

Even though the notice describes the soil condition as unsuitable for growing crops, the site is designated as ALR and is a scarce

resource in the Salt Spring community plan.

The purpose of the community plan is to direct land use — this proposal is in violation of that purpose. The site has been drastically altered by the former mill use and gravel extraction, but that is no reason to remove it from the ALR.

Rather, the challenge is to restore the site to some agricultural use — our future generations will need all of the ALR land available. The

site is cleared and relatively flat, both desirable characteristics for agriculture. Possible agricultural-related uses could be a nursery, greenhouses, community gardens, a place for composting to build back the soil — leave it in “reserve” so that the future generations can determine how best to use it for agriculture.

A small portion of the property is zoned industrial. Removal of the rest from the ALR implies that it will all

become industrial. The property fronts on Beddis Road. This area is zoned Rural Residential. If the site becomes the proposed industrial use for Slegg Lumber, there will be a large negative impact by the corresponding increase in commercial vehicle traffic on Beddis (likely too on Arnell Way, the connector to the other Slegg location).

Beddis Road is a “by-way” — one of the rural narrow winding country lanes that reflects the Salt Spring char-

acter that the Trust is mandated to protect. Beddis Road is designated as a bike route in the community plan and is heavily used by residents along the road for walking, jogging, horseback (and cart) riding and dog exercising.

There are farms all along Beddis. In the segment of Beddis from the mill site to Arnell Way there are several horse farms, a cattle farm, a sheep farm and many hay fields. The subject property is part of a concentration

of agricultural properties — part of the resource.

Further to my second point above is an aesthetic consideration. Beddis Road is beautifully rural along its entire length from Fulford-Ganges to Beddis Beach. There is a danger that the proposed Slegg development will result in clearing the natural tree buffer along Beddis Road, exposing the eye-sore of an industrial site.

WAYNE LOCKE,
 Beddis Road

Aqion report criticisms not ‘cheap shots’ or disinformation

By MIKE LARMOUR

Wayne Lee, in his letter to the August 17 Driftwood, was highly critical of me, inferring that I was carrying on “yet another disinformation campaign.”

He further said that I was taking “cheap shots” at the Aqion’s “much maligned water supply/demand analysis for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD).”

He further inferred that I had an ulterior motive for my actions and that most islanders were not interested in water issues.

Now retired, I worked for about 30 years for the NSSWD, including many years as manager. But my interest in water quality and quantity extended beyond my job. In 1973, as head of a conservation group on the island, I proposed that the five-acre minimum watershed lot size be raised to a 10-acre minimum based on concerns about eutrophication. This proposal received over 80 per cent approval at two public meetings and a vote as required by the then CRD director from Salt Spring. This provision is still

IN RESPONSE

in the community plan. I was one of the founders of the Water Preservation Society, and in 1974, I was elected as a trustee on the Islands Trust for a two-year term with the most votes of any of the five candidates.

Tom Gossett and I always regarded Maxwell Lake as a jewel in need of special protection. We proposed to the Trust that there should be a 20-acre minimum lot size in the Maxwell watershed. On the second try we were successful, and this provision is also in the community plan today. Shortly before retirement, I was fortunate to be involved in the successful acquisition of about 260 acres of the Maxwell Lake watershed.

So I think I have always tried to be constructive in trying to protect water quality and in examining water quantity issues. In this I have had the support of the community.

job as manager at NSSWD was to recommend approval or non-approval to the district’s trustees of engineering by both the district’s consulting engineer and the engineer for developers. Engineers do make mistakes!

Mr. Lee said in his letter that I was part of the study team for the Aqion report. Not so. I attended one or two initial meetings at the Waterworks’ request, but had no involvement after that.

Unlike Mr. Lee, I think that islanders are very concerned about future water supplies in view of continued and rapid growth in demand and limited water supply.

I don’t regard my criticism of Mr. Lee’s Aqion report as a “cheap shot” or a “disinformation campaign” as he suggests. This report, dealing with water supply and demand in the NSSWD was commissioned by the Islands Trust with funding from the provincial government. It was intended to be used as a planning tool for the Islands Trust and the NSSWD, so it is important that it be conservative (because of inherent unknowns in the future) and accurate.

Although I have a number of concerns with the Aqion report, three important points stand out.

1. Single family dwellings are by far the largest category of demand within the district. The Aqion report projected single-family dwelling demand at the year 2020 at 87.1 million gallons per year, apparently using a figure of 45,293 gallons per year per single-family dwelling. The correct figure, using data from NSSWD’s single-family dwelling billings is about 57,000 gallons per year. When this is multiplied by the projected number of units, the total demand is 109.6 million gallons, 22.5 million gallons higher than Mr. Lee’s calculations. Bob Brawn, chair of NSSWD, has concurred with our finding.

2. The Aqion report states that “The development of existing groundwater resources within or proximate to demand locations is a viable method for increasing NSSWD supply capability.” The report further states “the most viable options for the NSSWD service area appear to be the development

of groundwater resources, waste water reclamation, and water catchment.” No cost estimates are given to support this conclusion.

My experience during 30 years at NSSWD has been the opposite. The district extended its mains over large areas of the north end of the island at the request (and cost) of islanders whose wells had failed, were contaminated or were very low producing. Well logs for the north end indicate the average water production is very low, and many wells may have been abandoned. The Geological Survey of Canada indicates that, in general, our fractured bedrock aquifers are vulnerable to both overuse and to pollution.

How viable is this source of water for NSSWD? If the district bought property for \$300,000 and obtained an average water supply, sufficient for three houses, the annual financing cost based on a \$300,000 mortgage is amortized over 20 years in \$25,000. Shared between three houses, that makes the annual cost for water at over \$8,000 per house. Simply not viable!

well, P. Eng. (1988) noted that groundwater would not provide a reliable yield of water in sufficient quantities to serve as a supplementary source for NSSWD.

3. My third concern is therefore with the conclusion of the Aqion report that states in part that the district can continue to approve new development, rezoning applications, density transfers and amenity zoning over the next 17 years. The Aqion report is wrong in estimating future water demand from existing zoning, and it is wrong in saying that we can place reliance on additional water supplies from groundwater on the north end of the island, and it is wrong in suggesting the district can accept a lot more development.

About the worst thing the community can do is allow a water demand to be created that exceeds our long-term safe supply, either surface water or groundwater. If that occurs, we may be forced into alternatives that are extremely expensive, risky, unreliable, or very damaging environmentally.

The writer is former manager of the NSSWD.

Diverse input

How anything ever gets done on Salt Spring is a question that’s surfaced more than once in recent months.

Look at the vacation rental issue: it’s taken almost the entire term of trustees Eric Booth and Kimberly Lineger to get a concrete proposal to the public hearing stage. If it is resolved within their term, it will likely be so at their last meeting as trustees.

Details of the island’s indoor pool project are still uncertain almost a year after passage of a referendum giving it the green light.

But problems, controversies and delays definitely occur in other communities, and the extent of our difficulties is likely exaggerated.

However, part of our local problem appears to be elected officials’ inability to get a clear read on what the majority of people really want on any given topic — and perhaps not having a multi-member decision-making council could be partly to blame.

Some politicians or decision-makers may not be so personally attached to an issue and clearly want to facilitate the majority’s will or at least find a compromise acceptable to as many people as possible. Yet pressure always exists to give more weight to certain clusters of opinions: those of user groups, or the most passionate, or the most informed; those with vested interests, or those who have lived on Salt Spring longer.

Regional director Gary Holman is smack dab in the middle of a decision-making nightmare, as he has proposed another referendum to determine if islanders really want to see a leisure pool included in the Rainbow Road recreation centre. He says he’s not attached to the idea, but sees too much acrimony and energy being funnelled into the pool debate when the island should really resolve this one and move on to other critical issues.

While our islands trustees have been criticized for suggesting they have to represent the vast majority of people who don’t voice their opinions at public meetings or through letters, good decisions do require more diverse input.

Salt Spring’s politicians could clearly use more information and input on certain issues, and islanders would be better served as a result.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *Is an indoor tennis structure at Portlock Park a good use of tax dollars?*



Nathan Hume

We already have some tennis courts. We should spend that money on any of the hundreds of other things that really need it.



Bob Patterson

As long as it's open to the public, I don't see any problem with it. Maybe there'll be more tennis players in the end.



Annie King

If it's taxpayers' money and it improves the island, then I don't see a problem.



Helen Hinchliff

I don't profess to know the facts, but if it's truly only for a few people on the island, I don't think it is a wise choice.



Christina Grondin

If we have the money, I'd rather it go towards the pool instead of the tennis courts.

Letters to the Editor

Dichotomy

Rose and Richard Murakami are proposing a low-income housing development on their property — a proposal that will enable teachers, workers and lower-paid professionals to continue to work on the island. As such, this is one of the best things to happen for a long time.

Yet it seems that an organization that has nothing to do directly with housing has found reasons to try and quash this proposal. This same organization is responsible for promoting the island as a good place to live.

A curious dichotomy, eh? At the same time as Rose and Richard attempt to alleviate the problem for permanent residents, we are aware that off-islanders are buying property here for occasional vacation use.

Seems to me that the outcome of this is that, with no permanent population to run the stores, the restaurants and the whole infrastructure, there will be a time when the island is "open" from June 1 to September 30, during which period all off-island-

ers can come visit — and all the support workers, food stores and businesses will be staffed by people living in freedom camps.

PETER BLACKMORE,
Salt Spring

Food bank

Since its inception in the mid '70s, our Salt Spring Island Food Bank has been housed in a woefully inadequate space in the Community Centre, the home of the Salt Spring Island Community Services Society.

The need for a more accessible space with better storage has become more pressing every year. In January of this year the Salt Spring Masonic Temple took on the mammoth task of raising \$70,000 to erect a new food bank building on a site behind the Community Centre on Ganges hill.

The board of Salt Spring Community Services wants to thank everyone who has contributed to the building fund — you have all been very generous, and one or two of you have been quite incredibly generous with your sizable donations.

We are hugely grateful to the Masonic Temple for tak-

ing this on, and in particular to Randy Sloan, whose tireless fundraising efforts and constant reminders in the Driftwood have kept us all informed of the need for this building and the progress being made towards its completion.

The project is underway, and we look forward to inviting everyone to a "grand opening" in the not too distant future.

BOODIE ARNOTT,
For the Salt Spring Island Community Services board

Sorry state

I've been with CBC Radio in British Columbia for 21 years.

It's been a privilege to work with a public broadcaster recognized internationally for its journalism. It seems more Canadians than ever appreciate this: they're listening to us in record numbers. Or, they were.

The upper echelons of management have locked out 5,500 radio and television employees. This explains the sorry state of programming you're now hearing and seeing. It partially explains why they're spending hundreds

of thousands of taxpayer dollars on one-sided newspaper ads.

We urge you to seek out both sides of the story (something we're proud of providing when we're on the air). You'll find this at www.cmg.ca.

If you care about the future of public broadcasting, take the next step: urge Parliament to appoint a mediator to get us back to the bargaining table.

By the way, those repeat broadcasts of Shelagh Rogers, Bill Richardson and Michael Enright? Almost sounds like everything's just fine. Well it's not. They do not support their work being used this way.

Plugging into BBC News doesn't cut it either. You deserve to hear Canadian journalism. After all, you're paying for it.
MARK FORSYTHE,
BC Almanac host, CBC Radio

Conflict

Reading last week's paper, I noticed a Creek House Realty ad announcing Eric Booth's return to the world of land developers and realtors.

I was shocked to realize that Mr. Booth did not have

the integrity to resign from his seat as an Islands Trust trustee upon receiving his real estate licence.

The obvious conflict of interest is so huge and evident. I have sent a letter to the Islands Trust Executive Committee, which is meeting on Tuesday, August 30, and was assured on the phone that my concerns and demand for Mr. Booth's immediate resignation would be on the agenda.

Please contact our local Islands Trust office to voice your concerns, as I have. The business of selling land should not mix with the power of making decisions about the same land.
MARIE BEAUDOIN,
Toynbee Road

By-products

I wish to thank Mr. Hume for his very insightful letter of last week regarding horses.

A truly amazing thing happened after I read it. I took the Driftwood outside, into my garden, and re-read his letter aloud to my roses . . . and almost magically, they began to flower profusely . . . just in time for the fall fair.

I think that his words must have contained a huge quantity of the by-product of

which he so highly spoke.
S. LYNCH,
Ganges

Enchanting

Re: an objection to horse dung on streets.

Once long ago on Saturdays, with rustling shovels and boxes set on wheels,

Happy children searched the streets behind the departed horses,

Gathering manure to carry home and add to father's garden.

Proudly they brought their treasures home — and luck had been on their side.

Ah! Simpler times and simpler values then, they saw no need to up-turn little noses,

For it was known that the milkman's horse brought life to mother's roses.

Then, gather ye horse buns while ye may, time goes too swift,

You should know this; small problems must be stepped around —

Away with all your ranting, think! A rustling shovel and a box on wheels,

Could make your life enchanting!

GWEN ALBHOUSE,
Churchill Road

MORE LETTERS A13

Great unwashed given short shrift on tax dollars spending

Today I am starting an initiative to expunge the word "expert" from the English dictionary. The word has become so watered down, so misused and abused, that anyone can call themselves "expert" on anything.

Experts have stood up in front of the United Nations, stating unequivocally that there were huge stockpiles of nuclear warheads and poisonous gas in Iraq . . . using big pointers to mark out big semi-trailers presumably chock-full of anthrax, on mural-sized photographs. Oops.

We've had guys in white lab coats extolling the benign nature of overhead power lines and cell phone towers, smugly dismissing soaring leukemia rates as coincidental.

We've had doctors singing the praises of Viagra, only to discover it may provoke heart attacks and cause perfectly respectable retired chartered accountants to suddenly grow pony tails and purchase Harley Davidsons.

HEAD TO HEAD

BY PETER VINCENT



Right here on Salt Spring I have been button-holed in parking lots and at barbecues by experts badgering me to write this or that story — cajoling, threatening experts who grab me by the lapels, assuring me in loud voices that they have the answers. Experts.

The swimming pool experts tell us that we are misguided and mistaken — that we really don't want a leisure pool, even with the scores of letters and petition signatures to the contrary.

Even with islander Wendy Beatty counting 53 happy swimmers in the leisure pool versus only three in the lap pool at a public pool in Nanaimo. Even with islander Lorraine Norfolk pointing out that the only public pools that can keep their financial

heads above water are the ones with a leisure/therapy pool. But what do these people know? They're not experts.

We have seen a letter signed by virtually every doctor on Salt Spring pleading with the PARC board to include a leisure/therapy pool, complete with a grocery list of the therapeutic benefits of such a pool to the young and old, sick and infirm alike.

But what do they know — they are only doctors and not at all familiar with the intricacies of pool maintenance.

PARC chairman Bill Curtin wrote a very nice letter back to the doctors, and with a condescending pat on their collective heads, told them how it's going to be — a lap pool and a hot tub, but thanks for coming out, and drop in for a coffee anytime. One thing I've learned about experts: they rarely change their minds.

But wait. A hot tub? Who men-

tioned a hot tub? Holger Hermann of Gulf Island Spas is the hardest working guy on the island, installing one tub after another for geezers like me.

Why? Because geezers like me can always scrape up a couple of thousand bucks for a hot tub available 24/7, albeit without the unmitigated joy of sharing it with a dozen hyperactive children screeching at the top of their lungs. If you can't afford a hot tub, there is a new, cheaper household device . . . it's called a bath tub.

And, by the way, in the 18 months this pool has been in the spotlight, I have not seen a single letter praising the inclusion of a giant hot tub. Come to think of it, the only group that seems positively giddy about the lap pool is the local swim club.

When the experts put together the referendum, I guess I must have missed the part about the hot tub. I must have missed the part about the dictatorial deci-

sion-making powers, handed to the experts at PARC, who give short shrift to the great unwashed about how we want our tax dollars spent.

And now we have experts telling us we need two covered tennis courts, that we need to shell out at least \$600,000 so that the Salt Spring Tennis Association will have two lovely indoor courts to service their 140 members, a number that represents a jaw-dropping one per cent of the island's population. Have they gone mad, or has this island entered the Twilight Zone?

Here's a suggestion from a non-expert. Let's take that \$600,000 and build a leisure pool, and have the tennis players buy another fabric dome.

But I am sure there's a guy with bifocals and a sharp pencil that will give me 10 good reasons why we can't do this. After all, we're just island goofers. How could we possibly know what's good for us?



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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BACK to are here

This year, consider enriching your children's education with programs offered by the Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning (GICEL).

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.



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.

The Driftwood supports education in the Gulf Islands.

We support all the great kids in our communities with an upcoming special feature in the Driftwood on **Wednesday, September 7th - Great Kids.**



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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.





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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A Salute to Labour Day

MADE IN CANADA

Monday, September 5, 2005

Labour Day, which is held on the first Monday of September, has a long history in Canada. For as long as Canadians can remember, this special event has been a day to honour our nation's employees.

Labour Day is an annual September date officially recognized by the Canadian Parliament in 1894.

We would like to take this opportunity to honour all the employees in our community. Your dedication and effort has made your community strong and healthy.

Congratulations!!



CUPE 788

We would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and professionalism you have given to our schools and community.

Kids matter Teachers care

On Labour Day and all year, teachers advocate for kids and for their right to a quality public education.

That's why we're bargaining for smaller classes and more resources. Let's work together to provide the best in our schools.



The Gulf Islands Teachers' Association
A proud social justice union

We honour and thank all of our employees for making our businesses a success!



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More letters

Mistake

Am I the only one in this country that is alarmed by Dick Cheney's planned visit to Canada's tar sands in September?

Never mind for a moment that he's a war criminal, disregard the fact that Halliburton's no-bid contracts in Iraq demonstrate that he's patently corrupt, forget that he likely signed off on the use of torture in the overseas gulags. After the invasion of Iraq, inviting him up to have a look at the tar sands is a little like inviting the burglar into your house so you can show him where you hide the jewels.

What is particularly repugnant is that he was actually invited to come by our deputy prime minister, Anne McLellan, who, interestingly, is also our Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Were the London and Madrid bombings already so long ago that nobody in the ministry considered that inviting this unsavoury character to be our honoured guest makes us more of a terrorist target? If they did, they don't want to talk about it; Anne's office is refusing comment on the terrorist

threat that might result from the vice-president's visit, but at this point anything they might say about it would be tantamount to admitting that they've made a grave mistake.

BRIAN SMALLSHAW,
Salt Spring

Misdirected

In my opinion, the editor should not assign guest column space to a politician who uses it to make fun of his opponents. (Eric Booth, August 24) This space should be reserved for officials only if they use it to make public announcements, explain complicated issues or their own platform.

But common-place statements like "everything gets

wet when it rains," plus personal rants and prejudices, however argued, do not appear to justify the privilege. These kinds of arguments, if desired, should be engaged in personally on the floor of the monthly local meeting of the Islands Trust. But there, Eric Booth almost never speaks out.

I wonder what happened to the Eric Booth of old. He even used to impersonate a pig from time to time while living across from and personally opposing the development on Bullock Lake.

Have you changed sides since you became a public official, Eric? Please explain, I voted for you.

SEPP KANDLER,
Langs Road



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**The Driftwood will be closed
Labour Day Monday, September 5**

Save Our Shoreline!

The Islands Trust is holding a public information meeting regarding the proposed Ganges B&B Marina development on Thursday, Sept. 1. Save Our Shoreline encourages islanders to attend that meeting and learn what is being planned for that part of the harbour.

Save Our Shoreline opposes the marina development as currently planned for a number of reasons.

However, we will support any reasonable plan that conforms predominantly to the existing zoning and community values as expressed in the OCP.

Our vision for the Ganges inner harbour shoreline from Rotary Marine Park to the head of the harbour includes:

- no further unnecessary infill of Ganges Harbour,
- completion of a non-commercial, pedestrian-friendly seashore boardwalk,
- protection of the view corridor to the harbour from Lower Ganges and Rainbow Roads as specified by our Official Community Plan,
- development in the harbour that is consistent with current zoning and the low rise character of Ganges Village, and,
- provision of quality boating-related harbour services such as boat repair, laundry facilities, pump-out facilities and safe docks.

We are calling for community participation in the development of a Ganges Harbour management plan and for a study of the ecological health of the harbour before further development plans are considered.

If you support our goals, we urge you to contact our trustees Kimberly Lineger and Eric Booth and share your concerns with them.



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 any-

one 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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Always wear your bicycle helmet! **CAUTION!**
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Check out our **CLASSIFIEDS** Page B19 **Driftwood**

Thank You

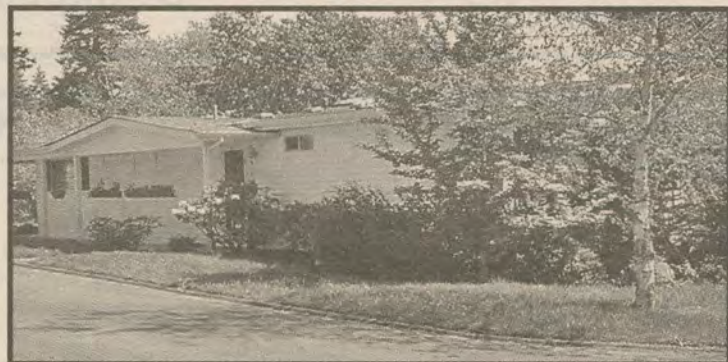
SALT SPRING FOR 19 GREAT YEARS



I leave behind great friends and colleagues, but take with me many, many memories. I've had the time of my life at Mouat's. I hope to see everyone at the 100th Birthday Celebration.

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(OUTGOING) MANAGER OF MOUAT'S TRADING CO.

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RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

To the driver of the Portlock firehall truck turning towards Vesuvius and then turning around and heading east on Upper Ganges at 6:10 p.m., Monday, August 22, with flashers and sirens on. You had to hit the brakes in order to make a point when you could have clearly kept on going if you were in such a hurry. Shame on you. Someone is always watching. Rolf Leben

ROSES

Candy-flavoured roses to Tim and John for another great community event — Willy Wonka in the park. Thank you so much for all the things you do for us all.

Armfuls of heritage roses to Embe, GVM, Salt Spring Coffee and Thrifty's for their generosity with cookies and coffee during the recent six-week festival of films about the Jewish war experience. Thanks also to Dovine at All Saints for being so helpful. A special bouquet to Judy Levine for her leadership in organizing the event, and corsages and boutonnieres for all the helpers.

A really, really large bouquet of beautiful red roses to all the volunteers who made the 13th annual Salt Spring rally such a great success this past weekend. We couldn't have done it without your untiring labour and willingness to pitch in and help wherever needed — some of you went far beyond the extra mile.

Big gorgeous bouquets to the musicians who contributed their talents to the enjoyment of all, with a special bunch to our dance band Synergy — you really rocked the house!

And another beautiful bouquet to each of the island businesses and organizations who so generously assisted us in feeding, housing and seating the nearly 500 attendees at this year's event including — Barry and the Farmers Institute; the Lions Club; Mike, Karen, Rick and the staff at GVM; the Rental Stop; Thrifty Foods; the Moultons; Carl at Lightning Press; Jeremy's Hospitality; TLC Enterprises; and Stan for the little sheep and the Royals for the big ones! The rally committee

A bunch of the best to the persons responsible for bringing both the surfboards and the "Vesuvius Bay Kids Boat" to Vesuvius Beach for the summer. They've been responsible for countless hours of creative and cooperative play. Boundless thanks from all the little pirates, fishermen, surfers, sailors, marine biologists, etc., and at least one grateful grandma.

A garden of roses to all the dear friends who attended my surprise birthday. Many thanks for the flowers and the gifts and the cards that I'm reading like a magazine.

A truckload of roses for the Copper Kettle broom removal team for the great job done on Old Scott Road. Thanks also to the neighbours and friends who donated to this worthwhile project.

To Allan Coupland, one single American beauty rose for the complete and utter shaming you underwent due to the "oblong" incident. My sincerest apologies and you'll be happy to know that I will forever use the term oblong in place of a rectangle. L

Roses to all those wonderful people who donate GVM

tapes to the Young at Heart, Box 74 and their refundables to Return it Centre #68. Thank you for all your continued support. RM

A bunch of wild roses to the amazing staff of the Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning — Molly, Ros, Jill, Noah, Isaac, Emma, CC, Matthew and Callum. Two incredible weeks of nature programs for kids this year! It's your energy and commitment that make the Summer Ecological Exploration Program special.

A meadow of wild roses to GVM, Thrifty Foods, Fields, SS Natureworks, Mark's Work Warehouse and Pharmasave Downtown for your cooperation, caring and participation from Copper Kettle Community Partnership.

A dozen roses to Mary Anne and to all our friends who helped us celebrate life. Keep celebrating! D

A big bouquet to all the folks who turned up at Glass Onion on Saturday to hear Sweetwater and support local music; and to Lisa Maxx for making it happen! And to the lady who asked to sing: sorry we missed you this time but let's do it next gig! JM

Roses to the ferry crews who contribute to the transport of animals to the wildlife centre with their interest and cooperation. John, thanks for helping carry that awkward box with the orphaned seal! Roses also to Dick Stubbs, whose advice helped make our dream home a reality. Enjoy your time away. MM

Bouquets of sweet-scented roses to Jaime RT for organizing yet another amazing Fiddle Workshop with some fabulous musicians and students from across Canada and the U.S.! The music, dancing and energy was incredible. We love you! H&F

Roses to the firefighters across B.C. who continually risk their lives to save lives, homes and forests. We know your jobs will get harder as the effects of climate change increase. HM

What's for Dinner?

THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET FIRE ROASTED TOMATO PASTA BAKE

Short cuts to cooking for one or two with Sarah Lynn



Pasta: Unleavened dough made of wheat flour, water, and sometimes eggs fashioned into a variety of shapes and boiled. In Italy the way pasta is made and then prepared may be considered a form of art. Yet it is a comfort food enjoyed daily. The symbiotic relationship of pasta and tomatoes is a sweet poetry aptly expressed in this fire-roasted tomato vegetable dish.

- Preheat oven to 350 F degrees.
- Cook & drain **3 cups pasta** and toss together with **3 tablespoons olive oil, 4 cloves minced garlic, 1/2 teaspoon rosemary, 1/2 teaspoon oregano.** Add **salt & cracked black pepper** to taste. Prepare **1 chopped red bell pepper, 2 thinly sliced spring onions, 3-4 chopped asparagus stalks.** Arrange prepared pasta and uncooked vegetables in a lightly oiled casserole dish. Top with **1 small can fire-roasted tomatoes, 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, and 1/2 cup feta cheese.** Bake for 20 - 30 minutes, Enjoy!

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GANGES VILLAGE MARKET

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- Rosemary
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- Salt
- Cracked black pepper
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- Fresh Ganges Village Market Spring onions
- Fresh Ganges Village Market Asparagus
- Fire-roasted tomatoes
- Balsamic vinegar
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Upholding current zoning is prudent water course to take

By MAXINE LEICHTER,
ANDREA COLLINS,
WAYNE HEWITT,
TOM WRIGHT,
COLIN RANKIN,
RON HAWKINS

IN RESPONSE

We welcome this opportunity to clarify the position of the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society (WPS) and correct mis-statements made in the August 24 guest column by Eric Booth.

We have never said "Stop all development." Our position is merely that the Local Trust Committee should follow the rules as they are presently written regarding zoning and protection of our drinking water lakes.

We have special zones that limit density around our drinking water lakes. Salt Spring Island's zoning bylaw established two zones (RW1 and RW2) where residential parcels are limited to four hectares (10 acres) and 12 hectares (20 acres) respectively for the protection of the watersheds of our drinking water lakes.

Parcels with this zoning are located near those lakes that provide (or have potential to provide) drinking water: St. Mary Lake, Cusheon Lake, Stowel Lake, Weston Lake, Blackburn Lake and Maxwell Lake. Under existing zoning, there are also many small parcels on our lakes that were established before we knew their effect.

A particularly important rule that we think should be followed is Islands Trust Policy Statement, Directive 4.4.2, which bars increases in density in watersheds where there is a problem with the quality or quantity of drinking water. Both Cusheon Lake and St. Mary Lake are now subject to algal blooms, which are the result of human activities, and in some cases produce harmful toxins.

We are only asking that there be no changes from

present zoning that would increase density and human impact to these lakes.

Why does density of development matter? During the past 40 years, many scientific experiments on lakes and a huge body of scientific evidence has been accumulated which has shown that the rate of phosphorus input into lakes is the key factor that controls the water quality of lakes.

Phosphorus input increases with increasing population density and agricultural activity. Construction of residences inevitably involves clearing the land and disturbance of the soil. Trees and vegetation act as a sponge soaking up water, absorbing phosphorus and releasing excess water slowly. When land is cleared, water runs off quickly, causing erosion, which carries phosphorus laden sediment into the lakes.

Even after construction, the roof, driveways and other hard surfaces shed water quickly, which carries phosphorus into our lakes. Furthermore, runoff or leakage from septic fields and livestock operations located in watersheds also increases phosphorous loading to lakes.

In view of these impacts, we feel that simply respecting the current zoning rules would strike a fair balance between protecting the quality of water (being used by current residents) and respecting the rights of property owners.

The WPS invited Mike Larmour to speak at our last annual general meeting because we believe that the questions he has raised regarding the need for additional information on the water supply and demand in

the North Salt Spring Waterworks District service area have merit. This district is important because it supplies water to most of the homes on the north end, residential areas around Ganges and some areas south of Ganges, Ganges village itself and the commercial area north of Ganges including the hospital.

There has been no study that shows whether or not there will be sufficient water

supply for this area when the maximum build-out allowed by the current zoning is completed. Therefore, we are asking that until this information is available, no increases over current zoning be approved.

Eric Booth says that all properties get rained on. But not everyone has the funds or space for a rainwater collection system. Although such systems do supplement the supply of water, they do not

mitigate any of the negative effects that development has on the quality of drinking water from our lakes.

We believe that protecting our drinking water lakes, groundwater and respecting current zoning is the least expensive and fairest way to assure an adequate and affordable supply of good quality water.

To us such a policy seems prudent and reasonable. We object to our members being

called hypocrites and criticized for their personal and professional activities.

We think islanders want to be informed about the serious water issues that we face. We hope this article can make a positive contribution towards that discussion.

The writers are members of the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society board of directors.

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"Art Inspired Splendor! Wonderful character home with separate artist's studio. Walk to Vesuvius beach in just a few minutes."

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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

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ChamberNews

SALT SPRING ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2005

Let's Talk Business



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Customers line up for Heather Campbell's famous bread at the popular Saturday Market.

Photo by Derek Lundy

Think Globally, Shop Locally

Anyone owning a local business knows that it is not easy; particularly because of the competition from off island big box stores and shopping malls. If we consider that most business owners are local and have a vested interest in the

well being of our local economy; donate to local charities and non-profit organizations; volunteer many hours in the community and they use local services for their business. Many employ our young people offering them their first job

and the opportunity to learn new skills. With more local support, our community could see fewer businesses close each year. Shopping locally is good for you and life enhancing: organic food, slow and delicious is grown in your neigh-

bour's yard. Our "Shop Locally" campaigns over the years seek to encourage islanders to support other islanders. We have wonderful retail, dining and services on the island; let's think twice before we spend our hard earned money off island.

A Sustainable Tourism Plan

Salt Spring Island is poised to be a model of green tourism practices and a community with a vision for sustainable tourism visitation. As we are in the midst of the high season on the island perhaps it is timely to reflect on this. The evident press on community resources in mid-August reminds us firstly of the profound economic importance of the tourism resource on the island as the most significant economic driver and employer after the public service. Secondly it speaks to the need to reduce the stresses and

impacts of peak visitation and distribute these stresses in a manageable manner throughout the year.

To this end, community stakeholders will be invited to generate a management structure and plan. Such a plan would seek to use our resources optimally, including biological diversity, minimization of ecological, cultural and social impacts with a strategy for maximizing benefits to conservation, environmental protection and raising awareness of our island's unique natural areas. Not one of us

wishes unbridled tourism on Salt Spring.

A management plan would see the community developing shoulder and off season events: visitors would be welcomed to partake in celebrations of our island lifestyle through agriculture, arts and cultural events in early spring or late fall. Visitors will stay in green accommodations and be encouraged to linger rather than day trip.

The Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to working with the Islands Trust in the coming months to ignite this

consensus building stakeholder process in formal workshops. A "Green Accommodation" program prepared by graduate students of George Washington University is ready to rollout. Our island has been a destination for generations, dotted with small resorts and summer cottages. The OCP is subtitled "getting the island we want" - together let us focus our efforts on redefining Salt Spring as a global example of how good planning can ensure sustainable practices are entrenched for future generations.

Calendar What's Up

September 8
Business Breakfast Club
Oystercatcher 8 am
\$5.00

September 29
Women in Business
Harbour House Hotel
11:30 am RSVP
\$15.00

October 13
AGM
Harbour House Hotel
6:00 pm

New Members

Sandra Smith
Royal LePage
537-5515

Maycock & Motts
537-9810

Frog Hollow
Guest Cottage
537-2499

Sidney Marine Safari
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Electronic Ark
538-5545

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538-0196

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537-4987

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Paws walk set to raise SPCA \$\$

The Salt Spring Island SPCA is urging animal lovers to take part in the 2005 Paws for a Cause walk-a-thon — formerly called “the Wiggle Waggle Walk-a-thon.”

Set for Sunday, September 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Mouat Park, all proceeds will support the local SPCA shelter, cruelty investigations and wildlife rehabilitation.

Participants can pick up pledge forms at the local shelter or the Gulf Islands Veterinary Clinic “and come for a few hours of fun,” said Jena Peori, the SPCA’s Salt Spring branch supervisor.

“You can bring your dog to participate, but it must be on a leash and under control. People can also form teams and compete.

“There will be treats for dogs and humans, door prizes and a free Paws for a Cause T-shirt for anyone who raises over \$200,” said Peori.

The top individual fundraiser in B.C. will win a European cruise for two. There are also team prizes for companies, schools or veterinary clinics with the most pledges.

Peori also stressed the importance of the SPCA’s spay/neuter subsidy for low-income pet owners of cats, dogs and rabbits.

“All people have to do is come in and apply,” said Peori.

For more information, call 537-2123 or see www.spc.bc.ca/walk.

“We are not a government-funded agency and rely on community events such as these to raise urgently needed funds to help animals in distress,” said Lorie Chortyk, general manager of community relations for the BC SPCA.

Paws for a Cause is held in 32 communities across B.C. and is the premier fundraising event for homeless, injured, lost and abused animals in the province.



FOCUS:
Members of David Honor’s tai chi class practise the art in Centennial Park on a sunny Saturday.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE Proposed Bylaws No. 404, No. 406 and No. 407

NOTICE is hereby given that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will hold a public hearing concerning proposed bylaws numbered 404, 406 and 407, for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained therein. At the public hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaws shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions.

DATE: Tuesday, September 13, 2005
LOCATION: Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island
TIME: As noted below

- 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM:** Public Information Session for Official Community Plan Bylaw Amendment No. 406 and Land Use Bylaw Amendment No. 407 – Norton Road Affordable Housing
- 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM:** Public Hearings for Proposed Bylaws No. 406 and No. 407 – Norton Road Affordable Housing
- 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM:** Public Hearing for Proposed Bylaw No. 404 – B & B Ganges Marina

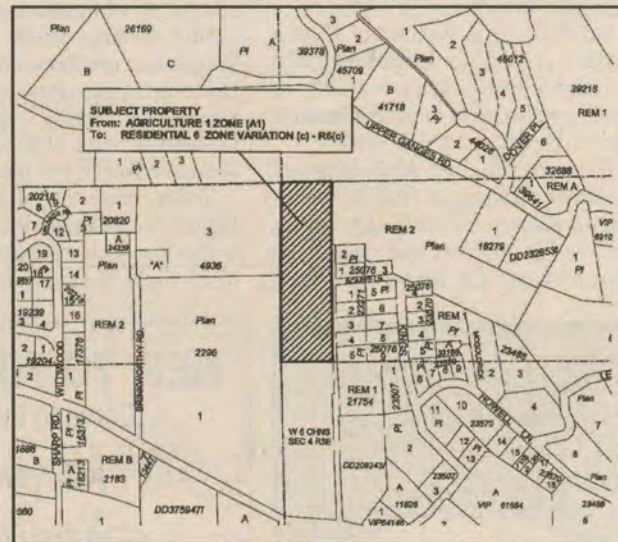
1. Proposed Bylaw No. 406, cited as “Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan Bylaw, 1997, Amendment No. 1, 2005”.

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 406 is to amend the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan by defining a specific residential density level for the Norton Road property.

2. Proposed Bylaw No. 407, cited as “Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 3, 2005”.

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 407 is to amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 to add definitions for “affordable housing dwelling units” and “special needs housing”; to create a new Residential 6 Zone Variation (c) – R6(c); and to rezone the lands described as the West 6 Chains of Section 5, Range 3 East, Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, from Agriculture 1 (A1) to Residential 6 Zone Variation (c) – R6(c), as shown on Plan No. 1, to permit 26 affordable housing dwelling units.

Plan No. 1 – Proposed Bylaw No. 407



3. Proposed Bylaw No. 404, cited as “Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 1, 2005”.

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 404 is to amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 by:

- a) deleting the Commercial Accommodation 1 Zone Variation (d) – CA1(d) and replacing it with a new version;
- b) rezoning a Portion of Lot 687 from the Shoreline 1 Zone (S1) and the Shoreline 6 Zone (S6) to the Commercial Accommodation 1 Zone Variation (d) – CA1(d) Zone, to permit construction of a 1,533 sq. metre, commercial/residential, mixed use building;
- c) adding a new Residential 1 Zone Variation (a) – R1(a), and by rezoning Lot A, Section 2, Range 4 East, North Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan 21668, from the Commercial Accommodation 1 Zone Variation (d) – CA1(d) Zone to the new R1(a) Zone, to permit construction of a 6-unit, multi-family building;
- d) rezoning Lots 1 and 2, Section 2, Range 4 East, North Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP59755, from the Residential 6 Zone (R6) to the Park and Reserves 6 Zone (PR6), to prohibit any residential construction; and
- e) adding a new Shoreline 1 Zone Variation (a) – S1(a), and by rezoning District Lot 687 from the Shoreline 1 Zone (S1) to the new S1(a) Zone, to limit the number of accessory buildings on the water; all as shown on Plan No. 2.

Plan No. 2 – Proposed Bylaw No. 404



Copies of the proposed bylaws, and any background material that may be considered by the Local Trust Committee, may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing Friday, September 2, 2005, and up to and including Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at 12:00 noon.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2)(e) of the Local Government Act, additional copies of the proposed bylaws may be inspected at the Victoria Office of the Islands Trust, #200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, commencing Friday, September 2, 2005, and up to and including Tuesday, September 13, 2005. Copies of Proposed Bylaws 404, 406 and 407 are also available on the Islands Trust website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca

Enquiries regarding the proposed bylaws may be directed to the Islands Trust at (250) 537-9144. For Toll Free access, request a transfer to the Islands Trust via Enquiry BC: in Vancouver at 660-2421, and elsewhere in BC at 1-800-663-7867. Written submissions may be delivered as follows:

1. by mail to the Islands Trust at 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8; by Fax to (250) 537-9116; or by email to ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca, prior to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, September 13, 2005. However, those persons who choose to make written submissions by email prior to the time and date above provided ought to require confirmation of receipt of their email and, in any event, the risk that an email is not received lies with the sender;
2. after 12:00 noon to the **Local Trust Committee at the Public Hearing.**

All applications are available for review by the public. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

NO REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED BYLAWS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Pauline Brazier, Deputy Secretary

SALT SPRING ISLAND is a Welcome Wagon COMMUNITY



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Welcome Wagon is known and perceived as help and kindness delivered in person far more than it's perceived as the significant and successful national service company that it has now become.

Two years after it was founded in the United States, Welcome Wagon was launched in Canada and expanded during the "dirty thirties" from Vancouver to span the length and breadth of all 10 provinces and the territories.

The year 2005 marks the celebration of 75 years of Welcome Wagon service in communities from coast to coast in Canada and 26 years of Canadian ownership.

The Welcome Wagon way of presenting information on public and community services and hospitals and introducing local merchants and services to new residents in a community provides an important service for them and personalized promotion for the businesses involved.

Salt Spring's Welcome Wagon hostess is Andrea LeBorgne. She thoroughly enjoys her job and loves meeting newcomers to the community. She can be reached at 537-8464.

Welcome Wagon's Area Manager is also no stranger to Gulf Islanders. Marlie Kelsey was the Salt Spring Hostess for 10 years and now is the Area Manager for Vancouver Island,

the Gulf Islands and Powell River. She is a long time Salt Spring resident and keeps busy on the road training and guiding her team.

The local Welcome Wagon program was started by Marion Marks in 1985 and previous hostesses have included: Caron Carson, Marlie Kelsey (twice), Jill Urquhart, Debbie Wrate, and Melanie Morris.

The Welcome Wagon Hostess and her decorated basket personify the concept of a caring community and local businesses to whom people and service are important. The gifts, greetings and invitations delivered by her, say it tangibly.

The token gifts Welcome Wagon brings are thoughtful and may range from a cookie sampler or note pad, to a car wash. Local information may include maps, library location and hours, places of worship, hospital services including volunteering and Foundation support and other health services.

Because the families who are welcomed receive the service without charge or obligation, they and the public at large think of Welcome Wagon as a not-for-profit organization. However, an ever-growing sector of the business community is discovering the tremendous value of the direct link that Welcome Wagon provides.

Today, more than 1,200 Welcome Wagon hostesses across Canada work within their local communities. A team of 23 Field Managers hire, train and

guide them. From head office in Ontario, more than 45 employees coordinate the Welcome Wagon administrative support, which evolves from representing over 16,000 businesses and visiting more than 300,000 households individually each year.

Salt Spring is an "all occasion" community meaning that newcomers to the island, newborn babies and couples planning a wedding on Salt Spring can all be welcomed by the local hostess. Additional programs are available in other communities all of which help ease the transition for a life changing event.

Welcome Wagon has much to celebrate during its 75th anniversary. While the Welcome Wagon US counterpart stopped home visits in 1999, Welcome Wagon Canada continues to pleasantly surprise hundreds of thousands of people across the country and provides a personal introduction for each of the local business sponsors. How can it help but be famous for its service and be recognized as significant and successful in its public relations and promotional capabilities.

Welcome Wagon Ltd. is proud to say, after 75 years, we are still going strong serving our communities throughout Canada. We've come a long way since 1930!

You can learn more at www.welcomewagon.com



A TISKET, A TASKET: With cheery smile, Welcome Wagon Hostess Andrea LeBorgne greets newcomers, new babies and brides to be on Salt Spring Island on behalf of local businesses. The organization is celebrating 75 years of serving newcomers, newlyweds and new parents.

From our kitchen to yours...
Welcome!
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Will rest of strait follow SSI route?

Every year for the past few years, I have visited different communities on the B.C. coast — all at different stages of development and all catering to a different demographic.

While Salt Spring nowadays seems to be catering more and more to the rich and famous, some other islands, not too far away, have a completely different feel.

My most recent travels took me to the remote fishing village of Sointula on Malcolm Island (roughly 40 kilometres south-east of Port Hardy). There, all 800 residents seem to have a connection, if not first hand, to the commercial fishing industry.

In Sointula, the ferry line up runs along First Street (with Second Street being on the outskirts of town), as does the ocean. Boathouses are more common than garages and over 80 per cent of the boats in the marina are either active commercial fishing boats or converted fishing vessels.

The demographic is completely different from that of Salt Spring. Sointula is comprised of working families who once made a living at sea, some of which still do. But the summer-cottage community, so to say, is gradually moving onto the island.

Although its population is nowhere near the size of Salt Spring, Sointula is rapidly growing. In fact, in a Globe and Mail feature written by Natalie Southworth and published in July of 2004, Sointula is supposedly "much like Salt Spring Island was 20 years ago."

I have lived on this island for all 17 years of my life. In that time alone, the changes to the island have been uncountable. If in 20 years a community like Salt Spring can go from a small, cozy working town to an urban, tourism-based holiday destination, what does the future hold for the rest of the Gulf

Islands?

Time and time again I have heard people say that Salt Spring has changed so much in so little time. So how can we put on the brakes? When it comes right down to it, how fast is too fast for a community to be developed the way Salt Spring has? And what are the consequences if that process goes too fast?

No one will argue that the reputation Salt Spring had 20 years ago as a quiet little coastal village will probably never again be true, but what does that mean for the island? And what will happen to the other islands in the Strait of Georgia, like Malcolm Island, which are following the path of Salt Spring? In 20 more years, could some of the pristine Gulf Islands be completely urbanized?

As I look at leaving the island in one year's time, I am facing the fact that I may never be able to afford to live here again — nor may many of my classmates. But does that mean that, as more and more people leave the island, the true identity of it will be lost? Do we have to just jump on the bandwagon and accept the island's changing state, or is there something we can do?

It's certain that no community will ever remain unchanged as time goes on, nor should it, but where do you draw the line? At what point is there too much change? When does change start to have a negative impact?

That answer will be different for every person asked, but there's no doubt that Salt Spring is changing. Now, our challenge will be to retain the qualities of Salt Spring that brought us all here in the first place... the same challenge that islanders will face all along the B.C. coast.

TALK ABOUT WITH LAURA STEWART



The Driftwood will be closed Labour Day Monday, September 5

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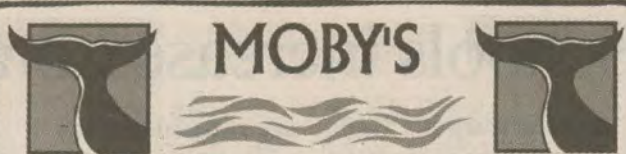
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 537/538/653: 537
 Occupation(s): Student
 Hobbies: Painting, gardening, music
 Home finished/unfinished: Unfinished
 Favourite people: My grandsons
 Favourite read: The Colour of Water by James McBride
 Best thing about SSI: The local characters
 Worst thing about SSI: Too expensive
 Best place to kiss on SSI?: At home

DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

Schools increase library funding

The local share of a \$150-million provincial increase for education funding will go toward libraries, special education, counselling, music and general staffing on the Gulf Islands.

"It's a really good news story," said district superintendent Wendy Herbert.

Of some \$415,190 allocated to School District 64 for a budget increase in 2005/2006 (originally announced in January), approximately 30 per cent (or \$125,000) will be divided between individual schools to be spent at their discretion to increase

services, said Herbert.

"It really depended on each school and its community — what it needed and wanted."

The ministry had asked districts to consider funding in areas of libraries, music, counselling and special education, she said.

"Of the dollars we got, about 70 per cent of it went to sustaining our staffing at the school level," said Herbert.

Those funds were used to maintain programs that could have been affected by declining enrolment.

"We wanted to make sure that teachers stayed in place."

Additionally, funds divided amongst individual Gulf Islands schools will be spent predominantly on libraries and counselling, she said.

"The Outer Islands chose to spend a portion of their money for one counselor who would look after the areas of Galiano, Pender and Mayne; here on Salt Spring, the elementary schools opted to increase their library time and Fulford also spent a small portion of their money on additional counselling time."

911 FILE

Salt Spring emergency crews attended a motor vehicle accident just after midnight on August 28.

A single vehicle hit a parked car along the 700 block of Beaver Point Road.

The driver was taken to Lady Minto Hospital with suspected head and neck injuries. No charges were laid by an attending RCMP officer.

Police issued a 24-hour driving suspension to a male Salt Spring resident just after midnight on August 28 at a road check at Fulford-Ganges Road and Seaview Avenue.

Due to weather changes, Salt Spring Fire Department indicated that campfires will be permitted Thursday through to Saturday nights from 7 to 11 p.m. Incinerators will be permitted from dawn to dusk seven days per week starting September 6.

Ganges Coast Guard crews attended several incidents in the last week, including a 75-foot fish packer, which went aground at Cowichan Bay. No injuries were reported, although the vessel's hull was split open.

On August 25 a medical evacuation was needed for a man at Montague Harbour suffering abdominal pains. He was taken to Lady Minto Hospital.

On August 26 a man was evacuated from Grace Point after falling off the rocks. He was also taken to hospital.

A 30-foot pleasure craft hit a log floating in the water off South Pender on Friday, and a kayaker capsized near Wallace Island also required assistance on Saturday.

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