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Driftwood Gulf Islands

Channel Ridge presentation: mixed reviews

By SEAN MCINTYRE Staff Writer

New Highbridge Village plans displayed at a Monday evening open house at Gulf Islands Secondary School attracted more than 70 islanders.

But whether the planned changes will help the 20-year project gain public acceptance remains to be seen.

"I like the layout and the colours they are choosing," said Salt Spring resident Arnold Biver after taking a look at the presentation. "It really blends in with nature and looks nice."

Though Biver favoured the colour renditions of the new and downscaled Highbridge Village site, he believed the new plan would not proceed without heated debate among islanders.

"This is Salt Spring Island," he said. "People are always very concerned and want things done the proper way."

But he said project changes sufficiently addressed people's concerns about the north-end development.

The \$200-million 1,433-acre Channel Ridge project, also called Highbridge Village, will include 310 residential units and 3,087 square metres (33,025 square feet) of commercial floor area.

The renewed plan follows last year's Salt Spring

Trust Advisory Design Panel (ADP) recommendation to reject an initial proposal calling for 427 units.

Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. will need an Islands Trust-issued development permit to proceed with the project. Zoning is in place.

Proposed drawings and details are now on display at the Salt Spring Islands Trust office, but one Monday visitors felt the information was inadequate for members of the public.

"They have a lack of available information and this appeared to be more of a sales presentation," said Jim Greenfield. "There was not enough information here and it will be very hard to follow through with any kind of discussion."

Greenfield added the presentation lacked the atmosphere necessary for community discussion and left people feeling unclear on the development's environmental and social consequences.

Among dozens of colourful poster boards and aerial shots mapping out the new development's four phases, Channel Ridge Properties representatives were eager to answer questions and address concerns forwarded by the public.

Development coordinator David Ehrhardt said the **CHANNEL RIDGE A2**



DARING DANCER: Bellydancer "Oriana" entertains market-goers at the Saturday Market in Centennial Park as she promotes her Salt Spring bellydancing classes. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Tennis staying put at park

Salt Spring tennis is back in Portlock Park courts.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) voted Monday night to build a permanent, "soft-shell" structure on two existing courts, with an explosion of tennis players' applause signalling their approval.

"We congratulate the commission on its decision," said Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) president Jay MacAulay at the packed meeting. "There is no reason why we can't . . . get everything in place for October 1."

The SSTA was concerned that with the indoor tennis bubble on its last legs and Rainbow Road developments clearly stalled, that its members would be without a covered place to play the game this winter.

"They were prepared to put a lot of support behind starting early," said PARC operations manager Dave Gibbon. "They just don't want to put up that bubble again."

PARC recently became aware of a new kind of steel-frame building with a fabric shell that has been used for tennis facilities in other places.

It is definitely less expensive than traditional construction, said Gibbon, although funding specifics are not yet known.

While the overall project will cost less, the SSTA will still contribute the approximately \$140,000 it had earmarked for the Rainbow Road building or bubble replacement.

Commissioner Peter Lake made it clear that \$600,000 was not suddenly available for upgrading the tennis facilities at Portlock, and that tight finances is one reason for abandoning the Rainbow plan.

"Don't put that \$600,000

TENNIS PLAN A3

Day in the Life cameras cover all parts of island

Salt Spring Islanders will be seen through eight different lenses today, as Wednesday, June 29 marks the Driftwood's second annual Day in the Life of Salt Spring photo shoot.

Eight photographers, wearing black Day in the Life t-shirts, will be out and about on the island over a 24-hour period beginning from 5 a.m. today.

Shooters are John Cameron, John Denniston, Derrick Lundy, Shari Macdonald, Peter McCully, Sean McIntyre, Ken Sakamoto and Mitchell Sherrin.

The best of the photos will be selected for a Day in the Life of Salt Spring publication due to come out on July 27.

Last year's Day in the Life earned several provincial and national community newspaper awards, including one for best photo essay and second-best special section in papers between 4,000 and 12,499 circulation in Canada.

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Luscious lavender
The Driftwood features two stories on lavender as Salt Spring gears up for the annual festival. Pages A16 and B12

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Weather
Sun and clouds are expected to rule the skies this week, with an increasingly cloudy weekend forecast. Highs to 22 C (Thursday); overnight lows to 11 C (also Thursday).


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Preservation through awareness: solutions to watershed damage

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer
Second in a series

Reports of a blue-green algal bloom on Blackburn Lake last week only help confirm fears shared by members of the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society about the precarious state of the island's fresh water sources.

"The more time passes without any action being taken," said Water Preservation Society (WPS) president Wayne Hewitt, "the more difficult it will be to reverse damage being done to the island's water supply."

In an interview following the release of the Cusheon Lake Management Plan in May, Hewitt explained the formation of blue-green algae blooms, also called cyanobacteria, was unheard of on Salt Spring's lakes before the 1970s, but has become an annual worry during the past 30 years.

Concern lies in the blooms' potential to release toxins linked to severe health problems in livestock, wildlife and humans.

According to provincial environment ministry information, cyanobacteria blooms such as the one that occurred on St. Mary Lake this spring release different types of toxins, or microcystins, when algae begin to die during the hot summer months.

In an information leaflet called *Blue Green Algal Blooms in Lakes*, the ministry identifies two major toxins that can be released in the process.

Neurotoxins affect the nervous system and may cause muscle tremors, respiratory failure and paralysis, while hepato-toxins may cause liver ailments.

Though algal toxins rarely kill humans, deaths have been recorded in cases of extreme exposure and increasing levels of microcystin found in the island's lakes have people in the know searching for solutions.

A 1999 Cusheon Lake outbreak forced a total lake closure while a separate incident in 2003 saw cyanobacteria levels in the lake reach 0.96 µg/l (micrograms/litre).

Proposed guidelines for consumption and total lake closure are 1.5 µg/l in Canada and 1.0 µg/l by the World Health Organization.

Factors contributing to the formation of the initial cyanobacteria blooms include sunlight, water depth and the source's mineral content.

According to the Cusheon Watershed Management Plan, development in Salt



Hewitt

Spring's watershed areas has contributed to increased levels of minerals — notably phosphorous — in island lakes.

Without vegetation and roots holding soil together, rain water carries phosphorous into streams and down into lakes where it accumulates and increases the chances of cyanobacteria outbreaks.

Further research and the creation of an official action plan will help raise awareness, but biologist and draft management plan author John Sprague said progress will only begin when individuals take responsibility for their actions.

In spite of evidence forwarded by the Cusheon Lake Management Plan, Sprague could not fathom why development seemed to be continuing at an unrelenting pace.

"What's happening in the Cusheon Lake watershed is happening in other places around the island as well," said Sprague. "Development is all around us."

Stronger regulations regarding development and land use in watersheds, along with enforcement of bylaws already in place, are necessary if any real hope is possible, he said.

He is grateful for the support of the Capital Regional District and Islands Trust for getting the management

project off the ground, but added little could be done if no one responds to the findings.

"There hasn't been much opposition, but there has not been much action," he said. "It's easy to draw up a management plan, but hard to get any action."

Though phosphorous finds its way into water in a variety of ways, minimizing land clearing in watershed areas is the most important thing people can do.

"The more vegetation we destroy, the worse things are going to get," he said. "It's already nearly too late and we keep on developing."

WPS members agreed promoting awareness in the community and governments to clear up existing contradictions is crucial.

A classic example is the provincial FireSmart program recommendation to remove all potential wood fire fuel sources within 15 metres of a home, when people should really be planting more vegetation, especially if they live in sensitive watershed areas.

Hewitt said it is crucial to make all facts available before clearing trees and shrubs since the damage often takes decades to repair.

Preventing wildfires is important, he said, but having a fire-safe home with no access to safe water poses an entirely new set of problems and concerns.

CHANNEL RIDGE

From Page A1

lower density, emphasis on long-term resident housing and landscaping changes were some of the main components of the new plan.

He said fewer units meant less impact on the land and a greater use of the area's natural features.

"Once you've made the decision to lower the density, then it becomes possible to really work with the natural

landscape," he said.

Ehrhardt said the developers could move away from man-made features, blasting and rearranging the natural landscape.

A willingness to work with the site's natural features, dedicated trails through the Parks and Recreation Commission and the incorporation of a new five-acre green space in the village core, he

said, addresses many people's concerns.

"In the time I've been here tonight, I've yet to hear any complaints and many visitors seem pleased with the changes we've made," he said.

Company president Jim Rogers was also happy with the evening.

"We feel it was very successful," he said. "Over 70 people attended and for the most part people were very positive and pleased with the results of our redesign."

Laura Allen spent time admiring the new plans and said many of the struc-

tures and the layout looked well designed, but doubted whether a suburb-style development was appropriate for a place like Salt Spring Island.

"If I don't think about the context, I think it's very pretty," she said. "I don't think it really works on Salt Spring because I doubt people move here for that kind of life."

The Channel Ridge plan goes to the ADP for its July 13 meeting.

A staff report will then be written by planning consultant Jim Moodie before a Trust development permit is issued.

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PLANTED IN A POT: Alexis Hunter gets a closer look at one of the items — a pot donated by Foxglove — up for grabs as Admiral Lodge #170 leads an auction at Meaden Hall to raise funds for their food bank building project. Photo by Derrick Lundy

New Greenwoods building project now ready to roll

Work on the new \$7.7-million assisted living project on Greenwoods Elder-care Society (GES) property began June 20.

"The new assisted living residence will be geared to elders with modest income and will fill the gap between living in one's own home and living in a long-term care facility," said GES chairman Don Hartwig.

"We will enable our elder neighbours to live in their own apartment, in a community of friends, with access to services that will ensure their independence and quality of life much longer."

The new building, set for completion in the fall of 2006, will include 30 one-bedroom assisted-living apartments for singles or couples.

Confirmed funding partners are the GES, the provincial government through B.C. Housing, Vancou-

ver Island Health Authority, Capital Regional District and the federal government through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

The development team includes CitySpaces Consulting, Jensen Group Architects and Beacon Construction.

Kinetic Construction was recently awarded the building contract through a competitive process.

The Greenwoods Founda-

tion has agreed to participate in the project and will lead a campaign to raise \$350,000 on behalf of the GES. Islanders should watch for the Greenwoods Foundation's "Age is a Work of Art" fundraising campaign in the near future.

For more information, contact Andrew Brown, interim chief executive officer of the GES at 537-5561, or Greenwoods Foundation president Jon Constable at 537-5743.



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TENNIS PLAN

From Page A1

into your mind as the figure that we have."

Courts will be resurfaced, said Gibbon, but commissioners stopped short of agreeing to pave the parking lot next to the courts, as requested by one person.

PARC and SSTA members were also celebrating accord on a draft facility management agreement between the two parties.

"We've had a 12-year history of working together and I'm so pleased we can continue to do that," said PARC chair Bill Curtin.

While an indoor tennis facility has been planned for the Rainbow Road site for

some time, Gibbon noted a number of factors had changed to make the Portlock option viable.

Among those is a movement to see an ice arena on the lands in future.

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Salt Spring Island Public Library

Salt Spring Island Public Library Association

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The same for the technology upgrade grant. It is for \$5000 for each of three years but we must raise \$1250 each year to be eligible. We continually have to upgrade our hardware and software and this would enable us to use provincial money rather than tapping into our operating funds.

The bottom line is that for every dollar we raise in donations, we shall receive four more dollars, so we are asking for your help. Please consider using the attached form and aiding us in getting more of your taxpayers' dollars back from the government.

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Garth Hendren, Chair

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IRAHVOL powers up amid setbacksBy SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Island Residents Against High Voltage Overhead Lines (IRAHVOL) remains optimistic despite an Islands Trust decision to adopt "non-intervener status" in the power line upgrade review process.

"This sort of puts a firecracker underneath us, but it also gives us a bit more impetus to act," said IRAHVOL chair Enid Turner. "When you feel threatened you double up your defences."

Turner hoped the Islands Trust would provide necessary political clout to persuade the British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC) away from a project they say is laden with negative repercussions for the economy and Salt Spring residents' health.

A non-intervener is a participant that does not intend to fully participate in the review process, but wishes

to receive all filed documentation with the option of making a submission on any issues that may arise.

Though disappointed by the overall decision, Turner said she is pleased with efforts from local Trust and Capital Regional District officials.

"They can still speak up but they cannot be responsible," she said. "I think [the Islands Trust] position is a question of dollars rather than a question of morals."

During debate on the issue at the quarterly Islands Trust Council meeting on Mayne Island June 17, Salt Spring trustee Eric Booth said a lack of resources limits the Trust's effectiveness.

"This decision falls short of the demands from local groups to take an active role in the BCTC process because of a lack of knowledge and funds to pursue this end," he said.

BCTC proposes to replace an existing 138-kV, 60-MW

overhead line with a 230-kV, 1200-MW transmission line on a 50-year-old right of way that runs over Tsawwassen, Galiano, Salt Spring and part of Vancouver Island.

BCTC spokespeople say the upgrade does not pose a health risk according to Health Canada guidelines. High costs and seismic risks, they say, make other options unfeasible.

Speaking at the Mayne Island meeting, Gabriola trustee Sheila Malcolmson expressed concern the Islands Trust may be picking a battle it cannot afford to fight.

"This is something that could really blow up and really absorb a lot of time," she said. "It could be endless."

The decision comes amidst concerns the cancellation of the Duke Point Power Plant and an increasingly vulnerable power supply on Vancouver Island may place more pressure on obtaining final approval for the upgrade.

Turner remains confident public opinion and the support of local Islands Trust and CRD politicians will continue to pressure BCTC to look at other options, including an underground HVDC cable between the mainland and Vancouver Island.

Earlier this month more than 200 residents packed ArtSpring to voice their concerns during a BCTC-sponsored question-and-answer forum.

Public opposition to the project in Tsawwassen forced BCTC to bury the lines and IRAHVOL is hoping a partnership with groups on the mainland will give them greater leverage, though Turner continues to appeal for political support wherever she can get it.

"I wish these politicians would stop procrastinating and give us their support," said Turner. "All we are asking is for them to endorse the issue and follow the preserve and protect mandate."

Local chamber bites fish-licence baitBy MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Fishing folk will be trolling for saltwater licences in new island locations now that local businesses have cut snagged lines with the federal government.

"It's now my pleasure to be the only vendor on the island selling saltwater fishing licences," said Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce manager Perry Ruehlen.

One might ask why the tourism info centre is now selling fishing licences, to which Ruehlen responds, "Nobody else will."

The chamber began selling licences on June 17 to fill a void left by disgruntled vendors, she said.

"It will generate some revenue for us," she noted.

But the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) was reluctant to let tourism centre volunteers sell saltwater fishing licences, she said.

"They initially didn't want to issue it to us because they are going to an on-line version and secondly, they

thought just because Fulford Post Office does it, that should be sufficient for the island."

However, the post office found itself overwhelmed with licence requests when other businesses stopped sales.

"It was too much fishing traffic — period," said Fulford postmistress Catherine Trudell.

The chamber proposal began to look more alluring to DFO once the post office stopped sales, Ruehlen said.

"Now that everybody else is out of it and there are 101 complaints and everyone is fishing illegally, they thought it was a great idea if we sold fishing licences now."

Saltwater fishing licences can be obtained at the Ganges Tourist Info Centre from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week until Labour Day, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday after that.

Licences can also be purchased online at www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/.

"I have a sneaking hunch that most people will end up doing them on line and that's

what DFO ultimately wants anyway," said Mouat's Trading Co. Ltd. general manager Kevin Bell.

His business used to sell saltwater licences, but backed out of the enterprise earlier this year.

"We sold maybe 2,000 per year and we only got a dollar per licence for doing it. It's an awful lot of work for a dollar. We look at all our costs pretty carefully and it looked like \$2.50 was break even."

Bell tried negotiating with DFO but the federal government wouldn't budge, so Mouat's discontinued providing the service, as did the Fulford Post Office and Harbour's End Marine and Equipment Ltd.

"It was just costing us too much to do it," said Harbour's End owner/manager Barry Green. "By the time you do all the paper work, you lose money."

The business was such a losing proposition that the local B.C. Government Agent wouldn't even touch it.

"Some government agents

have taken on that task," said B.C. Government Agent senior customer service representative Herb Burnett. "My manager said, 'There's no way I'm going to have you guys doing 10,000 saltwater fishing licences.' We have too much other stuff to do."

However, the Government Agent's office does handle licences for hunting and freshwater fishing, he said.

DFO's acting business manager for the Pacific region, Roy Neighbor, sympathized with local vendors, but indicated the Crown is acting on behalf of taxpayers' interests.

"I've heard that complaint before. People do at times raise concerns about the commission," noted Neighbor. "Vendors often tell us licences are a way to get people into their stores to sell them other goods and services."

"I'm glad the chamber is doing it because someone needs to do it in town," said Green. "Hopefully it works for them because it can be a real pain."

Trust seeks stewardship nominees

Organizers of the fourth annual Community Stewardship Awards urge anyone living in the Islands Trust region to step forward with nominations recognizing individuals or groups helping to "preserve and protect" the area's unique heritage.

"The awards were initiated to recognize people doing interesting things for the community," said Linda Adams, the Islands Trust's chief administrative officer.

Nominees will be judged on criteria including the project's relationship to the Islands Trust Policy Statement, benefits to the community, innovation and level of community involvement. Individuals, schools, community groups, non-profit organizations and businesses are all eligible for the award. Nominations are being accepted until July 15, and information is available at www.islandstrust.bc.ca or by contacting Jas Chonk at (250) 405-5164.

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Fundraisers ascend Erskine summit with close to \$500,000 now pledged

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Efforts to purchase 40 hectares (100 acres) around the summit of Mount Erskine are ready for the final push.

"We're getting really close," said Salt Spring Island Conservancy executive director Karen Hudson.

As of Monday, the conservancy had raised \$482,250 and conservation partners announced further donations that should push the total collected up to \$500,000, she said.

"We are also in negotiations with government and some foundations for quite a big chunk," Hudson said. "By the end of this week,

we'll know where we stand."

And since the conservancy is now within striking range of their \$650,000 target, she is asking islanders to fulfill their pledges.

"We thought we were going to be doing this in August, so this is really exciting."

Among recent fundraising highlights, Mount Erskine fundraising partners Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) and Islands Trust Fund (ITF) offered to match donations they receive to help raise the remaining \$150,000 required for an August deadline.

HAT made up to \$10,000 available in matching funds from its land acquisition fund

and ITF has earmarked up to \$5,000 from its "opportunity fund."

Hudson heard that HAT had already collected \$2,220, with matching grants to provide \$4,440, and that ITF has brought in \$2,255 (matched to \$4,510).

"Lisa Dunn, the ITF fund manager, said a lot of that money has come from employees and families of the ITF. I thought that was really nice that those people are personally helping in their office."

Along with the conservancy, HAT and ITF, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Trust of B.C. and The Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLC) are all working

together to raise funds.

TLC recently announced pledges of \$1,314.21 for Mount Erskine, Hudson said.

Sunday hikes of Mount Erskine continue (call the conservancy at 538-0318 to register) and "Fairy Door Fir Soap" is now for sale, with all proceeds going to the campaign, thanks to Salt Spring Soapworks, she noted.

Donors who wish to take advantage of matching funds can contact HAT (250) 995-2428 or ITF at (250) 405-5186. Both agencies issue tax receipts for donations over \$20. More information about Mount Erskine is available at: www.mounterskine.org.

Rescue part of Seals high-wave event

Sunday's crossing of Stuart Channel by 10 Salt Spring Seals members included swells of drama.

A fundraiser for the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre, the second-annual event saw swimmer Pat Parkes rescue an overturned kayaker, who was escorting the team in rough seas, and carry on to finish the crossing as if nothing had happened.

"She was amazing," said Seals founder Diana Hayes.

Swimmers also contended with an overturned dinghy and lost snorkel, and south-

east winds that created a wicked chop.

"The waves were crashing the whole time over our heads," said Hayes. "You had to constantly vary your stroke according to the waves, so it was a tough go."

Hayes also noted the efforts of Elly Silverman, who planned to do only one leg of the trip but ended up going all the way in a time of two hours and 10 minutes. (Veterans Hayes and Parkes finished in one hour and 50 minutes.)

"She said it was harder

than writing her Ph.D.," said Hayes.

In addition to Hayes, Parks and Silverman, the four-kilometre crossing was completed in full by Ann Donahue, Gail Eyles and Peter Eyles.

Doing part of the crossing were Carole Eyles, John Forbes, Chris Hunter and Ellen Mae Simmonds.

A celebratory banquet

took place that evening at Meaden Hall, with the doused kayaker receiving a big cheer as he entered the room.

"The Legion ladies were just superb with their meals," she said.

Hayes said the fundraising total was not yet known.

She also thanked the kayakers and Coast Guard Auxiliary members.

Ice survey planned

At the same time as a tennis building footprint vanished from the Rainbow Road recreation site Monday, a future ice arena was tentatively sketched in.

However, the commission also voted to not hold a referendum on borrowing funds for an arena in the fall of 2005, as requested by the Salt Spring Ice Park Society (SIPS).

It did agree to consider the matter further in 2006 and to come up with a long-term development design for the Rainbow Road site that provides for a future ice arena, unless a more appropriate site becomes available.

PARC's parks planning committee had endorsed a SIPS venture to gauge public support to borrow funds for an arena.

SIPS member Dwight Jones was pleased to hear that and confirmed an extensive mail-in survey will be done.

A SIPS information meeting was also held last night.

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Canada Day Holiday Schedule Change

For the issue of:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

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5pm, Thursday, June 30

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4pm, Monday, July 4

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Trustees hail 'proactive' enforcement

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

A new era of bylaw enforcement is on its way to the Islands Trust region as investigators will now be able to pursue violations without receiving official written complaints from members of the public.

"I am amazed that we've never had this before," said Salt Spring trustee Kimberly Lineger. "Without the ability to enforce them, our laws are worth next to nothing."

To have laws that work, we need to put this in place."

The decision came after Trust Council voted in favour of amending the Islands Trust Policy Manual at the June meeting at the Mayne Island Agricultural Hall. The decision means the Trust area's three bylaw

investigators will be able to follow up on infractions they observe in their respective territories.

"It must be incredibly frustrating to be a bylaw officer in the Islands Trust," said Saturna Island trustee Brian Hollingshead. "This change will allow them to get on with enforcing regulations."

The change also gives them power to act on magazine, newspaper and on-line advertisements featuring land-use violations such as vacation rentals and property developments.

Investigators were previously required to receive a signed complaint from a member of the public before taking action and were powerless to pursue violations they came across on their own.

Individuals will now be able to submit anonymous complaints, significantly reducing the risk of community-based ostracism brought on from blowing the whistle on friends and neighbours.

Trustees favouring the amendment touted the change as a major coup for bylaw enforcement, while others voiced concerns over increased costs and the lack of public consultation.

Sheila Malcolmson, a trustee from Gabriola Island, said an already backlogged department would be unable to cope with the influx of new infractions expected to result, considering the lack of warning people have been given about the change.

Legal expenses required to pursue the cases are also expected to rise along with

increased volume, adding more pressure to the Islands Trust's legal reserve fund.

The change requires that between \$8,000 and \$10,000 be "found within the existing budget to finance an additional day per week for one officer to handle additional administrative duties."

Supplemental training and the possible hiring of a full-time coordinator in 2006 are expected to increase costs down the road.

"In the long term, I think we'll have to look at a lot more money," said Wayne Quinn, Local Planning Services director. "Where we're headed based on these changes and the desires of the community is to really ramp up resources. If you really want to do this it's going to cost some money."

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First four tax exemption certificates gain approval

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Islands Trust members applauded a decade-long effort to protect the Gulf Islands' natural heritage after approving four tax exemption certificates at the Islands Trust Council quarterly meeting held on Mayne Island June 15-17.

"This is a very timely move to protect natural areas," said Kim Benson, a member of the executive committee and local trustee from Gambier Island. "Now that this is in place, I hope there will be a reason that gives landowners the option of protecting their land."

Benson said high property taxes have forced many owners into the position of logging or developing their

property to keep up with the demands of rising land values.

The Trust's new Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) means people wishing to protect natural and cultural features of their land can receive a 65 per cent property tax exemption.

Areas considered include lands found to have environmental, historical, social and recreational significance and may include trails, areas containing native species, streams, woodlands or geologically sensitive areas.

The four NAPTEP properties approved by council encompass more than 60 acres of land in the vicinity of Walter Hook, Maxwell Lake, Dukes Road and Isabella Point.

"All the properties are wonderful but the Maxwell Lake

property has been the poster child of what the NAPTEP certificates have been set up for," said Galiano trustee Louise Decario, commenting on the 47-acre property on which woodlands, wetlands and breeding areas are now protected from development.

Applicants are charged a one-time application fee and must cover costs associated with setting up and registering the covenant on their lands.

Once registered, a NAPTEP covenant is on a land's title permanently and violating its conditions may result in repayment of all exempted taxes.

People interested in obtaining more information about the NAPTEP process are asked to contact the Islands Trust Fund at (250) 405-5186 or visit its website at www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca.


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REACHING FOR THE TOP: Basketball star Betty Bishop shows off her stuff in front of onlookers at the Greenwood Senior Olympics held June 23.

Photo by Sean McIntyre

Weather site gives island forecasts

Islanders can finally throw out those weather-divining chicken bones now that Environment Canada (EC) has added the Gulf Islands to its crystal-ball database.

Instead of triangulating weather predictions between oracular reports from Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver, a new local forecast can be found by radio, telephone or the click of a mouse.

"In the past, people had to figure out what weather region they were in. Sometimes the weather was more like Victoria and sometimes more like Nanaimo," said EC outreach officer Anne McCarthy.

While summer presentiments are commonly similar along East Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, winter weather can bode different prognosis.

"A westerly wind can just howl through downtown Victoria and not affect you at all."

Consequently, the new site will give a better palm reading of local weather.

Temperature and precipitation data will be col-

lected on Saturna Island and forecasting models will be generated for the new Gulf Islands region, she said.

"You needn't worry and say, 'Wait a minute, Saturna is different. It's 50 miles away from my place.' Forecasters are using radar, satellite imagery and computer models that would curl your hair."

And islanders on Salt Spring can share more pre-shadowing weather similarities with other Gulf Islands than the Saanich Peninsula at times, McCarthy said.

EC's new local service can be found on the web (www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca), by phone (250) 363-6717, or on weather radio (162.4 MHz on VHF) from a transmitter located on Mount Tuam.

Islanders can also subscribe to an e-mail weather warnings system through the EC website, she noted.

McCarthy even believes the new website service could provide a boon for the tourism industry.

"People in the other parts of the country — sweltering

in the humidity of Ottawa — can click on there and go 'Oh wow — 25° and sunshine, wouldn't that be nice.'"

And McCarthy recommends local businesses print

a copy of the five-day forecast and post it in store windows to attract clientele.

"Guaranteed, a few people will stop and say, 'What's it going to be like tomorrow?'"

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Hastings poised to buy Moby's

Anyone who wants to learn the future fate of Moby's Marine Pub and Salt Spring Marina will have to wait another week.

"An offer has been made and accepted for the purchase of the marina but there are contingencies to be checked out and that's all I can say until Thursday," said Jerry Parks on Monday.

Parks and his wife Bonnie O'Connor own the Hastings House and have entered into a venture with the Seattle

Yacht Club for possible purchase of Moby's, he said.

"I'm hoping to get the final reports back from the various people who have been working on the contingencies so a decision can be made whether to waive them or not."

Parks would not discuss future plans for the local pub and marina.

"It would be totally unfair to anyone, particularly the present owners, for me to say anything before the purchase

is final."

But he confirmed that the Seattle Yacht Club would be a minor shareholder in the venture.

"The vast majority, 75 per cent, is Bonnie and me."

Parks laughed about various rumours circulating regarding the prospective purchase.

"The Seattle Yacht Club is not buying the marina, the Hastings House, the Harbour House or the rest of the town."

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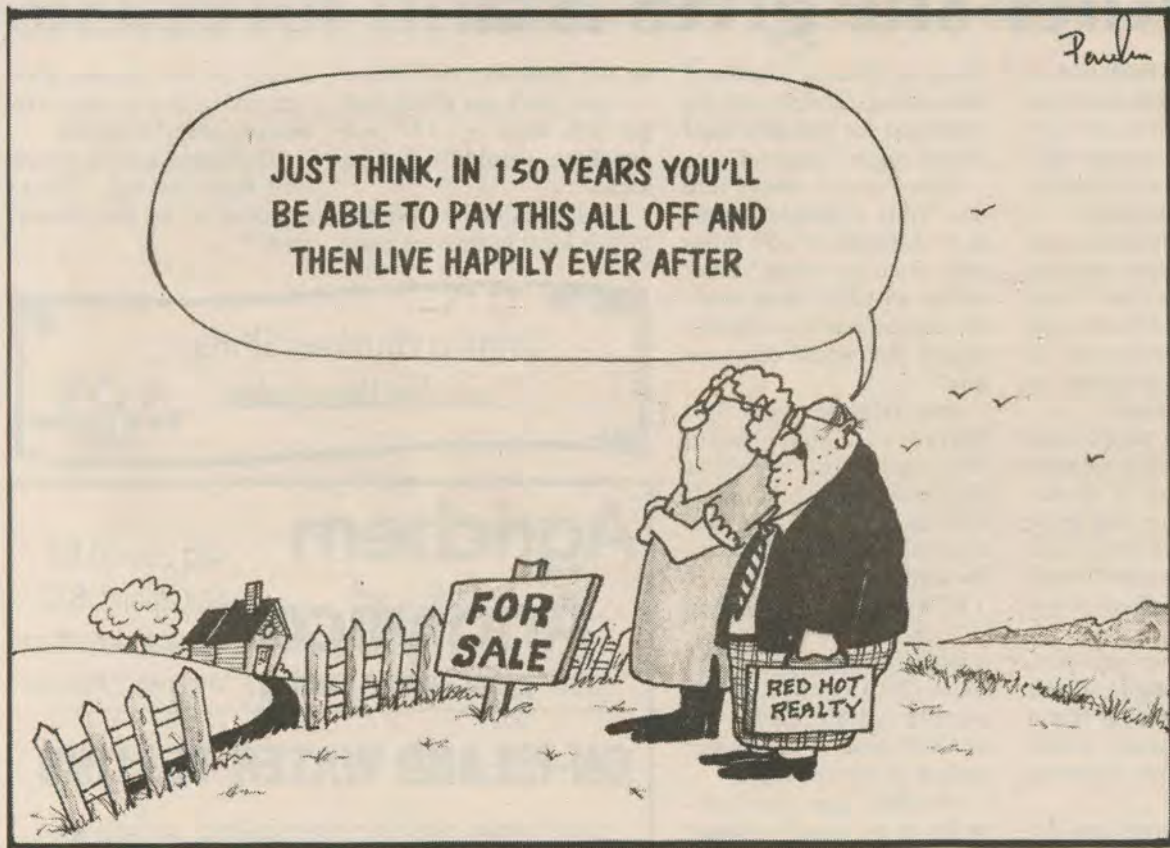
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Unstoppable arts

An overflowing arts and entertainment agenda in the summer on Salt Spring is no surprise.

For some time we've had music downtown every night of the week, an arts centre humming with rehearsals, exhibits and shows, the vibrant presence of ArtCraft and numerous galleries, and performers from the famous to the yet-to-be-so drawing crowds into community halls.

But recent weeks have seen a shift that makes it seem as if culture is somehow bubbling unchecked out of the ground.

With the addition of Monday-Tuesday showings of *Paradise Relisted*, (the must-see 2005 version of *Paradise Lots*), the "Summerstock" sensation is alive and well.

Sizzling Summer Nights — ArtSpring's multifaceted entertainment festival — already had the centre on full throttle, with early sell-outs a sign of its success, and the centre's gallery spaces are also ablaze. When audiences were treated to the inaugural use of ArtSpring's outside patio for the Graffiti Theatre dramatic reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, it seemed to represent the unstoppable nature of island drama. Even though no one has the time or funds to mount a full Shakespeare production at this time, the urge to perform could obviously not be quelled.

Using beautiful Stowel Lake Farm for the third Graffiti performance is more evidence of a seeping art scene.

Starting Friday a month-long province-wide pottery show turns up in the window of a Ganges clothing store — of all places — check it out at Mark's Work Warehouse.

On Saturday Centennial Park will resound with the 1812 Overture and cannon fire from the Salt Spring Concert Band, plus the music from Valdy, YJP and Strait of Georgia.

Next week the island is treated to an unprecedented Bateman family exhibit, with Robert, Alan and John Bateman merging with their works at Thunderbird Gallery.

The amazing K'naan, hip-hop/spoken word reputation took him to the United Nations, is at Beaver Point Hall next Wednesday.

In its fourth year out, the Natural Fibre Festival just keeps growing, with six days of activities now on the go later in July.

The island should congratulate itself on not only achieving recognition for its authentic arts scene, but for supporting the performers and artists involved.

Gulf Islands Driftwood

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We should embrace pool project in spirit and funding

By ROSEMARY TRUMP

Salt Spring has been fortunate to have had Shelby Pool all these years. My son spent many happy summers and learned to swim there.

Having taught Aqua-fit classes on Salt Spring for 19 years, I believe that an aquatic environment is universally beneficial. Young or old, frail or robust, water can be used for exercise, flexibility and strengthening, relaxation, rehabilitation and recreation.

Our community is currently looking forward to the construction of phase one of an indoor aquatic facility. It will include separate changing rooms for women, men, families and those with disabilities. There is an 18-person hot tub and a 25-metre

VIEW POINT

pool. The shallow end of the pool is four feet deep and gradually slopes to eight feet at the opposite end. Both the swimming pool and the hot tub will have handicap access.

This pool will meet wide-ranging community needs. The swim team will be able to train from diving blocks at one end of the pool, and practise competitive flip turns at the other.

There will be lap swimming for fitness and recreation. There can be water polo and volleyball, underwater hockey, scuba diving, kayak basics, synchronized

swimming and more. Swimming lessons from aqua tots to National Life Guard Service will be available on island. Young adults and seniors will choose between deep-water or shallow-water aqua fit classes year round.

The deep end of the pool will provide for a totally non-impact workout, which is especially important for people with ankle, knee, hip, or back problems, and for the overweight or injured. People with arthritis, chronic pain, stroke, balance problems, osteoporosis and Parkinson's, along with post-rehab patients and children or adults with other handicaps, will have water deep and buoyant enough to allow them to exercise in ways that would be impossible on land.

A temperature of 82 F (28 C) will be suitable for most users, and people who need to work slowly will be able to complete their workout in the hot tub.

Financial limitations dictate that the pool to be built must fulfill the needs of the majority of users. The pool will exclude no one, as small children will have the opportunity for aquatic play in the swimming pool too. Beginner classes will stand on tot docks to reduce water depth and boost confidence. As in any pool, young children and non-swimmers are required to be accompanied by an adult and families will have play time as their children become competent swimmers. A variety of pool toys and creative programming will give each child a sense

of excitement.

In the next couple of years, we will be given the opportunity to gauge the future aquatic needs of our community. If costs prove to be manageable, it would be reasonable to expect that another phase will be added. A children's leisure/tot pool with play features might be chosen. There might also be a true therapy pool; built chest deep, with very warm water. It is an onerous task to adequately meet the standard for both in one pool.

In the interim it is time for the community to embrace this much-needed pool, and to support it both financially and in spirit.

The writer is the vice-chair of PARC and an Aqua-fit instructor.

Smooth road ahead after recent indoor pool turbulence?

By STEVE PETERSON

I enjoyed reading Peter Vincent's column in last week's Driftwood. The article brought forward several contentious issues surrounding the pool that need to be aired.

I voted "yes" in the referendum. As many of you know, I have long been an advocate for an indoor pool. To that end, I volunteered to be a PARC commissioner just this year so I could keep a closer eye on the project.

Why? At times I too have wondered if PARC was insane, wondered how stupid they thought we were, wondered why pool advocates were seemingly being ignored. I've walked both sides of the fence now.

Win the referendum at any cost? (Vincent's suggestion regarding the numbers used.) To provide a little

IN RESPONSE

reading this, PARC's fall-back position remains an outdoor pool. At the risk of not being invited to this year's Christmas party, I'm not sure all my fellow commissioners share my level of commitment to the indoor version, so be careful what you wish for.

On mushrooming construction costs — anyone following commodity prices knows the real deal. I saw the wholesale price on a box of a hundred screws go up by dollars last month, not cents, dollars.

Oddly, everyone seems accepting of the inflation theory in reverse when discussing the leisure pool. By

the leisure pool now ultimately means it will cost more later. But PARC simply can't afford it now with the funds available.

On the infamous infrastructure grant "rebate" offer. It's definitely a lose-lose scenario for PARC, no matter how you slice it. The applause of those attending the open house meetings strongly suggests PARC, in keeping with the spirit of their offer, decided correctly in not taxing to the max.

Yes, there is a fly in the ointment here. The surveys all indicate the willingness of taxpayers to anti up for an indoor pool. But I didn't see any petitions, any outpouring of opposition from the community. The opportunity was there.

As a fellow islander once wrote, "the difference between Americans and

just build it, Canadians try and figure out how to pay for it first." How true, and PARC is no different.

Without Ssplash we might not be discussing an indoor pool at all today. Please reread paragraph three. They deserve a great deal of credit and certainly have my thanks. Because of Ssplash and others, a canteen and a full family change room have been included in the final design. PARC offices are not. Ssplash did indeed have input in the decision making process.

Others have had input too. The completion of the indoor tennis facility is no longer tethered to the pool. It looks like the Salt Spring Ice Park Society has secured a home for a potential arena. Not everything worked.

The idea of having Ssplash use their resources

the building envelope for the future leisure pool was floated. Potentially a tenant could have leased the space, generated pedestrian traffic to the pool, helped the canteen and potentially made a profit for themselves. Pretty much a win-win as I see it. I was waiting to hear back on that, but alas I'm afraid the dye is now cast, the plans finalized.

On that note, I would like to say that I think your PARC volunteers and Alan Roy have done a terrific job. Two thumbs up. Assuming things run smoothly from here on in, this facility will be something we can all be proud of.

See you at the pool.

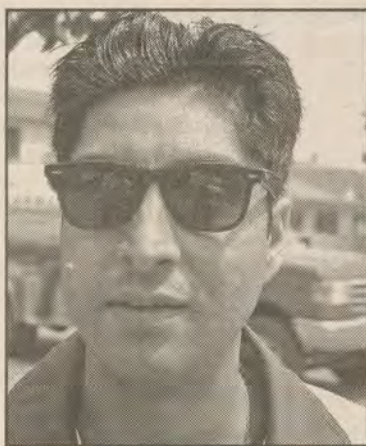
The writer is a PARC commissioner.

Your letters are welcome

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 400 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *How will you celebrate Canada Day?*



Karan Bajwa

I'll be working on Thetis Island. I've only been in Canada for one year and I don't know what I'll do yet.



Ruby Odell

I think it's just a reminder to celebrate everything we love about this country.



Shane Peden

I'm going home to White Rock where I will celebrate with my family.



Chris Spencer

I'll go down to the fireworks, hang out and just give 'er.



Cheryl Kohen

Having a good time and taking my voice coach to a birthday lunch.

Letters to the Editor

Political will

On June 15 and 16, I attended the Islands Trust Council quarterly meeting on Mayne Island. It helped to remind me of the many tools and resources the Trust provides to Local Trust Committees.

If there is political will, these can assist LTCS in making effective, efficient and consistent decisions in their governance. At the meeting, particular resolutions were decided (amongst many) which illustrate this.

One was the adoption of four resolutions pertaining to bylaw enforcement — a source of ongoing complaints from many islands. The changes include: easier notification of infractions (change from the complaint-driven current practice); inclusion of advertising of the wrongful activity as a violation, and additional resources. (One of our trustees voted against these resolutions.)

Another timely and important tool was the adoption of the precautionary principle as it applies to certain issues, including commercial devel-

opment and Temporary Commercial and Industrial Permits.

The Trust Council rejected a proposal (generated by a Salt Spring trustee) to delete policy 4.4.2 of the Trust Policy Statement. This section requires that LTCs address measures to ensure protection of water quantity and quality in their decisions regarding density and intensity of land use.

I received an unanticipated bonus during the long and delayed ferry travel (delay from special consideration given by B.C. Ferries to logging traffic from Pender Island.) I was able to take in, at a leisurely pace, the beauty and wonder of some of the lands and waters that we are entrusted with protecting and preserving; and to connect with other people who care about this.

JOANNE ELIZABETH,
Woodland Drive

Use powers

I was dismayed to read a June 15 letter from several islanders which implied that if Salt Spring were a municipality we might be spared

worrying that "Moby's, the adjacent marina and Hastings House could be purchased by the Seattle Yacht Club," or worrying about a developer filling in the harbour to build a hotel.

While I strongly agree that what makes our island so special is being threatened by a number of factors, the hard fact is that our trustees have the same land use powers as a municipality. They could say no to the harbour fill scheme. But for over two years, they have failed to do so.

Currently, neither a municipality nor the trustees can prevent the Seattle Yacht Club from buying land on Salt Spring.

The trustees have the power now to resolve many island problems but have not done so. These include: stopping illegal vacation rentals, passing bylaws to better protect our drinking water, stopping mining in residential neighborhoods, and passing a ticketing bylaw so our bylaws can be enforced short of going to court, and many more.

What we need are new trustees who will use the powers they have to preserve

and protect our islands.

MAXINE LEICHTER,
Salt Spring

Manage both

Opponents of vacation rentals suggest that they are deemed illegal because they are "commercial accommodation" — this according to the Residential Tenancy Act.

But the Residential Tenancy Act specifically addresses B&Bs and vacation rentals as one and the same, and states the act doesn't apply to "living accommodation occupied as vacation or travel accommodation." So it makes the current regulations in Bylaw 355 invalid as it refers to "commercial accommodation." The Residential Tenancy Act defines both vacation rentals and B&Bs as home-based businesses, and neither as "commercial accommodation."

The Islands Trust needs to 1) do their homework better before passing or enforcing invalid legislation like Bylaw 355 and 2) respond similarly to other governing bodies in B.C. by treating B&Bs and vacation rentals as the same thing.

Right now other B.C. government agencies treat B&Bs and VRs the same. Why is the Islands Trust trying to make them seem different? As a property owner, I pay property tax. As a taxpayer, I either have the right to rent out my house, or I don't.

If I can rent it out for 30 days or more, or just overnight, then I certainly have the right to rent it out for time periods in between (like a week).

Now the Islands Trust has to decide if they want tourism or not. If not, then ban both B&Bs and vacation rentals; if they want tourism, then accept both B&Bs and vacation rentals. If they accept both, then regulate both, not just one. It is B&Bs that use more water and create greater congestion than vacation rentals anyway; so in my view, both types need to be properly managed.

D. MACDONALD,
Salt Spring

Going down

Property taxes going down — on Salt Spring Island!

At this time of escalating property assessments on Salt Spring Island, it may be surprising to hear that

assessments are decreasing on some "select" properties! Call Tom Pickett at 653-9188 or Harry Warner at 653-4041 for further information.

HARRY WARNER,
Lee Road

Nowhere close

Many letters in the Driftwood are about issues. However contentious the issue may be, most writers express logical thoughts that they then back up with facts or reasoned argument, while remaining within the bounds of good taste and respect.

Mike Gluss came nowhere close to this standard last week. His two short paragraphs contain not a single fact or logical proposition, but merely five vitriolic personal insults aimed at Miranda O'Byrne.

I was disgusted to read it, and disgusted that the Driftwood would publish it. There is a world of difference between strongly expressed opinion and bombastic bigotry.

MICHAEL LINEHAN,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

Nature preservation needs more than our marvel

By **NINA RAGINSKY**

"In wildness is the preservation of the world."

-H.D. Thoreau

Since moving to Salt Spring 17 years ago from Victoria, I've slowly gleaned a little knowledge about some of our native fauna and flora, and about how our connection to them affects both their well-being and their demise.

I have noticed that we all "love nature." We marvel at the exquisite pleasure we feel when we observe the fragrant and rare Fairy Slipper (Calypso Orchid.) We are amused by the raucous conversations of the also rare Black Oystercatcher. But have we noticed that much of our "nature" is disappearing?

Simply marvelling and delighting in "nature" will not preserve it. Only by slowing down and taking the time to acquire a deeper understanding about how "nature works" will we begin to learn how to protect it. Every plant and animal is part of an intricate living community; a community in very delicate balance.

Here are two examples of why

GUEST COLUMN

our knowledge of the life-cycles of indigenous plants and animals is crucial to their well-being. The Black Oystercatcher lays her eggs in mid-May, in a tiny nest situated right on the ground in the clamshells, or in a tuft of grass. These nests are located on rocky islets and spits — nowhere else!

Their eggs can be inadvertently destroyed by one single footstep or by one unattended dog scaring the bird off her nest and leaving the eggs vulnerable to nearby hungry crows and eagles. There are only two known active oystercatcher nesting sites left on Salt Spring!

The ephemeral shade-loving Fairy Slipper is a perennial spring wildflower. In order for it to exist, it requires a forest habitat which is rich with leaf mould containing specific microscopic fungi. It is rapidly being exterminated due to trampling of its delicate root systems, and to tree removal.

Here are a few suggestions, which, if incorporated into our daily lives, can teach us how to restore the ecological integrity needed to support healthy populations of Salt Spring residents for many generations to come.

1. Slowing down. Spending more time outdoors just simply looking, listening, lingering, smelling, feeling and delighting in the pleasures of the natural world.

2. Buying or borrowing the following of my favourite CD, basic field guides and sustainable living books:

- Peterson field guides;
- Western Birds by Roger Tory Peterson;
- The Butterflies of Cascadia by Robert Michael Pyle;
- Plants of Coastal B.C. by Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon;
- Trees, Shrubs and Flowers to Know in B.C. and Washington by C.P. Lyons and Bill Merilees;
- Birdsongs of Canada's West Coast by John Neville (CD);
- B.C., A Natural History by Syd and Dick Cannings;
- The Jade Coast by Robert

Butler; and

- Radical Simplicity by Jim Merkel.

Our public library and local bookshops will be happy to find these books for us.

3. Starting to really use these books. Bringing them with us on our walks, camping and boating expeditions, or just reading them outside in our own backyards.

4. Considering a conservation covenant for our land. Setting one up with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, or with the Islands Trust Fund, and its newly created 65 per cent property tax exemption program are two options.

5. Starting a "restoration club" with a few friends. After habitat destruction, invasive species are the greatest threat to the health of our native fauna and flora. By planting native plants, pulling broom, picking burweed and cutting ivy, we can help restore our native plant communities.

6. By building Western Blue Bird and Purple Martin nesting boxes, making sharp-tailed snake habitats, keeping our cats inside, and making and installing "Slow"

signs, we can help restore our native fauna communities.

7. Sharing these tasks with our friends and family, complemented by a picnic of locally grown and produced breads, cheeses, fruits and vegetables, can improve our quality of life too!

8. Keeping a nature journal or log book in which to record our field notes can provide an excellent archive of valuable wildlife sightings for us as well as for future Salt Spring Islanders.

Aldo Leopold wrote in the 1940s, "Perhaps such a shift of values can be achieved by re-appraising things unnatural, tame and confined in terms of things natural, wild, and free."

By slowing down, and by taking the time to connect more deeply to the natural world, we can learn how to take better care of it, restore it, and enrich our own lives... naturally!

The writer is the co-ordinator for the Waterbird Watch Collective and a member of the Society for the Advancement of Slow, Salt Spring Island Chapter.



The Wall

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More letters

Caterers too

On behalf of Music Makers of the Anglican Parish, I would like to thank the Driftwood for its support of the lunchtime series Music and Munch over the past several years.

The weekly press releases of upcoming recitals have helped keep us in touch with an appreciative audience.

The recent spread in the Visitor section will both introduce newcomers and tourists to this unique event and encourage our "regulars" to continue their participation.

One thing remains to be added to this latest coverage.

While Music and Munch is indeed organized by a group of passionate volunteers, the contribution made by Music Makers is only part of the success of the event.

The Anglican Caterers prepare and serve the lunch, organize the practicalities of dish washing and furniture moving and generally help to create the ambiance for which the series is well known.

Working together with the Anglican Caterers remains a particular pleasure for Music Makers and we are grateful for nine years of successful collaboration.

Our July and August calendar is full of exciting music

and delicious munches and we look forward to greeting many friends, both new and old.

LOTTIE DEVINDISCH,
Music Makers

Add voice

Simple questions. Do we want to be standing here in five years time saying, "How did this happen, how did we let this go by?"

Do we want to see the harbour filled in to allow the expansion of Ganges Marina into hotel and fractional ownership condominiums and even more retail space?

Do we want to explain to our children, grandchildren and visitors that we allowed it to go ahead, ignored our community plan and our reward was the completion of the boardwalk? Do we want to see the harbour with the shoreline left undeveloped?

The public deserve their say and the LTC needs to listen and take a stand and to represent the overwhelming body of opinion from many respected delegations against a development of this size and location. The float house came in on a lie and stays on dubious grounds. No more PR shows from B&B Marina, we want a public meeting.

There have been many appeals and persistent requests for the LTC not to proceed and to use the precautionary principle with the many development plans put forward by Ganges Marina.

If you share concerns at the lack of process and the

way the LTC have handled this over the years then please attend the next LTC meeting on June 30 and add your voice. Write to your Trust members. Let them hear loud and clear we want public input and a public meeting prior to any first reading of any amendments to any bylaw or changes to our OCP. Enough is enough.
CATHERINE BENNETT,
 Salt Spring

Liota impressive

On June 25 at 7p.m., Norman Liota played to an intimate audience, and exceeded my expectations.

It was Norman's first experience on Salt Spring in this leg of his tour around the West Coast. He learned about "SST," that is "Salt-spring Standard Time." Also, many who attended were able to get on his e-mail list for next year's tour. Those who missed Liota can get on this list by going to norman-liota.com. Listening to his refined manner and vocals were for me impressive.

My hope is Liota will come back soon so more Salt Springers can appreciate the skill and quality of his guitar work. If you missed out on Liota, a year will be too long for you to wait for his return.

JAMES FALCON,
 Salt Spring

Why Aqua?

I really don't understand why we need a magazine like Aqua.

Why do people feel the need to show their wealth to the rest of the world? Why are we constantly celebrating and promoting unsustainable living? If 6 billion people adopted the lifestyle promoted by your magazine, life as we know it would end tomorrow.

Our home is on fire. Please reconsider publishing Aqua in the future.

PAUL DE ROO,
 Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A11



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More letters

Liquid letters

What a great issue last week; good enough to incite me to write three short letters! From the ridiculous to the vital:

1. Is it really necessary for the Driftwood to give space to the hateful droolings of Mike Gluss? Most of us have evolved to a level where even jokes on beer labels about the hideous incineration of humans are no longer acceptable. The only waste of space is Mike.

2. I did not vote for the pool, mostly because I suspected we were being fed unrealistic low-ball estimates for its construction and operation and such a facility was simply beyond the means of a small community. Now we are told that unless the over-budget lap pool is accompanied by tot/leisure pools, revenue will be much lower than estimated. The SSplash people have taken their marbles (and money) and gone home in a snit, worried that their elitist lap activities will cost taxpayers a fortune unless offset by revenue from facilities that offer more to more islanders.

The solution is obvious: forget the mindless lap pool and build only the leisure and tot pools that will give back far more to the community and pay for themselves. This more practical pool complex would be built under budget and PARC could easily keep its promise to return the grant to taxpayers.

3. During the recent vote to amend an Islands Trust policy statement on protection of water resources, trustees in favour of the change, among them Eric Booth, expressed the opinion that the existing policy restricts development unreasonably because watershed impact could be minimized by using rainwater catchment systems.

The water cycle is a very complex subject, but such ignorance is inexcusable in officials who are making vital decisions about our sustainable water supply. Fortunately, some of the concerned public



BEACH DAY: The sun shines on the beach at Fernwood Dock.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

were better informed. Rainwater catchment is part of the watershed cycle! There is a finite amount of rainwater. We don't actually "use" any of it, we only divert some of it, add a variety of pollutants by passing it through our bodies, sinks, washing machines, farm lands and numerous industrial processes, and release it, sometimes after some treatment and purification, back into the water cycle.

Whether we divert it by pumping it out of a lake or a well or by catching it on a roof, the supply is the same. If there are more people and more development there will be greater "use" and more degradation of the water. All the policies regarding development hinge on the fact that this vital resource is limited and finite. If you take from one place, other places will suffer.

I strongly recommend that those trustees who supported policy changes study the Waterscape Gulf Islands poster recently released by the federal department I work with. We should all try to get a look at it. Our quality of life depends on understanding the water cycle.

ANDREW OKULITCH,
Salt Spring

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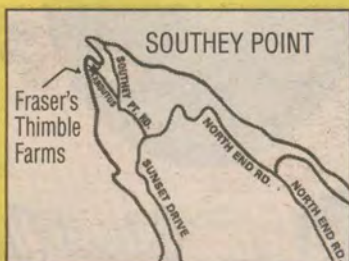
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RANTS

A huge pile of rotten weeds to all the lazy plumbers in the phone book who didn't answer the desperate call early Friday afternoon. And to all those plumbers who advertise as being 24 hours on call and don't have the courtesy to return another desperate call — water up your noses. J. Kelsick

Maybe a rant, maybe a rose. The Salt Spring Shorei-Kan Karate sign missing from Beaver Point Hall was not a stray, unwanted piece. It's used weekly for kids' karate classes. A rant if it was taken because it wasn't

RANTS & ROSES

nailed down or locked up; a rose if it was taken for safe-keeping. Either way, please return it. Brenda Guiled

ROSES

A huge bunch of roses to Max Miller, the only plumber who called back and had the problem fixed promptly, pleasantly and efficiently. And to North Salt Spring Waterworks for responding so promptly before and after. JK

Mega roses to Joe Somebody for rescuing me from knee-deep water. JN

Pender is coming up roses! Thanks to the Pender Island Chamber of Commerce for donating the first-prize proceeds back to the Pender Islands Elementary Secondary Parents Advisory Council. Pender Island Car Rally.

A huge bouquet of the sweetest roses to Charles and Amy. They were tireless in their search for the dog they had just adopted. The dog had panicked and bolted, and, being afraid of people at this point in his young life, he was not easy to catch! He was searched for as though he had been a beloved member of their family for years. He was found on day three, and now will have a lifetime of the love and care that he

deserves. LM

Roses and triple-fruit smoothies to Chip Chipman and the gentleman in the black truck who helped get Andrew Krizan's van started at the Vesuvius ferry terminal the morning of June 17. Thanks for taking the time to help us out! AH and AK

Bunches of bundles of the finest pink roses for John at Island Star Video for the popcorn, babysitting, jumper cables and jump, and even more babysitting while I used his phone to call a mechanic and tow-truck last Wednesday. A

A thousand roses to Belton Bros. House Movers in Duncan for the incredible job at half the price of the competition. Also, a huge bouquet of roses to the Rainbow and Collins roads area residents who may have been affected by the move — our sincerest apologies for any inconveniences it may have caused. J&MD

Roses to Robin and staff at Salt Spring Transfer Station for donating over \$500 from the "Blackburn Mall" recycling program to the Salmon Enhancement Society.

Lots of roses, lots of sunshine and many thanks to Marilyn, office manager at Dave's Drilling and Blasting, for the extra effort she took

to help a relative newcomer to the island. It was certainly above and beyond the call of duty and much appreciated. PC

A bunch of pretty flowers to everyone who gave me flowers, gifts and well wishes; also to all the staff at Lady Minto Hospital and Cowichan District Hospital. You have all helped me on the road to recovery. BS

Roses to Ellen in the kitchen at Lady Minto Hospital. She goes that extra mile every day to fulfill the special requests of the patients. Her salads are the best. Please give her a smile and a thank-you if you meet her during her work day. D

Many long-lasting, fragrant and long-stemmed yellow roses to my loving friends who helped me celebrate my recent "belly button" birthday — with my sneaky family. I was completely blown away. The food was great and the company was fun to be with. God has blessed me to have you all in my life. C

From all the tournament committee, an arm-full of roses to Steve Marleau and his crew at the Salt Spring golf club. Thank you for your generous support and assistance in setting up our recent Legion Charity Golf Tournament.

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Salt Spring Coffee picked for quay

Diehard Salt Spring Coffee Company fans can safely leave the island since the local landmark set up shop in the Tsawwassen Quay that opened June 21.

"It's very exciting that we were chosen to be a vendor," said company co-owner Mickey McLeod.

The complex was created by Lonsdale Quay Market Corp. (LQMC), which has a 10-year lease agreement with B.C. Ferry Services Inc.

McLeod managed to get a tender package and submit it within a short timeline last fall. A LQMC principal came to Salt Spring to tour local operations, and Salt Spring Coffee was selected as one of only 18 food, beverage, service and retail outlets at the quay.

"It's huge exposure and a very exciting opportunity for us."

An estimated four million passengers go through the ferry terminal each year.

McLeod's and Robbyn Scott's daughter Metta McLeod is assistant manager of the outlet, until she starts school on the mainland in the fall.

"We have a good crew and a good manager. But each time you do it it's amazing how much work it is."

A traditional Salt Spring look is also part of the kiosk, which bears a trademark distinctive Warren Langley sign marking the spot in the quay.

A BCFSI press release said the interior floor features a giant map of the Southern Gulf Islands and B.C. Ferries routes.

"Outdoor plazas flank

each end of the facility. The west end is marked by a massive indoor-outdoor fireplace while the east end features a new totem pole carved by Tsawwassen First Nation artist Karl Morgan."

Salt Spring Coffee is also brewed on the Queen of Nanaimo and Queen of Cumberland ferries, and at the Swartz Bay and Duke Point terminals. Product packages are also available

in ferry gift shops.

A recently landed major contract will now see Salt Spring Coffee products distributed to stores such as Save-on Foods, Overwaita and IGA.



Name: **HELENE MEURER**
537/538/653: 537

Occupation(s): Web manager and marketer at saltspringpublishing.com.

Hobbies: Moving to music, creating with colour, playing with words.

Home finished/unfinished: Just starting!

Favourite people: They know who they are.

Favourite read: Books by Niall Williams, Shel Silverstein, H.E. Bates, William Steig.

Best thing about SSI: Smart, juicy people and a thriving cafe culture.

Worst thing about SSI: The smell of Martha's Vineyard on our doorstep.

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- Keep trees, shrubs, branches and other flammable material at least 10 metres from your home.
- Trees near your home should be no more than 2 metres in height and at least 3 metres apart.
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General Fire Safety

- When smoking outside, dispose of cigarettes and matches safely.
- Never toss a lit match or a cigarette out of your car.
- Don't burn grass or yard waste on windy days.
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Seniors vote for building addition

Feeling a little cramped and crowded for space, island elders voted in favour of expanding the Salt Spring Seniors Services Society (SSSS) facility located on Lower Ganges Road.

"We're trying to make better use of the space we have," said SSSS president Bryan Dawson.

"If you run a house, you find it's full of junk after 10 or 12 years and that's what we've got here."

Seniors society members met June 15 and approved preliminary plans to build a 1,000-square-foot (93-square-metre) portable addition that will be connected to the existing 2,000-square-foot building by a covered walkway, he said.

"Now it's a matter of making some definite arrangements," Dawson said.

"The next step will be to get a final plan."

SSSS leases property from the Greenwoods Foundation and the society will need approval from the property owners, along with various government agencies, Dawson noted.

"It will probably be six months before we can get started."

The non-profit group hopes to build a portable structure for approximately \$40,000.

SEAFARING SEALS: Jubilant members of the Salt Spring Seals congratulate each other after their dramatic swim across Stuart Channel — from Crofton to Vesuvius — on Sunday. Ten swimmers participated in the second annual fundraiser for the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Secret missions tempt 'undercover readers'

Under Cover Reader is the theme of the 2005 Children's Summer Reading Club at Mary Hawkins Memorial Library.

All spies and detectives aged 12 and under are invited to participate in the seven-Wednesday program that runs from July 6-August 17.

Registered Under Cover Readers receive a record to list books they read and collect weekly stickers or stamps. Preschoolers get a special "Summertime Read-to-Me" record.

"As reading detectives, participants will solve secret codes, follow clues, visit faraway lands, build spy gadgets and, of course, read lots of great books," notes a library press release. "Each week a new mission will be assigned."

Mystery guests, secret workshops and chances to win prizes are also offered.

Start time is 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday, except for July 13 when it begins at 1:30 p.m.

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KRAFT BBQ Sauce 455mL 1.68	BICK'S PICKLES • Baby Dill • Yum Yums • Sweet Mixed 1L 2.59	IDAHOAN POTATOES • Scalloped • Au Gratin 114g 88¢	AYLMER Tomatoes 796mL 1.08	KIDD BROS. Honey 500g 3.49	CARNATION REGULAR Evaporated Milk 385mL 1.08
KRAFT Mayonnaise 750mL 2.75	HABITANT Soup 796mL 4/5.00	HEINZ Seafood Sauce 285mL 1.49	GREEN GIANT Corn 341-398mL 78¢	QUAKER Oat Squares 500g 2.49	DOLE Pineapple 389mL 88¢
SAN REMO Beans 540mL 75¢	GALLO 100% PURE Olive Oil 500mL 3.29				

DAIRY	FROZEN FOOD	GENERAL MILLS Cheerios Original 300g 1.99 Honey Nut 375g 2.68
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Cutting edge forestry author on tap

Canada's undisturbed natural forests — and the wild-life dependent upon them — risk going the way of the northern codfish, argues Elizabeth May in her just-released updated version of *At the Cutting Edge: The Crisis in Canada's Forests*.

May, the Sierra Club of Canada's executive director, will speak at Lions Hall on Tuesday, July 5, beginning at 7 p.m.

Robert Bateman will introduce May to the audience.

At the Cutting Edge documents changes in Canada's forest ecosystems from the early days of European settlement, when loggers used hand saws to fell tall trees for sailing masts, to the present day, with loggers in "feller-buncher" machines having the capacity to clear entire forests in hours.

As a result of forest prac-

tices degrading forest habitat, many of Canada's forest-dwelling wildlife species are considered threatened or at risk of extinction, she says.

May has played an active role in conservation in British Columbia since the late 1980s when as the senior policy advisor to the federal Minister of the Environment she worked to protect the South Moresby area of the

Queen Charlotte Islands.

In her revised book, May outlines a path for the reader to play their part in changing the course of the future of Canada's forests.

"The people of Canada are the owners of our forests, not the forest companies," said May. "This book is an owner's manual to help Canadians take control over the protection of our forests for future generations."

Islanders boost the ranks of first organic festival

Salt Spring will be well represented at the Organic Islands Festival in Saanich on the July 9-10 weekend.

Featuring entertainment, workshops, kids activities, and organic produce samples

and displays, it's a natural draw for islanders.

Participants include Apple Luscious Organic Orchards, with Harry and Debbie Burton doing a slide show workshop on organic apple grow-

ing; Soya Nova Tofu and owner Deb Lauzon; fiddler Jaime RT; and transformative artist Sekoya Dawn.

Deirdre Rowland of Salt Spring is also involved by handling event publicity.

The festival runs at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, 505 Quayle Road in Saanich, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 to 5 on the Sunday.

Admission is \$5.

Creativity rules at annual Fibre Fest

By SUSAN BERLIN
Driftwood Contributor

The Natural Fibre Festival is introducing a new event this year: a keynote presentation by island fibre artists Shirlee Lewis and Barb McCaffrey, and Vancouver designer Diana Sanderson on the subject "Where Do You Find Creativity in the Fibre Arts?"

A dinner will follow the presentation on Friday, July 22.

The three artists will be truly "keying-into" one of the main themes of the Fibre Festival: the link between fibre work and creativity.

The festival is not about homely craft — although many of the beautiful works that will be displayed in the fashion show and at the weekend events are superbly crafted; it's about the multitude of ways true artists have invented, explored and

elaborated upon the artistic possibilities of fibres and fibre techniques of all kinds.

In our part of the world, when most people talk about "fibre" and "fabrics," they're usually thinking of wool, cotton and perhaps linen, converted into fabrics by techniques largely limited to weaving, knitting and maybe crochet.

Think again! Fibre workers around the world have worked with just about every material and technique that human beings can imagine. The keynote presentation and dinner will be held at Lisa Lloyd's new building and wonderful gardens on Reynolds Road.

Tickets (\$20, including dinner) are available through an order form at the festival website (www.fibrefestival.com) or by phoning 537-9533.

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We would like to thank everyone who attended our Goods & Services Auction to raise funds for a new building for the Food Bank. We would especially like to thank all the following islanders for their generosity and commitment to our community:
With your help we raised \$6,200.00 to help complete the new building for the food bank.
— from Community Services and Admiral Lodge #170

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* **RECYCLE DEPOT:** Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00 am-5 pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.

* **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.

* **Emergency Mental Health Services available:**
4 pm to midnight. Access is available through the Emergency Rm at Lady Minto Hospital. Call: 538-4840

Black gold and lavender

FULFORD HARBOUR CHRONICLES

WITH ROGER BRUNT



When Alan Mayfield, owner of The Salt Spring Lavender Company, sees the little curds of goose droppings all over his farm on the Fulford-Ganges Road, he doesn't see waste, he sees black gold.

"Goose droppings are one of the few farm manures that can be applied directly to crops," he says. "Most manures are too 'hot,' containing too much urea and nitrogen, and will burn plants if directly applied."

"But not goose droppings," he continues. "Agriculture Canada told me it would take at least three years before I could expect a crop from the first of the 14,000 lavenders planted in 2003. Here we are just two years later and we had a fair harvest in 2004, and are expecting a bumper crop this year — the reason is the natural fertilizer supplied by our geese and the gentle climate of Salt Spring Island."

It's not only the goose droppings on the ground that fertilize Salt Spring Lavender's plants. Geese aren't happy without a decent pond, says Alan, and the farm has a big one — seven million gallons, in fact. From this pond run drip-irrigation lines that supply each plant.

Because the geese spend a lot of time on the pond, the water is rich in goose droppings creating natural nutrients.

"What it amounts to," says Alan, "is that every time the plants are irrigated, they are also organically fertilized. The result is that I have never added an ounce of synthetic fertilizer to the farm, nor sprayed with a drop of insecticide."

Salt Spring Lavender's gravity-fed drip irrigation system and natural fertilization process easily accomplish what would be a huge job done any other way. With the 14,000 plants spaced 30 inches apart in the lower section of the farm, and 4,000 already planted of the 16,000 total that will be planted in the upper field by the end of this year, maintaining the plants manually would be a huge task — there's more than 30,000 plants in all.

an important role. They supply not only fertilizer, the entire 10-acre property looks as if it has been mown — some sections are as well-groomed as the turf on a putting green. The geese are also constantly on patrol for slugs and insects that could damage the lavender.

"About the only thing the geese won't eat are thistles and broom," says Alan, "and lavender, of course."

Most of the geese on the farm are the big white farm geese of story-book fame; Emdens is their official name. Their disposition often leaves something to be desired, especially if there are small children around.

To get around this problem, all of the geese that are hatched on the farm are hand-raised for the first 10 days. Alan has four incubators, and he is kept busy each spring hatching out goslings and becoming their surrogate Dad.

"Like many birds," Alan explains, "geese will 'imprint' on the first living thing they see when they break out of the egg. If that is a human, they automatically assume they are human too. The result is tamer, happier geese, quite content to share the farm with their two-legged brothers and sisters."

The main variety of lavender on the farm at the present time is a French commercial lavender called Grosso, named after French botanist Pierre Grosso, who found it growing wild in 1972 in France. Because the plant is so recently from the wild, it has very strong DNA, which results in good resistance to disease and frost, and a superb fragrance. There are 14,000 of these plants on the farm, all planted by hand.

The main products made from this variety of lavender are sachets, massage oil and creams, body lotion, soap, bubble bath, shampoo and conditioner, lavender essential oil, candles, bulk lavender florets and, in season, fresh-cut lavender.

The additional 12,000 plants going in this year are English angustifolia, specifically grown for herbal teas



Derrick Lundy photo

A young woman picks lavender at a local farm

and culinary uses, says Alan, as well as essential oils for aromatherapy.

Despite Salt Spring's ideal climate for growing lavender, winter is still a downtime. Alan puts his winters to good use by travelling as an exchange worker to lavender farms in New Zealand and Australia. He has recently returned from his latest trip, where he visited 32 different lavender farms, and worked on 12.

To reciprocate his visits "Down Under," Alan has arranged an exchange of young lavender farm workers who will be coming to his place this summer. Most non-corporate lavender farms are family opera-

tions, and the knowledge is very crop-specific. There's no better way to exchange knowledge, new ideas and old traditions than to work on someone else's farm. Fortunately, Australia, New Zealand and Canada have reciprocal work visa permits for young people under 30 years old to participate in such programs.

Obviously, to grow more than 30,000 lavender plants, all cared for by the knowledge and dedication of basically one man (and a flock of geese) is a huge commitment, and I asked Alan why he decided to do it.

He thinks about this for a moment as he looks out over the rows and rows of healthy

young plants that will be ready to produce their first large-scale harvest this year.

"I have had an interesting life," Alan tells me. "I retired from the corporate world after a couple of heart attacks and heart surgery. I spent a year living aboard my boat sailing the coast, something I had dreamed of doing for years. Frankly, that bored the heck out of me. I've always loved Salt Spring Island, the outdoors and gardening in particular; growing lavender just seemed to come about naturally." Then, he adds, with a smile, "I've just never gotten on this scale before."

Salt Spring Lavender participating in the Lavender Festival on Sunday, July 3



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Chamber News

SALT SPRING ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2005

Business Talk



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Chamber of Commerce membership reflects a wide range of businesses

The Chamber of Commerce has a long history here on Salt Spring, but it seems that we are in an era that reflects more active involvement in the Community than ever before. Our Membership, which has increased significantly, represents a dynamic range of businesses and services. We are approaching 400 members at this point. Tourism based business members are the largest group, particularly when you include guest accommodations, but businesses that serve the local residents have also grown in number. It is easily acknowledged that most businesses rely on a combination of customers and clients from within and outside of the Island. The nature of business and its affect on the community made a big change more recently with an increase in two areas. The first is the advent of Internet based business. With the ability to work from home, working people of all ages can choose the community that they want to live in, which has resulted in a change in the dynamics of our population. We see quite an increase in younger families whose businesses draw



Salt Spring's Market in the Park is in full swing, again drawing summer tourists to the island.
Photo by Derek Lundy

their income from "off-island". The second group that has increased is that of home-based businesses. These are as diverse as ones who craft goods and art, to others who grow lettuce or make cheese, or provide health and wellness services. Some home-based businesses sell their wares here, but many have developed markets far and wide. The challenge of the Chamber is to represent all of these groups, assess their needs and provide

communication networks so we can all keep in touch. Our job is also to keep the business community informed of issues that affect our local economy. We know that operating a business here is still a challenge and not for the weak of heart. We believe one of our roles is to raise the profile of the business community to all Islanders. Our hope is to encourage a wide base of support and pride in the wonderful people who look to earn their

living here. It is good to see Islanders "shop at home" first before going elsewhere. Competing with "big box" and chain stores is a challenge and not always possible, but the make-up of our diverse community depends on it. The COC is proud of all its Members. It takes great creative entrepreneurial skills and faith in your own abilities to take the risk of earning your living from your own businesses. We say "well done" to all of you.

What has your Chamber done for you lately?

Your Chamber does much more than pass out visitor information to tourists! Its volunteers and board members are active on committees and participate at meetings that are of importance to the community as a whole. We stay on top of legislative issues that might impact the quality of

life on SSI. We participate in studies to learn more about our community. We sponsor events that promote our members. We host monthly breakfast meetings to discuss business and network. We are truly Your chamber and welcome you to become active in our community with us!

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Stingrays nail top spots in race across St. Mary Lake

Close to 50 swimmers from around Vancouver Island raced across St. Mary Lake Sunday as the Salt Spring Stingrays swim team hosted its second annual open water meet.

A similar number of younger swimmers competed in exhibition events at Shelby Pool, racing freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and fly events.

At St. Mary Lake, starters, timers and a flotilla of lifeguards aided swimmers, who ranged in age from 10 to 18, as they swam the kilometre-long course from Tripp Road to the beach on North End Road.

The 24 Salt Spring swimmers dominated the event, taking the fastest male and female awards, filling eight of the top-10 overall fastest times, and winning almost every age division.

Div.-7 swimmer **Nicola Temmel** had the fastest time overall (15:20), taking the plaque for the top female swimmer, while **Brendan Nickerson** (Div. 6) had the top male time (16:23), placing 5th overall.



STINGRAYS AT HOME: Above left, Genevieve Milner flips off the side of the pool as she starts her backstroke race at Shelby Pool, while above right, three Div. 3 Stingrays (from left) Grace Morgan, Alex Crandall and Sierra Lundy look for the "starting ledge" at the Tripp Road side of St. Mary Lake as they swim the first open water heat across the lake.



Photos by Derrick Lundy

Island swimmer **Danica Lundy** took second place overall (16:03), and won the top spot for Div.-5 girls, while **Annika Wenzel** placed 4th overall (16:20), and captured 2nd place for Div.-7 girls.

Taking 6th overall, **Nina Fletcher** (16:31) won the girls Div.-4 category, while **Mack Rankin** (17:20) took 8th place and won the Div.-4 boys division.

Winning the Div.-3 girls

category, **Sierra Lundy** (17:47) placed 9th overall, and **Victoria Budd** (17:52) placed 10th overall, topping the Div.-6 girls category.

Arlo Bryn Thorn (19:31) took first for Div.-3 boys (19th overall).

Eleven other swimmers were awarded ribbons for top-five placements.

For the Div.-3 girls, **Grace Morgan** (19:06) took 2nd and **Alex Crandall** (23:59) came

in 4th; while **Evan Nickerson** (30:36) placed 3rd for Div.-3 boys.

In Div. 5, local swimmers filled all five spots with **Olivia Morgan** taking 2nd place (19:28), followed by **Olivia Budd** (19:34), **Kirstie Shaw** (19:41) and **Allie Ingram** (21:28). (**Emily Rothwell** was one second behind in 6th place.)

Brandon Shaw (19:28) placed 2nd for Div.-5 boys,

while former Stingray CC **Coelho** (20:03) came in 4th for Div.-6 girls.

Danielle Viozzi (19:52) grabbed 3rd for Div.-7 girls, and **Anna Raeuber** (20:03) took 4th.

Times and placements for the Div.-1 and 2 swimmers who competed at Shelby Pool were unavailable as the Driftwood went to press.

However, Stingrays coaches **Kellie Rolston** and

Kris Isenor noted that all 24 participating island swimmers "showed their mastery of all four competitive strokes."

Braiden Crouse and **James Twaites** swam their first meets, while **Callista Boyd** conquered her first unassisted races. Swimming 50-metre events for the first time were **Jordan Topping**, **Ariana Fraser** and **Josh Crandall**.

DayLife IS TODAY!
of Salt Spring Island JUNE 29, 2005

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Islanders run for pizza and brownies

A gloaming group of 15 active islanders participated in the 21st Annual Twilight Shuffle held in Chemainus on June 22.

Some 700 participants ran the four-mile (6.44-kilometre) competition as a fund-

raiser for the Royal Canadian Legion. The course meandered through the closed roads of downtown Chemainus and the old mill site, noted local runner **Caroline Rowley**.

"The good news is that there was pizza and brown-

ies at the finish," she said.

Along with **Rowley**, participating Salt Spring Islanders included **Judy Burch**, **Dorothy Copeland**, **Karla Copeland-Rice**, **Barb Elliott**, **Carol Fowles**, **Trish Gauthier**, **Alfred Morgan**, **Laurie**

Poulsen, **Rheona Severson**, **Terry Simard**, **Tracy Simard**, **Patti Speed**, **Pauline Spencer** and **Anne Watson**.

"We had an awesome run," said **Speed**. "It was a good time and there were lots of people."

Salties' spirit saves the day in double header

The Salties baseball club rebounded from a 6-0 loss, overcame a 10-3 deficit and managed to split a double header against the top ranked Upper Deck squad.

"It was just one of those things where everything that needed to go well worked really well," said the Salties'

Blaine Johnson. "It was just an amazing game."

The Salties quickly found themselves overpowered by Upper Deck, but began the remarkable comeback in the third inning with the first in a series of five homeruns, each helping to chip away at the seemingly

insurmountable lead.

"That was probably our best power performance ever," he said. "We were down, but all of a sudden we just started hitting homeruns and before long we won the game."

Greg Stringer, **Gord Akerman**, **Mike Gettler**, **Bob Akerman** and **Johnson** each collected home runs in the successful comeback.

Johnson said the team

received a boost with a late hit from coach **Fred Borland** and the speedy efforts of pinch runner **Brian Little**.

In the first game of the double header, **Johnson** played down a controversial Upper Deck pitcher substitution, saying that was just part of the game.

The Salties participate in a Canada Day long-weekend tournament at McDonald Park in Victoria.

FALL FAIR FOCUS

Calling all Hobbyists and Artists

By Sandy Barclay

The Fall Fair Adult Hobby Arts Section is going to have a new look this year.

Our catalogue has been changed to reflect the artistic diversities in our community. There is room for the casual crafter and the more devoted artisan, although we do request that no work done for commercial purposes be entered for competition. This year we've added an area for group entries i.e. nursing homes, schools, etc. This should be fun for all and the winners will receive a rosette to be displayed in their group area. As well we are honouring our very senior seniors with an 80+ category, on Salt Spring that's practically a youngster. So let's share our marvelous energies and show everyone what Islanders do in their spare time.

Fall Fair Junior Hobby Arts

At this year's Fall Fair the Junior entries have had some slight changes. We hope you find the changes exciting and inspiring. The first four categories offer different ways to demonstrate this year's Fall Fair Theme "Food for Thought."

Added to the Hobby Arts section is the opportunity to create a three dimension setting for a model or figurine.

Remember that keeping with our theme "Food for Thought" could catch the eyes of the judges. Also in our Trophy Section we've added a new Trophy that will celebrate the best LEGO of the show. Have fun and keep your eyes out for all the details on the classes in the Fall Fair Catalogue which will be out this year in the July 6 edition of The Driftwood. So here's your chance to win a prize. Help make this year's display the best ever and get those creative juices flowing.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

SALT SPRING AQUAFARMS

Fresh Seafood Sales

- *Oysters *Mussels
- *Clams *Crab
- *Boneless Chinook Salmon Fillets
- *Whole Sockeye Salmon (In Season)
- *Prawns (in season)

Salt Spring Island Mussels 5 lb for \$20

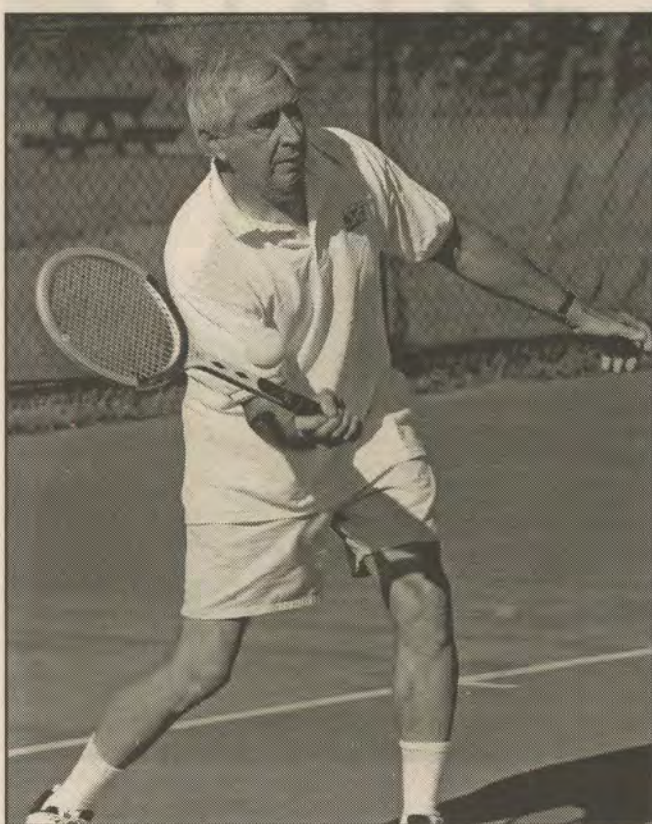
Tours of Farming Techniques

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BACK AT YOU: Bob Weeden easily handles a serve with his old-fashioned tennis racket as he and others participate in the local tennis association's annual Wimbledon event. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Pringle barn riders scoop high points

The weather was mixed and the show entries were disappointingly small in some classes, but 11 horses from John and Andrea Pringle's training barn all did exceptionally well at the Vancouver Island Classic Arabian Horse Show.

Three of the show's seven hi-point awards went to the Pringle barn. Alexa Hardy got the Junior Exhibitor award, the Partbred Arabian hi-point went to TR Cinnabar, owned by the Pringles and ridden by daughter Jody; and the horse with the highest percentage score in Dressage was SS Timber, also owned by the Pringles and ridden by Sally Dodds. Dodds' yearling, DB Khodee Afire, took first place in the Arabian Gelding In-Hand in the amateur class with Dodds handling.

Sydney Sinclair, riding LN Shadows Boxer, took firsts in Arabian Sport Horse Under Saddle in the Amateur To Ride class, Arabian Western Pleasure Junior Horse in which Sinclair beat out two professional trainers; and in her debut of the Open Trail Horse class, where horses individually must negotiate a series of obstacles within a limited time.

Hardy, riding FF Candarr, won firsts in Dressage at the Training Level in the Amateur to Ride class, in the Showmanship 13 and Under Class, in Arabian Hunter Pleasure 17 and Under, and in the Liberty Class, a crowd-pleasing event in

which the horse is turned loose in the arena, moving to music whilst freely performing walk, trot, canter and gallop. The handler then has a minute in which to recapture the horse.

T.K. Bronson, owned by Patricia Lockie, and at 18 the oldest horse in the group, won firsts in Dressage at the Training Level, in Sport Horse Under Saddle Open in Arabian Hunter Pleasure 40 and Over, and in Road Hack Open. SR Tequila Sunrise, also owned by Lockie, got firsts in all of her classes in Western Pleasure.

Jody Pringle on TR Cinnabar placed first in her Hunter Pleasure 17 and Under class as well as in the Half-Arabian English Show Hack Open, Hunter Seat Equitation, Show Hack Amateur To Ride and the Hunter Seat Medals class. Pringle also won Show Hack Championship class.

Emma Hawkins, showing SS Adoring Star, did fine work in the Halter and Showmanship divisions, taking three firsts in halter classes and winning her Showmanship 14 to 17 class. Hawkins also had wins in Road Hack and Hunter Pleasure classes.

The two under-10 competitors, Sacha Kazakoff and Erin Pringle, showing at her first "A" level show, competed hard. Kazakoff, riding April Rain, came away with firsts in Equitation English, Walk Trot Western, and Equitation Western. Pringle took second place in the same classes.



Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society

P.O. Box 555

Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2W3
waterpreservationsociety@hotmail.com

The Society is concerned that an increasing population, increasing development around water bodies, and erratic rainfall due to climate change threaten the quality and supply of our drinking water. Therefore, we are working to achieve the following objectives:

- Defining the future supply and demand for water across the entire island to assure adequate water for the future.
- Creating management plans for each watershed that identify threats to water quality and water supply and solutions for addressing them.
- Establishing enforceable best management practices for areas near streams, lakes and other wetlands.
- Establishing enforceable Permit Development Areas to assure logging and land clearing that could affect water sources can only be conducted with a permit and approval of a plan that protects water sources.

The Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society is a non-profit society that has, since 1982, worked to protect drinking water sources on Salt Spring Island.

The Society is seeking two new members, Directors and volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or serve on the Board of Directors, call Maxine Leichter at 537-1577.

Semi-pro skaters do park demo Saturday

A top-notch Nanaimo-based skatepark group is taking Salt Spring's park for a ride on Saturday.

Some 25 DNA-sponsored skaters are featured in a demo at the Kanaoka Road facility from 2:30-5:30 p.m. It's the first such event hosted by the Salt Spring Skatepark Society.

"Their skaters come from all over Vancouver Island

and are semi-pro skaters," said society spokesman Bruce Ruddell.

"We invite the public to see a great day of skateboarding. There will be some superb skaters there."

Ryan Fogarty's DVD about the making of the skatepark will also be shown, and there's a barbecue, refreshments and "product tosses" courtesy of DNA.

SHELBY POOL SCHEDULE...

May 21 - Aug 31, 2005

<p>INTRODUCTION TO SNORKELING</p> <p>August 22 - 26</p> <p>Age/Ability: Open to all ages, must be able to swim one length of Shelby Pool. Learn the basics in the pool and then explore underwater at the lake and in the ocean. Call for times and price.</p>
<p>BRONZE CROSS / BRONZE MEDALLION</p> <p>August 24 - 31</p> <p>Prerequisites: Interested swimmers must have completed Bronze Star or be 13 years of age. Take the first steps to becoming a certified lifeguard, a fun and action-packed course. Call for times and price.</p>
<p>DEEP WATER / DIVING CLINICS</p> <p>July 26 & August 30 • 2 - 3 pm</p> <p>Join us at the lake to practice diving, open water long distance swimming and deep water skills. Cost: \$6.50.</p>
<p>ADULT SWIM LESSONS</p> <p>August 6, 13, 20, 26 • 11 - 11:30 am</p> <p>Work with our instructors on stroke correction, endurance and confidence in the water. Cost: \$20.00 / 4 classes.</p>
<p>EARLY BIRD</p> <p>Start your day off right with a splash in the pool. Cost \$3.00 or \$100/season pass. Mon., Wed., Fri. starting May 23</p>

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Early Bird 7:00 - 8:00		Early Bird 7:00 - 8:00		Early Bird 7:00 - 8:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 1:00
Water Fit 8:00 - 9:00	Water Fit 8:00 - 9:00 Starting July 1	Water Fit 8:00 - 9:00	Water Fit 8:00 - 9:00 Starting July 1	Water Fit 8:00 - 9:00	Saturday Swim Club 11:00 - 12:00
Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Swimming Lessons 9:00 - 2:00	Parent and Tot 12:00 - 1:00
Aqualite 2:00 - 3:00 Starting June 27	Rental Space	Aqualite 2:00 - 3:00 Starting June 27	Rental Space	Aqualite 2:00 - 3:00 Starting June 27	Everyone Welcome 1:30 - 3:00
Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00	Everyone Welcome 3:00 - 5:00

POOL IS CLOSED SUNDAYS

Shelby Pool is proudly operated by Leisure Recreation Group

SATURDAY LESSONS

Sat. July 2 - Sat. Aug. 20

9:15 - 10:00 AQ 7 - 12
9:30 - 10:00 AQ 5, 6
10:00 - 10:30 PS 1, 2 & AQ 1 - 4
10:30 - 11:00 PS 1, 2 & PS 3, 4

Cost: \$32.00 / \$38.00
8 classes

END OF SCHOOL POOL PARTY

Thursday, June 30
11 am - 2 pm

Come and celebrate the start of summer with games, prizes, a BBQ and ice cream.

SWIMMING LESSON DATES

Mon - Fri. Each set is two weeks

Set	Dates
1	July 4 - 15
2	July 18 - 29
3	Aug 2 - 12* (9 days)
4	Aug 15 - 26

* No lesson Monday Aug 1

SATURDAY MORNING SWIM CLUB

11 am - 12 pm.

Age/Ability: 6 years and older with the ability to swim two lengths of Shelby Pool. Ratio: 1:10. Cost: \$45.00. This program is designed to give swimmers extra stroke correction and the chance to try out swimming in a swim club setting. This is an excellent way to improve strokes and to see if the Salt Spring Sting Rays is right for you.

First workout: June 25 (app 10 workouts)

WATER FIT

Enjoy an aerobic workout in the water. Cost \$5.00 or \$45.00/10 visits.

PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS

One to one instruction to help improve specific stroke problems, increase endurance and boost confidence. may times available, please call the pool to book a lesson.

Cost: Private (1 child) \$15.00
Semiprivate (2 children) \$25.00

Call the pool to register 537-1402 or stop by Portlock Park

The INSIDE STORY

Paid advertisement

Blennerhassett Equestrian Center Opens in September

For seven years Michael and Lesley Colgan watched the struggles of the many children and adults on Salt Spring trying to ride and maintain levels of fitness and training, especially in the wet of winter. With no suitable all-weather facilities available on Salt Spring, having a one hour riding lesson often means traveling to Victoria or Duncan, turning it into a whole day trek. In addition, riders may have to board their horses off island in winter, an expensive and unsatisfactory arrangement, depriving them of easy access to the horse's care and companionship, which inevitably affects their horse badly.

Michael explained that they tried approaching groups and individuals to form a joint venture for a decent riding facility, but the stumbling blocks were always – who owns the land, and who is liable for the losses that equestrian ventures inevitably make over the first few years? After watching the gargantuan struggles of groups such as Splash to fund facilities publicly – struggles in which the talk always seems to out run the funds, they decided to fund a facility themselves.

Suitable land did not come up until late 2004, when they bought the old Hughes farm that curls around the south end of St. Mary Lake. "We bought it immediately it became available for a two-fold purpose, first to preserve it from mooted development that would have lost its agrarian and Salt Spring character forever. And second, to develop the finest and most beautiful equestrian facility anywhere," explains Michael.

"The beauty was easy to achieve as Nature has already provided most of it. With removal of some overgrown firs, deadfalls and then limbing of other trees, the farm revealed its serene park-like character. Numerous people have told us that the views are much enhanced by the addition of horses in the paddocks. Local artists and photographers have already been working there and we welcome enquiries from others interested in doing so," says Lesley.

Building is in progress on a 200 x 110 ft indoor riding ring, a 260 x 140 ft outdoor ring, a 65 ft round pen, a barn, a cross country course, a jumper and polo field all to International standards. "There will also be a veterinary



"The beauty was easy to achieve as nature has already provided most of it."

also be welcome. Experts from around North America in all disciplines of riding will be invited to come and give clinics. The Center welcomes input from anyone with suggestions for clinics that would be of interest.

Special interest and "fun" classes will be offered, such as a "Mature" Riders Club (no horse necessary) for fun and social activities, polo-cross, summer camps, and yoga and fitness programs designed especially for riders. In September the Center will begin its show program, starting first with schooling shows and moving on to rated shows.

The Center will also offer coaching courses in English Rider Prep 1-4, Instructors Courses and EC Level I Coaching Certificates for the more serious riders and competitors.

"From our family roots in Southern Ireland we are breeding Connemara ponies, known for their sweet temperament and athletic ability. Our first foal, a colt, was born on June 10th, from an Irish Champion sire out of our pure-bred registered mare," says Michael.

Their long-term plan includes a bridal trail around the whole 78 acres, with access to Tripp Road and numerous trails. They also look forward to supporting local organizations such as the Pony Club and Scouts in return for volunteer help at their shows and events. Anyone wanting more information should contact Lesley at 537-2089.

To reserve your Inside Story call Peter, Rick or Tracy at 537-9933.

facility for our breeding program overseen by wonderful vets Dr. Sacha Edgell and Dr. David MacDonald," adds Michael.

There will be a toilet block, tack store, lounge and full facilities for the Therapeutic Riding Association. The existing main house will be used for visiting judges and clinicians, a conference center and stable administrator/caretakers accommodation. Blennerhassett Equestrian Center will offer both barn and shedrow horse boarding with large and lush turnout paddocks.

Under the leadership of well known Island trainer Jacky Cooper (EC Level II English), the Center's riding school will offer first class school horses for those who cannot afford their own horse, and group or private lessons from beginner (any age) to national class riders, covering lessons in hunter, dressage, eventing, jumper and cross-country. Western riders will



ABOVE: Michael and Lesley with Lexi & Lancelot. ABOVE RIGHT: Lexi and Lancelot. BELOW: The girls in the big field.





Blennerhassett
Equestrian Center

Fortune Favors The Brave

- 240'x100' Indoor Ring
- 260'x140' Outdoor Ring
- 65' Round Pen
- Jumper Field
- Polo Field
- First-class Stables and Shedrows

78 acres on St. Mary Lake

Hunter, Jumper, Dressage, Eventing, Western Schooling, Training, Boarding, Clinics, Shows

"The most magical facility anywhere."

For more information call Lesley & Michael Colgan 537-2089

