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Driftwood

Gulf Islands Real Estate | inside

Our reporter in Malawi, Africa | 31

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Weather

It could be a wet holiday weekend with showers forecast today (Wednesday) and tomorrow, and rain expected all weekend. Highs to 15 C (today); overnight lows to 6 C.

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School biz co. under attack

School board takes heat over business company loss

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Gulf Islands School Board chair May McKenzie is standing by the district's business company, despite a \$113,000 loss in 2004/05, and a call for a public inquiry.

The School District 64 business company has provided the district's operating budget with more than \$1.1 million over the past three years, a sum that translates into three additional teachers per year, McKenzie said.

Though fledgling projects like a school in Warsaw, Poland and an Internet learning program have yet to generate a profit, the district's successful international student program has made up the difference.

McKenzie said low enrolment and unexpected building renovations prevented the Polish school from turning a profit since it was established in 2004, but she added larger classes predicted for the upcoming school year will translate into revenue come September.

In the meantime, Gulf Islands parents concerned about increasing privatization of the education system in the wake of provincial government cutbacks and declining enrolment are calling on Education Minister Shirley Bond to hold a public inquiry into the workings of school district business companies across the province.

"This is not the same as operating a coffee shop, this is our education system," said Salt Spring parent Mona Fertig, who was a founder of the Keep Five Alive group opposed to implementation of the four-day school week. "We need to do our best to build it up and the secrecy just makes it worse."

Fertig questioned why the company was set up as a corporation instead of a non-profit organization open to

SCHOOL COMPANY 2



SCREAMER: Joel Eddington created quite a stir at the Gulf Islands Secondary School Science Olympics last week as he demonstrated the effects of different emotions and nurturing techniques on plant growth. Numerous high school students competed in the event with Grade 11 students Charlotte Mellstrom and DJ Lake winning gold and silver medals. Story, more photos on Page 27.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Local government probe faces tight timeframe

By GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood Editor

An Islands Trust task force probing our local government system met for the first time Monday in Victoria.

A full half of Trust Council trustees (13) signed up for the task force sprouted just last month at the quarterly council meeting held on Salt Spring.

Kim Benson, who chairs both the Islands Trust and the new task force, said the group has solid representation and the meeting went well.

"I think everyone is on the same page," she said.

"There is definitely a sense that people want to be responsive and focussed on this and see if we can get something done."

And because of provincial government deadlines, anything that might need a change in legislation and have an impact on the 2008

local elections must be on the province's plate by this fall.

Increasing the number of trustees on a Local Trust Committee is an example of something requiring legislative change.

The task force is not evaluating existing governance options such as municipal status, but trying to come up with changes that may improve local governance without incorporation.

Benson said the challenge is "to get down to the real nub of it-and ask would [changes] really help... is there something that is actually going to make things better?"

The task force may find governance can be improved without requiring changes to legislation, she added.

Meeting agendas and minutes, relevant correspondence, background studies and links will be posted on the Islands Trust website.

At this point members of the

public can observe the task force meetings and information about public consultation opportunities will come out later this year.

"Once we have a document of issues, options and implications, then we will have something the public can look at and respond to," said Benson.

She said that community services (CS) ministry personnel will be invited to participate in the process.

The Islands Trust Executive Committee met with CS assistant deputy minister Dale Wall in February when the ministry's discussion paper on governance review was on the agenda. That paper was initiated by former CS minister and Saanich North and the Islands MLA Murray Coell in the fall of 2004 for a projected release in the fall of 2005.

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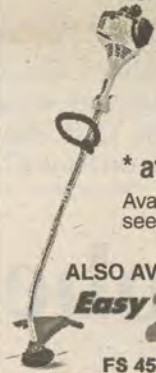


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	18:11	2.8	9.2		13:24	0.5 1.6
13 TH	23:20	1.9	6.2		21:42	3.1 10.2
	05:18	3.0	9.8	17	02:06	2.7 8.9
	11:55	1.1	3.6		MO	06:12
19:01	2.9	9.5			14:03	0.4 1.3
14 FR	23:57	2.1	6.9		22:44	3.2 10.5
	05:31	3.0	9.8	18	03:10	2.9 9.5
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	05:45	3.0	9.8			
	12:50	0.7	2.3			
	20:45	3.1	10.2			

Survey finds support for 4-day week

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

A survey of Gulf Islands Secondary students, teachers and support staff released last week showed overwhelming support for the four-day school week ahead of today's school trustee vote on the issue.

"The survey had to get right down at what students really thought and giving them a greater voice," said Laura Stewart, a Grade 12 student who engineered the survey of 412 high school students. "It's them who are affected most."

Over three-quarters of teachers and students said they would not like to return to the five-day week even if school programs were left intact.

The survey also revealed students are less likely to skip class and more likely to participate in extra-curricular activities than they were with a five-day week.

"I don't think the students' voice alone should determine the choice, but it should have a big impact on the decision," she said during an interview at GISS last week.

The survey included the perspectives of 23 GISS teachers and 14 support workers regarding the four-day week's impact since it was introduced at the beginning of the 2004-05 school year.

By introducing the shorter school week, treasurer Rod Scotvold estimates the district saved \$370,000 in the first year.

Even if trustees vote to maintain the status quo, he added, projected enrolment for next year still has the school district losing \$269,000.

In order to balance the books, he said, the district will need to cut 57.5 hours of special education staff time per week and eliminate 2.5 full-time positions from the district's payroll.

While teachers had a positive reaction to the four-day week, most would not recommend it to other districts looking to save money.

According to comments submitted alongside the questionnaire, Stewart said, teachers felt it was inappropriate for them to give their opinion on what they view as a largely community-

based decision.

At a school board consultation meeting on Pender Island last week, parents opposing the four-day week denounced the survey, saying it failed to incorporate the impact on their lives.

Salt Spring Island five-day proponents like Mona Fertig share that opinion.

"We have done the survey routes many times here. It takes years to do one professionally, and none have ever really been done in North America," she said.

In her view, the real question is not whether someone likes or dislikes the four-day week, but whether it is in the best long-term interests of parents and students.

"The question is: is the four-day school week educationally sound?" she said, after looking over the survey results.

"We won't know for years and by then it will be too late."

Ensuring students receive a top-quality public education is the bottom line and should remain the school board's top priority, she said.

Residents opposed to the

four-day week said they intend to come out at the April 12 meeting in hopes of convincing trustees to vote against a continued reduced school week.

Speaking at last week's four-day consultation meeting, GISS principal Nancy Macdonald said parents, teachers and administrators ought to value the report's findings.

"Students are quite capable of knowing what works best for them," she said.

Macdonald said students adjusted well to the change in "their personal rhythms." The students enjoy the longer breaks and, she said, come back to school with more energy on Monday mornings.

"It's not just a question of less, it's a question of different," she said.

"It works for them and we should honour students' views on the four-day week."

Trustees will vote on whether to retain the current system at their monthly board meeting held today (Wednesday) at Salt Spring Island Middle School. The meeting begins at 1 p.m.

Resort court case faces further delay

A pre-trial confirmation hearing in what many are calling a groundbreaking trial for B.C. archaeological and heritage sites has been delayed.

Originally scheduled for December 2005, the pre-trial conference for a court case involving Poets Cove Seaside Resort and Spa on South Pender Island will now take place on May 21 in Victoria.

The Alberta-based owners face two charges under the Heritage Conservation Act for allegedly damaging a burial place with historical or archaeological value during construction of an outdoor swimming pool in 2003.

According to the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group's chief negotiator Robert Morales, the case is significant since it is the first time charges have been laid under the province's Heritage Conservation Act.

"This is an important case to watch," he said in an interview late last year.

"The future of all land development projects where there are archaeological concerns in British Columbia may very well be impacted by the outcome of this court case."

The maximum penalty for a corporation convicted of the offence is \$1 million.

According to the provincial Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, there are roughly 30,000 archaeological sites in the province.

Cusheon purchase boosted

A \$1,000 Friends of Salt Spring Parks (FOSP) donation will help The Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLC) in its effort to purchase property on Cusheon Cove.

"We felt it was an acquisition that certainly fit the mandate of FOSP," said FOSP director Patricia Lockie.

The 37-hectare (98-acre) property that adjoins Ruckle Park includes 1,024 metres (3,360 feet) of shoreline and other desirable natural features.

TLC recently received \$23,000 in donations from islanders, said TLC executive director Bill Turner. One of those contributions was an anonymous donation of \$20,000, he said.

The Victoria-based conservation group offered to raise \$490,000 toward the \$2.7-million purchase at Cusheon Cove. Remaining funds were provided by the province.

Less than \$80,000 is now needed, Turner said.

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SPRING FLING: Gulf Islands Secondary School international student Roy Yan enjoys a chilly dip in Cusheon Lake as the students take out kayaks and prepare for an upcoming trip to Tofino. Photo by John Cameron

SCHOOL BUSINESS

From Page 1

increased public accountability.

She challenged the business company's decision to promote overseas projects and devote district resources for international students at a time when the school trustees must resort to a four-day school week to reduce costs and preserve programs.

"We need to shed some light on the workings of the company," she said. "How can we do that if they keep hiding behind that private business hedge?"

McKenzie agreed the decision to start up a business company in 2003 remains a highly charged philosophical debate that has engaged teachers, parents and board members.

"We would welcome any kind of public inquiry to help the public understand the workings of the business company," she said. "We don't feel we are not in compliance with the province's School Act."

"This is not the same as operating a coffee shop, this is our education system."
— Mona Fertig

The act forbids using operating funds received from the provincial government to run business company activities.

But the provincial government granted individual school districts the ability to establish business companies to generate revenue in 2002.

According to Scott Bergstrom, manager of the company's lucrative international student program, business ventures like distance learning and foreign schools often require initial start-up costs that take years to recoup.

In the past four years, he said, the international student program has grown from a modest two-student operation to a successful program that attracts 70 students to

the district every year.

"The business company has to spend money to make money," said Bergstrom. "If a business could profit without making any investment, everybody would start one."

Bergstrom would prefer to see increased government spending on education, but said the company has stepped in during a time of need, with international students not only helping to maintain programs but adding diversity to the student body.

"It's definitely tragic that school districts must become business enterprises to fund their programs," he said. "The buck ultimately stops with the Ministry of Education."

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TRUST

From Page 1

However, as Benson explained, "the political landscape" has changed since Coell is no longer the Minister of Community Services.

"Now we have a different minister and on the Community Services side there is a willingness to listen but not necessarily as much of a driving force as there was behind it as before. The executive does want to meet with the CS minister [Ida Chong] when we have something more solid on this, maybe after the June council meeting."

Task force members besides Salt Spring trustees Peter Lamb and George Ehring include Islands Trust chair Kim Benson, Denman trustee Louise Bell, Ken Hancock and Gary Steeves from North Pender, Sheila Malcolmson and Gisele Rudischer, both of Gabriola Island, Saturna trustee Brian Hollingshead, Roy Smith from Galiano, Rose Willow from Lasqueti and Bowen municipal trustees Alison Morse and Peter Frinton.

The next meeting will likely be at the beginning of May, and the group aims to have some recommendations for Trust Council when it meets on Saturna Island in mid June.



GIVE US A Q: Students from L'Ecole internationale St. Edmond in Greenfield Park, Québec, form the front of a Q with their exchange partners from Sarah Myers' Grade 8 French Immersion class at Salt Spring Island Middle School. The Québec students are exploring Salt Spring, Vancouver and Vancouver Island with their island peers until Sunday as part of a Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada program.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

Moneymaker Rock troubles local marina's application

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

Gremlins and mysterious rocks have been busy with a Land Act file that affects an application to amend the commercial marine lease area of Salt Spring Marina Ltd.

Local residents Tom Pickett and Harry Warner were among some 30 islanders who called the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) in Nanaimo when they noticed an anomaly on the application to extend a lease of Crown land by 1.11 hectares into Ganges Harbour.

They noticed that a geographic feature called "Moneymaker's Rock" was shown inside the boundary of the proposed extension.

But Pickett found another nautical chart that shows "Money Maker's Rock" located at the north-west corner of Goat Island, some

two kilometres from Salt Spring Marina Ltd.

"They may have inadvertently made an application for the whole inner harbour," said Pickett.

But the British Columbia Geographical Name Information System notes that there are two troublesome rocks and reefs in Ganges Harbour: Money Maker Rock and Money Maker Reef, which are located 2.08 kilometres apart.

ILMB land planner Gordon Smaill indicated that he is aware of the landmark discrepancy.

"There was some concern that [Money Maker Rock] was within it and if it was, it takes up half of Ganges Harbour and that's not so."

As an additional problem, the file was not posted on a government website that indicates land applications (www.lwbc.bc.ca), he noted.

And a legal notice advertising the proposed change in the March 15 edition of the Driftwood also included a numerical reversal error in the file number (the advertisement should have read Land File Number: 101249).

Concerned islanders need not worry about a previously published April 8 deadline to submit comments to the ILMB, Smaill said.

"We just do that to let people know that the door is not open indefinitely. We never close it until we are ready to do our review of the application and I'm not there yet."

ILMB received some 30 e-mails on the file, Smaill said.

"There's concern that we're going to close off public input very soon, and that we have the wrong file number and it isn't posted on the website — and how will people know? Well they know how to hit me with an e-mail — no problem there."



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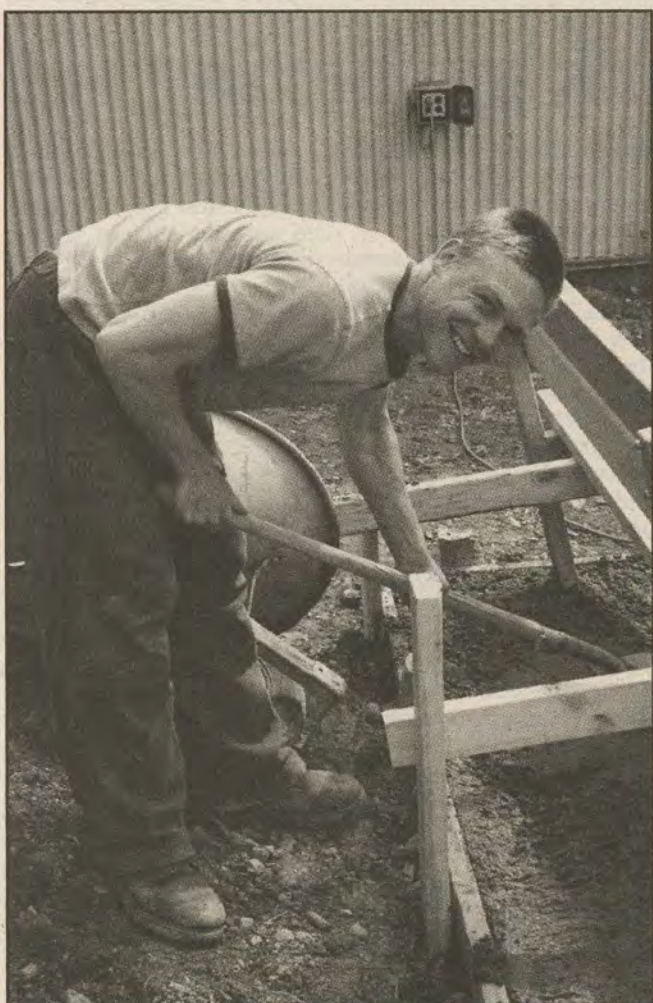


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SMOOTH GOING: Kyle Park helps smooth the wet concrete under the new benches being installed in the Kanaka Road Skate Park. Adult and youth volunteers from the skate park and middle school are helping to finish off the park with a new playground and viewing area.

Photo by Catherine Adair

Local man donates a new boat for Fulford School kids

Students at Fulford Community Elementary School will be back at the paddles again now that they were given a boat for their water-testing program this week.

"I thought it sounded like a fun thing that they were doing," said Drew Clarke, who donated a boat to the Fulford students. "I like to support the elementary school kids. Anything to get them out of the classroom; I remember how fond I was of that."

Over the last three years, Fulford students used a boat to collect and test water samples from Weston Lake. But that vessel disappeared from the Weston Lake public access in February.

Clarke was inspired to donate a boat to the student program because his late friend, Herk Roland, had originally donated a 10-foot fibreglass boat to Fulford Elementary School so kids could take water samples.

"If Herk wanted you to have a boat, I want you to have a boat too."

Clarke learned many years ago about the value of helping people when he perceives a need, he said.

"I've had many interesting experiences as a result," he laughed.

And he's been inspired by other "random acts of kindness" in the community.

Fulford school's new nine-foot fibreglass boat has a tunnel hull with built-in flotation that is very wide and stable, Clarke said.

"It's wonderful that Drew has donated this boat," said Fulford school principal Barb Aust. "It means that we'll be able to get out and start testing the water again. We're very grateful for his kind donation."

As a result of Clarke's gesture, a couple of Fulford students will be joining teacher Sarah Bateman out on the lake every two weeks starting in May.

Phoenix class hooked on critical thinking after visit

A Salt Spring teacher and his students returned to the classroom inspired by their studies after a recent field trip to a philosophy class at Malaspina University College.

"This is the kind of thing you dream about as a teacher," said Stephen Berry of Phoenix Alternative High School. "It's just been a thrill."

Berry was charged up after he brought 10 students aged 16-19 to sit in at a second-year university class to discuss the philosophy of aesthetics with professor John Black on March 24.

"The upshot is that the kids felt quite honoured."

Students analyzed and interpreted works by the Greek poet Sappho, the American essayist Alan Bloom, the Victorian romantic painter Holman Hunt and contemporary lyricist Sarah McLachlan.

Under guidance from volunteer mentor Dave Banks (who's worked as a teacher in the United Kingdom), Phoenix students have been studying critical thinking and comparative religion over the last three months, said Berry.

"[Banks] brings in a real wealth of information and procedure that as a Canadian teacher is quite new to me."

Students have been meeting with Banks twice a week; and sessions that start at 1 p.m. almost inevitably run until school has long since finished, Berry said.

"People are sitting around half an hour after school debating and talking."

After a visit to a second-year philosophy class at Malaspina College, Berry is convinced about the advantage of classes in critical thinking.

"I can say confidently that you can't help but to write a better exam if you can write and think more clearly about the ideas you're presenting."

Now he'd like to host a six-week Friday program with hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for students throughout the district starting April 14.

"They'll be given readings to do in between; so when they come the following week, they can get right into it."

He sees the critical thinking seminars as a great head start for university.

"It's a better thing to bring to university than even an I-Pod, and I'm a big fan of those."

For more information about the critical thinking seminars at Phoenix Alternative High School, call Stephen at 537-1009.

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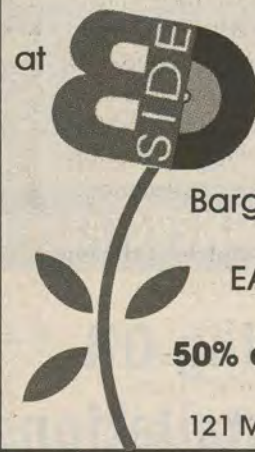


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Peace Park gathering set

By SALT SPRING BAHAI Special to the Driftwood

On Saturday, April 22nd, at 1 p.m., the local Baha'i community will host a prayer gathering on the theme of religious tolerance and understanding.

The Salt Spring community is invited to gather with the Baha'is at the Peace Park across from ArtSpring in a simple program of reflection, prayer and music.

Salt Spring Baha'is felt moved to call the prayer gathering when they learned of the current plight of Baha'is in Iran, who are experiencing a new wave of persecu-

tion. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, there have been disappearances, imprisonments and executions.

The Baha'i faith originated in Iran in the mid-1800s and its teachings proclaim that a new spiritual era for humanity has begun, one in which the "oneness and wholeness of the human race" must be recognized, religion must become the cause of unity and all prejudices must be healed.

Baha'is in our area have had close friends who were persecuted or executed as recently as 2005. The latest alarm began with a report by United Nations rapporteur Asma Jahangir, describing a systematic television and all-media campaign defaming the faith and inciting persecution.

Ruth Gledhill of the Times on Line in the United Kingdom wrote last week of her concern that the world not repeat the "conspiracy of silence" that allowed the Holocaust to occur. She writes, "The Bahá'í faith is one of the fastest-expanding religions in the world, with more than five million followers. There are between 300,000 and 350,000 in Iran, where its founder Bahá'u'lláh was born in the 19th century . . . It is also the largest religious minority in Iran."

Baha'is of the Gulf Islands and Saanich have met with Gary Lunn's office staff to seek his support for the beleaguered Iranian Baha'is.

The U.S. White House issued a press statement that called on the Iranian regime to respect the religious freedom of all of its citizens and indicated they would continue to monitor the situation of the Baha'is very closely.

Prince Charles, on his recent Middle East tour, spoke to Moslem scholars in Cairo, calling for a greater respect between religions, saying his "heart is heavy from . . . never-ending death and destruction" in the world. "We must foster, encourage and act upon that which embodies the divine attributes of mercy and compassion . . . and if I may say so, it requires all those who are in positions of authority in our different faiths to preach clearly and consistently to others the eternal values of these divine attributes."

Those who can gather on April 22 to pray for peace and tolerance amongst all religions may be inspired by the words of Baha'u'llah, revealer of the Baha'i faith:

"The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable, unless and until its unity is firmly established."



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Fight to save Grandma's House begins

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

For the 175 men who've relied on the residence to escape the depths of poverty, substance abuse and homelessness over the years, there's no place like "Grandma's House," but the recent sale of the building's original site means the facility is due for some saving of its own.

"We've engineered a deal, now it's up to the community," said Andrew Lewis, chair of the Salt Spring Island Land Bank Society (LBS). "We are throwing the ball into the public's hands and we need them to jump in and save Grandma's House."

LBS members seek an additional \$78,000 by April 30 to supplement the \$235,000 the society has secured for the purchase of a four-bedroom home located on Ganges Hill within walking distance of the village core.

The society adopted the project to buy a new site for Grandma's House after the group discovered the current facility would be sold on April 30.

In a time when so much emphasis is put on housing, Lewis expressed disbelief that a facility could be permanently shut down if the money is not raised.

"Affordable housing is one of the key issues that affect so many other sectors

"The home offers its residents a retreat from the reality of poverty . . ." - Patricia Fitzgerald, Human Exchange Society

on the island," he said. "This is a very good opportunity to help."

Housing shortages for the community's poor become more significant during the summer months as seasonal workers and visitors move to the island, forcing lower-income tenants onto the street, Lewis added.

A rough count of the island's homeless population conducted in February found 28 people living on the island without shelter and another 42 people in substandard housing. The count did not include the numerous people living without access to heat and electricity in tents, boats and travel trailers who refused to participate in the survey.

Grandma's House provides accommodation to four men at a time. Tenants pay \$325 per month, must remain drug and alcohol free and visit with counsellors at Salt Spring Community Services.

Most tenants stay in the house for three months, enough time to give them an opportunity to find independent lodging and complete

their reintegration into mainstream society.

The home was established in 1994 and is operated by the Victoria Human Exchange Society's Salt Spring branch, a not-for-profit volunteer organization responsible for nine similar homes in Victoria, Sidney and Salt Spring Island, including the Bittan-court Manor for women.

Patricia Fitzgerald, a Human Exchange board member, said her group prides itself on a long history of helping out the needy in the community based on a philosophy that poverty can happen to anyone at any time.

Losing Grandma's House, she said, would be a major setback for Salt Spring's poor.

"The home offers its residents a retreat from the reality of poverty where tenants can relax and concentrate on improving their lives," she said. "We support people until they are able to stand on their own two feet once again."

The Land Bank Society's Neddy Harris encourages the community to step up to the plate and pledge what-

ever they can, no matter how large or small.

"All it will take to save such an important part of the island is 770 people donating \$100," she said. "This is a chance for people to really do something about homelessness on the island."

Pledge forms are available at Salt Spring Books and people can call Neddy at 653-4573 for more information. To learn more about the Victoria Human Exchange Society, visit www.humanx.org. Tax receipts are available.

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Burn piles concerning

Salt Spring Island firefighters advise residents to exercise caution with outdoor burning after the department responded to two separate burn pile incidents this week.

So far this month the department has responded to four calls of burn piles spreading out of control as dry weather and winds increase the likelihood of flames reaching adjacent brush and dry grass.

Salt Spring firefighter Mike Bartle suggests people think twice about where and what they burn. He said regulations require that an adult carefully monitor all open fires and have water available on site. He also recommended burning during the morning hours. Permits will be required beginning on Saturday, April 15.



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From here to Africa

For anyone interested in life far beyond the confines of their blissful existence on Salt Spring, Driftwood reporter Sean McIntyre's first page of stories on his recent journalism trip to Africa is required reading in this issue of the paper.

McIntyre went to Malawi and Tanzania in late February as part of a Jack Webster Foundation fellowship in conjunction with the Canadian International Development Agency.

What relevance would the lives of subsistence farmers in Malawi, believed to be the fourth poorest nation on the planet, have for a community newspaper reporter on a small and relatively affluent island off the west coast of Canada?

For starters, some of those people have been directly aided by a grassroots project — called Seeds for Malawi — created by islanders on Salt Spring. McIntyre was able to see with his own eyes the Malawi communities and meet people who benefit from the funds collected at plant sales and through garden tours on our island.

A few dollars passed from Salt Spring plant lovers to Malawian farmers have bought invaluable seeds, fertilizer, tools, emergency food supplies and some measure of hope.

One beneficiary expresses gratitude for now experiencing hunger for only three months of a year rather than all 12. It puts our own daily trials into crystal-clear perspective.

We in the developed world may think there's no point in reaching out to Africa unless a major miracle will occur as a result. But that is foolish. The villagers McIntyre met in Northern Malawi deserve the best quality of life possible available to them, and anything we can do to help is unquestionably worth doing.

Think of how easy it is to give another human being even one less day or month of hunger. Is that not a worthwhile act to engage in?

As McIntyre notes, making a positive contribution to the people of Malawi requires some patience and commitment, more than anything, not an expectation that a society can be magically transformed overnight.

Delirah Phiri, one of the Seeds for Malawi program volunteers, said it so well:

"Change is not easy. It will take a while, but we have the time as long as people are still wanting to help."



Driftwood
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Salt Spring's future: are we planning or tinkering?

By MEROR KRAYENHOFF

When I was young, a favourite family game was vraagwegjes or "ask the way."

Our family of seven would pile into the 1954 station wagon and my father would begin to drive. Every time we'd reach an intersection it would be the next child's turn to say "straight, right, or left."

The fun part was we'd never know where we'd end up and we'd see parts of Vancouver that we never would have otherwise. The frustrating part was if you wanted to go somewhere in particular, then you had to sway all your siblings to your point of view. They were, at the same time, trying to impose their will on the game. There were brief fleeting moments when we were all going toward the same goal, e.g. Stanley

IN DEPTH

Park, the pool or the library.

That reminds me of how we plan on Salt Spring Island.

Every decade or so, there is tremendous community effort expended on updating the OCP (official community plan). The community gets to say "straight, right, or left."

Every few years our new Salt Spring Island politicians get to say "straight, right or left." There is no clear picture of where we intend to go in the long term, though. I don't think of that as planning, it's more like tinkering with inertia.

That is not how we plan in real life. Imagine that you move to a

new community and decide to go to the library. Would you put on your coat and head out the door? I don't think so.

You would think about the end result you wanted to achieve and the more clearly you pictured that end result, the more successful your trip to the library would be.

Then you would think about what it would take to achieve the desired end result. For instance, you might take a map, a list of books that you're interested in, ID for a library card, etc.

The way we actually plan in real life is to picture what we want and then figure out what it'll take to get that. We do that because we know it works.

The way we plan on Salt Spring Island is to identify where we're at right now and project what would happen if we changed the density

here, or downzone there, or had a density transfer, etc. As far as I can tell, no one has a clear idea of where we want to be in 50 years or more.

If we don't imagine a really great future for our grandchildren, then how can we possibly create that? If we don't know where we're going long-term, how is it possible to make decisions that make long-term sense?

At the root of this conversation is the fact that the future we think we're living into determines how we are today.

My experience of our community is that we're drifting and aimless because we have no clear target. This community of intelligent, creative, well-intentioned people are continually bumping up against one another in pursuit of the amorphous "good."

Creating a long-term target that is inspiring and compelling can act to focus the community. I'm in favour of a 100-year-plan that is the best we can imagine, unencumbered by today's current reality constraints.

I'd love to see a very clear, inspiring 100-year future laid out as part of this OCP process, perhaps as a preface. That's the path. Let's figure out where we want to go and then do whatever it takes to get there.

We may not experience the end result, but purity of intent needs to extend beyond one's lifespan to eliminate self-interest. And I'm willing to bet we'd see more satisfying results than we are seeing now.

The writer is head of Terra Firma Builders.

Group demands inquiry into SD business company

By MONA FERTIG and PETER HAASE

In light of continual information from students, teachers, homestay and international parents, and the April 6 article in the Vancouver Sun (School District Cuts Costs, Loses Money Abroad), we are calling on an independent and public inquiry into the management and mandate of the School District #64 private business company and its international programs.

We are also calling on Scott Bergstrom, director of the international program, to provide in-depth information about the accountability, remuneration, monitoring, hiring, promotion, education, treatment and recruitment of students and homestay parents in the

VIEW POINT

public evening meeting on Salt Spring Island.

This year the SD #64 business company lost \$113,000 on its school in Poland, etc., which was more than in the previous year.

The management of the private business company is puzzling and secretive at best. The international program should be returned to the district as it was before the private business company was started.

It should be operated as a publicly accountable non-profit arm of the school board with a clear mandate to fund and improve public education on the Gulf

Islands first. Is it possible that parents of international students are being financially exploited and misinformed about the extent of their child's education and activities here? Are international students getting the top education they pay for, considering that the profit generated from their enrolment is being used to open schools offshore, instead of bolstering a system in crisis? If our children's education is being compromised, isn't theirs?

While the SD #64 business company is busy drumming up education overseas, we are losing much-needed students at home. The implementation of the four-day week education experiment has accelerated enrolment decline. Enrolment decline

ernment funding quotas.

At present over 40 students from Salt Spring leave every morning on the Vesuvius ferry to public and private schools on Vancouver Island that have the five-day school week and offer quality education.

There are students from Pender and Mayne islands that go to school in Sidney and Victoria for the same reasons. About 20 families have moved or are soon moving off-island because of the four-day week. Ironically the school board continues to deny the seriousness of this exodus. Gulf Islands education should be of such quality — academically and artistically — that all 40-plus students who ferry elsewhere to school will clamour to enroll here every

Vancouver Island will scurry here to enroll instead of vice versa.

But instead of concentrating on keeping these precious students within our district, the school board/business company is spending time and money plying offshore waters for international students.

Visit the website and blog on the SD #64 business company for issues around its origins, operations and quality: <http://eyeonthings.wordpress.com/>

Write your government officials and call for a public inquiry.
On Wednesday, April 12 (today), we dare to hope for a shift in the board's unabashed support of the four-day school week.

We hope that the new

Temmel, who ran exclusively on the platform of returning the five-day school week; and Pete Williams, who defeated Russ Searle on Pender Island — will vote "no" to the four-day week.

Their minority vote will respect and validate the 4,373 votes on Salt Spring that favoured the return of the five-day school week last November. Their vote will also recognize the importance of our many serious concerns, including the SD #64 business company. Their vote could open a new door of accountability and vigorous defence of public education. Dare we hope.

The writers are parents and members of the former

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What would you recommend to tourists visiting Salt Spring Island?*



Blake O'Brian

Ganges Yoga Studio is a great place to do yoga and meet the locals. They should also make an effort to get on the water — there's a much better perspective.



Lori Russell

To stay through the week so it's not so busy and they have time to see everything. Visit the art galleries and the market — and The Local!



Sunny Sayer

Come get an ice cream with a waffle cone, then go people watch in the park. There are always lots of interesting people to look at.



Bill Stedwell

Bring a good pair of hiking boots for all the great trails.



Wayne Glover

Leave all your stress on the ferry; downtown is busy enough.

Letters to the Editor

Wrong conclusion

After reading the short article in the April 5 paper about the "cougar kill discovered in the Deer Park Road area," I feel compelled to write this letter, as I believe some of the conclusions to be wrong.

For my profession I have had the pleasure to study cat behaviour for over a decade, and the eating habits of big cats are very well known.

Big cats, like our native cougars, do not consume the "guts and stomach" of their prey. Big cats, being strict carnivores with no use of the entrails and their content, consistently consume the nutrient-rich organs in the chest and the large muscles on the flanks of their prey first. Canids (like dogs), in contrast, commonly consume stomach and intestines.

For a lay-person to describe a dead deer as cougar kill only spreads uncalled fear in our community. A wildlife conservation officer would have been more qualified in determining the deer's cause of death, before possible misinforma-

tion was published.

Although predatory by nature and capable of killing animals larger than themselves, cougars are greatly misunderstood. Personally I feel privileged to be living in a part of this world where magnificent animals like the cougar share my space. They are a treasure for us to have and keep, and they are worth being respected and protected by us.

Maybe knowing more about them would be more helpful than the call to reach for the pitchforks!

I am a parent, own pets and livestock and am very aware of the potential danger a cougar could pose to the safety of my family and farm. However, I also have the sad experience of growing up in a country where animals like big cats, wolves, and bears have only survived in fairy tales, although they all once called my country their home.

NATASCHA WILLE,
Fulford Ganges Road

Report species

I was very excited to see the first Green Edition published by the Gulf Islands Driftwood.

As the cover articles point out, we live in a very special place with rare species and sensitive ecosystems.

The photos of rare species that you saw on the cover of the Green Edition were taken on Salt Spring by biologists working under the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's stewardship program. The purpose of this program is to educate islanders about land stewardship and provide assistance to landowners who are interested in stewardship options for Garry oak meadows, rare plants and wildlife.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy is interested in hearing from landowners who have land containing (or think their land may contain) Garry oak trees and species at risk, including sharp-tailed snakes, western bluebirds, yellow montane violets, phantom orchids, western screech owls, barn owls and dun skippers.

If you have Garry oaks on your land or suspect you may have one of these plants or wildlife, please contact conservancy biologist Robin Annschild or myself at 538-0318, or ssconservancy@saltspring.com.

Services available to landowners at no cost include an ecological tour of their land with a qualified biologist.

So don't just "spot the rare species," please report the rare species that you find. We look forward to hearing from you.

KAREN HUDSON,
Executive director, Salt Spring Island Conservancy

No alarm

In his letter of April 5, Harry Warner warns (of course) that the strange algae in St. Mary Lake could have come in on the pontoons of a float plane.

He mentioned that the lake is EMO (electric motors only), thereby eliminating boats and their trailers, or the thousand cars that drive by each day.

It occurs to me that the 400-plus units planned for Channel Ridge may be on shaky ground if they are counting on St. Mary Lake waters, but let's stay outside here and concentrate on persecuting Ganges Marina first. There's no need to alarm off-island investors over these concerns, and we shall burn no witches before their time.

Following Mr. Warner's lead, should we not be prudent and place a local ban on chicken farming until this bird flu issue is resolved, or until the harbour management plan is completed, whichever comes last?

DWIGHT JONES,
Langs Road

Support trustees

OK, that's it. I have to write in response to two letters last week from J. Morgan and Mike Morgan who criticized the school trustees' meeting on the four-day week issue and said it was a "justification of a decision already made."

Interestingly, they also said the alternatives were "buried in a sea of paper."

Huh? Sounds to me like the "sea of paper" was the trustees' preparation for a meeting that hardly anyone attended (including me unfortunately). I did attend the public meetings last year which gave information on the four/five-day issue and came away completely impressed with the work put into a balanced presentation, a thoughtful look ahead at the issues facing the district

and a respectful interaction with the public.

Personally I am tired of reading the constant criticism of the trustees, of the disrespectful and sometimes vitriolic communications by a group of people opposed to the four-day week at all costs.

I am one of the silent majority; busy with my family, my personal life and my job. I have attended the meetings that brought us to the four-day week. I do not see a negative impact on my two teen daughters.

I have decided the four-day week is the lesser of the two evils and hope for the day when the Campbell government is ousted on its patooey out of office in shame for the havoc they've wreaked on this province's poorest and most vulnerable sectors — the mentally ill, the elderly and our kids.

So don't get me wrong, I'm not in favour of "enabling" the lousy deal our trustees have to deal with. But it's the best deal we've got — so let's give the trustees the support they deserve in the midst of these tough choices!

DIANE MELEN,
Stewart Road

MORE LETTERS 10

It's easy to love B.C. Ferries when everyone is smilin'

I am in love with an inanimate object. With a statement like that, you might guess that I am either very single or that I have been married for a long, long time. No. The object of my affection is B.C. Ferries.

This grudging affection was a long time coming. I say grudging, because I (like everyone on this rock) have grumbled and bitched about B.C. Ferries since the first day I drove off the ramp.

If it wasn't late sailings or getting left behind or the Sunshine Breakfast or the strikes or the price of a ticket, it was the cavalier attitude of the overpaid, union-coddled employees flagging vehicles onto the boat for some shocking hourly wage.

This new love affair began at 6 a.m. March 29, when I pulled up to a deserted wasteland of a parking lot at the Long Harbour terminal. Normally it would be full of vehicles housing half-asleep occupants nursing morning coffees out of commuter cups.

HEAD TO HEAD

BY PETER VINCENT



According to my friend Huey, who was manning the ticket booth, terminal staff were now loading the ferry early to adhere to the "on time, every time" mandate delivered from on high above. Cool.

The next pleasant surprise was the stalwart Queen of Nanaimo, which underwent major surgery over the winter. Gone were the dowdy old cafeteria tables that had been around so long that most sported nostalgic cigarette burns from a time when smoking was permitted. All gone. The old penal institute decor was supplanted by a Microsoft grey, louche ambience of a mall food court. And us shallow yuppie metrosexual types can actually pump out a cappuccino if the urge should hit.

I saw a new-found pride in the

ferry staff. My other ferry friend Denise was perched on the cashier's stool, absent-mindedly polishing the stainless steel as if she was in her own kitchen buffing up the Cuisinart. Everyone was smiling, jocular, strutting around like the cock of the walk.

It was more of the same on my return through Victoria. The Spirit of Something or Other was immaculate, staffed by seemingly deliriously happy worker bees saying "thank you" and everything.

As I sat there happily munching my beef dip next to a couple of tattooed goths doing their level best to maintain the proper levels of cynicism and disgust, I couldn't help but think I must be in some alternate universe . . . some ferry utopia.

The final mint on the pillow happened while transferring over to the Fulford run. The car behind me attempted to queue-jump by

zipping over to the "Southern Gulf Islands" booth waving her tickets and pointing at the sign. As if. The ticket person held her ground, firmly pointing to the Salt Spring line.

The driver finally gave up and slunk to the back of our line. In a final moment of karmic triumph, we left her on the dock, the only car that couldn't be squeezed onto the Skeena Queen. There is a god.


And what about the Queen of the North going down off the north coast? Despite the two tragic deaths and the miscellaneous lawsuits that have predictably popped up, there is something that has gone relatively unnoticed.

At the time of the sinking, every report I read, heard and saw by the passengers heaped praise and admiration on the crew. Apparently, there is a little more to the job than vacuuming the carpets and painting the handrails. Whatever these people are making, they are worth every penny.

Despite all the problems B.C. Ferries president David Hahn inherited from the past, like the FastCat fiasco, like a disgruntled work force and an aging fleet, he seems to have injected a new air of optimism into this perennial loser. He has instilled a good dose of job pride throughout the organization, something that has been sorely lacking in the past couple of decades.

And I'm not the only one who thinks so. Customer satisfaction is at an all-time high at 88 per cent, and the ferries leave on time 85 per cent of the time. The food is good, the bathrooms are clean, and best of all, just about everyone is smiling.

If we are going to point our bony fingers at the top when things go wrong, as we have in the past, then I think it's only fitting that we pass on a Salt Spring rose to the top guy when things are looking good. Congratulations Mr. Hahn.



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More letters

PR exercise

Mike Morgan (April 5 Driftwood letter) is correct.

The four-day week, as many of us predicted, will not save us from further cuts; it will at best stave them off for a year or so. School rolls continue to fall (and about 40 children now leave each day to be educated off island); the provincial government continues to underfund education and will not reward the district for its compliant behaviour. If you let yourself be cut, you will be cut and cut again.

Like many others, we did not attend the consultation meeting because of our experience of last year's meeting as an exercise in PR, rather than consultation, and because we knew that while the board is legally obliged to solicit our opinions, it does not have to act upon them. In the recent school board elections, a majority voted for five-day

candidates, but the vote was split. Will the board listen to that message? It's doubtful.

We do not at all feel that our children "deserve the education that will be foisted on them," but Mike is again right to point out the price of giving into despair and apathy over something as fundamental as the quality of public education.

**KATHY PAGE and
RICHARD STEEL,**
Salt Spring

SSTOP

I guess it was inevitable that with all the public discussion about gypsy moths that people would start seeing them everywhere.

Even the Ministry of Forests concedes that gypsy moths are rarer than a rare butterfly: the likelihood that you will see one on the island is very low. (Just a reminder: Only 43 moths were caught in an island-wide grid of

traps last year.)

So to all of those people who I hear want to squish, squash and squelch "gypsy moths," I ask you to please give your little flying friends the benefit of the doubt and restrain yourself. There are many species of moth that could be mistaken for the gypsy moth. If you're concerned about gypsy moth control and want to help out, send me your e-mail address. You will be added to the gypsy moth volunteers list and automatically informed of volunteer opportunities.

Our next event will be the construction of pheromone traps that trap male gypsy moths. This will take place after ground spraying is completed. Watch this paper and www.savesaltspring.com for more details.
**LESLIE WALLACE, for
SSTOP**

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PLANT HAPPY: Salt Spring Centre School students, from left, Emma Sky, Emily Adam-Oro and Olivia Hayne were seen recently in the market, selling the results of a school greenhouse project.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

More letters

Growing cars

This is just a brief supplement to my hemp article in last week's paper. In the 1930s, Henry Ford pioneered research into hemp fuels and plastics. Ford's goal was to "grow cars" and he built several prototype vehicles made out of hemp and other plant matter, run on hemp gas.

The car body moldings were composed of a hemp/flax plastic 10 times more resistant to dents than steel. I have a photo of Ford whacking his hemp-grown car with an axe, causing only surface scratches. The hemp plastic was a forerunner to fibreglass and created a car more durable and much lighter in weight than any other car built at the time. Why didn't the car go into mass-production, you ask? Ask the steel manufacturers, petrochemical companies and oil industry that question. With the help of Prohibition, they squashed the idea to grow cars and forced the industry direction into drilling and mining raw materials for production.

Personally, I'd like to see B.C. produce our own "grown cars" based on Ford's model. Call it a "CannaCar" that could compete on the world market with other countries developing green vehicles and fuels. No one else in the world is going in this direction and Canada could be the first to lead the way. It would give a whole new meaning to "Grown in B.C."

KEN ROULEAU,
Salt Spring

Update

On behalf of the Nairn Howe Memorial Fund, I would like to sincerely thank all of the volunteers who made the fundraising event of March 25 at the Legion such a tremendous success.

Special recognition to Jim Raddysh and his 12-member Uncle Jim's Band, who practised over a five-month period to prepare for just this one event; to Karen Pederson for co-ordinating the event, to Judy McPhee for organizing the silent auction; to Milly Sinclair and Susan Bracher and Al Irving; the students and staff at GISS for co-ordinating the efforts of providing dinner; to the senior boys basketball team; and the coach Lyall Ruehlen for serving the food and cleaning up the dishes; to Sandy McNeil and Scout Upex for distributing the door prizes and many other activities; to all the many other volunteers who arrived early and worked in the background to attend to all of the details that made this evening such fun and so memorable to so many.

The Nairn Howe Memorial Fund thanks each and every volunteer and donor sincerely for their efforts and generosity.

The Howe Multipurpose Court is now closer to becoming a reality.

BOB HOWE,
Frazier Road

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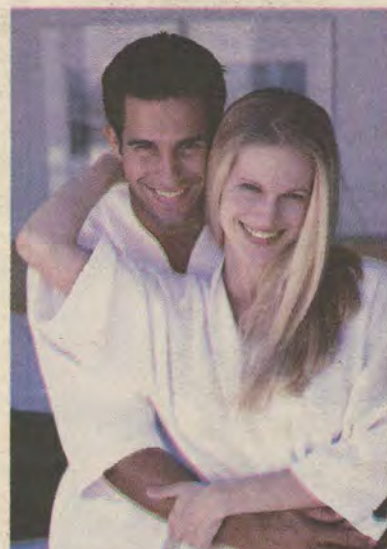
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More letters

Reconstitute PARC

Constant public criticism of PARC shows that the most important political change needed on Salt Spring is that PARC must be reconstituted to follow its mandate via the ballot box and reorganized to permit public access and transparency.

Our own experiences with PARC began in 1996 and continued over three years. They were adamant that our Rainbow Road property was needed for the pool.

Citing lack of funds, PARC first suggested we donate our land and our refusal started a series of meetings and correspondence with a committee that was clearly affirmative

when asked if CRD approval was in place and if such negotiations were within their mandate.

PARC next offered an exchange of property accumulated from development "leftovers," all inferior undeveloped land and unacceptable.

These quasi real estate dealings in public properties by officials in trust are clearly outside PARC's mandate, as shown by the public outrage when one parcel, a locally developed playground, seemed slated for the block and the offer was withdrawn.

Finally PARC offered the appraisal value of the property. They were aggressive, arrogant and inflexible in reiterating the theme that the intended use of their properties would devalue ours and their future plans would also decrease our living standards.

Initially, the appraisal price seemed insufficient to replace our property with another of equal value, but our own efforts found a solution and led to verbal agreement. This agreement became a complex legal situation requiring our own legal counsel. Despite frequent alterations by PARC to their prior verbal agreements, a contract was struck and a signing date set.

Then with no warning or reason given, PARC backed out within one hour of signing. Later I learned that this acquisition would have raised PARC's debt load too high and so required refer-

endum approval. It seems unlikely that the CRD was ever aware of PARC plans regarding our property.

What did it cost the community when PARC blew this deal — with three years to put it together, a willing if unhappy vendor and an avowed need for our property?

The community would now own almost 13 acres of contiguous land for recreational use rather than the separated parcels held at present.

The long-term financial loss in land value investment is impossible to calculate. Remarkable landscaping possibilities, better communication and infrastructure options and the opportunity to correctly address environmental issues were all sacrificed.

Last, and certainly not least, a much cheaper building site for the pool itself would likely have been available within the greater area to choose from.

Gary Holman received our vote for his pre-election commitment to bring PARC to an acceptable level of accountability. I hope he prevails for all our sakes.

His success in bringing together a new PARC, democratically elected and open to the public, would attract talent and experience to an organization sadly lacking credibility.

RICK AND BETTY HILL,
Rainbow Road

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More letters

Conclusions

For the Gulf Islands School Board to make a change of this magnitude (to a four-day week), the onus must be on the board itself — not the community — to show categorically and convincingly that breaking a “social contract” with parents, (namely, that the school week matches the work week) that the evidence overwhelmingly supports such a change.

Additionally the board must show that the benefits clearly outweigh the harm, the inconvenience and disruption to so many lives (especially among the school families with an only parent, or both parents having to work full-time and who often have younger children) — let alone the educational disruption.

The board is not even close to proving that this change is imperative — neither this year nor last. Essentially the only argument presented by this board and its administrators is that the savings (which, by the way, come mainly at the expense of the district’s lowest paid workers) will preserve the “arts”

programs in the schools.

No one would disagree that these “showcase” programs are “nice,” but there is probably no other community in Canada where such widespread support is available for these youth — outside of the schools. Those who are really destined to perform always find a way — and might even be better off making or having to make it happen for themselves.

Interestingly, those who are least affected by the change are its most enthusiastic supporters, namely the principals and administrators.

Yet, these educational leaders are the ones who presumably, through experience, education and objectivity could provide the most cogent and accurate information on the matter. But then, that extra day for golf, sailing or gardening or whatever is pretty irresistible when seen from a strictly selfish point of view.

At least there is a little more candor on the part of those who deal directly with the fallout of this — class-

room teachers; according to a GISS student survey, while 77 per cent would not recommend the four-day week to other districts, 65 per cent personally like it. A telling admission.

The board should ask administrators to make a written public statement explaining exactly why they so overwhelmingly support working only four days. For them not to do so is professionally and ethically reprehensible.

Finally, from “the mouth of babes”: GISS students acknowledged in the survey that 88 per cent would not want a five-day week even if all the programs were maintained, and 84 per cent would recommend the four-day week to another district if they could. Draw your own conclusions.

STEPHEN BERRY,
Salt Spring

Great show

Wonderful show today, Robin Hood: the kids are incredible. Four months of hard work and it shows.

Enthusiasm, virtually all the singing on pitch (it was

musical) and I don’t think I heard a missed line the whole show. And three-year-old Danielle Kliaman sat beside me, enthralled, and only squirmed when she had to pee!

We had swaggering outlaws, ditzzy sheriff’s daughters, a prim and evil lady of the court, a proud and noble Maid Marion and faithful friend, a vicious dragon, and the dragon’s breath — a fire dancer. Caring king, fearless friar, benevolent rebel leader, brave widow — so many richly varied characters, all robustly played with humour and villainy and heroism to rousing laughter, applause and cat-calls from the audience.

I love these kids; they all take such pride and delight in their work and play. I only know five of this batch, but they’re all great! Practically every expression and every movement was intently in character throughout the show — even in the set changes! The future of theatre on Salt Spring is assured.

Thank you for a fabulous show.

GORDON KEEL,
Salt Spring

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RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

Rants to the people who bring their dogs to Salt Spring Elementary School and do not scoop after they poop! We should not have to clean up after you. Marie Beaudoin

ROSES

A bag of tea scones hidden in an armful of roses to Sam and all at Slegg Lumber for the contribution of all the paint for the new addition to Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. The spirit of Salt Spring is alive and well. CO

A huge bouquet of roses to Drew Clarke of Blue Angel Towing for the new boat donated in memory of Herk Roland. The boat we use for water testing on Weston Lake disappeared and Drew came to the rescue. Thank you so much from Fulford Community School

Roses to Colleen at Pharmasave for restoring my faith in common sense and empathy. P

Many thanks to Gerry Marleau and Ron Watson for repairing our big gate! Very much appreciated, gentlemen. Residents of Kingfisher

A double dozen of roses

to Stowell lake Lisa and owl tree Chuck for the wonderful community potluck get together. Reynolds Road (plus) neighbours

Many roses to the crew of the dragon boat for a wonderful memento of a few short weeks. A well-aged paddle was brought to me at Lady Minto Hospital recently. We are both becoming antiques. I will be back. Thank you, M

A “double delight” hybrid tea rose to the person who found and sent my car keys and remote to TB vets. They disappeared so long ago, I thought I’d never see them again. RV

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25th, 2006 at the Masonic Hall, 506 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C.

As required by the Letters Patent of the District, the Annual General Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

1. To receive from the Trustees a report on the condition of the works and a statement of the financial condition of the Improvement District.
2. To discuss with the Trustees any matter relating to the works or finances of the Improvement district.
3. To fix the remuneration of the Trustees for the ensuing year.
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THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET POTATO FISH CAKES

Short cuts to cooking for one or two @ with Sarah Lynn
Potato pancakes: Potato pancakes: Known in Yiddish as Latkes (or Latkas), they are popularly associated with Ashkenazi Jewish cuisine of Eastern Europe. However potato cakes fried in oil are eaten by the general population in the region and many varieties are found all over Europe. Rosti are a Swiss variation while Boxty is Irish. The Swedish version is Raggmunk. Everyone seems to have a favorite variation.

Here’s mine, a fish version which can be served any time. It is worth the bit of extra effort.

Place **1 fillet of cod or salmon** in a pan with a lid in one inch of water for five minutes over medium heat. Drain when cooked & frisk with a fork. (If you prefer, you can use 1 can drained shrimp, crab or other seafood.) In a bowl whisk together **1 egg, 2 tablespoons flour, 1 clove garlic minced, 1 teaspoon dill weed & ¼ teaspoon of salt** (optional) & set aside. Peel & finely grate **1 small carrot about ½ cup & 1 large potato** (do this last to prevent browning). Squeeze as much liquid out of the potato & carrot as possible & combine. Chop **1 green onion, 2 tablespoons crumbled feta cheese**. Mix these ingredients into the egg mixture with fish (or seafood). Heat skillet or frying pan with **3 tablespoons oil**. Drop about four patties of the mixture into the pan & flatten with a spatula. Cook for five minutes over medium heat; then turn with a spatula & cook five more minutes until golden. Drain on paper towel & serve warm with sliced lemon, tartar sauce, seafood sauce, or sweet chili sauce. Tastes great on a bun too! Serve with a salad on the side.

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Mouat history book unveiled

A book detailing the history of one of the island's most notable clans has hit the shelves ahead of the family's celebration of 100 years on Salt Spring Island next year.

The 64-page *Mouat's: The First Hundred Years* follows the family's history from its humble beginnings when Gilbert Mouat purchased what would become Mouat's General Store in 1907 to the family's enduring legacy in the community.

Well-known island writer and historian Charles Kahn's extensive use of historical documents, including newspaper clippings and photographs collected from islanders

and the archival society, brings the family's history to life, charting not just the story of a pioneering family but the growth of Salt Spring Island itself.

Interviews with the family's descendants and friends recount tales from a store that for generations served as the island's social, economic and cultural hub.

"Mouat's has shaped Ganges over the years, developing an island centre that serves residents and tourists alike," writes Kahn.

The book is available at Mouat's Home Hardware, Mouat's Clothing, Old Salty and island bookstores.

More letters

Investments

According to the front-page headline of March 27th's Vancouver Sun: "Businesses run by B.C. school boards lose money."

School boards — starved for cash by the provincial government — have spent thousands of dollars setting up business companies, but not one, according to the Sun, has turned a profit. The Sun discovered that our own school district's business company, according to its own financial statements, lost \$62,108 in 2004.

A follow-up article on April 6 stated the company lost \$113,000 in 2005 while running a pre-school in Warsaw for 26 Polish toddlers.

I've been to several meetings, the last one was the school board trustees' all-candidates' meeting, where it was claimed that our business company was pumping hundreds of thousands of

dollars into the district, playing a crucial role in keeping programs alive.

Maybe it is, although the books sure seem to tell a different story. You'd think if that were the case, though, we'd have set up shop as consultants (now there's a profitable business) to all those other districts that have yet to make a penny.

You'd think they'd be beating a path to our door to find out how we do it. Maybe we have and maybe they are. Given the school board's lack of openness and the Driftwood's dearth of reporting, who knows?

But when school board chair May McKenzie assures the Sun that our investment in that little Polish pre-school is bound to pay off in the future, you do have to wonder whose kids' future our school board is really investing in.

MURRAY REISS,
Fulford

Protest lease

A notice appeared recently in this paper concerning "amendment to the area of a commercial marine lease, situated on Provincial Crown land located at Ganges Harbour."

The notice contained an incorrect "Lands File Number" (it should have read 101249); it also cited an incorrect website address (it should have said www.lwbc.bc.ca).

If you are concerned about the future health of Ganges Harbour, please voice your concerns to Gordon Smail at gord.smail@gov.bc.ca.

(Even though the information given was incorrect, the government insists that the last day for receipt of comments was April 8! Despite this, please send your emails ASAP.)

Watch my website, savesaltspring.com for further developments.

HARRY J. WARNER,
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www.saltspringfolkclub.ca

Show assures spring has arrived

By **SUSAN LUNDY**
Driftwood Staff Writer

An April shower cast a grey gloom over Ganges as I dropped by the Salt Spring Painters Guild exhibit at ArtSpring earlier this week, causing me to seek out reminders of spring.

And the guild's annual show and sale, featuring 78 works by 44 local artists, didn't disappoint as signs of spring were everywhere: paintings of gardens, wildflowers, sunny skies and promises of summer fun.

Stepping into ArtSpring and closing the door on the rain, I was immediately transported to Marie's Garden, an impressionistic array of colour by Victoria Olchowecki.

Inside the gallery, Ingrid Koner's natural garden — a beautiful splash of water lilies in pastel pinks and blues called Lilylovesong — drew me in. I also spent a moment hovering over Wendy Shea's beautiful Sunlit Tulips, a painting that screams "spring" as the colours move upwards from the dark green of the earth to an almost ethereal golden sunlight.

Nancy Wigen's Spring Garden is a cheery cacophony of flowers — one can almost smell the spring fragrance — and I also loved her quietly exquisite still-life painting Nasturtiums.

Nearby is another of my show favourites. Colour, contrast and lighting pulled me to Suzanne Prendergast's simple Spring Joy, which uses ink, watercolour and coloured pencil to brilliant effect. Bright yellow petals, anchored by deeply hued purples, are set against a dark backdrop. It made me think of those moments when the sky is black but the sun is out, coating everything in gold.

Amarah Gabriel's Untitled acrylic also put me in mind of this near-mystical yellow glow. The lighting of her Ganges shoreline scene is almost surreal and yet she's captured a vision that I've viewed while sitting on the deck at Oystercatcher. A bright red floatplane domi-



PORTRAIT: Painter Bernice Wood (right) and the subject of her portrait, Maggie Gunn, are seen at the opening reception of the Salt Spring Painters Guild's spring show.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

nates the foreground and the entire image is otherworldly yet familiar.

(Gabriel also has a show-stopping piece in the exhibit. Her Marilyn Monroe chair didn't fit into my spring-seeking theme, but the work is wonderfully unique and lots of fun.)

I also found spring in two Barbara Dearing flower paintings. I looked for a long time at her bright acrylic The Red Door. The focal point is a bursting pot of flowers in front of a deck with a red door in the background. The colours drew me in and the composition kept me intrigued.

The exhibit also features Dearing's small block acrylic called Painted Tulips. It portrays pots of flowers on a wharf and the ocean backdrop offers the promise of summertime fun on the water.

Heather Pottinger's gentle seascape Foot Loose and Fancy Free gives a similar

promise. A bright red sailboat is anchored on a subtly lit backdrop. While most of the painting's colours are quiet and peaceful, a splash of orange and other rich hues in the shoreline adds to the promise of summer days to come.

Bernice Wood gives viewers a spring theme with her ploughing painting — one can feel the motion and strength of the work horse — and Marlene Smith's yellow Contemplation put me a spring frame of mind as I contemplated the emotion it evoked.

Two bird paintings also felt spring-like, including Sylvia Andrew's happy watercolour The Wharfinger and Libby Jutras' A Meeting of Minds. Jutras' painting of gulls on the beach in the rain could be any season, but somehow the swirl of colour in the water and the delicacy of the rain made it feel like birds enjoying a light spring shower.

Two other non-spring — probably autumn — pieces caught my eye as I prepared to face the rainy gloom outside. Andrew's Last Flight is an appealingly moody, misty watercolour of forest leaves; and I spent several minutes enjoying Judy Borbas' Still Life In Red.

As I emerged from ArtSpring, I discovered the rain had disappeared. The sun shone and all the lush greenery sparkled with diamond water droplets. Spring, it seemed, had returned.

The show runs daily at ArtSpring until Sunday, April 23. (It also began last Sunday, not Saturday as incorrectly stated in an April 5 Driftwood story.)

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Robin Hood hits the bulls-eye

By **DAWN HAGE**
Driftwood Contributor

Stagecoach Theatre's Robin Hood the Musical provided a too-rare opportunity for islanders to bring the whole family for an evening of comedy, excitement, music and a well-prepared dramatic play.

It demonstrated loads of talent and a cast that was theatrically well disciplined with seamless choreography, set changes, entrances and exits, and small and large musical numbers.

Simon Henson's set design was simple but effective with warm red light highlighting a central tree design and Richard the Lion-Hearted crests defining the edges of the stage. Elizabethan music set the mood as audience members settled into their seats.

A trio of period-costumed musicians featuring John Herbert on percussion, Karen Arney on piano and Andy Hickman on guitar were nestled unobtrusively off to stage right where they provided sensitive accompaniment throughout the evening. The musicians should be highly commended for playing under the softest of young voices at all times, allowing both melody and words to be easily captured by the listener.

After a lively overture, the play, written by Tim Kelly, opened with a full cast musical number and we were immediately treated to wonderful ensemble singing. With obviously excellent vocal coaching from Nina Holldorf, the cast of young actors projected, sang in tune and together, clearly enunciated the text and were solidly in character from the moment they stepped on stage.

Silken Conradi as Robin Hood took the first of many solos and displayed a soft, musical and engaging vocal style with excellent pitch. Conradi was a stellar lead, imbuing the role of Robin Hood with dignity, humour and a maturity that set the tone for the less experienced actors on the stage.

After the opening number, Robin Hood's outlaws were introduced with an apple-



ON STAGE: From left, Karissa Bascom, Courtney Bolton and Emma Tyrchniewicz stage a fight scene as they get ready for the final Stagecoach production of *Robin Hood: the Musical* on Saturday afternoon at ArtSpring.
Photo by Catherine Adair

smacking Beth (Lilith Bentley) parrying with Mother Meg (Jessica Kliaman), both excellent and highly engaging. Little John (Courtney Boulton), Molly (Norees Gasper), Will Scarlet (Emma Tyrchniewicz) and the Pick-Pocket (Mikala Bascom) completed the merry gang and all worked together to transport us to Sherwood Forest and gain our sympathy for King Richard's supporters.

Eartha Linnell was beautifully cast as the Old Widow with make-up, costume, mournful expression and defeated demeanour that transformed her from young to old.

Ben Arney was hilarious as Friar Tuck with a belly that entered the stage well before the rest of him.

The buffoonish Sheriff of Nottingham, played by Rylan Gajek with great comedic flair, earned audience laughter with every entrance. Gajek was joined by Lady Merle of Cornwall (Una Conradi), Maid Marion (Alexandra Kliaman) and Annabel (Maddee Nash), who delivered a solid per-

formance as the loyal lady in waiting.

The number of very young actors onstage was striking and their excellent blocking, projection, characterization and movement onstage is a tribute to the fine coaching and instruction from Amber Lewis, Sue Newman, Penny Berton, Robbyn Scott and Henson.

With action shifting to the castle, we were introduced to soldier Kasper (Karissa Bascom), Lady Juliet (Eve Olynyk) and her daughter Salome "Precious" (Leilani Bascom). The Juliet-Salome duo was hilarious and the chemistry between them absolutely magical. With vocal talent demonstrated by *Come to the Fair*, they were a highlight of the evening.

A travelling troupe of actors provided a "play within a play" and allowed the 10 members of Spotlight, a weekly offshoot of the Mainstage Stagecoach ensemble, to shine with a fun and exciting mini-story they wrote themselves.

Death of the Dark Dragon Night concerned villagers (Kephra Beckett, Indigo

Porebska-Smith, Tala Small Wolf, Meadow Rose Sorrell and Nicole Varlis Love), a Black Knight (Hut Chaiyo), a Dragon (Conner Elwell), three fairies (Small Wolf, Sorrell, and Rebecca Johnstone), a narrator (Sau Yi Tsang), a soldier and the dragon's fire (both by Maya Porebska Smith) and marksman Robin of Locksley (Varlis Love).

In the finale, Friar Tuck rushed in with the shattering news that King Richard is dead and King John will take over the throne. Robin Hood and the Sheriff duel and the outcome looks bleak until a diminutive but powerfully present King Richard (Dexter Nash, who played a mysterious stranger earlier in the play) reveals himself to the crowd and a joyful celebration ensues. A full-cast rendition of Heigh Ho Robin Hood ended the show, with the audience demanding several curtain calls for a wonderful evening of top-notch entertainment and the certainty that young acting and singing talent is alive, well and thriving on Salt Spring.

Salt Spring Island CONSERVANCY

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21st (Friday): "Hum along with us" All About Hummingbirds. Slide show with Cam Finlay, hummingbird expert and author of *A Bird Finding Guide to Canada*. Mahon Hall at 7:00 pm.

May 4th (Thursday): Birding at Ford Lake with Bob Weeden. Call 537-5403 to pre-register.

May 12th (Friday): AGM, Lions Hall, 7:00 pm. Guest Speaker Dr. Brenda Beckwith, Ecosystem Scientist, will present "Knowing Every Corner of the Land".

May 13th (Saturday): Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve Walk with Dr. Beckwith. 10:00 am. Pre-register for walk at office (538-0318).

May 20th (Saturday) Birding With Bob

June 2nd (Friday): HOW DOES THE DRAGON FLY? Slide presentation and nature walk by Victoria Biologist Claudia Copeley, 7:00 Lions Hall.

June 3rd (Saturday): Pre-register for walk with Claudia call 538-0318.

August 6th (Sunday): Eco-Home Tour, 10 - 4pm.

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Avant-garde Art Salon arrives

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

A new canvas with a hip modern focus has been stretched for the island gallery scene with an opening of Salt Spring Art Salon on April 15-16.

Run by local artist Lore Schmidts, the Art Salon aims to fill a gallery gap that Schmidts has missed since he moved to the island from Vancouver six years ago.

Inspired by urban venues like the Whip Gallery (an eclectic lounge-restaurant with thought-provoking exhibitions) and the Or Gallery (where viewers can currently contribute to creating an adventure playground), Schmidts aims to sketch out a space where contemporary artists can share their thoughts.

"If someone wants to see something more socially aware or avant-garde, this is the place where they can come and see it," he said.

The salon opening will feature Schmidts' work, sculpture by Christina Antonick, illustrations by Mark Stevens and photography by Alura Gilbert and Billie Woods.

Schmidts' background includes a BFA from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design with work in sculpture, murals, historical art reproductions and



SALON STYLE: Local artist Lore Schmidts invites islanders to attend the opening of Salt Spring Art Salon on Saturday and Sunday. Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

original paintings and commissions from the Chateau Whistler, the Wall Centre and Fairmont Hotels.

He was inspired to set up the 22-by-30 foot space after meeting several other engaging artists on the island. The

room features 10-foot ceilings, stonework trim, woodstoves and comfy couches.

The Art Salon is modelled after the "L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts" of the Parisian Impressionist era of the late 1800s, where people could view artists' works in private studios, he said.

"I think Salt Spring has the type of art where this style of venue would resonate. There's a lot of sophistication here."

Schmidts plans to hold quarterly viewing dates interspersed with special events and showings of his own works by appointment.

"The aim of the salon is to provide a space that can be secured by local artists to present their work in a solo or group showing and in doing so, provide a creative forum to develop new themes and discourse in visual artistic expression."

Schmidts expects the salon will continue to evolve to meet the needs of artists and viewers over time.

Salt Spring Art Salon, located at 601 Upper Ganges Road, opens to the public on Saturday, April 15 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) and April 16, noon to 3 p.m.

For more information, private viewings and consultation appointments, call Lore at 538-1992.

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Planet musicians offer Jazz Fest preview

Islanders will get a preview of the upcoming Salt Spring Jazz Fest with a showcase performance by the local fusion group Planet Music at Barb's Buns on April 15.

Planet Music features islanders Laurent Boucher, Greg Esposito, Bob Delion, Monik Nordine and Jordy Sharp, who play original urban jazz fusion in the style of Mike Stern and John Sco-

field. "It's a pilot project for the Salt Spring Jazz Fest," said Nordine.

The showcase event at Barb's Buns aims to raise awareness and support for the jazz festival that will strike the island on June 23-25, said Nordine.

All proceeds from the showcase will go toward the Jazz Fest.

"We have The Hot Club of Mars performing on June 23 at the Tree House North and Bob Murphy with the Pat Coleman Quartet performing at Moby's Pub on June 25."

She's also working on forming a new jazz and blues society under the umbrella of the Gulf Islands Community Arts Council, she said.

"We're seeking fundrais-

ers to solicit ads and sponsors for our festival," said Nordine.

The local Jazz Fest will offer a commission for fundraisers, she noted.

For more information, contact Monik at (537-8587) or by e-mail (saxgirl@gmail.com).

Tickets (\$10) for the all-ages showcase event at Barb's Buns on April 15 are available at Acoustic Planet.

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9	291	383	KCTS	Arthur	Maya&M.	Cyberch.	Business	News	Steves'	Travels	Coasteau	Greatest Good	News	T. Smiley					
10	120	702	SRC	La fosse aux lionnes	Véro	Union	Journal	Téléj.	Virginie	L'Épicerie	Match-étoiles	Casino	Téléjournal/Point	Journal	Mêlée				
11	268	354	KNOW	Dora	RolieP.	George	Peep	Mechanic	Memories	Defence	LeadEdge	Strange Days	What the [Rebuild	Film Club	Scatter.	Dotto			
12	253	359	CITY	CityLine	Ellen DeGeneres	News	Million?	Friends	Top Model	Bruce Almighty	(2003) Jim Carrey.	News	35	J.Leno					
13	620	523	BRAVO	Videos	TheMind	Moss	A Stage	Company of Strangers	Alice Diabo.	Law & Order	NYPD Blue	Au Coeur du Mensonge							
14	522	506	HIST	JAG	Antiques Roadshow	Digging For Truth	Turning Points	JAG	Antiques Roadshow	Digging For Truth	China Beach								
15	521	560	TLC	X-Ray Eyes	A Face for Yulce	The Facemakers	Guardian Angels	A Face for Yulce	The Facemakers	Guardian Angels	X-Ray Eyes								
16	557	541	FAM	15 Proud	40 Recess	05 Kim P.	McGuire	L.Time	Darcy	So Raven	Smart G.	8 Rules	Boy MW	Brotherly	Roscoe	Popular	8 Rules	Roscoe	
17	615	520	A&E	Crossing Jordan	Bounty	Bounty	Star Wars: Empire of Dreams	Crossing Jordan	Bounty	Bounty	Star Wars: Empire of Dreams								
18	400	400	TSN	Hockey NHL Montreal vs Buffalo	MolsonH.	Sportscentre	Off Rec	Boxing Wednesday	Night Fights	Sportscentre									
19	407	419	RSP	Baseball MLB Toronto Blue Jays vs. Boston Red Sox	News	Baseball MLB Houston vs San Francisco	Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News											
20			KSTW	WifeKids	Bernie M.	WifeKids	Bernie M.	Queens	Queens	Seinfeld	'70s	Top Model	Veronica Mars	Seinfeld	'70s	SouthPk	SouthPk		
21			KVOS	Montel Williams	F.Feud	Yes, Dear	Elimidate	Elimidate	Becker	Queens	Local Boys	(2002) Eric Christian Olsen.	W&Grace	Queens	Cheers	Serve P.			
22	290	382	KCPQ	SaveBell	Fresh P.	Shoot	King Hill	Simpsons	Malcolm	Simpsons	Malcolm	The Loop	American Idol	Unan	Q-13 News	Simpsons	King Hill		
23	502	390	NEWS	Can. Now	Can. Now	CBC News: Hour	News: The National	Hockey Nomad	CBC News: Hour	News: The National	Hockey Nomad	CBC News: Hour							
24	289	381	KIRO	Judy	Judy	News	News	ET	Access	The Amazing Race	Criminal Minds	CSI: NY	News	Late Sh.					
25	288	380	KOMO	First News @ 4	KOMO 4 News	News	News	Fortune	Jeopardy	G. Lopez	Freddie	Lost	The Evidence	News	35	News			
26	65	394	VISION	Touched By Angel	Minister	S.Wine	Distant Shores	Easter	Little Men	Minister	S.Wine	Distant Shores	7th Heaven						

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

Salt Spring Driftwood: Main Movie Breakout for Apr 12, 2006 to Apr 18, 2006

- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12**
- 6:00 PM
14 ★★ **Company of Strangers** (1992, Drama) When a bus breaks down, eight elderly women are forced to spend the night in a farmhouse. *Alice Diabo, Constance Garneau* (2h)
- 7:00 PM
3 ★★ **Seven Times Lucky** (2004, Crime Story) A con-man and a student join forces to hatch a scam that will make them both rich. *Kevin Pollak, Liane Balaban* (1h30)
- 8:00 PM
24 ★★ **Local Boys** (2002, Drama) Two brothers and their friends face challenges and adventure during a memorable summer. *Eric Christian Olsen, Archie Kao* (2h)
- 8:30 PM
3 ★★★ **Hellboy** (2004, Sci-Fi) A demon grows up to become a defender against the forces of darkness. *Ron Perlman, John Hurt* (2h15)
- 9:00 PM
4 ★ **Home Team** (1999, Comedy/Drama) A former pro football player is sentenced to volunteer work at a children's home. *Steve Guttenberg, Derek Lebrero* (2h)
- 10:00 PM
13 ★★ **Bruce Almighty** (2003, Comedy/Drama) A man is given God's powers in order to teach him how difficult it is to run the world. *Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman* (2h)
- 10:45 PM
14 ★★ **Au Coeur du Mensonge** (1999, Drama) A teacher is increasingly unsettled by a town's suspicions during a murder investigation. *Sandrine Bonnaire, Jacques Gamblin* (2h15)
- THURSDAY, APRIL 13**
- 6:00 PM
14 ★★★ **Homicide** (1991, Psycho-Drama) A detective and his partner investigate the anti-Semitic murder of an elderly Jewish lady. *Joe Mantegna, William H. Macy* (2h)
- 7:00 PM
3 ★★★ **Saint Ralph** (2004, Comedy/Drama) A teen believes that if he wins the Boston Marathon, his mother will come out of her coma. *Adam Butcher, Campbell Scott* (1h45)
- 8:00 PM
24 ★★ **Permanent Midnight** (1998, Drama) A recovering drug addict meets a sitcom writer who is also trying to overcome his habit. *Maria Bello, Ben Stiller* (2h)
- 8:45 PM
3 ★★ **Hotel Rwanda** (2004, Drama) During the genocide in Rwanda, a Hutu hotel manager grants shelter to thousands of Tutsi refugees. *Don Cheadle, Nick Nolte* (2h15)
- 9:00 PM
4 ★★ **Hardball** (1996, Action) After a close call during a heist, the partnership of two fugitive recovery agents ends. *Michael Dudikoff, Lisa Howard* (2h)
- 9:30 PM
29 ★★ **Kramer vs. Kramer** (1979, Drama) A workaholic cares for his son after his wife leaves him, and then must fight to keep him. *Dustin Hoffman, Meryl Streep* (2h)
- 10:00 PM
14 ★★ **The English Patient** (1996, Romance) A Canadian nurse tries to piece together the history of a badly injured pilot. *Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche* (3h15)
- 11:00 PM
3 ★★ **Fahrenheit 9/11** (2004, Documentary) A look at the events surrounding 9/11, and how the Bush administration used it to push its own agenda. (2h15)



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Gulf Islands Community Arts Council
gicac

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S - Salt Spring Island		ExpressVu		StarChoice		WEEKDAY DAYTIME APRIL 12 TO APRIL 18																	
S	☆	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30						
257	308	CBC	Clifford	Pinky	Poko	Various	Nanalan'	Dressup	George	News	F AbCan	Da Vinci's Inquest	Various	Various	Air Farce	22 Mins.							
320	621	MC1	Movie	Various	W Van Helsing	Movie	Various	Various	Movie	Gospel of John	Various	19	Bright Young	Various	Various								
4	256	CITY	F Kool Countdown	CityLine	Movie TV	Careers	Ellen DeGeneres	All My Children	One Life to Live	Touched By Angel	Dotto	Various											
5	287	379	KING	7:00 Today Show	Today Show II	Tyra Banks Show	Ellen DeGeneres	News	Days of Our Lives	Passions	Dr. Phil												
6	255	358	CH	BodyH'ith	Various	Oprah Winfrey	The Price Is Right	Young & Restless	News/F Fear Factor	Various	BodyH'ith	Myst.Ink	Various	F Mystery									
7	250	321	CTVBC	7:00 Canada AM	Regis & Kelly	The View	eTalk	Balance	Planet	Bold & B.	Gabereau	Gabereau	General Hospital	Dr. Phil									
8	251	336	GBLBC	6:00 News	100 Huntley Street	World Vision	Insider	Various	News	As the World Turns	Passions	Young & Restless											
9	291	383	KCTS	Big World	DragonT.	Zoboo	Barney	Sesame Street	B.Lions	Rogers	Various	Food	Various	Paint	Various	Reading	Big World	Piggley					
10	120	702	SRC	simondurivage.com	Coup de pousse	Droit au coeur	Ricardo	durivage	Journal	durivage	Rome, USA	Cinema											
11	268	354	KNOW	Various	50 Todd	Arthur	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Gaslight	Various	Various	35	Clues						
12	253	359	CITY	F Cooks	F Cooks	Various	Cooks	Relic Hunter	CityLine	Cooks	Various	W Flashdance/M	Almost Heroes	Maury									
13	620	523	BRAVO	Various	Boy, Wolf	Various	48	BI News	Law & Order	Street Legal	Various	Movies	48	BI News	Various	Various	Street Legal						
14	522	506	HIST	Turn Pl/ Turning Pts.	JAG	Antiques Roadshow	Antiques	Disasters	The Sea Hunters	Timelines: Conflict	Tour of Duty	Disasters	Master.										
15	521	560	TLC	Wedding	Makeover	What Not to Wear	Younger	Baby St.	Baby St.	Baby	Various	Little Peo.	Trading Spaces	While You Were Out	Martha								
16	557	541	FAM	18 Lilo	48 Einstein	10 W. Pooh	35 Otter	JoJo's	Various	25 King	45	Recess	10 Kim P.	Weekndrs	Various	45	Lilo	10	Fillmore	35	Proud	Various	Barbarian
17	615	520	A&E	Various	Various	Various	Various	Cros. Jordan	Case	Various	Movie	Various	Various	Various	Interrupt	Off Rec	SportsC						
18	400	400	TSN	Sportscentre	Off Rec	Various	W F Darts	Various	TUSoccer	Various	Various	Various	M Motorc.	Various	Interrupt	Off Rec	SportsC						
19	407	419	RSP	Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News	B.D. Sports Show	Various	Various	Various	Various	TonyHawk	Pratt & Taylor	Sports							
20			KSTW	6:00 The Daily Buzz	The 700 Club	Frasier	Various	Divorce	Divorce	Alex	Alex	The People's Court	Home I.	Sabrina									
21			KVOS	Various	Paid	Your Day	Various	Paid	Paid	Magnum, P.I.	The People's Court	Various	W Paid	Magnum, P.I.	Matlock								
22	290	382	KCPQ	5:00 Q13 Fox News	Judge Greg Mathis	Justice	Justice	Tony Danza Show	Starting Over	Maury	Jerry Springer	Maury											
23	502	390	NEWS	CBC News: Today	CBC News: Today	CBC News: Today	CBC News: Today	CBC News: Today	CBC News: Today	Various	F WiRe	Various	News	Various									
24	289	381	KIRO	The Early Show	Montel Williams	The Price Is Right	Young & Restless	News	Bold & B.	As the World Turns	The Guiding Light	Brown	Brown										
25	288	380	KOMO	7:00 Morning Am.	Regis & Kelly	The View	KOMO 4 News	All My Children	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Northwest												
26	65	394	VISION	It's a New Day	Mass	Various	Various	Marshall	Credo	Various	Various	7Heaven	F Shrines	Various	Martian								

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Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Thursday Evening April 13. Includes programs like 'The Bourne Supremacy', 'Saint Ralph', and 'Hotel Rwanda'.

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Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Friday Evening April 14. Includes programs like 'Fever Pitch', 'My Date With Drew', and 'The Tunnel'.

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Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Saturday Daytime April 15. Includes programs like 'Daniel and the Superdogs', 'The Cookbook', and 'The Whole Ten Yards'.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program titles for Saturday Evening April 15. Includes programs like 'Hockey NHL Colorado vs Vancouver', 'March of the Penguins', and 'Lords of Dogtown'.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14 9:00 PM 13 The Tunnel (2000, Action) A cop and a career criminal join forces in a search for \$200 million in stolen diamonds. Kim Coates, Daniel Baldwin (2h)

3:30 PM 3 **** Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004, Documentary) A look at the events surrounding 9/11, and how the Bush administration used it to push its own agenda. (2h15)

8:30 PM 3 ** Lords of Dogtown (2005, Drama) A fictionalized take on a group of skateboarders who perfected their craft during the 1970s. Heath Ledger, John Robinson (1h45)

10:15 PM 2 *** Havana (1990, Drama) A professional gambler becomes involved with the wife of a revolutionary leader in Cuba. Robert Redford, Lena Olin (2h)

11:30 PM 10 Les vieux lions (2003, Comédie dramatique) Au Texas, deux oncles excentriques et mystérieux sont chargés de prendre soin d'un enfant. Michael Caine, Robert Duvall (2h30)

SUNDAY, APRIL 16 6:00 PM 14 *** Married to the Mob (1988, Comedy) A woman tries to escape from the mafia after the death of her mob hit-man husband. Michelle Pfeiffer, Matthew Modine (2h15)

Islanders

IN FOCUS

THIS WEEK WE HIGHLIGHT:
The opening reception for the Spring Show held at J. Mitchell Gallery on Friday.



Above left, Andrew and Melynda Okulitch clink glasses at the J. Mitchell Gallery spring show opening; while from left, Carol Evans, Maggie Faulkner and Bruce Grey also enjoy the show.

DERRICK LUNDY PHOTOS

Above, Simon Morris is seen with one of his bronze pieces; while below, Sandra Armitage, left, and Donna Mitchell help out sister Judy Mitchell, centre.



Above, ShaoFang Ching and Bill Boyd stand in front of Boyd's plate; at left is Christina Siegers, Ken Rouleau and baby Dorian.



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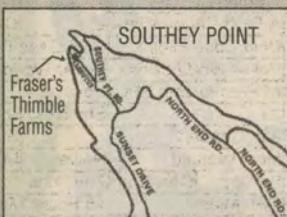
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'Good Friday'

Diana Dean

Diana Dean's large and masterful paintings narrate the Easter stories: the washing of the feet, the crucifixion, the deposition -- classic themes of Western culture.

'The Passion' has been a very strong theme in my work over a period of many years. This show is especially important to me, as it is the first time I have dared to show these religious themed art works". Diana Dean

THE PASSION OF DIANA DEAN

Opening Reception
Thursday, April 13, 5 - 7pm

SALT SPRING WOODWORKS
125 CHURCHILL 537-9606

Open Thursday - Monday / 11 am - 5 pm
Exhibition continues until April 30

EASTER BUNNY GIVEAWAY

Each participating store is giving away a **14" EASTER BUNNY!**

14" BUNNIES and ONE GIANT 24" EASTER BUNNY
Clip the coupons on this page, & deposit at the participating stores. The drawing will be Easter Monday Apr. 17. Winners will be notified by phone. Only official entry forms appearing on this page can be used.

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HOT SPOT: Carol Sabiston heats up silver at a Jewellery Showcase held last Sunday afternoon at Martinus Studio on Seaview Avenue. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Women of Note set vocal sights

Salt Spring's Women of Note are busy fine-tuning their repertoire in preparation for an informal concert in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 22.

"The whole community is warmly welcome to come and mark this important day," states a press release on the event.

It will be held at Ganges United Church beginning at 8 p.m.

"Having just performed a successful concert for Music and Munch, the singers are excited about this next event, which will incorporate songs chosen from repertoire from the last decade. The choir plans a joyful occasion with singing, dancing, audience participation and special performances."

Women of Note's musical style is wide ranging, and most of their pieces are a cappella with rich multi-part harmonies.

Women of Note are active in the community, singing at various annual and special events. Admission is by donation, with a suggestion of \$10.

Book marks 25 years

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, Hastings House has published a 96-page hardcover book.

Filled with 30 of the prestigious resort's recipes, snippets about its history, plus photographs of the hotel and its famous food, Hastings House Country Estate is now available at the resort for \$59 and will soon be offered in other locations throughout Salt Spring, Victoria, Vancouver and Seattle.

A member of Relais & Châteaux, Hastings House accolades include the Best Canadian Resort vote from

Zagat, eight Grand Awards from Andrew Harper's Hide-away, AAA Four-Diamond, and Mobil Four-Star.

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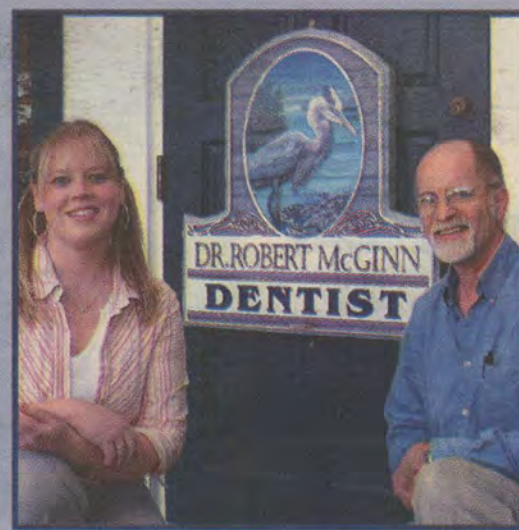
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Provocative show promised

By CATHERINE ADAIR
Driftwood Contributor

"Prepare to be engaged."

That's the warning Ahava Shira has for people planning to attend her new show, Ahava in Wonderland, which runs Saturday, April 22 at 8 p.m. in the ArtSpring gallery.

Shira's performances revolve mainly around her poetry, performed in a spoken word format.

"My writing is through love, and so is the performance," she said last week.

Shira is attempting to bring back the oral tradition, passing on information through voice and movement, instead of simply a written format.

And even though doing a show on her own can be intimidating, Shira said, "I always imagined myself onstage alone."

This is Shira's second show in six months and while it builds on the format she used in the last performance, it incorporates mainly new material, giving her a complete "reinvention."

Ahava in Wonderland deals with the adversity,



Ahava Shira

Photo by Derrick Lundy

tragedy and joy that occurs in life, and how residents on a small island "create a space for all of it."

Through her poems, storytelling and improvisation, Shira hopes to connect with the audience and "share my gratitude and appreciation."

The "collage" of performances is developed both through Shira's writing and her studies of clowning.

Shira's performances are at times funny, heartfelt, soulful and shocking. Due to the improvisational manner of part of the show, Shira

often doesn't know herself what the performance will encompass. Regardless, she won't shy away from the controversial or provocative.

"I don't purposefully set out to shock, I set out to tell my stories... and ultimately to love."

Besides performing Ahava in Wonderland on Salt Spring, Shira also hopes to tour it this summer through the other Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and possibly the mainland.

For Shira, every show is a new learning experience and an expression of her "interpretation of the world."

"Some people write letters to the editor. I write poems and I perform them. That's my way."

Shira published a book of poems in 1998 entitled WOMB: Weaving of my Being. During the past 11 years she has also performed in cities such as Victoria, Montreal, Seattle and New York.

Tickets for Ahava in Wonderland are \$15 and available at the ArtSpring ticket centre.

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Art gallery visits serve up beauty, stimulating talks

ART BEAT ON THE ROCK

WITH ANDREA RABINOVITCH



Forget your happy hour at home, head to Salt Spring Woodworks and Galleons Lap Photography Gallery-Atelier for art openings Thursday, April 13. Salt Spring Woodworks' opening runs from 5 to 7 p.m. while Galleons Lap's reception is from 5 to 8 p.m.

Celia Duthie's Salt Spring Woodworks presents The Passion of Diana Dean's Art Exhibit, perfect for Easter weekend, while Seth Berkowitz's Galleons Lap Photography Gallery welcomes John Denniston's controversial Salt Spring Island Reality.

Throughout the history of Western art, Christian themes have often prevailed. Dean follows this tradition in using subject matter representing Easter themes: the washing of the feet, the Passion of the Christ and the Deposition.

Painted in 1985 and continued through the '90s, this series was also subconsciously about making peace with her father.

"I had not really forgiven my father and, through the process of painting, I came to understand that and find forgiveness."

That journey to self-awareness transfers to the viewer as Dean's richly coloured canvases are peopled with individuals wrought with meaning by their placement in locales both exotic and mundane. This gives a dream-like or mythic proportion to the work. There is always a sense of the watcher or observer happening upon a scene that is both

mysterious and profoundly significant.

A painter for 40 years, painting "is my passion and my search for truth."

Diana Dean is represented by the Loch Gallery (formerly Nancy Poole's Studio) in Toronto and by the Ian Tan Gallery in Vancouver and can be contacted at her studio at 537-9606, or via <http://www.dianadean.com>.

John Denniston is one of Canada's best photojournalists and had 35 years of experience before he retired. His photographs of the tree-clearing making way for the Channel Ridge development are masterfully executed. Though the viewer may pass judgement on the wisdom of destroying the habitat of our island and extrapolating that same judgement to much of the world's forests, it is not Denniston's intention to make a political point.

In his artist's statement he suggests that the photographs "are just real pictures showing this is what we do, this is where we have been, this is where we are heading. As a journalist, I don't take sides. I see Channel Ridge not as a tragedy, but as an interesting story."

The photographs are skillfully composed and evoke examination of our feelings about the destruction of habitat versus economic development.

To see the rape of the land distresses, but to imagine something beautiful and manmade in its place is also viable.

I wonder if he will take photographs of the construction of the Channel Ridge



Diana Dean seen recently with some of her paintings. Photo by Derrick Lundy

development and ultimate completion of the project to bring around full circle the justification of the destruction.

These images are being shown at Galleons Lap Gallery from April 14 to April 23.

Gallery openings are not just a reason to pull out your grooviest clothes, though, goodness knows, I'm never adverse to a fabulous pair of shoes.

The artists are in attendance at openings as are the gallery owners, who may be one and the same. Without exception on Salt Spring Island, they are highly intelligent, articulate and kind people who are the antithesis of art snobs. They love informing people of the work and all are open to questions.

I always exit an art gallery feeling enriched and fed by either beauty or stimulating conversation that removes me from the daily grind.

Dean artwork at Easter show

A local artist known for her large, colourful canvases will present a "stunning and thought-provoking" art exhibit beginning this week at Salt Spring Woodworks gallery.

The Passion of Diana Dean Art Exhibit highlights works from 1985, covering the last few decades, and including representations of Easter themes, such as the washing of the feet, the Passion of the Christ and the Deposition.

"Portraying the larger-than-life gothic landscape shown in paintings like the Passion has been a very strong theme in my work over a period of many years," says Dean. "This show is especially important to

me, as it is the first time I have dared to show these religious-themed art works."

The exhibit is open to the public from Friday, April 14 and will continue its run through the Easter weekend until April 30.

An opening reception takes place Thursday, April 13 from 5-7 p.m.

A prominent Salt Spring artist, Dean's paintings have been admired and purchased around the world, and also viewed at art galleries across the country.

Salt Spring Woodworks gallery, owned by Celia Duthie, is located at 125 Churchill Road.

Russell FARMS MARKET & Garden Center

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EXHIBITIONS
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Fine Art Photography

Landscape Amnesia
Photographs of Salt Spring Island
by John Denniston

April 14 to 23, 2006

Opening Reception April 13, 5pm to 8pm

103 Park Dr - Salt Spring Island BC
250 538-0182 - www.gphoto.com

S - Salt Spring Island												ExpressVu												StarChoice												SUNDAY DAYTIME APRIL 16																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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SUNDAY, APRIL 16											
10	L'ombre d'un doute (1942), Histoire policière	Un criminel vient demander asile à son beau-frère qui ignore tout sa sinistre vie. Teresa Wright, Joseph Cotten (2h5)	11:30 PM								
			MONDAY, APRIL 17								
3	★★★ Because of Winn-Dixie (2005, Family)	A stray dog helps a 10-year-old girl rekindle her relationship with her father. AnnaSophia Robb, Jeff Daniels (2h)	6:00 PM								
14	★★★ Saturday Night Fever (1977, Drama)	A paint store clerk feels that his only ticket to success is as king of the disco floor. John Travolta, Karen Gorney (2h)	8:00 PM								
2	Karol: The Pope, the Man (2006, Biography)	The story of John Paul II, including his first-hand account of poverty throughout the world. Piotr Adamczyk, Dariusz Kwasnik (2h)	8:00 PM								
24	★★★ Rush Hour (1998, Action)	A Hong Kong police inspector is paired with an L.A. detective to investigate a kidnapping. Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker (2h)	9:00 PM								
3	★★★ It's All Gone Pete Tong (2004, Comedy/Drama)	The life of DJ Frankie Wilde, whose success was imperilled by a hearing disorder. Paul Kaye, Beatriz Batarda (1h30)	9:00 PM								
13	★★★ The Others (2001, Thriller)	A mother of two begins to suspect that the dark mansion they inhabit is actually haunted. Nicole Kidman, Fionnula Flanagan (2h15)	10:30 PM								
3	★★ Deadly Isolation (2004, Thriller)	A fortune hunter who seeks to recover long-lost diamonds seduces a grieving widow. Susan Mandaway, Kyle Mumford (1h30)	10:30 PM								
			TUESDAY, APRIL 18								
3	★ Alien Siege (2005, Sci-Fi)	A hostile alien race demands that millions of humans be sacrificed to save their own species. Brad Johnson, Carl Weathers (1h30)	6:30 PM								
24	★★ Passenger 57 (1992, Thriller)	An anti-terrorist expert must save the passengers on his flight when it is hijacked. Wesley Snipes, Bruce Payne (2h)	8:00 PM								
4	★★ Swordfish (2001, Thriller)	A hacker is hired to break into a government system and steal billions of dollars. John Travolta, Hugh Jackman (2h)	9:00 PM								
23	★★★ Oh, God! (1977, Comedy)	A grocery store clerk, chosen by God to spread the Word, must prove he is an agent of God. George Burns, John Denver (2h)	10:00 PM								
3	★★ The Reckoning (2003, Mystery)	A priest on the lam takes refuge amongst a travelling band of actors. Paul Bettany, Willem Dafoe (2h)	10:00 PM								
14	★★ Nashville Girl (1976, Drama)	A young girl becomes a country star but grows unhappy with her success. Judith Anna Roberts, Leo Gordon (1h45)	10:00 PM								

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Cinema
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Fri. April 14 - Tues. April 18

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A thirty something slacker suspects his parents of setting him up with his dream girl so he'll finally vacate their home.

PG - Sexually suggestive scene 1hr 37min.

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Mon. 7pm, Tues 7pm
Closed Sunday**

Curious George

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**Fri. & Sat, 7pm;
Mon. 4pm
Closed Sunday**



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Paul Neale

Canadian Travelteam
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What's On This Week

wed. april 12	thurs. april 13	fri. april 14	sat. april 15	sun. april 16	mon. april 17	tues. april 18
<p>live entertainment</p> <p>Simply Organic. Organ recital with Barry Valentine at All Saints, followed by coffee & muffin, 10:10 am</p> <p>other activities</p> <p>West African Djembe Drumming Classes. Learn W.A. rhythms & playing techniques in a group. Level 1. Wednesdays, 5-6:30. Info: 653-0028.</p> <p>Bessie Dane Foundation. Monthly support group meeting for members only. Chair yoga. SS Seniors, 7:30 pm</p> <p>SD 64. Board meeting where 4-day week decision for 2006/07 will be made. SIMS, 1 pm</p> <p>SS Historical Society. Maxwell family presentation at Central Hall, 2 pm</p>	<p>live entertainment</p> <p>Simone Lamers Trio. Jazz, soul & R&B at Tree House South.</p> <p>Open Mike. Singalong on Thursdays at Fulford Pub.</p> <p>Matt & Tom's One Night Stand. Live with Matt Johnson & Tom Hooper at Shipstones, 9 pm</p> <p>other activities</p> <p>Fulford Community Elementary School. Talent show at the school, 9 am</p>	<p>live entertainment</p> <p>Alan Miceli. Acoustic guitar at Tree House South.</p> <p>Freestyle Fridays. With DJ Gordon Field at Shipstones, 8 pm</p> <p>Live Band: Back Again! Tom Hooper, Matt Johnson & Tal Bachman at Moby's, 9 pm</p> <p>other activities</p> <p>Celestine Prophecy. Film showing at the Harbour House Blue Room, 4, 6 and 8 pm.</p> <p>Book Reading & Wine Tasting. Of A Deadly Little List, by Kay Stewart & Chris Bullock. SS Vineyards, 2-4 pm</p> <p>Family Roller-Blading. Fulford Hall, 7:30-9 pm</p>	<p>live entertainment</p> <p>Salt Spring Jazz Fest Showcase. With Planet Music at Barb's Buns, 9 pm</p> <p>Stephanie Rhodes. Untamed vocals at Tree House South.</p> <p>other activities</p> <p>Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring. Awareness event to promote Japanese garden. ArtSpring, 2-5 pm</p>	<p>activities</p> <p>Easter Parade of Antique & Classic Cars. Meets at lower ArtSpring parking lot, 1 pm, & heads to GVM.</p> <p>Bicycle Bob Memorial Ride. Bike riders meet at Central Hall at noon and ride the north-end loop. Snacks provided half-way.</p> <p>Unitarian Flower Communion. At Fulford Hall OAP Room, 10:30 am</p>	<p>activities</p> <p>Salt Spring Island Knitters Group. Stitches Quilt Shop (Rainbow Rd. entrance). All knitters welcome. Info: Dawne, 537-0738</p> <p>West African Djembe Drumming Classes. Level 2. Mondays, 5-6:30. Info: 653-0028.</p> <p>Bones for Life. Bone strengthening program classes. Cats Pajamas Studio. Mondays, 4 pm. Info: Anna, 537-5681</p> <p>Eckhart Tolle. Practising Presence Group meets Mondays, 7:30-9 pm. Info: Amrita, 537-2799.</p>	<p>activities</p> <p>Circle Dance Group. Core Inn (3rd floor), 7-9 pm, 537-9380.</p> <p>Pharmasave Walking Club. downtown Pharmasave, 9:15 am</p> <p>Vocal Improv. with Ella Topaz, 6-7:30 pm. Info: 653-4258.</p> <p>Venezuela Films. Venezuela Rising at 7 pm; and the Revolution Will Not Be Televised at 8:15 pm. Fulford Hall, OAP Rm.</p> <p>SSI Prostate Cancer Support Group. Farmers Institute, 1:30 pm</p>
						<p style="text-align: center;">wed. april 19</p> <p>live entertainment</p> <p>Simply Organic. Barry Valentine, All Saints, 10:10 am</p> <p>Women of Note. Perform at Wed. Night Live - Moby's.</p> <p>Stagecoach School of Performing Arts Dance Recital. ArtSpring, 7 p.m.</p> <p>other activities</p> <p>Texas Hold'em Tourney. First of 6 weeks at The Local, 7 pm</p>

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cinema

- Failure to Launch** — A 30-something slacker suspects his parents of setting him up with his dream girl so he'll finally vacate their home. Starring Matthew McConaughey and Sara Jessica Parker.
- Curious George** — Will Ferrell stars as The Man in the Yellow Hat, a gentleman who looks after his pet monkey — an inquisitive and wonderful creature whose enthusiasm often gets the best of him. Also starring Drew Barrymore, Eugene Levy, Joan Plowright and Dick Van Dyke!

cable TV

The SSTC community broadcast begins at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and repeats continuously for 24 hours.

- Constituency Report** — Premier Gordon Campbell and Finance Minister Carole Taylor discuss initiatives in Budget 2006. Program courtesy of Shaw Cable.
- Chinook Jargon** — For a short time during the colonization of the West Coast, the Chinook language flourished. It gave European traders, settlers and First Nations a common tongue, a simple and useful way to communicate with each other. Tom Wright shares insights on how this language emerged, who spoke it and how Chinook words still find their way into the West Coast dialect today. A presentation of the Salt Spring Historical Society.

exhibitions

- The Passion of Diana Dean** art exhibit is open to the public Fri., April 14 through the Easter weekend and running 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. until April 30 at **Salt Spring Woodworks**. Opening reception Thurs., April 13 from 5-7 p.m.
- Landscape Amnesia** — photographs by John Denniston — shows at **Galleons Lap**, April 14-23, with opening reception on Thurs., April 13, 5-8 p.m.
- Salt Spring Painters Guild's annual Spring Show and Sale** at **ArtSpring** runs daily until Sun., April 23. Painters Guild paintings can also be seen in several island stores and windows.
- Salt Spring Art Salon, 601 Upper Ganges Road**, opens on Sat., April 15 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) and April 16 (12-3 p.m.)
- The Point Gallery** on South Ridge Road presents two shows by Edmonton artist **Nick Dobson**: "Losing Sight of Blindness," recent prints, and "Failure to Communicate," recent drawings, from April 15 to May 14. Reception on Sun., April 30 from 2 to 5 p.m.
- Pegasus Gallery of Canadian Art** presents works by **C. Kreighoff, Robert Pilot, Robert Loughheed, W.J. Phillips, A.Y. Jackson, Mildred Valley Thornton, Peter Ewart** and many more.
- J. Mitchell Gallery** presents its **Spring Show** of work by gallery artists from April 7-26.
- Don Hodgins** shows paintings at **Moby's** through April.
- Billie Woods** shows photography from her last trip to Brazil at **Jana's Bake Shop**.
- Paintings by **Verna Meyer** are at **Island Savings Credit Union**.
- Jamie Callum McCauley** shows his paintings at the **Salt Spring Roasting Co.**

Stagecoach School of Performing Arts Dance Recital


Wednesday, April 19, 7 pm

ArtSpring

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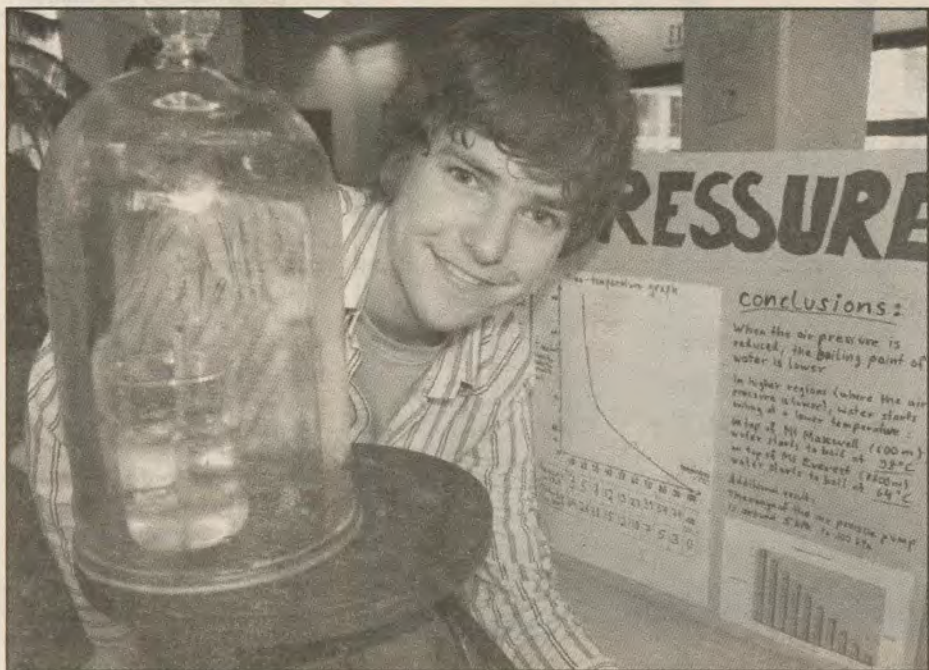
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IWAY is a non-profit society providing services throughout the Southern Gulf Islands to women and their children affected by violence and abuse.

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STUDENT SCIENTISTS: At left, Michael Bormann shows how air pressure affects the boiling of water, while at right, Jasmine Tross (left) and Emma Webber show how different water pollutants affect plant growth. The students were among those competing in the first-ever Gulf Islands Secondary School Science Olympics which took place last Wednesday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Medal-winning science fair debuts

At Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS), students may be counting down to summer, but we are busier than ever — in our academics, sports and arts.

TALK ABOUT WITH LAURA STEWART



Wednesday, April 5 brought the first Science Olympics to GISS.

Organized by biology teacher Ian Mitchell and physics teacher Larry Nelson, the science fair gave students from Physics, Chemistry and Biology classes an opportunity to compete for a gold medal.

Among the displays were projects documenting the effects of various caffeine drinks on the heart and the results of different water pollutants on plant growth.

Grade 11 student Char-

lotte Mellstrom won gold with peer DJ Lake picking up silver.

• At lunch times the school gym has been packed with spectators as 12 intramural soccer teams face off for the title of school champion.

Representing 12 different countries, each team is comprised of five members — one representative from each soccer team and one staff member.

• Sr. girls soccer is off to a roaring start. On Tuesday, April 4, the GISS Scorpions hosted the Ladysmith High School team and defeated them 2-0.

The next game was again

on home turf, scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 against Qualicum High School.

• A school-wide "Cuba Drive" ended Thursday at GISS as music students raised school, music and sports equipment to donate to local schools on their upcoming trip to Cuba.

Over 900 school supplies were collected as a result of this class-to-class competition. Kelda Logan's English 10 class won a pizza party for raising the most donations.

A "Cuba Warm-up" takes place at 9:20 a.m. at SIMS on Thursday, April 13, featuring GISS dance, choir and jazz band performances.

• On April 3 the music program also travelled to UVIC to see trumpet player Irvin Mayfield perform with the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

The show featured Mayfield's compositions, inspired

by Hurricane Katrina, including a traditional jazz funeral march.

• The leadership committee is starting to plan for the annual 30-hour famine, which will take place in May.

Approximately 100 students each year collect pledges and fast for 30 hours to raise awareness and financial support for world hunger. Anyone wishing to pledge a student can contact the school at 537-9944.

• Student government is also planning celebrations for Earth Day at GISS. Among other activities, a school-wide walk to school will take place on April 21 to raise awareness surrounding greenhouse gas emissions.

With only two full months left in school, GISS students are counting down as the fourth and final term is about to begin.

**PLEASE NOTE OUR
Easter Holiday
Schedule Change**

For the issue of:
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
Display Ad Deadline:
5pm, Thursday, April 13
Classified Deadline:
4pm, Monday, April 17
Too Late to Classify Deadline:
Noon, Tuesday, April 18

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- ★ **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.

**Dr. James Buchan
Medical School Awards**

Under a trust under the will of Dr. James Buchan, provision is made for annual awards to former students of Gulf Islands Secondary School who are attending an accredited medical school on a full time basis. The trustee may review a variety of criteria including:

- Academic excellence
- Financial need or
- Leadership qualities and school/community involvement.

This award may be renewable in subsequent years, should the student wish to re-apply. The value of the awards may vary.

**Dr. James Buchan
Post-Secondary School Awards:**

In the event that there are excess funds after the making of the awards mentioned above, further provision is made for annual awards to graduates of Gulf Islands Secondary School who are enrolled in a full time program at university or college.

The Trustee may review the same criteria for both awards. Final deadline for applications (letter, resume, transcripts of marks, letters of reference and income information) is May 18, 2006 to the Counselling Office at GISS.

McPhees' North End farm hosts Salt Spring originals

FULFORD HARBOUR CHRONICLES

WITH ROGER BRUNT



Unwrap a Werther's Original anywhere near the pasture fence on Bruce and Ann McPhee's North End Road farm and Sparky, Peewee and Chico come thundering over as if they are registered in the Grand National Steeplechase.

"They'll do anything for Werther's Originals," chuckles Bruce as he gives each pony an affectionate rub between the ears as they noisily crunch their candies.

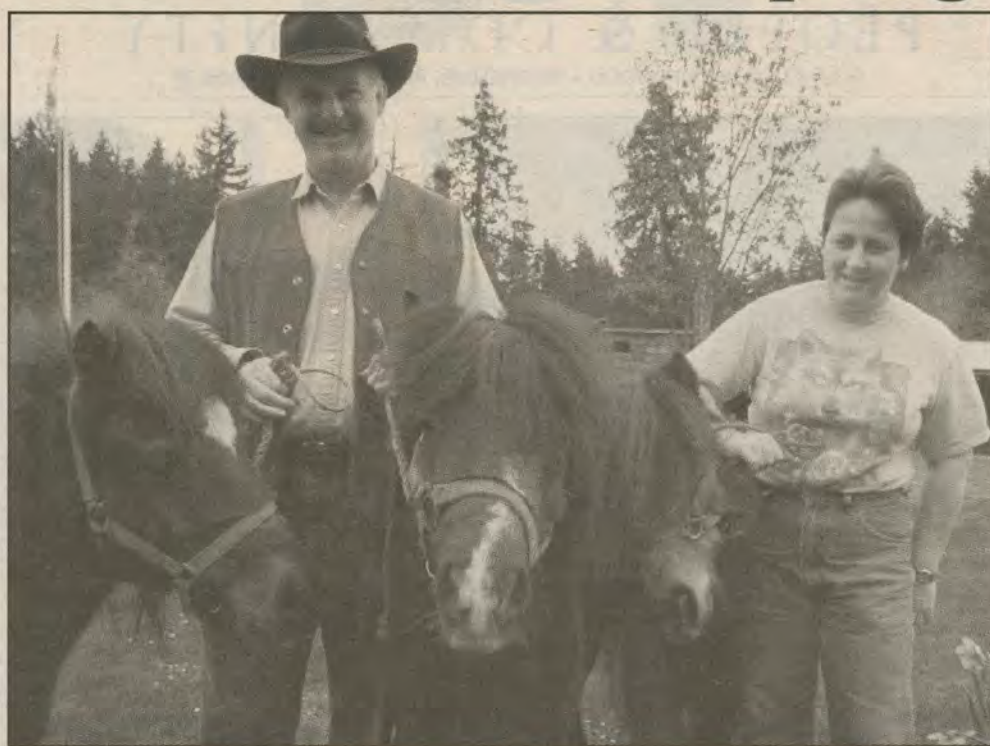
That mix of fun and functionality permeates the McPhees' seven-acre farm. A family of brown and white goats bleat and crane their necks to see who's coming, and on the pond, ducks cruise over hoping for a treat. From the chicken coop come the purrs and clucks of contented hens, and from the aviary built near the corner of the house comes the sweet trills of canaries and finches and the two Lineolated parrots, Simon and Simon.

"The aviary is right outside our bedroom," says Bruce. "In the early morning in the spring and summer the bird song is incredible. What a wonderful way to wake up each morning."

In fact, what a wonderful way to live, and Ann was recently reminded of this all too well.

Just back from a two-week seminar in Vancouver, she says, "I didn't even bother opening my curtains in my hotel room in the morning. I knew I'd just be looking into the building right next door. Here at home, we don't even have curtains," she emphasizes as she looks out the living room window across the lawn and garden towards the pond.

There wasn't always such a view. When Bruce and Ann bought their property in 1990, much of it was heavy bush and second-growth timber. One of Bruce's first projects was to clear the area



Bruce and Ann McPhee with Sparky, Peewee and Chico

Photo by Derrick Lundy

around the pond, which covers nearly a quarter acre.

"The previous owner told us he didn't want access to the pond because of the danger to children. We took a different approach, prefer-

ring to make the pond a central feature of the farm, and to teach our son Andrew how to safely live around it."

Not only the area around the pond needed clearing. The pastures and woodland trails, once a wall of broom and blackberries, are now brush free and park-like, and it's the goats that cleared much of the land. The goats are South African Boer goats, solidly built and almost as tall as our island deer.

Ann says, "When we bought the place, even the areas that had already been cleared had canary grass six feet tall. Now the goats keep it all neatly trimmed."

Bruce told me that, until recently, this type of goat was quite rare in Canada. In fact, the breed originally came from South Africa in embryo form, which were implanted into Nubian goat "host mothers" in Canada. As if to return the favour, Murphy, the McPhees' billy goat, had just returned from a "working holiday" at Rob Dailly's farm where he had bred the Daillys' herd of Nubian dairy goats to ensure continued milk production.

The goats are kept not only for their brush-clearing ability. They also provide the family with organic meat, and every spring the kids that are born are sources of wonder and delight, running, jumping, butting heads and playing "king of the castle" atop the log pile kept near the barn for just that purpose.

Even the farm chickens

are a mix of beauty and practicality.

"We ordered our first batch of chicks from Happy Hens in Abbotsford," says Bruce.

The mixed flock that resulted included blue-egg laying Americanas, the lovely silver-laced Wyandotes and several other breeds. A handsome Banty rooster obtained at last year's fall fair from a 4-H member completes the flock.

"In the beginning we kept Pygmy goats, and supplied kids to the petting zoo at Beacon Hill Park," Bruce told me. "Then we had miniature donkeys. Andrew even had a small business selling their manure. He called it CRAPCO — Canadian Raw Animal Products — and earned his spending money that way."

Once Andrew left home to continue his education, the donkeys were sold and Bruce and Ann went through a period of Empty Pasture Syndrome.

"For several months we'd walk out into the empty fields and it just didn't feel right," they told me.

That's how the three ponies (miniature horses, actually) came to the farm. Bruce and Ann heard about an old fellow in Parksville who had to find a new home for Sparky (age 7), Peewee (9) and Chico (25). Chico, they were told, came from England in the womb of his mother, and his father was said to be a pit pony.

The horses had been much more than just livestock to their owner — they were a

big part of his life and it was an emotional time when he had to let them go.

"He grilled us for hours," remembers Bruce. "He was determined to make sure they were going to a good home."

It wasn't only the horses that came to the farm. The old man was a horse trainer and master craftsman. He had built various accessories, including carts and a sleigh. To Bruce and Ann he also passed along his harnesses and grooming equipment, right down to a curry kit containing miniature horseshoes and pint-sized horseshoe nails.

Luckily, Bruce and Ann met a professional chuckwagon driver who was able to teach them how to rig the horses and operate the equipment. That the horses are happy at their new home there is no doubt. Bruce and Ann showed me photos of Sparky at full gallop in the pasture, mane streaming in the wind, running for the sheer joy of it.

It's said that we get out of life what we put into it, and if all this wasn't enough for any family (both Bruce and Ann hold full-time jobs), there's more — much more.

For the past 20 years or so, the McPhees have bred show dogs, border terriers, Schipperkes and Australian shepherds. Ann conducts seminars for breeders and judges, and she teaches dog obedience classes here on Salt Spring.

"I work closely with the Farmers Institute," she said. "They have been very supportive. One of my aims is to train dogs (and their owners) to avoid conflicts with livestock and wildlife; this solves potential problems before they can begin."

If all this seems like an incredible amount of work, to Bruce and Ann it's not work at all.

"Breeding and showing dogs has been a tremendous family activity," they say. "It has allowed us to travel from Prince George to California, and it provided Andrew with a sense of responsibility and showed him what the world has to offer."

As I was leaving the farm, I made the observation that some folks live to work, while others work to live.

"We do both," laughed Bruce and Ann, "and we love it. Life on the farm is wonderful and all our animals are a part of our family; we wouldn't change a thing."

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Families meet for baby talk program

Parents of infants might experience times when all they can say is "Goo-goo-goo and gaa-gaa-gaa" — and now they'll have a place to share those moments with other like-minded islanders.

Salt Spring Island Community Services is hosting a new "Baby Talk" group that combines education and socializing in an informal drop-in format for parents of children aged 0-12 months.

"It's an opportunity for parents to get together to talk about the health and wellness topics," said public health nurse Chris Smart.

The new program, facilitated by public health nurses Smart and Trinda Gajek, will run on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. year round starting on April 27 at Family Place on Fulford-Ganges Road.

Topics discussed at Baby Talk will be geared to meet the interests and needs of the parents who attend, but Smart and Gajek have developed a list of items to get the program started.

The first topic will be about how to take care of oneself as a parent, Smart said.

Other topics will include "What's my baby telling me" and "Will I ever sleep again."

Infant development, behaviour and discipline, and sex and family planning will also be covered.

"We'll also have guest speakers when we can," said Smart. "For example with baby massage, we thought we'd get a massage therapist."

Since the program will run on a drop-in basis, parents don't need to sign up or commit to attending sessions, she noted.

"Moms and dads can come with babies in arms. It's a chance to meet other people and also get some information at the same time. It's not just social, the first half hour is definitely education on parenting."

New parents can become isolated and quite lonely, she noted.

"Friends are good support and they can learn together."

Baby Talk runs in addition to existing programs like Rughuggers and Mother Goose that also provide valuable support, Smart noted.

She's been working as a public health nurse for 13 years and Gajek joins her as a new member of the public health team on the island.

In addition to her training as a nurse, Gajek has midwifery diploma, she was a La Leche League leader for breastfeeding mothers and she provided mental health support in the Alberta prison system.

Gajek moved to the island in 2004 and has two children aged 14 and 12.

For more information about Baby Talk or other programs provided by the local Public Health Unit, call 538-4880.



GOOD HAIR DAY: Liz Wilson takes advantage of an half-price-hair-cuts opportunity at Studio One on Sunday. All proceeds were contributed to Eco Trust Canada. Seen here, clockwise from top left, are: Crystal Smith, Estela Rodriguez, Julie Bergeron, Corinne Diachuk and Darrell Dooley. The event raised some \$1,000 and the salon undertook over 30 cuts.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Top players named

By JILL EVANS
Driftwood Contributor

March 27 saw the south end dominating, with Zelly Taylor and Ian Thomas making a spectacular reappearance at the duplicate bridge club and taking first place by a considerable margin.

Keeping up the south end's reputation for excellence were George and Flo Laundry in the second spot. Heading north, we find Glenda Kaiser and Boodie Arnott making their fourth placement in a row by coming third. Conhor Vane-Hunt and Isabelle Richardson occupied fourth place.

April Fool's day came and

BRIDGE TRICKS

went, but something must have been left over for April 3.

Wild distribution and many misfits didn't faze the Vane-Hunt/Richardson pair though, and they took their turn in first place this time, over a good turnout. Ron Hall and Bob Morriette came second, and the indefatigable Laundrys were third. Fourth were Ima Krayenhoff and Patricia Macfarlane.

Arthritis program offered

Islanders wanting guidance for how to deal with arthritis can look forward to an upcoming course offered by Salt Spring physiotherapist Michelle Nadon.

Nadon will lead a six-Thursday session of the Arthritis Self Management Program (ASMP) beginning May 4.

In a friendly, supportive environment, participants will learn to understand their arthritic condition, how to cope with pain and how to take an active role in their own care. Classes run from 2 to 4 p.m. at Meadowbrook.

Nadon, of Salt Spring Physioworks, has taken the training needed to be a volunteer course facilitator in part because she also has arthritis.

The course can only accommodate eight participants, who will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested people should call Wellness Programs coordinator Sharon Glover at 537-4607 to book a spot as soon as possible.

The only cost involved is the purchase of the ASMP book.

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- Sexually mature, intact rabbits scent-mark with feces and urine, sibling and rival males fight, and males and females will breed. Spays and neuters cost money.
- Rabbits require plenty of exercise and good nutrition and prompt veterinary attention when they are not well. Are you prepared for the medical costs?
- Finally, will you feed, water, clean and socialize with your new pet when your child is pre-occupied or loses interest in his shy friend?



Thousands of rabbits arrive at animal shelters or are abandoned to the outdoors every year. Please think this one through with your heart.

contact ears@x-mail.net for more information

Caring for Africa sees \$7,800 disbursed on locals' trip

Peggy Frank and Peter Bardon recently returned from their four-month mission in sub-Saharan Africa.

They visited Rwanda, Zimbabwe, North-eastern Lesotho and South Africa.

While away they addressed about 800 adults and 6,000 students and visited about 40 proposed and existing projects and hospitals, bringing home pictures and information on 30.

Months ago, before they left Canada, islanders and people from Victoria gave the couple money to distribute in Africa. When they left Canada they had \$7,800 CDN (\$6,500 US) that would go to needy projects.

"It was a joy to distribute the funds, as

they are so needed by the grassroots projects. It was even a greater joy to explain to recipients the love and concern that came with each gift," they said in a written report. "Each recipient understood that the money given was from Canadians whom we knew and who cared about Africa."

"We thank everyone for the trust that you put in us to choose the projects and distribute these funds. Below is an accounting of where the money went."

For more details, call them at 537-7064 or 250-519-0040.

Funds went to the following places.

In Rwanda:

- Missionaries of Charity Orphanage, \$200.

- WE-ACTx, \$1,036.
- UMUHUA-HIV assistance in high density area, \$300.
- Rwanda Women's Network, Village of Hope, Polyclinic of Hope, \$600.
- In Zimbabwe - Harare area:
 - Emerald Hill Orphanage and Care of the Deaf (generator fund), \$140.
 - Chiedza Child Care Centre, \$425.
 - Hatcliffe High Density Area - for food and individual care, \$311.50.
 - Zambezi Valley Orphan Project, \$200.
 - Howard Hospital, \$1,000.
 - Hopley Farms, \$25.
 - Street people, \$11.50.
 - Food Distribution from Harare, \$20.
- In Zimbabwe - Mutare area:

- Anglican Orphanage (mattress fund), \$300.
- High Density area widows for chickens, \$209.
- Guard with child Christmas Box, \$9.
- F.A.S.O. Support Group Beaded Red Ribbon, \$40.
- Takapona Grannies and Widows-peanut butter machine, \$600.
- In Lesotho:
 - Seboche Hospital Transportation Fund, \$333.
 - Mahlekesane School spoons for porridge, \$100.
 - Tswonela Orphanage, \$600.
 - HIV widow for fruit stand, \$10.
- In South Africa:
 - Eagles Rising, \$100.

SS Seniors Services Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 SS Seniors
 Wednesday, April 26, 2 pm
Come and elect an executive

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You've Got a Friend at Bosley's!

New books, databases available

By **MARILYN MING**
 Driftwood Contributor
 New on-line databases available: Consumer Health Complete, allows you to access encyclopedias and reference books, health reports, pamphlets, drug and herb information, alternative health sources, and the latest health news.

The guides to prescription and nonprescription drugs, health guides both mainstream and alternative, and medical encyclopedias are also available on the site.

There is also an alternative medicine section that turned up interesting things like the use of yoga in the treatment of carpal-tunnel syndrome.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

Business Source Premier is also available.

This allows you to search for company profiles, country reports (economics, political background, etc.), industry profiles, and market research reports.

Our regular EBSCO database will give you access to articles published in thousands of journals, reference books and primary source documents.

Scholarly full text journals, including medical journals, computer publications, religion and philoso-

phy journals, and regional business news are all accessible.

All you need is your library card number and our webpage.

Click on the EBSCO icon. **New Policy:** The library is now a cell-free zone. Please turn off your cell phones when entering the library.

New furniture: We received two new OPAC stations (special stands for the catalogue computers) funded by the Salt Spring Foundation and built by Tony Burrige with Jack Sharp's directions.

Thank you to both of you and the foundation. This removes the confusion of catalogue computers with Internet computers.

New way to search: We set up an "on order file" on the computer for non-fiction and children's orders, so now if you want to know whether or not one of your suggestions has been ordered, you or the librarian can check and find out.

You can even check from home or from the library. It works the same way as the regular catalogue does but you need to use the "Change Collection" button. So far only non-fiction and children's titles are listed.

New materials: The children's library has added 30 new board books and a new set of World Book Encyclopaedia.

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GANGES YOGA STUDIO APR-JUNE 2006 <small>Subject to change without notice.</small>			
Mon	9:00-10:30am	Mixed Levels Yoga - free childcare	Donna
	2:30-3:15	Tots' Yoga	Donna
	3:45-4:30	Kids' Yoga	Donna
	4:45-5:45	Teen Yoga	Jeannie
	6:00-7:30	Hatha Flow Yoga	Angie
	7:00-9:00	Buddhist Meditation	Sheryl Studio Be
Tues	9:00-11:00am	Level 2/3 Iyengar Yoga	Chris Lea
	11:00-12:00	Seniors' Chair Yoga	Celeste
	3:00-4:00	Pilates	Diana Be
	4:45-6:15	Mixed Levels Yoga	Jeannie Be
	5:30-6:30	Nia	Leslie
	6:30-8:00	Mixed Levels Yoga	Jeannie
Wed	9:00-10:30am	Level 1 Yoga	Celeste
	4:45-5:30	Pranayama & Meditation	Celeste
	5:45-7:15	Intermediate Flow/Wall Yoga	Celeste
	6:00-7:00	Pilates	Diana Be
	7:00-9:00	Kirtan (No charge. 1st Wed of each month)	
Thurs	9:00-10:00am	Pilates	Diana Be
	9:00-10:30	Men's Yoga	Cordula
	11:00-12:00	Prenatal/Mom & Baby Yoga	Cordula
	12:00-1:00	Mom & Baby Complimentary Tea (1st Thurs of the month)	
	6:00-7:30	Beginners' Yoga	Patricia Be
	7:00-8:00	Bellydance	Oriana
Fri	9:00-10:30am	Level 1 & 2 Yoga	Celeste
	11:00-12:30	Nia	Leslie Be
Sat	4:30-5:30	Restorative Yoga	Celeste
	9:00-10:30am	Ashtanga Yoga	Cornelia Be
	10:30-11:30	Family Yoga (3rd Sat. of month)	GYS Teachers
	2:00-4:00	Open Yoga Practice (Apr 15, May 20, June 17)	
Sun	9:30-11:30am	Restorative Restshops (Apr 23, May 21, June 11)	Celeste
	11:30-1:00	Intro to Yoga (no charge)	SSCY Trainees Be

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1 Timothy 4:4&5

For everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

WINSOME WHITE
 Please Read:



Special report
from the "warm
heart of Africa"



This is the first of two dispatches from Malawi written by Driftwood reporter Sean McIntyre. The February 24 to March 12 trip was made possible with funding supplied by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and distributed by B.C.'s Jack Webster Foundation.

page design by L. Sullivan

Gardeners plant seeds of hope from Salt Spring



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: TEDDY PHIRI

Just over a year ago Teddy Phiri was taking in the view of Ganges Harbour. Today he's guiding the way through the hills of Northern Malawi, describing the impact Salt Spring Islanders are having on his country.

"The villagers may not know where Salt Spring Island is on the map but they know people from far away are trying to help and they are grateful," Phiri said during a two day trip thorough the three villages receiving aid from members of Seeds for Malawi group, initiated by the Salt Spring Garden Club.

For nearly five years, Phiri and four dedicated volunteers have provided farm inputs like seed, fertilizer and tools to aids widows and their orphan grandchildren so they may at least have some chance to survive in a land barely able to deal with nature's whims.

The group also pays the school fees for five young schoolgirls in the district so they may continue their education at the secondary level.

Although Malawi was one of the first countries to provide free universal primary education in 1994, students are required to pay roughly \$15 for secondary school, often a daunting task in a country where the average yearly income hovers around \$183 CDN.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, fewer than 30 per cent of students who complete their primary schooling venture into the secondary system.

In a country where people are faced with so many obstacles, it takes very little to make a lasting difference. With five young teenage girls showing such promise at school, their home villages stand to gain pride and knowledge should they succeed.

"We should help as many families as possible," said Phiri. "If we can educate one child from one family, he or she may be able to help educate the rest."

In his other life, Phiri is the Planning Director of Mzuzu University and it appears he's got big plans for the country's third largest city, a rapidly growing trading centre that is often people's last hope of escape from the poverty of village life.

He got involved with the project after meeting a couple from Victoria working on a CIDA-sponsored project aimed to promote agriculture at the university. The three began talking about alternative ways to distribute foreign aid and the rest is history.

Phiri's links to B.C. now include the Seeds of Malawi group and Victoria's African AIDS Angels and he is adamant the best projects are based on people's willingness to share and understand.

This movement, he explains, is an example of what can happen if people begin establishing relationships, something lost somewhere between the formality and administration of larger government and non-governmental aid organizations.

"It may seem like a small piece of the problem, but it does make a difference and sets an example that so much can be done," he said. "When you work as a volunteer, you work directly with the people."



Malawian subsistence farmer in a tobacco field.

The rains in Malawi descend without warning and rarely last long enough to penetrate the parched earth, much like the food aid that is so desperately trying to satisfy people's hunger after yet another year of drought.

When the rain does come, as it did on the drive north from the sprawling city of Mzuzu, the countryside becomes lush and the fresh morning air is a welcome change.

For a minute or two, it's easy to forget all about the drought, the poverty, the illness and the hunger that characterize daily life for so many in the fourth poorest country on earth.

The diversion never lasts for long and this day is certainly no exception.

"Promise me you will write this story," said Vincent Munthali, a volunteer working with the Seeds for Malawi group.

He stops the car just outside the Area 1 - Mzuzu District Satellite Depot. "This is the reality of what our country is going through."

The compound's utilitarian name belies its task: delivering subsidized government maize so that thousands of people from villages scattered throughout the neighbouring hills may have something to eat.

Standing out in the cool mountain air, the road still muddy from a night of heavy rain, volunteers Vincent Munthali and Delirah Phiri lead the way past hundreds of people

who will wait up to five hours for their chance to procure a few kilograms of maize for their families.

Conservative estimates predict 4.5-million people, or over 30 per cent of the country's total population, will have to wait in food lines just like this one popping up across Malawi.

Many men and women waiting in line tell a common tale in a country where 90 per cent of the population relies on subsistence farming for survival.

When combined with the AIDS epidemic that infects from 14.2 to 30 per cent of the country's population — the former number is the government's official estimate, the latter comes from private clinics — it's no wonder the average life expectancy has dropped to 40 years, a seven-year decline from the 1990 level.

The United Nations estimates the country has approximately 500,000 AIDS orphans, though accurate information is hard to come by since so many are unable to access clinics where free testing is made available.

Vincent, a retired teacher, has spent the past several years travelling between villages in Northern Malawi to address the hunger that has ultimately become synonymous with so much of the news coming out of Africa.

Choma is a 20-kilometre drive from the maize depot along a well-rutted dirt road. Huddled around a young mango seedling planted for good fortune, 14 widows offer a warm welcome by singing a traditional folk song.

Though most residences are two-room, mud-walled huts with poor ventilation, no running water or



A Choma resident prepares cassava grown with inputs from the Seeds for Malawi program.

electricity, the widows singing at the top of their lungs and shuffling from side-to-side in their colourful robes inspire with their resilience.

Seated back down on the warm and dusty earth outside the home of the village chief, Nelees Munthare is the first to step forward and explain how the Seeds for Malawi program from Salt Spring Island has helped her and her two grandchildren.

With assistance from a translator, she explains how, without any fertilizer, it would be difficult to grow any food and she would likely die just as her husband and children had.

"There is a big difference now that the Seeds program is working here," Munthare said. "We are now only hungry for three months instead of the whole year."

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ... WILL WAIT UP TO FIVE HOURS FOR THEIR CHANCE TO PROCURE A FEW KILOGRAMS OF MAIZE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

The months between December and the April harvest are traditionally the most difficult, as it marks a perilous juncture when supplies from the previous year are running low, yet the year's crop remains unready for harvest.

In addition to the \$3,500 of emergency relief sent in December in response to the severe drought, Seeds for Malawi members provided nearly \$5,000 raised by selling plants, hosting garden tours and talks, and through individual donations that will help provide food security for 40 beneficiaries in three villages.



"For us widows, we cannot usually get anything," said Munthare. "When there is fertilizer at least we have a chance."

On the drive back to Mzuzu, Delirah describes the farming program's new initiatives, including composting, crop rotation and diversification.

By planting cassava instead of the corn and potato crops introduced by 18th-century Portuguese colonists, villages would reap the benefits of a crop that not only grows faster but requires no fertilizer and little precipitation.

Untying the deep-rooted issues that impede development of better healthcare and education requires patience, yet it is a task Delirah and Vincent take to heart.

"Change is not easy," said Delirah, looking out at the Choma Valley's scattering of villages from the open car window. "It will take a while, but we have the time as long as people are still wanting to help."

Welcome to wild talk: a chance for community dialogue

Your wildest friends are the most difficult to impress. Daffodils won't do it; neither will those flamboyant double blooms.

If you are going to invite the hummingbird to your house for dinner, you will need the Ribes elixir.

There is no magic in it. When Rufous arrives in spring, offer your finest flower. He'll beat his wings to your house and wear his dazzling attire.

Life doesn't get any better.

A few months ago, a small

WILD TALK

group of us got together to share our love of nature.

Informally known as the Flora and Fauna Society, we take walks in the woods, identify species and share stories about anything wild. We often include our observations of animal behaviour and sightings in our own backyard.

This is where we spend most of our outdoor hours

and also where we exert our greatest efforts toward conservation.

Considering that most of the land in the Islands Trust area is residential, our backyard choices really matter.

It occurred to us that if the whole community had an opportunity to celebrate nature, we could all share what we have seen and learn from one another how to appreciate and protect what we observe outside our back door.

The Driftwood has graciously offered space for this

community dialogue.

To be known as "Wild Talk," the feature will operate much like the letters to the editor.

Do you have a plant in your yard that attracts attention?

Have you had an unusual wildlife encounter or a moment that caused you to pause?

Express yourself. If you have any questions related to island wilderness, please engage.

Everyone in the community has the opportunity to answer.

A response may not come along in one week or two, but like the letters to the editor, some submissions will generate a lot of discussion, while others will simply entertain or inform.

Do you have concerns, suggestions or resources you would like to share? Take advantage.

To begin, we would like to share a couple of favourite web resources, one located in Victoria, the other in Portland, Oregon.

At lifecyclesproject.org you can learn how to build

a box for the Blue Orchard Mason Bee, read about his role in pollination and food production and then visit the Good Food Directory, which lists most organic food growers in this area. Xercos.org offers the Pollinator Conservation Program with everything you wanted to know about attracting local pollinators.

Hope to hear from you next week. We will be there to get the forum started.

Submitted by the island's Flora and Fauna Society.



Salt Spring FOCUS ON SENIORS

Ways to prevent falls in the home

The Canada Safety Council offers the following advice about how seniors can avoid the potentially devastating impacts of falls at home.

- Talk to your doctor about falls prevention. Have regular vision and hearing tests.
- Take prescription and over-the-counter medications correctly. Keep a medication record and review it regularly with your doctor. Tell your doctor if your medication makes you dizzy or lightheaded.
- Install proper lighting throughout your home. Pay special attention to

stairs (with a lightswitch at both ends) and bathrooms. Use night-lights in the hallways, particularly between the bedroom and bathroom.

- Keep your floor and stairs free of clutter. Avoid the use of scatter rugs.
- Be sure to have at least one handrail (preferably two) on all stairways and steps in your home. Ensure handrails are securely attached and in good repair.
- Check that stairs are in good repair and are slip resistant. If any stairs are broken, have them fixed promptly. Add a strip

along the edge of each step in a contrasting colour to make it easier to see or use reflective anti-skid treads.

- Take the same precautions for outdoor steps. In addition, arrange to have leaves, snow and ice removed on a regular basis. Use salt or sand throughout the winter months.
- Wear proper footwear. Shoes, boots and slippers should provide good support and have good soles. Avoid loose slippers or stocking feet.
- Install grab bars in all bathrooms, by the toilet and in the bathtub or shower. It's a good idea to

have two bars in the tub, one on a side wall and one on the back wall. If you need extra support, consider a bath seat or bench so you can have a shower sitting down.

- Use a rubber mat along the full length in your tub, and a non-skid bath mat beside the tub.
- Use walking aids and other safety devices for extra safety. If you use a cane or a walker, check that it is the right height and that the rubber tips are not worn. Install stainless steel prongs (ice picks) on canes for safe walking in the winter.

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Posing for a photo are, from left, Maddee Nash, Una Conradi, Alexandra Kliaman and Lani Bascom, while below, the young actors are seen in the dressing room.



Rylan Gajek gets ready to play his part as the Sheriff of Nottingham.



Above, Eve Olynyk transforms into Lady Juliet, while below a group of cast members hams it up for the camera.



CATHERINE ADAIR PHOTOS



Rebecca Johnstone plays the part of the Fairy Queen.

Church schedules for Holy Week and EASTER

OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH
135 DRAKE RD. 537-2150

April 13
Holy Thursday ~ 7 pm

April 14
Good Friday ~ 3 pm

April 15
Easter Vigil ~ 7 pm

April 16
Easter Sunday ~ 10 am & 12 noon

NO MASS AT FULFORD

Salt Spring Island
UNITED CHURCH
(111 HERFORD AVE.)
invites you to join in their

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 13th
7:00 pm: Service of Foot Washing and Communion

Good Friday, April 14th
10:00 am: Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 16th
8:00 am: Sunrise Service at Centennial Park
9:00 am: Hot Cross Scones & Muffins
10:00 am: Worship at Church including Flowering of the Cross

Ph: 537-5812

Holy Week and Easter Services
"Walking the Way of the Cross"

April 9 - Palm Sunday
9:30 am - Liturgy of the Palms
4:00 pm - Holy Eucharist

April 13 - Maundy Thursday
6:15 pm - Foot Washing, Eucharist & Divesting of the Altar (All Saints')

April 14 - Good Friday
12:00 noon - Three Hour Watch by the Cross (All Saints')

April 15 - Holy Saturday
9:30 pm - The Great Vigil of Easter (All Saints')

April 16 - Easter Sunday
9:30 am - Holy Eucharist (BAS) at All Saints'
11:30 am - Holy Eucharist (BCP) at St. Mark's
10:00 am - Holy Eucharist (BAS) at St. Mary's

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

The Singing Subarus

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Bob and
Hofma
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May 12 @ 8 pm / May 13 @ 8 pm
May 14 @ 2 pm

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Local wins athletics rookie award at Ontario university

Salt Spring's Brett Savin collected a few golf wins during her first year of studies at the University of Waterloo.

In fact, the island freshman won the Female Rookie of the Year award for her contributions to the Waterloo Warriors golf team.

"She was a major part of the Warriors' success this past season," stated a March 31 Waterloo press release.

Savin ended the season ranked ninth within the Ontario University Association (OUA).

She played a key role in helping the women's team win two silver medals and two bronze medals (including bronze at the OUA Championships) this past season. In six events, she finished top 10 in five of those tournaments.

Among her personal accomplishments over the season, she was tied for fifth at the Guelph Invitational with an 85 (helping her team earn bronze), she tied seventh at the Western Invitational (88) to help her team win silver, and placed 10th at the McMaster Invitational (95) to help her team win silver.

"Of course she played here on the golf team at the high school," said Savin's mother Morgan.

"University play has been a bit more challenging, but she did great."

Savin first hit the greens when she was 12 after she had already experienced success with the Salt Spring Stingrays swimming team. She participated in the junior program at the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club (SSIGCC) and eventually became a youth instructor there.

"She took it as something to do after school, gave it a try and got hooked right away."

Now she's been invited to play in first position for the Waterloo team next year.

"She's been hooked for a while, but she hadn't made the mental commitment to practice. She decided she loved practising when she got to college."

Although Savin returns home to work at SSIGCC for the summer on April 24, the young golfer will fly to Thornhill, Ontario to compete at the Canadian University/College Championship that starts on May 29.



ABOVE AND BEYOND: Kate Parker gets above a Ladysmith player to head the ball away from Gulf Islands Secondary School's net in senior girls' soccer action last week. The Scorpions won this first game at home 2-0.

Photo by John Cameron

Juniors learn golf basics at Blackburn drop-in

Young duffers aged six to 18 are invited to join the junior golf program at Blackburn Meadows.

"It's designed to get juniors out on the course, enjoying the game and learning the basic aspects of golf," said Blackburn Meadows general manager Eric Beamish.

Now in its second year, the junior program has already gotten into swing this season, but youth can drop in any time, Beamish said.

"We range from straight beginners to kids who are experienced. We've got some 12 year olds who've been golfing for five years."

Island youth are chaperoned in groups of two to four for a regular round of golf in the Future Links program at Blackburn. Approximately 15-25 kids attended each week last year, he said.

"They learn from the adults how to act on a golf course and how to treat the golf course the way it should be treated and enjoy the game at the same time."

Blackburn also offers junior program clinics on specific topics throughout the year, he said.

"It's good to call in advance so we know that they're coming, but there's no need really."

The junior program costs \$10 each session (\$5 for club members) and includes pizza and pop after golf.

"We do have a club depot. So if juniors don't have the right clubs, we get tons of donations of clubs — as a Future Links club depot — that we cut down and re-grip for them."

Beamish also encourages parents and adult volunteers to come out with the kids as chaperones (who enjoy a free round for their contribution).

"Most juniors enjoy it so much they end up getting a membership. It's only \$80 for a year and that's unlimited golf for the year."

But youth aged 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult on the course, he noted.

Players tee off at 4-4:30 p.m. each Monday and wrap up around 6:30-7 p.m., he said.

For more information about junior golf at Blackburn Meadows, call Eric at 537-1707.

Sports Schedule

GIRLS SOCCER
SIMS Grade 8 girls vs. Queen of Angels
Hydro Field
Wednesday, April 19
4:30 pm

BLACKBURN MEADOWS
JUNIOR GOLF
Kids tee off on Monday

All events subject to change

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Saturday, 22 July

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RK Name	G	ASS	TP	DF
1.Speed Glen	533	680	1213	61
2.Neufeld Rick	497	707	1204	63
3.Lam Huy	498	697	1195	48
4.Marmorstein Yoni	479	714	1193	55
5.Tamboline W	496	695	1191	58
6.Newton Norma	439	751	1190	57
7.Dekler Rene	478	712	1190	58
8.Butler Janet	481	701	1182	68
9.Hoban Rypawn	480	693	1173	62
10.Baker Brent	448	718	1166	54
11.Johnson Liam	471	690	1161	58
12.Langdon Jack	478	682	1160	47
13.Tamboline Philip	463	694	1157	56
14.Johnson Cam	456	696	1152	57
15.Anderson Dennis	466	686	1152	58
16.Eyles Gail	453	698	1151	54
17.Lam Ramona	487	663	1150	50
18.Langdon Jocelyn	440	707	1147	52
19.Field Marilyn	482	662	1144	50
20.Charlebois Jason	455	687	1142	51
21.Steele John	424	717	1141	53
22.Luke Kevin	462	679	1141	54
23.Eyles Evan	439	698	1137	59
24.Hitchcock William	462	673	1135	52
25.Gillham Jerome	478	656	1134	58
26.Hardy Mike	458	675	1133	55
27.2 At SSHU (P	463	668	1131	47
28.Lynch S	492	635	1127	38
29.Watson Bradley	488	637	1125	47
30.Kopetzki Kevin	483	637	1120	48
31.Hoban Lind-e	470	648	1118	53
32.Byron Josh	466	646	1112	48
33.Byron Leah	444	668	1112	45
34.Huser Christian	508	604	1112	49
35.Smith Donald	459	650	1109	45
36.Newton N	424	682	1106	54
37.Eyles Tobin	418	685	1103	52
38.Cunningham Jean	469	631	1100	52
39.Moldon Dennis	452	647	1099	54
40.Reinholdt Kim	481	616	1097	44
41.Marleau Steven	485	612	1097	57
42.Doerksen Hank	437	658	1095	44
43.Torok Les	381	711	1092	48
44.Watson Bradley	437	654	1091	61
45.Weir Jacob	395	692	1087	64
46.Eddie Cole	470	615	1085	46
47.Lynch Brian	451	629	1080	48
48.Shaske Lucy	442	637	1079	59
49.Marleau Gerry	430	648	1078	44
50.Jensen Jackie	453	617	1070	58
51.Watson Tracey	441	628	1069	49
52.Coeino Lara	429	639	1068	40
53.MacKinnon Jucie	400	664	1064	53
54.Laitinen Tyler	444	620	1064	58
55.Smith Shirley	410	654	1064	52
56.Stocks Jamin	395	660	1055	44
57.Shantz Lorne	415	637	1052	48
58.Shaske Ed	367	683	1050	49
59.Temmel Wolfgang	416	631	1047	47
60.Doerksen Mona	391	654	1045	44
61.Laycock Bob	460	582	1042	54
62.Watson T	396	644	1040	42
63.Courtney John	433	601	1034	45
64.Dekler Bruno	422	611	1033	48
65.Hosie Kate & Kare	423	606	1029	45
66.Shaske Lucy	405	623	1028	41
67.Coles Don	410	616	1026	50
68.Lynch T	414	611	1025	38
69.Nolan Elizabeth	406	615	1021	42
70.Torok Sah-Ryan	439	578	1017	53
71.Shaske Ed	421	594	1015	44
72.Field Owen	391	623	1014	50
73.Gillham Jeffrey	414	598	1012	49
74.Coles Don	404	605	1009	47
75.Lynch Steve	400	606	1006	41
76.Coles Shelley	376	628	1004	43
77.Thomas Emma	378	626	1004	43
78.Courtney Scannett	414	581	995	33
79.Shantz Colleen	386	606	992	40
80.Hitchcock Dorothy	387	603	990	38
81.Marleau Deanna	366	622	988	36
82.Ellis-Stairs Tila	363	624	987	39
83.Baker Jonah	414	573	987	49
84.Longeau Fiona	386	591	977	39
85.Temmel Max	410	562	972	49
86.Brown Kevan	400	570	970	57
87.Ellis-Stairs Tila	376	591	967	49
88.Irwin-Campbell Ar	390	567	957	51
89.Liquor Store Staf	370	586	956	43
90.Sloan Randy	378	569	947	41
91.Reinholdt Rocket	367	575	942	42
92.Irwin Jaspar	367	561	928	44
93.Bosnell Elsie	361	566	927	35
94.Bosnell Pierre	332	581	913	48
95.Coles Shelley	355	551	906	47

Biggest Gain: 8. Butler Janet - 68



THREE CHEERS: Members of Gulf Islands Secondary School's junior girls soccer team gather for a cheer after a recent win on home turf. Photo by Derrick Lundy

April is Learn to Row month

Salt Spring's rowing club surges into its second year of Learn to Row courses from April 18 to 30.

Co-ed courses run April 18-21 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and from April 24-28 (5:30 to 7 p.m.)

Women-only sessions are on the weekends of April 22-23 and 29-30 from 8 a.m. to noon., while men gather on the same dates but during the afternoon (1 to 5 p.m.)

Course cost is \$100. For more information and to register, call Stacy at 537-5036.

Enthusiastic golfers tee off season

Salt Spring Island golfers aren't letting soggy greens dampen their spirits as men's and women's league play gets into the swing of things for another season.

"The course is drying up very nicely and though people have been playing all winter, we are looking forward to a fun and exciting season," said 18-hole women's division golfer Joanna Barrett.

Of the 19 women who participated in the 18-hole

event at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club on April 2, top honours went to Alice Richards, who registered a 106 gross score, and Pat Lavender, who shot a net 82.

Lavender also recorded the lowest number of putts at 28 and Tricia Simpson managed to get her shot closest to the pin on the second hole.

Barrett said club members are always welcome to join women's 18-hole events on Tuesday mornings and nine-

hole games on Wednesdays.

All members of the public are invited to participate in nine-hole matches on Monday mornings.

Games are followed by the ever-popular clubhouse luncheons, this year at the brand new Falconshead Grill run by Shinobu and Richard Verhagen.

In men's golf, the six-member Salt Spring team in the Lower Island Nine Hole Golf Association won five of the nine points available

against Ardmore on Saturday, April 8.

After the three events, the Salt Spring contingent is well positioned in the middle of the five-team league.

According to golfer Gary Coulter, people of all ages are invited to participate in match play or any tournament in the upcoming season.

"The course is in the condition you would expect at this time of year. There are some soft spots, but we are now well into the regular schedule with all sorts of events throughout the week," he said.

For a full list of events and tournaments, drop by the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club or visit the club's website at www.saltspringgolf.com.



Canadian Cancer Society

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"...for 2 family members who are survivors and to help find a cure."
- Claudia French

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- Krista Scotvold

12 hours of:

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TEAM CAPTAINS AND CO-CAPTAINS INFO NIGHT

Portlock Park Meeting Room
Saturday, April 29th • 7:00pm

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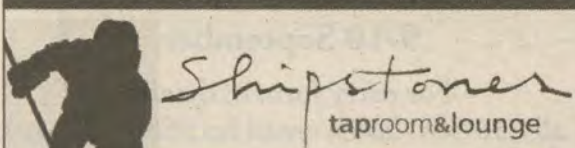
This June 9 & 10, please join us at Portlock Park for 12 hours of fun, friendship, and fundraising. Everyone has a reason to join the Relay For Life, and organizing your team is easy. You don't need to train for weeks in advance; just be ready to have fun and to help us beat cancer for good. For more information call 1.888.939.3333, register online at www.cancer.ca, email jwakefield@bc.cancer.ca, or call 537-4624.

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What's On?

see page 26

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Salt Spring Island equestrians shine at regional quiz show in Metchosin

Salt Spring Island Pony Club members came home with their share of prizes at the B.C. Islands Regional Quiz Competition, hosted this year by the Metchosin Pony Club.

PeeWee team members Charlotte McIntyre, Laura and Gina Klemm, and Molly Gillett did very well for their first year in pony club, placing third overall.

"The D-teams gave a stellar effort, but with such a large group — 20 teams — and such a variation in age it made it difficult for them to place," notes a press release.

"They had excellent test marks on some very challenging material."

D-team members were Becky Mason, Brenna

McIntyre, Nima McDuff, and Alanna Hillis; and Cassidy Fraser, Georgina Byron and Chloe Esposito.

The two four-member C teams were Sam Charlton, Sierra Boudreau, Marina Holding and Kaitlin Fraser, placing third overall, and Sonja Kornelsen, Dakota Van Hullebush, Colleen Hillis and Karen Slakov, placing fourth overall.

Sierra Boudreau also took home an individual fifth placing and Sam Charlton an eighth.

The event saw 130 participants, including four pee-wee teams, 20 D teams, and eight C teams, with some B-level participants competing individually.

As the Salt Spring club

release explains, "Pony club is divided into divisions by skill with horses, not age, but there are minimum age levels for attaining certain levels.

Questions at Quiz are separated into divisions for pee wees, all Ds combined, all Cs combined, and for As and Bs combined. National competition is offered to top regional C and A/B competitors."

Quiz refers to both a written examination and visual ID tables covering all areas of knowledge expected at each level, including but not restricted to types of lameness, feed and nutrition, saddlery, breeds, conformation, shoeing, veterinarian, diseases, bones and

muscles. Education nights have been held weekly from January to March to prepare pony clubbers for the competition and their written examinations.

Group members were all congratulated by club organizers and parents, while Thrifty Foods and GVM were thanked for their continued financial support, along with the volunteer parents who all help to contribute to the girls' success.

The young competitors are all looking forward to next year's competition.

For more information about the Salt Spring Island Pony Club, islanders should call Kim McIntyre at 537-8916.

What's On?

see page 26

Men's Business League
Starting April 18th
TUESDAY NIGHTS
 Tee off: 4:30 - 5:30pm
 Call pro shop for info/sign-up

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Classifieds 537-9933

Notices

6 DEATHS

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• In person at 328 Lower Ganges Road, Ganges
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• By email to classified@gulfislands.net (no attachments please)
• By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3.

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8 CARD OF THANKS

WE ARE completely overwhelmed by the number of caring cards, kind words and generous tributes made to the Salt Spring Island Foundation in Memory of Les. With our heartfelt thanks, Sue Ramsey and family.

OUR THANKS
to Dr. Woodley and his receptionist for their caring support over the last few months.
We also appreciate the care given by the staff at Lady Minto Hospital.
From Eric and Grace Bracher

10 CELEBRATIONS

NEW BABY? Call Welcome Wagon for a personal Baby Visit. Gifts & greetings from local businesses and a warm welcome for baby. Andrea 537-8464.

20 COMING EVENTS
HEART & STROKE Big Bike Ride is coming Wed., May 24. For info phone 537-2570.
FOR A complete calendar of coming events check the Driftwood Community Calendar, in our office in the Upper Ganges Centre, 328 Lower Ganges Road, or on our website at www.gulfislands.net. Use the calendar for event planning and to make sure your date doesn't conflict with someone else's.

20 COMING EVENTS

Spring Recital
Dance
STAGE COACH
School of Performing Arts
Wed April 19
Artspring
7:00 pm

EARTH DAY
Celebrate with
Women of Note
Ganges United Church
8 pm Sat., April 22
Singing, Dancing & More!
Admission by donation

PAWSAPALOOZA
SPCA Benefit Concert
Performances by
Tom Hooper, The Hamsters, Sharon Bailey, Steph Rhodes & The Dirt Nap
Sat., April 29th
\$10 tickets at Acoustic Planet, Jambalaya, Gulf Islands Vet Clinic & the Shelter

Showing
CELESTINE PROPHECY MOVIE
Based on
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Harbour House
~ Blue Room ~
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\$12.00
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April Learn to Row Courses (4)
Try this new sport; a great way to improve your health and meet new people. We have the following Sessions to choose from.
Bring out a friend and enjoy this fabulous sport!

APRIL			
18-21 Coed	Tues - Fri	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	
22-23 Women	Sat - Sun	8 am - 12 pm	
22-23 Men	Sat - Sun	1 pm - 5 pm	
24-28 Coed	Mon - Fri	5:30 pm - 7 pm	
29-30 Women	Sat - Sun	8 am - 12 pm	
29-30 Men	Sat - Sun	1 pm - 5 pm	

All Courses \$100
Call Stacy to find out more and to register
CALL TODAY 537-5036

20 COMING EVENTS

Salt Spring Concert Band
Of Battles, Courage, and Destiny
featuring
1812 Overture
Friday, May 5
Saturday, May 6
ArtSpring
Box Office 537-2102

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WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
April 19-May 5
May 17-June 2
June 14-June 30
July 12-July 28
Aug. 9-Aug. 25
Last class until Spring '07
CALL AMY @ 653-9394

20 COMING EVENTS

Grad is on its way!
Scholarships are waiting in the wings!
The Annual Mary's Matinee in the Evening
Saturday, May 6
Doors open at 7 pm
Admission by donation
Proceeds directly support the Mary & Harry Williamson Scholarship Fund for Performing Arts.
Come one, come all. Support the Grads!

BEACON EMPLOYMENT SERVICES is hosting an
Employer Forum
Tuesday, April 25
10:15 am - 12 Noon
Invited Salt Spring Island employers will give short presentations on their special areas of employment followed by a question & answer period
At no cost to you! Everyone welcome!
Coffee & Muffins
Beacon Employment Services, #206-343 Lower Ganges Rd. (across from Upper Ganges Centre)
Phone 537-5979 for more information
BEACON Community SERVICES
The Government of Canada Canada has contributed to this initiative.

25 EDUCATION
PRE-KINDERGARTEN /ECE teacher needed for 2006/07 year. Salt Spring Centre School. Four mornings/week. Salary based on experience. Resumes accepted until April 18. 355-B Blackburn Rd. Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2B8. Phone 537-9130 for more information.
HEART N' HANDS Montessori now has spaces available in our all day program. For more information contact Denise 537-4944.
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26 LEGAL
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
Re: THE ESTATE OF H. BARRY WELLS, Deceased, formerly of 121 Wildwood Cres., Salt Spring Island, in the Province of British Columbia V8K 2N7.
Creditors and others having claims against the Estate of H. BARRY WELLS, are hereby notified under section 38 of the Trustee Act that particulars of their claims should be sent to the Executor Shaughan Wells at 121 Wildwood Cres., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N7 on or before May 15, 2006, after which date the Executor will distribute the Estate among the parties entitled to it, having regard to the claims of which the Executor then has notice.

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For your generous support of our team!
Salt Spring Dragons

10 CELEBRATIONS
"Can you imagine? Rita found out!"
Loretta & Lorraine invite friends of
RITA DODS to drop in to
Meaden Hall (Downstairs Legion)
1 - 4 pm Saturday, April 15, 2006
to help Rita celebrate her
75TH BIRTHDAY!
No Gifts Please

ILSE FOSTER
Friends and neighbours are invited to a
BIRTHDAY TEA to celebrate
Ilse's 90th!
Please join her family
2 pm MAY 13th
Salt Spring Golf Course
No presents but anecdotes will be very welcome!
RSVP by May 4 Janet Butler 250-537-9632

Happy Birthday Rita!
from your Friends at the
Driftwood



20 COMING EVENTS
THIS IS your invitation to view Mummyearth's new flower series. Jewelry, cleverly tattooed, to represent Nature's beautiful, spring flowers. Now showing at the Saturday Salt Spring Market in Centennial Park.
DONALD RAY Johnson, Grammy Award Winner R & B, singer/drummer, is coming to Salt Spring May 13 at Meaden Hall. Tickets 653-4279. Check out www.donaldray.com.

OAXACA RUG SALE
Hand loomed, quality wool. Central Hall, 9am - 4pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 14 - 16. 250-727-8035.

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP Service: Flower Communion—bring a flower or greenery to share. Sunday, April 16, 10:30 OAP, Fulford Hall, 537-8781. Everyone welcome.

FULFORD INFO Centre opening May 13. Accommodation bookings, studio and other promotions. Special rates for the 5 month summer season. Let me tell visitors where to find you! Call Susan 653-4207 or e-mail s.astill@telus.net

FULFORD SUMMER Marketplace opening May 13. Spaces for weekend and week day vending around the Info Centre. Market Canopies provided - same daily rates as the Salt Spring Market. Call Susan at 653-4207 or e-mail s.astill@telus.net

VENEZUELA FILMS at Fulford Hall, OAP room, Tuesday, April 18, 7pm, Venezuela Rising; 8:15pm The Revolution Will Not Be Televised. Second film to be followed by discussion.

A FILM featuring symptoms of Ovarian cancer, shown by Joyce Sharp, volunteer for National Ovarian Cancer Association, will be at Fulford Hall OAP, on April 18, 2pm. All welcome.
ARTS AND CULTURE WEEK is coming! Attend gallery walks, performances and exhibitions in your community from April 23-29. www.bcartsweek.ca.

32 MEETINGS

Special Olympics
British Columbia
Salt Spring Island

AGM
7 pm Wed, April 26
Choices
107 McPhillips Ave

Volunteers always appreciated.
All welcome to attend.

Salt Spring Island
77th Year
SALT SPRING ISLAND GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Annual General Meeting
5:30 pm
Wed., April 26
at the Clubhouse

To be followed by a members' social gathering

By order of the Board
Debbie Cade,
Secretary to the Board

34 NOTICES

Amber Cab Co.
Brand New
TAXI SERVICE
Starting 5 pm Fri., April 14
Randy 537-3277

Learn to Fly!
Victoria Flying Club
"Celebrating 60 years of flight training."

Ground School Course
on Salt Spring Island
Classes start
Wed., April 19
8 weeks nights & 2 Saturdays
Call to register
537-4156

Truck for Sale
The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection has available a:
1997 Dodge 4 Wheel Drive Extended Cab Pickup

The vehicle maybe viewed at Fire Hall #1 during regular office hours. Maintenance records are also available for viewing. Sealed offers marked "1997 Dodge Pickup" shall be accepted until noon Friday, April 21 at Fire Hall #1. All sealed offers complete with contact information, shall be marked attention Fire Chief. The vehicle is offered "As Is".

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection district reserves the right not to accept the highest bidders offer. Offers shall be opened Monday, April 24th at 9 am and the successful applicant notified.

NOTICE OF EXCLUSION APPLICATION REGARDING LAND IN THE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

We the registered owners, Lawrence J. Quesnel, George Quesnel and Betsy Bains, c/o 164 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T8, intend on making an application pursuant to Section 30(1) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act to exclude from the Agricultural Land Reserve the following property, 114 Jackson, which is legally described as, BLOCK D, LD 16, RGE 3 EAST, PLAN 1371, PORT NSSI, EXCEPT PLAN 3542, 5827, 10515, 16240, 20357, & EXC THAT PART LYING BETWEEN LOTS 6 AND 7, PLAN 5287, AND TO THE NORTH OF A STRAIGHT BOUNDARY EXTENDING FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7, OF SAID PLAN TO THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF LOT 6 OF SAID PLAN. Any person wishing to express an interest in the application may do so by forwarding their comments in writing to, Islands Trust, 1- 500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8, by April 19, 2006.

40 PERSONALS

WANTED SINGLE mother for single father with self deprecating sense of humour, passionate hobbies, balanced & happy, non smoker, great cook and enjoys sharing children's laughter and growing pains. To develop a reciprocal & faithful commitment. Write to appetites@hotmail.com

CANADA'S TOP PSYCHICS... Are you ready to believe in psychics again? Call now, you won't be disappointed! 1-900-451-7070. \$2.95/min. 18+

LIFEMATES the relationship people. Single? Meet your mate, guaranteed! Call Canada's largest and leading relationship company today at: 1-888-54MATES (62837) or visit us at www.lifematescanada.com.

CRIMINAL RECORDS REMOVAL. We guarantee. Free assessments. U.S. waivers. Peace of mind, keeping a job, bondability, travel to U.S., custody of children. Apply in 60 seconds. 1-800-298-5520; www.canadianpardons.ca

CRIMINAL RECORD? Canadian pardon seals record. U.S. waiver permits legal American entry. Why risk employment, licensing, travel, arrest, deportation, property confiscation? Canadian - U.S. Immigration specialists. 1-800-347-2540.

41 PERSONALS/BUSINESS

DEBT CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM. Canada Credit Services helps Canadians repay debts; reduce or eliminate interest rates, regardless of your credit situation! Call 604-734-8158 or 1-866-663-7968 for confidential, no-charge consultation. For online application: www.canadadebt.ca. Bonded and licensed by the provincial government.

DEBT STRESS? Consolidate & lower payments by 30-40%. End those phone calls & the worry. Avoid bankruptcy. Contact us for a No-Cost Consultation. Online: www.mydebtsolution.com or Toll-Free 1-877-556-3500.

BUS COUNCIL OF CANADA recognizes the professionalism of experienced bus drivers through its national Certification program. Find out more at www.buscouncil.ca or call 1-866-271-1107.

Employment

50 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

OWN YOUR OWN STORE - Country Depot, TrueValue Hardware, V&S department stores - new & existing locations. No franchise fee - earn dividends. Call TruServ Canada today - 1-800-665-5085 www.truserv.ca.

WORK AT HOME ONLINE. 36 people needed immediately. Earn a part- or full-time income. Apply free online and get started! http://www.wfhbc.com.

50 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

15 PEOPLE NEEDED to work from home, for yourself, at your computer. Start now! P/T, F/T. Up to \$20+/hr. www.sensationalsuccess.theonlinebusiness.com/hp8.

GREAT CANADIAN DOLLAR STORE franchise opportunities. With stores from coast to coast, we've been "Working Together for Success"® since 1993. Call us today 1-877-388-0123; www.dollarstores.com.

LEARN TO MAKE YOUR ANNUAL INCOME A MONTHLY INCOME.

No experience required.

We provide training & complete support.

Call: 1-800-556-5618 (24 hr message line)

55 HELP WANTED

CARPENTERS: EXPERIENCED in siding and finishing. 538-8297.

65 MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE. Looking for experienced body-person to finish my restoration. Car completely assembled. Needs aligning, detailing, etc. Will pay fair rates. 537-0612 evenings.

GREEN ACRES Resort requires a part-time house keeper. Flexible hours. Please call Randy at 537-2585 for more information.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN /ECE teacher needed for 2006/07 year. West Spring Centre School. Four mornings/week. Salary based on experience. Resumes accepted until April 18. 355-B Blackburn Rd. Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2B8. Phone 537-9130 for more information.

HASTINGS HOUSE has positions available for experienced dining room servers. Fine food and wine knowledge are desirable assets. Qualified applicants can drop off their resume at our reception office.

OPPORTUNITY

House Piccolo is looking for a full time cook/chef. Contact info: www.housepiccolo.com

BARB'S BUNS require full & part time help for bakers, cooks and prep cooks. Drop off resumes to manager. No phone calls please.

FLAGGERS WANTED (traffic control), will train and certify right applicant. Must have phone and car. Phone 537-2300.

COOK WANTED to provide breakfast, packed lunch and dinner for approx. 4 to 5 people in Ganges area. Starting mid April. Please fax resume to 604-597-2201.

HARBOUR HOUSE Porters Restaurant is looking for experienced servers and bar tenders. Please drop off resume with Dave Carey.

RENEE AT Play, Long Harbour Road, requires a full-time production assistant. May 1 - Aug 31. 537-9631.

DRYWALLER NEEDED. Experience and tools an asset, but not necessary. Must have drive! Call 537-0122 after 8pm.

NANNY/CHILDCARE wanted in my home for 2 fun-loving boys (6 & 3yrs old) for the summer (or longer?), 2 to 3 days a week. Could offer room & board for the right person. Must have references. Call Sabrina @ 537-9967.

HARBOUR HOUSE Hotel is hiring in the housekeeping department. Experience preferred but not necessary. Serious applicants only. Drop off resume at front desk, Attn: Charlene.

FULL TIME cashier wanted for the Housewares Store at Moutat's Trading. See Kim or David.

COUNTER HELP/Dishwasher at Jana's Bake Shop, 5 days, Mon. - Fri. Excellent customer service required, well organized. Call before 8am or after 2pm, 537-0029.

YARD MAINTENANCE worker wanted, 2 days a week, Cusheon Lake area. Call evenings or leave message at 537-1320.

SEASONAL GROUNDSPERSON & housekeepers required - week-ends to start, must be able to work entire summer. Will train. Drop off resume to 1136 North End Rd.

RETIRED R.N Requires responsible, energetic & reliable high school student for general, light household help Fri. am's. (Time negotiable during summer vacation.) Write contact info to Box 19, c/o Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V3.

RECESSION-PROOF JOB! Study Power Engineering (38 weeks, 4th class certification). Lab, classroom, work experience. NAIT's Fairview (Alberta) campus. September, 2006. 1-888-999-7882; www.nait.ca. Enroll now!

55 HELP WANTED

JUST WEEKS to 1st year apprenticeship. Gain entry level skills. Take pre-employment carpenter, welder, millwright, machinist, motorcycle or auto service technician training. Challenge apprenticeship exam. Programs at NAIT's Grande Prairie or Fairview, Alberta campuses. Intakes throughout year. Call 1-888-999-7882 now for details, start dates; www.nait.ca.

NEED A home phone? Get your phone connected - Only \$24.95 for your first month + connection fee! Convenient features available! Call Phone Factory Reconnect 1-877-336-2274; www.phonefactory.ca.

HUSKY HOUSE Restaurant, Grande Prairie, Alberta hiring Kitchen Manager, experienced cooks. Competitive wages, benefits, bonuses and temporary accommodation available. Contact Miranda Butler. ax 780-814-7459; miranda@pomeroygroup.ca.

ZENDER FORD Sales Ltd. Experienced certified Ford power stroke diesel tech and general repair tech. Immediate positions. Attractive pay, benefit package. Contact Terry: service@zenderford.com. 780-962-3000.

PHONE DISCONNECTED? Super Special: only \$10 for first month plus hook up. Everyone welcome. Guaranteed approval. Free long distance package. Call Easy Reconnect now 1-877-446-5877.

\$5000 MINIMUM monthly, training provided, vehicle required. 1st, check out www.watercanada.ca. 2nd, email resume to ron@watercanada.ca or fax to 1-866-765-1508. 3rd, call 1-888-765-4401 ext.112.

MEAT CUTTER wanted, great opportunity to work and live on beautiful Salt Spring Island on the West Coast of British Columbia. Excellent wages and benefits. Please apply @ fax 250-537-4616 or email @ sharonvillagemarket@telus.net.

SERVER WANTED: Outgoing, funky, warm personality who is experienced and ultra-efficient to work as the primary server at The Tea Cozy, Salt Spring's newest Tea Room. Must be self-motivated and, as well, an amazing team player. Looking for someone who is fun-loving, polite and willing to pamper guests. Familiarity and comfort with intuitive arts an asset. Apply in person with resume and names of references to Gail at The Tea Cozy in Gasoline Alley - unit 102 - 149 Fulford-Ganges Road.

55 HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING!
Tree House Cafe and Tree House South are recruiting their summer team! From now until the end of April we are hiring a sous chef for Fulford, line cooks, prep cooks, bakers, baristas & dishwashers.

Apply in person at Tree House South by filling out an application and speak to our chef Don Gornuk. Or send us an email at treehouse@saltspring.com

PEOPLE PERSON WANTED!

Sales Assistant required for busy retail location

• Part / full time •

Apply in person with resume to:

OLD SALTY
In the Harbour Building

ONE OF THE BEST PERMANENT FULL-TIME JOBS IN GANGES
-DON'T MISS IT-

Bright and busy legal firm welcomes enthusiastic support staff for challenging and interesting work. Great pay, great colleagues, great career, right here on Salt Spring. Legal experience helpful but not strictly required. We will train (or re-train) smart cheerful energetic you in the skills required for land transactions and other legal work. We invite you to e-mail your resume to rhonda@cmwlaw.ca, or drop off your resume in strict confidence to Rhonda Wince at Clement Murphy & Woodward, 105 Rainbow Road.

The Fulford Inn
REQUIRES

- Kitchen Helper with valid Driver's License.
- Full & Part-time Housekeeper.

Call Manager for interview
653-4432

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

for senior secondary & post secondary students to assist with summer camps for youth

Applicants should be 15 to 30 years old and have a keen interest and some experience in sports, nature and the arts.

Extended application deadline: April 30, 2006. Jobs are subject to funding.

Interested students may send their resumes to: Fulford Community Nature School Society, 112 Rainbow Rd. Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K3

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR WORK THEN READ THIS!

- Local Job Postings
- Internet, computers, telephone, and fax services
- Workshops on: Resumes & Cover Letters, Networking, Budgeting, Basic Word, and Interview Skills
- Individual support to get your job search on track
- Wage Subsidies
- Support for Youth and People with Disabilities
- Self Employment info

ALL AT NO COST TO YOU

Phone 537-5979 or Drop In
10 am-3:30 pm Mon. - Fri.
Beacon Employment Services,
343 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island

Beacon Community Services Canada
The Government of Canada has contributed to this initiative.

55 HELP WANTED

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Apply in person at Tree House South by filling out an application and speak to our chef Don Gornuk. Or send us an email at treehouse@saltspring.com

PEOPLE PERSON WANTED!

Sales Assistant required for busy retail location

• Part / full time •

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ONE OF THE BEST PERMANENT FULL-TIME JOBS IN GANGES
-DON'T MISS IT-

Bright and busy legal firm welcomes enthusiastic support staff for challenging and interesting work. Great pay, great colleagues, great career, right here on Salt Spring. Legal experience helpful but not strictly required. We will train (or re-train) smart cheerful energetic you in the skills required for land transactions and other legal work. We invite you to e-mail your resume to rhonda@cmwlaw.ca, or drop off your resume in strict confidence to Rhonda Wince at Clement Murphy & Woodward, 105 Rainbow Road.

NO > IE GALLERY

a leading video retailer in rural and secondary markets with over 2000 locations is now hiring on Salt Spring.

Applications for Store Managers are being accepted at: 378 Lower Ganges Rd. (next to Ganges Village Market).

Some benefits include: Paid Vacations, Medical/ Dental /Life Insurance, Quarterly Bonus Plan, Flexible Schedule, Free Movie & Game Rentals.

Please leave message for Miriam Cloutier @ 1-800-239-1949 ext. 12454

55 HELP WANTED

Meadowbrook
SENIORS' RESIDENCE

Meadowbrook is seeking applicants for the position of part-time cook, required immediately. We are also seeking applications for future positions in our Food Service area. Meadowbrook offers excellent wages and a very pleasant working environment. This may be just the situation for you if you are looking to work fewer hours in a new, well-maintained kitchen with friendly, professional staff.

Please drop off resumes at 121 Atkins Rd. Attn.: Maureen O'Brien or call Maureen for further information at 538-1995.

Meadowbrook is an equal opportunity employer.

60 WORK WANTED RENOVATIONS

Bathrooms - kitchens - extensions - framing - finishing detail - drywall - tiling - plumbing. 23 years experience. Local references. Call Jerry 653-4101.

JOBMAN RENOVATIONS. Salt Spring's complete renovation and repair service. Call Brad at 537-2262.

TILE, SLATE or Culter stone. We will do it all, give us a call. Reasonable rates, 7 years experience. Mike 250-732-2789.

TWO EAGER VERY HARD-WORKING HANDYMEN

- Clean up, Recycling & Hauling your junk to the dump
- Chainsaw Work/Firewood
- Alder & Brush Clearing
- Gardening & Maintenance (mowing and trimming)
- Fencing • Welding
- Carpentry
- Painting & General Labour.

COURTESY ESTIMATES.
REASONABLE RATES 653-9101

Services

110 CATERING

Shima Sushi Catering

- authentic sushi chef
- served in your home
- sushi making classes

(250) 653-0071

116 CLEANING

CAR DETAILING If you're trying to sell or it just needs some TLC? Call 537-9247.

117 COMMUNITY SERVICES

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, undereaters welcome. 537-8978.

IS YOUR life affected by someone's drinking? Call Al-Anon at 383-4020.

ALANON/ALATEEN A program for family and friends of alcoholics. For further information call 537-2941, 653-4288 or 537-4909.

CRISIS LINE for Salt Spring - toll-free 1-877-435-7544.

Alcoholics Anonymous Service Meetings

Salt Spring 537-7573
Galiano 539-2222
Pender 629-3631

Women's Only - Thursday nights 5:30 p.m. - 537-7573

117 COMMUNITY SERVICES

The aims and objectives of the LADY MINTO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION are to raise funds which will be used to expand and enhance the delivery of medical care by the Hospital to Gulf Islands residents. You can help the Foundation attain these goals by a gift of funds, real or personal property, memorial bequests, endowments, life insurance or securities. All donations will be recognized in the Hospital and receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued.

Please help YOUR Hospital so it can help YOU.
135 Crofton Rd.
Salt Spring Island,
V8K 1T1
538-4845
www.ladymintohospitalfoundation.org

122 DAY CARE

HEART N' HANDS Montessori now has spaces available in our all day program. For more information contact Denise 537-4944

127.1 GARBAGE

STRONG WOMAN HAULING

- RENO CLEANUP
- JUNK TO THE DUMP
- YARD REFUSE REMOVAL
- GARBAGE AND ESTATE CLEANUP & HAULING

WE GET THE JOB DONE!
250 537 6995

156 RENTALS

PARTY TIME RENTALS
From TENTS to UTENSILS

- NO GST • LOWEST PRICES
- BEST SERVICE

Now available
Extendable tent-sits 100-500
Pick ups at Love My Kitchen
537-5882
Susan or Joy 537-4577
partytimerentals@telus.net

173 TRAVEL

TIMESHARE REALES - Sell-buy-rent-exchange. World's largest timeshare resale broker. Stroman Realty - since 1979. Worldwide selection of resort properties. Call today toll-free 1-800-201-0864.

TIMESHARE REALES - 60-80% off retail! Best resorts and seasons! Call for free customized magazine! 1-800-597-9347. Browse online for over 400 worldwide properties - www.holidaygroup.com/bcn.

Sudoku! Answers

5	6	8	7	3	1	9	4	2
7	1	2	9	5	4	3	8	6
3	9	4	6	8	2	1	7	5
9	5	3	8	7	6	4	2	1
4	8	7	2	1	9	5	6	3
1	2	6	3	4	5	7	9	8
6	4	5	1	9	8	2	3	7
2	7	1	4	6	3	8	5	9
8	3	9	5	2	7	6	1	4

310 BUILDING SUPPLIES
SLIGHTLY USED indoor tennis court. 60' X 120' building to be dismantled & moved. 60' clear span engineered trusses. 20' X 28 Douglas fir frame w/1/2" plywood. 1X12 cedar board & 1X4 batten siding. Could be sold as two 60' X 60' buildings, one w/siding, one w/o. Incl. halide lighting & panels. Priced approx. 60% of replacement. Can provide new foundation reassemble with new roof. Call for more info. 537-4053 before 8am or after 6pm.

Logs to Lumber CEDAR SALE
Decks
Siding
Fencing
Posts
Beams
Extra
Local Red Cedar - Top Quality Pesticide & Preservative Free
Shane O'Donnell
537-1847

SEE US FOR A FAST QUOTE ON ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS!
• Flooring
• Heating
• Eaves
• Plumbing
• Roofing
For all your building requirements, large or small!
SLEGG LUMBER LTD.
804 Fulford-Ganges Rd.
537-4978

322 COMPUTERS
COMPUTER PROBLEMS? Set-ups, Installing Software, Tutoring, Internet, Troubleshooting. Yes, we make house calls days/evenings/wkends. \$30/hr. Over 20 years exp. Phone Robert. 537-2888. Arvana Consulting.
CALL BOB McIvor for hardware, software and networking support. We do housecalls. 537-2827 or (cell) 250-701-8022. Please go and back-up your important data now!
IMAC COMPUTER for sale. OS 9.2. Built in memory: 320 MB, processor: Power PC G3, machine speed: 330 MHz. New keyboard, no printer. \$300. Call Anne or John at 537-1355.

330 FOOD PRODUCTS
CALDWELL'S OAKSPRING FARM
Since 1882
Currently available:
• FREE RANGE GRAIN-FED PORK
• FRESH CUT LUMBER
537-5380 or 537-2152

Sunset Farm - est. 1982
Naturally grown SS Lamb Gov't inspected Available year round
Also available: wool socks, comforters, knitting wool, pillows, and sheepskin rugs.
537-2082

333 FIREWOOD
SPRING SPECIAL
\$170 per guaranteed cord
cut split delivered
Please call 653-4640

335 FURNITURE
VERY COMFORTABLE king-size bed with walnut headboard, bedspread included. \$500 or best offer. Phone 537-9778.
LOVE SEAT, opens into single bed, shades of blue upholstery, excellent condition (rarely used), \$150. 537-1735.

340 GARAGE SALES
HUGE GARAGE Sale, Sat. Apr. 15, 9am - 2pm, 210 Kings Lane. Household items, bedding, boats, motors, trailers, mowers - riding & push, tiller & shredder, bookshelves.

340 GARAGE SALES
LIONS GARAGE Sale: Fridays & Saturdays only 10 am - 12 pm. Many household items. Note: We no longer offer pickups. We do not accept appliances. Drop-offs accepted only on Fri. & Sat. morning. Please, no garbage!! 103 Bonnet Ave.

GARAGE SALE, Apr. 15, 8am - 3pm, 720 Lower Ganges Road. China cabinet, antiques, table and chairs, bike, kitchenware, china, size 12 wedding dress, Australian outback coat, invisible fence system, toys. Rain date April 29.

SAT. APR 15, 9 - 1:00, 212 Fulford-Ganges Road. Bldg. materials, fir beams, 2x4 w/g fir decking, twin beds, kit. chairs, apt. size prop. stove, misc.
MOVING SALE. 1120 North End Road, Sat., Apr. 15, 9am - 3pm. Household goods, Books, Glassware, Kitchen utensils, Chesterfields and numerous other items.
685 STEWART RD., Sat., Apr. 15, 8am - 1pm. Furniture (some antique), china (some English), crystal, glassware, old LP's, clothes, lots of misc. No early birds.

120 SCARFF LANE, Sat., Apr. 15, 9:30am - 1pm. All items on offer. Tools, household items, etc.

350 MISC. FOR SALE
REFLECTIVE DRIVEWAY signs, big 4 inch letters, better than the rest. Multi-coloured vinyl graphics at competitive prices. Call 537-1833.
EXPERT CLOCK repair and restoration - antiques my specialty. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Free house calls for shut-ins and heavy clocks. Mark's Clockworks, 537-5061.

45 GAL PLASTIC non contaminant barrels, suitable for floats, water storage or w.h.y. \$25 ea. Can deliver. 478-3020 or cell 213-6011.

DECK - PATIO - Greenhouse tempered glass panels, 5mm-4mm-3mm bronze & clear, approx. sizes: 34"X74" \$24, 24"X48" \$18, 30"X48" \$18, 30"X31" \$8, 46"X76" \$30, 28"X76" \$20, 34"X74" \$24, 34"X76" bronze only \$40 & other sizes. 10 & up, free delivery. Call 537-4732 anytime.

LADIES R.H. golf clubs. Full set Slazenger XTC, tour model. New \$650, little used, will sell for \$250. Phone 537-5205.

HONDA GENERATOR, 5000 watts. Low hours. Just serviced \$1850. 653-9188.

16" WINTEK WESTERN saddle. Excellent condition, dark brown \$350. Price includes saddle blanket. Call Elaine 537-5092.

EXPERT WATCH repairs by certified watchmaker. Located between Crofton and Duncan. Serving the Cowichan Valley over 25 years. Call L.D. Frank - Jeweller and Watchmaker, 250-748-6058 (Duncan).

STORAGE TANKS: water, septic, sewage-holding (polyethylene). Ecological Systems: sewage-treatment plants, effluent filters. Visa, Mastercard, American Express accepted. GIS Sales & Rentals, call 653-4013.

WATER TANK cleaning service, power wash, vacuum, sanitize and refill. 10% off until May 15. Isles West Water Services. Dames 537-4884 or Bob 653-4513. Bulk water & tank sales.

HURRY! WELL rotted sheep manure, for your garden, 3 yard load delivered. 537-2082 evenings.

POOL TABLE. Brunswick Balke Collender. 1917 - 20, 4.5 ft x 9ft. Slate table and accessories. \$5265 obo. 604-722-6535.

WONDERFUL YAMAHA scooter, \$1500 firm. 2 - 4 person hot tub with cedar skirt, new cover, \$1000 firm. 653-9559.

SLIGHTLY USED indoor tennis court. 60' X 120' building to be dismantled & moved. 60' clear span engineered trusses. 20' X 28 Douglas fir frame w/1/2" plywood. 1X12 cedar board & 1X4 batten siding. Could be sold as two 60' X 60' buildings, one w/siding, one w/o. Incl. halide lighting & panels. Priced approx. 60% of replacement. Can provide new foundation reassemble with new roof. Call for more info. 537-4053 before 8am or after 6pm.
ANTIQUA CLEARANCE Sale. SSI Antiques is clearing off most stock of furniture at fantastic prices to downsize for relocation this summer. New items still arriving.
STAINLESS TRIPLE industrial sink, taps, grease trap, \$250. Heavy metal, decorative urn for planting or small table. \$20. 537-5657.

OMEGA 4000 JUICER, excellent condition, still under warranty, \$195. 537-1550.

MEMORY FOAM toppers. Queen and double. \$175 & \$150. 537-2831.

MT. WASHINGTON lift ticket (youth) \$25, Windsor table & 6 chairs \$200, Honda lawnmower \$50, women's youth golf clubs/hat \$75. 537-4726

CLAWFOOT BATHTUBS and vintage wood windows and doors. 537-4450.
LARGE CHESTNUT-COLOURED pine hutch, like new, \$1000. Store price approx. \$3500. Picture on G.V.M. exterior billboard. 537-5903.
TOASTER OVEN rotisserie griddle, as new, rarely used, cost \$130, now \$50. Solid exterior door with window \$20. 537-2928.
4400W GENERATOR, 16" chainsaw c/w case, sailing dinghy c/w P.F.D.'s (ideal summer fun). 537-4382 evenings.
6 HP TROYBILT Rototiller, \$950 obo. 537-5788.
HOT TUB for sale. 6 - 7 person, new cover, rebuilt pump and spa pack. Cedar skirt like new. \$1600. 537-5147.
EASTER GIFTS - both top condition. White wicker rocker & cushion. Deluxe walker seat & carry-all, (new \$500), \$300. 537-5048.
A NEW PC - only 99 cents/day! & everyone's approved! Get a fully loaded MDG computer with an Intel P4 3Ghz from 99 cents/day. Includes everything you need: 512MB RAM, 17" LCD flat panel, Windows XP and a free printer/scanner/copier for first 500 callers (**Call for conditions) 1-800-236-2504.
SAWMILLS from only \$3,495.00 - Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwoodindustries.com - free information: 1-800-566-6899 Ext.4000T.
TELEPHONE DISCONNECTED? Reconnect your phone now. No customer refused. No credit checks. Low activation and free long distance. Call Imagination Group for low prices. 1-866-543-8415.
FOR SALE - Major department store customer returns and overstocks. Pallet or truckload sales. Great for thrift / consignment stores, liquidators, flea markets, ebay, auctioneers. Call 1-800-266-2807 www.vdcanada.com.
AWESOME! BAD CREDIT accepted! New brand name computer. Free photo printer & 5mp digital camera (while supplies last!) No money down! Fast delivery! Call Now! 1-866-841-7669. www.canadiancomputerfinancing.com.
PROPANE - refrigerators, ranges, demand water heaters, space heaters, gas lamps, hose, regulators, parts & supplies for home, cabin or camp. Aztec - 1-888-754-5054. www.propanewest.ca. lpchick@telus.net.
FUTURE STEEL BUILDINGS - durable, dependable, pre-engineered, all-steel structures. Custom-made to suit your needs and requirements. Factory-direct affordable prices. Call 1-800-668-8653 ext. 536 for free brochure.
BUILDING SALE! - "Beat next increase!" 20x26 now \$4200. 25x30 \$5800. 30x40 \$9200. 40x60 \$14,900. Extensive range of sizes and models. Front end optional. Pioneer 1-800-668-5422.
STEEL BUILDING SALE! Save 60-70% on limited inventory! 20x24, 30x40, 40x60, 50x100, 60x150. Everything must go! Toll free 1-877-728-4807.

350 MISC. FOR SALE
LARGE CHESTNUT-COLOURED pine hutch, like new, \$1000. Store price approx. \$3500. Picture on G.V.M. exterior billboard. 537-5903.
TOASTER OVEN rotisserie griddle, as new, rarely used, cost \$130, now \$50. Solid exterior door with window \$20. 537-2928.
4400W GENERATOR, 16" chainsaw c/w case, sailing dinghy c/w P.F.D.'s (ideal summer fun). 537-4382 evenings.
6 HP TROYBILT Rototiller, \$950 obo. 537-5788.
HOT TUB for sale. 6 - 7 person, new cover, rebuilt pump and spa pack. Cedar skirt like new. \$1600. 537-5147.
EASTER GIFTS - both top condition. White wicker rocker & cushion. Deluxe walker seat & carry-all, (new \$500), \$300. 537-5048.
A NEW PC - only 99 cents/day! & everyone's approved! Get a fully loaded MDG computer with an Intel P4 3Ghz from 99 cents/day. Includes everything you need: 512MB RAM, 17" LCD flat panel, Windows XP and a free printer/scanner/copier for first 500 callers (**Call for conditions) 1-800-236-2504.
SAWMILLS from only \$3,495.00 - Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwoodindustries.com - free information: 1-800-566-6899 Ext.4000T.
TELEPHONE DISCONNECTED? Reconnect your phone now. No customer refused. No credit checks. Low activation and free long distance. Call Imagination Group for low prices. 1-866-543-8415.
FOR SALE - Major department store customer returns and overstocks. Pallet or truckload sales. Great for thrift / consignment stores, liquidators, flea markets, ebay, auctioneers. Call 1-800-266-2807 www.vdcanada.com.
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FUTURE STEEL BUILDINGS - durable, dependable, pre-engineered, all-steel structures. Custom-made to suit your needs and requirements. Factory-direct affordable prices. Call 1-800-668-8653 ext. 536 for free brochure.
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STEEL BUILDING SALE! Save 60-70% on limited inventory! 20x24, 30x40, 40x60, 50x100, 60x150. Everything must go! Toll free 1-877-728-4807.

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GREY PEDESTAL sink and toilet. Taps and seat incl. 537-8938.
OCEANVIEW, UPSTAIRS and down. 2 bed, 2 bath home. 4 new appliances. Close to Ganges, deck, sunny, lawns, fruit trees. Wood and Carpet flooring. High ceilings, wood stove, NS, NP \$1350. 144 Douglas Rd. 360-303-6860 or 538-8597.

520 HOUSES FOR RENT
1 BEDROOM COUNTRY cabin on acreage, \$750/mo. NS. Available May. Call Linda. 537-2166.
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820 BOATS & MARINE, SALES

SINGLE ROWING scull for sale, \$800 firm, 537-8747 to view.

KAYAK WITH paddle, so called River Kayak, same design as Inuit version for ocean. Very stable, maneuverable \$375. 538-0133.

825 CARS, SALES

1984 BMW 318i, garage kept, no rust, \$1900 obo. 538-1900 evenings.

1987 FORD TAURUS GL, great, reliable car. PL, P/S, P/B. New fuel pump, heater coil. Drives very well. CD/MP3 player. \$1000. Ashley 537-1469.

1989 DODGE COLT, 4 door, auto, 135,000 kms, clean, runs well, grandmother/ island driven, \$1500, 653-2425.

1990 BLUE MIATA with only 125,000 km, 5 spd. standard, beautiful cond. inside & out. Asking \$8900, substantial reduction for SS islanders only. 538-0133.

1991 MAZDA MIATA, 2 tops, mags, ABS. 108,000 miles \$7800. 653-0017 nice.

1993 TOYOTA CAMRY LE - Touring, 106,000 kms., loaded, leather, 4 door, very clean, \$8900. 537-2984.

2002 CHRYSLER SEBRING LX 49,000 kms, pwr sunr, auto, FWD, 4 dr, green, alloys, a/c, am/fm, CD player, cruise, disc brks, pwr pkg, Chrysler warr, exc cond. \$11,000. 250-653-4916.

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845 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, SALES

1986 FORD 20-FOOT camper van. Natural gas & gasoline. H.D. 6 engine. 6-1/2 ft. inside height & windows all around. Storage - front & rear, gas stove, insulated & oak finish. 12 ft. outside awning, deluxe cab & seats. Heavy duty springs & tires, automatic trans. with cruise. Garage stored, one owner, no damage. \$6500. 537-2063.

2005 14 FT. ultra light Bantam Flier travel trailer with expandable tent end. \$18,000. Also beige reclining chair \$40. 537-2665. 27FT 1980 TRAVEL trailer, good shape, everything works except furnace needs work. \$2000. 537-4035. 35 FT. CAMPER/TRAILER, 1 slider, new roof, covered deck, cedar skirting, \$7500 obo. Call 537-6860.

Saunders Special



2002 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF DIESEL
only 51,000 km
sunroof
one owner
\$20,900



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1784 Island Hwy, Victoria
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900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

CALLING ALL COOKS!

The Driftwood's Second Annual Community Cookbook will be published in May. Send in your recipe favorites by April 25. All contributors will be entered in a draw to win a gift certificate to a local restaurant. Send recipes to The Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road. Fax to 537-2613 or email to driftwood@gulfislands.net. HONDA GENERATOR, 5000 watts. Low hours. Just serviced \$1850. 653-9188.

NEW AD!

Gentle Yoga, Tuesday 1 to 2:30pm at Gatehouse. Wheelchair accessible. \$12 with Nadine McCoy, 537-0822.

GULF ISLANDS Optical. 50% refund on the cost of your eye test when you purchase a full set of frames and lenses. Lancer Bldg. 537-2648.

FREE DINNER at the Treehouse South on the day of your birthday when you eat with 2 other adults.

OPENING SOON!...Salt Spring Inn Restaurant & lounge. Across from the Visitor's Center. Watch the progress at www.saltspringinn.com

POOL MEMBERSHIPS Adult Pool memberships available for Summerside Pool, \$100 per month. Call 537-2172.

ArtSpring's Island Treasure Fair Auctions

Your donations - goods, services and experiences - to our silent and live auctions and our new "Hidden Treasures Room" will help support ArtSpring - our vital community centre for the performing and visual arts. Don't wait! Now is the time to make that donation, so if you have something to donate please call Judy at 537-3177 or ArtSpring at 537-2125.

POINT ROBERTS U.S.A.

Summer Cottage, 3 bdrm, near beach. Rent for Aug. only \$850 US per week. Call 537-2119 or 604-946-2753.

COMEDIANS WANTED for standup/sketch comedy night. The Local, Sat., Apr. 29. Contact sidfilkow@yahoo.ca, 538-8274.

BOOKS WANTED: Antiquarian books, specialized collections, art books. Home visits by appointment. Best prices for top books. Sabines Bookshop 538-0025.

WANTED: STEREOs, radios, amps, speakers, etc. Old or new. 653-4458.

ARBUTUS RV is proud to announce that Lisbeth Jones has joined their sales team. For all your RV needs, biggest selection, and best deals, please drop by Arbutus RV, Nanaimo (airport location) or call toll free 1-888-272-8887.

EARTH DAY! Come celebrate with Women of Note at Ganges United Church, Saturday, April 22 at 8pm. Admission by donation. Come join us!

YARD MAINTENANCE worker wanted, 2 days a week, Cusheon Lake area. Call evenings or leave message at 537-1320.

SPRING CLEANING? The Salt Spring Refund Centre is open 9:30 to 4:30, Tuesday - Saturday. 537-8784.

16th ANNUAL AGSSI Advertising Distribution. Let the Accommodations Group SSI put your information in the hands of all visitors staying at over 100 island accommodation businesses this year. Reserve your space for May distribution. Cost unchanged - still just \$30. Call Tanya Macdonald at 537-0785 or Perry at the Chamber 537-4223 to request your sign-up form.

BALLOONS HERE!

TO ALL of our customers. Regretfully, after 24 years, McColl's Shell Service will close on April 30, 2006. We would like to thank our customers and the community for all of their support and encouragement over the years. It is simply time for Mary Ann to retire. We wish you all the best for the future. Lee and Mary Ann McColl.

900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

WASABI PLANTS. Salt Spring organic wasabi plants. \$5 to \$25. Other herbs & plants available. Come and browse. Bigfoot Herbs. 537-4466

SINGING BALLOONS HERE!
1988 FORD F-250 Xcab p.u. Great shape \$2495. 537-1983.

HORSE BOARDING. Full boarding in brand new barn, 12 x 12 stalls; shedrow boarding in 12 x 48 or 12 x 60. Ph: 250-537-2089.

ROSES \$15. CLIMBERS, ramblers, shrub. Fresh & dried flowers, weddings. Gift Shop. Everlasting Summer. Open this Friday to Monday. 653-9418.

PRIVATE CAREGIVER

Services include personal care, cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, shopping and any care that will add to your personal quality of "Life". Call 537-0919.

SINGING BALLOONS?
WESTERN SADDLE 15", beautiful tooling \$400. 10" contractors table saw \$175. 35 HP Merc. outboard motor \$275. 537-1983.

BEST BREAKFAST at Cafe El Zocalo \$1 off breakfast items 8 - 9am throughout April! Homemade cooking with heart! Open every day 8am - 3pm.

PARTY*PARTY*PARTY*

West of the Moon is going to be bringing you seriously wonderful Party Supplies...soon...stay tuned!
NEED A SHED? "Nooks for Gnomes". Summer houses, garden sheds, studios. Individually designed. Built with care. Phone 537-1731.

BALLOONS HERE!

Flowers & Wine, 158 Fulford Ganges Rd. 537-2321.

CLOSING THE BUSINESS SALE

Visit Manderlay Gardens for the 2 for 1 plant sale incl. clematis, perennials orchids and shrubs. Open 1-3 pm Saturday and Sunday. 2256 Fulford, Ganges Road, call 538-1838.

BOOKKEEPER WANTED, approximately 8 hours every 2 weeks. More hours as business grows. 537-9858.

1979 FORD 350 econoline Van Factory built as camper (long body over height) all camping gear removed, Still has Propane tanks and dual gas tanks. Tiers alone worth \$600. No rust and very low mileage, 60 I (sitting for 10 years) \$1500 obo. 537-9858.

TRAILER WANTED, aprox 4' x 8'. Suitable for hauling lumber 537-9858.

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This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

Horoscope for the week starting: April 9, 2006
Tip of the week

A very powerful aspect between Mars and Pluto is now active. It peaked just this past weekend. This aspect implies a powerful tug of war and/or need for reconciliation between powerfully opposing forces. As Mars represents personal self-expression and Pluto is symbolic of powerful large-scale evolutionary and transformational themes, we can imagine that personal rights and freedoms are coming up against social and collective changes. With Mars in Gemini, a good deal of reaction from individuals in opposition to decisions made by other people in our lives and by larger organizations and institutions like governmental and perhaps religious authorities is being activated. Many people may be unaware of what is going yet the wave of awareness will move quickly over the next month or so. Of course, there are always many events, episodes and dramas going in the world at any one time. However, this stands to gain wider collective notice. On more personal levels, people may well find themselves feeling irritable, angry, or having arguments and quarrels or in heated debate or possibly feeling overwhelmed and depressed. Since we are in Aries time, the sign of the warrior, it is all part of the process yet is extra accentuated now. We all possess an inherent warrior spirit which helps us to overcome negative, divisive and corrupting internal and external forces. The spiritual warrior first focuses within on the negative internal forces and then without, if necessary, where others have not and the negative, divisive and corrupting forces and other such demons that Rome freely. Avoid outer conflict if you can and focus within to overcome personal demons.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The urge to explore new territory continues to grow. Expressing your thoughts and feelings will become evident this week. However, this could cause some friction, perhaps especially with other family members. Alternatively, you may go into denial or conceal or repress these inclinations for the sake of harmony. Compassion for how others might be affected also figures prominently. It may take until next week until you are bold enough to get to the point. Learning how others might respond or react before saying what is on your mind could stir curiosity and anger. Honor your truth!

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

Taking time out to tune-in is the current call. Balancing our responsibilities with inner urges is the challenge. You are open to meet new people but especially to gain new insights and facts. This may all be stirring fears or better yet, your courageous determination to take the plunge somehow. Laying claim to inner gifts and hidden powers and/or resources is part of the plot. Take your time; it could take a while before you feel more assertive and decisive. If you feel lost or confused, simply ask for guidance.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Making new friends, exploring your options and pursuing innovative leads are all likely scenarios now. Learning to be your own best friend is an ever important theme for you. What does this mean now? Learning how to be more empathetic and loving goes both ways. Learning skills, gathering tools and strategizing towards this end is likely. Tending to your health and the quality of your overall lifestyle remains a core theme. If you are really keen you will probe to subconscious levels to loosen and release deep patterns. After all, spring is clean and clear time. Make way for the new!

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Like a ram roaming in the mountains, you are in search of greener pastures and/or higher cliffs. You are on the verge of a particularly active time. Much is shaking and you feel ambitious. Looking to the big picture and activating a strategic mindset feels right. You may even be driving for a promotion or at least to create more security somehow. Meanwhile, you also feel quite moved by incoming news and information. Perhaps you are sensitive to the growing pain of others or humanity as a whole. Heart-felt prayers do make a difference as does sincere efforts guided by a clear focus. Go big!

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

An adventurous momentum continues to carry you forward on both inner and outer levels. If you feel anxiety and are experiencing conflict then you are probably resisting the flow of destiny. If you do not think that there is a flow of destiny and that your whole life is your choice, then you have work to do. We are co-creators. This means that creation has a plan and a supremely intelligent flow and knows where to go even if this does not meet with our own or our family or society's approval. Tuning in requires sensitivity, trust and discernment. Balance will with willing!

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

Deep changes continue to rumble. This may imply accessing your authentic power. Independence is a key word. Listening to your inner authority is part of the plan, especially now. Simply say yes and O.K., as others in your life share their truth. This may include surrendering to their plans and joining in cooperatively. Avoid unnecessary conflicts by staying focused on daily duties. Follow your bliss and your dream and accept the changes that are probably unfolding now. Meanwhile, love is lingering, take time to embrace it.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Life is all about relationships. Yet it may come as a paradox to some that the primary relationship is with oneself. This is not selfishness, though it could be. We all experience life as though we are the center of it due to our 5 senses, feelings, intuitions, instincts and perceptions etcetera. Our self includes our body, mind, conscience, inner authority and soul and higher-self etcetera - these are all parts of one unit. Contemplate this fact and honor the relationship you are having with yourself as well as, for true balance, the relationship others are having with their selves. This implies empathy and breeds compassion. Failure to do so breeds negative karma. Go beyond rights and awaken to spiritual law which favors no one over any other.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Taking charge of your life now implies taking charge over your health. It is possible to get others to do a wide range of things for us, but no one can exercise or eat well or sense or connect within for anyone else. These are basic facts that too many people do not take seriously enough leaving others to bear the weight of selfish and foolish negligence. Of course, we all do need assistance and there are ever others nearby to help us to help ourselves - this latter part is the key. True health implies a mental, emotional, physical and spiritual platform. Do you have some work to do here?

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Playful, romantic, passionate and perhaps dramatic waves continue to surge in your life. Hopefully you are able to make the best of them. Like waves in the ocean, you are probably experiencing many forces and currents beyond your complete control, so you must cooperate with these forces coming from nature, people and life in general. Remembering that it is all a game, even though people, due to fear, all too often take it more seriously than is perhaps necessary, helps a lot. For your part, you can keep this mind and keep winking at the crowd as you act with honor, valor and humor upon the stage of your life.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Connecting with your family, roots, core, and/or authentic-self continues as a central theme. Since you are undergoing a deep metamorphosis in your life this may be a good idea. Inherited self-concepts, values and behavior patterns are being shed like a snake's old skin. This can be considered an ugly and painful process, but not necessarily if you consider the new skin being revealed. How can you consciously cooperate with the process of this key segment which is now entering its second phase of four and which started in mid summer 2005? Incidentally yours is the sign symbolic of governmental power; can you see the parallel and the need?

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

All your senses are awakening more fully as the spring season gains momentum. You will probably really notice this in a week or so. Pressures to commit to certain people and/or projects are mounting, yet you may feel reluctant. Perhaps you want to take your time to simply be and feel rather than be doing all the time. Isn't this at least partially implied by our identification as human beings? Our so-called free society has and continues to make us slaves, always doing. What can you do about that? This is the dawn of the Age of Aquarius which implies revolutions for the sake of humanistic living - do you have any suggestions? Take initiative - relax into being.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

There is a grand race going on in the world between spiritual realities and material forces. We are all in it and we can play along in such a way that we honor both. This may seem like a rare idea in a world of winners and losers. Do not all athletes who compete in the Olympics or any other games actually win simply by qualifying and participating? If you are answer is no, then materiality has a firm grip on you. Yet, Pisces is the sign of mysticism and spiritual union. Intend to enter the true game of life where everyone is a winner just for playing. Honor your authentic needs and express your divinity through one or more of your many talents.

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9:50 am	5:50 pm	11:00 am	7:00 pm
11:50 am	7:50 pm	1:00 am	9:00 pm
@Daily except Sundays		@Daily except Sundays	

BCFerries

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★ 8:00 am	5:00 pm	8:30 am	5:30 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm	Mon. + 9:30 am	6:30 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm	Wed., Thurs. + 11:10 am	8:10 pm
11:40 am	8:40 pm	12:10 pm	9:10 pm
Mon., Thurs. + 12:40 pm	9:40 pm	1:10 pm	10:05 pm
1:40 pm	▲ 10:35 pm	2:15 pm	▲ 11:05 pm
3:00 pm		3:30 pm	

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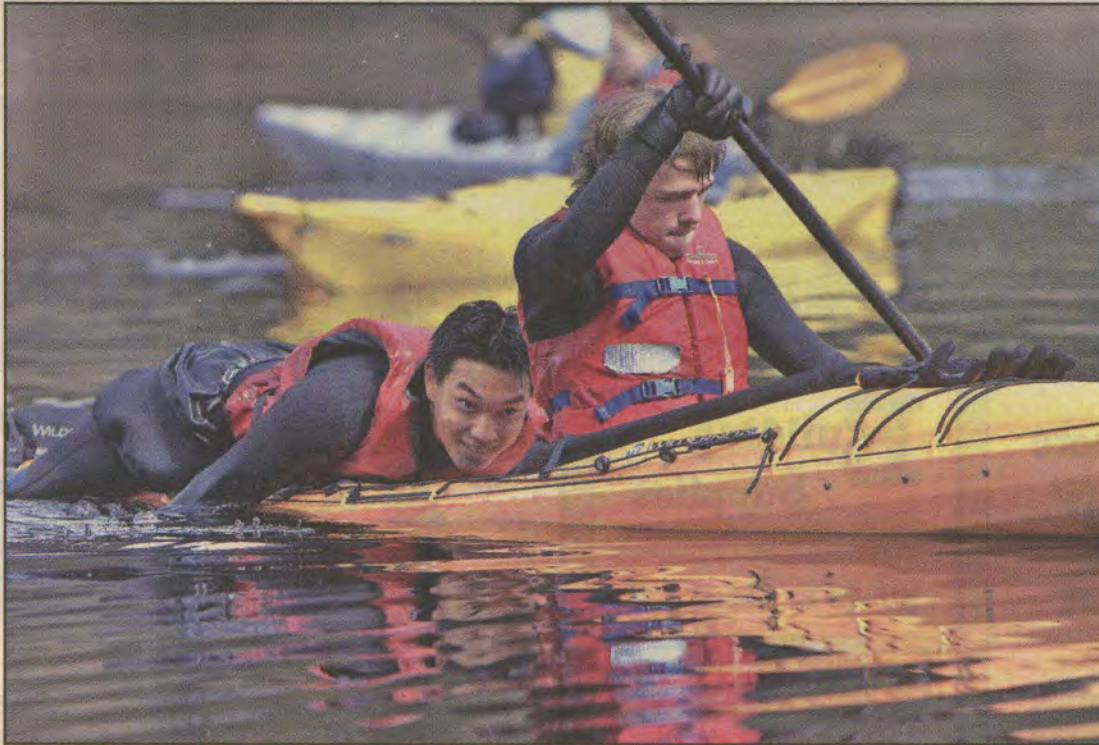
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WATER RUSH: GISS International Education students Roy Yan, left, and Thierry Krebs take on Cusheon Lake as they "warm up" for a Long Beach trip this weekend. Here, students have just practised a wet exit and are heading back to shore.

Photo by John Cameron



Swim venue changed

Registration for this year's Salt Spring Stingrays swim team will take place at Portlock Park tonight — not the Baptist Church basement.

A double booking forced the swim club to change its venue to the Portlock Park portable.

The general meeting and registration begins tonight (Wednesday) at 7 p.m.

Registration must be accompanied by a \$100 deposit that is refundable only the first week of practice.

To our friends on Salt Spring!

"Thanks for stopping by."
- Geoff



Geoff Hopps
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Bagpipes play for start of T-ball season

Salt Spring minor baseball season began with a fanfare of bagpipes last week.

Children aged five and six began playing T-ball to a bagpipe serenade on April 3.

Coach pitch for seven or eight-year-olds on four teams started on April 4, and 26 boys aged 9-11 gathered to practise at Portlock Park the same afternoon.

The coincidental appearance of a piper at Salt Spring Elementary (SSE) on April 3 ushered in the season with an extra thrill, said local baseball association president Gord Hollingsworth.

Overall enrolment has increased by over 30 per cent this year, he said.

Hollingsworth wanted to thank the 15 community volunteers who offered to coach teams.

He was particularly pleased about providing coaches for the 9-11 boys' teams after a few people stepped up to lend a hand, including local baseball supporters Pat and Brenda Akerman, Cathy George and Mark Lucich (who once played professional baseball and coached at the University of Oregon).

Hollingsworth invites islanders to come out and watch T-ball at SSE after dinner on Mondays, coach pitch at SSE on Tuesdays and baseball between local 9-11 boy's teams on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Portlock Park.

Another team of boys aged 13-14 and three girls' softball teams are practising for games that begin in the next two weeks, with schedules to be announced.

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