

## Her legacy: The new Howe Court

The Howe Court will be a multi-purpose court constructed next to the high school during 2006.

Nairn was planning to volunteer her time and effort in order to ensure that the community of Salt Spring benefited from a multi-purpose court. She had been working behind the scenes during the past couple of years laying the groundwork for the project.

On Christmas Eve of 2005, the family learned that the multi-purpose court would be named the "Howe Court" in Nairn's honour.

In order to fulfill her dream and the dream of many others, the community, the schools, the administration, the teachers, the maintenance staff, the parents, friends, students and community organizations must now begin to work together to complete this project.

A project management team is needed. This team will oversee and co-ordinate the planning and construction of the court. Contact Lyall Ruehlen, Judy Raddysh or Nancy Macdonald at GISS - 537-9944 or Bob Howe at bhowe@saltspring.com.

# Nairn Howe — one inspiring woman

If Salt Spring Island had "women of distinction" awards, Nairn Howe would have been an assured nominee.

She inspired many with her loving kindness, clear vision, positive outlook and ability to get things done.

Nairn and Bob Howe moved to Salt Spring in 1988, when their daughter Sarah was a baby, and Nairn soon became involved in the community. Their son Christopher was born in 1991.

Nairn was always involved in school activities, beginning with the Salt Spring Co-op Preschool.

"She had tremendous energy and enthusiasm for the students and teachers of the schools on Salt Spring Island," explains her obituary of last December. "She always had 'projects.' With the help of many others, she developed the gardens at Fulford Elementary, the Middle School, and High School. Recently she helped complete the high school pond with the help of many other volunteers. Nairn's next project was to build a multi-purpose outdoor court. She was honoured a few hours before she

passed away with the court being named in her honour . . ."

While taking care of her family and contributing to community activities on Salt Spring, Nairn also managed her family's ranching operation near Walsh, Alberta for the past 10 years and devoted much time and energy to her niece and nephew, Alicia and James Hargrave, the children of her brother Harry, who died in 1996.

Nairn grew up on that ranch and was described as "first and last, a country girl from rural southern Alberta." She earned an honours degree in Zoology from the University of Alberta and then spent 10 years in Namu on B.C.'s central coast before moving to Salt Spring.

Nairn was 48 years old when she died of cancer on Christmas Day 2005.

### Nairn Howe Memorial Fund

The Howe family hopes that Nairn will continue to inspire and support her community both through creation of the court next to the high school and the Nairn Howe Memorial Fund.

The purpose of the memorial fund is to accept donations and to distribute funds to the following causes:

- 1) for the benefit of the students of Salt Spring Island; and
- 2) for the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund can send it to Bob Howe at 216 Frazier Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2B5

### Relay for Life

Howe family members have also been honoured by being invited to light the first luminary at the June 9 Relay for Life event set for Portlock Park. A community-building fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society, the luminary ceremony sees candles lit at dusk for loved ones who have died from cancer.

Bob Howe encourages islanders to support the first Salt Spring Relay for Life. Information is available from 1-888-939-3333, www.cancer.ca, from John Wakefield at jwakefield@bc.cancer.ca or call 537-4624.



Nairn Howe at home.

## Thoughts and advice written and shared by Nairn

"Never, never underestimate the power of giving, for it shines like a beacon through humanity."

- Your vision is not limited by what your eyes can see, but by what your mind can imagine.
- There are only two lasting bequests we can give our chil-

dren . . . one is roots and the other is wings.

- Every generation has the obligation to free their minds from their view of the world . . . to look out from a higher plateau than the last generation.
- Many things that you take for granted were considered

unrealistic dreams by previous generations.

- If you accept these accomplishments as your springboard, then think of the new horizons that you can explore. Your education and imagination will carry you places which we won't believe possible. So make your life count

and the world will be a better place because you tried!"

*Nairn was also fond of this quote from Irish dramatist and literary critic George Bernard Shaw.*

"I am convinced that my life belongs to my family, my friends and to the whole community; and as long as I live, it

is my privilege to do for them whatever I can, for the harder I work the more I live . . . rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I got hold of for a moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before turning it over to future generations."

## AN UNCOMMON COLLECTION OF STYLE AND COLOURFUL PEOPLE



Barb Isles and Mary Paul have been "fashionably" leading the way on Salt Spring Island since December of 1988 when the doors of Mouat's Clothing Company officially opened.

Their unique retail environment caters to men's and women's clothing, footwear and souvenirs for the family.

International brands, colourful ethnic designs and the

latest hot items help you create your own sense of style.

"Our fashion stylists 'know their business'," say Barb and Mary. "They maintain the tradition set by Mouat's Trading Company in 1907...creative women serving the community. Stop by and see the renos, we are getting ready for our next century."



7 days a week 537-5551

# Fun day of entertainment lets IODE help those in need

By CATHERINE ADAIR  
Driftwood Contributor

The 29 current members of the HMS Ganges IODE are gearing up for their annual fashion show on April 29.

The show is just one of the fundraising activities the organization puts on throughout the year. Held at the Harbour House Hotel, the event includes a fabulous lunch.

The IODE is a national women's service organization that began and has remained "totally Canadian," according to current local chapter president Ann Hignell. Its first chapter began in Fredericton, New Brunswick in 1900 to support the Imperial troops fighting in the Boer War, and the local HMS Ganges Chapter started in 1914 to support local troops in the First World War.

The mission of the IODE is to "improve the quality of life for children, youth, and those in need through education, social service and citizenship programs." Salt

Spring's local chapter does this in many ways, including through donations to school and senior programs.

The IODE currently donates to many causes. Once per month they provide a hot lunch at Seniors for Seniors, and a "sunshine breakfast" for 12 lucky residents of Greenwood's intermediate care facility.

They also donate much-needed books to local schools. "We have put between \$1,200-1,500 worth of books into the school libraries annually," said Hignell.

That's in addition to providing travel funds for elementary field trips, and for the middle school and secondary school music programs. Other groups that have benefited from the IODE's funds include the Salt Spring Island Girl Guides, Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association, Island Women Against Violence and the SPCA.

The IODE raises money through yearly fundraisers such as its Christmas auction and the fashion show, and through provincial and national grants.

In 2004/2005, group members received \$11,000 from the BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch. In 2005, they also won the Mary Emerson Trust Fund of \$7,000 from the National Chapter, which enabled them to refurbish the Lady Minto hospital acute care lounge.

Although the IODE has been active for almost a century on the island, its future is uncertain due to an aging current membership.

HMS Ganges would welcome any new members. Hignell and the rest of her group hope to eventually pass on chapter responsibilities to some dedicated young women.

Meetings for HMS Ganges IODE are held every second Friday at 2 p.m. in the United Church hall. For information on joining the IODE, contact Ann Hignell at 537-5774.

To get tickets to the fashion show, contact Janette Grey at 653-4549.

## Ruth Volquardsen

Closet CEO • 537-5188  
120 Hillview Place,  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2E4



Many people in today's busy world have a hard time finding the time or energy to organize their closets. Storage space becomes overfilled with the stuff we just don't know how to deal with. That's where Closet CEO comes in.

Ruth Volquardsen, the CEO of Closet CEO, takes pride in her ability to make a difference for people. She goes into clients' storage areas and sorts and organizes everything. She separates clothes out and sends some to the cleaners, some to the consignment or thrift shop, and some to the discard pile. Once she has discerned the clients' needs, Ruth arranges contracts for shelving, painting, and papering. She even helps clients purchase their lighting, hangers, boxes, mirrors, etc. At the end of the project, Ruth ensures that the area is clean.

Although Closet CEO has been in business only a couple of months, in this time Ruth has already helped many busy people and has found out how much she enjoys this work. She recommends her service to those who may be moving, especially seniors on the island who are downsizing.

Ruth is proud to support the Salt Spring Island Foundation, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, and Salt Spring Community Services.

## Jacqueline Midgett, Mary Lou Bompas, Deb Hamilton



Harbour Building, Ganges  
537-5551



"The Old Salty Women" are not so old!!! The recently renovated Old Salty keeps us young at heart and excited about the year ahead," says manager Mary Lou Bompas. "Our store is ever evolving to keep time with the population and lifestyle of Salt Spring islanders. Our new layout showcases our great gift items for self, friends and family. We are so much more than a card & candle store. Stop by for a cup of organic Silk Road Tea and relax in our new wicker furniture. Hope to see you soon."

## Sandi Poystila

Production Manager

### Solessence Publishing Inc.

Salt Spring's Specialists in Art Printing, Publishing & Marketing since 1991  
#17 Merchant Mews, 315 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2X4  
Tel: 537-2628 Fax: 537-1445 • info@ilovethisart.com • www.ilovethisart.com



Solessence Publishing Inc. has been printing, publishing and marketing fine art on Salt Spring Island since 1991. We currently have two employees, Duart Campbell, the Owner/Publisher and Sandi Poystila, the Production Manager. We provide printing, publishing, and marketing services to all artists, photographers and general public who desire high quality full colour printing. We also offer large format printing on vinyl, poster and Giclee canvas or watercolour paper. Duart also offers his marketing expertise to local artists who wish to promote their work. Solessence Publishing Inc. supports all recognized non-profit or volunteer based charities with discounted printing rates.

Sandi has been in the printing and publishing industry for 17 years and as an artist herself, she has always had an interest in fine art and its reproduction process. She enjoys meeting and working with the public and using her artistic & creative skills in a fun and friendly atmosphere. Sandi believes that working with Duart and his wife Jill Louise Campbell is a truly rewarding gift. Sandi welcomes you to come visit her at #17 in Merchant Mews anytime, Monday - Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm.

## Gail Glode

Salt Spring Bagels & The Tea Cozy  
101/102 - 149 Fulford-Ganges Road  
537-4890



Gail is a Renaissance woman - mother, entrepreneur, teacher, advocate, chef, designer, artist and dancer. She speaks English and French and learned Italian in Venice. She teaches meditation and cooking classes for both children and adults. Gail is also the leader of Salt Spring's Sacred Circle Dance Group. Everywhere that she goes, Gail is known for her vivaciousness and personal warmth.

Born and raised in a bilingual family in Quebec City, Gail moved to Kingston, Ontario, to attend Queen's University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) degree and also fell into an amazing career. Over the next eighteen years, Gail worked as a Liaison Officer marketing the University, as a Radio Announcer, as Co-ordinator of Services to Persons with Disabilities, and as Assistant to the Dean of Women overseeing the University Residences and developing and facilitating workshops.

Throughout her life, Gail has developed a passion for entertaining. Her childhood was a delightful hybrid of the most wondrous, boisterous, noisy French Canadian festivities with the equally charming comfort of a Rosamunde Pilcher novel. She delights in throwing feasts and parties - especially theme parties - loves cooking and adores table-top design.

The food and wine industry is a natural for Gail. Last summer she, and her partner and husband Tim Marchant (whom you can meet at the Village Cobbler), bought Salt Spring Bagels. Together, and with their three children, aged 12, 15 and 16, they learned the business from the bottom up. In January she opened the Tea Cozy, a home-away-from-home kind of tea room - which serves breakfast, lunch and Afternoon Tea, all with a unique Salt Spring flair. They also offer Tea Leaf and Tarot Readings. Drop in, won't you?

Gail is also one of the owners of Salt Spring's newest organic vineyard in development on Lee's Hill.

## Suzanne Archer,

Employment Counsellor

## Penn George,

Resource Advisor



Beacon Employment Services  
206 - 343 Lower Ganges Road,  
across from Upper Ganges Centre, Salt Spring Island  
537-5979 • ssi@beaconcs.ca • www.beaconcs.ca

It used to be that if you were unemployed in the Gulf Islands, you would have to go to Sidney or Saanich for assistance in job seeking, but no longer. For the past 18 months, Beacon Employment Services has offered job search assistance free of charge out of its uptown Ganges office. As part of Beacon Community Services, this employment centre serves the residents of the Southern Gulf Islands by providing a variety of resources and programs.

The Resource Centre has computers clients can use for resume and cover letter writing as well as for searching online job sites. It also features a local job board, newspapers, information on post-secondary training, and a reference library. In addition to the resources accessible at the centre, Beacon Employment Services holds regular workshops on job searching and career exploration and employment counsellors are available for one-on-one sessions. Other staff members also assist clients to help them obtain resource information and develop job search skills.

The agency supports other community programs, such as home support, counselling volunteers, and the Thrift Shop.

Penn George and Suzanne Archer would like to welcome you to Beacon Employment Services!  
This project is funded by The Government of Canada.

## Elizabeth Lee

"Say yes to simplicity"  
Elizabeth Lee - Funeral Consultant  
537-1023 (office) • 538-7722 (cell)



As a member of a fourth-generation Salt Spring family, Elizabeth Lee is strongly committed to the island community. As a funeral consultant with two years of experience, Lee offers fellow islanders genuine compassion and honesty to help them during difficult times.

"I enjoy being able to help people at a time when they are very vulnerable and need someone who is there for them, not for a corporation," says Elizabeth. "I will guide people through the process of caring for a deceased loved one themselves, avoiding high costs of funeral homes. Dignity need not come with a high price."

Elizabeth sensitively offers her clients expert advice on topics such as burials, green burials, cremations, funerals and memorials. In addition to offering these services, she can also order grave markers.

Her motto is "Say yes to simplicity," which she incorporates into her business as she helps to simplify difficult decisions for her clients.

In addition to supporting islanders in their time of need, she is a founding member and active supporter of Island Comfort Quilts.



Some members of the Ganges Chapter of the IODE after a recent meeting.

Photo by Catherine Adair

## Margo Greggains

**Owner, Access Care Management**  
607 Vesuvius Bay Rd., Salt Spring Island  
618 - 620 View Street, Victoria  
537-8325 • [accesscare@telus.net](mailto:accesscare@telus.net)



Margo Greggains started Access Care Management because she saw a need for someone to assist people trying to negotiate the often-tricky medical system. After seeing her mother and husband go through cancer care in 2004 and 2005 respectively, Margo realized how confusing and overwhelming it can be to have an illness or disability. She decided to start a service that would help reduce patients' stress. On April 17, Access Care Management opened its doors.

At Access Care, Margo provides reliable assistance and helps her clients understand the health care system. She finds them resources to make their lives easier and saves them time. In doing so, she reduces their worry and increases their families' peace of mind. Because her mom had been across the country when she was so ill, Margo knows how important it is to have professionals nearby to assist both a patient and his or her family members and friends. She is pleased to be able to provide professional care for seniors, cancer patients, and those experiencing a disability.

Margo's deep concern for cancer patients has led her to become the Volunteer Team Chair of the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life on Salt Spring Island, which takes place this June 9 at Portlock Park. She extends an invitation to anyone wanting more information about this fun community event to give her a call.

## Cornelia Krikke

**Owner/Operator**  
Absolutely Salt Spring  
538-0196



Cornelia teaches Ashtanga, Hatha, and special needs yoga from her home studio - Forest Hill Studio (FHS). Small classes with helpful hands-on adjustments facilitate the learning for students. Cornelia's training was at one of Canada's premier Ashtanga studio's, Downward Dog Studio in Toronto.

At FHS she markets her stone carvings and paintings. The art is largely inspired by physical forms and emotional fabrics - resulting in works you want to touch and understand. Prior to arriving on Salt Spring, she would hold an annual art show in Toronto's Yorkville galleries. [www.foresthillstudio.com](http://www.foresthillstudio.com)

For visitors, Cornelia operates a vacation suite - B&B - Absolutely Salt Spring. The spacious suites provide private entrances, patios, and St. Mary Lake views. [www.absolutelysaltspring.com](http://www.absolutelysaltspring.com)

Finally, Cornelia maintains a consulting practice. For over 20 years, she has been involved in the hospitality, tourism, leisure, retirement community, and finance industry in a wide variety of roles. Her experience includes consulting, asset management, finance and operations management for major Canadian and international companies. She was the Director of KPMG's Tourism Advisory practice and an Academic Chair at George Brown College (Toronto). [www.ckrikke.com](http://www.ckrikke.com)

## Perry Ruehlen



**Executive Director**  
Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Info Centre

121 Lower Ganges Road • 537-4223  
[chamber@saltspring.com](mailto:chamber@saltspring.com) • [www.saltspringtourism.com](http://www.saltspringtourism.com)



The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce has been active since 1948 and it continues to be a vibrant networking and advocacy organization in the community. The Chamber offers monthly educational breakfast meetings and women luncheons to give members the opportunity to share information and ideas. It also links local businesses to a variety of benefit plans, including group insurance, phone plans, payroll services, and fuel savings.

A-not-for-profit organization, the Chamber successfully runs the Visitor Info Centre in downtown Ganges. Under the leadership of Executive Director Perry Ruehlen, the Centre employs three summer students and 40 volunteers and sees over 45,000 visitors each year. It is an important hub that connects guests to the island with local businesses. It supports community endeavors such as Canada Day, the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay For Life, and many other committees.

## Ann Ringheim



121 Upper Ganges Road  
537-5571



Ann Ringheim is the General Manager of the Harbour House and has been part of the team for 14 years. During this time she has seen many exciting renovations and additions to the original hotel and property. "We continually upgrade the property to meet our customers expectations, from both locals and visitors alike," says Ann.

The Hotel is open year round, and their banquet rooms are the perfect spot for hosting weddings, family reunions and meetings. Drop by the Restaurant/Lounge for a fabulous meal and beautiful harbour view. It is open daily at 7 am.

Ann is looking forward to being involved in the exciting future plans for the hotel.

## Melinda Divers

**Co-Owner/Operator, B Side Clothing Company and Milestone Landscape Design & Construction Co.**  
121 McPhillips Avenue  
537-2330 • [bside@telus.net](mailto:bside@telus.net)



Like many people on Salt Spring, Melinda Divers has a few jobs. She's a mom and a wife, and co-owns and operates both B Side Clothing Company and Milestone Landscape Design & Construction Co., (formerly Divers Landscape). B Side Clothing, the popular downtown shop that sells the latest trends for teens and others, has been in business for four years and employs two people. It supports youth-oriented charities like Stagecoach Theatre and the Kanaka Skate Park.

Along with managing B Side, Melinda also co-operatively runs Milestone Landscape Design & Construction with her husband, Peter Divers. Having operated as Divers Landscape for the past eight years, Milestone is truly a joint effort between Melinda and Peter; they work on concepts together, and while he manages the job site and their three employees, she completes the planning stage. "I love doing design work," says Melinda, "but I am more practical than just being artistic."

Milestone's goal is to fit the landscape to the needs and personality of each homeowner they work with. Melinda helps her client make sense of the space around the outside of his or her home. "I determine how you would like to utilize your property and design it accordingly," she explains. At the end of the job, each Milestone property is usable, enjoyable, and beautiful.

## Charlene Sharratt



121 Upper Ganges Road  
537-5571



Charlene Sharratt is the Harbour House Hotel's Housekeeping Manager and has been with the hotel for over 11 years. She takes great pride in ensuring rooms are cleaned to the highest standards. She is very pleased with the new ocean view executive rooms. These unique units all have a double Jacuzzi tub, king size bed and covered balcony with cozy fireplace.

In addition to providing the only Audubon Eco-rated Accommodation on Salt Spring Island, the Harbour House Restaurant/Lounge and Liquor Store are all open seven days a week to serve you.

# Beacon Employment Services aids employers and job seekers

By **PENN GEORGE**  
Beacon Employment Services

Working under the umbrella of Beacon Community Services, Beacon Employment Services on Salt Spring Island offers job search assistance for local residents to get their job search on track.

Whether under-employed or unemployed, Beacon Employment Services can assist residents of Salt Spring Island and the other Southern Gulf Islands in their job search challenges through three main

avenues of assistance: resource centre, counselling and workshops.

Our resource centre includes:

- Internet access for job search and Training information.
- Computer access for resumes and cover letter writing.
- A reference library with post-secondary training information, newspapers, a local job board, photocopying and faxing services and phone access.

The resource centre is "self directed," and friendly, helpful staff are available to assist.

Several workshops are held

regularly on topics such as:

- Resume and cover letter writing, career exploration, exploring Salt Spring's labour market and interview skills.

Appointments for one-on-one counselling with the employment counsellor and workshop facilitator is also available.

As well, Beacon Employment Services offers assistance to those looking to hire. This is done through wage subsidy programs for qualified employers. All employers with part time, temporary or full-time job openings can post to our

local job board.

All the above resources and services are offered at no cost to you.

The experienced, friendly and knowledgeable staff look forward to meeting you and assisting you with your job search related concerns.

The office is conveniently located in the Government Building across from the Upper Ganges Centre at 343 Lower Ganges Road, Suite #206. Our hours are 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone 537-5979 or fax at 537-5976.



Pharmasave's Natella Faller is among the majority of Salt Spring women who earn their living as employees.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Janet S. Harvey

**Jin Shin Do® Practitioner**  
**Acupressure Clinic**  
**537-6911**



In today's high-stress society, it is more important than ever to take care of one's health and well being. It is essential to seek ways of slowing down, relaxing and rejuvenating. Often people will seek a health care provider for assistance in achieving a more calm state. Janet Harvey has offered Jin Shin Do® on Salt Spring for the past eight years and recommends it for anyone suffering from day-to-day stress or from a serious illness.

Jin Shin Do® is a gentle therapy – a special form of Acupressure – that is deeply relaxing to the entire muscular and nervous system. Janet outlines its benefits: "This deep tissue therapy is an excellent way to detoxify and rejuvenate your body and it offers long-lasting results." Whether a client has acute pain or a chronic condition, Janet is happy that she has the skills to help. She finds her work very rewarding because she sees instant relief in her clients. "I love my work!" she says.

Janet is pleased that more and more companies are taking an interest in their employees' health and now offers special rates for corporate groups, providing weekly to monthly mini-treatments on-site. She has an information package available – just call for details.

## Sabine Georgy

**Architectural Model Maker**  
**117 Dukes Road • 653-9785**  
**sabine@saltspring.com**



Patience and precision are needed to be a master architectural model-maker. Originally trained in Germany and having worked with a large model-making company in Vancouver, Sabine started her own home-based company when she moved to Salt Spring eight years ago.

Projects range from smaller residential developments and simple wooden block models right up to major subdivisions and high-rise complexes. And business is flourishing!

Working from architectural drawings, Sabine provides her architect and property owners with very detailed 3D models of their projects. Sabine builds the models in wood, plastic and other materials at her well-equipped home workshop. The models are built to scale and the building site is contoured and landscaped to create presentation quality models. The models are then used by Sabine's clients in the process of acquiring building permits or for marketing purposes.

"Each project is different and each has its own challenges. It is gratifying to see a project through from beginning to end. I do everything from ordering materials, cutting and shaping the blocks of wood or plastic to painting, making trees and 'landscaping' the model's building site," says Sabine.

Sabine also runs a small 'bed and make your own breakfast' business; you can check it out at [www.forestloft.com](http://www.forestloft.com).

## Tamar Griggs

**Owner/Operator, Bold Bluff Retreat**  
**653-4377 • email [boldbluff@saltspring.com](mailto:boldbluff@saltspring.com)**  
**[www.boldbluff.com](http://www.boldbluff.com) • 1 Bold Bluff, Salt Spring Island**



Salt Spring Island is known as a relaxing getaway place, but Bold Bluff Retreat is even more of a getaway than the rest of the island. A boat ride away from the wharf at Burgoyne Bay, Tamar Griggs' piece of paradise is the perfect spot to unwind and leave the worries of the world behind. Situated on a stunningly gorgeous piece of land, which stretches from the ocean shore up into the forest, Tamar's homestead was her own personal sanctuary for 30 years before she opened it up to visitors in 1995. "Initially, it was scary to invite strangers in," she says, "but I quickly learned to enjoy and welcome everyone!"

With families and couples returning year after year, Tamar and her three part-time helpers have ample opportunity to get to know the guests. "My life has been enriched by the stories they tell, the fun they have, and the deep satisfaction they derive from soaking up the beauty of Nature in our Island Paradise," says the artist/photographer. She loves all of her interactions with people: the conversations, the teas under the walnut tree, the spontaneous music making, and the friendships she has gained over the years. Tamar especially values the familiarity of the children who visit her, noting how they love to chat with her, bake cookies, or dance to Elvis.

Tamar keeps herself involved in many community projects and environmental and conservation organizations.

## Nomi Lyonns



**334 Cusheon Lake Road**  
**778-999-YOGA (9642)**  
**[info@paradisefoundyoga.com](mailto:info@paradisefoundyoga.com)**

**Paradise Found Yoga**

Paradise Found Yoga, Cusheon Lake, is an oasis of healing and upliftment. Owner Nomi Lyonns, who was blessed to grow up on Salt Spring, shares this little slice o'heaven with people from around the world, facilitating their relaxation, restoration and rejuvenation in a cozy and serene environment.

Focusing on the powerful healing techniques of Kundalini Yoga, Nomi (or Sat Guru as she is known in the yoga community) offers a diverse selection of yoga-based (though not exclusive) retreats, primarily on Salt Spring but also worldwide. Prior retreats have included: Meditation, Silent, Women's, Love & Laughter, Mid-Summer Sanctuary and Absolute Beginners retreats.

Having used and studied a plethora of natural healing modes for more than 25 years, including: cleansing, Feldenkrais, reflexology, Alexander, Sytonics, Reiki, weight & physical fitness training, Nomi is certified internationally to teach Kundalini Yoga and is earning her Master's Degree in Natural Health through Clayton College.

As a performer, Nomi's had to work off island for many years but is thrilled to be able to consolidate her knowledge and share the island lifestyle along with this amazing yogic technology.

Additionally, Nomi both teaches and takes workshops & classes along the West Coast and abroad. She is currently recording yoga video's and mantra CD's.



## Dr. Geri De Stefano-Webre

**Grace Point Psychic**  
**Suite 1206C Grace Point Square**  
**537-1820**  
**[DrPsychic@aol.com](mailto:DrPsychic@aol.com)**



Geris De Stefano-Webre, Ph.D., is a transpersonal therapist and psychic. She specializes in working with people, undergoing life transitions, to facilitate growth, conflict resolution and the creation of a workable, harmonious life. In the last 35 years she has worked with individuals, couples, small and large businesses, Aboriginal groups and collectives using her unique therapeutic/psychic approach. This approach, PsiTherapy® accesses the deeper wisdom within and empowers the client to make real choices especially at phase-of-life transition points.

Dr. Geri offers a variety of services: Psychic readings and Psychic Development Courses, ongoing transpersonal processes, business consultation (primarily interpersonal dynamics), Indigo Child sessions for individuals or families, Adoption issues, Near Death Experiencers Support Group, Spiritual Emergence Support and Program Development/Grant and Proposal writing.

Dr. Geri is an associate of the Spiritual Emergence Network and has been in private practice in the United States and Canada. She has appeared on television and radio and is a presenter at international conferences. She was the founder and Executive Director for 11 years of a pilot program in California providing holistic services for birthmothers choosing open adoption as their parenting plan. She and her husband, Alfred Webre, immigrated to Canada in 1998 and live in Vancouver and Salt Spring Island.

## Gayle LeBlanc

**Office Manager, Salt Spring Lions Club**  
**Production Editor, Lions Directory**  
**103 Bonnet Avenue**  
**537-2000 • [lionsdirectory@telus.net](mailto:lionsdirectory@telus.net)**



This spring marks the 26th year the Salt Spring Lions Club has produced the Lions Directory, the island's main phone book. Gayle LeBlanc, who has been the Production Editor for the past five years, is excited about the new edition, which will be coming out soon. "Producing the Lions Directory is wonderful," she says, "We are proud of the book."

Along with producing the Directory, the local Lions Club also supports the community by donating time and money to various local projects. As the Office Manager for the organization, Gayle works with a staff of three to five (depending on the season) and numerous volunteers to ensure that all of the Lions' activities run smoothly. She enjoys working with the different community groups she meets, including the many business people and newcomers to the island.

A Lion herself, Gayle appreciates the good works done by her organization. She says, "It's very rewarding to put back into the community," pointing out that the group has completed many great projects on Salt Spring and will continue to do many more.

# Support of public education at home and abroad tasks Canadian University of Women group on Salt Spring

By **JOYCE JAMES**  
CFUW President,  
SSI Chapter

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a national organization of women university graduates. Founded in 1919, there are 130 affiliated clubs across Canada. CFUW is a member of the International Federation of University Women, an affiliation of over 60 member nations around the world.

The aims of the organization are to assist in developing and advancing a sound concept of educational values, and in maintaining high standards of public education in Canada for everyone. We encourage the higher education of women, and promote among members an interest in public affairs in the political, social, cultural and scientific fields. We try

to guard and improve the economic, legal and professional status of Canadian women.

Our local club was founded in 1996, and is one of the more active clubs in the country. We award two scholarships a year to female graduates of the Gulf Islands Secondary School, to girls who have been accepted into a university or college for the following September. In order to raise funds for these scholarships we have at least one fundraising event each year. Recently we sponsored a concert -- Welcome Spring -- at Art-Spring, an event which was very much enjoyed by those who attended. We were very lucky to engage two outstanding musicians from Montreal, Van Armenian and Patil Harboyan, who came to Salt Spring after giving a concert in Vancouver.

Last year we undertook our HOPE project, whereby we raise funds for the education of girls through partnership with the Commonwealth Countries

.....  
"We encourage the higher education of women, and promote among members an interest in public affairs in the political, social, cultural and scientific fields."  
.....

League. In some underdeveloped countries a girl has little choice but to leave school and start having babies at an early age, thereby entering a lifetime of poverty. By helping financially we make it possible for some girls to complete

their secondary education and even go on to post-secondary education and a chance of a decent standard of living. We have raised money for this project by holding a Christmas lunch at which we have an auction, a silent auction and a hostess table.

We participate each year in the International Women's Day celebration. Members of about 17 women's groups attend, and it is encouraging to learn how our local women work to promote social justice, support each other in time of need, educate, sing or just get together to have fun.

As a club we meet on the last Saturday of the month from September to May at 10 a.m. at Lions Hall. We have an invited speaker most months, a short business meeting and some social time. Our

speakers recently have included Dr. Elly Silverman, discussing her book "What Women Treasure," Jack Gunn talking about the geology of the island, Lynda Laushway from SWOVA, and Dr. Talitha Strumpfer on osteoporosis. At this meeting we held a Bone China Tea and were able to donate \$500 to the Osteoporosis Society. Later in April we will hear Professor Gerald McCaughey on "English as a Global Language."

One meeting a year is devoted to a discussion on resolutions, which are proposed motions which come to us from various clubs across Canada. They cover topics ranging from early childhood education, care to homeless youth, to enforcement of the Fisheries Act. These are voted on by our club, with the

opportunity to make amendments. Eventually, after voting takes place at the annual national meeting, we are able to further women's and wider causes before parliamentary committees. Things move slowly but we do make a difference.

For our own pleasure and enjoyment we have a variety of interest groups. They include a book club, a French conversation group, an investment group, a genealogy group, several bridge groups, a gourmet dinner club and a travellers' group. These all meet on a regular basis in members' homes.

Our membership at present stands at 60. We always welcome new members. If anyone is interested, please call our membership chair, Lyndsay Mundy at 537-5235 or president Joyce James at 653-4403.

## Kathy Mara

Realtor  
Creek House Realty Ltd.  
164 Fulford-Ganges Road  
Office/Pager (250) 537-5553  
Home (250) 537-8803



A Salt Spring resident of 30 years, Kathy Mara has chosen a career she finds stimulating. Every day is different. She enjoys working with people and finds it interesting and challenging to facilitate the process of both buying and selling.

With a keen interest in home and garden design and a former career in psychiatric nursing, Kathy knows her conscientious and caring attentiveness is an asset to her clients.

 **Creek House Realty Ltd.**  
1-888-608-5553

## Lauren Shipley

Co-owner/Operator, Harlan's Chocolates  
and Salt Spring Gelato Delizioso  
100 Lower Ganges Road • 537-4434



Is there anything better than an ice cream cone on a hot summer day? You bet...gelato. And gelato made by hand with fresh ingredients is absolutely amazing at any time of the year.

In 2002 Lauren, her husband Marck, and their two sons, Michael and Daniel bought Harlan's Chocolates, moved to Salt Spring, and have been loving it ever since. "We wanted to grow the business and felt that something homemade, attractive, and unique would be a great fit for the store and Salt Spring," says Lauren.

Salt Spring Gelato Delizioso has treated islanders to delicious mounds of the wonderful frozen confection and every year the company's owners create new scrumptious flavours.

"I like the challenge of consistently putting out a quality product," notes Lauren who employs seven people in the winter and 12 in the summer.

Salt Spring Gelato is available at the company's retail store, Harlan's Chocolates as well as specialty gelato stores and coffee shops in Tsawwassen and Vancouver Island.

Along with gelato, Harlan's also carry hundreds of different kinds of locally made chocolates as well as a wide variety of European licorices, coffees, teas, specialty hot chocolate, and more.

Lauren and Marck proudly support the Food Bank, Stagecoach School of Performing Arts, Greenwoods, the SPCA, ArtSpring and more.

## Leah McNinch

Salt Spring Refund Centre  
GVM Mall 537-8784



The Bottle Depot has been managed by Leah for six years, taking in Salt Spring Island's bottles, cartons, plastic and glass. It provides a valuable resource for everyone concerned to help keep the global and local environment healthy.

"All ready-to-drink beverage containers, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, are welcome," says Leah, "The Bottle Depot business name is self-explanatory!"

The business has grown steadily as more and more people come to understand that they need to do something as individuals to help the environment.

"I like my job because it's humanitarian - it doesn't take anything away from the environment," she says, "Come in and we'll show you how it's done."

The business is also a benefit to 64 various charities, from AIDS Walk to Water for Africa. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday 9:30am - 4:30pm.

## Pam Miskey

Owner/Operator, La Conciergerie  
537-2186 • p.miskey@telus.net  
<http://saltspring.gulfislands.com/housecleaning>



La Conciergerie is a service created to provide you with the ultimate personal assistant. A concierge is someone who facilitates and organizes your affairs. This type of service has been around since the 1800s although most people think of a concierge as someone in a five star hotel who offers their local knowledge to guests. There has been a shift in the last five years towards making a concierge an affordable and accessible assistant who works with you on a one-to-one basis; La Conciergerie will be your personal contact for home or business.

Pam strives to save you valuable time and remove the hassles and stresses of managing everyday tasks. In this day and age running our personal lives is becoming as hectic as running a business so Pam, who owns and operates No Surprises Housecleaning, decided to expand into the concierge service. La Conciergerie will clean your home, arrange service people, send a gift basket, provide a caterer, or run an errand, to name a few of their personal services. They are the fixers and handlers; they are the people with the contacts to get walls moved, doors opened, and tasks accomplished.

La Conciergerie will provide the resources for management and maintenance of your property in your absence providing competent care and peace of mind. Some of their clients include Microsoft, Shinto-Shine, and many TV producers. "Our continuous commitment to quality and timely service has earned the trust and confidence of our clients," says Pam. Make a good life even better with La Conciergerie.

La Conciergerie supports mental health initiatives.

# Comfort Quilts group demonstrates women's power at its peak

Women's ingenuity, compassion and determination have come together in a highly successful Salt Spring project called Island Comfort Quilts. (ICQ)

ICQ is the Women in Business Gala charity beneficiary and will have a presence and information at the April 27 event.

The second annual ICQ Community Quilting Bee held on March 18 saw more than 175 volunteers — and not just women — pool their time, talent and supplies to make 54 quilts.

Now ICQ is ready to distribute those quilts to any individual suffering from a life-threatening illness or injury. There is no charge whatsoever for receiving a quilt.

ICQ was created by island quilters after group member Carol Simpson received a quilt from an off-island group when she was battling cancer a few years ago. The first quilting bee held in 2005 drew a phenomenal response.

Anyone wanting to request a quilt can simply

leave a message at the ICQ line at 653-2000, including their name and phone number, the recipient's name and phone number and the reason for the request, as well as whether the person needing the quilt is an adult or a child.

Islanders can help ICQ in a number of ways, including through donations of fabric, embroidery thread and cash.

Call the ICQ line (653-2000) or Marguerite Lee at 537-5302 for more information.



From left, Gwen Denluck, Carol Simpson and Bobbi Ruckle hold the fruits of their love and labour at the Community Quilting Bee held last month on Salt Spring.

Photo by Sean McIntyre

## Marie Saint-Pierre



Since 1998, Marie and her team have provided islanders with garden maintenance service. Employing one to four people, depending on the season or the project, Marie offers her clients experienced estate gardening. She believes in respecting each garden's true nature, favouring mindful upkeep over major renovations.

She is known for her warmth and ability to listen to her clients' wishes. Marie is available for consultations and invites new clients to give the Marie Soleil team a call.

## Beth Cherneff

### Flowers by Arrangement

520 Long Harbour Rd.  
537-9252



Beth Cherneff is passionate about flowers! Opening in 1993, Flowers by Arrangement has become an institution for those for whom flowers are one of life's necessities. "My customers are inspired by colour, unusual flower varieties and contemporary design. They expect quality product and outstanding personal service," says Cherneff. Using fresh seasonal flowers or exotic imports, Beth's fine arts and design training have given her the tools to weave the colour and form of flowers into the spectacular and the sublime. Flowers by Arrangement offers a full range of floral designs personalized for your home, corporate events, holiday decor, and weddings. The studio/shop is nestled in a natural garden amphitheatre surrounded by flower beds and the forest beyond. As well as an outstanding collection of vases for arrangements, the rustic building is brimming with accents for the home and garden. Flowers by Arrangement is a proud supporter of ArtSpring and other local arts and community organizations.

## Oona McQuat Roberta Temmel Ayla McIninch Chris Bowen (not in photo)



**Store Co-managers**  
"Transitions" Thrift Store  
#1-144 McPhillips Ave.  
537-0661 • giwrn@island.net

This successful business, owned and operated by Island Women Against Violence (IWAV), is centrally located in downtown Ganges.

All profits from Transitions go to supporting the transition house, counselling and outreach services provided by IWAV to women and children affected by violence and abuse.

Transitions directly supports residents of the Transition House with shopping credits for merchandise.

An amazing group of volunteers, supported by the Store Manager Roberta Temmel are the key to the success of this community-based enterprise.

## Wendy Anderson

Co-owner and Administrator  
Sam Anderson Appliance Repair  
537-5268



Wendy & Sam Anderson have been running their appliance repair business on Salt Spring Island for the past seven years. Sam's strong technical and electronics background gives him the ability to repair any make or type of appliance, but it is Wendy who runs the administrative side of the business. She ensures that the company runs smoothly so that Sam need only focus on the actual repair work. The company offers reliable service at reasonable rates and covers all makes of appliances for warranty work. Appliance repair on the outer islands is also covered with service by boat. Wendy enjoys their family business. "Every day is interesting," she says, "and I enjoy dealing with people." After 20 years living on the island she knows many of her clients personally, but enjoys meeting new people in the course of running the business. When she's not handling Sam's Appliance Repair work, Wendy can be found at Gulf Islands Optical, where she has worked for the last fifteen years, managing the store for the past eight years as a Licensed Optician. "Helping people to see is very satisfying," she says. Sam & Wendy also own and run Lawnhill Lodge. They are both qualified pilots and like to spend their leisure time flying when time and weather will allow. Sam & Wendy support the Salt Spring Island Firefighters as well as Gulf Islands Secondary School activities.

## Kirsty Oliveira

Easy Elegance Events established in 1998  
537-8747 • kirsty@saltspring.com  
www.saltspring.gulfislands.com/Kirsty



As an event coordinator, I organize all sorts of events; family reunions, anniversary parties, birthday parties, or weddings. My specialty is weddings and I am a certified Wedding Coordinator.

I love my work in part because I have always had a talent for organizing people. I enjoy being an integral part of making an event happen smoothly. My favourite moment is when I can finally see the hosts relax and begin to enjoy their party because they know that I have all the details under control. This is the most important part of my job, to ensure that the hosts of the event have nothing more to think of than to enjoy their guests and the atmosphere we have worked so hard to create.

Over the 8 years I have been working on Salt Spring I have been fortunate enough to get to meet a wide variety of vendors, from florists to musicians, caterers to photographers, and I am constantly amazed at the level of talent that lies in many of Salt Spring's inhabitants! I encourage people to use island vendors thereby making it more advantageous for more talented people to move here! The last eight years have been very exciting as my business gets busier and we have more great events coming to the island. I hope that the years ahead will only get busier and better.

## Georgia Taylor

Interior Designer  
537-1014  
georgiataylor@telus.net



After completing her degree in Fine Arts, Georgia Taylor started working in interior design. "I fell into it and stayed in it!" she says enthusiastically. She trained at both the Ontario College of Art and the University of British Columbia before working in both Vancouver and England.

With a keen eye for what is possible in any given space and a great ability to turn her clients' wishes into reality, Georgia is a natural at interior design. She is passionate about her work: "It's a creative and people-oriented business," she says. She loves seeing how happy her clients are when they see her finished work, be they high-end corporate clients, international or Canadian clients.

Now, after having lived on Salt Spring for the past year and a half, she is excited about serving her local community full-time. Georgia Taylor supports the Salt Spring Conservancy and ArtSpring.

## Jennifer Brabant

**Jen's Home Improvements**  
134 Benton Place  
538-1637 or 537-6942 (cell)



"My business is home renovations - everything from framing to finishing," says Jennifer Brabant, proprietor of Jen's Home Improvements, "I learned my trade from my father, and served three of my four year apprenticeship under his supervision, and then completed my apprenticeship with 1 year of college."

Jennifer specializes in all aspects of home renovation, particularly cabinet-making and tile-setting. She loves her work. She went into business for herself because she enjoys the challenge and the independence that comes with running her own company. "I really like working with my hands - there's such a feeling of accomplishment I get when the job is done."

Jennifer has been in business on Salt Spring for 8 years, and she has one employee. She is a proud supporter of the Cancer Society.

## Barbara McCully

**salt spring internet**

local, dependable internet

**www.saltspringinternet.com 538-0052**



Salt Spring Internet is a full service internet service provider (ISP) and offers dialup and high speed ADSL connections to the net as well as web design and web hosting services. Barbara McCully started the company in 2003, having been previously employed as an internet specialist for one of Canada's largest ISPs.

Barbara understands the frustrations many face here on the island with a slow connection to the internet. "I would like to see ADSL offered to all areas of Salt Spring," she says. As a small business owner herself, Barbara knows it is a necessity for the numerous people who work from their homes to be able to access and send information quickly through the internet. Salt Spring Internet offers personalized service at affordable prices.

On the way to becoming an internet specialist, Barbara has taught computer and internet-related skills to assist people seeking employment. Her previous volunteer work has included the SPCA, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, The Disabilities Coalition and the library. These days, Barbara supports the Arthritis Society and other local charities.

In Barbara's typically congenial style, she says, "Keeping up with technology can be difficult; hopefully we can make the journey a little easier."

## Dr. Teresa Strukoff, B.Sc., N.D.

**Naturopathic Physician**  
**The Salt Spring Health Centre**  
130 McPhillips Avenue  
537-3220



Dr. Strukoff's interest in health and healing began with walks in the woods gathering herbs and gardening with her herbalist grandmother. Dr. Strukoff offers naturopathic family care to people of all ages with concerns both acute and chronic in nature. Her aim is to keep them in the best health possible so they can have the energy, stamina and resistance to live more joyfully and fully.

Dr. Strukoff's treatments are practical and individualized, drawing from an array of naturopathic modalities including, but not limited to Nutrition, Biotherapeutic Healing and Drainage, Homeopathy, Herbal Medicine, Cranial Sacral, and Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture. A new treatment offered this year is Mesotherapy for pain and esthetics.

Allergies, Anxiety, Autoimmune Disease, Arthritis, Childhood Illness, Cold/ Flu, Cardiovascular concerns, Digestive Distress, Diabetes, Headaches, Healthy Aging, Hormone Imbalance, Mood problems, Skin Disorders, Weight Management... are some of the conditions which may be helped by natural therapeutics.

Dr. Teresa Strukoff holds a B.Sc. in Kinesiology, and a High School Teaching Certificate. She is a licensed Naturopathic Physician with a 4-year degree from the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, and is a member of the BCNA and CAND. Happy to be living on Salt Spring Island for four years she enjoys gardening, kayaking and hiking.

## Leah Woods



**Choices**  
CLOTHING STORE

107 McPhillips Ave. • 537-1115



Leah Woods is the owner of Choices, an organization with 5 employees. For the past 15 years, Choices has been providing services for adults with special needs.

Choices has two main strands of work. Firstly, there is a day program, funded by Community Living of B.C. This program provides the vital function of community integration for Choices' clients. Second, Choices operates a clothing store, which acts as a training centre for clients, enabling them to develop important job skills.

"We sell great women's casual clothing to suit all ages," says Leah.

"Keep your eye out for our new spring lines, Hilltribe (linens, cotton doby) and MountainFolk Ltd. (cotton)."

Leah's business also supports local charitable groups as well as the Special Olympics.

## Oni Freeman, MA, MFT

**Psychotherapist and Group Facilitator**  
537-7476  
roni@saltspringwireless.com



With a keen interest in the psyche, Oni Freeman can't imagine not being a Psychotherapist. "I've always examined my inside world and found Psyche to be the most compelling arena," she says. For over four years, she has extended this passion to clients on Salt Spring through the various facets of her professional practice: individual counseling, women's groups, and sandplay therapy.

In individual sessions, Oni uses psychodynamic analytic therapy with an emphasis on empathy and self-acceptance to help her clients move forward in their lives. "It's gratifying to help people find their own strength and resources," she says. In her group work Oni holds the structure, but encourages the group members to use their own wisdom and experience to help one another. She hopes to add more groups to her practice. In Sandplay therapy, a special expressive arts therapy, Oni guides the participant as he or she uses miniatures and things from nature to create a world that expresses their inner life. Oni enjoys her work and says, "Believe it or not, it's fun!"

Oni Freeman supports SOLID, Copper Kettle, and the Red Cross.

## Kelly Waters



**Graphic Designer,**  
**Barnyard Grafix Inc.**  
700 Upper Ganges Road  
537-1897 • bgrafix@telus.net  
www.barnyardgrafix.com



Like many who live on Salt Spring, Kelly Waters moved here partly to express her creativity. For the past decade she has been happiest when producing dynamic, colourful designs using the latest computer software tools available. "I admit it - I'm a computer geek," she laughs. Since last September, Kelly has worked as a Graphic Designer at Barnyard Grafix Inc. She thoroughly enjoys her career and is pleased to be able to earn a living doing what she loves best.

Kelly also appreciates the people she works with: another talented Graphic Designer and a Printer with 40 years' experience. "We have a lot of fun while we work," she says. Whether she is developing a logo or designing a business card, rack card, sign, brochure or website, Kelly is proud of her creations, which are all custom-made and tailored to the individual client. She likes seeing a project through from conception to the finished product. "It's so gratifying to see my work coming right off the press," she says, noting that Barnyard Grafix runs the only full-colour offset press on the island.

Along with feeding her own passion, Kelly values being able to help her clients bring their vision to life. And she knows she's in the right business when she gets stopped at the grocery store to take a compliment from a very happy recipient of one of her designs!

## Shari Macdonald

**Photographer**  
537-1152  
sharim@uniserve.com



Sixteen years ago Shari cycle-toured onto Salt Spring Island, picked up her camera, laid down her panniers and never looked back. "I was drawn to the beauty of the natural environment and by my desire to live with a greater sense of community." A native of Toronto, Shari honed her 'eye' while living there, with several varied and invaluable photography-based work experiences which have helped to provide the foundation for her present photography business.

Of her work Shari says, "Photography has been a lifelong passion. I love the creative challenge of trying to find a fresh perspective on common, everyday objects or moments; to tease out the poetry - or 'essence', as I perceive it in them." Her specialties are wide ranging and include art photography, CD, book and magazine covers, calendars, brochures and other promotional materials, portraits, pets, gardens, architecture...The list is long; the talent unmistakable.

After spending several years developing a unique line of greeting cards, Shari is now focusing more of her energy on assignment shooting. Her most recent project is a photo retrospective for the Tree House Cafe that includes over 70 framed images of staff, musicians, and local clientele. Shari's work is on display and can be purchased at Galleons Lap Photography, the Waterfront Gallery, Artcraft, both Tree House Cafes, and Salt Spring Books.

Shari Macdonald Photography supports the Land Conservancy, the Lorna Cameron Huntington's Support Society and various local fundraisers. In her spare time Shari can be found drinking lattes with friends while procrastinating going for a run. Her twelve-year old daughter, Kai, keeps her young at heart.

## Muzz Wyatt

**Co-Owner/Operator, Flowers & Wine**  
160 Fulford-Ganges Rd in Creekhous  
537-2829



Having followed a career in business administration all her working life, Muzz Wyatt needed a new challenge before retiring. She and her husband Alan bought Flowers and Wine last fall and have never regretted their decision.

"Working with flowers is so uplifting," says Muzz, "No matter what the occasion, you are trying to make someone happy - and who can resist flowers?"

When the Wyatts first bought the business, Muzz was apprehensive about the flower arranging side of things. "It is one thing to be an avid gardener, but to create formal arrangements is quite another." However, she worked with past owners Lucille and Linda for a month and is extremely grateful for all the help and hints they passed on. She is constantly on the lookout for a new approach, a breakaway from the traditional bouquet and enjoys trying something different. With Mother's Day on the horizon, Flowers & Wine will be offering packages that include flowers as well as Enchanted Meadow aromatherapy products and Eternal flame candles.

Flowers and Wine also has a large number of customers buying wine and beer kits, as well as gifts. Finding new lines in giftware is fun and creating a window to tempt customers is a creative challenge. Although working six days a week is a stretch sometimes, Muzz says she has never looked back. "Every day brings a smile and I try to pass it on!"

## Julie MacKinnon

Potter

**Julie MacKinnon Ceramics**  
805 Long Harbour Road  
537-2100 • info@jmacceramics.com  
www.jmacceramics.com



During an evening pottery class 13 years ago Julie MacKinnon fell in love with clay. She decided right then and there that she wanted to be a full-time potter. "I had no idea what I was getting into at the time because I was running a Landscape Design firm," she says. After many residencies (including one in England), a two-year apprenticeship with local potter Gary Cherneff, and a three-year diploma from the Kootenay School of the Arts (KSA) in Nelson, Julie was ready to start her own business and last November she opened Julie MacKinnon Ceramics, a home studio-gallery down Long Harbour Road.

Julie's work is highly acclaimed, having earned her a BC Art Council Scholarship to KSA, a grant from the Gulf Islands Council of Arts and Crafts, an award from the Craft Association of BC, and a place in a show of top graduating design students of BC at The Craft House on Granville Island. Her pieces range from the classical to the whimsical while always remaining gallery quality. Currently, Julie's work can be seen at her own gallery on the Studio Tour, at the Saturday Market, and at The Craft House.

Last fall Julie started teaching pottery students. "I really love teaching – it's incredible and so inspiring!" she says. And her students love working with her energetic and fun style. Julie plans on teaching a variety of workshops to children and adults this summer. "I just love my students – they are so terrific!" says Julie.

## Marlie Kelsey & Andrea LeBorgne



**Area Manager & Representative**  
www.welcomewagon.ca

**Marlie 537-8845 or Andrea 537-8464**



Celebrating its 76th Anniversary in Canada this year, Welcome Wagon has been welcoming newcomers, new babies and newly engaged couples on Salt Spring Island for over 20 years.

Marlie Kelsey began her association with Welcome Wagon in the early 1990's as a basket sponsor and became the local representative in 1992. In 2003 Marlie became the Area Manager for the Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and Powell River.

Andrea LeBorgne joined Welcome Wagon as Salt Spring's Representative in February 2005. An Islander since 2001, Andrea enjoys meeting and greeting people and providing this valuable service for fellow Islanders.

Salt Spring won Welcome Wagon's "Community of the Year" award in 2002 and has maintained three of the most successful baskets in Canada. "We have terrific local business sponsors who are very dedicated and provide wonderful gifts for the basket recipients," reports Marlie. "People are thrilled to receive their Welcome Wagon Visit, which includes civic information along with the greetings and gifts from the sponsors," adds Andrea. A variety of local charities are included with the civic information provided by the representative. Andrea believes this is a great way to inform people about the groups and opportunities for getting involved with the community.

## Penny Sakamoto

Publisher

**Gulf Islands Driftwood**  
328 Lower Ganges Road  
537-9933



Penny Sakamoto has been publisher of The Driftwood community newspaper for just over two years but has been in the newspaper business throughout Canada and the U.S. for her entire career.

The Driftwood celebrates its 46th year in 2006 and continues to serve the community with its weekly paper and the new quarterly magazine called Aqua.

"We launched the Women in Business special section three years ago and this will be the second year for the Gala Event," she said. "We've heard back from the participants it is a great way for women to get together, network and do business."

The annual event now features an afternoon workshop featuring noted author Linda Popov of The Virtues Project and evening key note speaker Pam Marchant of Island Savings Credit Union.

If you have a comment for The Driftwood, please call Penny at 537-9933 or email at: psakamoto@gulfislands.net

## Gail Sjuberg

Editor, Gulf Islands Driftwood

328 Lower Ganges Road  
537-9933 • news@gulfislands.net



Gail Sjuberg has been the managing editor of the Driftwood since October of 2003, after spending the previous 13 years as a member of the newspaper's editorial department.

She is responsible for all Driftwood content, except the advertisements, and the editorial innards of the company's various supplements.

Besides liaising with freelance writers and columnists, Gail leads a department consisting of reporters Mitchell Sherrin and Sean McIntyre, photographer Derrick Lundy and former editor Susan Lundy, who now handles the paper's editorial layout.

Sjuberg loves being "in the know" about Salt Spring happenings and talking to islanders about what concerns and consumes them. Each week the building of a newspaper proceeds with a familiar rhythm but vastly different elements, making it a fresh and exciting process each time.

After working hard at the office or out in the community, she treasures home life with her partner Michael and daughter Chloe. Gail has lived on Salt Spring Island since 1985.

## Tracy Stibbards

**Sales Representative,**  
**Gulf Islands Driftwood**  
328 Lower Ganges Road  
537-9933 • tstibbards@gulfislands.net



Tracy Stibbards has always been one to take risks and step up to a challenge. So it is no surprise that after a year at The Driftwood as a full-time sales representative, Tracy has come into her own.

This dynamic career path suits her outgoing personality perfectly and has given Tracy a whole new set of skills. Her job includes assisting local businesses market their goods and services in the newspaper plus the special pages and supplements The Driftwood produces.

Not only does she have the opportunity to meet and work with her clients, she also must work closely with The Driftwood's Production team to create interesting and creative ads. Her friendliness and ability to multi-task serve her well in her new position and Tracy takes pride in her work. "I'm enjoying my new position," she says. "It's a good fit."

Tracy, who has lived on Salt Spring for 35 years, is a mother of two sons. Her passions include homeopathy, photography, horses, and dancing.

## Andrea Rabinovitch

**The Driftwood Newspaper**  
**Advertising Sales Representative**  
537-9933 • 1-877-537-9934  
arabinovitch@gulfislands.net



Since moving to laid back Salt Spring 2 1/2 years ago from Edmonton, Alberta, Andrea has found full time employment that totally suits her type-A driven, goal oriented personality. As the newest member of the sales team at The Driftwood, her learning curve is high but the adrenalin rush of the newspaper industry suits her to a T. She enjoys the daily camaraderie of her colleagues, the creativity of creating ads that improve business for her clients, and the challenge of sales.

As an arts reporter for The Driftwood and Aqua magazine, she enjoys sharing her close to thirty years in the arts world as a writer, educator, director, choreographer, dramaturge and administrator.

This mother of two also heads up the Stagecoach School of Performing Arts Dance Program and teaches hip-hop, modern and ballet as well as independently-run adult and teen dance classes. Last year she taught Physical Theatre at the Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria.

She sits on the Gulf Islands Community Arts Councils' Artist in Classroom Committee and volunteers at her boys' school, Fernwood Elementary, and for Stagecoach.

## Eva Kuhn

**Office Manager**  
**Gulf Islands Driftwood**  
328 Lower Ganges Road  
537-9933 • driftwood@gulfislands.net



When you walk in the door or call The Driftwood office, Office Manager Eva Kuhn is more than likely the one who greets you. Along with two other administrative staff Claudia French and Marit McBride, the administrative team fields an average of 800 phone calls every week answering your questions, inputting classified advertisements, organising and updating accounts, and sorting newspaper subscriptions.

Eva joined The Driftwood in 2004 and has been a welcome addition with her fine-tuned organisation skills and attention to detail. Before moving to Salt Spring with her husband and young daughter, Eva worked in Germany as a computer programmer and later as an office administrator for an electronic wholesale company.

Eva is happy with her life style choice and spends her free time with her family finishing their eco-friendly home. Eva supports the Salt Spring Centre School and the Canadian Christian Children's Fund.



Lorraine Sullivan



Kaye Segee



Emma Yardley

Not many people who open up The Driftwood every week know that every image on every page has been created, arranged, and enhanced by the Production Department. With Production Manager Lorraine Sullivan and designers Kaye Segee and Emma Yardley, this department produces over 200 advertisements for weekly publishing in The Driftwood plus hundred more for The Gulf Islander, the monthly Real Estate Magazine and a number of other supplements.

Lorraine began working at The Driftwood 15 years ago, and with a two year hiatus designing at Monday Magazine in Victoria, she is back leading the production team. Lorraine organises the weekly paper and subsequent supplements so that the process from concept to creation to publication is as smooth as possible. She also maintains The Driftwood's web page www.gulfislands.net, which has been nominated for a provincial award.

Kaye has over 30 years newspaper experience, including working as a desktop publisher. Kaye and her teenage son settled on Salt Spring over a year and half ago and she began working full-time at The Driftwood. Her artistic talents and valuable input have made Kaye an integral member of this team.

Emma joined the production department in January 2005 as a production assistant and proof reader, fielding the hundreds of production related phone calls each week. Showing an aptitude for graphic design, she began training last fall in the design software and now works full-time creating the classified pages each week. Emma will be going to journalism school in Halifax this fall and will miss