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Summer's Best




UP AND ON: Salt Spring FC soccer player Chris Jason gets his head on the ball as teammate Tom McCole also jumps into the air during the local squad's final match Monday against Belmont.
 Photo by John Cameron

Seven straight wins for FC soccer team

Toughest year yet, say the players

By **SEAN MCINTYRE**
 Driftwood Reporter

During half time at Monday's championship match, there remained some doubt if the highly coveted Challenge Cup would remain on the island.

But second-half dominance by Salt Spring FC made sure it wasn't going anywhere — at least for another year.

Salt Spring's 3-1 victory over Belmont on the Gulf Islands Secondary School field Monday afternoon may have marked the team's seventh consecutive victory, but that didn't mean it came easy.

"It may be the seventh year in a row, but this was the toughest year yet," said defenceman Chris Jason after the match.

Finishing round-robin play with a record of 0-1-4, the Salt Spring squad just barely managed to qualify for the final after a tightly contested 3-2 shoot-out victory against the Rovers.

Despite Salt Spring's lacklustre round-robin record, the first regulation time goal scored against the team didn't come until early in the final match.

The goal not only served as a wake-up call but, according to Jason, it kept the team focussed during a spring rainstorm that had players struggling to maintain their footing and remain on the ball.

With time running out in the first half, Salt Spring's Gordie Akerman floated a well-received pass beyond the keeper, tying up the match before the half.

Non-stop action from one side of the field to the other kept the 100 fans oblivious to the pouring rain and took a punishing toll on the visiting team.

"We absolutely killed them in the second half," said Jason. "They were a heavier set team and it looked like their legs just gave out in the second half."

With the rain continuing to fall and the Belmont boys appearing increasingly flat-footed and frustrated, Joe Akerman scored what would be the winning goal on a seemingly harmless shot that drifted beyond the keeper's grasp. Salt Spring keeper Chris Griffiths stifled any late-game attempts to tie up the game and a late goal from Gordie Akerman thwarted Belmont's attempt to snatch victory from the reigning champs.

CHALLENGE CUP A3

Salt Spring job boom worries local employers

By **SEAN MCINTYRE**
 Driftwood Reporter

Salt Spring Island restaurateur Barry Kazakoff spent last week posting "wanted" signs and there's now a \$300 reward for those who can answer the call.

During a break from kitchen duty at one of his busy Ganges restaurants, Kazakoff explained how the current labour shortage has forced him, like many other employers on the island, to get creative when it comes to finding help.

In response to a shortage

of kitchen staff, Kazakoff has offered a \$300 recruiting bonus to any of his employees (not just anyone on the island) who can attract additional workers for the summer tourist season.

So far there hasn't been any takers.

"I could hire between eight and 10 full-time employees right now and pay them competitive wages," he said. "I just can't find them, anywhere."

Unemployment figures released by Statistics Canada in April placed the national

unemployment rate at 6.3 per cent and the provincial level is sitting at 4.4 per cent — the lowest in 32 years. Rates in the Capital Regional District (CRD) are among the lowest in the country at 3.9 per cent.

For Kazakoff, the shortage means he's had to spend more time than ever working in the kitchen while training the few newcomers he's seen walk through the door.

And the shortage hasn't been limited to the restaurant industry, he said. Several employees have left to

pursue work in other trades, such as plumbing, landscaping and construction in the past few weeks alone.

"Things are very competitive on Salt Spring right now," he said. "The employees are definitely in a power position."

A brief glance over the Driftwood's help wanted section reveals a significant increase in the number of jobs to choose from. Roughly 14 Salt Spring employers posted help wanted ads in the May 17, 2005 edition of the Driftwood (exclud-

ing babysitting/house-sitting requests), while 29 did so in last week's paper, and more than half of those needed more than one person.

At the Beacon Community Services (BCS) employment centre on Lower Ganges Road, resource advisor Penn George said the winter and early spring have traditionally seen more people seeking work since employers cut back on staff when fewer tourists visit the island.

This year, the labour short-

EMPLOYER WOES A3

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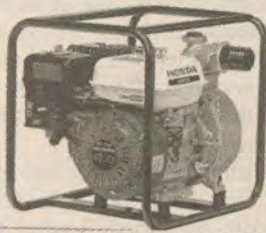
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	WE	09:47	0.8	2.6	SA	11:37	0.1	0.3
		17:15	2.8	9.2		20:05	3.4	11.2
		21:17	2.3	7.5	28	00:33	2.9	9.5
	25	02:56	3.2	10.5	SU	04:23	3.1	10.2
	TH	10:22	0.4	1.3		12:17	0.1	0.3
		18:19	3.1	10.2		20:53	3.4	11.2
		22:19	2.6	8.5	29	01:44	2.9	9.5
	26	03:21	3.2	10.5	MO	04:59	3.1	10.2
	FR	10:58	0.2	0.7		12:59	0.1	0.3
		19:14	3.3	10.8		21:40	3.5	11.5
		23:24	2.8	9.2	30	02:59	2.9	9.5
					TU	05:33	2.9	9.5
						13:42	0.3	1.0
						22:25	3.4	11.2

Library sets sights on debt-free land

By GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood Editor

For Salt Spring residents passionate about building a new library in Ganges village, now is the time to express themselves by donating to the library association's "site purchase campaign."

Last November, 54.7 per cent of voters authorized the Capital Regional District (CRD) to borrow up to \$600,000 to purchase the lot next door, which secured it for an expanded potential library site on McPhillips Avenue.

But if some or all of those funds can be raised without going through the CRD's long-term borrowing process, the next phase of work to get a new library can begin and the overall cost will be less.

"It will save us all a lot of money if we can pay off the property's cost at the outset," said site purchase campaign advocate and island writer

Charles Kahn last week.

The Salt Spring Public Library Association has a big jump on its goal with some \$80,000 of the \$600,000 already donated (including a good chunk from property vendors Lee and Mary Ann McColl).

The library association and Friends of the Library aim to raise the rest of the funds by the end of July, before the CRD is locked into a 15-year Municipal Finance Authority loan that cannot be prepaid.

Kahn and library board chair Duncan Hepburn emphasize the site purchase campaign will be their group's only public appeal for donations when it comes to building the new library, until the furnishings are needed.

Building funds will be derived from infrastructure grants and property tax support, if approved through a referendum.

If voters don't like the

facility eventually proposed — or its cost to taxpayers — they can vote against the plan in a referendum that could occur in the fall of 2007 at the earliest. (If a referendum failed, the property would be sold and proceeds directed to a future library in an alternate location.)

But at least if the land is paid for — or a substantial part of its total cost — research on facility details and grant funding acquisition can begin in earnest.

"We should be able to get grants for the Salt Spring Archives, too," added Hepburn, noting the archives will also move to the new library.

The plan sees a new Mary Hawkins Memorial Library constructed on both its existing site and the adjacent lot. Because the Library Act stipulates library associations cannot hold land, the property will be owned by the CRD, with the library leased to and operated by the

Salt Spring Public Library Association.

The Ganges library is an extremely well-used facility, with 5,500 people currently holding library cards.

Donation forms for the site purchase campaign are available at the library and other island locations.

Charitable receipts are issued for donations of \$10 or more, and all donors will be formally recognized, if they so desire.

"We're hoping large donors will contribute to it," said Kahn, who was co-chair of last year's successful Mount Erskine purchase campaign led by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

However, every little bit will add up and cut the cost of borrowing in the long term. For information, contact Hepburn at 653-4949 (or Duncan3@saltspring.com) or Friends of the Library chair Pat Byrne (537-4258 or pat@salt-spring.com).

Black heads up library campaign

The Salt Spring library's site purchase campaign already has some high-profile support.

Famous writer and radio-TV personality Arthur Black, who recently won his third Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, has taken on the role of honorary campaign chairman.

"Our library is the only free public meeting place in Ganges," the Salt Spring

resident said last week.

"It's a heck of a resource for almost everyone on the island — from writers like me who are always looking up weird stuff to those who just need to check their e-mail.

"You'll find people of all ages in the building — working, researching, reading, meeting, or just relaxing. But the building is tired — and bulg-

ing at the seams."

"It was fine 40 years ago when the island's population was only 2,200 and the only resource was books. Times have changed.

"And it's time we had a building that can cope with the many new technologies and the multitude of needs of the 10,000 or so people who live on Salt Spring today."

Multi-store shoplifter arrested Friday

Staff followed a male suspect out of their Ganges store Friday morning after a rash of shoplifting incidents from three local businesses.

A 21-year-old Victoria male was arrested and found in possession of several of the stolen items.

The man faces three charges of theft and was placed on conditions not to be on Salt Spring Island. He will attend court in Victoria in June.

RCMP REPORT

- A house sign, oval in shape, approximately 12 x 14 inches, made of natural cedar with the numbers "124" in green, black and white was taken from a local residence on Thursday.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Salt Spring RCMP.

- A 24-hour driving prohibition was issued to a 17-year-old male who was stopped late Friday night while driving without adequate vehicle lighting. Further investigation revealed

he had only a learner's licence, did not have a qualified supervisor with him and had an odour of liquor on his breath.

- An unlocked vehicle was taken from Moby's parking lot Saturday evening while the owners were inside.

On Monday, the vehicle owner received information that her vehicle had been located in a driveway on Upper Ganges Road.

There was no damage to the exterior of the vehicle, but it appears all contents of the vehicle were removed.

The vehicle has been seized by police and the incident is still under investigation.

- A Sunday evening foot

patrol by Salt Spring RCMP at the Gulf Islands Secondary School soccer field as the weekend tournament was breaking up resulted in a 20-year-old male being arrested for being drunk in a public place.

He was detained until sober.

- A 17-year-old female driver was fortunate to sustain only minor injuries after she lost control of her vehicle travelling westbound on a wet Vesuvius Bay Road, overcorrected and went off the road to the right, then hit the ditch, causing the vehicle to roll over.

The vehicle sustained severe damage and was towed from the scene.

Hazardous waste accepted June 4

The Capital Regional District has confirmed that Sunday, June 4 is the day for a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event at the Salt Spring Recycling Depot.


Pesticides, varnishes, batteries, cleaners and paints and anything with the "flam-

mable, poisonous, corrosive or explosive" symbols are examples of the kinds of materials accepted on that date only from residents (not commercial businesses).

All items should be in sealed and labelled containers.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone with questions about what will be accepted should call the Salt Spring Recycling Depot at 537-1200 or the CRD hotline at 1-800-663-4425 (extension 3030).



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CHALLENGE CUP

From Page A1

The honour for most valuable player went to Jimmy Severn, the Salt Spring player also credited with what tournament organizer Malcolm Legg called the prettiest goal of the tournament against Juan de Fuca.

Legg confirmed this would be his final year behind the event because he plans to concentrate efforts on the youth tournament held in early May.

He said he couldn't have asked for a better way to conclude his years helping to organize what has become an island soccer world institution involving 36 teams, more than 500 players and hundreds of participants from across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

"This is one of the best tournaments around," said Legg, following the Monday afternoon awards ceremony. "Even in this group, Salt Spring Island just managed to sneak in."

Other Salt Spring teams registered in the tournament — the women's Div.-2 Selects and Div.-3 Dragons



STILL ON TOP: Salt Spring FC players give a cheer and hold their various trophies after winning the Challenge Cup soccer tournament for the seventh consecutive year on Monday. Photo by Derrick Lundy

and the men's Div.-5 squad managed to place competitively in the middle of their respective packs. Some, like the Division five men's squad and the women's Selects

team just missed making the final round by a single-point while others felt it appropriate to stick with tradition.

In keeping with their reputation as receptive hosts, the

Salt Spring Old Boys squad failed to pick up a victory and rounded out the standings in last place.

"Now that's a tradition I quite like," said Legg.

EMPLOYER WOES

From Page A1

age has not only resulted in more job postings but in lucrative offers and numerous incentives.

Despite the surge, BCS remains concerned about youth at risk.

George said BCS has various programs to assist them in securing training, paid work experience or needed skill development.

For most youth, the lure of off-island employment is strong, which only adds to local employers' woes.

Kevin Marks' Salt Spring painting company employs five people and he could

use several more, but a lack of accommodation on Salt Spring makes it difficult to hire more help.

In the end, the shortage is cutting into his bottom line.

"I can't get through the volume of work without the additional manpower and can't service customers as efficiently as I used to," he said.

"We have an issue here and we need a solution."

According to Marks, problems the island is seeing today stem from longer-range problems that originated well before the

unemployment rate began to plummet.

Provincial government cutbacks to trades programs and the lack of any long-term vision to house island workers have taken their toll.

Marks said more needs to be done to create a usable affordable housing plan to curb the tide of people he and other employers have had to begin importing from Vancouver Island.

Not only do workers commuting to the island every day contribute less to the island's economy, they do not get the opportunity to par-

ticipate in the community.

Because it costs money to import workers, Marks added, consumers ultimately foot the bill.

"I don't know how we can maintain the services we are used to without younger people," he said. "Do we want to be left with a community of visitors?"

Gypsy moth tent traps pitched

The next stage of Salt Spring's gypsy moth control program unfolded on Saturday when some 50 volunteers assembled 2,700 pheromone traps at the Farmers Institute.

Several people worked over the lunch hour into the second "shift," assembling the traps in record time.

"I was worried for a while there," said volunteer coordinator Leslie Wallace. "It was harder getting people out now that we're into the nicer weather."

Wallace stressed that not

being overhead sprayed next year or any other year depends on Salt Spring's ability as a community to implement the alternate gypsy moth control plan.

Mass trapping of male gypsy moths is the centerpiece of a made-on-Salt Spring alternate gypsy moth control plan that started with the egg mass hunt in March, said Wallace.

The plan's next phase — placement of the traps along a grid created by the Ministry of Forests — will require a large contingent of

volunteers. Traps will be set out once the ground spraying in the Lee's Hill area is complete.

The second round of ground spraying was scheduled for May 23-24 (except in the case of rain) with the final round set for nine or 10 days later.

Wallace estimates it will take two to three weeks for teams of volunteers to put all of the traps in place.

For more information and to add your name to the volunteer list, contact Leslie at law@saltspring.com.

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Transfer station help offered

Despite opposition from residents, competitors and fellow committee members, the Salt Spring Island Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SSISWAC) passed a motion to help relocate a Lee Hill transfer station to Rainbow Road.

Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman moved that SSISWAC, "encourage the Islands Trust and the CRD to work with the Lee Hill operator to find an alternative location for the transfer station."

During the heated debate that followed the motion at the May 8 meeting, SSISWAC member Dietrich Luth opposed the motion, suggesting that it offered "quasi condoning" of the existing operation on Lee Hill.

And SSISWAC's Sheri Nielsen also opposed the motion and asked, "Does Laurie [Hedger] want our help?"

"The Islands Trust and CRD are going out of their way to help a site that should never have been there in the first place," said John Ellacott of Salt Spring Garbage Services Ltd., which competes with Hedger's operation.

But Islands Trust representative and SSISWAC member George Ehring indicated that the courts had already decided that the waste transfer station could continue at Lee Hill.

"The Trust position is that this land is being used properly and the CRD has taken the position that this business has a licence," he said.

The committee considered correspondence from Lee Hill residents, who with some members of the committee were urging a re-opening of the question on the site's legality, said Holman.

"No one disagrees that the reason that operation is there is because of its legal non-conforming status. No one disagrees that if the slate was blank today, that you wouldn't locate a transfer station there."



OFF WITH THE HAIR: Fire captain Dale Lundy pays \$20 to help shave fire chief Dave Enfield's head as firefighter Fiona Foster looks on. The fundraising event helped raise money for the fire department's Relay For Life team.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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Crystal meth meeting will aim to promote on-island prevention

Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) hopes a Thursday workshop will give island teens and their parents the knowledge they need to prevent crystal meth addiction before it's too late.

According to Carolyn Flam, a youth drug and alcohol outreach worker with SSICS, just because the drug is less prevalent here than in neighbouring communities doesn't mean the drug will spare the island.

"The whole point is to not wait until it is a problem," said Flam.

"It's the same as any illness, we can wait until people get cancer or we can talk about diet and poor habits and promote prevention."

The youth-centred event, which takes place at the Core Inn between 5 and 7:30 p.m., will feature two short films produced by former addicts in Victoria and Seattle, followed by a discussion session

led by SSICS counsellors.

"We are seeking community input primarily from the island's youth to discuss prevention strategies, but parents are welcome too," Flam said.

The meeting is also a "stepping-stone event" held to gather information in preparation for a crystal meth summit in September.

On the street, crystal methamphetamine is more commonly called speed, jib, crank or ice. It is distributed as a capsule, powder, or in chunks resembling pieces of ice. Potential side effects include sleeplessness, hyperactivity, nausea, delusions of power and extreme anger, and longer-term users often sustain chronic heart, liver, kidney and lung damage.

Between 1999 and 2003, deaths from meth use in British Columbia rose from zero to 12.

In the four months Flam has worked as a counsellor

with SSICS, she said, island teens have shown a high level of responsibility and maturity when it comes to issues surrounding drug and alcohol abuse.

"The kids seem pretty aware and want to protect our community as much as I do," she said, hoping for a strong turnout by middle and high school students. "They are interested in getting information from me for the same reason I'm interested in handing it out."

The event comes three months after the provincial government announced \$8 million in additional funding for crystal meth addiction prevention and counselling services.

Although the Core Inn event does not start until 5 p.m., doors open at 2 p.m. Free pizza, beverages and popcorn will be served.

For more information, contact Carolyn Flam at 537-8072.

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Bus drivers drop off safety reminder

As if taking responsibility for a busload of children wasn't enough, Salt Spring Island's school bus drivers have had to contend with a recent spat of close calls and near misses thanks to island drivers in too much of a hurry to obey the law.

"There is a general lackadaisical attitude towards traffic signs on this island," said Mike Cherry, a driver who also acts as the district's student bus safety coordinator. "I've lived here for 30 years and the attitude is just so bad. There's always been the idea that stop signs are optional."

Whenever he notices a long line of vehicles behind

his bus, Cherry added, he pulls over if he has a chance.

But, he said, some motorists vent their frustration by hurling abuse or making rude gestures at school buses as they pass.

Shouting profanities may be bad, but disregarding the school buses' flashing lights is a whole other matter.

Earlier this month, drivers passed by the flashing lights on Judy Currie's bus as it dropped children off along North End Road on three separate occasions during a one-week period and other bus drivers have noticed similar trends on their routes.

While no accidents have


occurred yet, Currie said she's had her fair share of close calls. Cyclists, she said, are just as bad.

Regardless of why drivers pass illegally, they're all subject to the same \$167 fine and three demerit points if they get caught.

"Whenever you see the yellow and black [school bus], you might as well relax," she said. "If you've got to get to the boat on time, get up earlier."

Most of the island's bus routes are active between 7:30 and 9 a.m. and 2:30 and 5 p.m. Drivers are asked to plan accordingly if they need to make appointments at those times.

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Date: Sunday, June 4, 2006 only

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

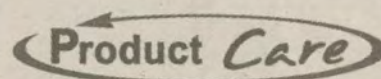
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Impact of gun registry considered

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

For a young boy growing up in Norway, Louis Lorentsen said there were three priorities in life: skiing, soccer and shooting.

Tradition and geography dictated these skills as necessary to promote self-discipline and fitness, but essential for one's personal safety and survival.

When Lorentsen moved to Salt Spring as a young man and helped create the Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club after World War II, life on the island was similar to life back in Norway.

Today, things are a whole lot different and, he said, the federal gun registry is just another step in the continual vilification of the sport he loves.

"This is good sport that has suffered a lot of damage," said Lorentsen during an open-house event held last Saturday in hopes of drawing new recruits to the club. "The gun registry is an abomination drafted up by people who know little about the history of shooting."

When it became law in 1998, Bill C-68 was celebrated as the strictest gun control legislation in Canadian history. In addition to stiffer penalties for gun-related crimes, the bill required all gun owners to register their weapons in a federally administered database.

By 2002, what began as a modest \$2-million program had exploded into a \$1-billion political fiasco.

According to Lorentsen,



TAKING AIM: 13-year-old Cole Eadie tries his hand at shooting at a Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club open house on Saturday.
Photo by Sean McIntyre

not only did the registry manage to isolate an entire class of law-abiding citizens, it diverted money away from more pressing areas like policing, healthcare or education.

"It's sad to see it go down," he said, speaking about the club's declining enrolment, with the smell of gunpowder wafting in the air following the piercing crack of a .22-calibre rifle fired off nearby.

"It's a different world and you have to adjust, but that doesn't mean you should abandon rifle shooting."

According to an announcement made last week by Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day, the Conservative Party is set to eliminate the federal gun registry.

Long-gun owners will no longer have to pay to register their weapons and the government will provide refunds to those who have already registered long guns. The government will also provide a one-year amnesty for those

who have not yet registered their non-restricted firearms and transfer management of the program to the RCMP.

A group of 13-year-old boys turned up at Saturday's event to try their hand at some target practice. Boys have always been drawn to guns and, Lorentsen said, the best way to avoid accidents is to educate people about how to behave around firearms.

Firearms safety instructor and club president Ken Cameron said the national registry failed to stop the spread of firearms since criminals who want guns will always find a way to smuggle them in from the United States.

Unlike more relaxed regulations south of the border, gun owners in Canada must lock up their weapons and ammunition separately. Strict rules govern where weapons are used and how they are transported. For example, explains Cameron, gun owners must travel directly home

to lock up their weapons after practice. Shooters can't even stop to buy groceries on their way home, he said.

In Cameron's view, the gun registry fails to address the impact on people who need and use guns as part of their daily lives, like hunters and farmers who need to protect their livestock.

Long guns account for nearly six of the seven million guns registered in Canada.

"Guns are no different than any other tools," he said. "It's been like that for years, so many people would be lost if it weren't for their guns."

For others waiting in line at the rifle range, the issue was more complex. Uri Cogan respected the sport, but said regulations are a fact of life.

While the basic idea of the gun registry is a good thing, he said, poor management turned it into a "major bureaucratic boondoggle."

Saturday's event, Cogan said, was a chance to see if he could still shoot, 30 years after he fired his last shot as a soldier with the Israeli army.

"I came down to see if I still have it," he said, adding that his stint in the army was enough to turn him off guns for good.

Cogan's shot hit the target and it's clear he hasn't lost his touch.

"I don't mind being licensed and I don't think everybody should carry guns," he said afterwards. "Guns are made to kill and I'm not interested in killing."

Trust Council tackles governance, tourism

A meeting with the San Juan County Council, review of the March tourism forum and recommendations from the governance task force are on the agenda for the next Islands Trust Council quarterly meeting.

Set for June 14-15 at the

community hall on Saturna Island, members of the public can observe most parts of the meeting and participate in a town hall session beginning 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14. Formal delegations can also address council at that time, but must make an advance appointment through the corporate secretary, including the subject, name and address of the speaker. Contact Marie Smith at #200, 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C., V8R 1H8; send a fax to 250-405-

5155 or an e-mail to information@islandstrust.bc.ca.

A tourism forum update occurs from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. on the 14th, followed by a governance task force update from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Following the town hall session (1:15 to 2:15 p.m.), Trust Council will meet with the SJCC to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern to island communities in the Georgia Basin, including presentations on the San Juan County Eco-

system-Based Management Initiative. The councils will review progress on the development of an island "newcomers guide."

The business meeting, where decisions are made, runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 15. Highlights include a review of council's strategic agenda, decisions regarding the preliminary recommendations of the governance task force and an announcement about the recipients of the annual Community Stewardship Awards.

SENIORS' INDEPENDENT LIVING

Renting an apartment at Heritage Place make life easier and safer for Seniors. The rent includes everything but personal telephone. There is only one suite, a studio, left in Arbutus House. Elm House is under construction with a few studio and one bedroom suites available only. Dogwood and Cedar Houses are yet to be built. The village will be complete at the end of 2008. The waiting list grows.

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Workshop 1pm to 4pm RSVP required
Open House 6pm to 8pm Drop-in (presentation at 6:10pm)

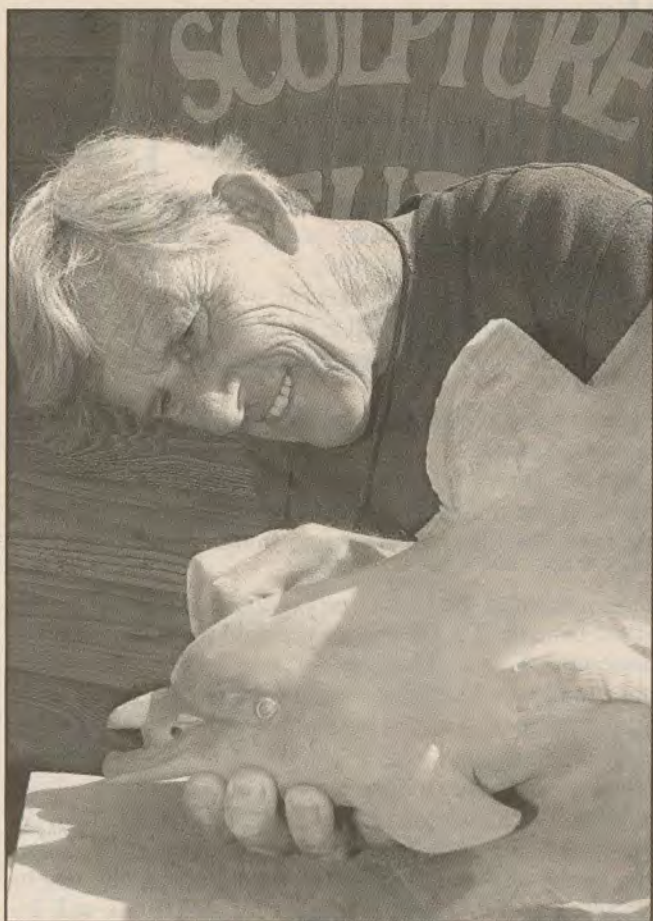
Richmond: May 24 Ukrainian Community Centre 5311 Francis Road	SALT SPRING ISLAND: June 1 Harbour House Hotel 121 Upper Ganges Road	Mayne Island: June 14 Agricultural Hall 430 Fernhill Road
Sidney: May 25 Mary Winspear Centre 2243 Beacon Avenue	Victoria: June 6 Cadboro Commons Building University of Victoria	Brentwood Bay: June 15 Saanich Fairgrounds 1528 Stellys X Road
Nanaimo: May 30 Coast Bastion Inn 11 Bastion Street	Pender Island: June 7 Community Hall 4418 Bedwell Harbour Road	Saturna Island: June 20 Community Hall 104 East Point Road
Duncan: May 31 Ouw'utsun' Centre 200 Cowichan Way	Galiano: June 8 South End Community Hall 141 Sturdies Bay Road	

To RSVP for a workshop, please e-mail straitofgeorgiamca@pc.gc.ca, phone 604.666.0285 or fax 604.666.7957. RSVPs will be accepted up to two days prior to the workshop. RSVPs are not required for the open houses.

Please contact us for details.
www.pc.gc.ca/straitofgeorgia

Parks Canada

Canada



WORK OF ART: Salt Spring sculptor Allan Crane works on the fine details of a dolphin outside his studio/shop in Ganges. Photo by Derrick Lundy

St. Mary Lake at top of water council list

By MURRAY REISS

Special to the Driftwood

When the Salt Spring Island Water Council holds its next meeting — on Friday, June 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lions Hall — St Mary Lake will be at the top of the agenda.

The Salt Spring Island Water Council is a joint CRD-Islands Trust initiative to facilitate the protection, conservation and better management of surface and ground water on Salt Spring. It brings to the same table representatives from all the local, regional and provincial agencies with some responsibility for water on Salt Spring. It also includes representatives of island stewardship groups and a number of researchers and other individuals with specific water-related interests and expertise. The water council provides an ongoing venue for these different agencies, organizations and individuals to exchange information and coordinate their work towards common objectives. Its meetings are always open to the public.

A number of recent articles and opinion pieces in the Driftwood have highlighted islanders' concerns with the health of St. Mary Lake. Dr. Carol Kelly's "In Response" piece, for one, raised the question of who is actually in charge of the lake. This question becomes particularly acute when the lake is afflicted with cyanobacterial blooms and people who depend on it for their

drinking water need to know if it's safe to drink.

With this in mind, the council has asked its members from the three water districts that draw on St Mary, as well as representatives of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), to clarify the procedures and responsibilities for testing water and notifying the public.

These questions cover:

- Who tests St. Mary Lake water?
- What contaminants do they test for?
- Who reviews the results?
- Who is responsible for issuing water advisories, including to those who draw water directly from the lake?
- What are the notification protocols for these advisories, again including non-water district license holders?

Both Dr. Kelly and members of the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society have pointed out ways in which we are all responsible for the health of our watersheds and drinking water lakes. At its June 2nd meeting, the water council will also look at St. Mary Lake from this perspective. It will review the lake's plight and the main problems contributing to its poor condition, the status of some positive initiatives, and what residents can do, both immediately and as part of a more long-term management plan.

The writer is coordinator of the Salt Spring Island Water Council.

'Easy to be green' campaign started

Island hosts are encouraged to participate in a new Green Hospitality Accommodations initiative proposed by the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce (SSICC).

Students from the Institute for Sustainability Education & Action of George Washington University conducted work to develop a protocol for the "greening" of accommodations on the island on behalf of the SSICC last spring under direction from Margery Moore and professor Mark Starik.

"The feeling was that universal information in the accommodations teaching how to tread lightly on Salt Spring would be tremendously useful," said SSICC president Peter Allan.

Part of the program involved sending information to local accommodations about possible actions business operators can take to reduce the environmental impact of guests.

"The catch line was, 'It's easy to be green on Salt Spring.'"

As part of the program, the SSICC hopes to develop a logo that will identify accommodations that implement at least 22 of 32 possible "greening" recommendations.

"Our goal is to have 100 per cent of accommodations on Salt Spring proudly display a green icon."

The Chamber of Commerce also plans to create a "Gold Leaf" award that will recognize lodgings that go above and beyond the recommended sustainable practices.

The green accommodations program involves numerous areas where hospitality businesses can adopt recommendations.

The program is grounded in science conducted by individuals such as Marion Pape (for energy conservation), organizations (including Georgia Basin Action

Plan, O2 Environmental Consultants, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, the Salt Spring Island Water Council and the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society) and governmental agencies (Environment Canada).

In one example of research, O2 Environmental consultant Paul O'Callaghan conducted a case study on one local B&B and found that a few water-conservation initiatives could reduce consumption by 20 per cent per day.

Green hospitality areas include: water conservation (low-flow toilets, sinks and showerheads, rainwater catchment system and two-night minimum stays as examples); waste reduction/recycling (composting, refillable dispensers, recycled paper products and recycling bins count among options); community impact (local and organic foods and amenities); guest education (pamphlets, posted practices); energy conservation (available bicycles for guests and energy efficient light bulbs and appliances); water quality (eco-friendly detergents, non-chemical additives to gardens, regular septic system maintenance, non-toxic cleaners); and assorted other recommendations.

"We're really hoping this can be embraced as a model in other communities," Allan said.

The chamber also plans to update its website (www.saltspringtoday.com) to include a resource section with "greening" strategies.

"We're calling it 'going the extra mile.'"

More students from George Washington University will return this season to continue work with the program.

"Our hope is that we will phase the program in this year and by next year everyone will have the icon."

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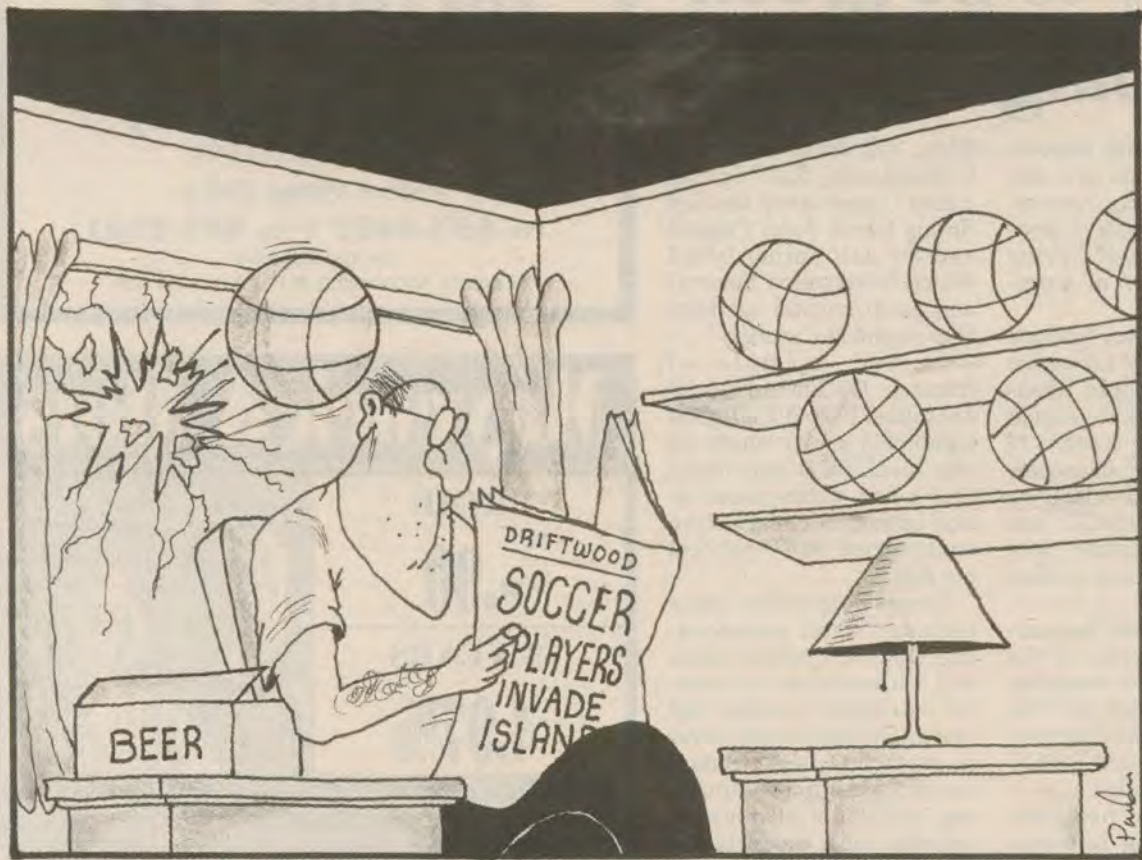
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Support purchase plan

Some people might be confused to see the Salt Spring Public Library Association seeking donations to pay for the lot next door to its existing site on McPhillips Avenue.

The library board and its fundraising arm — Friends of the Salt Spring Library — have just launched a “site purchase campaign” to raise as much of the \$600,000 purchase price as possible by the end of July.

Didn't we just have a referendum on that topic last November and buy the lot in question?

We did — and the library board could let its outcome roll — but it will cost more in the long run due to borrowing costs and take an annual bite from the library's operating budget for the next 15 years.

The referendum allowed the land to be purchased and held by the Capital Regional District (CRD) and for the debt to be repaid from the library association's annual budget.

But the board made an immediate commitment to raise at least \$250,000 of the total cost — and is now going at it in earnest, with \$80,000 already in hand.

Paying off the lot in advance makes sense. It puts the board where it would have been if it had chosen to build on “free” CRD land on Rainbow Road next to the pool. And it gives those who truly desire a library in the centre of town a chance to put some money where their heart is. Since no other public appeal for donations will be made until the new building itself is complete and furnishings and other small items are needed, this is the one opportunity library supporters have to contribute to a badly needed new facility.

(That assumes islanders will be willing to pay for part of its construction through tax support via referendum, of course.)

Salt Spring's library board has never solicited major donations from the public. It has not instituted annual giving campaigns like many non-profit or public bodies and has kept a low fundraising profile while providing an extremely affordable service thanks to its volunteer corps.

The library is a hugely important and well-used part of our community's cultural and social life that we have basically taken for granted. Now is the time to say thank you with a tax-receiptable donation to Friends of the Salt Spring Library.

Driftwood

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

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Stalling on STV adds to constant erosion of democracy

By KEN ROULEAU

It's been a year since the B.C. election and having been in it as a candidate for the Green Party I can say first-hand that one of the most exciting aspects was the STV referendum on election reform. The question asked was: Do you want the present model of first-past-the-post/winner-take-all voting, or the proposed STV (single transferable vote) model?

STV was proposed by the Citizens Assembly to reform our voting system towards one that represents all people more democratically, that is, proportionally — not just representing the few whose party wins the government (usually 35 per cent), or even showed up to vote (55-60 per cent).

STV was the talk of the election, and stirred many people to think about the voting part of democracy in new terms and possibilities. Even though the Liberal government and NDP played down the STV system, did not promote

VIEW POINT

or fund its promotion in the media and public, and set the bar higher than any other referendum requirement (60 per cent), nearly a million people voted for it!

More people voted yes to STV and electoral reform than voted for the ruling Liberal party.

The Liberals said STV failed, but the vote was a clear call by the public to look into it and do something. The NDP agreed, and the new legislature one year ago went on to other business. What was it again? Oh yeah, Liberals forcing teachers to go back to work and both parties unanimously voting themselves a pay raise.

Then, to accommodate and address the majority who voted for STV, the Liberals committed to holding another referendum, same requirements, and have it six months

before the 2009 election. The NDP agreed. Now, they are not going to hold it before the next election but at the next election for a number of typical reasons — logistics, money. The NDP agreed.

Yet, the only mandate that was given by the B.C. public in the last election was to change the election system to proportional representation. It was one of the highest referendum votes in B.C. history and still the government is not convinced that it succeeded and is what citizens want. The present system has shown itself to be unfair, undemocratic, and corruptible through big money influences for way too long. Yet the Liberals and NDP don't want it and won't let the rest of us have it — well, not until 2013, and maybe/probably not then either.

Adriane Carr, leader of the B.C. Green Party, recommends holding the referendum a year before the next election so it can be implemented for the next elec-

tion if a yes vote is achieved. If this isn't likely, then Carr says to include some seats as pro/rep when the new electoral boundaries are redrawn, which will already include six new seats.

To this Carr adds a suggested ban on corporate and union donations while implementing the federal system of pro/rep financing based on the percentage of votes received, and change the next referendum requirements to 50 per cent instead of 60 per since, since 50 per cent plus one is the standard referendum majority across Canada and historically.

The federal and provincial governments are OK with nearly half the eligible voters not voting, with under-represented youth, with a fully corporate agenda with little obligation to a sustainable environment or social justice, and don't mind the big money from big corps and unions, however they can get it.

If we were to set the standard

high for being the government — no party governs without 60 per cent of the popular vote — we wouldn't have a government for decades.

In these times of eroding rights and freedoms, we should be claiming more democracy, more representation and reclaiming our future.

The people rule in a democracy — period. When the people are not listened to nor given more than token representation we are no longer living in the society we want.

Democratic government is not the representatives (who come and go), but our voices through representatives: our will, our values.

If we keep delaying and ignoring true representation and real democracy, when will we ever have it?

The writer was a Green Party candidate for the Saanich-North and the Islands riding in the 2005 provincial election.

St. Mary Lake health needs more than blowing bubbles

By DWIGHT JONES

In evolving a program of protection for St. Mary Lake, it is important to be astute enough to consider acquiring water reservoir status for her, (she's a lake now) even if that means closing off portions of North End, Tripp, Langs and Dodds roads to all but property owners.

A new interior road from Fernwood south could reroute traffic from the lake, and also resolve the unstable eroding-road problems along Trincomali Channel. I'm sure the nouveau-waterfront owners would donate their back 40s and eye-teeth to facilitate it, through sheer alacrity and increased assessments.

A good candidate for a

IN RESPONSE

grant? Build Ginger Goodwin Way!

The St. Mary watershed can devolve to a placid enclave of dead-end streets and sleepy housing clusters, devoid of through-vehicles and partiers from Duncan.

The other issue is pumping St. Mary's water into 500 Channel Ridge septic tanks, only to run back down into her water table. That sewage should all go right into Stuart Channel — period. A standard sewer system, piped straight downhill, half a mile out, just as in Ganges.

add extra toilet paper.

Otherwise we're “planning” for large-scale effluent into a water table tipping into the lake? Get serious — if we must “study” the Ganges waterfront, why aren't we reviewing its sewers rationale, redux?

Consider rainwater catchments on new houses everywhere to reduce demand on our lakes — cisterns could prove invaluable during a serious fire season, when we could lose much of the island, as warned. Charge exponential summer-only water rates to rationalize rainwater trapping.

Damage control may be all we have left with Channel Ridge. Readers may recall my suggestion seven years

Ridge development, when it was dormant and in litigation. It was cheap then, and we knew we had sold our souls to the realtors of 1986, for some undevelopable land.

What would that purchase now be worth, resold intact in today's market? Can that not be done yet, and the Calgary people compensated with our taxes over 20 years? What made us pawn St. Mary in the first place?

We're not incorporated and we do pay a price for being pastoral Pollyannas sometimes. This bull has horns, and we have nobody to grab them.

Blowing bubbles in the lake isn't the answer or required. Consider instead

houses. The densely rooted cultivars are alive year-round, providing cooling, fire breaks, bird and bat habitat, and nutrient filtering like nothing else. They can intercept leaky fields.

Lawn fertilizer uses nitrogen, not phosphorus, and is not needed at all when mulching and watering.

Sprinklers aerate, the sun sterilizes, each at no cost to taxpayers. When the grass began to grow in April, the lake silting stopped, and so did the accompanying algal bloom. Her rash is clearing up nicely, thank you. Salt Springers can be trusted to administer their own properties; if not us, who then?

We need leadership that

and imperatives, and muster the courage, interventions and multi-level government funding needed to defend the water tables, more so than the lakes — every well is also at risk. Otherwise we may sport brightly polished shoes with no soles in them.

It's time to mitigate 1986, before a bad deal becomes immutable. Lathering our own with admonitions to conserve water and native plants will not suffice.

As for selecting our administration system, the night watchmen shouldn't be depended on to be the company managers. You get what you don't pay for, too.

The writer describes himself as a Salt Spring som-

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What do you do to enjoy the summer weather?*



Michael Mullaney

I like taking walks, jumping into the ocean, sitting on the deck and just enjoying the scene.



Bill Curtin

I go outside right after I wake up, don't look at my ironing or my vacuuming and stay outside until I'm too tired to do anything.



Chris Drake

I like to bike and get in a little bit of hacky sack from time to time.



Deirdre Rowland

Going for a local hike and soaking up the scenery and good weather.



Ceridwen Ross-Collins

The greatest thing is working in my garden and taking the kids to the beach.

Letters to the Editor

Support drive

Last fall the people of Salt Spring voted in favour of keeping the library in the downtown core.

We opposed this location for several reasons, one of which was the cost of buying land. But we respect the decision made by a majority of voters.

Now we need to pay for the land that has been bought. We need to raise as much as possible of the \$600,000 by fundraising. We hope that all of you who voted in favour of this land purchase will now step forward and back your choice with monetary support.

We badly need a new larger library, and we are giving our financial support to the land purchase. Please join with us.

PAT and GRACE BYRNE,
Brinkworthy Place

Deafening

I was intrigued by the coincidence of your article on the noisy roosters last week and the opinion piece by George Ehring about bylaw enforcement.

I agree with George that enforcement of bylaws of all kinds is essential to the maintenance of good communities and healthy neighbourhoods.

I find it difficult to understand how it has taken over two years to enforce a bylaw which is patently infringed by an individual who has been breeding up to 60 roosters at a time — among them, until recently, 16 “noted for their remarkable crow,” in a residential neighbourhood.

That Ms. Lamarche should find the noise unbearable does not mean that she is “touchy” as Mr. Brunnwieser implies, but that she is not yet deafened by it.

MICHAEL WALL,
Sarah Way

Yes to farmland

I am a local farmer working on 2.5 acres and realize the high value of farmland on Salt Spring makes future farms here prohibitive.

I also realize the incredible pressure working against small farms in Canada. I might also add that generally small farms produce a very high-quality product.

So I am quite excited about the offer by Three Point Properties of 85 acres of Agricultural Land Reserve property in the Fulford Valley to the Farmers Institute.

This could be the best thing that has happened to agriculture on Salt Spring in the last 20 years. Goodness knows, it is next to impossible for most people to afford to get into agriculture anymore, and if they can afford to get into it, then farming will not likely even pay the mortgage.

So this offer would allow 85 acres of organic agriculture to be established forever on this island. It would help Salt Spring to feed itself, especially with gasoline prices going up, making food transported from any distance more expensive. Higher gas prices favour local agriculture.

Of course Three Point wants the theoretical six densities on this 85-acre property to be put onto the Isabella Point property. They have to make their money on this deal also. That is fair. But by allowing the six extra densities on the Isabella

Point property, then we have a win-win situation for Salt Spring.

I thank Three Point Properties personnel for their foresight and their willingness to cooperate. They have stated that they will only do what the island wants. We do, however have to be vigilant in our dealings with them and we have to get some of our great negotiators working for us.

By realigning Isabella Point Road, the property values will be higher for Three Point Properties to sell and, in addition, this new road will also be the only part of Isabella Point Road that is up to current highways ministry standards.

I have no connection with either Three Point Properties or the group acquiring the 85 acres, but I just know how good this 85 acres will be for local agriculture.

My dream would be to see a model organic farm situated there, displaying all the diversity of this great agricultural community and educating people about the value of organic farming —

a model organic farm that is a tourist destination getting rave reviews from visitors from around the world.

HARRY BURTON,
Heidi Place

Farm facts

I would like to correct and clarify a few things about your lead article in last week's Driftwood regarding the possible 85-acre donation of the historic Hughes property to the farm community.

The invitation to tour the farm is for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, not 8 p.m. People are invited to bring a picnic and we will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Island Natural Growers.

The farm is just south of the Burgoyne church at the bottom of Lee's Hill. It should be a great opportunity to brainstorm possible projects for the farm.

The land is indeed one of the best pieces of farmland around. However, I didn't say that if we can't pull something off you can just forget about farming.

There are many people currently working to increase

agricultural production on Salt Spring and lots of places to proceed. What I did say was that if we couldn't do something very productive with this special piece, the great pioneer farmers of Salt Spring would turn over in their graves in disbelief.

When I said it could be a win-win situation, I was referring to the possibility that our community could actually acquire two agriculturally productive properties in this proposed deal. Three Point Properties Ltd. has said it would consider creating a large planting of fruit trees, nut trees, berries and grapes on the upper part of the Fulford Harbour property.

This part of the arrangement should also have lots of community input.

Given that part of the Fulford Harbour property is in the ALR, I personally wouldn't support the receipt of the large farm unless there were also agricultural benefits with the 20-acre Fulford Harbour property.

DAN JASON,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

Bylaw-defying chanticleers demand rooster housing task force

Counsel has been retained. The CRD has been contacted. There's big trouble on Garner Road.

If you missed the full-page story in last week's Driftwood, let me recap. Elizabeth Cooper raises roosters. Not the run of the mill, garden-variety Rhode Island Reds, but brilliantly plumed, high struttin' prize winners. Mrs. Cooper has a neighbour who doesn't share her passion for these feathered beauties. Well, it's not the roosters, really. It's what the roosters do. They crow. Loudly. At dawn.

After years of neighbourly discussions, compromises and peace offerings, the gloves have come off. On May 24, officials from the CRD are scheduled to arrive at the coop, to put an end to this Hatfield/McCoy feud.

But wait. This is a great opportunity for our own Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) members to blossom forth, show leadership, to boldly use their

HEAD TO HEAD

BY PETER VINCENT



combined experience to show the good people of Salt Spring their conflict resolution skills.

First, let's march out the holiest of holies — the “Preserve and Protect” Holy Grail . . . to preserve and protect the Rural Character of the island. What could be more “Salt Spring” than 50 colourful chanticleers defying CRD bylaws, braying at the dawn without a permit?

And what about those bylaws? Well, the LTC just needs to “re-interpret,” right? It worked for Ganges Marina, why not Mrs. Cooper's rooster patch? Maybe they can “re-interpret” the meaning of “peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort and convenience of the neighbourhood.” There's plenty of grist for the mill there. In the marina they only had to work with

one word — “infill” — and they buried that whole project.

If that doesn't do it, maybe the Trust office can produce a nice Temporary Use Permit, until such time as the experts can make a determination on environmental impact, possible aboriginal sites, and cultural value and significance of the chicken coop? Surely, surely there is some eelgrass on the property.

Of course, I am assuming the current council are comprised of bona fide cock fanciers. If not, we can join the other team. I am sure we can find an authority who will swear that all that avian flu-ridden rooster guano is finding its way to St. Mary Lake and is ultimately responsible for the brown algae soup down there.

Better yet, a new bylaw. You are allowed to have noisy roosters, but not for less than 30 days. Then it would be deemed a vacation chicken coop, and subject to fines of \$200 a day. Trustee George Ehring can distribute another one of those “The Community has

Spoken” edicts to all our mailboxes.

But I don't think we should look a gift horse in the mouth. Possibly the LTC can get animal control officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser to round them all up and relocate the roosters to Drummond Park. I'm sure the nattering of 50 prize-winning roosters at 3:00 in the morning would be very effective in ridding the beach of any unwanted campers.

If the unthinkable does happen and Mrs. Cooper is forced to give her roosters to Wolfgang, she may find comfort in the fact that her newly abandoned chicken coop could likely be rented out to a desperate family for \$1,200 a month.

But these are all short-term fixes. What is really needed is good, clean affordable rooster housing.

What we need to do is find another old house close to town, kick another single mother of three out on the street to make room for these feathered beau-

ties. Haven't they suffered long enough?

Yes, a Rooster Housing task force heavily loaded with friends, doubles partners and miscellaneous greenies in need of a bit of pocket change. Now that all the big issues have been tossed to the curb by the current council, I am sure there are a few bored activists ready to take up the rooster cause . . . “Salt Spring's Tyrants Uncovering Poultry Inspired Dwellings” or S.T.U.P.I.D. for short.

If all else fails (almost a certainty on Salt Spring,) we may have to take last year's cat-napping survivor from Central Cinema, Fritz the Cat, and just pitch him into the chicken coop and see who walks out. Let nature decide. My money's on Fritz.

Whatever the solution, one thing is certain. We can't have 50 marauding roosters despoiling the countryside, chasing our daughters. We already have a name for that. I think it's called “Open Mike Night” at Moby's.

More letters

Keep up fight

For the past God knows how long, I've been patiently reading all the criticisms regarding short-term property rentals and all the hogwash being circulated by the Islands Trust.

But enough is enough! This last commentary by George Ehring finally pushed me over the edge!

The idea that this group called the Islands Trust can dictate what you can and can't do with your property, especially in this situation, is absolutely ridiculous, let alone anal.

I've travelled fairly extensively and cannot recall anywhere that is tourist oriented where this ridiculous law exists. I personally know and have worked with the Howards as a photographer in advertising some of their rentals.

I have met the owners of these homes and have helped friends from across the border rent a home on a short-term basis from the Howards. I have seen nothing but respect, consideration and professionalism from both the renters and rentees.

Now don't get me wrong, there is a need for some rules and regulations, but come on now Mr. Ehring, none of the property owners are applying for bar or kennel permits.

They're simply allowing tourists the option of choosing what kind of accommodations they prefer, and come summer when finding anything that remote-

ly relates to accommodation is almost non-existent, short-term rentals certainly fill the gap. I'm with you Blair and Mr. Kelln, keep up the fight.
MIKE GLUSS,
Salt Spring

Possibilities

Our island's Society for Community Education held a meeting on May 7 to familiarize Salt Spring residents with the degree completion options available to those who had already earned a college diploma and/or successfully completed some university level courses.

Provincial "open universities" in both British Columbia and Alberta now allow students full credit for all previously completed academic courses at any recognized academic institution. At the same meeting, those present were familiarized with the basics of "online" instruction, one of three ways — along with face-to-face instruction at a local university or college and print-based distance education — to earn additional credits toward an open university degree.

Were you interested in learning more about degree completion possibilities or online education, but unable to attend our recent meeting? If so, please give me a call (653-4788) or send me an e-mail (sshapiro@saltspring.com) and I'll be happy to discuss these exciting possibilities with you at any mutually convenient time.

And if you are interested, let's meet sooner rather than

later so that you'll be in a position to begin your course work this coming September.

STAN SHAPIRO,
Salt Spring

Mitigate harm

By all means, deliver necessary provisions to the Cuban people, but Caravan to Cuba supporters [May 17 Driftwood article] should understand the real reasons behind Cuban deprivation.

The U.S. embargo on Cuban trade is dictated by the exigencies of American domestic politics, Florida being a swing-state with a strong anti-Castro constituency; however, the embargo's impact on the Cuban economy would be negligible if not for the hard-line socialism practised in that country. Fidel is secretly thankful for the embargo, I'm sure, since it provides him with an excuse for his regime's economic failures.

The Israeli economy is an interesting contrast to Cuba's. Israel has lived under a trade embargo by neighbouring states for longer than Cuba but, because Israel's private sector has established enterprises throughout Europe and North America, Israel's economy is not seriously vulnerable to trade blockades. Israelis enjoy living standards on a par with Europeans.

Castro has recently relaxed restrictions on the private sector because he understands that private investment

will allow Cuba to advance beyond subsistence material living standards. This policy has always been an option, of course, but ideology displaced rational thought in Cuba. Up to now, Fidel has had to invest all existing Cuban resources in health, education and social welfare in order to prevent another revolution. He's done an adequate job, but beggared his country in the process. A viable private sector would have created a comfortable life for Cubans.

I suppose Caravan to Cuba is about social justice — mitigating the harm caused by socialism. But Pastors for Peace betray their true agenda when they use this exercise to bad-mouth the U.S.

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN,
Sky Valley Road

Use decals

I was stopped by the police on the way into Ganges. As I handed over the necessary papers, I noted that I had not picked up my insurance decal.

I felt confident that I was covered though. I pay three different insurance policies each month. My house and business insurance continue on into the next year unless I purposely cancel. I naively assumed car insurance would do the same.

This letter serves as a heads-up to all owners of vehicles to check the expiry date on their licence plates.

I told eight people my story the next day. Every one of them had their own story of

driving with expired plates. Most had someone behind them on the ferry point it out to them.

If the police stop you, the fine is \$590.

WENDY BEATTY,
Vesuvius

Planks

If I ran the world, drug dealers would not get off on a technicality, they would walk the plank.

MARIE BEAUDOIN,
Salt Spring

Comfort

The 62nd Hospital Auxiliary Conference was held in Kelowna at the end of April with 384 delegates from all over B.C. in attendance.

Since 1990 the auxiliaries have raised \$99 million towards supplying comfort for the patients in our hospitals in the province.

Your own auxiliary, by working 22,023 hours during 2005, has been able to supply our hospital and Greenwoods with \$100,000 worth of equipment and much-needed furniture.

Thank you to all our friends for your usable donations and to all our customers. We wouldn't have been able to do it without you.

THRIFT SHOP COMMITTEE,
Lady Minto Auxiliary

Proceed and progress

I attended a dinner recently where people of like mind discussed an issue.

The issue has been dealt an absolute "no" by govern-

ing authorities.

My observation of children, teenagers, and adults of all ages is that when confronted with this attitude, defiance and rebellion follow. In the case of children and teenagers, this leads to frustration. With adults, it leads to litigation. Your tax dollars at work.

Public interest in the issue has been lost in the cacophony of opinions.

It is through cooperation that we proceed and progress. Cooperation begins with respect. Willing compliance to agreed upon regulations is the objective.

When the law is used as a threatening club, it is tantamount to bullying.

If we have taken a wrong path, it is wise to return to the place of divergence and begin again.

WENDY BEATTY,
Vesuvius

FOR THE RECORD

A woman described in a May 24 article about the TLC Restaurant being struck told the Driftwood she was not actually driving the vehicle when it hit the building, but tried to move the car out of the way afterwards — not "flee" as a witness indicated in the story. She faces impaired driving charges as a result, she said. The person driving at the time of the crash does not have a driver's licence, she said.

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Competitors in the annual Round Salt Spring sail at the start line on Saturday

Photo by John Cameron

Landscape has tales to tell: biologist shares knowledge

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

A visiting scientist reminded Salt Spring Conservancy members about the value of local knowledge when considering ecological restoration.

"There are many ways to describe a landscape," said UVic Environmental Studies professor Brenda Beckwith during her May 12 presentation titled "Knowing Every Corner of the Land."

As a biologist, she grew accustomed to using scientific methods to describe and assess areas, but she has recently learned to utilize different techniques to learn about local landscapes during her recent doctoral ethno-ecological study of camas lilies.

"In seven years of study, I barely touched the top of the lily," she said to a crowd at Lions Hall.

By collecting stories from long-time farmers, early settlers and First Nations elders, she was able to significantly augment her scientific understanding of the region, she said.

"Not all human activities lead to negative ecological consequences," and she noted that "farmers are not bad people," in the context of restoration ecology.

She shared stories by

Christmas Hill farmer George Rogers, Sr. who protected the Garry oak ecosystem around his farm through some of his cattle-ranching practices, she said.

"He was a farmer and a conservationist."

Citing Salt Spring pioneer Jonathan Beggs, she noted that early land management practices had a profound impact on the local landscape.

"We should never forget the rapid land clearing of early pioneers."

As early as December 1862, Beggs wrote, "The country is rapidly filling up and the land is rapidly being taken up."

First Nations accounts passed down by Bob Akerman indicate that Saanich and Cowichan people burned local berry patches and camas meadows as a long-time land-management practice.

As a result of early land-clearing practices, it's difficult to determine the "natural" state of the islands when aiming for restoration.

"Do we want to go back before the ice ages?" she asked.

She has been looking for positive examples of human interaction with the landscape.

"I want to acknowledge

and honour the role of people and their values in Garry oak ecosystems."

The growth and development of some plants can be enhanced by periodic disturbance, while in other cases, invasive species can be favoured by traditional land-management practices, such as fire, she noted.

Consequently, she calls for more study and investigation utilizing a broad range of methods.

Though Beckwith's studies deal with ecological restoration on a landscape scale, islanders can consider her thoughts on a yard-by-yard basis and collect more knowledge, she suggested.

"The landscape tells — or rather is — a story," she said, quoting Tim Ingold.

And she celebrated the cultural landscape that helps define individuals as part of their environment.

"Even when people have moved away from a place . . . that landscape lives on in the spiritual side of relationships," she said.

Islanders might want to seek out stories about the island ecology, taste local plants and scrutinize their environment to learn more about themselves, she said.

"What's your landscape trying to tell you?"

Week's top bridge players named

Ron Hall and Bob Morrisette were victorious at duplicate bridge on May 8, with Patricia Hewett and Jean Elder following in second place.

Jennifer Quick and Gillian Mouat were third and there was a tie for fourth between the George Laundry-Paul

BRIDGE TRICKS

Retallack pair and the Joan Conlan-Blanche Poborsa twosome.

The after-effects of Moth-

er's Day on the 14th didn't last until May 15, because non-mothers Ron Hall and Bob Morrisette repeated their win of the previous week. Jennifer Quick and Gillian Mouat moved up a notch to second place, and Joan Conlan and Blanche Poborsa climbed into third all by themselves.

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK? See Page B12

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The Chemainus Insurance Agency has recently become an Autoplan broker, which adds another element to its full range of insurance services. As well, the Agency can provide marriage licences, dog licences and can accommodate municipal payments.

Coastal Community Insurance Agencies Ltd is a subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union, the largest Credit Union based on Vancouver Island. Serving island communities for nearly 60 years, the Credit Union offers complete financial services through twenty branches and nineteen insurance offices across Vancouver Island. Coastal Community can be found on the web at www.cccu.ca.



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A Driftwood Guide to Island Transportation, Sales, Service, Accessories and More!

Live a life of comfort in new Yukon SUV

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

At some time during the past few years, there came a point when it wasn't enough for a vehicle to just get us from point A to point B. Whether it be venturing forth into the wilderness or just making your way into town, today's vehicles must not only perform on the road but ensure optimum driver and passenger comfort, a harmony embodied by the new 2007 Yukon SLE.

The latest census statistics released in both the United States and Canada reveal North Americans are spending upwards of 100 hours just driving to work each year.

That's a lot of time and the folks over at the General Motors Corporation want to make sure we spend it in comfort and style.

For a vehicle its size, the freshly minted 2007 Yukon SLE is surprisingly compact once you're seated behind the wheel.

Features like the power liftgate, OnStar security system, and 12-point seat controls (including heated and cooled seats) are so close at hand you could almost mistake this ride for a sports car



The 2007 Yukon SLE: comfortable and stylish

and forget all about the 479 litres of storage space and impressive 415-pounds-feet of torque.

A 5.8-litre V-8 engine belting out 380 horsepower gives the Yukon SLE power far beyond what you'd expect from its stylish exterior finish and an impressive list

of safety features, including driver, passenger and side-curtain airbags.

GMC unveiled its first generation of sport utility vehicles seven years ago as part of what would prove a revolutionary period in the automotive industry. Along with the rise of the SUV,

higher fuel prices and greater environmental awareness convinced many to take a second look at their vehicles before getting behind the wheel.

These trends haven't gone unnoticed and GM has made an effort to produce more fuel-efficient vehicles,

including the newly released hybrid version of the popular Silverado pick-up truck.

Not one to get outdone, the Yukon SLE makes strides with an optional FlexFuel engine capable of running on up to 85 per cent ethanol fuel.

The Yukon SLE includes an "active fuel management"

system that automatically shuts down half the engine's eight cylinders when full power is not required, such as at highway cruising speeds, a place where the Yukon SLE proved its worth during a recent test drive along a stretch of the Island Highway just north of Peter Baljet Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, GMC Limited in Duncan.

Cruising speed, it turns out, comes up pretty quickly once the vehicle gets off the showroom floor, and the comfort isn't left behind. Optional XM satellite radio provides access to more than 300 channels anywhere in North America and a DVD rear entertainment system will keep the backseat drivers content on those long summer road trips.

The vehicle performs equally well on those narrow and tight cornered roads found throughout the West Coast and as for potholes, well, they cease to exist when you can float right over them.

At roughly \$60,000, the price tag may not be for everybody, but the vehicle's comfort, style and performance is something everybody can enjoy.

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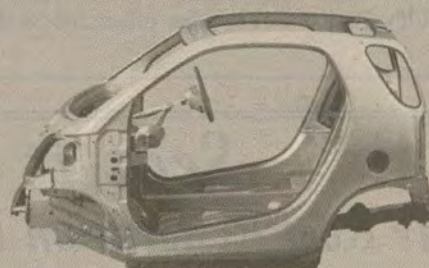


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BCAA's driving tips cut emissions, costs

With gas prices spiraling upwards for months and with no end in sight, the B.C. Automobile Association offers its top 10 ways to save cash on your gas.

1. Consolidate trips. Find one location where you can take care of banking, grocery shopping and other chores.

Short trips less than five kilometres generally do not allow the engine to reach its peak operating temperature, reducing the level of fuel efficiency.

2. Only use as much vehicle as you need.

If you are a two-vehicle family, and one is an SUV and the other a four-cylinder compact, use the smaller, more fuel-efficient car where possible.

3. Watch that lead foot. Save fuel by slowing down, maintaining steady speeds and avoiding jack-rabbit starts and hard braking.

A European study found rapid acceleration from stoplights and hard braking reduced travel time by just four per cent in city driving — the equivalent of just over a minute every half hour — but resulted in a 37 per cent jump in fuel consumption and a five-fold increase in emissions.

4. Avoid unnecessary idling.

Over 60 per cent of BCAA members indicated they had done something to reduce fuel consumption.

Shut off your engine when waiting in ferry or border lineups, or picking up children from school.

Shutting off and restarting the engine consumes less fuel and emits fewer pollutants.

5. Lighten up. Avoid carrying non-essential heavy items, such as tools and sporting equipment.

Remove roof racks when they're not being used.

6. Don't pursue counter-productive fuel savings. Driving excessive miles hoping to save a few cents per litre at a lower-priced gas station is pointless.

7. Get rewarded.

Purchasing gas from companies that offer loyalty rewards is one small way to offset high gas prices.

To maximize benefits, try to stick to a single program.

8. Stay in tune.

A poorly maintained vehicle can increase fuel consumption by up to 50 per cent.

Ensure your tires are properly inflated, the air filter is clean, the engine and chas-

sis are properly lubricated, and spark plugs are in good condition.

9. Save money while you work.

If you commute off-island, consider ride share (www.ride-share.com) and public transportation. How about working from home one or more days per week?

10. Shop smart. If you're upgrading your old beater, compare fuel efficiency ratings on the vehicles you're considering with EnerGuide's Fuel Consumption Guide, produced by Natural Resources Canada (www.vehicles.gc.ca).

Over 60 per cent of BCAA members surveyed in February 2006 indicated they had done something to reduce their fuel consumption in the past 12 months.

The top motivation was to save money on fuel (51 per cent) versus reducing air emissions (14 per cent). However, 31 per cent cited both savings and reduced air emissions as the main motivation.

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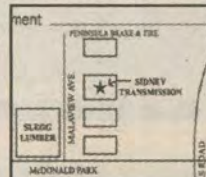
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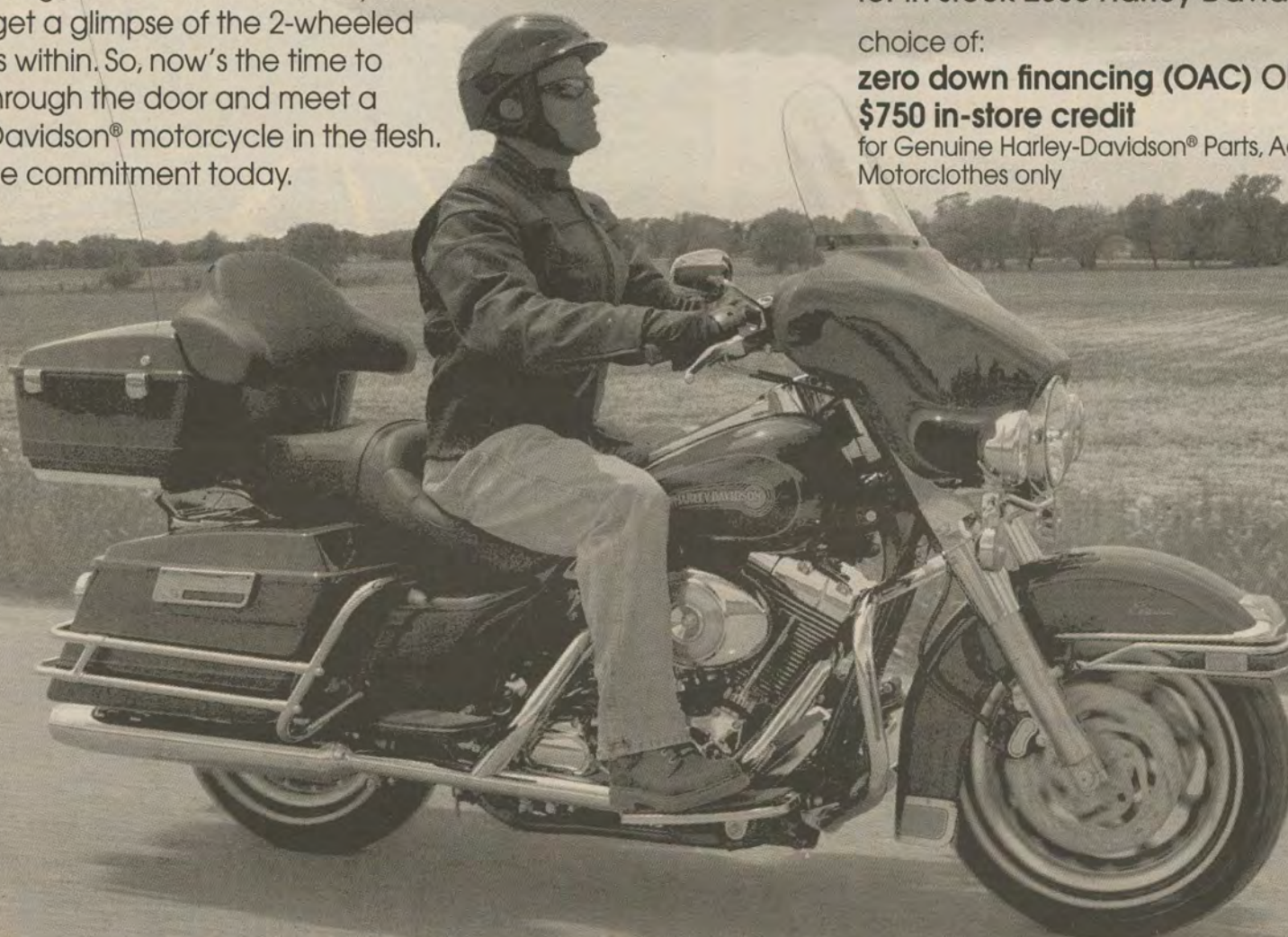
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Brakes, fluids and lamps part of seasonal car check

In last month's *Wheels* section, Salt Spring Antique and Classic Car Club member Marv Coulthard provided the first half of a collection of spring tune-up tips for your classic car. Here's the rest:

By MARV COULTHARD Driftwood Contributor

Change the fuel filter. Locate the filter and check the repair manual for replacement part numbers — these can be obtained from the local parts store as well.

Care must be taken in replacement so as to not spill gas on surrounding areas. Use a small container to drain the fuel into as the clamps are removed.

Check brakes

Check the brake fluid level in the reservoir and top up with the recommended fluid

for the system. In handling brake fluid, be careful not to spill any on the paint as it is very caustic.

Check brake pressure and, in the case of power-assisted brakes and ABS systems, start the engine. Depress the brake pedal until solid and hold. There should be no fading of the pedal. If so, this indicates a broken or leaking brake seal somewhere in the system.

I recommend taking the vehicle to a certified mechanic in this case. It is easy to make a vehicle run, but not so easy to make it stop.

A good mechanic will check the system and replace the necessary parts for you, assuring your safety.

Next check the full braking system. Run the vehicle to a good speed, then brake hard. Do the brakes squeal at

any point or does the pedal fade? Either of these signs may indicate the need for new pads or shoes.

It is a good idea to have a mechanic check the pads and shoes on a regular basis, according to your use and what is recommended in the manual.

Other fluids and battery

Check the power steering levels, transmission fluid levels and differential levels.

Check the battery acid levels. Check the terminals for corrosion and clean with a wire brush and apply a good dielectric grease if necessary.

Always remove the ground terminal first and replace it last.

CAR CHECK A16



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Island Wheels



Interior view of Yukon SLE (see story Page A12)

CAR CHECK

From Page A15

Note the charge of the battery. Is starting sluggish or does the engine turn over quickly? Do the lights go dim when you start the car?

Check lamps

Check all lamps by turning on headlights and walking around the vehicle. Check high beams and turn signals.

Don't forget both brake lights and backup lights. I will regularly replace both brake lights when one is gone. I know that when one is gone the other will go very soon. The working life of a lamp is quite consistent from one to the next these days.

Gauges and indicators

Check all gauges and indicators in the dash. If you feel up to it, re-greasing the bearings and grease points on the vehicle can be easily accomplished.

Check the manual for the grease points and apply the recommended grease to these. Small manual grease guns can be purchased at the local parts shop and can save you the cost of a shop visit with more or less than two applications.

Spark plugs

Check and regap spark-plugs. First mark down the

firing order of the vehicle. My dad used to do it on the inside of the hood and it was always there.

Remove plug wires and carefully remove plugs with a plug socket wrench. Examine all plugs closely . . . this is one of the best ways to tell what is going on in the engine.

First of all, all plugs should look the same. If one is different than the rest, there is a serious problem with this cylinder only, e.g. a stuck or leaking valve, a leaking headst or a broken cylinder ring.

If all plugs are a tan colour, then all is well in the engine. If the plugs are white, the engine is starving for fuel and is likely running too hot. If the plugs are black or coated with carbon, the engine is running too rich. In either case the carburetor system is due for a tuning or overhaul. If you have a shop manual and the necessary tools this may be attempted, but for most I suggest a good mechanic.

Clean the plugs with a wire brush and run some fine-grain, wet-dry paper between the contacts. Adjust the gap to the recommended size and replace tightly in the engine block. If the plugs look cracked on the outside or on the ceramic center-

piece, replace them. Spark-plugs are not that expensive and it is a good idea to just replace them if suspect.

Other tips

- Check points, condenser and distributor cap. Check this subject in your shop manual for details for your particular car.

- If your car has been sitting for the winter, add a gas additive to refurbish the old fuel and fill the tank with a good grade of fuel.

- Here on the island we like to recycle as much as possible. The recycle depot for oil and batteries is at the rear of Salt Spring Auto Parts and the service is provided by Salt Spring Auto Parts. Please do not abuse it. Unfortunately, there is no recycling of any plastic or metal containers at this site.

- Oh . . . and don't forget a good wash and wax with a good product. It does wonders for the paint and the look of the vehicle.

Do the interior with a good cleaning too — vacuum out the interior and apply a coating of vinyl and/or leather cleaner and polish.

Try a tire blackener — it makes them look better than new.

Enjoy your summer cruisin' here on the island.

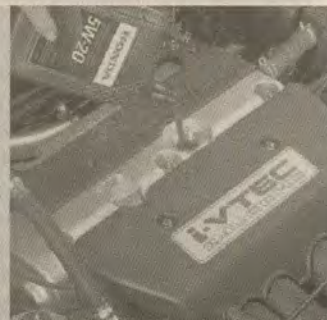
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- ✓ Pressure-test cooling system, inspect related hoses and clamps
- ✓ Inspect all brakes for wear % and condition
- ✓ Inspect brake calipers, wheel cylinders and parking brake
- ✓ Inspect tire wear and pressure
- ✓ Tire rotation
- ✓ Inspect transmission fluid level, power steering fluid level (if applicable), brake fluid level, clutch fluid level (if applicable)

- ✓ Inspect drive belt condition (excludes timing belt)
- ✓ Inspect distributor cap, rotor (if applicable) and wires
- ✓ Inspect windshield wipers, washer jets and blades
- ✓ Washer fluid top-up
- ✓ Inspect exhaust system
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There are several alternatives to dispose of yard and garden waste, including:

- > Compost it in a backyard compost bin
- > Take it to the Hartland yard waste facility or a local depot
- > Hire a collection service

The ban will benefit our environment and contribute to sustainability in our region.

For more information, contact the CRD Hotline: 360-3030
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CRD CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Environmental Services

GISS shows skills at fair

People will get a chance to return to school when students from Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) host the third annual Applied Skills Day on Friday, May 26.

Organizers promise a full day of informative and entertaining activities and presentations from students in the school's applied skills programs.

"We are really hoping for a big turnout at this year's event," said GISS principal Nancy Macdonald. "It's always a fun day and everyone is getting pretty excited."

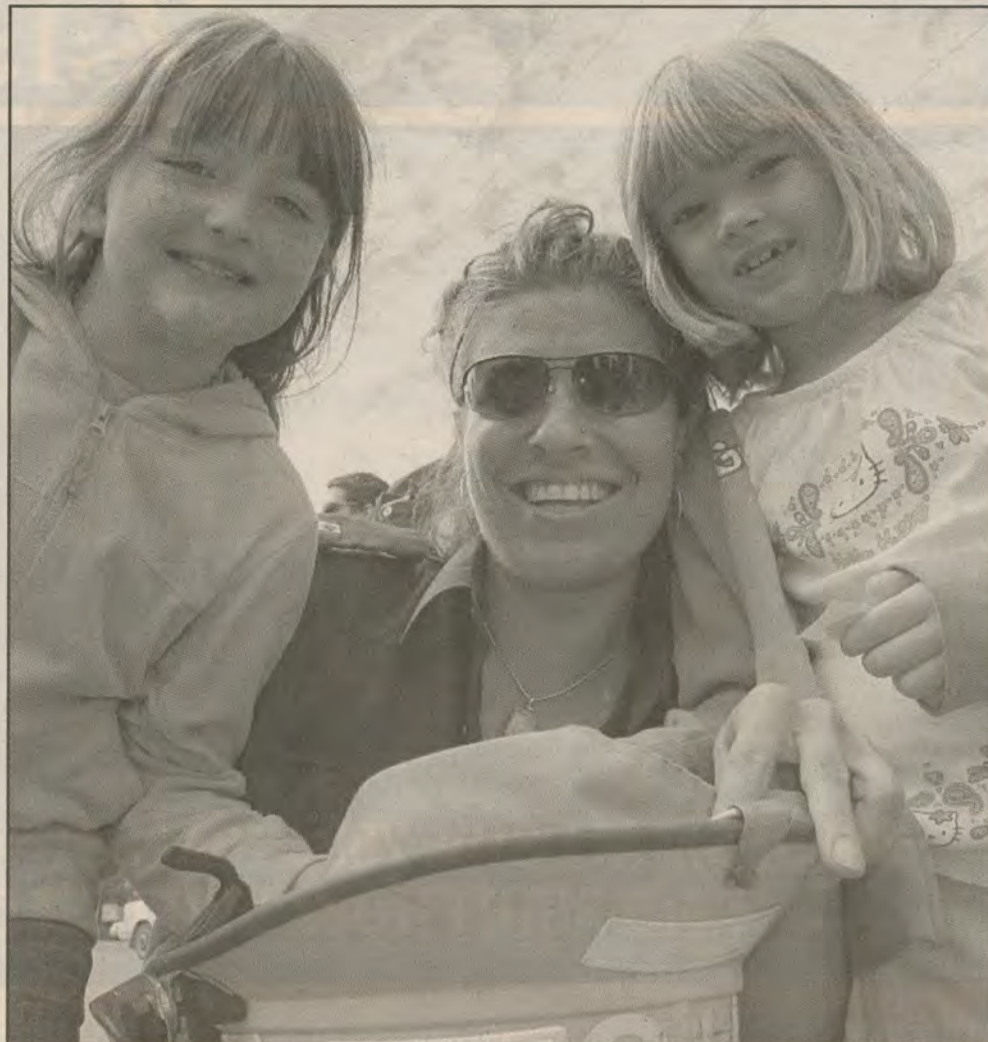
Morning events beginning at 9 a.m. include a car show, carpentry exhibit, iron chef competition, photography exhibit, computer graphics demonstration and tattoo artistry displays. Visitors are encouraged to enter their cars in any of the contest's four categories: best decorated, loudest sound system, crowd favourite and muddiest truck.

A \$5 lunch barbecue cooked up by student chefs will kick off an afternoon of skateboard competitions, CO2 car races, go-karting and ladder-climbing challenge put on by the school's fire cadets. With roughly 40 per cent of the school's students taking part in the action, Macdonald said, the event is a great way to see all the incredible things students are up to at the high school.

GISS began offering students more applied skills options several years ago to complement the school's popular performing arts programs and to give students more opportunities once they graduate.

"These programs are becoming bigger and bigger," said Macdonald. "There is a serious skill shortage in the province and we are encouraging students to look at careers in these fields."

Students are becoming increasingly attracted to what may prove to be lucrative employment opportunities in exciting positions.



INTO THE POT: Salt Spring firefighter Uma Meyers holds out her helmet as Leticia Taylor, left, and Jessica Magoon contribute money in the local fire department's fundraising drive for the Relay For Life event.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

To the people who cut down live pine trees to have a fire, left garbage, batteries and destroyed a beautiful bed of moss at the summit of Mount Erskine — a public park! Marie Beaudoin

A reminder to night-time drivers to wait until they completely pass oncoming cars before putting their bright lights/high beams back on. Wendy Webb

ROSES

Long espresso roses to

Barb, Joanne, Michelle, Catherine, Rineke, Andrea, Shirley, Colleen and especially Cindy for honouring me with a delicious meal and lively conversation at Shipstones on May 17. We SSE ladies should get together outside of school hours more often. EJ

Dozens of roses to Madam Sheeza Keyoff and Madam Ima Keyoff for your fabulous performance. Residents of ECU

Roses to Jim Raddysh for all those years of splendid service to the swim team.

Also, roses to Martin, Joe and Mark for busting their butts to get the pool ready for the Stingrays this year. Thanks!

A big thank-you to all the people who helped after my accident at Portlock Park on Friday. Roses to all of you. ML

Bouquets full of carrots and beets to the Stowel Lake farm stand for providing our community with abundant fresh produce. They have such a lovely, colourful, full farm stand.

What's for Dinner?

Shopping list:

- Romaine lettuce
- Red pepper
- Green onion
- Lemon
- Olive oil
- White balsamic vinegar
- Raspberry cooking wine (or sherry)
- Smokehouse brand almonds



THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET SPRING TIME CHICKEN PINEAPPLE SALAD Short cuts to cooking for one or two © with Sarah Lynn

Pineapple: Originally unique to the Western Hemisphere, pineapple was a culinary favourite of the fierce Carib Indians who lived on islands in the sea that still bears their name. The pineapple is native to southern Brazil and Paraguay where its wild relatives still grow. It was spread by the Indians up through South and Central America to the West Indies before Columbus arrived. In 1493, Columbus found the fruit on the island of Guadeloupe and carried it back to Spain. It was spread around the world on sailing ships that carried it for protection against scurvy because of its high vitamin C content.

Wash, drain & chop 1 medium head Romaine lettuce (Endive salad mix is a great tasting alternative). Thinly slice 1 red pepper & 1 green onion. Zest 1 lemon. Add 3 tablespoons olive oil, 2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar, 1 tablespoon raspberry cooking wine (or cooking sherry). Toss together to coat all salad. Top with 1 cup chopped cooked chicken, 1/2 cup crushed smoked almonds & 1/2 cup fresh cut pineapple. Enjoy!

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Seattle trip offered in hospital campaign

Ten years ago the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation came up with the bright idea of holding a glamorous charity ball just like they do in the big cities.

But no one came. "So, being fast learners, the foundation regrouped and the next year gave islanders exactly what they wanted: a ball they couldn't attend, and the Phantom Ball was born," states a hospital foundation press release.

Over the last 10 years the ball has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for much-needed hospital equipment, including laparoscopic surgical equipment, an anesthetic machine, cardiac monitoring equipment, ultrasound equipment, and microbiology and lab expansion items.

The foundation also raised \$733,000 in 2002 for the capital campaign to assist with the operating room renovation and palliative care suite, and raised \$300,000 for the radiology upgrade in 2004. The 10th Annual Phantom Ball campaign kicks off

on Friday, May 26 with an invitation being sent to nearly every island household.

This year's prize is the Victoria Clipper Trip to Seattle, which includes a round trip for two on the Victoria Clipper, three nights accommodation at the stately Roosevelt Hotel, return transportation to and from the hotel and a Seattle CityPass for five key interest sites.

If people don't get an invitation in the mail, brochure packets are available in the Lady Minto Hospital lobby or through www.ladyminto.org.

This year the Phantom Ball campaign will run all summer and is the foundation's major 2006 fundraiser for hospital equipment.

"You can be certain that all donations received for this promotion will be used to purchase the equipment that is necessary to maintain excellence in quality patient care right here in our own community," states a press release.

The prize draw takes place on Thursday, September 21.



TANGO IN THE PARK: Dancers Keith Beldam and Julianna Slomka demonstrate the finer points of tango in Centennial Park last Sunday. Photo by Derrick Lundy

First Nations get more park input

More First Nations involvement and lightstation protection came from two announcements about the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (GINPR) last week.

Under an agreement signed Saturday between the Hul'qumi'num First Nation and the federal government, the Hul'qumi'num will be given more control over the operation and development of the GINPR.

Opportunities for traditional First Nations activities such as harvesting of clams or shooting deer are granted by the agreement, and the Hul'qumi'num will be given

input into items such as trail and campground placement and creation of park signs.

In a separate announcement, lighthouses at Prevost Island (Portlock Park Lightstation), Georgina Point on Mayne Island (called the Active Pass Lightstation) and the East Point Lightstation on Saturna Island were transferred to the park reserve from Fisheries and Oceans.

All three lightstations are automated and will remain as active aids to navigation for marine users. Continued access will be given to Canadian Coast Guard technicians to service the navigational lights.

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BONELESS RIB OR TENDERLOIN END Pork Loin Roast 6.57kg 2.98 lb	BONELESS CENTRE CUT REGULAR OR BUTTERFLY Pork Loin Chops 8.77kg 3.98 lb	FRESH Snapper Fillets per 100g 1.38	LIPTON SOUP MIX *Chicken Noodle 2.29	MAPLE LEAF FLAKED Ham, Chicken or Turkey 184g 1.18	SCHNEIDERS FULLY COOKED Bacon 65g 3.28
REGULAR OR SMOKED Turkey Breast per 100g 1.29	DELI Beer Sausage per 100g 99¢	UNICO Balsamic Vinegar 500ml 3.48	SKIPPY Peanut Butter 1.5kg 5.48	WONDER BREAD *White 570g 1.33	FRESH BREAD ISLAND BAKERY Organic Sunflower Flax 680g 2/5.00
Tropical Fruit Salad per 100g 99¢	2-Bite Brownies 300g 2/5.00	DUNCAN HINES Cake Mix 515g 1.25	CARRIAGE TRADE Jam 750ml 2.39	HEALTHY WAY Multi Grain & Flax 570g 2.57	WONDER EXTRA CRISP English Muffins 6's 1.59
SUNKIST SIZE 113'S NAVEL ORANGES 1.30kg 59¢ lb	WASHINGTON ASPARAGUS 3.51 kg 1.59 lb	HOT HOUSE LONG ENGLISH CUCUMBERS ea 88¢	HOT HOUSE CAMPARI TOMATOES 1lb pkg 1.49	CALIFORNIA CARROTS 5lb bag 1.99	GREEN GIANT RUSSET POTATOES 10lb bag 2.49

Tee Off For Technology Enter to win one of two tickets to play a round of golf and dinner at the Glenmeadows Golf Course. June 16, 2006

Support The Campaign Help create a healing garden for the palliative care unit at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital. Providing the best possible care for members of the community. Purchase products from these participating sponsors.

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GISS students savour highlights of Cuba trip

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

A recent trip to Cuba proved to be life-enriching education for musicians, dancers and singers from Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS).

Some 42 island students and seven chaperones were stunned by the Cuban arts scene, as exhibited by common-place talent and a rhythm-infused culture, during their visit to the Caribbean island nation between April 24 and May 2.

"They have this amazing rhythm in their blood," said GISS student Maya Bornschein.

"We'd go to a school to do a musical exchange. And all these kids knew how to play several instruments."

She recalled moments that seemed to leap out of a musical movie when people would spontaneously begin drumming or dancing.

And she had a meaningful

"I noticed how people didn't have a lot of things but their culture was so vibrant."

— Fiona Munro

experience when she danced with an elderly gentleman after watching him perform a traditional dance.

"I felt like I was going to break this fragile little old man."

Similarly, Luke Giefing recalled a time when eye contact with a drummer was enough to get invited into a jam session.

"What was life-altering for me was being able to play with these guys," he said. "When you're finished, they love you right away."

Giefing was also impressed by how Cubans seemed to express appreciation more readily than Canadians.

Geographic highlights of the tour included stops in

Varadero, Havana (where students played at a jazz café), Cienfuegos (where GISS musicians also performed in the community), Palmira and Trinidad (A UNESCO world heritage site). Delie Lohmann enjoyed visiting the National Ballet Academy in Havana, where GISS students shared 100 pairs of point shoes and assorted items of dance clothing donated by Dragonware Dance of Victoria.

Easily, the thing that impressed itself most upon the GISS students was the Cuban sense of appreciation for all aspects of existence.

"They value the smallest things in life more than we do," said Dalhi Gonthier. "When they look at you, they

are really looking at your eyes. They are not judging your clothes."

Gonthier was moved when he observed students sharing musical instruments at schools.

"I noticed how people didn't have a lot of things but their culture was so vibrant," said Fiona Munro.

In one example, Heather Munro recalled seeing children playing baseball by batting balls of yarn with their arms.

GISS chaperone John Munro gave a baseball to a group of children and they expressed disbelief over their good fortune.

"It took them a moment to realize they had a baseball," Heather Munro said.

At another point she witnessed a saxophone player making wonderful music with a shredded reed; in such bad shape she didn't think she could make a sound with it.

"I wish I had a box of reeds to give him."

But GISS students did make numerous donations of instruments, school supplies and sports equipment during their tour of the country.

Heather Munro noticed that Cubans maintained everything to the best of their abilities.

"Everything is made with a sense of quality and they take care of things and if it's broken, they fix it and fix it."

Bornschein enjoyed seeing meticulously maintained vintage cars and she was also impressed by the sense of appreciation Cubans expressed over small courtesies.

At one hotel, she left a couple of shampoo samples as a tip for the housekeeper and she received an amazing gift (towels folded to resemble kissing swans) in exchange.

GISS students also engaged in fascinating polit-

ical discussions with the locals during their visit.

"When Cubans are talking about terrorists, they are talking about the United States," said Charlotte Mellstrom. "I felt more safe there than I did in Vancouver."

GISS students were impressed by the educational system in the socialist country. Gonthier recalled one public music school where there were 200 teachers for 500 students.

"Their education system is actually better than ours," said Mellstrom.

Bornschein noted that Cuba's key export is educated professionals. Islanders were also impressed by cleanliness of streets and the lack of beggars within the cash-strapped country.

"They have a different kind of poor," said Laura Stewart. "People weren't begging for money."

She delighted over the openness of the culture, as exhibited by living rooms that were exposed to the street where she could observe people playing music, dancing or watching TV.

"You get a good feeling for how life happens there."

Public Comment Invited on an Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project

British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC) has applied for an Environmental Assessment (EA) Certificate for the proposed Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project. The Project is subject to review under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*, S.B.C. 2002, c.43 and the Canadian *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project is a proposal to replace and upgrade existing 138 kV overhead transmission lines and submarine cables connecting southern Vancouver Island, Salt Spring Island and Galiano Island to the Lower Mainland with new 230 kV infrastructure.

The Project consists of overhead lines, underground cables, submarine cables, and modifications to two existing substations and four existing cable terminals. The length of the Project corridor is approximately 67 km, connecting Arnott Substation in Delta and the Vancouver Island Terminal in North Cowichan. Project facilities will be constructed and operated entirely within existing rights-of-way and on lands owned by BC Hydro.

The B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has accepted BCTC's Application for review and a formal public comment period on the Project begins on June 1, 2006 and ends on July 27, 2006.

During this time, the public is invited to comment on the Application and potential environmental, economic, social, heritage or health effects of the Project. The purpose of the comment period is to document issues as they relate to the technical review of the Application. Form letters, petitions or other submissions that only state a position for or against a given project cannot generally be considered.

ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE

Interested members of the public are invited to attend open houses and review the proposed Project at:

SALT SPRING ISLAND

Monday, June 5, 2006
ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Avenue, Ganges
Salt Spring Island, BC
Open House: 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Presentations and Discussion: 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

NORTH COWICHAN, VANCOUVER ISLAND

Tuesday, June 6, 2006
Best Western Cowichan Valley Inn
6474 Trans Canada Highway
Duncan, BC
Open House: 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Presentations and Discussion: 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

DELTA

Tuesday, June 13, 2006
Coast Tsawwassen Inn
1665 56th Street
Delta, BC
Open House: 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Presentations and Discussion: 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Please drop by anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to view the information displays and talk to BCTC staff and technical consultants.

Presentations by the EAO and BCTC will start at 7 p.m. and be followed with a facilitated question and answer period until 8:30 p.m.

Representatives from the EAO will attend the open houses and collect written public comments for inclusion in the review.

VIEW THE APPLICATION

An electronic copy of the Application and information on the EA process is available for viewing on the EAO website and Project Information Centre at www.eao.gov.bc.ca. The Application is also available on BCTC's website at www.bctc.com/regulatory/applications/.

Reference copies of the Application will be available for viewing during the public comment period at:

Ladner Pioneer Library
4683 – 51st Street, Delta, BC
South Delta Library
1321A – 56th Street, Delta, BC
Salt Spring Island Public Library
129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC
Islands Trust Salt Spring Island Office
#1 – 500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC
Galiano Island Community Library
2540 Sturdies Bay Road, Galiano Island, BC
North Cowichan Municipal Office
7030 Trans Canada Highway, North Cowichan, BC
Vancouver Island Regional Library
Cowichan Branch
2687 James Street, Duncan, BC

PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS

Please send written comments by mail, fax or e-mail to:
Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project
c/o Garry Alexander
Environmental Assessment Office
PO Box 9426 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Fax: (250) 356-6448
E-mail: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

Comments must be received by the EAO by midnight on July 27, 2006.

Written submissions will be posted on the EAO website. Please indicate if you wish your personal information (address, e-mail address or phone number) to be treated in confidence, otherwise it will be posted and made public.



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SHOOTING SAVE: Ken Marr gets a foot on the ball to make the winning save in a shoot-out competition during last weekend's Challenge Cup tournament. The win was a sweet one for Marr, who has not played soccer since he was injured in an FC shoot-out game exactly 11 years ago during the same tournament. Winning shooter was Marlo Hart.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Track stars qualify for provincials

Islanders Sarah Proctor and Lowell Rockliffe delivered outstanding performances at the Vancouver Island Track and Field Championships in Victoria on May 17.

Rockliffe was the Gulf Islands Secondary School's lone participant at the meet.

After facing some paperwork difficulties, Rockliffe spontaneously entered the 2,000-metre steeplechase event and placed a strong second. While Rockliffe is an accomplished tri-athlete, he has had no track training for more than a year.

After being hampered by health problems for the past two months, Sarah Proctor — who attends Oak Bay High School — finished first in the 800-m run. Proctor ran a personal best and beat the Oak Bay Secondary School 800-m record by four seconds.

Proctor's strong performance in the 4 x 400-m relay also enabled her team to qualify for the provincial championships.

The B.C. high school championships take place on June 2-3 at Swanguard Sta-

dium in Burnaby.

In other track news:

The week before, a lightly attended event helped islanders earn ribbons during the Mid-Islands Track and Field Championships at the Cowichan Sportsplex on May 9-10.

Highlights for the 17 students who attended from Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) included several first- and second-place finishes (and numerous top-five placings).

Among GISS achievements:

Crystal Amodeo (junior girl) placed first in shot put and second in discus; Sammy Bird (junior girl) won the 100-m race and placed second in the 400 m; Sam Bowen (bantam girls) won the 100 m and the high jump; Meredith Raddysh (bantam girls) won the 800 and 1,500 m; and Matthew Ripley won the 400-m race among junior boys.

Unfortunately, islanders missed the registration deadline to enter the island championships.

Salt Spring surfer back from Brazil event

Salt Spring surfer Isaac Raddysh may be a tad disappointed after his second-round elimination at the World Junior Surfing Championships in Brazil earlier this month, but the result turned out pretty good considering he was the only competitor who doesn't surf every day.

"I didn't feel I did as good as I could have, but just watching others helps you learn a lot," said the 16-year-old in an interview shortly after his return to the island. "It was great to surf and live alongside pro surfers from around the world."

Raddysh was among five Canadians to make the trip to Brazil after qualifying for the international event earlier this year and raising \$2,000 to help pay for the trip.

Surfing on Salt Spring is a challenge at the best of times and most of Raddysh's training occurs in Tofino whenever he can make it out to the West Coast surfing mecca, which is home to all other Canadian team members.

The heavier waves, warmer water and a totally different scene down in

Brazil proved a new experience for all Canadian team members, said the Gulf Islands Secondary School student.

Having competed in his first major international event, Raddysh is taking a laid-back attitude as to whether he'll continue surfing competitively at next year's world championships in Portugal.

"Next year, I'm just going to go to the tryouts and see if I make the team," he said. "Then I'll decide what to do from there."

Island championships ends senior girls' season

Senior girls Scorpions from Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) wrapped up their soccer season with a solid showing at the Vancouver Island championships in Victoria on May 15-16.

GISS lost their first match against Woodlands by 2-0 but beat North Islands Sec-

ondary School by 7-1 on May 15.

"We had some good offence," said assistant coach Jeremy Byron.

Goal scorers for GISS included Avery Brown, Jill Foley, Kate Parker and Michelle Proctor, he said.

GISS had a good match

against second-ranked Reynolds on May 16, but lost by 4-1.

"It should have been a 2-1 game and we could have won it," Byron said.

Parker scored the lone island goal against Reynolds.

GISS relaxed for their final

match against Qualicum for a 1-0 loss, he said.

"We knew our season was ending and we just had fun with it," Byron said.

Defenders Val Harkema, Meredith Raddysh and Emma Rimmer stood out during the second day of play, he noted.

Sports Schedule

It's baseball, softball and slo-pitch season on Salt Spring.

Catch some action at Portlock Park, Salt Spring Elementary and middle school fields or Fulford Ball Park



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Stuart Farson's 'Flash' sails to victory in 32nd annual round-the-island race

By KEVIN VINE

Special to the Driftwood
Stuart Farson's JJ Flash swept the trophy table clean during this weekend's sail-boat race around the island.

Farson's 39-foot "J" boat won first in Division A, the Doug Thomas Round Salt Spring trophy for the first Salt Spring Island Sailing Club boat, and the Marshall Sharp trophy for overall winner.

Farson cited excellent crew work and not making any costly mistakes as the reason for JJ Flash's success.

Marda Gras, a 52-foot Santa Cruz owned by Marda Phelps, took line honours, finishing just after 4:30 on Saturday afternoon, only eight and a half hours after her start. "Marda Gras" finished 10th overall, upon application of her racing handicap to her elapsed time.

This year's Round Salt Spring race was a quick one, with most boats finishing well before dark.

The forecast was for rain and light winds, but the fleet was blessed with sunshine and winds up to 25 knots, which persisted throughout the day.

Nintey-two boats competed in Round Salt Spring 2006, with 75 managing to finish the challenging course. Boats came from Vancouver, the Sunshine Coast, Victo-



ALL ABOARD: Sailor Steve Pal is ready to race at the start of Saturday's annual Round Salt Spring sailing competition. Seventy-five of 92 boats finished the race, with most coming in before dark. Photo by Derrick Lundy

ria, Maple Bay, Nanaimo, and the other Gulf Islands.

The annual May long-weekend event — hosted by

Salt Spring Island Sailing Club for the past 32 consecutive years — began with

registration on Friday night

and big band swing music provided by "Swing Shift," the local community swing band.

On Saturday morning, April Steel, Club Commodore and Bob Jones, Racing Fleet Captain, greeted the visiting sailors, and laid out the instructions for the race.

The first fleet started at 10 a.m., followed by the second and third fleets at 10-minute intervals.

Even though the competitive fleets jostled each other aggressively, all three starts were clean and the boats got away quickly.

Saturday evening was a busy time at the finish line, as boat after boat crossed the line under spinnaker, with many exciting photo finishes.

A hardy group of sailors, who missed some of the opportunities offered them by wind and current, stuck it out during the night in Captain Passage, the last of them finishing just after 6 a.m. on Sunday.

Later on Sunday, the sailing club hosted its famous lamb BBQ, with over 400 people enjoying the Salt Spring delicacy. The event concluded with an awards ceremony.

"Those are good prizes!" a spectator noted.



STRAIGHT UP: Salt Spring Dragons keeper Lindsey Kovats goes for the shot during women's Challenge Cup soccer action last weekend. The local squad finished in the middle of the pack. Photo by John Cameron

Father & Child

Look-alike Contest

Do you know someone who looks like their Dad?
Enter their photo in the Driftwood's Father-Child Look-alike Contest. We'll publish a special page featuring the photos on June 14. Deadline to enter: 4:30pm, June 8 (no charge to enter)

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- All age groups welcome.
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What's On?
see page B12

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We appreciate the interest of all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

BC Ferries

Pringle farm Arabians earn awards

Island riders and horses from Pringle Farm brought home more honours from the B.C. Classic All Arabian Horse Association Show held at Thunderbird Show Park in Langley on May 11-14.

Among a total of some 150 entries overall, Emma Hawkins and Adoring Star placed second in training-level dressage (missing first place by half a point), they earned third in junior-to-ride (JTR) training-level dressage, first in showmanship (14-17 years), second in show-hack novice

horse, first in country pleasure JTR, reserve champion in JTR country pleasure, and reserve champion in JTR show hack.

Erin Pringle (competing in the 10 and under class) and her mount Soh Bay won third in showmanship, fourth in hunter pleasure, third in hunt seat equitation and fourth in stock seat equitation.

Soh Bay, ridden by Sally Dods, also won reserve champion in the open western pleasure class.

Sascha Kazakoff and her horse Oh

So Fine placed second in sport horse mares in hand, they won reserve champion in the half-Arab mare in hand class, a first in showmanship (age 10 and under), and placed fifth in hunt seat equitation (age 10 years and under).

Patricia Lockie and Tequilla Sunrise, making their side-saddle debut, placed third in western side saddle and fourth in amateur-to-ride (ATR) western pleasure.

Jody Pringle and TR Cinabar

placed first in training-level dressage, fourth in first-level dressage and fourth in hunter pleasure (13 years and under).

Dianne Fidler and Stars and Stripe placed sixth in ATR training-level dressage.

This was the last of the Vancouver shows for the Pringle riders before the Region-17 championship show in August.

They also have one more show on Vancouver Island in June for the last of the qualifying shows.

HIGH ROLLERS

High rollers in May 17 Special Olympics bowling play were:

Jason Newport, 140; Jimmy Beck, 141; Mahjor Bains, 148; Brad Magnus, 153; Gloria Dale, 166, 179; Stuart (Muscles) Elliott, 174.

What's On?
see page B12

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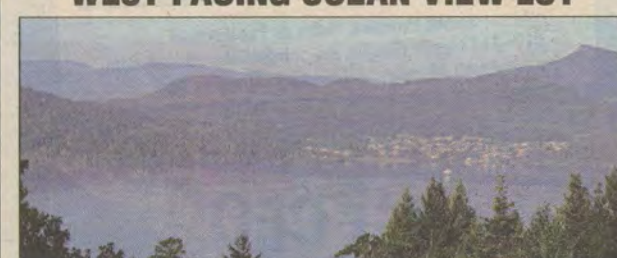
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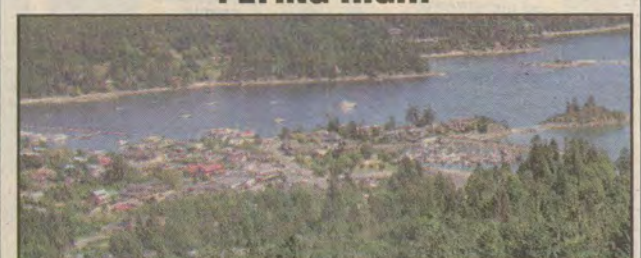
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