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Driftwood

Fall Fair Entry Catalogue | inside

Canada Day Photo Page | B12

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MORTGAGE QUESTIONS?
... ask Arlene



Weather

The forecast calls for sun with a few cloudy periods right through the weekend. Highs to 21 C on Saturday; overnight lows to 12 C on Friday.

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LAVENDER TREK: Orin McRey and "Tammy" were among the sights to see as they collected lavender at Sacred Mountain Lavender during last Sunday's annual Lavender Festival. The event, which also took place at Everlasting Summer, drew islanders of all ages, many dressed in various shades of purple. More photos, Page A11.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

School company opens up books

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Gulf Islands school trustees voted in favour of a policy aimed to increase the transparency and public accountability of the District No. 64 Business Company at a school board meeting in Ganges last week.

"This is the first policy of its type in the province and we are now in a leading position," said school trustee Pete Williams, who initiated the policy shortly after get-

ting elected to the board last fall.

"Without transparency people tend to go and make things up on their own."

Concern over the District No. 64 Business Company surfaced during debate over the four-day school week earlier this year. Island residents opposed to the reduced school week and concerned over private encroachment — since companies were permitted under the province's School Act in 2002

— argue that using business ventures to increase revenues compromises the public education system.

According to the new policy, the company is required to provide the public with an annual report including all current company activities, financial performance and business plan for upcoming years.

Business Company ventures include a preschool in Poland, the international program and an online course

introducing potential foreign students to life in Canada. The company board includes district treasurer Rod Scotvold, chair May McKenzie and trustee Williams.

Claims that this new policy will increase transparency, said critic Mona Fertig, are not only too little too late, but fail to address the fundamental contradiction of having a private company raise funds for public education.

SCHOOL COMPANY A2

Islanders assist in saving life of 'miracle' foal

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

Blessed like a gentle warm wind in winter, a Salt Spring foal named "Chinook" has survived a remarkable premature birth.

A Paint-Belgian cross, Chinook was born at 11:30 p.m. on June 24, over one month before its due date of July 27.

"He's classed as a medical miracle," said local horse breeder Rebecca Smith.

Foals don't usually survive when they are born more than 20 days before their due dates, and Chinook was 33 days premature, she added.

"She wasn't truly giving birth, she was aborting. So we actually got to step in and save an aborted fetus."

Horses have a gestation period of 345 days, two months longer than humans, she noted.

The baby foal was discovered by Smith's husband Andrew Currie after their mare, Lucy, didn't come in for her 10 p.m. feeding that night.

"If Andrew hadn't decided to check up on the mare, we

would've found [the foal] dead in the morning," Smith said.

But Chinook hasn't had an easy go for his first week and a half.

"The first three days of his life — hopes weren't that good."

In order to survive, he required round-the-clock attention and medical inter-

Trust urged to take OCP lead

Salt Spring's Official Community Plan review gets underway.

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Traffic, housing and island governance were the orders of the day as Salt Spring Island Trustees sat down with a small-yet-opinionated audience to initiate discussion on the island's Official Community Plan (OCP) review process last week.

Trustees seek to establish which sections of the two-volume 150-page OCP need rewriting by the fall, and hope to complete the process by late-2007.

The OCP is touted as the island's "visionary document," outlining how land use and planning efforts ought to proceed as population and development increase over the next decade.

For trustee Peter Lamb, the opportunity to reassess the plan's effectiveness 10 years after it was last reviewed, is an integral stage in keeping up with the needs of both island residents and visitors.

"The plan must set out what kind of community we'd like to be," he said. "We

OCP A3

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		08:19	0.9	3.0		23:06	3.1	10.2
		17:36	2.8	9.2	10 MO	02:25	3.2	10.5
07 FR		19:13	2.8	9.2		10:57	0.1	0.3
		00:27	3.1	10.2		19:50	3.4	11.2
		08:55	0.6	2.0		23:51	3.1	10.2
		18:08	3.0	9.8	11 TU	03:21	3.2	10.5
08 SA		20:48	3.0	9.8		11:41	0.0	0.0
		00:54	3.1	10.2		20:21	3.4	11.2
		09:33	0.4	1.3				
		18:42	3.2	10.5				
	22:07	3.1	10.2					

MIRACLE FOAL

From Page A1

For the first four days, he couldn't walk, he couldn't nurse and his eyes were obscured by a cloud of blood vessels.

He was getting fluid intravenously morning and night and he was on antibiotics until June 30. But he's come a long way, having gained 20 pounds by Monday. Now he's nursing on his own; he can see and he can walk.

"He's doing great. Everything is changing by the hour. He has just such an incredible personality. If he didn't have that he wouldn't have made it. He's just determined to survive," Smith said.

However, one of his legs was still splinted Monday because his bones and ligaments could not support his weight yet and he was still getting enemas twice a day because his gastrointestinal system isn't fully developed.

As breeders of the relatively rare Canadians, Smith and Currie have 12 other horses at their property along Atkins Road.

"We've been taking care of horses for over 40 years."

But caring for this newborn foal has been a unique and powerful spiritual experience, Smith said.

"A situation like that, you feel like you are not in your normal physical-world experience. It was more on the spiritual side. It was a powerful experience."

They decided to name him "Chinook" because the name is linked to the First Nations people (from a nation located at the Columbia River mouth



BABY BOY: "Miracle foal" Chinook is seen at his mid-island home last Wednesday. Photo by Peter McCully

and a trade language common throughout the Pacific Northwest) and to Canada (as a warm winter wind that travels east from the Rockies).

"It's a prevailing wind, which you don't really get to control," Smith said.

Along with a miraculously early start in life, Chinook has an unusual "Paint" or "Pinto" colouring pattern called "Medicine Hat," she noted.

"He's mostly white with some brown patches. It was considered to be a spirit-horse colouring, which is appropriate for what he's been fighting. In the native culture, it was a highly desired but rare colour. Chiefs and medicine men were the only ones who could ride them."

Smith thanked local veterinarians Sacha Edgell and David MacDonald for their dedicated efforts to maintain the health of the foal.

"They've been around the clock with us."

Chinook had hypoglycemia (unable to metabolize sugars) and an infected umbilicus for the first few days of his life, said MacDonald.

The local veterinarian (from Gulf Islands Veterinary Clinic) acknowledged that it looks like Chinook might beat the odds that were stacked against him.

"It's a little bit of a miracle because he was born premature and he didn't actually stand up on his own for the first few days. He would've died if we had not intervened."

MacDonald believes an

infected placenta caused the early birth, which is a fairly common cause of abortions among mares, he said.

"The stress from the infection initiates a cascade of events that leads to foaling."

But now things are looking good for Chinook, he said.

"He's over the problems with hypoglycemia, and he's got enough strength and coordination that he can nurse. It's just his crooked leg that's the concern right now."

Smith plans to bring Chinook to the local Fall Fair in September but horse lovers who can't wait to see the foal can give her a call (537-2856).

"We can't be too greedy to keep it all to ourselves," she laughed.

Honest islander returns card and money

A weekend visitor from Vancouver had a Canada Day weekend to remember after a Salt Spring woman turned in a bank card and \$200 she discovered in a cash machine on Monday.

RCMP said the card owner apparently made a small withdrawal and accidentally left her card in the machine. It appears somebody must have attempted to withdraw the funds and been scared off in the process.

After finding the items, the woman turned them over to

RCMP REPORT

police officers on foot patrol in Ganges.

In other police news:

• Two Salt Spring women aged 18 and 24 were arrested after RCMP officers on a routine patrol along Fulford-Ganges Road just before noon Monday noticed them consuming illegal substances.

Police later discovered

an unspecified amount of cocaine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia in their possession.

• Police are on the lookout for suspects responsible for destroying two memorial trees located on the grounds of the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club.

RCMP officers believe the incident took place during the evening of July 3.

People with any information are asked to contact the Salt Spring RCMP detachment at 537-5555.

• A rush-hour traffic accident on Fulford-Ganges Road near the intersection of Seaview Avenue at 7:50 a.m. Tuesday morning resulted in both drivers being rushed to hospital with neck and head injuries.

The incident occurred as a northbound vehicle attempting a left turn struck an oncoming vehicle.

Both vehicles sustained severe front-end damage and were towed from the scene. The drivers were treated for minor injuries and released.

SCHOOL COMPANY

From Page A1

"Private school business companies do not serve the public interest," she said. "That is an oxymoron. Or as the Greeks say, 'pointedly foolish.'"

Resources and staff time that should be spent on improving the public system, opponents maintain, risk

getting used up on managing more lucrative projects both in Canada and abroad.

"They're not getting at the core of the problem," Fertig said. "These annual reports can contain many vagaries."

Williams is convinced that the new measures to

post financial information on the internet in addition to providing information about specific projects will allow the district to work more effectively and openly within the confines of the School Act.

"There will always be people philosophically opposed

to the Business Company," he said from his home on Pender Island. "Ideally, the public system would be entirely publicly funded, but this does help to give it more clarity. Because this is a public company, a higher level of accountability is a must."

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A ROOM WITH A VIEW: Kingfisher resident Marlene Rice says her privacy will be ruined when her new neighbours move in at the end of summer. Photo by Sean McIntyre

'Monster home' lumbers into downtown Ganges

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Construction of what neighbours describe as an illegal "monster" fourplex overlooking Ganges Harbour has triggered a battle to preserve Salt Spring's rural character despite claims from the island's senior building inspector that all appears normal for the moment.

"Laws apply to everyone or at least they should," said neighbour Bill Leckie, "Unaddressed, this would be a terrible precedent and an open invitation to others of the same ilk to do as they please anywhere on the island."

Though initially concerned over how the building's design destroyed neighbours' privacy by overlooking into backyards and windows, Leckie said, he and his wife recently uncovered evidence that developers plan to turn what has been touted as a duplex into an fourplex featuring "executive suites." Construction is set for completion at the end of the summer.

Leckie noted recent advertisements in the Driftwood and personal conversations with the property's owners convinced him they had every intention of violating zoning regulations and disregarding traffic, privacy and noise concerns expressed by neighbours in the area.

"Altruism has no place in the plans for 266 Lower Ganges Road," he said. "This fourplex is a monument to greed and a sad commentary

on contemporary values."

According to Leckie, the owners have also threatened to build a legal daycare facility, medical clinic or church if neighbours speak out against the fourplex operation.

Citing a problem with the "in-your-face mentality of the entire undertaking," Leckie and a coalition of neighbours from Kingfisher and Village Terrace hope to raise awareness among officials at the Islands Trust and Capital Regional District (CRD) to preserve the rural atmosphere they sought by moving to Salt Spring Island.

Kingfisher resident Marlene Rice said she won't even be able to lift the blinds in her bedroom when the home, located roughly 10-metres from her property is completed.

"Privacy is an important thing, isn't it?" she said, standing in her bedroom window overshadowed by the two-storey home going up nearby.

"I'm sure we're not the first people to have this problem. There must be some kind of regulations."

Despite neighbours' best efforts to stop the project since construction began in January, there is little CRD bylaw enforcement officials can do since initial inspections have not revealed any violations of building codes or bylaws, said Uli Temmel, senior building inspector for the Capital Regional District on Salt Spring.

"From our point of view it is still a duplex," he said. "The proof of the pudding is really in the eating. At this point we have a number of (plumbing) fixtures which, I suppose, could be changed into other things."

All anybody can do right now, Temmel added, is wait and see what the property owners have in store for the site. CRD inspectors will assess the building after it is completed to ensure the structure is in compliance with local building codes, and the Islands Trust will monitor any potential land-use violations.

"Most of the evidence presented at this point is hearsay and that's mainly the problem," he said. "We have to deal with what's in place."

From the property owners' perspective, what's in place is entirely legal and that is the way they say things will remain.

"The building isn't even finished," said co-owner Pat MacPherson, who laughed off talk of a church, clinic or daycare getting built on the site. "So far, we have done everything according to plan."

According to MacPherson, the site is located in the village core, an area specifically targeted for higher density under the island's Official Community Plan (OCP).

In her view the problem is far less complex than bylaw violations or the right to privacy.

"People don't like a vacant lot being built on," she said.

OCP

From Page A1

must ask ourselves if our grandchildren will be thankful for these decisions."

While last week's OCP meetings at ArtSpring and the Fulford Community Hall gave members of the public their first opportunity to provide input on policy changes, participants made it clear the major impetus for changes need to come from trustees themselves.

"The leadership and the will has got to come from the trust," said John Myers, speaking from the audience. "Few people keep up with the CRD and the Trust issues and elected officials should be required to raise awareness."

Myers said the OCP needs reworking with "harder language" to avoid misinterpretation, a problem that has reduced the the plan's effectiveness concerning management and planning in area's such as Ganges village.

"Ganges is not a village, it is a shopping mall without a roof," said John Myers, adding a new OCP ought to focus on making Ganges a vibrant year-round neighbourhood. "We must try to envision a more livable community."

Opportunity for public input will continue throughout the summer. For more information on how to participate contact the Salt Spring Island trust office at 537-9144 or online at www.islandstrust.bc.ca.

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More delays in trial

The trial pitting the Poets Cove Resort and Spa against the province's Heritage Conservation Act has been delayed for a third time as lawyers from both sides expressed the need to meet and further discuss evidence prior to court proceedings.

Another pre-trial hearing is set for August 9 in Victoria, more than eight months after the trial was initially set to begin.

Poets Cove Resort and Spa faces charges of violating the province's Heritage Conservation Act after the company allegedly moved more than 50 truck loads of human remains from a midden site on South Pender Island's Bedwell Harbour during construction in 2004.



CLASSIC CAR: Paul Croach is seen with his hand-built Jaguar — one of many classic cars on display as part of an annual Canada Day exhibition. The classic cars were featured at a school field on Rainbow Road.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

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Trustees seek Creekside clarification before treading further on amenity proposal

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Salt Spring Island trustees will need more information if a multi-million dollar proposal to create nearly 13 hectares (32 acres) of parkland along Cusheon Creek near Stewart Road has any chance of staying afloat.

"We need to understand what and where the community benefit is before proceeding with this idea," said trustee Peter Lamb at the June 27 Local Trust Committee meeting at ArtSpring. "Let's not go around in circles again and again, let's get the information we need right now."

Though plans to create parkland always sound appealing, Lamb said, trustees need to exercise caution before giving the potential developer and current property owners, represented by former Salt Spring Island trustee Eric Booth, the green light to proceed with work on adjacent lots.

The rezoning, if approved through the usual public process, would see 20 dwelling units (with 12 seasonal cottages allowed) on the recipient properties which stretch for more than two kilometres and cover 33 hectares (84 acres) between Stewart Road and the shoreline.

The parkland dedication would create up to 72 acres of contiguous parkland and

links with existing trails in Peter Arnell Park and the Deep Ridge Nature Sanctuary.

At its June 26 meeting, the Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission expressed preliminary interest in receiving the land, in response to a visit from Booth.

Before a decision is made, Lamb said, more information is needed to clarify specific building locations, dwelling types, net value of all four lots involved in the deal and more information on archeological sites and information clearly demonstrating the parkland's "overall value to the community."

Presenting the final plans at the time of subdivision, after permission to proceed is already given, Lamb added, is unacceptable as the consequences of the deal would set a precedent for future amenity zoning requests, whereby developers request additional densities in exchange for the dedication of a sufficient community amenity as outlined in the island's official community plan (OCP).

Acting on behalf of the potential developer and the four property owners, Booth is asking trustees to amend the island's OCP and land use bylaw to transfer six densities from two lots along Creekside Road to increase the maximum number of

dwelling units permitted on the recipient properties.

A formal public hearing is required before trustees make their final decision, but trustees are forwarding the current proposal to the Advisory Environment Committee and asking staff to report back with a more detailed report for the July Islands Trust meeting.

Despite gaining initial support from neighbourhood groups when it was first proposed earlier this year, neighbours worried over potential impacts on traffic, safety and fire hazards are asking trustees to examine things closely.

"If the area is opened as a park there is a whole series of issues that arise," area resident Don Stevens cautioned trustees. "The property should be closed off to the public entirely."

According to Booth, the project has been largely well received by everyone and, he added, now is the time for those who support the proposal to step up and let their feelings be known.

"I am hoping people in support of this plan will actually get their pens out, write letters and say this is a good idea because it won't help to just sit back on this one," he said. "This is a worthy cause and 200 years from now people will look back and appreciate what we've done."



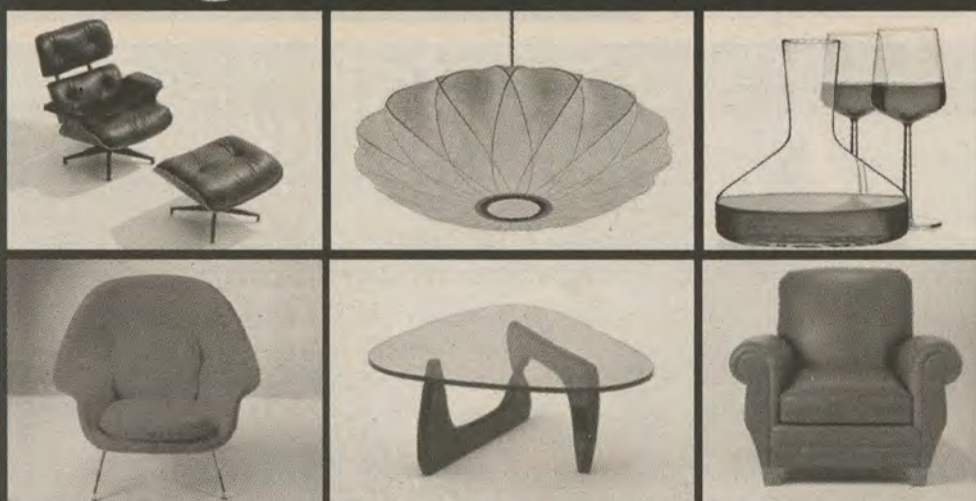
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Ferries quashes schedule proposal

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

After reviewing a previous ruling, B.C. Ferries rejected a local proposal to alter the local schedule for earlier arrival times from the Mainland on Friday nights.

"We couldn't come up with a compromise that suits your needs that doesn't hurt someone else," said B.C. Ferry Service Inc. (BCFSI) vice president of fleet operations George Capacci.

Members of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (SSIFAC) had lobbied B.C. Ferries staff to consider a new schedule that would see passengers from Tsawwassen arrive at Long Harbour at 10 p.m., instead of midnight during fall, winter and spring sailings.

But BCFSI decision makers rejected the plan during a public meeting held at the Harbour House Hotel on June 14 and again on another meeting held to review the decision on June 29.

"The unofficial mandate of ferry advisory committees is that, 'No one shall ask for a change that will cause undue hardship to another island,'" said Capacci.

The proposed schedule change to the Queen of Nanaimo would have seen Pender Island lose a sailing and passengers bound for Saturna add a two-hour wait.

"You have told us that because it had a two-hour wait for Saturna, it was deemed unacceptable," said SSIFAC chair Bob Jones. "We have lived for years with a midnight arrival, which would be unacceptable to any of the other islands."

And Jones argued that Salt Spring bound passengers comprise the bulk of the load on the ferry that serves five Gulf Islands and that sailings could be more fuel efficient by using the proposed schedule.

"It seems like we are desperately looking for

an excuse to do nothing," said Jones. "If we make no changes, we can make no improvements."

He complained that he's been striving to improve ferry service to Salt Spring for over two years without success.

"People say, 'Why are you wasting your time?'"

Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce president Peter Allan also expressed frustration over the inability to improve ferry service to the island.

"The ferry service should be embarrassed," he said. "The brain power at this table should be able to come up with something better."

He also challenged the nine ferry executives attending the meeting to take more responsibility for decision making.

"I think it's Napoleonic to play the islands off each other."

Jones, Allan and Local Trust Committee member

George Ehring urged Capacci to meet with islanders in the future.

Ehring also invited BCFSI staff to participate on a Fulford task force subcommittee for a review of the Official Community Plan (OCP).

BCFSI stakeholder-relations manager Gary Leitch offered to support the Islands Trust for an OCP review but he expressed reluctance about considering major changes at Fulford Ferry terminal.

"B.C. Ferries will not lead a charge for a master plan in Fulford. We just see ourselves as wearing lots of egg," Leitch said. "We have stumbled time and time again because we didn't have support for something we thought we needed to do."

In the interim, BCFSI terminal operations manager Stephen Nussbaum indicated that the ticket booth at Fulford will be removed within the year to provide more parking at the terminal.

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Hewitt receives award for Cusheon plan

Salt Spring water watcher Wayne Hewitt has been honoured by the B.C. Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS).

Hewitt was acknowledged as a 2006 BCLSS Volunteer of the Year for his work on the Cusheon Watershed Management Plan.

"The whole steering committee, that stuck through it [for the Cusheon Watershed Management Plan], should have got the award," Hewitt said. "I was never one for P.R."

And committee members are still working on the management plan to

make sure it meets the new riparian-area regulations, he said.

"It's a lot of work to make sure that everything fits into the whole broad scheme of things."

He's pleased that work has also begun on a watershed plan for St. Mary Lake.

"We're hoping Weston is next. Nobody does anything to it. The only people looking after Weston were Judy Raddysh and the kids [from Fulford Community Elementary School] to get baseline information because it's got the least documentation on the whole island."

The non-profit, citizen led BCLSS is a member of the North American Lake Management's Society, Hewitt noted.

"They are trying to get people to look after all these different lakes but they are also trying to do a temperature and oxygen profile, secchi discs [to measure clarity] and print brochures so the public knows what the water quality is doing."

Hewitt's award was announced during the BCLSS annual conference held at Cowichan Lake between June 16-18 (he did not attend the event).

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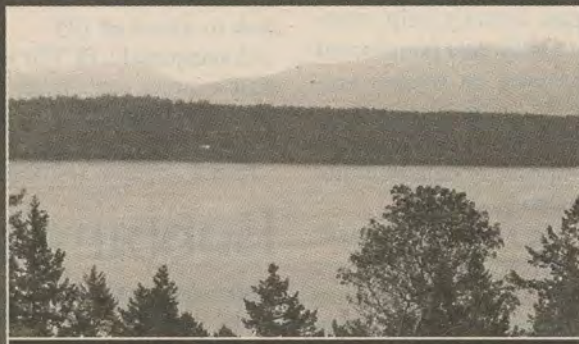
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Cougars haunt Channel Ridge

Channel Ridge residents are on high alert after repeated cougar sightings in the area prompted warnings about walking nearby trails and keeping a close watch over pets, livestock and small children.

"It has come to the point where we can't even go outside," said Canvasback Place resident Leslie Northey, after coming close to what she suspects was a cougar during a walk in the woods near her home last week.

"This has been kind of nerve-wracking."

Cougar sightings by neighbours over the past three weeks have led her to believe there are two cubs in the area and, Northey said, it's about time the animals be tranquilized and removed from the area before a major incident occurs.

To make matters worse, Northey said, she has noticed a higher than normal number of deer likely killed by cougars in the past weeks.

"It's not fair to wait until the cougars kill all the deer, then attack livestock before something is done," she said.

"The deer were here first."

Cougars are considered shy animals more likely to avoid humans than meet one face-to-face but, warns CRD animal control officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser, people living in a cougar area should take special care.

Since cougars often make their way to Salt Spring as a result of habitat loss on Vancouver Island, Brunnwieser said, relocating the animals can prove extremely difficult.

As for concerns over the deer population, he added, cougars actually help maintain healthy deer populations by preying on weaker animals.

"The deer population on Salt Spring is definitely not in jeopardy," he said.

In the event of a cougar encounter, Brunnwieser advised people to stand their ground, try to appear as large as possible and leave the cougar with an escape route.

"As long as you don't pester the animal, you should be fine," he said.

Sightings should be reported to the CRD at 537-9414.



FLYING HIGH: Julie Doobenen flies through the air at the course-end performance of those enrolled in an aerial acrobatics class staged by Aerial Art Productions on Salt Spring.
 Photo by Derrick Lundy

B.C. Ferries plan offers prizes for 'Ramp Riders'

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
 Driftwood Reporter

Passengers parked on the platform decks aboard the Queen of Cumberland are now eligible to win prizes as part of a new "Ramp Rider" initiative from B.C. Ferries.

"We're trying to increase awareness about why we use the platform decks of the Queen of Cumberland and it does certainly increase our capacity," said B.C. Ferry Services Inc (BCFSI) spokesperson Betsy Terpstra. "We only use them when we feel that we need to carry the anticipated traffic from the next island."

She added, "Sometimes you get parked on the ends, so you are on a bit of a slope and some people prefer to be on the main car deck. But we do need to use the platform decks to increase the car capacity, particularly in the summer months."

The two platform decks on each side of the vessel provide an increased vehicle capacity from 85 on the main deck to a total of 125.

Consequently, BCFSI will draw a prize each week for passengers who ride on the elevated decks.

Prizes include round-trip

fares for (an under-height vehicle and driver) the Southern Gulf Islands and BCFSI-branded merchandise.

"Sometimes it takes some extra effort to go up there but we really appreciate it."

The day of the week and the destination will be rotated to give customers from each of Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna islands an opportunity to win the "Ramp Rider" prize.

Islanders may recall an incident in November 2001 when a ramp cable aboard the Queen of Cumberland failed and the platform deck collapsed, crushing a van belonging to a Mayne Island family (fortunately, without injuries).

"For some people it has a bad reputation," said Brian Hollingshead, trustee for the Saturna Local Trust Committee and past chair of the Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee.

"If you are living on island time, it's no big deal. If you're living on city time and you have to be somewhere in a rush, then people can get aggravated."

But most people don't mind parking on the ramp, he said.

"Some people don't like change or having to do things they didn't invent themselves, I guess. I have sympathy for B.C. Ferries on this. They were caught in a hard place and there was nothing they could do about it."

As result of regulations from the Ministry of Transportation, B.C. Ferries isn't allowed to raise or lower the ramps with passengers on the platform, he noted.

"People loading on the back half of the ramp are all parked on this hill. They have to get out of their cars and walk up the hill, rather than waiting until the ramp is lifted."

Hollingshead sees the new "Ramp Rider" initiative as a positive step from B.C. Ferries.

"They are recognizing there's a bit of an imposition on people and they are saying, 'We know we are inconveniencing you and this is something we are doing to recognize and thank you for it.'"

The B.C. Ferries promotion runs from June 28 to September 4, 2006.

Bobbing algae doesn't harm water

Islanders need not worry about pink globules floating in the water supply at St. Mary Lake, reports North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) general manager Trevor Hutton.

"The water is safe to drink," Hutton said. "Our quality is excellent and we don't foresee any problems."

Pink and orange gelatinous filaments seen in the lake are likely signs that algae is dying in the lake with warmer weather, he said.

"We're going through the same cycle as we did before. And it's pretty much repeating itself."

Lab results from untreated water on June 21 showed no

detectable levels of the algal toxin microcystins LR and 17.5 micrograms per litre of microcystins YR (Health Canada has not established a guideline for microcystins YR).

There are no detectable levels of microcystins in the treated water supply, he said.

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Driftwood

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- Cedar House: end of 2007 / Dogwood: end of 2008

Our reservation list is growing. Choose a suite for the future and ensure you will be able to stay on Salt Spring when the time comes for you to give up the maintenance of your property.

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 Tours are available at other times by appointment
 Call Donna Regen at 537-1201



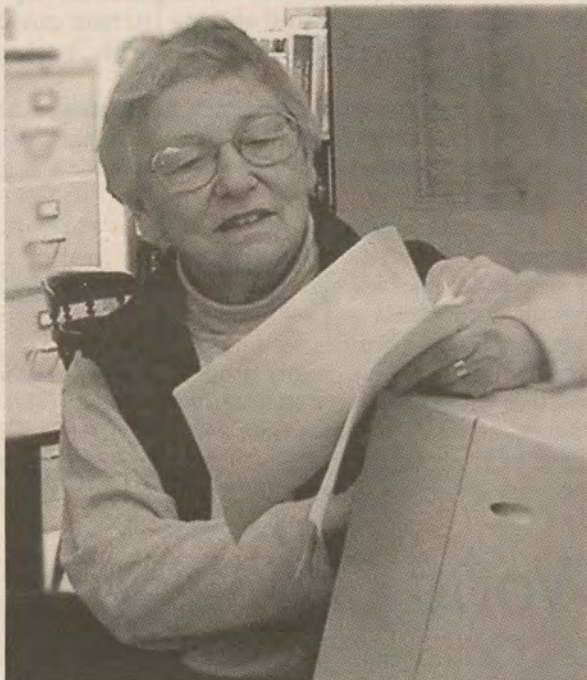
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Featuring a library volunteer who is helping to make our library grow



Audrey Wild has worked in the library for over 16 years. Both she and husband Bob, who has also been a volunteer, feel strongly that the library should remain in the village core. They have made a very substantial contribution to the site purchase campaign.

Would you honour the work of these and other dedicated volunteers by making a donation?

All donations, large or small, will be welcome and will be acknowledged.



The Salt Spring Public Library

Association and the Friends of the Salt Spring Public Library have joined together to raise money to help pay for the land next door. *No additional public appeal for donations will be made for construction purposes.*

Here's how our little library has grown:

1959

A handful of volunteers ran our library, 1300 books housed in one room of Mouat's store.

1964

Our library moves into a converted boathouse on McPhillips Avenue.

1987

Our library's resources include 27,000 books and tapes, and nearly 100 volunteers.



1990

The Salt Spring Historical Society's Archives is now located in the library.

1995

Volunteers compile a database of 35,000 books and tapes as the library computerizes its operations.

2005

Our library has 46,000 books, tapes, CDs, and DVDs, over 150 volunteers, a paid part-time librarian, 7 computer workstations, and 11 public-access terminals.

2006

We acquire the lot to the east of our library, making possible a new, expanded library building.

2008-2009?

Our new building will include:

- more room to grow
- a meeting room/boardroom
- many more parking spaces
- a quiet study area
- a privacy space around public computers
- sufficient storage space
- more work space for behind-the-scenes volunteers and staff
- climate-controlled archives
- wheelchair accessibility in all areas



Our library will mark its 50th anniversary in 2009. It would be fantastic to be able to celebrate this special occasion in our new building in the centre of Ganges.

Now is the time to send your donation or pledge to the Library's Land Acquisition Campaign.

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I prefer to remain anonymous

Please make cheques payable to the Friends of the Salt Spring Library. Then, either mail or bring this form with your cheque to The Salt Spring Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T6. A charitable receipt will be issued for all donations of \$10.00 or more as soon as your gift is processed.

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Sharing the ferry

B.C. Ferries staff and members of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (SSIFAC) can be complimented for their efforts to improve ferry service to the island.

It stands to reason that SSIFAC members will advocate for improved Salt Spring schedules. A midnight arrival at Long Harbour can hardly be ideal for the bulk of travellers such as visiting tourists, weekenders or parents with young children.

But when the Queen of Nanaimo departs Tsawwassen, it serves five islands that are inextricably linked so that any change designed to improve the schedule for one island will likely produce a negative impact on the others.

Even though Salt Spring might garner the bulk of the traffic on Queen of Nanaimo, B.C. Ferries has taken the high road by refusing to reduce service to other islands without their consent. Still, it's impressive that the corporation and community volunteers dedicated countless hours investigating options for improvement.

Further investigation might eventually produce a schedule that all the islands can live with, but until that time, we can take pride in a service that supports small communities; after all, if B.C. Ferries could be compelled to improve service to Salt Spring at the expense of another port, that same argument could return to haunt the island in the future.

World Cup fever

Many islanders will likely enjoy the soccer final of the FIFA World Cup set for this Sunday.

Salt Spring has a long tradition of connection with the world's most popular sport (even if it isn't the most popular sport in North America).

Along with hosting successful tournaments and producing a bevy of high-calibre teams, the island community has groomed several outstanding players such as phenoms Cardin Davis, Britta Rustad and Claire Rustad, who have played with provincial and/or national squads.

But, as delightful as the game can be on the international stage with top-level talent, it's tough to beat watching members of your community (friends, family, acquaintances and local children) battle for the ball on an island pitch.

Fans of the game can find a new level of thrills by observing local matches when the season resumes this fall.

Canada should reconsider alliance with United States

By NOVA ELSON

Today, for the first time in my life, my country is at war, an undeclared war at that.

How did this happen? Stephen Harper has committed Canada to this war in Afghanistan for at least three more years.

As the Taliban resurges, we must prepare for increasing numbers of Canadian sons and daughters returning home in body bags. How did this happen? Oh, everyone knows Canada is a partner in the "global war on terrorism," and we invaded Afghanistan to drive out the brutal, ignorant Taliban (true enough) and their al-Qaeda allies, who, we are told, brought down the twin towers in New York City and attacked the Pentagon.

Well, all the video clips I've seen and witness reports I've heard tell me the Pentagon was hit by a missile-like object. I have seen absolutely no evidence or witness

VIEW POINT

reports that show a jetliner hit the Pentagon, nothing. And all the video evidence I've seen tells me the twin towers were demolished by explosives. I saw the explosions on tape. The architect of the World Trade Centre says jet fuel does not burn hot enough to bring down a steel building. Building seven, housing the CIA, was brought down, demolition style, ostensibly because a dangerous fire was raging through it. How, unless explosives were previously planted? And why?

Let me present a quotation from a 1997 book, *The Grand Chessboard: American primacy and its strategic imperatives*, written by Zbigniew Brzezinski, a former advisor to presidents Reagan, Bush Sr., and Carter:

"The key to America's control of the world is the control of Eurasia, a power that dominates Eurasia would control about three-quarters of the world's known energy resources. . . Without an attack in the order of Pearl Harbour or without a direct external threat there is no way the American people would support the imperial mobilization necessary to control central Asia."

Mr. Brzezinski was part of a group called Project for a New American Policy, which included Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Jeb Bush (whose manipulations "elected" his brother George W.) and Paul Wolfowitz, now head of the World Bank. Hmm. An event like President Roosevelt knowing in advance the Japanese intended to attack Pearl Harbour, and moving the more modern fleet out of harm's way, allowing the sacrifice of those moored in the harbour?

Watch George W. Bush's face as he sat dumbly on 9-11 for seven minutes waiting for the second tower to be hit after being told of the first attack. He knew in advance. Osama bin Laden was allowed to become a convenient scapegoat for American invasion plans, and the innocents in the twin towers, including our country-people, were sacrificed to achieve a pre-determined end. Our troops are dying in Afghanistan because of the U.S. government's devious deceits.

Mr. Harper wanted us to join the war in Iraq because he said the U.S. has always been our friend and ally. Friend? The U.S.A has the world's biggest nuclear arsenal, is the only country to ever use nuclear weapons in war, a country that considered using "tactical nuclear weapons" in Afghanistan, that has plans to "mini-nuke" Iranian underground bunkers (according to New Yorker

magazine). It's a nation that has broadcast God knows how many "dirty bombs" (depleted uranium shells) across Iraq and Afghanistan, poisoning our earth for countless generations, a country that introduced a bill to allow the FBI to use torture to extract information from suspected terrorist prisoners, a country that horribly abuses its prisoners of war. Study history, Mr. Harper. Germany and Japan, once our hated enemies, are now our friends. Alliances change, and the more Canada aligns itself militarily and ideologically with the U.S., the more we open ourselves to terrorist attention and attack. Canada must withdraw from Afghanistan immediately and, while we're at it, let's get our "George Bush mini-me" Prime Minister out of office at the earliest opportunity.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

Volunteer moth trapper has some fun on the job

By TAMAR GRIGGS

I did not want to hang the traps. I am at a stage in my life where I'd much rather stay home, but I felt obligated to put in my two cents worth of time, as I opposed the aerial spraying of the Burgoyne Valley 100 per cent.

So I walked up the sweet scented Burgoyne Bay road with my backpack to Ray Hatch's home at the bottom of Lee's Hill.

There, the eight intrepid Gypsy Moth Hangers met for instruction. First, we were told that the easy part was complete, and we were to tackle the hard landscape — steep terrain, thick thorns, deep woods etc. We laughed. This should be fun!

IN RESPONSE

We were shown the gigantic aerial map of Lee's Hill that the Forestry Department made, and the intense grid for hanging the traps.

The Forestry Dept. has bushwhacked through the entire landscape to hang blue ribbons to mark our way, and orange ribbons with a specific number on each. We split up into groups of three and two.

I was put with the "old fogies" in our 60s while the younger crowd (40s and 50s) formed the other groups. Ray kindly gave the old crew

the "easy" bit. And let me tell you, this was a joke!

We went off to tackle our section, and it took us one hour to hang six traps. On the edge of a vineyard, we foraged through blackberry, hawthorn and wild rose bushes, and even barbed wire fences.

John hung the traps. Jean inscribed the numbers on the traps in a permanent marker and I was the "scribe" with a clip board and pen and paper, writing the number and location of each trap. I started writing down our conversation — for fun.

"Ah-ha! I found it! Hang on. I can make it to this blue ribbon! Where ARE we?"
"OOOOOOO! This thing has THORNS! HEY! There's

a trail! Lets follow the Yellow Brick Road to Oz!"

Ray found us and informed us he was moving us across the Fulford-Ganges Road to the really easy part. Lots of traps to hang, but easy. We were delighted! We were to hang 28 traps and come out of the woods alive. It was peaceful in the woods, and we heard ravens call and the bees buzz. John stepped on a rotten log and disappeared into the salal and ferns — a very soft landing. Jean fell backwards while thinking how lovely it was in the woods. John fell again.

"Oh yuck! There are a ton of bugs here! Watch out! There is a huge cavern here. Here I go! Byebye! I knew it was too good to be true

The trail's vanished. Now, how do we get OUT? Oh, look. Heres a wigwam!"

And sure enough, there, in the deep dappled sunlight forest, was a magical tipi of sticks bound together by colorful yarn, with tiny tree stumps for elves stools.

We walked in, the last to finish, sweating and laughing, having thoroughly enjoyed our exploration of the island forest and each other's company.

I recommend every one of you get out to hang the traps. They need lots of volunteers. All 2,700 traps must be hung by July 15 and 1,330 have been hung so far. That means there are another 1,370 to hang within a week and a half. You need only

volunteer two to three hours, not all day, unless you're keen. So really, this is not an extreme sacrifice into your day.

If we don't manage to hang the traps, Salt Spring Island will be targeted for aerial spraying next year. So, please come out and do your share if you care for our health, our organic farms and our rare butterflies. You never know whom you will meet, and you will be doing a great service to our precious island!

Call or e-mail Leslie Wallace: law@saltspring.com to arrange for your volunteer time.

The writer is a Bold Bluff resident of Salt Spring.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What are your summer holiday plans?*



Darryl Cardey

My ideal holiday is enjoying life right here on Salt Spring with my family.



Geoff North

Soaking up the sunshine on the island's beaches.



Krista Macdonald

Spending time at the lake with good people.



Charlie Stimpson

Hanging out on the island and maybe doing some fishing.



Tim Camps

I like playing soccer, swimming and having sleepovers.

Letters to the Editor

Roses for Wendy

More roses than one can count go to Wendy Herbert.

I just want to take a moment to tell her how much my family appreciates all she has given to our school district.

Having arrived here four and a half years ago, we certainly got to witness an interesting time in her career as the Gulf Islands School District superintendent.

You were always encouraging and uplifting. Each time I would attend a SD 64 meeting (which sometimes felt like a lynching), you would handle it all with complete composure and dignity. Each time I would be at a performance or assembly at Salt Spring Elementary, inevitably I would turn my head toward the back of the gym and see you standing there, taking pleasure in our children's accomplishments and sharing in our amusement at their antics.

You seemed to make each of us feel as though we had our own personal relationship with you, truly part of our village.

You will certainly be a very difficult act to follow and, speaking on behalf of my family and the others in our school, we will miss you terribly.

This is an exciting time for you, congratulations — enjoy your retirement! And just know that each time I see you zip by in your cute little blue Mazda, you will bring a smile to my face.

With love and gratitude,
CINDY RABSON,
Salt Spring

Apology

I would like to apologize to two elderly Americans from California.

Their car was parked beside mine near Calypso. Getting out of my car I noticed a panting dog on their rear seat and all the windows were closed. I knocked on their window, the driver finally got out and as his wife approached I said, "Your windows are all closed. We aren't cruel to dogs like that in Canada." (I wish that were true). My comment was a bit of gratuitous anti-Americanism.

The woman said, "But our air conditioning is on."

I felt embarrassed and should have apologized then

and there. My excuse — my dear gay dog Bander had to be euthanized two days earlier, 11 months to the day that his straight sister Brindle had to be done as well.

I hope that couple will read this or someone who knows them; they were driving a black Lexus. There is more about my gay dog Bander in the pet memorial column.

JACK C. HALLAM,
North End Road

Community support

The Beaver Point Hall Historical Bean Supper dedicated this year to Gwen Ruckle arrived and is now a not-so-distant memory. A sweet memory to be sure was the incredible support the event received from our community.

We celebrated an all-inclusive dinner where organizers orchestrated the many components to come together, not unlike a recipe. Kathleen Horsdal masterfully brought together our archival poster of personified beans that caught all your eyes — we hope — as well as many thanks to the Driftwood for coverage again of our com-

munity events without question.

Wonderful selections of breads were served made by Heather, Barb Slater, Wendy Rosier, Donna Moulton, Embe Bakery and Barb's Buns. Coleslaws comprised of family recipes and unique flavors made by Karen, Katya, Ellie, Marsha and Mary Lou were delicious.

Local fresh-picked organic greens were brought in from Melanie and Paul of Small Earth Farm and Tali Hamel and those complemented our green salad as well as edible flowers from Mark and Robert to brighten the plating. Fresh-made dressing complemented our local salad, and appreciation goes out to Cathryn of Natureworks for donating the organic balsamic vinegar.

Our organic navy beans were purchased by the hall and interested committee members tried out different recipes. The highlight of this course was that most of the beans were slow cooked in Heather's brick oven after a night of bread baking.

Coffee was generously supplied entirely by Salt Spring Coffee, teas by the Rogue Caffe and it was a pleasure to serve spring fresh

mint tea and Michelle's fresh cold tisane that the children enjoyed.

Hats off to Bruce Patterson for his age-old support of ingredients and Salt Spring Dairy for the grand amount of dairy products supplied to us again and again for these community events, and to Gord Murphy for his home-grown garlic.

Desserts were generous, a sight to salivate on, as guests picked their own selection entirely donated by everyone who took the time to make the best of Salt Spring, some of which when left over whole were traditionally sold off. Dessert makers are all listed carefully in our Bean Supper Journal.

How to thank the entire group of people who came out and gave time and energy? The meetings to set it all up were fun and we want to thank the kids — Helena, Liam, Calla, Sander and Avalon — for being there and making them that much easier to organize. The amazing James, Brenda, Monica, Garry Kaye and Jamil for set-up, and Luke for our beautiful lawns that contribute so much aesthetically to our hall, and Salt Spring

Drycleaners for helping with the cost of tablecloths.

Rosalie's flowers were outstanding, graceful and as elegant as ever. Service of the entire dinner by Ilias, Val, Ramona, Laura, Justine and Michelle, and well assisted by our executive administrator Karin Beviere. Wait staff extraordinaire by Daphne, Carola, Emma, Caitlin, Saci, Aerin, Steve, Kephra, Esme and Rachel. Dish-gang graciously organized by Doug Rhodes with Jack Tudor, Roger Donnelly, Steve Kuric, John, Katya, Dave Beck and Catherine. Donald and Cristophe for manning the dessert table the entire evening, endless beverage maneuvering by Rumi, Mallory, Thomas and her team as the list goes on!

Thank-you to Jacqueline Walker for welcoming everyone at the door into this beautiful treasure of a hall and many thanks to those of you who took a moment to express appreciation for the work and timelessness of these events.

BEAVER POINT HALL COMMITTEE
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A11

Please forgive my angst over latest national apology

I would like to apologize. Actually, I like to apologize. After all, I AM CANADIAN.

HEAD TO HEAD

BY PETER VINCENT



Given our rich heritage of contrition, it just doesn't feel like the day is complete unless I own up to at least a couple of transgressions, be it baby seals or our shoddy treatment of grizzly bears — you know, those defenseless creatures that seem to have such a sweet tooth for German tourists?

Somehow, somewhere along the line, we have become a nation of flagellates.

The latest national apology came last week, when Mr Harper, on behalf of Canada, apologized to all those Chinese immigrants that came to Canada over 100 years ago, and were required to pay anywhere between \$50 and \$500. Along with Mr Harper's apology, of course, is the money — in this case, 34 million tax dollars in compensation and sundry recognition programs.

Huh? First off, I don't need Mr

Harper to grovel on my behalf. I have plenty of personal transgressions to atone for, not the least of which apparently is being a single heterosexual white male of Anglo Saxon Protestant lineage. I have never gone to a therapist, and the extent of my criminal rap sheet is an unpaid parking ticket. I have never declared bankruptcy, and I usually manage to pay my property taxes on time. Please, please forgive me.

Secondly, I am a little mystified at this latest national apology. After all, it was the Chinese who were actually wanting to come here — we certainly weren't twisting any arms.

Their own native country had a history of death, famine and war stretching back centuries. The late 19th century was particularly brutal, where successive civil wars

and skirmishes with the French and Japanese left over 50 million dead.

And the tradition continued. Mao's so-called "Great Leap Forward" in the mid 1950s created a national famine where again, tens of millions died. The student uprising at Tienamen Square, just a few years ago, was suppressed in the harshest manner.

Even today, as China becomes a major economic force and Canada's newest, potentially biggest customer, it can't easily tear away from its repressive past. In 2005, 8,000 Chinese were executed, most with a good old fashioned bullet to the head. That is more than the combined executions of every other country on the planet. If it was me, I would be the first in line to pony up \$50 and take my chances on the other side of the Pacific.

Let's talk about prosperity for a moment. Ottawa just released the latest bunch of statistics. It appears that the average Canadian now has a net worth of \$141,000. Not bad. How do you think that

stacks up with the average working stiff in China? Well, there are 26 million Chinese subsisting on less than US \$81 per year — that's about as much as you would spend for a decent meal on a Friday night in Ganges. If you are working in a Chinese city, you can expect to rake in a little less than US \$100 a month. I would hazard a guess that the descendants of those first Chinese nationals who made it to Canada are doing substantially better than their far eastern counterparts.

I'm starting to think that rather than me owing an apology, maybe Canada is owed a thank you.

But was the Canadian immigration policy of a 100 years ago discriminatory? Damn right it was. And we still discriminate, although not overtly based on race.

We have the "Investor's Application" to get into Canada. Here's how it works: you need a net worth of \$800,000 to start. You hand over \$400,000 to the government of Canada, which uses it as it sees fit, likely by invest-

ing it in government bonds. After five years and two months, you get your money back. Oh, but the government gets to keep the interest, which, at five per cent amounts to a whopping \$110,500. Talk about your head tax.

I guess in a couple of decades we will owe a big "sorry" to all those ex-pat Americans languishing in their Salt Spring waterfront homes. The horror. The horror.

So the 21st century Canadian refrain would be, "We don't care what colour your skin is, or if your culture requires you to cover your face or tuck a ceremonial dagger down your socks, we don't even care if you wear jockeys underneath your kilt. Just show me the money. C'mon now, show me the money!"

To all the unfortunates without the skills or the \$800,000 that would satisfy the bean counters in Ottawa, to all those rotting in political prisons, to all those brutalized by corrupt, repressive regimes, to all those without the slightest glimmer of hope, I offer my profound, personal apology.

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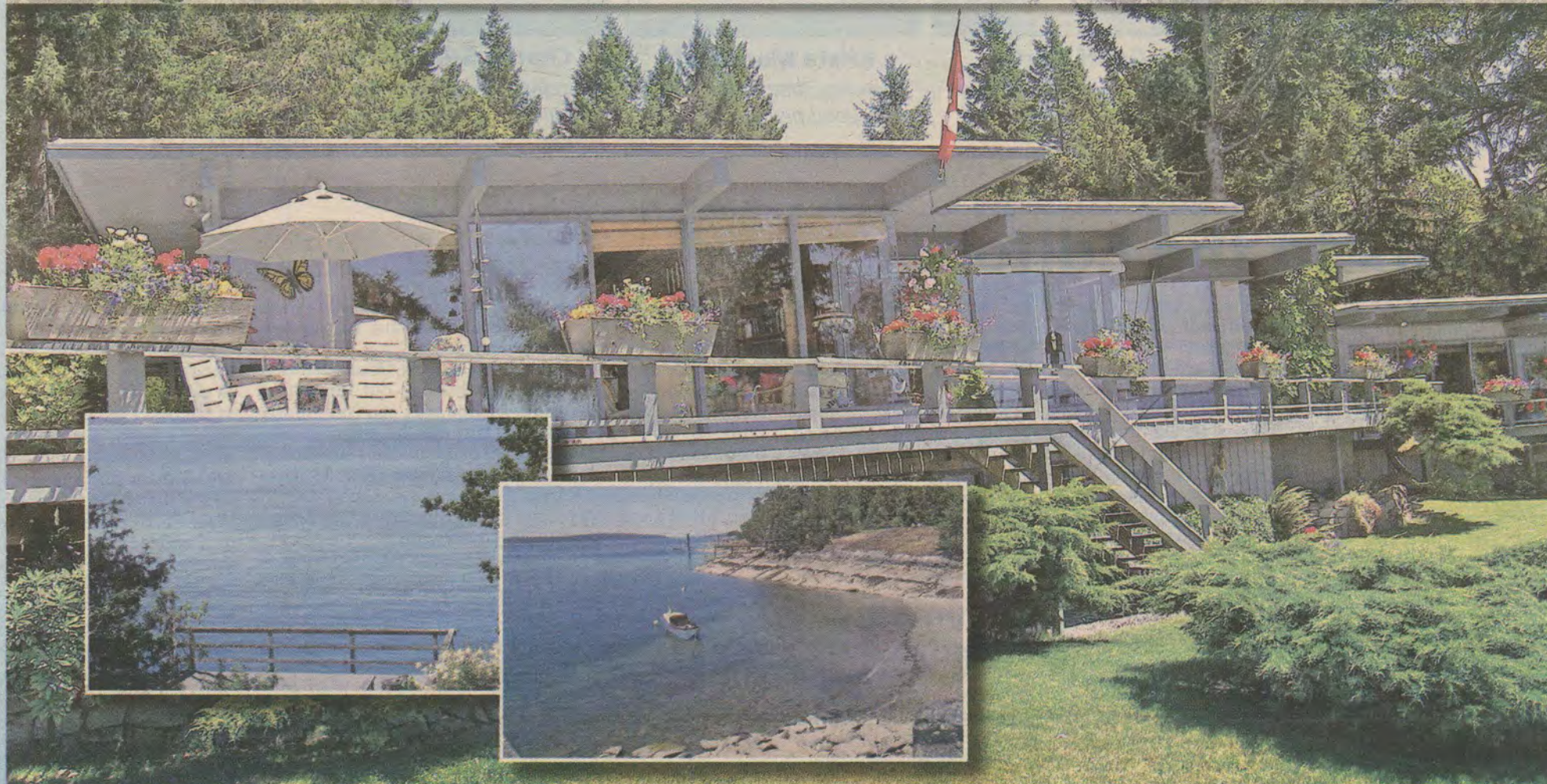
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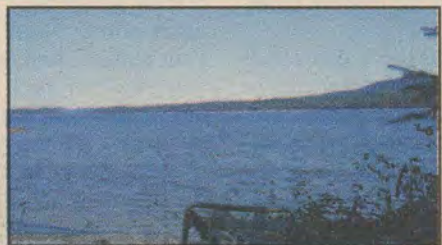
- * 3 ac/ gentle slope, then level
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NormanRothwell@royallepage.ca

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John Cade
537-7547

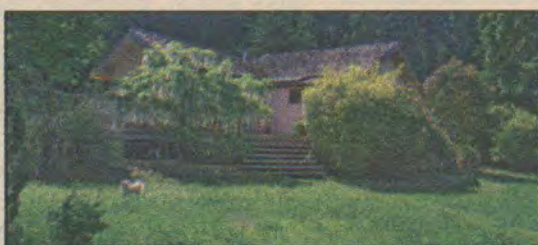
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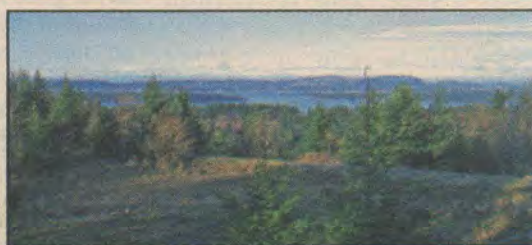
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LUSCIOUS LAVENDER: Above, Angela Kingerlee cuts some lavender at Everlasting Summer, while at right, Ruby Egger-Lipsett enjoys spending some time at Sacred Mountain Lavender during last Sunday's annual Lavender Festival.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



More letters

Writing on the wall

In response to Jan Slakov's and Arlene Richardson's thoughtfully provocative, as well as informed, Driftwood letters of June 7, may I add that "westerners," on average, consume their body weight in altogether untested chemicals every 10 years, and 2,000 (at least) weird compounds enter the "food chain" every year.

The stupefying and nefarious effects of many of these artificial "miniature designer molecules" breaching vital human tissue membranes that "intelligent design," by whatever name, never meant to be penetrated, is resulting in the quite-easily observable "dumbification" of the human genus, with people getting sicker, far more seriously as well as often, at a time when wholistic medicine and biosystems' scientific knowledge is asymptotic in both the quantity and quality of its discoveries.

As a natural foods store manager during the '70s "hippie haydays," my extreme sensitivity to all human-made synthetic chemicals qualified me to be the "mine-shaft canary" who tested the new, so-called "health products."

When I very nearly went into clinical shock while testing a brand's complimentary sample of aspartame-sweetened candies, I knew right then that experimental nutritional research was a sea of enquiry I was born to navigate!

Of the many significant experiential discoveries I have made, in that most fundamental field of nutritional bio-chemistry, my most important one to date (arrived at completely "off-the-chart" personal cost), is the incontrovertible evidence (read "fact") that chemicals-loaded hydrogenated

fats (unnatural, by definition) simply cannot re-enter fuel-burning metabolism, once absorbed and stored in human fatty tissue!

The reason this discovery is a major one, is that it explains — in large part — why so many of us struggle with our weight, along with the often-severe emotional distress associated with what is, essentially, a chemical junk food issue! Nature does not make junk food!

One in every two Canadians developing cancer within the next generations? Really now.

Except for a few of us professional human beings, is anyone actually reading this writing on the wall, which is but one page in a huge encyclopedia of "omens, signs and portends?"

The following question is therefore direly begged: Why . . . not?

Well, thank goddess, I

now, at long last, have the answer to that; my very being alive is eloquent testimony enough, since finding this answer was the key to my lifelong and unbelievably brutal struggle to survive in the face of, quite literally, impossible odds!

If vitamins, as well as genuine homeopathic remedies, rely on a nano-scale of only a few parts per million to be effective, is it any wonder we are dropping like flies from myriad artificial and completely avoidable sicknesses that are directly, demonstrably and incontrovertibly caused by synthetic chemicals, which bombard our extremely sophisticated carbon-based human bodies, at an average rate of 100 to 1,000 parts per million?

BROTHER FRANCIS, (FRANCOIS JAUBERT) Fulford

MORE LETTERS A12

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We are pleased to announce that effective July 4, 2006: Salt Spring Courier is offering a new and innovative courier service to and from Salt Spring through our depot at 125 McPhillips Ave., (directly across from ISCU).

We will no longer be the agent for Loomis/DHL and will now provide you worldwide shipping with the courier of your choice.

We will continue to provide the same on-island pickup and delivery service: along with daily service to Victoria to connect with the domestic or worldwide courier of your choice.

Through online technology we will provide you with competitive rates on various types of courier and freight service.

Your shipments can be held at our office for pickup and/or delivery during regular business hours. We will be pleased to accept, on your behalf, packages from other couriers; to be held at our depot or delivered by us at your request.

In addition, local businesses will now be able to use our bonded drivers for on-island delivery at reasonable rates.

Our long term goal is to provide and enhance locally owned and operated courier and general freight service to the island.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss all your courier and freight requirements.

*Mary Ann McColl,
 and David McColl*





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More letters

Enjoyed it?

We hope that everyone enjoyed their Canada Day. While you were relaxing at the lake, on your boat or entertaining friends and relatives at your barbecues, members of Salt Spring's fire and rescue crews were very busy.

Our day began at 00:44 when someone thought it would be funny to dump around eight litres of gasoline over someone's yard and set it ablaze. At least they didn't dump it under the nearby trees.

Next up at 8 a.m. was a FireSmart presentation for around 120 people. This day was chosen because we had a captive audience who was interested in what we had to say.

During the presentation, we received a call for a vehicle fire with a dog possibly trapped inside. Because there were firefighters at the firehall preparing for the fireworks that evening, we had a quick response and all turned out well.

At noon, seven firefighters gathered at the firehall to polish up a couple of vehicles for a display at the Legion. Just as we got set up at 1 p.m. we received our third page of the day to assist B.C. Ambulance with a patient

with a broken ankle.

Our display at the legion lasted until 3 p.m. but our day was just getting started.

Back to the firehall to double and triple check that the fireworks were properly prepped and that the show was properly recorded for safety purposes.

Down to the dock, just as everyone else was sitting down enjoying their Canada Day barbecues. We had sand to move, mortars to set up and needed to meet with the coast guard and their auxiliary members to ensure boater safety.

No dinner this evening for firefighters. At 8 p.m. we loaded up the fireworks and transported them to the dock. Further checks were put into place, fire trucks positioned, hose lines stretched and our safety plan reviewed for the umpteenth time.

We again met with the coast guard, B.C. Ambulance and RCMP members at the dock that night, laying out our action plan. The fireworks were slated for around 10:15 p.m., we were set, but had one last meeting to make sure everyone was noted on our incident status board.

The fire line tape was in place to keep the public out of the restricted area. We still find it amazing that some people believe those barriers

are for everyone except them. Countless people were observed ducking under the tape to gain a better vantage point. Firefighters were then posted at those points to ensure everyone's safety.

The show went off with very few incidents but our work wasn't over yet. We had to remove all of the mortars and fireworks refuse and wash the sand off the docks so those boats idling away, wanting to tie up, could do so.

All of the equipment was then moved to its various storage points, hoses reloaded on the trucks and then back to the fire hall for some congratulatory hamburgers.

This was sometime early on July 2. All this with very few thanks, but we knew we had done a good job. Some of us mused afterwards what it must be like to actually enjoy a Canada Day with family and friends but we knew we would be back next year.

We did receive one thank-you though, someone decided that the top of our Command Unit would be a good place to dump his beer can and contents.

Hope you enjoyed your Canada Day! Over 25 fire fighters tried to make it a memorable and safe one.

DAVE ENFIELD
Salt Spring Fire Chief

RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

This is to whoever ran their keys across the gas tank on my motorcycle on Monday, June 26 while it was parked in town. Firstly, I cannot believe you'd even touch someone else's bike since you never know who it belongs to, and secondly how could you have such little respect for other people's belongings that you would even consider causing such a senseless act of vandalism? Just remember what goes around comes around, believe me! Motorcyclists are a tightly knit

group. Barb Jimenez

ROSES

A huge bunch of your favourite roses to the kind soul who found our lost cat in Channel Ridge and took him to the SPCA, almost exactly six years ago. He recovered from his four month ordeal and lived a long and healthy life until he passed away last week. We have thanked you in our hearts many, many times for the extra years we had with Kohinoor.

A huge bunch of roses to Mr. Larry Nelson who gave up his weekend for students preparing for Physics 12. Just another amazing teacher that makes GISS such a fantastic school. CC

Roses and a free lunch at Auntie Pesto's to Kyla and friend who returned my waitress apron, money intact. A.

A bunch of slushy colored roses to Jennifer and Jason, owners of Barb's Buns, for opening up their establishment to families creating the all ages party on, June 24 at the Stupey Whites, stolen fruits and the savage blackberries.

What's for Dinner?

Shopping list:

- Tomatoes
- Vegetable juice
- Green onions
- Cucumber
- Green bell pepper
- Jalapeño pepper
- Fresh basil
- Lime
- Cumin
- Salt



THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET GAZPACHO SOUP
Short cuts to cooking for one or two © with Sarah Lynn

Gazpacho: From the Arabic word meaning 'soaked bread'. Food historians agree that the Spanish gazpacho soup-salad we know today is an Andalusian recipe. The earliest gazpacho recipes date back to the Middle Ages, long before tomatoes were known in the Old World. The Spanish in the New World brought with them centuries of culinary traditions. Many of their recipes, soups and stews included, readily embraced New World discoveries such as tomatoes and peppers. I was 16 when I enjoyed my first bowl of Gazpacho soup courtesy of an older friend. On a beautifully set table for two was a white soup tureen filled with an attractive combination of red and green. I couldn't wait to give it a try. After filling my bowl I brought a spoonful to my mouth. The experience startled my senses. Expecting hot, I discovered Gazpacho soup is served cold.

In a large mixing bowl, combine **4 cups garden-fresh peeled & chopped tomatoes, 1 cup tomato or vegetable juice, 2 green onions, finely chopped, 1 cucumber, peeled, and chopped, 1 green pepper, finely chopped, 1 chipolota pepper or 1 jalapeño, finely chopped, 2 cloves minced garlic, 3 tablespoons chopped basil, juice of 1 fresh squeezed lime, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, salt and fresh ground black pepper.** Cover and chill for at least four hours. The key is serving the soup really cold. Top with a dollop of sour cream & croutons before serving.

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WELCOME WAGON

House fire: the day you won't forget

By DIANA THOMPSON
Second of three parts

Our house is on fire. Melting insulation is pouring through our ceiling, burning the floor.

I've phoned 911, called my son to get the dog and I've yanked the cat out from behind the boxes in the smoke-filled room upstairs. I've closed the doors and turned off the main power. I've phoned my husband and told him to come home quick.

The blaze shoots across our roof. A man with a walkie-talkie arrives and goes directly to our propane tank and shuts it off. I can hear sirens.

Flames are coming out from under the shakes.

When the fire chief arrives I yell at him, "What took you so long?!"

I wouldn't recommend yelling at the fire chief. He has better things to do than deal with you. I apologized later. Profusely. The volunteer fire department managed to save a good chunk of our home. They put out the flames. They carried com-

puters and photo albums to safety. They even cleaned up afterwards and put a tarp over what was left. Someone found my wallet and brought it to me.

A man explained that I needed to phone the insurance company. Someone else said not to leave, as I would be needed to answer questions.

The smell after a fire is horrendous — the stink of burned furniture, blankets, plastic toys and electronics. The thick soot covering everything is also filled with chemicals, and is caustic. You don't want to be in there. But at the same time you do, as you're desperate to know what's left of your home, what could be salvaged. But when the insurance adjuster arrives, he seals off your house.

He hires a security firm to guard it. You are told that it's similar to a crime scene and until a forensic investigation has been made, you are not allowed in.

This was distressing, because at first we didn't grasp why we were being

locked out. But from the insurance company's point of view, it was and is necessary.

The house needs to be secured and all possible theft must be ruled out. A burnt building can also be dangerous and unstable. This is all understandable now, but at the time we took it personally, feeling as if we were being considered guilty before being proven innocent.

That same day the adjuster sat us down and had us sign something; I'm still not certain what, and I still don't know where the papers are that he gave us that day.

He tape-recorded our description of what happened. I was distraught, so his questions felt confusing and intrusive.

Looking back, I think we should have had a friend there with us, and for all the subsequent early meetings with both the adjuster and the companies they hired. We were in shock; we didn't know what was going on.

A friend would have been able to think clearly and

could have discussed things with us afterwards. They could have supplied a box to file papers in, or at least have helped us remember where we put what. A friend could also have been a witness, creating a respectful environment.

For the moment, we needed a place to live. Friends offered us couches, but we were too overwhelmed to socialize. We stayed at a hotel; the cat ran into the woods, the security guards watched our dog.

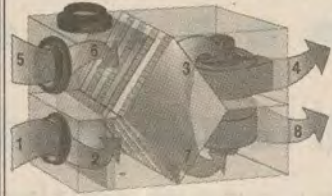
We were assured that our insurance covered a hotel and 60 per cent of restaurant meals (and they did). But at first we paid for everything with our credit card.

What if I hadn't had my wallet? What if we had lost everything?

As it was, we wore friends' clothes and shoes. We bought toothbrushes and my best friend brought us food and coffee. It was three days before we were allowed into our house — the same day that the restoration company arrived. But that's another story.

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What's wrong with this picture? Do we speak with forked tongue?

Not only are these killing machines, they are pollution dragons, supporting the ever-rising gas prices, emitting into our air more toxic material than this world can deal with.

I suggest we make the car "impotent;" take away its virility.

Collectively, if we all slowed down, we would still get there, but we would live longer to enjoy the trip.

MARY SMALL
Ganges

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– Tony Richards

Best Tourism & Recreation Guide
Gulf Islander Magazine

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Style on Salt Spring

General Excellence
Silver Award

Best Special Section
Silver Award – A Day in the Life

Best Website Design
Silver Award – Gulf Islands On-Line
www.gulfislands.net

Best Cartoon
Bronze Award – Dennis Parker

Best Feature Series
Bronze Award – Family Violence

Best Business Editorial
Bronze Award – Seachange Seafoods

2005 Canadian Community Newspaper Association

(Circulation 4001 - 12,499)

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Gold – A Day in the Life

Best Christmas Edition
Gold - AQUA Magazine

Best Feature Story
Silver – Oldest cow chalks up another year.

Best Newspaper Ad Campaign
Gold – Be Safe Be Seen

Best Website Design
Gold – Gulf Islands On-Line
www.gulfislands.net

Best Front Page
Bronze

Best Newspaper Promotion
Bronze – Survivor “Reunion”

Best Special Section
Silver – A Day in the Life

 **Driftwood** GULF ISLANDS 

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

Salt Spring inventors make drive to stall auto theft

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

All it takes is a quick glance over the 2TIS website to realize the company's Salt Spring-based founders Jay Ripley and Carl Ellingsworth have got big plans and even greater dreams.

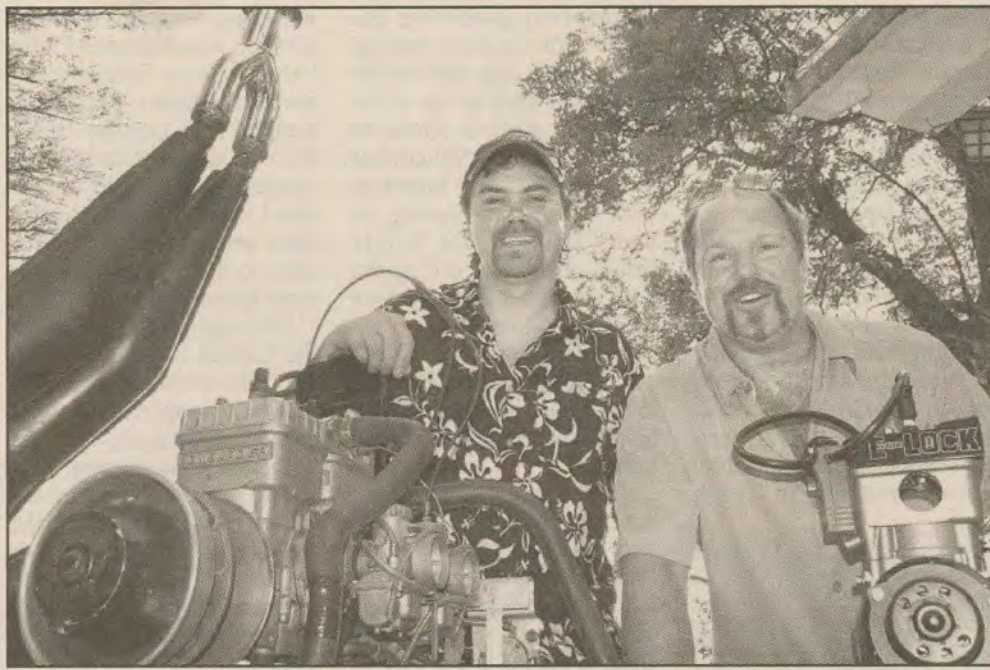
"We envision a world where the theft of a vehicle, while still a potential choice for some, is no longer a viable option," reads an excerpt from 2TIS' mission statement.

What originally began as an adventure gone awry following the theft of a snowmobile in the Ottawa Valley nearly two decades ago has turned into a quest to create a device that may quite literally put the brakes on vehicle theft as we know it.

"Once people understand the significance of this product, they acknowledge it will provide a new standard," said Ripley, a father of three, in a recent interview. "It still amazes us why industry people have never put this concept together before."

The most incredible part of the entire process is that it's all taking place in a small workshop nestled away on Channel Ridge, far from snow country and not exactly in an area known for rampant vehicle theft.

Since the two 30-something inventors joined forces in the late 1990s to pursue this dream, Ripley has taken care of the business and patent end of



READY TO ROLL: Island inventors Carl Ellingsworth and Jay Ripley are nearing completion of their patented Engine-Lock anti-theft device at their Channel Ridge workshop.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

things while Ellingsworth, a licensed mechanic by trade, has stuck to the hands-on product development. For seven years, the duo spent countless hours and sleepless nights going over how to make their vision a reality from opposite ends of the country after Ripley moved to Salt Spring to raise a family.

Located inside the engine block, the EngineLock is a remote-controlled switch that adds an additional barrier for thieves intent on making off with a vehicle. The device cannot be circumvented from outside the

car and can only be triggered by an authorized user with a remote control switch.

The inventors describe it as a kind of master ignition switch hidden from view inside the engine. Though initial prototypes are for small engines like those found in snowmobiles and motorcycles, they added, the same methodology of manipulating internal sensors applies to larger vehicles, paving the way for an industry-wide change.

For years, Ellingsworth and Ripley spent much of the time outside of their day jobs working on the EngineLock

device. Just recently, the two started to fully devote themselves to 2TIS, derived from the Latin word "tutis," meaning "safe and secure and protected."

"From the beginning our synergy and raw ambition kept us going," said Ripley.

"Since we were young we've always been dreamers, I guess, but you have to be obsessed to make something happen." Carl Ellingsworth

"Now that we've got all that energy focussed on a refined goal, we are raising the bar once again with our like-minded attitude of not settling for second best."

Since moving to Salt Spring from Ottawa last year to join forces with his longtime friend turned business partner, Ellingsworth said, work on the EngineLock has entered its final phase, with successful patents registered in Canada, the U.S., Japan, Hong Kong and much of the E.U.

At long last, he added, all

the time and money devoted to the project will pay off, not that there was ever any doubt, of course.

"Since we were young we've always been dreamers, I guess," Ellingsworth said, "but you have to be obsessed to make something happen."

Now that he's based on the island, the telephones are still ringing off the hook, but conversations pertain more to evolving patent strategies, corporate rights, distribution and technical refinement with contacts across Canada, Europe and the United States.

"There is a very interesting energy that happens here on the island," he said. "We are also both used to the wilderness and working here helps to inspire and keep the creative juices flowing and pure."

"This is our think-tank away from the city."

Ellingsworth said he expects things to wrap up within the year, with initial field testing scheduled to take place on Salt Spring sometime this summer. For more information, visit www.2TIS.com.

Duncan-Crofton bus gets green light for a trial run

Reaching the city is about to get cheaper and more convenient thanks to a new bus line linking the Crofton ferry terminal with destinations throughout the Cowichan Valley, including Chemainus, Duncan and Lake Cowichan.

Beginning September 5, B.C. Transit will provide four daily return trips between the ferry and Duncan. The \$1.50 ride will take roughly one hour, though route planners are looking to schedule an express route during peak times.

Nick Marshall, B.C. Transit route planner for the

Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), said increasing demand by commuters travelling to work on Salt Spring and students travelling from the island to independent schools on Vancouver Island justified the decision.

"With ferry fares and gasoline prices on the rise," he said, "This is definitely a convenient, fast and relatively cheap way to travel."

The \$88,000 CVRD-funded project will run on a test basis from September to March. Marshall remains confident the route will exceed demand due to continued growth in the

Cowichan Valley combined with greater demand for public transit services.

"All our routes have surpassed our expectations," he said. "I have been pleasantly surprised and see no reason why this route would be any different."

Discussions over the final route and schedule are expected to wrap up by the end of the week but, Marshall added, public input is always welcomed.

Comments may be submitted to the Cowichan Valley Regional Transit System offices by calling (250) 746-2500 or e-mailing jbarry@cvrld.bc.ca.

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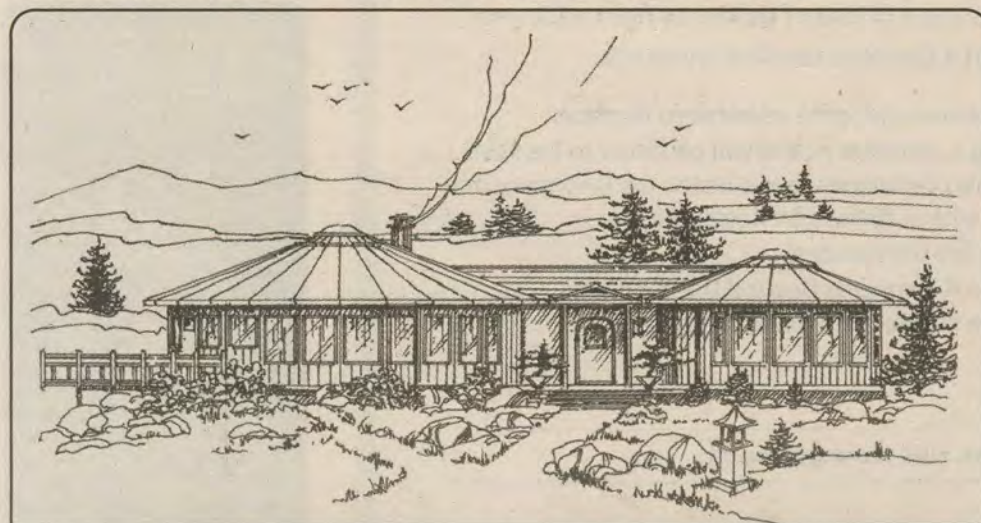


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"WE ARE CURRENTLY WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS"



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Lessons learned as a 'caravanista' on the road to Cuba

By **TANYA LESTER**
Driftwood Contributor

Every day as I ride from one city to the next (Portland, Corvallis, Eugene, Ashland, Chico, Berkeley, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Barbara . . .) I realize being part of the Caravan to Cuba is not only about taking aid to a Caribbean country.

I realize it is much more than protesting the United States embargo against 11 million Cubans, which has lasted 45 years.

At the Peace Arch Park before crossing the Cana-

dian-U.S. border with four truckloads of aid, Rick Fellows from Olympia, Washington talks about how he appreciates Canadians being part of the Caravan.

"We're really up against it in the United States," he said. "There are just too many people with their car windows rolled up listening to AM radio."

Several times a year, Fellows drives Caravan buses not only with aid for Cubans, but also to Guatemalan refugees in Mexico, people in Central American and New

Orleans hurricane victims.

In each huge church where we talk about solidarity with Cuba night after night after night, people open their hearts and their wallets to us. Not surprisingly, in the nine cities we have made presentations in so far, I always meet someone with a Salt Spring Island connection.

In Portland, a couple is bringing their granddaughter to our island in July. There, too, a Washington, D.C. lawyer knows two Americans on our local Caravan to Cuba committee. In Chico,

a university professor has spent time on Salt Spring. In Ashland, the real estate agent who puts us up in her basement suite is going to a convention in Vancouver in September and hopes to visit me on Salt Spring. In Santa Barbara, the family sitting next to me during the potluck supper owns a house on Mount Maxwell.

To many who speak with me, Salt Spring and Canada, in general, seems a much better place than the United States.

Carol Cross, who is from the San Francisco bay area and on the same Caravan route as me, describes how much she enjoyed a conference on Cuba in Kingston, Ontario earlier in the year.

Cross, who is in her late 60s and a self-proclaimed "recovering Republican," speaks to the audience about how Cuba is a threat to the U.S. government.

"In the end, the reason why the administration doesn't

want any travel to Cuba is simple," Cross quotes Philip Peters, State Department member under President Reagan and George Bush, Sr. "It doesn't want the American people to understand in the 10 minutes after their arrival that they have been fooled by their government about Cuban reality."

Each night, Cross compares the United States to Cuba. The U.S. trains people in torture techniques at the School of the Americas, she says.

Cubans train doctors.

The U.S.A. ships arms. Cuba exports doctors. In fact, over 140,000 doctors have been sent all over the world to disaster areas such as the recent earthquake in Pakistan.

"I went to Cuba and saw this country doing what I wish our country would do," said Cross. "The first time (of twenty-one times) I thought: this is what it's like to put human welfare as a priority...Cuba is a terror-

ist nation because Bush has called it a terrorist nation."

In Corvallis, Oregon, Republican state senator Frank Morse approaches Cross at the end of her speech. He tells her that he is not offended by what she said. He says he agrees with her.

In Berkeley, when I tell the audience I am on the Caravan because I do not think any country should determine what another country does, they know I am talking about the United States.

They clap. Loudly. In San Jose, the same thing happens.

Over potluck supper in Berkeley, a woman named Ruth tells me she is going to join the Caravan just before it crosses the border into Mexico, where last year 45 computers were confiscated by U.S. Customs.

Ruth is a Grade 1 teacher in a Spanish immersion program. She says she needs to guard her summers to recuperate from her exhausting job. Even so, she feels it is important "to resist" by going to Cuba.

To resist? What she says reminds me of the war resisters opposing the Iraqi war.

I start to think there is a bigger war the United States is fighting than the one in Iraq. It is also much bigger than Cuba. Those who give money to us every night and billet us at their homes are funding some of the resisters and are, in fact, resisters themselves.

Before I left on the Caravan to Cuba, Judy Ilan from Shawnigan Lake, who went on the Caravan previously, told me that the Caravan was more about the United States than it was about Cuba.

I am starting to understand what she means.

So far I have experienced little hostility for being a caravanista. There are two exceptions: the man in the vehicle next to me who called me a "Communist" when we crossed the Peace Arch border, and one in an expensive red sports car in California who gave our bus the "finger salute."

Soon we will head east into the southern states. There may be a side opposed to the peaceful American war resisters that I have not met so far. Things may change.

Anyone who wants to follow Tanya Lester on Route B or any of the caravans can go to Pastors for Peace.org and click on Latest News.



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page B22

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- Take reasonable precautions to ensure the fire is contained.
- Be equipped with sufficient firefighting tools.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Report the fire if it spreads beyond the burn area.
- Extinguish the fire before leaving the area.

For more information on how you can prevent forest fires, visit www.gov.bc.ca



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Skaters rally for top spots

By DANICA LUNDY
Driftwood Contributor

Boards and bodies were broken and bruised in the intense display of skill and courage exhibited at the Kanaka Road skatepark Friday, when skaters and community members gathered to watch the semi-annual skate competition.

Twenty-three individuals braved the challenge in the grueling heat, striving for a spot in the top three positions in beginner, intermediate and advanced categories.

The event started gearing up at around 4 p.m. — the air filled with loud, live music, and the skatepark jam-packed with skateboarders and the occasional lone biker.

Each competitor was allowed 45 seconds to demonstrate his or her capabilities with a self-created run and as many huge feats as possible.

With the exception of the beginner skaters, everyone was permitted two runs to "show their stuff."

Judges silently critiqued and observed the style, consistency, difficulty and variety of the contestants, and collectively established their placements.

The beginner category had seven competitors, and the potential and bravery of each skater became evident right away. Luc Comeau ranked first, while Zach Corley and Stephanie Lundy received second and third prize.

In the intermediate category (seven participants), the competition was stiff and the runs were awe-inspiring.

One contestant, James Vine, attempted a huge kick-flip over a long, double-three set of stairs, and proceeded

to break his board in half on his third try. Also getting massive air was Walker Tottman, who gathered up speed, ollied a gap and dropped eight feet to flat. Despite a bloody elbow and some colourful bruising on his first few tries, it was admirable that he kept on skating to victory.

The winner of this category was Kaz Johnston, who demonstrated consistency and "flair" throughout his runs, followed by Monique Comeau and Tottman, who tied for second. Comeau also had a very impressive, flowing run.

Spectators were thrilled with the tricky board moves and controlled finesse displayed by the nine competitors in the advanced category.

Jade Snow Rosen took first place, landing his tricks solidly and skillfully in both runs. Winning second place was Von Good, while Hal Johnson attained third.

"All in all it was a successful event that showcased the skills of local skaters, and helped raise money to put lights up at the skate park, which is our focus right now," said MC Sheylon Young, who also skated in the advanced category.

Recent contributions by various island groups have made upgrades to the skatepark possible. And newly installed benches — donated by schools and local business owners — were used throughout the skate competition.

The final skatepark phase will see lighting and a water fountain installed, along with a sign that highlights contributors.



SKATE COMP: Skaters of all ages competed at a Friday afternoon competition held at the newly upgraded Kanaka Road skatepark.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Sports Schedule

SUMMER SOCCER CAMPS

All kinds of programs for minis, girls, tots, juniors & seniors offered through the SSI Youth Soccer Association
From July 17-July 29
and August 21-September 1
SIMS field & Portlock Park
See www.saltspringsoccer.com
for all the details!



All events subject to change

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Softball girls finish year with great ball

Salt Spring's Ace Courier pee-wee girls softball team closed out the 2006 season at regional championships hosted by Strawberry Vale Softball Association last weekend, playing some of their best ball of the year, but losing two games regardless.

On Friday night, June 23 — with four team members still recovering from the middle school band "lock-in" the night before — the girls lost 17-7 to Strawberry Vale. However, highlights included holding their much-larger and older opponents to two runs in the third inning. That occurred when two runners were thrown out at home plate, once by catcher Jody Pringle alone, a second time when she teamed with pitcher Chloe Sjuberg on the play, and a third when Alex Crandall caught a fly ball.

On the hitting side, Megan Jarman got two singles, Crandall had a double and Sarah Robinson had two singles. All other runs came due to walks and swift stealing.

The next day the girls faced the madly chanting Sidney Dynamite. Singles came from Kate Temmel, Sjuberg and Jarman, while Kaylea Kray had a double. In the second inning the girls took the maximum five runs allowed, while also batting through the order. Plate discipline led to several islanders getting on base via walks, including Alanna Hillis and Ashley Kilbourn, who made a spectacular slide into home plate. Final score was 15-7.

Some solid Sidney whumps were quickly halted and brought to the infield by Salt Spring outfielders, including Kilbourn on Friday and Rebekah Davies on Saturday. Catchers Pringle (playing that position for the first time in a game situation) and Megan Jarman also excelled.

Parents thanked coaches Bill Crandall and Barb Robinson for all the time and devotion they give to the team and look forward to the 2007 season.

What's On? see page B2

Fresh Talk

with Michael Contardi



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Organic Islands Festivities Abound

The much awaited Second Annual Organic Islands Festival will be held this weekend, July 8th and 9th from 10 am to 5 pm daily. It takes place at the stunningly beautiful Glendale Gardens & Woodland at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific in Victoria.

Organic Islands Festival is BC's largest organic lifestyle exhibition. It brings together many of BC's top organic businesses, local farmers, fair traders, food producers, grocers, health practitioners, horticulturalists, and others who are passionate about creating an economically and ecologically sustainable future.

The festival is set in the midst of a stunningly beautiful 100 acre conservation park with nature trails, wetlands and bird watching sites. The Gardens contain over 10,000 varieties of plants, and include a Native Plant Garden, Children's Garden, Rhododendron and Heather gardens, Dahlia and Lily beds, Takata Japanese and Zen Gardens.

Presentations from local experts will occur throughout the day, with titles such as "Can organic food protect us against cancer?", "What's On the Table? Why your Choices Matter", and "12 Months of Organic Gardening Tips with Carolyn

Harriet", who will demonstrate how to nurture garden soil and soul without harsh chemicals and pesticides.

Sample organic wine from Summerhill Pyramid Winery from Kelowna, along side BC wild salmon from Sointula and fresh oysters from Quadra Island. New this year are a Farmers Market and activities for children, including Junior Master Gardeners program, Erviokidz tent and string games from around the world.

Thrifty Foods is proud to be involved this year as a Platinum Sponsor, and will be on hand to demonstrate our commitment to the growing field of organic and natural foods. Yours truly will be at the Thrifty Foods booth to answer your questions about organics and hopefully learn a thing or two myself. More information can be found at www.organicislands.ca or by calling 250-656-8130. Hope to see you all there!



Brown and Hardy earn bronze at A-Cup

Two islanders playing with a U13 Lakehill gold soccer team assisted their teammates in achieving a third-place finish at the Pro-

vincial A-Cup in Kamloops last weekend.

Salt Spring's Kevan Brown and Rhys Hardy counted among the victors in a con-

solation final after Lakehill beat the Marpole Blues by 4-3 in penalty kicks on Sunday.

The consolation victory

offered some payback after Lakehill suffered a 7-3 loss to Marpole during round robin play.

Lakehill also lost by 3-2

to Kelowna United and tied 1-1 with the cup-winning Guildford Rangers in earlier matches.

What's On?
see page B2

TRAVEL BC

Vancouver's Perfect Mix



Gastown
TOURISM BC/DANNIELLE HAYES

Framed by mountains and ocean, Vancouver is the best of city vacations. Its cultural, restaurant, shopping and hotel scene exudes the sophistication of far larger cities, yet its laid-back, west coast personality radiates small town friendliness. With its host of offerings, Vancouver is certain to satisfy even the most discerning city wish list.

Cultural buffs will enjoy attending concerts at two favourite venues from among the many choices -- the beloved and gracious Orpheum Theatre and the beautifully-set Chan Centre at UBC. Both run the gamut with everything from symphonic presentations to wild jazz. Live theatre includes a wonderful range from emerging fringe productions to professional

presentations. Fine galleries showcase it all - with First Nations works to contemporary collections - on Granville Island, in Yaletown, along South Granville and in Gastown. These areas, as well as trendy Robson Street, are sure to satisfy shopping mavens. If antiques and funky shops appeal, the offerings on Main Street beckon, while exploration of Kitsilano will unearth a slew of original retail outlets and restaurants. Vancouver rates highly on the culinary hit parade. With more than 3,000 restaurants, patrons can dine to their heart's - and palate's - content. The city is renowned for its fresh fare, whether it is just-caught seafood or organic greens. Eating Asian here is as good

as it gets in North America: from tiny shop-fronts in Chinatown to up-scale sushi bars on Broadway. In fact, whatever the ethnic choice, visitors will find it here.

One can indulge in 'contemporary French' in Kitsilano, tuck into Italian on Robson Street, savour spicy dhasos on Main Street and head to Broadway for some of the city's best Greek dishes.

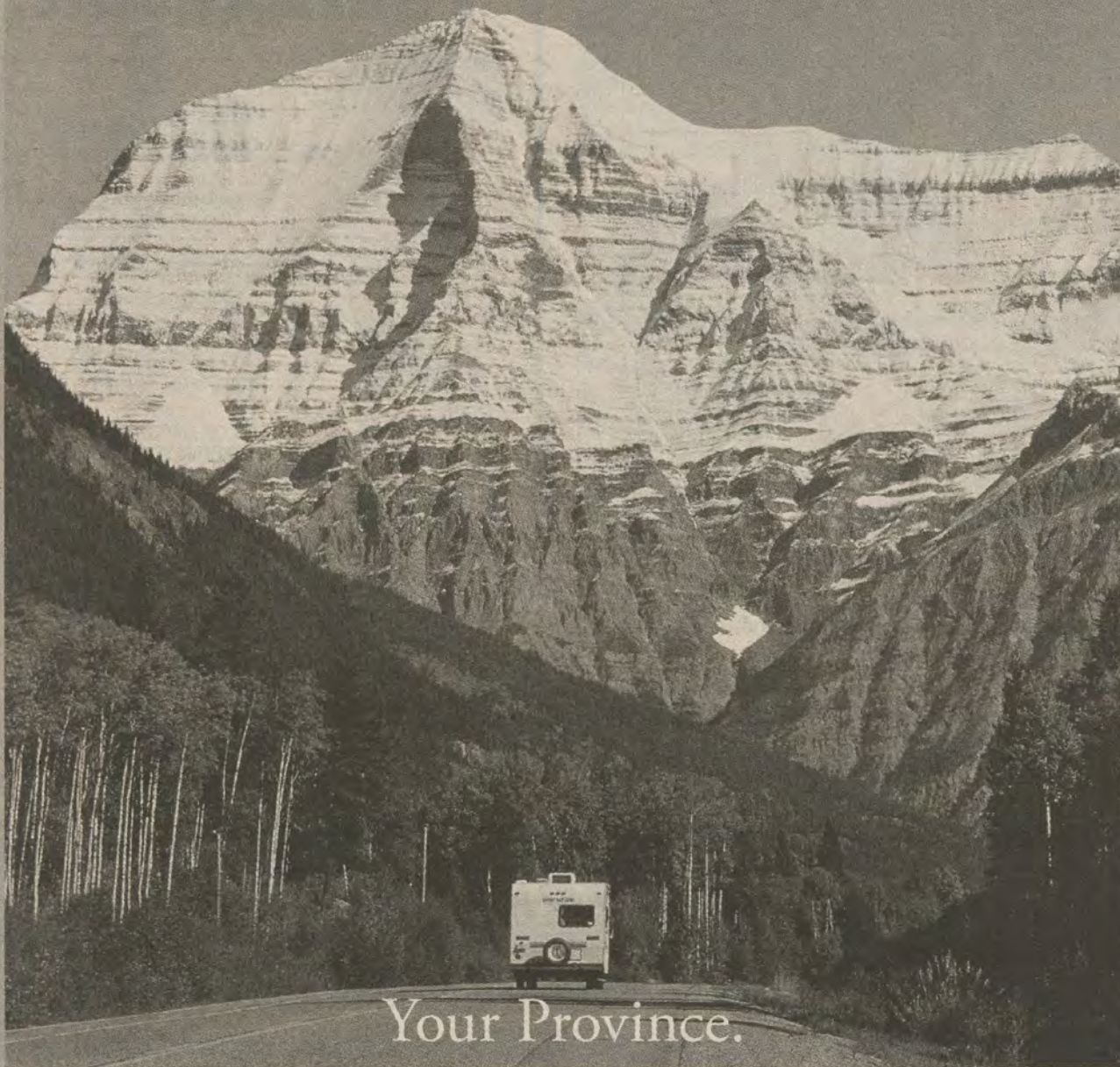
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Vancouver Festivals & Events

- June 1 - September 24 **Bard on the Beach** Shakespeare Festival
- June 15 - 24 **Vancouver Francophone** Summer Festival
- June 17 - 18 **Alcan Dragon Boat** Festival
- July 1 - 22 (Saturdays in July - 1, 8, 15, 22) **Chinatown Arts & Cultural Festival**
- June 23 - July 2 **Vancouver International Jazz Festival**
- July 14 - 16 **Vancouver Folk Music** Festival
- July 26, July 29, August 2, August 5 **HSBC Celebration of Light Festival Vancouver**
- August 7 - 19 **The Fair at the PNE**
- August 19 - September 4 **The Fair at the PNE**

For more information about Festivals & Events in Vancouver, please visit HelloBC.com/vancouverevents.

Whistler in Summer - THE place to be



Whistler Village TOURISM BRITISH COLUMBIA

Everyone knows that Whistler, consistently ranked North America's number one ski resort, rules winter. However, the truly savvy head to the mountain resort during warm weather months as well. And with good reason - this is where many will find their summer wish lists fulfilled.

While "type A's" can take in a range of activities like hiking, biking, golfing, fishing, swimming, windsurfing and boating, there is a lot to be said about a relaxing wander in the villages. Whistler Village with its European style, as well as Village North, the Upper Village and Whistler's original village, Creekside, all offer shops, galleries, restaurants and services. It's a browsing bonanza, and an ideal opportunity to discover the perfect patio for al fresco dining.

In summer, Whistler Village takes on a festive atmosphere. Entertainers from mimes and musicians to jugglers and acrobats perform to mingling crowds. Summer is festival season and a favourite is the Whistler Music and Arts Festival in July. Local artists, an outdoor film series and live music of every genre set the mood for a rousing good time.

It's a given - this is a shopper's haven with more than 200 stores in Whistler Village alone. There are

handcrafted jewellery juxtaposed with book, souvenir and craft stores. There are also those stocked with toys and clothing for kids.

Whistler's many galleries are an enticing meld of international works and Northwest Coast Native art while several offer a wide choice of Canadian oils, landscapes and sculptures - perfect if you're seeking unique and unusual pieces.

To truly relax, enjoy a treatment at one of Whistler's more than 20 spas. Also memorable is Whistler's wide choice of dining options: great pub fare, fresh West Coast cuisine, fine European offerings and ethnic treats from Greek to Japanese. Later in the year, Whistler's Cornucopia, a wildly popular November food and wine festival, showcases mouth-watering dishes

prepared by celebrity chefs. This one is a favourite, so book early. To learn more about Whistler and to get everything you need to plan your vacation - where to go, what to see and do, where to stay, plus printable maps to show you how to get there - visit HelloBC.com/whistler.

Doubling tourism: The Province has added \$50 million to meet the goal of doubling tourism by 2015. Projects include cultural extravaganza



Whistler Village TOURISM BC/TOSH KAWANO

Records snap at Nanaimo as locals grab medals, BTs

Some of the Salt Spring Stingray's youngest swimmers ruled the pool at a meet in Nanaimo last weekend, with two Div. 1 boys taking gold medals in four of six events.

Liam Sinclair won gold in 50-metre backstroke (55.25) and 50-m free (44.20), while Connor Budd took gold in 50-m breast (56.55) and 100-m individual medley (IM) (1:54.13).

Sinclair also broke a Div. 1 club record (held by DJ Lake) in 100-m free, while Budd broke his own Div. 1 breast record.

Budd sped along nailing four final swims, finishing fourth in both 50-m free (48.16) and 100-m free (1:51.50) in addition to his gold medal swims.

Sinclair swam three finals nailing silver in 100-m free (1:34.89) to add to his gold medals.

The 40 Stingrays who competed at the event also nabbed personal best times (BTs), with Nina Fletcher topping the BT challenge by picking up five.

Swimmers nailing four BTs included Sinclair and Danica Lundy, while Cassidy Fraser, Becky Steel and Kimberly Rothwell hit three.

Swimmers were allowed to compete in up to four events in this three-day heats and finals meet, which included some 700 swimmers from all over Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

The fastest six swimmers in morning heats competed in afternoon finals with the top three winning gold, silver and bronze, and those placing 4th to 6th, taking home ribbons.

Five swimmers made finals in all four events, with Nina Fletcher (Div.5) grabbing gold in 50-m fly (34.26) and 100-m back (1:18.29), silver in 50-m free (31.64), and 6th in 200-m IM (3:05.37).

Fellow Div.5 swimmer Danica Lundy nailed bronze medals in 50-m fly (35.91), 50-m free (32.06) and 100-m breast (1:31.03), and took 5th in 100-m free (1:10.91).

Danielle Viozzi — assistant coach as well as Div. 7 swimmer — placed third in 50-m fly (38.86), 100-m back (1:27.61) and 100-m free (1:15.66), and nailed a gold finish in 50-m Free (32.65).

Olivia Budd (Div.6) took silver in 50-m free (30.91), 4th in 200-m IM (2:58.70), 5th in 100-m free (1:10.47) and 6th in 100-m back

(1:23.45).

Eryn Gix (Div.3) swam finals in three events, grabbing 2nd in 50-m breast (44.76), 5th in 100-m IM (1:32.14) and 6th in 50-m free (35.64).

Div. 1 swimmer Larissa Andrews also made it to finals in three events, and took silver in 50 breast (1:08.52), 4th in 100-m IM (2:03.97) and 5th in 50-m free (49.62).

Fellow Div.1 swimmer Ella Fisher made finals in both 50-m fly (1:06.06), placing 4th, and 100-m free (1:50.32), nailing 5th.

Div. 4 swimmer Grace Morgan took 5th in 200-m IM (2:59.91) and 6th in 100-m back (1:27.95).

Div.2 swimmers Zoe Hasenfratz and Cassidy Fraser made finals in one event each, Hasenfratz grabbing 6th in 50-m fly (59.79), and Fraser nailing 5th (55.43) in the same event.

Arianna Fraser (Div.1) swam one final and placed 5th in 50-m fly (1:06.56).

Swimming in their first competition ever was the triple threat McIntyre Machine, with Charlotte, Darby and Brenna all ripping up and down the pool in their red racers. And Mikala Bascom swam her first 50-m event.



STRETCH VOLLEY: The annual "beach volleyball" event held by an off-island group attracted lots of attention at Portlock Park last weekend.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

World Cup soccer final presented Sunday at Central Hall

Tired of cheering for World Cup soccer games on your own? Looking for a venue to show off your costume and face-painting skills as an avid football fan? Eager to demonstrate your FIFA historical trivia abilities? Like to watch the world's most popular game on a big screen?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you should probably join Salt Spring's enthusiastic soccer community to watch the FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) World Cup final at Central Hall starting 10 a.m. Sunday.

Organizers from the Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association (SSIYSA) booked the hall and rented a video projector from Island Star Video for the occasion.

"I'm so excited about it," said SSIYSA special events coordinator Krishna Rodriguez.

"It's just a game that you

watch together. You can all yell together 'Goal!' It's all about the energy and the love of the game," she said.

Attendance at the event will be by donation and SSIYSA will hold raffles to cover the cost of hall and projector rental.

Prizes include items like an official FIFA jersey, (donated by Joel and Tracey Shaver of Sport's Trad-

ers) and a miniature World Cup soccer ball (donated by Mary-Anne Legg).

Adding to the fun, Rodriguez also plans to organize a game for spectators to guess times when goals will be scored, she said.

Peter Vincent, of True North Satellite Systems, has been so keen on the project, he's installing a satellite dish at Central Hall free of charge

so that fans can watch the game with crystal clarity.

As of press time, semi-final matches were set for Germany versus Italy on Tuesday, and France versus Portugal on Wednesday (both at noon local time).

Winners of those games square off in Berlin on Sunday while the losers play a consolation match for third place in Stuttgart at 11 a.m.

local time on Saturday.

Soccer dissenters might want to take note of some statistics indicating the popularity of the sport.

According to Forbes.com, a billion people spread around 200 countries will likely tune in to watch the 2006 World Cup final match (and Reuters UK reports that 1.1 billion observed the 2002 World Cup final compared

to 91 million viewers of the 2006 Super Bowl).

The four weeks of play preceding the final World Cup game this year attracted approximately 40 billion TV viewers cumulatively.

Salt Spring's World Cup final event at Central Hall kicks off with pre-game coverage and a raffle at 10 a.m., July 9 (game starts at 11 a.m. Pacific time).

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