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Float camp sinks; toys bob in harbour

"The entire harbour is peppered with these little toys and this has turned into a beachcombers bonanza"

Ian Mott

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Life at Ganges Marina has floated from tragic to absurd since the wooden barge supporting the facility's reception desk and gift shop sank to the bottom of Ganges Harbour last week.

Buoyed by news the tragedy had not resulted in any dangerous spills, and after working through the weekend to salvage what they could from the structure and find a way to lift it from the sea floor, employees were treated to an unusual surprise as hundreds of small wooden toys stored in the marina building escaped from the structure and landed on the shoreline of Ganges Harbour Monday afternoon.

"We have an entirely different kind of spill on our hands," said Ian Mott, the marina's communication manager, in an interview from the site on Monday afternoon. "We've got toys floating all over the place and spread out throughout the harbour."

"The entire harbour is peppered with these little



CLOSED FOR BUSINESS: Communications manager Ian Mott and Jan O'Gorman are on site at the Ganges Marina float camp which sank last Thursday.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

toys and this has turned into a beachcomber's bonanza."

The incident saw lucky onlookers patrolling the shoreline for a chance to salvage one of the palm-sized wooden toy birds that were being stored in the float camp.

One lucky group of skate-

boarders plucked more than 50 toys from the area.

The surprising turn of events offered staff members a short reprieve from their task of getting the marina building up and running again.

Mott said he intends to attach a large vinyl diaper

to the barge to prevent any further leaks. Because the structure's entire first floor becomes submerged at high tide, the efforts of workers to save the structure are restricted.

While the cause of the incident will remain unknown until the float camp can be

lifted from the sea floor, Mott said, it was just a matter of time before the century-old barge succumbed to the elements. According to Mott, a pump used to keep water out of the ballast tanks

GANGES MARINE A3

Power line upgrade approved

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood reporter

Residents opposed to the construction of high voltage power lines across Salt Spring remain shocked following the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) decision to approve the lines linking the mainland with Vancouver Island.

"It is truly disturbing and frustrating to see how the legal process can twist things around," said Jackie Truscott, an Island Residents Against High Voltage Overhead Power lines (IRAHVOL) member. "The government obviously has a different program for the people of British Columbia."

Islanders spent more than a year and a half trying to rally support against the

British Columbia Transmission Corporation's (BCTC) plan to replace the existing power lines that run along the island between Maraicao and Sansum Narrows with a series of higher powered 230kV double-circuit cables.

IRAHVOL members argued that the BCTC plan raises potential health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields (EMF) and have a negative impact on property values in the area.

"People can now expect to have these lines here for another 50 years," said Truscott. "This is really a missed opportunity for the province to show that it is open to more progressive alternatives."

The fight to stop BCTC,

proved a lengthy, costly and emotionally charged experience. Despite the disappointment, she and other IRAHVOL members will now await a response from the community before deciding what to do next.

"If anything we have learned a lot from this process," she said. "Unfortunately we cannot do anything without more community support. Either people get behind us or they don't."

Though final approval is contingent on a decision from the Environmental Assessment Office, opponents on the mainland are considering whether to appeal the decision.

POWER DECISION A4

Garner roosters sing final crow

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Elizabeth Cooper spent most of last week seeking alternate arrangements for 25 of her prize-winning roosters after bylaw enforcement officers from the Capital Regional District (CRD) issued her a \$100 noise violation ticket for failing to silence her birds' controversial crow.

"This has been a big deal for her," said Benjamin Cooper, speaking on behalf of his wife who remains in Kamloops where she has arranged to house the birds on her sister's property. "My wife is not taking this well. Our whole life has been upset because of one person's complaints."

Despite the roosters' forced relocation, Cooper said, he is somewhat relieved to finally see a resolution to what has become an exhausting feud, hatched earlier this spring when a neighbour complained the roosters'

ROOSTERS A2

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		20:51	3.4	11.2		22:35	3.4	11.2
13 TH		01:32	2.8	9.2	17 MO	05:37	1.5	4.9
		05:18	3.1	10.2		11:23	2.3	7.5
		13:10	0.2	0.7		16:00	1.8	5.9
14 FR		21:18	3.4	11.2		22:59	3.4	11.2
		02:35	2.6	8.5	18 TU	06:28	1.1	3.6
		06:23	2.9	9.5		13:41	2.4	7.9
		13:52	0.4	1.3		16:54	2.3	7.5
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		07:41	2.6	8.5				
	14:34	0.8	2.6					
	22:10	3.4	11.2					

Galiano Island residents revisit their devisive forest zoning issues

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

After some 15 years of bitter struggle, residents of Galiano Island have taken the first steps from entrenched positions toward resolving complex issues related to their forestry lands.

Various island factions have been feuding ever since the Islands Trust enacted bylaws regarding forestry land use in 1992.

The issue became particularly salient when MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. sold some 7,000 acres of forest in various sized parcels to approximately 100 islanders around that same period.

"It's a fairly divisive issue in our community. To have got to the point where we've actually agreed on facilitation, we have agreed on a basic process, that's great," said Local Trust Committee member Michael Sharp.

"What I've always wanted to do is give the community a second chance to look at these bylaws and tell the trustees what they agree on, whether to keep it the same or to change it, and where the disagreement is."

Based on that information, trustees can make some decisions that could reform forestry policy on Galiano, he said.

"I think the key issue is, 'How do people achieve the right to have a residence on forest land?' The current bylaws allow a process for that, but whether that is the process that should be in place or not is what we are reviewing," he said.

Facilitator Gordon Sloan assisted islanders design a process to review forestry land-use policy on Galiano.

"It's gone very well. I think they've worked hard against a long and difficult

history. They've made huge progress. They've designed in detail the process they are going to use; that's good and not everybody does that."

The next step of the land-use review will be to find principled solutions to the current problems, he said.

"What everybody needs to do is meet their objectives. I don't think necessarily what they should be looking for is a compromise."

As of Monday, Sloan only needed to submit his report regarding the process design to complete phase one of the review.

Galiano trustees Sharp and Roy Smith plan to hold an extraordinary meeting on July 20 to review Sloan's report of committee conclusions.

The Local Trust Committee will likely decide upon the report during another meeting scheduled for July 26.

"There's never a complete and total happy ending," Smith cautioned. "There's still a little bit of work for the trustees to do at a meeting in order to be able to finalize some of the complex details."

The review process involved the representatives from the Islands Trust, representatives of various government ministries, landowners of affected forest lots, and residents of Galiano Island.

"It was an open community process and anyone could attend."

Facilitation occurred over two months during committee meetings once a week and ended "abruptly" on Sunday, Smith said.

"Some of the issues that needed to be dealt with were the emotional content around doing the review itself; why it was being done and people's feelings

around that. A lot of that needed to be get past before we could get down to the details. Which is why it came to the eleventh hour as far as a decision being made."

The facilitator's report indicates that 97 per cent of people present at the meeting approved a facilitated review of forest bylaws on Galiano. A process has been determined and outstanding issues have been identified, Smith said.

Trust staff will then draw up a request for proposal to take to the province for funding and, if funding is approved, the next step will be to hire a facilitator to assist the community review forestlands policy for Galiano over a three-month period.

"We're getting into a full OCP review next year but this one branch is big enough to swallow up the entire review if we let it get into the review. We have an opportunity to tackle it separately so we jumped at the chance."

He added, "The only way to be really certain that we had it out of the way is to do it first and get it out of the path."

Additionally, the Islands Trust is involved in three outstanding court cases with property owners who constructed residences on forestry land in a breach of bylaws.

"At least two of those cases were deliberate. They told us point blank, 'We did this for the purpose of taking on the Islands Trust and having this looked at.'"

Those court cases are on hold until the review process is completed, he said.

"Putting [the review process] on hold for any length of time longer than is absolutely necessary is inappropriate."

ROOSTERS

From Page A1

crow disturbed her sleep and ruined her and her family's quality of life.

"I've had my fill of all this," said Cooper. "Either everyone can leave us alone to raise these birds or we can get rid of them once and for all."

Cooper said his wife still has several dozen hens and eight young Japanese Bantams, but cannot see how she will be able to continue raising what he considers some of the most unique birds found in the province. For now, the remaining birds will be raised on the couple's five-acre Garner Road property until they are fully grown.

Following a meeting with her neighbour and CRD bylaw enforcement officers in late-May, Cooper attempted to silence her birds by adding insulation to her four chicken coops, covering windows and moving one of the noisier buildings farther from the

"I hope the farmers realize I don't have anything against farming. Basically, this was like being tortured every day."
- Lucille Lamarche

property line. Despite her best efforts, additional complaints forced the CRD to issue the ticket.

For the time being, neighbour Lucille Lamarche remains content something has finally been done after dealing with the birds since building her home across the road nearly five years ago.

For the past three weeks, Lamarche has devoted herself to documenting every time she hears a rooster crow. Recently, she said, the roosters have started to crow as early as 3:30 a.m.

"This has just been such a painful thing for me," said Lamarche, adding she's had to take time off from her landscaping business to cope with stress suffered during the ordeal.

"I hope the farmers realize I don't have anything against farming. Basically, it was like being tortured."

According to Section 26 of the CRD's Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, no person may keep any animal "which disturbs or tends to disturb the quiet, peace, rest enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the neighbourhood in which the animal is kept."

According to bylaw enforcement officer Don Brown it is always unfortunate when neighbourhood

disputes cannot be resolved amicably.

"We can't ticket someone for roosters who crow after sunrise. That's just what roosters do," said Don Brown. "When roosters start crowing before it's light outside and people complain, then we've got to get involved."

He added CRD inspectors would check up on the Cooper residence to ensure the couple complies with the CRD order to remove the birds.

"If everything is in order, we will withdraw the ticket and that will be the end of the story."

According to Brown, similar disputes pitting neighbours against one another are on the rise where increased density has brought people within closer proximity.

"It's kind of sad," he said. "This is one of those cases where the urban begins and the rural ends."



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TOY "STORE": From left, Ben Derosier, Caz Johnston and Walker Tottman were joined by fellow skaters Danica Lundy and Orion Dawn Prince in a beachcombing blitz Monday afternoon after hundreds of wooden bird toys escaped from the sunken float camp.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

GANGES MARINA

From Page A1

may have failed just before the structure began to sink at 6:30 a.m. last Thursday.

"The wooden barge supporting the structure is just part of the food chain," he said.

"It was slated for diaper installation but that obviously didn't happen in time."

Mott said marina staff are searching for a way to raise the structure so they can attach a large vinyl diaper to the 3,600-square-foot barge.

He remains confident the task can be accomplished by the end of the week.

Ganges Marina project manager Robyn Kelln said it has been business as usual ever since local emergency crews — on the scene Thursday morning — confirmed there had been no injuries or dangerous spills involving either sewage or fuel.

According to Kelln, the full extent of the damage remains unknown but costs may run into "the hundreds of thousands of dollars" once everything is dried up and ready to go again.

The news comes only four months after the Islands Trust voted to revoke the float camp's Temporary

It's not the kind of thing you expect to wake up to. At first I thought I was dreaming and I had to phone them back.
— Suzanne Guinness

Use Permit on condition the building was no longer being used as it was initially intended.

Salt Spring Island chief planner John Gauld was not available for comment, although the Trust is still ordering the float camp be removed in the fall.

Despite what he called a "minor inconvenience," Kelln said, marina staff made a special effort to ensure most of the estimated 200 guests at the marina suffered as few inconveniences as possible, despite being without power and left wandering the wharfs in search of a hot shower for the better part of the morning.

Within hours of the incident, he added, employees managed to salvage what they could from the float camp and set up a makeshift reception desk on the wharf.

"This isn't a problem for us. It's business as usual for

the Ganges Marina," Kelln said in an interview in front of the partially submerged dock on Thursday afternoon. "We will recover."

"The saddest part after all this is the loss of all the history inside the building," he added. "All the receipts and records left over from the past five years have all been turned to goop."

That the incident took place at low tide provided some consolation and allowed marina manager Suzanne Guinness to salvage a cash register and a computer before the tide submerged the entire first floor later in the afternoon.

"It was a race against the tide," she said, recalling the moment she received the phone call early Thursday. "It's not the kind of thing you expect to wake up to. At first I thought I was dreaming and I had to phone them back."

B&E at paint store

Police remain on the lookout for a suspect who made off with just under \$500 after a Monday night break and enter in the Upper Ganges Centre.

Paint Plus owner Kevin Marks said he arrived at work Tuesday morning to find his cash register and a paint scraper in the woods behind the Lower Ganges Road shopping complex.

The cash register was missing the money he'd left in it after leaving work at 11 p.m. the previous night.

While he was initially surprised by the incident, Marks added, he remained relieved the thieves didn't cause more damage to the store itself.

"Whoever did this didn't touch anything else in the store," he said early Tuesday morning. "They could have taken a lot more things and caused much more damage."

Marks suspects the culprit gained entry through the rear entrance, grabbed the cash machine and made his or her way along a trail into the nearby woods where the cash machine was likely pried open.

"I just can't figure out why they went to all that trouble," he said while trying to repair the broken cash machine. "All they had to do was just press this button."

Anybody with information concerning the incident is asked to contact the Salt Spring RCMP at 537-5555.



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POWER DECISION UPSETS OPPONENTS

From Page A1

In the meantime, an e-mail circulated by power line opponents in Tsawwassen earlier this week asked property owners along the right-of-way to deny B.C. Hydro employees access to the power lines.

Construction on the Salt Spring portion of the upgrade is set to begin in early-2007.

Project opponents spanning the route's length from South Delta to North Cowichan asked BCUC to recommend BCTC, an independent Crown Corporation responsible for operation, maintaining

and planning the growth of BC's high-voltage electric transmission system use underground HVDC Light technology.

According to Donna McGeachie, BCTC's manager of community relations, the newer technology would have added an additional \$149 million to the \$240 million project, has yet to produce any long term maintenance statistics and cannot be easily incorporated into the company's existing network.

McGeachie added a BCUC-imposed condition on the project

requires BCTC representatives provide reports outlining the latest EMF research conducted by agencies including the World Health Organization and Health Canada.

"Certainly our position has always been that the proposed level of EMFs are well within the guidelines," she said.

"If the guidelines were to change over time, we would certainly take all the necessary precautions."

As for worries over property values, the commission decided that, since property owners purchased

their lands after the right-of-way was established more than 50 years ago, "the benefits of large lots and/or low prices were weighed against the presence of transmission lines."

The conclusion is little consolation to Daria Zovi, an IRAHVOL member and mother of two whose home is 100 metres from the power lines.

Zovi has spent the past year and a half sitting through hearings, commissions and searching through paperwork and meeting minutes.

The sheer volume of documents created by the proceedings, she said, made it next to impossible for anybody to keep on top of exactly what was going on and what the true implications will be.

"In my view the commission clearly did not do their homework and felt pressed for time," she said. "This continues to be an ill-planned and terrible project."

For more information on the project contact www.iraivol.org or www.bctransco.com.

Pender groups squabble over lease

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

Two Pender Island community-service organizations are embroiled in a bitter tenancy struggle over a deteriorating public building.

As the landlord of Auchterlonie Centre — which includes three buildings — the Pender Island Recreational and Agricultural Hall Association (PIRAHA) seeks to provide long-term sustainability for the Old School building.

But the Pender Island Community Services Society (PICSS) tenant, who operates the Nu-To-You thrift store, is reluctant to accept PIRAHA terms for a new lease of the 104-year-old building.

The matter came under harsh public light when the Island Tides published a June 29 editorial that admonished PICSS for "crying poor" and warned Pender residents about a "hostile takeover" bid being hatched by PICSS.

To complicate the matter, Christa Grace-Warrick, who served as PIRAHA interim president from December until June 20, also publishes the Island Tides.

"This is a landlord-tenant dispute and it's in the hands of lawyers now," Grace-Warrick said. "There's been a plan being developed since last December that took untold hours of work and rigorous assessment."

She believes the Auchterlonie Centre requires a cost-recovery lease to generate some \$16,500 for immediate building maintenance and on-going support throughout the lifespan of the structure.

PIRAHA was able to sign a cost-recovery lease with another Auchterlonie tenant without difficulty, she noted. And as the editor of the

"This particular case is getting the light of day shone on it."
- Christa Grace-Warrick

Islands Tides, she felt compelled to comment on the matter with an editorial on June 29, she said.

"One registered B.C. Society is mounting an attack on another. The one being attacked is the landlord; the one attacking is the tenant," she wrote.

In that editorial, Grace-Warrick chided PICSS for providing \$15,000 to the Medical Centre while balking over a lease increase with PIRAHA.

"It's time for PICSS to get on with signing a cost recovery lease, set about mending some fences and leave PIRAHA in peace to get on with its duties."

She also complained that PIRAHA directors have suffered from slanderous gossip.

"This particular case is getting the light of day shone on it. Usually people do not speak out for fear of an unpleasant social life."

PICSS members were stunned by the Grace-Warrick's editorial on June 29.

"I was very disappointed and very upset about that editorial because I believe that would affect negotiations," said PICSS vice president Judy Teague.

"We're not hostile, we're a bunch of old retired people working to do things for the community."

Teague would simply like to see representatives from each side meet to negotiate a

new lease.

According to Teague, problems between the two agencies started in May 2005, when then PIRAHA president Susan De Gryp, initiated a new lease agreement for the library, playgroup and thrift store located at the Auchterlonie Centre.

"PIRAHA said they were in financial difficulties and they wanted us to look after our own buildings." PIRAHA suggested three proposals in May 2005: in one scenario, each tenant would be totally responsible for building maintenance, another proposal would see a new non-profit society created to manage the Auchterlonie Centre, and a third suggestion would see PICSS takeover administration of the centre, she said.

"We didn't really want to take over the Auchterlonie Centre as landlords. We felt that wasn't our mandate. We were there to run the Nu-To-You store to raise money for the community."

So PICSS offered to assume full responsibility for building maintenance, insurance and operating costs in lieu of rent.

PIRAHA looked to the Capital Regional District (CRD) for a bylaw to create tax funding, but that motion was withdrawn before it came to a referendum.

When Grace-Warrick became PIRAHA interim president in December, she initiated a full inspection of the Old School building.

"She doesn't want us to just pay for everything," said Teague, "We have to put money aside for all these things that might possibly go wrong in the building."

Meanwhile, PICSS spent \$8,000 on a new furnace, repairs to steps, a storage shed, and various other

maintenance items for the Old School over the last year, Teague said.

"We've had a lease with them for 23 years. This is the first year we've ever had a problem."

Under Grace-Warrick's leadership, PIRAHA requested a \$16,500 building reserve (with an \$8,500 contribution from PIRAHA), and \$350 per month to create a contingency fund, with a line of credit from VanCity Credit Union, that would fund repairs for the Auchterlonie Centre.

Alternatively, PICSS could pay \$1,460 per month as rent, plus utilities.

"We told them 'no' to both those options," said Teague.

According to PIRAHA financial statements from December 2001, PIRAHA already holds a \$24,000 contingency fund for the Auchterlonie Centre (along with a \$25,000 contingency fund for the Community Hall).

Additionally, PICSS manages its own \$20,000 contingency fund and its constitution prevents it from borrowing money (regarding the line-of-credit option), Teague said.

Consequently, PICSS sent out a public letter asking for support, suggestions and ideas prior to a public information meeting attended by some 200 islanders on May 27.

Without resolution, the thrift store could be forced to close, she said.

And PICSS maintains that they have given \$93,000 to PIRAHA in the last seven years within a total of some \$814,000 in grants provided to the community by the Nu-To-You thrift store since its inception.

"All the money goes back into the community, everything we raise, other than our costs," said Teague.

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COLOUR TOUCH UP: Gordon Cartwright adds a fresh coat of paint to the underside of the roof at Ganges United Church. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Grass fire doused

Quick response by members of the Salt Spring Volunteer Fire Department prevented a small grass fire from spreading across a north end hay field Friday afternoon.

According to fire captain Dale Lundy, the matter remains under investigation, but it appears the fire started in a vehicle working in the field and quickly spread to nearby brush.

Lundy said dry conditions over the past two weeks allowed the fire to cover roughly 10,000 square feet.

He advised people to use caution when working in drier areas on the island as it does not take much for a spark to cause serious damage.

"Of course, we're taking extra precautions because of the drier conditions and the high fire hazard rating," he said.

In other fire news:

Lundy reminded property owners to ensure their street address markers are visible.

Summer brush and debris, he said, make it difficult for the fire department to locate specific addresses and a little work around the yard can often save crews a lot of time when responding to calls.

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Island singer and advocate sets sights on Star Search

Local artist and youth-issues advocate Eric Proffitt was selected amid thousands of entries to compete as a finalist in the B.C. regional competition for the David Foster Star Search on Friday.

According to his press release, Proffitt performs concerts with messages of "identity, worth, connection and purpose" directed toward teenagers.

In February, Proffitt founded Wait International

Productions in conjunction with Virtues Project founder Linda Kavelin Popov, and he hopes his role in this competition will bring a greater awareness to the important issues of teen depression and teen suicide.

Since then, he's performed in schools, residential treatment facilities and youth centers around the islands, Utah and Washington D.C., with material he wrote for a new pop CD, Hold On.

Now, he is looking forward to sharing his passion for music and youth advocacy during the David Foster Star Search competition.

"I am more than just competing to sing, I am competing to share an important message."

He plans to sing Josh Groban's song *My Confession* in Langley on Friday.

For more information on Proffitt's programs, check his website (www.WaitInternational.com).

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What's On? see page B2

Library campaign gains momentum

Two separate \$20,000 donations on the same day have helped move The Friends of the Library closer to reaching their goal of raising money to buy land adjacent to the current library.

"We are immensely encouraged by these two donations, one anonymous and both unexpected," said library board chair Duncan Hepburn.

"All of us working on this fundraising drive realize how little time we have to raise the money, and how difficult it is to get the message out that the more we

can reduce the amount that has to be borrowed for the land, the sooner we can move on to finalizing plans for the new building."

Hepburn also noted that in addition to reducing the amount of money to be borrowed, every \$100 donated will reduce debt-servicing costs by about \$10 per annum.

"Thus we welcome any donation, large or small."

The new donations underline the immense importance of large donations if the Friends are to be successful in raising the \$600,000

needed to pay for the property, notes a press release.

"The Friends are hopeful that each of the library's over 5,500 cardholders will help fund the purchase," states the release, "but they know that they must find sympathetic ears among those islanders who have been so supportive of the Salt Spring community in the past."

"After all," says Friends chair Pat Byrne, "what is more central to this community than the library? It's a motherhood issue."

Prospective donors should address their cheques or cash

donations to The Friends of the Library and drop them off at the library or mail them to 129 McPhillips Ave., V8K 2T6.

Written pledges, to be honoured either this year or next, are also very welcome.

The Friends are also reminding donors that stock certificates can be donated and that new Canadian laws provide for "tremendous" tax benefits to those donating stock on which capital gains are payable.

Donor forms are available in the library and many stores in Ganges.

Donation reflects life-long love affair with books

A generous personal donation has allowed a library fundraising organization make another payment towards its interim loan needed to purchase the new library site.

\$20,000 was received from Donna Bellavance, who made the donation as a gesture of her life-long love of libraries.

Growing up in Ontario as an only child in a rural neighbourhood, the Saturday trip to the library was the highlight of her week.

"She loved the library for its shelves

of books and its quiet spaces," notes a press release from the Friends of the Library. "She recalls longing to be 12 years old, because then she was allowed to use the reading room. She can still remember the smell of the library, and the ticking of the wind-up clock on the reading room wall."

An avid book buyer, Bellavance has been forced to slow down due to lack of horizontal space in her living areas.

Thanks to her generosity, and that of other donors, the Salt Spring Library Board and the Friends of the Library

have announced they will be reducing, by another \$50,000, the interim loan taken out to pay for the library's recent land acquisition.

"Though the community's response to date has been most encouraging," library board chair Duncan Hepburn said, "the campaign will be continuing and we hope to double the amount received already."

"If that goal is reached, we will have another \$30,000 a year to spend on books and to help with operating costs."

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AU REVOIR: Former high school principal Nancy Macdonald is seen on one of her last days at the Salt Spring school as she cleaned out her office prior to taking a job in Saanich. Photo by Sean McIntyre

Former GISS principal reflects on years at school

Since taking up the top job at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) eight years ago, Nancy Macdonald has learned a thing or two about high school life in the islands.

With new plans on the horizon and a wealth of memories from her experience, it is with mixed feelings that she steps down this summer. To mark the occasion, The Driftwood caught up with Macdonald a few days after the final bell marked the start of the summer holiday.

The Driftwood: What has been the most rewarding part of the job?

Macdonald: Working with amazing kids and a wonderful staff over the years. It has also been rewarding to see so many positive changes in the culture of the school, not to mention new and exciting programs.

The Driftwood: How about the most challenging?

Macdonald: I guess you could say labour unrest and budget crises. However, some of these times were also our finest moments. We became more collegial, pulled together as a team, problem solved, had very fruitful discussions, and also became more creative.

The Driftwood: What can be learned from some of these changes, including the shift to a four-day school week?

Macdonald: We can learn from one of our students who said "What's the big deal?" Kids are resilient and understand new ways of doing things. They know learning happens in different ways and at different times of the night and day. Adults have changed their work lives and

kids are changing too.

I've learned that the effect on student learning is pretty neutral. The obstacles which impede student learning have nothing to do with the four-day or five-day week. In the school system we need to remove those other obstacles or help find ways to support kids the best way we can.

The Driftwood: The news is rife with these tales of teachers' unmet demands regarding wages, special education and class size. Are these reports justified by what you see going on inside the school system?

Macdonald: Interestingly, our teachers don't get mired in the politics. They are unwavering professionals. That said, I personally believe that the job of the teacher needs to be recognized more by society in general. We need to honour their role in raising children — yes, they play a huge role in this.

Teachers work hard and have at times a very difficult job. As well, they take on many, many volunteer tasks, just for the love of it. I personally believe they should be paid more for what they do. I know many people in this community who earn a lot more than teachers, without anything close to the same education, training, skill level and responsibility. In North America we need to start understanding this dilemma, otherwise our schools will not attract good people to the profession.

The Driftwood: If you could choose one area to provide additional funding to right away, what would it be?

Macdonald: Support for students with learning prob-

lems, with mental and physical health issues.

The Driftwood: Where will life take you next?

Macdonald: I'm off to Saanich for now but I will remain a resident of this beautiful island. This hasn't been a long term plan, I just knew that the time was right. I needed a change and I think the school will benefit from a change and a new set of eyes. I have hundreds and hundreds of fond memories of GISS. I will keep this place very close to my heart.

The Driftwood: Any advice to graduating students?

Macdonald: They don't need any. They have it all figured out. I wish I had been like them in 1972. These kids are brilliant, motivated, creative, thoughtful. Amongst them is a prime minister, a song writer, a carpenter, an engineer, a teacher. I could only suggest that they follow Nairn Howe's advice and "make your life count." I have told my Capp (Career and Personal Planning) 9 students to have at least four children because we need to increase the population in Canada. But I did tell them to wait until they graduated for that!

The Driftwood: Any advice to the next principal?

Macdonald: Enjoy this special place. Get to know the community and ask lots of questions. Be prepared for every day being different and to keep your door open. Listen and do lots of managing while walking around. Work with all the natural leaders on staff and in the student body. They will show the way. Good luck and know that you are in the best little school in B.C.

What's On? see page B2



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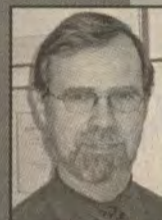
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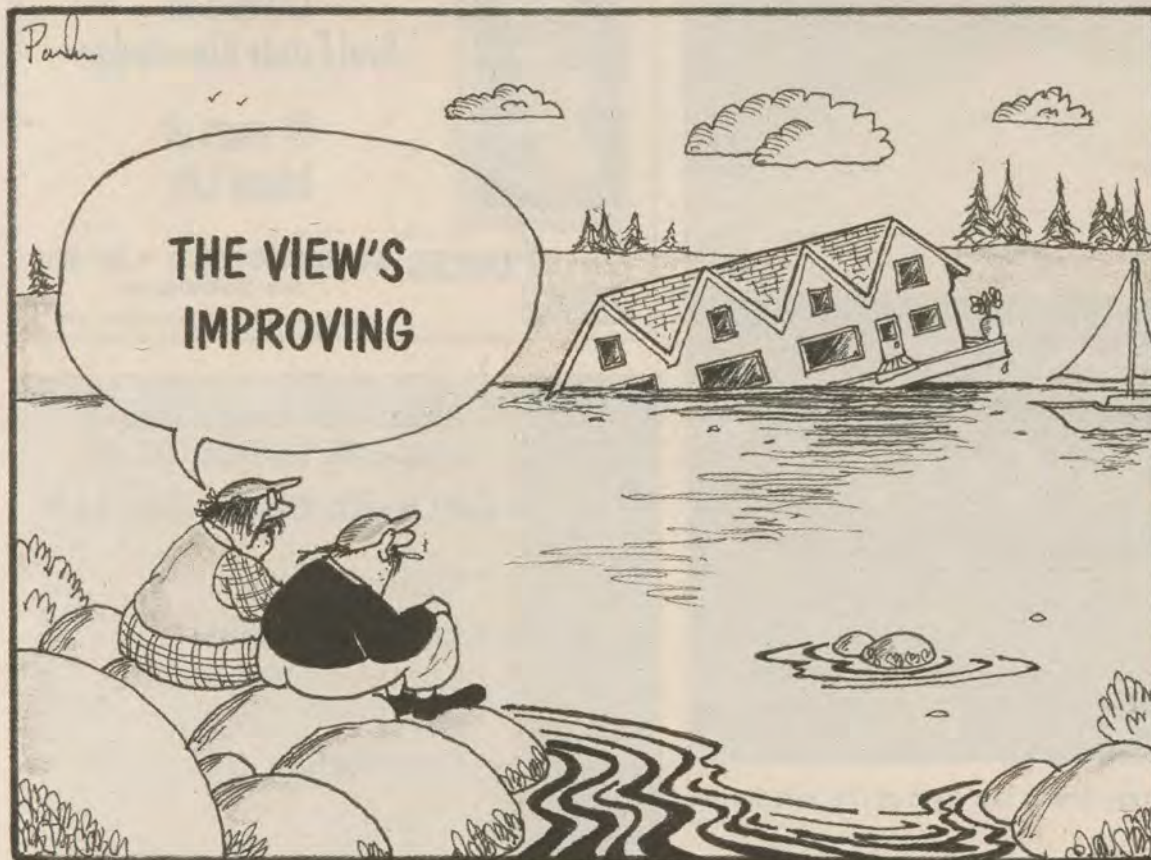
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Opportunity or sinkhole: where do we stand?

Now that the notorious Ganges Marina float camp has quite literally struck rock bottom, it remains to be seen how Salt Springers will react to this unforeseen turn of events.

Will the marina's opponents — so vocal during last year's fight against a proposed rezoning of the Lower Ganges Road site to permit construction of a waterfront hotel and retail facility — come forward to offer a solution as to how the eel grass, herring and boaters can live in harmony?

Will Salt Spring's business community rise up to help what has so often been declared the lynchpin of our tourist-dependent island economy?

Will elected officials step up and follow through with the highly-anticipated though largely illusory Harbour Management Plan?

Or will everyone just sit back and watch as the float camp continues to rock back and forth until the winter swells simply wash it away for good.

As things stand, it's anybody's guess whether islanders will look upon the float camp as half-submerged or half-exposed, but the answer will tell us much about who we are.

The island is so often referred to as "an argument surrounded by water" and while the monicker is sure to foster the odd chuckle among newcomers and provides a certain sense of foggy smugness among island folk, a failure to reach consensus — even pale understanding — is a sorry state of being.

Nowhere is talk of "community" more prevalent than here on Salt Spring, yet our continued inability to solve disputes — whether they be over eel grass beds, roosters or urbanization — as neighbours, raises the question of what kind of community people are trying to preserve and whether or not there is anything left to protect.

The sinking of the Ganges float camp has provided the opportunity for islanders to witness some real community leadership in the face of what could have been a tragedy.

Where are the leaders offering their vision for the future and who will take charge to plan the harbour's future?

Now is the time to jump right in so don't be afraid to get your feet wet.

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Wars and political history reiterate need for education

By PETER HAASE

As we celebrated Canada Day on July 1, another important day came to my mind this year; that being the 90th anniversary of the battle of the Somme, World War I.

I spent a moment of silence in respect for my father, Albert Haase, who was in that battle and a few others such as the battle at Ypres.

He entered the British army at barely 18 years of age in 1914 and survived four long years, dodging almost all the bullets and exploding shells that came his way, and experiencing the general misery that the Great War presented. He was wounded twice and sent to hospitals, one in France and the other in Alexandria, Egypt, returning to the hot theatre of war after recovery on both occasions.

I remember listening, intently, to his many interesting stories as a young lad growing up back in Liverpool; almost all his accounts were reluctantly given and when my three brothers and I pressed him for more, as young naive minds would do, his final stern remark would be "young minds shouldn't be ruined by such

VIEW POINT

details." He'd been to hell and back, and there was nothing glorious about war to the ones who'd been there.

I was born when my dad was 54 years of age, and by this time the second war had finished. He had endured two World Wars in his lifetime. All for what?

There were obviously strong reasons for fighting against the Nazi demons in WWII. I certainly would have signed up and done my part, but aside from that war, all others have proved to have been smoothly cunning manipulations by international corporate bodies assisted by their political puppets, especially those who lobby the bleak halls of the White House at midnight.

Convenient turmoil can sure stimulate an economy, and the weapons industry, unfortunately, comes second to none in its contribution to job creation. If it ain't the commies in Korea, Vietnam,

Cambodia, Nicaragua, Granada, etc. then it's the universal terrorist, take your pick, Islamic, I.R.A. Chechnyan, Palestinian, Nationals, etc., the list goes on.

Somehow the world seems sadly bent on blindly following imbecile leaders, most of whom should today be standing in the dock at the Hague for war crimes against humanity. In my world, no blood stained, corrupt politician would ever find immunity from judgement, and his punishment would be very, very harsh. I'd throw away the key.

The study of political history always illuminates the very important need for solid, high quality education in our world. This is paramount. Obviously, smart populations would seldom elect nitwits into office; they would usually direct their energies towards building up their societies rather than destroying them; they would nurture good relationships with other progressive countries and shun narrow opportunists who regard the bottom line as being more important than basic human rights or the environment.

Unfortunately, here in Canada, we presently have a Harper government that craves to mirror the abhorrent Bush administration. Imagine trying to emulate a government whose public opinion stands at the lowest level in modern U.S. history. A disgracefully rejected collection of money-raking warmongers. One example borrowed from the Bush manual is to hand pick compliant journalists to ask soft, comfortable questions at press meetings, and then present conveniently biased information back to the public. It doesn't take too much discerning to sort through the intentional play on words and double speak. Skillful observation of speech can only come through good education. Hence, the lower the standard of education a society possesses, the less chance it has to succeed. Send for the T.V. clowns and feed them cake.

Governments know full well that withholding resources from education can produce a more malleable population. The process of dumbing down a country could extrapolate into an unintentional involvement with huge negative

consequences, ex. international conflict. We don't want more Canadians to spill away their lives in far off countries where we've been suckered into supporting a relentless and unrepentant bully.

Ninety years ago at the Battle of the Somme, over a million lives were lost for a few 100 yards of real estate; the total world war cost tens of millions of precious human lives. Shortly after its end, British Petroleum, with the aid of its government, extensively redrew the middle eastern map and asked the newly formed country called Iraq the very same question we are hearing today from good ol' boy Dubya.

"Hey buddy! What's our oil doing under your land?" Alas, Alas. What's the way outta here?

If my dad were here today, I'm sure Albert would say, "It's just like 1914/18 all over again."

My feelings? To hell with Nintendo war games and "cheers" to love, music and amateur sport. Amen?

The writer is the proud son of late war veteran, Albert Haase, 1896 - 1988.

Leftists have fallen back on anti-Americanism to rally troops

By MICHAEL FRIEDMAN

When a malevolent, jihadist criminal like Osama bin Laden can be referred to as a "scapegoat" [July 5, Viewpoint], we can understand moderate socialists' concerns, as expressed in the recently published Euston Manifesto, about the perversion of democratic principles.

Using a standard that sees bin Laden as a victim, the Left has allowed itself to partner with the Taliban, who cut off the fingers of women using nail polish,

IN RESPONSE

who would annihilate the Jewish people, in order to further "the anti-imperialist struggle."

Viewpoint's author clearly has no idea whose political line she is mouthing — or does she? How has it become possible for good judgment to be jettisoned?

Here's a brief summary of the Left's past 150 years:

Friedrich Engels invited the workers of the world to unite behind the leadership of the Communist Party and overthrow bourgeois democracy.

Workers never did come on-side in convincing numbers and hardly ever of their own free will. Other than in Cuba and a few scattered local councils around the world, the Communists haven't much to show for 150 years of solicitation.

A theory known as "spontaneous consent" appeared around 1920, associated with Antonio Gramsci and

to explain the failure of workers to acknowledge the Communist Party's leadership role. Contemptuous of workers' ability to evaluate their own circumstances, Communists explained that workers' impaired ability to reason allowed the capitalist class to manipulate them.

This theory has remained alive since the 1920s as Communists, left-labourites, left-academics and church leftists continue to grapple with their rejection by the rest of us. The contemporary expression of this theory is

factured consent." It displays continuing disrespect by Leftists for the fundamental democratic notion that an individual is the best judge of his or her own circumstances.

With no theory remaining to explain the world, contemporary Leftists have fallen back on anti-Americanism in a last ditch effort to rally the troops. The vicious, the envious and the unwitting have responded.

I'm going to include the July 5 Viewpoint author among the unwitting.

I don't think that my neigh-

Really, their involvement in the politics of contrarianism is an attempt to define themselves as "good" or "Christian" or "progressive," rather than motivated by a sense that the outcome of world events holds any real consequence for them.

The luxury to be so self-absorbed is provided by the bourgeois democracy they seem to resent.

Is it time for Salt Spring's Leftists to rethink their position; or, would that upset their emotional balance?

The writer is a salt Spring

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *How are you adapting to higher fuel costs?*



Damien Barstead

I run on pure bio-diesel. I figure if I'm paying that much I may as well be doing something beneficial while I'm at it.



Janet Marshall

I have to go to Duncan once a month and usually fill up over there.



Alfred Gemperle

I just drive less or try to use a vehicle that uses less fuel.



Laynie Ryan

Gas prices are insane. I'm always watching the gas gauge.



Barbara Phelan

So far I don't have to worry. It's a fact of life and you have to go with and just plan things a little better.

Letters to the Editor

Anti-dog

Salt Spring is in danger of becoming another Nelson, B.C. when it comes to canine intolerance. A few years before I moved to Salt Spring from Nelson, I witnessed an incident there which affected me deeply and which I will never forget.

Nelson city council, in their infinite wisdom, enacted a bylaw which prohibits dogs in the down-town core, whether tethered or not.

One day, I came upon a teenage boy 16 or 17 years of age, crying on the sidewalk of down-town Nelson. When I asked him what the matter was, he sobbed, "they took my dog away and if I don't come up with \$150 by tomorrow, they are going to put my dog down." What is wrong with this picture? Well, pretty much everything, I would say. The bylaw which caused it, is wrong; the person(s) who abused their authority was/were wrong; and the consequenc-

es which were devastating to an innocent young man, that is wrong.

What has this got to do with Salt Spring, you might ask?

Canada Day, Vesuvius beach; my two jack-russell terriers and I had just come in from some relaxing fishing in my small boat. Now, because we were situated between the stairway descending to the beach from the road and the porta-potty placed on a wooden deck on the far side of the beach, we were in a dog-restricted zone.

Now it just so happens that, at high tide, there is no other access to shore except in this restricted area because of high embankments. Someone who was obviously offended by our presence on the beach, called the animal-control officer and complained.

He came down and asked me to remove my dogs from the beach.

I explained to him that I had come by water and

there is no sign posted on the beach. (The posting is at the top of the public-access stairway.) He informed me that it did not matter; I must remove my dogs from the beach.

I further explained to him that my dogs were my constant companions and that I believed I was fully within my rights to come onto the beach by boat with my dogs. Again he told me to take my dogs off the beach. When I refused, he became quite agitated. When I further refused to give him my name, address and phone number, he called the police on his cell, who then came down apparently to enforce the peace.

After identifying myself so that the peace could be restored, I was presented with a fine of \$150 for obstructing an animal control officer. Since that time, I have received further fines for being on the same beach with my dogs and I doubt that it will be the last because I intend to keep going to my

favorite beach with my dogs and fully intend to fight this ridiculous bylaw using any and all means at my disposal, including civil disobedience.

I do not wish to live in a place where man's best friend is not welcome. It is one of the reasons that I left Nelson.

PAUL VERVILLE
Old Divide Road

Salt Spring

As I cruised through the Driftwood, I bumped into the letter section again and, to my trained eye, I caught the gist of the make-up of Salt Spring Island. Having lived here for over 30 years I feel I am now qualified to pass comment.

Some things never change. When I moved here from the mainland the expected train of thought was "I'm here, so let's pull up the draw bridge." I still haven't made up my mind if that's the way to go, but if we're gonna do it, we better be quick about it.

Crime is going up and water is going down. It seems

to get something built here you just do it and deal with the consequences later. By the way, that hasn't changed much over the years!

People still get angry over someone else encroaching on their bit of the rock. We all know that to guarantee that, we must buy up the surrounding areas and turn 'em into park land. (Just don't give it to PARC....you may end up with something you really don't want in your back yard.)

You might want to give it to the "Organic Gardeners Association" or whatever, so the chemical companies have fewer guinea pigs to use. Oh, I know, you could turn it into a "Gypsy Moth Trap Hangers Guild" training ground. They would have to leave the trees up so they can practice. Apparently there are no Gypsy Moth free standing thingamabobs available on the market yet. Hey, there's another make-work project.... The possibilities are endless; just like the OCP!

So, whether you're just standing around watching the kids, or being neighbourly at your local community hall, on dog patrol in town, tootin' your own horn about Canada Day (cause you need to do it here), or wondering why your kids need a 0 to 60 in eight seconds killing machine, give some thought to affordable housing.

It still has nothing to do with what I think I'm talking about, but if you should have some land to give away, maybe the impossible will become possible...sort of like having an OCP written in stone not sand.

In a nutshell, this island hasn't changed its way of thinking, but it has too many "thinkers" who aren't official islanders (25 year pin) acting on what they think this island should be, so they hopefully can sell enough of it to move back to Alberta or Ontario or wherever. Roses to all!

RANDY SLOAN
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

Not quite willing to roll the dice on real estate gamble

On the day you bought this newspaper, I made \$240. I didn't really do anything to earn this money. I likely spent the day battling the bamboo in my garden or walking the dogs. My claim to this money, is that I own a house. Not a big house, not in a great neighbourhood... doesn't really matter. The simple fact is that over the past four years the value of my little bungalow has gone up 96 per cent, according to realtor Tom Navratil's website.

According to most everyone's estimates, my little place would fetch \$350,000 today with every indication it will increase 25 per cent by year end. Do the math. By New Year's Eve my net worth will increase by \$87,500. That works out to about \$240 a day. Break out the party hats! But is it enough?

Occasionally, I get envious. I see friends lining up to re-mortgage, extracting large chunks of their home equity to buy any piece of real estate they can get their hands on. I have witnessed otherwise completely rational

HEAD TO HEAD

BY PETER VINCENT



people buying up cracker jack single wide trailers in the middle of the bush, stinking of cat urine, with sulfurous, unpotable water and watching the line-ups of renters willing to pay \$700 a month. Its an upside down world — a modern day gold rush.

As I said, sometimes I get envious standing on the sidelines watching other people's worth soar. I get envious until I remember April 13, 1982. That's my official date for the beginning of the last real estate recession. I was in Victoria at the time, and owned about six properties, all highly leveraged with floating rate mortgages. For the uninitiated, a floating rate mortgage has an interest rate that is tied to the prime rate, and thus fluctuates as the Canada Prime Interest Rate goes up and down.

In 1982, I watched interest rates fluctuate all the way up to 22 per

cent. I watched as the average house price in Victoria fluctuated down 25 per cent over four years. I watched as my six houses dwindled down to one, sold at fire sale prices to keep my head above water. I lived in the basement of my last remaining house for two years, regaining my financial feet. I remember the sleepless nights. I remember letting the phone go unanswered during working hours, knowing that it was likely a creditor on the other end barking for a payment. I remember a perfectly good marriage disintegrating... "Till Debt do us Part." I don't feel so envious anymore.

Can it happen again? Economic guru Allen Greenspan said last year that he sees indications that the real estate market is beginning to "froth." He may be right. The whole market seems quite artificial, propped up by a banking industry inventing new ways of qualifying eager first-time buyers.

Almost half of all the first home mortgages in the U.S. are done with no money down. Many are "interest only" mortgages, which means none of the payment goes

toward the actual loan itself. Many financial institutions are now offering 50-year mortgages, which means a nice young couple in their mid 20s will be 75 years old when they have their house paid off.

It's the monthly payment that is the key. Lending officers are focusing not on the heart attack purchase prices, but how much it's going to cost the purchaser per month. If that \$300,000 home can be had for \$1,000 a month, everybody's happy. Everybody from banks to purchaser to realtor to carpenter is counting on the market to keep flying at these unprecedented rates. But if the real estate market dips, dives, bursts, deflates, whatever you want to call it — watch it hit the fan. Interest rates are rising and banks are running out of parlour tricks.

In the early 1980s, Victoria real estate prices took seven years to recover. Economists are predicting a much tougher, longer recovery time if this market bursts. We are talking about foreclosures, unemployment, worldwide hard times. There will be nowhere to hide.

Optimists say that the voracious appetite of the Asian markets for energy and raw materials will keep this economy steamrolling for years.

The natural resources of British Columbia and the ability of the Alberta tar sands to supply the United States with fuel for the next 100 years will surely see us through any catastrophe. The mass exodus of job hunters from the east will ensure the good times as new home construction continues to boom.

Maybe so. But I'm not willing to risk it. After the last blood-bath, I started thinking of my little home as just that — a little home. Not as a cash cow. Some say there is good debt and bad debt. In my limited universe, the only good debt is no debt.

In a little less than 10 years I will own my little house by the sea mortgage free. If the market keeps this wild roller coaster ride up, then I will tip my hat to all of those who were willing to roll the dice. As for me, I will continue to battle the bamboo and walk the dogs. That's why I came to Salt Spring.

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More letters

Graduates

On behalf of the George Washington University School of Business Environmental and Social Sustainability Initiative (ESSI) and the Salt Spring Island Institute for Sustainability Education & Action (I-SEA), we want to thank the many individuals and organizations who assisted our Sustainable Communities and Organizations Consulting students over the past several weeks.

Our graduate sustainability students, Tracey Adams, Jillian Caster, Tricia Chirumbole, Jamie Fowler, Marc Heisterkamp, Erin Lehner, Laura McCullough, Becky Ray, and Osamu Takahashi, were warmly received by Gulf Islanders, contributing to several quality sustainability consulting projects.

These projects included implementing a sustainable accommodations certification program, conducting a marketing study for a grey-water recycling proposal, advancing sustainable tourism and information efforts, and analyzing the prospects of a "green" spa.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Linda Adams, Louise Adele, Peter Allan, Suzanne Ambers, Gary Bojes, George Ehring, John Gaud, Jean Gelwicks, Brenda Guiled, Gary Holman, Meror Krayenhoff, Peter Lamb, Andrea LeBorgne, Tanya McDonald, Sean McIntyre, Gary McNutt, Don Mellor, Kristen Overturf, Andrea Palframan, Marion Pape, Wayne Quinn, Perry Ruehlen, and Patti Speed for providing information and insights to our students.

We also thank all islanders who attended our team

project presentations and receptions, the staff of the Harbour House and the Seabreeze Inn for their warm hospitality, and the several B&B owners, Rainbow Road residents and businesses, Salt Spring non-profit organizations, Salt Spring Vineyards, Salt Spring Village Resort staff, and the Salt Spring residents and non-residents alike who agreed to be interviewed by our students, providing valuable information for our analyses and recommendations.

The results of our surveys will be posted on our organizational websites and will be available upon completion and request.

This year was the third consecutive summer in which our program visited Salt Spring, during which we have been pleased to assist several island organizations move a bit closer to a sustainability ideal, and hopefully we have played a small role in advancing this ideal community-wide.

The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce, the Earth Festival Society, ArtSpring, the Core Inn, and Spa del la Tierra have been excellent sustainability consulting "clients," some more than once, and we've been very pleased to work with the Capital Regional District, the Islands Trust, and PARC each summer.

As can be seen from the number of individuals and organizations with whom we have developed stakeholder relationships, advancing toward sustainability is a widely-shared value in the Gulf Islands toward which we hope to make a contribution in the years ahead.

To that end, any individuals or organizations who are interested in participating in our sustainable communities and organizations consulting projects in the future are welcome to contact us to discuss the exciting possibilities.

We're looking forward to working with all sustainability advocates and practitioners in the region in realizing and sustaining an enriching, vibrant, and healthful quality of life, both within the Gulf Islands and beyond!

**MARK STARIK,
and MARGERY MOORE,
Salt Spring I-SEA**

Library request

This letter is intended for all those who are currently part-time residents of Salt Spring.

You are an important part of the community since, collectively, you own about 30 per cent of all the property on this island. You obviously share the view of most permanent residents that Salt Spring is a great place to live. We look forward to many of you eventually becoming permanent residents and helping us to preserve, to protect and, yes, to enhance our island home.

Others of you may never move here "full time" but will return for many years to come. In either case, we'd like to ask you, right now, to help finance the purchase of the land on which a new Library will be built in the Ganges core.

The current library has served Salt Spring residents, be they full or part-time, for close to 50 years. Now, however, our building is far too small for the current size of the community and, in addition, it has a number of structural faults.

That building must definitely be replaced within the next few years. The purchase, for \$600,000, of a property adjacent to our current site was the first step in this process. We are now conducting a fundraising campaign, the only campaign to be conducted in the course of building a new library, to raise at least half of that \$600,000.

This is the message we have been sending to our per-

manent residents for some months. It's also the message we are now addressing to part-timers since the summer is the time most of you visit Salt Spring. We'd very much like you to join those many permanent residents who have already contributed to the Library's Land Acquisition Campaign.

The library must soon arrange for permanent funding to cover the cost of purchasing the property adjacent to its current site. This purchase will be paid off over a 15-year period. Money raised by the current campaign will be used to reduce the amount that has to be so financed.

The library exists to serve everyone on Salt Spring whenever and for however long they are on the island. Recent changes will soon allow patrons to take out books here and return them elsewhere in British Columbia. This may be of real interest to many part-time residents.

However, the major reason for supporting our library is the same for all Salt Spring residents. A public library is an essential pillar of any civilized community. Right now we are asking everyone to join in shoring up that pillar. What more can, or need, be said?

We urge you to make as generous a donation as your personal situation allows. Gifts of any size will help and all donations will be publicly recognized unless you prefer to remain anonymous. Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Salt Spring Library and can either be dropped off at the Library or mailed to the Friends, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Ganges, V8K 2T6. Please join us in helping our Library to grow.

**TILLY CRAWLEY and
STAN SHAPIRO,
Salt Spring**

MORE LETTERS A11



It's time to come back to SSplash!

Your indoor pool society is still in business raising money to enhance facilities at the new indoor pool.

Yes, you won the referendum, but the job's not done yet.

SSplash will have a booth at the Fall Fair selling coffee, hot dogs, water and more. We need lots of helping hands.

If you could give 3 hours on Sept. 16 or 17, call Irene Gibbs at 537-5184

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MORE LETTERS

Motor madness

I truly love living on this island and after having just toured across Canada, I appreciate it even more.

I've written annually to the paper, as it seems to be the only public voice available, about the environmental concerns in our "paradise" and here I go again.

I thought we had an existing bylaw restricting gasoline motors on the lakes because the waters are our drinking supply.

How do we enforce this bylaw? Who enforces the bylaw? Do we call the RCMP with the registration number of the float plane and they write a ticket for infringement?

How do we get the Salt Spring rowing club to use an electric motor and not a gas motor when they're practising on our lake?

It amazes me that there are such thoughtless and selfish people who flaunt this bylaw by landing floatplanes on St Mary Lake.

I recently overheard people talking in Ganges about their kids swimming in the lake and how dangerously close a plane came to hitting them when landing in the lake.

They were also discussing "the slick" that was forming on the lake from the two airplanes docked there.

The wars that are being fought now for oil will in the future be fought over drinking water.

We have a precious supply of water here in our Salt Spring lakes and I would urge everyone to be diligent with their septic fields, motors on the lake (whether boats or planes) and any spillage or trash. As with health, prevention is everything. If we can work to prevent an accident, I would hope we all do so. Once a tragedy happens it's hard and usually impossible to reverse the results.

To the people using motors on St Mary Lake, I would respectfully ask you to please reconsider your actions and weigh them against the health of everyone on the drinking water system. There are thousands of us. Maybe next time you are drinking any beverage, add a drop or two of gasoline or motor oil to your cup because that's what's going to happen soon to all our drinking water.

Let's stop the tragedy before it occurs.

RANDY BACHMAN
Salt Spring



VOWS THAT SPAN TWO GENERATIONS: Mother and son shared the "altar" at a double wedding on Salt Spring last Saturday, with each saying their wedding vows. Seen here, from left, are newlyweds Gord and Alice (mom) Yeo, marriage commissioner Gabrielle Page, and Rick (son) and Danielle Richet.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



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What's On?

see page B2



RANTS

Did you enjoy some T-bone steaks on the July 1 weekend? Perhaps some plum jam and fresh raspberries too? Oh, and yummy pickled peppers? This person (possibly in pickup and camper) who bought from my farm stand Sunday afternoon seems to have forgotten to pay! K. Lee, Falcon Farm

To the large restaurant on the Ganges waterfront whose staff did not acknowledge the arrival of 24 patrons for a quarter of an hour, then took orders for coffees, beer, and mineral waters, and still had brought nothing after three quarters of an hour. We told them several of our group had to catch a noon hour float plane. Five guests from England and eastern Canada got a very bad impression of island service and we locals left frustrated and chagrined. R.Hall

RANTS & ROSES

ROSES

Thanks to the logging truck drivers who were very watchful of slow moving farm equipment on Musgrave Road during haying season. Your courtesy is much appreciated.

Bouquets of deliciously fragrant roses to all the valiant sisters (especially to Rachel) who, on July 2nd, held on with all their feminine power, will, calmness and laughter, to my white Subaru so that it wouldn't roll over the embankment! What a peculiar sight greeted C, S and B as they came down the long driveway to add

a little more brawn. Fragrant roses to them also and to Fred Borland, awesome, quick-thinking tow truck driver from Johnson's Shell Service Station. Abundant and heartfelt gratitude to all! Happy birthday, Judi! P.M.

Dozens and dozens of rose scented water lilies to the family visiting from Alberta that took it upon themselves to fix the dock at Cusheon Lake. Dad, Mom and son were here visiting our island and were enjoying the dock at Cusheon Lake when they realized, as I had, that the dock was about to fall apart. Nails were sticking up all over and it was becoming very dangerous, especially where the little ones play.

They took the whole side of the dock apart and repositioned the boards and brought some long nail spikes and hammered them in. The dock is in excellent repair and all of us that use the dock and enjoy it can be grateful to these visitors for ensuring another summer of fun. (and many more because of the professional job they did. It was also helpful that dad and son are in the building trade.) From myself, my family and all the dock users thank you, thank you and welcome back next year. IB

To Amy Gessinger (skater-wife), a big bush of cottage-covering roses for effort "above-and-beyond" at last week's Kanaka Road Skatepark event.

Roses to the person who turned my lost keys in to the post office.

Red roses by the dozen to our volunteers at the Legion Canada Day celebration. To our young community members of the girl guides, 4-H sheep club, boy scouts and their leaders we send our sincere thanks, you are all fantastic! To the very obliging Search and Rescue group, thank you for moving the furniture and midway games! To the Salt Spring Island Fire Department, thank you for your support. And to our many members who volunteered their time and support in many ways, we thank you. From the Legion Canada Day committee. JB

Many thanks to Henry Caldwell, Jim Spencer and Rose Murakami for making our social studies field trip such an educational success. We really enjoyed our field trip in our own back yard!

A whole huge bunch of beautiful roses to the generous lady from Park Drive who took time out on a hot and sunny day to take ice water and cherries to the skateboarders down at Kanaka Road Skatepark. Thanks from all the skaters and BMX'ers.

All the flowers in our flower garden to the firefighters who responded so quickly to the fire that burned Brian's dump truck and spread into the hay field. Heartfelt thanks for getting the fire under control so quickly - we are extremely grateful. Brian and Susan Cunningham

A playful, colourful bunch of roses to the hard work-

ing hands who helped obtain and install the awesome new playground at Tree Frog Daycare. Special thanks to Ken and Shannon Tara, George Horel, Grant and Tina Tamboline and Donnie Marcotte for their expertise and use of equipment. Little Tree Froggers.

Bouquets with lots of bling and zing in them for all our firefighters and anyone else who helped bring us such an exciting fireworks display on Canada Day. We appreciate the fact that you worked so hard that we might play. J and C.H.

Apple blossoms to Apple Photo for providing the community drop-off box that serves us all so well. It's a huge service that reminds us that we're still a small community- and that's a very good thing. J and C.H.

Huge ear shattering and smoke filled roses to Marv Coulthard and crew for working so tirelessly to create and fire the multi-cannon salute that provided the perfect finish to the 1812 Overture on Canada Day with the Salt Spring Concert Band. We really appreciate all your efforts and your unflagging support of the band and the community. D.H and the SSCB

Bouquets of anything fragrant to Mouat's, who continue to provide washrooms for all of us who are in need - whether shopping there or not. J and C.H.

Buckets of fragrant roses to Rainbow Road Trading and Diane Holman for running their own garage sale and donating the profits to us! All the fuzzy creatures needing homes are forever grateful.



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What's for Dinner?

Shopping list:

- Carrots
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Short cuts to cooking for one or two © with Sarah Lynn

Mandarin orange: One of many varieties of the orange, a tree fruit which is technically a berry. Mandarin oranges are native to southeast Asia and the Philippines but are now grown in suitable conditions around the world. The most common variety of mandarin orange in the North American market place is the Satsuma Mandarin believed to have originated in Japan in the mid-sixth century. Satsumas have a mild sweet flavour, full of juice and virtually no seeds. They have a pebbly exterior texture, a bright orange flesh, and peel and segment easily. Growing up in Southern California, I could literally reach out my bedroom window and pluck an orange right from the tree. I have had a culinary love affair with oranges ever since. Here is a tangy summer salad that uses two varieties of oranges.

Blanch or steam **4 to 6 thinly sliced carrots** for 5 minutes. Drain and set aside. In a bowl, place **3 cloves garlic, minced, 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil or parsley, 1 tablespoon orange juice from & the zest of 1 navel orange and 1 can mandarin orange segments, drained.** Add the sliced carrots and **1/4 cup of your favourite vinaigrette dressing.** (This is delicious with a raspberry vinaigrette dressing.) Toss & chill 4 hours before serving.

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WELCOME WAGON

'Synapse collapse' hits at scene of fire

By DIANA THOMPSON
Third in a series

It's the third day after the fire. The fire department, building inspector and insurance company have given us the "all clear" to enter our home.

We arrive, still sleepless, from our hotel — to hear the sound of shattering glass. Three strangers are in our kitchen throwing every edible thing they can find into garbage bags.

One of the papers we signed on the day of the fire was an agreement with the insurance company that we would secure our possessions from any further harm.

This means that we signed a release that allows a restoration company to pack up, clean and store all our (unburned) goods until we'll be ready for them to be returned.

For reasons of common sense — our food was contaminated with a slurry of soot — the restoration company disposes of comestibles

"Everything that wasn't burnt was taken away.... That was four months ago. I'm still wondering what survived and what didn't."

immediately. Everything in the fridge and pantry was efficiently tossed — even canned and bottled goods, and homegrown fruits from our garden. So it goes.

I walk into the kitchen and gawk. The scene appears chaotic. Three women work in a blackened room, their faces smudged with soot, the smell of burned furniture mixing with the odour of pickles and spices.

They seemed unfazed and work rapidly, writing down the contents of each bottle before dropping it with a crash into a bag.

They are a cheerful group and must have wondered why I stare at them, stunned.

There's nothing like a fire to give you complete synapse collapse.

I want to leave the scene, but force myself to stay. The women in the clean-up crew are friendly, but in the darkness they can't tell the difference between what is important to us and what can easily be replaced. I am glad to catch some of my vintage spice jars before they were trashed.

I manage to squeak "our pottery is kind of special to us" and also manage to rescue a few jars of sundried tomatoes before they are tossed.

But mostly it is a scene that is hard to bear: so much ruined by the fire.

A few weeks later, we are sent a large stack of forms. It is the kitchen inventory that the women had written up. Naively, we'd thought the

insurance company would just give us a flat figure for all that stuff. Nope. In order to be partially reimbursed, we have to price approximately 600 items (and this is just the kitchen).

Thrifty's has an on-line grocery service in Victoria, so we use my mum's account to find some prices.

But mostly it is footwork. Armed with a clipboard and a pen, my husband and I walk the aisles of grocery stores, pharmacies and coffee shops. We scour shelves for prices and try to act inconspicuous.

All the prices we gathered then had to be written onto the forms. And this, it turns out, was easy, compared to what lay ahead of us.

On the fourth day the rest of the crew comes and empties our house of everything salvageable. The young men assure us, as they toss our books into boxes, that everything will be well taken care of.

"Not to worry," they say,

as they stuff my very personal feminine things into a bag.

"You wouldn't believe what we can clean," enthuses another, as he drags our sodden carpet out to the van. He's right. I still can't believe it.

Everything that wasn't burnt was taken away. Our belongings are being stored for us in a warehouse in Esquimalt. That was four months ago. I'm still wondering what survived and what didn't.

The few things that have been returned to us are not the same as they were. Oddly enough, they look as if they've been through a fire. I'm still not certain whether I should buy another coffee pot or whether ours survived, or what happened to our son's textbooks that were on the kitchen table. Someday we will know.

But for now we wait — for our home to be rebuilt — and for some order to come back into our lives.

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page B22

MORE LETTERS

War blunders

Michael Friedman (Letters, June 28) suggests those who oppose the war in Iraq are dupes who ought to rethink their attitude toward the defence of freedom.

In light of last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision which found that the Bush administration had not only attempted to undermine the U.S. Constitution but had also violated the Geneva Conventions, Mr. Friedman will need to do some rethinking of his own.

Opposition to the war is not an ideological spat between the Left and the Right. As a matter of public record, senior Republicans [as well as Democrats], many recently retired [and thus free to speak] Pentagon brass, prominent legal experts both military and civilian, and major American historians have concluded that wars of Iraq and of Terror have been, under Bush's guidance, one of America's greatest blunders [not to mention a stupendous waste of those precious tax dollars].

Let us remember that the CIA propped up both Saddam and the Taliban when it suited U.S. policy. Where was "Freedom" all those years?

Bush Senior left Saddam in power after Desert Storm precisely to avoid the chaos and mayhem his son has inflamed.

Bush and Blair lied to their respective nations to invoke the most serious decision any leader can make — sending men to war.

They betrayed democracy and condemned tens of thousands to mutilation and death.

CHARLES BRETH,
Harbourside

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- 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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School district's new diversity policy all about change

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

A pioneering policy adopted by school trustees at their final board meeting of the school year places the Gulf Islands atop the pack of districts looking to bring curricula out of the closet and into the 21st century.

Beginning next year, students, teachers and administrators will meet to encourage "pro-active strategies and guidelines to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning students, employees and families are welcomed and

included in all aspects of education," states the new policy.

"Basically, everyone we've spoken to has said this is a policy that we ought to have in place," said Gulf Islands School District No. 64 vice-chair Bonnie MacGillivray in an interview from her home on Galiano Island last week.

"It's certainly unacceptable to call a black person a nigger but you can call someone a fag with no problems."

Much of the impetus behind the policy came from Jacob Schweda, a former Gulf Islands Secondary

School (GISS) student and founder of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance.

Though he remained uncertain as to how long it would take for the policy to change students' attitudes, he remained confident the district had initiated an important step towards reducing levels of discrimination in schools.

"This will force people to have the discussion that was severely lacking when I was growing up at GISS," he said. "The diversity policy sends a statement that the district will not tolerate discrimination of any kind."

The policy's intent, he said, is to eventually go beyond simply reminding people not to discriminate, seeking instead to incorporate diversity into what has forever been a heterosexual-centric curriculum.

Since recently being accepted into Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific's prestigious International Baccalaureate program where he will complete high school, Schweda called the board's decision a "bittersweet victory" since he will be unable to play a leading role in its implementation. The board's decision made dis-

trict No. 64 the first rural school board in the province to pass such a policy with only Vancouver and Victoria school boards sharing similar policies.

According to trustees, this is "a sign of the times" following on the heels of a landmark decision in June by the province's Ministry of Education to give a Vancouver same-sex couple the right to participate in the revision of classroom lessons to recognize gays, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons and the development of a new social-justice course for grade twelve students.



Salt Spring FOCUS ON SENIORS

Fail-safe weather prediction system would restore meteorological faith

Of late I have grown increasingly crotchety about the weather forecasts we get.

I know, I know: no one lays a big

bet on the weather, but surely once in awhile the forecast might contain some semblance of accurate prediction. I also know that a newspaper

forecast is pretty risky: by the time we read the thing the ink will have been dry for eight or 10 hours (in my case, maybe 12).

You see, I am the self-appointed Master of the Flag in my small community and feel fairly firm toward the custom of taking in the flag if inclement weather threatens. So I check the forecast on-line in the hope that the prognostication will have at least a modicum of veracity. I read the screen late in the evening; then, depending upon what I read, I bustle over to the clubhouse late the next morning and take in the flag; or I don't.

Too many predicted sunny days lately with no flag flying, plus the occasional unexpected soggy ensign.

Also, there's the car. It's no fun driving a shiny, just-washed car in the rain. First of all, it's going to get

OL' CURMUDGEON WITH RICHARD MOSES



dirty again right away and, worst of all, according to a certain cultural mos, everybody will blame me for bringing on the downpour.

Since we really can't depend on the forecast, at least in terms of flags and cars, I have an idea that would at least render the meteorological message somewhat credible. Actually I'm suggesting two types of forecasting: the Current and the Ultra-Long Range.

A "Current Forecast" might read something like this: "As I stand at the northeast corner of Blanshard Street

and Hillside Avenue at 5:13 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, I can tell you that right now it is raining." (Or the sun is shining, or whatever.) That way readers or listeners would know beyond the shadow of a doubt exactly what the weather is at this very moment, wherever the forecaster happens to be. Who then would question the skills or the training of such an experienced observer?

The "Ultra-Long Range" prediction is a bit riskier, but still much of the guesswork is taken out and again the weather guy or gal becomes

someone in whom you can place your trust.

Here's an example: "The 'Ultra-Long Range' forecast for today, May the 23rd, calls for definite cooling trends. We can safely predict chillier weather by October and possible freezing temperatures beginning around November and continuing into 1997. March should then begin to bring warmer temperatures as summer approaches."

You see what I mean: meteorological faith could well return as we flip the page or TV dial to see what the present or far-flung future has in store weatherwise. It's basically fail-safe and certainly more dependable than what we have now.

No thanks necessary; I consider it a public service.

As to the flag and the car... I'm still working that out.

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TREASURE TEA: Judy Nurse and Phyllis Holmquist check out the items up for grabs at ArtSpring's annual Island Treasure Fair, which starts this Wednesday.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

Bargains abound at ArtSpring with treasure fair, hidden room

Treasurer-trove of travel opportunities, artwork and personal pampering awaits the highest bidders as ArtSpring's annual Island Treasure Fair gets underway this week.

Beginning July 12 and running until the 15th, ArtSpring will be a buzz of activity as the fair's "live auction" items are displayed for inspection and the new "Hidden Treasures Room" offers "cash and carry" items.

A Celtic music concert on Wednesday evening and Danish folk music on Friday evening add to the activity, says a press release.

The Community Flea Market, organized by Island Savings Credit Union, will operate in ArtSpring Meadows on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The silent auction closes Saturday at 7:15 p.m. and the event culminates with the drama of a live auction at 8 p.m. led by Maynard's top auctioneer Hugh Bulmer.

"There is so much in the offering," states the release. "Our donors this year have outdone themselves with over 400 donations to bid

on. Island Treasure Fair has something for everyone — for the traveler, art lover, gourmand, gardener, sports enthusiast, movie buff, music lover, antique collector, and home decorator."

A round-trip to Vancouver the easy way with Salt Spring Air, a Mexican casita with a pool in Puerto Escondido, an authentic Swiss Chalet nestled in the Alps and a beach-front accommodation at Long Beach Lodge Resort are among the travel offerings in the silent and live auctions.

Collectables include original "one sheets" — large movie posters from Treasure Island (1940) Krakatowa East of Java (1969) — antique porcelain figurines, an antique oak side table in beautiful condition and one of the first electrical candelabras.

Or, participants can pamper themselves with pedicures, manicures and spa experiences, and then have gourmet dinners and desserts delivered upon their return home.

Gelato addicts can indulge

with 30 of their friends and family, while the more pragmatic might choose an apple tree or three yards of fir bark mulch.

For the art, craft and jewelry lover, there are some truly amazing pieces, including a Robert Bateman publisher's proof "Frosty Morning — Blue Jay," a Kurt Frost turned maple vessel or an 18-karat yellow and white gold sapphire and diamond cluster ring may catch your eye.

Island Treasure Fair has a new concept this year — the "Hidden Treasures Room," where items can be purchased at bargain prices.

"It's an ideal way to support ArtSpring's fundraiser if you aren't one of the lucky bidders in the auctions," notes the release.

The live auction takes place on Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the theatre. Anyone who can't be there to bid, can still be part of the action by placing advance bids.

Live auction items are displayed in the galleries inside ArtSpring and catalogues are available. Be sure to check the list of things up for auction in this week's paper.

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The national award-winning program **Respectful Relationships (R+R)** has engaged youth in our schools for the past six years in learning how to create healthy relationships built on equality, mutual trust and respect. Now that our government-funded program has ended, we need local support from parents and community members to continue to help our kids:

- Communicate their needs and ideas effectively
- Resolve conflicts creatively and without violence
- Develop empathy for others
- Challenge unhealthy media images and stereotypes
- Prevent dating violence, bullying, racism, homophobia and other forms of relationship abuse



2006 R+R Youth Team

Your support is needed to keep this important locally-developed program alive!

R+R has received partial funding from the Canadian Women's Foundation to deliver the program in our local schools next year. The balance must come from our local community. We are issuing a challenge to Gulf Islands residents, especially parents of school children, to generously support this valuable program. We need \$100 per student in order to deliver the R+R program to over 500 Gulf Islands students this year.

R+R TIP OF THE WEEK:

Learning to communicate what we need helps us create the kinds of relationships we want.

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GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD • WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2006 • PAGE A16



FLY PRACTICE: Salt Spring Stingray Olivia Budd practises her butterfly stroke at Shelby Pool during a swim practice Monday evening.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

What's On?
see page B2

Swimmers break records at Campbell River meet

Twenty-three swimmers congregated in Campbell River for a swim meet this weekend, giving their all in both swimming and an annual airband competition.

Records were broken, and several swimmers topped the score charts in their races.

Although the club didn't place in the top two of the junior airband contest, swimmers gave a rousing performance of Jack Johnson's Reduced, Reuse, Recycle.

Everyone was allowed six swims, and the times in heats determined actual placements at this timed-final meet.

Div. 6 swimmer Brendan Nickerson broke two of his own club records, swimming personal bests in 100-m free and 100-m back at his first meet of the season.

Nickerson placed first in his 200-m IM (2:36.21), took second in 100-m breast (1:19.92), third in 100-m back (1:12.24) and fourth in 100-m free (1:02.84).

Olivia Budd swam 100 fly for her first time, breaking the previous Div. 6 club record with a 1:29.13, and placing seventh. Budd also grabbed third in both 50-m free (32.13) and 100-m back (1:21.63), fourth in 200-m IM (3:00.51) and sixth in 100-m free (1:11.93).

There were not a lot of best times (BTs) collected at this meet — the outdoor, "slow" pool and rainy setting could have contributed to that fact. Winning the BT challenge was Luke Hylands, with four BTs, and close behind was Maggie Birch who nabbed three personal bests.

The Div. 1 boys were at it again, accumulating an impressive array of ribbons. Connor Budd took second in 50-m breast (59.52), third in 100-m IM (2:02.94), and fourth in both 50-m free (46.05) and 100-m free (1:47.48).

Liam Sinclair grabbed first in 50-m free (43.13), second in 100-m free (1:38.26), third

in 50-m breast (1:01.28), and fourth in 100-m IM (2:05.92).

Also placing in the top six in her events was Div. 7 swimmer Danielle Viozzi, with three third place finishes in 50-m free (33.87), 50-m fly (38.51) and 100-m free (1:15.54).

Eryn Gix (Div. 3) grabbed first in 50-m breast (44.02), second in 50-m free (34.11), fifth in 100-m IM (1:33.22) and sixth in 100-m free with a 1:23.90.

Div. 1 swimmer Ariana Fraser placed fourth in 50-m breast (1:07.17) and took fifth in both 50-m free (53.61) and 50-m fly (1:08.28).

Cassidy Fraser (Div. 2), Victoria Budd (Div. 6), Luke Hylands (Div. 2) and Emily Rothwell (Div. 5) all took sixth in one of their individual events: Fraser in 50-m fly (54.06), Budd in 100-m breast (1:33.02), Hylands in 50-m back (52.02) and Rothwell in 100-m back (1:31.64).

Locals 'whoop' for World Cup

Fans of the FIFA World Cup enjoyed a festive final at Central Hall on Sunday.

"It was a full house," said Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association (SSIYA) special events coordinator Krishna Rodriguez.

The atmosphere was great, she added.

"I just loved it when there was a goal and the whole room went, 'Aaaaah!'"

Italy seemed to gain the largest fan contingent and the crowd was delighted

with the Italian win in penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw. But Rodriguez rooted for France along with a more demure crowd.

"When Italy won, the whole room went crazy."

SSIYA made enough money in donations to cover expenses and they even generated a modest profit as a fundraiser, she said.

"It's amazing how generous people are," said Rodriguez.

Volunteers from Splash also raised funds for the indoor pool complex by hosting a concession stand, she noted.

"That was great that two sports organizations could work together."

Rodriguez offered thanks to Island Star Video and True North Satellite Systems for providing the game coverage at Central Hall.

Internationally, an estimated 1.1 billion people watched the World Cup final.

Youths make metro/selects squads

A crop of young Salt Spring players made the cut to join metro and selects teams from the Lower Island Soccer Association (LISA).

LISA announced that the following players will play on top-level metro (girls) and selects (boys) teams this season.

At the U14 metro level, Kai Fishleigh and

Grace Morgan; U15, Sierra Lundy and Erica Rimmer; and U16, Meredith Raddysh.

Among the selects boys teams: U14, Kevan Brown; U15, Keegan Pearson; U17, Brandon Shaw; and U18, Cardin Davis.

Additionally, Salt Spring Youth Soccer Association's technical director Sue Spencer will coach the U14 girls metro team.

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Minto golf tourney chips in for hospital foundation



TOP SWINGER: Junior golfer Josh Benloulou is among the "hired clubs" at the annual Hewiston Memorial Lady Minto Foundation Golf Tournament held Saturday at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

A record setting turnout and unprecedented number of donations at the 15th annual Hewiston Memorial Lady Minto Foundation Golf Tournament had organizers calling the tournament a "hole-in-one."

"It was the biggest and best event we've ever put on," said event coordinator Sharon Bond.

"Every year it just gets better and better."

Roughly 140 golfers on an estimated 35 teams not only made the event the largest of its kind last weekend, but also the most rewarding as participants raised more than \$10,000 for the purchase of hospital equipment.

Aside from charity auctions, raffles and contests held over the course of the day, golfers had the chance to replay their lackluster shots or hire a junior golfer on certain holes for a \$5 donation.

One of the day's more memorable events occurred during the afternoon auction when a successful bidder returned a golf club only to have it auctioned off once again.

The gesture, Bond said, was in keeping with the day's festive and largely non-competitive atmosphere.

Bond added the event's success was largely due to widespread support from the island's businesses and individuals who recognize a fun way to offer support for a great cause.

"Hopefully, this year's event will set the standard for the years to come," she said.

"This was all about great community spirit."



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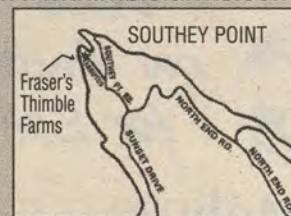
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Track star Proctor makes the podium

Sarah Proctor delivered a strong performance at the B.C. Junior Track and Field Championships at Burnaby's Swangard Stadium this past weekend.

Facing the best 800-metre runners in the province, Proctor held the fifth-place position until the last 150 metres when she powered past two runners to grab third spot and a place on the podium (with a time of 2:15.38 minutes).

To give a sense of the uniform skill represented by the 12 other athletes on the track, Proctor beat the fourth place runner by only two one-hundredths of a second.

"After an injury filled spring and not having raced in a month the third place finish was all that much sweeter," said Proctor's father, Jim.

She will participate in the Junior National Championships later this month in Sherbrooke, Quebec.



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Special thanks to The Gulf Islands Driftwood for sponsoring this page



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SOCCER SAVVY: Seen here, from top to bottom, are: Cardin Davis (B.C. provincial team player), Keegan Pearson, Kevan Brown, Erica Rimmer and Sierra Lundy (USL Super-Y players).
Photo by Danica Lundy



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Salt Spring soccer youths play on BC and USL teams

Five Salt Spring athletes participating in high level soccer programs this summer are raising money to offset travel costs.

The players, who range in age from 13 to 16, have already been supported by advertisers on this page. And over the next few weeks they will be in various spots around Salt Spring selling tickets for a mid-August raffle.

The players underwent rigorous try-outs to make their teams. They include 16-year-old B.C. provincial team player Cardin Davis; U13 players Sierra Lundy and Kevan Brown, and U14 players Erica Rimmer and Keegan Pearson — who all play on United Soccer League Super-Y teams.

Davis plays all over North America with his provincial team, while the Super-Y players compete in Wash-

ton, Victoria, and the Lower Mainland. All players practice at least twice a week in Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver.

In addition to their program fees — which range from \$1,500 to several thousand dollars — the local youths' families pay additional costs associated with travelling to and from Salt Spring several times a week.

But the experience is worth the money, parents agree, as the youths are developing "amazing" soccer skills, learning about high level competition, travelling, and making new friends.

As an added bonus, Pearson's U14 Super-Y team is participating in an exchange with a team from Quebec in August.

All five players have also made metro and select teams for the fall.

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AND THEY'RE OFF: Sailboats in the Salt Spring Sailing Club's Vendée race vie for a starting position as they race to Maple Bay in the first leg of the competition.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Salt Spring skipper blows past Vendée competition

A dearth of wind was not enough to deflate enthusiasm surrounding the second annual Vendée Salt Spring sailing race held over the weekend.

Salt Spring skipper Greg Slakov, piloting the Tatlayko, was declared the overall winner and Division 2 champion.

The off-island boats Interim and Tracks rounded out the top three Div. 2 finalists with Div. 1 honours going to off-island boats Wave Review, Diversion and Boreas.

According to the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club's assistant fleet racing captain Ole Andersen, a swell turnout from participants in 36 boats hailing from sail-

ing clubs in Maple Bay, Cowichan Bay and Nanaimo ensured a good time for all despite the unfavorable yet sunny conditions.

"It was quite a gathering and the event has really gained in popularity," Andersen said.

"The race's emphasis on good food and a more festive atmosphere encourages many to take part."

Lack of wind on Saturday afternoon forced organizers to call off the first leg of the race from Ganges Harbour to Maple Bay where racers spent the evening and took part in the second of three weekend barbecues.

Despite more calm conditions on Sunday morning,

Andersen said, the officials managed to salvage the event by taking full advantage of heavy winds blowing between Southey Point and Ganges Harbour on Sunday afternoon.

Whereas the better-known Round Salt Spring race held each Victoria Day weekend features boats with larger crews taking part in a one-day circumnavigation of the island, the Vendée race is spread out over two days and involves boats skippered by only one or two crew members — a feature, Andersen said, that only adds to the Vendée's popularity.

"It's just a lot easier to find a full crew this way," he said.

Island golfers tee off for top spots in mens, ladies, and junior events

• Results for the 18 hole Ladies Division medal play on July 4 were as follows:

Low gross winner was Marcie Hogan with a score of 98, while Bernie Cowan was the runner-up with a score of 102.

Low net winner was also Cowan, with a score of 73, and Irene Hawksworth took runner-up low net, scoring 75.

Putt pot winners were Marcie Hogan and Mona Coulter with 29 putts. Closest to the pin (KP) for holes number #2 and #11 was Linda Overholt.

• Junior golf members who received awards for exceptional play during the weekly Junior Golf Day included the following:

The longest drive on hole #7 was won in the under-12 category by Alex Graham.

In the 12-18 category, Stephen Greenwood won with a monster 347-yard drive, which landed just short of the green and square in the middle of the fairway.

GOLF TEES

Closest to the pin on hole #2 was won, in the 12-18 category, by Nick Slakov. A special prize was presented to Hari Brooks, who scored a birdie on hole #2.

• In the 18 Hole Mens Section Par Points event held on June 29, the results were as follows: grabbing first place was Reg Winstone with a 45, followed by John Stewart with a score of 43.

Tied for third was Julian Elwes and Bill Haworth, both scoring 42.

KP for hole #2 was Gary Coulter, #6 was Jim Jenner, #11 was Ralph Quick and #15 was Hamish Simpson. The 50/50 winner for the event was Barrie Walker.

• June 26 results for MNL's Red Tees were as follows:

Tier: 0 to 15.5 (1/2 handicap based on 9 holes), the low net winner was Darlene

Wellington, with 34.5 and the runner-up was Joanna Barrett with a 35.

Tier 2: 16 to 20 (1/2 handicap based on 9 holes), the low net winner was Britt Elwes with 33, and the runners-up were Janelle Holmes and Joan White with 36. Holmes had 16 putts and White had 20.

Tier 3: 20.5 to 22 (1/2 handicap based on 9 holes), there was a three-way tie between Ina Curran, Judy Nurse and Trudy Sloan, all ending up with a low net score of 40.

Using the lowest number of putts to break the tie, Curran was determined as low net winner with 16 putts, while the runners-up were Nurse with 19 and Sloan with 20.

The KP winner was Darlene Wellington.

Congratulations to Elwes for having a chip-in in the last hole, the lowest net of the evening, 33, and the lowest number of putts, 13.

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