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MORTGAGE QUESTIONS?
... ask Arlene



Weather

Blistering hot temperatures return this week, with nothing but sun in the forecast. Highs to 29 C on Saturday; overnight lows to 14 C.

Inserts

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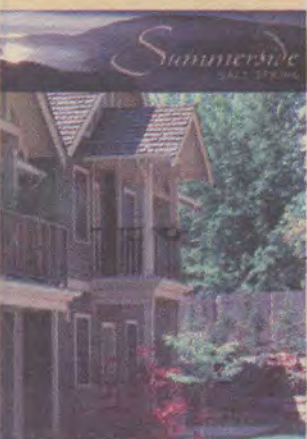


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FARM HOSTS: Ron and Donna Ateah of Shepherd's Purse Farm on Isabella Point Road welcome farm tour participants in last weekend's event, which was organized by the local Woolgatherers group.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Trustees mull over rock bylaw

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Proponents of a draft bylaw regulating aggregate removal from island gravel pits hope Island Trustees will draw a line in the sand when the issue comes up for debate at Tuesday's Local Trust Committee.

However, frustrated residents behind the proposal remain unconvinced new measures will do enough to curb the island's current mining operations.

"At this point, I'm not faithless but I'm not holding my breath either," said Amy Gessinger, a member of the Stewart Road Residents Association (SRRA) who has spent years lobbying for changes to strengthen the existing bylaw.

"I've really lost confidence in our local trust."

Gessinger and the bylaw's other supporters argue stiffer measures are needed to preserve the tranquility and natural environment of the island's neighbourhoods.

At the same time, representatives from the aggregate industry fear increased paperwork and bureaucracy will make it difficult to do business on an island where increasing development translates into a higher demand for fill used in the construction of driveways, foundations and leveling of building sites.

Limits on how much aggregate can be removed from a property will not be confirmed until the draft bylaw is

unveiled at the July 25 meeting.

A preliminary staff report indicated excavators could extract up to 30 cubic metres of top soil and blasted rock, and up to 500 cubic metres of any other form of aggregate before a permit must be obtained.

Trustees and staff from the Islands Trust have met with representatives from both sides of the debate in order to reach a compromise. Trustees maintain the issue is not over "what" but "how much" material the industry can remove.

According to the staff report, which was released in early June, the new bylaw would encourage "concern over environmental impact

SOIL BYLAW A2

Fire board rekindles island history

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Trustees from the Salt Spring Fire Protection District (SSFPD) preserved a piece of the island's unique firefighting heritage last Monday night by voting overwhelmingly to reacquire a vintage 1960 Jeep fire truck.

"As far as we're concerned, the truck is still operational and could

probably be put into service right away," said Chief Dave Enfield, at the board's regular monthly meeting.

Recently decked out with a new coat of paint, the little red fire engine used as the South End's first piece of firefighting equipment now represents the second major piece in the fire district's museum.

The collection includes miscellaneous articles including firefighting

uniforms, hats and hoses.

Trustees agreed to take over ownership of the vehicle from the Kellogg family in exchange for a \$9,000 US tax receipt. The truck will be stored at the Ganges fire hall until a more appropriate showcase area is constructed alongside a new hall in the next few years.

FIRE TRUCK A4

Housing projects land windfall

Regional district awards \$355,000 to two Salt Spring affordable housing projects

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Affordable housing advocates call last week's decision by the Capital Regional District (CRD) to award two island-based affordable housing projects with \$355,000 a major step towards laying a solid foundation to provide more housing for the island's lower and middle income residents.

"We recognize that Salt Spring is in a significant pickle when it comes to affordable housing," said Henry Komphof, executive director of the CRD's Regional Housing Trust Fund.

"However, the island is also in a vanguard position when it comes to searching for solutions. These projects were ready, willing and able to receive the funds."

At \$324,000, this biggest chunk of the funding is destined for a project initiated by Richard and Rose Murakami on the site of the former fish plant at 167 Rainbow Road. The abandoned site, currently used as a storage area for several dozen derelict automobiles, is slated for major renovations that will create 27 rental units within walking distance of the Ganges core.

Construction on the suites — which range in size from 388 to 905 square feet — is expected to begin by the end of the year. Monthly rental costs are expected to be between \$538 and \$1,025, and will be subject to strict rental controls imposed by the Islands Trust.

Last week's announcement brings total funding for the project over the \$1 million mark and project coordinator Janis Gauthier said moving forward is now subject to final approval of a provincial grant from B.C. Housing.

"We've still got a long way to go, but this is a major boost in the right direction," Gauthier said. "We've definitely got the lion's share of the funding."

HOUSING WINDFALL A2

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Island passed by in bike lane bid

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

None of the nearly one-quarter-million dollars in provincial funding destined for new bike paths in the Capital Regional District (CRD) will be spent on Salt Spring, leaving visitors and spandex-clad cyclists deflated over the prospect of new bike paths here.

According to CRD director Gary Holman, missing out on the funds does not stem from a lack of public interest but rather a failure to develop viable proposals in the first place.

"We didn't receive the funds because we just didn't apply," he said. "In order to receive those funds, we need to be ready to go and get our ducks in a row."

The \$233,000 for bike lane improvements in Victoria and Saanich announced last week formed part of a \$2 million province-wide program to encourage "active commuting and recreation."

Other communities have an advantage with access to additional planning staff, said Holman. Salt Spring, on the other hand, relies heavily on the volunteer-run Pedestrian Safety and Regional Trail committees.

While the CRD and Island Trust often express interest in the idea of creating bike paths, finding room in busy schedules is often easier said than done, he added.

For Marion Pape, chair of the Pedestrian Safety Committee, rolling forward with initiatives to create a more pedestrian and bike-friendly island can be a frustrating experience. However, she added, the drive to change the island for the better keeps her and other committee members moving forward.

Citing a survey developed by graduate students from George Washington University, Pape said strong public demand for bicycle paths along Lower Ganges Road,

Ganges hill and Rainbow Road makes the prospect of completing a trail network a matter of time rather than will.

According to the 30-resident survey conducted in June, 80 per cent of respondents said the car is their principal means of transport. Some 67 per cent said they would consider biking or walking if island roads had wider shoulders or designated bike lanes.

These results indicate which direction to take, Pape said, and a grant application submitted to the Ministry of Community Services may produce some of the funding needed for a more comprehensive baseline transportation survey in the fall.

"There is simply not enough money in the budget for them to do what needs to get done right now," she said, adding that more data will help the island gain access to funding the next time it is

available.

"We want to be totally prepared for any opportunity that comes along," she added.

The need for more well-marked bicycle trails is echoed by the Salt Spring RCMP and though they have yet to notice any significant number of bike related accidents, Sergeant Danny Willis said the island's narrow and winding roads are cause for concern.

"Since the island is such a biking destination and biking is a favorite pastime, motorists need to be extra cautious when passing cyclists," he said.

Bike paths in heavily trafficked areas, he added, would undoubtedly reduce chances of collisions and encourage more residents to use bicycles.

"Anytime you can get the bike lanes in, it's generally a lot safer for everyone," Willis said.

SOIL BYLAW

From Page A1

when working around water bodies" and seek to eliminate "excessive and needless land disturbance."

Though he declined requests for an interview earlier this week, Larry Bader (owner and operator of a quarry on Jennifer Way) spoke out against the new bylaw during a public meeting June 7.

More developments on rockier sites, he said, means property owners are increasingly forced to clear away larger amount of gravel for their homes.

A permitting system, he added, would only serve to hurt lower income builders since wealthier property owners would be the only people able to cover permit costs.

Nowhere is the dispute more visible than in the Jennifer Way neighbourhood (off Stewart Road) where SRRA members find themselves embroiled in a dispute with Islands Trust

"Bylaw enforcement is important. Nobody wants a gravel pit in their back yard."
— Ann Gessinger

officials over its handling of Bader's quarry.

Tension resurfaced earlier this month when Bader resumed blasting, drilling and hauling aggregate from his property on July 1.

Complaints to the Islands Trust from neighbours in the area led bylaw enforcement officers to issue Bader a cease and desist order, threatening legislation if he continues to extract gravel without a permit.

The recent decision comes nearly one year after residents staged a human blockade in hopes of preventing gravel trucks from leaving or entering the facility.

"This is always going to be an issue," said Gessinger. "Bylaw enforcement is important. Nobody wants a gravel pit in their back yard."

According to SRRA members, no additional work has occurred since the order was issued.

However, Gessinger said, the Trust delay in providing the cease and desist order is a perfect example of why the new bylaw is needed.

Under the existing bylaw, operators must obtain a permit before they are able to extract aggregate from their land.

But Gessinger said failure to pursue matters in court unless a conviction is guaranteed renders the bylaw largely ineffective.

The new bylaw, she added, will hopefully enact a more rigorous and closely monitored permitting process than that which is now in place.

According to Wayne

Quinn, the Islands Trust's director of local planning services based in Victoria, recent activities on the Bader property are deemed illegal since he never applied for a permit to remove gravel from the property.

Despite handing down the cease and desist order last week, Quinn said, the Islands Trust remains confident the matter can be resolved without resorting to an injunction.

"We don't just go running to court willy nilly," he said, adding high legal costs make pursuing each individual case impossible.

According to Quinn, trustees are not obligated to give the new bylaw any further public hearings and may proceed to approve the draft bylaw at the Tuesday Islands Trust meeting.

Interested parties are requested to submit letters to the Islands Trust or attend the meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. at ArtSpring.

HOUSING WINDFALL

From Page A1

In addition to the \$324,000 destined for the Murakami housing project, the Salt Spring Island Land Bank Society will receive \$52,000 for Grandma's House.

The Regional Housing Trust Fund is an initiative developed in 2005 by the CRD to promote affordable housing. Salt Spring residents contributed roughly \$36,000 in taxes to the fund

after signing on earlier this year. Salt Spring Island CRD director Gary Holman said he does not think the decision to award Salt Spring the funds constitutes a one-time sign-up bonus and remained confident the strength of Salt Spring's other affordable housing projects will provide more funding opportunities.

"At this point, we've already received

10 times the island's annual requisition," he said. "It may be difficult to go back for another project next year but there is still a reasonable chance to receive more funding over the next several years."

The Regional Housing Trust Fund has provided roughly \$1.4 million to six projects throughout in CRD communities.



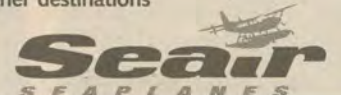
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ON THE BLOCK: Sharon Kawal holds up an art poster for patrons to bid on as ArtSpring's annual Island Treasure Fair auction gets underway on Saturday night. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Crofton ferry terminal work low priority next to Fulford

North Cowichan municipal councillors may have approved a plan to redevelop the Crofton ferry terminal, but that will do little to alleviate pressing concerns here, according to Bob Jones, chair of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (SSIFAC).

Despite council's preliminary approval of a plan to expand the waiting area for Salt Spring bound passengers, add an additional toll-booth and provide additional parking for workers commuting to the island, Jones said, there are no imminent plans to expand the Vesuvius terminal.

Even with occasional line-ups running as far as Bayview Road, Jones added, plans to improve the traffic situation in Vesuvius pale in comparison to the work needed to restore order in the Fulford Village during peak loading and unloading times.

"As far as Fulford is concerned," he said. "There is a substantial amount of work to be done. Unfortunately there is very little anyone can do."

Jones said the only options are to extend the terminal further into the harbour or find a way to widen the road through the village.

According to Jones, it is not up to B.C. Ferries or the SSIFAC to "lead the charge" in the redesign of the Fulford ferry dock.

Rather, he said, it will be up to the members of the public to raise the issue during the upcoming Official Community Plan review process conducted by the Islands Trust.

"If the Islands Trust comes to us, then we can get involved," said Jones. "Everything starts with the OCP."

Funding for the Crofton project is contingent upon final approval from B.C. Ferries.

as indicated in last week's Driftwood, but has lived on Salt Spring Island for several years.

• Musicians David Visentin and Hiroko Kagawa are on faculty at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, not

Victoria as reported last week.

• Garner Road resident Lucille Lamarche purchased her home 18 years ago and moved in shortly afterwards. She did not move to the area five years ago as reported in last week's Driftwood.

FOR THE RECORD

• Jamie Callum Macaulay is not a Vancouverite

Moth hunters set last traps

Salt Spring Island volunteers tasked with setting up gypsy moth traps reached new heights after successfully installing their final trap last week.

"Muchos gracias for a job well done to the 62 dedicated volunteers," said project coordinator Leslie Wallace.

Volunteers from across the island banded together to build and install the traps in trees at the island's south end.

This occurred after the Ministry of Forests gave organizers a July 15 deadline to successfully install the traps as an alternative to a controversial aerial spray campaign initially proposed by the province.

The Ministry of Forest's decision to delay spraying a 390-hectare (970-acre) area encompassing farms, residences and forest land located in the south end followed weeks of protests over the winter from island residents concerned about the potential health impacts of chemicals used.

Wallace said the turnout was so enthusiastic, volunteers managed to complete the task well ahead of schedule.

She wished to thank all the individuals and businesses who took part in the efforts to raise the traps.

"A special thanks goes out to all of the property owners and tenants of properties in the Lee's Hill area for giving us permission to access and hang traps on their properties," she said. "Your cooperation was key to completing this 'impossible' task."



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EXPEDITION:
 The offspring of local and visiting firefighters get set for a boat ride to Chocolate Island as part of a family-focussed fire training weekend here.
 Photo by Derrick Lundy

FIRE TRUCK

From Page A1

The Kellogg family took over responsibility for the truck's maintenance and storage when it acquired the vehicle in the early 1980s. The vehicle is still used as an active firetruck serving island residents living outside the Fire Protection District boundary along Musgrave Road.

According to board member Bruce Patterson, the truck's small size and durable body make it a bit of an oddity even compared to other trucks of the day. The vehicle remains useful in accessing brush fires in hard-to-reach locations.

As a young man growing up in Fulford, Patterson spoke fondly of the days when the

truck's horn signaled the fire department's call to action. Not so memorable, he added, were the times he was caught "pretending to be a firefighter" behind the wheel of the truck.

"Though we didn't get that many calls, when they did come that truck could usually be seen barreling off at five miles per hour," recalled Patterson.

Originally intended for use in South America, Patterson recalled the firefighters' surprise upon discovering the vehicle's entire instrument panel and operation manual was only available in Spanish.

Though the vehicle's slow speed and small 250 gallon

per minute pump make it ineffective alongside modern day firefighting equipment, he said, acquiring the truck allows the fire department to identify with the organization's history and monitor just how drastically things have changed over time.

"This kind of thing is great for school trips and other people dropping by," he said. "This an important part of Salt Spring and the South End. It's comforting to know it will remain where it spent its entire life."

Speaking from the audience on Monday night, James Falcon applauded the board's efforts to preserve the vehicle and looked forward to seeing it grace the

grounds of the new fire hall and take part in parades.

"I think it's just great that you got that old fire truck," he told trustees following the vote. "Anytime we can work to preserve a bit of the island's history, I'm all for it."

Despite widespread enthusiasm for the proposal, newly elected board member Wayne Wrigley voted against the motion, citing how the Fire Protection District's limited storage capabilities already stretch the department's ability to house equipment and services.

"As it is, we've barely got enough room," he said. "I just question whether this is the right thing to do."

Fire hall selection underway

Trustees from the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) have struck a task force comprising board members, volunteer and professional firefighters and members of the general public to assess 11 architectural proposals for the new Ganges fire hall.

Submissions from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver and Salt Spring will be considered when the task force meets July 25 to select five proposals to present to the public at next month's board meeting.

Trustees are examining plans for the new structure to replace the existing Ganges fire hall. An auditor's report published in 2005, deemed fire hall No. 1 failed to meet seismic standards, ventilation and space requirements. According to trustees, high renovation costs make building a new facility a most practical option.

The task force includes Chief Dave Enfield, Assistant Chief Arjuna George, volunteer firefighter Ken

Akerman, former Capital Regional District building inspector Dick Stubbs, Salt Spring Vineyards co-owner Janice Harkley, board chair Ted Hinds and trustees Ken Lee and Bruce Patterson.

Trustees have yet to select a final site but hope to locate the new hall within the Ganges Village core. The new hall is expected to include room for an Emergency Operations Centre and additional space for the fire district's museum.

In other fire district news: A \$40,000 budget shortfall six months into the local fire district's 2006 fiscal year is not cause for concern according to chair Ted Hinds.

"There will certainly arise opportunities where we will not have to spend money," he said at a monthly board meeting Monday evening. "We are, however, not not going to spend money if we have to."

Hinds said additional costs associated with the new \$12,000 water tank in

Fulford and wage increases surpassing budget estimates by nearly \$30,000 accounted for the discrepancy.

The SSIFPD's total operating budget for the 2006 fiscal year is \$518,000.

"There is no reason to be concerned," he said. "We don't want this to turn into a \$70,000 (shortfall) but at this point nothing stands out."

Organizers of the third annual summer training weekend are touting last weekend's event as the most successful yet.

More than 100 participants representing 20 fire departments from Hope to Parksville spent two days learning the finer points of auto extrication, hazardous materials operations and rapid intervention among other topics taught on the grounds of the Gulf Islands Secondary School, Farmers Institute as well as the Central and Fulford fire halls.

Enfield said he was pleased the island has managed to create a fun family atmosphere for firefighters and their spouses.



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IRAHVOL powers up for final fight

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Tsawwassen residents opposing the British Columbia Transmission Corporation's (BCTC) plans to upgrade power lines connecting the mainland and Vancouver Island encourage Salt Spring Islanders to stand united and keep up the charge despite last week's decision to approve the proposal.

"The timing is so perfect for a visionary politician who can see Vancouver Island's potential as a leader in alternative forms of electricity generation."
— Daria Zovi

"There will be massive civil disobedience if we are not successful at having this appealed," said Maureen Broadfoot, a member of Tsawwassen Residents Against High Voltage Overhead Lines (TRAHVOL). "People are not going to lie down and let this go through."

For the hundreds of Tsawwassen residents living, working, studying and playing directly under a 3.7-kilometre stretch of the power lines running through the community, Broadfoot added, sitting back and letting this happen is simply not an option.

She said the year-long BC Utilities Commission-sponsored review of BCTC's proposal to replace the existing power lines that run across Tsawwassen, Galiano and Salt Spring with a series of higher powered 230 kV double-circuit cables, left issues such as the project's impact on property values and possible health effects from electro magnetic fields (EMFs) unaccounted for.

"As far as we're concerned, they just want to wear you down and hope you go broke," she said. "The process wasn't sufficient and the commissioners only proved they have their heads in the sand."

Individuals and organizations wishing to appeal the

decision now have until early August to submit requests for an appeal.

Broadfoot encouraged Salt Spring residents not to lose hope despite BCTC's plans to begin construction on the project in early 2007.

According to BCTC, the upgrade is required to provide Vancouver Island's growing residential and industrial sectors with energy for the next 50 years.

Speaking in an interview following the July 7 decision to proceed, BCTC communication coordinator Donna McGeachie assured the public all efforts to minimize the lines' impacts on residents would be taken. One of the conditions imposed by the commission, she added, is the requirement to keep updated information regarding scientific evidence on the health impacts of EMFs.

For Daria Zovi, a Salt Spring resident and dedicated member of Island Residents Against High Voltage Overhead Lines (IRAHVOL), BCTC's intention are of little consolation since she feels evidence demonstrating EMF's harmful effects is already available in numerous North American and European studies.

Zovi's initial disappointment left in the wake of BCUC's decision has made way for renewed hope to see the construction of an underground HVDC Light cable along the route.

"I am not going to be a lawyer, I am not going to be an activist and I am not going to be a politician," said Zovi. "I just want to see this through to the end."

Zovi recognizes the opportunity for positive change and hopes somebody among the higher echelons of the BCUC will have a change of heart.

"The timing is so perfect for a visionary politician who can see Vancouver Island's potential as a leader in alternative forms of electricity generation," she said.

Within the next 30 days, she said, IRAHVOL members plan to meet with elected officials from the Islands Trust and Capital Regional District as well as organizations opposing the power lines to consider their next step.

Linda Adams, Islands Trust's chief administrative officer, will be among those at the meeting and, though



BIRD'S EYE VIEW: Power lines in Salt Spring's Long Harbour area as seen from the air. Photo by Peter McCully


she stands by the Trust's arguments against BCTC, she questioned spending additional funds on a potentially endless process.

Since intervening in the power line debate soon after it began in February 2005, the Islands Trust has argued the current proposal conflicts with the Trust's preserve and protect mandate.

According to closing arguments submitted by the Island's Trust to the BCUC, "a 21st century solution to the current transmission problems is a solution that provides the safest, healthiest and least environmentally disruptive transmission, particularly if that alternative offers the possibility of restoring the province's natural aesthetic beauty along the existing transmission corridor."

In addition to the appeal process, Adams said, opponents could begin addressing measures to develop a compensation package for people directly affected by the lines.

"It's been a difficult battle and we've put in a lot of energy to this," she said, speaking earlier this week from her Victoria office. "The arguments that we raised just didn't seem to resonate."




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Islander banned from Squamish

A Salt Spring man was banished from Squamish as part of a conditional sentence issued on June 20 at the Vancouver Law Courts.

Fabian Cousineau was found guilty of two counts of fraud over \$5,000 and one count of using a forged document related to inci-

dents in Squamish.

He received a nine-month conditional sentence and 15 months probation.

Along with a ban from Squamish municipal boundaries for nine months, he was also ordered to maintain a curfew and pay a restitution order of \$543.

Additionally, Cousineau

was banned from contact with certain individuals in Squamish, he is prohibited from attending the Bank of Montreal in Squamish, and he is not allowed to carry credit cards, cheques or cashable financial instruments that are not in his own name for 24 months.

Meanwhile, Cousineau

also pleaded guilty to fraud under \$5,000 and false pretense under \$5,000 at Ganges Provincial Court on June 14.

He will appear in Ganges court on August 8 for sentencing and again on September 12 for trial related to charges in another matter.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK? See page B2

Drugs, alcohol at root of various local court cases

COURT DOCKET

Lewis Van Doren settled an old debt to society when he pleaded guilty to fraud under \$5,000 at Ganges Provincial Court on July 11.

Van Doren was arrested on February 17, 2002 after he attempted to exchange a \$58 bottle of Greens Plus for approximately \$20 in groceries at a local retailer under the pretense that he had purchased the nutritional supplement.

Court heard that Van Doren had not appeared in court for the matter since April, 2002 and that he had numerous prior convictions for drug trafficking, possession and fraud spanning from 1975 to May, 2000.

On the defendant's behalf, Crown Counsel Barb Penty noted that Van Doren has now been clean and sober for three years, is living on disability funding for colon cancer and volunteers at food banks and as a narcotics counsellor in Victoria.

"It took me 30 years to grow up and get off the streets but I've done it," Van Doren had told Penty.

Consequently, Van Doren received a three-month conditional sentence with three-months probation and 10 hours of community service.

In other court news:

Ethan Marciano received a six-month conditional discharge and six months probation when he pleaded guilty to unlawful entry of a residence.

Judge Pauline Maughan ordered Marciano to attend counseling for alcohol and anger management after he admitted refusing to vacate the premises of his ex-girlfriend upon her request. Crown counsel noted that Marciano has a previous record of driving while impaired from May 2002.

"I'm actually interested in voluntary attendance [of alcohol counseling]," Marciano said.

Court heard that Marciano had been lodged in cells for

eight hours after a woman called RCMP to complain that he had refused to leave her house and blocked her from driving away by lying down on her driveway.

As another condition in the sentence, he received a no-contact order to stay away from his ex-girlfriend without her express consent.

Kyle Finemore received a three-month conditional discharge and three months probation after he pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana related to an incident on August 30, 2005.

Finemore was stopped by police for a seat-belt check when the officer noticed the odour of marijuana and found a small amount of the narcotic in Finemore's vehicle.

"At times it's difficult to remember that this substance is still illegal," said defence counsel Tybring Hemphill.

Marijke Newman received an absolute discharge after she pleaded guilty to assaulting a security guard on July 7, 2005.

Court heard that Newman struck the security guard after he shone his headlights on her and alleged she was a "lady of the night" when he saw her sitting with a friend in the parking lot at Centennial Park, said defence counsel John Davies.

Subsequently, Newman was lodged in cells when she was uncooperative with arresting officers who had detected a strong odour of alcohol.

"There is no reason to believe there will be any further difficulty to the community," Judge Maughan said during her ruling.

But the judge reminded Newman that slapping the security guard was unlawful, even if his conduct might've been ungentlemanly.

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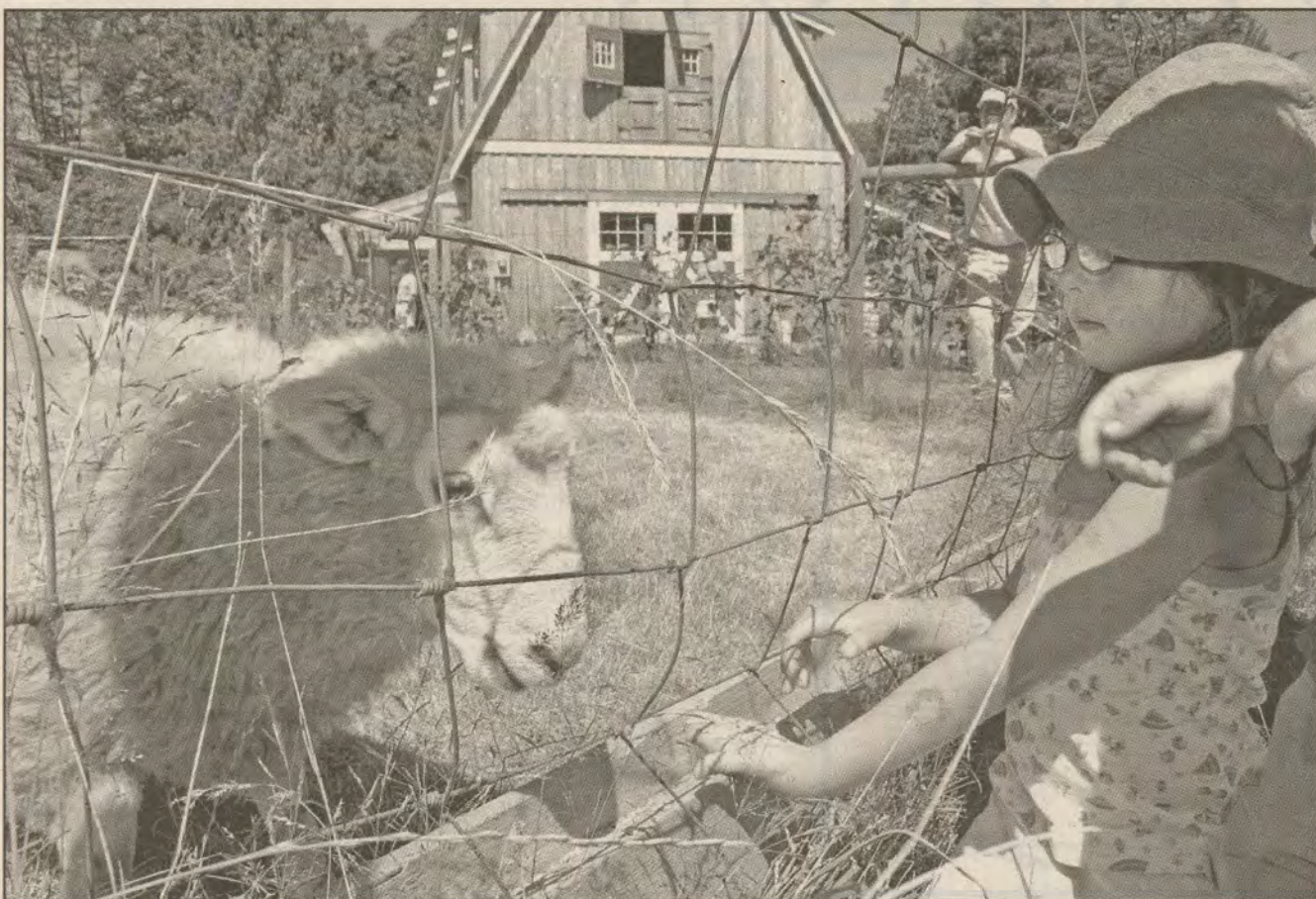
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FARM ANIMALS UP CLOSE: Charlotte McAren-Cayer gets a good look at a sheep at Shepherd's Purse Farm as part of the Salt Spring Island Woolgatherers' farm-tour on Sunday.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

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Student trustees have their say

By LAURA STEWART
Driftwood Contributor

Elizabeth Cronin and Charlotte Mellstrom are two high school students at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) who have taken the initiative to make their voices count on Salt Spring Island. They are the two elected Islands Trust student representatives and love having a say in community events and decisions.

"It gives us the opportunity to voice our opinions to someone who can actually do something," said Mellstrom of her role. "It's been an excellent learning experience," Cronin adds.

In Grade 12 and Grade 11 respectively, Cronin and Mellstrom were two of the 10 candidates who ran in GISS student-run elections for the position in November 2005.

"I wanted to gain a better understanding of island politics," Cronin said of her decision to run.

They attended their first Islands Trust meeting last December, bringing the youth perspective to the table. "It's been a learning thing ever since," Mellstrom admits.

The idea of student trustees was first proposed at the Roots Inter-Island Forum, a two-day workshop held in the spring of 2005, when Grade 11 students Heather and Fiona Munro thought it would be a good way for youth to help the Islands

Trust keep its mandate of "preserving and protecting" the Gulf Islands.

Approved first by GISS principal Nancy Macdonald, and Islands Trust representatives George Ehring and Peter Lamb, the Munros held nomination-based elections at GISS to choose the student trustees. Over 10 students ran for the position.

"We didn't expect that many people to run, so the outcome was great," said Heather Munro.

While the two cannot vote on the board, as junior members of the Islands Trust, Cronin and Mellstrom still have plenty of opportunities to make their opinions heard.

"I think our being on the board helps to put the focus on the fact that, as youth, their decisions affect our future," Mellstrom said. She adds that, before meetings, she and Cronin try to talk to their peers so they can better represent Salt Spring youth as a whole.

The two regularly attend Islands Trust meetings and presentations, as well as Islands Trust Youth Council meetings, a group recently created to give more youth an opportunity to voice their opinions.

Now, as their term as student trustees comes to a close, both Mellstrom and Cronin feel their input has been well received.

"We've met lots of people we normally wouldn't have," said Cronin, "and that's been

valuable in itself."

Cronin also had the chance to attend a sustainable tourism meeting organized by Margery Moore, where she felt her student input was particularly valuable.

"Most students don't even know how the Islands Trust works, so it's been great to get the chance to see it in action," Cronin commented. "It's given me an interest in local politics that I will certainly keep!"

Next year, Heather and Fiona Munro intend to hold new elections and Mellstrom plans to run again. "I think we need to promote the voice of youth," she said. "It is our future."

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Turning point for Trust

By this time next week, Salt Spring trustees Peter Lamb and George Ehring will have voted on what they declared soon after being elected to office as "priority number one"—the draft soil removal bylaw.

While lacking the imminence of an affordable housing task force or the grand scope of an Official Community Plan review ("priority number two"), the Trust's actions regarding the soil removal bylaw stands to show island residents where the Trust is headed and how it intends to get there.

This is an opportunity for the Trust to impose its authority over what one vocal segment of the community has fought long and hard to achieve: some form of regulation over individuals caught removing excessive amounts of soil and rock from island properties, and, at the same time, disturbing peaceful neighbourhoods.

It is a classic Salt Spring battle, complete with all the elements necessary for a true Gulf Islands' saga. So by next week the curtain will fall with theatrics complete?

Not quite. Remember those pesky short term vacation rentals? They too were a threat to our quiet peaceful neighbourhoods.

In much the same way trustees rely heavily on voluntary compliance and prying neighbours to make sure homeowners are not violating the STVR ban, it will take many law abiding gravel pit owners to make a soil removal bylaw truly effective.

Nabbing those few operators who insist on making off with a couple of extra truck loads of gravel will ultimately require the eyes of vigilant neighbours and bylaw inspectors, carefully counting trucks traveling to and from the crime scene. With estimates placing the allowed threshold at 50 truck loads, the herculean effort will undoubtedly necessitate some rock hard determination.

In the end we're back at square one.

Regardless of where you stand, writing up new bylaws in hopes of appearing to take a stand on any issue—soil removal, vacation rentals or tree removal—can often do more damage to one's ultimate goal than admitting there is a problem with the foundation on which they stand.

Without adequate measures to enforce bylaws already in place, they not only become meaningless but, in the end, only serve to threaten what they are designed to protect, the credibility of the Islands Trust itself.

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You, your computer and options at your local library

By STAN SHAPIRO

Salt Spring needs a new library, one that is structurally sound, large enough to contain the close to 50,000 books and related items like DVDs and CDs in the current collection, and designed to meet the needs of a growing and diverse community.

This message is one that both the library board and the Friends of the Library have been sending to the community over the last number of months.

But while we have been talking, we have also been listening to what our card holders have said to us.

One of the things we have learned is that many library patrons are not fully aware of the range of services currently being provided by our library.

The greatest "lack of awareness" concerns how computerization and the Internet makes it possible for your library needs to be met in ways that could not have been imagined just a few years ago.

Since that's so, I want to briefly

VIEW POINT

review the various ways computer users can interact with the library from home.

- You can search the library's entire collection, by subject, title, or author, from home by going to its Internet address (www.saltspring.library.com) to see if what you are looking for is available.

- And if that book is in our collection, you can find out if it's currently in the library or out on loan. It's a simple system to use and, like all of the library's "online services," comes with easy-to-follow instructions.

- If you have taken out a book and wish to renew it for another few weeks, this can also be done from home by computer in most cases.

The only exceptions are overdue books, new books, and those for which there is a waiting list. Otherwise you can renew from

home rather than having to go into the library to do so.

- You can also access the library's Inter-Library Loan Master Catalogue to find out whether a book not in our library is available in another B.C. library. If it is, you can order the book by computer from home. It will soon be delivered to our library and you will be called or e-mailed when it arrives.

- Let's suppose you want to purchase a book published some years ago for your own collection. If so, just use the link from the library's home page to Abebooks.

This Victoria-based firm has a data base that allows you to search, again electronically and again from home, the collections of thousands of independent used book sellers for that book. When it is found, and almost all are, you can order it "online" knowing that Abebooks guarantees its safe arrival.

- But what if it's not a book you want to read but rather a particular back issue of a magazine,

a newspaper or, even, a scholarly journal?

The EBSCOhost service our library provides gives you "full text" (the entire article rather than a summary) access to thousands of different newspapers and periodicals, far more than a library of any size could afford either to buy or to keep in its print collection.

EBSCO provides separate data bases for general reference publications, academic journals, information on consumer health, and business-related material. You will also find an entire encyclopedia as well as material of particular interest to children.

EBSCO can be used in two ways. You can find a particular article that appeared some years ago in a magazine in an EBSCO data base.

Alternately, you can find all the articles in all the EBSCO data bases which deal with, for example, "the right to die." It's a great resource and the library web site contains an easy to follow "15

Step Guide to Using EBSCO-host."

Nothing will ever replace the book, and public libraries for decades to come will continue to provide their patrons with both print-based material and electronic resources.

We will, of course, keep rapidly changing technology in mind as we finalize the design for a new Salt Spring Library building. Until that building is available, you'll be both welcome and well served whenever you visit our current facility. However, we suggest you also make full use of what this article indicates is already electronically possible from your home.

Stan Shapiro has been a library volunteer for a number of years and currently serves on the Board of "The Friends of the Salt Spring Library." He'll be happy to arrange "one-on-one" tutoring for library users who'd appreciate some help in using the services mentioned above. He can be reached at sshapiro@saltspring.com

Ganges Marina — let's start fresh and do it right

ROGER MIDDLETON

Let's start afresh and put present problems and past differences behind us.

The unfortunate sinking of the floating building at the Ganges Marina provides an opportunity for all of us to think about what we really want. The question to ask is what would be in the highest and best interest of all of us, marina and community working together?

Perhaps it is also time for the community to think about retaining the services of an architect to consider how the overall development of Ganges might proceed

IN RESPONSE

and to work with architects creating private projects so that private and community needs can be better harmonized.

So what would be best for us all? To my mind this would be a shoreline that is both pleasing to the eye, accessible to the public, with a boardwalk that allows for relaxation and quiet reflection; all of this in harmony with a marina business that

is thriving, providing a valuable island service and able to make a reasonable profit in the process.

If we were to start afresh, and invite the marina owners and the community to sit down now and create a plan, what might this look like?

Firstly, where would the main building go? I have walked this site many times asking the same question. My reservations about the original plan had to do with scale, the underground parking proposal and the loss of seashore and a rock face that would have been hidden by the main building, all of

which would have eliminated the most interesting part of the boardwalk.

To my mind, the best site would be the existing land-fill, on lot 1, at the foot of Park Drive, which measures 90 feet by 30 feet. Without adding another rock to Ganges Harbour, the marina motel/office building could be constructed on this site.

The problem is that it is zoned residential, but surely this can be changed. After all, it would be in everybody's interest to do so. Lot 3 is an awkward lot on which to site a building anyway.

reduction in scale, we could also, as a community, contribute to part of the cost of the boardwalk and sidewalk.

The whole idea is for the community and Ganges Marina to work together, as partners, to find a creative, aesthetically pleasing solution that meets the needs of all. At this stage, a contribution by the community would also be a gesture on our part toward the healing of old wounds.

So, here we have it, a prosperous and thriving marina, a completed sidewalk, along with a harmonious and peaceful environ-

ment for strollers out for a stroll along the boardwalk, one that crosses open water and shoreline, passing by the rock face before arriving at the marina building and, perhaps, a cup of coffee while gazing out at the moored yachts.

Can we all put the past behind, take a deep breath and start afresh working as partners? I hope so. After all, this is what community is all about.

The writer is an Elizabeth Drive resident.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What do you think of the decision to proceed with high voltage power lines across Salt Spring?*



Lorne Bascomb

They made a bad decision on behalf of the public.



Patricia MacFarland

Very disappointed. We don't need to add hazards to our life if there are other ways to transport energy.



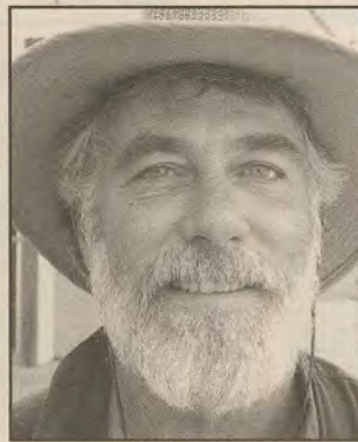
Tim Emmens

This is just another one of the many negative changes that has hit the island since the 1970s.



Agni Wilson

I don't like the power lines because they'll affect too many people. Just look at my hair.



Jim Russell

I think the utilities commissioners are nothing more than a bunch of lap dogs. They'd already made up their minds months ago.

Letters to the Editor

Our way home

In 1899, after refusing to serve in the Tsar's army, the Doukhobors fled Russia and found safe haven in south-eastern British Columbia.

Sixty plus years later more than 50,000 American men, some with families, found their way home in Canada rather than join the U.S. invasion of Vietnam.

This year, from July 6-9 a peace reunion of war resisters and Vietnam veterans convened in Castlegar, B.C. at the Brilliant Cultural Centre established by the Doukhobor community. And "brilliant" the reunion was in so many ways.

Veterans, shattered by guilt from the war, were able to bond with draft resisters in workshops of remembrance and reconciliation. And the resisters — most of whom are now Canadian citizens — were given the opportunity to express collectively their gratitude to Canadians for their compassionate assistance and generous acceptance.

Special guests of international renown recalled those trying times and resolved to continue their commitment to a world without war.

George McGovern, a 1972 presidential candidate, recounted the cruel consequences of a mistaken past and the horror of America's present-day invasion of Iraq. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and president of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, thanked Canadians for providing sanctuary and the beginning of new lives for American war resisters.

Tom Hayden, civil rights and anti-war leader, urged Canada to welcome U.S. soldiers who, out of conscience, refuse to fight in Iraq.

And, most moving of all — Kim Phuc. Remember the photo of the young girl running down a road in Vietnam, her skin burnt and blistered by napalm? Now living in Canada, Kim spoke of peace and forgiveness.

With the setting of the sun came songs from the heart and for the soul. Canada's Buffy Sainte-Marie sang her "Universal Soldier," the anthem of the peace protests during the American war in Vietnam.

Holly Near, singer and social activist, sang of redemption with the words: "I'm going to lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside, and talk of war

no more, no more."

No more war. Possible? The answer is in the wind. If the wind comes from the voices and values of the reunion's speakers and singers, and, most of all, from those of us listening, then peace might just have its day in the brilliant sun.

DAVID KOS,
Salt Spring

Support

We would like to say a huge thank you for the amazing support we have experienced from our island community as we launch P.A.L.S., our new, completely volunteer organization.

P.A.L.S. is the People Against Litter Society.

Our aim is to travel down all the roads of Salt Spring Island this summer and clean up any garbage we find. We would like to publicly thank the following for their generous donations of goods and services needed to begin this island clean-up project: Apple Photo, Mouat's Trading, Foxglove, Uptown Pharmacy, Windsor Plywood, Visitor Information Centre, Field's, Steven Patterson, Avi Bill, Nana Doreen and John David Hoadley.

We also thank all the people who have offered us great

smiling encouragement as we begin this project. Watch for us on roads near you this summer!

MICHAEL HOADLEY AND LISA MAXX,
P.A.L.S.

Deli demand

I love living in Fulford and have always wondered why nobody has entertained the thought of opening a cool and tasty deli.

My question was answered in the most recent "The Fulford Flash" newsletter (produced by the Fulford Inn). Wouldn't you know it — it's yet another brilliant decision by the infamous Islands Trust to deny the pub owner a deli permit.

Why, you ask? Well, according to our famous Community Plan echhhh!!!, Alf (the owner) and the Fulford Inn are not part of the community in Fulford. Now, how ridiculous can you get! I would encourage you to read the newsletter for more details and sign the Inn petition. Great decision, Islands Trust! You never let me down!

MIKE GLUSS,
Salt Spring

Foggy

The Driftwood's "where do we stand" editorial calls

upon islanders to "step-up" and decide whether the marina float camp is now "half-submerged" or "half-exposed" (read more "foggy smugness" vs. "real community leadership").

Really: I suggest the Driftwood "get their feet wet" and hurriedly transfer their offices to the float camp before those "winter swells simply wash it away for good."

DON HUMPHRYS,
Monteith Road

Poor service

I'm sure many of us have noticed a slowing down of service in many of our shops and restaurants. One popular family restaurant has just decided to close on Sundays for lack of help! Recently, another restaurateur offered cash to anyone who could find help for his establishment.

While I welcome the "Slow Island" movement which urges a slowing down in the pace of development on our island, I'm not so happy about the reasons for the slow service.

I believe that its main cause is the fact that many of our young (and not so young) people who would welcome jobs in the service industry can not find accom-

modation. Imagine earning minimum wage and having to pay \$700 to \$800 per month for rent.

What we can do immediately? At present I have two delightful young people staying in summer quarters.

I believe that many of us could find a cabin or some house space that could be rented at a minimal charge plus a little bit of help around the garden. Be VERY clear about what the terms are — rental cost, help expectation, length of stay, number and time of visitors, etc.

Please feel free to call me at 653-4041 (leave a message!) if you'd like to discuss the details. Do your bit for Salt Spring!

HARRY WARNER,
Lee Road

Poor style

I did not appreciate the journalist style shown in the reporting of the rooster problem on Ganges Road. This was an issue involving humans suffering and needed to be treated sensitively. Your multiple plays on words made it farcical. It has not been funny for either party.

M.L. JOHNSTONE,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

Master and Commander of a mobile sanctuary

My outspoken father proclaimed the other day that his only friend left in the world is his Chevrolet. That is just so sad on so many levels. Sad, because he is at that stage in life where he sees most of his friends gracing the obituary page. Sad, because of all the fine automobiles in the world, his ride is a Chevrolet Cavalier with crank windows and an AM radio.

Of course, it's not the make or model that is poignantly telling, it is what the car represents. In his little Chevrolet Cavalier, he is Master and Commander. If he wants a cup of Tim Horton's, he climbs into the Cavalier and gets a cup of Tim Horton's. He has the wheel.

Master and Commander. If he chooses to pick up a hitchhiker on the way to Tim Horton's (something not even remotely possible, given his personality) he will

HEAD TO HEAD

BY PETER VINCENT



damn well pick up a hitchhiker.

Which brings me to Salt Spring. I am aware that the public transportation system is pretty much non-existent here. I know there are legions of fine human beings that either by choice or circumstance find themselves relying on the kindness of strangers to make their way around. And I know in this "One World, One People, All things Connected" planet we live on, picking up hitchhikers is quintessentially Salt Spring. Yet I rarely pull over and open the door.

Sometimes it's legit. My truck is so full of dogs, tool boxes, and a ragtag collection of stuff, there is absolutely no room. Sometimes the truck is such a disgraceful jumble of dog hair, coffee cups

and decaying half eaten sandwiches, that I am actually performing a humanitarian act by passing them by. But mainly, I don't pick up hitchhikers because I am Master and Commander, and I simply don't feel like it.

Much like my father's borderline fetish with his Chevy, my truck is my sanctuary. I can roll up the windows, turn off the radio and cell phone and get lost in the utter peace — the rhythm of the rubber on the asphalt, the headlights in the rain.

Some days, these moments in the car are the only oases afforded me in an otherwise frantic, chaotic universe. And I'm supposed to stop for utter strangers and offload them at Thrifty's? As if.

But, like many other Salt Spring drivers, I relent occasionally. If it's someone I know. Or someone who appears heartbreakingly pathetic or absolutely fascinating.

Or perhaps they remind me of a grim period in my past where

I found myself hitching in the middle of the Saskatchewan prairies in the blazing mid-afternoon heat, as car after car rocketed past. There was nothing for it but to stand there and brush my teeth. And I swore I would never, ever pass up a hitcher for as long as I lived. I lied. Master and Commander.

Things are different in Cuba. Because every Cuban has been in hard times for 45 years, it is considered very bad form to pass up hitchhikers.

Those lucky enough to have a car keep piling hitchhikers in. The difference is, in Cuba, the hitchhikers give the driver a buck for his gas money. Everybody wins. The driver gets some help at the pump, the hitcher gets where he or she is going. A perfect loop.

But unless the NDP rise out of the ashes, such a utopian model of economic stasis is unlikely to come to Salt Spring. Or, if the price of gas doubles again. As it

stands today, North America can still afford the luxury of solitude. And I will enjoy the ride while I can.

I know there will be a day of reckoning — a day when all this black hearted bad hitching karma will come back to bite me. I know that one day my vintage gas guzzler will break down on a cold, wet night in the middle of nowhere, out of cell phone range, and I will be forced to stick out my thumb — to rely on the kindness of strangers.

And there will be nothing for it but to brush my teeth, and pray my favourite Green Partyer Ken Rouleau drives by in his bio-diesel eco friendly People's Rickshaw.

In the meantime, by way of explanation, if I should pass you by hitching into town, please don't take it personally. I am in a deep, auto-transcendental REM state, and wish not to be disturbed. I have the wheel. Master and Commander.

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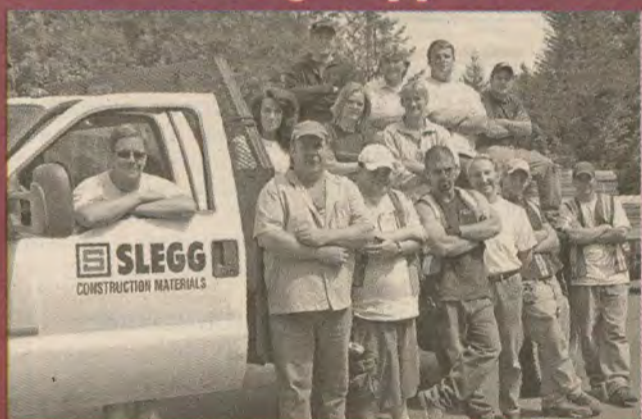
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More letters

Fact?

I am distressed to read the untruthful report about the roosters on Garner Road this week. I have lived on Salt Spring Island for 16 years and can state that Lucille Lamarche was in residence on Garner Road prior to my arrival. She did not build her house here five years ago as stated.

It distresses me that an inaccuracy was included in this article, misrepresenting the situation and misinforming our community. Roosters are a part of our agricultural community and are part of this island's charm; heck, there's one at my house.

However, numerous excessively loud roosters are not charming and are not a common rural occurrence. Complaints have been made repeatedly about Cooper's very loud roosters for five years. It has nothing to do with the rural/urban conflict.

I have spent time at Lucille Lamarche's rural home on many occasions and have found the constant loud crowing of numerous roosters to be an excessive noise.

I was equally distressed at Don Brown's apparent bias on the subject. This is not a problem that results from an increase in population density but rather in one neighbour's deliberate persistence in an activity that is causing distress and pain for another.

I would strongly encourage the Driftwood to get your facts straight. And I would equally strongly encourage the CRD to take seriously complaints about excessive noise. To persist at creating unnecessary and unreasonable noise after asked to cease smacks of deliberate provocation and harassment.
SANDRA PATRICIA HUNTER,
Salt Spring

Editor's Note: See correction in "For the Record" on Page A3.

Safety

How is it that the animal control officer has the time to harass and ticket someone with leashed dogs who of necessity must be where they are in order to get to their boat [Anti-dog letter to the editor, Driftwood July 12], but not enough time to answer phone messages inquiring for information of the whereabouts of a cougar recently seen on Salt Spring Island?

I am aware of two recent cougar sightings in the Channel Ridge area where I walk three small dogs.

In fact, on a Monday afternoon, deciding to take a side trail from the main path up to Canvasback Road, I began the climb when Jackson, a 20 pound mixed breed, did not want to proceed. I cajoled him, and we continued a short while before again, he stopped.

As he had never done this before, I thought that perhaps he knew something I didn't, and we turned back the way we had come. Two nights later, at a spot very close to where we had been heading on Canvasback Road, Myles Wilson spotted a cougar near his home, and shared that information.

That was helpful to people in the area with email who were also members of the Channel Ridge Owners Association, but it would not get information to people who drive up to Channel Ridge in order to enjoy the trails, with or without dogs — or to residents who do not belong to the CROA or who do not have email.

It is also not adequate for our safety that information

about sightings be published once a week in the Driftwood. They are appreciated, but they cannot provide security for an entire week.

The Channel Ridge area has seen a burst of building, with much more to come, and many acres of forested trails are nearby. The time has come for some kind of warning system. Currently, there are a couple of hand-written notices posted — 'cougar alert' — but they may well be out-of-date, and perhaps unnecessarily alarming if the cougar [or cougars] has left the island.

My recommendation is that a cougar/bear/whatever alert line be established for the island. This would be a telephone line with a recorded message that would provide up-to-date information about island sightings of wild animals who could be a threat to small animals, or people. Such a line would not take messages.

Clearly the animal control officer does not have the time to answer a lot of phone messages, but it would require only five minutes or so to leave a message giving information about recent sightings and captures.

The Driftwood then could publish the number so that people wanting to walk in natural areas could call the line. And, people making sightings, could call the animal control officer directly, and leave a message on his line.
TOBY FOUKS
Salt Spring

Footprints

Salt Springers are a diverse bunch and world famous for being protective of the place we call home. This community has done an admirable job of purchasing land and trying to protect land from inappropriate forms of development.

My concern here is that as we expend so much time and energy on the big projects, we are losing sight of what I call the little big project, our individual footprint. What can I do to walk more lightly on the earth. As consumers we must be aware of the impact our spending dollar has.

I choose to buy as much of my produce as possible from local growers, thereby drastically reducing the fossil fuel bill created by getting food to the table. Realistically, how organic is your food if it goes from plane to truck to ferry to store? Supporting local growers will enable them to stay on Salt Spring, which means one less piece

of ALR land turned into a country estate or used to further the interests of the aquaculture industry.

I challenge my fellow Salt Springers to walk the talk and bike, hike, carpool or hitch-hike to the Farmers Market every Tuesday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the meadow off Hereford Avenue. You'll be rewarded with the freshest, most flavourful produce around, grown by our friends and neighbours.

Does it get any better than that? The Tuesday Farmers Market has been recognized by the Society for the Advancement of Slow.
SHARON BYWATER,
Maliview Drive

Benefit

The Respectful Relationships (R+R) program has been carefully developed here on Salt Spring over the past six years, with vital input from staff, students, parents and teachers. I was there from the beginning, as a school trustee, and before that, as the researcher for the original project which demonstrated in the mid-90s, that even on "sleepy little Salt Spring," we had the same levels of relationship abuse and violence as the rest of Canada. We also learned that young people between the ages of 18-24 were the most at risk, and that the best time to help them is while they are still in school.

As a clinical counselor in private practice since 1978, I truly believe that we "pay now or pay later." We can't afford not to prepare our young people. Respectful Relationships include the ability to express oneself, to negotiate peacefully or walk away, to be accepting of diversity. Don't these sound like skills that world leaders need to develop? And yet, it starts at the home and community level. If not here, where?

Whether you are a parent, a grandparent, an educator, a business person, or from any part of our community, your generous contribution to R+R's current fundraising campaign will assure that this community continues to train and support a new generation of critical citizens and socially aware leaders. The curriculum is now a Canada-wide model for successful violence prevention education. This is a rich opportunity to make a difference in our world. Global citizenship starts at home
JUDITH BOEL,
Salt Spring



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SNACKS FOR SALE: Lindsay Wicker-sham and Stevie Hoesel sell baskets-full of healthy snack bars in the market at Centennial Park.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

Wow! Five years I was patient with you — you who steal my flowers on Upper Ganges Road across from Churchill Road. I hope it's enough. If you share my flowers with me, share the work too. I am very, very mad. Irina Floercke.

Rants to the local business that imposed a \$2.50 fuel surcharge. I didn't mind the \$3 delivery cost — I figured that covered the fuel. Rick Kilbourn.

ROSES

Revisiting this lovely island, I took my two preschoolers to Beddis Beach on Saturday at about 9:30. As we exited the car, two quite large dogs approached, barking loudly. Though they did not appear threatening, they would not leave us alone and their frequent barking did nothing to ease our minds. The beach visit was not altogether satisfactory, though here's a rose for the woman who tried to distract the unwanted canine visitors.

Roses to Calvin's Bistro for your great food, great service and great atmosphere. Thanks for making our lunch breaks enjoyable!

Red rosebuds to the creator of "spirit" that led to the generous donation to the Lady Minto Thrift Shop.

Thank you to Linda and Gary of Pharmasave for caring so much about our island kids and supporting the R+R program. May

your roses flourish.

A big bouquet of roses to Daphne for giving up cruising to make coffee every morning for the Ganges Marina guests, as well as all the other tasks you do.

A bouquet of hand-painted, pastel-colored wooden roses for Ian, Jack, Iain, Ryan, Ben, Marshall, Lauren, Meghan, Katie, Linda, Robin, Suzanne and Taylor and any other castaways that kept the marina going while the float office became a shipwreck. Thanks to all.

More letters

Ushers needed

One of the Bard's greatest dramas opens tomorrow evening and runs for eight additional performances — two more Thursdays, three Friday's, three Saturday's.

That's eight evenings of opportunity for generous devotees who want to see the show for nothing.

Ushers are still needed — up to three a night — and the compensation is both free admission and a good feeling at having helped the project.

Give it some thought, then call 537-8863 or email <rmoses@uniserve.com>. Do it now and pick your evening. And thanks.

RICHARD MOSES
Front of House Manager

Bike power

I was disappointed that when islanders were asked (for Salt Spring says): How are you adapting to higher fuel costs, no one said they ride their bicycles.

Though, having ridden from Fulford to Ganges (45 minutes) last week, and Beaver Point to Fulford (half-hour) numerous times, I am seriously concerned about traffic safety.

Vehicles, especially trucks, whiz (too) close at high speeds, with seeming disregard for the law. Bicycles share not only the same traffic rules, but the road too.

I figure I "drive" the original Smart "car."

In the process, I save on gas, pollute less, get exercise, clear my head, and connect with my kids (when we cycle together).

Oh, and it's really fun. You should try it sometime!

AMEI PARKES,
Beaver Point

Too old?

You may recall that a few months ago I wrote to you about advertising for recreational real estate we received at our home in Calgary.

It appears that as the competition for Albertans' copious spare cash intensifies, so does the hyperbole.

This Sunday's Calgary herald contained a glossy magazine titled Recreation and Investment Properties, wherein the new communities of Bishop's Green and Bishop's Walk were described in breathless prose.

Ganges is described as "An artistic community with a country atmosphere, it is a haven for Canadian artists such as Stephen Leacock, Randy Bachman and Robert Bateman."

Well. This is news to me. Despite many visits to Salt Spring over the past 20 years I've not had the pleasure of meeting Canada's most famous humourist in the Saturday market.

Perhaps at 137 years he's a bit too old to come out for the occasion. I'll check Greenwoods next trip to see if an autograph is forthcoming.

Mr. Leacock's presence on Salt Spring does solve a mystery for me.

It's obvious that the demise of the Ganges Marina float camp was his inspiration for the sinking of the Mariposa Belle.

DOUG MACDONALD,
Calgary and Salt Spring

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To make three sandwiches, have ready **6 slices of Muesli bread** (or other seeded bread). Combine in a bowl: **2 cups chopped cooked chicken, 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese, 1/4 cup mayonnaise, 2 tablespoon parsley, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1 teaspoon lemon zest, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1 teaspoon Cajun spice** (or chili seasoning), & **2 green onions sliced**. To make sandwiches coat one side of each slice of bread with mayonnaise & top with chicken mixture. Grill on each side until cheese is melted & bread is golden. Cut & serve warm.

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Myths and truths about Salt Spring real estate

By TOM NAVRATIL

Last week's Peter Vincent's article "Not quite willing to roll the dice on real estate gamble" was very good; be satisfied with what you have and concentrate on quality of life rather than losing sleep over how much one could make in the real estate "gold rush".

Just about every article Peter writes is spot on. However, with respect to the comfortable monetary gains we can claim just by owning a property, I could not help thinking about the TV commercial "If life was like that, we would not need a VISA" (or was it MasterCard). The trouble is no matter how much our home appreciates, other real estate keeps up with it. The only way to substantially better our position would be to downsize or sell our house here and buy in an area of lower prices, such as Nanaimo, the prairies and most parts of the Maritimes to name just a few. Costa Rica does not sound bad either.

So how are we doing on Salt Spring Island with respect to real estate? The three different "sold" signs in a relatively short stretch of Fulford-Ganges Road on the way out of town would make us think that the market is hot. But many "for sale" signs popping up elsewhere may quiet our minds if we were thinking we were missing something.

This is what the stats show: it can be said that the recent market activity upturn started in 2001 and, you may be surprised, technically peaked in the fall 2003/spring 2004. In that period we had the lowest inventory (around a total of 80 residential non-waterfront listings), the highest number of sales (316 properties sold in all categories island wide in 2003) and there was buyer's panic in the air.

Today (2006) we have about 150 residential listings (almost double) but, to date, only about 100 properties sold. The market is, at the moment, quiet. If it does not pick up in the second

IN DEPTH

half of the year, it will be the year with the lowest number of sales perhaps in a decade — forecasted drop of 37 per cent from the peak in 2003 (the total number of properties sold).

However, the prices tell a different story. The average sale price of a residential non-waterfront property in 2003 was \$355,670, in 2004 \$392,425 and in 2005 \$484,737. The median prices, though lower, show similar trend. Curiously enough the average sale price of a waterfront property showed a decline of 14 per cent in 2005 from 2004. For the first time this year (the first six months) since 2001 the average sale price of all properties sold showed a slight decline, though the residential non-waterfront sector posted yet another (relatively insignificant) gain of two per cent. This is where Peter may be disappointed with his yield at the end of this year.

Stats are boring but this may perk your attention: to sum up, in the period between 2001 and 2005 the average sale price for non-waterfront residential homes on Salt Spring Island indeed rose 96 per cent, waterfront properties 120 per cent and vacant lots under two acres, brace yourself, 184 per cent.

Today 78 per cent of all current waterfront listings are over \$1 million, and 38 per cent over \$2 million. The most expensive property listed is \$5,995,000, the least expensive is \$254,900, there are four current residential listings for under \$300k, not counting dwellings on leased pads.

In the residential non-waterfront home sector the average sale price in 2006 to date was \$494,733, the average asking price for these sold properties was \$511,936 — now, the average asking price of the remaining unsold residential listings is \$642,933, about 26 per cent higher than the former.

No market is a static unchanging process, in fact the opposite is true — every market has cycles and cannot sustain itself in a steady pace indefinitely, up or down. On Salt Spring the market, at least for the time being, is running out of steam; many buyers are unwilling to pay the prices. So they wait or go elsewhere, or never come in the first place as they easily see the (asking) prices on the Internet.

The rising interest rates do not help. Buyers are once again gaining control of the market, it could be said that we are experiencing a transition from sellers' to balanced buyers' market. Once again, more so than in a rapidly rising market, the key to successful sale of one's home is precise pricing and flawless presentation. Reports from many other areas of B.C. (and in parts of the U.S.) indicate similar trends.

Is there a bubble and is it going to burst? The answer is NO, with 99% certainty. There will be (already is) a market adjustment (a correction) but no repeat of the 80s. In the 80s, the consumer borrowing interest rates shot up to over 20 per cent p.a. and the real estate prices were artificially inflated.

Today the market is backed up by strong fundamentals and the interest rates are regulated by the Bank of Canada which closely links it to the economy. The climate, the beauty and the lifestyle of south-western B.C., Victoria, Saanich, rural Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and the Gulf Islands in particular, will continue to attract baby boomers and zoomers from the rest of Canada and from abroad. This creates demand which creates an active market.

So in the meantime Peter, keep fighting the bamboo in your garden for we know for sure, your home will appreciate even more, empirically it is indeed just a matter of time.

The writer is a Salt Spring realtor.

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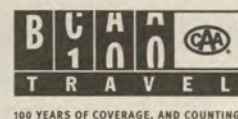


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"Respectful Relationships is a great class to take. If everyone was able to learn these priceless lessons I think that the world would be much better and more peaceful."

GRADE 8 STUDENT



R&R Facilitation Team

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

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:

Conflict happens. Stop, look and listen before you respond.

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Yes, I want to donate \$100 X _____ students = _____ \$
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We are a registered charitable organization. Tax receipts are issued for all donations of \$20 or more. Please make cheques payable to SWOVA/Respectful Relationships, and mail to 390 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1R7. For more information on the R+R program, call our office at 537-1336.

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Film school for kids launched

Budding film-makers are invited to join movie-making workshops with Cindy Jacobsen — but adults need not apply.

Jacobsen's "Let's Make a Movie" workshops are just for kids.

She guides students aged 6 and up through the movie making process from start-to-finish. The program includes script writing, storyboarding, location scouting, props, costumes, camera work and editing.

But students also get to determine a fair bit of direction to the course, she said.

"It's so easy now. It's mostly just getting some exposure to it to know what you need to do. It's really exciting to see what these kids come up with."

Classes are limited to groups of five students, she noted.

"I wanted it to be a real group process and be a real tight crew."

Kids aged 6, 7 and 8 who are currently participating in one of Jacobsen's workshops were watching the previous day's shots, learning about special effects and planning auditions during a Driftwood interview with Jacobsen on



MOVIE MOGULS: Film making workshop participants (clockwise from top) Kendra Brown, Lindsay Wickersham, Zyon Avenpicard, Noah Jacobsen and Stevie Hoesel prepare to edit their work.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

She's also taught adults multi-media classes and filmmaking at Bellevue Community College in Washington State.

Students in Jacobsen's movie-making workshops use consumer-quality cameras and software that they can download for free, she said.

"We could use fancier software but I wanted them to be able to take this and do it afterwards and have some confidence."

Each workshop wraps up with a film festival.

"They end up with a DVD of their movie at the end. We are also trying to make a movie about the movie so then we can have a special feature."

A group of kids aged 6-9 will finish the first two-week workshop of the season on July 21 but there are three more sections this summer. They include: July 24-August 3 (ages 10 and up); August 8-18 (ages 6-9) and August 21-September 1 (ages 10 and up). Each session runs 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. weekdays.

Cost of the program is \$250 and includes all supplies. For more information, email Jacobsen (cindy@frogtalk.com). To register, call Acoustic Planet (537-9668) or online (www.acousticplanet.com).

Thursday.

Jacobsen has a film-making background with feature films and commercials under her belt, but she'd rather focus on making films with kids (especially now that she's busy being a

mom herself), she said.

"My last project was a Duncan Hines commercial and that point I realized that I didn't want to do it as a career. It was really high pressure for something that seemed not very rewarding."

Island raises over \$3,000 at World Development Tea

Organizers of the annual World Development Tea on Salt Spring are calling the event a huge fundraising success.

Some \$3,000 was collected for disbursement to individuals and groups that sponsor direct-link projects in a variety of countries.

The tea was hosted jointly by the Roman Catholic, United and Anglican churches and took place on May 27 at All Saints.

Local Girl Guides served tea and many islanders contributed plants, baking and treasures to the event.

"The recipients are people who not only support these projects through many endeavors," notes a press release, "but are volunteers who work in situations where their skill and compassion is needed."

"The recipients are people . . . who work in situations where their skill and compassion is needed."

The funds were evenly divided between five unique organizations and individuals, including a mission in Meru, Kenya where children in an orphanage are taught to write by Rita Balanchandran, a SSI volunteer; and the Ometepe-Gulf Island Friendship Association for its work that has developed from Free Trade Coffee in Nicaragua into responding to natural and social disasters in Central America.

Also benefitting from funds

is Salt Spring's Beth Gessinger for her continuing work with Nkhmona Hospital in Malawi. Gessinger will be returning to Malawi early next year and the WDT has contributed to a project that helps vulnerable pregnant mothers and very young children.

It also provides simple tables and chairs for nursery schools that operate without supplies.

Finally, the money will aid Precious Jewels Mission in Manila, assisting two young women from Vancouver Island who live on a garbage dump called Smokey Mountain in order to help the poorest of the poor; and Christian Blind Mission International, whose mission world-wide encompasses millions of sight restoring cataract surgeries and work in dangerous areas with those suffering malnutrition and war.

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SERVICE NOTED: Salt Spring fire chief Dave Enfield, left, is honoured by the B.C. Fire Commissioner — Dave Hodgins — for 35 years of service. The presentation was made during a get-together and weekend training session for firefighters from all over Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Selected 2006 festival films now available at local library

Our Island, Our World Film Festival has announced the addition of 13 festival films to the Salt Spring library's film collection.

Catalogued by subject, the 2006 festival films are available for loan to library patrons from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Films added to the collection include: Sombrio; Money; The True Cost of Food, Wal*Mart: High Cost of Low Price, Thirsty Planet; The Power is the People, The Magic Mountain, Salt

Spring: House Me, About Baghdad, Loose Change, and Kimiko Murakami: Triumph Over Internment.

Sunset Story and The Stolen Spirits of Haida G'waii are on order and will be available soon.

"We are pleased that we can make these films available at the library, because not everyone is on the island for festival weekend," says Carol Grier, a film festival organizer.

"These titles cover a wide range of subjects from a controversial 9/11 film (Loose

Change), to local housing issues (Sombrio and Salt-spring: House Me).

"There are also films from past years' festivals, and many other film titles available in the library's film collection."

Call numbers for the films can be found in the electronic card catalogue at the library, or online at www.saltspringlibrary.com.

Full descriptions of the films are still available on the festival website: <http://www.saltspringmediagroup.com>.

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PIRATES OF THE ISLAND: "Ross the Boss" McIlvenna carved this pirate out of a fir tree at his Upper Ganges Road home. The sword was carved from oak and added later. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Caravan crosses Texas

By TANYA LESTER

Having survived two tire blowouts in the 110F Arizona desert, our Route B caravan bus finally rattles into Texas on the final days of June. Here it will merge with several other Caravan to Cuba routes complete with dozens of caravanistas in buses, trucks and ambulances stuffed full with aid.

Crossing into Texas, a road sign greets us: Proud Home of President George W. Bush.

We spend three days preparing for the crossing. The first day focusses on sorting through the tons of aid to make sure everything in the boxes is supposed to be in the boxes. In the humid 100-degree F heat, volunteers like Sandee Scott push themselves hard to keep going. A nurse from Santa Cruz, California tells the story of touring a small Cuban hospital, on a previous visit. There are no sheets to cover the patients.

Later that day, an unplanned event becomes the main focus. A local caravan supporter is able to get us three spots in the 4th of July parade. We are filled with glee at "crashing" what one Pastors of Peace staff person describes as a "grotesque" show of conservative patriotism.

At breakfast the next morning, I tell my U.S. friends that July 1 is Canada Day; our equivalent to the 4th of July. On Salt Spring, I say, local musicians sing at our arts centre. They smile and turn to newcomers at our table to tell them what I have said. They are delighted that a mellow place like Canada actually exists.

When we arrive at the mall where the parade is being organized, we are bombarded with army units

We are filled with glee at "crashing" what one Pastors of Peace staff person describes as a "grotesque" show of conservative patriotism.

maneuvering around southern belles flanked with U.S. flag variations, including the flag that was flown when slaves were still fashionable in the South.

Our ambulance and two buses, with "Impeach Bush" and "God Bless the Whole World - No Exceptions" bumper stickers, lines up among them.

One of the Pastors takes our peace flag, uses a crutch (destined for a Cuban hospital) as a staff to hang it on, goes to the head of the parade and waves at everyone — including the military — who passes her.

We move down the parade route, near the end of over 130 floats. Many of us get out of our vehicles and chant: "Cuba, si. Bloqueo, no."

We pass thousands of people. They look puzzled at first to see us. Our brightly painted 1970s vehicles with slogans like "Cuba is our neighbor. End the blockade now" decorating their sides are not the usual 4th of July fare.

Then we can almost literally see the "light bulbs" go on over the heads of those on the sidelines. We flash peace signs. The crowd mirrors our salutes. They clap. Eighty percent of them are Mexican American. The land we are walking on historically belonged to them. They understand about pro-

testing against U.S. domination of a Latin American country.

In contrast to this, crossing into Mexico two days later with our aid seems anti-climactic. We leave early, around 5 a.m., and go to a different border crossing than has previously been used. Last year, 43 boxes of computers were seized by U.S. Customs while the Caravan crossed into Mexico. This year we get by without a hitch.

We speculate as to why this is. Maybe we caught them off-guard by leaving early and going across at a different border. Maybe they intend to isolate and intimidate those going on to Cuba on their way back. Maybe they will just leave us alone altogether and make us feel ineffectual. The possibility that the Bush administration is "softening" on Cuba seems impossible as his government has just released a "Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba" document which would return the island country to U.S. colony status.

Next day, we load the aid into containers at the ship docks in Tampico, Mexico, to go on a Cuban ship to its final destination. I get a last glimpse of the aid (the equivalent of two van loads) contributed by Salt Springers. It is difficult to miss with the bolts of cloth, donated by Sue Earle, among the boxes.

Just as sure as the sun rises in the east, there will be another Caravan to Cuba next year.

This is the pact that Rev. Lucius Walker, executive director of the organization, has made. Until the U.S. blockade against Cuba is lifted, the Caravan will continue. For more stories and more information, go to Pastors for Peace. org

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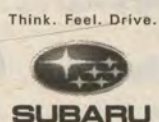
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Island secedes from Canada?

45 years ago

• Gavin C. Mouat Park opened July 1, 1961. The Ganges park included 15 campsites.

• Guest speaker Ivan Mouat spoke at high school graduation ceremonies with class valedictorian Duncan Hepburn at Mahon Hall.

• Puzzled islanders asked if Salt Spring was leaving Canada after a Ganges school flew a B.C. flag over a two-day period before it was replaced by Canada's official Red Ensign.

40 years ago

• Gulf Islands Secondary School (now Salt Spring Island Middle School) was officially opened by Lieutenant-Governor George Parkes.

• C.R. Horel prepared a map proposing Ganges village boundaries for a municipality feasibility study.

• Saturna resident Bill Lawson shot and killed a six-foot female cougar while he was out for a drive with his wife near East Point Lighthouse.

35 years ago

• B.C. Deputy Minister Lloyd Brooks called a federal plan for a Gulf Islands national marine park "utter nonsense."

• A prison term for trafficking LSD on Salt Spring was overturned by the B.C. Court of Appeal.

30 years ago

• Approximately 120 islanders protested in front of the legislature when B.C. Ferries attached expiry dates to commuter tickets.

• Building permits for 22 homes valued at \$656,000 were issued by the Capital Regional District on the Gulf Islands during May 1976.

25 years ago

• The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee granted permission for Fred Howard

DOWN THE YEARS

to continue using a log dump at the foot of Rainbow Road.

• Gulf Islands School District concluded seven months of negotiations to reach a 40 per cent pay raise deal with CUPE workers over two years.

20 years ago

• Lady Minto Hospital was one of 18 regional health-care facilities served with strike notices.

• Quick-thinking patron C. John Walchuck extinguished a fire at the Vesuvius Inn when he observed flames coming from a breaker box while he was eating lunch.

15 years ago

• Some 116 athletes participated in Salt Spring's first official triathlon on June 23, 1991. The event raised \$3,000 for the Island Swimming Pool Society and Island Pathways.

• Vendors debated Saturday Market issues during a crowded Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. One contingent petitioned for a move to Sundays.

10 years ago

• Salt Spring Conservancy received a \$300,000 pledge from the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy fund toward purchasing a one-third share of the 160-acre Mill Farm.

• Deer mice infected with hantavirus were found on Salt Spring after a local man died from the disease in April 1996.

Five years ago

• Nature Trust of B.C. purchased the 250-hectare former Camp Narnia site at Burgoyne Bay for \$3.5 million.

• Islanders called for better travelling connections during a packed meeting of the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee.



TREASURE HUNTERS: An array of goods drew islanders and visitors alike to ArtSpring last week, as the arts centre's annual Island Treasure fair got underway. Photo by Derrick Lundy

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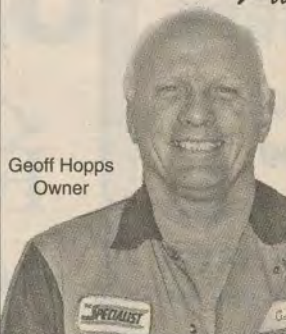
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Bridge champs named

By JILL EVANS

Driftwood Contributor

Summer is in full swing, and along with summer comes Jeff Bell from Ontario.

On June 29, Bell and Bob Morrisette came first in local bridge activities, with Joan Conlan and Blanche Pobors right behind. That left the rest of us to ponder that — uh oh, Lhude sing cuccu!

July 3 saw Bell again coming first, with Paul Retalack as a partner this time. A different group followed up, with Jean Elder and Patricia Hewett happily coming

BRIDGE TRICKS

second, and Isabelle Richardson with partner Conhor Vane-Hunt excelling in third place.

Perhaps it should be explained that those who gain placements have managed to play above the average scores obtained by all of us cuccu who play duplicate bridge.

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FOOTBALL FANS: Local football players who went to a training camp at Simon Fraser University included: (top row, from left) Gordon Fraser, Oliver Schnare, Ian Barrett, Myles Teagle and Sebastian Banks; (bottom row) Dakota Saunders, Megan Henry, Zachary Corley and William Wilczak.
Photo contributed

Golfers swing into greens season

• Results for the 18 Hole Ladies Division for the Commerce Cup and Pin Day on July 11 are as follows: the low gross winner was Alice Richards, with a score of 96, while the runner-up was Janet Butler with a score of 100.

The low net winner was Marj Cade with 70, and runner-up went out to Marie Hopkins, hoisting a score of 71. The putt pot winners were Janet Butler, Joanna Barrett and Maureen Rowell with 30 putts in total. The KP (closest to pin) winner for holes 2 and 11 was Ruby Webster.

• Junior Day was a day of celebration for the Graham boys. Nick Graham won the "closest to the middle of the fairway" on hole #4 and brother Alex won the "closest to the hole chip-on" at the seventh hole. Along with the two Graham brothers, many other ravenous juniors then proceeded to wolf down hot dogs and fries back at the club house.

• The junior membership was well represented at the Zone 5 Duncan Meadows Open on July 12. Zander Ritson, Josh Benloulou and Stephen Greenwood put in stellar performances with Greenwood narrowly missing a four-way playoff for the championship, between one over par competitors.

• Last Sunday, 16 enthusiastic women teamed up to play for the SSTA President's Cup Women's Doubles.

Perfect weather and balanced seeding made for an excellent morning of exciting and close matches. The eventual victors were Erica Ross and Mary Ann Legg, who battled to a 7-5 win in the tie-break, over Zilla Parker and Irene Tongue.

• Results for the 18 Hole Men's Section for the medal play on July 13 are as follows: first place went to Tom Locke, with a net of 64, while second place went out to Gus Mitchell, with a net of 66. Hank Doerksen placed third with a net of 68, and there was a five-way tie between Mike Morgan, Warner Woodley, Ralph Quick

GOLF TEES

and Dick Matthews for fourth place, with a net of 69. Congratulations to John Stewart who won a gift certificate for the 50/50 draw.

Closest to the pin (KP) #2 was Patrick Dalton; pin #11 went to Lyle Brown. KP #6 was Jim Charleton, while Mike Hardy received KP for hole #15.

For the 18 Hole Men's Section Results in the Parson's Cup Medal Play on July 6, Keith Lavender placed first, Campbell Blair took second, and third place was tied up by Colin Lawler and Ralph Quick.

• The MNL's Results for July 10 are as follows: for the field, the low gross winner was Joanna Barrett with a score of 48, runner-ups were Dora Reynolds and Janelle Holmes, both scoring 49. The low net winner was Casey Cook with 32, and Denise Heaton and Barrett were the low net runners-up with a score of 33.5. Low putts winner was Heaton, with 13 putts in total. The KP winner was Marg Lowther, while honourable mention went out to Marcie Hogan.

For Your Group, low net winners are as follows: 4:30: Leslie Kollar with a score of 37; 4:40: Patricia Sutherland with 38; 4:50: Janelle Holmes who scored 33; 5:00: Casey Cook with 32; 5:10: with a score of 34.5, Femmy S., and 5:20: Sharon Farquharson with 39.

Low putts in each group went out to Dora Reynolds (4:30) with 16 putts, Patricia Sutherland (4:40) with 17 putts, Joanna Barrett (4:50) with 14, Denise Heaton (5:00) scoring 13 putts, Femmy S (5:10) with 18 putts, and Darlene Wellington (5:10) also with 18 putts.

"We had an excellent turnout and welcomed two new members to our group: April Wright and Mary Lou Bompas," noted Patricia Sutherland, MNL's captain.

Football players practice with the province's best

Last week nine Salt Spring football players headed to the top of Burnaby Mountain for the SFU Summer Football Camp.

Over 200 of the province's elite players took part in the week-long camp learning skills, tactics and teamwork.

As Megan Henry put it "being the *only* girl out of 204 teens proved that I can challenge myself to pursue my own dreams, football camp has given me enough confidence to last me a life time."

Myles Teagle also had a good week and was awarded the "Most Improved Defensive Back" of the camp.

The Salt Spring Football Association thanked the local branch of the Legion for its continued support and let everyone know that football will start on the evening of August 8.

Boys and girls, aged 11 to 17, interested in playing can call Shellie Barrett at 653-4645.

GREAT GIFTS!

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FALL FAIR FOCUS

By Sandy Barclay

Basketry

Things to put in a basket!! Dried flowers and potpourri - wine and bundles of candles - bananas, apples and oranges - bread and rolls and muffins. So many things a basket can hold. Just let your imagination unfold!!! Now what will you be putting in that wonderful basket that you are making? Hope all of you basket makers are working toward the fall fair and we look forward to seeing you there!

Photography

Please see the catalogue to view all the exciting classes for this year's photography section of this year's Fall Fair. The exhibit this year is a country fair where people share their photographic experiences and views of the world. The exhibitors are amateurs so it promises to be an exciting exhibit. Please see the catalogue for further details!

Decorated business

Judging for the best-decorated business will take place on Monday September 11. The best decorated business using this year's theme 'Celebrate Farming's Future' will receive the Island Farmers Institute trophy! So let's get started!!

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SUMMER SERVE: Tennis instructor Tessa Newbrook takes some time out at the Portlock Park tennis courts to hone her skills.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

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What's On?
see page B2

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