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FULFORD FROLIC:

Enjoying the many activities at the annual Fulford Day are, from left, Clara May, Alandra Lara-MacLeod, Chelsea Kaye and Nataya Smith-Valdivielso. The 18th annual event took place Saturday at Drummond Park. More photos, Page B10.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

Excavators oppose new Trust rock rules

Impacts, enforcement, problems raised at Thursday meeting

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Island aggregate producers speaking at a public consultation meeting last week say the Islands Trust draft soil removal bylaws could place them and island property owners between a rock and a hard place if passed at the next Local Trust Committee meeting on August 30.

"(The trustees) want to ram this through as quickly as possible and are not paying attention to how this will seriously affect the island's economy," said island contractor Ken Byron. "If somebody wants to break the law, this won't stop them. There's always a loophole."

Salt Spring Island trustees Peter Lamb and George Ehring listed the soil removal bylaw as their single most important priority shortly after being elected last fall. Bylaw proponents argue it is needed to restrict operations at an allegedly illegal

gravel extraction operation on Jennifer Way.

If adopted, draft bylaws 418 and 419 will implement a fee-based permitting system restricting how much aggregate property owners can remove from their land. In its current form, suppliers could remove 30 cubic metres (three truckloads) of top soil and 500 cubic metres (50 truckloads) of rock before a permit is required.

Byron said he recognizes why the bylaw is needed, but thinks trustees are going overboard and unfairly targeting the majority of operators.

"I don't think trustees are concerned as much as they want to stop development," he said.

The proposed limits will place the island's estimated 30 operators at a disadvantage and encourage developers to import gravel, sand and soil from Vancouver Island, he said.

Contractors require various forms of aggregate to create driveways, fill building sites and build foundations. Rock is often removed, Byron added, to level home sites.

Because permitting and

supplemental engineering fees will ultimately get passed down to the property owners, Byron said, landowners will likely be faced with several thousand dollars in additional homebuilding costs.

"Most people we work for can afford this, but it will hurt local people still trying to build houses," Byron said, adding he has already started work on a petition he plans on sending to the provincial government.

SOIL BYLAW A3

Middle East collaboration meets on Galiano

By MANUSHA JANAKIRAM
Driftwood Contributor

These days the vocabulary surrounding the current conflict in the Middle East rarely includes the word "collaboration."

However, for 29 youth gathered on Galiano Island, collaboration has been their mantra for the past two weeks.

"Each teenager from the other side thinks differently about the history and the government," said Ofir Vaknin, a Jewish resident of Dimona, Israel in a telephone interview.

"It gave us a chance to listen to the other side and to know what they think about us."

"It's about listening to new perspectives," said Alaa Abu Dawoud, a Palestinian from Majd El Kurum in Israel.

The two 17 year olds joined other youth from Israel, Palestine and Canada in creative conversations and filmmaking projects that aim to tell their stories — those of everyday people — about the conflict.

Entitled Peace It Together, the 18-day summer initiative is a joint effort

between Creative Peace Network (CPN), a Vancouver-based multicultural charity, and the Gulf Islands Film and Television School of Galiano Island (GIFTS).

While mainstream media often portray the Middle East conflict from the perspectives of governments and militaries, Peace It Together seeks to promote peace in the war-torn area "by building a culture of mutual respect and understanding between Palestinians, Israelis, Jews, Muslims, and Arabs."

Dawoud added, "It's independent

media — not affected by governments; it's our objective to show both sides of the story and let people make up their [own] minds."

According to CPN executive director Adri Hamael, "Through dialogue and filmmaking, the youth and their audiences [had] the chance to struggle with and make sense of the conflict that impacts so many lives."

Since its inception in 2004, CPN has focussed on building bridges towards peace in the Middle East.

GIFTS COLLABORATION A2

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	16:53	2.7	8.9		17:57	3.3	10.8
	22:18	3.2	10.5		23:05	2.8	9.2
17 TH	06:35	0.7	2.3	21 MO	02:04	2.9	9.5
	15:32	3.0	9.8		10:10	0.6	2.0
	18:56	2.9	9.5		18:30	3.2	10.5
	22:52	3.1	10.2		23:35	2.7	8.9
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	16:31	3.2	10.5		10:50	0.7	2.3
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19 SA	08:32	0.6	2.0				
	17:17	3.3	10.8				
	22:29	2.9	9.5				

African AIDS activist needs help to attend Salt Spring conference

By KATE LESLIE

Special to the Driftwood
Members of the Salt Spring Organization for Life Improvement and Development (SOLID) are in Toronto this week for the 2006 International AIDS Conference, but their hearts are very much with partner communities in Africa.

And in October, SOLID is hosting an AIDS conference of its own on Salt Spring that will bring some of these African partners to the island.

The second Community to Community Conference will offer participants, from North America and Africa, practical tools to tackle gender inequality and HIV/AIDS in Africa.

SOLID is fundraising to bring African delegates to Canada for a week, to speak and to participate in partnership building through Community to Community II.

This week, part two in a series of profiles features the story of Mamello Lehlotha.

Mamello Lehlotha

SOLID has invited Mamello Lehlotha, a community organizer in Hamakhata, Lesotho, to share her experiences in mobilizing a disadvantaged community to care for its weakest members.

Herself disabled and abandoned as a child Lehlotha

knows well about the abuse and neglect often suffered by vulnerable children. The founder and director of the Phelisanong Handicapped Project, Lehlotha has dedicated her life to advocacy for and care of the disabled.

Lehlotha founded the Phelisanong Handicapped Project in 2000, as a resource centre for disabled adults. After a search of 13 different communities, the centre was established at Hamakhata, where land, rental housing and gardens were donated to the project by a local chief (also a woman). The Phelisanong project has since expanded to embrace disabled youth, disabled children and orphans, many of whom have lost parents to the AIDS pandemic.

A central component of the project is the HIV-AIDS support group, which has planted a commercial vegetable garden. Proceeds from this garden fund the costs of patients' transportation to medical care.

In addition, the support group does outreach in neighboring communities to advocate for voluntary testing and counselling for HIV, and engages in peer-to-peer education in the Pitseng region.

The Phelisanong project also has a pre-school for disabled and orphaned chil-

dren, vocational training for disabled youth, a handicraft cooperative and outreach/psycho-social support for non-resident orphans and vulnerable children.

There is housing on site for 55 children and adults.

Community elders volunteer their labour in centre activities such as gardening, child care, thatch making, house building, school teaching and social work.

Earlier this year, SOLID partnered with the Phelisanong project to build a tree nursery at the centre. Trees are being grown for land reclamation, fruit and for resale. SOLID will continue to assist the nursery program through advanced training workshops for volunteers and staff.

Lehlotha trains and supports community volunteers and staff who care for over 100 vulnerable children both at the centre and in surrounding communities. The catchment area for their work has a population of 10,000, about the size of Salt Spring Island.

SOLID members Gary McNutt and Andrea Palframan describe Mamello Lehlotha as "indomitably courageous, relentlessly compassionate, with an ability to stand up to abuse, ignorance and fears — hers is a power that makes the



Mamello Lehlotha

crises of AIDS, poverty, and gender inequality seem surmountable."

Lehlotha is an inspired speaker, with experience as an expert mobilizer and a unique perspective on HIV/AIDS affected communities. Community to Community II will introduce her to a network of resources, different community development techniques and to new project allies.

SOLID has in-kind donations of food, lodging and transport for Mamello Lehlotha once she is in Canada. Public contributions of frequent flyer points or of cash are needed towards her airfare from Maseru, Lesotho to Vancouver at a cost of \$2,800, which includes visa and passport expenses.

To sponsor some or all of Lehlotha's flight so that she can attend the conference, contact SOLID at 537-0863 or info@solidssaltsspring.com.

GIFTS COLLABORATION

From Page A1

Inspired by similar programs around the world, the Peace It Together camp consistently uses the arts, teamwork and dialogue as essential catalysts for creative initiatives.

This year CPN chose filmmaking "because it's a great way to teach the youth about constructive communication and teamwork and to help them realize how much power they have to change their world," said CPN's other executive director, Reena Lazar.

Dawoud said, "You will think for the future and try to have a better one."

Partnering up with GIFTS was a natural progression for CPN given the school's long history of working with diverse groups and organizations on special projects.

Kenna Fair, the school's director, said, "We feel responsibility as artists and communicators to put our resources to work for the betterment of our societies."

One such artist is award-winning documentary filmmaker Velcrow Ripper.

As co-founder of GIFTS,

Ripper believes that society needs stories of hope, possibility and reconciliation in light of the violence and bloodshed plaguing the Middle East.

"Peace It Together is one such flower rising from the wreckage," Ripper said.

The program allows Palestinian and Israeli youth the opportunity to "recognize their shared humanity, using creativity to help tear down the walls of misunderstanding [and build] new bridges to peace."

Misunderstanding is one of several challenges the teens faced throughout the intensive camp. As 18-year-old Ira Johnson of West Vancouver observed, "It's been very difficult. We're dealing with a lot of heavy issues."

But through dialogue, listening exercises, leadership training and wilderness experiences, the teenagers found they were better able to cope with the many challenges they faced.

Lazar said, "Creativity is essential for conflict transformation as it requires letting go of old barriers, such



Peace it Together participants at GIFTS.

Photo by Amber Smith

as fear and mistrust, and making way for something new."

Regardless of whether or not the films from Peace It Together influence the decisions of government or military officials, Lazar said, "The participants [had] the unique opportunity to work through their fear and anger in a safe environment and with the very people to whom their feelings are directed."

The seven films — three dramas, two documentaries, and two animations — will

debut at a premiere screening on Galiano Island at 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 19, and will be showcased again at a gala event and grand finale hosted at the HR Macmillan Space Centre in Vancouver on Sunday, August 20.

After the grand finale, participants will return home and hopefully continue the collaborations they started on Galiano.

Like Vaknin said, "When I get back, I can help move things along . . . I think we all can."



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CRD ponders tougher smoking ban

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

It appears the long-lasting stereotype about healthy living on Salt Spring extends well beyond the island's organic farmers, massage studios and Saturday Market as many island pub owners are taking a positive view of last week's decision by the Capital Regional District (CRD) to consider strengthening anti-smoking bylaws in the region.

**"Ultimately, the health concerns trump economic concerns and I could not vote any other way on the issue."
CRD director Gary Holman**



BUTTING OUT: Local smokers may be out of luck as the Capital Regional District considers strengthening anti-smoking bylaws. Photo by Derrick Lundy

"Obviously I want to choose to keep smokers happy, but I am not totally opposed to it," said Barry Kazakoff, the non-smoking owner and operator of four Ganges waterfront establishments. "As a society we have to get healthier."

With outdoor seating for more than 200 patrons, he stands to lose the most if smokers decide to move on when asked to butt out. After 25 years in the restaurant business, he's witnessed major changes when it comes to smoking in public areas and, he added, tighter restrictions come as no surprise.

"I guess I'm a realist; this stuff is coming our way," he said. "You can't stop the train."

Last Wednesday, CRD directors voted 11-8 in favour of starting public hearings on whether to amend the current Clean Air Bylaw No. 1 by prohibiting smoking on all patio spaces where food and beverages are served.

Gary Holman, Salt Spring's electoral area director, voted

in favour of hearing from the public based on recent studies showing effects of second-hand smoke are much worse than initially thought.

Holman said he failed to see the merit of arguments opposing the amendment on the basis of smokers' rights or economic advantages. Some regional district pub owners expressed concern about the amendment after investing in partially enclosed "smoker-friendly" patios.

"Ultimately, the health concerns trump economic concerns and I could not vote any other way on the issue," he said. "This is an issue where the evidence is indisputable."

The Canadian Cancer Society estimates that because second-hand smoke burns at a lower temperature, it contains two times more tar and five times more carbon dioxide than inhaled smoke.

According to a CRD staff report presented at last week's meeting, "There is reason to

believe that the 1996 Clean Air bylaw reduced smoking in the region and some evidence this has contributed to a decline in cardiovascular disease."

Holman said the public consultation process would likely last through the fall with a final decision expected in late-2006.

"I'm open to new information but, based on what I've seen, I've pointed in a certain direction," he said.

When it was passed in 1996, the Clean Air Act was lauded as a pioneering bylaw and has since been adopted in cities across North America. In recent years, Holman added, the CRD has fallen behind as other jurisdictions have introduced stricter anti-smoking legislation.

For pub owner Alf Reda, however, business just won't be the same if he is forced to exclude smokers from his deck at the Fulford Pub.

When the first anti-smoking bylaw was introduced, he said, business dropped by 25 per cent and he's struggled to attract new customers.

"The new business is not the type of crowd that would stay up until one o'clock in the morning," he said.

Reda said there's likely little to be done if the amendment is adopted later this year.

"I have mixed feelings about the legality of being able to sell cigarettes and, at the same time, not having a place where people can consume them," he added.

Calling the amendments "a double edged sword," Steve Knight, operator of the Local Pub, said he had already resigned himself to the changes.

Pubs will likely be more affected than restaurants as smokers will elect to remain home.

"I'm sure that it will affect us in some way," he said. "We'll just have to adapt."

SOIL BYLAW

From Page A1

Increased demand for off-island gravel could mean busier ferries and a more congested harbour, he said.

Islands Trust regional planning manager John Gauld said he expects to release a staff report outlining the bylaws' costs and implications later in the fall, but anticipates the process will not be cheap.

"There's no question this is going to be a challenging and costly bylaw to enforce," said Gauld, following a two-hour consultation meeting held

between island trustees and members of the public last Thursday evening.

Even if trustees give Bylaw 418 first, second and third reading on August 30, the Trust must receive approval from the the provincial government if it wishes to enact Bylaw 419.

While Bylaw 418 establishes regulations and fines, the Trust is unable to establish the permitting process without provincial consent, a process Gauld said could last anywhere between one and six months.

Michael Wall of the Stewart Road Residents Association (SRRA) said Bylaw 418 will be enough for his group's purposes as it will finally create an enforceable bylaw with fines of up to \$10,000.

Wall said he and other SRRA members understand concerns expressed by the island's contractors and urged them to bring compromises to the table before the August meeting.

"They have legitimate concerns and have had time to respond," he said.

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Gravett bid fond, tearful farewell

By GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood Editor

ArtSpring's Bateman gallery was packed on Sunday afternoon, as islanders gave an emotional farewell to the man often credited with making the arts centre an undeniable success story.

Paul Gravett is leaving his position as ArtSpring executive director to take on the equivalent post at the new Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts in West Vancouver.

Speaking on behalf of ArtSpring staff, John Wakefield praised Gravett's leadership, caring, passion, intelligence, diplomacy, patience and creativity, and his ability "to make everyone feel like a special part of the ArtSpring family."

Others noted Gravett's ability to truly hear what performing groups said they needed and act on it, his cherishing of volunteers, his professionalism, how he brings laughter to the building, nurtured local talent and raised the bar in performance.

George Ehring, event MC and Island Arts Centre Society (IACS) board member, injected some humorous recollections into the proceedings. Gravett was lauded for those extra special things that could make him irreplaceable: babysit-



REVEALED: Outgoing ArtSpring executive director Paul Gravett, left, and board member George Ehring unveil the Morley Myers sculpture gift. Photo by Derrick Lundy

ting the children of performers, negotiating with an Irish band that refused to play until given a case of booze, and not going ballistic when Ehring inadvertently gave away his pants and brand new belt to the National Youth Orchestra.

Board member John Stewart and his actress wife Ann Stewart also provided hilarity as John described and Ann mimicked some of Gravett's unique stage mannerisms.

Receiving almost as many accolades was Gravett's partner Mark Hand, who has done graphic design work for ArtSpring and other island organizations, always to great reviews.

Hand conferred with other speakers in affirming his partner's extraordinary dedication.

"Paul will be the first to say the success of ArtSpring is a team effort," said Hand.

"But you will be hard-pressed to find someone who is more passionate about what he does."

Having already been teased for "never being at a loss for words," Gravett kept his remarks brief, saying it was a privilege and highlight of his life to work at ArtSpring and for IACS.

"ArtSpring has great potential and we've only scratched the surface."

He also said he could not

have done the job without Hand's support.

Emotion overtook some in Sunday's crowd of well-wishers.

"I've spent the last month trying to think of what to say, and I have nothing but tears for two of the greatest guys on Salt Spring Island," said patron Don Boyes.

As a going-away gift, Gravett and Hand received a Morley Myers sculpture, plus two tickets to the Ben Heppner show and accommodation next January.

Regarding his replacement, IACS president Judy Norget said the board hopes to consider a committee recommendation on August 24.

Library lot campaign hits \$250,000 in ongoing drive

The Salt Spring library board's campaign to pay down the McPhillips Avenue lot purchase debt has been deemed a success.

Because of the fundraising campaign to date and expected future donations, the board will borrow \$350,000 through the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA), rather than the \$600,000 purchase price.

"In fact, with the help of the Friends of the Library, we have exceeded our referendum commitment, because in addition to paying down the interim loan we also had to cover transaction costs associated with the purchase," said library board chair Duncan Hepburn.

"The good news is that we have secured a site for our new library in the heart of the village and, as promised, library donors have ensured that taxpayers are getting excellent value for only a small increase in taxes."

Although the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, which will borrow the funds on the library association's behalf, had to adopt the borrowing bylaw at its August 9 meeting, the loan will not go into effect until late October.

That means fundraising will continue into the fall.

Approximately \$180,000 was raised in the campaign, with the remaining \$70,000 coming from the library's building reserve fund, which will be repaid through further fundraising.

Pat Byrne, who is co-chairing the fundraising committee with Hepburn, said, "The community is responding well to our campaign and we will carry on fundraising to reimburse the library's reserves."

The board keeps some reserve funds on hand in the event of emergency repairs to the existing building, he explained.

Further reserve funds are

needed to cover costs associated with an infrastructure grant application in 2006 and a second referendum for the new facility, possibly late in 2007, and to speed up construction of the new building by carrying out preliminary planning and design.

Hepburn also indicated that the McColl building is now fully rented and will generate net revenue in 2006 and 2007 to assist with site purchase and related costs.

"The revenue from this building, which will continue until we begin construction of the new facility, is another reason why we felt that the McColl site not only presented a unique opportunity to keep our library in the core, but also made the site financially attractive to the library board," he said.

Friends of the Library is also planning a November concert at ArtSpring to cap off the campaign.

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Trust trumps province on fill plan

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Ganges Marina management is entirely within its right to fill in a portion of the Ganges Harbour, according to John Gauld, regional planning manager for the Islands Trust Salt Spring office.

What it can't do, he added, is anything other than what is required to complete a 170-foot segment of the Ganges boardwalk running along the property at 161 Lower Ganges Road.

Since the Islands Trust received news B&B Ganges Marina Ltd. had successfully received a permit to fill in a portion of the harbour from the Integrated Land Management Branch (ILMB) last month, debate has flourished over what can and cannot be

**"The Islands Trust should make the final decision on the harbour situation."
— Keith Anderson, ILMB**

done on the site.

"It appears that there might be a lack of coordination between various levels of government," said Gauld in an interview earlier this week.

According to Keith Anderson, ILMB section head based in Nanaimo, any actions outlined in the permit issued last month must also be in accordance with local land use planning.

"We are a neutral body," he said. "This permit is basically saying we are okay with whatever agreement the

applicant and the local government body have established. As the local government, the Islands Trust should make the final decision on the harbour situation."

Under conditions set out in Development Permit 24-89 issued by the Islands Trust in 1989, the marina company may fill an area no larger than 1,021 square metres (10,975 square feet) and plant it with rye grass.

Because there are no provisions for anything other than filling a portion of the

harbour necessary to complete the boardwalk, B&B Ganges Marina Ltd. would need to apply for a new permit if it plans to construct any buildings or additional structures on the site.

The permit does not have an expiry date, said Gauld, since permit conditions requiring work on the boardwalk to commence within one year of its original date of issue were fulfilled.

According to conditions set out by the ILMB permit, the marina must establish 675 square metres (7,263 square feet) of replacement fish habitat and pay a Department of Fisheries and Oceans-approved organization \$22,000 for eelgrass restoration and monitoring before any fill is brought in.

Chronic staff shortages strain Salt Spring eatery services

By MANUSHA JANAKIRAM
Driftwood Contributor

Salt Spring Island is an employee's haven. Unfortunately, it's also an employer's nightmare.

"If you're a cook, it doesn't matter if you're a drug addict, alcoholic or a thief — you can work anywhere you want," said Jill Thomas, owner of the island's two Tree House cafes.

Tony Faulkner, an owner of the Seaside Restaurant, might be inclined to agree with Thomas.

"There's always cooks needed on Salt Spring," he said.

And though Faulkner is managing to maintain regular hours at his Vesuvius restaurant, he noted, "We're tired but we're plugging along."

Since Don Nemeth bought Dagwood's Diner eight years ago, he's been open seven days a week, and sometimes even on Christmas Day. But he recently resigned himself to closing on Sundays due to a lack of staff.

"It was our busiest day," he said, "but we have a strong weekday clientele and I felt closing on any other day would have compromised their loyalty."

Originally closed just on Sundays, Jana Roerick has now been forced to close her bake shop on Saturdays for the same reason as Nemeth.

Acknowledging that the

job market now runs in the employees' favour, Roerick said, "It's probably not a good precedent to set for [the food service] industry." But the employee-favoured market is something that Nemeth believes will only continue.

**"Eight years ago I had 100 applications on file. Now I have none."
— Don Nemeth, Dagwood's Diner**

"I suspect it's only going to get worse. Things might ease up in October, but we'll run into the same problem every summer."

Both Nemeth and Thomas agreed that their employment obstacles have been exacerbated by the island's housing crisis.

Nemeth said, "People just can't afford to live here . . . and many people live paycheque to paycheque."

Aside from closing for a day or two, businesses have tried a few different strategies.

"Existent [kitchen] staff were all working overtime," said Alf Reda at the Fulford Inn. But in an effort to stave off burn-out, Reda has pared down his kitchen's operations by three hours.

Thomas hasn't been

forced to cut service at all, and emphasized how lucky she has been to rely upon a network of friends, family and a pool of employees she wouldn't have needed four or five years ago.

Though she acknowledged her sister, brother-in-law and even some former employees have volunteered their time and efforts, Thomas is completely surprised by the youngest additions to her staff.

"We have 10 people right now all under the age of 20," she said, "and a few years ago, we never would have dreamed of hiring people without experience."

Referring to the 15-year-old line cook who works the lunch shift at her Ganges café,

Thomas said, "She's rock-in' it."

"It's been a real lesson for us actually," she said. "The whole idea that teenagers are bad is a myth."

While Thomas may have tapped into a good source, owners like Nemeth and Roerick continue to struggle.

"Eight years ago," said Nemeth, "I had 100 applications on file; today I have none."

Though both have advertised and posted signs in their windows, until more people apply, they will continue to post a "closed" sign one day more than they would like to.

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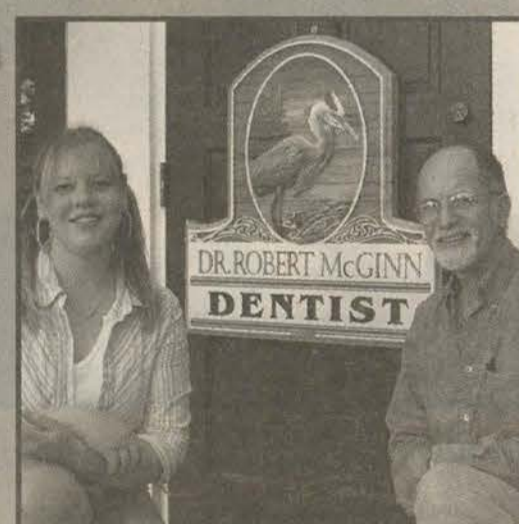


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Judge orders house arrest and bank ban for repeated frauds

COURT DOCKET

A Salt Spring Island man was placed under house arrest, ordered to repay over \$2,500 in fraudulently acquired funds and is prohibited from entering any Royal Bank of Canada outlet as part of a nine-month conditional sentence handed down at Ganges Provincial Court last week.

"I'm telling you right now that if you break any of these conditions you're going straight to jail," said Judge Ernie Quantz before handing down the sentence to 40-year-old Fabian Cousineau. "The days of getting a community disposition are over. From here on in it's straight jail time."

Cousineau may only leave his home to go to and from work between 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday or in the event of a medical emergency.

He cannot carry credit cards, cheques or cashable financial instruments not in his own name for the next 24 months.

The conviction stems from incidents dating back to January 2005 when Cousineau stole credit card statements, cheques, passport information and other personal documents from owners of

a home his former girlfriend was caretaking.

Cousineau received permission to stay at the home during the owners' two-week holiday on the false pretence that he was a lawyer and on the condition he not use the vehicles or jacuzzi located on the property.

The homeowners returned to discover locks on a desk had been forced open and the important documents were missing.

Court also heard the residents' vehicles were left with empty fuel tanks and that a large platter of food was missing.

The victims brought the matter to the RCMP's attention after they noticed unauthorized withdrawals from a bank account totalling roughly \$2,500 when their statement arrived by mail in February.

"It is clear you broke the trust of your girlfriend and the homeowners, causing a great deal of hardship in the process," said Quantz.

Cousineau must pay

\$2,543 in restitution to the Royal Bank of Canada, provide the homeowners with \$240 for damages and serve 75 hours of community service.

Defence lawyer Tybring Hemphill said Cousineau required the money to pay child support payments and intended to repay the victims in full when he had the chance.

"This is a matter of robbing Peter to pay Paul," Hemphill told the court.

Hemphill ascribed Cousineau's actions to a 2003 divorce which left the father of two with "severe bouts of depression and physical ailments."

Cousineau's list of prior convictions on charges of credit card fraud, break and enter, possession of stolen property and impersonation date back to 1986.

Cousineau is serving a conditional sentence following his conviction in Vancouver last month on two counts of fraud over \$5,000 and is scheduled to appear in Ganges Court on September 12 for a separate matter.

"Although there are a number of convictions, they are spread out over a significant period of time and have

all been dealt with," Hemphill said in Cousineau's defence.

In other court news:

A Salt Spring Island retiree received a \$600 fine and a one-year driving prohibition after he pled guilty to charges of operating a vehicle with over 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood.

Though Lynn Woodside said he'd been drinking the night before when police pulled him over on Vesuvius Bay Road on the afternoon of June 14, officers discovered he had nearly three times the legally allowed amount of alcohol in his bloodstream.

Police were alerted of Woodside's condition after receiving a tip from staff at the Grace Point liquor store who refused to sell him alcohol because he was "moving around the store very slowly and stumbling through the aisles."

Woodside has no prior criminal convictions and was extremely cooperative throughout the proceedings.

"I have sought help and haven't had a drink since the incident," Woodside told the judge.

CRD boosts cycle paths

Efforts to make the streets of Ganges more cyclist and pedestrian friendly received a boost last week after the Capital Regional District (CRD) announced a \$10,000 grant for the Ganges Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plan.

According to Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman, the funds are aimed at mapping out bike routes, sidewalks and traffic calming measures between Ganges Village Market, Rainbow Road and the new recreation centre.

Increased traffic and speed on the streets leading into Ganges has made it evident something must be done to make Ganges more welcoming for bikers and pedestrians, Holman said following the announcement.

"By the fall, we should have a conceptual design that we will take to the public for comment," he said. "From there we can take the feedback and proceed for more funding."

Holman said the process of securing funding, hiring consultants and submitting applications is often tedious due to a lack of staff time. Last week's news finally gets the process underway.

Findings will include cost estimates, aerial maps, design considerations and recommendations when they are released to the public.

"As it is, downtown Ganges is just a traffic bottleneck," said Marion Pape of the pedestrian safety committee. "There is a clear need for something for people to walk on."

Pape said the plan's timing is good because residential and recreation projects being constructed between Atkins Road and the downtown core reinforce the need for alternative modes of transportation.

"This is not going to take a long time and once it's done, planning goes into place and then it's just a matter of finding the funds," she said. "Everybody can benefit from this. It's an excellent opportunity for everyone to ante up and make a contribution."

In other CRD news, Holman announced an additional \$10,000 planning grant to the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. The money will help determine the viability of NSSWD becoming a CRD entity.

Island hosts first Smart Car rally

The Vancouver Island Marmots, a chapter of the Smart Car club, will hold its first rally of the year on Salt Spring Island.

The rally will start at the Ganges Village Market parking lot at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Smart cars will tour Salt Spring, stop in various locations, and have a "poker-style" run.

Car drivers will pick up various playing cards as they stop, and the cars with the best hands have a chance to win "fabulous" prizes, said club member Cameron Speedy.

Interested non-members and curious owners of other cars, who might want to ask the Marmots questions, are welcome to the rally.

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Island boys plan to go far in life

As part of a Driftwood series exploring the literacy gap between boys and girls, and the need for community awareness about "successful boys," two more young men are profiled.

By STACY CARDIGAN SMITH
Driftwood Staff

Steven Kao

According to Steven Kao, "Studying is a matter of quality. You don't have to put in a lot of time for one subject. It can be very short, but very concentrated."

To succeed, Kao believes a student must work and study hard "and you must concentrate," he says. But first, "you have to define what 'succeed' means."

"For a student to be a success, they have to learn something from school and enjoy learning."

Kao admits he didn't always study hard or enjoy learning, and his marks in grades 10 and 11 suffered as a result.

But he knew that if he took school seriously he could succeed, "So that's what I did in Grade 12," he says.

He bumped up his marks from 70s to 90s in his Grade 12 year, the pinnacle being his 100 per cent score on the provincial math exam.

However, he admits English continues to be the exception to his good grades.

Kao has lived on Salt Spring for the past four years. Born in Taiwan, he says he "just wanted to change, to experience other lifestyles . . . I like to be independent."

He lives with a host family on the island and says they have been extremely supportive.

"They have really helped me to improve my English and have given me a comfortable place to study."

Kao feels it is important for all students to study a

variety of subjects.

"For a student in high school, you don't really have a clear idea of which way you want to go. I don't think you should limit yourself as a student."

He believes every student can succeed in any subject; it's just a matter of studying hard enough.

"For a person who doesn't like math, I would suggest you try first and you will, once you really study, have the confidence to believe you can do better."

In the fall Kao will attend the University of British Columbia where he will study computer sciences.

But as successful as he has been, Steven believes he must always look further. Quoting Albert Einstein, he says: "Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value . . . I want to know, I want to discover, what is the value of my life."

Bonn Smith

Actor, athlete and academic, not to mention French-aficionado, Bonn Smith seems to truly be involved in every facet of Gulf Islands Secondary School.

"I'm sort of in all areas of the school," he says.

The student who is going into Grade 11 next month says he involves himself in so many areas to keep his options open.

"I find people tend to challenge themselves in one direction," he says, citing the public school system he recently experienced while on a three-month exchange in France.

There, he says, people choose the basic direction of their careers in Grade 7, and that decision limits them for the rest of their lives.

"To me, that was warped . . . I don't want to limit myself to one or two things. I want to take it as it comes."

He has the same outlook with his friends: "I don't get



Bonn Smith, left and Steven Kao: successful boys.
John Cameron photos



attached to one group. I like to bounce around a lot."

He also does his best to be polite to all people. "I'm never really bad to people, so people are never really bad to me."

But he does not underestimate the impact his many different friends have on his life.

"Your friends, they pretty much shape you. They affect you."

Smith lists his family and friends as his top priorities and chalks his success up to his strong morals and positive upbringing.

In the future, Smith hopes to work as a film or television actor or go into economics and business.

"It's cool to know how the world works" he says.

"I want to go far in life. We're given so much here. We're all pretty privileged to live here (on Salt Spring)."

Smith is unsure of what his best skills as a student are. When asked he thinks a long time before answering and looks slightly embarrassed at being singled out as successful.

"Hmmm . . . I can twirl a pencil really well . . . I'm the guy with red hair, I guess . . . I'm just me. Or I try to be me."

Eventually, he decides his best skills must be his ambition and drive, but his timing and wit certainly play a big part.

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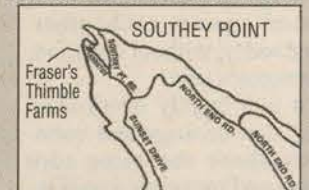
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Trust Council sets agenda

The Islands Trust's next council meeting is scheduled for Denman Island on September 14-15.

Trust Council is a quarterly meeting of trustees from each of the Islands Trust's 13 islands.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., the Thursday, September 14 session includes a status report outlining the Governance Task Force's progress on reviewing local representation in Trust areas, a special presentation from Neil Dawe of the Qualicum

Institute on the topic of sustainability, a staff delegation from the Agricultural Land Commission and a town hall session where members of the public are offered the chance to speak their mind to trustees.

People wishing to register as delegates for the town hall, scheduled for Thursday afternoon at 1:30, are asked to register with the Islands Trust's corporate secretary at information@islandstrust.bc.ca.

The Friday, September 15

business meeting will feature discussions on developing a model development permit area bylaw for the implementation of riparian area regulations, coordination between the Government Task Force and the Financial Planning Committee and the council's Strategic Plan.

More detailed information on the event is available online at www.islandstrust.bc.ca or by calling the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee office at 537-9144.



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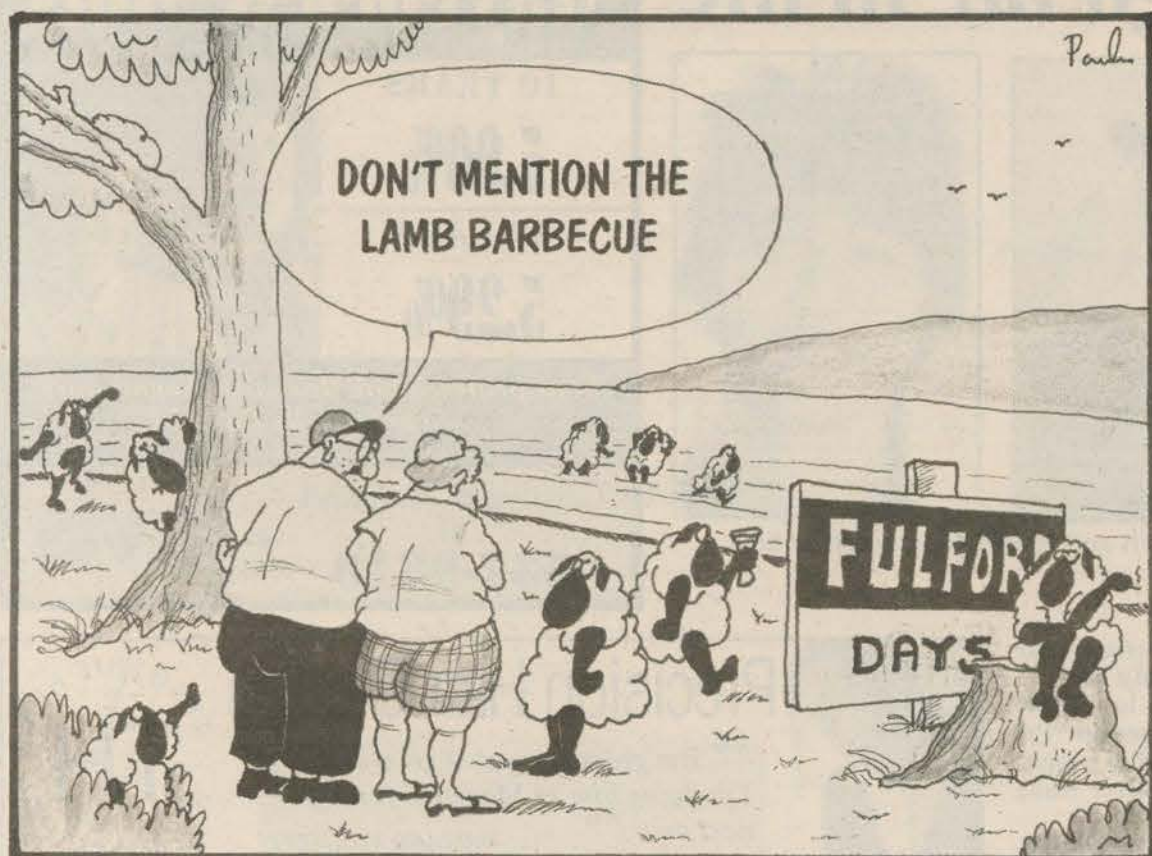
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Paul's legacy

We have to wonder how often a substantial part of a community gives up a sunny Sunday afternoon to bid farewell to the executive director of its arts centre, and for several of those people to be fighting off tears as tributes and memories were shared.

But the official send-off for Paul Gravett was no soul-less, obligatory good-bye event.

Paul is an extraordinary person who our community was so fortunate to be served by for the last seven years.

He took on a daunting task for little financial consideration at a time when no one knew how on earth the place would stay open, let alone flourish. As his partner Mark Hand confirmed on Sunday, Paul spent innumerable hours doing the best job possible, both at ArtSpring and home.

In addition to bringing world-class programming to the island, acquiring various grants and a Steinway Model B piano — with the support and aid of his board, staff and volunteers — Paul heard and acted on islanders' desire for ArtSpring to be a community arts centre welcoming to people of all ages and means.

From hosting school shows and exhibits to instituting the GVM Youth Pass and becoming "the place" for large and small events, under Paul's leadership that goal was met.

Of equal importance was the standard of consideration and respect he set in dealing with people from all facets of his job, whether they were staff, volunteers, patrons or hall renters — and even if he did not see eye-to-eye with them on a particular issue.

The latter is something we can all try to emulate. His success, and ArtSpring's, was built on valued relationships, and that can be transferred to every other public and private endeavour on this island.

At Sunday's party it was wonderful to see how much credit was given to Mark for his contributions: the excellent graphic arts work that benefitted ArtSpring and other groups, his own personality, and the help and support he gave to Paul.

To both men we give a heartfelt "bravo" and voluminous thanks.

But to truly express our appreciation, we should ensure we do everything possible to carry on their legacy for years to come.

Good luck in West Vancouver!

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Gasoline-powered motor essential for rowing safety

By HANS STOFFELSMA

This is in response to Randy Bachman's "Motor Madness" letter to the editor in the July 12 Driftwood.

The rowing members of the Salt Spring Island Rowing Club are concerned about the misinformation brought forward in the letter opposing the use of our safety boat and believe that clarification is required.

We are devoted to maintaining a healthy environment in which to live and to practise our sport of rowing. In order for this to happen, lots of time and resources are generously donated by all participants.

From the letter it became appar-

IN RESPONSE

ent that the writer does not know the laws that govern the use of the rowing club's safety boat on St. Mary Lake.

It was also interesting to read: "Once a tragedy happens it's hard and usually impossible to reverse the results . . ."

We hope the facts below give a different outlook for your point of view and we hope that you will join us in encouraging our community to engage in the wonderful sport of rowing and the use of

our paradise in a safe manner.

The use of a motorized safety boat is to prevent a recurrence of a 1988 tragedy on Elk Lake, where two rowers died from hypothermia as a result of immersion in cold water. The coroner's inquest that followed came up with several recommendations, among them the use and availability of a safety boat equipped with an emergency kit during rowing exercises.

As a result of this tragedy the Canada Shipping Act now says: "The current practice to operate a safety boat for surveillance and life guarding is exempted from all motorboat restrictions under Section 6(7) of the Boating Restriction Regulation of the Canada

Shipping Act of Transport Canada."

This is a federal law and thus applies to all fresh water bodies within Canada.

Pollution concern: The rowing club's safety boat uses a brand new 8HP four-stroke outboard motor. This is an extremely clean and fuel-efficient motor and it exceeds all 2006 EPA regulations.

If pollution of the lake is the real concern, a focus on the highway water runoff, or faltering septic fields surrounding the lake would certainly be a more effective effort to protect our drinking water.

Why not an electric-powered boat? An electric-powered safety

boat is completely inadequate since it cannot be used in rescue attempts due to its lack of power. A rowing scull in distress containing either four or eight rowers would be ill served by a slow-moving, underpowered safety boat, thus needlessly risking lives.

It is in our club's mandate to provide a venue for young and old to engage absolutely safely in the sport of rowing while enjoying the environment and the beautiful surroundings of St. Mary Lake, while promoting a healthy lifestyle for young and old.

The writer is president of the Salt Spring Island Rowing Club.

Voters must demand ECONomics, not egonomics

By KEN ROULEAU

One of the biggest illusions of our society is the belief that economics and ecology are different, as if pitted against each other. And today, without question, economics rule.

It is a hugely overlooked fact that ecology and economy share the same root word and meaning: eco (Gr., Oikos), "home."

We study our home (ecology) and manage our home (economy), but one and the same, we live in that home, eco and planet. A dynamic and limited, organic system.

When we think of today's globalist economics we don't think in terms of home, but in cut-throat, everything for sale profits before people and planet. It is a disconnect and distancing from the first fact, that this is home. It is so disconnected they/we are already spending tomorrow's forests, crops and the future's abundance.

IN DEPTH

worker and world), speculations and cooked books, today's economy is a casino stack of cards, ever looking for the bigger buck, ever teetering, while pensions, savings, jobs and lives are lost as a direct consequence. "The economy," "the bottom line", "good for business," "staying the course" are rally cries to justify complete ecological disregard and sweatshop business ethics, while paying lip-service to change.

This is better termed EGO-nomics: collective decisions based on personal agendas without regard to humanity in general, the future or the environment — our home.

Because of egonomics, there are a billion children in poverty, we're choking off the oceans, Arctic ice caps are melting and we are running on an oil and gas economy.

an economy of ever-increasing consumption and tension.

Surely, the majority of Canadians, and even humanity (I mean a solid 90 per cent), don't agree with the social imbalance and runaway aspect of the economy, but we have absorbed it as fact nonetheless, and "damn the pollution full-steam ahead!"

Yet, there is no reason our economics has to be so out of sync with our ecology and values. Money can be made doing 99 per cent good for the planet instead of 99 per cent bad. Our home can be managed in any number of ways, but today is the "great take" and "trickledown" system of make the rich richer, something will fall to the poor. It is a mindset and paradigm that, after about a century of trying, has managed our home badly.

Even most governments and corporations have come to recognize that the take has consequences, and reluctantly react to it (voluntary compliance

minimum fines for offences, commitments to alternatives by the next century).

It has become clear that when the economy flourishes the ecology suffers. What's not common knowledge is that when the ecology flourishes, so does the economy. There is a good business in sustainability, in appropriate development, in conservation, in alternative energies, eco-housing, green transportation . . . it's simple, really. Many balls are already rolling in this field and now is the time to fund and develop these for mass use.

Let's stop giving billions of the people's money in subsidies and tax breaks to dirty fuel corporations, and put that money into wind, solar, hemp/biodiesel alternative energies (and rickshaws). Stop funding the trillion-dollar war economy, stop unethical business, stop harvesting trees and fish beyond allowable yields, stop destroying habitats and extinguishing 150

species every single day. Stop genetically altering seeds, poisoning the soil and forcing us to accept this as inevitable — it's not, it is only a mindset and paradigm.

We all know we need to change, and phasing in this new way is the obvious move. Not 50 years from now or 20 years, but two years and five; soon, now. We don't need to be radical, but we must stop being stupid. Instead, be realistic, be sincere, and lean towards the new shift, not back to the old false comforts. We have no right to steal the future.

We won't get to a healthy planet or democratic nation by allowing greed and recklessness to lead the way. As the saying goes "You can't get there from here."

Nor can we wait for leaders to become honest and do the right thing. The common people need to lead the way now — that is what democracy is about — demand the change and make the change.

because politicians and CEOs are lost and "going all hell for the basement." If they can't or won't make the change, replace them. I'm not alone in saying: We change or we go the way of the Dodo.

ECONomics puts a healthy planet and healthy society first, working with the planet's systems instead of against it, and bringing a more genuine prosperity. The possibilities are endless.

Locally, the intent is there — in the Islands Trust mandate and community values — and Salt Spring can pioneer new avenues of living well and good community, but the change must be structural, national, social and full-scale. Public funding must be directed towards ECONomics.

We live in the same house, it's the only home we've got — please, respect the Earth.

The writer is a Green

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What's your favourite part of Fulford Day?*



Peter Holmes

Eating smoked fish, black coffee and chocolate pie.



Joyanna Erickson

Being with friends and the good music.



Sal Boro

It goes with blackberry season. Blackberry pies and gumboot dancing.



Lily Ryan-Campbell

The games, face painting and playing with friends.



Kai Lampard

The games and prizes and the food.

Letters to the Editor

Past due

Eric Booth's invitation to mediate the Ganges Marina situation ("Court or compromise" piece in the August 9 Driftwood) is a real opportunity to possibly regain the boardwalk completion and marine park for the community, while affording a modest marina operator with two older facilities a chance to upgrade his outdated floats and support buildings in a planned and tasteful manner.

There seems to be some notion that the Ganges Marina owner, Rick Barbieri, is a developer of some sort, but that is a complete misconception. You have only to visit his very modest operation in North Vancouver to realize that this is just a very

small businessman trying to make his two locations usable, never mind upscale. I recently dropped in there to inquire about moorage.

Here lies the infamous old black barge, tied up to his few dilapidated Deep Cove docks, flouncing in vain to reduce the lumpy swells coming from Indian Arm, which march in regardless. The exasperated wharfinger Harry was waiting impatiently for the pile driver to arrive "any day now," because one entire float was busy meshing itself with another.

I have watched as Mr. Barbieri employed a dozen students for five years, gave work to the unemployable, let a poor couple keep their boat free in moorage that draws \$100 a day in the pre-

cious three-month season. Such is the reality of trying to hold together a business inside nature's gun sights, yet it's a facility that brings millions of visitor dollars to local artisans and shopkeepers.

I think all parties have now had their say in this matter, and we're past due for some healing and forgiveness, toward a mature resolution to things.

Salt Springers are known for our vigilance, yes, but for our softer qualities as well. These people are our own.

DWIGHT JONES,
Salt Spring

Stop infill

Re: Proposed infilling of Ganges Harbour by B&B Ganges Marina.

It is with much dismay that I read of the green light granted by DFO to infill a section of Ganges Harbour to facilitate the development of a private venture. The destruction of a sensitive ecosystem which currently provides environmental services to all of society through provision of eel grass beds, spawning grounds for herring, habitat for juvenile salmon, pipefish, gunnels, crabs, nudibranchs, sea stars, clams, snails, anemones, small invertebrates and crustaceans in favour of a private development is incomprehensible.

What impact does infilling have? According to DFO's very own website infilling has a significant environmental impact. "One of the more visible means by which fish habitat is altered

or destroyed is through infilling, or placing fill in the marine environment to create land where none previously existed. Infilling destroys habitat directly by displacement of bottom habitat and displacement of water column habitat. The resulting silt can settle at a distance from the original infill, smothering bottom habitat. Indirectly, the introduction of suspended particles in the water column can have serious effects on fish."

The United Nations lists the building of tourism facilities and subsequent infilling of coastal harbours as one of the greatest threats to coastal ecosystems globally. One could argue that the infilling proposed is just a mere 1,751 m², that there is an historical precedent for infilling the

harbour, so why should this development not proceed and other similar developments in the future? The question is at what point should infilling stop?

This proposal is one which benefits a few individuals in the short-term and further threatens a precious resource which benefits many individuals both currently and in the future. I urge you to use the precautionary principle and take a stand against infilling of coastal habitats and not allow this development to proceed.

TARA MARTIN,
Centre for Applied Conservation Research, UBC Department of Forest Sciences.
Vancouver, B.C.

MORE LETTERS A10

Trust explains positions on marina floathouse and fill permits

By **GEORGE EHRLING**

I'd like to take the opportunity to respond to some of the concerns expressed recently in the Driftwood about the B&B Ganges Marina, and to explain the Trust's position on some of these issues.

The first relates to the presence of the marina "boatel" on the shoreline.

In June 2003, the previous Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) issued a temporary use permit (TUP) that allowed the marina to use the building for specific purposes. These permits run for a period of two years, and may be renewed once. Earlier this year, the LTC renewed the permit, but at the same time found that the marina was not in compliance with its terms and conditions. So what are those terms?

The permit allows "the use of the float camp for a construction and project management office associated with the redevelopment of B&B Ganges Marina," and the "use of the float camp for washrooms, shower facilities, laundry room, storage, marina retail, marina administration, and one dwelling unit accessory to the marina operation." These uses are conditional.

With regard to its use as a construction and project management office, the permit says it is "conditional on there being a rezoning application for redevelopment of

GUEST COLUMN

the marina under consideration by the LTC. If the current rezoning application is refused, withdrawn or abandoned, the use of the float camp for an accessory construction and project management office is not authorized and the owner shall immediately remove all uses from the float camp, prepare the float camp building for removal, and within three months remove the float camp building from the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area."

On October 12, 2005, the previous LTC voted to proceed no further with the "current rezoning application" referred to in this condition. That is, at that point, the permission that allowed the use of the building as a construction and project management office terminated, and the owner should have removed the building from the shoreline, as was specified in the terms of the permit.

With regard to its use as marina facilities, the permit says that these are permitted "conditional on there being an approved development permit, building permit and active construction respecting the redevelopment of the marina. If a development permit and building permit are not issued or are issued and lapse or

are revoked for any reason, or the construction ceases, the use of the float camp [for marina purposes] is not authorized," and then goes on to say the owner must remove the building as in the previous condition.

This means that if the rezoning application had been approved, and construction had begun under an approved development permit and building permit, the building could have been used for these marina-related purposes. But there is not now and there never was an approved development permit or building permit as anticipated in what was then the "current rezoning application," and the use of the building for marina purposes was never authorized. Despite that, the building was used for those purposes until it sank.

In April of this year, the current LTC determined that the marina owners were not in compliance with the terms of the permit and, according to the terms of the permit, we notified the marina owner and asked him to remove the building within three months. That time has now expired. We also said that if the owner wanted, we would try to find a way to allow the use of the building through the remainder of the boating season. We were never approached about that, and if you recall, marina operator Robyn Kelln had a colourful suggestion about what

we could do with our permit.

Now we're told that the building is a registered vessel. Even if it is, the marina has previously agreed to remove it from the local Trust area — and posted a bond to that effect — if the conditions spelled out in the permit were not met. And they are not being met. We expect the marina to respect the conditions in the permit and remove the building.

The second big issue is the matter of dumping fill in the harbour. In 1989 the Trust issued a development permit that authorized the placement of fill in conjunction with the building of the boardwalk. The 1989 permit is very specific about the location of the boardwalk and of the fill, about the type and size of rock, and even about the colour scheme of the boardwalk. In other words, it's detailed. It makes clear that the area of fill "is to be levelled and seeded with rye grass and clover." No buildings are allowed in the permit.

The marina operators have recently received permission from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and from the provincial Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) for placing fill in the harbour. The DFO's authorization states "you must adhere to the terms and conditions prescribed by other levels of government" and the ILMB also calls on the marina to ensure that it complies with local bylaws.

We have concerns that these authorizations were issued without public notification, when both DFO and the ILMB are aware of the controversial aspect of this issue, and that the previous LTC decided last year not to allow the rezoning and development of the foreshore. We are also concerned that the plans recently submitted by the marina to the DFO and ILMB may not match the plans submitted in 1989, which is the basis of the marina's right to fill.

We intend to ensure that what the other levels of government have authorized is in accordance with what the Trust itself permitted in 1989, and with current bylaws.

In last week's Driftwood, Eric Booth, an advocate of the marina's development, charges both Peter Lamb and me with "malfeasance of office." That means official misconduct. It is a serious charge, entirely without foundation, and one that we both resent. Quite the contrary, we were elected to preserve and protect our island, an important part of which is trying to make sure that people respect our official community plan and our bylaws, including the terms and conditions of the permits they are awarded. That's what we intend to do.

The writer is a member of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

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More letters

Unwarranted disrespect

I usually find columnist Peter Vincent entertaining, and occasionally clever, but this time you're neither. Concerning West Bay Mechanicals allegedly inflated bid on the Rainbow Road pool project (August 9 column):

At first tender closing there were no bidders for the mechanical contract. When the tender date was extended, West Bay was the only bidder. At this point PARC did the only thing it could: open the bid and accept it.

West Bay is a reputable contractor who will help make this indoor, heated pool something we can all enjoy for years to come. They really don't need any disrespect because of Peter Vincent's misinformation.

BILL JOHNSON,
Sun Eagle

Faith restored

Unlike Ms. McCollough, ("Peacekeeper or puppet?" letter, August 9 Driftwood), I heartily applaud Prime Minister Stephen Harper's courageous decision to back Israel's right to defend herself against an unprovoked attack by a terrorist organization, supplied, trained and directed by Iran, whose leaders have repeatedly called for Israel to be wiped off the map. I believe this attack was ordered by Iran to distract the world and the U.N. from its nuclear program on which the U.N. was about to vote.

I say it was a courageous decision because, although a choice between a democratic state, which tries hard not to kill civilians, and a Jihadist organization, which tries to kill as many civilians as it can, ought to be an easy one for a Western leader, it will be unpopular in many quarters, especially Quebec, and will lose him a lot of votes. He may even have committed political suicide for the sake of his conscience.

He has quite restored my faith in politicians.

P.N. SPIERS,
Sky Valley Road

Fire hall location

Just another "N.I.M.B.Y." letter? Perhaps.

I suppose most people would prefer that their fire and ambulance services are close by — just not too close

by. There are, however, a few questions that come to mind concerning the current path our fire trustees appear to be taking in siting a new fire hall on Rainbow Road.

Why a location where a "southern response" still has to go through town and push up Ganges hill? Why across the street from the schools and the new rec centre, with all the likelihood of kids on the street, seniors attending the swimming pool, etc. and frequent passing and negotiating 90-degree turns with fully loaded cement trucks?

Why so large (five acres) and expensive a property when a more suitable location could probably be had for one third of the cost? Why such a rolling piece of property, richly forested with pond and pasture, with all the preparation expense of cutting, filling and compacting. Why not a piece of more immediately accessible flat land?

Why in the Agricultural Land Reserve, next to functioning organic farms? Why in a location where a spill of contaminants or runoff will likely affect both the Okano (Booth Canal) and Ganges Creek ecosystems?

Why in a location that will denigrate Moutat Park, ruining the experience, both audibly and visibly, for the many hundreds of tourists and locals that now enjoy its beauty and serenity?

Why, if Salt Spring's population centre continues to move further north, not make Central the main hall (looks like lots of space there) and build a substation on higher ground south of town, where it can better support under-protected areas, such as Beaver Point/Fulford/Mount Tuam and also be quick to support problems in the Ganges area?

Why does the ambulance service and the fire department have to be sited together — what's wrong with keeping the ambulance service where it is?

And why hasn't the public been kept better informed about this and have some opportunity for input before it's all just another "done deal"?

WALTER DAVIS,
Rainbow Road

MORE LETTERS A11

When you see this Family Place School Supply Drive



Please give generously... donation boxes at Thrifty Foods, Pharmasave & Curves.

Thank You,

Salt Spring Island Community Services



LAKE LADIES:
Kayla Smith (left) and Myshia Pinney-Dimock enjoy the sun and the water on a hot summer day at Cusheon Lake.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

More letters

Hornby woes

On Hornby Island, we welcome visitors who value the natural beauty and peaceful setting of our island. This includes young people who sunbathe and skim-board on the beach during the day and gather around a bonfire at night.

Unfortunately, all this is being spoiled by rowdy mobs who descend on the island and consume huge amounts of alcohol.

Among the worst of these so far this year was a contingent of 75-100 young people from Salt Spring. They seemed like nice enough folks when they were sober, which was not for very long. Clearly they were intent on getting drunk and staying drunk. As a result, they were messy, loud and obnoxious. They had not booked any accommodation and their illegal encampments in a provincial park were strewn with garbage. There was a collective sigh of relief when the RCMP more or less chased them off the island.

There seems to be a bit of a misconception that Hornby is a place that tolerates wild partying and that the island is lightly policed. This is wrong. We do like to have a good time, but we do not tolerate anti-social behaviour. We have full RCMP coverage in the summer and the police are taking a zero-tolerance approach to public drinking, with the community's support.

We want Hornby Island to be a safe and pleasant place for both residents and visitors. We are putting out the message that this is not a

community that condones rowdy behaviour. We encourage visitors to book accommodation before coming to Hornby and to confine their drinking to licensed premises and private homes.

Salt Spring Islanders of all ages are welcome. We love to connect with folks from other islands. But please enjoy our island sober and with a place to stay.

TONY LAW,
Community Action Group, Hornby Island

Harbour plan

I have journeyed up and down our coast and I have seen how badly we have treated some of our harbours. But like so many of our past debatable practices, we are capable of adopting better ways for a working harbour to coexist with the important natural systems around us. We must also recognize that given half a chance, nature has a strong tendency to heal herself.

For any coast community, the harbour is an important focal point. Harbours are bred into our very souls; many of our ancestors boarded a ship in some distant harbour and found safe haven in another. It is often where the first settlers land to make a place of human settlement and a place of commerce. It is a place of arrival and departure, a distribution centre. Harbours give shelter and often signify new beginnings. They are beaches, sources of food, places where the wind blows and the sun rises and sets. They are also seaplanes and boats, docks and fish, seagulls and ducks, eagle and herons.

Ganges and the other harbours on Salt Spring Island are a very important part of the community. I sometimes wonder if we ever look beyond the view; the layers of islands, one stacked upon the other as we storm over the hill at Telus. How many take a close look at what's happening in the harbour? How many take the time to walk down to the dock or lean over the guardrail and watch the crabs and starfish? Stop by Mouat's and take a look at the picture of the harbour in by-gone days!

More recently, we have been witness to the attempted redevelopment process for the Ganges Marina. I have no wish to enter into the fray, but during a cross-Canada trip last fall, I caught glimpses from afar while the debate raged. Often fuelled by butting egos, unfounded truths and other pleadings of the heart, I could only wonder if this was how community approval processes are supposed to function. My experience in local government reluctantly recognizes that intent and common sense often fall short when it comes to the approval and denial process in today's society. We are ruled by guidelines and plans that attempt to address every situation and justify every possible decision. If a logical decision is not backed by supporting regulations and policies, it is questioned, at length, by various opposed interests... often to the point of costly litigation.

Many people have valid concerns with respect to the future of our own working harbour. What should it look

like in 20, 30 or even 40 years? Are we prepared to take the time to plan how we get there?

I think we all need a clearer understanding about what will and will not occur in and around our harbour. Is it time for a review or do we simply muddle through each proposal as it comes along?

The Salt Spring Island Harbour Authority and our locally elected representatives feel that such a review is important. A list of stakeholders is presently being compiled; if you wish to be part of a review, please call me at 537-4784, or e-mail stubbssco@saltspring.com.

DICK STUBBS,
Salt Spring



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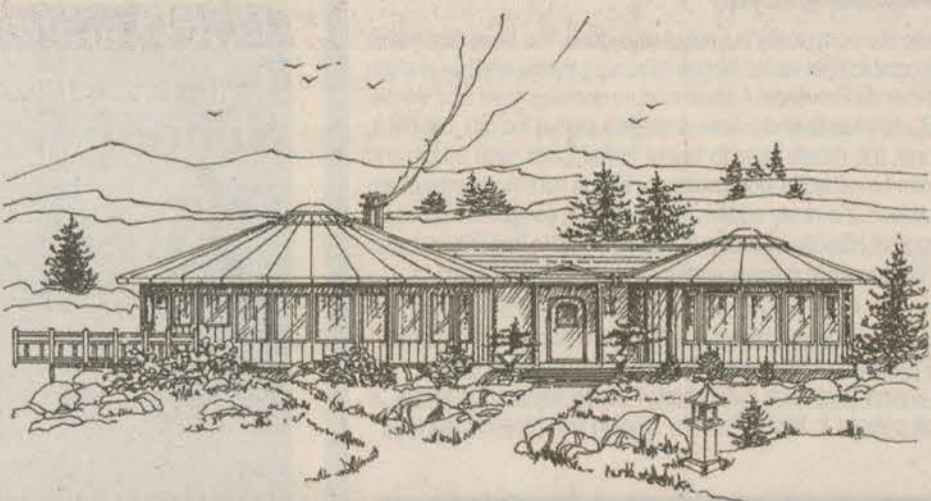
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More letters

Parkland's true value

While many people I've spoken to about my proposal to create 75 acres of parkland and trails between Peter Arnell Park and Creekside Drive have been very much in favour, (including CRD, PARC, salmon enhancement and the trail and nature club) and think it's a grand idea, there are, as one would expect, some who have spoken out in opposition to it.

To them, I would like to pose a question of sorts,

which I hope may help to provide another perspective.

The question is in the form of a "what if" scenario.

"What if" the proposed 75 acres of parkland already existed as public park, including 32 acres of first growth cedars, towering maples, with half a mile of Cusheon Creek running through it, and gentle paths, which both young and old visitors walked while enjoying the natural majesty of the area?

Now, "what if" a developer, who owned the 40 adja-

cent acres of property, which allowed for 20 homes and 12 seasonal cottages to be built on it, approached the community/Islands Trust with the following proposal:

"I would like to give up eight of my 20 densities in exchange for your 75 acres of parkland. My plan is to log the park, subdivide it and build 12 homes (instead of 20) and 12 cottages, on larger acreages, instead of having to cluster the houses into a small development footprint as the OCP recommends. However, for privacy and liability concerns, I'm afraid all public access will thereafter, and forever, be denied. How about it? Have we got a deal?"

What would the trustees say to such a proposal after they stopped laughing in sheer disbelief at the unmitigated gall of such an idea?

My guess is they would say, and rightly so, "Mr. Developer, you've got to be kidding, right? Us trade 75 acres of public parkland for a measly eight densities?"

"OK," replies the developer, "so you didn't like my first offer. But what if I offer you, say, \$2 million in cash?"

"No."

"OK, what about \$4 million?"

"We're sorry Mr. Developer, but we don't think you're getting the picture here — we're not interested in trading or selling any of our valuable parkland, for any price! Our mandate is to preserve and protect areas like this for the enjoyment of future generations!"

Moral of the story? You cannot put a high enough value on public park land to sell it or trade it.

And yet, in essence, if those who are opposed to my current proposal have their way, the outcome will be just as ludicrous as the above "what if" scenario.

In fact, the outcome would be identical.

So, my offer of creating 75 acres of public park is now on the table. Should the Islands Trust decide to turn it down, they will have effectively turned their backs on the preservation

and protection, in perpetuity, of arguably one of the last untouched natural areas of Salt Spring, and, which would also create the fourth largest contiguous public park area on the island.

I am now asking for the support of everyone on the island who would be outraged if 75 acres of existing public park land were sold/traded for eight densities, to actively support the idea that getting 75 acres of parkland for eight densities is a very reasonable deal for the community.

Please fellow Salt Spring Islanders, take a couple of minutes out of your busy day to call or write a letter/note/e-mail to Peter Lamb and George Ehring to support this acquisition, preservation and protection of public parkland. Your children, grandchildren and their children will thank you for helping us make this park a reality.

ERIC BOOTH,
Salt Spring

Caring people

Thanks to all of the kind people who helped the little boy who fell on his chin at the Saturday Market on August 12.

How can we thank everyone who came running with helpful hands! Thanks to the "Smoothie Man," who provided ice and a free smoothie to help make my son feel better.

Thank you to the wonderful lady at the jewellery stand who phoned the ambulance and was so caring and kind. Thanks to the wonderful paramedics who let us all come along for the ride to the hospital as we were without a car.

And last but not least, thank you to the staff at Lady Minto Hospital who were so patient and helpful.

It was wonderful to see everyone help out. We are from the Lower Mainland and it's funny that when a little boy falls down and cries there, people walk around him and just look. (He does fall down a lot!) It's nice to see people care for each other. Thank you all!

TANYA EDDLESTON,
Coquitlam, B.C.

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- Garlic
- Cherry tomatoes
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- Bacon bits
- Black pepper
- Caprano cheese



THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET SAVORY HERBES DE PROVENCE BAKE
Short cuts to cooking for one or two @ with Sarah Lynn

Herbes de Provence: A combination of aromatic plants, typically but not always dried. The herbs are native to the Provence region of southern France. The combination varies though rosemary, thyme and bay leaf are the base for the blend - without these it is not herbes de Provence. A basic mixture contains rosemary, thyme, bay leaf, marjoram, basil, and summer savory. Sometimes lavender flowers are included in the mix and often, in a bow to Roman influence on the region, fennel. It is mostly used to flavour grilled foods such as fish and meat, as well as vegetable stews. The mixture can be added to foods before or during cooking or mixed with

cooking oil prior to cooking so as to infuse the flavour into the cooked food. It is rarely added after cooking is complete. Herbes de Provence (traditionally sold in clay pots) captures the scent of the fragrant hillsides of southern France. A trip to that fabled region via the kitchen is offered in this classic dish as the aroma fills your kitchen while dreams and/or memories fill your heart.

Rub a small baking pan with olive oil. Cut into cubes 2 or 3 slices of sourdough bread & add to oiled pan. In a small bowl combine: 2 eggs, 1/2 cup cream, 3 tablespoons plain chèvre, 2 teaspoons herbes de Provence, & 2 cloves garlic, minced. Pour this mixture over the bread cubes. Place on top, 12 cherry tomatoes cut in half, 4 sliced asparagus stalks, 2 green onions sliced, 2 tablespoons bacon bits & cracked black pepper to taste. Finish by topping with grated Caprano cheese. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 minutes. Enjoy!

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ON THE JOB: Volunteering to paint the fence enclosure around an ArtSpring air conditioning unit last week as a way to "give back" to the arts centre are members of the Prime Student Painting company, from left, Garrett Macdonell, Dan Fogarty, Lucas Parker and Simon Fogarty. They are looking for "inspired and talented" students to join their team next summer. Contact them at student_painting@yahoo.ca or 653-4691.

Photo by Gail Sjuberg

Crash kills two

A car crash on North Pender Island killed two people and injured two more early on Sunday morning.

According to a press release from the Outer Gulf Islands RCMP detachment on Pender, the SUV's four occupants were driving down Canal Road at 1 a.m. when the vehicle skidded off the road and struck a hydro pole.

Rendering much of Pender Island without power, a B.C. Hydro crew from Salt Spring Island had to make sure the crash site was safe before the victims could be rescued.

Firefighters and emergency medical services personnel used the "Jaws of Life"

to extricate two of the occupants.

A 26-year-old Victoria woman and a 29-year-old man from Surrey were airlifted to a Victoria hospital, but subsequently died from their injuries.

Two passengers in the back of the SUV survived the crash with injuries, though one was airlifted to a Vancouver hospital and later released.

The dead woman and the two injured passengers reportedly worked at Poets Cove Resort.

Victims' names are being withheld until next of kin have been notified.

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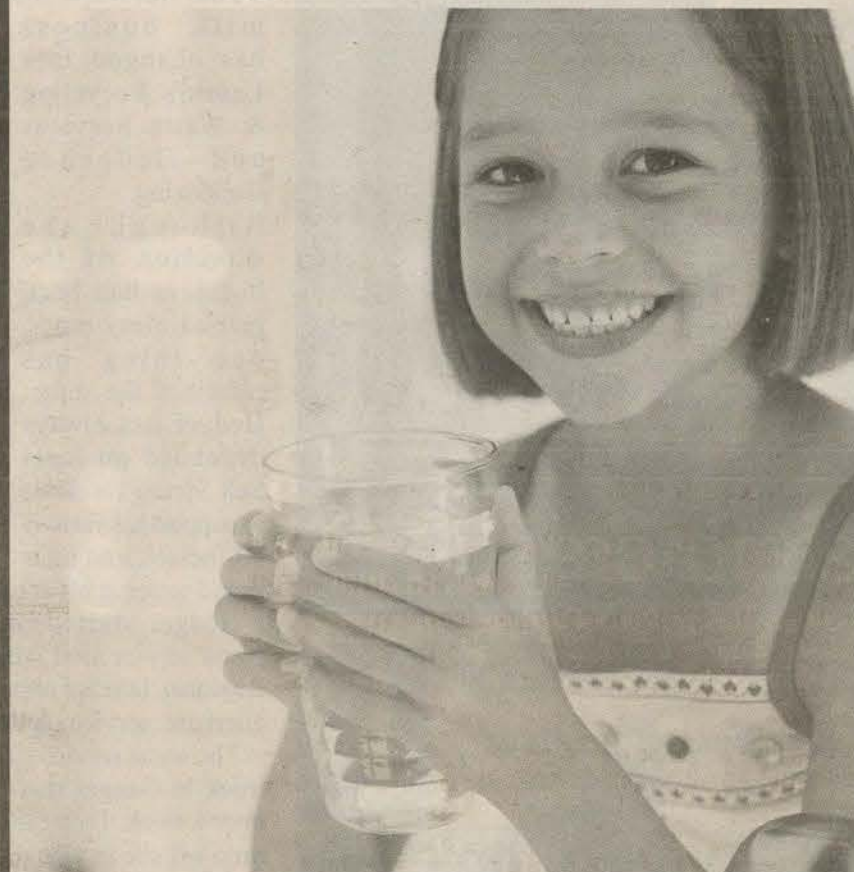
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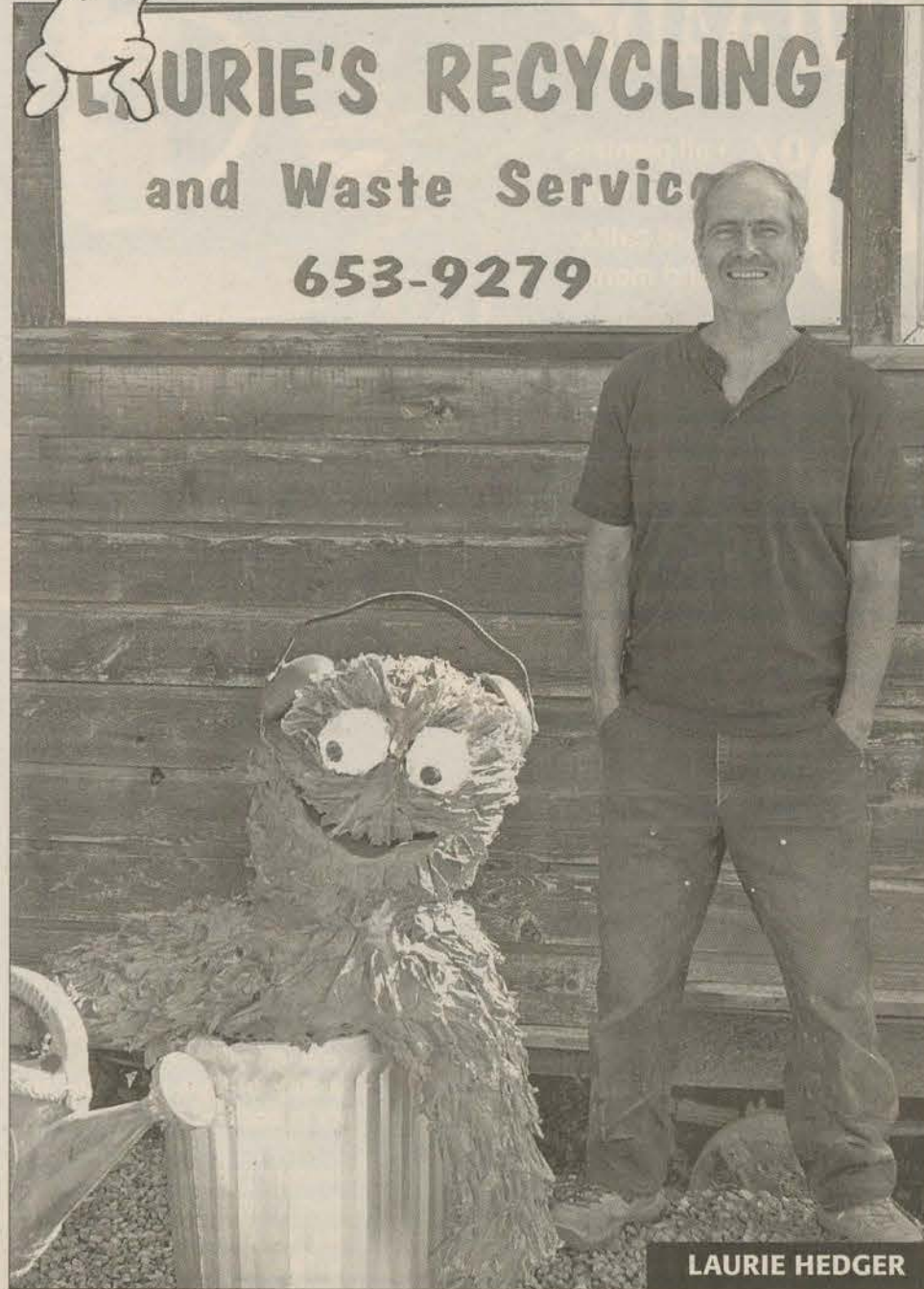


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The INSIDE STORY

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Laurie Hedger

Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services/ Hedgehog Bulldozing



Not many people can claim **Entrepreneur status** at the tender age of 10, but **Laurie Hedger** can.

Hedger has been in business on Salt Spring since 1951; after he was given a calf by his grandparents, Laurie soon began selling its milk to locals along the school bus route.

Fast forward 55 years: Laurie's milk business has changed into Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services and Hedgehog Bulldozing.

Although the direction of the business has been revised many times, one thing has remained the same: Hedger has always depended on local Salt Spring residents to support his various businesses, and he is proud to serve his community.

Hedger started the recycling and waste service after talking to the Capital Regional District about the need for an alternate service on the island.

The waste service started with only one truck in Ganges that collected garbage once a week. Today, the business offers a drop-off site in Ganges, as well as door-to-door, recycling and container clean-up services.

The drop-off site is located next to the GVM on Lower Ganges Road; it is both highly visible and convenient, and the Hedgers say it is the voluntary support of the business by locals that makes their business so special. The garbage drop off centre is open Monday to Saturday

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Today, the business is owned and operated by Laurie and Nancy Hedger and has a total of nine employees. Through the years, Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services has remained an island service and the Hedgers are thankful to the community for supporting the business.

The company shows their appreciation by supporting various local organizations

including Greenwoods, the Core Inn, and Lady Minto Hospital.

As a special thank-you to Salt Spring and all the great people on the island, Laurie's is holding a Salt Spring Appreciation Day.

"This special event is to focus on the beauty and friendship that surrounds us," said Hedger.

Hedger mentions hospital employees, the fire department, Hydro, the RCMP, ferry workers, and Fall Fair volunteers, as well as the Byrons, Valcourts, Mouats and the Caldwells, in his long list of community thank-yous, but added there are far too many to name them all.

Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services invite all those that serve or are served by fellow islanders to join their Salt Spring Appreciation Day on Sunday, August 20 from noon until 5 p.m. The event includes a BBQ and "Art Thing" auction for charity, as well as various entertainment including a comedy routine and music by Stephen Glanville, the Barley Brothers and Loaded. All will take place at the Ganges drop off site next to GVM.

"This special event is to focus on the beauty and friendship that surrounds us"



Laurie Hedger and crew

Salt Spring Appreciation Day

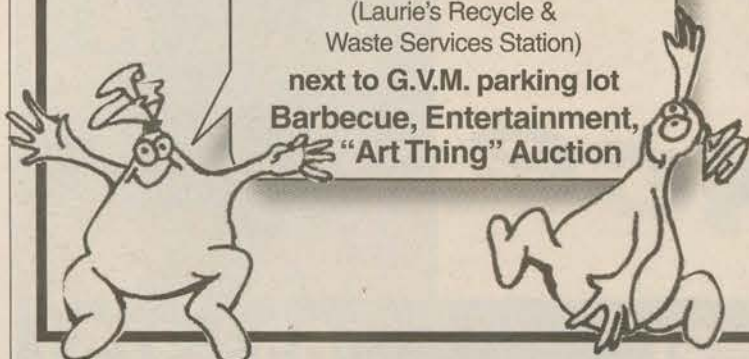
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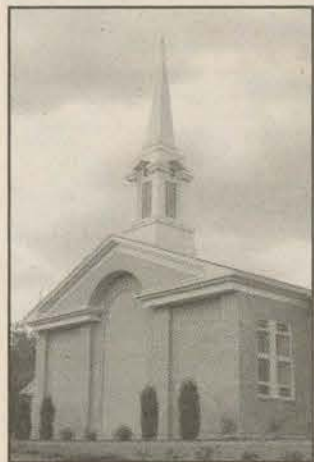
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Checking out the churches — from Vesuvius to Fulford Hall

By MARY HUGHES
Driftwood Contributor
Fourth in a series



Salt Spring's newest church building, located on Vesuvius Bay Road, belongs to island Mormons. Photo by Derrick Lundy

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is Salt Spring's newest church building, located on Vesuvius Bay Road. When a congregation gathered in 1997, there were five adults and a few children, but growth was immediate and by 2001 they were ready to build a church.

"To qualify, we had to have an average attendance, over a year, of 60. We spent two years planning and building and moved in June 1, 2003," said church member Ted Baker.

The church does not have professional clergy: Ted Baker was the first branch president and Dan Leavitt now holds that office.

The sacrament meeting is at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning, and the church is busy during the week with a daily early morning seminary class and various other youth programs. The women's relief society meets weekly.

The Family History Centre is open for three sessions a week, and Sonja Baker, the centre's director, says it is used more by non-members than members.

LDS members believe that families are eternal, so it's important to establish links with forebears. The church lends space for adult education classes, and members regularly volunteer at the fall fair and other community festivals.

Emergency preparedness

is central to the faith, and families are encouraged to store a year's supply of food and fuel. An emergency might be medical, economic or a natural disaster.

Members obey the Law of Tithing, giving 10 per cent of their income, and do not consume tea, coffee, alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco. Ted Baker said that the principles and the support that's available made raising four children easier for himself and Sonja.

"It's a good way to be grounded. The church provides a framework to live by. When our kids were at high school, everyone knew they didn't drink and their friends supported them completely."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is known for its missionary work. Currently there are more than 50,000 people spreading the word around the world. Baker's son spent two years in southern France.

"It was a great education," said his father. "It was good for him to experience how others live."

To illustrate the value of missionary work, Ted explained how he and Sonja had responded to a missionary over 30 years ago. They read the Book of Mormon and found it to be true.

"If they hadn't come to our door, it never would have happened."

The Unitarian Fellowship

In October 2003, Sharon Fulton, a life-long Unitarian, decided to advertise in the Driftwood to find other Unitarians on Salt Spring. To her delight, 22 people arrived for that first meeting. The fellowship now numbers around 30 members.

Said board member Anne Marshall, "Clearly there were a lot of us wanting to get together. Most weren't attending another church and most had Unitarianism in their background."

Sunday services are held weekly at 10:30 a.m. in the OAP room at Fulford Hall from September to June.

"It's a very comfortable space for us," said Marshall. "They've been very generous and we've been able to fix it up a little to suit ourselves."

The congregation doesn't



Lay chaplain Melynda Okulitch is part of Salt Spring's Unitarian fellowship. Photo by Derrick Lundy

have a minister, but they now have a lay chaplain in Melynda Okulitch, who is authorized to perform weddings and funerals and other significant rites of passage.

The program committee plans the weekly meetings, which typically include a local speaker or visiting minister. As Marshall put it, "Our focus tends to be more on issues here on earth." A youth group started up recently and they've already put on a meeting with a speaker from the local high school's Gay/Straight Alliance.

There's a comprehensive website (www.unitariancongregation.org/saltspring) maintained by Fulton, which features their carefully crafted statement of purpose:

"We open our doors as a welcoming community. We celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of every person, foster social justice and environmental stewardship and support each person's spiritual journey."

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FALL FAIR FOCUS
By Sandy Barclay

Fruits and Vegetables

A brand new class has been added to the fruit section at the fall fair - the People's Choice award for the best tasting apple. This will give you, the people, the opportunity to taste several apples and choose the tastiest! All apples will be locally grown of course, so the winning apple might be available to purchase. We will allow three entries per exhibitor so that you, the judges, may well be tasting all afternoon! Our vegetable section is unchanged this year, still with 68 classes for you to choose from. Most of you allow the regular entrants to fill all of the classes. Why not try to displace the perennial winners and enter some produce from your own garden? You might very well win a trophy!! Be sure to read section 4 and section 5 in the catalogue for information on family and junior horticulture! Classes include family garden, basket of garden produce and bouquets for Mom in the junior class. Also the funniest or most unusual veggie!! This is always a bright and colorful section of our fall fair!

A REMINDER - no dogs except for the pet parade will be allowed on the fair grounds. Any outstanding trophies must be brought to 350 Rainbow Rd. A.S.A.P. Thank you.

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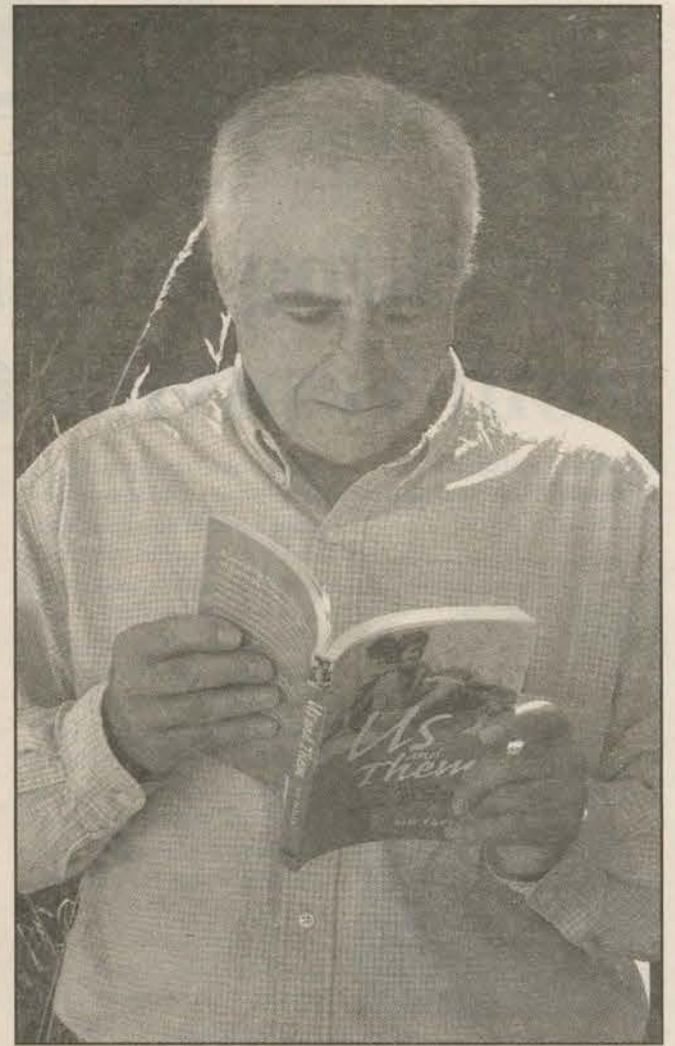
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READY TO READ: Sid Tafler is gearing up for a book launch event at the Saturday market in Ganges on August 19.
 Photo by Manusha Janakiram

Sid Tafler picks Salt Spring for first book event

By **MANUSHA JANAKIRAM**
 Driftwood Contributor

In addition to picking up the usual fare, this Saturday market-goers can learn why knowing the names of their great grandparents could help transcend issues of hate and violence.

"People need to feel like they are part of something bigger than themselves," said Sid Tafler, perhaps best known as the former editor of Monday Magazine. "The extended family, or tribe, provides continuity between families" and often facilitates greater understanding.

The extended family is the focus of Tafler's new book called *Us and Them: A Memoir of Tribes and Tribulations*.

A divisive title at first glance, Tafler explained how "us and them" has been a defining dichotomy in his life.

As a Jew, Tafler noted he was always aware or made to be aware of that mentality. "People are often looking to divide."

As a young boy in Montreal, Tafler said, "Life was very divisive. Strict lines were drawn, and you knew you weren't supposed to walk on one side of the street."

Familiar anecdotes drawn from various members within Tafler's own family make up the 225 page book, as he examines how Canada evolved from enforcing exclusionary immigration policies to codifying multiculturalism in the law.

Though "tribes" conjure up images of warring factions battling for existence, Tafler said that divisive perspectives and notions of superiority "get you into

Instead, Tafler wanted to present another understanding of tribes. Well-versed in sociology and anthropology, Tafler sees a connection between the extended family and how human beings interact with the rest of the world.

He decided to redefine how society understands "us and them."

"It could be a good thing," he said. "We could come to respect each other's cultures and share them with everyone else."

"Tribes," Tafler said, "are also a way to nourish people and share with one another."

Tafler hopes his book will engage people in discussions about how people get along both within their own families, and on a more global scale.

While issues like climate change or HIV/AIDS are large threats to human existence, Tafler believes that human relations, or its absence, pose the most significant threat to the survival of the species.

"Everywhere we have the same problems: persecution, war, conflict," he said. "If we can... live in peace, we can solve everything else."

Noting that some marginalized groups still experience different forms of racism today, he added, "We're doing well [in comparison to other nations], but we have to do better."

Though Tafler's official book launch is scheduled to take place in Victoria in the fall, interested buyers can pick up a copy of Tafler's book, get it signed and talk to the author on August 19. He will be set up outside of

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Heather Martin Buddhist retreats bring people back to the present

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

When a 1997 car accident put a sudden end to Heather Martin's Salt Spring Island midwifery practice and yoga classes, she dove deeply into her 20 years of Buddhist meditation practice.

Now she's dedicated to helping others find that peace without the pain.

"One door closes and another one opens," said Martin, an accredited Buddhist teacher, during a recent interview about a week-long retreat she will co-host on the island this September.

Long intensive retreats led her to being invited to train as a meditation teacher in the years following her accident, as she was recovering from a broken hip.

into who we are and how we behave as individuals.

Like other strains of Buddhism, Vipassana helps people detach themselves from the stresses of daily life, helping with such issues as high blood pressure or insomnia and can be applied to everything from personal relationships to those lengthy summer queues at the ferry terminal.

"We are increasingly realizing there is something we can do about the stress in our lives," she said.

"Vipassana uniquely reveals how happiness is in our responses to circumstances rather than the circumstances themselves."

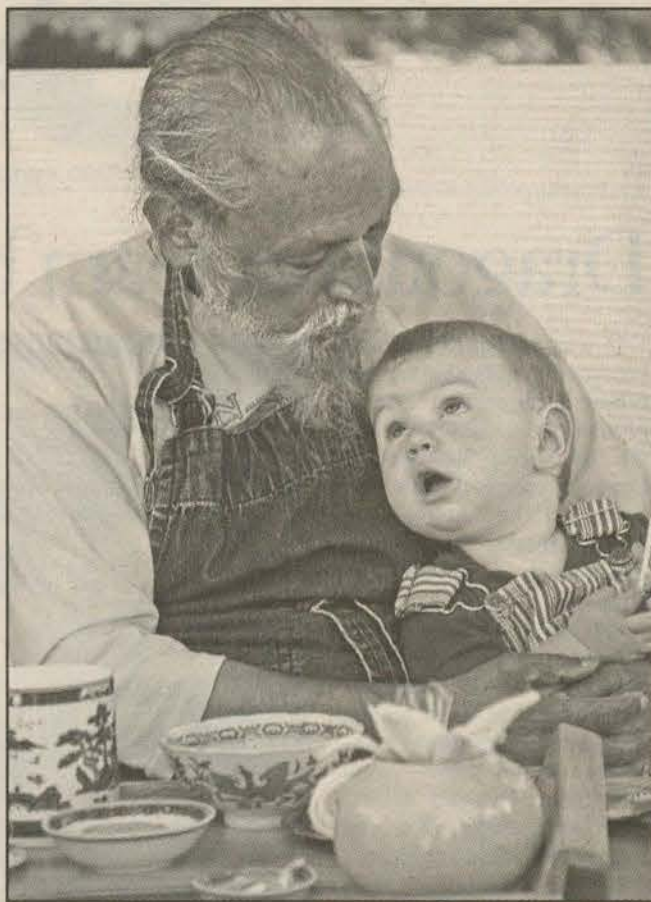
Martin said Buddhism's rise in popularity over the past two decades stems from the spiritual void in our society as much as the desire to reduce stress.

"It's not just a fad," she said. "The effects of meditation are the proof of the pudding."

The week-long September retreat will give participants a chance to experience silent meditation, both sitting and walking, complemented by personal interviews and dharma teachings on some of Buddhism's central tenets.

For those unable to take part in the full seven-day retreat between September 9 and 16, Martin also hosts one and two-day intensive sessions. She will also teach beginner-level classes and leads the Salt Spring Vipassana Society's 60 members in a weekly class on Monday evenings at the Stowel Lake Farm.

More information is available at www.ssivipassana.org.



TEA TIME CONNECTION: Finley Valentine Ward shares a moment with Salt Spring Centre's spiritual guru Babaji as the centre holds its annual retreat.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Walkers raising \$\$

Islanders wanting to support the third annual Week-end to End Breast Cancer still have a few days to make donations to the campaigns of two Salt Spring marathon walkers.

Melanie Fraude and Dr. Talita Strumpfer are gearing up to walk 60 kilometres in two days at the August 18-20 event in Vancouver, with all funds raised directed to the B.C. Cancer Foundation. Donations can be made at the women's separate pages, accessible through the Vancouver section of www.endcancer.ca, or by dropping them off at their places of work.

Both Raven Street Market-Cafe and Falconshead Grill are accepting donations for Fraude, while Strumpfer's office in the Lancer Building can accept funds for her walk.

"It's not just a fad. The effects of meditation are the proof of the pudding."

— Vipassana instructor Heather Martin

Translated as "seeing clearly," Vipassana is a primarily meditative practice dating back 2,500 years. According to Martin, it helps gather together the spinning scattered mind, thus seeing clearly into the way things actually are.

An increasingly calm mind allows for flashes of intuitive understanding, or insights,

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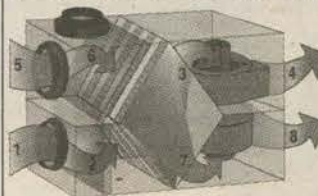


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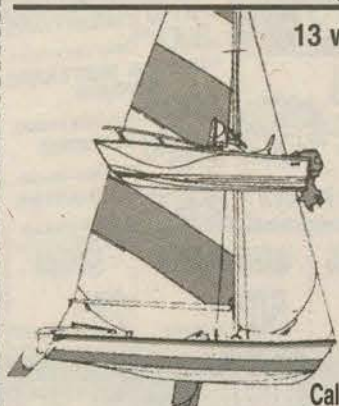
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GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2006 • PAGE A18

Dragonboat team brings home bronze

It was all smiles in the beer garden at the Vancouver Island Dragonboat Championships on Sunday when the Salt Spring Homegrown Dragons snagged their first award of the season — a bronze medal for a third place finish in the White A Division.

Held in the Victoria Gorge, the championship races brought out 46 competitive and recreational teams, including formidable Vancouver Island teams Sweet and Sour Dragon Balls, Scurvy Dawgs, Xtreme Reach and SSSteam Heat.

In the first race, Salt Spring's GVM-sponsored team posted a time of 2:29:47 over the regulation 500-metre course and was 21st in the standings, putting the team in the White division among the top recreational teams. The team won its second race, the semi-final, with a time of 2:17:53.

"All the boats were faster by mid-day, thanks to the slack tide in the Gorge, but Homegrown Dragons also found the power and the synchronized timing that shaves seconds off the finish time," said coach Mary Rowles.

"It was a great effort especially by the handful of totally novice paddlers we press-ganged into the boat for the day when some of our regulars were sidelined by work, family, injuries and Fulford Day. They really gave it their all and I hope we haven't scared them away."

In the final White A division, Homegrown Dragons



BRONZED: Members of Salt Spring's dragonboat team sport bronze medals earned at the Vancouver Island championships on the weekend. Photo contributed

raced neck and dragon-neck down the course finishing third in 2:14:77, one second behind the first place Snogard Dragons and edged out by Dragon Express (2:13:93).

Race day included a moving ceremony to commemorate women and men who have died of breast cancer.

Three breast cancer survivor teams rafted their dragonboats together with two boatloads of women from other teams who are also survivors of the disease.

Each of the more than 65 women present tossed a pink

carnation into the waters in memory of someone no longer racing or no longer alive. The ceremony was particularly meaningful for several members of Homegrown Dragons, whose lives have been touched by this cancer.

The last race of the season for the Salt Spring club will be the Taiwanese festival in Vancouver on Labour Day weekend.

The club is still open to new members — check us out at the Salt Spring Fall Fair or contact mary-rowles19@hotmail.com.

Homegrown members racing on Saturday were coach Rowles, Jacque Byron, Sam Bourdin, Sabine Georgy, Carmelle Labelle, Robyn Huntley, Scout Upex, Marit McBride, Carl Graham, Stephanie Maskell, Glynis Finer, Barb Budd, Brent Baker, Doug Abernethy, Hugh Tuttle, Melynda Okulytch and Wendy Webb.

Other team members are Tanya Akerman, Lisa Dodd, Ellis Hroch, Andrew Okulytch, Mike Eso, Lynda and Kelly Brown, Tom McKeachie and Nicole Moore (team manager).

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Awards ceremony honours swimming achievements

Salt Spring Stingrays Swim Club wrapped up its regional championships weekend with an awards ceremony and some sad goodbyes as members anticipated a much different season next year.

The club's annual awards ceremony was held prior to this weekend's provincial championships to allow participation of longtime coaches Kellie Rolston and Kris Isenor, who are leaving the club at the end of provincials.

Both coaches were honoured at the event, with special note to Rolston who has been with the club for five years.

Numerous swimmers were also honoured.

Success, effort and good sportsmanship gave Eryn Gix (on behalf of the junior swimmers) and Brendan Nickerson the top awards of the evening, with each receiving "swimmer of the year" accolades.

The junior sportsmanship award went to Luke Hylands, while Emily

Rothwell picked up the senior version.

Victoria Budd (senior) and Cassidy Fraser (junior) were named persistent trainers, while Emily Gix won the new-this-year leadership award.

New swimmers of the year — awarded to first-year swimmers only — went to junior Jordon Gillespie-Kitchen and senior Chelsea Harris.

High aggregate point winners — picked up for top placements at swim meets — went to Danica Lundy (96 points) for the girls and Liam Sinclair (108 points) for the boys. Female and male runners-up were Eryn Gix (95) and Connor Budd (87).

The top 10 additional aggregate winners were: Nickerson (82), Nina Fletcher (74), Olivia Budd (73), Larissa Andrews (70), Ella Fisher (41), Cassidy Fraser (28), Rebekah Lee (26), Arianna Fraser (25), Hylands (21) and Victoria Budd (20).

The most improved swimmer in each of the five practice groups were as follows: Callista Boyd, Zoe Hasenfratz, Kimberly Rothwell, Christine Villadsen and Amy Zacharias.

Attendance awards were also handed out in each group, going to Owen Twaites (85 per cent), Hylands (93 per cent), James Twaites (87 per cent) Eryn Gix and Nickerson.

About 10 swimmers competed at the B and C-level championships last weekend in Powell River (see separate story on Page A20), while others are heading to Kamloops this weekend for the provincial event.

In the meantime, the team has said goodbye to Shelby Pool where members have practised since its inception over a dozen years ago.

Next year, the Stingrays hope to start their season at the beginning of May in Salt Spring's new indoor pool.

All-star dribbler nets attention with B.C. team win at nationals

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Judging from her performance at the U17 national basketball championships earlier this month, you'd never know 17-year-old basketball sensation Kayla Gromme underwent surgery for a torn ACL less than a year ago.

"It just felt so good to get out and play," she said, only days after her return from the tournament in Sherbrooke, Quebec. "I just had to forget about that and put it behind me."

After months of rigorous rehabilitation combining squats, trampoline and stationary bike-training, Gromme said, she felt 100 per cent recovered and more able to focus on her play.

By concentrating on her game, Gromme helped lead the B.C. team to an overall 5-1 tournament record, including a 61-50 victory in the final versus Quebec. Gromme averaged 10 points



Basketball star Kayla Gromme — interest from all over. Photo by Sean McIntyre

per match and was named to the tournament's all-star team alongside four other players.

Winning the U17 championship is the latest in a long line of titles for the Grade

11 Gulf Islands Secondary School student.

"Winning at this level feels so much sweeter than any of the previous victories," she said.

Experience alone, Gromme added, didn't make playing any easier, considering some games during the week-long tournament were played in a gym where temperatures soared to 47 degrees. During one match, a violent thunderstorm knocked out power.

Gromme was one of 250 British Columbian girls who tried out for the team and one of only 12 to make the final cut. Ranking among the top-five players in the tournament is a big deal and she attributed much of her success to her mother's support.

"She's a very big part of it and is always ready to provide support," she said.

Outside her regular basketball practices, Gromme is most likely busy keeping fit or practising in the gym

whenever she can get time on the court.

Since returning from the national championships, Gromme's mailbox has been overflowing with offers from universities across the United States, including one from Santa Clara University in California, alma mater to none other than Victoria-bred NBA superstar Steve Nash.

Over the past decade, Gromme said, growing support for women's sports is an inspiration, as are the basketball scouts who turn up to see her play on a regular basis.

With two years to go before graduating, Gromme still has some time to make up her mind. She'll likely need the time because the next priority is making the junior national team.

"Joining the junior national team has always been one of my goals," she said. "Now it feels very close."

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page B12

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August 2: Jimmy Beck, 144; Jason Newport, 155-159; Mahjor Bains, 195-184; Gloria Dale, 216; Stuart Elliott, 162.

August 9: David McEachern, 147; Stuart Elliott, 175; Mahjor Bains, 164-216; Gloria Dale, 198; Dominic George, 140.

What's On?
See page B2



TENNIS LOB: Doris St. Germaine volleys back a tennis ball as players from Salt Spring and Gabriola islands compete in a tennis event at Portlock Park.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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Swimmers dive into B&Cs

A small school of Salt Spring Stingrays swimmers made a splash at the Vancouver Island regional B&C championships in Powell River last weekend, swimming personal best times and picking up medals and ribbons.

The event drew competitors from around Vancouver Island, and gave B and C-level athletes a chance to compete within their own time categories.

Allowed to swim a total of four individual events, swimmers competed in morning heats which determined the top six finishers to swim finals in each of "B" and "C" categories.

Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the top-three B-swimmers

in each stroke, while 4th to 6th-place finishers picked up ribbons alongside the top six C-level competitors.

The Salt Spring contingent came home with a mine full of medals and sheet full of best times (not available at press time).

Following are the top-six placements from the B&C championships:

Div. 2: Aija Wright, 5th in "B" back, 2nd in "C" 50-m fly.

Div. 3: Kimberly Rothwell, 6th in "B" 50-m fly.

Div. 4: Alex Crandall, silver in "B" 50-m fly, bronze in "B" 100-m breast, 4th in "B" 100-m free, 2nd in "C" 100-m back; Adriane Harkema, silver in "B" 50-m free, 4th in "B" 100-m breast, 3rd in "C" 100-m free; Chel-

sea Harris, 1st in "C" 50-m free, 6th in "C" 100-m back and "C" 100-m free; Abby Rothwell, gold in "B" 100-m back and 50-m free, 1st in "C" 100-m breast, 3rd in "C" 200-m individual medley (IM); Eric Rothwell, 5th in "B" 50-m free, 2nd in "C" 100-m breast and "C" 50-m fly.

Div. 5: Emily Rothwell, gold in "B" 100-m back and 100-m fly.

On Saturday the Div. 4 girls relay of Abby Rothwell, Harkema, Crandall and Harris nailed silver, while Sunday's team of Kimberly Rothwell, Harkema, Harris and Wright took 5th place.

Swimming novice in 25-m back, breast and fly, Div. 1 swimmer Tyler Bullach also grabbed 7th in "C" 50-m free.

Greens winners announced

Recent 18-hole ladies division golf winners at Salt Spring Golf and Country Club were:

August 1: Lynda Joyce, low gross, 90; (one of the best scores for the year); Melanie Iverson, runner-up low gross, 93; Darlene Wellington, low net, 70; Janelle Holmes and Janet Butler, runner-up low net, 72; putt pot, Pat Lavender, 30; KP, Joanna Barrett.

August 8: Alice Richards, low gross, 91; Pam Ellacott, runner-up, 92; low net, tied between Ellacott, Wellington and Susan Russell, 69; runner up, Heather Lawler,

GOLF TEES

70; putt pot, Linda Overholt and Grace Murchie, 27; KP, Bernie Cowan.

Monday Night Ladies Results:

July 31: Tier 1, Connie Hardy, low net 32, low putts, 10; Wellington was runner-up low net 39.

Tier 2, Maureen Rowell, low net 36.5; Denise Heaton, runner-up low net 38; Britt Elwes, low putts 14.

Tier 3, Trudy Sloan, low

net 35; Ann Marie, runner-up low net 39; Ina Curran, low putts 15.

Winners Overall were Hardy, low gross 47, low net 32 and low putts 10; Wellington, Holmes and Dora Reynolds, low gross runner-up 53.

Largest point winners: Sloan 14, Rowell 11, Hardy 11, Heaton 10.

Longest drive winners were Holmes, Carol Pearce, Gladys Campbell, Rowell and Sloan.

Wellington, Reynolds and Sloan are top point winners for April, May, June and July.

Spirit of Salt Spring

Steve Hunt, Melissa Roberts and Oliver Roberts (Team Thrifty Foods) receive an honourable mention for their enthusiastic participation in the Big Bike Heart & Stroke event in May. Tanja Akerman's Hot Wheels team received the Spirit Award for most funds raised. Event coordinator Susannah Devitt presented the awards.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations. First-come, first-served basis as space permits. Call Penny for details.

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