

2008 CALENDAR
Driftwood
 YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

2008 Calendar
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George Sipos
 A year at ArtSpring. SEE PAGE 17



Be Responsible this Holiday Season
DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!
 SEE PAGE 34

GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, December 26, 2007 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 47TH YEAR — ISSUE 52 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CHRISTMAS CREATION: Members of a Grade 3 class at Salt Spring Elementary School decorate a human Christmas tree at the school's annual Christmas concert held last week.

ISLAND ROADS Black ice causes mishaps

Slippery streets blamed for accidents

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring emergency crews spent the better part of their early morning hours Thursday cleaning up a mess of single vehicle accidents resulting from icy roads.

"We've been here all morning," said Salt Spring Const. Matt Meijer, in an interview where two cars left the road near the intersection of Blackburn and Fulford-Ganges roads.

Officers responded to three incidents on Fulford-Ganges Road between 6:30 and 9 a.m. In each case, drivers lost control of their vehicles after hitting patches of black ice.

In one instance, a man wearing full-protective gear suffered no injuries after he was thrown from his motorcycle. On Blackburn Road, a Toyota SUV was destroyed beyond repair after it veered off the road, rolled through a fence and into a field. Another SUV travelling to the 6:15 Fulford ferry along Fulford-Ganges Road sustained approximately \$12,000 damage after sliding off the road.

"I took the telephone pole out in two places and broke it in half," said driver Bryden Smith.

After trying to stop several passers-by with a small flashing light, when he finally got to Lady Minto Hospital he discovered he was already the third accident victim to come in that morning.

"The roads weren't salted
ROADS continued on 2

VILLAGE RESORT

SSI Village Resort enters receivership

Development's troubled legacy continues

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Village Resort (SSIVR) has gone into receivership following a court ruling in Vancouver last Thursday.

"This is a huge disappointment for the whole community," said Bob Fenske, the project's former general manager, in an interview on Friday morning. "It's a huge loss because the employment that was going to be available for the community and the environmental programs

are all up in the air now."

What happens to the 36-acre site now that it is no longer under the ownership of Tuan Development Inc.'s Brian Hauff remains up to the directors of the Bowra Group.

Bowra is a Vancouver-based company specializing in performance improvement, turnaround management and corporate restructuring.

Representatives from the Bowra Group could not be reached for comment before the Driftwood went to press on December 21.

The judge's decision marks the second time the highly publicized Robinson Road resort has gone into receivership since 1998.

With the help of \$25 million in refinancing borrowed from Calgary's Gibraltar Mortgage, Tuan Development Inc. regained control of the project in 2005.

Work on the project's 123 cottages, swimming pool complex and central lodge proceeded uninterrupted until the company was granted bankruptcy protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) on June 8.

SSIVR continued on 2

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INSERTS

• Ganges Village Market

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NEWSBEAT

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Polar swim seeks pirates, plungers

January 1 event brings in 2008 with a splash

ample opportunity to get creative by depicting their favourite dead or living character from the hit film series.

With no official group sponsoring the event, arrangements have not been made to serve free refreshments or snacks on the beach, so anyone wanting a hot drink should bring their own.

However, all other elements of the annual Vesuvius Beach gathering are in place.

Splash society president Wendy Rosier is even checking the event's prize stash from past years and the Driftwood promises enough in-print glory to make the plunge worthwhile.

Any local business operator feeling inspired to donate a small item as a prize, or anyone wanting to help with judging at the beach can contact Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg at 537-9933 or news@gulfislands.net.

Swimmers vie for honours in the following categories: youngest and oldest swimmers; first to totally submerge in the water; first person out of the water; male and female venturing out the farthest.

Costume winners will also be declared in the 12 and under, 13-17 and 18-plus categories.

Registration for Tuesday's event begins at the beach at 12:30 p.m., with the plunge taking place at 1 p.m. sharp.

Resort buildings' future in flux

SSIVR

continued from 1

According to Tuan's petition, the company was almost \$32 million in debt at that time.

The petition stated the project would crumble if further funding was not forthcoming.

The CCAA is a federal act allowing companies owing in excess of \$5 million to restructure their management plan as an alternative to declaring bankruptcy.

"It's been a long and protracted process," Fenske said.

The restructuring plan hit a snag when the resort property's 24,000-square-foot lodge was destroyed by fire on July 9. A 6,000-square-foot swimming pool building was also destroyed.

The resort, scheduled to open during the summer, was to feature a five-star restaurant, conference centre, spa and wellness centre, lounge and private library, according to the SSIVR

website.

In an interview shortly after the fire, Hauff said damages associated with the blaze could reach \$12 million.

The cause of the blaze has not yet been determined and insurance auditors have yet to issue a decision on whether funds will be made available to rebuild the structures.

Because of an Islands Trust decision to "downzone" the property from commercial to rural use in 1996, questions arose over whether Tuan could in fact rebuild.

Since a Capital Regional District (CRD) building permit was acquired prior to the zoning change, the site was considered legal non-conforming. According to the Local Government Act, no SSIVR structure can be rebuilt if it sustains more than 75 per cent damage.

Despite the total destruction of the SSIVR lodge and swimming complex, the fact an occupancy permit was never issued by the CRD means neither structure was actually considered

"This is a huge disappointment for the whole community."

BOB FENSKE,
Former SSI Village Resort general manager

a finished building and may still be rebuilt.

While the news came as a shock, Fenske said, he looks forward to the prospect of becoming involved if and when work on the project resumes.

"I would still love to be attached to that project because of the potential it has for the community," he said. "We had a great management team and a great vision for the site. It would be great if we could get that vision back on track."

Crashes blamed on lack of road salt

ROADS

continued from 1

anywhere," he said.

Another accident, reported at 12:40 a.m. Thursday morning, left a driver and his passenger disoriented but alive after their vehicle left Starks Road and rolled over in the ditch. The accident remains under investigation by the island's RCMP.

None of the drivers sustained any major injuries from the incidents.

Smith wondered why roads weren't salted early in the morning, though a spokesperson from Main-road Contracting on Salt Spring said crews were out early laying gravel along the island's major routes.

Road crews are taking spe-

cial care to keep the island's road passable in icy conditions, he added.

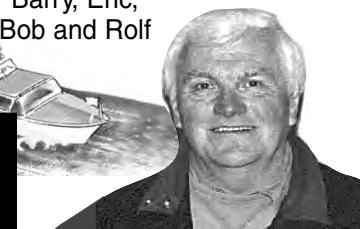
According to information provided by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia drivers should be on the lookout for signs of black ice, including shiny-looking pavement or roads that appear black instead of grey-white.

Should the rear of a vehicle begin to skid, motorists are advised to steer to the right. Do not step on the brakes, as this will make the situation worse.

Drivers are further advised to allow extra space margins, slow down before curves and corners, go down icy hills in a low gear, and avoid passing.

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DECEMBER			
26	08:06	3.7	12.1
WE	13:26	2.9	9.5
	16:38	3.1	10.2
27	00:25	0.3	1.0
	08:40	3.7	12.1
	14:35	2.7	8.9
TH	17:35	2.8	9.2
	01:06	0.6	2.0
28	09:11	3.7	12.1
	15:41	2.4	7.9
	18:44	2.5	8.2
29	01:43	1.0	3.3
	09:39	3.6	11.8
	16:41	2.1	6.9
SA	20:22	2.3	7.5

JANUARY			
01	01:37	2.3	7.5
TU	03:20	2.3	7.5
	10:42	3.3	10.8
30	18:49	1.2	3.9
	02:19	1.4	4.6
SU	10:03	3.5	11.5
	17:32	1.7	5.6
	22:41	2.2	7.2
31	02:52	1.9	6.2
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Newsbeat

Heads up!

New Year's Eve
DECEMBER 31
Have a safe one!

SOCIAL SERVICES

Key roles filled at Community Services Society

Turnover rare but inevitable, says director

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

New faces have joined the team at Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS), bringing skills and expertise from the city to the island.

Melissa Weigel has taken on youth alcohol and drug counselling duties and Cheryl Bell-Gadsby is the new director of adult services.

"I have lots of community contact and it's a pretty big deal in the community," said Weigel, who worked with street youth in East Vancouver before moving to Salt Spring this fall.

Part of Weigel's position is working at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) and the Core Inn Youth Project Society. She's found local youth receptive to the change.

"The transition has been really smooth."

One benefit of the Salt Spring position is that all of the support groups and skills are under one roof, said Weigel. SSICS offers shelter, food, health, counselling, education, skill development, social support and recreation services for children to adults.

In the city, she said, services for youth, families and adults are split up, which makes the flow of information and referral process more difficult for her clients.

"Here, when we are all meeting, I only have to turn to the next person beside me."

Despite the obvious benefits to her new employment, Weigel said the work is a challenge.

The same issues that affect city dwellers, like drug and alcohol abuse, are present on Salt Spring, she said. However, Weigel is surprised by the amount of homelessness.

She said many residents are not aware it exists since the issue is not as visible as it is in the city, and this lack of awareness makes homelessness difficult to overcome.

Because the problem is not as visible here as it is in the city, many residents are not aware it exists, she said, adding that a lack of awareness makes it difficult to overcome.

Bell-Gadsby agreed the island's homelessness issue requires more attention.

Official statistics reveal Salt Spring has 45 to 50 homeless people, but she guesses that number is closer to 100.

Bell-Gadsby stepped into her new position last month, taking over from Paul Gregory, who retired after 14 years as SSICS's director of adult services.

She said she plans to tighten the services and support programs to prevent people such as the homeless from falling through the cracks.

"We're going to offer more training and really tap into the resources available."



PHOTO BY CHRIS STEPHENSON

From left, Melissa Weigel and Cheryl Bell-Gadsby both joined the Salt Spring Island Community Services team recently.

Bell-Gadsby has a broad base of counselling experience to pull from, including family and trauma specialties, and teaches adult education at BCIT in Vancouver.

She has lived on Salt Spring for three years.

Other new employees at SSICS include Marnie Poole, who has taken over the role of the mental health nurse from Roberta Hornsey, who worked with SSICS for 12 years.

Well-known youth and family counsellor Trish Nobile is the new youth outreach worker, which is the first such position for SSICS, and Carolyn Flam, former youth alcohol and drug counsellor, has stepped into Nobile's previous spot.

In the past year, the expansion of youth mental health services and addition of the Core Inn under the Community

Services umbrella has also brought Tracy Harrison, clinician, and youth counsellor Kirsty Chalmers to the SSICS team.

Rob Grant, executive director for SSICS, said the centre doesn't typically have a high staff turnover, but retirements and changes to programs are inevitable.

"The positions we have just filled have a great deal of contact with the community at many levels. We expect that everyone will be pleased with the skill and experience they bring to our organization and the services we provide," he said in a recent press release.

SSICS has a regular staff of 39 full and part-time employees working on Salt Spring and the other southern Gulf Islands. Grant said that's an increase from 33 in 2005.

News briefs

Trust survey set

The Islands Trust is reviewing the way it administers its elections, with the aim of making improvements in time for the next local elections in November 2008.

"Over the years, members of the public have made suggestions about how our elections process could be improved," said Kim Benson, chair of Islands Trust Council.

"We want to thoroughly examine how we do things,

consider some of the suggestions we've received and invite new ideas.

Because of the geography of the Islands Trust Area, the administration of our elections is quite complex.

Costs are growing too, so we also want to be sure we are being cost-effective, while giving voters good opportunities to cast their vote."

"In the past, we've cooperated with the regional districts and school districts that hold their elections at the same time throughout our area," Benson added. "This has many advantages,

in that individual voters can register once and do all their voting at the same place. We want to determine if this is still the best approach, and if so, how it might be improved.

We will also look at alternatives that might become available if the provincial government changes the way local governments can run their elections.

There are some interesting options in other parts of Canada that allow for online and mail ballots and we want to be ready to consider those options if the provincial government allows their

use in B.C."

As with other local governments, Islands Trust elections are administered in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act.

The act defines many aspects of the elections process, including schedules, official notices and the way that polling stations operate.

It also determines who is eligible to vote and how they register.

"We are particularly interested to hear whether people think they have enough information

before, during and after the elections, whether they believe they have a good opportunity to participate in the process and where they think improvements could be made," said Benson.

Members of the public are invited to write to the Islands Trust or to email their suggestions to information@islandstrust.bc.ca by the end of January 2008. Early in January, an online survey will also be available through the Islands Trust website.

Trust Council will consider options in March and

then determine if it wants to make any changes to its elections procedures in November 2008.

Holiday deadlines

The Driftwood's publishing schedule over the holiday period means the deadline for editorial submissions is earlier than normal for our Wednesday, January 2 issue.

Letters to the editor, Rants & Roses or press releases must be in the Driftwood office by 10 a.m. on Friday, December 28.

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NEWSBEAT

FIRE DISTRICT

Study supports Fulford training facility

Fire board awaits Trust decision

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Construction of a training ground behind the Fulford fire hall poses “no significant potential for future soil or groundwater contamination,” according to a report released at the fire district’s monthly meeting last week.

“This report confirms our contention that there is no contamination at the site and confirms the proposed site does not cause a danger,” said fire district chair Michael Schubart.

The \$500,000 project is intended to provide volunteers and full-time firefighters with access to more training without the added expense and commitment of travelling

to facilities on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

The training ground would include classrooms, foam pits and live-fire props such as stripped vehicles. Vehicles will not contain upholstery, tires, batteries or other toxic materials, Schubart added.

Schubart reiterated the board’s position that a new training ground would be more environmentally sound than what is in place today.

“The type of burning we’ll feature is pretty much as clean as you’re going to get anywhere,” he said.

Replacing wood with propane as the site’s main source of fuel does not present significant potential for future contamination since “the combustion products of propane consist almost exclusively of carbon and

water vapour,” states the report.

Construction of the training facility will require rezoning from the Islands Trust and approval from the province’s Agricultural Land Commission.

“We are in a catch-22 here,” Schubart said. “We cannot improve the site until we get approved,” he said.

The fire district’s rezoning application will be placed on the agenda for the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting in January.

“We conclude that there is no potential for future soil or groundwater contamination from ongoing firefighting practices using firefighting foams (assuming that current material use continues),” reads part of the report, prepared by Madrone Environmental Services Limited of Duncan.

Training ground opponents like Vanessa Farias, owner of a neighbouring organic farm, are hesitant to support any study that neglects to gather input from neighbours.

“We cannot improve the site until we get approved.”

MICHAEL SCHUBART
Fire board chair

“Nobody has ever contacted us and I don’t think this report represents everybody’s perspective,” she said.

The most recent Madrone report is available online at www.saltspringfire.com and in print at the Salt Spring Island Public Library.

TRANSIT

Service provider in place for bus service

Drivers hired and ready

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As the person behind the wheel of Salt Spring’s new public transit system, Ineke DeJong is busy preparing the service for its January 7 launch.

DeJong, who owns the Ganges Faerie Mini Shuttle on Salt Spring, was recently awarded the contract to run the island’s public transit system. While DeJong won’t be driving the new buses when they hit the streets in January, she’ll work behind the scenes to ensure the service has a smooth start.

DeJong said the new position is a perfect fit for her since she spent the last five years operating a shuttle van service between all three ferry terminals and Ganges.

“It’s a natural extension of what I do now,” she said.

To get the system up to speed before the official start date, DeJong has been

busy hiring and training drivers and setting up the final game plan for the service.

“There is lots of organization involved, but I love doing that,” she said.

DeJong has three bus drivers ready to roll for the start date, and all will be properly trained to operate a large passenger vehicle.

DeJong said she received an almost immediate response to her ad for the positions and is still taking calls from potential drivers.

Another one of DeJong’s tasks is finalizing the schedule and bus stops. B.C. Transit, the Salt Spring Community Transit and Transportation Commission (CTTC) and DeJong spent an early December afternoon driving the routes and checking where the buses can safely pull over to load and unload passengers.

She said so far the six-day-per-week schedule and service look really good

for such a small operation.

Buses generally run from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. servicing Ganges, Vesuvius and Fulford, with limited stops at Long Harbour. DeJong said one bus will run most of the day while the other will operate during peak times only.

DeJong hopes the two 20-passenger mini-buses will run mostly on bio-diesel, however, that depends on how often Vancouver Island-based Columbia Fuels can deliver to Salt Spring.

Fares range from \$2 cash to \$15 for a book of 10 tickets.

Monthly passes are also available: \$40 for students and seniors, and \$50 for adults. Passes and tickets will be available at Patterson Market, Harbour Food Market, Pharmasave, Thrifty Foods, Ganges Village Market and the Vesuvius Store, states the B.C. Transit website.

For more information on the transit system, contact CTTC at 537-4400 or connect to www.busonline.ca.

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NEWSBEAT

CREEKSIDE PROPERTY FUNDRAISING

Getting a lesson in biodiversity

Bristol Foster rainforest walk provides insight into ecosystem

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring biologist with an international reputation has joined forces with the Save Salt Spring Rainforest Appeal, leading an educational walk through the 19.5-acre property last Sunday.

"Less than one per cent of the Earth is considered temperate rainforest and one fourth of that is here in B.C. It's really important to save," Bristol Foster said to the group before entering the property.

Along the hiking trail, which crosses Cusheon Creek and climbs into the temperate rainforest, Foster stopped to point out the key trees in the ecosystem, including the Douglas fir, the western red cedar and the red alder.

"The pioneer species is the red alder. The seeds can blow a long way. The trees are good at taking the nitrogen out of the air and into the soil," he explained.

As the group of 20 moved



Bristol Foster

up into a higher elevation along the muddy path, Foster stopped to examine mushrooms.

"A great thing about the autumn is hunting for mushrooms," he said as he pointed to a small oyster mushroom growing out of a log. "The Chinese use this mushroom to raise the immune system."

As the group neared the property boundary at the top of a hill, Foster pointed to a lone dead tree covered

with holes and peeling bark. He explained that a dead tree can be more useful than a live one.

"There is all sorts of life here," he said. "It's a valuable resource to the land."

For example, woodpeckers eat insects which are embedded in the wood.

Tree stumps provide another form of beneficial dead wood.

"Stumps are full of nutrients and it's a good place for a new tree to grow," he said, while examining a small western hemlock growing from a stump in the rainforest.

"This tree has a big advantage."

At the turn-around point where the property ends, Maureen Moore, campaign organizer for the Rainforest Appeal, stepped to the front of the group to speak.

She said the land is currently zoned for residential use and will be split into three lots unless the campaign can raise \$1 million by January 4.

"Why should we have a suburb when we can have a temperate rainforest?" she asked.

As the hikers strolled back down to their cars, Moore said the campaign currently

has \$200,000 pledged to buy the property.

The Save Salt Spring Rainforest Appeal is supported by The Land Conservancy of B.C., Salt Spring Island Conservancy, Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society, Friends of Salt Spring Parks and the Salt Spring Water Council.

For more information on the campaign, contact Moore at 538-1732 or visit www.savesaltspringrainforest.com.

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VISITING SPEAKERS

Tysick brings message of compassion

Victoria preacher promises to fire up island spirits

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Reverend Allen Tysick has presided over the Salt Spring United Church's year-end mass for the past 15 years, but he's confident this year's message of peace is needed more today than ever before.

"We are in a state of crisis and we're not listening or watching," he said in a telephone interview from his office at Victoria's Our Place homeless shelter. "We're destroying ourselves by our own hand. In the midst of our affluence, there is a fire of destruction and we can't even smell the smoke."

Despite a solid economy, high employment and record-breaking house prices, Tysick said, the number of visitors passing through places like Our Place in search of help is

also on the rise.

The shelter provides transitional housing, meals, support and advocacy, hygiene facilities and training to the city's poor. So great is the demand, it is not uncommon for Tysick to work 14 hours a day, often seven days a week.

So it comes as no surprise the reverend looks forward to some rest and relaxation with his family and a good book or two when he arrives on Salt Spring, but that won't stop him from doing what he does best.

In hopes of inspiring island residents to reach out to those around them, Tysick said he intends to weave scripture with personal anecdotes he's picked up along the way.

"Christians tend to rush to Easter and the resurrection too quickly," he said. "We don't spend enough time in the Good Friday world."

Salt Spring United Church Reverend Ruth Cairns said Tysick's appearances are

generally well attended by members of every faith.

"He kind of does his thing," she said. "He's quite a dynamic person."

And while Salt Spring may not have anywhere near the same number of homeless people as communities on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, she said, islanders must realize we are not immune.

So far, the United Church's "In From the Cold" program, offering a warm meal and a place to sleep when temperatures dip below freezing, has been activated eight times.

At one point last winter, she said, 14 people turned up at the front door, a record for the program.

"We've been saying it's a community problem," she said. "The whole community has to look at this issue."

Reverend Tysick is scheduled to speak at the United Church on Hereford Avenue on Sunday, December 30 at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

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NEWSBEAT

ISLAND BUSINESS



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE
Sharon and Bill Wilkinson are now the sole owners of GVM.

No changes in store at GV Market

Store still fully island owned and operated

Bill and Sharon Wilkinson insist shoppers will notice few changes when they take full ownership of Salt Spring's Ganges Village Market on January 1.

"We just want to keep being a part of the community," Sharon said during an interview last week. "We

are growing with the community."

Sharon and her husband set aside rumours of a pending corporate takeover at the store. Ganges Village is among seven Country Grocer stores individually owned and managed by the couple's relatives.

"We've always been a family focussed business," Sharon said.

The partnership with Country Grocer stores located between Victoria and

Nanaimo helps the retailer access better prices from distributors, Sharon said.

Bill said the decision to move forward and buy out their long-time business partners Brent Cooper and Karen Hartley made financial sense for the family.

"We've done this for the future of our family," he said. "Our kids are passionate about the business and are passionate about being involved."

The couple said the store

will continue to support local initiatives throughout the year.

This year, Sharon said, shoppers raised nearly \$3,000 for the Salt Spring Island Community Services Christmas hamper drive and another \$65,000 as part of the store's "save-a tape" program, which benefits numerous island groups.

The store employs 65 full-time and 20 part-time employees, all of whom are island residents.

OCP REVIEW

Trust clarifies Salt Spring timeline for official community plan

Official press release issued on process

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) has confirmed the next steps for reviewing the official community plan (OCP).

"We've now heard from many people after extensive public consultation through meetings, town hall sessions, questionnaires, correspondence, discussions with stakeholder groups, local advisory committees, other agencies and the recommendations we have received from the eight focus groups," said LTC chair Kim Benson in a press release issued from the Victoria Islands Trust office last week.

"All of that input now needs to be analyzed as we move forward to the next phase of the review."

According to the release, Trust staff are now analyzing all the input received and will present some initial recommendations to the LTC for its consideration at the end of January.

In order to manage the amount of input and information that needs to be considered and analyzed, the review is being done in phases, with the first phase to be completed by the fall of 2008.

The first phase will include a review of policies, advocacy statements and other matters that the LTC has identified, such as amenity zoning/density transfer, affordable housing, climate change and energy efficiency.

Subsequent phases will review development permit areas and consider how new sensitive ecosystem and hazard mapping could be used.

"I want to emphasize that this is an update of the existing OCP, which is pretty sound," said Salt Spring trustee George Ehring. "In reviewing the plan we targeted some key areas and we now need to determine where changes are needed and what gaps need to be filled."

"Essentially we're looking at improving the current OCP, not entirely rewriting it," added trustee Peter Lamb.

"It was innovative when it was written but it needs updating to address new issues that have arisen in the last 10 years, such as climate change and affordable housing. The OCP is like a road map — it provides direction on what you are going to do in the next five, 10 or 15 years."

Ehring added: "The focus groups did a tremendous amount

of work."

"We're glad we put their ideas out for further public input — as controversial as some of the recommendations were, our community needed to have that discussion."

The LTC expects that some of the staff recommendations they will receive at the end of January will require more focussed public input before an amended plan is released for formal community review.

"Once we receive the staff analysis we will be in a position to make proposals to the public and to get more input from them, specifically on some of the bigger issues such as amenity zoning, density transfer, energy use and secondary suites. Then we will ask staff to draft an amended plan for formal com-

munity review in late April," Ehring said.

A schedule of special LTC meetings to address the OCP review and provide additional opportunities for public input will be advertised early in the new year.

"The Salt Spring Island OCP contains a set of goals, objectives and policies for future land use on Salt Spring which is consistent with the object of the Islands Trust, Islands Trust Policy Statement, relevant best practices and the land use aspirations and interests of the community," explains the release.

More information on the review of Salt Spring's official community plan is available on the Islands Trust website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/default.cfm.

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Beginning **Monday, January 7**, Salt Spring Island residents will have a brand new transit system and more travel choices.

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- 4 Long Harbour:** Ganges to Long Harbour.

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

WINTER RIDE: Aileen Neish and her grand-daughter Inya Neish enjoy a brisk winter walk.

FERRY TRAVEL

B.C Ferries puts foot down on loading cut-off times

Islanders need to arrive minutes before sailing

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

B.C. Ferries will tighten ticket sale and loading cut-off times for all minor routes in January in an attempt to stick to its schedules.

Cut-off times for Salt Spring ferry routes will end three minutes prior to the scheduled sailing for vehicles and five minutes for foot passengers.

Deborah Marshall, media relations director for B.C. Ferries, said the policy

is following what is already in place with the major routes.

"We need consistency with the minor routes on departure times," she said.

A recent B.C. Ferries press release states the cut-off times will allow for an accurate passenger count and safe on-time vessel departures.

The policy also shows respect to customers who arrive on time.

Marshall said if the ferry is late, the cut-off time will occur when the ferry arrives.

For islanders, the new policy may take some getting used to, but it means passengers need to arrive a little ear-

lier, said Harold Swierenga, chair of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC).

He said last-minute arrivals are a major problem and cause of late sailings for B.C. Ferries.

For Swierenga, the policy is not a huge concern for the FAC. He said the committee is more focussed on dealing with the traffic and parking issues at the Fulford terminal.

The new policy starts January 7. It states all traffic ticketed or in line at the pre-ticket area prior to the cut-off time will be loaded if there is deck space available.

FOR THE RECORD

Much like recent flood waters, sheer copy volume overwhelmed editorial staff last week.

As a result, a sentence in Eric Booth's "More Kanaka flood discourse needed" piece spoke of inches instead of feet.

The correct sentence is: "... the culverting system below our property was evidently inadequate to handle the flow, as evidenced by the reported one-foot overflow of water at 175 Kanaka and the flooding over of the two-foot culvert under the school field, just downstream."

Secondly, high school art teacher Sandra Locke's name was spelled incorrectly in the cover art story, as was the name of student Zenah Ripplingale in a cutline.

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Classified deadline: Thursday, December 27th, 4 pm
Too late too classify: Friday, December 28, 10 am
Deadlines for the Weekender Friday, January 4th
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Highs and lows

What kind of year did Salt Spring Islanders experience?

If you've already forgotten the top stories of 2007, read through this issue's It's a Wrap summary of community news in the Driftwood.

Like most years, it was filled with plenty of tumult and surprises.

But what's not reflected in the capsule paragraphs of various events is the roller coaster of emotions that often accompanied those happenings.

Of particular note was the tenor of official community plan (OCP) debates and specifically the predilection of both "sides" to ascribe pernicious motives or entire belief systems to each other based on the support for (or non-support of) specific ideas.

It was hard to not be disturbed by some debaters' inability to comprehend how differing opinions might be expressed for a huge variety of reasons, not just one or two simplistic ones.

While it's fair to say islanders on the whole are more civilized in their discourse than in the past, the OCP dance showed we still have a ways to go in that department.

THE ISSUE:

Year in review

WE SAY:

Discourse level needs work

Two people islanders could learn from in that regard and who the Driftwood would like to acknowledge as they slink quietly out of the weekly

news spotlight are Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) members Rosemary Trump and Peter Lake.

Both are stepping down after several years of volunteering on the commission, which offers a rewarding and challenging but generally thankless chance to serve the community.

Sure, Lake can be abrasive in speaking his mind — but that doesn't stop him from being able to work constructively with others — and he will be missed on the commission.

Trump agreed to take on the role of chair as PARC clanged its way through the aftermath of what is colloquially known as "the tennis fiasco." Call her crazy for accepting the task, but she managed to get PARC back on an even keel and has left a positive legacy.

While they won't officially be commission members when the indoor pool opens in early 2008, they should be front and centre with those being acknowledged and thanked for the project coming to fruition.

Salt Spring Island is an amazing community, but like any other it's far from perfect.

The end of a year is an ideal time to reflect on the positives and resolve to improve the rest.



Humbug to incorporation idea

BY TOM DAVID

Last time around I was almost ready to vote for incorporation, then all the politicking turned me away from it.

We've only been here since 1981, having come from Ladner, which was getting too big, and it was really nice here. I didn't know much about the island or its politics. I still don't and I'm not really interested, but with incorporation it's a one-way road — no coming back.

Ladner went nuts and I wouldn't want to live there any more. Salt Spring hasn't, it's still a great place to live. I feel bad about voting for the pool. It's going to open one day, but it will still be easier and cheaper to go off-island for a swim where the kids can really enjoy themselves. Sure we will use it and I hope the kids can get involved with the Stingrays swim team. The pool is not as advertised (to get votes), but it's done.

I'd sure like to see a guarantee that incorporation is not going to raise taxes. I'm sure we would need a spiffy municipal hall pretty quickly, but all the municipal workers will of course be volunteers, even though the pool for volunteers is pretty shallow these days. People just don't support organizations like they used to and lots of organizations are having problems getting volunteers.

So I guess people hired due to incorporation will need to get paid creating more jobs — that's a good thing. Most of the palaver around incorporation seems to be the Islands Trust doesn't, can't, won't do what this ISG group wants. I haven't heard anything from the ISG that would be good for me personally.

Salt Spring hasn't changed as much as some other places have and personally I like that idea. I think that has a lot to do

VIEWPOINT

with the Trust and I'll be happy to ride along with them a while longer.

Regional director Gary Holman doesn't need to apologize. Nothing that has happened in recent years wouldn't have happened anyway except a municipality may have been a little heavy handed. The pool was an initiative that was due and wanted by a lot of people and most likely would have been handled in the same way with the same results.

Tom Navratil says in his December 19 piece that there is no one place to contact local government, such as a municipal hall. I suppose I can talk to anybody with just a couple of calls or by going to a meeting or two. Try going to municipal meetings to contact anybody without a prior appointment. The usual policy is that you can speak, sit down and shut up — I discovered that in Ladner and I doubt they got that under their own plans.

As to supporting the other islands to a degree, that does need to be investigated, but I think the trustees can handle that and if they don't, vote them out of office for someone who will. The imbalance of payments is an item the trustees should jump on before an incorporation vote is jammed down our throats.

The Islands Trust was brought into being at a time when most people would volunteer to do things and it worked quite well. Most of the new generations want to get paid to do anything. Right or wrong, that causes problems and makes it hard to get things done. However, with the right motivation, good leaders and supporters, things do still get done.

So I'm ready to give the Trust and the trustees another go 'round. Remember, if you don't like incorporation, there is no going back.

The writer is a Cedar Lane resident.

[Incorporation]

is a one-way

road — no

coming back.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

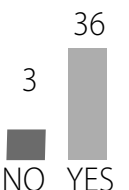
Are New Year's resolutions overrated?

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LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you believe Christmas has become too commercial?



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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"In the midst of our affluence there is a fire of destruction and we can't even smell the smoke."

REV. AL TYSICK

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What's one thing you are looking forward to in the new year?



MIKALA BASCOM
Adopting my new sister from Utah.



VALERIE MELVILLE
Sunshine.



GREG MIDDLETON
A little better weather.



BILL CLARK
I look forward to a good summer. We need more sunshine.



CHRISTY ROBLEY
I'm looking forward to having the Salt Spring roads paved properly.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Read and Reply to Driftwood letters online at www.gulfislands.net/blogs/blog_letters

Shocking pollution

Last Saturday, on December 15, our soccer team travelled to Salt Spring from Victoria for a soccer game on Rainbow Road.

I always enjoy visiting the town of Ganges and the island itself. I enjoy the beauty of your island, but was shocked when some time into our soccer game we were assaulted with billowing smoke from a scrap yard directly across the road. Someone in a backhoe was loading waste onto a fire while teenage girls were playing soccer directly across the road.

It was not only an obnoxious smell, but ash was raining down on us while we stood and watched. I was shocked that such an environmentally conscious community could allow that kind of burning. In this day

of global warming, I think that Salt Spring Islanders need to take a stand against that kind of pollution.

Four of the girls on our soccer team suffer with asthma which is controlled with medicine. Shame on that property owner, knowing there was a soccer game happening directly across the road, and polluting the air for the young girls playing and all those watching.

H. CASHIN,
VICTORIA

Good will wanted

From my experience, the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) is not an elite organization. It does not own land, the annual membership fee has remained \$20 for years and its membership is open to anyone who cares to play tennis.

The old bubble had been available since 1991, select-

ed, financed and operated by a group of volunteers from the SSTA, myself included, who intended to offer an opportunity for enjoyment of the game during the off-season to all active players on the island.

Several years later, the bubble ownership was formally taken over by the SSTA itself, which continued to operate the same until this year. All this happened in smooth cooperation with PARC, who could not have had a more dedicated partner for the task at hand.

The bubble replacement is estimated to cost approximately \$300,000. It was only recently reported to be the subject of an agreement between the original partners, based on a contribution of \$200,000, plus a guarantee of a limited overrun, on the part of the SSTA, and a grant of \$100,000 by PARC. Assuming the island population to be an even 10,000

inhabitants, the grant thus represents \$10 per person for construction, but nothing for operation of the bubble, if the previous type of partnership is renewed.

By comparison, the swimming pool is reported to require a PARC contribution of \$598 per person for construction, plus approximately \$40 per person annually for operation. Some difference!

Prevailing circumstances have caused the above deal to come to a halt. Drawing on the available good will at this time of the year, it should be possible for all parties to agree on the cost of the new bubble, before the Olympics 2010 cause it to rise again. Let us hope the directors of PARC have the courage of conviction and the will to assert their original decision to provide the agreed-upon support for the replacement bubble at Portlock Park.

If they do not, they will have caused the elimination and loss of a generally accepted and proven facility of recreational community service, and they will remain in sharp conflict with their own official mission, which is: "To use the delivery of publicly sponsored Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services as a vehicle to meet certain socially worthwhile goals and objectives; where the achievement of those goals and objectives clearly results in some form of indirect benefit to all Salt Spring residents, that indirect benefit being often referred to as the 'greater public good.'"

SEPP KANDLER,
SALT SPRING

Support appreciated

On behalf of Music Makers of the Anglican Parish, I would like to thank all those who supported our music

programs in All Saints By-the-Sea Church this year. Also, our gratitude to the Driftwood for providing the opportunity to let everyone know about upcoming events. We owe the success of the programs to all of you.

Patrons should note that Music and Munch resumes on Wednesday mornings at 10:10 a.m., except when Music and Munch occurs. On January 2, Barry Valentine is offering one of these popular organ recitals at the usual time of 10:10 a.m., while Music and Munch takes its annual holiday break.

We look forward to seeing you all again and wish you a very Happy New Year.

LOTTE DEVINDISCH,
FOR MUSIC MAKERS

Hornby offers creative self-government options

BY TONY LAW

In a recent presentation to Islands Trust Council, Islanders for Self-government asked the Islands Trust Council to "ensure Salt Spring, and any other island that wishes to incorporate in the future, will be bound by the Islands Trust's mandate."

I am surprised this organization is unaware that the Islands Trust Act (Section 39.1) already requires that the council of a municipality within the Trust area have regard for the object of the Trust.

However, the reality is that a municipal council, by its nature, has to give regard to so many other issues that the object of the Islands Trust can soon become less than front-and-centre. This seems to be the case with Bowen Island Municipality. Visit their website and you will have to hunt around to find any mention of the Islands Trust and the municipality's responsibility to the object of the Trust. You will not find this on the home page, in the mission statement, in the mayor's message, or on the pages describing government structure and planning. If you manage to find the "quick link" labelled "Islands Trust" on a secondary page you will see the dry statement that "Bowen Island Municipal Council considers the Islands Trust mandate when it adopts bylaws and issues permits and licenses."

As I see it, the creation of Local Trust Committees wisely separates land use decisions from other local governance decisions

GUEST COLUMN

so that they may regulate the development and use of land "for the purpose of carrying out the object of the Trust" (in the words of the Islands Trust Act).

Right now, Bowen Island Municipality is moving towards considering "pre-zoning" rural lands owned by the municipality to "increase their value" so that they can be sold to "raise revenue" to serve debts. This course of action, which will involve amending the Official Community Plan, is considered to be "essential" by council. Thus the land use decision will be made by the very entity that will financially benefit from increasing the development potential of the lands.

On Hornby Island, Comox-Strathcona Regional District is also looking at selling undeveloped lands it owns to raise revenue. However, in this case, redesignation and rezoning decisions would be made by the Local Trust Committee which is at arm's length from the financial considerations.

This is just one example of how the current division of governance helps to ensure that land use decisions are guided by the object of the Islands Trust rather than the object being merely a consideration.

Hornby Islanders have a long-standing, passionate and active interest in self govern-

ment. Over the years we have explored available options, including incorporation. As creative, rural islanders we have focused our energies upon establishing a home-grown approach to governance rather than upon pursuing an urban form of government.

At the core of our "self-governance" is the Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA). It has almost 50 elected positions (executive and committees), a budget of almost half a million dollars and paid administrator and other staff.

HIRRA provides tax-supported services on a contractual basis with the regional district, including waste management/recycling, parks, fire protection, recreation, etc. Through a recent service review, the economic development function will now be carried out locally. The island's trustees and regional director participate in monthly public HIRRA meetings to provide a one-stop opportunity for sharing information, exploring issues and maintaining a cohesive approach to island governance.

I am sure that Salt Spring Islanders are at least as creative and collaborative as Hornby Islanders and my impression is that your current trustees and regional director have a strong commitment to improving governance. For its part, the Islands Trust Council, following a great deal of consultation, has also made a strong commitment to pursue a governance review and amendments to the Islands Trust Act to strengthen

governance for Salt Spring.

I am puzzled by the strong disconnect between Islanders for Self-Government's stated support of the Islands Trust and its opposition to the Islands Trust's efforts to improve governance for Salt Spring. The only reason I can speculate for such action is the rather disturbing one that this group is willing to undermine potential improvements in governance so that it can foment dissatisfaction to garner support for its own pet solution.

As a resident of another island, I certainly do not want to inappropriately intrude into Salt Spring's issues. On the other hand, I do want to convey that members of the Islands Trust Council like myself have an active interest in the well-being of Salt Spring. We give a great deal of consideration to what your elected representatives have to say and much attention to improving services and governance on Salt Spring. So it is unsettling to find our collective efforts to support Salt Spring being undermined by this particular organization's lobbying.

I have no quarrel with the existence of organizations pursuing particular political agendas. That is part of democracy. But if democracy is going to work, it requires all players to participate in good faith.

The writer is a Hornby Island local trustee.

OPINION

To my Salt Spring friends, old and new, for showing me (and my mom in the fall) such kindness during my many visits back "home" this year. Wishing you only joy. Cheryl Cohen

A holiday sleigh of roses for master builder Patrick Tarissan for his tireless "up on the rooftop" efforts at our home. You are the consummate professional. Merci beaucoup. J&E.

A bouquet of Christmas roses to Bruce Watkins for his

RANTS and Roses

mechanical wizardry on our truck. You are much appreciated. Tracy and Cheri

A backhoe full of snow white roses to Brad Bompas for ensuring our safety by spreading sand on the road down Mount Belcher. A true community-minded guy is our Brad. Victoria and Denis

Hand-made paper roses

to the wonderful children and their adults who made the Friday kids' programs at the library so successful and fun! Unfortunately we got "flooded out" for the last month due to the snow damage, but the program will start again in the new year, so stay tuned! Have a lovely holiday season full of stories, adventures and crafts — see you in 2008!

Fantastically strong and healthy roses to the group of elves at Friends Fitness who put together an incredible and thoughtful collection of Christmas gifts for residents of the Salt Spring Island Transition House. What would Santa do without you?! From Island Women Against Violence

Many red and green teddy

roses to Ganges Liquor Store employees for their annual contribution of beautiful, brand new teddy bears for children at the Salt Spring Transition House. IWAV

Thanks a bunch to Alan Moberg and TJ Beans for responding so quickly to my safety concerns. Since the shrubs in front of TJs have been cut back, turning left from McPhillips onto Lower Ganges Road has become less hazardous and drivers need no longer block the pedestrian crosswalk while

estimating their chances of a successful left turn. Jean Elder

Stacks of page-turning roses to Judi Francis, book sale coordinator extraordinaire, who made the first Bag-a-Book Sale fundraiser for Community Education run so smoothly, in spite of minor glitches like a snow-storm. Her husband Bob Francis also deserves huge bouquets for providing mega-muscle and logic at all the appropriate times.

Ganges Village Market News

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100% Salt Spring owned for over 22 years

•Coke•Sprite
 •Diet Coke
 •Coke Zero
 •Dasani•Canada Dry
 Ginger Ale 6x710mL

2 FOR \$5.00

Old Dutch Potato Chips 200g **3 FOR \$5.00**

Old Dutch Salt n' Vinegar 200g

Fresh Whole Cooked Lobster
 Approximately 350-450g

12.98 Each

Lobster Barbecue Sauce

1/2 Cup Mayonnaise	1 tsp Onion, Grated
1/4 Cup Ketchup	1 tsp Sugar
1/4 Cup Lemon Juice	1/4 tsp Salt
1 tsp Worcestershire	1 dash Pepper

- Mix all Ingredients Together Thoroughly
- Brush Generously over Lobster Meat Before Starting to Grill
- Repeat Once During Cooking

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What's for Dinner?

TURKEY POT PIE
 Short cuts to cooking for one or two @ with Sarah Lynn, 2006

Turkey feast realities: You proudly carry the glistening, browned turkey to the table, greeted by oohs and aaahs. The fragrant steam rises from the slices as your guests and family members happily dig into the feast. An hour or so later, if you're not exhausted, you might separate your meat and reserve it in zip lock bags and boil your carcass for soup broth. Or you might simply hoist the remains of the once-glorious bird into the refrigerator and hope that it magically disappears by the time you open the refrigerator again. However, when next you check, you will discover a leftover turkey with dangling, dried pieces of meat hanging from the picked-over bones. It is not a pretty picture. You might get your family to eat it for a second dinner. Later you may try various disguises for using up the turkey. (My favorite is turkey enchaladas-anything smothered in cheese is highly disguisable. I will have this past recipe at the booth for you if you don't have it already.) Depending on the leftovers you could add gravy and cooked vegetables to the meat and pop all into a pie shell to bake a pot pie. If you don't have enough leftover gravy and vegetables to do the trick properly, follow this simple pot pie recipe.

One recipe pastry or **2 prepared deep dish frozen pie shells** as this will be a double crust pie. Bring to a boil **2 1/2 cups water**. Peel and cube **1 potato**, mince **1 small onion**, chop **2 stalks celery**, dice **2 carrots**, measure **3 tablespoons dried parsley & 1 teaspoon dried oregano**. Add to the boiling water & cook until tender. Add **2 cubes chicken bouillon**. (Optional: **2 tablespoons curry paste** can be added to make a curry pot pie.) Coat **2 cups cubed cooked turkey** with **3 tablespoons flour**. Add to cooked vegetable mixture & stir until thickened. Remove from heat & let cool slightly. Transfer to a prepared uncooked pie shell. Top with second pie shell by flipping it over to cover the filled pie shell. Bake for 35 minutes at 425° or until golden brown.

Come and try this wonderful dish at THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET FOOD DEMONSTRATION

▶ **•This Thursday 1:00pm - 5:30pm**
•This Friday 11:00am - 5:30pm

Shopping list:

- 2 deep dish frozen pie shells
- 1 potato
- 1 small onion
- 2 stalks celery
- 2 carrots
- Dried parsley
- Dried oregano
- Chicken bouillon cubes
- Curry paste (optional)
- Flour

Lotto Centre

OPEN DAILY 8am - 9pm

IT'S A WRAP: 2007

Pull-out Section



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Island firefighters were called on to fight the biggest blaze of the year when the lodge and a secondary building at Salt Spring Island Village Resort burned to the ground.

PASSAGES 2007

- Herb Burnett marked his last day as the island's government agent in January after spending 16 years in the position.
- Fritz, the famous cinema cat, was killed by a car on February 21, sparking sadness among the many people used to seeing him at his Central Hall home.
- Gulf Islands School District trustees voted to close down the SD64 business company after five years of operation.
- Mahon Hall went from white to yellow.
- Some 120 students graduated from GISS.
- Alex Barnes' eighth birthday party at the end of the summer was one of the last celebrations to ever be held in Salt Spring's outdoor Shelby Pool.
The pool was set to go to the Pender Island swim club, but was not in good enough shape to make the transfer.

LOOKING BACK ON 2007

- Owners of the Kings Lane bowling alley property accepted a \$1.1 million purchase offer from the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD). The 3.5-acre property at 154 Kings Lane was tagged as the preferred location for a new firehall. As the story evolved, the fire district announced it would seek approval for \$5 million for the new firehall through a counter-petition process. The process was withdrawn by the end of January, with plans to hold a referendum instead.
- The library also announced preliminary financial plans for a new \$6.85-million library on McPhillips Avenue.
- Dot.com success story John Lefebvre, who moved to Salt Spring and vowed to resurrect the Vesuvius Pub, was arrested and charged under the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act. He was later released after posting bail of \$5 million.



JONATHAN OLDROYD



ST. CLAIR MCCOLL

- umns at the Rainbow Road indoor pool site postponed the opening from spring until September.
- B&B Ganges Marina Ltd. vowed to pursue plans to build four accessory buildings on the Ganges shoreline despite a stop work order from the Capital Regional District (CRD).
- Results of the second annual Salt Spring "rough count" showed the island's homeless population was higher and more diverse than the previous year. Thirty-two people were counted as homeless, while an additional 30 were deemed to live in substandard housing.
- Pilot St. Clair McColl and passengers Mary Paul and Jonathan Yardley were hailed as heroes after rescuing a father and son from the Strait of Georgia, where their 16-foot aluminum boat had overturned.
- Alcohol was blamed in a dramatic crash when a truck with three men in it plunged off a cliff and onto a beach in Fulford Harbour. Police said the men, all from off-island, were lucky to be alive.
- A Law Society discipline committee sided with a B.C. Supreme Court decision that former Salt Spring lawyer Jonathan Oldroyd knowingly misdirected funds left in his trust by 12 clients. A penalty hearing later in the year disbarred Oldroyd.
- A problem with the cement col-

IT'S A WRAP continued on 12

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IT'S A WRAP: 2007

LOCAL HEROES

- The Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre rescued a starving sea lion, which wandered into a gas station in Port Alberni. The rescue marked the centre's first case as it started its second decade on Salt Spring.

- Eddie Waddell donated 120 DVDs to the library.

- GISS drama teacher Jason Donaldson and his six-member, high school improv team qualified for the national championship event in Ottawa. Members included: Dejan Loyola, Bonn Smith, Halley Fulford, Alex Corley, Clare Lannan and Jordan Roper. The team ultimately placed 7th.

- Youths Will Cornwall, Kevin Coates and Eli Balec were among several island skaters hailed as local heroes after they helped police chase down and subdue an off-island thief.

- Island ventriloquist Brad Cummings appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman.

- Anna Callegari and Beth Gessinger won a prestigious award from the B.C. Pharmacy Association for their work in Africa.

- Thirteen-year-old cello player Rylan Gajek won the Salt Spring Concert Band's seventh annual solo competition.

- Tennis coach Jack Barclay was presented with an outstanding service award from Tennis B.C.

- Eleven-year-old Matt Harvey rescued a Vancouver man whose boat capsized in Ganges Harbour.



Above, ground breaking ceremony for Murakami Gardens affordable housing project; below (top), a fatal accident on North End Road; below (bottom), Salt Spring's newly approved bus makes a visit to the island.



Briony Penn steps up; Danny Willis speaks up

IT'S A WRAP

continued from 11

- High-profile environmental activist Briony Penn stunned political junkies across the country when she announced plans to seek the Liberal nomination for the federal Saanich-Gulf Islands riding.

- Statistics for 2006 released in March showed a dramatic increase in person-to-person crimes on Salt Spring. The 2006 total was 47 cases higher than 2005 and 55 cases higher than 2004. RCMP Sgt. Danny Willis said a shortage of RCMP officers — and resulting lack of visibility — could have contributed to the stats.

- Provincial funding for a new transit system on Salt Spring meant islanders would have a chance to approve support of a bus and new CRD commission to take on the island's transportation issues. Both eventually passed though a counter-petition process.



BRIONY PENN



DANNY WILLIS

- Some 100 people attended an Islanders for Self-Government meeting in April, suggesting the "winds of political change" may be stirring on the island.

- A gathering of more than 50 Ganges business owners and concerned citizens vowed to reclaim cafes, parks and sidewalks in the downtown core before criminal activity spiralled further out of control.

- At around \$1.36 per litre, Salt Spring gas prices were the highest

LOOKING BACK continued on 25

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OPINION

Dialogue, not confrontation, the way to good governance

BY KEN MARR

Islanders for Self-Government (ISG) is disappointed with the confrontational approach chosen by Gary Holman, the current Capital Regional District (CRD) director for Salt Spring Island. ("Democracy is not ISG's real agenda," December 5 Driftwood.)

Throughout our campaign to inform islanders of the benefits of incorporation and the problems with our current form of governance, we have been careful to avoid this.

ISG has publicly complimented Messieurs Holman, Lamb and Ehring for their dedication and hard work and have noted that we believe they have the best interests of islanders in mind. We have publicly stated that we believe all three would be elected to the municipal council if they chose to run.

ISG has recently invited citizens such as Charles Breth, David Borrowman and the Raging Grannies (all vocal opponents of our group) to discuss our differences over coffee. Although we usually leave these coffee meetings still differing in opinion, we come away with a better understanding and respect of the others' opinions. In every case, we agree on the Salt Spring that we want, but in some cases, we differ on how we can get there.

Mr. Holman, are you aware that a large percentage of ISG supported you in the last election and voted against incorporation five years ago? Are you aware that people can change their minds? Are you aware of the democratic rights of citizens to voice their opinions at all times and not simply at election time? Are you aware of the frustration and outrage on Salt Spring over irresponsible development, mind-numbing red-tape, duplication of services, lack of enforcement of bylaws and decisions being made off-island and by off-islanders?

Do you think the unilateral power of a one-person office to appoint commissions and to disburse considerable sums of taxpayers' money is better than having that power in the hands of a municipal council of seven, representing varying walks of life on Salt Spring?

That islanders are fed up

IN RESPONSE

with our current form of governance is evidenced by the facts that the Trust has sponsored studies and reports on changing governance on the island, and the increasing growth and strength of ISG.

Mr. Holman states that comparisons to West Vancouver (population 42,000) are bizarre. What incorporated communities would he like us to compare to? How about Metchosin (population 4,800)? Last month, Barriere (population 1,800), Clearwater (population 5,000) and Westside (population 40,000) incorporated. We are working on a comparison to Bowen Island (population 3,000). ISG would be happy to work with the CRD and the Trust on this. Please give us your suggestions.

On your list of accomplishments, please tell us what would not have been possible for a Salt Spring municipality. Please explain how our "unique government structure, through the CRD, can provide greater" (than what?) "tax support for commercial recycling, or pedestrian-operated lights, or sidewalks."

When we take on the responsibility and decision-making for our roads, we will decide what is important for islanders. What has the Islands Trust and CRD done to improve the conditions of our roads?

It concerned us to see highways employees clearing our roads all weekend during the recent snowfall and then immediately having to deal with resulting floods and road damage. Imagine a Salt Spring where all of our works crews can pull together in times of need: parks and rec, highways and waterworks districts.

You are right, Mr. Holman, when you say that ISG has allies in the real estate, development and vacation rental industries. However, you fail to mention our allies in past trustees and CRD directors, young working families, retired folk, business owners, government employees and environmentalists. More people join ISG daily when they recognize the problems with our cur-

rent system and the benefits of what seems to work elsewhere in the world.

ISG supports incorporation under the preserve and protect mandate and we proposed a motion at Trust Council in Victoria recently that would ensure this would happen in perpetuity for Salt Spring and every other island that incorporates. Trustees on Trust Council assured ISG that this was unnecessary, as the legislation already requires this.

Tony Law, trustee for Hornby Island, e-mailed the ISG on December 13, stating "the Islands Trust Act (Section 39.1) already requires that the council of a municipality within the Trust area have regard for the object of the Trust."

Mr. Holman's article makes light of a very important aspect of governance on Salt Spring and a legislative fact: when Salt Spring incorporates, the municipal council must adhere to the preserve and protect mandate of the Trust.

Salt Spring needs the leadership of a representative council and mayor: a municipality responsible for dividing the pie. We cannot continue being governed by a one-person office and by appointed boards that rely on a system of counter-petitions to raise funds.

Last month, North Salt Spring Waterworks announced a counter-petition for its aeration project and the CRD did the same to establish funding for the island's search and rescue group. Earlier this year it was a transportation commission through the CRD and the fire department for a fire truck. In 2005 there was a library land purchase counter-petition and we will soon have another library decision... what is next?

Imagine a future for Salt Spring where we all work together to achieve the local, effective, accountable governance we all want.

In this season of peace on Earth and goodwill to all men and women, the executive of ISG wishes you a Happy New Year, and we look forward to peaceful, reasoned and rational dialogue in 2008.

The writer is president of ISG.

we're online at www.gulfislands.net

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WITH A NO RUN OUT GUARANTEE!

OPINION

Bali outcome shows human race trying to grow up

BY GWYNNE DYER

Do not be downhearted about the outcome of the Bali talks. They did not deliver the binding commitments to cuts in greenhouse gas emissions that are desperately needed, and as a result millions may die who might have lived.

But they did show us something remarkable. They showed us the human race trying to grow up and take responsibility for its common future.

It doesn't feel like that, of course. It feels like 15,000 politicians, diplomats,

journalists and activists flew across continents in order to sit in Bali for two weeks and achieve very little. Disappointment and even anger are not out of order, for the commitment to early and deep emission cuts (25 to 40 per cent by 2020) that most developed countries wanted to see in the draft treaty had to be dropped in order to keep the United States involved at all.

The Bush administration no longer denies that climate change is a problem, but it is still determined to kill any international

deal that involves concrete and legally binding targets. The United States produces about a quarter of the world's emissions, so no deal that excludes it would work. Moreover, the developing countries where emissions are growing fastest, particularly China and India, will never accept obligations of their own while the United States accepts none. So the American delegation had to be kept on board no matter how obstructive it was.

It was amazingly obstructive. There must be

no targets, there must be no timetables, there must be no numbers at all in the "roadmap" that the conference was drawing up for the next two years of negotiations on a successor to the Kyoto treaty, insisted chief U.S. negotiator Harlan Watson.

Why not? Because "once numbers appear in the text, it prejudices the outcome and will tend to drive the negotiations in one direction." Yes, and if everybody's shared goal is cut emissions and avoid catastrophic climate change, what's wrong with

that?

It was Al Gore who saved the day with a speech in which he urged the conference to be patient.

"My own country, the United States, is mainly responsible for obstructing progress at Bali," he admitted, but "over the next two years the United States is going to be somewhere it is not now . . . One year and 40 days from today there will be a new (presidential) inauguration in the United States."

"If you decide to continue the progress that has been made here on all

the items other than the targets and timetables for mandatory reductions, on the hope and with the expectation that, before this process is concluded . . . you will be able to fill in that blank (with the help of a different position from the United States), then you can make great progress here."

Bush will soon be gone. Even though time is short, you have to wait him out.

The conference took Gore's advice and removed the numbers from the text. Even then, astonishingly, the U.S. delegation declared that it could not support the revised text—and a chorus of boos rang out in the crowded conference hall. A delegate from Papua New Guinea stood up and told the U.S. delegation: "If you're not willing to lead, please get out of the way."

After a short huddle, the U.S. delegation announced that it would support the revised text after all.

So there is a "roadmap" for the next two years of negotiations, although it has no hard numbers in it. Low-level meetings will continue over the next year, but the next big conference, scheduled for Poland next December, will probably be allowed to slip by a couple of months so that the new U.S. administration is in office. And then, hopefully, they can put the numbers back in.

There is no guarantee that the emissions cuts they finally agree on in 2009 will be big enough, or that everybody will meet their commitments.

Runaway global warming is a serious possibility, in which case we may be facing megadeaths by mid-century. But Bali was not a futile or a shameful exercise. It was six billion people in 180 separate countries trying to cope with a shared danger in a cooperative way.

It was actually quite inspiring, and even 50 years ago it would have been inconceivable.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

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OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CORE INN SHUFFLE: Island youth enjoy a dance at the Core Inn on Thursday night.

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SINCE 1930

U.S., Canadian elections, climate change petition offer chance for positive action

BY MARION PAPE

Initially it looked good in Bali with a near-consensus agreement on a delicate framework of 2020 targets for rich countries, in return for which China and the developing world would do their part over time.

By now, every Canadian knows that our environment minister, John Baird, with instructions from Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, used wrecking tactics to prevent new international agreements up until the very last moment. These tactics are common for the United States, which holds out until everyone is so exhausted that they can barely think, break out in tears and give in to the seriously weakened language. In Canada, however, we are not accustomed to this behaviour.

The official Canadian delegation disregarded international efforts in which we have long played an important role before Harper's Conservatives began leading a minority government in Canada. Canada has a strong international reputation for diplomacy and fair-mindedness. In fact, European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas, lead negotiator for European countries at the conference, said, "Canada is perhaps a unique case in the international community . . . It's a country that always delivers, that respects its international obligations . . ."

So where is that country now? And what can we as Canadians do about it?

In the end, two agreements were reached at Bali

INDEPTH

after a worldwide crisis call to citizens to turn the situation around. Many Salt Spring Islanders participated in this turnaround and know how it feels when your country lets you down in a major way. Remember how differently we felt when Canada made the decision to not join the war against Iraq? I sure didn't feel that way last weekend!

Although we did achieve two agreements, the first agreement was considerably weakened out of pressure from the U.S. and only states that "deep cuts" to GHG emissions will be necessary to respond to the global-warming crisis. Specific targets, which are required for the world to actually reduce GHG emissions, were not included in the agreement, which is now left for negotiations over the next two years. Our work is cut out for us to make sure we get strong target-based agreements.

A second agreement was later reached with the 38 wealthy countries that have ratified the Kyoto accord, which set targets for deep cuts in emissions. The United States was not present in these deliberations because they have not signed the Kyoto protocol.

Hilary Benn, Britain's environment secretary, said: "There are now six billion of us on this small and fragile planet. There will be nine billion of us in less than 40 years' time. What are we going to do when people start fighting, not about pol-

itics but about water? What will we do when people start arriving on our shores fleeing not political persecution but environmental catastrophe?"

He went on to say that although the answers are not clear, that he sees the political solution that will follow on from Bali is ". . . the best and only hope we have for the future of mankind."

Where is the room for optimism when the country that generates about 14 per cent of the world's GHG emissions (and the figure is rising fast) refuses to commit to reductions?

And yet, there is lots of room for optimism. At a recent meeting in Seattle, over 700 mayors signed an agreement aiming to meet or beat the Kyoto targets of 2012. They want to reduce their cities' GHG emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 and want national support in accomplishing this. And an election is coming up.

Canada, too, will imminently be holding a federal election and many Canadians are poised to hold our minority government to account. In addition, our local governments across the country are making highly significant decisions around supporting public transit, designing cities, towns and villages around pedestrians and cyclists, establishing energy efficiency targets for new and existing homes and providing more locally grown organic food.

On December 8, 86 countries participated in an International Climate Change Action Day to tie in to the

gathering of world leaders at the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Bali.

To the theme of Think Globally, Act Locally, Salt Spring held a Salt Spring Musicians for Climate Change Action Day drop-in free concert. We listened to talented musicians sharing their music with the community and speaking out about climate change. We also launched a climate change petition to the Islands Trust and CRD, urging them in the strongest language possible to ensure that our OCP, related bylaws and recommendations to other agencies demonstrate strong measures to address climate change.

Have you signed the Climate Change Action Petition to the Islands Trust and CRD? Are you aware of the many positive proposed policy recommendations on energy conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in the OCP? Check them out on the Islands Trust website. Are you planning to use public transit when it is launched on January 7?

Taking personal action is the key. Action flows from knowing and acknowledging that we can create a better future for our children and grandchildren.

You can find the petition at Salt Spring Books, I-SEA, Apple Photo and Island Star Video. Call met at 537-4567 for more info and if you want to help.

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in this amazing community who have rallied around us and have supported us (and continue to do so) in so many different ways! We will never be able to express how much we appreciate your acts and words of kindness -

THANK YOU!

~Josip "Joe", Tatjana, Nina and Vedran Budimcic

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What's On This Week

Wed.
Dec 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Hey Boy Hey Girl.
Boxing Day Bash at Shipstones. 8 p.m.
Boxing Day Party.
Donny Brook & the Haymakers — AKA Matt Steffich, Dave Roland, Doug Rhodes and special guest. Moby's Pub.
DJs Cassidy & Virgil.
Spin the tunes at The Local. 7 p.m.

Thurs.
Dec 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
One Night Stand with Matt & Tom.
Live music at Shipstones. 8 p.m.

Fri.
Dec 28

ACTIVITIES
 No events scheduled at this time.

Sat.
Dec 29

ACTIVITIES
Guided Creekside Rainforest Walks. See subject of land purchase campaign on guided walks. End of Creekside at 107 Hillview Dr. 10 a.m.
Christmas Bird Count.
Runs on Salt Spring. Info: Gil Schultz, 537-9469.

Sun.
Dec 30

ACTIVITIES
Guided Creekside Rainforest Walks. See subject of land purchase campaign on guided walks. End of Creekside at 107 Hillview Dr. 1 p.m.

Mon.
Dec 31

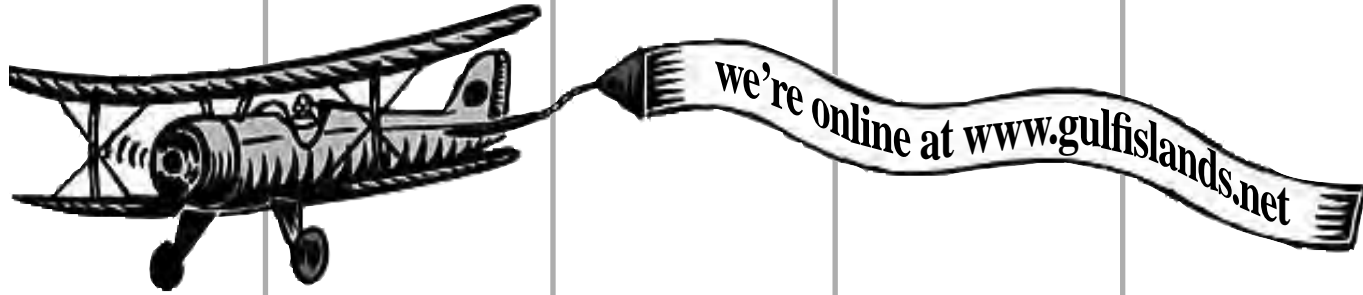
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
New Year's Eve With Auntie Kate. At Moby's Pub.
New Year's Eve With Beluga. Original rock and funk plus Zep, Doors, Who, Stones and more. Fulford Inn.
Swingshift.
New Year's Eve dance featuring Sue Newman. Meaden Hall.
Bachman Hooper Johnson.
New Year's Eve at Shipstones.
OTHER ACTIVITIES
Newfie New Year's Eve.
Corks pop at 7:30 p.m. with the pub closed by 10. The Local.

Tues.
Jan 1

ACTIVITIES
Vesuvius Bay Polar Bear Swim.
Vesuvius Beach. Registration from 12:30 p.m., plunge at 1 p.m. sharp. Pirates of the Caribbean costume theme.

Wed.
Jan 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Simply Organic.
Free organ recital with Barry Valentine at All Saints. 10:10 a.m., followed by coffee & muffin.



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CINEMA
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Enchanted — Disney's latest fairytale-with-a-twist plays next week at The Fritz!

CABLE TV
 • **Attention Shaw Cable TV Channel 11 viewers** — The Daily is your source for stories reflecting Salt Spring and southern Vancouver Island people and places. The program is about half an hour in length and repeats continuously during the day and evening with new stories added daily. This week on The Daily see a holiday special that features stories from southern Vancouver Island, including Salt Spring, from the year 2007. Also tune in for community messages, weather and news headlines. For further details about community programming, call 537-1335.

EXHIBITIONS
 • "If Wishes Were Horses" and a **Pony for Christmas**. Paintings by **Mira Warrington** and photographs by **Wendi Gilson** are showing at **Barb's** until the end of the month.
 • "Party of Four" — **Gerry Scott, Joan Wrigley, Bev Lillyman** and **Ann Hignell** show art in the **ArtSpring** lobby for the month of December.
 • **Salt Spring Coffee Shop** staff member **Christine Russell** is the featured artist for December at the **Ro.Co.**
 • **New life drawings** by **Thomas McPhee** are showing at **Auntie Pesto's Restaurant**.

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Arts & Entertainment

Pull out and save...
TV Listings
 see pages 25 & 26

ARTS & CULTURE



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

ArtSpring executive director George Sipos one year after his arrival from Prince George.

ArtSpring — a trio of identities

George Sipos reflects on year in arts centre chair

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's been just over a year since George Sipos took over as ArtSpring's executive director, and no one can deny it's been a year of challenges and surprises.

Sipos began his position on a Sunday in November of 2006. On the following Wednesday, ArtSpring's longest-serving staff member was sent to hospital with serious injuries after being hit by a truck while on his bicycle.

John Wakefield represented a major part of the office's small staff and knew the marketing programs and computer system. Sipos says he's still challenged to a certain degree when trying to regain that lost information.

A different challenge, however, has been learning what place ArtSpring has in the community on symbolic and practical levels.

"When you walk into a place like ArtSpring, there's a lot to understand," Sipos explained over coffee recently. "It means so many things to different people in the community."

Reflecting back on his year at the helm, Sipos has come to recognize three distinct identities within ArtSpring, all of which occur simultaneously. The first, he says, is of the island's centre of cultural expression. Sipos notes how ArtSpring has become a source of personal pride and owner-

ship for its members, many of whom invested personal time and resources to have it built.

"Part of my job is to be aware of that and to make ArtSpring continue to provide that level of pride and comfort that they expect," Sipos said.

For example, recent improvements to the lobby (already in the planning stages when Sipos arrived) are meant to increase the enjoyment of being in ArtSpring's physical space. Sipos likens the experience to being in a European city's identifying centre, such as the Vienna Opera House.

Although Sipos has lived in Hungary and England, the last 27 years were spent in Prince George, where he managed the symphony orchestra.

"Prince George has various cultural elements doing their things, but no cultural centre," he observed. "So I had to learn that, and to me it was a novelty."

The second ArtSpring, as Sipos sees it, is the source of fine performances, many of them musical, brought from all over the world.

The centre is renowned throughout the province and the nation for bringing high-end acts to such a small population base.

This year's prime example was opera star Ben Heppner's concert in January. Finding and booking those performers, for Sipos, has been the fun and easy part of his job.

"The third ArtSpring to me is the most exciting," Sipos continued,

"and that is what ArtSpring can do to encourage and foster and support local creativity. It's to me even more exciting to find musicians, visual artists, whatever they may be, and offer them encouragement."

In this role, Sipos envisions ArtSpring as a catalyst for artistic expression within the community. Working with emerging talents on the brink of finding something new is much more interesting to the director than meeting polished celebrities.

Initially, Sipos says, he missed working with the Prince George Symphony Orchestra.

"There was something so privileged in having a small part in [the creative] process," he explained. Learning about the third ArtSpring has brought him back into the process, he finds.

He lists several moments that "had a spark" at ArtSpring in the past year. These include a master class for emerging pianists, the Salvaged art show, and the recent Phoenix school exhibition.

An upcoming project Sipos is positively gleeful about will bring together photographers and creative writers, who will exhibit together their takes on the classic phrase, "Through a glass darkly."

"That's why it's so wonderful working with whoever in the community is engaged with trying to make something. And if I and ArtSpring can have some part in that, that's a huge satisfaction."

SECOND STORY THEATRE PRESENTS:
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JAZZ & BLUES

All Saints hosts first three jazz nights

Line-up includes Scandinavian and Canadian performers

all-star line-up of concerts for early 2008.

First up, on January 29, is Atomic, a group of five important young musicians from the adventurous jazz underground of Sweden and Norway.

Atomic is "one of the key bands of the 'new wave' of

Scandinavian jazz currently attracting much press attention," states press material.

"Combining the powerful, cutting-edge Oslo rhythm section of Håvard Wiik on piano, Ingebrigt Håker Flaten on bass and Paal Nilssen-Love on

drums - a combination that received rave notices as the rhythm team of the Coltrane-influenced 'cult' group Element - with the Stockholm front-line of trumpeter Magnus Broo and saxophonist Fredrik Ljungkvist, this group is one of the freshest acoustic ensembles to have emerged in the new millennium."

Next in the line-up is Anne Schaefer on Saturday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m.

"Winner of the 2005 Songwriter and Artist of the Year Awards (IMA), 2004 Vocalist of the Year Award (IMA), Anne Schaefer is exploding onto the Canadian music scene after two short decades of arduous work and life altering experiences!" describes press material.

Her 2005 debut album, Twelve Easy Pieces, has found its way onto the airwaves of countless national CBC and Canadian campus radio programming and has met with rave reviews.

"Anne will be performing selections from her album with her trio at All Saints and it promises to be a captivating evening of song, in a Latin jazz vein."

Brent Jarvis is up next, on Saturday, March 1.

His debut CD called Sequences garnered much acclaim and accolades, including being named Best Jazz Album of 2005 by CJAM FM.

Here on Salt Spring, he will perform music from the repertoire of Bill Evans and some selections from his albums with Ken Lister on bass and Buff Allen on drums.

Katie Mallock of CBC Jazz Beat describes his music as "romantic but never cloying . . . a beautifully balanced quartet."

Tickets for all three concerts, which take place at All Saints By-the-Sea at 7:30 p.m., cost \$18 (\$15 for society members), with tickets sold at Acoustic Planet Music and at the door.

Last but not least is Eugene Smith, performing the only concert of the series at Moby's Pub on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m.

Eugene's vocal talents are supported by solid rhythms from his four-string tenor guitar and he holds in his bag of tricks a variety of musical accompaniments, including a djembe, harmonica, jaw harp, finger piano and even a hand trumpet.

As press material states, "His delivery is light and humorous, entertaining audiences of all ages."

Smith has shared the stage with Bo Diddley, John Lee Hooker, Gordon Lightfoot, David Clayton Thomas, King Curtis, Willie Dickson, Lenny Breau and k.d. lang.

At Moby's he will be joined by a local blues unit hosted by Dave Roland.

Admission is \$5 at the door.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ARTS CALENDAR

Arts centre busier than ever

January full of events

January has bulldozed December to unearth a pile of enticing happenings at ArtSpring. Here's a brief description of acts booked for the month so far.

- Celeste Lovick & Chris Ellis — Friday, January 4, 8 p.m. Celebrate the New Year with an evening of inspiring and soulful original music from two exciting U.K. songwriters. With resonant and evocative vocals, and uplifting guitar and grand piano arrangements, their music will take the audience on an enlivening journey full of heart and spirit.

To hear some samples of their music, go to www.shelteringtree.co.uk/

- Bach on the Rock's Christmas Oratorio — Sunday, January 6, 8 p.m. Bach's beloved "Christmas Oratorio" will be brought to its glorious conclusion with this year's offering of Parts 5 & 6. Bach on the Rock, performed by a Salt Spring chamber orchestra and choir, with four wonderful soloists, will truly be a treat.

- Urinetown - The Musical — Thursday, Friday, Saturday, January 10-12, 7:30 p.m. Performed by GISS's 2nd Story Theatre.

Thirty-some-odd students in grades 9 through 12 are involved in every aspect of the production: acting, live music, scenic construction, lighting, costume and props design, promotion and stage management.

Urinetown is a satire, which sends up the conventions of musical theatre with great songs and a tip of the hat to some of Broadway's biggest hits and American popular culture such as comic books.

- Brunch Dance — Sunday, January 13, 11:30 a.m. Discover modern dance in an informal and user-friendly setting.

We serve you a nice brunch in a cabaret-style setting around a dance stage in our gallery. Three dancers perform a short piece, there is an opportunity for the audience to comment on what they have seen, and then the dancers return to perform again in response to the audience's reflections. Interesting, non-threatening, innovative, delicious. With LINK Dance Foundation's artistic director Gail Lotenberg. (Part of ArtSpring's Dance Outreach program.) Tickets are only \$10 to cover the cost of the brunch. Seating limited to 70 people.

- Canto e Colore — Sunday, January 13, 3 p.m. Beautiful classical songs and arias sung to projections of exquisite art — a feast for the eyes and ears!

Salt Spring artist Leslie Corry will provide colour and atmosphere with dramatic backdrops of her stunning work. Soprano Patricia Corry, an opera singer now working in Germany, will sing glorious arias by Puccini, Donizetti, Mozart, Rossini, Catalini, Kalman and songs by Rachmaninov, R. Strauss, K. Weill and more.

She will be accompanied by Chris Kodaly, who will also play some solos. See and hear movement, colour, melo-



Carole Brown directs Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Parts 5 & 6, on January 6 at 8 p.m.

WHAT'S ON AT ARTSPRING

dies and drama as the two sisters collaborate on this unique project.

- GISS Dance — Wednesday-Thursday, January 16-17, 7:30 p.m. Semester-end performance of high school dance students.

- Live Radio Theatre — Saturday, January 19, 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 20, 2 p.m. Travel back to the glory days of live-to-air radio drama. Jan Rabson recreates the studio atmosphere of early radio, with live actors and sound effects, and even live radio commercials in an evening of authentic 1940s and 1950s radio plays.

Those who have seen the sold-out performances of Jan Rabson's previous evenings of live radio theatre should know that this will be all new material, not a re-presentation of the previous shows. This is the second show in ArtSpring's new professional theatre season.

As an ArtSpring presented event, these performances are eligible for EyeGo to the Arts student discounts.

- Nationalism in Music with George Ehring — Mondays from January 21 to March 3 from 7 to 10 p.m.

After the huge success of George Ehring's introductory music appreciation course last winter, he returns with a totally new series of narrated listening experiences. In the 19th century, prompted by a resurgence of cultural identity and a new political nationalism, European composers sought the roots of their indigenous musical traditions and forged them into classical music.

We'll wander with them across the English countryside, the Russian steppes, and the Scandinavian fjords in a musical travelogue that will also explore why French music sounds French, and why those gypsy melodies take us straight to Bohemia. Mixing in a little history

and art, this new music appreciation course will highlight the music of the most "nationalistic" composers of their time.

On seven Monday nights starting at the end of January, George Ehring will be your guide across Europe, visiting Russia, England, France, Italy, Spain, Scandinavia, and Bohemia.

Cost is \$50 for the seven-week course, with refreshments each week included. Sign up at the ArtSpring Ticket Centre.

- Open Masterclass with Zach Brock & Morgan Childs — Tuesday, January 22, 10 a.m. to noon. Zach Brock is a jazz musician with a background as a classical violinist. Morgan Childs is a jazz drummer who appeared at ArtSpring in September as part of the Amanda Tosoff Quartet. They will work with music students from GISS on jazz technique and improvisation. The public is welcome to attend this masterclass. The event is free.

- GISS Music — Thursday, January 24, 7:30 p.m. Semester-end performance of high school music students.

- Music Intima — Sunday, January 27, 2:30 p.m. pre-concert chat at 1:30 p.m. Since 1992, Musica Intima performances have sparked with insight, youthfulness and a vibrant musicality. As a self-directed vocal chamber ensemble, the 12 singers rehearse and perform without a conductor. In performance, they engage the audience with a freshness and spontaneity all their own. "The most exciting small choir in the land" — National Post

- Poetry Reading with Agnes Walsh, Lorri Nielsen Glenn, Chris Smart — Tuesday, January 29, 7 p.m. Agnes Walsh is Poet Laureate of St John's, Newfoundland. Lorri Nielsen is Poet Laureate of Halifax. Chris Smart is a Salt Spring poet who has recently won the Acorn/Plantos Award for the best book or poems published in Canada in 2007 that has a broad popular appeal and speaks to the common man. The evening will feature the official presentation of the Acorn/Plantos medal. This event is free, as part of ArtSpring's occasional literary readings series.

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- The Local
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I'm going to get fit!

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Adult (19 yrs +)	55.00	156.00	550.00
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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: "I promise to do things that are good for me."

Why would anyone need a resolution to be good to oneself? After all, human self-preservation is instinctual for us, and despite the lack of sharp teeth, big bodies, fur, or highly developed senses, humans prevail in sickness and in health. But self-preservation and survival are a far cry from quality living.

Most of us have the ability to change our environment positively in small or large ways to suit our individual needs. A positive change affects us internally through the body, spirit, and mind. We can make choices that enhance our lives authentically by keeping these three areas content.

That said, it seems that this time of year makes people lose their equilibrium. It's a rush, (and not the fun kind), to find the perfect gift, spend money lavishly, drive like an idiot, bake/wrap/decorate/sing carols/have a party/go to parties/bake a turkey/ trim the tree - Aargh!! Suddenly the beauty of this time of sharing and giving is eclipsed by seemingly more pressing matters -- self-preservation.

It's not supposed to be like this and doesn't have to be. The Driftwood's 'To Your Health' page puts you in touch with all the gifted island professionals who are here to help you stay grounded throughout the holidays and beyond. Investing in peace of mind and minding your body encourages you to celebrate the parts of you that are excellent and improve the parts that, well, need work.

Our ancestors had to worry about attacks from large, hairy animals, but these days, that nasty animal more often appears in the form of stress. Health practitioners in all areas have noticed the stress climate change and have responded. There are more spas, massage therapists, psychotherapists and New-Age healers operating in our part of the world than ever before, and they are joined by holistic practitioners of all kinds and in any area you can imagine. Those who appear on the Health page offer an eclectic variety of services to choose from and encourage readers to take stock of their own health. **SO MAKE A LIST - one that specifically names your goals for better health.**

Ask yourself how this next year can be an improvement over the last in terms of personal wellness. Do you constantly live with pain? Do you over-eat consistently? Are you depressed? Do you know anything about nutrition for your gender, age, and body type?

For wellness to happen, you must ask yourself honest questions and act on the answers. Health practitioners are there to assist you in your journey to WHOLE health.

You only get to enjoy one body, one mind, and one spirit in this life.

Call Tracy Stibbards at the Driftwood to reserve your place in 'To Your Health' in the New Year.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ART EXCURSIONS

Arts and culture tour to Germany?

Of special interest to those with fabric arts passion

Salt Spring fabric artist Ulrieke Benner and her friend Judy Fawcett are organizing an arts and culture tour to Germany and want to share the opportunity with island residents.

With a focus on the Cologne and Dusseldorf area, the tour would run for eight to 12 days in late November or early December next year, which would allow the group to visit at least one of the Christmas markets for which Germany is famous.

"There are some fabulous textile artists in that region," said Benner in an e-mail. "We will visit the studios of a custom clothing designer, a quilt maker, and a mixed-media fibre artist, among others. There is also an outstanding textile gallery with a worldwide reputation for their exhibitions, their batik collection, workshops and wide variety of textile supplies. We'll have the opportunity to visit other specialty stores for unusual fabric materials plus museums and other cultural discoveries. In the evenings we will enjoy the finest in musical entertainment."

Benner is a textile artist and master felt-maker with pieces in galleries and private collections throughout the world. Her emphasis on the trip would be to revisit her home country and share her favourite haunts, including galleries and cafes that are off the beaten track.

Fawcett has been a tour leader for musical adventures in Germany for many years "and her experience as a guide will take us to the most wonderful concert halls and cathedrals in the area," said Benner.

Anyone interested in participating is asked to respond to Benner by January 15, 2008, including their mailing address and telephone number.

Benner can be reached at 537-1723, or through ulrieke@saltspring.com.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

SOLSTICE SOUNDS: Ruby Egger-Lipsett was part of The Light Returns solstice celebration at Mahon Hall last Thursday night.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

No shortage of New Year's Eve celebrations for island

There's plenty of activities on tap for islanders who want to usher in the New Year with a celebration, a party, a wonderful meal or a fling around the dance floor.

Moby's Pub presents New Year's Eve with Auntie Kate, a popular singer that packs the dance floor with her energetic performing style. Tickets are \$10 per person and they're going fast.

Fulford Inn is offering Beluga — an original rock and funk band that also plays tunes from Led Zepelin, The Doors, The Who, the Stones and more.

Shipstones gives islanders

an opportunity to rock in the New Year with Bachman, Hooper and Johnson — a favourite local trio that will get the house rocking.

For a more old-fashioned dance experience, come and swing at Meaden Hall with Swing Shift, Salt Spring's only community big band under the direction of Monik Nordine. Featuring vocalist Sue Newman, party-goers can enjoy a cold buffet, party favours, champagne at midnight and all your favourite swing tunes by the likes of Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and other big band giants. Tickets are \$20 (\$25 after December 24).

The Local offers a "Newfie New Year's Eve" for those who prefer an earlier night, with corks popping at 7:30 and doors closing at 10 p.m.

If you are looking for a special meal, Rock Salt Restaurant and Cafe encourages islanders to start their New Year's Eve celebrations with chef Bruce's local culinary adventure. The three courses are \$35 per person or \$75 with well-matched wines.

Whether a delicious meal at one of the island's many great restaurants or a rocking party into the wee hours, Salt Spring Islanders can say goodbye to 2007 in style on December 31.

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Dance to

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Featuring
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Cold Buffet
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Champagne
Tickets \$20.00
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Letter to the editor?

Press release?

What's On calendar event?

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PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

INTERNATIONAL AID

Overseas girls see bright future with Hope Project

University women's group supports schooling for 10

BY MARILYN MCDOWELL
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Fundraising for scholarships for girls with potential in less developed countries, known as the HOPE Project, has become a tradition at the annual Christmas Luncheon for the Salt Spring branch of the Federation of University Women (CFUW).

Thanks to the repeated generosity of local businesses and artists, and enthusiastic bidding by 80 members and guests, over \$5,000 was generated at a live and silent auction, and hostess table. Linda Gilkeson led the live auction with great skill and humour, and persuaded bid-

ders to put forward the best numbers possible.

Funds will enable the club to continue the sponsorship of 10 girls to complete their secondary education. Money is issued directly to the school, and an annual accounting and report from the school is required before funds for another year are issued.

Salt Spring's club is working through the Commonwealth Countries League's Education Fund, a registered charity headquartered in Great Britain. An entirely volunteer organization, 100 per cent of donated funds go to pay for school tuition fees, books, uniforms, examination fees and residence fees if required. Local members on the ground liaise with schools to select deserving candidates and to monitor the program.

In addition to the 10 girls sponsored by the club, 15 young women are currently being sponsored by individual members, and other members have pledged to sponsor others in the upcoming year. The young women are selected for outstanding academic achievement and financial need, and are recommended by their schools and screened by local representatives. Without financial sponsorship to complete their high school education, many would be urged into early marriage.

Most of the young women live in countries in Africa — the Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, but Jamaica and the Solomon Islands are also represented.

Each girl requires somewhere between \$200 and \$800 per year, depending on expenses, over three, four or five years. The amount varies, according to whether examination fees are required, whether they are boarding or day students, and whether the school has support from churches or government, etc. A small amount of support goes a long way in enabling education of these young women, which in turn brings dramatic improvement to the lives of their current and future families, and beyond, as these girls tend to show leadership qualities.

The girls are asked to write a letter of application, outlining their goals and aspirations. Once selected, each girl writes an annual letter, which is accompanied by a report from the school, along with grades. The letters are compelling, and reflect not only the hardships faced by these young women, but also their dreams of making a better life for themselves, their families, their communities and country.

Kilindindi attends a rural day/boarding school in Uganda where fees are kept as low as possible to cater to children of peasant families. She wrote that she had a "dead year" because of her family's situation.

"My parents were rearing two goats which they sacrificed to help me stay in sec-

ondary school. It managed to pay off last term but I have no more source of fees. My headmaster has kept me hoping you will sponsor me. We live near Bwindi Forest and Mgahinga National Park where I would love to serve in forestry and wildlife conservation."

Josephine of Uganda took third position in her class of 76 last year, and wrote, "I have been able to make improvement in many things. My teacher loves my new conduct and I am no longer a misfit at school. I am very proud of dressing code because I keep changing my two pairs of uniform. Now that I joined the boarding section I make sure I wake up very early with one of my best friends and we are often ready for preps by 5:30 in the morning and 7:30 p.m. in the evening session. I think this has been the reason for my stable progress in senior three, which is not an easy class because the higher we go the more difficult learning becomes. I am happy and cannot forget to report to you that I will be registering for my UCE examination."

Tracy, in her second year of sponsorship, writes, "It has been wonderful to hear that my scholarship money came from the Salt Spring Island group. My mom and I counted this as a blessing compared to a lot of Solomon Island girls. Tell the Salt Spring Federation that I am so pleased to hear about their contribution. I really believe I

will make use of this opportunity and hope to achieve the best in these coming years."

In her original letter of application, Tracy had said she wanted to be an airline pilot — useful in the far flung islands.

A young woman in Kenya became pregnant, and dropped out of school for a year. Her sponsorship will be resumed, and both the headmistress and Tessa and her family have expressed their gratitude — attitudes in Africa are not as liberal as they are here.

Many of the girls are orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Nadesh's grandmother in the Cameroon has now died, and Nadesh has moved schools so that she is nearer a friend of her dead mother's so that for the holidays at least she has somewhere to go.

Besides sponsoring overseas students, the Salt Spring Island CFUW has for many years sponsored two post-secondary scholarships for graduates of Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS). The club has charitable status for both scholarship funds and can issue tax receipts for individual donations.

The club meets on the last Saturday of the month at Lions Hall.

Anyone interested in membership in CFUW or in the HOPE Project may contact president Ursula Livingston at 537-8561 or treasurer Lyndsay Mundy at 537-5235.

For the twelve days of Christmas Santa gave to me...

New memberships to put under the tree:

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- 5 Financial planners
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- 9 Construction workers
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Or drop off at one of our island business supporters listed above.

SHOP LOCAL WINNERS

Thanks to all who shopped local this holiday season and entered the "Home for the Holidays" contest sponsored by The Driftwood and the Chamber of Commerce.

WINNERS OF GIFT BASKETS WERE:
Brian Nash • Deb Hart • Shelley Lawson

WINNERS OF \$250 IN SALT SPRING CURRENCY WERE:
Gerry Munneke • Kisae Petersen

GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF \$500 IN SS CURRENCY WAS:
Lynn Bissett

The Chamber of Commerce would like to express their appreciation to these generous businesses for their donations to the Shop Local Gift Baskets. We hope the winners enjoy their prizes.

Acoustic Planet
Admirals Specialty Foods
Apple Photo
B-Side Clothing Co.
Café el Zocalo
Embe Bakery
Family Jewels
Frankly Scarlet
Ganges Garment Co.
Ganges Stationery Inc.
Ganges Village Market
Harbour House Restaurant & Lounge
Island Escapades
Love My Kitchen
Martin Hoogerdyk - Berkshire Securities
Monsoon Coast
Mouat's Clothing Co.
Mouats Trading Co.

North End Fitness
Old Salty
Pomodoro Pizza & More
Salt Spring Books
Salt Spring Coffee
Salt Spring Inn
Salt Spring Linen & Drycleaning
Salt Spring natureworks
Salt Spring Sound
Saltspring Soapworks
SeaChange Savouries
Skin Sensations
Sports Traders
Thrifty Foods
TJ Beans Coffee Shop
West of the Moon
Windflower Moon
Wisteria Guest House

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STATION	CBC-CBUT	SRC-CBUFT	Knowledge	TSN	CH Victoria	OMNI BC	Global BC	CTV BC	Channel M	A-Channel	Citytv	CW-KSTW	FOX-KCPQ	ABC-KOMO	NBC-KING	PBS-KCTS	NewsWorld	CBS-KIRO	YTV	Sportsnet
Shaw	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23
ExpressVu	257	120	268	400	255		251	250	254	256	253		290	288	287	291	502	289	552	407
Starchoice	308	702	354	400	358		336	321		389	359		382	380	379	383	390	381	543	419

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26

5 PM	:00 The Simpsons	Pieds dans la marge	Timothy / Mama / Dive	(4:30) NHL Hockey - Toronto vs. N.Y.	CHEK News	Full House	Early News	CTV News	Punjab Times	A Channel News at 5	The Ellen Degeneres Show	My Wife and Kids	Malcolm in the Middle	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Charlie Rose	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	iCarly	(3:00) Hockey Spengler Cup
	:30 Arrested S.O.B.s	L'Union fait la force	(3:5) Babar Radio Riot	Islanders (Live)	News	King of the Hill	Global National	Phoenix World News			CityCooks	My Wife and Kids	The Simpsons	ABC World News				CBS Evening News	iCarly	Sportsnet Connected
6	:00 Gospel Christmas Celebration	Le Téléjournal	Kratts' Creatures		News	The Simpsons	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Prank Patrol	NBA Basketball - Dallas vs. Utah (Live)
	:30		Popular Mechanics			Friends			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	KING 5 News				Prank Patrol	
7	:00 Coronation Street	La Petite Vie	Meerkat/Menor Iron Lady	SportsCentre (Live)	That News Show	According to Jim	Entertainment Tonight	Degrassi: Top 10	Hong Kong Express	Bravo!Fact Presents	Wheel of Fortune	The King of Queens	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	Grace Kelly: Destiny of a Princess	Entertainment Tonight	Prank Patrol	
	:30	Coronation Street	Un gars, une fille	Wild at Heart	Hollywood Mysteries	The Simpsons	Ent. Tonight Canada	4Real	Pure in Heart	Friends	Jeopardy	The King of Queens	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	Oregon Field Guide		The Insider	Prank Patrol	
8	:00 "Marple Mystery: The Sittaford Mystery"	Patinage Gala des champions du patinage artistique	Knowledge is the Beginning	Best of Off the Record	"Trophy Wife" ★★ (Thrill, '06) Brooke Burns.	Home Improvement	"Til Death Fight Friend	Criminal Minds Distress	Vancouver Nights	Smallville Action	"Any Given Sunday" ★★ (Spt, '99) Al Pacino.	Crowned Attack of the Beauty Queens (N)	"Christmas With the Kranks" ★★ (Com, '04)	Pushing Daisies Dummy	Heart of the Matter	Wired Science (N)	CBC News: The National	Criminal Minds Distress	Prank Patrol	
	:30	★★ (Myst, '06) Geraldine McEwan.		IIHF Hockey World Junior Championship - Canada vs. Czech Rep.	The Standard	Home Improvement	"Til Death	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sabor Latino	The Collector The Campaign Manager		Gossip Girl Poison Ivy	Tim Allen.	Private Practice	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	American Masters Bob Newhart: Unbuttoned	CBC News: The National	The 30th Annual Kennedy Center Honors (N)	Futurama	Poker Red Rock Championship Series
9	:00 CBC News: The National At Issue	Le Téléjournal	Me, My Brother and My Father's Van Gogh	Be Real (N)	Cold Case The Red and the Blue	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos Chasing It (N)	Hola Que Tal	Dirty Sexy Money The Lions (N)		Seinfeld [Part 1 of 2]	Q-13 Fox News at Ten	Dirty Sexy Money The Lions (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Alternate	Erma Bombeck	Discovering Wild Canada Polar Voyages		Honors (N)	Prank Patrol	Sportsnet Connected
	:30			FANatical																
10	:00 (05) CBC News: Vancouver	d'Amélie Poulin" ★★ (Com, '00) Audrey Tautou.	Season of the Child Minor Keys	What Happened?	It's a New Day	News	(05) News	TV Patrol	News	RAW	Frasier High Holidays	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30						(05) CTV News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	South Park The Entity	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live							
11	:00 (05) "The Bishop's Wife" ★★ (Com, '47)		Real Country House	Best of Off the Record	(05) Chelsea Lately (N)	International Laser Clinic	(05) Ent. Tonight	(10) TMZ	Jai Fiji	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	South Park	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Show With Jay Leno	Tavis Smiley	The Hour	With David Letterman	Futurama	Sportsnet Connected
	:30	(35) Hors d'ondes	Great Artists Rodin	Billiards Border Battle	(35) Late, Late Show		(35) E.T. Canada	(40) The Daily Show	Caribbean Beat	(35) Conan O'Brien		South Park	M*A*S*H	(35) Conan O'Brien	Masterpiece Theatre		(35) Late, Late Show	Malcolm in the Middle		

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27

5 PM	:00 (4:00) NHL Hockey - Montreal vs. Tampa Bay (Live)	Match!	Timothy / Mama / Dive	(4:30) IIHF Hockey World Junior Championship - Canada vs. Slovakia	CHEK News	Full House	Early News	CTV News	Punjab Times	A Channel News at 5	The Ellen Degeneres Show	My Wife and Kids	Malcolm in the Middle	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Charlie Rose	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:00) Hockey Spengler Cup - Davos vs. Canada
	:30	L'Union fait la force	(3:5) Babar		News	King of the Hill	Global National	Phoenix World News			CityCooks	My Wife and Kids	The Simpsons	ABC World News				CBS Evening News	Fairly Odd Parents	
6	:00 CBC News	Téléjournal: 2007	Mentors The Other Half	Reach for the Top	News	The Simpsons	News	News	CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Adrenaline Project	Sportsnet Connected
	:30					Friends						That '70s Show	Family Guy		KING 5 News				Adrenaline Project	
7	:00 NHL Hockey - Calgary vs. Vancouver (Live)	Martin sur la route La quête du saumon (N)	Profiles of Nature Specials Gobblers	SportsCentre (Live)	That News Show	According to Jim	Entertainment Tonight	Degrassi: Top 10	Hong Kong Express	Bravo!Fact Presents	Wheel of Fortune	The King of Queens	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	Nefertiti and the Lost Dynasty	Entertainment Tonight	Adrenaline Project	Billiards World Pool Championship
	:30				Hollywood Mysteries	The Simpsons	Ent. Tonight Canada	4Real	Pure in Heart	Friends	Jeopardy	The King of Queens	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	Ask This Old House		The Insider	Adrenaline Project	
8	:00 Festival grand rire François Léveillé	Eat Like a King	"A Trick of the Mind" (Susp, '06) Paul Johansson.	Best of Off the Record	Home Improvement	Home Improvement	Name Is Earl Frank's Girl My Name Is Earl	"Lives of the Saints" (Dra, '04) Sophia Loren. [Part 1 of 2]	What's in Vancouver?	Scrubs	Ugly Betty Betty's Wait Problem	Smallville Action	"Ice Age" ★★ (Ani, '02) Voices of Ray Romano.	Ugly Betty Betty's Wait Problem	Name Is Earl Frank's Girl 30 Rock	Walking the Bible	CBC News: The National	CSI: NY Silent Night	Adrenaline Project	
	:30				The Standard	Home Improvement	The Office												Adrenaline Project	
9	:00 Bons baisers de France	Peking to Paris	Poker NHLPA Charity Shootout	Messages	The Office	The Office			Teri Meri Duniya	The Carol Project	Dave Gerry Special	9th Annual Family Television Awards	Grey's Anatomy The Heart of the Matter	The Office	Nova Wave That Shook the World	CBC News: The National	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Post Mortem	Futurama	Best Damn Sports Show Period	
	:30																		Pinky Brain Brain's Song	
10	:00 CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	The Longest Road	Poker NHLPA Charity Shootout	Be Real Get a Job (N)	Cold Case Knuckle Up	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos Walk Like A Man (N)	Mor Deo Koi	Sweet Soul Music	Across the River Black Day in July	Seinfeld [Part 2 of 2]	Q-13 Fox News at Ten	Private Practice (N)	ER City of Mercy	Frontline/World A World of Good (N)	Wild Canada The Living Tides of Fundy	Without a Trace Crash and Burn	Prank Patrol Fortune Teller	Sportsnet Connected
	:30				FANatical			Desi Rhythms				Seinfeld The Muffin Tops							Adrenaline Project	
11	:00 (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	The Liberation of Holland	SportsCentre (Live)	News	It's a New Day	News	(10) News	TV Patrol	News	Realty Television	Frasier	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30	"La mort suspendue"						(40) CTV News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	Frasier	King of the Hill	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Nightly Business		(35) The Late Show	Ghost Trackers	
12 MID	:00 (05) Red Green Show (35) Can. Reflections	★★★ (Dra, '03) Nicholas Aaron.	Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee	Best of Off the Record	(05) Chelsea Lately (N)	Saved by the Bell PR Maxx	(05) Ent. Tonight	(15) TMZ	Punjabi Vibes	Desi Rhythms	South Park Kenny Dies	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Conan O'Brien	Antiques Rd. Savannah	The Hour	With David Letterman	Futurama	Pratt & Taylor	
	:30			IIHF Hockey	(35) Late, Late Show		(35) E.T. Canada	(45) The Daily Show				M*A*S*H		(35) Conan O'Brien			(35) Late, Late Show	Malcolm in the Middle		

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28

5 PM	:00 The Simpsons	Match!	Timothy / Mama / Dive	(4:30) NHL Hockey - Montreal vs. Florida (Live)	CHEK News	Full House	Early News	CTV News	Punjab Times	A Channel News at 5	The Ellen Degeneres Show	My Wife and Kids	Malcolm in the Middle	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Charlie Rose	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	SpongeBob SquarePants	(4:30) Pratt & Taylor
	:30 Arrested Family Ties	L'Union fait la force	(3:5) Babar		News	King of the Hill	Global National	Phoenix World News			CityCooks	My Wife and Kids	The Simpsons	ABC World News				CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	NBA Basketball - Toronto vs. San Antonio (Live)
6	:00 News	Le Téléjournal	Serious Desert	Best of Off the Record	News	The Simpsons	News	News	CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Avatar	
	:30		Kratts' Creatures			Friends						That '70s Show	Family Guy		KING 5 News				Avatar	
7	:00 Coronation Street	Martin sur la route Le foie gras (N)	Master's Orders and Pilot's Advice	Sportscenter (Live)	That News Show	According to Jim	Entertainment Tonight	Degrassi: Top 10	Hong Kong Express	Bravo!Fact Presents	Wheel of Fortune	The King of Queens	Two and a Half Men (P)	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	Diana: Witnesses in the Tunnel	Entertainment Tonight	Avatar	
	:30	Coronation Street			Hollywood Mysteries	The Simpsons	Ent. Tonight Canada	4Real	Pure in Heart	Friends	Jeopardy	The King of Queens	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	KCTS Connects		The Insider	Avatar	
8	:00 "Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde"	Festival grand rire Normand Brathwaite	"Sea People" (Fam, '99) Hume Cronyn.	Best of Off the Record	"Imaginary Playmate" (Thrill, '06) Dina Meyer.	3D Dialogue	Island Vets	"Lives of the Saints" (Dra, '04) Sophia Loren. [Part 2 of 2]	Weekly News Forum	CTS Night Club	"Bruce Almighty" ★★ (Com/Dra, '03) Jim Carrey.	Men in Trees Chemical Reactions	Friday Night Smackdown (N)	"Bruce Almighty" ★★ (Com/Dra, '03) Jim Carrey.	Men in Trees Chemical Reactions	The Singing Bee	NOW	CBC News: The National	Ghost Whisperer The Curse of the Ninth	Avatar
	:30																		Avatar	Sportsnet Connected
9	:00 ★ (Com, '03) Reese Witherspoon.	Bons baisers de France	The Old Man and the Sea	Boxing Friday Night Fights - Dominick Guinn vs. Alonzo Butler	The Standard	Largo Winch Cold Hearted			Hwang Jin Yi	"High Crimes" ★★ (Susp, '02) Morgan Freeman.	Seinfeld The Virgin Seinfeld	Q-13 Fox News at Ten	20/20	Dateline NBC	Bill Moyers' Journal	CBC News: The National	Moonlight Out of the Past	Avatar	Best Damn Sports Show Period	
	:30																		Gundam S Destiny	
10	:00 CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes	20/20	Cold Case Blackout	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos Kennedy and Heidi (N)	Open Concert			Pink Planet III Top 10	Frasier The Matchmaker	Family Guy	News	News	"The Nun's Story" ★★★★★ (Dra, '59) Audrey Hepburn.	Discovering Wild Canada Polar Voyages	Num3r3 Blackout	Death Note	Sportsnet Connected
	:30																		Bleach	
11	:00 (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	Eye of the Son	SportsCentre (Live)	News	It's a New Day	News	(10) News	TV Patrol	News	CityNews International	Frasier Good Grief	King of the Hill	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CBC News: The National	News	Eureka Seven	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30	"Le patient anglais"						(40) CTV News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	South Park	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Conan O'Brien			(35) The Late Show	Storm Hawks The Code	
12 MID	:00 (05) "M.A.S.H." ★★ (War, '70)	★★★ (Rom, '96) Ralph Fiennes.	National Geographic	Best of Off the Record	(05) Chelsea Lately (N)	Saved by the Bell Kingstar	(05) ECW Wrestling	(15) CSI: Miami Just Murdered	Vancouver Masala	Music Bank	South Park Chickenpox	M*A*S*H		(35) Conan O'Brien	Tavis Smiley	The Hour	With David Letterman	Futurama	Pratt & Taylor	
	:30			Billiards Border Battle	(35) Late, Late Show												(35) Late, Late Show	Invader Zim		

Driftwood Letters Online
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STATION	CBC-CBUT	SRC-CBUFT	Knowledge	TSN	CH Victoria	OMNI BC	Global BC	CTV BC	Channel M	A-Channel	Citytv	CW-KSTW	FOX-KCQP	ABC-KOMO	NBC-KING	PBS-KCTS	NewsWorld	CBS-KIRO	YTV	Sportsnet
Shaw	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23
ExpressVu	257	120	268	400	255		251	250	254	256	253		290	288	287	291	502	289	552	407
Starchoice	308	702	354	400	358		336	321		389	359		382	380	379	383	390	381	543	419

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29

5 PM	(4:00) NHL Hockey - N.Y. Rangers vs. Toronto (Live)	Corteo: derrière le rideau	Miss BG/(:15) Dive, Oily George Shrinks	NFL Football - New England vs. N.Y. Giants (Live)	CHEK News	Home Improvement	Family Guy	First Story	(4:30) Swiat Polskiej	Star Trek: Voyager	Electric Playground	Star Trek: The Immunity Syndrome	Everybody Loves Ray	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Amer. Test Kitchen	Antiques Roadshow	KIRO 7 News	Ghost Trackers	(4:00) EPL Soccer - Teams TBA
		Le Téléjournal	Meerkat/Mr. Bean	Wild at Heart	News	Home Improvement	Global National	First Story	Xin Tan Ren	Bravo!Fact Presents	Speaker's Corner	That '70s Show	Friends	ABC World News	NBC Nightly News	Lawrence Welk Tour of Southern California	Saturday Report	News	Ghost Trackers	FSN Pro Football Preview
6 PM	NHL Hockey - Anaheim vs. Calgary (Live)	La Petite Vie	National Geographic	Final 24 (N)	Diya	Andromeda	W-FIVE	Entrepreneurial Leader	The New Canoe	Making It	CSI: Miami	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	NW Backroads	Rosemary and Thyme	Winged Migration	Entertainment This Week	Mystery Hunters	Poker Red Rock Championship Series	
		"Le Roi Arthur" ★★	Heartbeat	SportsCentre	"Tales From the Neverending Story" ★★	Islam in Focus	Andromeda	Phoenix Gala	Phoenix Gathering	Samantha Who Pilot	Dave Gerry Gets Away	The King of Queens	Cops	Samantha Who Pilot	Dateline NBC	Antiques Roadshow	"Good Night and Good Luck" ★★	Mystery Hunters	Ultimate Fighter	
7 PM	Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Le Téléjournal	Zone doc	Inside Hollywood	Insights Into Sikhism	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos	Vanna Malargal	Kool Countdown	CSI: Miami	Q13 FOX News	Murder Club	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Diet Confidential	48 Hours Mystery	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected			
		Hockey Night in Canada: Replay	The Wings of the Dove	SportsCentre	True Hollywood Story	Mad TV	News	Bubble Gang	Star! at the Movies	SeXtv	Cold Case	Mad TV	News	Globe Trekker	High Heel Confidential	News	Mystery Hunters	Poker Red Rock Championship Series		
8 PM	Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Le Téléjournal	Zone doc	Inside Hollywood	Insights Into Sikhism	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos	Vanna Malargal	Kool Countdown	CSI: Miami	Q13 FOX News	Murder Club	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Diet Confidential	48 Hours Mystery	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected			
		Hockey Night in Canada: Replay	The Wings of the Dove	SportsCentre	True Hollywood Story	Mad TV	News	Bubble Gang	Star! at the Movies	SeXtv	Cold Case	Mad TV	News	Globe Trekker	High Heel Confidential	News	Mystery Hunters	Poker Red Rock Championship Series		
9 PM	Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Le Téléjournal	Zone doc	Inside Hollywood	Insights Into Sikhism	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos	Vanna Malargal	Kool Countdown	CSI: Miami	Q13 FOX News	Murder Club	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Diet Confidential	48 Hours Mystery	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected			
		Hockey Night in Canada: Replay	The Wings of the Dove	SportsCentre	True Hollywood Story	Mad TV	News	Bubble Gang	Star! at the Movies	SeXtv	Cold Case	Mad TV	News	Globe Trekker	High Heel Confidential	News	Mystery Hunters	Poker Red Rock Championship Series		
10 PM	Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Le Téléjournal	Zone doc	Inside Hollywood	Insights Into Sikhism	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos	Vanna Malargal	Kool Countdown	CSI: Miami	Q13 FOX News	Murder Club	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Diet Confidential	48 Hours Mystery	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected			
		Hockey Night in Canada: Replay	The Wings of the Dove	SportsCentre	True Hollywood Story	Mad TV	News	Bubble Gang	Star! at the Movies	SeXtv	Cold Case	Mad TV	News	Globe Trekker	High Heel Confidential	News	Mystery Hunters	Poker Red Rock Championship Series		
11 PM	Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Le Téléjournal	Zone doc	Inside Hollywood	Insights Into Sikhism	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos	Vanna Malargal	Kool Countdown	CSI: Miami	Q13 FOX News	Murder Club	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Diet Confidential	48 Hours Mystery	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected			
		Hockey Night in Canada: Replay	The Wings of the Dove	SportsCentre	True Hollywood Story	Mad TV	News	Bubble Gang	Star! at the Movies	SeXtv	Cold Case	Mad TV	News	Globe Trekker	High Heel Confidential	News	Mystery Hunters	Poker Red Rock Championship Series		
12 MID	Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Le Téléjournal	Zone doc	Inside Hollywood	Insights Into Sikhism	Falcon Beach	The Sopranos	Vanna Malargal	Kool Countdown	CSI: Miami	Q13 FOX News	Murder Club	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Diet Confidential	48 Hours Mystery	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected			
		Hockey Night in Canada: Replay	The Wings of the Dove	SportsCentre	True Hollywood Story	Mad TV	News	Bubble Gang	Star! at the Movies	SeXtv	Cold Case	Mad TV	News	Globe Trekker	High Heel Confidential	News	Mystery Hunters	Poker Red Rock Championship Series		

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30

5 PM	"Ballet Shoes" (Fam, '07) Emma Watson.	Élèves sans frontières	Miss BG/(:15) Dive, Oily George Shrinks	(:15) NFL Football - Kansas City vs. N.Y. Jets (Live)	CHEK News	Home Improvement	Family Guy	W-FIVE	Spazio Libero	Star Trek: Voyager	Electric Playground	Girlfriends	Seahawks Gameday	KOMO 4 News	(:15) NFL Football - Kansas City vs. N.Y. Jets (Live)	This Old House	China's Sexual Revolution	KIRO 7 News	(4:00) "Dennis the Menace" ★★	WHL Hockey - Prince Albert vs. Edmonton
		Le Téléjournal	Into the Wild	That News Show	Raymond	Home Improvement	Global National	News	"Prem Kahan" (Dra, '75)	Relic Hunter	The NewMusic	Gossip Girl	Family Guy	News	Oregon Field Guide	CBC News: Sunday Night	News	"Big" ★★	Tom Hanks.	
6 PM	HSBC Stars on Ice	Le Téléjournal	Into the Wild	That News Show	Raymond	Home Improvement	Global National	News	"Prem Kahan" (Dra, '75)	Relic Hunter	The NewMusic	Gossip Girl	Family Guy	News	Oregon Field Guide	CBC News: Sunday Night	News	"Big" ★★	Tom Hanks.	
		HSBC Stars on Ice	Le Téléjournal	Into the Wild	That News Show	Raymond	Home Improvement	Global National	News	"Prem Kahan" (Dra, '75)	Relic Hunter	The NewMusic	Gossip Girl	Family Guy	News	Oregon Field Guide	CBC News: Sunday Night	News	"Big" ★★	Tom Hanks.
7 PM	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" ★★	"Les choristes" (Com, '04) Gérard Jugnot.	Inspector Morse	Death is Now My Neighbor	SportsCentre	Zoe Sausage	Sikh Virsa	The Simpsons	The Amazing Race (N)	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Blood Ties	CW Now	King of the Hill	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Antiques Roadshow	638 Ways to Kill Castro	60 Minutes (N)	The Amazing Race (N)	Falcon Beach After the Fall	Ultimate Fighter
		"Les choristes" (Com, '04) Gérard Jugnot.	Inspector Morse	Death is Now My Neighbor	SportsCentre	Zoe Sausage	Sikh Virsa	The Simpsons	The Amazing Race (N)	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Blood Ties	CW Now	King of the Hill	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Antiques Roadshow	638 Ways to Kill Castro	60 Minutes (N)	The Amazing Race (N)	Falcon Beach After the Fall	Ultimate Fighter
8 PM	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" ★★	"Les choristes" (Com, '04) Gérard Jugnot.	Inspector Morse	Death is Now My Neighbor	SportsCentre	Zoe Sausage	Sikh Virsa	The Simpsons	The Amazing Race (N)	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Blood Ties	CW Now	King of the Hill	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Antiques Roadshow	638 Ways to Kill Castro	60 Minutes (N)	The Amazing Race (N)	Falcon Beach After the Fall	Ultimate Fighter
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9 PM	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" ★★	"Les choristes" (Com, '04) Gérard Jugnot.	Inspector Morse	Death is Now My Neighbor	SportsCentre	Zoe Sausage	Sikh Virsa	The Simpsons	The Amazing Race (N)	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Blood Ties	CW Now	King of the Hill	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Antiques Roadshow	638 Ways to Kill Castro	60 Minutes (N)	The Amazing Race (N)	Falcon Beach After the Fall	Ultimate Fighter
		"Les choristes" (Com, '04) Gérard Jugnot.	Inspector Morse	Death is Now My Neighbor	SportsCentre	Zoe Sausage	Sikh Virsa	The Simpsons	The Amazing Race (N)	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Blood Ties	CW Now	King of the Hill	"The Sound of Music" ★★	Antiques Roadshow	638 Ways to Kill Castro	60 Minutes (N)	The Amazing Race (N)	Falcon Beach After the Fall	Ultimate Fighter
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MONDAY DECEMBER 31

5 PM	The Simpsons	Kif-kif	Timothy / Mama / Dive	NBA Basketball - Toronto vs. New Orleans (Live)	CHEK News	Full House	Early News	MTV Cribs	Punjab Times	A-Channel News	The Ellen Degeneres Show	My Wife and Kids	Malcolm in the Middle	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Charlie Rose	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Pokémon	Pratt & Taylor
	Arrested Development	L'Union fait la force	(:35) Babar	NBA Basketball - Toronto vs. New Orleans (Live)	News	King of the Hill	Global National	MTV Cribs	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	That '70s Show	My Wife and Kids	The Simpsons	ABC World News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Naruto	NHL Hockey - Vancouver vs. Calgary (Live)
6 PM	Arrested Development	L'Union fait la force	(:35) Babar	NBA Basketball - Toronto vs. New Orleans (Live)	News	King of the Hill	Global National	MTV Cribs	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	That '70s Show	My Wife and Kids	The Simpsons	ABC World News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Naruto	NHL Hockey - Vancouver vs. Calgary (Live)
		L'Union fait la force	(:35) Babar	NBA Basketball - Toronto vs. New Orleans (Live)	News	King of the Hill	Global National	MTV Cribs	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	That '70s Show	My Wife and Kids	The Simpsons	ABC World News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Naruto	NHL Hockey - Vancouver vs. Calgary (Live)
7 PM	The Best of Just for Laughs (N)	2007 en rappel (N)	Taking Care of Elvis	SportsCentre	That News Show	According to Jim	Entertainment Tonight	Degrassi: Next Gen.	Hong Kong Express	Bravo!Fact Presents	Wheel of Fortune	The King of Queens	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	Princess Diana: Her Life in Jewels	Entertainment Tonight	Naruto	
		2007 en rappel (N)	Taking Care of Elvis	SportsCentre	That News Show	According to Jim	Entertainment Tonight	Degrassi: Next Gen.	Hong Kong Express	Bravo!Fact Presents	Wheel of Fortune	The King of Queens	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	Princess Diana: Her Life in Jewels	Entertainment Tonight	Naruto	
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TUESDAY JANUARY 1

5 PM	The Simpsons	Kif-kif	Timothy / Mama / Dive	(1:30) NCAA Football	CHEK News	Full House	Early News	A Conversation With	Punjab Times	A-Channel News	The Ellen Degeneres Show	My Wife and Kids	Pregame Show (Live)	Cavemen	KING 5 News	Charlie Rose	CBC News: Politics	KIRO 7 News	Danny Phantom	(4:30) Poker After Dark
	Arrested Development	L'Union fait la force	(:35) Babar	NCAA Football	News	King of the Hill	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	That '70s Show	My Wife and Kids	NCAA Football	KOMO 4 News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Poker Red Rock Championship Series
6 PM	Arrested Development	L'Union fait la force	(:35) Babar	NCAA Football	News	King of the Hill	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	That '70s Show	My Wife and Kids	NCAA Football	KOMO 4 News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Poker Red Rock Championship Series
		L'Union fait la force	(:35) Babar	NCAA Football	News	King of the Hill	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	That '70s Show	My Wife and Kids	NCAA Football	KOMO 4 News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Poker Red Rock Championship Series
7 PM	The Queen, by Rolf	Le Téléjournal	The Secret	Allstate Sugar Bowl - Georgia vs. Hawaii (Live)	News	The Simpsons	Friends	CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Family Guy	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	A Safer Sex Trade	Entertainment Tonight	Transformers: Animated	Poker Red Rock Championship Series
		Le Téléjournal	The Secret	Allstate Sugar Bowl - Georgia vs. Hawaii (Live)	News	The Simpsons	Friends	CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Family Guy	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	A Safer Sex Trade	Entertainment Tonight	Transformers: Animated	Poker Red Rock Championship Series
8 PM	The Queen, by Rolf	Le Téléjournal	The Secret	Allstate Sugar Bowl - Georgia vs. Hawaii (Live)	News	The Simpsons	Friends	CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Family Guy	Wheel of Fortune						

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5 DAYS ONLY

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9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
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9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 29
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun. Dec. 30
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 31
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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People & Community

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

100 YEARS: Louis John Gething celebrates 100 years with some of his "angels" at a Harbour House gathering last Thursday.

Salt Spring Island Community Services
268 Fulford-Ganges Rd.
537-9971
www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca
COUNSELLING SERVICES ARE FREE

- * **Counselling Services:** Short-Term counselling for adults, youth and families.
- * **Alcohol and Drug Program:** Prevention and treatment service is free and confidential.
- * **Family Place:** Rugg Huggers parent and baby (0-16 months) **NEW*** Child Minding for Toddlers TOO. drop-in, Fridays 10am - 1pm. Information on Drop-ins, special programs and counselling support 537-9176 or familyplace@sscis.ca
- * **Dad 'n' Me:** Saturdays 8:30am-11:00am.
- * **Parent Child:** Drop-in Wednesday 10am-1pm.
- * **Food Bank:** Open Tuesday, 11am - 4pm
- * **The Wall:** Indoor Rock Climbing Gym, Contact jalexander@sscis.ca
- * **Recycle Depot:** Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.
- * **Seniors Wellness Programs:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- * **Emergency Mental Health Services:** Available 4pm to midnight through Emergency Room at Lady Minto Hospital. Call 538-4840
- * **24 HR. Crisis Line:** Toll free: 1-866-386-6323. Caller is connected with the Need Crisis Centre in Victoria.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Course is one way to support youth

Registration for first session begins now

This article is one in a series on Respectful Relationships, an award-winning violence prevention project created by SWOVA (Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse) Community Development and Research Society.

Through children, we experience wonder, innocence and delight. Whether chasing butterflies, watch-

ing bugs, or making-believe, what a joy to watch them at play!

Whether they're on stage at ArtSpring, on the playing field, or packing boxes for Pitseng School in Africa, what a delight it is to observe them coming into their own as they grow and learn in our community!

When our kids succeed, we feel pride and joy, for they are our future.

When they struggle, we want to support them, both as parents and as community members.

Children make the leap from elementary to middle school when peers and peer culture become increasingly important.

A bigger school brings a new and larger peer group for students; and for parents, anxiety-producing potential new realities for their growing children.

Adolescence is a paradox: while pushing us away and reaching for independence, kids still want to know that we're there when they need us. We need to find different and creative ways to "show up" for them.

A wise African proverb says it best: "It takes a village to raise a child."

As they hold their parents and teachers at arm's length, young people still need adults to model appropriate behaviour, teach them values, and mentor them in their passions and interests.

Parents today are often busy if not overwhelmed. Parents of adolescents need connections with and support from other par-

Adolescence is a paradox: while pushing us away and reaching for independence, kids still want to know that we're there when they need us.

We need to weave a community safety net so strong that not one youth or child falls through.

Participating with Parent Advisory Councils is one way to support your child at school.

Find out more about the Core Inn and how you can support their programs for youth.

Learning the language and skills of the "Respectful Relationships" (R+R) program is yet another way to support our community's youth.

Some students feel strongly that they want their parents to understand the language and relationship skills of the R+R program.

To that end, SWOVA has developed Widening the Circle: Respectful Relationships At Home, a free six-week parent series that complements and reinforces SWOVA's R+R curriculum for youth.

The series will be offered on Tuesday evenings starting on February 12, and finishing on March 18, from 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. at Lions Hall.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. In order to assist and support busy parents, childcare for younger siblings (upon request) and snacks will be provided.

The R+R violence prevention program is a valued part of the school curriculum in four B.C. school districts. To learn more or to register for Respectful Relationships At Home, please contact SWOVA at 537-1336. <http://swova.org>

ADOPT A PET TODAY

The BCSPCA will be CLOSED from Wednesday, December 19th until Monday, January 7th. The shelter will be running on an EMERGENCY BASIS only.

Call 537-2123 for more information

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Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women
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Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling
538-5569

'Transitions' Thrift Store
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Funded by the BC Ministry of Community Services

IT'S A WRAP: 2007

Gas, fires, radio

LOOKING BACK
continued from 12



RICHARD MURAKAMI

in Canada — if not North America.

- Salt Spring's Eugene Marcano was sentenced to six months in jail after pleading guilty to four charges stemming from a drug-fuelled summertime bender that left a local RCMP officer with a broken leg.



ROSE MURAKAMI

- Salt Spring Island Village Resort "hit another bump in the road" when developer Tuan Development Inc. applied for and received long-term creditor protection in early June. By early July, the resort's lodge and another building had burned to the ground in a night-time blaze that saw flames shooting into the sky. Cause of the fire was never determined.



BRIAN HAUFF

- The ground was broken in early June on the Murakami Gardens affordable housing project in Ganges.

- Trustees at a June Trust Council meeting voted to take a historic step that could see the number of trustees on Salt Spring double from two to four in time for the next election.



RICHARD MOSES

- A software glitch marred the 2007 Lions Directory with the 653 business listings coming out with 538 prefixes.

- Two prospective radio stations applied to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for broadcasting rights on Salt Spring. The licence was eventually awarded to Salt Spring Radio Corp. filed by Richard Moses and Gary Brooks.



JOSIP BUDIMCIC

- Salt Spring's Drew Clarke led a charge to raise the Robertson II sailing vessel, which ran aground near Winter Cove on Saturna Island on Canada Day. Clarke, who took over ownership of the vessel, was unable to raise it despite a nation-wide appeal.



KEVIN PATTERSON

- Salt Spring author Kevin Patterson was in the centre of a national controversy after publishing a graphic article outlining daily reality faced by soldiers and citizens in Afghanistan.

- A crowd of onlookers watched as a 32-foot Bayliner erupted into flames and burned in Ganges Harbour.

- The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District released its 10-year strategic plan, which looked at

LOOKING BACK continued on 30



Above, islanders rally in support of Joe "Somebody" Budimcic; at left, a memorial honours Fritz the Cinema Cat; below, work at the indoor pool on Rainbow Road was ongoing throughout 2007.



MILESTONES

- Salt Spring Inn opened in February.
- The provincial government announced it would donate \$1 million to the Murakami Gardens affordable housing project, giving the project a green light. Construction was slated to begin on the Rainbow Road project in March.
- After intense fundraising and significant donations from the Ministry of Transportation and local Lions Club, a pedestrian-controlled crosswalk light was up and running at the intersection of Rainbow and Lower Ganges roads by the end of March.
- Members of the Burgoyne United Church congregation celebrated the church's 120th anniversary in July.
- A new Friday night Gulf Islands ferry schedule saw increased traffic between Salt Spring and Tsawwassen, deeming it a success.
- The local branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women celebrated its 10th anniversary here.
- Mary Butler and Louis John Gething turned 100.
- A ground-breaking ceremony in September launched Salt Spring's new Japanese Garden to be located at Peace Park in Ganges.
- Annie Hassell turned 105. She died a few months later.

Thank you Salt Spring!

Another year has passed, with new products, wider aisles & new freezers to mention just a few changes. We will continue to offer you great selection and service in 2008!

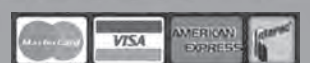
Best wishes for a Happy & Prosperous New Year!
- Bill & Sharon Wilkinson

GANGES VILLAGE MARKET

New Year's Eve OPEN 8AM-6PM
New Year's Day CLOSED



LOCALLY OWNED
LOCALLY OPERATED



OPEN 8AM - 9PM DAILY

IT'S A WRAP: 2007

SPORTS₂₀₀₇

• Salt Spring squash player Kristen Iverson competed with B.C. in the Canada Winter Games, bringing home a bronze medal from the event.

• U18 gold boys soccer team won the district cup for the second year in a row.

• Fourteen-year-old wrestler Carmen Esquivel took fifth place in a national event.

• The Gulf Islands Secondary School seniors girls soccer team placed second in the AA Island Championship, spring-boarding it to provincials where it eventually placed ninth.

• High school German exchange student Laura Zimmerman qualified for provincials in high school track and field after placing third in high jump at the island championships.

• Six Salt Spring Sting-rays swimmers qualified for the provincial swim championships: Brendan Nickerson, Luke Hylands, Ariana Fraser, Amy Zacharias, Becky Steel and Danielle Viozzi. Liam Sinclair also swam at the provincial event as a first alternate.

• The GISS cross country girls team qualified for provincials.

• The GISS senior varsity football team qualified for provincials.

• The GISS senior boys soccer team qualified for provincials.

• The GISS senior boys volleyball team qualified for provincials.



At far left, Ganges gets a pedestrian-operated crosswalk light. At left, Japanese Garden Society members Mearnie Summers and Rose Murakami break ground.

Year ends on the tail end of a storm

having 20 paid firefighters working around the clock by 2012.

• Joe "Somebody" Budimcic received a December date for his refugee status hearing. But the island handyman, convicted in absentia for war crimes by a Croatian court, learned he would have to wait until 2008 for the results of the hearing. In the interim, islanders rallied behind him, with a huge demonstration in October.

• Homeless couple Tony and Marcie were evicted from their under-the-boardwalk home, prompting an island-wide search for suitable housing. A home was eventually found for them.

• Greenwoods nurse Katherine Chorney was killed in a two-car collision on North End Road. A Campbell River man was charged with several offences, following the accident, including impaired driving causing death.

• Fire protection services would cost Salt Spring taxpayers 25 per cent more in 2008 than the previous year's \$1.3 million. The 2008 budget was set at \$1,625,880.

OPINION₂₀₀₇

The Driftwood published 528 letters to the editor in 2007, plus 48 viewpoints, 22 in-depths, 18 in-responses and 17 guest columns for a total of 633 pieces of reader opinion.

Letter writing peaked once in the September 12 issue with 17 letters, followed by 18 letters in the October 31 edition and 13 the week following. Many of the late October/ early November letters were in response to proposed changes to the official community plan.

Letter writing activity was lowest in June (29) and July (30).

the "hot-button" items were eventually thrown out.

• A campaign was launched to purchase a 19.5-acre Creekside rainforest lot by the end of the year.

• RCMP were investigating a murder-suicide in Fulford after a tradesman found the bodies of David Denovan, 63, and Nancy Denovan, 75, in the bedroom of their home on Morningside Drive.

• A waterside portion of Moby's Pub was damaged by what may have been a deliberately set fire.

• Flooding was rampant throughout Salt Spring after nearly 24 hours of snowfall turned to heavy rains. Taking the brunt of the storm, the library was closed until further notice after it suffered extensive damage in the storm.

• Debate erupted over the official community plan review recommendations, as people opposed proposed shoreline setbacks, house size limits and a Fulford Village boundary expansion. All of

Some residents blamed site work on a Swanson's Pond property for contributing to the flooding of their homes in the Kanaka Road area. A meeting with the property-owning Salt Spring Ventures Inc. was set to talk about the issues.

The New Year's gift that lasts a lifetime...

DRIVING LESSONS!

New GLP course starting in January
some space still available
GIFT CERTIFICATES - COURSE ENROLLMENT

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Wishing you a Safe & Happy New Year!
-Lorne & Shirley

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PEOPLE & COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

LITERARY BUNCH: Salt Spring Centre School staff were thrilled to find 11 out of the school's 29 students aged six through 10 won first or second place or honourable mentions in the Driftwood's annual Christmas Story Writing Contest. In total, 30 stories from 148 writers were selected for mention in the contest. Clockwise from bottom are Alistair Hayne, Liam McGuire, Aidan Haigh, Oliver Roveda, Zoe Cullen-Lahay, Shael Lampard, Norees Gasper, Alexandra Barnes, Lyyli Kennedy and Olivia Hayne. JJ Pomeroy is missing.

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Art of health and wellness

Saci Spindler offers 10-month herbology course

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An intensive herbology course on Salt Spring opens the door to alternative medicine, offering hands-on experience with plants from B.C. and North America.

Saci Spindler said the 10-month Science and Art of Herbology course is for beginners to intermediates who want to learn how to address issues such as the common cold and flu.

"The course of study gives one an understanding of the organ systems and how to recognize signs of imbalance, along with corresponding herbal therapies and nutritional guidelines."

She said over the 10-month period each student will build an extensive herbal pantry used to improve vitality and health.

"My desire is to inspire people to feel confident to work with plant medicine and know how to use these remedies effectively, as well as nourish

the body, mind and soul," she said in a press release about the program.

Held the first Sunday of every month starting February 3, session topics will include learning the body systems, signs of health imbalance, corresponding therapies to illness, plant walks and medicine making.

During the course, students learn the properties and uses of over 90 plants found in North America and Europe. Some are native species to Salt Spring while others are cultivated in gardens.

One local example is Oregon grape. Spindler uses the plant's root as an anti-bacterial agent and liver cleanser.

Spindler not only teaches students how to use the plants, but also how to be sensitive to the environment.

"The demand for some of these plants and the destruction of their habitat make them at risk," she said. "I teach [the students] how to cultivate them."

She said she hopes by the end of the course students will have developed a strong relationship with some of the plants.

The intensive program's

basis is borrowed from master herbalist Rosemary Gladstar, founder of the California School of Herbal Studies.

Spindler is a personal graduate apprentice of Gladstar and has over 11 formal years of experience in herbology.

Having grown up on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, Spindler developed a special relationship with nature.

"I've always had a kinship with plants," she said.

Spindler has offered her course for three years and said it is always a success.

"I have students who travel from all over the island each month to get their fill of lessons rich in plant medicine, love and sharing with like-minded people," she said.

Along with teaching her herbology class, Spindler also offers personalized health and wellness treatments and nutritional recommendations to the general public through her company Seabrook Medicinals.

For more information about the Science and Art of Herbology, call 653-0068.

Program cost is \$1,200, which includes all textbooks.

Tricks with a 'two' snatch prizes

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The Christmas tree was twinkling at Seniors on December 10, and five and a half tables of players showed up for a very close game with interesting hands.

The average score was 54, and Flo and George Laundry were well over that with a 67.5. John Jefferson and Brent Vickers were a close second with 66.9, and Sandy Thompson and Prem Margolese were a sturdy third with 65.8.

Hilarity reigned on December 17 with the usual Christmas spirit(s). There are two bottles of wine and two boxes of chocolates as prizes for taking a trick with a two. The snag is that the next person to take a trick with a two can snatch the prize away, and so it goes all

BRIDGETRICKS

evening until the last person to take a prize gets to keep it.

This year Sandy Thompson generously donated an extra gift — the book about the Lady Minto Hospital by Charles Kahn and Sue Mouat, both of whom have been participants at the club in the past.

The Laundrys provided Santa and Mrs. Claus hats (the latter with long white braids) for players to wear and add to the festive scene, and Sandy also provided boxes of those tiny delicious Mini Honey mandarin oranges for everyone to enjoy.

There were four and half tables competing amid the

laughter and the scrambling for the "two" prizes, and it was perhaps deserving that Sandy Thompson and Prem Margolese came out on top as far as the bridge was concerned. Flo and George Laundry were just one point behind, and in third place were Isabelle Richardson and Margaret Morris.

As for the prize winners, Zelly Taylor managed to grab the bottle of red wine, and her partner, Ian Thomas, got away with the white. Rumour has it that he will use it to toast the late Conhor Vane-Hunt, his former bridge partner for many years and vigorous "two" competitor. The boxes of chocolates ended up with Tilly Crawley and Irene Hawksworth, and Flo Laundry kept the coveted Lady Minto book.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

SEE PAGE 16

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The many, many members of our community who gave numerous private donations, all the local businesses who donated but slipped through my thank you radar and, last but not least, a huge thank you to our valued volunteers, from children to adults, who do everything from bagging vegetables, filling boxes, preparing lunch for 40 people, breaking down cardboard to driving and delivering, cleaning and sweeping and so, so much more. The Hamper Program could not be prepared or completed without these amazing people, who put a little piece of their hearts into each and every hamper box!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING MY JOB A BIT EASIER!
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Melanie Morris, Dori Somerset & Evelyn Smith
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WRESTLING

Island sisters bring home the gold

Medals a promising sign for sport's hopefuls

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Esquivel sisters began their 2008 wrestling season with a slam by bringing home gold medals from the Cougar Invitational in Duncan last week.

Because the tournament brings together some of the region's most talented wrestlers, the Esquivels' results are a good sign for their upcoming season with the Salt Spring Rams wrestling club, said their father and coach Leon Esquivel.

Rookie wrestler Anita Esquivel began her career on the right foot, winning all of her four matches in the 39-kilogram category.

“There was really only one challenge from a girl in Grade 7,” said the 11-year-old Salt Spring resident.

Anita's interest in the sport started from a combination of her passion for gymnastics, an attraction to wrestling's physical nature and the experiences of her family members.

“She was never very interested so I'm quite surprised,” said her father. “Watching her is so natural. It's like she's dancing.”

Anita's sister Carmen, competing in the elite division for the first time in her



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Anita Esquivel wins all four matches.

two-year career, also swept all four of her matches to claim top place in her category.

“She makes it look so easy,” Leon said.

“If she wants to go further she really has the potential. We'll see what she can do.”

Carmen is already ranked fifth in the country and second in British Columbia after less than two full years on the mats.

Leon said he hopes the girls' success will encourage other kids on the island to become involved in what, he said, is an inexpensive

and rewarding sport.

“There aren't many players right now, but we hope to change that,” he said.

The Salt Spring Rams Wrestling Club will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday and Thursday evenings at the middle school gym starting in January.

DISC SPORTS

Boxing Day disc golf comp tries new venue

Hart Memorial tourney runs for ninth time

A new private disc golf course on Salt Spring saw flying action on Boxing Day during a Duck Golf tournament.

Dean Crouse, who developed the course on a Mansell Road farm, said

the 18-hole tournament was designed to be more challenging and technical than other courses.

Crouse, who has played disc golf since 1995, said Salt Spring is home to approximately 10 private courses.

“People who are obsessed with disc golf end up making their own course.”

The tournament was the ninth annu-

al Boxing Day competition Crouse has helped organize on the island, but the first of them held on the private course.

The event included open, amateur and advanced categories for men, women and juniors.

See next week's Driftwood for tourney results.

Happy New Year

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SPORTS & RECREATION

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Junior girls squad whips contender

Basketball team needs tougher competition

The high-powered offensive force of the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) junior girls basketball team was no match for the former contenders at Frances Kelsey Secondary School during an uneventful game last Wednesday night.

GISS coach Judy Raddysh said the girls pulled so far ahead in the first half of play, she called off the strike and turned the game into a practice.

"I asked them to back off to learn a few new things," she said.

Raddysh said the girls practised playing according to the game plan, as opposed to improvising.

Despite the easy 56-10 takedown of Frances Kelsey, Raddysh said her team still considers the rivals a threat since they had a strong season last year. As well, Raddysh said some of the key

Frances Kelsey players were missing from the roster last Wednesday, which could have weakened their team.

So far the GISS junior girls haven't been able to show their true skill this season as none of the opposing teams have stepped up to offer competitive play, said Raddysh.

The team will practise with the GISS senior girls over the holidays and fine-tune their game plan before squaring off with Brentwood on January 17.

Raddysh hopes future games will offer more competition for the girls.

"They don't learn as much when they're not pushed," she said.

In other high school basketball news, the senior girls team beat Cedar 45-25.

"The Cedar game was relatively easy, and we were never really challenged," said coach Tony Mason. "Sammy Bird played a strong defensive game, and Meredith Raddysh hit two three pointers."



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

EYE ON THE BALL: Kevin Marr juggles soccer balls as he attends a recent soccer game on Salt Spring.

GISS BASKETBALL

Senior Scorpions boys trounce Chemainus

Players maintain high expectations

The senior boys basketball team may have won last week's game against Chemainus, but team members remain unimpressed with their performance.

"We had our ups and downs," said point guard and team spokesperson Bobby Byron. "We tried hard not to play down to their level."

The Scorpions outshot, outdribbled and outpaced their opponents for most of the match to win the game 35-17. It was the team's second regular season win and preserves an undefeated record.

Martin Lannan scored 23 points in the match.

Byron said team members felt they should have worked harder to contain what little offence their opponents managed to muster.

"The game wasn't that close, but personally I think we could have played much better," he said.

With their eyes on the Vancouver Island and provincial finals, it's important to make the most of every game, Byron added.

The team has a break until regular season play returns on January 5.



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Photo solutions by John Cameron: 537-5830

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TV GUIDE
PAGE 25**

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20 COMING EVENTS

2008 SCHEDULE

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MID-DAY	3:15-4:00 Kids' Yoga Shelby	11:00-12:00 Chair Yoga - Jen	1:15-2:00 Choices Cordula	11:00-12:00 Prenatal/Mom & Baby - Cordula		From noon on, available for workshops and rentals	From 1:30 on available for workshops and rentals
EVENING	5:30-6:45 Nia - Leslie 7:00-8:30 Various Series Classes	5:00-6:15 Mixed Levels Yoga Patricia (starting Feb) 6:30-8:00 Level 2 Yoga Lee/Cathy	6:30-8:00 Intermediate Flow Christina	5:00-6:00 Nia - Leslie 6:15-7:15 Sunset Stretch Angie 7:30-8:30 Bellydance Oriana	5:00-6:00 Restorative Yoga Rupert From 6:30 on, available for workshops & rentals	Available for workshops and rentals	Available for workshops and rentals



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9 SEASONAL GREETINGS

SQUARE FOOT Charlie would like to wish Happy Holidays to all the contractors and home owners who made 2007 a very prosperous year. Have a safe Christmas Season and a Happy New Year. Look forward to a successful new year. Thank you SQFC.

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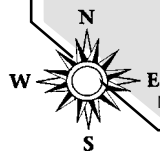
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5	2	4	1	3	9	6	7	8
8	3	7	4	5	6	1	2	9
7	1	5	9	2	3	8	4	6
3	8	6	7	4	1	5	9	2
4	9	2	6	8	5	7	3	1
6	4	1	5	9	7	2	8	3
9	7	3	2	1	8	4	6	5
2	5	8	3	6	4	9	1	7



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	9		8			3		
			7	6	5	1	4	
		7						4
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ISLAND STAR VIDEO presents...
Flick Pick
 The Simpsons Movie



I always grit my teeth when someone complains that The Simpsons isn't as good as it used to be. I retort, "Of course — let's see you write 20-odd new storylines a year for 18 years," but in my heart it often feels like the show doesn't have the same effect on me it did back in the early '90s.

With this in mind I was apprehensive about the much-overdue arrival of our favourite yellow family on the big screen. Fear not, however, as The Simpsons Movie is probably as good as it can be.

Quite naturally, the plot of this epic adventure has Homer screwing up big-time. Let's just say that this time around he causes a major environmental catastrophe and before you know it the power-hungry head of the EPA has enacted a nefarious master plan that could destroy

the town of Springfield that we all know and love.

Obviously The Simpsons Movie has its expected share of satire, including Lisa's presentation of "An Irritating Truth" to a typically clueless audience, a befuddled President Arnold Schwarzenegger doing whatever his advisors tell him, and a priceless sight-gag linking alcoholism and religion.

There's also a bevy of referential material to be found, digging from both Simpsons and non-Simpsons culture. Read reviews of the film and you'll see that any given review points out at least three or four different references that another reviewer may have missed.

But where The Simpsons Movie shines, in just the way that The Simpsons will always be better than contemporaries South Park

or Family Guy, is in its heart. There are moments in which I found myself nearly tearing up, particularly a videotaped message from a distraught Marge to Homer that sweetly (and painfully) references the famous TV episode wherein the two first got together.

There is this genuine depth to both the series and the film that makes them such great vehicles for looking at the world we live in. The Simpsons' universe is garish and flawed and chaotic . . . and yet somehow everything ends on a hopeful note that never feels false or tacked on.

We laugh at The Simpsons because they make us feel better about our own flawed lives. But we love The Simpsons because, when all is said and done, they make the right choices and go on living their lives. If only we could say we did the same.

This Week's Horoscope by Michael O'Connor

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)
 Your career and public standing are in the spotlight. Expansion based on calculated risk is likely. Improvement or development of skills and abilities is part of the plot and implies training. This is a prelude to bigger changes in late January. Your career or some other aspect of your social life or standing will change. Endings are possible as are promotions and new beginnings altogether. The next 3-4 weeks are a good time to approach authority figures for favours and earned rewards. At deeper levels, you are awakening to subtle regions of your mind, conscious and subconscious, and/or those of others. Speak your truth and affirm your ambition and show determination.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)
 Exploring new possibilities is on your mind. What is real and worth your time and what is not? Contemplating the bigger picture is bringing out your philosophical side. Your awareness about what is going on in other places is growing. Interests about what you can do about it are growing. How can you contribute to restoring balance and harmony? You may feel rebellious yet humane at the same time. Is it time to shake things up somehow? Change is probably not your favourite word yet you recognize the need for it. Love relationships are also due for some review. Opportunity for travel or adventure is a highlight.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)
 Endings and new beginnings are happening in your world. Reflections upon some of the deeper meanings and implications of this are filling your mind. This may be leading you to face some fears. Thoughts and questions about security are active as well and what you can do about it. Meanwhile, your popularity is growing. You may feel moved to join with others or bring people together; after all, 'tis the season. Paying extra attention to your health during this festive season is important. Commitments to new projects and other initiatives are growing. Aim to join forces and merge assets and talents for greater success.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)
 Some major new beginning on relationship fronts is as work in the heavens for you this week. You may feel inspired or pushed or frustrated enough to want to take deliberate actions. This includes training or education. Perhaps it is the school of hands on action verses theory. Is it time to work for yourself, or at least take on a side line project with practical aims implied? This may well be an initiation to plan and layout your ideas rather than jump right in, perhaps a bit of both. Be open to the advice and instruction from others now and aim to negotiate for a better deal.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)
 The time is ripe to solidify your foundation and resolve somehow. What schemes and plans need more attention? With the year winding down, perhaps you want to clean-up any unfinished business so you feel grounded and prepared for the New Year. Reflect on your priorities and outline your intentions. Aim to be steady and sure with an even pace, especially this winter. It may well take until May before you feel like you are ready and able to really push hard, so weave this probability into your plans. From late January to early March you

will, admittedly feel fiery and revolutionary, so you may use that window to shake things up. Include paying extra attention to strengthening relationship connections.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)
 This should prove to be the beginning of very creative cycle for you. It will require focus, determination and discipline for full success, yet big opportunity is rising. The next month or so probably includes some re-calibration and re-definition of your goals. Do you have a vision or a clear outcome for your goals and the direction of your energies? The time has come to make your beautiful dream a reality. Yet, this includes having and then formulating dreams. This means giving definition to your feelings and desires that points to action, things, people and experiences. Sketch out your plan, your site map for enjoyable and powerful manifestation magic.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
 Some major energy is brewing close to home. Something expansive and potentially liberating, yet also explosive and transformational is coming in now. This can all prove to be everything you want as long as you are willing to take risks and leaps. It also includes great flexibility and the ability to let go of certain beliefs and their associated behaviour patterns. This cycle could well take 2-3 years to fully unfold, yet now is a good time to nurture this core intention. Breathe deep and be willing to flow with change. Exercise your ability to negotiate deals that are fair for all involved, even if the deal break out of conventional thinking. Take the road less travelled.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
 The time has come to strengthen your connections, especially with those people and things you love. In other words, be on purpose rather than operate by default. We each have to learn to be true to our own feelings and desires. As we empathetically realize that we are all in the same situation, having to make important choices every day, compassion and understanding are born. Winning at the expense of others is often loss and failure disguised as victory. Yet, we must also thrive against the uncertainties of others and outer reality and so must act deliberately. There is ever only now yet there are consequences that the future now requires us to meet and manage. We are ever alone and yet together with others, an irreconcilable duality that demands that we make choices.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
 Building and fortifying your overall foundation is your next major trend of focus according to your horoscope. Expansion is implied yet so too is reduction. This can happen by taking a more streamlined approach, less excess and fat and more focus and flexibility. Imagine you were told you could only have one backpack full, could you meet your needs. The answer is yes if you took an

intelligent approach. Your life situation may not be this dire, but it may be helpful to assess what is necessary in terms of things, relationships, attitudes and actions etcetera. This clarification of priorities allows you to appreciate all the extras without attachment. With this perspective in place you may have even more fun playing the game.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
 The urge to take some pioneering initiatives to expand your scope of power is welling up from within. However, to realize the success you envision, you will probably have to make some important changes in your approach. This includes gaining more knowledge and training. The time is ripe to take a pointed look at what you must do. Pressures from without are making you be decisive. Avoid getting lost in the labyrinth of your mind as it functions by rational. Aim to listen to your intuitive feelings. What do you want? Muster the vision and courage to say it first to yourself and then to significant others. 'Free your mind and the rest will follow'.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
 A period of retreat is upon you. This may include doing inner work, or work behind the scenes or making the effort to rest or relax to rejuvenate in preparation for a new year of life, or all of the above. With some rather deep changes brewing within your consciousness, you may well be aware that a whole chapter or even book sequel in your life is ending or has and something new is emerging. As yours is the sign of humanity as a whole, your transformations are a reflection of those of society itself. No, this does not mean that you have extra responsibilities, only that just as you may recognize the need for change you can intend to contribute by making changes within your own consciousness and life. Flow with the changing needs of the times.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
 Ambitions to expand and increase your overall scope of power and influence are rising. This implies an even deeper resolve and commitment than you have felt before. If that seems surprising because you have worked hard, step back and see the bigger picture. Often much time is spent on building foundations on both inner and outer levels. These are necessary for major works, projects and evolutionary surges of expression and achievement. Humanity has come far and yet has a long way to go. They is no rush really. Yet there is urgency for us to be focused and steady and deeply committed. Each life has ripples upon others, make yours true and beautiful.

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 December 30

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SPORTS & RECREATION

TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB

Hikers, walkers and ramblers ready for January treks

With AGM set for Jan. 24

The Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24 at the Legion's Meaden Hall.

This year a light luncheon will be served. Tickets (\$12) are available from group coordinators or from Salt Spring Soapworks in early January.

Doors and bar will be open at 11:30 a.m. The business meeting will follow the meal (at approximately 1 p.m.) and every member is invited and urged to attend the meeting part.

A last reminder for the procrastinators that the 2006/2007 membership fees (\$17) are due. After December 31, the fees will be \$20. Please complete and sign the membership/waiver form and leave it with your cheque at the Cobbler's Box or present to our membership secretary Barry Spence (537-2332). Membership cards for paid-up members will be available at the AGM.

At www.saltspringtnc.ca you will find more details on our activities.

Following is the January schedule, but please wear appropriate footwear and clothes for sometimes wet and soggy winter activities.

JANUARY 1: A New Year's Day walk to get a fresh start of the year. Folks who are interested should meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to choose a route through Mouat Park and onwards!

Hikers

JANUARY 8: Deborah Miller and Ruth Riddell will be leading the inaugural 2008 hike from Ganges to Vesuvius. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m.

JANUARY 15: Simon Rook leads us on a strenuous hike on the Cogwheel/Didgeridoo trail. Part of this hike will be on rough terrain.

Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or join at the Cranberry Road/Fulford-Ganges Road junction at 9:50.

JANUARY 22: Fred Powell will lead a moderate hike on Channel Ridge. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m.

JANUARY 29: Lynn Thompson will take us

off-island on a moderate hike from Crofton to the Lenora/Mount Sicker Railway and Mount Richards. We will walk on the ferry, so meet at Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to Vesuvius or join at the ferry.

Walkers

JANUARY 8: John Flannagan is leading a walk to the Mountain Road waterfall. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. and meet the south-enders at Drummond Park at 10:15.

JANUARY 15: We will "follow our noses" in Ruckle Park. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet outside the park main gate at 10:20.

JANUARY 22: The nature walk will be off-island at Hemer Park. Nieke Visser will try again to lead an easy walk along the park's two lakes watching the water birds.

Lunch at the Crow and Gate afterwards. Participation will be limited to 25 and is for present members only! Please pre-register with Nieke (537-5443).

Registered participants will meet at Portlock Park at 8:25 a.m. for the 9 a.m. Vesuvius ferry.

JANUARY 29: Fred Powell leads us on a north end walk. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

Ramblers

JANUARY 8: Louise and Terry Fuoco will take us around some north end territory, so carpool from Centennial at 10 a.m.

JANUARY 15: Sterling and Maureen McEachern will lead us on a ramble, still to be decided. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

JANUARY 22: Micky Lyytikainen will lead us to Mouat Park. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

JANUARY 29: Joan Wrigley is leading a walk around the Legion and some back roads. Carpool from Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

New members

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 537-2332 or Ron Hall (president) at 538-0046, or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in.

WINTER SPORTS

Mt. Washington Alpine Resort will be fully open for the holidays

Powder conditions expected

Let it snow may be part of a Christmas jingle this holiday season, but it's also a dream come true for skiers and boarders who are head-

ing up to Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Brent Curtain, public relations director for Mount Washington, said due to the huge dump of snow over the last three weeks, the entire front and back sides of the mountain have opened,

covering 1,600 acres of terrain.

"We're the first resort in B.C. to offer 100 per cent of the hill," he said.

The resort opened the popular Boomerang chair on December 21, giving skiers and riders a chance to hit the

Outback for the holidays.

Snow isn't the only cause for celebration. Curtain said the resort plans to ring in the new year with four different events. Festivities include a fondue party and dance, a live concert featuring the rock band The Odds, a fami-

ly buffet dinner and an early evening bonfire.

"All ages and tastes are catered to in four unique settings," Curtain said.

Mount Washington is open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with night skiing from 4:30 to 9 p.m.

Adult lift tickets are \$56 or \$42.50 for a half day.

For more information, check out www.mount-washington.ca or call 1-888-231-1499.

Mount Washington is located 30 minutes from the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL



Peter McCully



Tony Richards



Frank Richards



Eva Kuhn



Gail Sjuberg



Derrick Lundy



Lorraine Sullivan



Rick MacKinnon



Susan Lundy



Kim Young



Sean McIntyre



Chris Stephenson



Tracy Stibbards



Kaye Segee



Claudia French



Karen Hepp



Emma Yardley



Andrea Rabinovitch



Meghan Howcroft



Elizabeth Nolan



Jason Matthews



Tao Kimball

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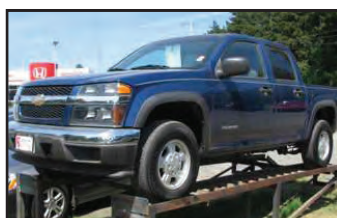
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