

GULF ISLANDS
Driftwood

December 28, 2007 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 47TH YEAR — ISSUE 48 \$1.25 (incl. GST)

CRIME

RCMP investigate Fulford murder-suicide

Couple considered 'private and quiet'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Police expect to learn more details about the victims of a murder-suicide discovered in a Fulford home Saturday morning after autopsies are performed today (Wednesday).

"It's pretty shocking when it happens so close to home," said John Campbell, a neighbour who witnessed emergency crews and investigators arrive at the scene while raking leaves in his yard. "There was obviously something very much amiss."

A tradesman found the bodies of David Denovan, 63, and Nancy Denovan (nee Ryley), 75, in the bedroom of their home at 164 Morningside Road, according to Salt Spring RCMP.

Police released the victims' names on Tuesday after next of kin in Ontario were notified of their deaths. No note to explain the deaths was found on the scene and police don't have possible motives, or cause and time of death.

MURDER-SUICIDE continued on A2



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS: Worker David McEachern holds one of several seasonally appropriate plastic poinsettias recently dropped off at the "Blackburn mall" transfer station.

FIRE

Fire ignites back of Moby's

Business operator suspects arson

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A server at the Harbour House Hotel Restaurant was jolted awake during her Saturday-morning shift when a woman burst into the room shouting that Moby's Marine Pub was on fire.

The blaze, which consumed a waterside portion of the pub, started on the back deck. While the Salt Spring Fire Department can't comment at this point on what caused the blaze, arson could be at play.

Brittany Brown, the server in the restaurant, quickly called 911 and fire department personnel were on the scene within five minutes.

After Brown made the call, she stepped outside to have a look across the street.

"I saw lots of smoke coming from behind Moby's," she said.

Brown said the woman had apparently seen smoke as she drove by the pub and then went to the Harbour House for help.

Captain Jamie Holmes, of the Salt Spring Fire Department, said the call came in at 7:40 a.m. and firefighters managed to extinguish the flames before the fire spread inside.

"Luckily we got the call while the fire was still on the exterior of the building," he said. "Give it another 10 to 15 minutes and it would have been a completely different fire."

While Holmes couldn't comment on what started the fire, he said it began in an unusual place where there's nothing but wood.

MOBY'S FIRE continued on A4

WINTER WEATHER

Snowfall causes usual vehicle mayhem

Icy roads lead to accidents and send cars into ditches

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first snow of the season hit Salt Spring Monday, causing numerous drivers to hit the ditch.

On Monday evening, one of those drivers — Ian Whipple — hit a patch of ice on Stewart Road and lost control of his vehicle, which ended

up in the ditch. He managed to get the vehicle back on the road, but couldn't drive any further, stated an RCMP press release.

Whipple, a volunteer fire fighter, said his Land Rover was damaged in the accident and he couldn't move it.

"I couldn't get it into gear," he said Tuesday.

After abandoning his vehicle to get help, Whipple returned to find his Land Rover fully engulfed in flames. Fire department personnel attended the scene and extinguished the fire with the help of Whipple.

No one was injured in the accident and the vehicle was towed Tuesday morning. The department is investigating the cause of the fire.

"I'm pretty sure it was electrical," Whipple said.

Among other vehicle mishaps, another crash occurred Tuesday morning on Vesuvius Bay Road.

A Duncan woman lost control of her vehicle on the icy road while driving from Vesuvius. The vehicle went off the road and stopped against

SNOW STORM continued on A2

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NEWSBEAT

Police investigate couple's deaths

MURDER-SUICIDE
continued from A2

"I can't say anything until we get all of our facts straight," said Sgt. Danny Willis of the Salt Spring RCMP on Monday afternoon. Investigators from Salt Spring, Vancouver and Victoria were on the scene until Sunday evening.

Neighbours described the Denovans as a private and quiet couple. Both enjoyed going for long walks, took pride in their garden and sought to preserve Fulford's peaceful tranquility.

"They honoured their privacy," said Honor Griffith, a close personal friend.

Before moving to Salt Spring 20 years ago, the couple worked for CBC television in Toronto. According to Griffith, both David and Nancy produced internationally acclaimed documentaries on Canadian artists and environmental issues.

In 1998, Nancy completed *The Forsaken Garden*, a book documenting the plight of people suffering from environmental illness.

Nancy spoke of her own battle with environmental illness at a public meeting on the island's official community plan at Fulford Hall in August.

"My doctor said, 'if you don't get out of the city and go to some nice, quiet, clean place, you probably won't make it through,' and I've made it through quite well.



The Denovans' quiet-looking home in Fulford is currently the scene of a police investigation.

I'm still not well, but anyway the point of all this is to say that I'm very concerned by the increase in people because I'm concerned about the increase in pollution," she told the meeting.

While neighbours say they did not live in their Fulford home full-time, the Denovans had donated funds to the Salt Spring Foundation and took an interest in their community's future.

The couple delayed a trip to the Rockies, where they

owned property in Canmore, while Nancy recovered from surgery she recently underwent in Victoria.

Her ongoing battle with environmental illness and a compromised immune system has led some community members to suspect the deaths were the result of a "suicide pact" between the couple.

Bruce Patterson, a Fulford resident and owner of Patterson Market, said he often saw the couple walk-

ing through the village and on their occasional visits to the store.

"They were obviously a very tightly knit couple," he said, rejecting any suggestion that malice played a role in the incident.

"This isn't about an angry husband killing his wife. It's more like the story of Romeo and Juliet."

BRUCE PATTERSON
Fulford resident

"Most people are quick to draw conclusions, but the people who knew them see it for what it is," Patterson said.

"This isn't about an angry husband killing his wife. It's more like the story of Romeo and Juliet."

Police could not say if the incident was the result of a suicide pact between the husband and his ill wife.

"We can assume, but we cannot confirm anything at this point," said Greg Cox, a spokesperson for the Victoria-based Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crimes Unit.

More information will be posted at www.gulfislands.net as it becomes available.

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28	00:44	0.1	0.3	02	03:56	1.6	5.2
WE	09:19	3.7	12.1	SU	11:44	3.4	11.2
	15:07	2.9	9.5		19:15	1.6	5.2
	17:30	3.0	9.8				
29	01:33	0.4	1.3	03	01:01	2.2	7.2
TH	10:02	3.7	12.1	MO	04:53	2.0	6.6
	16:35	2.6	8.5		12:07	3.3	10.8
	18:26	2.7	8.9		19:45	1.3	4.3
30	02:21	0.8	2.6	04	02:56	2.5	8.2
FR	10:42	3.6	11.8	TU	06:03	2.4	7.9
	17:49	2.3	7.5		12:27	3.2	10.5
	19:55	2.4	7.9		20:11	1.1	3.6

DECEMBER

01	03:07	1.2	3.9				
SA	11:15	3.5	11.5				
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Vehicle mishaps blames on snow storm

SNOW FALL
continued from A1

some trees over the bank.

While the woman sustained no injuries, the vehi-

cle was damaged, said Salt Spring RCMP.

"[She] was very lucky," said RCMP officer Cpl. Kerry Howse at the scene of the accident Tuesday.

While the snow melted considerably by the Driftwood press time Tuesday, some roads on Salt Spring remained icy. Salt Spring school buses were running

on the main roads only Tuesday morning.

The Environment Canada weather forecast is for rain today (Wednesday) and sun for the next few days.

Queen of Nanaimo in refit until December 11

The Queen of Nanaimo's annual refit period began Monday, with the Queen of Tsawwassen taking its spot on the Tsawwassen-Gulf Islands ferry route.

Because the Tsawwassen is a smaller vessel, B.C. Ferries advises that some overloads may occur at peak sailing times, when use of reservations is rec-

ommended.

The Queen of Nanaimo is expected to return by December 11, in time for the busy holiday travelling season.

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Newsbeat

Heads up!

Bag-a-Book Sale. Fundraiser for Community Ed at Meaden Hall.

Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FIRE DISTRICT

Tax rates amplified for commercial properties

Infrastructure expansion to impact island retailers

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The fire-tax burden for renters of commercial space on Salt Spring will double if the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District adopts and pursues steps outlined in its 10-Year Strategic Plan, according to the president of Mouat's Trading.

"I am concerned that the objectives contained in the document may be unaffordable to many in the business community," wrote Kevin Bell in a letter submitted to trustees at last week's fire protection district meeting in Ganges.

Plans to hire 20 additional full-time firefighters and replace both aging equipment and the Ganges fire hall, among other proposals, are estimated to increase residential fire taxes from \$0.53 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$1.30, according to the latest draft (version 5.5) of the strategic plan.

"In the case of commercial property, the tax burden for fire protection on Salt Spring is 2.47 times greater than that of residential property," Bell states in his letter.

That would mean commercial tax rates, currently at \$1.31 per \$1,000 of assessed value, would jump to \$3.21 by 2013.

"This is a significant amount of money," Bell said.

As tax rates rise, tenants can expect monthly rents to follow the same trend, Bell added. Whether or not business owners on the island, including Mouat's Trading's 32 tenants, can survive the increased operating costs, he said, is anyone's guess.

"This is coming at a time when high ferry rates, high gas transportation costs and our high Canadian dollar are having a negative impact on business," he said. "Declines in production, retail and tourism will be the soup that most businesses will be swimming in for the next several years and I am concerned that many will be unable to afford such a high level of public spending."

Bell is asking fire trustees and others in the community to work on ways to "significantly reduce the objectives and spending envisioned in our plan."

Fire trustees continue to present their 10-year strategic plan to community groups representing a wide range of island interests. Participants at the November 19 fire board meeting called on trustees to consider ways of attracting more volunteers to the force as a way to limit the need for more full-time firefighters.

Included among the recommendations were increasing the stipend paid to volunteers and diversifying crews based on ability, so as to encourage a broader range of volunteer participation.

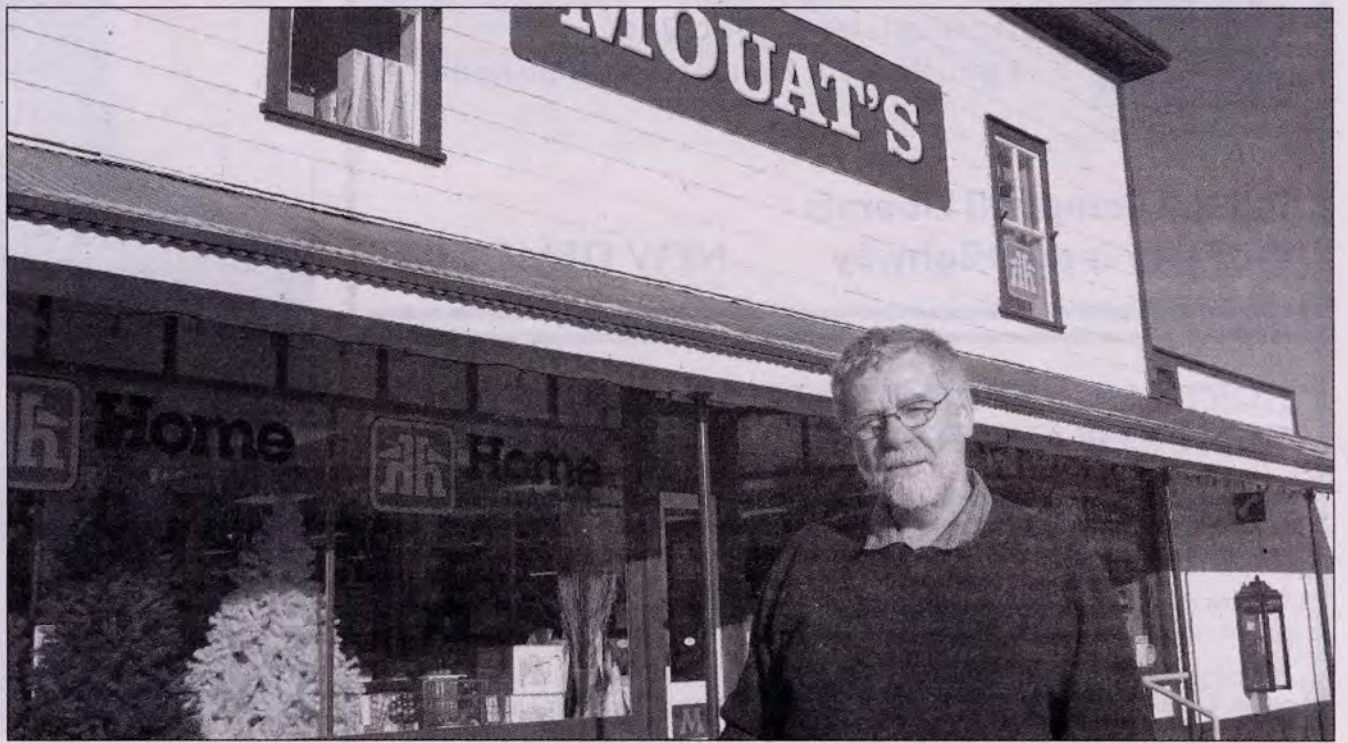


PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Mouat's president Kevin Bell wants renters of commercial properties on the island to know rents will rise if tax rates continue to climb.

Fire trustees accepted Bell's letter, but did not read it during the public meeting on the grounds it contained "sensitive information."

"I'd say it contained 'sensible information,'" Bell said.

"We've got to pay attention here because this is going to have implications on tenants' rent," he said. "I'm not saying whether [the strategic plan] is good or bad, just that it is coming down the pipe."

Bell said it remains premature to say what impact expanded fire service protection will have on commercial insurance rates.

Taxpayers must also consider other public initiatives seeking funding, he added, including the indoor swimming pool, library and transportation commission.

Trustees accepted Bell's letter alongside a seven-page report detailing potential consequences of the tax increases by Salt Spring resident Roger Middleton.

"The economic outlook for the island is not good," Middleton states in his report. "This is not a time to be increasing the property tax burden."

As an alternative to wide-scale tax increases, Middleton

suggests the department choose to proceed with one proposition at a time.

"If we build the fire hall, it is recommended that the staffing option be delayed," he said.

Middleton further recommends the tax-raising authorities on the island get together to form a board to ensure property taxes are kept at a minimum.

Speaking on behalf of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District, board member Mark Wyatt said the strategic plan consultation process is still underway.

"Nothing has been decided yet," he said, urging community members to download the report from www.saltspring-fire.com and provide input either in writing or verbally at public meetings and presentations.

"We are all cognizant of the fact that people don't want to pay more taxes. I don't want to pay more taxes," Wyatt said. "There will be variables to consider because, ultimately, the onus is on the community on whether or not to support the plan."

The next fire board meeting is at the Ganges fire hall at 7:30 p.m. on December 17.

News briefs

Burgoyne hay field fracas

The Friends of Salt Spring Parks called on the provincial government to help protect next year's hay crop at Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park during their annual general meeting held last week.

Haying on portions of the park was curtailed last summer after an ecological assessment of the property discovered a threatened bird species was nesting in the area.

According to Friends of

Salt Spring Parks' Charles Kahn, there is a concern unharvested hay left to rot in the fields may have an impact on next year's crop.

Joe Benning of B.C. Parks said the measures were required to ensure the Savannah Sparrow's habitat was not lost. He said potential losses are minimal.

"We erred on the side of caution," Benning said.

"The habitat wasn't lost and there is no indication we are going to lose whatever crop is there."

In other AGM news, the Friends of Salt Spring Parks

board pledged \$1,000 to the Cusheon Creek Rainforest campaign.

Trust Council schedule set

The Islands Trust's next quarterly meeting will take place from December 5 to 7 at the Harbour Towers Hotel in Victoria.

Delegations and town hall sessions are scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, December 6 between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

A strategic plan review and introduction to the

2008-09 budget session are scheduled for Thursday morning.

Wednesday's program includes a Parks Canada update at 10:45 a.m., outlining the status of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, and a presentation on efforts to create a National Marine Conservation Area in the Strait of Georgia.

Trustees will tackle the Islands Trust's business agenda between 2:45 and 5 p.m. on Thursday and from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

Persons or organizations

wishing to reserve time for a formal presentation to the Islands Trust Council are requested to book an appointment through the Islands Trust's Victoria office.

Agendas and schedules are available online at www.islandstrust.bc.ca.

Light up challenge

Thursday noon is the deadline for Salt Spring businesses to enter the Driftwood's annual Christ-

mas Light Up decorating contest.

First and second place advertising dollars will be awarded to the best decorated stores in four categories: best overall, best use of material, most creative and best use of lights.

In the past, island businesses have gone all out to win the prizes and light up the island for the Christmas season.

Those who do not already have entry forms should contact the Driftwood before noon tomorrow (Thursday).



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NEWSBEAT

14 fight blaze at local pub



MOBY'S FIRE
continued from A1

Salt Spring RCMP and the fire department are currently investigating the cause.

Jim Burrows, who runs Moby's Pub, suspects arson because of where the fire started. He said substantial damage occurred, with part of the deck, upper window and wall charred, as well as water damage in the basement.

He said the fire began burning through the drywall just as firefighters doused the blaze.

"Another 10 minutes and it would have been too late."

Moby's was closed for 24 hours while staff assessed the damage and cleaned up. However, it was business as usual for the CFL Grey Cup game on Sunday.

Burrows, who has only been on the job for three weeks, is not sure how much it will cost to repair the damage. He is currently discussing the fire with Moby's insurance company.

Fourteen firefighters and three commissioners were on the scene early Saturday morning.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Jim Burrows, who runs Moby's Pub, assesses the damage from Saturday's fire.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

CRD proposes tax support for local Search and Rescue

\$15,000 per year budget needs voter nod

hiring SAR people."

Salt Spring SAR search manager Chuck Hamilton said the funds would cover items such as the telephone bill and pagers.

Salt Spring voters will be asked to approve adding the island's search and rescue (SAR) group to the property tax rolls to support its basic expenses and equipment needs.

Capital Regional District (CRD) Bylaw 3494, given three readings by the CRD board on November 14, would see Salt Spring property owners at a rate of .0053 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value or up to \$15,000 in total for the service each year, whichever is greater.

The CRD estimates the cost to an average-assessed residential property will be \$2.40 per year, based on the 2007 average assessment of \$485,720.

Before the new tax is imposed, it must be approved by qualified voters via a counter-petition process that will be initiated in December.

Electoral area director Gary Holman said the funds would be the only financial support received by Salt Spring SAR, since the group currently has no funds from any organized or government body.

"We're talking about a totally volunteer agency," he said. "[The funds are] not for

Holman noted the dollars would be fully controlled by the CRD's emergency planning group, which is headed by Salt Spring's fire chief Dave Enfield.

People wanting to oppose tax support for SAR should watch for CRD advertisements explaining the bylaw and counter-petition process in upcoming Driftwood issues. Ten per cent of qualified electors must submit counter-petition forms in order to stop the tax from being implemented.

Holman said because the counter-petition period falls over Christmas, it will be extended about two weeks beyond the legally required 30 days, until the end of January.

While Hamilton welcomed the local tax support, he said a longer-term SAR concern is finding a permanent home for its equipment and training purposes.

At present, SAR occupies and maintains the former RCMP building on Ganges Hill. However, Hamilton noted since the property is the subject of First Nation land claims proceedings, that arrangement is a temporary one.

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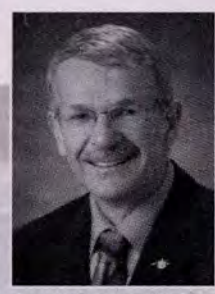
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Gary Coons, MLA

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NEW DEMOCRAT
OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District is proposing to install an aeration system on St. Mary Lake. The total cost of this project is \$290,000 once outside funding is taken into account.

The board of trustees may proceed with this project unless more than ten percent of property owners petition against the proposal.

This project will benefit all users of St. Mary Lake. That includes all water purveyors and private licensed users, shoreline residents, fishermen and other recreational users.

The signed elector forms must be submitted by Friday 4th January 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Four hundred signed responses must be received for the Alternative Approval Process to succeed.

Petitions against the proposal can be signed at the offices of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District office at 761 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. V8K 1S1

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JOE SOMEBODY TRIAL
Budimcic hearing begins next week

Closing arguments set for Dec. 10

Island resident Josip Budimcic, better known on Salt Spring as handyman Joe Somebody, will appear before the Immigration and Refugee Board on Monday, December 3.

The five-day hearing is expected to run from December 3 to December 6, with closing arguments anticipated for Monday, December 10.

Budimcic's testimony is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, according to Immigration and Refugee Board spokesperson Melissa Anderson.

"That's the latest we know," she said Tuesday. "I'll have more scheduling information on Monday."

The hearing will not decide if Budimcic will be deported, but rather the status of his refugee protection, she added.

Budimcic is being heard under Section 109 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act for allegedly lying on his refugee application when he and his family came to Canada in 1995.

In 1996, a Croatian court sentenced Budimcic in absentia to 15 years in prison for the alleged torture and execution of prisoners during the Yugoslav War in 1991. The Croatian government has called for Budimcic's extradition from Canada to Croatia.

The hearing, which is open to the public, begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Immigration and Refugee Board's Vancouver office at 300 West Georgia.

See next week's print edition of the Driftwood and the online www.gulfislands.net for coverage of the event.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CAR FIRE: What is assumed to have been an electrical fire consumed this Land Rover owned by Ian Whipple during Monday night's snow storm. The vehicle erupted into flames after sliding into a ditch and being driven out again. Whipple was not near the vehicle when the fire occurred.

RAINBOW ROAD POOL

Splash fundraising for UV system nearing goal

PARC asked to gather costs now

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Splash board members voted last week to ask the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) to issue a call for tenders for the purchase and installation of UV secondary treatment systems for the Rainbow Road indoor pool.

"We believe we are well on our way to having all the money to pay for the systems, but it's one of those catch-22s," said Mary Hughes, a Splash member. "Until the tenders come in we won't know exactly what it will cost."

Splash formed over five years ago as a non-profit

organization to lobby for an indoor pool, and raise funds for pool initiatives and programs. The group's long-range goal of raising money for a leisure pool is on hold while the group concentrates on the UV secondary treatment systems.

Because the technology uses less chlorine, Hughes said, a pool with a UV system is healthier for users, especially frequent swimmers and staff.

Construction delays, she added, have helped Splash members research technologies and raise the majority of the \$60,000 they think will be required for the new filtration system.

"And there's greater awareness now. Two years ago, few people had heard of this technology," she said.

PARC commissioner Peter Lake has spent the past several months looking into the new system, examining and assessing the various machines available for suitability in terms of both technology, and capital and operating costs.

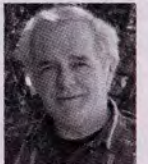
Because the UV filter can be added on to a traditional system in less than 24 hours, it need not be installed before the pool is open to the public in January.

Lake said he intends to take the motion to other PARC commissioners before he steps down at the end of the year.

"We need to get one thing finished before we start the other," he said. "It is a good idea. The money and the will are there. Nobody has ever said it was a bad idea."

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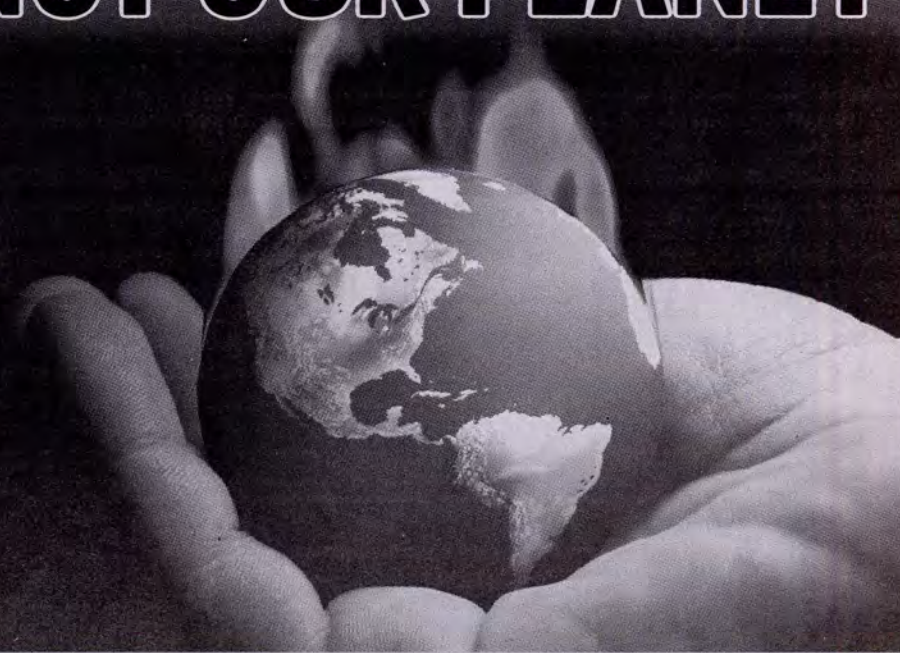
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NEWSBEAT

PUBLIC HEALTH

TB case on Salt Spring

Disease nothing new, says expert

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A confirmed case of tuberculosis (TB) has surfaced on Salt Spring, but experts say the general public is not at risk of being infected.

Dr. Murray Fyfe, medical health officer for the Vancouver Island Health Authority, said TB doesn't spread through casual contact and the general public should not be concerned with the case. He said people most at risk are those in close and prolonged contact with the infected person.

"If anyone has it, it would be the person who is in closest contact," he said.

Fyfe said the woman was most likely exposed to TB while travelling overseas in a country where the disease is prevalent, as opposed to being infected on Salt Spring.

The disease is spread through a germ called tubercle bacillus, which is propelled through the air by coughing, sneezing or simply talking. A person with a strong immune system may kill the germ, or the bacteria may remain alive but inactive in the body. If the germ remains alive, the TB disease can develop.

The Lung Association of

B.C. states one third of the world's population is infected with tubercle bacillus, but only five to 10 per cent become sick or infectious at some point in their life.

Fyfe said between 10 and 20 TB cases are recorded on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands every year. People most at risk already have a suppressed immune system or other health issues, he said.

Jennifer Nelson, manager of the Salt Spring Roasting Company Cafe in Ganges, said the woman diagnosed with TB disease worked two shifts a week at the coffee shop and was recovering from chemotherapy. While she said her co-worker did not show signs of the illness, such as coughing, chest pains and fever, she was experiencing back pain.

After the diagnosis the woman was hospitalized and sent to Victoria and on to Vancouver for treatment.

Nelson said after health officials confirmed the woman was infected with TB, all staff members were tested and the cafe was disinfected.

"We decided to take all the precautions," she said.

Test results have since come back negative, but Nelson said they will also have chest x-rays as a follow-up to the test.

Since the incident, Nelson

has rallied with her staff to raise money for the woman. So far they have collected \$500 to help with medical-related costs.

She said one positive outcome to the tragedy is the amount of education she and the staff received from health officials on TB. As a result, she is exploring the idea of creating a health testing policy for employees.

Dr. Richard Kevin Elwood, director of TB control for B.C., said people often get over-excited when someone in their community is infected with TB. However, he said, the disease is nothing new to Canada. In 2006, Canada recorded 320 cases of TB, which were most often contained within a small group of people.

"You don't get these mass outbreaks," he said.

Elwood said TB mostly occurs in people who are marginalized, such as the homeless or drug addicts who may have weakened immune systems. He also said immigrants who come from countries where TB is prevalent and aboriginal Canadians are susceptible to the disease.

TB is curable with six months of antibiotic treatment, said Elwood.

Donations for the woman with TB can be made at the Roasting Co. cafe in Ganges.

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SCHOOL FUNDING

SD 64 budget may balance despite cuts to funding

Ministry receives province-wide complaints

BY CHRIS STEPHENSON
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Despite the potential loss of millions of dollars to school districts around the province from funding formula changes, the Gulf Islands may come out close to even this year.

The B.C. Ministry of Education implemented the new policy in mid-October to allocate district funds based on the number of classes a high school student takes, as opposed to the program he or she is enrolled in.

Jeff Hopkins, superintendent of School District 64, said after the district recalculated its numbers under the new policy, he found the budget was similar to a previous one in the spring.

"We didn't need to be creative. We'll be within \$1,000 of where we thought."

Part of the reason, Hopkins said, is other districts such as Vancouver may have more part-time students and support programs, which results in less funding under the new formula. However, most Gulf Islands students attend school full

time, which doesn't change the amount of funding received from the provincial government.

Even though District 64 may not lose a large portion of its budget this year, Hopkins doesn't believe the new funding policy is a positive step forward for the ministry.

While the ministry promotes an "any time, any place, any pace" mentality of learning, Hopkins said, allocating funds per class doesn't seem to fit the slogan.

He said the education system is turning more towards taking down the barriers of courses and having work overlap.

"[With the new policy] it's very difficult to follow the best practice," he said.

Like his counterparts from many districts around the province, Hopkins is in the process of drafting a letter to the ministry to voice the school board's concerns and to ask questions about their priorities.

Irene Lanzinger, president of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, recently sent a letter to Premier Gordon Campbell asking him to axe the new funding formula for this year.

Lanzinger said the uncer-

tainly of the mid-year cuts not only hurts school resources but is not beneficial for students who may find themselves in the middle of a program reshuffle.

"This kind of mid-year cut is just not appropriate," she said.

While each district is dealing with a different set of circumstances, Lanzinger said many will lose hundreds of thousands of dollars.

One district that faces a potential loss this school year is Vancouver.

The Vancouver school district provides programs to 56,000 kindergarten-Grade 12 students, more than 3,000 in adult programs and approximately 40,000 in continuing education.

Board chair Ken Denike said the district could lose \$2.3 million. However, he said, the district does have a reserve fund of approximately \$1 million, which comes out of its distributed learning program.

Still, he added, it's too early to tell exactly how the district will be affected by the funding change.

The Vancouver school board also wrote to the Ministry of Education to voice its disapproval of the new policy.

HOMELESS ISSUES

Squatters ousted after property sold

Ganges-area lot vacated

The eviction of a group of squatters on a property near Mouat Park has a Salt Spring community organization calling for the help of islanders to deal with the homeless issue.

The group was evicted from the property on Drake Road after it was sold earlier this month. While no physical altercations occurred

during the eviction, five signs were posted on the property asking the squatters to vacate by November 15.

Copper Kettle Community Partnership coordinator Cherie Geauvreau said most of the people squatting on the property have found temporary shelter.

However, she said, the community needs to come together and work with Copper Kettle to find real solutions to the island's home-

lessness issue.

Arvid Chalmers, the local realtor who sold the property, said the new owners would not appreciate having squatters on the lot. Chalmers placed signs on the property after he noticed a tarp and some personal belongings at the site.

Chalmers recommended the squatters move to Mouat Park instead of living on private property.

BC FERRIES

Howe Sound sent for second-phase makeover

Bowen on route for next two months

Travellers between Vesuvius Bay and Crofton will notice a change of scenery beginning Monday, December 3, when the Bowen Queen replaces the Howe Sound Queen, which is receiving a capital upgrade.

As phase II of the project that began in April 2006, the work will see passenger lounge improvements that include new tables, chairs, flooring and drop ceiling, plus

new bulkhead linings.

Crew accommodation areas will also be reconfigured, and public washroom facilities improved.

B.C. Ferries expects the work will take two months to complete.

Commercial customers are reminded that vehicles more than 10 tonnes GVW are restricted to centre lane loading only on the Bowen Queen.

The route's schedule will remain the same.

Andrew Lewis

GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE, SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS.

Andrew's viewpoints on Islanders for Self Government

I would like to add my voice in support of Islanders for Self Government, (ISG), and the call to open up debate and a referendum on incorporation for Salt Spring Island. As a Green, one of the six key principles that guide me and the Green Party of Canada, and based on the Global Green Charter, is Participatory Democracy.

In part, this principle states, "We strive for a democracy in which all citizens have the right to express their views, and are able to directly participate in the environmental, economic, social and political decisions which affect their lives; so that power and responsibility are concentrated in local and regional communities,...."

In part, this requires, "building grassroots institutions that enable decisions to be made directly at the appropriate level by those affected, based on systems which encourage civic vitality, voluntary action and community responsibility."

ISG is a grassroots organization advocating for a local, municipal government for Salt Spring Island that is accountable, transparent and effective for islanders, by islanders.

I support this because I believe we are ready for the responsibility of a true local government, while retaining the core mandate of the Islands Trust, "To Preserve and Protect". I suggest that if we are to have effective governance systems, including strengthening the Islands Trust, we need the Trust and CRD to work with a local government where the power and responsibility of our choices rests with us and not regional or provincial bureaucracies.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join Islanders for Self-Government today and send a clear message to the Provincial Government that Salt Spring Islanders are not content with the current situation. Fill out the attached form, mail it in or drop it off at one of our Island Business Supporters:

- Johnson's Shell Service, 106 Fulford-Ganges Road
- North End Fitness, 102 McPhillips Ave.
- Island Star Video, 156C Fulford-Ganges Road
- Paint Plus, 346 Lower Ganges Road



For more information visit us at www.islandgov.org or email us at info@islandgov.org

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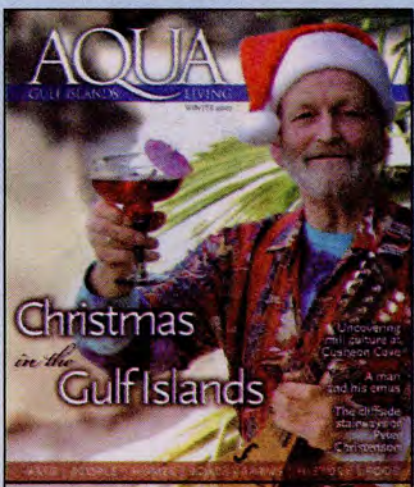
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EDITORIAL

Appealing options

It would be a dark day in public education if local school boards were turfed in B.C.

But that doesn't mean more oversight from above should necessarily be considered a bad thing.

At their last public board meeting, Gulf Islands school trustees expressed displeasure at an amendment to Section 11 of the School Act, which gives parents or students the right to appeal school district rulings to a "superintendent of achievement" in the Ministry of Education.

Previously, matters of complaint were dealt with only by school or district administrators.

Gulf Islands trustees believe most disputes are best handled at the local level.

We agree that is usually the case.

However, for those rare occasions when a local solution cannot be found, giving parents or students another option for resolution should be welcomed.

Appealed matters can now be referred for mediation or adjudication "to a mediator or adjudicator under contract with the minister or a person designated by the minister," explains material distributed by the B.C.

THE ISSUE:

Sec. 11 School Act change

WE SAY:

It's a positive one

Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils. Part or all of an appeal may also be dismissed by the superintendent of achievement.

As long as the individuals or agencies hearing appeals are as independent as possible and have no political axes to grind, offering another appeal avenue should enhance students' experiences with the education system.

It makes sense that those receiving a public service should have a higher body to appeal to if their complaints are not dealt with satisfactorily.

Perhaps because fast and furious litigation is a modern-day reality, it seems any public or private organization's first reaction is to deflect criticism and deny responsibility when accusations roll their way. If "internal" investigations are conducted, exoneration for the accused is often the outcome. It's only when independent, outside eyes are cast on a situation that circumstances become more clear.

We hope Gulf Islands parents and students won't be forced to use the new appeal process, but it's one education system change that should get a passing grade.



Don't undermine four-trustee proposal

BY DAVID BORROWMAN

When I ask some members of Islanders for Self-Government (ISG) about the incorporation of Salt Spring, they take on the benign role of disinterested persons who merely seek to improve local government.

Fairly enough, they point to some of the problems we now face. Perhaps keeping their audience in mind, they are quick to assure me that the principles of the Islands Trust could be carried out effectively, perhaps more effectively, by a municipal form of government.

But I have to wonder if they have another message for other islanders. In fact, the gloss of disinterest is tarnishing badly.

In October, ISG met with Community Services Minister Ida Chong. They were accompanied by "representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Contractors' Association and members of the real estate community . . ."

The purpose of the meeting was to oppose provincial plans to improve local representation on Salt Spring Island, by the addition of two trustees. On November 1, over the signature of Ken Marr, ISG president, they wrote back to the minister to reiterate the delegation's position: "We urge the B.C. provincial government not to accede to the requests of the Islands Trust for two more trustees for Salt Spring Island."

ISG thus opposes additional trustees at the same time they advertise dismay over the lack of representation on Salt Spring. They aim for "accountable, representative local government." And they assure us that the Trust is a closed shop with all decisions taken in advance by a small cabal of supporters. But when the local trustees swept several controversial proposals for the revised OCP off the table, in response to popular demand, this act of decisive leadership was scorned for being somehow unrepresentative by ISG.

VIEWPOINT

"In fact, the gloss of disinterest is tarnished badly."

So why take such pains to oppose more trustees for Salt Spring, which addresses the very issues which ISG raises? Their letter to the minister states flatly that adding two trustees, "... will not bring local, accountable and effective government to our island."

Why not? It would be a real improvement, and a reasonable step short of incorporation. The problem for ISG is not with the proposal. The problem for them is that any improvements to the Trust might deflect interest in incorporation.

But the story doesn't end there. ISG may get part of its wish if the provincial government chooses one variant of the four trustees proposal. This would be to provide two additional trustees, but without seats on Trust Council. Apparently this curious idea originates within elements of the provincial bureaucracy who maintain the "principle" of one island two votes. This is in spite of Trust Council's insistence that additional trustees from Salt Spring be full members of council.

There is practically no danger that two extra Salt Spring votes would distort the purpose of the Trust and there is reason to think that such a measure would improve confidence in the Trust and thus its effectiveness.

Part of the value of adding two trustees would, however, be lost if Salt Spring was saddled with the complication of two tiered elections.

So, I urge islanders to write to the Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services, Room 323, Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

Please urge her to approve the legislative measures needed to give Salt Spring two additional trustees, and not to undermine the proposal by giving us a two-tiered election system.

The writer is a former islands trustee.

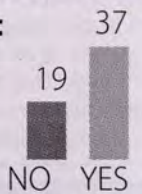
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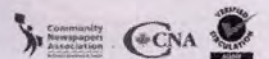
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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Declines in production, retail and tourism will be the soup that most businesses will be swimming in . . . and I am concerned many will be unable to afford such a high level of public spending."

KEVIN BELL, PRESIDENT, MOUAT'S TRADING

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What did you find most rewarding about the Respectful Relationships program?



SAM BRUNT

Giving people space and not getting pressured into uncomfortable relationships.



MEGAN JARMAN

Learning how to handle anger.



LIZ FENNEL

Learning the meaning of respect.



CARL ARNETT

How to get along with everyone. It really was a useful class.



MAX KAYE

I think it teaches people to treat others the same way you want to be treated.

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

Reality check

Regarding protests from school representatives regarding Swanson's Pond in the November 14 and 21 issues of the Driftwood, I feel I have to offer a reality check.

The land on which the pond is located is indeed private land, and it would appear the schools have been incurring an irresponsible insurance risk to the owners by bringing students onto the land and around the pond. Was permission obtained to be on the land? Waivers from all the students collected?

Secondly, the developer, as I understand it, is not going to pave over the pond, but instead plans to create several smaller ponds which will, like the original hole dug many years ago (that we now call a natural pond) support flora and fauna.

The difference will be that there will be people living there, and you won't be able to trespass at will anymore.

I think it is to the developer's credit that ponds will continue to exist at that spot, and further, that accommodations have been made to keep an access trail for pedestrians crossing the property. I know I would be pretty upset if I purchased land for hundreds of thousands of dollars that was legally zoned for development, only to hear that I must not touch my own land, and lose my investment, partly because someone's hamster is buried there! Give me a break.

I understand people's frustration when something that they have enjoyed is taken away. Our property was once a popular swimming and sunning spot for families on Long Harbour and our neighbours now

own what I once enjoyed as a trail system to the Long Harbour ferry terminal.

Just because land is vacant, it does not make it public. Who are you to say that a hole dug in the ground on someone else's property has to remain untouched for your enjoyment? If you wanted the hole so badly, why didn't you buy the property?

MARIT MCBRIDE,
LONG HARBOUR

Isabella perspective

In the November 14 Driftwood there was a letter titled "Heritage lost" which raises a number of questions. Amongst other things, it says, "This week, with a stroke of a pen, the trustees redefined heritage as a new "value proposition for land developers."

I was at that LTC meeting

and I don't recall the trustees redefining "heritage"; much less as meaning "value proposition for land developers." Perhaps the writers could give us a reference to any such resolution. It is also difficult to see how a parcel of land that has been privately owned for decades became "... what used to be our heritage."

The letter goes on to say that Three Point Properties plan to construct three large homes on the waterfront side of Isabella Point Road. Is it a fact that there are to be three houses, or rather, two; with the third being on the upland side of the road?

And further, to do this they will "... reroute the road up the hillside." Let's get things into perspective here: Isabella Point Road is approximately six kilometres long, or 6,000 metres; the proposed rerouting is only 200 metres, and at its

farthest point of departure from the existing road, the centreline is only about 33 metres to the west, diminishing at each end where it merges into the existing road. That is hardly rerouting the road "up the hillside" — come on, now!

What is getting lost in the fervour to block Three Point's proposal is that this particular piece of road badly needs to be moved in any event. It is dangerous. The pavement is perilously close to a nearly vertical drop-off of 50 feet or so to the beach. It is a matter which I have raised with the Ministry of Transportation (MOT) a number of times, so far resulting only in the placing of warning reflectors along the shoulder. A walk along the beach in this area should be enough to convince anyone.

Now, what about those people on Isabella Point

Road who have been complaining that MOT should get with it and reroute the road in the vicinity of the 600 block to remove that dangerous "S" curve? That must be "heritage road" too, and require at least as long a section of realignment. Would the writers oppose that, too, or is it OK to relocate road as long as it doesn't involve Three Point?

There is a temptation to stretch the truth when zealous people are promoting their particular opinion on an issue. We have seen a lot of this lately. It may suck in some gullible readers, but more importantly, it blows your credibility with those who take the trouble to inform themselves as to the facts. I wish people wouldn't do that!

HAROLD PAGE,
ISABELLA POINT ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on A10

Health, environmental focus missing from curriculum

BY CANDACE SNOW

I would suggest that most of us agree, at least here on Salt Spring, that the Earth is in dire straights and that we need to act on this reality.

If you do not share this point of view, or should I say, knowledge, then you may be beyond the point of optimism.

With the situation as it is and the outlook for the future not very bright, I want to know why environmental studies and health education are not an intricate part of our youth's formal education. It is, in many ways, a focus for some schools on the island and I applaud and value greatly the efforts of Fulford community nature school, Salt Spring Centre School and most recently, Saturna's school. It's a start, but it is not enough and why should we not be offering more of it on our own island?

Consider Robert Bateman's comments in a September 26 Driftwood story, hoping that his art exhibitions "will draw attention to what humans are losing." I feel exactly as he does when he says "I'm fed up with the politics going on with the deterioration of nature."

The emphasis appears to be mainly about profitable ventures and those that afford governments recognition in the world-wide arena. Not just our provincial body, but the federal government and beyond . . . As a species we are doomed to expire in a concrete world of wealth, possessions and "success"!

GUEST COLUMN

Basically it boils down to the commonly shared definition in modern society of "success." Perhaps it's someone who achieves an upper level of financial success and has all the "toys" and extravagances to show it. It doesn't matter the physical resources that have been required and sometimes depleted or injured along the way to achieve this position. Granted, it would be impossible to expect everyone to recognize or embrace the need for a revised definition, yet I see it as imperative if this planet and the human species is to survive!

You may think I am overly pessimistic, but the signs are all out there. Industry is not slowing down, development is completely on the rise, and people's health is on the decline, despite our ability to keep humans alive longer. Many individuals are not realizing the necessity of taking control of their own well being nor that of the Earth's. The powers that be are diminishing the funding and focus on environmental and societal preservation. Can you believe all the money that goes into the acquisition of wealth and status and how little trickles down to the grass roots of it all?

Unless we as humans are given the tools to teach us how and why to do things, we basically will not know; we are born with only a few instincts and not very much

knowledge. Is this not why formal education and apprenticeship is such a big part of our lives? Throughout this schooling from the earliest of years, the focus is mainly on learning to be productive individuals who can earn a livelihood. Intellectual development is also part of the picture, but if we want to learn how to sustain our lives in the real sense of the word, we have to pay for it on our own time.

I am so frustrated of waiting year after year in anticipation of funding available for our local students to experience outdoor and health education. Why should our children spend so much of the first 16-18 years of their lives involved in the "pursuit of education" and still generally come away without the knowledge that is most crucial?

What could be more important than preserving one's health and the physical environment that we need to survive? Perhaps put out there plain and simple, more people will snap to attention!

Not everyone sees a great need to provide a habitat for our plant and animal species, unfortunately, but when it means the human species, well, there may be some real interest.

I'm always confused as to why is it more important to study all the traditional, repetitive, outdated subjects that comprise curriculum at all levels than what matters the most for our survival.

Finally at the post-secondary level students can take accredited courses in envi-

ronmental studies and outdoor leadership, which for me, go hand in hand.

We cannot assume that all parents have the knowledge, skills, or desire, to groom their offspring on how to preserve their health and the environment, to realize that healthful food is necessary to continued well being and that their day-to-day attitudes and actions can make a significant contribution to the preservation of their environment.

Think of the value of formal education to the bigger picture if we significantly included all of the above. In my mind, experiential and outdoor education should be offered to all students from the youngest of ages and throughout their schooling. Hands-on learning will engage them and allow them to achieve success in a much broader sense. We are fortunate that there are so many individuals and organizations in our midst that could be drawn upon to contribute to this scenario, especially here on Salt Spring Island.

Let us move aside the politics that do not allow or promote learning in the broader sense. In a district that prides itself on offering an incredible amount of diversity in its educational options, it is time to take another leap forward. Let us start offering our youth the tools and learning most needed to achieve success!

The writer is a Salt Spring parent and business owner.



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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

Disappointed

I am disappointed. Disappointed for myself, and disappointed for all the tennis players or aspiring tennis players of Salt Spring. My reason? There will be no indoor tennis this winter on Salt Spring.

With whom am I disappointed? Sadly it is PARC — simply because PARC is the reason there will be no indoor tennis this year.

Over the last several years the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) has been lobbying for a new indoor facility, either a replacement of the existing well-worn "bubble" or a more permanent structure. My hopes were raised last year with the promise of a two-court indoor facility on Rainbow Road, adjacent to the new swimming pool. This did not pan out for various reasons which have been well documented in previous articles and letters to the Driftwood.

Then a resurgence of hope — PARC agreed to work with SSTA to provide a new bubble to replace the one we can no longer use safely. But shortly afterwards the agreement was rescinded as PARC was required to do more "due diligence" and (at time of writing) has not yet been completed. So after many delays and prevarication, here we are at the onset of winter and no sign of a replacement.

Along with fellow tennis players, I am beginning to despair that we will never have indoor tennis in the winter if our only choice is to partner with PARC. More and more we tennis players are being forced to the conclusion that we will have to look to our own resources to find an indoor facility for winter.

Come on PARC, break through the bureaucratic morass and prove us wrong — don't disappoint!

SYLVIA LEEDHAM,
SALT SPRING

Small price

We, as residents of Isabella Point Road, would like to commend and congratulate the Agricultural Land Commission and the Islands Trust for their recent actions to proceed with the Three Point Properties proposals for the 203 Isabella Point Road site and the Fulford Farms project.

We consider that the proposals in total represent an innovative balance between the preservation of authentic productive farmland, the maintenance of a large parcel of open land at the junction of Isabella Point and Musgrave Roads and the rebuilding of a section of Isabella Point Road at risk of slumping into Fulford Harbour at the expense of the developer.

The addition of one density to the 203 Isabella Point Road property is a very small price to pay for the above. In fact, by cleaning up the considerable debris on the property and on the shoreline the developer has already greatly enhanced the quality of the area.

Whatever heritage designation a road may have does not imply that stagnation and neglect should occur, and any improvement of the agricultural

potential and quality of the neighbourhood is encouraged and supported.

We look forward to warmly welcoming new residents to Isabella Point in the same positive manner we have been welcomed in years past.

HAROLD AND SABINE SWIERENGA,
HOWARD AND JUDY FRY,
BOB AND LOIS SHIPLEY,
ED AND ANN HOMMERSON,
ELSY PERKS,
RON ATEAH,
MARGITTA SANDL,
ISABELLA POINT

We don't live just anywhere

Many of us know the Garry oak ecosystem is the second-most endangered ecosystem in Canada, but it might surprise islanders to know all the ecosystems of our island are red or blue listed, which means it is all of conservation concern. The south-eastern coast of Vancouver Island, plus the southern Gulf Islands are made up of some of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada. The federal park in the southern Gulf Islands is federal government recognition of this fact. This is where we live.

We are surrounded by rare ecosystems that are unfortunately still in decline.

Recognizing the destruction on the islands, the province stepped in and created the Islands Trust. The Islands Trust is the child of the province and it was given the mandate to "preserve and protect." Unlike most of B.C., nearly all of the land within the south coastal region is privately owned, which makes it the job of those lucky enough to live here to take personal responsibility for being good stewards of their land if we believe having healthy eco-systems are important.

Unfortunately we have not done a good job. There is little left, because we have erred on the side of development for so long.

Why do we need healthy ecosystems? They regulate our climate, clean our fresh water, regulate and clean atmospheric gases, treat our wastes, generate and clean our soils, maintain genetic diversity, maintain the water cycle, recycle nutrients and pollinate our crops. They do this at no cost to us. We need strong land-use policies, and thoughtful overall planning. We need to be creative, challenge standard operating procedures, plan for the long term and remember our grandchildren.

We live in a very special area, it is almost all privately owned, it is rare, it is unique, it is ecologically important and it needs to be cared for. We need to do much more than we are doing to restore the land and make sure it doesn't continue to decline. There is so little left, if we are not careful, it will soon be gone. We don't live just anywhere, you know.

JEAN GELWICKS,
WOODLAND DRIVE

On its way

I'm sending a shipping container full of African roses to each and every one of you that came to my rescue after I suffered a debilitating back injury dur-

ing a very busy time in my schedule.

It is at times like these we are reminded who is there for us and I am indeed blessed with the most amazing family, friends and community. It was only with your help that the Community-to-Community shipment got on its way to Africa last week.

Thank you to the "boys" of Mountain Star Ventures, Rene, Mike and Scott; to my daughter Meghan, son Adam and his "pit crew" of Tyler, Morgan and Duncan; to Mark Lott, who has been a trooper from beginning to end helping to collect, organize, pack and deliver donations; to Revelstoke-Ray, Heather, the rest of the SOLID core crew and whoever else showed up last Wednesday to pack the trucks.

Mostly, thank you to this awesome community for your beautiful, generous donations. It is going to be a wonderful Christmas in HaMakhata, Lesotho; and a very special bouquet of roses to my mom for taking me in and nursing me back to health, I love you.

MERON MOROZ,
SALT SPRING

Beyond the protocol

Referring to George Ehring's letter "Insult indeed" in the last Driftwood and his repetitive defence of the selection process for the OCP focus groups, there is indeed an appearance that the members were selected by the APC.

However, speak with members of the APC who were present at those meetings and the picture looks different. If there was an APC quorum at the "selection" meeting, it would be nice to have the minutes; to my knowledge, none have been received to date. (I am currently an APC member but was not present at the selection meeting.)

But let us move on.

Not to take away anything from the dedicated volunteers that became the focus group members, the important fact remains that the composition of the focus groups did not seem to be a representative cross-section of the island population. The trustees' "defence" was that "they put an ad in the paper and it is too bad if people did not respond." Well, then some other additional ways must be found the next time, ways that will produce balanced results.

The OCP process is obviously important enough that preparation work should not be underestimated or neglected. How about public talks, talks with various segments of the population, letters to managers of companies, radio (we hope) in the future, bulletin boards etc.

The APC did put forward a number of recommendations as to how to make the initial process more effective and understandable, but to my knowledge none of the recommendations were implemented.

Let us not just "follow the protocol," but let us find ways that will work and achieve the desired results — in this case the availability and participation of a representative cross-section of the island population.

TOM NAVRATIL,
SALT SPRING



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RANTS and Roses

Roses

Island Pathways and the Trail and Nature Club would like to thank all those willing workers who have come out for Partners Creating Pathways' four work bees with a lovely Nootka rose. The pathway that will run from Wildwood to Blain Road is now partially cleared because of their hard work. The community is a true partner in this project.

Malcolm Bond wins the silver clipper award. Thank you, Malcolm. Nishtat

Huge popcorn thanks to Michael Levy and Barb at the Fritz and Tim and John of Island Star for making the preschool showings of Rata-touille a huge success. It's fun to fundraise with such a giving and caring community! From the Cooperative Preschool

Roses a-plenty please. One for Robbie and another for his bobcat for doing the driveway just in time for winter and operation "new wall oven." And then several roses for those who helped with the wall oven: one for Harry, who helped move out the old wreck of a wall oven, another for Sam who tried to fix the tired old thing, and another for Todd and crew at McIntyre Electric, who wired the new one safely in place. And then a rose for neighbour Nick, who

enlarged the opening for the new oven, and finally roses for Sam and Erin, the tenants, who waited so patiently for an oven. Happy cooking!

A bouquet of gleaming silver roses to Brenda Ackerman, for lending her perfect wig when it was so abruptly requested, and then graciously making the loan a gift. TG

Buckets of beautiful blooming roses to all the volunteers who helped during the poppy campaign for the Royal Canadian Legion. It couldn't have happened without you. Thank you. RCL Branch 92 Poppy Committee

To all Salt Springers who donated for poppies, your generosity will help so many in our community. May flowers bloom all year for you. Thank you for remembering our veterans. Community spirit does live here!

Roses and hugs to all our great folks at Natureworks for many kindnesses.

Thank you to all who made our Fernwood Family Dance so much fun. Special notes to Tania for organizing, Mike Levy for providing popcorn and machine and his gorgeous assistant Hilary, Jim Moulton, who never complains about the extra clean-up, Jim Bulger,

who made clean-up a sweep, and DJ Darren McRae for the fun music. From the kids!

A bouquet to Tim and John for always being willing to help out Fernwood School! This time for the coffee for the "meet and greet" volunteer moms.

A wheelbarrow of peace roses to the wonderful humans who run the various food programs for the needy, the businesses who support them, Copper Kettle Community Partnership, and the United Church for allowing the Sunday "Food in the Park" program to come inside for the winter.

A special exotic "Thai" bouquet of orchids, Damask roses and hibiscus for all those who so kindly helped with our Sealpoint Siamese "Mr. T." He is missed. Heartfelt thanks to Drs. Dave, Sacha and Ilijah, and staff at the Gulf Islands Vet Clinic who tried so hard to save him. Your extra special care was greatly appreciated. Our thanks for the anonymous kindness on behalf of "Tanis" and ourselves. Donna and Lisa

An antique rose to all the generous businesses and members, who helped to complete our little seed house for the Seed Sanctuary. A special mention to Ken

Marr at Windsor Plywood for his consultation and donation of materials, The Rental Shop, for equipment donations, Square Foot Charlie's for his concrete pad installation, and Ganges Floor Coverings. Personal thank yous to Rick Vipond and Mike B. for your consultations and all of the members for their fundraising support. Marsha G and Dan J

A portable full of roses to Uptown Pizza, Island Star, Kevin Abbott, Kevin & Trish Brennan & Dion Hackett for making the U10 boys X-Box games night such a success. We are building wonderful memories for our kids!

Roses to Maggie and Terry Warbey, Arvid Chalmers, Wendy Beatty, TJ Beans, GVM, all of the volunteers, bakers and donors who made the SOLID auction such a success. The generosity and caring spirit of this community are truly an inspiration. I feel blessed to live here. By the time you read this I will be in Africa where I will help unload the container of goods also donated by our amazing community. Sala Hantle (stay well) Salt Spring, Heather Martin-McNab

Big red roses for all the crew who helped upgrade Musgrave Road in preparation for winter. Our cars and trucks thank you! David C. Rumsey

Southwest salute

I wish to thank the Driftwood staff for their coverage of our Remembrance Day ceremonies. It was nice to see such a good turnout from the public.

There was one small detail I would like to mention

and that is that Korea is in a south-westerly direction from here and that is indeed the direction the parade turned to give the salute. Ottawa is to the east.

Considering the shabby treatment given the veterans, in particular the disabled ones, by the Canadian government, the thought of turning to face the politi-

cians in Ottawa and giving a salute would not go down well. I envision machine guns being mounted on wheelchairs and flame throwers on walkers.

K. BUTLER,
PRESIDENT, BR 92 R.C.L.

Overdue

I was thrilled to hear of Helani Davison's exciting

youth program for drug and alcohol addiction. ("Out-reach worker offers youth a helping hand," November 21 Driftwood.)

It is much needed and long overdue. Congratulations and good luck!
TAMAR GRIGGS,
BOLD BLUFF

MORE LETTERS continued on A14

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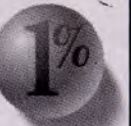
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- Efficient mechanical systems: Heat pumps (air, water or ground source) are the most efficient choices. Good ventilation is an essential component of an energy-efficient home and a heat-recovery ventilator (HRV) provides optimum efficiency.
- Renewable energy systems: Solar hot water, PV (solar electric), wind, and microhydro are all options, depending on site conditions. Conservation and efficiency measures are pre-requisites.
- Rainwater catchment can provide most or all of a household's water needs. Low-flow toilets, composting toilets, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, front-loading clothes washers all reduce water demand.
- Local materials such as sustainably-harvested local wood and earth reduce ecosystem damage and environmental toxic loading. Rammed earth, metal roofs, and good moisture protection (rainscreen walls, big overhangs, drainage swales, etc.) save on future maintenance.
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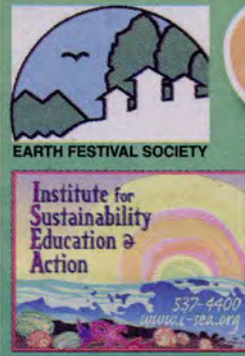
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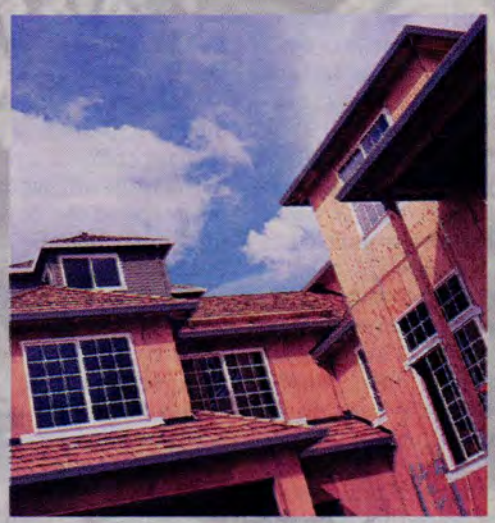
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ing the Talk ...

Time Rokeby-Thomas and husband Drew built a 1760-square-foot hemp bale house and music studio in Ganges. Its timber-frame construction uses hemp-bearing hemp bale main floor walls, insulated at about R-30 insulation value. radiant floor heating and plumbing for future hot water system, use of salvaged floor insulation, and a spring-fed pond for wildlife among its other eco-friendly features.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A11

Closer to truth

In response to two articles written in the November 21 Driftwood, I find both of them appalling.

I am one of the many parents speaking out about SIMS and how this school district chooses to deal with issues or, in my son's case, "not" deal with them.

I believe the public's negative perception of SIMS is closer to the truth than some may want to realize.

Parents are talking about what their children have or are experiencing and we are frustrated about how it is dealt with.

I have no doubt Monika Mayr ("Superficial negative comments harm school community") is trying to achieve what she has written, but she needs to look outside her own classroom.

After spending endless hours at SIMS, I can honestly say I never saw or heard anything to support what she has written.

Listen to what is being said, get together with your colleagues and support all the students fairly. Maybe you will then hear some positive feedback.

I was pleased when I read that parents will now have a stronger voice thanks to the new appeal process.

"That guy in Victoria" actually might respond to the complaints parents have and take action when needed. A "homegrown" solution was not ever offered for my son's situation. I could have used the help of "That guy in Victoria."

My solution in the end has proven to be one of the best decisions I could have made for my son.

He now goes to school off island and is having the best year he has ever had. The difference is he is now being treated with respect and understanding.

His daily challenges have not gone away, but his teachers have made every effort to educate themselves to support him so he can be successful. They care and he feels safe.

I hope other parents who are not getting the answer, stand up and get a true solution. Otherwise, see you at the ferry!

DEBORAH HOLLINGSWORTH,
SALT SPRING

Perfect spot

It occurs to me that the Ganges fire hall is in the perfect spot already.

If parking is the real issue, then ban parking inside the fire hall loop. I believe the character of Ganges is enhanced by the presence of

our historic and eminently practical fire hall. Leave it alone!

PETER RAMSEY,
TRINCOMALI HEIGHTS

Park the car habit

This one is for Driftwood car reviewer Andrea Rabinovitch and whoever else is dazzled by new cars.

I saw Canada this summer, all the way from Salt Spring to Prince Edward Island. My favourite part was leaving Vancouver in the early evening and enjoying the rise into the mountains through Chilliwack. Looking out the large windows, the colours were splendid.

As the darkness set in I wrapped myself in my sleeping bag and felt so cozy knowing I would sleep for awhile and awake when we would be close to Lake Louise. Views — spectacular.

Only problem? No Salt Spring coffee served at the stop for coffee.

On to Banff, where I got off to spend the day exploring Banff and take a raft on the Bow River.

Walked everywhere and got to all the tourist attractions by public transit. You can even get to the campgrounds on the city bus. Next morning on to Calgary and further east.

Reading, sleeping, viewing, travelling. Stopping to stretch my legs.

All across Canada and back with a Greyhound Discovery Pass.

Not sure of emissions I racked up, but probably the least of any motor-operated trip. When I was a university student in the '60s, everyone used the train to cross Canada.

Let's have more fabulous and affordable public transit and park the car habit. Hey, Andrea, you can even show the folks on the bus how to hip hop.

M.L. JOHNSTONE,
LOWER GANGES ROAD

House in order

There has been healthy debate over the potential OCP recommendations and I would like to wade in with my wish list after reviewing the existing Vol. 1 – Land Use Objectives and Policies.

First under Settlement Patterns it is surprising not to find a principle acknowledging the notion of acreages as being integral to island lifestyle.

This implies an active and responsible relationship to the land.

A policy of upholding existing three and five-acre averages is important to our community's rural character.

Under Sustainability, a

number of policies would affirm the principle of Salt Spring becoming a sustainable/green community. Our harbours should be non-discharge zones (the private marinas should have pump-out stations).

There should be a second recycling station in Burgoyne Bay park with community composting and construction wood waste facilities.

Green building practices, (such as grey water re-use) should be encouraged in the CRD. Green tourism would encourage proper swimming lake areas with docks, parking, change rooms and composting outhouses.

Within Natural Environment and Shoreline Use, there is little mention of Walker Hook spit and tom-bolo. In fact, there is only a recognition of the existing aquaculture operation.

Our finest portion of shoreline and beach is a sewage filtration field.

This is an outrage, even if it is private property. It should be a principle that Walker Hook Spit be acknowledged as an island jewel and of the highest natural heritage value.

And a policy that every effort should be made to gain public access or acquisition.

This does not necessarily preclude existing activities.

It can be argued that the most significant impact to island environment, wildlife habitat and general ecology is the activity of large-scale clear-cutting and subdivision development.

These are often linked activities and often done in a phased fashion such that they occur without significant review or scrutiny.

I wonder how many islanders know that most subdivisions outside of the development permit areas and beyond summary rezoning plans only get reviewed by the Ministry of Transportation.

Under Sustainability and Growth Management, it should be a principle that since clear-cut logging practices and subdivision activity have significant impact on the local environment, and given the limited land mass and unique geography of the Gulf Islands, these activities require local environmental review and approval.

Every effort should be made to gain local authority from B.C.'s Forest Act.

It should be a policy that areas of clear-cut over – say, one acre and not on agricultural land – should be under review and come with some form of land use plan and requirement for approval.

Similarly, all subdivisions should be required to present environmental impact

plans to be reviewed by a subdivision bylaw approving officer.

Until the island gets its own house in order and sets an example and inspiration to its citizens, it is difficult to recommend more onerous bylaws to the single-family resident.

NEIL MORIE,
SALT SPRING

Good news

We attended a very interesting set of public information sessions on Sunday, November 18.

Organized by Elizabeth White of the Earth Festival Society, the two sessions focused on residential solar photovoltaics and micro-hydro, both led by Kevin Pegg of Energy Alternatives.

A number of renewable energy and energy efficiency issues were discussed and related technologies were highlighted.

Kevin's main message in both sessions was that energy efficiency is the best payback option, but that residents shouldn't be discouraged from investing in renewable energy, since these have many other non-financial benefits.

In both sessions, the good news was that net metering, or the process of feeding excess renewable energy generated by the homeowner into the B.C. Hydro electric grid, is available, easy and an additional way for solar and micro-hydro systems to help pay their way.

Kevin and the several dozen attendees at both sessions exchanged helpful information about these issues, so we would recommend all residents consider checking the <http://www.energyalternatives.ca> website and attending future public information energy sessions of the Earth Festival Society.

MARGERY MOORE,
MARK STARIK,
I-SEA

Not the problem

The decision by the Ministry of Education to make fairer the school decision appeal process is obviously the result of perhaps hundreds of formal complaints. I've had to make a few myself.

The attempt at claiming innocence, therefore, via the whining of Charles Hingston on behalf of our trustees, and middle school teacher Monika Mayr, on behalf of her group, in the November 21 Driftwood, perfectly exemplifies what it is that School District 64 just doesn't get — we're not the problem.

TRACY SMITH,
SALT SPRING

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FOOD BANK RAFFLE: From left, Ted Hinds, Melanie Morris and Eve Hinds set up a Christmas hamper raffle in front of Thrifty Foods.

Common good

Just a brief response to Judi Stevenson's comment in last week's View Point that the level of debate has been "depressingly low" since the focus groups made their OCP recommendations.

With all due respect, I have heard cogent arguments from a variety of points of view, both favouring and opposing the recommendations.

To be fair, I have also heard a great deal of nonsense, and not all from those whom Judi Stevenson identifies as the "self-interested."

It is a shame that she was not able to read George Grams' opinion piece three pages further in the November 21 issue before writing her remarks. His article, well reasoned and cogently argued, is far from a "depressingly low" argument and hardly self-interested.

Sadly, wealth or house size alone do not determine environmental impact. All of us, rich and poor, renters and home-owners, are going to have to change our habits, improve our energy efficiencies and engage the world in a more ethical manner if the kind of community Judi Stevenson so rightly desires

is to come about.

It is in our own self-interest, as well as the common good, to do so.

STAN GARROD,
QUARRY DRIVE

Deadline

The deadline for applications under the Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program has been extended to February 29, 2008. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2008.

Anyone interested in learning more can contact me at 537-1883.

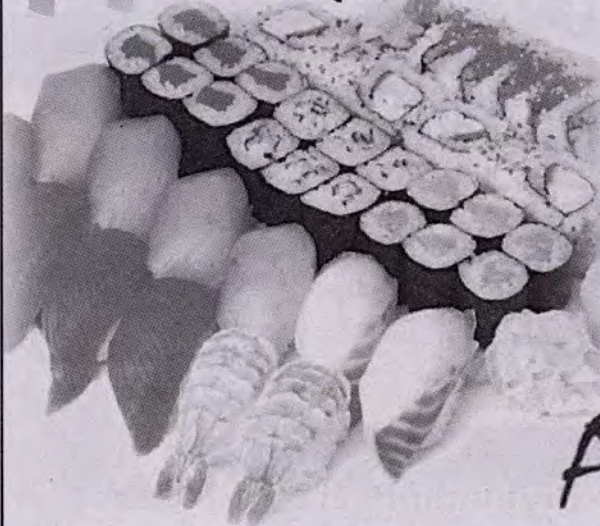
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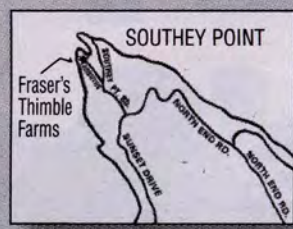
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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A15

From Whistler

As long-term part-time residents of Isabella Point, I've noticed the big news is the OCP as the Godzilla that's ripping the place apart and polarizing islanders.

I've often heard my home community of Whistler described as being exactly what Salt Spring does not want to become, but perhaps our learning over the last few years

might be of some use in the current debate.

Whistler capped planned growth many years ago, but in the late 1990s there was still much confusion and angst about what a sustainable community was and indeed what sustainable practices really were.

We found an answer to the latter question in the Natural Step Framework for Sustainability (www.naturalstep.ca), a scientific framework describing the minimum conditions for maintaining human life on

the face of the planet. This was our starting point.

Next we worked closely with the community in developing a common and shared vision of Whistler in a sustainable future. We then placed ourselves in that future vision and "backcast" from there to the present day (rather than forecasting from the present to the future).

We developed our priorities and the strategies to get us there and then started measuring all kinds of things so we would know if our were moving us closer to

or further away from that future vision. These metrics include everything from our GHG emissions to the percentage of working residents housed affordably in the community. Our process and our progress is available at: www.whistler2020.ca.

Our thinking can be seen as a tree. We collectively decided to concentrate on rigid and irrefutable fundamental scientific principles (the roots, trunk and branches of the tree), rather than up in the ever-changing leaves (the count-

less details — complete with chattering birds and arguing monkeys).

There are and always will be disagreements and debates, but only in the context of whether our decisions and actions are moving us toward or away from our collective vision of a sustainable future.

It sure tones down the confusing and unproductive rhetoric. All the current chattering and arguing over the OCP suggests it may be worth considering an approach to achieve a com-

mon and shared vision of the island in a sustainable future based on scientific principles which address upstream and systemic causes of our daily challenges.

This allows us to design the problems out of society, rather than simply reacting to the symptoms.

On the other hand, if we have no idea where we're headed collectively — we're absolutely certain to arrive at that precise destination.

ECKHARD ZEIDLER,
MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR,
RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

Ganges Village Market News

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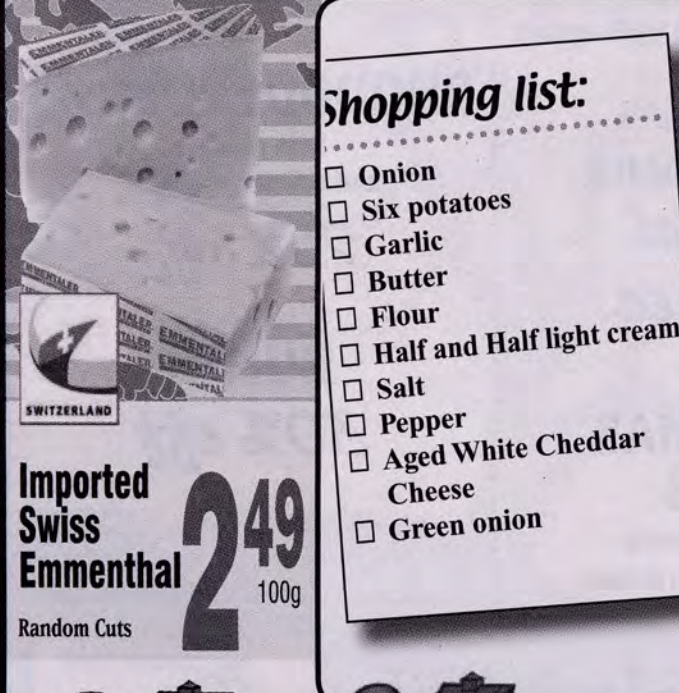


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What's for Dinner?
THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET GARLIC SCALLOPED POTATOES
Short cuts to cooking for one or two @ with Sarah Lynn
Tradition: An inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior. The handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction. Cultural continuity in social attitudes, customs, and institutions. Food is one tradition we practice and when family & friends gather for the holidays there is no exception. It's probably the biggest meal you'll cook all year, but don't panic: just follow the next four weeks of recipes for the perfect holiday feast & create your own tradition.
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Peel and thinly slice **six potatoes**, place in medium size pan, add approximately 2 cups water, cover, bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium and cook until tender. Drain & set aside. Finely chop **1 small onion** & mince **4 cloves garlic**. Sauté in **2 tablespoons butter** until onion is transparent and tender. Over medium heat, stir **3 tablespoons flour** into butter, onion & garlic mixture. Gradually stir in **2 1/2 cups half and half (10%) cream or milk**, **1 teaspoon salt** and **1/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper**. Continue to stir until thickened. Place potatoes in casserole dish or 8x11 size baking pan. Pour sauce over potatoes & top with **1 1/2 cups grated extra aged white Cheddar cheese** or Asiago cheese & **sliced green onion** for colour. Bake, uncovered for 15-30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Allow to stand 3-5 minutes before serving.
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OPINION

Positive perspective should be included in OCP review process

BY GREG SPENDJIAN

The OCP review has generated a fair bit of public response with regard both to the recommendations of the various focus groups and the process being undertaken by our trustees. Having been a member of the Economic Sustainability, Jobs and Tourism (ESJT) Focus Group, I would like to add my two cents' worth.

About the recommendations: Public debate has focussed exclusively on a handful of "hot button" items (setbacks, house sizes, Fulford village borders, etc.) rather than dealing with the proposals in their totality. This is understandable. Most people react first to what they perceive will have a negative effect on them personally, directly and immediately. Several of these touchy items have now been addressed by the trustees and hopefully discussion can move on to other important issues.

The ESJT Focus Group had 22 recommendations. The only one that generated any significant response was that dealing with a tourism tax. To set the record straight, we did not ask trustees to implement a tourism tax. Instead we recommended that trustees "explore the possibility of a 'tourism tax' to help mitigate some of the impacts of tourism on the island."

Other recommendations dealt with issues like the need to develop a strategic plan for the island, the definition of "sustainability" and its policy implications, loosening regulations on home-based business, additional light industrial zoning, encouraging affordable business and office space, creating educational facility zoning for

growth in adult training, appropriate branding of the island, etc.

Maybe even more important than our group's recommendations was our articulation of a statement of "Fundamental Beliefs and Vision" as it dealt with our mandate on the economy, jobs and tourism. It took several meetings of intense discussion to be able to formulate our thoughts clearly. It was worth the effort because it became the foundation on which we built our eventual recommendations.

Given limitations of space, it is not possible to reproduce the full statement on "Fundamental Beliefs and Vision" here.

I therefore urge those interested in the review to explore the contents of our report at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/projects.cfm> under "Focus Group Final Reports." Whether or not you agree with some or all of the contents of what in my view is a "leading edge" statement, I believe our group made a significant contribution to "round-the-kitchen-table" type discussions which islanders as a whole need to undertake as we consider our desired future. I would also encourage you to write the trustees with your reaction to it, pro or con.

As for the review process itself, I believe our trustees had a well-thought-out plan. From the start it involved serious attempts to have broad-based community input — contrary to views expressed recently. Based on my own participation in the process I have full confidence in our trustees' integrity and professionalism, their openness to public input and their ability to bring about a positive final outcome. They

have devoted countless hours to the review in addition to all their other responsibilities. They deserve our support and admiration.

I am concerned that the review is being used in a self-serving way by certain groups on the island, most notably the Islanders for Self-Government, who are doing their best to undermine confidence in the Trust mechanism. Their advertisement soliciting membership refers to "overwhelming public outcry over the OCP Review." This is a blatantly false statement. Public reaction has so far been limited to a few specific recommendations which were not even made by the trustees but by independent focus groups.

The ISG's relentless Trust-bashing, along with the negative tone of the full-page advertisements taken out by island realtors have not helped give the debate about the island's future the tone it needs.

In fact I have yet to see any positive contribution of these two groups to the OCP Review. While it is very unclear what their "vision" for the island is, I suspect that these groups are largely pro unregulated and unrestricted growth, putting self-interest ahead of that of the larger community and its environment.

The trustees' mandate is to "preserve and protect." Their work must be within that framework. It is not their role to generate consensus with those islanders who question the very essence and validity of this mandate.

The writer chaired the Economic Sustainability, Jobs and Tourism Focus Group of the OCP review.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

WORD SMITH: Bradley Watson is the student behind the words on the sign at Gulf Islands Secondary School. Monday he was seen putting up the dates of the pending school holiday.

The players, coaches, and parents would like to thank all individuals and businesses who so generously contributed to the GISS Scorpions Senior Boys' Soccer Team's successful participation in the B.C. Provincial High School AA Championships in Burnaby this last week.



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SANTA'S ON SALT SPRING!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st

Here is Santa's busy schedule:

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2:00 pm: ARRIVAL – Welcome Santa as he flies into Ganges Harbour piloted by St. Clair McColl of Salt Spring Air. Children can greet Santa at the Ganges Float Plane Dock.

2:10 pm: SANTA leaves the float plane dock aboard a Salt Spring Fire Department Fire Truck and heads to Mahon Hall. Families can stroll over to Mahon Hall via the Boardwalk.

2:15 to 4:00: FREE PHOTOS for the kids with Santa in Mahon Hall, there will also be Arts & Crafts activities, Cookie Decorating, big screen Holiday Videos, (courtesy of Island Star Video), Hot Cocoa & Goodies!

4:30 to 5:00: TREE LIGHTING! - Join the Carolers with Seasonal Songs & Countdown the inaugural light-up of the 60' community Christmas tree In front of Mahon Hall.

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

ON THE JOB: Dale Johnson stops to re-erect a knocked over sign on Salt Spring. Highways deals with about 10 deliberately downed signs a week.

MEDIA NEWS

Driftwood benefits from press upgrade

New building and equipment additions complete

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A state-of-the-art printing-press facility in Ladysmith means readers can expect to see spiffier colour photos and ads on Driftwood pages from now on.

"This really brings us up to speed," said Barrie Morris,

press manager at the new facility during a Driftwood staff tour of the new plant. "People will probably notice the sharper colour images."

The new, 20,000-square-foot Ladysmith facility, owned and operated by Black Press, held an official opening November 16 as area residents, clients and staff took an inside look at the machine behind many Vancouver Island-produced newspapers and flyers.

Black Press owner David

Black joined Ladysmith mayor Rob Hutchins and several town councillors at the "ribbon-cutting" ceremony, which saw Black drive a forklift through a roll of newsprint instead of taking out the traditional scissors.

"We print almost everything between Duncan and Port Hardy. Port Alberni, Powell River and you guys too," Morris told the Driftwood.

The new press — with a new Goss "four-high tower"

as its showpiece — can print approximately 80 million pages every week and the company inserts roughly 450,000 flyers and special sections into newspapers every day. When operating at full speed, said Morris, the press can print 32,000 papers an hour.

The Driftwood's pages are e-mailed to the press Tuesday evening, printed overnight and delivered via the Crofton-Vesuvius ferry in time for that second cup of coffee.

DRIFTWOOD PUBLICATIONS

Aqua Christmas edition now available

Driftwood readers should be on the lookout for the Winter 2007 edition of Aqua magazine, which hits the streets today (Wednesday).

With a cover image of famous folk-singer Valdy celebrating the Christmas season "island-style," the issue contains a story about Christmas traditions throughout the Gulf Islands, plus features on artists Nicola Wheston, Luke Hart-Weller, Willowpond Farm, a Wilco Construction home on Churchill

Road, island quilters, Pender Island's Shelley Easthope and Rock Salt chef Bruce Wood.

Pender Lions Club president Lillian Tetreau is the Q&A subject, there's a book review on Enchanted Isles: the Southern Gulf Islands, plus columns from Don Genova, Linda Kavelin Popov and a Christmas activity round-up from Andrea Rabinovitch.

Aqua - Gulf Islands Living is distrib-

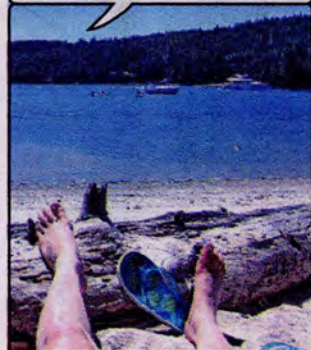
uted free in all newsstand copies of the Driftwood and is available for pick-up at the Driftwood office, Raven Street Market Cafe, Vesuvius Store, Patterson Market and numerous locations throughout the Gulf Islands and the Victoria area.

It is also mailed to households on Pender, Mayne and Galiano islands.

The publication cannot be mailed to Driftwood subscribers due to Canada Post regulations.

WHAT'S ON This Week?
See Page B6

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Sports Schedule

MEN'S SOCCER

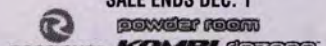
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Sunday, Dec. 2 • 12:30 p.m.
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HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

GISS misses finals by a penalty shot

Coach reflects on 'experience of a lifetime'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two days after his return to Salt Spring, the Gulf Islands Secondary School senior boys AA soccer team coach was still nursing his strained vocal chords.

"The week turned out to be an emotional roller coaster," said coach Doug Pearson during an interview on Friday.

"This one was pretty intense."

The Scorpions were in fine shape early on in the tournament, opening the event with a commanding 4-0 victory over Creston.

In what was called the "true championship final," the Scorpions fell 4-3 to Notre Dame of East Vancouver in penalty shots.

A late goal from Notre Dame dashed the Scorpions' dreams of bringing home the championship title.

Notre Dame would proceed undefeated through the remainder of the tournament.

"The last minutes of that game were just frantic," said Pearson. "Nobody wanted it to go to penalty kicks, but it did and they won."

In what Pearson called the tournament "barn burner," a late game-winning goal by the Scorpions' Cardin Davis capped the team's recovery from a two-goal deficit.

"He bent it like Beckham, as they say," Pearson said.

That was in the opening round's final match, played against Thomas Haney school.

An injury plagued and undermanned Scorpions squad failed to muster the strength in the tournament's

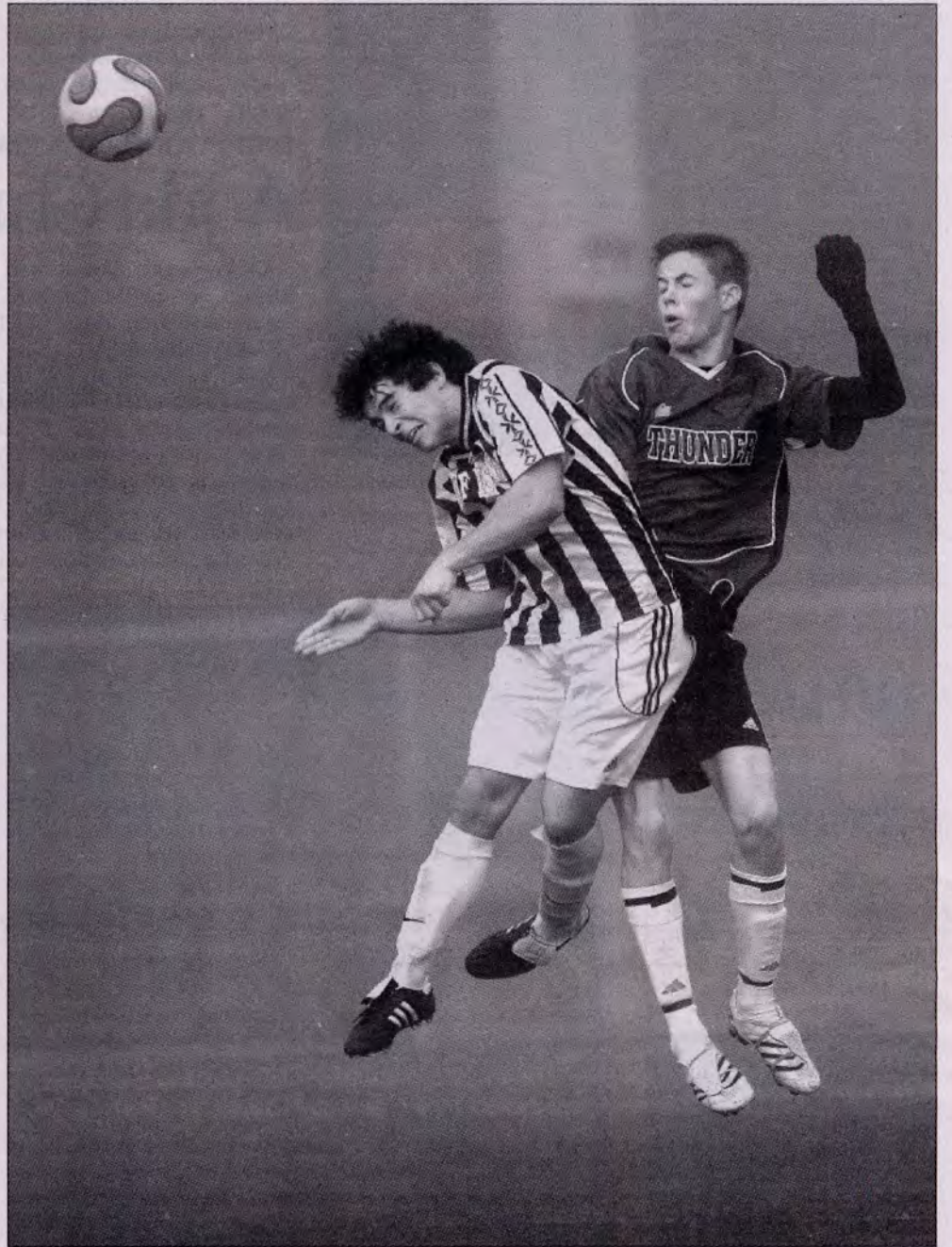


PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

Gulf Islands Secondary School senior boys soccer player Jeff Pringle heads the ball on a foggy field in AA provincial cup championships, held last week in Burnaby.

consolation round, losing 4-1 to Sutherland from North Vancouver and 1-0 to Howe Sound.

Fraser Hope, a team supporter who attended the games, said the eighth-

place finish did not reflect the Scorpions' skill level or performance.

Despite the tournament's anti-climactic conclusion, Pearson remained optimistic about the team's first

appearance in the provincials since 2002.

"We have to look at it from a cup half full perspective because they played so well and came so close," he said. "We had a great team."

MEN'S SOCCER

Alumni FC preserves hold on first place

The pride of the Salt Spring Island soccer pitch preserved its hold on first place and a near-spotless record after pulling off a 1-1 draw against Sooke United on the weekend.

Despite a strong push by second-place Sooke, Alumni FC (8-0-3) managed to hang onto the tie and maintain a two-point lead ahead of their Masters-C division rivals.

Jude Shugar scored the lone goal for the Salt Spring side.

Alumni FC's next match is on Salt

Spring against the Nanaimo Masters (5-5-2) on Sunday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m.

The island's other contingent among the Vancouver Island Soccer Association's Masters C division, the Salt Spring Old Boys, played to a scoreless draw against Cove Reunited on Sunday morning.

Dennis Shaw stood tall in the Salt Spring goal, maintaining the tie and cementing the team's hold on sixth position.

The team travels to Gordon Head (2-8-0) for its next game on December 1.

In Division 1 action, Salt Spring FC's winless streak continued as they dropped a nail-biting 4-3 decision against the stalwart Gordon Head Titans.

Steve Severn, Jason Moulton and Jeremy Morrison contributed to the Salt Spring cause.

The team's next engagement is in Sooke (4-4-2) on December 1.

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YOUTH SOCCER

Players battle opponents on the pitch

• Without any substitutes available to provide a breather against the always fresh players from Gorge, Team Kopetzki U12 Salt Spring boys battled a consistent and powerful offensive attack.

Despite the relentless pace of the game, Team K put on one of its most authoritative showings of the year as they mounted a skillful steal-pass-and-breakaway combination of defensive pressure and offensive skill with strikers Justin Kopetzki and Eric Weatherby just missing in their attempts to bury the ball in their adversary's net. Finally, after a hard-won first-period score by Gorge, Weatherby stole the ball, broke for the open side of the field, and definitively booted the ball past the Gorge keeper, which made for a 1-1 tie when the half-time whistle blew.

On the defensive end, the usual Team K swarm of Alex Graham, Noah Price, Awstin Finer, Gurjyot Grewal and Eldin Miller-Stead stymied their opponents while keeper Cody MacQueen frustrated Gorge's bold scoring attempts with brilliant saves. In the end, with two minutes left to play and legs flying like a whirligig in front of the net, Team K's attempt to clear the ball was overcome as Gorge's second goal squeaked past the line for a 2-1 ending.

• The U13 Gelato girls put in a tasty performance against Cowichan on Saturday, but ultimately didn't get



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Salt Spring players vie for the ball in recent U10 boys soccer action in the rain at Portlock Park.

SOCCERKICKS

their just desserts!

Cowichan took an early lead, which spurred Salt Spring onto the offensive. The chances rained in and Brenna McIntyre hit the post before Olivia Kornelsen scored a beauty, high into the top corner. The girls were adapting to a new formation, passing and moving well, and should have scored twice more before half-time.

Soon into the second period, Kornelsen scored again. Becki Steel was a whisker away from extending the lead, only for Cowichan to

score an equalizer, and then another to take the lead. Salt Spring continued to create great scoring chances, but the ball just wouldn't go in.

Cowichan sealed its victory near the end, to win 4-2, leaving the Gelato girls scratching their heads as to how on earth they had lost the game!

• Salt Spring's U14 Boys Spartans provided another entertaining soccer outing at Portlock last Saturday, taking on the visiting Prospect Lake squad.

Chances started out even on both ends, as the teams settled into play. The Spartans drew first blood when a Dylan Bullach cross was tipped by Alex Hayes onto

the waiting foot of Liam Simpson, who put it away.

Before the end of the first half, Lukas Wenzel scored a highlight-reel goal, running from his own half, past several Prospect Lakers, and finishing with a nice shot past the keeper.

The second half saw Prospect Lake pulling within one goal before Cedar Rumsey scored, in David Beckham fashion, with a well-placed shot off a free kick about 18 metres out.

The game finished 3-1 for the locals.

Keeper Byron Mussel had another stellar outing, while a strong defence was aided by newcomers Matthew Stubbs and Linda Herbert.

RUNNING

Salt Springer qualifies for Boston Marathon

Mother pushes stroller to train

A Salt Spring runner will lace up for the Boston Marathon this spring despite losing her tracking chip during the fall qualifying race in Victoria.

Carrie Cogan clocked in at 3:41:23 during the Royal Victoria Marathon in early October.

However, she couldn't verify her time with officials because the small device used to track her fell off her shoe during the race.

"My son was playing with my shoes before the race and that's when it fell off," she said.

The qualifying time for the Boston Marathon is 3:45 for Cogan's gender and age group.

Cogan knew she qualified, but wasn't sure how she could prove she passed the finish line.

"I kind of moped about it, then after a friend asked me what I had done about it, I e-mailed the director of the race."

Two weeks later, to Cogan's surprise, race coordinators posted her official time on the marathon's website.

Cogan said a photography company took her photo at various locations of the

race, which coordinators used to piece her total time together.

"I'm very grateful to the race organizers and happy the photography company took so many photos."

Part of Cogan's success can be attributed to her unique training regiment.

She runs five times a week pushing her one and a half-year-old son in a stroller equipped with treats and toys to keep him busy.

"My son is a big part of my training."

The Boston race, set for April 21, 2008, will be Cogan's fourth marathon. While she aims for a 3:40 time, her main goal is to have fun.

In 2007, more than 20,000 runners completed the Boston Marathon.

For Cogan, the race is something she doesn't want to miss.

"It's like training for NASA and not going in a spaceship."

In the 2007 Boston Marathon, Lidiya Grigoryeva from Russia was the top female runner with a time of 2:29:18.

The total prize money distributed among the winners of the 111th Boston Marathon was \$575,000.

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- **Seniors Wellness Programs:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
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SPORTS & RECREATION

TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB SCHEDULE

Christmas lunch part of short December events list

Following are December activities for the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club.

The club's Christmas lunch will be on December 11 at the Legion. (Doors open at 11:30 a.m.) Tickets (\$18) are available at Soapworks or from your coordinators.

Mark your calendar for the annual general meeting at Meaden Hall on January 24, 2008 at 1 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.

The spring trip next year is to Naramata in the Okanagan from June 2 to 5 and is organized by Fred Powell. A reminder to anyone who told Fred they were wanting to go

to Naramata next June that they must send in a non-refundable deposit of \$30 ASAP. If you have questions, call Fred at 537-4739.

The annual fees for the 2007/08 season are still due. They cost \$17 per person per year, but \$20 after December 31, 2007.

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).

Next month's activities will start on January 8.

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

Following is the December schedule:

HIKERS

DECEMBER 4: Sheila and Barry Spence are leading an off-island hike, which will be moderate and looping along the Cowichan River. Meet at Portlock Park to carpool at 8:30 for the 9 a.m. Vesuvius ferry.

DECEMBER 11: Kees Visser will lead a short moderate hike from Armand Way partly up Mount Maxwell, in time to be back for the Christmas lunch. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or join at the Dukes Road/Fulford Ganges Road junction at 10 a.m.

WALKERS

DECEMBER 4: Ailsa Pearse will lead a moderate walk with a steep section or two in the Channel Ridge area. Meet at Portlock Park at 10 a.m. or at the trail sign at the North end of Sunset Drive at 10:10 a.m.

DECEMBER 11: An urban walk to prepare you for your Christmas lunch. Terry Ison will lead an easy walk on trails around Ganges. Hiking boots recommended. Leaving from Meaden Hall at 10 a.m.

RAMBLERS

DECEMBER 4: Sterling McEach-

ern leads a walk around Vesuvius. Carpool from Centennial Park at 10 a.m. or join at the Vesuvius ferry terminal at 10:15.

DECEMBER 11: Norah Lloyd will lead an "energetic" ramble around Portlock Park at Central to prepare for the Christmas lunch at the Legion. Carpool from Centennial at 10 a.m. or join us at Central at 10:15.

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.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Dragons tracking top spot on soccer pitch

Team rides four-game unbeaten streak

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It may not have been their prettiest outing, but a 4-3 victory against Peninsula on Sunday has vaulted the Salt Spring Dragons to within three points of top spot in their division.

The Dragons came on strong with two first-half goals from Lorna Walde and Clara MacKenzie.

Walde launched a "perfect shot" over the keeper's head while MacKenzie took advantage of a break-away to deke the netminder and score.

"She left that goalie on the ground," said Sue-Anne Donaldson, the team's spokesperson.

The home side made things interesting early in

the second half by scoring two quick goals.

"We really weren't expecting that," Donaldson said.

With the score tied, Lorna Walde notched her second goal of the match midway through the half, only to have the game tied moments later.

Dragons newcomer Katie Reynolds scored the winner in the game's fading minutes on what Donaldson labelled a textbook shot from the

18-yard line.

"The goal was much appreciated and their keeper didn't stand a chance," she said. "We really needed that one."

Donaldson credited keeper Kym Sheppard-Bellavance and defender Christine Godlonton for strong play in the Dragons' end.

The Dragons (6-2-2) are undefeated in their past four games and have only lost one of their last nine. Despite

their stellar record, the team remains in third place in Division 3 of the Lower Vancouver Island Women's Soccer League.

Players will attempt to close the gap on first place when they host Vic West (1-6-3) on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. at the lower high school field. "We are sitting strong," Donaldson said. "We have a great group of talented ladies and they've all managed to step up when it counts."

HIGHROLLERS

Following are high scores reported in recent bowling action at Kings Lane Recreation.

Special Olympics, November 14: Jason Newport, 149-199; Gloria Dale, 153; Andrew Krizan, 163; Mahjor Bains, 171-164.

Special Olympics, November 21: Jason Newport, 142; Gloria Dale, 152; Terry Swing, 158-175.

Circus League, November 12: Ken Ditlof, 212.

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The Saanichton office provides Integrated Services in the following program areas of the ministry:

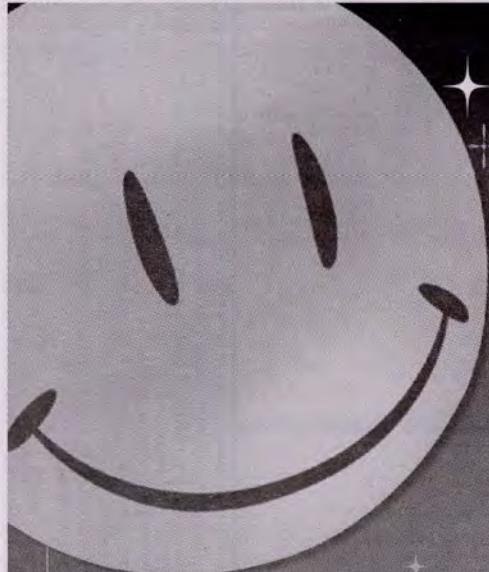
- Child Protection Services
- Family Development Response
- Youth Justice, Probation and Forensics
- Child and Youth Mental Health services (Aboriginal Team)
- Residential Resources

Location, mailing and contact information for the new office:

Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands Integrated Services
#103-7851 East Saanich Road, Saanichton, B.C. V8M 2B4
(Near the intersection of Mount Newton Cross and East Saanich Roads)

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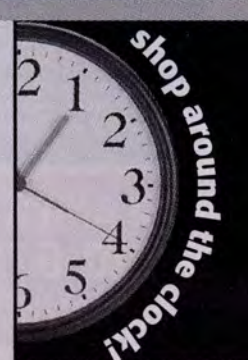
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