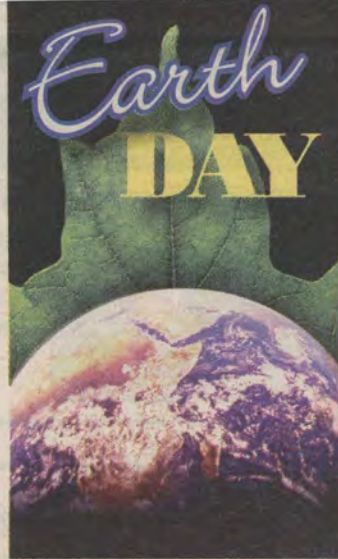




Island Wheels  
SEE PAGE B12-17

Earth Day  
SEE PAGE B28



# Driftwood

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## FERRIES

# Home port switch may put workers in a pinch

B.C. Ferries looks to Vancouver Island to attract new staff

BY AMY GEDDES  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

B.C. Ferries employees based on Salt Spring and Thetis islands may be forced to relocate to Vancouver Island or serve on a new route if a proposed home port relocation goes through.

Facing a critical staff shortage on vessels servicing Vesuvius-Crofton and Thetis-Chemainus routes, B.C. Ferries is considering a home-port switch from Vesuvius to Crofton and from Thetis Island to Chemainus. The idea, according to B.C. Ferries, is that use of Vancouver Island ports could attract and retain more employees.

"There's no doubt, this time, we're having real difficulty attracting people to come and live and work on Salt Spring," said Capt. Chris Frappell at last week's meeting with the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee.

"I know crewing officers at the senior level who are very concerned about the ability to fill positions so we can run the ships efficiently, or at all, in the not-so-distant future," Frappell said.

B.C. Ferries personnel said they expect Vancouver Island ports will offer more of what potential staff are looking for: affordable living. **FERRY RELOCATION** continued on A2



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Salt Spring ferry workers Vicky Byron and Ron Pardiwala are among those affected by a possible home port change on the Vesuvius-Crofton ferry route.

## REFERENDUM

# District hosts Monday fire vote

Ratepayers to decide fire district's future

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring property owners will have the final say Monday on whether or not to approve a Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District proposal to borrow \$540,000 for the purchase of land intended as the site for a new Ganges fire hall.

Polls will be open to the public between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Ganges fire hall on April 21. A certified election officer will oversee the counting of votes in time for an official announcement at the fire district's annual general meeting at 7:30 p.m. that evening.

In addition to results for the fire hall site, trustees will announce the names of successful candidates vying for two vacancies on the fire district's board.

Derek Barrio, Dave Collette, Jay MacAulay and incumbent Mary Gillies announced they were running for the positions last month.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the fire department had not yet confirmed if it would host an all-candidates meeting. Candidates' scheduling conflicts forced trustees to cancel a meeting previously set for April 8.

Updated information and a list of frequently asked questions about the proposed 1.5-hectare (3.5-acre) property at 300 Upper Ganges Road are available online at [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com), by calling the fire department at 537-2531 or dropping in to the hall to pick up the information.

**REFERENDUM** continued on A2

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Fulford's future in focus at OCP session

First in new round of talks Monday

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two years into the island's official community plan (OCP) review process, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) has launched another round of public discussion to collect input on where the community should head and what it should look like when it gets there.

Trustees and Islands Trust staff began the latest round of community information sessions

with two public meetings at Fulford Community Hall on Monday.

In spite of sparse public attendance at the afternoon session, trustees faced concerns the island's OCP could not postpone Fulford village's ongoing transformation into a "glorified parking lot."

"I don't want to see the village remain the same," said Martyn Day. "I want to see it improved and I don't think there is anything in the OCP that can help us regain the character of the village and help us become a village once again."

Trustees Peter Lamb and George Ehring used the meeting to officially receive draft recommendations developed by members of the Fulford Study Group (FSG).

The Islands Trust established the group on February 25 after Fulford-area residents sought more input into the OCP review process.

According to the group's report, action is required to curtail development potential within the village boundary until such a time as the Islands Trust and other relevant government **OCP MEETING** continued on A2

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16	03:38	3.2	10.5	18:43	2.9	9.5	23:29	2.2	7.2
WE	10:07	1.8	5.9	20:04	3.0	9.8	11:53	0.8	2.6
	15:35	2.5	8.2	19:32	3.0	9.8			
	21:09	1.5	4.9						
17	04:03	3.1	10.2	21	00:15	2.4	7.9		
TH	10:34	1.5	4.9	MO	05:11	3.0	9.8		
	16:49	2.6	8.5		12:21	0.7	2.3		
	21:58	1.7	5.6		20:20	3.1	10.2		
18	04:22	3.0	9.8	22	01:04	2.6	8.5		
FR	11:01	1.2	3.9	TU	05:29	2.9	9.5		
	17:51	2.8	9.2		12:52	0.6	2.0		
	22:43	2.0	6.6		21:08	3.2	10.5		

**NEWSBEAT**

**Potential home port change worries locals**

**FERRY RELOCATION**  
 continued from A1

ing, better access to larger shopping centres, schools and diversity of religious centres.

The large pool of regular and casual employees on Vancouver Island could provide sufficient backfill options to crew the vessels, Frappell said. And crews could move between Crofton and Chemainus terminals, if both become home ports.

But the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee has concerns about how the switch would affect close to 18 staff who crew the Howe Sound Queen. While a few crew members already live on Vancouver Island, the committee's chair Harold Swierenga said most are Salt Spring Island residents.

"We have concerns about it," said Swierenga. "We certainly hope they will find another way of solving their staffing problems and leave the Howe Sound Queen on the island."

B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers' Union president Jackie Miller did not return Driftwood calls about the matter from Thursday through Tuesday.

Attracting engineers to work out of the Vesuvius port has become a critical challenge for B.C. Ferries and no existing employees in the engineering department are willing to relocate to fill vacancies, wrote executive vice president and chief operating officer Mike Corrigan in an April 3 letter to the B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers' Union. He notes the Salt Spring Island supply of potential deck and cater-

ing workers has also been exhausted.

Eight vacancies on the Vesuvius-Crofton route, Frappell said, are currently being filled by B.C. Ferries employees awaiting release to positions they have won elsewhere in the company.

They are being retained because no new workers are available to take over their positions.

While B.C. Ferries does not plan to implement a home port switch before the fall of 2008, the consultation process has begun.

It is liaising with the union and will meet with interest groups such as the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee, Ministry of Transportation and the B.C. Ferries ferry commissioner to review how vessel relocation would impact service sched-

**"We certainly hope they will find another way of solving their staffing problems."**

HAROLD SWIERENGA  
 Ferry Advisory Committee

ules and customers.

"Nothing is cast in concrete at this time but we're looking at any and all options and if anyone has any ideas they're welcome to express them. We'll listen to anybody because this staffing problem is not going to go away," Frappell said.

**Referendum voters must own land**

**REFERENDUM**  
 continued from A1

In addition to being Canadian citizens, 18 years of age or older and B.C. residents for at least the past six months, voters must be registered on title as the owner of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection Dis-

trict's boundaries.

Voters not on the official list of electors can register on voting day by providing two pieces of identification. A driver's licence or passport along with documentation proving ownership of land, such as a tax notice, assessment notice or duplicate certificate of title will be accepted.

A second referendum dealing with the specifics of the new fire hall building is expected to be held later this year if ratepayers approve the proposal to purchase the Upper Ganges Road property.

A public meeting about the plan was held on Tuesday, April 8. See Page A8 for a report of that event.

**Fulford ferry terminal parking issue tackled**

**OCP MEETING**  
 continued from A1

and private-sector agencies can resolve the congestion, traffic safety and parking problems associated with the ferry terminal.

"In addition, there are very serious concerns with regard to water, sewage, harbour pollution, emergency road access, road maintenance and the ability to preserve the community's unique character," the report states.

How this can be accomplished given the jurisdictional stew plaguing the Fulford village core proved

a difficult question for trustees to answer.

Salt Spring LTC chair Kim Benson admitted the issue of parking around ferry terminals is common on many islands in the Trust area.

"I can easily see how, in Fulford, it would be an open-ended problem," she said.

Hilltop Road resident Johan Gerritsen said the "problem" of people leaving their cars parked on the village's side streets and walking on the ferry has grown steadily worse over the past 10 years.

He has observed many cars clogging the village's narrow lanes for days and

even weeks at a time.

He demanded the Islands Trust take a more active role in pushing B.C. Ferries to develop a solution to a problem it has created.

"Get after B.C. Ferries to get them to get their customers off our streets," he urged trustees.

Participant Ronald Bain felt it important to preserve the FSG long after the OCP review is complete, thereby giving Fulford-area residents a body through which neighbourhood concerns may be brought forward.

"This is the beginning of a long marathon that is

going to have to happen to achieve what is set out in the report," he said. "There is a possibility that Fulford could become a model."

The Salt Spring LTC's OCP review series of open houses and public forums will resume on Sunday, April 20 between 1 and 4 p.m. at Lions Hall. Additional sessions will be held at Lions Hall on Wednesday, April 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. and between 7 and 9 p.m.

Copies of the draft OCP are available on the Islands Trust's website and from the Trust's Salt Spring office at 500 Lower Ganges Road.

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FISHING

# Crab industry faces harvesting crunch



Arnie Hengstler of The Fishery with Dungeness crab.

PHOTO BY AMY GEDDES

Commercial fisherman fight DFO's proposed closure in area waters

BY AMY GEDDES  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Locally caught Dungeness crab may be missing from Gulf Islands menus and retail stores in the springtime come 2009, should the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) proceed with a proposed seasonal closure on commercial crab fishing.

Members of the Gulf Crab Fishery Association (GCFA) oppose the closure, slated for mid-January to mid-April, that would keep commercial fishing vessels from harvesting in Area H that includes Strait of Georgia waters east of southern Vancouver Island.

"We'll be fighting against it," said Salt Spring live crab fisherman and retailer Gary LeMarchant.

"It would basically kill me if they tried to do that," said GCFA vice president and Fishery Seafood Ltd. owner Arnie Hengstler.

Hengstler says the proposed closure time is the period when self-marketers like himself get the best prices for seafood products because less crab is caught in other areas of the coast. If the DFO follows through with the closure, the locally sourced crab Hengstler and other seafood retailers sell would be replaced with crab from the United States during that time.

While commercial fishing outlets will find the closure a serious economic blow, the DFO says the move may be necessary.

Along with other proposed commercial restrictions like reduced number of traps allowed per vessel, the closure is DFO's attempt to open up crabbing opportunities for First Nations and sports fishing enthusiasts, to maintain sustainable harvests and to make commercial fishing consistent across the seven sub-areas of coastal B.C. waters.

"We continue to get requests for closures from First Nations and recreational harvesters," said Rick Harbo, DFO program coordinator for shellfish fisheries on the south coast.

For the DFO, First Nations access to crab for food, social, and ceremonial (FSC) purposes has priority following conservation. Access to legal-sized Dungeness crab for FSC purposes has been a long-standing issue in many areas and DFO is working on improving access.

"Area H has the most serious problems" of the coastal B.C. sub-areas, said Harbo.

With over 42 crab-licensed vessels, it has the highest commercial fishing effort in an area that also has the largest population of recreational harvesters. More than 20 First Nations and 50 Indian reserves front marine waters. The area also has the highest rate of discards and possibly the highest rate of incidental crab mortality.

**"With crab fishermen, actually all fishermen, it's hard to get them to agree on anything."**

ARNIE HENGSTLER  
Owner, Fishery Seafood Ltd.

The DFO is considering alternatives to a closure, but Harbo said the issue is "still very much in discussion."

Alternatives may include seasonal trap reductions from the current 400 trap limit to 100 per vessel, plus new closure areas fronting First Nations and recreational areas.

Area H commercial fisherman met in March to decide on a platform. They will be sitting down with the DFO next month to discuss ways the groups can reach an agreement.

Internal disagreement among Area H fishermen is something Hengstler pinpoints that holds them back from being heard by the DFO.

"With crab fishermen, actually all fishermen, it's hard to get them to agree on anything. That's part of the problem: you get a large group of fisherman you're trying to bring together to come to some sort of consensus on options to give DFO and that's really hard to do."

To give commercial fisherman a stronger voice in Area H and all other six sub-areas, a British Columbia Crab Fishermen's Association is being formed. Currently, each area has its own association, but as individuals split within their own area, Hengstler said, the seven individual groups "really have no power to deal with the government."

The closure issue is hastening the development of the coast-wide association.

## News briefs

### Ferries gives more time

The deadline to convert prepaid paper tickets to the new B.C. Ferries Experience Card has been extended to May 31.

B.C. Ferries had previously set April 16 as the last day when tickets could be exchanged for a voucher to apply to the new plastic cards that are replacing traditional "commuter tickets" without having to pay the higher, post-April 1 fares.

People wanting to make

the conversion should take their tickets to B.C. ferry terminals serving the Gulf Islands.

For more information, visit B.C. Ferries' website at [www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com), or phone the customer service line at 1-888-223-3779.

### Crow chooses wrong wire

Parts of Ganges were plunged into darkness for two hours Monday afternoon after a crow proved too curious for its own good.

Hydro crews were called



PHOTO BY NANCY MERCER

Hydro worker retrieves crow carcass.

to the scene just before 1 p.m. to remove the unfortunate dead bird and repair a damaged transformer on Hereford Avenue.

"It is interesting that the crow landed on a transformer adjacent to the United Church and caused a fuse to blow almost a block away and was the cause of a few cool lunches," said Salt Spring Inn co-owner Jeremy Milson.

Employee Nancy Mercer described a chaotic scene as crows from nearby trees caused a tremendous commotion immediately following the incident.

### Spill no threat

A diesel spill near the Kanaka Wharf in Ganges earlier this month is not a threat to the area's marine ecosystem, according to Salt Spring Island harbour master Bob Morrisette.

Morrisette said he spoke with the owner of a leaking vessel docked in Ganges Harbour immediately after hearing of the spill from an individual walking along the boardwalk in Ganges.

"I've spoken with the owner and made sure this won't happen again," he

said. "It's pretty minor given the small quantity of fuel involved."

Morrisette added that even a cup full of diesel fuel spilled into the water can appear as a large slick given the fuel's high rate of dispersion.

Morrisette added that personnel at the Salt Spring Harbour Authority are working hard to reopen the island's marine pump-out stations in time for the tourist season.

"This is tourist driven," he said. "They'll be opening very soon."



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**Salt Spring Island Transit System Riders Guide**

**1 Ganges Local - Monday-Saturday**

Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Hospital	Lv. Brinkworthy Place	Lv. Hospital	Lv. Rec. Centre	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
8:05	8:08	8:12	8:16	8:20	8:22
10:05	10:08	10:12	10:16	10:20	10:22
11:00	11:03	11:07	11:11	11:15	11:17
11:25	11:28	11:32	11:36	11:40	11:42
11:50	11:53	11:57	12:01	12:05	12:07
12:55	12:58	1:02	1:06	1:10	1:12
2:00	2:03	2:07	2:11	2:15	2:17
2:25	2:28	2:32	2:36	2:40	2:42
4:00	4:03	4:07	4:11	4:15	4:17
6:00	6:03	6:07	6:11	6:15	6:17

**2 Fulford Harbour - Monday-Saturday**

Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Cusheon Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Fulford Hall	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Hall	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cusheon Lake Rd.	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
7:10*	7:16*	7:23*	7:27*	7:30*	7:40*	7:43*	7:47*	7:54*	8:00*
9:10	9:16	9:23	9:27	9:30	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
3:10	3:16	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
5:10	5:16	5:23	5:27	5:30	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00

\*Operates weekdays only

**3 Vesuvius - Monday-Saturday**

Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Vesuvius	Lv. Vesuvius	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
6:30*	6:40*	6:45*	7:00*	7:05*	7:10*
8:30	8:40	8:45	9:00	9:05	9:10
12:15	12:25	12:30	12:45	12:50	12:55
2:30	2:40	2:45	3:00	3:05	3:10
4:30	4:40	4:45	5:00	5:05	5:10

\*Operates weekdays only

**4 Long Harbour Loop - Monday-Saturday**

Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Ar/Lv. Long Harbour	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
1:20*	1:30*	1:40*
1:40	1:50	2:00
2:50	3:00	3:10

\*Operates weekdays only

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**NEWSBEAT**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 64**

**'Slash and burn' is five-day option**

Trustees consider four- versus five-day school week

BY SUSAN LUNDY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Faced with facts, figures and the vision of a "slashed and burned" five-day school week, even four-day opponents conceded there are few options left for the local school district.

"I can see the argument for the four-day week is strong," said Shari Hambrook, a local parent and teacher who is concerned about the effects of the four-day school week, especially on primary-aged children.

Speaking to trustees at last Wednesday's school board meeting, and following several presentations on the four- versus five-day school week, Hambrook added, "But my concern is for the next five years. I want a plan of how this board is going to get more money and make sure it doesn't all fall apart."

"Slash and burn" became the catch phrase of discussions as school board trustees listened to presentations, preparing to vote on the school day issue at a special meeting April 23.

Last week's meeting included a report from schools superintendent Jeff Hopkins on educational impacts of the four-day week (see related story) plus a "financial projections" report from secretary-treasurer Rod Scotvold, comparing operational implications of a four- or five-day decision.

Implementing the four-day week for the fifth consecutive year, Scotvold said, would basically maintain

the status quo.

The decrease in funding from a projected enrolment loss of 38.5 students and 6.5 special education students (-\$236,000) added to increased ministry funding of \$92,000 results in a potential revenue loss of -\$144,000.

Increased district operating costs of \$130,000 brings the shortfall to -\$274,000. This loss would be offset by a reduction of staffing "that reflects the loss of students" and there would be no additional changes to programming.

The bottom line for a five-day school week, with added operating costs of \$372,215, amounts to a financial shortfall of -\$666,215. Some of the larger operating expenditures would include \$108,230 in custodial costs for the extra day, \$35,570 for bus drivers and \$97,230 for water taxis.

But it is the "operational implications" of the five-day week that led trustees to coin the "slash and burn" phrase.

On the chopping block immediately would be:

- elementary school counselling programs;
- low enrolment high school courses (less than 23 students), including Calculus 12, Physics 12, Music 11 and 12, and Geography 12. (Courses like History 12 and French 12 would be held every second year);
- elementary and middle school band programs;
- several teachers from K to 12 due to increased class sizes of two to eight students per class;
- early support program; and
- per-student direct resource funding in the distance learning program.

These cuts would only

address half the shortfall and the board would have to take other measures as well, explained Hopkins. Elimination of French Immersion and alternative programs like Phoenix Elementary School and Phoenix High would have to be considered, pointed out Salt Spring trustees Charles Hingston and Mike Krayenhoff.

In discussing options, trustees attempted to guess at enrolment implications of the four-day week, with Salt Spring trustee Wolfgang Temmel wondering how many students might return to the district should it implement a five-day week.

Hopkins said "off the top of his head," the district has 42 students who go off-island to school every day, and 19 who travel here.

"Twenty-five is our net loss, but how many can be attributed to the four or five-day week is not clear."

"The question is," added Hingston, "if we slashed and burned back to a five-day week, how many students would we lose... the numbers game is a dangerous one."

Hopkins said reduced programming could negatively affect the international student program and force some high school students to leave the district to acquire need-for-graduation courses.

Some audience speakers, like Hambrook, expressed concern over future implications of maintaining the status quo.

"I'm not afraid of slashing and burning," Hambrook said; she is more concerned that by maintaining programs, the district is "spreading itself too thin."

Temmel said the district's

projections show it has nearly reached the bottom of an enrolment decline and numbers should start to climb again soon. However, teacher and parent Krishna Rodriguez noted, the high cost of living on Salt Spring could force young families away and therefore enrolment might not increase.

**"We have fabulous things going on in these schools."**

CHARLES HINGSTON  
School trustee

In addition to finding creative budget solutions, trustees said, the board is continuing to pressure the government for changes in a funding formula that, due to geographical factors and the smallness of the district, "does not serve us well."

Hingston noted that other school districts in the province are "closing schools that are at the heart of the community."

"We are in an enviable position," he said. "I'm proud to be part of a board that can maintain programs for students on all five islands. The Gulf Islands always stand out there as having some pretty incredible programs. We have fabulous things going on in these schools."

The school board will vote on next year's calendar at a special meeting on April 23 at the school district office, beginning at 1 p.m.

**FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK**

**Quality level is not better and not worse**

A study of the four-day school week's educational implications has convinced school officials the district is maintaining previous academic standards.

"We're not seeing any places where students are doing better or worse," schools superintendent Jeff Hopkins told a school board meeting last week. "We're not identifying anything different — good or bad. There is not a decrease in quality."

Hopkins told the board it is difficult in some areas to compare the four- and five-day school week systems; it is like comparing "apples and oranges."

One "constant" academic measure is the province-wide Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) testing; however, even that has changed in the four years since

the Gulf Islands School District implemented the four-day week.

However, Hopkins said, the study was able to analyze specific FSA items and "get a sense of how students are doing."

To look at more individualized results, the study also scrutinized performance standards in literacy, numeracy and social responsibility.

"We've also been talking to teachers, parents and looking at student work."

Hopkins said there are no general large patterns telling the district it needs to be concerned. And because the district "continues to look at challenges and find ways to support them," the number of district-wide issues continue to decrease.

"It would be dishonest to say things are better on the four-day week; things

are better because we're working on dealing with the challenges we identify."

Hopkins added that an allegation that Fernwood school's primary students were falling behind their peers in other districts was among the areas looked at with "an incredible amount of scrutiny."

"Fernwood students are achieving as well as they have been for quite a few years... which is really well," he said. "We don't see a concern."

The school board meeting also heard from a high school PAC representative who said some GISS students are managing better because of the four-day week, which is providing a flexibility not available before.

"In some areas, the high school is experiencing success because of the four-day week."

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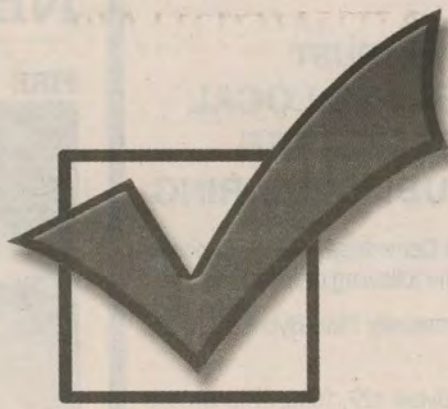
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# VOTE



# YES

## for your new Fire Hall site



After 48 years, Salt Spring Fire Hall #1 in Ganges is no longer suitable for its intended purpose and needs to be replaced. The present site is far too small to accommodate a main fire hall for the next 50 years. This has been reinforced by the independent report prepared by the Fire Underwriters Survey after a thorough examination of the Salt Spring Fire Rescue.



The SSI Fire Protection District trustees have examined many site options for the replacement for Hall #1 and have determined that the property located at 300 Upper Ganges Road is the most suitable site available. The price of \$540,000 for a 3.53 acre property, located close to the town core, is fair market value and will be offset by the eventual sale of the present Ganges Fire Hall. The cost to the taxpayer will amount to approximately 1.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value per year for the next 20 years, or about \$7.63 for an average property assessed at \$500,000. This seems a reasonable amount to secure a future home for our fire department.



The trustees have retained an architectural firm with 20 years of experience with similar buildings, including 22 fire halls. The architects have examined the site and are enthusiastic about its suitability for a new main fire hall for Salt Spring Fire Rescue.



Building a new fire hall is a long and complicated process, and securing an appropriate site is a necessary first step. Once the site is secured, the architects will design a building to suit this specific site. These design drawings will be the basis for detailed site servicing, building construction and fit-out estimates and final accurate project costs for the new fire hall. When these costs have been determined, they will be submitted to the taxpayers for approval through a second referendum.



The process of securing the site location first, and then presenting a complete and detailed budget for further consideration through referendum, is logical. The trustees do not want to propose a cost estimate, based on a generic hall as some people have suggested, and risk the possibility of budget increases and cost overruns. We have in the past seen cost overruns on other island projects that have caused dismay within our community. It is the intention of the trustees to provide to our tax payers a borrowing cost that is as accurate as possible.



The Board of Trustees of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District, the Salt Spring Volunteer Fire Fighters Association and our career staff strongly support this proposal and ask that you support your fire department and vote YES in the referendum to enact Bylaw 103.



*Paid for by the Salt Spring Island  
Fire Protection District*

For more information contact: Michael Schubart 653-4036

**Please exercise your right to vote on:**

**Monday, April 21, 2008  
between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM.  
at the Ganges Fire Hall,  
105 Fulford-Ganges Road**



Islands Trust

ISLANDS TRUST  
GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL  
TRUST COMMITTEE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee will hold a public hearing within a Local Trust Committee special meeting on the following proposed bylaws:

- Bylaw No. 199 – cited as “Galiano Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 108, 1995, Amendment No. 1, 2008”
- Bylaw No. 200 – cited as as “Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw 127, 1999, Amendment No. 1, 2008”

for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaws at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the South Island Community Hall, 141 Sturdies Bay Road, Galiano Island.

At the public hearing all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaws shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaws.

**Bylaw No. 199 – cited as “Galiano Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 108, 1995, Amendment No. 1, 2008”.**

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 199 is to amend Forest objectives and policies and amend Schedule “C” of the Galiano Island Official Community Plan to generally provide new or amended objectives, policies and mapping that relate to transportation, trails, emergency access, road and highways. The bylaw provides:

1. Three new Land Use policies; new and amended Forest policy to allow an accessory dwelling on lands zoned F1; policy regarding the siting, size and number of buildings in the Forest lands; and policy regarding transportation access requirements to allow a dwelling on Forest land;
2. New and amended Land Transportation objectives;
3. Two amended Land Transportation policies and four new Land Transportation policies that provide guidance to the management of proposed highway and emergency access locations and possible trail and utility routes, access requirements for Economic Activity Zones, and guidance as to the development of highways and statutory rights of way for emergency access at the time of subdivision;
4. New definitions that assist in the interpretation of proposed objectives and policies; and
5. A revised Map Schedule “C” that outlines existing and proposed highway and emergency access routes and road standards, land status, beach access locations, bicycle routes and roads that may be defined under Section 4 of the *Highways Act*. Various notations are provided on the map to assist in its interpretation.

**Bylaw No. 200 – cited as “Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw 127, 1999, Amendment No. 1, 2008”.**

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 200 is to clarify that exceptions to the limitations on use of accessory buildings for home occupations or human habitation can be contained in the land use bylaw; to clarify that cottages and accessory dwellings may not exceed a height of 9 metres and are exempt from combined floor area limitations for accessory buildings; to amend all references to “forestry” or “forest” uses to read as “timber production and harvesting” uses in zones that permit such uses; to allow a dwelling accessory to timber production and harvesting in the F1 zone subject to certain access requirements; to allow home occupations in the F1 zone on lots with highway access; to amend the screening requirements for F1, F2, F3, FH and FLR zoned lands and to allow enclosed accessory forest buildings in the F1 zone; to amend for purposes of clarification the setback requirements in the F2 and FLR zones; to amend for purposes of clarification the regulations that apply to permitted residential density in the F3 zone; to make various amendments to clarify references to subsections and to add a new definition for “lot coverage”.

A copy of the proposed bylaws and any background material that may be considered by the Trust Committee in respect of the proposed bylaws may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing April 9, 2008.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2)(e) of the *Local Government Act*, a copy of the proposed bylaws and any background material that may be considered by the Local Trust Committee in respect of the proposed bylaws may also be inspected at the Galiano Island Trust Office, when the office is opened by Local Trustees. The binder will be in the Trust Office by April 11, 2008.

Also for the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2) (e) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the proposed bylaws may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Galiano Island, B.C., commencing April 11, 2008 and can also be viewed on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca> and selecting <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltr/gi/bylaws.cfm>

Written submissions may be delivered to:

1. the office of the Islands Trust by mail at #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, or by Fax (250) 405-5155 or can be sent on-line by going to the Islands Trust Website at the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltr/gi/meetings.cfm> and completing the “Public Hearing, April 26, 2008, Submission Form”, prior to 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2008;
2. after 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2008 to the Trust Committee at the Public Hearing at 12:30 PM., Saturday, April 26, 2008

Email comments should not be considered as complying with the requirements of this notice. The Islands Trust does not guarantee that any email comment will be received by the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide email comments, if they are opened and received, to the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee for consideration, but the public should not rely on email as a means of providing a written comment.

Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaws may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Regional Planning Manager, at (250) 405-5170 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

**NO REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Kathy Jones  
Deputy Secretary

## NEWSBEAT

## FIRE



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Three firefighters work to extinguish a jewellery workshop that caught fire on Fulford-Ganges Road last Thursday.

## Firefighters battle blaze at Fulford jewellery shop

Trainees are among the 24 firefighters involved

An unattended electric heater caught fire last Thursday afternoon, sending flames through the roof of a trailer used as a jewellery workshop on a Fulford valley property.

Fulford-Ganges Road was blocked by over five emergency vehicles while 24 firefighters attended the incident.

“I saw the flames shoot over the hedge,” said Anne Buckley, who was visiting her mother in the neighbouring home when the fire began. Buckley, who had assumed the role of redirecting traffic, said she was impressed the firefighters arrived in what

seemed to her to be about 10 minutes.

A higher-than-normal number of firefighters were on scene, according to fire chief Dave Enfield, who explained the department had additional local recruits available who were receiving training at the time.

While the burning 16-foot trailer was situated approximately 15 feet from a residential home, no one was seriously injured. Only the daughter of the man who owned the trailer was treated briefly by paramedics for smoke inhalation.

Enfield said while some power lines directly above the trailer were damaged, the owner had previously removed all of the jewellery so losses were minimal.

The trailer, however, was destroyed beyond recovery.

## Judge rules on facts over fiction

Impaired driver fined, loses licence

### COURTDOCKET

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A provincial court judge issued a 12-month driving prohibition and a \$600 fine to a 22-year-old Salt Spring man despite the accused's efforts to contest the accuracy of a blood-alcohol device used by investigating officers.

Testifying in his own defence in Ganges court last week, James Melanson said the consecutive blood-alcohol readings of 0.160 couldn't possibly be correct since he'd only consumed three beer during a five-hour dinner date with his girlfriend at Moby's Pub on December 8, 2007.

RCMP officers approached Melanson's small red sedan after it stopped short of a roadblock set up at the corner of Seaview Avenue and Lower Ganges Road in Ganges at 11:30 p.m.

Melanson failed to cooperate with officers when asked to provide a breath sample, becoming increasingly irate with officers on the scene, according to the testimony of former Salt

Spring RCMP Const. Aaron McGiffin.

Court heard Melanson deliberately attempted to skew the roadside breathalyzer test by failing to blow into the device and attempting to spray lighter fluid into his mouth.

“He grew more and more negative,” McGiffin told the court.

Crown prosecutor Robin Baird asked the judge to rely on the scientific evidence, rather than Melanson's testimony.

“I say you shouldn't believe him because it is obvious that he is lying,” he said.

“He's just making this up as he goes along.”

Blood-alcohol level expert Zenon Samila testified he saw no reason why the device used by police would provide inaccurate measurements.

Drinking three beer over the course of a five-hour period would likely result in readings of between 0.000 and 0.030, Samila told the court.

Justice Mike Hubbard said he found little credibil-

ity in the accused's defence and pronounced Melanson guilty of driving while impaired.

“The conclusion I've come to is that Mr. Melanson is not telling the truth,” said the judge.

“I've come to the conclusion that he had significantly more to drink than he says.”

In other court news, Salt Spring resident William Akerman will have to pay a \$300 fine after pleading guilty to obstructing a police officer.

“I admit there was some wrongdoing on my part,” Akerman told the court. “It just happened so fast.”

Police approached Akerman in his driveway on suspicion he was driving while impaired.

Earlier in the evening of May 27, 2007, RCMP officers had received reports Akerman was verbally abusive to staff at Moby's Pub.

When police approached Akerman in front of his Fulford-Ganges Road home, court heard, Akerman simply “ran off into the bushes and was seen no more.”

“I feared for my safety and decided to take off,” he said.

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[www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

# SALT SPRING ISLAND RAINFOREST NEWS



## What Does It Take to Save a Rainforest?

The stillness under Red Alders, the rush of the winter-swollen creek, And Flyers, stickers, posters Stapled, taped, pinned, and pasted to Telephone posts, mailboxes, bike fenders, One eye caught fire, straining to hear the last radio broadcast, Photographs, paintings, and crayon drawings, Mounting bids tumbling down Silent auction pages for donated time and talent,

Poems and stories about Mama Earth and our humble place, Twelve hour musical marathon, Sitar, guitar, drum, and dance, fueled by Bigleaf Maple syrup and crepes, MCs and TLC, Press kits, letters, a website, Cash, cheques, pledges, thousands, fifties, twonies, loonies, Children, as always, our teachers, Biologists combing the land for mosses, snails, and modified cedar trees,

The hopeful "How much now?" A four course feast and wine to make Bacchus proud, Deadlines, extensions, and purchase agreements, An informative newspaper, Weekend trail walkers and their intrepid guides, Articles, appeals, and video clips, Interviews on CBC, *en francais*, Realty, investing, massage, mechanics, Design, and business buckaroos,

Spectators, negotiators, and a dedicated leader,

Action from an Island that lives from its heart,

Banana slugs and oyster mushrooms that bloom

The wild miracle that we are.



By Megan Hyslop

A special thank you to one of Salt Spring's newest businesses ELEMENTS HOME DESIGN and owners Dan Logan & Eduard Andringa for your donation and for spreading the word about the campaign.

## People Protecting Places

### Thanks to everyone who worked long and hard to save Creekside Rainforest

#### Appeal Coordinator

Maureen Moore

#### Core Worker Bees

Matt Tobey  
Pat Barclay  
Sheila Ie  
Deborah Miller  
Jenn Johnson  
Megan Hyslop  
Juliette Laing

#### Forest Guides

Matt Tobey  
Rick Laing

#### Websites & Maintenance

Matt Tobey  
Tina Kempling  
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#### Community Posters & Brochures

Jo Yard  
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Nancy Tyler  
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Pat Barclay  
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Maureen Moore

#### Volunteer Treasurer

Fraser Hope

#### Island Mailouts

Pat Barclay  
Deborah Miller  
Nichola Walkden  
Sheila Ie  
Juliette Laing  
Maureen Moore

#### Fundraising Events:

##### "Unless the Eye Catch Fire"

PK Page  
Romany Miller  
Pat Barclay  
Don Tarris  
Vaughan Fulford

##### Reading for The Rainforest

Arthur Black  
Pat Barclay  
Brian Brett  
Shirley Graham  
Peter Levitt  
Kathy Page  
Murray Reiss  
Chris Smart  
Mona Fertig  
Sandi Johnson  
Derek Lundy  
Kelsey Mech  
Briony Penn  
Elizabeth Woods  
Evelyn White  
Donn Tarris  
Maureen Moore

##### Art for The Rainforest Art Sale & Silent Auction

Birgit Bateman  
Robert Bateman  
Alan Bibby  
David Borrowman  
Andrea Collins  
Janet Dwyer  
Steve Friedman  
Tamar Griggs  
Susan Huber  
Amarah Gabriel  
Shari MacDonald  
Theresa Mackey  
Osman Phillips  
Karen Reiss  
Samantha Sanderson  
Kevin Steinke  
Phyllis Webb

Stella Weinert's Gr 4/5 Class for their paintings

#### Rainforest Gala & Winemakers Dinner

Sheila Ie  
Pat Barclay  
Rick & Juliette Laing  
Jesse Blanchette  
Myles Ferryman  
David Godfrey & Godfrey-Brownell Wines  
Arthur Black  
Lynne Raymond  
Adrian Selby  
John & Alicia Herbert  
Anna Squier  
Shelley Lawson  
Karen Hudson  
Lianna North  
Lesley Kimber  
John Keller  
Richard Badman  
Maureen Moore

#### Dessert Bakers

Deborah Miller & David Denning  
Ellen Karpinski  
Jane Petch  
Gillian Kidd  
Jacqueline Thomas  
Andrea LeBorgne  
Ruth Tarasoff  
Joanne Montrichard  
Rosemary Herbert  
Jane Squier  
Sharon Maldober

#### Rainforest Music Event in Victoria

Dylan Stutt & Friends  
Ocean Island Backpackers Inn

#### Publicity Photos

Shari MacDonald  
Susan Huber  
David Borrowman  
Matt Tobey

#### Donation Liaisons

Bill Turner  
Cassie Holcomb  
Tom Arnold  
Maureen Moore

#### Scientific Team

Bristol Foster  
Katherine Dunster  
Kimberly D Kornbacher  
Cate McEwen  
Terry McIntosh  
Kathy Reimer  
Laura Matthias  
Briony Penn

#### You Tube Video

Brandy Glovka  
Alan Micelli  
Donn Tarris  
Matt Tobey  
Pat Barclay  
Maureen Moore

#### Special Friends and Dedicated Helpers

Judi Stevenson  
Harry Burton  
Adina Hildebrandt & Andrew Haigh  
Barbara Caves  
Trish Maddison  
Eileen Wttewaal  
Christine Waymark  
Anne Buckley  
Erin Porter  
Sarah Bateman  
BACARA  
Ian Abbott  
BJ Vicks  
Aaron Ableman  
Ian Tamblyn  
Robin Ferry  
Aileen Hope  
Salt Spring Centre School  
Fulford Elementary Nature Club

\*Salt Spring Books for being a branch of rainforest central

#### Salt Spring Island Rainforest News

Sheila Ie  
Pat Barclay  
Matt Tobey  
Harry Burton  
Arthur Black  
Bill Turner  
Iona Campagnolo  
Tom Gossett  
John B Sprague  
Andrea Collins  
Dr. Margaret Fulton  
Bristol Foster  
Peter Levitt  
Bill Henderson  
Mary Toynbee  
Andrew Haigh & Adina Hildebrandt  
Bob Wild  
Judi Stevenson  
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Shari MacDonald  
David Borrowman  
Mike Wall  
Salt Spring Granny  
Birgit Freybe Bateman  
Salt Spring Centre School  
Leslie Wallace  
Don Stevens  
Shirley Morassutti-Horvat  
Imagine That Graphics  
Valerie Tabone  
Jen Hobson


and Osman Phillips for reading Harry Potter aloud for donations.

#### Creekside Rainforest

##### Celebration & Thank You Reception

Many thanks to the following organizers, volunteers, guest speakers and businesses involved: Deborah Miller • Adrian Selby • Sheila Ie • Rick & Juliette Laing • Shelley Lawson • Nichola Walkden • Bob Weeden • Susan Paynter • Richard Badman • Cassie Holcomb • Jen Hobson • Harry Warner • Ed Peekeekoot • Briony Penn • Jane Squier • Black Velvet Band • Maureen Moore • Garry Oak Vineyards • Salt Spring Coffee Co. • Moonstruck Organic Cheese • Thrifty Foods • Arigado Sushi & Teriyaki • Jana's Bakery • Ganges Village Market • Embe Bakery • Salt Spring Island Cheese Company • Wildfire Bakery in Victoria • Natureworks • Artspring • Salt Spring Painters Guild • SSIC • ITF • Salt Spring Island Foundation • TLC and TLC Honorary President Iona Campagnolo

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## NEWSBEAT

### BC FERRIES

# Ferry docked in May

Oil leak warrants vessel repair

BY AMY GEDDES  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

To fix a stubborn oil leak from the Queen of Nanaimo's propeller blades, the vessel will be taken out of service and docked for a re-fit from May 2 to June 6.

Stepping in as the relief vessel will be the Queen of Tsawwassen that will service the the Long Harbour-Tsawwassen route until repairs are complete.

"[The oil leak] has been ongoing now for a number of months," said marine superintendent Capt. Chris Frappell at an April 7 meeting with the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee.

B.C. Ferries attempted to fix the leak several times last year, said Frappell, but the problem was not satisfactorily addressed. This time, he said, docking will occur for a longer period to ensure the blades are fixed.

"We should get a good seal on them," Frappell said about the blades. "The issue of the oil leak will hopefully be cured once and for all."

Although the current leak was first observed several months ago during a routine dive inspection, B.C. Ferries staff said they were waiting for a relief vessel and dock space to become available to make repairs.

Every two to three weeks since the leakage was discovered, divers have been monitoring the vessel while it's been docked in Long Harbour.

"What we can see from the dive pictures is small droplets," said senior master Lewis Mackay. "But when you add up drops over months it can amount to enough oil that it's visible on the surface."

"As a rule we're not seeing it when sitting in the harbour," said Mackay. "We're thinking it's leaking more when we're underway."

Frappell said oil has been seen on the ocean's surface while the vessel is in transit.

At the advisory committee meeting, the public voiced concern about the Queen of Nanaimo being taken out of service during the May long weekend. Because the Queen of Tsawwassen has a reduced passenger capacity, B.C. Ferries officials were asked if the vessel could meet the demand during this time.

Steve Anderson, B.C. Ferries' manager of fleet deployment and scheduling operations, said that despite the capacity challenge, it is simply a matter of May being when dock space is available.

"We are looking at adjustments to the Route 9 schedule to have the Queen of Tsawwassen make extra trips to and from Tsawwassen over that weekend," said Deborah Marshall, B.C. Ferries' media relations officer.



**FIRE FIGHT:** Jason Matthews takes part in a fire extinguisher demonstration at the Ganges fire hall on Saturday.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

### FIRE DISTRICT

# Fire trustees face public heat over proposed land purchase

Upper Ganges still deemed best possible site

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Trustees speaking at a public information meeting at the Ganges fire hall on April 8 made it clear they feel the property at 300 Upper Ganges Road is the best possible option as a site for a new Ganges fire hall.

Trustees stood firm in spite of some audience members decrying the trustees' decision to seek voter approval to purchase the land before obtaining final design plans and cost estimates for a new hall.

"You're asking us to buy a pig in a poke," Cranberry Road resident Larry Cross said. "You must have some idea about what you plan to build. This is asking ratepayers to write a cheque to buy a piece of property that could remain unused just like the tennis bubble."

Cross berated trustees for not having sought a property appraisal before calling the referendum last month.

Former fire district chair Ted Hinds accused trustees of "not being straightforward with the public" when it came to providing a comprehensive overview of their intentions for the site.

Fire district trustees are asking Salt Spring Island rate-

payers to approve \$540,000 to purchase the property. Further delay in selecting a site, they argue, will only end up costing the department more in the long run as property values continue to rise.

Initial discussions with the fire district's architectural firm in Vancouver indicate the site is ideal for the construction of a fire hall, said trustee Tony Kennedy.

"This way we can guarantee that we have a reasonable place to build the fire hall on a site that is acceptable to the community," he said.

The fire district anticipates holding a second referendum after cost estimates and architectural plans are made available this summer.

"It is our intention to have all the costs available to the public," Kennedy said.

The property's assessed value is \$422,000, according to figures available on the B.C. Assessment website.

Properties on Salt Spring and elsewhere are rarely available at or below their assessed value, noted fire district chair Michael Schubart.

The asking price for the 1.4-hectare (3.5-acre) property is reasonable, Schubart added.

Trustees could not provide cost preliminary cost estimates for the actual fire hall, but said they will be considering a 1,490-square-metre (16,000-square-foot) building with some adjoining training facilities.

Costs to acquire water and septic services will be included in the total expenditure to build the fire hall.

"We want to build a hall that will substantially meet our needs for the next 20 years," said fire district chair Michael Schubart.

**"We can't stay in this building any longer. We need a property now."**

KURT IRWIN  
Volunteer firefighter

Speaking in favour of the proposed site, volunteer firefighter Kurt Irwin stressed the need to move forward given the deteriorating state of the Ganges fire hall.

"We can't stay in this building any longer," he said. "We need a property now. If there was a serious earthquake today, this hall is going down."

In other district matters, trustees were forced to cancel a scheduled all-candidates meeting because two of the four candidates were not available to participate.

More information on the meetings and a comprehensive overview of the fire hall site are available online at [www.islandgov.org](http://www.islandgov.org).

## The 2002 Sussex Consultants Ltd. Restructure Study Update states:

### A municipality has IMPROVED

Autonomy and accountability, influence with other outside agencies, accessibility of elected representatives, financial flexibility, access to grants, financial value to community, ability to generate revenue, coordination and integration of services and planning, service flexibility and speed, service quality, ability to achieve OCP objectives, ability to set road standards, eligibility for infrastructure grants, watershed protection, quality of representation

### A municipality has AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT

on the preserve and protect mandate, community involvement and focus, planning and development decisions and coordination, environmental control, road quality, operation, maintenance and administration of service areas

### A municipality has REDUCED

Planning costs

For more information please visit our website at [www.islandgov.org](http://www.islandgov.org)

Join ISG today and send a clear message to the Provincial Government that Salt Spring Islanders support an updated Restructure Study so that we may have access to up-to-date, accurate, unbiased information about the costs and benefits of incorporation. Write to your Trustees and CRD director, encourage them to join too. Write your MLA, Murray Coell and the Minister of Community Services, Ida Chong, and tell them what you think. Imagine...an Island Municipality within the Trust. We CAN have both!

JOIN ISG TODAY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee \$20.00. Please make cheques payable to Islanders for Self-Government  
Mail this form with payment to:

**Islanders for Self-Government,  
Box 827, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2W3**

Or drop 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

**islanders for self-government**



# Secure the Property

## Secure Our Island's Future!

We, your volunteer firefighters, agree that the Ganges Fire Hall must be replaced and we support the purchase of the property at 300 Upper Ganges Road for the future site of Hall #1.

The Salt Spring Island Volunteer Fire Fighters are asking for your support.



**VOTE  YES  
TO ENACT BYLAW 103**

*Paid for by the Salt Spring Island Volunteer Fire Fighters Association*

**Monday, April 21, 2008  
between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM.  
Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Fulford-Ganges Road**

**For more information, please visit [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)  
or contact Mark Wyatt at 537-2531**

# Opinion

Special Section Award, *Aqua*, GOLD  
 Best Tourism and Recreation Guide Award, *The Gulf Islander*, SILVER  
 Best Website Design Award, *www.gulfislands.net*, SILVER  
 Ma Murray Community Service Award, *Breaking the Family Violence Circle*, BRONZE  
**2007 British Columbia Yukon Community Newspaper Association Awards**  
 Best Special Section, *Aqua*, GOLD • Best Christmas Edition, *Aqua*, GOLD • Best Ad Design, *Pegasus Gallery*, GOLD  
 Best In-house Ad Campaign, *TGIF Launch*, GOLD • Best Business Writing Award, *Aqua*, SILVER  
 Best All Round Newspaper, *Gulf Islands Driftwood*, BRONZE • Best Feature Series, *Galliano Fire*, BRONZE  
**2007 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Awards**



EDITORIAL

## Nothing's perfect

**A**ny proposal to spend taxpayer funds on this island sparks a predictably fierce debate, and that's a sign of a healthy, concerned community we always like to see.

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District's attempt to purchase a few acres on Upper Ganges Road as a new Ganges fire hall site has fallen into that category to some degree. Opponents' main objections seem to be a feeling the site is unsafe because it could see emergency vehicles clashing with summer ferry traffic heading into Ganges from Long Harbour, and purchasing land before a building is designed.

But if the site at 300 Upper Ganges Road is not purchased now — then what? Alternative properties and strategies suggested by various well-meaning island residents have long ago been investigated by district personnel and trustees, and rejected for a

slew of reasons based on their experience or bureaucratic hurdles.

**THE ISSUE:**

Fire site referendum

**WE SAY:**

Voters should consider site

No site is ideal and all alternatives present a problem of some kind — many related to traffic — just as access to and from the current site in downtown Ganges is a challenge. Any proposed site will no doubt prompt passionate arguments for voting against it.

Something that should be considered is that firefighters know what is needed and what the challenges would be from an operational point of view — they're the ones who've manoeuvred fire trucks through traffic, not us.

While having a detailed plan of the proposed building and all costs in front of us for a single vote consideration might be comforting, purchasing land first while it's available is not an unusual course of action and it's often financially prudent to go that route in the long run, as we've seen with the Rainbow Road pool project and Ganges library situation. Fears of the district being saddled with an unmarketable property are unfounded. Not only that, but if voters reject an initial facility proposal as too expensive in a future referendum, the plan could be downscaled and floated again.

A new fire hall must be built — the 2005 Fire Underwriters' Survey makes that crystal clear — and island property owners will be paying for it.

We urge readers to weigh the pros and cons, many of those arguments being made in this issue of the Driftwood, and review both the fire district's 10-year plan and the referendum Q&A at [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com). Make an informed decision on Monday.



## PARC chair gives tennis update

BY STEVE PETERSON

As with the pool, I feel it my responsibility to update the community on PARC's current activities with respect to indoor tennis on the island.

To provide some background, this project is not an easy sell for PARC.

On the last community survey, tennis ranked 17th out of 17 priorities listed for new development with only two per cent support. As for indoor spaces needed, tennis again came in last with only eight per cent support.

The problem has been compounded by PARC acting in good faith but failing in a previous attempt to deliver two covered courts, resulting in a significant loss to taxpayers.

This project is not a community favourite and is not unanimously supported by PARC.

I believe the previous Portlock bubble began serving the community over the 1991-92 winter season. With construction funded by the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA), the structure covered a single court at Portlock.

Having managed an initial start-up loan plus general maintenance costs, the funds generated from the bubble now exceed \$175,000. In short, the old bubble generated a positive cash flow.

This brings us to the here and now and an attempt to once again consider replacing the bubble at Portlock Park.

A Driftwood article dated April 2, 2008 stated that the SSTA had made the "decision to commit a minimum of \$175,000 to the project."

False.

No agreement exists. What PARC and the SSTA have agreed to do is split consultant's fees, an amount not to exceed \$6,000 plus applicable taxes and disbursements, to determine what

VIEWPOINT

"... this project is not an easy sell for PARC."

the actual replacement cost will be in 2008 dollars.

Another serious error existed later in the article. The Driftwood states "... PARC commissioners established a tennis bubble committee consisting of former PARC chair Rosemary Trump, Mike Best and two as-of-yet-unnamed members from both the PARC commission and the SSTA." False.

Both the PARC and SSTA members are known. They struck the accord outlined in the previous paragraph.

Rosemary Trump volunteered for such a committee but has yet to be formally asked. Mr. Best had not been asked, formally or otherwise prior to the PARC meeting or the Driftwood article being published, to serve on the committee.

Having appeared as a delegation to PARC on this subject in the past, he did provide PARC with positive potential alternatives for moving forward toward replacing the bubble at Portlock.

Thus he represented a possible candidate for an oversight committee and hence his name did arise at the March 30 PARC meeting.

Commission sincerely apologizes for any misrepresentation and confusion caused by the April 2 article and wishes to be clear that Mr. Best has not agreed to sit on the committee.

PARC's mandate is to provide recreational activities for the community.

Although currently supported by a small majority of the commission, PARC will continue to pursue the possibility of a tennis bubble at Portlock as long as it remains the majority view.

The writer is chair of the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission.

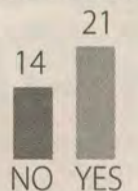
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you vote in the fire district referendum?  Yes  No

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Canada's one-cent coin be abolished?



# Driftwood

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Peter McCully  
**PUBLISHER**  
[sales@gulfislands.net](mailto:sales@gulfislands.net)



Gail Sjuberg  
**MANAGING EDITOR**  
[news@gulfislands.net](mailto:news@gulfislands.net)



Lorraine Sullivan  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
[production@gulfislands.net](mailto:production@gulfislands.net)

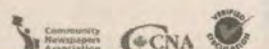


Eva Kuhn  
**OFFICE MANAGER**  
[ekuhn@gulfislands.net](mailto:ekuhn@gulfislands.net)



Claudia French  
**CIRCULATION**  
[cfrench@gulfislands.net](mailto:cfrench@gulfislands.net)

**President:** Frank Richards **Editorial:** Sean McIntyre, Amy Geddes, Susan Lundy, Derrick Lundy, Elizabeth Nolan, Meghan Howcroft  
**Production:** Kaye Segee, Emma Yardley, **Advertising:** Rick MacKinnon, Tracy Stibbards, Andrea Rabinovitch, Karen Hepp  
**Accounting/Circulation:** Kim Young



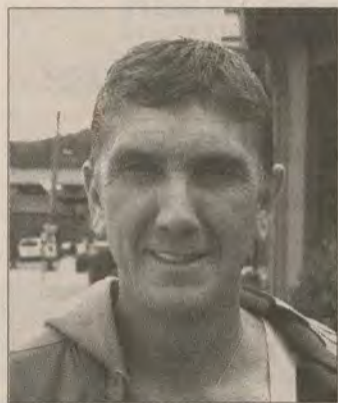
## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** What do you think about the changes planned for CBC Radio Two?



**SHAWN & NOLAN WALTON**

*I'm disappointed the classical music is getting nixed because I listen to it six mornings a week.*



**DAVE MCDONALD**

*I'll probably listen more.*



**SUSAN ROBINSON**

*I like the new programing, but think it's a shame we are losing a classical music tradition. There should be room for both.*



**MARGERY MOORE**

*I'd hate to see any long-lasting negative impacts on how people perceive the CBC. Maybe they should consider adding a CBC Radio Four.*



**LEON STURGEON**

*I think playing a lot more old-school hip hop would make it a lot better.*

## 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.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com).

### Process

About 15 months ago the fire board presented a plan which was very short on detail and the ratepayers were very adamant that if a plan for approval is presented then it should be complete in all or most details.

The board at that time acknowledged that the process must be followed so that the ratepayers can make an informed judgement on any proposal to spend money. The shock of the current situation is that today's board did not hear the message that following the process is mandatory even though five of the current board members were

on the board 15 months ago.

The current fire board is presenting a referendum for approval for the purchase of a property without a plan for the whole project. While I think that most ratepayers are in agreement that the existing hall #1 must be replaced, there is a feeling that the board is not being open and transparent with the current referendum.

If in fact the board purchases this property then it seems as if they expect the community to approve the plan for the fire hall at a cost of who knows how much because we own the site. I don't think this is the way we should be doing things.

I am sure that the board can come up with an adequate plan with costs, etc. so the ratepayers will know what they are approving. The board has given the architect the requirements and the construction manager has the same details so why can't we have a proper estimate of the costs? It really doesn't matter if another site is chosen as adjustments can be made to accommodate differences at another site.

I fully support the replacement of hall #1, but let's follow the process in order to be upfront with the costs for the total project. I would suggest that the board approach the current

owners of the property in question to see if the subject clause date can be adjusted so the whole package can be presented to the ratepayers by the end of August when we would have a proper estimate of the total costs.

I cannot support the current referendum for the above reasons.

It's the process. Let's follow it.

**TED HINDS,**  
SALT SPRING

### Stay in town

Mary Davidson's April 9 letter ("Vote no") opens the question that I am sure many readers would like to see answered. The question surrounding any new fire

hall for Salt Spring has gone on long enough and with the referendum date nearing, the question remains. Why do we have to relocate the fire hall at all?

I have always felt that the fire department should be a highly visible part of the community. At the present location in Ganges it certainly is. It is always comforting to see those gleaming fire trucks standing outside the hall. A reminder that the department is always there and ready for any emergency.

Our firefighters deserve the very best, so if the present fire hall is inadequate, then why not simply tear it down and build a new one

on the present site? Yes, it's expensive, but no more so than building a new one elsewhere. Out of town and out of sight. Why?

While the construction is underway the whole unit could simply be shifted to the Central station. It would only be for six months or so, then we would have a new, modern hall standing on the site that has always been the fire station area.

Those of us who see this as the only viable solution should vote no for any relocation and work to keep the hall where it is.

**RICK WESTON,**  
NORTH BEACH ROAD

**MORE LETTERS** continued on A12

## Upper Ganges fire site opponents don't have all the facts

BY MARK WYATT

In response to the full-page ad in last week's Driftwood concerning the referendum on the proposed fire hall site, I offer some corrections and a more appropriate perspective.

The Fire Protection District long ago realized that a new fire hall was needed to replace the aging hall in Ganges. The search for possible sites began in the early '90s. At that time, a piece of property was selected in the 100 Hills area, but neighbours were adamant that a fire hall didn't bode well with their lifestyle. It's been more than 15 years since the search began. The current board has been actively looking for a new site for three years, with limited success. We have considered a number of properties, including one on Rainbow Road that was taken off the table when the neighbouring community felt the location, close to the high school, was inappropriate due to student pedestrian traffic. The bowling alley on Kings Lane was considered last year, and public opinion again expressed disapproval for the site, this time because of the proximity to seniors' facilities, pedestrian traffic, etc. The property at 300 Upper Ganges Road became available and was listed in February. The district looked at the property and obtained professional assistance to determine that it is a very suitable location. A \$14,000 deposit was then made in order to hold the site, and have enough time to take the purchase to referendum for public approval.

A paid advertisement published April 9 indicated that this site was deemed unsuitable by the fire district five years ago. This is simply not true. The site was unavailable five years ago. It has never been considered unsuitable, and is in fact a very good loca-

### GUEST COLUMN

tion.

The ferry traffic volume that the ad alludes to is a minor issue in terms of site selection. Ferry traffic is something that the fire department has to deal with all over the island. The current Ganges fire hall deals with traffic from all three ferries: Hall 3 at Central has ferry traffic backed up hourly in the summer months; and emergency vehicles regularly respond to calls along Morningside in Fulford when the summer ferry traffic is backed up or just coming in.

Upper Ganges Road from Robinson to Lower Ganges is one of the widest roads on the island, with shoulders on both sides. In the event of an emergency response along this stretch during ferry traffic, there is room for vehicles to pull over to the shoulders, allowing fire apparatus to proceed up the centre of the road. There are also several alternative response routes from this location, including Upper Ganges Road to Central, Robinson Road to the north, and Leisure Lane. Our response times for many areas on the island will be significantly improved from this new location. Additionally, traffic warning lights, activated by the fire hall in the event of any emergency response, will be installed to alert oncoming traffic of the emergency vehicles exiting the hall.

At this time, we are asking the community to approve only the location of the future fire hall. Until we have a site secured, we cannot develop accurate budget figures. This would be akin to designing the house you want to build before you obtain your property. This two-stage process is

both logical and responsible, and is in fact how both the pool and library sites were acquired. The community will have ample opportunity to analyze a detailed budget on the hall construction and outfitting prior to a second referendum and the district will take the time necessary to design a hall that comes in on budget.

Should the second referendum not meet with approval, we will still have the site secured, which is a considerable advance over our present position, and the trustees will have to refine the fire hall design and budget to meet with the community's approval. As we must relocate the main fire hall from the centre of Ganges and the proposed site is suitable for that purpose, a design acceptable to the community will be constructed on it and it will be used for the purpose intended in the current referendum.

The ad also indicates that this proposed site is overpriced. The price of \$540,000 for a 3.53-acre property located close to the town core is fair market value. It is \$10,000 under the asking price and about 20 per cent over the B.C. Assessment value. It is rare that a property on Salt Spring will sell at the assessed value. This is the most affordable property the district has found within close proximity to Ganges that is suitable for a fire hall. It is also important to note that proceeds from the future sale of the Ganges fire hall will be applied to the costs of the new hall.

We have considered expanding Hall 3 at Central, but have ruled that out as not feasible. The Central property is far too small. The grassy area in front includes a septic field for Central Hall across the road. The suggestion made that the district should expropriate the two properties north of Hall 3 is not considered by the trustees to be a

relevant or acceptable procedure on Salt Spring Island. Were the district to expropriate in order to site a new fire hall, other properties closer to the centre of Ganges would be more attractive. Furthermore, at Hall 3, we would need both of the adjacent small properties, plus the government gravel storage yard, and the cost would likely be significantly higher than the proposed location on Upper Ganges Road. Finally, expanding the Central location would also leave an area mid island in an "unprotected zone" for insurance purposes.

The trustees have been diligent in exploring all available site options. Could we imagine a location better than 300 Upper Ganges Road? Quite possibly, but it is the best site available at an affordable price. There is no certainty that waiting more years will produce a more attractive site. Any other property is highly likely to cost taxpayers more, perhaps much more.

The Ganges fire hall is falling down around the department. It is not seismically sound and in the event of a major tremor, there is a catastrophic risk that vehicles, staff and volunteers would be trapped in the hall, unable to respond to calls.

In 2005, the independent Fire Underwriters Survey examined all aspects of the fire department and made numerous recommendations, of which the replacement of the Ganges fire hall was a main priority. The FUS is available for all to view in the trustees section at [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com).

I urge all eligible readers to go to the Ganges fire hall on Monday, April 21 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to vote in support of Bylaw 103 for the purchase of the proposed site at 300 Upper Ganges Road.

*The writer is a fire trustee and volunteer firefighter.*



Islands Trust

**ISLANDS TRUST  
SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL  
TRUST COMMITTEE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee will hold a public hearing within a Special Local Trust Committee Meeting on the following proposed bylaw:

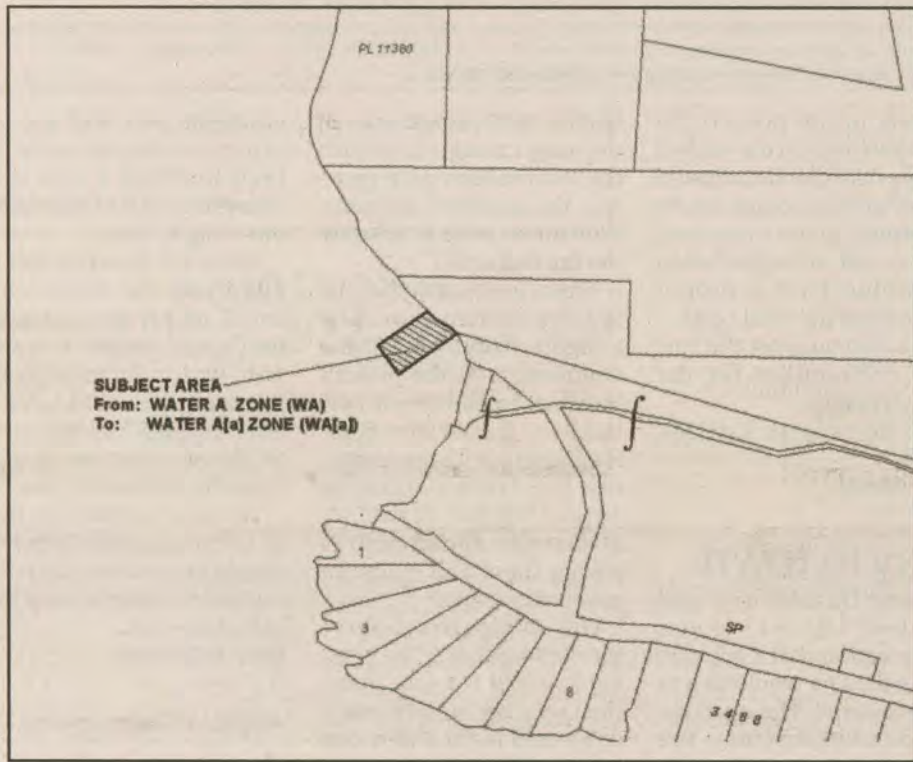
- Bylaw No. 93 – cited as “Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2002, Amendment No. 1, 2008”

for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw at **12:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the Saturna Island Recreation and Cultural Centre (Gym), 104 Harris Road, Saturna Island.**

At the public hearing all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw.

**Bylaw No. 93 – cited as “Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2002, Amendment No. 1, 2008”**

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 93 is to amend the Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw by changing the zoning of a portion of the foreshore and land covered by water described as a Portion of Unsurveyed Foreshore or Land Covered by Water being part of the beds of Breezy Bay and Plumper Sound, Saturna Island, Cowichan District from the Water A Zone to the Water A(a) Zone as shown on the following map. The proposed bylaw amendment is to allow for the (commercial) use of a dock for the loading and unloading of guests and the moorage of boats in conjunction with the upland Farm Resort Zone (winery).



A copy of the proposed bylaw and any background material that may be considered by the Trust Committee in respect of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, **commencing April 11, 2008 and up to and including April 25, 2008.**

Also for the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2) (e) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Saturna Island, B.C., commencing April 9, 2008 and can also be viewed on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltr/sa/bylaws.cfm>

Written submissions may be delivered to:

1. the office of the Islands Trust: by mail at #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, by Fax (250) 405-5155 or can be sent on-line by going to the Islands Trust Website at the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltr/sa/meetings.cfm> and completing the “Public Hearing, April 26, 2008, Submission Form”, prior to 4:30 p.m., April 25, 2008;
2. after 4:30 p.m., April 25, 2008 to the Trust Committee at the Public Hearing at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, 2008.

Email comments should not be considered as complying with the requirements of this notice. The Islands Trust does not guarantee that any email comment will be received by the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide email comments, if they are opened and received, to the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee for consideration, but the public should not rely on email as a means of providing a written comment.

Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Island Planner, Gary Richardson at (250) 405-5157 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

**NO REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Kathy Jones  
Deputy Secretary

## OPINION

### MORE LETTERS

continued from A11

### Try hydro property

The proposed new fire hall site is unacceptable for too many reasons, only one of which is cost.

I believe the B.C. Hydro property now housing the office building for the Islands Trust could have plenty of room for a combination fire hall and ambulance building with shared operating facilities.

It appears that the ambulance group is also looking to buy a piece of property. Perhaps the current fire hall at Central might be sold to help pay for the new buildings.

Please vote no in the upcoming referendum.

**JACK ALBHOUSE,**  
CHURCHILL ROAD

### Enlarge Central

When is the fire department on Salt Spring Island going to realize that Salt Spring is a small island and doesn't need a city-sized fire department?

Presently they have seven paid employees, and command vehicles and equipment that would make any same-sized community drool. They presently have a new piece of equipment already ordered and want to add a new ladder truck. How many high rises do we have on Salt Spring? How can they justify their wants? Many Salt Spring Island properties are inaccessible by the new equipment that has already been bought.

Can we support a new state of the art fire hall? Do we really need a training facility when there are others on Vancouver Island?

Why don't they enlarge the Central and Fulford fire halls and forget about another fire hall location to replace the Ganges one? I believe that from Central they can be anywhere as quickly as they could

be from the new location they have already chosen and paid a non-refundable deposit on. This was also done before the islanders have had a chance to vote on it.

Central is called Central because it is Central. There are properties adjacent to Central that may be able to be bought for less than the new site is going to cost.

**J. BARRETT,**  
SALT SPRING

### Response times

Sometimes a simple demonstration can clarify a situation better than any number of words. For example: when bicycle helmets were first legislated as mandatory, it was suggested opponents put on a helmet and then hit themselves in the head with a 2 by 4. Then they were to remove the helmet and try it again.

So, regarding the proposed new fire hall site and critical response time: Pick a quiet winter day and drive from the proposed site to somewhere south of Ganges. Then do the same thing any summer day just after the Long Harbour ferry has produced a line-up of disoriented tourists, disgruntled locals trying to avoid or get out of the line-up, a random scattering of bicycles hauling kids and camp gear all mixed in with some boarders, dreadlocks, loose dogs and novices on scooters.

If you don't vote “no” to Bylaw 103 allowing for the purchase of this proposed site you need to try the 2X4 thing without the helmet again.

**JOHN WIEBE,**  
OLD SCOTT ROAD

### Culture

The installation of the bronze sculptures in Grace Point Square warrants some celebratory congratulations to artist Lynn Demers. (Front-page photo and “Bronze sculptures inspire emotion” article, April 9 Driftwood.)

It is fantastic to see larger

(but not monumental) work installed in a “public space” in Ganges. But is Grace Point Square really “public space” or is it better defined as “commercial space” open to the public? The crucial element here is simply “who” decides “what” is to be installed?

As a community we have no public art policy. So by default the commercial galleries make decisions presumably based more on a profit motive. This is not always in the best interest of a vibrant art scene that challenges the viewer and artist alike. ArtSpring is doing some innovative things as the Salt Spring Arts Council has done at Mahon Hall. Their programs contain a civic motive and a vision of Salt Spring as a community of artists. But unlike our competing neighbours on Vancouver Island, funding for these institutions is dismally inadequate.

The Islands Trust has so far shown no interest in assuring the “economic sustainability” of artists on this island. In the Islands Trust Tourism Forum of 2006 there was barely more than lip service paid to the need to attract art lovers from our region.

In the Salt Spring Island Design Charette in 2007, there was definitely a strong demonstration of the contribution that the arts is making and could make in the future to our civic and economic well being. But the Trust continues to ignore that the arts are a major industry for driving the economy of our island. Their policies concentrate preserving an ecosystem which apparently does not contain human culture as an asset.

The J. Mitchell Gallery of Grace Point Square has in its limited way shown us what “public art” can be. Our trustees Peter Lamb and George Ehring and regional director Gary Holman need to start paying attention. Let's develop a real public art program to showcase our culture.

**GARY CHERNEFF,**  
LONG HARBOUR

**I support Mary Gillies  
and her bid to be  
re-elected Trustee of  
Salt Spring Island  
Fire Protection District.  
I also ask you  
to vote “Yes” in the  
referendum to purchase  
property for the  
new Fire Hall site.**

**Bruce Patterson**

## No second Erskine trail

For many years, Salt Spring hikers have enjoyed access to Mount Erskine through the Jack Fisher trail, named after my father who provided the land to the parks board.

We recently became aware that someone has presumed to post a sign proclaiming a "north" Jack Fisher trail through land he still owns. For obvious reasons, signs like this will be removed and people who use it should know that they are trespassing on private property at their own risk.

We consider it somewhat offensive that people will take advantage of Dad's generosity and decide to advertise a "gentler" route through land which Dad has clearly told the hiking club is not available to the general public. We do appreciate the majority of responsible hikers who use and care for the trail as Dad intended.

DAVE FISHER,  
POWELL RIVER

## More mail

Canada Post's new ruling states that all mail (not just addressed admail) is to be delivered as addressed.

Mail couriers will no longer be able to intercept mail for people who they know are no longer living at that address.

I suggest that households which have had previous tenants or owners keep a pen handy in the mailbox to write "moved" or "no longer

here" on this unwanted mail. This enables the couriers to take it back to the post office so that it can be returned to sender. If you simply mail it back with nothing written on it it will re-appear in your mailbox the next day.

The onus is now on the recipient of the mail to redirect other people's correspondence. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Canada Post's customer service department at 1-800-267-1177.

ANNA MCCOLM,  
RURAL ROUTE COURIER,  
SALT SPRING

## Dishrags, not Furies

I enjoyed the April 2 preview of The Relatives, Salt Spring Island's own unique rock and roll Upex family. Those who caught the well-attended fundraiser for the Salt Spring Island Dragon Boat show at Meaden Hall on April 5 were treated to three sets of non-stop rocking tunes by multi-instrumentalists Tom, Scout, Jake and Clayton.

I want to clarify, however, an error in the historical information. Your preview article stated that Scout was a member of legendary Vancouver punk band, The Furies. This is not correct. She was a member of the equally legendary punk band, The Dishrags, a trio of 15-year-old young women who inspired a generation of female alternative bands throughout North America.

I was in The Furies, and 30 odd years ago we and the Dishrags organized the

first punk show in Western Canada at the Japanese Hall in Vancouver's downtown east side. Scout's best friend Jade, my cousin, was the Dishrag's guitarist. Anyhow, its all relative(s).

CHRIS ARNETT,  
WALKER'S HOOK

## Impressive

On April 6, Islanders for Self-Government (ISG) hosted a talk by Brian White, the director of the School of Tourism and Hotel Management at Royal Roads and Isabell Hadford, the former CAO of Bowen Island.

I was impressed to imagine how Bowen got its own municipal government up and running in such a short time, funding numerous staff positions, some of the road work that is needed, municipal infrastructure and so on. And I'm grateful that Lisa Barrett and others who opposed incorporation continued serving their community, even though they were disappointed with the vote to incorporate.

I'm also very impressed with how well things work here on Salt Spring, with our current governing structure. Some examples include: plans to compost our liquid sewage waste, a recycling program paid for by tipping fees (not property taxes), watershed plans, an energy strategy, public transit and more. Through the Regional Housing Trust Fund we have received \$375,000 to help make housing more affordable. Many Salt Springers are involved in making these changes happen; our gover-

nance structure encourages grassroots involvement.

Even though Salt Spring has won one of the province's first ever Green Cities Awards, and this island has managed to save over 4,000 acres of land from the bulldozer and chainsaw, I think our greatest challenges concern protection of the ecosystems that sustain life. As Guy Dauncey and others have pointed out, if we allow the "measles map" type of development to go ahead, we will erode the ecological and social well-being of this island.

Brian White agrees about the importance of this issue and urges us to get widespread community involvement to develop a strategic plan for clustering future development. White believes incorporation would help us achieve this goal. But I think the incorporation effort is unhelpful.

Ken Marr wonders why our elected officials are opposed to an updated study on the merits of incorporation. As for me, I wish the money that such a study would require could be spent in a more productive way. Let's direct our efforts towards finding ways to prevent sprawl and to promote food security and sense of community.

In closing, I'd like to thank ISG for getting the ball rolling on the Natural Step initiative; I'm hoping we can work together towards sustainability, even if we disagree on the incorporation issue.

JAN SLAKOV,  
DEER PARK ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on A14

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ROYAL LePAGE  
SALT SPRING REALTY

The following Salt Spring Islanders support the acquisition of a site for our future main fire hall at 300 Upper Ganges Road, and urge you to vote YES in the referendum on Bylaw 103.

*We support...*

Aaron Hannah-Matin  
Alisa Owen  
Andy Hickman  
Angela Jackson  
Anne MacAulay  
Annie Koenig  
Arjuna George  
Barb Minvielle  
Ben Martens  
Ben Taylor  
Bev Cartwright  
Brent Dick  
Brian Hartley  
Brian Wolfe-Milner  
Brittney Woods  
Bruce Patterson  
Carla Hansen  
Carlos Seguin  
Caroline Hickman  
Cathy George  
Charles Bazzard  
Chris Bonson  
Colby Sawchuk  
Dale Lundy

Dan Akerman  
Darren Viberg  
Dave Enfield  
David Wood  
Debbie Enfield  
Derek Barrio  
Diane Hayes  
Dominique Gaudet  
Don Hickman  
Don Irwin  
Don Smith  
Doug Ponsford  
Ellen Hazenboom  
Elsa Fraser  
Emma Wilcox  
Erika Ponsford  
Fiona Foster  
Glen Smith  
Gordon Cartwright  
Gordon Speed  
Grant Gussie  
Greg Slakof  
Hans Hazenboom  
Ian Whipple

Irene Lundy  
Jamie Holmes  
Jay MacAulay  
Jen Holmes  
Jim Buckley  
Jim Witherspoon  
Jon Rubatscher  
Joyce Taylor  
Juanita Bonson  
Judy Guedes  
Karen Hartley  
Kathleen Carson  
Kathleen Horsdal  
Kirstin Flannagan  
Kris Plambeck  
Laurence Spencer  
Leah Woods  
Leslie Colley  
Lil Irwin  
Linda Wilcox  
Lisa Lloyd  
Loretta Rithaler  
Maggie Schubart  
Mario Tello



Mark Rithaler

Mark Wyatt

Marlyn Horsdal

Marty Jackson

Mary Gilles

Mary Lou Speed

Michael Schubart

Mike Arnott

Mitchell Sherrin

Mylene Dammel-Sherrin

Nel Bushby

Peter Ogis

Rick Kilbourn

Rob Hunter

Rob Minvielle

Robert Hansen

Ron Spencer

Roy Cronin

Ryon Guedes

Sally Bazzard

Sandy Guedes

Sheralin Cook

Sheri Hickman

Steve Hunt

Tamara Wesley

Ted Harrison

Tom Woods

Tony Kennedy

Travis Guedes

Valdy Horsdal

Wayne Wrigley

Wendy Kennedy

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MICHAEL SCHUBART 653-4036

## About to list your house for sale?



Times have changed and so have the real estate companies and their business models.

Today's buyers use the Internet to search for their new home. Primarily they use the Multiple Listing Service web site mls.ca. This has empowered the buyers and put them in the driver's seat.

**One Percent Realty** is a company that has a very simple business model: low overhead and low fees charged to their agents. The low overhead is passed on to consumers in the way of low commissions. The sellers still get full MLS® listings, signs, open houses, local advertising, lock boxes, etc...

**Compare commissions** charged. One Percent charges a commission of \$5000 plus a \$800 disbursement fee +gst for houses up to \$500,000. For houses over \$500,000 it is 1% plus the \$800 disbursement fee +gst. The commission is shared between the buying and or selling REALTORS®.

This is an example. There are no standard commissions. All real estate companies are free to set their own rate. If an agent charges 7% on the first \$100,000 and 3% on the balance for selling a \$500,000 home the commission would be \$19,000 +gst = \$19,950. If you listed with One Percent Realty the commission would be \$5,800 +gst = \$6,090. **The savings would be \$13,860.** Think of the savings like this. If you earn \$25 per hour it would take a staggering 554.4 hours - more than 3 months of work to make that much.

**The big myth** "If I list with One Percent the other agents won't show my house". **The reality** is other REALTORS® on Salt Spring do show my listings. Overall 70% of One Percent listings are sold by other agents. The first listing sold by One Percent on Salt Spring was sold through another agent working for another brokerage. The buyers see what they want to see. Buyers have access to all the MLS® listings.

Scott Simmons is proud to be the Salt Spring REALTOR® for One Percent Realty Vancouver Island.

If you would like to talk to me about selling your Salt Spring house call me direct at 538-8316, and let's work out a plan of action. Let me show you my existing internet marketing system that enhances the MLS.



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Salt Spring agent for

**One Percent Realty Vancouver Island**

## OPINION

### MORE LETTERS

continued from A13

### Support soil bylaw

Many years of work to prevent illegal mining in Salt Spring neighbourhoods now hang in the balance.

Those who want to preserve and protect our island should turn out this Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel's Green Room for what may be the last chance to back an effective soil removal bylaw. The bylaw was crafted by our trustees and Islands Trust staff, in consultation with the island contractors and builders organization, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, the Salt Spring Neighbourhoods Coalition, and other groups, and with reference to similar bylaws in other jurisdictions.

However, at the last local Trust committee meeting, many from the contractors group objected to the contents of the agreed-to draft of the bylaw, and demanded yet another public meeting. They allege that the bylaw has the support of only a small group of residents in the Stewart Road area, who were the first to experience the impact of illegal gravel mining operations.

It is essential, therefore, that all members of the community who want their neighbourhoods and the environment in general protected by a fair and enforceable bylaw attend the coming meeting to show their support for the bylaw and for our trustees.

**DEREK LUNDY,**  
 SKY VALLEY ROAD

### 'Real farmers'

Using a farm credit corporation's definition of farming, Peter Calderhead ("No island for farming," March 12 Driftwood letter) asserted that there isn't a single real farmer on Salt Spring Island. I'd guess he is right. I'll go further: there may not be a single farmer in North America. We are all starting and don't know it.

To convince you, I only need your agreement to add to "without outside income" the phrase "or income substitutes," which are things you get below cost that reduce expenses. A friend who saves you trips to market with your tomatoes because she is going anyway, is giving you an income substitute.

It turns out there are lots of them.

Maybe you got your land, buildings or production quota as an inheritance well below market value. Maybe you pay lower taxes because your land is "frozen" in an agricultural use zone. Maybe you use diesel or gasoline or plastic bale wrap or a thousand other items whose manufacturing, mining or distribution is subsidized.

Maybe you use roads to get or carry stuff: governments subsidize all users of roads, rails and airplanes, and heavy users benefit more. Maybe you cut corners while farming, getting more income now or spending less at the expense of eroding soil, lowered water table, or increased soil, air or water pollution.

Maybe you've enrolled in a government soil and water

conservation program that pays you to do things good farming would require anyway, like multi-year fallow, streambank revegetation, no-till, contour plowing, gully blocking or headwater pond construction. Maybe your product is covered by government or quasi-government quotas and price controls that increase average income or reduce risk.

Maybe at about 60, you sell your land to a house-building firm at a price unrelated to the land's ability to grow crops; that unearned income is how you support a quarter century of retirement.

When you come down to it, if I were in an amazing race to find the first truly self-supporting farm and farm community, I'd get the first flight to Peru and yell "TIME!" when I see a woman with a hoe growing squash and potatoes in the high Andes.

The trouble with definitions of farming by banks and economists and B.C. Assessment personnel is that they match the neckties of Cargill and Monsanto much better than the overalls of growers. Real farmers? A real farmer has a passion for the calling, a passion for the living and lively land, for the rewards of long experience and long thinking, of accepting challenge, of trusting nature's response to care.

A real farmer loves equally the sense of achievement through work and skill, and the pride of being part of historic and continuing dependencies — call it community-enabling and defining farming. A real

farmer leaves soil more productive, water cleaner and more abundant, air purer, than the previous owner did. A real farmer extends the hand of partnership and stewardship to all the little wild lives of the farm. A real farmer would lose an eye rather than sell the farm to someone whose plans would destroy the land.

Yes, and a real farmer knows that a test of profitability has to be passed if the time and care required for good farming is to be supported, and if another generation, eager but prudent, will accept the farming challenge.

I don't really care, you see, whether a Salt Spring farmer or Red Deer rancher or PEI spudman meets a corporation's definition of farming. Bankers shouldn't define farming anyway. And what, pray tell, is wrong with helping to produce food for yourself and neighbours by plumbing or teaching on the side?

I'm not the B.C. Assessment Authority's farm poster boy. I've only played at farming recently, in retirement. We support orchard and garden with pension, pottery, free labour and earnings from stock in companies selling red ink. I'm a long way beyond Peter's pale. But Judy and I will keep our remnant of the historic farm, built first by the Whims and then by the Hedgers, productive; leave it better than we found it; and pass it on to someone who feels the same. Real farmers are thankful these days for whatever allies they can find.

**BY BOB WEEDEN**  
 SALT SPRING

## It's a grassroots movement. And it's growing.

That's because, this year, we've made a pledge to become pesticide free. So we're taking all our leftover pesticides to an authorized depot. Then we're starting our lawn on a five step program that includes aeration, mowing on a high setting and leaving our clippings on the lawn. If we can do it, you can too.



### Take the pledge to join our grassroots movement.

Join the grassroots revolution by signing up on line to go pesticide free. Then get a free lawn sign to show your commitment. Visit [www.crd.bc.ca/takethepledge](http://www.crd.bc.ca/takethepledge) to take the pledge and find information on alternative lawn and garden care.

### Authorized disposal depots:

Alpine Disposal, 1045 Dunford Street

Ellice Recycle, 524 David Street

Hartland Recycling Facility

Saltspring Island Recycling,  
 349 Rainbow Road

[www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

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# On April 21, 2008

## Vote for the Candidates with a Real Understanding of Fire/Rescue Operations



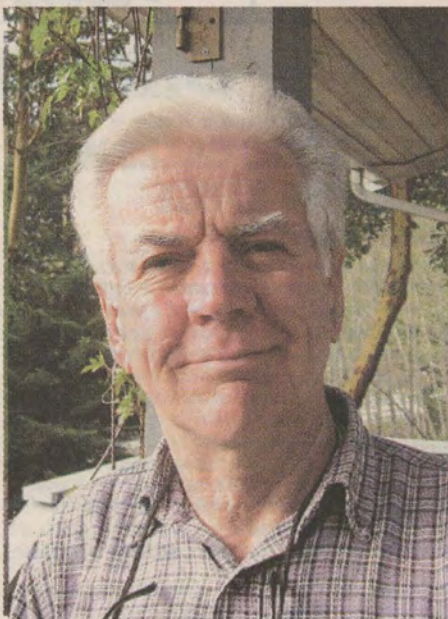
### Re-Elect Mary Gillies

- ✓ 3 years active experience as Salt Spring Fire District Trustee
- ✓ Property Owner on Salt Spring since 1989
- ✓ 20 year career as Project Manager; Knowledge of Fire Department Operations
- ✓ Executive Manager; Director of Operations for a 300 staff software development group; skilled in strategic planning
- ✓ Owner/operator of Salt Spring Linen & Drycleaners

To contact Mary Gillies, email: [drycleaners@telus.net](mailto:drycleaners@telus.net)

### Why should you vote for us?

- ✓ We will work towards implementing the recommendations set out in the 10 year plan for your fire/rescue service.
- ✓ We will work diligently and in a fiscally responsible manner on the design and construction of a new fire hall.
- ✓ We will support both our volunteer and career firefighters by providing improved and safer training.
- ✓ We are part of your community and want to address your concerns - we will listen to you and involve you in the decision process.
- ✓ We will work towards realistic goals for your fire/rescue service in a fiscally responsible manner.



### Elect Derek Barrio

- ✓ 26 years as volunteer firefighter
- ✓ 40 years in engineering and sales management
- ✓ Past-President of N.E. Coquitlam Ratepayers Association
- ✓ Past Rear-Commodore of Salt Spring Island Sailing Club
- ✓ Current member of Advisory Planning Commission

To contact Derek Barrio, email: [barrio@shaw.ca](mailto:barrio@shaw.ca)

*Paid for by the Campaign to  
re-elect Mary Gillies and  
elect Derek Barrio*

**Saltspring Island Fire Protection District Trustees Election  
Monday, April 21, 2008 between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM.  
at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Fulford-Ganges Road**



## OPINION

### Rants

A rant to the person who stole gravel from the Partners Creating Pathways project. This pathway is for the community. Shame on you. J. Gelwicks

### Roses

I would like to send bundles and bundles of daffodils to my Grandma. She brought my Mom, Great Grandma and myself out to Salt Spring Island with her for a little

## RANTS and Roses

holiday. Thank you so much Grandma, we had a wonderful time, and can't wait to visit again! Love, Kaydince

Roses to Martin and Nickolas for sewing the much-needed new elastic bands for the Meals on Wheels Boxes. Catherine

Sweetheart roses to each and every one of you who stuffs their receipts into Box #47 Save-a-Tape at GVM for Copper Kettle Community Partnership. Your thoughtfulness allows us to help feed the hungry and sustain young families. Thank you, from the heart.

Roses to our fire department members who went to a lot of trouble on Saturday to help teach the community about home safety and fire extinguisher use. Do you know your P.A.S.S. word? Sue Mouat

657 Nootka roses to the transportation commission and CRD director Gary Holman for designing a bus system that people want to take 657 trips on in one week — almost twice the target number already! JS

# Ganges Village Market News

100% SALT SPRING OWNED AND OPERATED

## Salt Spring...

★ Thank you very much for making the ONE DAY CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE such a huge success!

★ Through your help, Jasmine was able to raise \$765.00 for Children's Hospital.

★ And an extra special thanks to all our staff and family, for all their hard work throughout the sale! Without their help none of this would have been possible.

- MANAGEMENT, GANGES VILLAGE MARKET



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- 1 large lemon
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- Salt
- Cayenne pepper
- Milk (just in case)
- Flour
- 3 medium potatoes
- Black pepper
- 1 green onion
- Crab shrimp salmon or cod
- Vegetables



THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET WEST COAST POTATO CAKES WITH EASY HOLLANDAISE SAUCE

Short cuts to cooking for one or two © with Sarah Lynn, 2007

Hollandaise sauce is an emulsion of butter and lemon juice using egg yolks as the emulsifying agent, usually seasoned with salt and a little black pepper or cayenne pepper. Hollandaise [HOL-uhn-dayz] sauce is well known as a key ingredient in Eggs Benedict. It is also commonly served over vegetables and fish. The sauce is 19th century French, so-named because it imitated a sauce served in North and South Holland - two provinces of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - but used Norman butter (renowned for its quality) and added the egg. Properly made it should be smooth and creamy, and if beaten long enough will hold its shape as firmly as whipped cream. It tastes very rich and buttery, with a mild tanginess added by the lemon juice and seasonings. Hollandaise is notoriously difficult to make well and to hold. It must be made and served warm, but not hot. If the ingredients are not mixed properly, or if they are kept too cold or too hot, they will separate, resulting in an oily mess filled with particles of egg yolk. Sauces in French cuisine date back to Medieval times. There were hundreds of sauces in the lore. In 'classic' French cooking (as opposed to nouvelle cuisine) sauces were a major defining characteristic of French cuisine. In the 19th century, the chef Antonin Carême classified sauces into four families, each of which was based on a Mother Sauce or Grand Sauce. Carême's four mother sauces were: Allemande (based on stock with egg yolk & lemon juice); Béchamel (based on flour and milk); Espagnole (based on brown stock, beef etc.) and Velouté (based on a light broth, fish, chicken or veal). In the early 20th century, the chef Auguste Escoffier updated the classification, replacing sauce Allemande with egg-based emulsions (Hollandaise and mayonnaise), and adding tomato. Escoffier's schema—Béchamel, Espagnole, Hollandaise, Mayonnaise, Tomato sauce, Velouté—is still taught to chefs today. There are near infinite possibilities for variation but all sauces are based on the basic formulas. Sauces are one of the fundamentals of cooking. Know the basics and you'll be able to prepare a multitude of recipes like a professional.

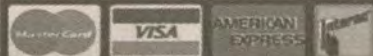
Hollandaise sauce: (Stir briskly all the time throughout.) Stir 2 egg yolks & 2 tablespoons lemon juice with a wooden spoon in a small heavy saucepan over low heat. Add 1/4 cup cold butter and stir until it has melted. Then add 1/4 cup more cold butter, salt & cayenne. Stir again until it has melted and the sauce has thickened. If your sauce fails (separates), cheat by adding 3 tablespoons of flour & 1/2 cup milk to the ingredients for a nice mock sauce. Potato cakes: Grate 3 medium peeled potatoes. Place in a bowl filled with water & let sit 5 minutes. Squeeze the moisture from the grated potatoes with your hands. Put the squeezed potatoes into a dry bowl & toss with 3 tablespoons flour. Add 1 beaten egg, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, and 1 sliced green onion. Drop mixture by spoonfuls onto a hot oiled skillet. Brown cakes on both sides for about 3 minutes each side. Top with cooked crab, shrimp, salmon or cod & warm, fresh Hollandaise sauce. Serve with grilled veggies of your choice on the side.

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## OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**COOKIE SPARKS:** Spring must have sprung as youngsters with the Girl Guides of Canada program take to the streets with boxes of their famous cookies. Seen here, from left, are Jaqueline Bates-Wong, Hope Caldwell, Emma Ham-brook, Sarah Phipps and Natasha Wilson.

## Of incorporation and social contracts

BY GARY HOLMAN

I am responding to articles by Islanders for Self(ish) Government (ISG) president Ken Marr and Bowen Island councillor Peter Frinton.

Corresponding with Mr. Marr is like talking to a radio. He wonders why the trustees and I do not support an incorporation study.

Haven't we repeatedly stated we are simply remaining true to our clear mandate from the last election? Surely, as the self-styled expert on democracy, he would understand this. Mr. Marr makes the silly claim that I agree a municipality has improved access to infrastructure grants. But I actually argued that \$20 million in senior government funding for Salt Spring Island since 2002 demonstrates this is a bogus issue.

Despite Mr. Marr's previous promises to clean up ISG's act, their misinformation campaign continues. What purpose would a new incorporation study serve when ISG hasn't the integrity to properly report the results of the 2002 report?

For example, he accuses me of scare tactics for simply repeating the 2002 report's conclusions that incorporation would significantly raise taxes on Salt Spring, even with no increase in road spending above the Ministry of Transportation's current levels.

When Mr. Marr specifically addresses Capital Regional District (CRD) taxes on Salt Spring, he demonstrates a disconcerting ignorance of the facts or willingly misrepresents them — I'm not sure which is worse. CRD taxes

### IN RESPONSE

have increased by 65 per cent from 2002-08 (about 8.7 per cent per year), not 75 per cent as he states. This data can be easily obtained on the CRD website.

He states that Salt Spring "pays taxes to the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) for hospitals in Duncan." Yikes! Salt Spring, along with the southern Gulf Islands, pays property taxes to the Capital Region Hospital District, not VIHA, and only for hospitals in the CRD.

Yes, these are the same southern Gulf Islands (paying property taxes for Lady Minto and our beautiful high school), from which Mr. Marr would strip Trust planning funding.

So the social contract is fine with ISG, as long as Salt Spring is the only beneficiary.

Mr. Marr admits that part of the CRD tax increase on Salt Spring includes "special items" approved separately by taxpayers through referendum or counter-petition.

But he cannot bring himself to acknowledge my point that municipal "financial flexibility" means they can avoid direct taxpayer assent. In fact, Salt Spring taxpayers directly approved almost half of all CRD tax increases over the 2002-08 period, including funding for the pool, the arts, search and rescue, the Ganges village library site and public transit.

When CRD-wide services such as

hospitals and regional parks are taken into account (a Salt Spring municipality would still contribute to these), the portion of CRD taxes over which the CRD director has most discretion increased at about the rate of inflation from 2002-08.

As for Mr. Frinton, he agrees that a municipality has the authority to (as Bowen did) shift property taxes from commercial properties to homeowners, that a municipality can end run the Trust and that taking over roads is very costly.

Remarkably, he admits that after eight years, his roads have still not improved — remember that Salt Spring has a much more extensive road network than Bowen.

He disagrees that the Trust is nowhere to be seen on Bowen, but look for yourself on their website. And consider the indisputable facts that in addition to end running the Trust, a Trust representative no longer participates in local decisions, and that at least five of seven councillors are not directly elected to represent the Trust mandate.

Mr. Frinton predictably disagrees that incorporation breaks the social contract with the rest of the Trust.

This is a matter of core values, but there is no doubt that the political and financial consequences for the Trust of Salt Spring Island's incorporation would be much more serious than Bowen's.

*The writer is Salt Spring's electoral area director to the CRD.*

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of the world ..  
H. D. Thoreau

Earth Day  
April 22

[www.greenisland.ca](http://www.greenisland.ca)

m.perry photo

## OPINION

# Farmers Institute opposes hall site

*Editor's note: The following letter was addressed to Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District chair Michael Schubart and cced to the Driftwood for publishing in this week's issue. Because the referendum will be held before Schubart could respond, the Driftwood agreed to publish his response to the Farmers Institute as well.*

Salt Spring Island Farmers Institute supports and encourages the efforts of our island fire department and its volunteers. However, the institute is strongly opposed to the fire trustees' proposed new fire hall at the corner of Long Harbour Road and Upper Ganges Road for the following reasons.

Notwithstanding a number of fiscal management, logistical and long-term taxation implications with the proposed site (found to be inadequate five years ago), which have already been raised by the community, the board of directors of the Salt Spring Island Farmers Institute finds the management of the current public referendum disturbing and alarming. The referendum is set up in two stages so that the first one seeks approval to purchase the property, while a second referendum, at an unspecified date, will look for public approval of all the costs associated with the buildings and installation of utilities (most notably water). This tactic does not provide property owners with a clear financial picture of the total costs of the proposal and the resulting tax burden. The institute urges you to provide full disclosure of the fiscal plan before any public referendum is placed before the community.

The island's agricultural community and its representatives were, over the last year, involved with the fire trustees in the establishment of a fire training centre in the Fulford Valley on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land. Environmentally appropriate solutions were reached and we believe that a level of trust was re-established after much debate and input from island trustees, the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board, and the agricultural community. During those negotiations the representatives of the fire trustees clearly stated that no other land was available on the island to locate a fire training centre. This assurance was accepted in good faith. Within 24 hours of finalizing the recommendations by the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) to the Islands Trust and the Agricultural Land Commission to approve the project, the agricultural community became aware of the impending purchase of this proposed location. As a result of these actions, Salt Spring Island Farmers Institute is not the only organization on Salt Spring Island that lacks confidence in the methods and motives of the fire trustees board.

Finally, the Salt Spring Island Community Farm Plan, and the recommendations presented in the island's

official community plan review underline the need to preserve agricultural land and support food security for islanders. The proposal to establish a fire hall and a burn building (training facility) with its consequential environmental impacts on a neighbouring heritage farm is not acceptable.

More than 40 per cent of productive farms on Salt Spring Island are located outside of the ALR. Planned activities adjacent to these productive farms, not in the ALR, are not brought to the attention of the AAC and, therefore, have a real potential to negatively impact or eventually terminate farming on that land without any due process. Until a clear intervention process is implemented by the Islands Trust to protect farmland outside the ALR, the Farmers Institute will continue to oppose any development threatening productive farmland on Salt Spring Island.

**RICK VIPOND,**  
PRESIDENT,  
FARMERS INSTITUTE

## The response

To Mr. Vipond:

Your letter contains a repeat of incorrect information. This site was not rejected five years ago. It was never considered until the end of January 2008.

I think at this point almost everyone recognizes the need to replace the current fire hall in Ganges. We have had very few options for sites in the past. The site currently under consideration is the best available, and only came on the market at the end of January 2008.

The trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District have made our case that the two-stage process is both logical and responsible, and is in fact how both the pool and library sites were acquired. We think that it would be irresponsible to invest in complete design drawings and estimates for a new hall on a site that we didn't own. Purchasing the property is a necessary first step. We do not intend this property as a site for a training ground; we are trying to secure a site for a new main fire hall. There may be a possibility of having some training activities at this site, but it is not now nor has ever been viewed as an alternative to the Fulford installation. The .8 acre at Fulford has already been degraded as farmland while the orchard on the Upper Ganges Road site is intact. Although this is not ALR land, we would like to preserve the orchard. Any future installation of a "burn building" would be done so as to minimize any impact on the neighbours. It would only be used a few times a year when the burning hazard is low, and only propane and clean wood would be used for fuel.

If the Farmers Institute truly supports the fire department, as you claim, I would hope that you would work with us to make the project something of which the whole community can be proud.

**MICHAEL SCHUBART,**  
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES,  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Islands Trust

## Salt Spring Island – Shaping the Future Official Community Plan Review

### First Draft Now Available For Your Input

The Local Trust Committee is undertaking a review of our Official Community Plan. After months of hard work by many focus groups, many community meetings and comments from the public a first draft of the OCP is now available for public input.

### Come to a meeting

The Local Trust Committee is holding public meetings where you can ask questions and speak to the trustees and your fellow community members about changes to the OCP. We would like your input before the draft OCP proceeds to the public hearing stage later this year.

**Lion's Hall (103 Bonnet Avenue):  
Sunday April 20 – Town Hall meeting from 1:00 to 4:00 pm**

**Lion's Hall: Wednesday April 23 – Open House  
from 1:00 to 2:30 pm  
Town Hall meeting from 2:30 to 4:00 pm and 7:00 to 9:00 pm**

You can view the draft OCP, key background documents and related maps online at the Islands Trust website <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/default.cfm>. You can also get copies by contacting the Islands Trust office at:

Islands Trust, 1-500 Lower Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8  
Phone: (250) 538-5600  
Fax: (250) 537-9116

### Other ways you can provide input

You can also provide comments by using our online feedback form from the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area homepage of our web site at: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/default.cfm>

These meetings are part of the ongoing opportunities to provide your input to the trustees as draft amendments to the OCP are prepared. The Local Trust Committee welcomes your input and encourages everyone to participate in the OCP process.

To receive e-mail updates on the 'Latest News' on the official community plan review go to: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/default.cfm>

## OPINION

## Dollar finagling detracts from real incorporation study issue

BY KEN MARR

Islanders for Self-Government (ISG) is disappointed that our trustees have resorted to restating allegations already refuted and presenting innuendoes or other misleading information. ("ISG: inaccurate and zany assertions," April 9 Driftwood.)

At the same time, they do not seem to have a grasp on the financial reality of their own taxation figures and deny islanders access to up-to-date, accurate, unbiased information. Why is that?

Trustees George Ehring and Peter Lamb are quick to criticize the ISG advertisement on taxation and resort to slogans and name calling. They are quite correct to say the Trust budget can be hard to understand and possibly this is not entirely accidental. Take for example the fact that in 2002/03 the property taxes listed in their website are \$2,901,870. In 2008/2009, Trust property taxes have been approved at \$5,287,218 plus \$49,958 in new construction taxes for a total of \$5,337,176. An increase of \$2,435,306 or 83.9 per cent as stated in the advertisement.

Looking at the Trust budget history footnote, one sees that new construction is considered "non-market growth" and therefore somehow is not taxation. In the budget history every year, the percentage increase is understated to account for "non-market growth." This is not misleading? Allow the trustees' argument and take the "non-market growth" out of the 2008/2009 property tax total and you still have an 82.2 per cent increase in six years.

Our trustees would have us believe that the expenditure budget for 2008/2009 (recently approved on Hornby Island) is somehow not what will be spent. The Trust budget has increased every year except two since 1994/95. Even allowing for the \$331,435 reduction in the provincial grant, over a 14-year period the Trust has demonstrated that its expenditures rise to meet revenue sources (mostly residential taxes). ISG believes this is symptomatic of unrepresentative, distant decision making and lack of local government. Perhaps that is because they were elected "not just for the Salt Spring taxpayers, but for all of the Trust area, which they were elected to govern."

The fact is they were elected to oversee the land use of the Trust area, not to provide governance. They are quite right in stating that "incorporation would be serious." ISG feels that the lack of effective local accountable government, representative of local taxpayers and residents is also serious and deserves serious attention. This is why so many islanders want an updated study on incorporation!

More importantly, our trustees have failed to answer ISG's big question: Why do they want to keep current, accurate, complete and unbiased information, in the form of an incorporation study, from islanders? The question is not will they support incorporation for Salt Spring. Islanders

## IN RESPONSE

want the study so they can compare incorporation to the Trust "improvements" that have been suggested recently.

For those interested in figures, and in response to the trustees' claim of "inaccuracies and zany assertions" made in their letter of April 9, ISG offers the following facts: ISG states "Actual increase in Islands Trust taxes is \$342,000 or 6.8 per cent." Our trustees state "this isn't true."

The Trust budget history website shows \$4,995,795 for Islands Trust General Property Taxes 2007-2008 including "non market growth." Also on the Trust site, under 2008 Budget summary property tax levy, one finds the figure \$5,533,176 (including "non-market growth"). This figure is 6.83 per cent more than last year. Just as ISG's ad states.

In the same paragraph of the April 9 letter, the trustees state "with the average assessment of \$450,000," the tax increase will cost "less than a dollar a month." The average assessment on Salt Spring is actually \$534,713, not \$450,000. The Trust website states the increase will cost \$16.35 on a \$450,000 home, which gives a mil rate of 0.03633 that means the Salt Spring average homeowner will actually pay \$19.43 extra annually. Not a lot of money, granted, but our trustees say they want to be accurate.

ISG states "Actual increase in Trust budget since current trustees elected in 2005 — \$2,001,481." Our trustees state "that's wrong too." Our current trustees were elected in 2005. If one refers to the Island's Trust website, under budget history, one finds the figure \$4,152,025 under expenditure budget for 2004-2005. Referring to the 2008 Budget summary, the figure \$6,153,000 is stated for 2008-2009. The difference is \$2,000,975 (we were out by \$506) or 48.2 per cent. Our trustees seem OK with their figure of a 42.3 per cent increase since 2005-2006. ISG is not sure the increase is something islanders would be too happy with.

Our friends on Bowen have experienced a tax increase of only 31.5 per cent from 2002-2007. While not comparable to the Islands Trust in terms of services, Bowen Council has adjusted its staff budget increase request of 13 per cent down to seven per cent. Perhaps that is a measure of having local oversight and accountability. Their municipal taxes provide for running their own affairs and services such as water works, planning, building inspection, bylaw enforcement, roads and so on. They also contribute to GVRD for regional services, including a bus service along with hospital and school taxes.

In the April 9 letter, our trustees state "there are other wrong numbers, too, but you get the point." Islanders are getting the point. Our trustees are doing their best to spread misinformation, discredit ISG

and direct islanders from the real question. Why won't they let us have the up-to-date, unbiased, accurate information included in a current incorporation study?

A recent very informal poll of a group of about 40 people suggested 44 per cent of those that voted against incorporation would vote for it today. More indicated they might change their mind with a new study. All people who responded to the poll that voted for incorporation in 2002 would support it again.

ISG agrees with the trustees that the consequences of incorporating would be serious. Islanders do not want to make the decision without all of the facts. Islanders want to know why the trustees and CRD director Gary Holman will not allow them to have the facts.

ISG offered to go over these figures with the trustees. We posted all related documents on our website. (In fact, these documents are all sourced from the Islands Trust website!) The trustees chose to respond in an accusatory and misleading manner and avoid the big question.

Why are they so scared of accurate, complete, current, independent and unbiased information?

*The writer is president of ISG.*



## Vote Jay MacAulay for Fire Trustee

Monday, 21 April  
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Ganges Fire Hall

The Fire Dept. is a vital community resource. Thanks to the dedication of many volunteers Salt Spring has developed an excellent service,

There are some good candidates running for the Trustee positions with many years of fire fighting experience.

I can offer 30 years of senior management experience and a professional education in Engineering and Business Administration.

I like to be actively involved in the community I live in. On Salt Spring I have volunteered with the Seniors Centre, the Wildlife Rehab Centre and been on the Boards of the Golf and Tennis Clubs. Off the island, I have served on the Boards of various industry and labour relations associations, including the B.C. and American Trucking Associations.

Key decisions affecting the future of the Fire Dept. must be made in the next few years. The financial implications to the taxpayers of Salt Spring are significant.

I believe my business experience would be of benefit to the Board of Trustees of the Fire District in making these decisions.

For more information contact  
jmacaulay@hotmail.com



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SALTSPRING

## NEWSBEAT

### TRANSIT

# Bus schedule souped-up

Summer riders take note: new route and enhanced schedule in effect May 3

BY AMY GEDDES  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With the summer tourist season on the brink, Salt Spring buses are already filling up — yielding an all-time high of 657 rider trips last week.

And stepping up to meet the demand is the Salt Spring Island Transportation and Transit Commission to release an enhanced summer transit schedule before May 3.

“Ridership continues to exceed our expectations,” said the commission’s chair Bob Fenske on Monday.

He is pleased to announce a trial, Saturday-only loop route to the government wharf in Fernwood that will take summer riders from the Visitor Info Centre in Ganges, along North End, Fernwood and Walker’s Hook roads and returning via Malview and North End Road — the triumphant result of the

Fernwood community petitioning last month for service in their area.

**“This is our first summer schedule so there is lots of learning experience to be gained.”**

BOB FENSKE  
Chair, SSI Transportation and Transit Commission

Ravenstreet Market owner Richard Verhagen, who spearheaded the petition, said the growth he’s observed in the Fernwood neighbourhood over time warrants a route in the area.

“Fernwood point beach is full of people all day every day,” he said while the petition was still in progress. “We’ve been here seven years and the beach has never been so popular.”

Summer riders will also see more frequent service to

Fulford and Long Harbour plus four express routes from the Visitor Info Centre to Fulford Harbour that will have limited pick-up and drop-off along Cusheon Lake Road.

The current Vesuvius route will be re-routed to include Mobrae Avenue — a public suggestion Fenske said stems from there being virtually no homes along that portion of Vesuvius Bay Road.

Fenske advises users to “pay close attention” because two new schedules will be printed — one for the May 3 to June 24 route and another covering June 25 to Sept. 1. They will be available on buses and retail outlets before the new schedules begin.

“This is our first summer schedule so there is lots of learning experience to be gained,” said Fenske.

He credits Salt Spring’s transit operator Ineke DeJong for “doing an unbelievable job of pulling the schedule together” and thanks current users of the transit system for their support.

### PARKS AND REC

# Tennis member rejects appointment

Mikes Best sets record straight

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring resident named to a Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) committee overseeing the acquisition and construction of a new tennis bubble at Portlock Park has indicated he is not interested in taking part in the process.

“I was not requested to sit on a committee, was never asked to sit on a committee, was never informed of any appointment to a committee and have received no information whatsoever about such a committee, prior to my reading it in the Driftwood [on April 2],” said Mike Best.

“I have subsequently received an e-mail from PARC chair Steve Peterson apologizing for naming me to a committee and publicizing it without asking me first if I might be interested.”

Best said he has been against the use of taxpayer funds for an indoor tennis facility since the concept was introduced in 2005.

At a March 31 PARC meeting, commission members voted 4-3 to hire architect Neil Morie to prepare a Request For Proposals package for a single-court indoor tennis bubble at Portlock Park. Commission members named Best among the members of a six-person committee tasked to oversee the tennis bubble acquisition process.

Under the current proposal, both PARC and

the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) will contribute \$3,000 for an RFP package.

In early March, SSTA members voted narrowly in favour of entering into a partnership with PARC in order to complete a tennis bubble by early fall.

The initiative will see taxpayers contributing \$100,000 to the project through PARC. The SSTA will donate a minimum of \$175,000 to the project.

“The project must come in at less than \$275,000 or additional monies must be raised by the SSTA,” reads a copy of the PARC proposal presented at the commission’s February meeting.

“The bubble will be owned by PARC and PARC will be responsible, with input from the community, for the programming and policies around use of the bubble,” the document continues.

In an interview Monday afternoon, Best reiterated his belief that a referendum should be held on the matter given the significant amount of public tax dollars involved.

“Though I was and am a tennis player, I am first and foremost a taxpayer,” he said. “I stand by my publicly stated position that I am against any decision of PARC in connection with the tennis bubble that improperly diverts funds and I find the thought of funding a tennis bubble facility without a referendum to be abhorrent and against the best interests of island residents and taxpayers.”

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**TURKEY AND TOT:** Drewin Lau hangs out with a 4-H turkey as Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply hosts its annual garden show, featuring the local 4-H Club and their animals.



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PHOTOS BY DERRICK LUNDY

At left, Lilah Blue and Grey Williamson enjoy the spring weather, while (above) Jolene Wightman meets a rabbit.

SCHOOL NEWS

# SIMS announces third-term honour roll

Students with B-or-better average in core subjects

Salt Spring Island Middle School commends the following honour students for their academic performance during the third term of the 2007-08 school year.

The students whose names appear below all received letter grades of "B" or better in each of the core subject areas of Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science and Languages.

Chelsea Baldwinson, Aisha Balint, Ruby Barnard, Megan Brooke, Hari Brooks, Tim Camps, Sami Clemente, Una Conradi, Bailey Dalton, Maya Dammel-Sherrin, Carly Davenport, Ryan Dixon, Tai Dunkley-Whelon, Tilai Ellis-Stairs, Chloe Esposito, Tommy Estable, Ingrid Fitzpatrick, Cassidy Fraser, Rachel Fraser, Anastasia Good-

win, Ronan Gunn, Jessica Hatchard, Alanna Hillis, Torrie Holmes, Owen Hooper, Kory Irving, Tyler Irwin, Danica Jensen, Forest Junker-Allen, Anika Kitka, Sage Kreisler, Sarah Kyle, Tai Levitt, Eartha Linnell, Luca Luna, Jasmin Lundy, Emmy Lyytikainen, Maddi MacKay, Cal McCormick, Tom McCormick, Nima McDuff, Torin McIvor, Brooke Middleton, Brady Moore, Maddee Nash, Evangeline Olynyk, Elise Pearson, Hannah Pearson, Christopher Perrins, Maya Porebska-Smith, Noah Price-McGillivray, Erin Pringle, Kristi Reynolds, Kimberly Rothwell, Sam Rowlandson-O'Hara, Brittney Sikora, Nick Slakov, Amalia Smith, Gabrielle Spiess, Rebecca Steel, Kaitlyn Temmel, Sau Yi Tsang, James Twaites, Lauren Utter, Kristen Viberg, Daisy Warner-Dilts, Megan Webber, Nadeen Whitcutt, Jack Wiltshire, Zorah Wiltzen, Elizabeth Yardley, Aina Yasue, Nevan Young, Kyle Yun.



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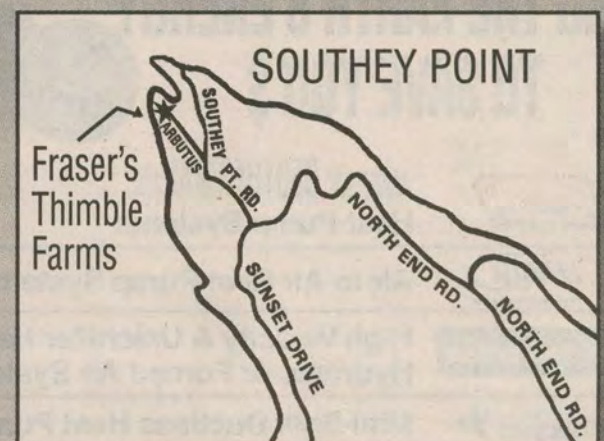
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# People & Community

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



Bromwyn Weekley, left, and Taryn Muldoon are two of eight Salt Spring Centre School children who built this bat house in anticipation of Earth Day.

## Peace Works! organizes gathering

Singing and sharing honour the planet at Sunday Earth Day choir event

Peace Works! invites the whole community to come out and sing as part of Salt Spring Island's Earth Day Celebration Choir on Sunday, April 20.

"This year, more than ever, people are becoming more deeply aware of Earth's changes and are looking for ways to be proactive in the restoration and repair of our natural world," states a Peace Works! press release. "One way is to inspire each other."

Sunday's event gives people a chance to do just that by lending their voice to the singing event at the Gulf Islands Secondary School multi-purpose room from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

"We will be led in song and chants by Barbara Slater, Women of Note, Tuned

Air, Sue Newman, Diana Linley and others."

As well, Terri Bibby will attend with her SAORI loom so that participants can weave their colours into another banner for peace like the one islanders helped create and Bibby took to the Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum event called SAORI Peace Weave last summer.

Salt Spring Centre School children will also have their artwork on display, completed on a theme of "what they love most about planet Earth."

Peace Works! asks everyone to bring a pebble they've chosen to the event.

"The pebbles are symbolic of our connection and commitment to the Earth and to each other as we endeavour to make changes that make a real difference to our deteriorating environment."

The Celebrate Earth Day Choir event

"... people are becoming more deeply aware of Earth's changes and are looking for ways to be proactive in [its] restoration."

is an "all-ages, all-people" event.

"Please come out and celebrate Earth Day in song. It's one of the things Salt Spring Islanders do best."

On Tuesday, April 22, another creative Earth Day celebration takes place.

Universal Dances of Peace is at Lions Hall beginning at 7 p.m.

## RETREATS

## Zen circle retreat nourishes deepest part of self

Serves people of all levels of meditation experience

Salt Spring's local Zen group will hold a non-residential weekend meditation retreat from April 25-27 at The Gatehouse on Stowell Lake Farm.

Peter Levitt, the group's leader, likes "to emphasize the 'treat' in retreat," states a press release.

"A retreat is a way to return to yourself in the midst of a busy or intense life, a way for people to nourish the deepest parts of themselves."

All members of the Salt Spring community are welcome to attend, whether they are beginners or long-time meditators.

"Beginners have the

advantage of not having preconceived ideas about how it's supposed to be," says Levitt with a smile.

Anyone who needs meditation instruction will receive it at the event.

The retreat follows traditional Zen practice as taught by Shunryu Suzuki (author of Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind).

A Zen instructor, writer and poet, Levitt will offer interesting talks to the group and individual time with participants who want it.

Periods of seated meditation are interspersed with walking practice, talks and breaks.

Delicious vegetarian meals will also be provided within the beautiful surrounds of Stowell Lake Farm.

Levitt has practised with Thich Nhat Hanh and wrote

a forward to his book The Heart of Understanding. He also edited Jakusho Kwong's book of essays, No Beginning, No End.

Levitt is currently editing the translated writings of the 12th-century Zen master Dogen: Circle of the Way: the Treasury of the True Dharma Eye, to be published by Shambhala Press.

"Salt Spring Zen Circle is committed to applying practice in the world as we find it now. It has recently lived up to this commitment in an ordination ceremony held on island last November. Documents of Zen lineage are traditionally given in such ceremonies. While women have become masters throughout Zen's history, their names have been excluded

from these documents. At the November ceremony the presiding priest, Norman Fischer (from San Francisco), together with Levitt, included for the first time, women's lineage papers as well as men's. This was a groundbreaking moment for Zen practice in North America."

The upcoming retreat begins at 7 p.m. on April 25 and concludes at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 26.

Cost of the non-residential retreat is \$70, which includes meals.

In keeping with Zen tradition, although no fees are charged for teachings, donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information or to register, call Judith at 537-2062 or e-mail mareed@rockisland.com.

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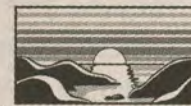
## Ruckle Farm Day

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Karen Brown.....	20	Melissa Searcy.....	15
Cathryn Buttery.....	20	Rod Scotvold.....	15
Mary Freeman.....	20	Ronn Edmonds.....	10
Robert Griffith.....	20	Judy Raddysh.....	10
Brad Kerr.....	20	Jim Watkins.....	10
Debra Krauss.....	20	Randy Wolkowski.....	10
Susan Lee.....	20	Louise Doucet.....	5
Jim Lightfoot.....	20	Shannon Johnston.....	5
Deborah Nostdal.....	20	Ardice McCrea.....	5
Gord Singbeil.....	20	Mary Ann Schaefer.....	5
Patrice Storey.....	20	Nia Williams.....	5
Angela Thomas.....	20	Jessica Willows.....	5

## PEOPLE &amp; COMMUNITY

## CLUB NEWS

## Two islanders advance to Toastmasters division level

Andrew Lewis and Rowan Rowell represent Area 10

Last week, members of the Salt Spring Toastmasters Club survived another round at the Area 10 level of the International Speech and Evaluation Contest held in Nanaimo.

"Like last year, Salt Spring Toastmasters will go on to compete at the division level in Campbell River on Saturday, April 26, where Andrew Lewis will continue to spill blood,"

states a local Toastmasters press release.

Lewis, together with Judy Clark of Nanaimo Harbour Centre Toastmasters, secured the Area 10 title.

"International members have not seen the last of Salt Spring Island's heart-stopping shark-attack speech by Lewis."

Salt Spring and Nanaimo will represent the six clubs of Area 10 with Lewis and Rowan Rowell at the division level contest in Campbell River.

The Vancouver Island division encom-

passes the island and the Gulf Islands, with the exception of the Victoria division.

"In the evaluation speech contest, Salt Spring maintains its 2008 Area 10 evaluation speech title, this time with long-time island heavyweight Rowell, who went to Area 10 as Bob Rogers' alternate and placed first. This is not the first time Rowell has taken the club deep into the international competitions. In years past she has succeeded as a premier evaluator and impromptu speech queen, taking Salt Spring twice to the pro-

vincial level District 21 competitions."

If Salt Spring and Nanaimo survive the division level contest, the club will represent the entire division at the District 21 provincial competition, which this year is being hosted in Nanaimo at the Coast Bastion Inn from May 9-11.

Regular local Toastmasters meetings continue every Monday at 7 p.m. inside ArtSpring. Guests are always welcome.

For additional information, call James Falcon at 537-2581.



**Ombudsman**  
B.C.'s Independent Voice For Fairness

**Do you have a complaint about BC Government services or practices?**

**The Ombudsman's staff will be in Ganges on April 21, 2008 from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm.**

**If you would like to meet with an Ombudsman Representative to discuss your concerns, please book an appointment by calling toll-free at:**

**1-800-567-3247**



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## GARDENING

## Ted Baker garden talk set to reveal all the dirt on soil

Next garden club session hosts island expert

The Salt Spring Garden Club will present an interesting talk with an interesting name on Wednesday, April 23.

Becoming Best Friends with your Dirt — a talk on soil — will feature this month's speaker Ted Baker, best known as a wonderful iris grower, the founder of the B.C. Iris Society and an energetic volunteer. Baker's background includes a Ph.D. in soil science, with a thesis topic of soil genesis and land use of the west coast of Vancouver Island.

"He spent many years with the provincial Ministry of Forests as a research scientist and manager of the ecology and earth science section, the last 10 years as director of the research program," describes a recent press release.

"We are lucky to have him as a resource on the island and very lucky to have him give a talk on soils at this month's meeting."

In his talk, Baker will cover soil texture and pH as it relates to nutrients and organisms affecting plant growth.

"He will help you understand the management of your garden soil to create fabulous plants. Your soil is a living organism that must be treated with understanding and care."

Baker will also cover the use of soil analysis in determining nutrient needs and provide attendees with some ideas on how to do this.

"Ultimately it comes down to the right plant in the right place, that place being the right soil," notes press material.

The Wednesday meeting takes place at 7 p.m. at Meaden Hall.

Non-club members pay a \$5 charge.

## Bridge players bid farewell to leonine month of March

April games see grand slam surprise

## BRIDGETRICKS

BY JILL EVANS  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

March went out with the roar of a lion — at least it did on the 28th with that huge surprise snowfall when many of the duplicate players congregated at Fulford Hall (or tried to) for the Wim Krayenhoff Memorial bridgefest in support of Planned Parenthood.

Donations from the Gulf Islands Duplicate Bridge Club in honour of Ima Krayenhoff and in memory of Joan Conlan were made to that organization and fortunately there were no serious accidents to

the players navigating the slippery snowy roads where ditches were magnets.

By March 31 the lion had taken a rest, and there were five full tables at Seniors. Flo and George Laundry roared ahead with a very high score, leaving Paul Retallack and Ted Harrison taking pride in second place.

Relative newcomer Alison Fenske had persuaded her husband Bob to try duplicate and they pounced into third place. So ended the month of March, and after a lot of challenging hands several felt like April fools

the next morning.

On April 7, 18 hopefuls showed up, making four and a half tables. The cards were pretty hopeless so very few contracts were bid and made and there was a lot of going down but there was an unbiddable grand slam surprise lurking in one of the boards. Making the best of it all were Jelly Taylor and Ian Thomas, with the Laundrys taking second place this time. In third spot were sweet-dispenser Irene Hawksworth and Jill Evans.

George Laundry is the person to contact if you feel like playing duplicate bridge. He can be reached at 653-9095 or by e-mail at [pastorale@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorale@shaw.ca).

## ENVIRONMENT

## Mayne hosts water conservation blitz

Fourth annual event on April 26

Mayne Island's "Waterwitch" — aka Mary Cooper — is inviting all island residents to the fourth annual Gulf Islands water workshop on Mayne Island.

Sponsored by the Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society (MIWSS), which is chaired by Cooper, the workshop runs Saturday, April 26 in the school gym on Mayne.

Through the workshop, Cooper and the MIWSS aim to educate residents, visitors and water system operators about measures that can be taken to conserve the Gulf Islands' fragile water resource.

Past workshops have attracted more than 150 participants from the Cowichan area, Victoria, the mainland and the Gulf Islands.

This year's workshop topics include the geology of the Gulf Islands, rainwater conser-

vation and the dangers of hydrofracturing.

Coffee breaks and lunch are included.

Speakers will include Dr. Diana Allen, associate professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at SFU; Dr. Alfonso Rivera, chief hydrologist at Natural Resources Canada; Dr. Azit Mazumder from UVic; Dr. Quentin Cronk, the director of UBC's botanical gardens; Red Williams of Island Well Drilling; David Mellis of E.D.S. Pumps and the B.C. Ground Water Association director; and Oliver Brandes, senior research associate of UVic's Polis Project, amongst others.

The workshop runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and costs \$20 for MIWSS members and \$25 for non-members. Advance registration is required.

For further information, see the MIISWW website at [www.mayneisland.com/water/index.htm](http://www.mayneisland.com/water/index.htm).



## BURNING PERMITS 2008

1. Burn Permits are required April 15 - October 15 for small brush piles, incinerators and campfires, however a burn ban may be put into effect at any time. It will be the homeowners/permit holder's responsibility to update themselves daily to our current rules by visiting our website or telephoning 537-2531 ext. 500.
2. Class A land clearing machine piles always require a permit and the ventilation index must be observed.
3. There will be no incinerators, small hand piles, nor Class A land clearing machine piles allowed from July 1 - September 30.
4. Permits **may** be issued on a weekly basis for campfires and wood burning barbecues from July 1 - September 30.
5. Incinerators, small hand piles, and Class A land clearing machine piles are **NOT** permitted at any time within 500 meters of a hospital, continuing care facility, nor a school that is in session.

[www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**FOR THE EARTH:** Participating in a Cut-a-thon at Studio One are, from left: Darrell Dooley, Rhonda Graham, Jason Kim, India Baldwin, Crystal Smith and Corinne Diachuk. All proceeds from the Earth Day fundraiser were directed to the Georgia Strait Alliance.

we're online at  
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

### Dr. James Buchan Medical School Awards

Under a trust under the will of Dr. James Buchan, provision is made for annual awards to former students of Gulf Islands Secondary School who are attending an accredited **MEDICAL SCHOOL** on a full time basis. The trustee may review a variety of criteria including:

- Academic excellence
- Financial need or
- Leadership qualities and school/community involvement.

This award may be renewable in subsequent years, should the student wish to re-apply. The value of the awards may vary.

Final deadline for applications (letter, resume, transcripts of marks, letters of reference and income information) is May 15, 2008 to the Counselling Office at GISS.

HEALTH CARE

# Hip technology steps into SSI's Lady Minto

Hospital to buy hip protectors with Lions donation

BY AMY GEDDES  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Lady Minto Hospital's elderly patients will soon have the option of wearing special hip protection garments while receiving care, thanks to a \$1,500 donation from the Lions Club of Salt Spring Island.

While research on the benefits of hip protectors is still in progress, studies show they provide shock absorption and prevent hip breakage in the event of a fall.

"Falls are a major concern for the elderly," said Lady Minto Hospital head nurse Jo Twaites. "Often after a major fall, patients don't return to the level of independence they had before."

Of Lady Minto's 20 extended care unit beds, Twaites said 18 are often occupied by people over 80 — an age bracket at high risk of hip fractures from fall incidents.

The donation will allow the

hospital to purchase 16 pairs of reusable cloth hip protectors for geriatric patients currently receiving acute or extended care. Twaites said, at \$100 a pair, the donation has relieved the hospital of a costly expense.

"The Lions are community minded," said Lions Club volunteer Judy Grundy. "And we are strong supporters of our Lady Minto Hospital and believe our local people should have the best care available."

Grundy said the club chose to fund the purchase of hip protectors because it gave the hospital the most for their money.

The donation will also advance the hospital's participation in a larger project, the Vancouver Island Health Authority's Falls Prevention Collaborative, that works to educate elderly Vancouver Island residents about reducing the risk of falls.

Twaites said patients who try the new garments in the hospital will learn more about support technologies available to them and may decide to purchase a pair to

**"Often after a major fall, patients don't return to the level of independence they had before."**

JO TWAITES  
Head nurse

wear at home.

"Because it's such a big expense, we don't want people to buy a pair and then find out it doesn't work for them."

Cowichan Lodge Inter Care has been trying this model of hip protector on patients for five years and only one hip fracture has occurred during that time. Testing out how well the hip protectors work on Lady Minto patients will help advance medical research and evaluate garment design.

GARDENING

## Spring sale: 'weird and wonderful' finds

April 19 event not to be missed

What do giant rhubarb and dainty "kitten ears" have in common? They will both be for sale at the Salt Spring Garden Club's Annual Spring Plant Sale. It's set for Saturday, April 19 at the Farmers Institute, starting at 1 p.m.

Rheum palmatum, with its enormous ornamental red-veined leaves, and antenaria dioica (kitten ears), with its carpet of tiny pink flowers, are only two of the many interesting and unusual plants for sale on the specialty table of "weird and wonderful" plant finds.

"Garden club members dig and divide

their own garden treasures and pot them up for the occasion, so many rare or hard-to-find specimens are available," notes a club press release about the event.

"Seeds for Malawi, which raises funds for African aid, always displays a wide selection of unusual and beautifully presented plants. And The Bamboo Ranch offers many varieties of bamboo not found in nurseries."

Tried-and-true perennials, ground covers, shrubs — even herbs and vegetables — will be there in abundance as well.

Wise plant enthusiasts know it's important to get to the sale at the institute grounds on Rainbow Road at 1 p.m. sharp, and to bring a large cardboard box.

Capital Regional District



## Invitation To Tender

Partners Creating Pathway (PCP) Lower Ganges - Project No. 1

Sealed Tenders, plainly marked on the envelope "PCP Lower Ganges - Project No. 1" will be received by the General Manager, Planning and Protective Services of the Capital Regional District (CRD) at their offices at 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, British Columbia up to 10 am local time on May 2, 2008, at which time they will be opened in public.

The works to be constructed under this Contract generally include the following:

- Removal of vegetation and topsoil from the site
- Preparation of the subgrade including shaping, levelling and compacting
- Installation of culverts (including headwalls) and two manholes
- Placement and compaction of base course material
- Placement and wrapping of geotextile fabric
- Placement and compaction of finish material
- Digging of new drainage ditches
- Using material provided by the Project Manager
- Landscaping pathway vicinity to make good all soil disturbances

Specifications, Drawings, Contract Documents, and Tender Form may be seen at the offices of the Construction Association of Victoria, 1075 Alston Street, Victoria, BC; the CRD, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and the CRD Building Inspection, 206 - 118 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC on or after April 16, 2008.

Copies may be obtained from the CRD Planning and Protective Services department or the Building Inspection office, on payment of \$25 (GST included) for each copy requested, the sum of which is non-refundable.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

A mandatory pre-tender site meeting will be held at the project site at 10 am on Monday, April 21, 2008. Parties not in attendance at this pre-tender meeting shall not be considered.

For information and/or enquiries on this project please contact Zeke Blazecka, local project manager at 250.653.4782.

Robert Lapham, General Manager  
Planning and Protective Services  
Capital Regional District

# PEOPLE & COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**FARMER IN THE MARKET:** Farmer Vicki hangs out with face-painted youngsters, from left, Sophia Coopman, Kiana Large and Cleo and Emma Kaye, as Ganges Village Market holds a barbecue fundraiser to help Jasmin Wilson raise money for Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

# Spring course offerings will satisfy creative urges

Registration for May classes on now

Salt Spring Community Education is reminding islanders that time is running out to sign up for spring courses.

Lorraine Hamilton offers her expertise in three separate Saturday morning classes that aim to expand people's garden options.

"Shady plants, hanging baskets and container plants express your unique garden space," describes a Community Ed press release. Classes begin May 3.

If islanders want to get creative, Carol Wagner offers two Saturday morning workshops (April 19 and 26) teaching participants to make a beautiful hand-woven bracelet with nothing more than beads, thread and a beading needle.

"This is quality craftsman-

ship that could be sold in local and off-island stores."

A few openings also remain in chef Bruce Wood's May 27 cooking classes, which will use new and local vegetable ingredients to create favourite dishes. Press material notes that this workshop is expected to fill up fast.

Local publisher Marlyn Horsdal will give an interesting presentation on the difference between self-publishing a book and using a traditional publishing house.

"Learn where the hidden costs are. A surprise author will be part of this presentation. Full house is expected!" Late registrations for this May 3 presentation will be taken at the door with an additional \$5 charge.

Usha Haywire's class in Jung and alchemy will provide a personal journey that leads attendees to explore

the inner mind and self. Haywire is a teacher at Royal Roads and is an "insightful master in personal journeys." The course runs for four Tuesdays beginning May 6.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation (a Community Ed partner), along with Volunteer Salt Spring, will present a full-day May 3 workshop on recruiting and maintaining volunteers. All non-profit groups will benefit from hearing Theresa Kingston, an established and respected facilitator, provide a road map to successful volunteerism.

To sign up for workshops, call Community Ed at 537-0037 (messages are checked daily) or fill out a registration form at the Parks and Recreation Commission office, school board office or at Salt Spring Books. Islanders can also register online at [www.ssicommunityed.com](http://www.ssicommunityed.com).

## JOB MARKET

# New employment centre open house set for April 21

Award-winning career management company now in Ganges

Staff from Salt Spring's newest employment resource centre urge islanders to drop by during an open house event on Monday, April 21.

The centre, known as CARE (Career Assistance and Resources for Employment), is located at 105 McPhillips Avenue in Ganges, with the open house running from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

CARE provides a variety of services, at no cost, including the highly acclaimed on-site Solutions Workshops series, one-to-one employment and career counselling, and access to computers, internet, telephones, fax machines, and all the latest job postings.

Registration with CARE is open to anyone legally entitled to work in Canada.

"In addition to on-site services, CARE provides access to innovative online workshops accessible 24/7 from the convenience of home, giving clients the flexibility to meet other commitments," notes a company press release. As a series, the online workshops form the essential components of a

successful job search, including: Compelling Cover Letters, Remarkable Resumes, Target Your Market, Web-Based Job Search and Creative Job Search.

"These workshops were created with the changing labour market in mind and incorporate adult learning principles. They were developed by our team of professional career managers, coaches, counsellors and qualified adult educators," said Glenn Kelso, ETHOS director of research and development.

"They offer a type of direct job search technology unlike any other work search tool available in the online environment."

Nanaimo-based ETHOS Career Management Group Ltd., which operates the CARE centres in Saanich, Sidney and on Salt Spring Island, won the 2007 British Columbia Career Development Award of Excellence.

Open house events also take place at the Saanich and Sidney offices on the afternoon of April 23. For more information, people can visit [www.careonline.ca](http://www.careonline.ca) or call CARE Gulf Islands at 537-8562, CARE Sidney at 656-4330 and CARE Saanich at 658-4222.

The Government of Canada has contributed funding to the employment service initiative.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

# May 4 set for Ruckle Farm Day event

People with skills invited to participate

Fans of the annual Ruckle Park plowing match and family farm day should mark Sunday, May 4 on their calendars.

The event features old-time skills, heavy horse plowing and animals. Salt Spring 4H kids will attend with their animals and the

blacksmithing club. Old tractors, sheep herding, spinning and weaving, furniture making, tree-grafting, butter churning, games, Lions Club lamb burgers and 4H goodies are also part of the fun.

Anyone with an old-time skill, craft or interest they would like to share or demonstrate should contact Sidney Brannan at [sidney\\_brannan@yahoo.com](mailto:sidney_brannan@yahoo.com), or 537-0889 Fridays through Sundays.

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**BUS SCHEDULE**



**AT THE LEGION:** Aubrey Crocker of the Newfoundland band Uncle Muck and Friends plays some good old tunes at the legion as Branch 92 stages an open house on Sunday.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# Speakers trace history of the village in Fulford

People change, spirit remains

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

South-end poster boy Bruce Patterson may have hung up his hockey stick long ago, but that doesn't mean he can't recall the days when the great Fulford Bruins reigned supreme.

The Bruins were the focal point on an island where young and old alike were transfixed with a decades-long passion for roller hockey, Patterson told a crowd of more than 100 participants at a recent Salt Spring Historical Society event in the Fulford Elementary School gymnasium.

When league games bringing the island's best players head-to-head weren't front and centre, the Fulford Community Hall was the place for family skates, youth roller derbies and adult-oriented skating events.

"It's amazing there was any varnish left on those floors," said Patterson, nearly bringing his skates out of retirement for a spin around the gym during his presentation. "As soon as we got home, we were done with the chores and out the door as fast as possible."

Roller skating in the hall, as well as on Fulford's lone paved sidewalk near the present-day site of Patterson's Store, was only one of the pastimes Fulfordites of yesteryear enjoyed when they weren't busy breaking ground and building up the community.

Badminton was a Fulford Hall tradition that offered the community a healthy way to take a break from the hazardous tasks of clearing land and hauling timber.

"Fulford hasn't really changed that much since the 1960s," Patterson said. "The buildings that were there are still there. They're a little different and do different functions, but they're still there."



Fulford Inn and logging truck in the late 1930s.

His sister Gladys Campbell told the audience of hidden swimming holes and rough trails through the surrounding bush.

In retrospect, hers was a childhood of wanderlust and discovery.

Each group of children, she said, had its favourite spot, often defined by how far they could walk on the area's undeveloped network of deer trails and logging roads.

"We never stop to think about the memories, but when you start looking through the old photos, you realize how many there are," Campbell said.

Before the arrival of television in the 1950s, the lives of Fulford's residents featured neighbourhood work parties, May Day celebrations and badminton tournaments.

As a boy growing up during the south end's logging boom, Len Crawford saw the area's primary industry first-hand and up close.

Pictures dating to the 1930s show him proudly standing atop his father's logging company's brand

**"We never stop to think about the memories, but when you start looking through the old photos, you realize how many there are."**

GLADYS CAMPBELL  
Fulford speaker

new machinery amidst "some pretty rough country."

Long-time Fulford resident and Salt Spring Island Archives volunteer Barb Lyngard provided an account of the village's "early days," when the island's European settlers were occupied hacking out a life along the island's rugged coast.

"As you can see, there have been some changes in the area," she said.

**Attention New Salt Springers!**



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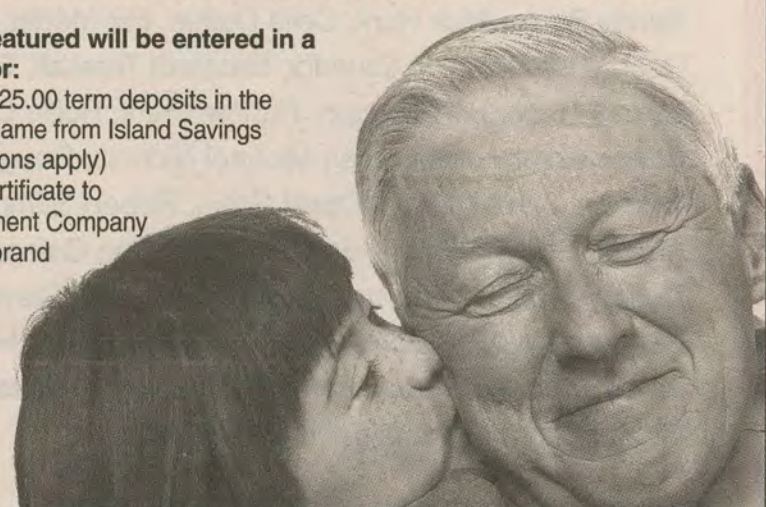
**Kids are great... but grandchildren are even better!**

**Calling all grandparents!**

A special spring celebration in the May 28 edition of The Driftwood. Photos and payment of \$11.99 plus GST must be received in our office, no later than Thursday, May 15.

All grandkids featured will be entered in a random draw for:

- one of two \$125.00 term deposits in the grandchild's name from Island Savings (some conditions apply)
- \$50.00 gift certificate to Ganges Garment Company for Oshkosh brand clothes up to size 6X.



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# THE PROPOSED NEW FIRE HALL

Without public consultation the Fire Protection District has placed a non refundable deposit on a property at the corner of Long Harbour Road and Upper Ganges Road. They have chosen a poor site, and the referendum for only the purchase price does not give the taxpayer the total cost of the project.

On April 21st a referendum will be held to seek approval of Bylaw 103 for the District to borrow \$540,000 plus applicable closing and adjustment costs to purchase the property – this despite the fact that no design plans have been completed and it is not known if the property, which has several Hydro rights of way across it, will be suitable for the location of a new fire hall. The Fire District considered several sites five years ago and felt that other sites were preferable. Ferry arrivals and traffic volume have increased significantly since then, with major backups of traffic occurring several times a day on Upper Ganges Road. The access road has a blank spot and fire trucks will be slowed down by ferry traffic on Upper Ganges Road.

The final cost of construction, preparing the site, providing water, septic system and safe access will not be known until well after the referendum. These costs will certainly run into many millions of dollars.

Should the second referendum fail, this means the Fire District will own a piece of property, overpriced for any other use, with no money for a fire hall.

Several other possibilities have been put forward but apparently have not been considered. Why has no explanation been given to the public as to why an expanded fire hall at Central would not meet the department's needs? We ask you to vote in the referendum on April 21st, and vote NO to Bylaw 103. This large outlay of public money should not be made until the full costs for the new fire hall are known. Only then will the public be in a position to make an informed decision.

We would like to see a completely independent consultant, with no connection to the Fire Protection District, the Islands Trust or the CRD brought in to evaluate the needs of the Fire Protection District and advise as to the best way to meet those needs. This should include a traffic study to take into account future increases in traffic volume on the island.

The undersigned Salt Spring residents are in no way opposed to the Fire department's needs for a new, improved main fire hall. We are opposed to the procedure by which a commitment may be made without the costs being known. We require a full accounting of the needs and costs for a new fire hall before being asked to approve by referendum the borrowing of money.

***This advertisement endorsed by the following Salt Spring residents - - -***

Roger Warren, Rick Vipond, John Woodward, Robin Reid, Garnet Lee, Bruce Marshall, Rob Burns, John Wiebe, Cheryl Wiebe, Randy Burns, Nick Hunt, Celia Duthie, Pat Martin, Barbara Martin, Anne Humphries, John Humphries, Conrad Pilon, Gillian Pilon, George Laundry, Flo Laundry, Margaret Threlfall, Tony Threlfall, Kelly Hayes, John Fulker, Iris Fulker, Wayne MacIntyre, Bob Hann, Lavinia Hann, Bill Simpson, Randie Clark, Rollie Cook, Deborah Forsyth, Harry Warner, Allan Dowrey, Charlie Eagle, Jane Squier, Kate Clarke, Anna Squier, Michael Nichols, Doug Patterson, Chris Philips, Judy Currelly, Babs O'Brien, Beth Appledoorn, Elizabeth Nickson, James Craig, David Greig, Robert Stimpson, Ghislaine DeSaint Venant, Irene Wright, Deon Venter, Kathie Venter, Barb Archer, Don Monteith, Jack Albhouse, Don Gainor, Alix Granger, Gwen Albhouse, Tom Pickett, Doug Dobson, Rob Oliver, Donna Dobson, Ray Woodward, Jackie Woodward, Steve Roscoe, Donna Roscoe, Don Archer, Catherine Bennett, Elly Silverman, Roger Lea, John Wilcox, Barry Dunster, Caffyn Kelley, Mearnie Summers, Lou Ellis, Steven Stairs, John M. Steel, Janelle Holmes, Dan Phelan, George Coehlo, Penny Polden, Anna Gustafson, Paul Burke, Ron Smith, Maggie Smith, Helen Heffernan, Cora McCrea, Sharron Whalen, Ross McIvenay, and Chris Taylor.

For more information contact Rollie Cook 537-5434.

**Please plan to vote on the referendum at the Ganges Fire Hall on Monday, April 21st between 9 am and 6 pm and vote **NO** to Bylaw 103.**

