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Wednesday, September 17, 2008 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 48TH YEAR — ISSUE 38

FALL FAIR



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Rosalie Beaudoin works on the underside of her sheep Hannah as fall fair activities got underway last weekend at the Farmers Institute. More fall fair photos can be found throughout this edition of the Driftwood. Watch for additional photos, stories and a list of fall fair winners in Harvest Time, to be in next week's Driftwood.

Homespun fair event dazzles visitors

New categories stir up the competition at the 112th Salt Spring Fall Fair

AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Cotton candy, zucchinis with wheels, giant pumpkins, baby sheep and face-painted kids running rampant through the midway — the 112th-annual Salt Spring Fall Fair came and went in a flash, under perfect skies, drawing over 10,000 through its gates.

Arguably the most renowned annual event on Salt Spring, the fair inspired 2,407 entrants to vie with their neighbours for the coveted ribbons and trophies.

The fair gave locals a chance to peruse entry items submitted by their neighbours, from the

longest-lasting dahlia bloom to the best brood mare.

And fair-goers who came from as far away as Denmark and Japan had the rare treat of attending a commercial-free, down-home country affair.

"It's the most wonderful example in Canada of a true fall fair," said Vancouver resident Kazi Sulikowski.

When Maeveen Moore returned to Africa following the fair, she left a proud winner of the Salt Spring Rotary Club's Muffin Madness game — a version of cow-pie bingo.

The only notable glitches were a sheep dog

jumping the fence into another dog's demonstration area and the volunteer dishwashers having to deal with 300 fewer plates than they anticipated because they were held up by the courier.

Dishing out a total of 2,670 slices, the "pie ladies" sold a record number of their famous Salt Spring Island Women's Institute pies this year, according to institute member Angela Thomas, who recalled fondly that she was first recruited by the institute as a fall fair "pie lady."

Overall, Marguerite Lee, a Farmers Institute director, said she was "extremely pleased" with the event.

"The fair-goers loved it and everything flowed smoothly. People appreciated the additions and the rest area was a huge success."

FALL FAIR continued on A2

BEAR ATTACK

Island man mauled by bear

Blain Pharis has fishing story unlike any other

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Blain Pharis is back on the island as he continues to recover from injuries sustained when he was mauled by a black bear in Port Renfrew last week.

"I'm sore but it ain't debilitating or anything," Pharis said on Tuesday afternoon, less than a day after returning to the island. "I'll be taking a few days off."

Pharis was cleaning fish on a boat moored at the Port Renfrew Marina when the bear swam to the dock and boarded the vessel just after 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Pharis, 52, recounted seeing the bear swim to the dock, climb out of the water and begin walking towards the boat. He acted quickly to toss as much of his fish overboard as possible, hoping the bear would return to the water.

The animal continued its course and, before long, was in the boat attacking Pharis.

"He didn't let go of me until he was dead," Pharis said. "If those guys didn't step up, it probably would have killed me."

"Those guys" were a small group of bystanders who struck the bear with a fishing gaff, hammer and pocket knife to try to stop the attack.

The mauling lasted several minutes, ending only when one of the rescuers, fisherman Ed Stirling, slit the bear's throat with a 30-centimetre filleting knife.

MAULING continued on A2

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SEPT	m	ft	ft
17	00:37	1.3	4.3
WE	07:16	2.9	9.5
	12:34	1.8	5.9
	18:40	3.2	10.5
18	01:18	1.0	3.3
TH	08:25	2.9	9.5
	13:13	2.2	7.2
	19:00	3.2	10.5
19	02:03	0.7	2.3
FR	09:41	2.9	9.5
	13:58	2.5	8.2
	19:24	3.2	10.5
20	02:54	0.6	2.0
SA	11:08	3.0	9.8
	14:57	2.7	8.9
	19:51	3.2	10.5
21	03:50	0.6	2.0
SU	12:37	3.1	10.2
	16:22	2.9	9.5
	20:24	3.1	10.2
22	04:53	0.6	2.0
MO	13:53	3.2	10.5
	18:46	2.9	9.5
	21:12	3.0	9.8
23	06:02	0.7	2.3
TU	14:50	3.3	10.8
	20:33	2.8	9.2
	22:43	2.8	9.2

NEWSBEAT



A bandaged Blain Pharis is seen Tuesday at The Local Bar, back on Salt Spring and recovering from a bear attack.

Local man survives Renfrew bear attack

MAULING
continued from A1

"It ain't easy to step up," Pharis said. "Those guys have big ones, if you know what I mean."

Following the attack, Pharis walked to a nearby bench, took a seat and waited about 30 minutes before an air ambulance flew him to Royal Jubilee Hospital.

He underwent surgery for wounds to his arm, shoulder and torso. With life slowly returning to normal, he thanked all the doctors, nurses and other hospital staff members for the way he was treated.

Pharis added that the attack isn't likely to make him think twice before setting out on his next fishing trip.

"The chances of that happening are millions and millions to one," he said.

"I'm pretty damn lucky." The bear attack and subsequent reaction from quick thinking and courageous onlookers made headlines across the country and around the world.

Ministry of Environment spokesperson Kate Thompson said there are normally

between six and 10 cases of bears seriously injuring or killing humans in the province each year. The last reported bear attack on Vancouver Island took place in 2005, she added.

"I'm pretty damn lucky."

BLAIN PHARIS
Bear attack survivor

"This is not typical," she said.

"This was a very old and cantankerous bear in very poor condition and very hungry."

Wildlife conservation officers conducted a necropsy on the bear at the Ministry of Environment's Nanaimo office to learn why the bear acted so aggressively.

"We may never know," she said.

Thompson said the Port Renfrew area is well known for frequent bear sightings, adding that conservation officers had only recently been tasked to "put down" a problem animal in the area.

New 2008 additions welcomed at fall fair

FAIR
continued from A1

A gazebo, new entry categories like gluten-free baked goods and the Go Green Youth Project, and the shaded rest area for seniors were

among welcome additions to the fall fair.

With grins as large as the prize-winning zucchini, young fair-goers got their yearly fill of cotton candy and trips down the "bouncy slide."

And attendees, hungry for a true

taste of down-home country, left sated with corn-on-the-cob and homegrown agricultural spirit.

"The entries all have soul because they are all home-grown... here you feel joined rather than alienated," said Sulikowski.

Driver crashes after grabbing dog from window

Police also investigate traffic violators and impaireds

A woman who took her hands off her car's steering wheel to stop her dog from

RCMPREPORT

jumping out the window swerved and went into the ditch alongside Brinkworthy Road on Saturday, Sept. 6. Neither the driver nor the dog were injured.

In other RCMP news:

Over the past week, police conducted a number of road checks and enforced traffic in school zones on school days.

They issued five warnings on Wednesday, Sept. 10, between 8:30 and 9:15 a.m., to drivers speeding 20 to 40 kilometres per hour over the speed limit in the Fernwood School zone.

All Salt Spring drivers are reminded to be aware that school zones are in effect from dawn to dusk when school is in session.

Between Sept. 10 and 15, road checks resulted in violation tickets being issued to drivers for permitting a passenger to travel without a seat belt, failure to wear seat belt

and other traffic offences.

A male driver was issued a 24-hour prohibition from driving after police found his vehicle in the ditch near North Beach Road on Sept. 11 at 2:24 a.m.

The male driver was under the influence of alcohol.

Another impaired driver was stopped by police at a Fulford Harbour parking lot on Friday, Sept. 12 at 5:54 p.m.

The driver faces charges of impaired driving and driving with a blood alcohol level of over .08.

Also on Sept. 12 at 11:50 p.m., Salt Spring police issued a 24-hour prohibition to an individual driving in Ganges and a vehicle was towed.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT

Water fountain lead levels concern parent

School district taking steps to deal with issue

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring Island parent is concerned children at island schools may be inadvertently consuming lead when they use school water fountains.

According to tests conducted by the school district and the Salt Spring Island Middle School's Parent Advisory Council (PAC), lead levels in the initial 50 millilitres of water supplied by water fountains at Salt Spring Island elementary and middle schools contain levels of lead higher than those deemed safe by Health Canada.

To put things in perspective, that's roughly equivalent to the amount of water that flows out of an average water fountain in two or three seconds.

It may be a small amount, but Joan Werner doesn't want to take any chances when it comes to the possibility of exposing children to lead poisoning.

"We know that our school water is contributing to possible chronic lead poisoning in the staff and students who drink the first 50 ml of the day. We have the test result," she said. "We are responsible for protecting our children. Let's reduce our lead exposure now."

According to Health Canada, "everyone is exposed to trace amounts of lead through air, soil, household dust, food, drinking water and various consumer products."

Whether at home, at work or at school, lead can leach into drinking water from pipes through the natural process of corrosion.

Werner's readings show that leaching occurs overnight and weekends when water is left standing in pipes for an extended period of time.

In tests conducted by the school district at Salt Spring Elementary School at 7:30 a.m. on June 17, 2008, lead levels in the first 50 ml sample reached 13.2 and 13.6 ug/L (micrograms/liter).

The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality limits the lead content of drinking water to a maximum acceptable concentration of 10 ug/L.

Lead levels in subsequent 50-ml samples taken from the same fountains decrease to well below the acceptable concentration.

Low-level exposure to lead could be responsible for increased risk of developing kidney damage and disease; increases in blood pressure; anemia-reduced sperm count and fertility; and future risk of osteoporosis in children, states the Health Canada website.

Since elevated lead levels are only present in the very first sips students and staff take upon their arrival to school, Werner would like to see designated people flush the pipes



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Grade 10 student Austin Steffich-Rosling lets it flow before taking a sip. Running the water for a few seconds prior to taking a sip brings lead levels well below maximum acceptable concentrations.

every morning. People could then sign a chart indicating the water had been flushed of any potential lead contamination, she added.

Further suggestions include replacing pipes and fountain fixtures (estimated to cost \$3,000 each) or using filtration systems.

Bottled water is already offered in many of the district's classrooms.

Ironically, Werner became aware of the lead issue when she and other PAC members initiated a campaign to stop the use of plastic water bottles in school classrooms.

"We wanted to see where we stand," she said.

Marie Mullen, the principal at Salt Spring Island Elementary School, said staff at her school are already working towards developing a practice of flushing the water mains

early every morning.

School District No. 64 facilities manager Dave Henshall said he is aware of the test results and has advised school board staff and trustees about the issue.

"The district and the trustees are aware of it and are taking steps to discuss the implications, if there are any," he said on Monday.

He said people should always be in the habit of letting the water run before taking a drink or filling up their water bottles wherever they may be.

Schools like Salt Spring elementary, he added, even have posters reminding fountain users to let the water flow before taking a drink.

"Most people want to see where the flow ends before taking a sip and that's all it takes [for higher concentrations of lead to get flushed out of the system]," he said.

News briefs

Jonathan Seagull lands again

For Cusheon Lake resident Connie Hardy, a welcome tradition continues.

On Sunday, Sept. 14, the bird known as Jonathan Seagull returned to Hardy's lakeside home for the 14th consecutive year, surprising her by flying in for breakfast as she was taking her morning swim.

He will now show up for breakfast every morning for the next six months, leaving

in early April.

Hardy said last week that people always ask her if Jonathan has returned again, and the simplest way to answer the ubiquitous question is through the Driftwood.

Grant deadline looms

Islanders have fewer than two weeks remaining to submit applications for the Parks And Recreation Commission's fall grants-in-aid program.

Funds are a one-time grant to community organizations requiring financial assistance for a parks-and-recreation related project on the island.

In 2007, PARC provided grants totalling \$14,500 to the Farmers Institute, dragonboat club, football association, Greenwoods Eldercare Society, Fulford Community Hall Society, Salt Spring Co-op Preschool Society, School District No.64, Ruckle Park Farm Days and Partners for Pathways.

Grants are allotted twice a year and are intended to

complement voluntarily raised funds. Successful applicants are approved by PARC commissioners at a monthly public meeting.

The fall application deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008. For more information, contact the PARC office at 250-537-4448. Applications are available online at www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc/grants.htm and at the PARC office at Portlock Park.

Four-day notice given

In order to obtain as much public feedback as possible,

Gulf Islands school trustees gave notice of motion to adopt a four-day school week for the 2009-10 school year.

Giving notice of motion now, said Galiano trustee Bonnie MacGillivray, allows the public to provide input following school board meetings as they occur at different schools and on different islands over the next several months.

The motion will officially be made at the April 8, 2009 board meeting.

"This gives us ample time for input and to consult with the community and receive written submissions," said

MacGillivray.

In discussing the notice of motion, Salt Spring trustee Wolfgang Temmel said April 8 is too late for the four-day school week motion as "planning and course selections are already well underway."

"It should be decided before that time," he said.

Fellow Salt Spring trustee Charles Hingston disagreed, saying the decision could not occur earlier as the district needs to have as much budgetary information in hand as possible.

The board passed the notice of motion.



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Monday - Friday

Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Long Harbour	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
1:20	1:30	1:40
2:55	3:05	3:15

Saturday

2:10	2:20	2:30
2:30	2:40	2:50

5 Fernwood
Monday - Friday

Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. LV. Fernwood Dock	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
10:30	10:45	11:00
2:20	2:35	2:50
6:05	6:35	6:50

Saturday

12:30	12:42	12:55
4:50	5:02	5:15
6:05	6:35	6:50

2 Fulford Harbour
Monday - Friday

Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Cusheen Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Fulford Hall	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Hall	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cusheen 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
11:10	11:16	11:23	11:27	11:30	11:40	11:43	11:47	11:54	12:00
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

Saturday

8:20	8:26	8:33	8:37	8:40	9:10	9:13	9:17	9:24	9:30
9:50	9:56	10:03	10:07	10:10	10:40	10:43	10:47	10:54	11:00
10:15e	—	—	—	10:40	10:50	10:53	10:57	11:04	11:10
11:20	11:26	11:33	11:37	11:40	12:10	12:13	12:17	12:24	12:30
11:45e	—	—	—	12:10	12:20	12:23	12:27	12:34	12:40
1:00	1:06	1:13	1:17	1:20	1:50	1:53	1:57	2:04	2:10
2:45	2:51	2:58	3:02	3:05	3:15	3:18	3:22	3:29	3:35
2:55e	—	—	—	3:20	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
4:45	4:51	4:58	5:02	5:05	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00
5:15e	—	—	—	5:40	5:50	5:53	5:57	6:04	6:10

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NEWSBEAT

ROADS

Ditching renders roadway unwalkable

MOT to request new shoulder gravel, but ditching a larger issue, Graham says

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Terry Graham found himself teetering on a few inches of remnant road shoulder along Desmond Crescent on a walk this summer.

After cutting through Swanson's Pond on his way to the Ganges core, Graham came upon the newly ditched road with a reduced shoulder area which he said is now "completely unwalkable."

"Up until March, this shoulder was level and about four feet wide," Graham wrote in an e-mail to the Driftwood.

"I walked this way many times, but now what you see is an unwalkable slope from pavement edge to the ditch bottom."

Ditch cleaning is part of regular road maintenance on Salt Spring.

"The object is to make sure we have good drainage because it keeps the road base in good shape," said David Turenne, road and bridge manager for Mainroad South Island Contracting, which maintains Salt Spring roadways for the Ministry of Transportation (MOT).

But Turenne admits "the specs on ditching are pretty vague" and it's up to the foreman's discretion how wide and deep to make the ditch.

"Every road site is different," Turenne said. At times, road crews "have no choice" but to sacrifice the road shoulder for a grade that ensures stability of the slope.

"We want to clean the ditch, not make it bigger," said Greg Galpin, area manager for MOT, in a telephone interview Tuesday, after looking at photos of the

widened Desmond Crescent ditch taken by Graham.

"I walked this way many times, but now what you see is an unwalkable slope from pavement edge to the ditch bottom."

TALL TERRY GRAHAM

Galpin said the minimum shoulder width for new construction is 30 centimetres — a width, that in Graham's opinion, is unsuitable for pedestrians' use.

Galpin said he will request Mainroad add this location to the list of roads to receive

new shoulder gravel. "We are certainly willing to look at putting material back to make it safe for pedestrians, subject to the ministry's approval," said Turenne.

But for Graham, adding one location to the list is only a small portion of remedial work required to make Salt Spring roads suitable for pedestrian use.

He names Rainbow Road from the Murakami housing development to the Farmers Institute, and Booth Canal Road as two critical areas lacking shoulders that are a hazard for pedestrians.

In addition to the ditching, Graham feels debris left along the roadsides that has not been scraped back to the pavement edge compounds the problem of Salt Spring's shrinking roadways.

"I've never talked to anyone out walking that didn't wag their heads in agreement that something needs to be done," he said.

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Septic monitoring bylaw no pipe dream

Anticipated by October

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Capital Regional District (CRD) board members will vote next month on adding Salt Spring Island to a list of communities participating in a management program for private sewage systems.

If amended Bylaw 3478 is passed at the CRD board's October 8 meeting, island septic tank owners will be required to have their septic tanks pumped every five years.

Salt Spring's CRD director Gary Holman said getting Salt Spring added to the bylaw is especially relevant given the fragile state of the island's watersheds, where poorly maintained septic systems are known to release high levels of harmful nutrients into a portion of the island's drinking water supply.

"Septic monitoring is the key action identified [in management plans for] the Cusheen Lake and St. Mary Lake watersheds," Holman said on Monday. "This is a key action for the CRD."

The CRD website identifies failing septic systems as one of the top-five causes of non-point-source pollution of water bodies in the province.

"Failing septic systems result in significant public health risks and environmental degradation," the website reads. "Specifically, they cause contamination of groundwater and local streams, rivers and lakes as well as contamination of shellfish beds and nutrient enrichment of sensitive water bodies."

According to the findings of a survey mailed to island home owners earlier this summer, 57 per cent of respondents said they were in favour of some kind of monitoring program that would ensure their septic tank is in good working order.

Holman said residents need not fear that ticket-bearing CRD inspectors will begin showing up to evaluate septic systems if and when the program goes into effect by the fall of 2009.

The main goal, he said, is to seek compliance through greater awareness. Holman said he and CRD staff will speak with septic maintenance profes-

sionals to finalize how the bylaw can be applied efficiently and effectively.

"We are talking about implementation," he said. Septic tanks owners who have had their tanks pumped since 2007 will be able to pump five years from their last pump-out date.

Homeowners will be asked to keep all receipts for work completed on their septic systems as they may have to submit them to the CRD as proof of compliance.

Once the bylaw is approved, Holman added, the first job will be to create a database of all septic fields on the island.

The program is expected to cost septic tank owners an additional \$15 per year on their parcel tax notices beginning in 2009.

Salt Spring joins the communities of Saanich, View Royal, Colwood and Langford as a participant in the "management of onsite sewage systems service."

The CRD adopted the original bylaw in March 2008.

RECYCLING

Hazardous waste wanted on special day

If you're sick and tired of staring at those old batteries and containers of mysterious sludge collecting dust in the corner, you won't want to sleep in on Sunday, Sept. 21.

That's when the Capital Regional District's household hazardous waste (HHW) mobile collection program makes a stop on Salt Spring.

Staff will be at the island's recycling depot in Tin Can Alley between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to accept materials.

When it was last held in 2006, the event's popularity saw lineups extending down

to Rainbow Road. That's why recycling depot manager Peter Grant wants to let people know that the centre accepts materials like paint, automotive and marine batteries, solvents, pesticides and gasoline any time of the year.

"It's not a problem, but why wait in line?" Grant said.

"We are a full BC Product Care depot all of the time," he added.

Sunday's event is meant to accommodate materials of uncertain origin, as well as items not included on the depot's list of regularly

accepted products such as household batteries, propane tanks and used motor oil containers.

"If people are not sure, they are welcome to bring the stuff in," he said.

Grant added that the disposal of non-hazardous recyclables will not be available at the Sunday event.

For a full list of items accepted by the Salt Spring Recycling Depot, follow the links online at www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca or call Grant at 250-537-1200 during the depot's regular business hours.

WILDLIFE

Bear spotted on Cranberry Road Tuesday

A bear was spotted Tuesday afternoon at the corner of Cranberry and Blackburn roads.

Local animal control officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser said he received a call about

occurred at 2:30 p.m. He said the animal appeared to be a medium-sized female and there was no way to tell if it was the same animal spotted in the south end this summer.

nue resident reported what he thought may be evidence of a cougar in the area when a mangled deer was found in his back yard.

However, Brunnwieser said he doesn't believe the

LOST ITEM



PHOTO BY AMY GEDDES

Eric Booth holds a purse found at the bottom of Swanson's Pond after it was stolen some 22 years ago, along with other items.

Stolen purse found in pond

After 22 years, wallet and ID almost intact

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Phyllis Carter, 81, had long forgotten the grey canvas purse stolen from her in 1986. But old memories returned when the purse was found last week, after 22 years, at the bottom of Swanson's Pond near Park Drive.

"It's surprising to hear," Carter said in a telephone call from her Parksville home. "I never thought of it again and I'd almost forgotten all about it."

Eric Booth, developer of the Swanson's Pond property, found the purse last week while in the process of draining the pond.

"I've been pulling more and more stuff out of the bottom of it and one of the items was the purse," he said.

According to Booth, the purse was "pretty much

deteriorated," but he managed to salvage a wallet and plastic comb from the tattered material.

ID cards in the wallet identified Carter as the owner.

Booth contacted Carter through her son-in-law, Jeff Outerbridge, from Salt Spring Island.

Carter, who lived on Salt Spring for 23 years, explained how she lost the purse.

"I was working for a friend in her flower shop," she said. "I was in the back room planting stuff and when I came out my purse was gone from under the counter."

Garden Faire was the shop, located at that time in the Valcourt Centre close to where Dagwood's is now.

She said she had a hunch at the time who took the purse.

"But that was a long time ago," she said.

She intends to get the old purse back somehow.

While there was nothing of sentimental value inside,

she said she is curious to see the purse again and look through its contents.

Carter's was the fourth set of ID Booth uncovered while draining the pond. All have been returned to the original owners.

Among wallets and ID, Booth has found tires, batteries, motorcycle gas tanks, fire extinguishers, shock absorbers, VCRs, CD players, a car hood, fire hatchet, an ice skate, telephone, a couple of bicycles and beer bottles that date back to the 1960s.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student numbers in line with district's estimates

Likely 35 fewer students than 2007

Early enrolment figures in the Gulf Islands School District are close to last year's board estimations.

Schools superintendent Jeff Hopkins told trustees at last week's board meeting that 1,443 students showed up for classes in the Gulf Islands, compared to the anticipated 1,455.

"Enrolment is everything," he said. "And we are very close."

School funding from the ministry is dependent on the number of students attending schools, as well as by course for some grades 10-12 classes.

"Saturna [school] is way up," Hopkins said, noting it has jumped to 18 students. "Fernwood is down a little and the other schools are each within about five or six of where they were last year."

The total number of students — which will not be known for certain until the ministry cut-off date of Sept. 30 — does not include the 87 full-time international students registered at the high school, who are not funded by the ministry.

Overall, the district expects to be down by about 35 students from last year.

The district may also receive funding under new legislation for graduated adults who attend classes.

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NEWSBEAT

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Crown commends accused's recovery

Fish stick theft prompts order for counselling

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A man caught snacking on fish sticks stolen from a Natalie Lane home received a 12-month conditional sentence after pleading guilty in Ganges Provincial Court last week to two counts of being unlawfully in a dwelling house.

Court heard that Jason Konishi entered two homes along Natalie Lane at around 10 a.m. on Jan. 26, 2008. In both cases, he departed without incident upon being discovered by the homes' occupants.

It was in the second home that Konishi sought something to eat in the victim's freezer.

"To walk into someone's house, go to the freezer and take frozen fish sticks is the behaviour of someone who is totally bombed," said Crown counsel Robin Baird. "It's clear he was very drunk and probably never knew what he was doing."

RCMP officers arrested Konishi nearby after the home owners reported the incidents to police.

Baird told the judge Konishi's efforts to clean himself up since the incident were an indication that he is serious about living a clean and sober life.

"The fact that he is doing well with this sword of Damocles hanging over his head is a good sign," Baird said during his recommendation that Konishi not be sentenced to imprisonment.

Conditions of Konishi's sentence require he not

COURTDOCKET

possess or consume alcohol within the next 12 months, attend counselling as directed and respect a curfew between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. for six months and between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. thereafter until the conclusion of his sentence. Konishi is not allowed on Salt Spring Island except for work purposes.

"I don't want you to enter into this with some Pollyanna view. If you breach, you will be spending time in jail," said Justice Jeanne Harvey. "I expect you to follow through. You've got a long road ahead, but you've got my full backing."

In other court news: Justice Harvey cited the need to respect common sense and reasonable assumptions when deciding to throw out a Salt Spring Island man's defence against a charge of driving while impaired.

Michael Lahay stopped at the scene of an unrelated accident investigation along Fairway Drive near Trincomali Heights on the night of Oct. 18, 2007 to determine if everything was alright when police became suspicious that he may be intoxicated.

Lahay failed a roadside breathalyzer test and later provided blood-alcohol readings of 0.130 and 0.120.

Officers told the judge they heard a vehicle approach, heard the opening and closing of a door and then saw Lahay come into view as he walked towards the accident scene.

Defence counsel Tybring Hemphill said the officers' testimony was circumstan-

tial on the grounds that neither of them actually saw the accused when he was in the driver's seat of his vehicle.

"The reasonable possibilities cannot be excluded," Hemphill told the court. "It is dangerous in the extreme to rely on this kind of evidence."

While Justice Harvey said the case involved a "very interesting issue," she added that the court must apply some degree of common sense and make reasonable assumptions.

Sentencing was delayed until Sept. 17, though Crown asked for the mandatory minimum penalty of a \$600 fine and a one-year driving prohibition.

Harvey dismissed charges of making harassing telephone calls and assault, and instead issued a 12-month peace bond to John Urichuk after she deemed it impossible to continue proceedings in Ganges court last week.

Urichuk, acting in his own defence, proceeded through the trial in a manner the judge deemed "agitated," "emotional," "incoherent" and "illogical," despite having passed a psychological assessment earlier this year.

"This isn't a stage for you to carry on," Harvey told the accused.

Urichuk may not contact, directly or indirectly, the plaintiff for 12 months.

A Salt Spring Island man received a \$500 fine after pleading guilty to contravening the province's Liquor Control Act by providing alcohol to a minor.

The incident occurred in a limousine as David McRobb accompanied his daughter and one of her friends to a Megadeath concert in Van-

cover on June 21, 2008. McRobb told the court he offered the young concert goers a glass of champagne to celebrate the occasion. Charges were laid after the young friend's parent issued a formal complaint.

Court issued Garrett O'Dwyer a \$600 fine and a one-year driving prohibition after he pleaded guilty to a charge of refusing to provide a breath sample at a police roadblock.

Police stopped O'Dwyer shortly after midnight on March 20, 2008 along Fulford-Ganges Road.

Stewart Fells received a \$600 fine and a one-year driving prohibition after he pleaded guilty to failing to provide a breath sample to officers on June 24, 2006.

Police issued the demand upon arriving at the scene of an automobile accident near Centennial Park at around 11 p.m.

Harvey issued an absolute discharge to a 19-year-old Salt Spring resident charged with possession of marijuana in an incident from June 19, 2008.

Police on a routine foot patrol through Centennial Park arrested Skylar Gursky after they found him in the park with a clear plastic bag containing 15 grams of marijuana.

"It's very serious business to have a criminal record in this day and age," Justice Harvey said after issuing the discharge. "I don't know why you have to be so flamboyant with your [marijuana] use, but you've put yourself in a real pickle."

"This is your gift," she added. "Hopefully this absolute discharge will help you [because] you don't have any credits left in the bank."

CHARITY PROGRAMS

GVM doubles tape benefits

Program on track for \$100,000 target

In an effort to achieve its goal of giving back \$100,000 to the community this fiscal year, Ganges Village Market (GVM) is holding its first ever "double save-a-tape day" on Sunday, Sept. 21.

All orders on that day will qualify for two per cent back to the non-profit organizations of a shopper's choice, instead of one per cent.

In the first six months of the fiscal year, the save-a-tape donation program has raised \$52,500, up 21 per cent over last year.

"We thought having a double save-a-tape day would be a great way to kick off the second half of the fiscal year and create awareness to this very popular program," states a GVM press release.

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Prior to September 30, contact the SD 64 Learning Centre of your choice.

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Saturna Island
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 call Steve Dunsmuir
 250 - 539 - 2472

Pender Islands
 Student Learning Centre
 call Martin Blakesley or Colleen Fitz-Gerald
 250 - 629 - 3711



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CONSTRUCTION ZONE: Angus Fraser drills out concrete blocks in the "Grade 8 wing" at Salt Spring Island Middle School as \$5.5 million in seismic upgrading gets underway at the Ganges school.



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REAL ESTATE

Two-bedroom mobile up for grabs

Couple aims to give it to someone who needs it

Gord Herman is offering his two-bedroom, two-bathroom mobile home free to anyone able to remove it from the Bonnet Ave property.

When Herman purchased the mobile home for \$45,000 in 1994, he had a verbal agreement with the

then property owner that he would buy the property at a later date.

But the property owner died in 2002 and her daughter is now evicting Herman and his partner Cathy Rann; they must vacate the property by September 30.

They were given the option to purchase the property for a price the couple deemed unreasonable, so they've opted to move off-island,

leaving their mobile home behind.

But the home is a difficult sell.

The cost to remove it from the property is roughly \$10,000, according to a price quote given by a Nanaimo mover.

"It would be nice to give it to someone who needs it," Herman said, providing they have some means of taking it away with them.

The double-wide, Cana-

dian Standards Association-approved mobile home has a wood stove and measures seven- by 15 metres, and has a four- by seven-metre addition.

Interested persons can contact Gord Herman at 250-537-5569.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Good news for technology coffers

Technology will "cluster" computers

New technology will allow Gulf Islands students to share computers, saving the district thousands of dollars and helping create more environmentally friendly computer labs, school trustees learned at their monthly meeting on Sept. 10.

Schools superintendent Jeff Hopkins told trustees that technology accessed through a company called BlueCurl can link five work stations to just one computer.

This means the district needs only to purchase monitors for each station rather than full computers.

"And we can buy lower energy, flat-screen monitors," said Hopkins, "which are more environmentally friendly."

Hopkins told the board it has been financially challenging over the last decade to maintain computer labs and the implications of the new computer-sharing technology are encouraging.

"The two places where we are using BlueCurl (for now) are GISS [Gulf Islands Secondary School] and Pender," Hopkins said, following the meeting. "We did a pretty thorough trial in the summer, but we need to see how it performs in real, continuous use."

Unfortunately, the technology uses PC comput-

ers, making it impossible to implement in the district's older, Mac-only labs.

"I don't think we will ever be 'Mac-less,'" Hopkins noted.

"My guess is that we will have stand-alone clusters of two to three Macs for some special purposes in each school, but we may need to go with PCs for the full labs."

By using BlueCurl technology, the district would pay about \$12,000 per computer lab compared to \$40,000 — a savings of \$28,000.

And either lab would be using "almost the same software," Hopkins said.

Ultimately, he added, "things are looking good in the technology world."

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 Best Spot News Photo, 4,000-12,499 circ., Village Resort Fire, GOLD
 Best Front Page, 4,000-6,499 circ., SILVER
 Best Newspaper Promotion, 4,000-12,499 circ., Sustainability Challenge, BRONZE
2008 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Awards



EDITORIAL

Industrial expertise

Having just completed an official community plan (OCP) review, the Salt Spring Island Trust Committee should have a pretty good idea of where new light industrial activities could be located on the island.

However, the review process must have illuminated a need for more detailed work on the subject because undertaking a review of existing industrially zoned land and facilities, and assessing existing and future projected demand is one of the new policies in the OCP.

As always with land use, agreement about what constitutes appropriate activities both inside areas designated for a particular use by the OCP and on the border between one OCP-designated area and another won't come easy.

Few people welcome change in their neighbourhood, whether it's caused by a new house built on the next-door lot or a commercial enterprise that increases existing traffic and noise levels and poses an environmental threat. The fact is that Salt Spring is far from being built out, and the irritation, alarm and

conflict spawned by increased numbers of people and activities is as likely to drop in the next decade as ferry fares.

So the LTC's recently announced "special purpose advisory planning commission" to look at industrial land needs is clearly a good idea because both the demand for and conflict created by those needs cannot be avoided.

With all due respect to the numerous individuals who willingly volunteer their time and expertise on Salt Spring's plethora of committees and commissions, this particular commission may require at least a few individuals with more diverse experience, if the Trust isn't just waiting to hear that no areas are appropriate for any new activity.

Trustees are able to make a special budgetary request for funds from Trust Council to cover other costs related to the project, and we urge them to consider that as soon as possible.

It could be that a dream team of volunteers with appropriate expertise and lack of bias against light industrial or commercial activities will emerge from the LTC's call for special commission members, but it's more likely that services of a paid consultant specializing in land-use impacts will be required at some point in order to get the job done.



Can we trust the Islands Trust?

BY ILLTYD PERKINS

Recent letters, articles and viewpoints in the Driftwood have drawn attention to a growing problem on our island: the shortage of industrially and commercially zoned land for new and growing businesses, whether for scrap car recycling or building supply yards.

The story of the Salt Spring Coffee Company (SSCC) search for a new home provides an interesting example of how the Islands Trust currently deals with the dilemma of how to reconcile commercial development pressures with residents' rights to live peacefully in a rural environment free from unexpected intrusions.

Tired of constant grumbling from neighbours about the acrid smells of roasting coffee, the SSCC (who are proud of their environmental and social record) headed south down the highway and found a small piece of undeveloped ALR land in the Fulford Valley, locally known as the Burgoyne Triangle. The Trust enthusiastically encouraged their proposal to erect a large two story roasting facility on the land, and supported the necessary zoning changes. This proposal was abandoned after determined protests by local residents.

The company then headed back north, and bought 2.69 acres of rural land overlooking Ford Lake between Mereside and Garner Roads on which to build a new 12,000-square-foot roasting and administrative headquarters, along with outbuildings and possible employee housing. This land would need rezoning to allow commercial/industrial use.

Re-enter the Islands Trust: again they tell the applicant that they will support a zoning change application, and instruct their planning staff to present a report. This is duly prepared, (relying heavily on the SSCC's own "rezoning application report"), and a zoning change to "agro-industrial" use is proposed.

As partial justification it points out that there is an existing commercial zone some way to the north, as well as several cottage/craft businesses close by, implying that industry loves company.

So what is wrong with this story? Reflect on the following:

The Islands Trust gave full support to the SSCC's pre-emptive

VIEWPOINT

land purchase and development plans before any formal application for a zoning change was made, and before any process of consultation

with neighbours.

The Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan (OCP) limits all commercial or industrial development to designated "development permit areas," and 1501 Fulford Ganges Road is not in one of these zones. The OCP also makes it clear that in the specific case of existing Rural Residential-zoned areas, "exceptionally large new commercial or industrial developments should not be allowed."

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that in this matter the Trust is acting as an advocate for the company, rather than as an impartial agency following its declared mandate — which is to "preserve and protect."

Particularly worrying is its argument that mere proximity to existing commercially zoned property is in itself a justification for zoning changes which could profoundly affect many island neighbourhoods, and not just my own back yard. If we really want an unplanned light industrial strip along our major tourist and ferry access highway, then this proposal is a good beginning — as well as an end to sensible planning.

The revised OCP recommends the establishment of a task force to examine all issues surrounding commercial zoning. Last week the Trust announced that it would indeed create such a task force, and called for volunteers.

I urge the Trust to defer any decision on the SSCC's application until this task force has presented its conclusions. The Trust will then be able act on the basis of policy and principle rather than on hastily improvised ad hoc decisions.

Alternatively, the SSCC could move itself off the fast track to zoning change approval and wait for the task force to complete its work before proceeding — now that would truly be an environmentally and socially responsible action.

The writer is a long-time Salt Spring resident who lives near the proposed site.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

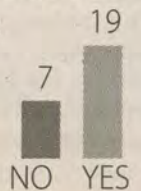
Have you been impacted by the stock market's recent slide? Yes No

Cast your ballot online at 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 Afghanistan be an election issue?



Driftwood

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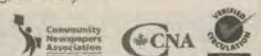
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Island Voices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"He didn't let go of me until he was dead."

BLAIN PHARIS, BEAR ATTACK SURVIVOR

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What is missing from the fall fair?



ROB WALKER
An open mike.



ANDREW BATES
A bouncy thing for big people.



MEGAN COLGAN
Churros.



ELIJAH STEPANIUK
An electric bull.



MATT BURT
A half pipe.

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 under the Opinion tab.

Coalition needed

I am in despair about the coming federal election, and the letters and articles about it in last week's Driftwood only highlighted my reasons for feeling this way.

We have very little chance of routing the Harper-Conservatives, as we so badly need to do for the sake of the country and the planet, if we continue to divide our votes among three other parties.

They are all worthy in their ways, I guess, but they are apparently unable to rise above themselves to find a way out of the self-defeating situation they (and we) are in.

The Reform and PC parties managed to figure this out eventually, to their dramatic electoral advantage. Proportional representation might offer a solution, but that's not coming any time soon.

I'm disappointed and sad and furious and scared that

the Libs-NDP-Greens give us no choice but to choose among them, thereby fracturing us into helplessness against a party and a leader that a majority of Canadians have had the good sense to vote against.

Coalition politics of some kind seems the only way out. Any takers?

JUDI STEVENSON,
MOUNT BELCHER

Maintenance mystery

On Rainbow Road this last year we finally had lovely patch paving done in large pieces to fix the potholes and make the ride home a real pleasure, not having to dodge large holes when the fluorescent paint wasn't there to indicate "tires beware large hole in road."

Then this summer we get lovely yellow lines painted to help visually challenged drivers to know where they are and where they shouldn't be on the road.

We pay good tax dollars

for this and today I have a question:

Why is it that road works are done back to front? Why is it the lines are now gone because they are out there dumping gravel and tar on a perfectly fine road that was a pleasure to ride on? If it's chip and seal, well that's just great, rocks will fly and chip paint and windshields!

If it's a have-to-do thing, then why waste our tax dollars on yellow lines if they're going to cover them? Could someone please enlighten me?

N. KOSTELIJK,
RAINBOW ROAD

Leave Core Inn space

When Community Services took over the administration of the Core Inn in 2007, they assured the public that, apart from the administration, very little would change.

They are now however proposing big changes.

The third floor open stu-

dio space, well used by the community, is being slated to be changed into offices.

I encourage all past users of this space — Stagecoach kids and parents, tango dancers, seminar participants, Rug Huggers and preschool parents, women's groups, and anyone else who has enjoyed this community space to contact Community Services and encourage them to reconsider this decision.

Offices can be housed in a number of places. This grand, open space can never be replaced.

WENDY BEATTY,
FORMER CORE INN BOARD MEMBER

Terry Fox's dream, hope

A Single Dream. A World of Hope. One degree of separation.

Terry Fox had a dream and I have a wish — a desire as I sit and think about everyone I know and everyone I love and have loved that

has been touched by cancer. What if everyone on Salt Spring turned up to keep the dream alive?

The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, an artist, a bed and breakfast owner, a blaster, a boat builder, a cashier, a carpenter, a construction worker, a cleaner, a hair dresser, a ferry worker, a fitness instructor, a firefighter, an investment adviser, a florist, a landscaper, a mechanic, a nurse, a newspaper editor, a plumber, a potter, a realtor, a secretary, a teacher, a trustee, a student, a writer, your neighbour! Then if we all persuaded another butcher, baker or candlestick maker to turn up and run, walk or cycle the 28th Annual Terry Fox Run here on Salt Spring on Sunday, Sept. 21 . . .

Did I miss anyone out? Do you see yourself in the list? Do you know and love someone touched by cancer? See you there. A Single Dream. A World of Hope.

CATHERINE BENNETT,
TERRY FOX RUN COMMITTEE

Urgent action

The recipe for what we can do to avert a global catastrophe was given on Quirks and Quarks (CBC Radio1) last Saturday at noon.

The presenter was Dr. Andrew Weaver, one of Canada's most eminent climate scientists.

If you missed it you can go to the Quirks and Quarks website at CBC.ca.

Dr. Weaver also has a book called Keeping our Cool — Canada in a Warming World. Let's get it in our library and schools.

He says urgent action is needed. We need 0 emissions.

I suggest everyone question candidates in this election on their proposals for actions.

From what I know, I would go for the ABC vote. ABC meaning: Anything But Conservative.

MYNA-LEE JOHNSTONE,
LOWER GANGES ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on A11

Men don't listen unless something needs reupholstering

There are three phenomena that people want to believe are real even though there has never been any hard empirical evidence to support their existence.

The first is Ogopogo, the legendary sea monster of Okanagan Lake. The second is Bigfoot, the hairy humanoid thought to be trekking through the forests of the Pacific Northwest. The third is a man who listens.

To illustrate this point, let's take a look at a typical conversation between a male and female. We join this conversation somewhere in the middle when she stops for a moment and then says, "You're not listening."

He counters with "I heard every word you spoke," to which she replies, "Okay, what did I just say?"

This is where an amazing thing happens. The male's brain goes into ultrafast rewind mode in which he is able to scan and retrieve every thought bundle and scrap of information deposited on his cerebrum during the last few minutes while the female's lips were moving: . . . nice legs . . . Canucks . . . nice butt . . . cheeseburger . . . pale ale . . . touch-down . . . nice rack . . . sofa . . . mag wheels . . . beige sofa . . . Harley Electra Glide Classic . . . where's the damn remote again . . . reupholster beige sofa . . . that's it!

"You were just wondering whether it's

time to reupholster the beige sofa," he answers somewhat smugly.

She groans and rolls her eyes in the knowledge that he's done it again even though she's convinced he hasn't been listening to a single word. If he really loved her, he would be hanging on her every last syllable instead of staring blankly off into space while she pours out her heart and shares her feelings about crucial matters such as their relationship or the beige sofa.

What we have here are basically two opposing brains at work. Let's take a virtual tour of the landscapes of these two similar, yet extremely different organs. The female's brain is divided into two main regions. Approximately 70 per cent is responsible for monitoring feelings. This region controls talking about one's feelings, listening to others' feelings, wondering how one would feel if one wasn't feeling like this, projecting feelings onto those who have none (especially about beige sofas), etcetera.

The remaining 30 per cent is totally preoccupied with shoes. When you get to the interface between the feelings and shoe regions, you've hit the mother lode. This is



Shilo Zylbergold

NO ONE ASKED ME BUT

wheel bearings in axle grease. This is where you will find one's personal best score at Nintendo's Donkey Kong in 1985. There are hundreds of thousands of tiny compartments where all these vital bits of information are stored. The closest you'll get to "feelings" here, is the memory sound bite of the Yankees southpaw reliever telling the sports anchor that his arm feels "real good."

Is there a way to integrate these two minds? Is it possible for the female to pour out her innermost thoughts and emotions so that the male will actually be able to hear them, process them and perhaps even show a small degree of empathy and compassion? Unlikely as it may seem, the answer is a slightly less than resounding "yes." Statistics show that 31.2 per cent of men will listen if all alternatives have been exhausted and there are no other options (the remaining 68.8 per cent can never be reached because

Command Central.

The male's brain, on the other hand, is configured in a totally different manner. There is room here only for real hard data, fundamental information essential to survival: the Canucks' power play conversion percentage, for instance, or how to pack

they are still reliving that exhilarating Donkey Kong game in 1985).

Let's return to the scenario of the beige sofa and see whether it is possible to grab the male's attention. It goes something like this:

Female: You know that beige sofa . . .

Male: no response

Female: That beige sofa you lie on when you watch television . . .

Male: no response

Female: Remember that Superbowl when the Seahawks were ripped off by the refs . . .

Male: Huh?

Female: That phantom holding call in the last minute . . .

Male: Bloody grand larceny it was . . .

Female: Well it needs reupholstering . . .

Male: What?

Female: The beige couch . . .

Male: This one I'm lying on?

Female: Yes, it needs reupholstering . . .

Male: Okay.

Female: And about our relationship . . .

Male: no response

Female: Remember how we used to be able to talk to each other. I mean back in the '80s. Back when you had that great score in Donkey Kong . . .

Male: Huh?

Return to Salt Spring: fall impressions of an island refuge

BY JACK MCLEAN

The seaplane arcs a turn and descends slowly onto the island. We buzz the tree tops and approach due south from Vesuvius. I recognize the pub from the air.

A neophyte Salt Spring Islander, an ex-Ontarian from Britain, who finally fled the harsh winters, tells me it has been closed for a few years now. It has been seven years since my mother Joyce's funeral in 2001. Joyce and husband Allan James are buried in a twin plot in the cemetery behind the Central Hall. A return to the gravesite with sister Mary Lou to tend the ground and offer prayers is planned.

It is good to return to this island, to the salt sea air, the peace that settles in with gazing at the tops of sheltering, giant firs, to the variegated characters who, like a mixed assortment of odd clothes, populate this island, to the slower, mellow pace of the E-shaped country that, culturally, is a better fit with northern California.

By virtue of its natural energy, Salt Spring carries

healing in its wings. It lies on one of the world's great laylines, or energy circuits, that runs through Stone Henge, another magical island spot, the desert warmth and gem-like colours of New Mexico and the silent, Egyptian pyramids, mysteriously personified by the riddling Sphinx. Descending from the floatplane, I pause to bask in the brilliant fall sunshine, fill my lungs with the pure air, look up to contemplate the bright wash of azure sky. The tonic is already working its magic, restoring well-being to body and mind.

Salt Spring placates the harried mainlander, cradles you in her arms and sings an island lullaby. The pacifying effect is built into the island's alchemy and history. The First Nations referred to Salt Spring as Fire Island, a symbol of the flame that radiated healing but did not burn. Salt Spring was and remains a sacred burial ground. Here the ancestors lie sleeping, dreaming their ancient dream, called "dream time" by the aboriginal Australians. Adjacent to the homes on

Menhinick Drive lies a native preserve where sacred rites are still performed, which are shared with respectful islanders. The First Nations never fought wars here. Somewhere on Nose Point there is reputedly a well of sacred waters which was shared by rival tribes, friend and foe alike.

But spiritual romance fades in the face of harsher contemporary realities. I see creeping development encroaching on the woodlands. Houses and other residences have sprung up spottily where once the visual field was only solid timber. Bare-breasted raging grannies and more youthful activists have made their nude and semi-nude protests to halt it all. Still the "development" continues.

It is an ambiguous word, this word development. Who of us wants to endorse ongoing "progress" that swallows up everything in its path? Development, and the parasitic, materialistic values that feed it, has already sanctioned the rape of earth, the fouling of our waters and the

spoiling of the air. I stand by the poet-priest Gerard Manley Hopkins's incantation in Inversnaid: "O let them be left, wildness and wet; Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet."

The nature-dream is momentarily broken by intermittent nightmares. Snippets of conversation overheard at the Salt Spring Coffee Company tell of life-threatening illness, divorce, broken relationships, stressed out lives and struggles to make ends meet. Mainlanders who once anticipated a slower pace of life here see themselves obliged to return once it becomes apparent that they cannot afford to live here any longer. The "Help Wanted" signs in the shop windows beg for the employees who cannot keep pace with the rising cost of living. A blond, young woman in animated conversation hides her disappointment in levity as she tells her friend of her parents' retirement divorce while "their RV lies rotting in Mexico."

My thoughts wander beyond this island refuge,

out to embrace the larger community of humanity that is suffering today from a host of troubling pathologies: War, hunger, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, famine, disease, repression, injustice. The more affluent western nations are also suffering from their own version of bad dreams: Random violence, inner-city blight, economic woes, unemployment, catastrophic illness, psychological dysfunction, homelessness and the fractured social relationships that are increasingly defining marriages, families, friendships and the workplace.

Now the dream, sceptics have often said, is nothing but an illusion. But more perceptive minds view the "all" that surrounds us as the manifestation of a waking dream, a dream that is of our own making. Is it not high time to dream a new dream and awaken from the nightmare that is disturbing our conscious life?

What shall this new dream be? For this pilgrim, at least, it is imperative that the vision that will enable the people

to flourish should be world-embracing. It should transcend the little singularities that define the daily round of our individual lives to include the entire human family. It is a vision that shall once and for all put an end to war and violence, to chronic hunger and famine, to illiteracy, to the subjugation of women. It is a vision that cherishes the organic unity and solidarity of the human race, that strives for social justice and the elimination of all forms of prejudice, a vision in which religious fanaticism, fundamentalism and exclusivism shall be replaced by interfaith amity and understanding.

I pause to look up from my desk. On a patch of grass nearby, a crowd of yellow buttercups is waving almost imperceptibly in the autumn breeze, an idyllic picture I shall remember once I have returned home.

The writer is a Bahá'í scholar, poet and essayist. He lived on Salt Spring from 1997-1999 and wrote a column for The Driftwood called Pilgrim's Notes. He now lives in Ottawa.

MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

Honey, not vinegar

Once again I was part of a very busy but successful week-end at the Salt Spring Fall Fair put on by the Farmers Institute.

I think this was the best organized fair to date and would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Rick Vipond and his

core group, as well as to the hundreds of volunteers.

I have been co-ordinating the entrance gates of the fair for over 10 years now. Although we had record-breaking attendance this year, I think we had less than average "issues."

I was approached by two different people with identical requests, one on Saturday, the other on Sunday. One presented their

request quietly, calmly and respectfully and the request was granted. The other was belligerent and demanding and in fact did not allow an opportunity to have the request granted.

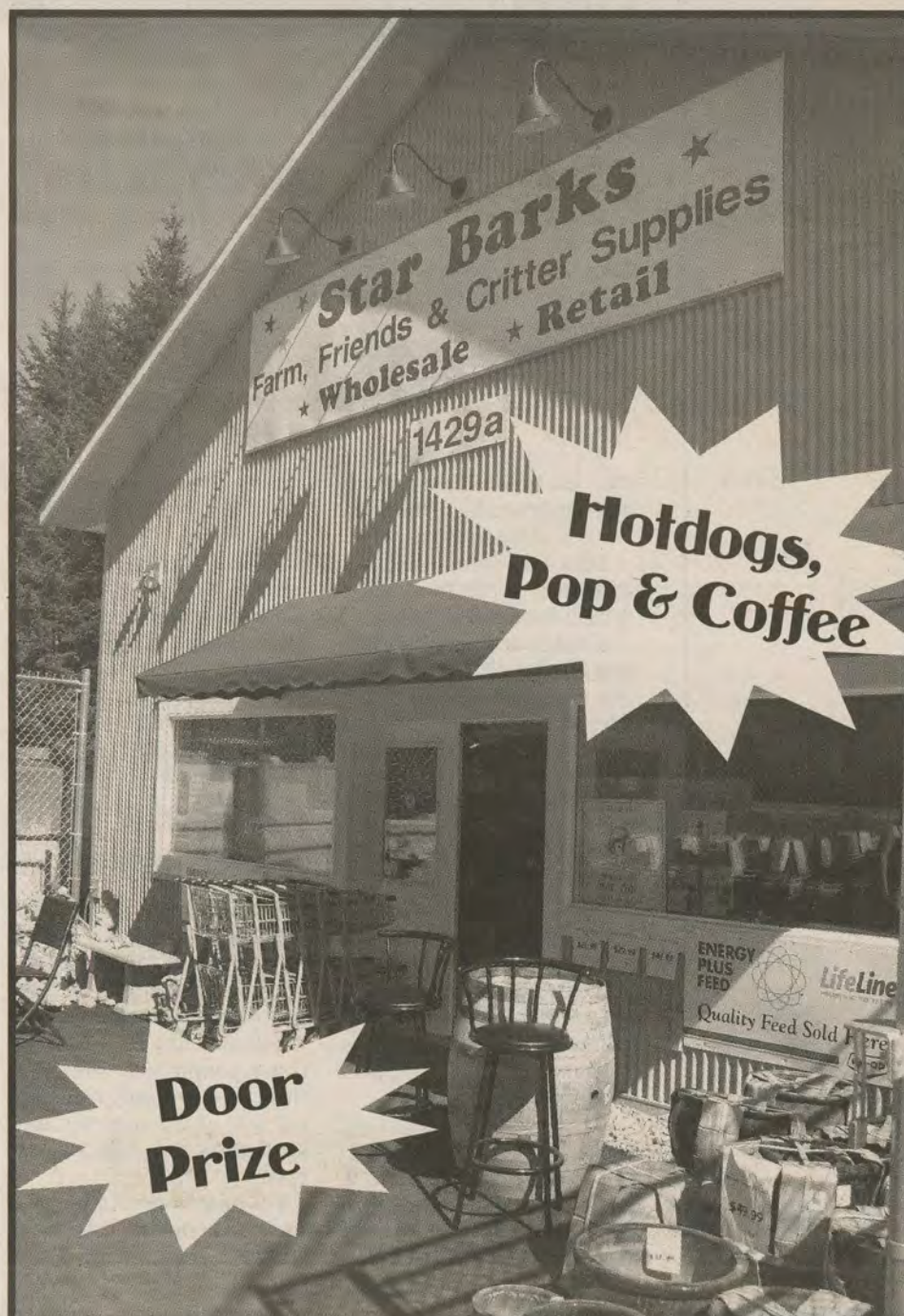
I bring this to your attention simply to remind the general public of the old adage: You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. This is true no matter what you are trying to accomplish — service at a restaurant, bank or retail outlet, solutions to a

problem, employer/employee relationships, to name a few.

No one will take advantage of you if you behave in a polite and respectful manner. And you will probably end up mentally and physically healthier and happier.

I look forward to seeing you at the fair next year — with a smile on your face.

MARILYNNE CUNNINGHAM,
SALT SPRING



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OPINION

Green dominates federal fashion

BY TOM FLETCHER
BLACK PRESS

They got less than five per cent of the vote in the last federal election, but the influence of the Green Party on national politics is evident in the current campaign, where carbon taxes and other climate change measures have emerged as a dominant issue.

In the election of January 2006, former Green Party of Canada leader Jim Harris promoted the idea of "tax shifting" from incomes to industry and fuels that affect the environment.

Now Liberal leader Stéphane Dion has renamed the idea the "green shift" and made it a key part of his platform, and Green Party leader Elizabeth May has ridden a surge of public support to a seat in the upcoming televised leaders' debate.

Parties in the Oct. 14 federal election all have ambitious targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, and most have different paths to get there.

Following are highlights of the major party environment campaigns for 2008.

Conservative:

The most modest goal is the Conservative government's plan to cut emissions from fossil fuels by 20 per cent by 2020, and eliminate half of conventional air pollution by 2015.

Since bringing in legislation to reach those targets with phased-in restrictions on oil sands development and other emissions, Conservative leader Stephen Harper has gone against the current trend by offering to cut federal excise taxes on diesel and aviation fuel from four cents a litre to two.

Other Conservative efforts include a \$2-billion program to promote clean energy by providing incentives for more efficient vehicles and grants to

FEDERAL ELECTION

individuals and businesses for energy-saving upgrades.

NDP:

In June, NDP leader Jack Layton set a goal of 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the same lofty target as Premier Gordon Campbell has chosen for B.C.

But Layton has rejected carbon taxes as ineffective, opting instead for a cap-and-trade system on industry that the party says "rewards big polluters who reduce emissions, and punishes those who don't."

The NDP is pushing incentives for individuals, including \$1 billion a year for energy efficiency retrofit programs and public transit, and a \$750-million "green-collar jobs fund."

The party wants to offer "Canada Environment Action Bonds" to raise capital for its incentive programs.

The NDP also wants to "halt new tar sands development until emissions are capped."

Liberals:

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion has made the "green shift" in taxes the centrepiece of his first campaign for Canada's top job.

The Liberal proposal is to phase in tax increases on fossil fuels such as natural gas and coal over four years, starting at the \$10 a tonne of carbon emissions and rising to \$40.

This is similar to B.C.'s carbon tax formula, but the federal Liberals are offering an exemption for gasoline and diesel.

"Since the existing excise tax on gas at the pump is already at the equivalent of

"... carbon taxes and other

climate change measures

have emerged as a

dominant issue."

\$42 per tonne of carbon, the tax at the pump will not rise," Dion's plan says.

"Likewise, because there is already a tax on diesel and aviation fuel of four cents per litre, the tax on these fuels will see no increase in the first year."

Greens:

Green Party leader Elizabeth May's program emphasizes a carbon tax and "revenue-neutral" reductions in personal income taxes, similar to that introduced by B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell this year.

But the Green proposal is much more aggressive, starting at \$50 a tonne for emissions and including gasoline and diesel.

That would add an immediate 12 cents to a litre of gasoline. The Green plan calls for that to double by 2020 "if necessary."

They propose to remove all subsidies on coal, oil and natural gas production, a methane tax on landfills and "withdrawal of federal funding for programs such as the Pacific Gateway Program, that encourage urban sprawl and increase vehicle use."

The Greens say tax incentives, regulations and funded programs would cut vehicle emissions by 30 per cent by 2015 and 85 per cent by 2040.

Tom Fletcher covers politics for Black Press and is providing his federal election pieces to the Driftwood.

MORE LETTERS

continued from A11

Madness to method

We all have stories about B.C. Ferries. Missing connections because the new schedule doesn't provide enough time to go from one boat to another, overloads, cancelled sailings due to breakdowns, etc.

Well, here is one which I have never heard of before, and despite however much I examine the stated reasoning behind it, it makes about as much sense as drilling a hole in the bottom of a leaky boat to let the water out.

I was returning from Victoria via Crofton, heading for Vesuvius.

The 3:30 p.m. sailing from Crofton was late and it was now about 4 p.m. The boat was still there and cars were still loading.

There were two vehicles in front of me and two behind. Suddenly the ticket booth attendant put a cone in the road and announced that the captain had "cut it off."

Get this. The boat was only half full. To say that this perplexing action brought forth the ire of those left behind would have been an understatement.

When asked the reason behind this astonishing maneuver, we were told that if the boat is running late, the captain leaves cars behind.

Now think about this for a moment, if you will. The five cars he left behind would still have to be loaded when he returned, wouldn't they? No time is really saved in the long run. Absolutely none.

Can you guess how the problem of still being behind schedule for the next departure is addressed?

That's right, another five cars are behind. Now, how long can it take to load five cars, anyway? A minute? Two minutes, tops?

Never in all the years that I have been travelling on the ferries have I seen such a thing.

If a boat is late, there are cars left to load and there is still room on deck, the ferry waits and loads the cars.

This has been the way of things if the boat is on schedule or way behind.

If there is a sensible reason for this decision, I could live with it, but there is not. The actions seem callous at best. They are certainly absurd.

GUY CHACE,
WEST EAGLE DRIVE

War resisters

Why is Prime Minister Stephen Harper not governed in accord with the expressed will of parliament?

One of this country's most astute decisions of the new century was to not support the invasion of Iraq.

It is widely recognized that America's pre-emptive invasion of Iraq was ill conceived and undertaken on false grounds without the sanction of the United Nations. It was both immoral and illegal.

To carry out and carry forward this aggression, the U.S. administration used pressure tactics to recruit

many of their youth into their military forces.

Using such inducements as opportunity for exciting travel, free educational opportunities in chosen fields, a steady income, companionship and the honour of serving one's country, it is not surprising that many from disadvantaged backgrounds were enlisted.

Deployed to the Iraq war zone, trained to regard everyone not in American uniform as a potential enemy, soon all restrictions of humanity are smothered in the need to carry out orders and the struggle to stay alive.

Called upon to violently break into the privacy of homes in the middle of the night to search for weapons and to arrest and send away for interrogation all males over five feet in height bothered those in whom any sense of decency remained.

Seeing friends and buddies wounded or sent home in body bags dispelled all the glory attached to the operation.

Disillusioned by the brutality and reality of war, most lived for the day of release from it, only to find when they did make it to home and family they were soon pressured to return to the battle field.

Is it to be wondered at that some, impelled by conscience, or revolting against the barbarity they experienced have sought to escape by seeking refugee status in Canada?

These war resisters are persons of conscience and insight who should be honoured for having the courage to resist serving in an illegal war, and for coming to Canada as refugees.

On June 3, the majority of our members of parliament voted to allow them to stay and apply for resident status.

In this they reflect the wishes of most thinking Canadian citizens.

Yet since that decision, war-resister Robin Long was deported and is now in jail in U.S.A.

War-resister Jeremy Hinzman and his wife and their small son and Canadian-born baby daughter are under orders to be deported by Sept. 23.

Why is Prime Minister Stephen Harper not governing in accord with the expressed will of parliament?

STEVE ABBOTT,
EDWIN ABBOTT,
RAINBOW ROAD

Roadside assistance

I was driving downtown Monday afternoon when my car stalled in the middle of the intersection of Atkins and Rainbow roads.

I would like to thank all those people who took the time to stop and push my car out of the intersection and onto the side of the road.

I would especially like to thank the couple who stayed with me and gave me the use of their cell phone until the car finally re-started.

Thank you all very much.
TED COOMBS,
SALT SPRING

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RANTS and Roses

Rants

A big bag of stinking garbage to the merchants downtown who have removed all the trash cans.

At Gasoline Alley I was told by one business operator if they leave their garbage can out on market day it will get filled up six times. Other merchants say they are tired of paying to dump the garbage. And they complain that boaters are dumping garbage in the trash cans. Whose garbage do they think it is, anyway? A quick look in one of the few cans reveals it is mostly packaging from the stores who are complaining. The bit of garbage from the boaters is usually in a bag from one of the stores in Ganges. I can only suppose that the merchants of Ganges want us to just drop our trash on the street. Greg Middleton

Fields of stinky rotten sunflowers to whom ever leaves their cigarette butts in the play sand and endangers the lives of three and four year olds by burning holes in their favourite play area. Do you know how much courage and trust it takes for them to go on the net to begin with? Will your conscience be able to handle it when you find out that a three-year-old has broken their neck by falling through the weakened net that you burned a hole in the night before? Feel free to party in our playground when we have our tri-annual "work parties." We all bring rakes and shovels and lots of energy to clean up the playground to make it a safe place for our children. That is the ONLY time you are welcome to play in our playground. Please have some respect! L. Taylor, SS Co-op Preschool

Roses

A sweet-smelling heritage rose to Patrick Akerman for lending and delivering some Akerman Museum artifacts for our class to study. Thanks! Grade 4/5 class, Salt Spring Centre School

Dog roses to the gentleman who assisted my collicie when he jumped out of a red pick-up in Embe parking lot on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 7. Prescription roses to the couple who let me jump

the queue in Dr. Leavitt's office at noon the following Tuesday. Doug McMillin

Electric high flying blue roses to the hydro guys for getting the Terry Fox banner up on the poles in time to promote the run. Thanks for helping keep the dream alive. Terry Fox committee.

Well read roses to the Driftwood for once again finding the space, time and person power to support the Terry Fox Run. Catherine

Hot, sweaty roses to all the wonderful people who plan to run, bike or walk the Terry Fox Run on Sunday, Sept 21 starting from Salt Spring Elementary School. (Registration at 10 a.m.) Cheers! See you there! Juliette Laing

A wagonload of SWOVA red roses to all of the generous folks who stepped up to billet Respectful Relationships facilitator trainees from all over B.C. from Sept. 14 to 21: Chris Gay and Jim Maurice; Judy Jackson; Elly McKeague; Jean Elder; Ellen Karpinski and Jerry Barenholtz; Lorna Cammaert; Jean Elder; Bob and Audrey Wild; Dorothy Cutting, and Cliff and Diana Knox. Thank you, one and all!

Roses to John, Mickey, Bruce and Virginia for an amazing lantern installation.

The Salt Spring Island Community Child and Family Connection would like to thank the following generous businesses for making our fall fair booth and prize draw a success: GVM, B-Side, Salt Spring Gelato, Uptown Pizza, Pomodoro's Pizza, Island Star Video, Salt Spring Soapworks, The Fritz, Sports Traders, Rainbow Road Indoor Pool.

Roses to our talented local musicians — thanks for the great music at the fall fair — fabulous line up of musicians! Great day, great music, the vibe was good all 'round! Thank you from Acoustic Planet.

A dozen strong, lean roses to Sheena Bull at Living Strong for donating her time and studio to prepare the GISS sr. boys volleyball team for a successful season. Love, the boys.

Fields of sunflowers to

Barry and his staff at the Oystercatcher Restaurant for once again providing the Salt Spring Island Co-op Preschool with a fantastic salmon BBQ at the fall fair. Your support to our preschool is definitely a "timeless tradition" and very appreciated!

Fields of sunflowers to Thrifty Foods for the donation to the Salt Spring Island Co-op Preschool that went towards our salmon BBQ at the fall fair. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Fields and fields of roses to all of the parents and grandparents that always go above and beyond their call of duty to support the co-op preschool. Our salmon BBQ at the fair would not be a success with out everyone's hard work! Together we are better!

Wheelbarrows full of whatever flowers make you happy to all the wonderful gardeners who dropped off their extra row of produce or fruit from their trees to the food bank in the last couple of weeks: the Raking Grannies, the Kowbel family, especially Bronwyn & Marley; Holcroft family; McColm family; Geoff Cue; Duck Creek Farm. Thanks again to all of our regular donors and any new ones such as Tish, SSI Wheatgrass, the Micheners, Seachange Sea Foods, Ganges Village Market, Thrifty's and last but not least, all of the churches on island and their parishioners who give so wholeheartedly and on such a regular basis. This week all the dogs & cats would like to thank Foxglove Farm & Garden, who

very generously donated cat and dog food. What a wonderful community we live in when our beloved pets are not forgotten. Thanks again. It seemed like Christmas in August with all the donations being delivered to the door of the food bank from the realtors on Salt Spring and we thank you so much for the bountiful gift of food products.

I would lit to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers who ensure that the food bank and Let's Do Brunch programs run so seemingly effortlessly each week: Ted, Eve, Meihau, Lise, Ilona, Vivienne, Gil and Fran, John, Marge and we must not forget Blue, Dori, Joanne, Sharon, Lynn, George, Peter, Kandra, Ken, David, Erin and Chris, Stuart, Jim, Heather and Anita. Both of these programs have benefitted so greatly having all of you be a part of them. I hope you know in your heart how special each of you are and just how appreciated all the work you do is. Gloria.

A bass drum full of roses to Nelly Kosteljik for the fabulous job of organizing the music at the fall fair. Thanks for your patience and fun attitude. We had a blast! Upex family, AKA The Relatives.

A huge bouquet of roses and carrots to Susan at Earthanimal Rabbit Sanctuary. Your kind heart and gentle way made the loss of a treasured family pet a little more bearable. Thanks again, the Johnstons.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FAIR FUN: Keith Simmons and Noah Dammel-Sherrin ride the old firetruck at the fall fair. More photos Page B1.

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Prior to September 30, contact the centre of your choice:

Mayne Island
District Learners Partnership Program
Ty Binfet
250-539-2371

Saturna Island
District Learners Partnership Program
Steve Dunsmuir
250-539-2472

Pender Islands
District Learners Partnership Program/
Spring Leaves Program
Martin Blakesley or Colleen Fitz-Gerald
250-629-3711

Galiano Island
District Learners Partnership Program
Dan Sparanese
250-539-2261

Salt Spring Island
Learning Design Partners Program
Oscar Hanson or Carol Janyk
250-537-1156

Benefits of the LDPP/DLPP include:

- ✓ Significant parental partnership
- ✓ Regular teacher contact
- ✓ Flexible pacing
- ✓ Rich learning resource budget
- ✓ Supports all learning styles
- ✓ Hybrid program between home and school

MORE LETTERS

continued from A12

Fab fair

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Salt Spring Fall Fair.

It was a wonderful event, so creatively and thoughtfully organized and conducted.

You are all a great credit to your community.

SID TAFLER,
VICTORIA

Backwards

I cannot believe the waste of our tax money! First, they repaint the yellow lines on our roads — Walker's Hook and Rainbow to name two — and then they put gravel down over top of it.

Terrible planning, especially the timing, right on schedule for the fall fair.

Ah, yes, our tax dollars at work... Ugh!
KIM HUNTER,
SALT SPRING

OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FAIR FRIENDS: Bud Falardeau hangs out with an emu at the Salt Spring Fall Fair.

Our rural governance system works

BY GARY HOLMAN
CRD DIRECTOR

Our unique, rural system of local government isn't perfect, but over the past six to seven years we have demonstrated it can deliver results.

We are enhancing services on Salt Spring Island at an unprecedented level, by building pathways, affordable housing for families and seniors, an indoor pool, facilities to compost our liquid wastes, state of the art water and sewage treatment facilities, upgrading Lady Minto Hospital, establishing Salt Spring's first-ever public transit system, and protecting thousands of acres of public green space. We have done all this through Trust-CRD cooperation, securing over \$37 million in senior government funding and a remarkably engaged citizenry. This is a record that any community would be proud of and one for which the provincial government has recently given Salt Spring one of the first ever Green City awards.

This doesn't mean we shouldn't improve local governance, and we are. Our local trustees have convinced Trust Council and the Province to hold a referendum on increasing the number of Salt Spring trustees. On the CRD side, we have created a transportation commission responsible for transit, walking and bike paths and even parking.

There is no other entity like this in rural B.C., and it

CRDREPORT

demonstrates once again that Salt Spring can meet challenges in very innovative ways. Our OCP, progressive rate structures for both water and sewer utilities to promote conservation, free residential recycling funded by garbage user fees and the Trust's NAPTEP property tax reductions to protect land all represent leading-edge innovations in local government environmental policy.

Concerns are expressed about the narrowness of CRD political representation. But the reality is that CRD service delivery by volunteer commissions is very broadly based. In fact, our system is a grassroots form of governance which engages and relies on the considerable talents and community spirit of its citizens, to a degree unmatched anywhere else in B.C.

Before the end of this term, a protocol agreement between the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) and the CRD Board will be finalized, making participation in a formal CRD-Trust coordinating committee an obligation of local office, less subject to the personal inclinations of elected officials. Non-CRD entities, such as improvement districts, Ministry of Transportation, RCMP and the school board will also be invited to participate in this committee to share

information and coordinate activities.

One of the first tasks of a CRD-Trust coordinating committee will be to investigate the establishment of a CRD local commission with overarching responsibility for all CRD services. Such an entity, which does not require legislative change, could further broaden CRD representation and better address concerns about fragmentation. But even more importantly, by designating the LTC as part of a local commission, along with the CRD director, we can ensure that service delivery is consistent with our OCP and the Trust's preserve and protect mandate, while still maintaining an important separation from land use.

Since most local commission members would have to be elected as trustees, this would be far different from a municipality in which only two out of seven councillors would be trustees. Such a commission would be a completely unique form of governance in B.C., and in the Trust area. Unlike a municipality, which would balkanize and can end run the Trust and its mandate, a local commission would keep the Trust at the core of local governance and, if need be, as an effective enforcer of Trust policy.

And rather than allowing the Province to download the responsibility for 300-km of poorly built, poorly maintained roads and storm drains, the costs of which will only

grow with higher fossil fuel prices and climate change-induced storm events, we can focus our transportation policy on pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, public transit and parking congestion in the villages.

The CRD-Trust coordinating committee will also be responsible for developing a strategic plan to implement our updated OCP and other community goals. The current trustees and I have been working on such a plan, which will lay out the strategies and actions to achieve these objectives. In fact, many key aspects of our OCP vision have been accomplished or are underway, as recognized by the Green City award. But we have not summarized these activities in one document. A strategic plan, with public and inter-agency input, would extend beyond particular elected officials and create greater sense of community direction and purpose.

I have served as CRD director for the past six years to try to demonstrate that our rural governance system can work. I believe we have done this, that our community has achieved some key community objectives in recent years, and that we are now on the threshold of significant governance reform with the Trust mandate at its core. I have decided to run for another term as CRD director to make a contribution to this process.



We just put our lawn to bed. Naturally.

At our place, we're tucking our lawn in for a winter sleep. Since we've gone pesticide-free, we've been practicing lawn care the natural way. This is a great time of year to nourish our lawn for next spring by top-dressing with compost. Fall is also the right time to aerate and de-thatch. And if we still find some containers of those pesky pesticides around the house, we'll take them to an authorized depot.

SEARCH AND RESCUE



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Salt Spring Search and Rescue's Bill Griffiths, Per Svendsen and Heather Fennell test out their new gear during a group training session at Portlock Park last week.

New technology expands reach of local search and rescue crews

GPS units improve odds of success

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The island's Search and Rescue team is a little more tech savvy and a whole lot more efficient these days thanks to 15 GPS units purchased with a \$5,000 grant from the Salt Spring Island Foundation.

A dozen SAR volunteers tested out the handheld units at the group's regular weekly meeting at Portlock Park last week.

GPS, or Global Positioning System, units use satellite links to keep volunteers in contact with a search co-ordinator at a laptop computer set up at a field base near the rescue site.

"We can use them to find out where people are, we can use them to mark evidence found, we can use them for marking tracks and we can use them to navigate to other people in the field," said SAR member Derek Capitaine.

The devices also feature radios, allowing members to keep in touch while out on a rescue mission.

"It's going to be a safety thing for us and provide SAR managers a degree of comfort and efficiency in their planning," Capitaine added.

During last week's demonstration, volunteers set out to locate and identify various

"targets" throughout the park by inserting numeric GPS coordinates into the units.

In addition to pointing the teams in the right direction, the units let users know how fast they are travelling, how far away they are from their destination and their estimated time of arrival.

"It's satisfying that the funds are being put to good use."

BOB RUSH
Grants advisory committee member,
Salt Spring Island Foundation

Also on hand at the event was Bob Rush, past chair of the Salt Spring Island Foundation. As a member of the foundation's grants advisory committee, Rush said the opportunity to significantly improve SAR's capabilities made the GPS choice an easy process.

"I've got a lot of respect for the Search and Rescue volunteers because they do a lot of work for the community," he said. "It's satisfying that the funds are being put to good use."

The Salt Spring Island Foundation issues roughly 24 grants, totaling an estimated \$100,000, to community based organizations every year.

LAND USE

Coffee company plant plan gets environmental impact assessment

Part of rezoning exploration for mid-island site

Salt Spring Coffee has officially commissioned an environmental impact assessment as part of its proposed rezoning of a Fulford-Ganges Road property.

According to a press release, the commissioned report is being undertaken to ensure the area continues to thrive as a sensitive ecological zone.

Green design architect George Grams, who is overseeing the project, says the assessment is key in discovering what environmental impact the proposed green facility will have on the community.

"We are doing our due diligence to see if the site is appropriate. This is not a fait accompli as we are in the early stages of discovery. Salt Spring Coffee is committed to deep green planning and so the assessment will look at how a commercial food facility using the latest green technologies would fare on that parcel."

The 2.689-acre property is at 1501 Fulford-Ganges, south of Garner Road.

Nanaimo-based Streamline Environmental Consulting Ltd. has been commissioned to complete the report. Its personnel will determine whether the activities planned for the lot are likely to have a deleterious effect on the lot itself, or any of the neighbouring ecosystems such as Ford Lake.

Other objectives of the assessment include making sure design decisions are consistent with establishing an environmentally benign and sustainable development on site; helping define how the existing flora and fauna can best be protected and enhanced; and to help devise land use and landscaping strategies that will encourage biodiversity on the site.

Included in the study is a screening level air quality assessment to be undertaken by Levelton Engineering Solutions in coordination with Streamline. The work will take four to six weeks to complete and will be made available to the public.

For more information, people can visit www.saltspring-coffee.com.

Sunday, September 21st is a great day to waste.



You are invited to a special no-charge drop-off event for household hazardous waste in your area.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event:

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Sunday, September 21st

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SWOVA Youth group set for new violence prevention program

Grades 10-12 girls to create activities for younger counterparts

Pass it On, a new SWOVA (Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse) initiative funded jointly by Status of Women Canada

and the Civil Forfeiture Program is seeking eight to 10 young women in grades 10-12 to form a youth advisory committee.

These are paid positions that will require an interview, and if chosen, a commitment to bi-weekly meetings for four months.

The youth advisory committee

will help to create workshops and other events for younger girls in the community.

The Pass it On project will continue with an older/younger girls' partnership (two-month pilot) in which older girls will be paired with younger girls in guiding relationships.

Christina Antonick, one of the project's coordinators, is enthusiastic about the opportunities being offered.

"The Pass It On Youth Advisory will be an opportunity for young women of our island to collectively create spaces for themselves and others to have their authentic

voices heard as well as listen to the voices of others. This is the foundation for powerful social change."

The project will work with girls and young women to explore key issues that are presently threatening their health and safety in our community and leaving them vulnerable to violence and abuse.

CARBON OFFSETTING



PHOTO SEAN MCINTYRE

Philip Reece wants more people to give up their cars for a month.

Islanders offered \$100

"Give It Up!" program takes aim at car culture

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring Island carbon offsetting company is prepared to hand out \$100 cash on one condition: that you abandon your gas-guzzling vehicle for 30 days.

Five people have so far taken the pledge to ditch their cars since Green Island Environmental launched the program last week and company co-founder Philip Reece said he's still searching for up to 10 more participants.

"We haven't got as many [participants] as we'd like," he said in an interview last week from the company's office in Grace Point Square. "It's hard to give money away."

The logic is simple: fewer cars on the island's roads translates into fewer emissions, less pollution and healthier islanders.

But though the connection may seem clear to so many, Reece said, it is diffi-

cult to change people's habits when it comes to using their cars.

"People are so set on using their car," he said.

The 30-day car-free project is hoped to get people thinking about other ways of getting around the island.

Reece said participants have taken to their bicycles, electric scooters, the island's public transit system and carpooling as an alternative to using their petroleum-fuelled cars, trucks and vans.

Project coordinators take an odometer reading at the start of the 30-day period and conduct occasional spot checks to ensure participants aren't motoring about.

Should this year's event prove successful, Reece hopes to make the 30-day "Give It Up!" challenge an annual event.

By organizing tree-planting campaigns and raising funds to help purchase the Creekside Rainforest, Green Island Environmental helps companies, organizations and individuals offset their carbon emissions.

The more carbon a company produces through its

use of fuel and electricity, the more funds it must contribute to programs aimed at

"It's hard to give money away."

PHILIP REECE
Green Island Environmental

offsetting those emissions.

The company's goal is to reinvest at least 80 per cent of the funds it receives from the carbon offsetting business into sustainable local projects.

"We're trying to get more creative to keep it all on the island," he said.

Reece and his business partner Mark Perry are currently working towards setting up a bike stop in the village core, a place where people can charge up their electric bikes while they go about their business in town.

For more on the "Give it Up!" challenge, contact Green Island at www.green-island.ca or 250-483-5833.

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Core Inn	Rendezvous Café
Creekhouse	Senior's Centre
Dagwoods	Seabreeze Motel
Embe Bakery	Seaside Fish & Chip
Fitness Friends	Salt Spring Coffee Co.
Fulford Inn	Salt Spring Books
Fulford Ferry	Salt Spring Inn
Golf Course	Salt Spring Physio
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CAR REVIEW

'08 Nissan Altima: compact economy in a luxury ride

Five people can cruise but with top-notch fuel economy

BY JEANNIE OWENS-WALLACE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

When the season's warmth begins to slightly fade and the fields fill with late harvest fruit, this is the time for evening drives.

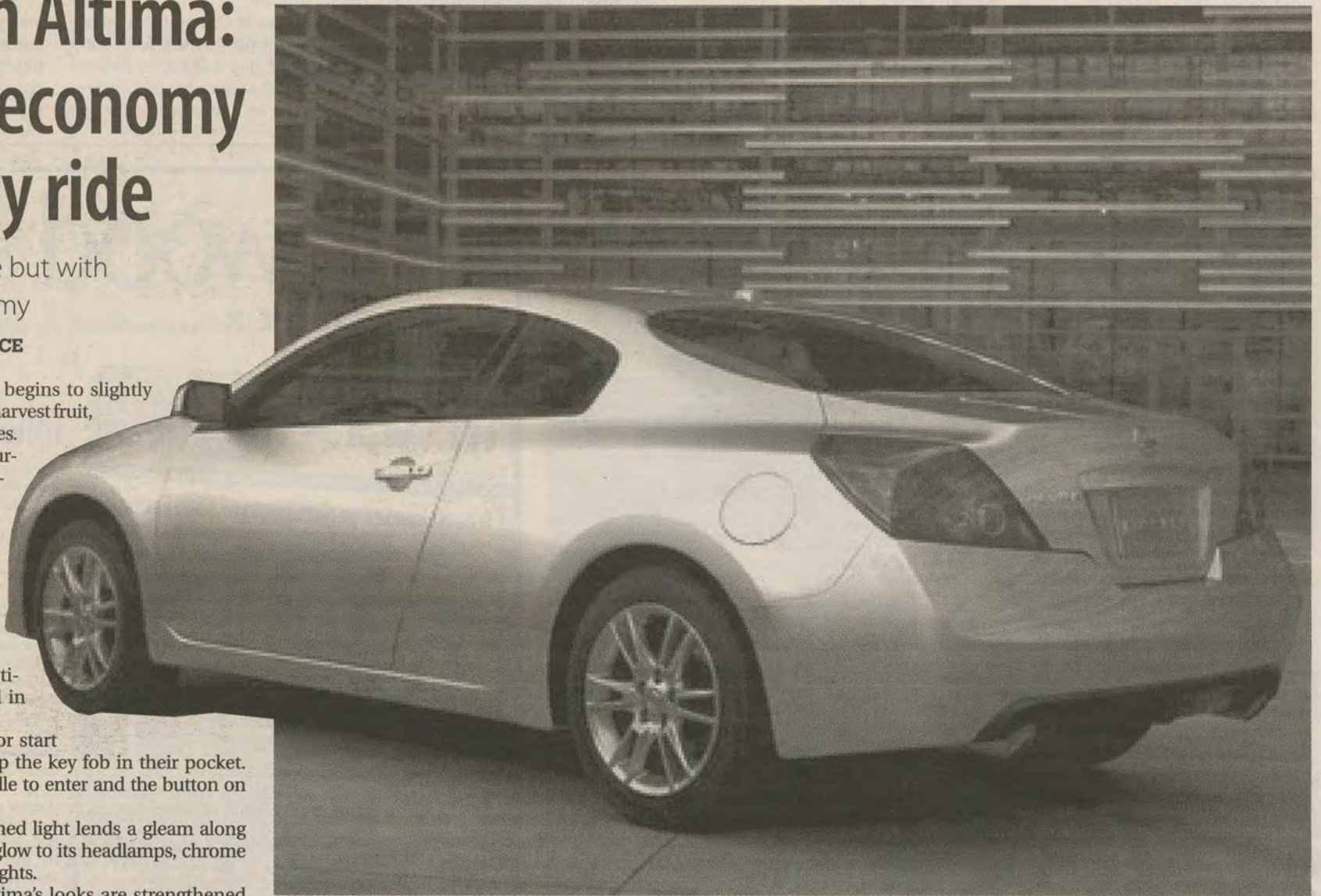
Pleasantly drifting through Burgoyne Valley, tracing Fulford-Ganges Road to the village and circling along North End Road ensconced in a 2008 Nissan Altima is a fitting close to the remaining summer days.

After dinner leave the dishes, grab a sweater — it can get nippy out, you know — and head out to the majestically attractive Altima parked in the driveway.

No need for a key to enter or start the Altima, the driver can keep the key fob in their pocket. Press the tab on the door handle to enter and the button on the dash to start.

As the day wanes, the softened light lends a gleam along the Altima's lean length and a glow to its headlamps, chrome accents and wrap-around tail lights.

Distinctly attractive, the Altima's looks are strengthened



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'Complete' family car offers safety and comfort features

ALTIMA
continued from A18

with chrome-tip dual exhaust, fog lights and 16-inch alloy wheels.

The Altima is a car meant for cruising, for spending time in. Five people can easily clamber in to settle in the soft, comfortable seats with ample room for legs, not to mention Angelina, the teddy bear, and Curro, the small-size family dog.

Fold-up chairs, extra blankets and pails fit in the cavernous trunk — nice to know there's even room for a flat or two if the desire to pick up some berry delights crops up along the way.

Assurance of 170 horsepower from the 2.5-litre, four-cylinder 2008 Nissan Altima gives a sense of momentum to late day adventures.

Smooth and refined a ride as is meant to be found in a V6, the Altima's continuously variable transmission provides a seamless flow of power through a variable of ratios on bands, rather than gears.

Nissan mastering, in its CVT transmission, the pleasing sensation of running through gears, ranges picked and honed to perfectly shift at points matching the traditional rpms, appreciatively so in a series of six speeds for optimum advantage.

Throaty engine sounds that

blend into the lilt and murmur of the conversation that's sure to be: sharing bits and drabs from the week, a sight along the way pointed out for all to notice; the sound of a favourite tune from someone's MP3 plugged into the AM/FM/CD Bose audio system drifting underneath their voices.

With the SL Package added on, the Altima includes a six-CD changer with nine speakers, XM Satellite Radio and Bluetooth hands-free calling plus a panoramic moonroof.

For the driver, the ride is made that much better with clear instrumentation and well-placed controls. Tilt, telescopic steering wheel and eight-way adjustable seat settings customize the driver's experience, as does having power doors, windows and locks, and steering-wheel-mounted cruise controls.

Air conditioning is standard, dual-climate control an option, though barely desired when the evenings are so fine and the scents so splendidly summer-filled that windows are open.

There's a sense of comfort in knowing that Nissan Altima has front airbags, side airbags and side curtain airbags as standard safety equipment.

So solid on the road and handling so sure-footed, the Altima 2.5 S can be forgiven

"With fuel economy as good as a compact in a full-size elegant sedan, the 2008

Altima is the complete family car."

SEAN WARREN
Sales manager

for not having the option of stability control.

A mid-size sedan, as well conveyed in style and elegance as the Altima is, adds to the decadent pleasure of winding along back roads to find bush-lined lanes laden with treasures for the jam jars.

This summer evening pastime is eased of guilty extravagance by the Altima's fuel economy of 8.9 litres/100 km in the city and 6.3 litres/100 km on the highway.

"With fuel economy as good as a compact in a full-size elegant sedan, the 2008 Altima is the complete family car," says Sean Warren, sales manager at Campus Nissan. Consumer Reports agrees, scoring the Nissan Altima at the top for family sedans.

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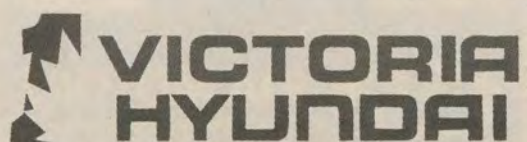
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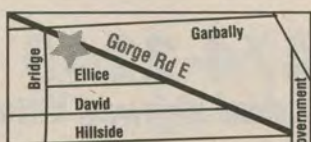
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Tale of two 1940 Ford pickups from the prairies recounted

BY ALYN EDWARDS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

When Surrey residents Jim deVries and Terry Robertson arrived at a suburban Vancouver Hallmark Ford and Shelby show in August, they didn't know each other and had no idea how much they had in common.

Both were driving 1940 Ford pickup trucks. They had both found their trucks through a relative and then purchased them from original owners on the Prairies. And both had owned their trucks for more than 40 years.

Terry Robertson grew up in Quesnel and was a car-crazy 13-year-old when his mother and father took him to visit his grandparents in Turtleford, Saskatchewan.

He sensed there were old vehicles hidden away on the neighbouring farms and immediately began making inquiries.

An uncle told him about an old pickup truck that was in a shed and he knew the owner.

Otto Maess had purchased the three-quarter-ton Ford



A photo opportunity at a stopover on one of the camping trips Jim deVries and his family took in the 1940 Ford half ton pickup.

pickup new in Turtleford in 1940. He used it to haul grain for 20 years and drove it approximately 1,000 miles a year.

Robertson used his paper route money to buy the truck for \$75. He bought a battery

at the co-op and the old flathead V-8-powered Ford fired right up. A local welding shop made up a tow bar for pulling the pickup truck behind the family Pontiac station wagon all the way back to B.C.

"I sat in the back seat and just watched the truck the whole way," Robertson recalls of the trip home.

He had the truck painted and drove it for a couple of summers from the age of 16 on. But the old truck took a

back seat to marriage and children and it spent 30 years sitting in his parents' garage in Quesnel before Robertson planned a resurrection.

An attempt to restore the truck ended in disaster

when the body shop burned down. The truck was badly damaged. But many of the parts remained untouched because they had been stored elsewhere.

Two years ago, Robertson took his truck in pieces to a shop called the Body Smith in Quesnel where it underwent a total off frame restoration.

The results are stunning with the three-quarter-ton Ford pickup gleaming in the original maroon color. The odometer shows the truck has travelled just 18,778 miles.

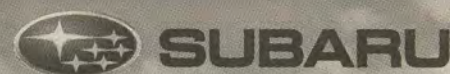
This is the only three-quarter-ton 1940 that Robertson has ever seen. It has a longer and sturdier frame than the more common half-ton model.

Although the cab is the same on both trucks, the pickup box is longer and the front fenders, hood and grille differ between the three-quarter ton with a 122-inch wheelbase and the half-ton with a 112-inch wheelbase.

The Ford Motor Company launched its first pickup truck in 1925 as a Ford Model T runabout with "a pickup body."

Three years later, Ford unveiled the first closed cab pickup with its Model A line of redesigned vehicles.

FORD PICKUPS continued on A23



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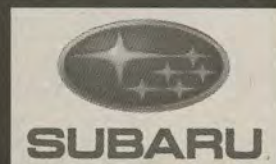
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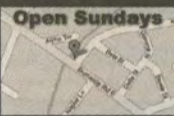


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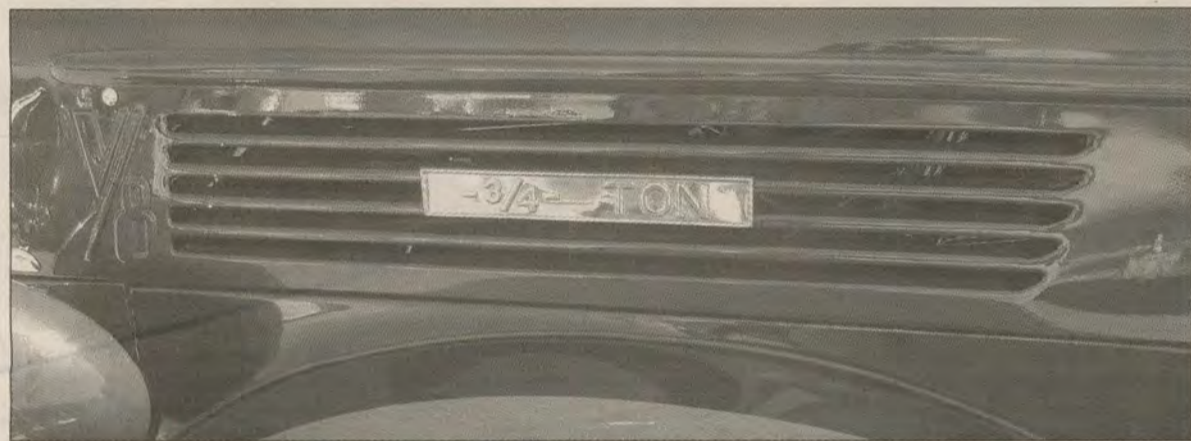
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1940 prairie Ford pickups captured two teenagers' attention



PHOTOS BY ALYN EDWARDS

Above: Jim deVries (left) with his half-ton pickup and Terry Robertson with his three-quarter-ton pickup stand with their 1940 Ford trucks at the Hallmark Ford and Shelby Show this summer. Below, "3/4 Ton" sign on side hood louvres clearly identifies Robertson's truck as being made for work.



FORD PICKUPS

continued from A21

Pickups became very popular during the Depression era because people couldn't afford two vehicles and many banks would only lend money on vehicles that could make money. By 1940, the big-three auto manufacturers were all turning out pickup trucks. They had become part of the North American culture.

Jim deVries also saw his 1940 Ford half ton pickup truck for the first time when he was a teenager. It was pulling out of a lumber yard in his home town of Brandon, Manitoba and it was love at first sight.

He tried to chase the truck but failed to catch up with it.

He asked if anyone knew about the truck.

By coincidence, his father-in-law knew the owner and took him over to meet him.

Sam Gilder had purchased the truck new just three weeks before his wedding in 1940. Sam and his bride drove the new truck on a honeymoon trip to Minot, North Dakota.

That is the most distance he would ever drive the truck.

He had the truck doors lettered 'S.J. Gilder, stucco-plastering, Phone 3080' and Sam would use the Ford as his work truck for 20 years, travelling 30,000 miles. DeVries spent three years visiting the Gilders and asking to buy the truck.

It was 1960 when Sam finally gave in. The price was \$200 — four times what deVries thought the old pickup was worth.

"I wanted it so bad, I just paid the price," deVries recalls.

The truck became deVries' everyday transportation and he had it painted in Brandon in 1967 and installed a high horsepower Chevrolet V8 engine.

The truck came with him when he moved to Vancouver to work at the Gulf Oil refinery — now PetroCan.

"I wanted it so bad, I just paid the price."

JIM DEVRIES
Truck buyer

He put a canopy on the truck and used it to go camping with his wife and two growing boys.

In 1986, in time for the Early Ford V8 Club national meet in Victoria, deVries replaced the Chevrolet V8 motor with the original motor.

He drove it all the way back to Brandon one summer with the hope of showing it to the original owner. Gilder had passed away, so deVries took his widow for a spin in the old Ford truck.

She told him she didn't remember it looking so good.

Now that Robertson has his three-quarter-ton pickup looking like brand new, he wants to take it back to its home town of Turtleford, Saskatchewan.

"I hope to go to the Turtleford Fair," the parts man for Inland Kenworth says. "Lots of old-timers might remember it."

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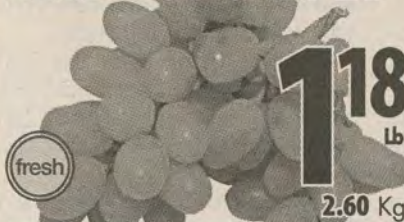
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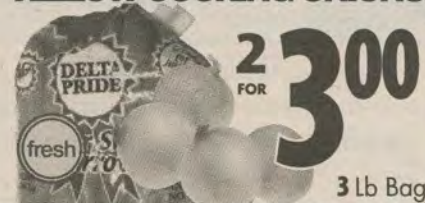
1¹⁸ lb
2.60 Kg

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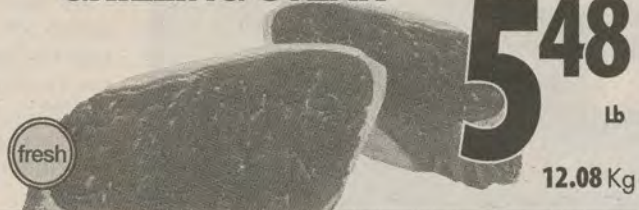
2 FOR 3⁰⁰
3 Lb Bag

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1⁸⁸ lb
4.14 Kg

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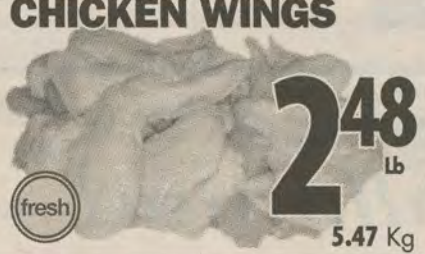
5⁴⁸ lb
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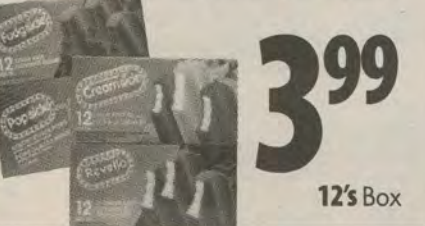
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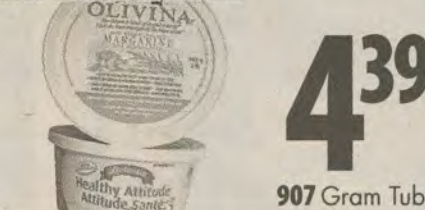
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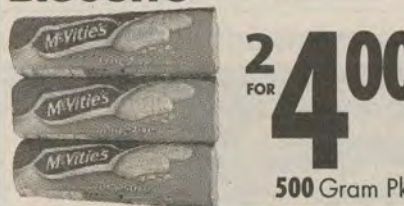
2 FOR 9⁰⁰
665-743 Gram Box

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LACTANTIA MARGARINE



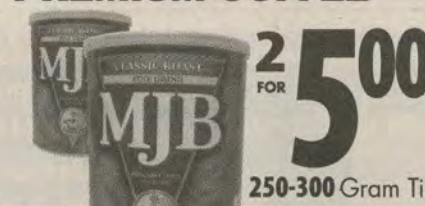
4³⁹
907 Gram Tub

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GENDER ISSUES

Island mom launches SSI PFLAG chapter

First meeting set for Sept. 28

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

PFLAG has a tradition of respecting anonymity: for the supporters of those struggling with sexual identity, confidentiality is paramount to feeling secure.

Similarly, a local woman who has organized the Salt Spring chapter of the national organization prefers to be known just as "Jill."

Her daughter, she explained, is currently sorting out her gender issues and is not "out" to many of her friends or family. Indeed like many young people today, she feels hesitant to attach a label to her complex feelings.

Jill's daughter was fortunate to have parents who were welcoming and open to her sexuality, but even still, natural concerns about her safety in an intolerant world came up.

"This is a great community, but when you're sending your child off into the world, you're not sure what it will be like for them there. So that's a fear that I think is natural for a parent," Jill said.

To deal with these concerns, Jill found support in good friends and neighbours who were members of GLOSSI, the Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island.

"I turned to them to talk about our personal situation, and they knew us as a family as well. When the people in GLOSSI started saying we needed something like PFLAG in place, a friend approached me to ask if I would consider heading it up."

Three GLOSSI members in particular were very encouraging for Jill's involvement: she cites Bill Turner, Wendy Judith Cutler and Katie Fisher as "giving tremendous support to get it going."

After doing some research into PFLAG Canada and consulting with the group's national director, Jill decided it was something she wanted to involve herself with.

The organization provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual and gender diversity, whether the parents and friends of lesbians and gays, or people who themselves may identify that way.

Previously known as the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, since 2003 the organization has stopped being an acronym and become a name itself to reflect the broader and more complex gender issues of the time.

As background material provided by PFLAG explains, "A name referring specifically to 'lesbians and gays'

could be seen as excluding people who identify by other terms, such as bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex or queer, or people who are still questioning their sexual orientation."

"This is a great community, but when you're sending your child off into the world, you're not sure what it will be like for them there."

JILL
PFLAG chapter founder

Today, PFLAG offers resources and information about issues of sexual orientation to support individuals and build stronger communities.

Here on Salt Spring, Jill hopes the group will be working with the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) at the high school toward this goal.

At the same time, however, the group's original focus remains intact.

"It's a resource specifically for parents and friends — there is no support group for those who are trying to figure out how this is going to impact their families and their children," Jill explained.

"And even for kids who are trying to figure out how to approach their parents — you know, that can be a biggie, too."

In addition to making their debut in Salt Spring's recent pride parade, Jill is also busy planning the group's first meeting for September 28.

Monthly meetings will begin with open discussion and end with a guest speaker.

The idea is to hold a respectful forum where all diverse opinions can be heard without judgment.

Jill's hoping someone from a PFLAG chapter in Victoria or Duncan will come as the very first speaker to give some tips on how their branch is run. Though excited, she doesn't know yet what to expect in terms of numbers.

"I think on Salt Spring there are a lot of people who are supportive and who want to show their support, so this is one way we can all do it together."

The first PFLAG meeting will be held Sunday, Sept. 28 at 344 Lower Ganges Road, from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call 250-537-7773 or e-mail pflagssi@live.com.

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	:30	Wheel of Fortune		Maggie & the Beast (35) Arthur			Growing Pains	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News				CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Sportsnet Connected
6	:00	News	Le Téléjournal	Bright Sparks		News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Martial Arts Ultimate Fight Night - Diaz vs. Neer
	:30			Wild at Heart			George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy (Part 2 of 2)		KING 5 News				iCarly iRule the Day	
7	:00	Coronation Street	Virginie	MeerkatMan or A New Day	SportsCentre	El News	Scrubs My Interpretation	Entertainment Tonight	eTalk (N)	Matchmaker	Robson Arms	Law & Order: Special	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Back Care Basics: Yoga for the Rest of Us	Monarchy Aengland	Entertainment Tonight	Malcolm in the Middle	
	:30	Jeopardy	L'Épicerie	Undersea Explorer		The Insider	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law	TMZ	Victims Unit Blast	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition			The Insider	Home Improvement	
8	:00	Little Mosque Islam on Tap	Le match des étoiles	Black Coffee Gold in Your Cup	Off the Record	"Knight Rider" (Act, '08) Justin Bruening.	The Practice	Bones The Finger in the Nest (N)	So You Think You Can Dance Canada (N)	Vancouver Nights Iranian Pop	America's Next Top Model (N)	Life of the Teenager I Feel Sick	America's Next Top Model (N)	Bones The Finger in the Nest (N)	Wife Swap Tassier/Tyson	America's Got Talent (N)	Live From Lincoln Center	News	Old Christine	Prank Patrol Magic Shop	
	:30	Sophie																	Old Christine	Futurama	
9	:00	the fifth estate	Tous pour un	Gala From Berlin: A Salute to Carmen	UEFA Soccer Champions League - Matchday #1 Real Madrid vs. FC Bate		Third Watch	Wipeout (SF) (N)		Sabor Latino	Private Practice	Hell's Kitchen	90210 The Bubble	'Til Death Joy Ride (N)	20/20 The Royal Family			CBC News: The National	Criminal Minds Lo-Fi	Prank Patrol	The Ultimate Fighter 8
	:30													Do Not Disturb (N)			Great Performance s Pavarotti: A Life in Seven Arias		Mystery Hunters		
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal		True Hollywood Story		The Daily		CSI: NY Hostage	Hola Que Tal	Dirty Sexy Money	Friends	Seinfeld The Abstinence	Q13 FOX News		Law & Order: Criminal Intent Last Rites		Politics With Don Newman	CSI: NY Hostage	Adrenaline Project	Sportsnet Connected
	:30				Diya		The Office					Most Amazing	Seinfeld							Prank Patrol	
11	:00	News / (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	Buffy St. Marie: A Multimedia Life	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Reviews on the Run	Frasier	Family Guy Da Boom	News	News		The Hour	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30									CTV News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	Frasier Dial 'M' for Martin	King of the Hill	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	John Denver: A Song's Best Friend	(35) The Late Show With David Letterman	Ghost Trackers	
12 MID	:00	(05) CONCACAF Soccer	La zone	Strange Days on Planet Earth Invaders	Off the Record	(05) Chelsea Lately (N)	Jeeves and Wooster Pearls Mean Tears	(05) Ent. Tonight (35) E.T. Canada	(05) The Daily Show (35) Colbert Report	Jai Fiji Caribbean Beat	(35) Conan O'Brien	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show South Park	RENO 911! TMZ	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Conan O'Brien	Canada Votes	Malcolm in the Middle	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30	(35) Can. Reflections	(45) Fosse aux lions		IIHF Hockey	(35) Late, Late Show													(35) Late, Late Show		

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18

5 PM	:00	The Simpsons	C'est la vie	Martha Speaks	(4:00) MLB Baseball - Baltimore vs. Toronto (Live)	CHEK News	Happy Days Tall Story	Early News	CTV News at Five	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Charlie Rose	Canada Votes	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:30) Poker After Dark
	:30	Wheel of Fortune		Maggie & the Beast (35) Arthur			Growing Pains	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News				CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Pratt & Taylor
6	:00	News	Le Téléjournal	Kratts' Creatures Working Animals		News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected
	:30						George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy		KING 5 News				iCarly	
7	:00	Coronation Street	Virginie	Talking Canadian	SportsCentre	El News	Scrubs My Drama Queen	Entertainment Tonight	eTalk (N)	Matchmaker	Robson Arms	Law & Order: Special	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Evening Magazine	Andre Rieu: Live in Vienna	Geologic Journey The Great Lakes	Entertainment Tonight	H2O: Just Add Water	Martial Arts World Combat League
	:30	Jeopardy	Infoman			The Insider	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law	TMZ	Victims Unit Taboo	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Inside Edition			The Insider	Home Improvement	
8	:00	iPOD Steve Leaves	Zone doc Refuge: un film sur le darfour	Sahara Absolute Desert	Off the Record	Name Is Earl Frank's Girl	Smallville Odyssey	NCIS Judgement Day (Part 2 of 2)	CSI: Crime Scene The Theory of Everything	What's in Vancouver? Main Office	The Moment of Truth	Ugly Betty Jump	Smallville Odyssey (SP) (N)	Hole in the Wall	Ugly Betty Jump	America-Talent (N)		News	CSI: Crime Scene The Theory of Everything	Prank Patrol	Poker World Tour
	:30					Name Is Earl (Part 2 of 2)										Name Is Earl (Part 2 of 2)	American Masters Pete			Futurama	
9	:00	Doc Zone Museum Doc (Part 2 of 2)	Grosse vie C.A.	Art of the Heist The Big Sting (N)	NASCAR Auto Racing Canadian Tire Series	"Legacy of Fear" ★★★ (Susp. '06) Teri Polo.	Supernatural	The Office Goodbye, Toby	CSI: Crime Scene Two and a Half Deaths	Dheeyan Ghar Sadabahr Nagmae	America's Next Top Model	Glam God	Supernatural Lazarus Rising (SP) (N)	Kitchen Nightmares Giuseppe's (N)	Grey's Anatomy Freedom	The Office Goodbye, Toby	Seeger: The Power of Song	CBC News: The National	CSI: Crime Scene Two and a Half Deaths	Prank Patrol Lost Dog	Best Damn Sports Show Period
	:30																			Mystery Hunters	
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	Talking Canadian	Poker Night		The Daily	90210 The Bubble	Flashpoint Planet's Aligned (N)	Mor Deo Koi	Eleventh Hour	Friends	Seinfeld The Andrea Doria	Q13 FOX News		ER The Chicago Way		Politics With Don Newman	Flashpoint Planet's Aligned (N)	Adrenaline Into Thin Air	Sportsnet Connected
	:30						Diya			Desi Rhythms		Friends	Seinfeld The Apartment							Prank Patrol	
11	:00	News / (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	Thin	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Realty TV	Frasier Selling Out	Family Guy	News	News	My Music My Generation: The 60s	The Hour	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30									CTV News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	Frasier Hot Ticket	King of the Hill	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		(35) The Late Show With David Letterman	Ghost Trackers	
12 MID	:00	(05) Arrested	La zone		Off the Record	(05) Chelsea Lately (N)	Jeeves and Wooster Jeeves in the Country	(05) Ent. Tonight (35) E.T. Canada	(05) The Daily Show (35) Colbert Report	Punjabi Vibes	(35) Conan O'Brien	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show South Park	RENO 911! TMZ	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Conan O'Brien	Canada Votes	Malcolm in the Middle	Pratt & Taylor	
	:30	(35) Can. Reflections	(45) Fosse aux lions		IIHF Hockey	(35) Late, Late Show													(35) Late, Late Show	Futurama	

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19

5 PM	:00	The Simpsons	C'est la vie	Martha Speaks	(4:30) CFL Football - Winnipeg vs. Hamilton (Live)	CHEK News	Happy Days Scholarship	Early News	CTV News at Five	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Charlie Rose	Canada Votes	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:00) MLB Baseball - Boston vs. Toronto (Live)
	:30	Wheel of Fortune		Maggie & the Beast (35) Arthur			Growing Pains	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News				CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	
6	:00	News	Le Téléjournal	Heads Up		News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	KIRO 7 Eyewitness News	The Next Star The Buzz	
	:30			Healing With Animals			George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy Petarded		KING 5 News					
7	:00	Coronation Street	Du coeur au ventre	Emily of New Moon	SportsCentre	El News	Scrubs My Dream Job	Entertainment Tonight	eTalk (N)	Matchmaker	Robson Arms	Law & Order: Special	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	the fifth estate The Lady Vanishes	Entertainment Tonight	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected
	:30	Jeopardy				The Insider	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law	TMZ	Victims Unit Manipulated	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	KCTS Connects		The Insider	iCarly	
8	:00	Air Farce Live	Paquet voleur	The Royal Can't Buy Me Love		Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	May to December	Very Bad Men The Faux Rockefeller	Ghost Whisperer Pater Familias	Weekly News Forum CTS Night Club	Wife Swap	Survivorman Plane Crash	Friday Night Smackdown (N)	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	America's Funniest Home Videos	America's Toughest Jobs (N)	NOW	Washington Week	Ghost Whisperer Pater Familias	"To Be Announced"	Seattle vs. Oakland (Live)
	:30	Winnipeg Comedy Fest																			
9	:00	Doctor Who Partners in Crime (SP) (N)	Zone doc Le monde selon Lula	Margery and Gladys	Boxing Card TBA	Deal or No Deal	Enigma	Numb3rs Atomic No. 33	Greek Depth Perception	Here Comes Ajumma	Don't Forget the Lyrics (N)	Life of the Teenager I Feel Sick		Don't Forget the Lyrics (N)		Dateline NBC	Bill Moyers' Journal	CBC News: The National	Numb3rs Atomic No. 33		
	:30																				
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal		20/20 (SP) (N)		The Daily	Numb3rs When Worlds Collide	Law & Order: Criminal Intent Legacy	Open Concert	Stargate: SG-1	Kaya	Seinfeld The Little Jerry	Q13 FOX News	20/20 (SP) (N)		John Denver: A Song's Best Friend	Politics With Don Newman	Numb3rs When Worlds Collide	The Next Star The Buzz	Sportsnet Connected
	:30						Diya					Most Amazing	Seinfeld The Stranded								
11	:00	News / (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	From Harling Point	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Reviews on the Run	Frasier Oops	Family Guy	News	News		The Hour	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30									CTV News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	Frasier First, Do No Harm	King of the Hill	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Alone in the Wilderness	(35) The Late Show With David Letterman	Ghost Trackers	
12 MID	:00	(05) Arrested	La zone	The Return of Sherlock Holmes The Second Stain	Off the Record	(05) Chelsea Lately (N)	Medicine Woman	(05) ECW Wrestling	(05) CSI: NY	Vancouver Masala	(35) Conan O'Brien	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show South Park	RENO 911! TMZ	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Conan O'Brien	Canada Votes	With David Letterman	Futurama	The Ultimate Fighter 8
	:30	(35) Kenny vs. Spenny	(45) Fosse aux lions		Motoring 2008	(35) Late, Late Show													(35) Late, Late Show	"To Be Announced"	

CONSERVATION

Conservancy aims to attract western bluebirds back to Salt Spring Island

Interested people urged to participate in program

BY LAURA MATTHIAS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) was once a common migratory songbird in our region. With no known breeding pairs since the early 1990s, the bird is considered extirpated from our coastal island region, known as the Georgia Depression population. Habitat fragmentation, loss of suitable nesting cavities, competition from European starlings and other introduced species, as well as climate change, have been suggested as some of the reasons for their disappearance.

In other parts of British Columbia, the western bluebird breeds at low elevations across the southern part of the province, preferring habitats such as farmlands, meadows, orchards, and forest edges. Garry oak ecosystems are known to be important habitat to these birds.

The western bluebird is a member of the thrush family, being closely related to the eastern bluebird and the mountain bluebird.

Often the male western bluebirds will arrive earlier in February to claim their territories, and the females follow shortly thereafter, as they breed earlier than most other songbirds. Extensive and inclement cold spring weather can therefore impact the success rates of these early nesters.

Western bluebirds are secondary cavity nesters, requiring nest cavities already excavated by other species of birds. They will also readily use nest boxes of the appropriate size. The bluebirds lay four to six pale blue to white eggs, with the female incubating them for a couple of weeks before hatching. Both the male and female take part in rearing their young on a diet primarily of insects and some fruits.

In some areas, such as in Fort Lewis, Washington, the western bluebirds have been making a comeback due to extensive nest box programs, which have increased the nesting pairs from four in the 1980s to over 200 pairs at present. More recently on the San Juan Islands, attempts have been made to reintroduce pairs of western bluebirds from Fort Lewis, WA. Western bluebirds seem to readily use nest boxes when they are available, giving conservationists an opportunity to re-establish other nesting locations for the diminishing birds.

As Salt Spring Island is home to highly suitable habitat for the western bluebirds, there are several things that we can do to attempt to reestablish our coastal populations. Pro-



Bluebird nest box.

tecting existing habitats and restoring degraded habitats, particularly our endangered Garry oak ecosystems, is of great importance. There are a variety of conservation options available for private landowners on Salt Spring Island who wish to protect their land in perpetuity.

Leaving older trees intact that have nest cavities in them can provide nesting sites for the western bluebirds and many other of our native cavity nesting birds. Installing and monitoring nest boxes in suitable habitats can also be beneficial.

On Salt Spring Island, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy is working with landowners to establish a

network of western bluebird boxes in areas with suitable habitat. Many landowners are participating in the project, hoping to attract the bluebirds back to our island. The Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT) is also hoping to reintroduce pairs of the western bluebirds back to our island at some point in the future.

Attracting the western bluebird back to our island has many benefits. It would help to restore an important component of our rare Garry oak ecosystems, which are home to over 100 species at risk. Re-establishing breeding bluebird pairs would help to restore the Georgia Depression population on

the Gulf Islands, hopefully increasing the connectivity to additional suitable habitat in other areas for the birds to disperse. It also allows our community to be involved in the recovery and monitoring aspects of this beautiful songbird.

If you have seen a western bluebird, passing through or nesting, or if you would like more information on landowner conservation options, contact the Salt Spring Island Conservancy at 250-538-0318 or e-mail us at info@saltspringconservancy.ca.

The writer is a biologist with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.



Sidewalk Superintendent The business beat of the Gulf Islands

By Peter McCully

Business award nomination deadline looms

Don't forget to submit your nominations for the third annual **Salt Spring Business Awards** in the following categories:

- Business of the Year** (6 + employees), **Small Business of the Year** (5 or less employees), **New Business of the Year**, **Business Ambassador**, **Home Based Business of the Year**, **Agricultural/Farm Business of the Year**, **Green Business of the Year** and **Citizen of the Year**.

The criteria for each award and nomination forms are on the Chamber of Commerce website (www.saltspringtourism.com), at the Chamber of Commerce, in the Driftwood newspaper, at the Driftwood office, Mouat's Trading, Thrifty Foods, TJ Beans, Island Star Video and Salt Spring Insurance Services. Deadline for nominations is Sept. 30, 2008.

• **Salt Spring Air** carried an extra special guest a few weeks ago when Olympic gold medalist **Ben Rutledge** took a flight to his family's home near Maple Bay, sport-

ing his brilliant gold medal. Rutledge was part of the Canadian Men's Heavyweight 8 rowing team competing in Beijing.

• **Thrifty Foods Ltd.** announced earlier this month that it has purchased the **Country Grocer** store in Duncan.

"This is a stand-alone sale of the Duncan location and does not affect any of our other store locations, which will carry on business as usual in each of their communities," said Country Grocer director **Peter Cavin** in a press release.

While independently owned, **Ganges Village Market** is part of the Country Grocer family.

With more than 4,000 employees, Thrifty Foods is Vancouver Island's largest private sector employer and is owned by Nova Scotia-based **Sobey Foods**.

• **Mafalda Hoogerdyk** has qualified to be a charter member of the Elder Planning Counsellor program, after completing a rigorous test of knowledge regarding current seniors issues.

The Canadian Initiative for

Elder Planning Studies course was established by Canadians for Canadian Professionals as a standard of service to seniors for all professionals and business people in providing seniors with high quality services and products that best suit their lives and circumstances.

The "Elder Planning Counsellor" (EPC) designation will immediately help seniors identify the business people and professionals who have a special interest and proficiency in dealing with them and their needs.

Mafalda runs **Salt Spring Insurance Services** at Grace Point Square and is also president of the **Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce**.

• **Salt Spring Coffee** made its debut at the fourth annual **Tastemakers Lounge**, held at the InterContinental Toronto Yorkville Hotel during the **2008 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)** from Sept. 6 to 12. We assume the visit caused a few diehard Tim Horton's fans to reconsider their morning beverage choice.

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2009 Mallard Sport 18CK TT

One of our bestsellers! Great family unit w/cd player, microwave, bath skylight & much more.



STK #P09N426
MSRP
\$21,205
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$174 P/mo oac* #1

\$16,720

2008 Evolution E2 Tent Trailer

HUGE cargo deck, bathroom w/shower - lots of models to view in Courtenay, Port Alberni & Nanaimo!



STK #M08N739
MSRP
\$19,061
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$151 P/mo oac* #2

\$14,420

2009 Trail-Lite Crossover 210QB TT

SUV towable ultralight w/front island queen bed, microwave, a/c, generous counter space.



STK #S09N10882
MSRP
\$19,225
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$175 P/mo oac* #3

\$16,840

2008 Tango 224RB Travel T.

Sofa converts to Island Queen bed! Alum. mag wheels, f/glass exterior, stylish design.



STK #P08N322
MSRP
\$27,204
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$199 P/mo oac* #4

\$19,720



THE LEAVES ARE **FALLING** AND SO ARE OUR PRICES!

20th Annual Fall Extravaganza!

2009 Citation 26RLS Travel T.

Fabulous Citation w/rear livingroom, slide-out, euro-top mattress, elec. front jack.



STK #09N1027
MSRP
\$54,935
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$452 P/mo oac* #5

\$52,840

2008 Wilderness 260BHS TT

Bunkhouse that sleeps 9! All-season comfort with a/c and extreme Edition pkg., basement storage.



STK #08N978
MSRP
\$37,544
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$264 P/mo oac* #6

\$25,840

2009 Jazz 3070UKS 5th Wheel

Double slide model w/spacious living area, L-shaped sofa, thermalpanes, ceiling fan.



STK #M09N780
MSRP
\$54,014
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$333 P/mo oac* #7

\$38,730

2008 Wave 28BH Travel Trailer

Roomy bunk model, alum. frame sidewalls, deluxe awning, microwave, a/c.



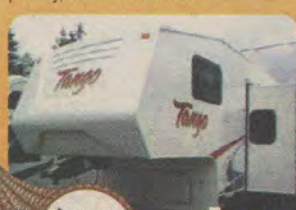
STK #08N980
MSRP
\$25,763
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$221 P/mo oac* #8

\$21,420

2008 Tango 2790BHSS 5th W.

Superslide bunkhouse w/entertainment centre, pantry, and much more!



STK #08N885
MSRP
\$38,088
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$283 P/mo oac* #9

\$27,720

2008 Terra LX 34N Class A

2 slides, auto 4pt. levelers, dual 6V aux. batteries, 5.5kw gen., EZ Store storage maximizer.



STK #M08N753
MSRP
\$145,548
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$920 P/mo oac* #10

\$108,430

2007 Nitrous Hyperlite 265FSX 5th Toy

1/2 ton towable 5th wheel toybox, awesome alloy interior, generator w/pump strn.



STK #A07N1262
MSRP
\$57,269
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$335 P/mo oac* #11

\$32,940

2008 Citation Platinum 38RLQS 5th W.

Quad slide home-away-from-home! Residential-style features abound + a 6-yr mfg. warranty!



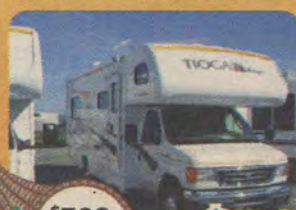
STK #A08N1504
MSRP
\$105,786
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$763 P/mo oac* #12

\$89,720

2008 Tioga Ranger 25G Class C

Dinette slide, Onan generator, wrap-around booth dinette, a/c, water filtration.



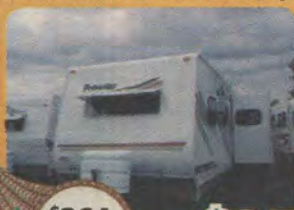
STK #A08N1379
MSRP
\$93,221
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$508 P/mo oac* #13

\$59,520

2008 Prowler 230RKS TT

Dual entry, large dinette slide, front island queen master suite, Extreme Edition pkg.



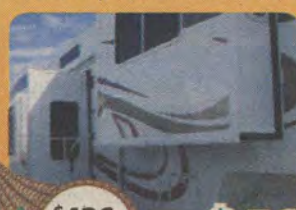
STK #A08N1383
MSRP
\$39,306
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$264 P/mo oac* #14

\$25,840

2007 Quantum 365FLTS 5th W.

Great deal! FOUR slide-outs, front living pent-house, fireplace, laminate floors. +++



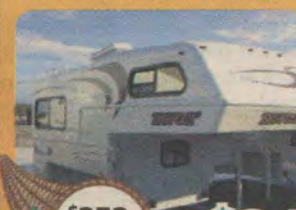
STK #S07N10763
MSRP
\$82,089
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$426 P/mo oac* #15

\$49,720

2008 Bigfoot 9.3 Camper

Light & aerodynamic short box, 2 pc. f/glass clamshell for durability, rear awning.



STK #A08N1477
MSRP
\$27,370
20th Fall Extravaganza Sale Price ◆

\$252 P/mo oac* #16

\$24,640



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