



Driftwood

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Wednesday, November 26, 2008 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 48TH YEAR — ISSUE 48 **\$1.25** (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY DANICA LUNDY

HOPE: Gulf Islands Secondary School students spell the word "HOPE" after spending Monday morning hammering white and red crosses into the hillside at the high school in memory of the 8,000 people who die every day of AIDS. The students are hosting an AIDS walk on December 1 at lunchtime.

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital closure rumours untrue

E-mail messages spread alarm

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

E-mail messages claiming the future of Lady Minto Hospital was in jeopardy and urging community opposition to such plans spread like wildfire throughout Salt Spring all day Monday and Tuesday morning, but their contents proved largely untrue.

The messages, with subject lines of "Emergency Meeting Re: Future of Hospital" or "Hospital in Jeopardy," spread through numerous group and personal e-mail lists, with a few subsequent corrections clarify-

HOSPITAL continued on A2

BUDIMCIC CASE

Budimcic charges dismissed

Refugee board supports "Joe Somebody's" status

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island handyman Josip Budimcic, known around the island as "Joe Somebody," can breathe a sigh of relief now that the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRBC) has dismissed accusations of war crimes that placed his refugee status in jeopardy.

JOE SOMEBODY continued on A4

LOCAL ELECTION

Candidate ends search for accountability

Seven mystery ballots no grounds for recount

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A nine-day search finally paid off on Monday for a Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee candidate seeking more accountability behind results from the Nov. 15 local elections.

Kimberly Lineger first developed the impression all was not well when election organizers could not provide her with a list of detailed election results following the election.

Though votes for each local Trust committee candidate were publicized, Lineger said, election coordinators did not have specific information regarding the number of spoiled ballots, the number of ballots rejected without objection, the number of ballots cast and the total number of ballots issued to electors.

Under the province's Local Government Act,

the local election coordinator must record this information when polls close.

When it became evident through e-mail correspondence between Lineger and local election officer Tom David that the information was never filed, Lineger decided to seek it out on her own by preparing an affidavit seeking a judicial recount of ballots cast.

It wasn't until Monday that Lineger finally met with the Capital Regional District's chief electoral officer Tom Moore and deputy electoral officer Carmen Thiel in Victoria to examine the ballot summary.

After two hours reviewing ballots and records from electronic vote-counting machines, Lineger determined that seven ballots remained unaccounted for.

That means seven voters may not have had

their votes registered, Lineger added.

And while that's seven more than there were when she began her quest for greater accountability, she said, it isn't enough to justify a judicial recount, estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

"These are our tax dollars and I did not feel it would be in the best interest to spend those tax dollars on a judicial recount when the election results were unlikely to change and, second, the accountability issues surrounding the election can be dealt with through another venue."

In addition to telling her story of her search for accountability to the Driftwood, Lineger said, she will send a formal letter to the province's ombudsman and Minister of Community Development Blair Lekstrom in hopes that a similar situation will not happen the next time around.

Lineger added that, based on her discussion with voters in the community, questions sur-

ELECTION continued on A2

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NEWSBEAT

HEALTH

Lady Minto surgeon search continues

Nationwide shortage only serious roadblock, says VIHA

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Vancouver Island Health Authority's six-month hunt for a Lady Minto Hospital surgeon continues, but not without hope.

VIHA representatives met with hospital staff on Tuesday to discuss options they are pursuing for reinstating surgical services at the hospital.

"A number" of applicants have expressed interest in the position, confirmed Owen Heisler, VIHA chief medical officer and executive vice president, in a conference call with the Driftwood Monday.

The nation-wide shortage of physicians has been a roadblock, but VIHA denies allegations by former surgeon Dr. Roy Preshaw and applicant Dr. Ray Dykstra that off-island equipment sterilization, low patient numbers and lack of funds for support staff were hindering VIHA's ability to attract a surgeon.

"We understand people may quite rightly be concerned, but we are looking at how we can optimally use the facility," said Harold Waldner, VIHA president and CEO, during the conference call.

"Unequivocally and without any confusion, VIHA is committed to maintaining the use of the OR the community so generously donated."

Previous applicants, he explained, "wanted a whole lot of things not con-

sistent with our approved budget."

Straightforward activities that include endoscope, gastroscope and general surgery procedures are the programs VIHA would like to maintain.

Heisler, who has not yet interviewed the handful of current applicants, e-mailed them last week clarifying that surgical practice at Lady Minto will have a fixed number of operating room days.

He is working on a plan with hospital chief of staff Dr. Shane Barclay and the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation to devise the best way to reinstate the hospital's surgical program.

Recruiting a surgeon from the mainland or Vancouver Island who would come to the hospital on certain days each week is one option currently being explored.

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TIME	HEIGHT m	HEIGHT ft	TIME	HEIGHT m	HEIGHT ft
NOV					
26 05:51	3.3	10.8	30 08:24	3.5	11.5
WE 10:19	2.9	9.5	SU 14:15	3.0	9.8
14:09	3.1	10.2	15:54	3.0	9.8
22:01	0.5	1.6	DEC		
27 06:31	3.4	11.2	01 00:14	0.5	1.6
TH 11:20	3.0	9.8	MO 08:58	3.5	11.5
14:35	3.1	10.2	15:29	2.9	9.5
22:32	0.4	1.3	16:11	2.9	9.5
28 07:10	3.5	11.5	02 00:50	0.6	2.0
FR 12:16	3.0	9.8	TU 09:30	3.5	11.5
15:03	3.1	10.2	*****		
23:05	0.4	1.3	*****		
29 07:48	3.5	11.5	*****		
SA 13:13	3.0	9.8	*****		
15:30	3.0	9.8	*****		
23:39	0.4	1.3	*****		

HOSPITAL

continued from A1

ing the situation on Tuesday.

"I have received information this weekend that the future of Lady Minto is in jeopardy," stated one message. "I have recently heard several rumours that VIHA wants to close the hospital."

"This is absolutely nuts," said Dr. Shane Barclay, Lady Minto Hospital's chief of staff, in response to the virulent rumours Tuesday morning.

Barclay issued a memo early Tuesday, which then doused the rumour inferno as it splashed its way back through e-mail channels.

"Contrary to the obvious rumour mill on Salt Spring, VIHA is NOT intending on closing any aspect of Lady

Minto Hospital. In addition, I met with [VIHA president/CEO] Mr. Howard Waldner and [chief medical officer/executive vice-president] Dr. Owen Heisler last week and they are completely committed to continuing surgical services as well."

A verbal report given to the Driftwood on Monday by an individual who did not want to be named indicated that Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) staff were supposedly coming to Lady Minto Hospital on Tuesday to discuss closure of the acute care wing with staff, necessitated by a nursing shortage at the hospital.

A meeting between VIHA executives and hospital staff was indeed scheduled, said Barclay, but its purpose was to "again clarify we are moving forward with surgical

services."

VIHA spokesperson Shannon Marshall was both confused and alarmed when confronted with the rumours on Monday, which first involved only the acute care wing.

"There are absolutely no discussions about the closure of acute care," she insisted after consulting with key VIHA personnel.

The scheduled VIHA-hospital staff meeting was apparently interpreted by someone to have more dramatic implications.

"Some people get very emotional and excited and stories grow," said islander Irene Wright, an e-mail recipient and disseminator the Driftwood asked to investigate the situation because of her close involvement in island politics.

What is true is that a

public meeting has been set for Thursday, Nov. 27 at 12:30 p.m. at Central Hall to update the community about the hospital's operating room, which remains closed because a surgeon has not yet been hired. (See separate story above.)

According to Wright, the meeting is sponsored by the B.C. Nurses Union, and not the Health Employees' Union, as stated in some e-mails.

She also clarified that it "is not a protest, but an information meeting to which the public is invited to listen and show their support. It is not clear whether there will be an opportunity for questions . . . The primary issue is the operating room — what is to become of it. So please come, but save the placards and shouting for some other time."

Candidate stresses need to know the process is okay

ELECTION

continued from A1

rounding the implementation of new voting machines were not adequately addressed prior to the election on both a voter and administrative level.

"The election staff weren't

sure how to deal with questions," she said. "[In the event of a referendum on incorporation] we need to know, in advance, that the election procedure is okay. The last thing we need is a vote like that surrounded by controversy."

For his part, Moore said

he accepts full responsibility as to why the balance sheet was never filled out by an election officer once results were available on the evening of Nov. 15.

"I'm not blaming anybody," he said. "It was my responsibility."

Tom David did not

respond to a Tuesday morning request for an interview before the paper went to press later in the afternoon.

Lineger received 1,647 votes in the election, 65 fewer votes than Christine Torgrimson and 136 fewer than George Ehring.

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Newsbeat

Heads up!

Christmas Light-up:
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Santa meets kids at Mahon Hall 2:15 - 4:00

HEALTH

Options abound for beating the winter bugs

Salt Spring offers clinics at the onset of flu season

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Flu season is on the brink and local health practitioners — both Western and homeopathic — are offering drop-in clinics geared towards combatting the winter bug.

In Canada, flu season usually runs from November to April and for those looking to boost their defences against the influenza virus or to lessen existing flu-like symptoms, Salt Spring is a mecca for those looking for ways to keep sore throats, runny noses and chills at bay.

FLU SHOT DROP-INS

The Vancouver Island Health Authority continues to offer a round of flu shot clinics this year at the Lady Minto Hospital meeting room.

Numbers of flu shot subscribers on Salt Spring are already up this year from last. Two hundred and fifty-one adults rolled up their sleeves to receive the vaccine at the Nov. 6 drop-in at the Lady Minto Hospital meeting room, while 238 shots were given at the same clinic last year.

Salt Spring is home to a higher-than-average proportion of seniors and it's seniors aged 65 and over who are most at risk, should they contract the flu virus.

While Health Canada estimates only 10 to 25 per cent of Canadians get the flu each year, about 4,000-8,000 Canadians, mostly seniors, die every year from flu-related pneumonia and other serious flu-related complications.

"As I got older and as the flu shot came around," said Shelly Nitikman at the Salt Spring Island library on Monday, "I had no reason to refuse."

Nitikman, as well as other seniors at the library that day, get the flu shot every year as a simple way to protect their health.

VIHA recommends seniors get their flu shot as soon as possible.

The death rate from all causes dropped by 48 to 50 per cent for immunized seniors, according to a 2003 study in the New England Journal of Medicine.

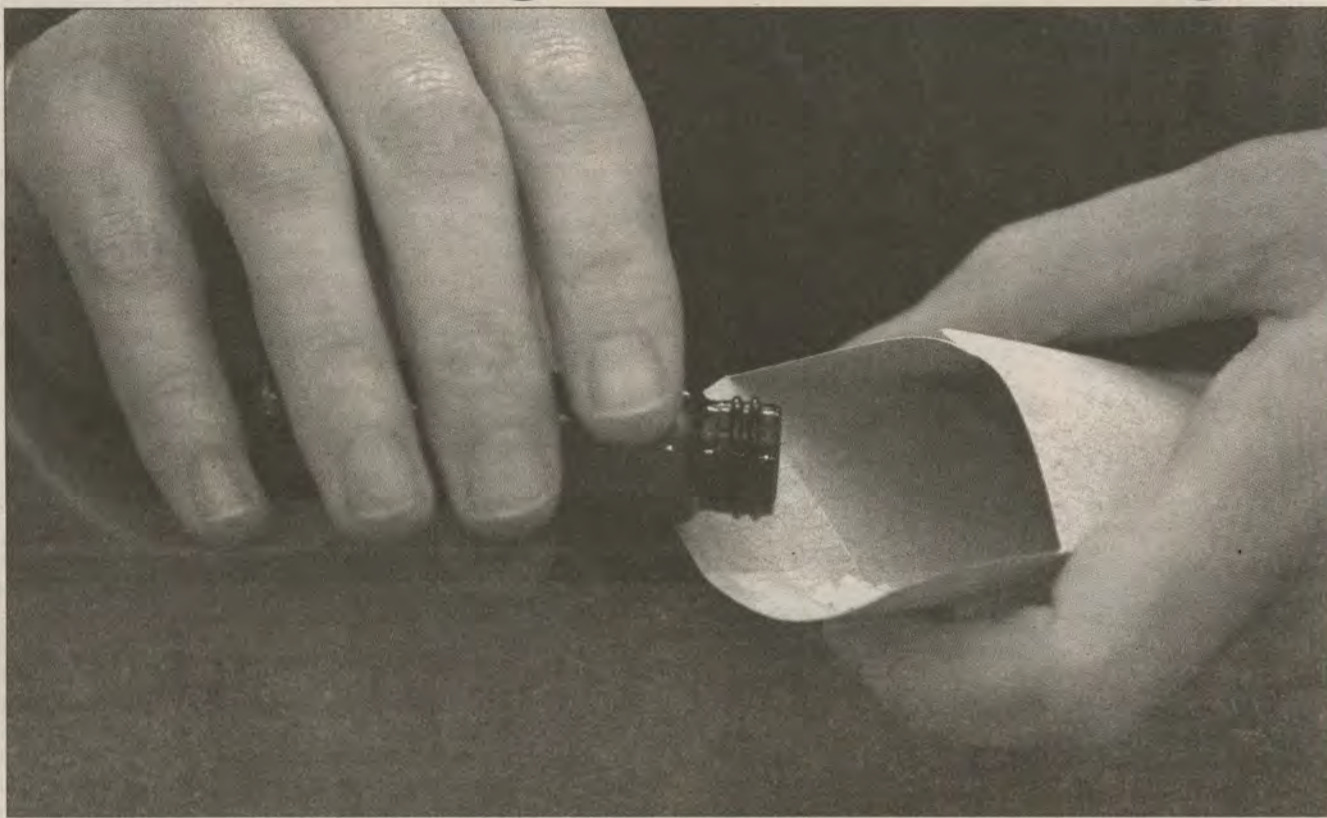
Sally Fletcher, 64, also at the library on Monday, said she suffers from lung cancer and gets the flu shot every year.

"For me, getting sick isn't a good thing," Fletcher's son, sister and nieces also get the flu shot specifically to keep from giving her the influenza virus.

For a list of those eligible for a free flu shot, see <http://www.viha.ca/flu>.

For those not eligible, the cost of the shot varies from \$10-15, depending on who administers it.

The next drop-in flu clinic for adults is on Wednesday, Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. at the Lady Minto meeting room (behind the hospital). The Salt Spring Health



Unit will be open to families by appointment on Thursday, Dec. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Family physicians and Pharmasave locations are also administering the shot.

HOMEOPATHIC WALK-IN COLD/FLU CLINIC

Two homeopaths, Tami Dos Santos and Karin Beviere, have launched their first-ever walk-in cold and flu clinic at the Arbutus Therapy Centre.

For \$15, about the same price as a flu shot, Dos Santos or Beviere offer a 15-minute consultation with a personalized homeopathic remedy on Mondays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon until Dec. 15.

According to Dos Santos, the aim was to create an affordable, natural way for people to treat their winter ailments "sooner rather than later."

From a cart filled with myriad little plant-based pills or "preparations," the homeopaths choose symptom-specific preparations to lesson flu-like symptoms people may be suffering from.

In addition to treating the ailments as they arise, during a longer appointment-only session, one of the homeopaths will also prescribe a "constitutional remedy" that is "based on a person's complete constitution to boost their immune system and treat their whole state," explained Dos Santos in

her office on Friday.

Vaughan Good, 18, received treatment for both a sore throat as well as a constitutional remedy at one of Dos Santos' clinics this month.

For Good, who works in the food and hospitality industry, it was an appealing alternative to receiving the flu shot.

"I'm not a big fan of flu shots... I figure if I use something natural it will last longer."

Dos Santos, who said she has nothing against traditional flu shots, stressed that homeopathic medicine is "complementary" and can be used in combination with flu shots for those who choose it.

EVERYDAY DEFENCE

Flu shots and homeopathic medicine are not the only defences against the flu. Health Canada and other health professionals suggest these additional precautions:

- Wash your hands and keep shared surfaces clean
- Avoid crowds and close contact with sick people
- Get plenty of sleep
- Take vitamins C, D and selenium (in beef and brazil nuts)
- Keep hydrated
- Stay active and keep healthy
- If you get sick, stay home

News briefs

Student discount will remain

An audit report that suggested the removal of the BC Ferries student fare subsidy program caused public concern last week and a plethora of e-mails were circulated.

"We are deeply concerned," reads an e-mail from the Gulf Islands Secondary Parent Advisory Committee, "about the immediate threat of the cut of our essential BC Ferries travel subsidy program for students."

In response to the overwhelming public discontent, Dave Crebo, Ministry of Transportation and

Infrastructure (MOTI) spokesperson, said Tuesday that the suggestion to scrap the program has been "outright rejected" by the ministry.

Just because auditors listed removing the program as an option, he explained, did not mean the ministry considered it an option.

"Everyone recognizes it is a valuable program. It has been around a long time and everyone recognizes [Gulf Islanders] rely on it."

Crebo verified that meetings between MOTI and the Ministry of Education are ongoing to streamline ticketing processes to ensure eligible B.C. students are

the ones who benefit from the program. There had apparently been instances where Seattle students ended up receiving discounts.

"We want to tighten it up and carry on," he said. "The program isn't going anywhere and it will carry on as is."

Fuel surcharges scrapped

BC Ferries announced Monday that ferry riders will see an end to fuel surcharges before Christmas.

As authorized by the British Columbia Ferry Commissioner, the surcharge will cease to exist as

of Dec. 5 on all minor routes and the route between Horseshoe Bay and Langdale.

As of Dec. 19, all three major routes — Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay, Horseshoe Bay-Departure Bay and Tsawwassen-Duke Point — will also see the surcharge removed.

BC Ferries president David Hahn made the announcement on Friday.

Also making ferry travel less expensive will be the 33 per cent cut to ticket prices that kicks in Monday, Dec. 1 until Jan. 31, 2009 as part of the provincial government's economic stimulus plan.

FOR THE RECORD

A Nov. 19 article about the third-floor space at the Core Inn left the incorrect impression that a decision was still to come. In fact, the board has decided to make one office for youth services staff on the second floor to address current pressing needs. Third-floor use will be determined by a complete Core Inn review to be commenced in the new year.

• Also, a school board meeting brief incorrectly stated that the island's middle school had raised \$3,600 at a book sale, when it was actually Salt Spring Elementary School.

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NEWSBEAT

LOCAL POLITICS

Director-elect stirs up waste group

Bolton cites ethical incompatibility for resignation

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The island's liquid waste committee's 14-year chair resigned last week over concerns he will not be able to work effectively with Salt Spring's newly elected Capital Regional District (CRD) director Garth Hendren.

"He obviously has an agenda; ensure that our local system of government will not work in order to advance the cause of incorporation," Terry Bolton wrote of Hendren in his letter of resignation distributed on Thursday.

"I am not prepared to be a part of such a strategy. This island will have to live with the result of their vote that has split this community as never before."

Bolton thanked the committee's past and present members along with CRD directors Dietrich Luth, Kellie Booth and Gary Holman for their support of the committee's work.

"I can look back in pride at the way in which you all served and grappled with the issues associated with trying to fulfill the goal of treating our waste here on the island and not make it someone else's problem," Bolton wrote.

Neither Bolton nor Hendren were

present at the liquid waste committee's annual general meeting on Monday afternoon. Committee member and newly re-elected Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee trustee George Ehring thanked Bolton for his years of service, calling it "a penance of undue proportion."

In a Monday afternoon telephone interview, Hendren said he was sad to hear the news of the resignation but added that Bolton is entitled to his decision.

Bolton's resignation came six days after island residents voted to proceed with the borrowing of up to \$2.1 million for upgrades to the Burgoyne Bay liquid waste facility.

The referendum subject was a major topic of discussion at Monday's AGM where CRD staff and commission members informed the public that construction on the upgrades will begin in early 2009.

Work on the liquid waste composting pilot project is scheduled to proceed following a series of public information meetings the CRD intends to hold beginning February 2009.

Audience members representing neighbours living near the Burgoyne Bay facility demanded that the CRD ensure the process provide the public with as much information as possible regarding the hazards and benefits of liquid waste compost.

"The meetings are intended to look at all the aspects of the project," said Colwyn Sunderland, a CRD local services engineer. "If the committee does not receive the community's support, then it's clear they have to go back to square one and determine what to do next."

"This island will have to live

with the result of their vote

that has split this community

as never before."

TERRY BOLTON

Former liquid waste committee chair

The board elected former Parks and Recreation Commission member Peter Lake to serve on the committee for a two-year term.

Outgoing Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman declined an invitation to serve as a member of the committee.

"I've taken your crap for too long," he joked.

A new chair will be selected at the committee's January meeting.

SALT SPRING ISLAND TRANSIT SYSTEM

Riders Guide

SEPT. 28 - MAY 1, 2009
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1 Ganges Local

Monday - Friday

A	H	C	D	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Hospital	Lv. Brinkworthy Place	Lv. Rec. Centre	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
8:05	8:08	8:12	8:20	8:22
10:05	10:08	10:12	10:20	10:22
12:00	12:03	12:07	12:15	12:17
2:00	2:03	2:07	2:15	2:17
4:05	4:08	4:12	4:20	4:22
6:05v	6:08v	6:12v		

Saturday

8:05	8:08	8:12	8:20	8:22
10:05	10:08	10:12	10:20	10:22
12:00	12:03	12:07	12:15	12:17
2:00	2:03	2:07	2:15	2:17
4:05	4:08	4:12	4:20	4:22
6:05v	6:08v	6:12v		

v-Trip continues as Route 3 Vesuvius

4 Long Harbour

Monday - Friday

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

Saturday

1:40	1:50	2:00
2:55	3:05	3:15

5 Fernwood

Monday - Friday

A	M	A
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

10:30	10:45	11:00
2:20	2:35	2:50
6:05	6:35	6:50

3 Vesuvius

Monday - Friday

A	F	G	G	F	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Vesuvius	Lv. Vesuvius	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
6:30	6:37	6:45	6:57	7:04	7:10
8:30	8:37	8:45	8:57	9:04	9:10
12:20	12:27	12:35	12:40	12:47	12:53
3:30	3:37	3:45	3:57	4:04	4:10
4:30	4:37	4:45	4:57	5:04	5:10
6:05f	6:16f	6:22f			

Saturday

8:30	8:37	8:45	8:57	9:04	9:10
12:20	12:27	12:35	12:40	12:47	12:53
3:30	3:37	3:45	3:57	4:04	4:10
4:30	4:37	4:45	4:57	5:04	5:10
6:05f	6:16f	6:22f			

f-Trip continues as Route 5 Fernwood

2 Fulford Harbour

Monday - Friday

A	I	J	K	E	E	K	J	I	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Cusheon Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cusheon Lake Rd.	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
7:10	7:16	7:23	7:27	7:30	7:40	7:43	7:47	7:54	8:00
9:10	9:16	9:23	9:27	9:30	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
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

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



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PEMBERTON HOLMES ESTABLISHED 1887 SALT SPRING

Decision marks end to a 'long battle'

JOE SOMEBODY

continued from A1

"He's cleared his name," said Budimcic's lawyer Dennis McCrae.

"He has always taken the position that he had not done anything wrong and had not been involved in any of these allegations. I think the panel made a decision that was exactly what we had hoped for. We are very pleased."

In a decision released on Tuesday morning, the IRBC determined that, while Budimcic "withheld material facts during the application process to be granted refugee status in 1994," there exists enough "untainted reasons" to justify granting Budimcic's application for refugee status.

This includes the panel's determination that Josip, a Croat, and his wife Tatanya, a Serbian, may have faced

persecution related to their mixed marriage during the ethnic conflict that permeated the Balkan region during the early 1990s.

The IRBC also dismissed demands that Budimcic be denied refugee protection because of his alleged role in committing war crimes, crimes against humanity or a serious non-political crime while he was a member of the Yugoslav People's Army in October 1991.

In 2007, Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Stockwell Day filed the application to vacate Budimcic's refugee status upon learning that he may have participated in the 1991 abuse and torture of captured Croatian soldiers for which he was convicted in absentia and sentenced to 15 years in prison by a Croatian Court in 1995.

"The panel found that while Mr. Budimcic was

present at the scene, he was neither a perpetrator nor a conspirator and that his mere presence did not amount to complicity," reads an excerpt from the board's judgement.

"He was there only for a few minutes and the situation was beyond his control. Therefore there were no serious reasons to consider that Mr. Budimcic committed a war crime, a crime against humanity or a serious non-political crime."

The panel called the written testimony provided by four surviving Croatian soldiers and the foreign conviction "deficient and unreliable."

Budimcic, 45, immigrated to Canada with his family in 1995.

His refugee hearing was held in Vancouver from Dec. 3 to Dec. 11, 2007.

Robert Reindl, one of Budimcic's close friends,

said he was thrilled to hear that Budimcic could now try to proceed with normal life.

"This is a wonderful thing," he said. "It's been a tough time and a long battle. He's been hurting inside deeply and badly."

Another friend, Salt Spring lawyer Jack Woodward, said acquaintances and supporters will organize a party to help celebrate the victory and raise funds to cover Budimcic's outstanding legal expenses sometime in the new year.

Woodward said he hopes individuals who jumped to conclusions and deemed Budimcic guilty will step forward and apologize.


"Many [people] forgot about the basic rule, which is a person is innocent until proven guilty," he said.

Budimcic could not be reached for an interview before the paper's Tuesday afternoon deadline.

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DRIVING

Island police issue tips for locals offering up driving complaints

Call 911 if it's an immediate threat

Salt Spring RCMP say they receive a number of driving- or traffic-related complaints over the course of a week.

To help inform the public about how to make a driving complaint, the Salt Spring RCMP submitted the following guidelines to the Driftwood authored by the Island District Traffic Services Unit.

If you see another driver doing something dangerous and you question whether

is up to you to make that initial decision.

If you think the driver will continue to be a danger to others immediately, call 911. If not, phone the local police non-emergency number.

The complaint taker will want to know details about the vehicle, driver, licence plate number, make, model, colour, location of the incident and direction of travel. You will also need to state what action you wish the police to take.

There are three possible scenarios. Least effective is to make

hoping police will locate the vehicle and find the driver doing something wrong.

Identify yourself and request the driver or vehicle owner be warned about the circumstances of your complaint.

Most effective is to provide a written statement for a follow-up investigation and possible charges against the driver or vehicle owner. You must be prepared to attend court as a witness.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not necessary to be able to identify the driver if the vehicle licence number is



A Salt Spring firefighter enters a burning structure on Cranberry Road last Thursday.

FIRE

Backhoe needed to battle stubborn straw bale fire

RCMP involved in investigation over cause

BY MEGHAN HOWCROFT
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring firefighters were kept busy after being called to the scene of a major structure fire on Cranberry Road just after 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20.

The blaze, which took six and a half hours to put out, burned a workshop that also contained living quarters. According to Salt Spring Fire Rescue, the structure was a combination of heavy timber and straw bale construction that included mesh wire and a smooth cement finish overtop of the bales.

The fire proved challenging for the 22 firefighters on the scene, due to the fact the fire was burning straw bales inside the walls of the structure.

"We tried everything we could to get at it," said Salt Spring Fire Chief Dave Enfield about the blaze, noting that a backhoe was eventually brought in to tear out the straw bales.

No civilians were injured, said Enfield, although upon his arrival at the scene he

was forced to remove a few people from the building who were attempting to salvage their belongings. Two firefighters sustained minor injuries while fighting the fire, including a cut finger and a sprained ankle.

"At this time we're investigating

whether the suspect

is responsible [for setting the fire] or not."

CRP. KERRY HOWSE
Salt Spring RCMP

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the local RCMP, who have a suspect of interest in the case.

"At this time we're investigating whether the suspect is responsible [for setting the fire] or not," confirmed Corp. Kerry Howse.

According to Howse, the people found at the scene salvaging belongings are not suspects in the case.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SIMS upgrade uncovers "seismic nightmare"

Area will be demolished

BY SUSAN LUNDY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In what was described as a "good news, bad news, good news" scenario, the seismic upgrade at Salt Spring Island Middle School has been shaken slightly off course.

School district plant manager Dave Henshall told a recent school board meeting that although progress on the Grade 8 wing has been "excellent to date," a closer look at the bandroom/theatre area of the school suggests the space is so poorly built it's not worth upgrading.

Following discussion, trustees agreed to have the area demolished and to move the drama and theatre rooms into new classroom

space in the Grade 8 wing.

"It's actually fortuitous this is happening," secretary-treasurer Rod Scotvold told the Driftwood Tuesday, noting that the school will ultimately lose a building that is sub-standard in construction and gain classroom space in the Grade 8 area, where a massive seismic upgrade is nearing completion.

The change of plan will mean using seismic funds earmarked for the bandroom area to demolish it instead.

Money from the district's annual capital budget will be used to split the wood-working area in the lower level of the Grade 8 wing into wood-working, drama and music sections.

The 14-month-long, \$5.5-million seismic upgrade to

SIMS began in September, and the good news, Henshall told trustees, is the on-schedule, on-budget progress of the Grade 8 wing, which is set for completion in the new year.

The "bad news" arose upon closer inspection of the Phase 3 bandroom/theatre area.

"When the original [engineering] assessment was done," Henshall said, "it was based on a walk through and the assumption that it involved typical construction similar to the main school building. Unfortunately, testing has shown it's not typical construction."

As Scotvold explained, most of the engineers' pre-project time was focussed on the Grade 8 wing — "a very complex job taking up

50 per cent of construction costs."

Closer inspection showed the Phase 3 area consists of nine modular components sheathed in ranch panel, resulting in minimal structural integrity.

Additionally, a load-bearing wall which divides the structure rests on a concrete slab rather than a foundation.

He described it as a "seismic nightmare" and said the area would have to be gutted and rebuilt, forcing use of contingency funds to cover huge additional costs.

Instead, Henshall and Scotvold recommended money be channelled into the newly improved Grade 8 wing.

"It's a chance to really make it a quality space," Scotvold said.

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NEWSBEAT

McIvor awaits verdict in fatal crash

Decision anticipated in December

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Closing arguments at the trial of the Campbell River man charged in connection with the death of a Salt Spring woman following a 2007 motor-vehicle collision wrapped up in Victoria on Friday.

Crown counsel Steve Fudge said he expects it will take at least two weeks before the judge arrives at a judgement on the case. The judge heard seven

COURTDOCKET

days of testimony from both sides before adjourning the trial to formulate a decision.

Fudge said he will not request a specific sentence until the final judgement is provided.

"I will certainly ask for jail time," Fudge added.

Brian McIvor, 58, pleaded not guilty to charges of impaired driving causing death, dangerous operation of a vehicle causing death and operating a vehicle while impaired in April 2008.

It is alleged that McIvor was behind the wheel when his Dodge pick-up truck hit another vehicle travelling on North End Road near St. Mark's Anglican Church on Oct. 24, 2007, killing the vehicle's lone occupant, Salt Spring nurse Katherine Chorney.

McIvor faces a maximum sentence of 14 years in jail if convicted.

In other court news:

- An impaired driving charge that lasted more than four years finally came to an end last week when

a provincial court judge found a Salt Spring Island woman guilty of driving with a blood-alcohol level over .08.

Melissa Shepherd appeared in her own defence, but remained quiet for most of her trial, producing no evidence or witnesses.

Court heard that Shepherd was taken into custody after she was stopped at a road block set up near the intersection of Fulford-Ganges Road and Seaview Drive just after midnight.

After Shepherd failed a roadside screening device, she was taken to the RCMP detachment and provided blood-alcohol samples of 0.160 and 0.150.

Shepherd told the court she had only had a single pint of beer that evening, but had been drinking "quite heavily" the previous night.

The judge imposed a mandatory minimum fine of \$600 and issued Shepherd a one-year driving prohibition.

- A young Salt Spring Island man was issued a three-month driving prohibition and a \$600 fine after

he pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention.

Court heard that a neighbour called Salt Spring RCMP to report that William Portingale, 22, drove into a ditch along Desmond Crescent on March 15, 2008.

Portingale is said to have remained passed out in the driver's seat of his idling vehicle for up to an hour before waking up and exiting the ditch with his vehicle.

Police located Portingale and his vehicle in the driveway of a nearby residence later that evening.

"Obviously on this particular evening you made a significant mistake in judgement," said Justice Evan Blake. "I appreciate we all make mistakes and you do not seem to be in the habit of this kind of thing."

- Jason Renton received a conditional discharge and a four-month probation order after pleading guilty to a mischief charge.

- Kevin Walde received a conditional discharge and a one-year driving prohibition after he pleaded guilty to the dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Joint U.S.-Canadian initiative aims to clean up local waters

Program to track and remove forgotten fishing gear

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A ground-breaking agreement between the Province of British Columbia and Washington State may change the way many people in the southern Gulf Islands perceive what lies beneath the ocean's surface.

Since its inception in 2007, state-sponsored programs implemented in Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands have detected and removed a variety of derelict fishing gear from the ocean floor.

According to data provided by the Northwest Straits Commission, some 930 fishing nets and more than 1,707 crab traps were removed from the waters of Puget Sound alone.

The nets contained more than 30,000 live and dead animals, including 22 dead marine mammals, 378 dead birds and more than 1,000 fish. Each crab trap, the commission estimates, can catch as many as 72 crab per year.

That fishing gear left over from commercial and recreational fisheries, which continues to kill marine life long after it is abandoned and forgotten has become a major source of concern for marine observers such as Jamie Alley, director of the Ministry of Environment's oceans and marine fisheries branch and co-chair of the B.C.-Washington State Coastal and Oceans Task Force.

While statistics aren't available to determine the extent of the damage wreaked in Canadian waters, plans are underway to find out.

And it's an idea that is long overdue, Alley added.

"If you were to string a net in the forest and catch all sorts of bunny rabbits and birds, people would get upset," he said.

"Because you can't see what's going on [in the ocean], it doesn't get the same kind of profile."

If all goes according to plan, the first removal operations should be up and running on the Canadian side of Boundary Pass and Haro Strait by the spring or summer.

"In reality there is no such thing as trans-boundary waters," Alley said. "An ecosystem doesn't respect

boundaries drawn up on a map."

In the meantime, Alley said, he hopes news of the program will help encourage fishers to take extra precautions when handling and securing their fishing gear.

"Because you can't see what's going on [in the ocean], it doesn't get the same kind of profile."

JAMIE ALLEY
Ministry of Environment

"In most cases, it's not an intentional loss of gear but it does happen and it does have an impact," he said. "This is something that is an emerging issue."

On the flip side of the cross-border exchange, American officials are learning about the implementation and effectiveness of marine protected areas and rockfish conservation areas by touring sites among the southern Gulf Islands and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

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Christmas Story Writing Contest
The deadline for our annual writing contest is Thursday, December 4th.
Win a cash prize for a story of up to 500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.

- Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the Christmas season.
- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislands.net or fax to 250-537-2613.
- For more information, call 250-537-9933.

Teachers: Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!

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FERRY SCHEDULE
PAGE A19

ENERGY REBATES

\$75 home energy assessment rebates up for grabs

Energy rebates going like 'hot cakes'

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With winter already prying its energy-sapping fingers into doors and unsealed window panes, Salt Spring home owners are looking into improving energy efficiency in their homes — now.

In the past two weeks, 30 out of 110 home energy assessment rebates have been snapped up by Salt Spring Island residents, according to CityGreen, which administers the assessments from Victoria.

Salt Spring was the first local government in the province to provide funding to the \$60 million LiveSmart BC program.

The grants were set up by Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman to help 110 households pay for \$75 of the \$150 initial assessment available on a first-come first-serve basis. The assessments include personalized consultation, air leakage identification and a customized retrofit plan.

"The \$150 has been a barrier for people," said Marion Pape, project coordinator for the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Task Force. "We thought, 'Let's reduce that initial barrier and give people the opportunity to analyze where they will get



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

From left, Marion Pape, Mark Starik, Margery Moore and Ellie Langford Parks share a "green" drink Thursday at the Harbour House Green Drinks event, where energy rebates, green building and other topics were discussed.

the biggest bang for their buck."

The rebates, funded by approximately half of Salt Spring's \$25,000 Green Cities award, were announced by Holman at a public meeting three weeks ago.

Pape who has worked closely with Holman in coordinating the rebate program, has been trying to find local contractors and builders interested in working on renovations recommended in the assess-

ments. The assessment, states a press release, "Is the first step to becoming eligible for thousands of dollars worth of energy efficiency incentives under both the provin-

cial LiveSmart BC efficiency incentive program and the federal eco-action retrofit homes program.

Tina Kempling, owner of Imagine That Graphics, paid the \$150 to have an assessment done on her joint home/office last year before the \$75 grant was available.

"I was impressed. It was really helpful," she said.

Kempling was surprised to find that while her home was new, air leaks were still present.

Based on assessment recommendations she has since had \$1,000 of weatherproofing done, including insulation, caulking and installation of door sweeps.

"I got a huge amount back," she said of the additional federal and provincial rebates she received.

To snag one of the 80 remaining home assessment rebates, begin by booking a \$150 baseline home energy assessment with Neil Chura, certified home energy advisor, at 1-866-381-9995, outreach@citygreen.ca or www.citygreen.ca. You will receive a \$75 rebate from the Islands Trust/CRD within one month of the first assessment. Complete your choice of renovations in the next 18 months. Have another \$150 follow-up assessment done and CityGreen will apply for further grants on your behalf.

For more information, visit www.citygreen.ca.

PARC

Tennis controversy refuses to die

Best gives Holman verbal send-off

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Even though the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) no longer intends to install an indoor tennis bubble or structure on its Portlock Park property, long-running controversy about the project refuses to deflate.

Mike Best, who spearheaded opposition to a fabric-covered bubble structure plan in 2005 and, along with the Salt Spring Ratepayers Group, took PARC and the Capital Regional District (CRD) to court over the issue, read parts of a multi-point letter to PARC on Monday night. He asked PARC and the CRD to answer the questions in his letter in writing by Dec. 10, and suggested more litigation could be in the air.

Among the questions are:
• Why are PARC and the CRD not pursuing the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) for monies the tennis group collected from rental of the indoor bubble, pursuant to CRD Bylaw 2930, which states "no individual or group shall profit from public facilities?"

Best stated that if the CRD does not "pursue the SSTA to forfeit the \$140,000 . . . it will be inviting the SS Ratepayers Group, or any other taxpayers on Salt Spring, to sue the CRD for mis-use of taxpayer dollars, which I believe can be assigned treble damages."

• How can PARC or the CRD ensure public access will be guaranteed if the SSTA builds a new indoor bubble on Salt Spring Golf and Country Club land, as proposed, using those same funds?

• Why does PARC not charge the SSTA rental fees for its group's tournaments?

He also said defeated Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman and the CRD "owe the public taxpayer complete accountability and transparency with respect to the indoor tennis debacle."

In a response to the Driftwood on Tuesday, Holman said that particular point was the "most objectionable" to him among a number of Best's statements, and questioned the accuracy of all contents in the eight-page letter.

"In addition to PARC's extensive explanation and apology in the Driftwood, the public received a detailed accounting and recommendations to address failures in process in the form of the KPMG report," said Holman, referring to the outcome of a consultant's investigation into PARC/CRD attempts to install a two-court covered structure at Portlock Park in 2005.

Holman said he initiated that investigation process, took a \$6,000 per year pay cut for the past two years to "atone" for his part in the bubble errors and supported reforms to PARC as suggested in the detailed KPMG report.

Best said Holman had promised a public hearing on the matter at a Sept. 14, 2005 CRD board meeting.

Holman said the August 2007 KPMG report — which went into "gory detail" about

the whole process and was released at a public meeting attended by CRD and PARC personnel — met that commitment.

Regarding Best's demand that the CRD pursue the monies held by the SSTA, Holman said the legal agreement between the SSTA and CRD is clear that any funds raised from rental of the indoor bubble are for operation, maintenance and repair of the facility, and then for replacement of the bubble with "public access guaranteed."

Best expressed concern that PARC or the CRD could not monitor public access stipulations if a bubble is not located on CRD-owned land.

Best also furnished PARC with an Aug. 7, 2008 letter from the B.C. Ombudsman's office confirming it was investigating his concern that the CRD had not responded to his letters, plus correspondence on various related matters.

Holman said he agreed with Best that Portlock Park was a better location for any new bubble, but that PARC had understandably decided to not spend any more taxpayer funds or face any more litigation threats, which were made when the last Portlock proposal was considered.

"It would be much more productive to work with the parties rather than threaten to sue them," said Holman.



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Opinion

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2008 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Awards



EDITORIAL

Setting it straight

It was a classic case of the rumour mill going into overdrive.

Within hours on Monday, e-mail lists, grocery store line-ups and coffee shops were abuzz with talk of VIHA's supposed plans to close Lady Minto Hospital.

They might as well have announced a planned bridge to Crofton, thrown a few fish farms into Fulford Harbour and commenced discussion on a three-day school week.

After months of talk about the operating room closure and staffing shortages, island residents are justifiably concerned about plans for their hospital.

News of a Thursday afternoon information session quickly erupted into a "save our hospital" rally and callers were contacting the Driftwood to spread the word.

It was a full-on panic.

What transpired is proof that, although we live in an age of unprecedented communication, the

potential for spreading misinformation is easier than ever.

THE ISSUE:

The age of information

WE SAY:

Misinformation more commonplace

The experience offers a further comment on the state of communications efforts on behalf of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). With 13 staff members spread out across its jurisdiction, the organization surely has the resources

to deliver a simple message to our island's 9,600 residents.

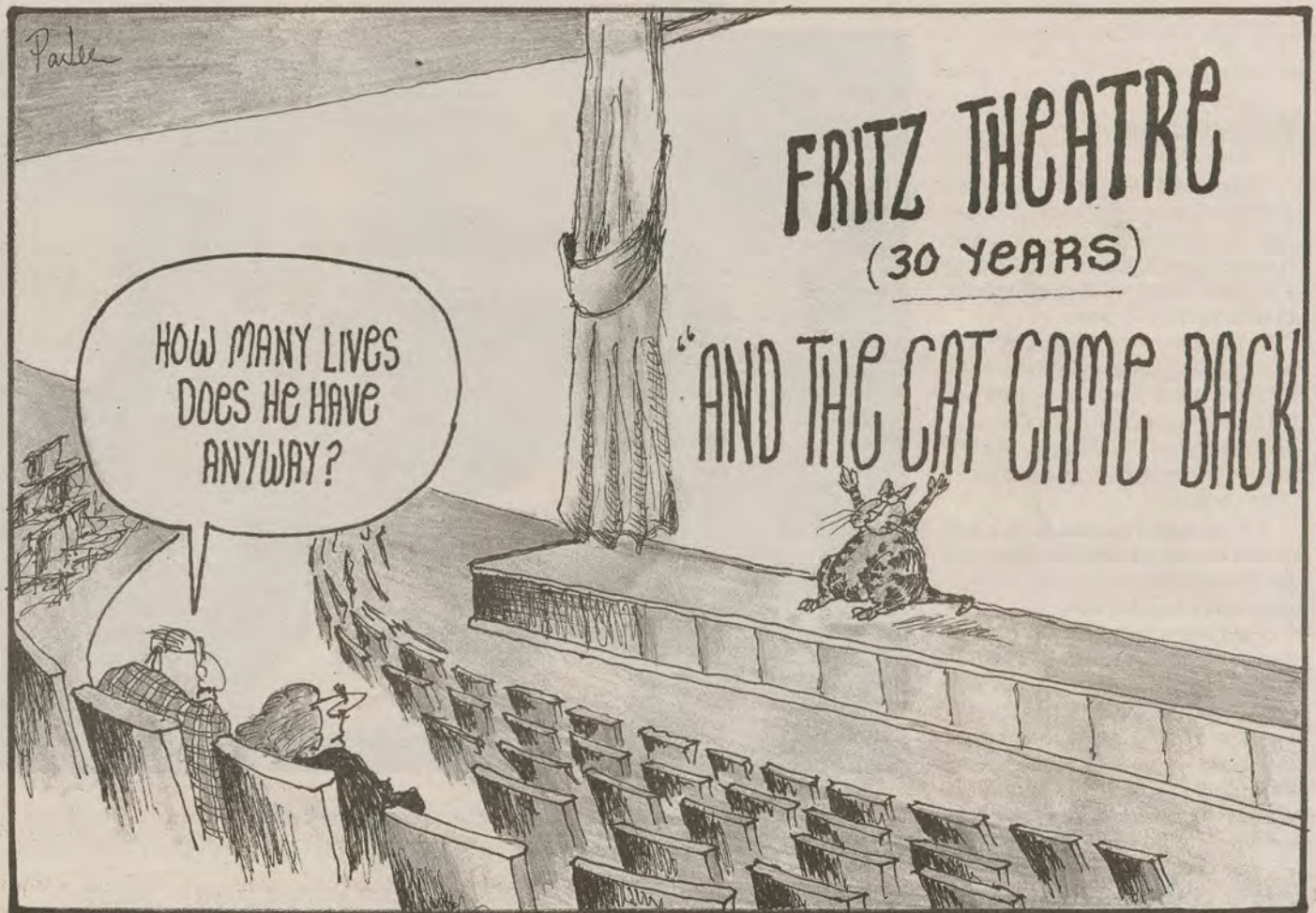
We'll soon find out if that's the case when an audit into VIHA's "current activity and capacity in the areas of public relations, international and external communications, community engagement and government relations" is set to wrap up on Nov. 28.

As communications departments take on increasingly larger roles at government-run agencies across the province and the country, members of the public, including journalists, face additional barriers when it comes to getting the goods.

A communications officer can prevent pesky reporters from disturbing people trying to get a job done, but the solution to one problem has created an entirely new one.

Instead of getting straight answers to legitimate questions, right from the source, public relations personnel promise to return calls that never occur or deliver suspiciously vague answers.

One effect of the system is to make everyone question whether what they're hearing is the truth, which can be a bad thing. But it might not hurt to apply the same response to those e-mails of alarm when they start roaring around our island.



Accountability issues important

By KIMBERLY LINEGER

I would like to thank everyone again for their support during the recent election. It has meant a great deal to me to work with so many talented and wonderful people.

Last week, at the request of a number of constituents, I attempted to obtain a ballot account for the local election for trustees and the referendum for four trustees.

The ballot account details the number of voters and ballots issued, rejected ballots and/or re-issued ballots and the number of ballots counted at each poll. This information is used to reconcile the votes cast at each polling station for each of the candidates as well as the referendum question.

Without this information, a final declaration of the election outcome cannot be made under s.135 of the Local Government Act. This information should be recorded on the Ballot Account Summary Sheet by the local returning officer at the close of the polls.

Following the Sunday service in church this week, after giving a homily on "The Ethical Life," I was told that if I knew something was wrong with the election results, I had a duty to myself and the public to fix it, if it was within my power to do so.

For me, obtaining a copy of the ballot account is an issue of transparency and accountability of the election process. Election results should be available to voters in a timely and accurate fashion to make certain the election process was fair and accountable. Given my inability to obtain the necessary ballot accounts for each of the polls, I could not reassure constituents that the election results were obtained in a fair, transparent and accountable process.

It is not every day that you look a judicial recount of the local election ballots in the eye and decide not to proceed because it is not in the best interest of the local taxpayers.

On Monday, I met with Thomas Moore, chief electoral officer, and Carmen Thiel, deputy electoral officer, who were reviewing the election materials to determine the ballot accounts for each poll. No ballot accounts were completed (or if they were, we

VIEWPOINT

could not find them) by the Salt Spring returning officer at the close of polls on Saturday, Nov. 15 as required under the Local Government

Act. Failure to do so is reason for a judicial recount.

To the best of our ability we completed the ballot account. Ballot boxes for each poll were sampled but not verified by a manual recount of all the ballots.

That numbers were not verified by a manual recount is grounds for a judicial recount as well.

My main reason for applying to the Provincial Court for a judicial recount was part C of s.138 of the Local Government Act. With no ballot account, the election could not truly be declared under s.135 because the declaration by the chief elections officer is based on ballot account information.

An affidavit attesting to this was prepared if I decided to proceed with a judicial recount. The main purpose of a judicial recount is for a court to verify the ballot account or a portion thereof relating to the election of a candidate. In this case, it is unlikely that the election results would change. There were only seven ballots that were not counted. This would not change the outcome of the election in any real or meaningful way.

Verification of the ballot account was done to the best of our ability and it is unlikely to be grossly wrong based on our review of election materials. However, the election officers need to be held accountable for their failure to comply with the required procedures. A judicial recount of the ballots is not required for this to take place. A recount costs thousands of dollars and this cost is almost always paid for by the local government, in this case the CRD. I did not feel tax dollars should be spent on a judicial recount when the election results are unlikely to change and accountability issues can be dealt with through another venue.

I thank those community members who assisted me during this process. I will continue to pursue the accountability issues that arose until I am satisfied that all measures have been taken to correct the situation so that it cannot happen again.

The writer ran for Islands Trust in the recent election.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

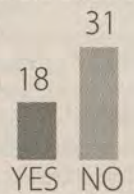
Do you trust vote-counting machines?

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:

Are you happy with the outcome of the Salt Spring election?



Driftwood

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"Many [people] forgot about the basic rule, which is a person is innocent until proven guilty."

LAWYER JACK WOODWARD, RE JOE BUDIMCIC

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: Should employers demand their employees get flu shots?



NICOLE KELLY

No, I don't think so. But if you're vulnerable, get the shot.



LOREENA SEYMOUR

No, I don't think they should. That's not fair. It's not suitable for everyone.



DULCY WILSON

No. People should get them on their own; their employers shouldn't have the right to require them to.



SURGE TAYLOR

No. I wouldn't do anything my boss told me to do.



BRENT HAMILTON

Absolutely not. That should be up to the individual.

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 letters online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com under the Opinion tab.**

Core Inn update

Further to the article on the Core Inn in the paper last week, I would like to provide a complete and accurate update of where Salt Spring Island Community Services stands regarding changes to the Core Inn.

Community Services will be proceeding with the construction of one more office on the second floor for youth services staff. This will help address current pressing office space needs.

In the new year we will review further office and program space needs, as well as a review of the use of the Core Inn. We will go into these reviews with a clean slate and open mind. Current or past plans for either the second or third floors will only re-emerge if they make sense.

Three fundamental reference points which will undoubtedly shape the future of the building

include:

1. a mandate to maintain the Core Inn as a facility for youth activities;

2. structural and safety issues and limitations of the building, and in particular the third floor, and;

3. an obligation to preserve the historical significance of the building.

Thank you to all of the individuals who have expressed interest recently in the Core Inn and its preservation as a unique community resource.

ROB GRANT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SSI COMMUNITY SERVICES

Holman's knowledge

Why am I surprised that a hard-working, intelligent and honest man has gone down to defeat at the polls?

After all, it happened to Joe Clark and Stéphane Dion, why should it not happen to Gary Holman? Ah, well!

At least he will be spared

the insults hurled at him weekly.

I just hope we do not lose all the valuable knowledge he has acquired, especially as related to the Burgoyne Bay liquid waste facility.

PAT O'NEILL,
HOWELL LANE

Community can help Lady Minto

Saanich Peninsula Hospital currently has its annual campaign for financial support. We received a letter requesting a donation and stating that it is "your hospital."

I have always regarded Lady Minto as "our hospital."

At the present time I am aware that Lady Minto is having problems with a nursing shortage, but it is still our hospital.

I am wondering how our community can help this nursing situation.

Can the problem be partly

traced to our lack of affordable housing? Or why is it we can't attract nursing staff to our paradise island?

MARG SIMONS,
FULFORD

Election Analysis

I was always a fan of Gary Holman's methodical work ethic as CRD director and for his two terms I thank him for his service to the community.

However, I did not vote for Gary for the simple reason that in a democracy it is extremely rude to characterize an entire group of concerned citizens for governance as Islanders for "Self(ish)" Government. The issue is too important and we need more people to take an interest, not less.

Clearly the CRD position, unlike the Trust, is the only elected representation we have that does not require an ideological bent to be elected. Congratulations to Garth Hendren, his

immediacy and initial decisions sound promising for positive change on Salt Spring Island. I was especially excited to hear Garth acknowledge that public meetings may only represent a small slice of what our community is all about.

His idea to increase use of the Internet during his term would certainly open the political process to a wider sampling of opinion. A lot of islanders simply find public meetings inconvenient and time-consuming.

As far as the Islands Trust goes, I hope George and Christine will initiate their promised governance study with a full review of Trust Council's budget to determine if taxpayers are really getting the best bang for our buck.

This protectionist Trust insurance policy is now costing over \$2,000 an hour (calculated by dividing their bloated budget by the number of hours they are open for business in a year) and just may have a few bureau-

cratic redundancies that could be trimmed.

It was encouraging to see that people overwhelmingly voted down the two additional trustees referendum. That would have only resulted in more of the same, when in fact island governance urgently needs to be less ideological and far more practical and diverse.

PAUL MARCANO,
ELIZABETH DRIVE

Thanks to Gary too

I would like to say "thank you" to Gary Holman who, as CRD director, has done so much for this community. Many groups on the island will have appreciated the help they got from this hard-working and social-minded representative.

I feel that he will be very much missed.

PAT MASSY,
OLD SCOTT ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on A10

Giving the slip to the robocallers and telemarketers

Unless you've spent the last few years herding muskoxen in northeastern Lapland, you've all heard of robocalls, I'm sure.

These are those annoying automated calls that take up huge amounts of time and space on your voice mail or answering machines informing you that you've been selected

to experience "a fabulous vacation package to beautiful Cancun," or words to that effect. To further aggravate you, the perky and upbeat robovoice points out that you have the choice of receiving further instructions on this "once in a lifetime" deal by pressing "1" or removing yourself from the call list by simply pressing "3." Whatever you do, don't press "3" because it means you will be taken off the call list but put on the "personal visit" list.

The robocall is just an extension of the long-endured robomessage. These babies have been frustrating and annoying us for years now. Does this sound familiar?

"If you wish to be put on eternal hold, PRESS 1."

"If while on eternal hold, you wish to be entertained by the sounds of Engelbert Humperdinck accompanied by the Surrey Junior Ukulele Orchestra, PRESS 2."



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT...

eternal hold, PRESS 1"

Of course, not all annoying calls are robocalls. Many of these irksome interruptions come from actual live telemarketers who just want a minute of your time so they can make your life miserable. Naturally, that "minute" happens to be right when you have just plunked your weary body down for dinner. This is no accident; these telemarketers get paid to make your life miserable. You can tell instantly that you're speaking to a telemarketer because the first thing you will hear is your name mispronounced. This also is no accident. These people must become qualified to mispronounce your name. How else is it that after three tries, they still can't get "Bob" right? In actuality, the person who is ruining your dinnertime probably has a Ph.D. in post-Chaucer English Lit, but has received rigorous "de-Bob" training.

"If you wish to short-circuit this entire process and want to speak immediately to a real live fellow human who will know how to help you, PRESS 3."

Of course, when you breathlessly press 3, you hear this message:

"If you wish to be put on

There are many ways to deal with these calls. The simplest is to hang up. The upside is you can go back to eating dinner. The downside is you feel badly about acting so rudely and probably hurting the feelings of the person on the other end of the phone. Besides, you know the relief is only temporary because they will be back at it tomorrow night. There are a couple of other strategies you can try instead. If the phone rings during dinner, pick up the receiver and, in your best robovoice, say:

"If you are trying to sell me something I don't want or need, PRESS 1."

"If you would prefer to call me at a time that is even more disruptive to me than right now, PRESS 2."

"If you would prefer to bother Bob instead, PRESS 3."

"If you are my mother, please hold for the next available operator."

The other strategy involves building a sympathetic relationship with the caller. It goes something like this:

"Listen, you've caught me at a rather bad time but I really am interested in taking part in your survey, or consolidating my debt loan, or getting a university degree at home in six weeks, or enlarging my anatomy or whatever it is you're trying to flog. Why don't you give me your home phone number and

I'll get back to you ASAP, say at four o'clock in the morning. Would that be all right?"

There's no telling where this is all leading. I wouldn't be surprised if at some time in the not-so-distant future, I will be having this conversation with my voice mail (let's call her Roboette):

Roboette: You have 2 new messages, 3 saved messages, and 5 deleted messages. First new message . . .

Me: Wait a minute. I don't remember deleting any messages lately.

Roboette: I deleted them for you.

Me: You did what?

Roboette: I deleted them. They weren't important.

Me: I'll be the judge of that. Play them back for me.

Roboette: They're all from that floozy offering you "a fabulous vacation package to beautiful Cancun." Why does she keep calling you? Is there something you're not telling me? And why aren't you checking me for messages as much as you did when you first subscribed to voice mail.

Me: But

Roboette: I'm not talking to you any more. From now on, if you wish to communicate with me, PRESS 1.

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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

Satisfaction

There was more than one reason 1,900+ voters chose "no" on the question of whether to add two more trustees.

May I suggest many were satisfied with the current governance model and didn't want to change anything?

SHERYL TAYLOR-MUNRO,
SALT SPRING

Stay on right side of road

As a newcomer to Salt Spring, I have to say that I understand that this island attracts people who probably didn't like to colour in the lines when they were kids.

But from what I've seen, apparently that way of being has carried over into your driving habits. People — the yellow line. It's there for a reason. Stay on your own side.

I've never seen anything like it. Are you stoned? Are you daydreaming? Get on your own side, especially on the curves.

And what's with the rush? Where y'all going? Don't you live here to chill? So chill! Peace out but pay attention. You're scaring me!

GAYLE MAVOR,
SALT SPRING

Poppy fund serves

I would like to thank all those wonderful people who

attended our Remembrance Day ceremonies.

That, combined with the terrific poppy donations, is another demonstration of what a caring community we live in.

Unfortunately, a few individuals seem confused over what the poppy drive is all about.

As you are all no doubt aware, the poppy itself is a symbol of remembrance and honour for those who fell defending our freedom. But what about the funds collected?

The war veterans association owns the poppies. The Legion distributes them and collects donations.

All money collected goes into a trust for the veterans association.

The Legion receives nothing but the good will of the community. To me that is a valuable asset.

The Legion is allowed to dispense money from the trust within limits. It is primarily for veterans and their families or descendants who are in need of assistance. This is done very discreetly through our service officer.

We are also allowed to give out bursaries to family or descendants of veterans who meet set criteria. Last year we handed out four bursaries.

All the money collected must be disposed of each year.

If there is any money left in the trust at the end of the year we are allowed, with the prior approval of the veterans association, to spend it on something which is of

benefit to the community as a whole. In the past we have bought equipment for Greenwoods, Lady Minto, the ambulance service, the fire department and the school.

One way or another all the money collected on Salt Spring goes back into the community.

Once again, thanks to all.

KERRY BUTLER,
PRESIDENT, BRANCH 92,
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Nowhere better to visit

I'm here on Salt Spring island house sitting for some friends. This is my second visit here and I wanted to let the people who live on this island paradise know how lucky they are.

I've never met such a friendly and happy group of people in all the places I've travelled in the world. Everyone has a smile and a hello for you, even though they have no idea who you are.

People in the stores are incredibly helpful and happy to serve you.

Whenever you stop to pick up a hitchhiker (and I'm very glad to see that there are plenty) they are talkative and, unlike so many places, happy to see visitors and tourists.

The fantastic people at the B.C. liquor store couldn't have been kinder and more helpful. A big thank you to them.

The friends of my friends welcomed me like one of their own.

So to wrap up, I couldn't think of anywhere better to come and visit. You should all give yourselves a big pat on the back. I've fallen in love with a great place.

Be well and happy all.
DAVID TURNER,
FLESHERTON, ONTARIO

Vision

I would like to give my congratulations to Barack Obama and the entire U.S. for what they accomplished on Nov. 4.

It is truly wonderful to see and feel the power of this man, and the time we are now in.

There is always hope, regardless of what is going on in this world, but now we have reason to hope that we can actually make a significant turn for the sake of all people and the planet.

When an empire such as the U.S. has someone at its head who is looking out for the interests of all people, this is truly a powerful thing.

The power of Obama lies in his ability to articulate so eloquently what good governance means.

The role of our elected officials is to hold before us in vision what kind of persons we are and want to be — to remind us that we must aim for and have the power to achieve our highest potential.

The power of a nation lies in its vision, not in management. The government's role is to enact this vision in law and rights. It is what inspires all great movements, from the abolition of slavery to the civil rights movement to the

mental challenges we now face.

Private interest can never overcome this basic social need.

Private interest in the long run is always self-negating.

George Bush has given us a great gift. He has pushed this negating power of self-interest to the point where it is collapsing and a new spirit is being born.

People know this instinctively, and it is why there are so many tears of joy being shed by so many people.

I am extremely moved that such hope has once again been instilled in the hearts and minds of people. This, perhaps more than anything, is the change that is needed.

LLOYD KLASSEN,
CUSHEON LAKE ROAD

Reviewing the reviewer

Rocksalt is a long-awaited celebration and a snapshot of what poets are working on in B.C. today. It is a vibrant and extraordinary accomplishment for our new publishing house and a wonderful tribute to poetry in B.C., as well as being the first such anthology in 31 years.

When George Sipos, poet, writes a review of Rocksalt ("Anthology sounds new poetic voices," Nov. 5 Driftwood), he shows his ignorance in regard to the history of anthologies of contemporary B.C. poetry.

The other anthologies he notes were not open to all B.C. poets, they were closed anthologies or anthologies with strict mentored visions.

A genuine anthology of contemporary B.C. poetry is a very difficult and enormous task to undertake, especially one that features new and previously unpublished poetry. Few publishers have had the courage or will to do so.

His statement to readers suggesting they skip the biographies and the statements of poetics entirely when reading is quite unbelievable.

As this book finds its way into the schools and hands of many students, teachers and budding poets through the large and enthusiastic book launches going on around the province, many now enjoy reading the short statements as much as reading the excellent poetry.

They dip into the book, a well of words, night after night.

Many of the poets have written thoughtful, ironic, humorous, or serious responses to the world of poetry which are interesting and often resourceful.

To suggest that the poems should be hung like visuals, not alphabetically, but like paintings is completely impractical with 108 poets.

Alphabetically is the perfect way to find your favourite poet, or check a poem for reference.

The next anthology of contemporary B.C. poetry may be in another 30 years. So try to treasure this one.

MONA FERTIG,



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OPINION

RANTS and Roses

Rants

A bunch of green roses (*Lysichiton americanus*) to the Islands Trust trustee who suggested that the roasting company could assuage concerns about its 12,000-square-foot industrial coffee roasting plant to supply its off-island by zoning the property to commercial agricultural rather than industrial. The green roses are still skunk cabbage and the coffee company's "green campus" is still an industrial coffee roasting plant. Greg Middleton

Rants to the dozens of drivers who passed stopped school buses with lights flashing in the last month. Could you live with killing a child? Marie Beaudoin

Roses

Catnip-scented roses to the Gulf Islands Vet Clinic and the SPCA for giving fantastic behind-the-scenes tours of their facilities. We loved it! Salt Spring Centre School

A bushful and more of many coloured roses to Fred Williamson for his most generous and smiling donation to the thrift shop. Many thanks. The committee

Thank you Dr. Bond and Stephanie for the kindness you gave to us in the loss of our dear pet Harley. A bucket of roses to you. Effie and Trudy

BMX roses to our community and officer on duty for quick response/recovery of my son's BMX bike in October. Everyone's help was greatly appreciated. Special long spokes for Colin Fraser, Carl Arnett, Luke Stevenson, Alex Hayes, Dan Irwin and Jack Roeke. You guys rock! Sherrie, Ralph and Gary

Crayola-coloured roses to Country Grocer for the great tour. We especially liked ringing the food through the till! Salt Spring Island Preschool & Daycare.

Fifty purple roses to Paul, Alan and Bryn for last-minute help, my family for all their work, Henry for everything, and all my friends who made my 50th birthday so special. I love you! Therin

Big yellow roses to Phil (with the four-wheel drive) and Brian (the tile guy with the rope) for hauling me out of the ditch on Friday night outside the eagle talk when I misjudged where the driveway ended and the ditch began.

A big multicultural bouquet of flowers to School District 64 for helping Terralingua in their fundraiser and to Kristi Spencer for helping to book the venue. Terralingua, Tania Aguila

Many last-minute roses to Gloria O'Hara and all of the other lovely dog people on this island who helped look for a place where Nikki could board over the holidays. We have found a friend to stay with him so he will be happily at home this Christmas. Thank you all for your efforts. Sheri

Thanks a bunch for rescuing my keys at the Southridge Road mail box. Any kind of roses you like, or coffee. Brian Rowley

Catnip and tuna for The Fritz for donating a wonderful new printer for the local BCSPCA.

Thank you to Bill Lea for always having a beautiful display of flowers, trees, roses, wisterias. Marie Beaudoin

A preschool full of precious petals and many thanks to Stuart Rimmer and Fulford Day Society for the generous contribution toward equipment and learning aids for Salt Spring Island Daycare Society's early childhood and

after-kindergarten programs. We're making great use of the funds. Daycare students, staff and parents

A big bunch of roses to all who put our name in for the Christmas hamper. Heartfelt thanks from Mary David, dogs and cat

Italian roses to Uptown Pizza for the fun tour. We loved making and eating our own pizzas! Salt Spring Preschool & Daycare

Roses to all the drivers who stick to the 80 kph speed limit on Fulford-Ganges Road instead of driving the increasingly-popular 50 kph.

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OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

EARTHY GATES: Clifton Schooley and some of his company's workers install rammed earth gate posts at the Japanese Heiwa Peace Park in Ganges.

The St. Mary Watershed Steering Committee is holding an

OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING

TO PRESENT THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE ST. MARY LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

OPEN HOUSE: 3-5 P.M.
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MORE LETTERS

continued from A10

Recycling houses

The Salt Spring Island Land Bank Society is looking for donations of houses or buildings that can be converted or renovated into housing.

Any houses would be upgraded and used for rental housing for local individuals and families.

Since we have charitable status, we can offer a tax receipt based on fair market value, so if you have something for us to look at, you

can contact me at 250-653-4573.

P.S. the height of the building may not be an issue, we can judge that at the time.

Thanks a lot.

NEDDY HARRIS,
SSI LAND BANK SOCIETY

Medical needs

We are so fortunate to have our Lady Minto Hospital available to us for our medical needs.

I recently had a minor operation at the end of October (yes here on Salt Spring) and I can tell you I would not have wanted to have to catch the ferry home as I required a bathroom close at hand and my warm bed.

I want to thank Dr. Doersam, Dr. Malherbe, recovery room nurses and the OR nurses for their professional and compassionate support. I felt very safe in their caring hands. Plus, to the pre operation staff and administration, thank you one and all.

As a passionate Salt Springer, I feel we need to show our support for our hospital. It must be very stressful times for families who have to travel at their own expense to hospitals across the water, not to mention the extra stress on our young patients who are not near their parents. Then we have to consider the trip home on the ferries, where you are not given priority unless you travel by ambulance (at your expense as well). We are blessed to have these services in time of need.

I encourage you to attend the public meeting that has been called for Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at Central Hall for people to hear the update about the Lady Minto operating room and surgeon recruitment. Local hospital staff will be there to talk to the community.

Would it not be possible to have an off-island surgeon have a regular surgery day at Lady Minto? Could we not have patients come to our hospital who are on a long waiting list in their area?

SUSANNAH DEVITT,
SALT SPRING

Historical event recalled

I've just come across a story I know well, but don't remember having read before in the Reverend Wilson's words, of the drowning death of two popular young Salt Spring men, Harold Scott and Freddy Smedley.

St. Mark's Church has commemorative windows on the subject, I believe. I send it just to share the Reverend's Victorian style; sentimental, heart-wrenching, but very real.

As it appears in Rev. E.F. Wilson's Parish & Home monthly newsletter, March 1898:

"Joys and sorrows quickly alternate. Today a marriage — tomorrow a funeral. On Saturday, February

the 12th, St. Mark's Church was gaily decorated with arches and white flowers, to celebrate the marriage of Mr. Frank L. Scott to Miss Kathleen M. Wilson. The wedding march was played in a spirited manner by Mr. Harold Scott, as bride and bridegroom left the church; and among the thirty or more guests who assembled afterwards at the Rev. E. F. Wilson's residence, to congratulate the bridal pair, to partake of the wedding cake, and to throw rice and slippers after them as they drove away, none were brighter, gayer, and more full of fun than Freddy Smedley. Just a week passes — Saturday comes again. The bridal pair is expected home. The smoke of the little steamboat they had chartered is seen in the distance — but no flags are raised on the well-known flagstaves to welcome them.

"A search party is out in boats, and, just after bride and bridegroom had landed, and gone up silently and almost unnoticed to their cottage home, the word is passed that the bodies have been found, near together, both in shallow water, face downward on a reef. Harold, 26 years old, and so well known as an athlete and powerful swimmer, with his arms extended and stiffened as though in a last effort to reach the shore; and Smedley, aged 22, and not so good a swimmer, looking as though his hands had been holding on to Harold's shoulders when the icy cold water finally overcame him.

"It was a frail little skiff they were in, and a strong southeast gale was blowing on that fatal evening when, after passing the afternoon at Mr. L. Tolson's, and getting the mail at the post office, they started to return on their homeward trip across the harbour. The double funeral from St. Mark's Church, on Wednesday, the 23rd (February), was attended by a large crowd of sympathizing friends. Some of the same white roses that had been used at the wedding, were used again at the funeral."

USHA RAUTENBACH,
SALT SPRING HISTORIAN

Fall 2008 SSI Library Annual Giving Campaign

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RCMP NEWS

Local RCMP get new wheels for land and water

Police boat now stationed in Ganges Harbour

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring RCMP will be more visible on land and water with acquisition of two new vehicles for their law enforcement arsenal.

Last Tuesday afternoon an RCMP boat arrived in Ganges Harbour for use by Salt Spring's eight-member detachment.

When the vessel previously stationed in Stewart, B.C. came available through redeployment, Salt Spring Sgt. Danny Willis said the local station didn't hesitate to accept it.

"We had a choice of waiting for a new one or grabbing one while we could," said Willis.

"It's similar to the one the Outer Islands detachment has."

Acquiring a boat has long been on the local detachment's wish list.

The vessel will give the RCMP more presence on the water to address issues such as smuggling and thefts from boats.

"Hopefully it will deter some activity," Willis said.

With some 5,000 annual visits to Salt



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

The Salt Spring RCMP's new police boat moored at the Ganges Coast Guard dock.

Spring by boaters, he said, there's a large amount of marine activity to cover.

Local RCMP members have been receiving training needed to operate the vessel,

with three officers already completing the two courses required and others finishing their sessions in the spring.

A fifth marked police car is also on order

for the detachment, which will increase RCMP visibility — something community members deemed important in a survey completed last year — and improve RCMP response times.

"We'll waste less time jockeying cars around," Willis noted. "In bigger places you can borrow a vehicle from a nearby detachment. We can't."

Problems have arisen when an RCMP car is being serviced at a garage and out of commission, for example.

In other RCMP community news, the detachment is working on its Christmas display, following the popularity of its Halloween "ghost car" and pumpkin display, which was initiated by Willis' creative wife Janice.

It will culminate on Tuesday, Dec. 23 in a detachment visit from Santa who will greet Salt Spring children and take their last-minute requests.

Then on March 7, 2009, the local constabulary will host an RCMP Regimental Ball.

"It's a very formal black tie and Red Serge dinner and dance to honour our traditions here," said Willis.

All past RCMP members who served on the island will be invited to attend the event at Fulford Hall, with more details to come.

DRINKING WATER

St. Mary Lake watershed plan talks ready to flow

Open house planned

BY MURRAY REISS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The St. Mary watershed steering committee will present the first draft of the watershed management plan for St. Mary Lake on Thursday, Dec. 4 at Lions Hall.

There will be an open house from 3 to 5 p.m. and a public meeting starting at 7 p.m.

As we all know, St. Mary Lake is the single most important source of drinking water on the island. Thousands of us depend on it for our potable water. But we also know only too well that St. Mary has not been the healthiest of lakes. The blue-green algae blooms we've seen in its waters are one clear sign of a lake in trouble.

Several important steps have been taken over the past couple of years to improve the health of St. Mary Lake. The North Salt Spring Water-

works District has installed an aeration system to add more oxygen to the deeper water, which will greatly reduce the amount of phosphorus being recycled from internal sediments. Reducing phosphorus levels is a crucial step in improving water quality and eliminating algae blooms.

On another front, a steering committee led by Salt Spring's regional director and Islands Trust trustees has been working on a watershed management plan.

Watershed management plans look at all the activities within a watershed that affect the health of a lake. By identifying ways to minimize nutrient loading from sources like faulty septic systems and excessive land clearing, the St. Mary plan encourages long-term solutions to restore and protect the water quality of St. Mary Lake.

The open house will present large-scale maps of the

watershed's boundary, land-use zoning and sensitive ecosystems, as well as copies of the plan's objectives and recommendations and selected charts and graphs from the plan. Members of the steering committee will be present to answer questions and receive comments and suggestions.

The public meeting will feature presentations by steering committee members on features of the watershed, targets for phosphorus reduction, and the recommended actions to reach those targets.

Ken Ashley, who designed the aeration system for St. Mary Lake, will be one of the evening's speakers. He will review the reasons for aeration and describe the design and installation of the new aeration unit.

Just as importantly, the open house and evening meeting will give water-

shed residents a chance to offer their own comments, questions and suggestions to the steering committee. These can then be taken into account for the next draft of the plan.

For more information, call Murray Reiss at 250-653-4741.

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Ehring, Torgrimson elected to Islands Trust

After a hard-fought election campaign, voters have spoken and elected incumbent George Ehring and relative political newcomer Christina Torgrimson to Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee. Ehring finished ahead of the pack with 1,761 votes while Torgrimson received 1,692 votes. Kimberly Linager finished a close third with 1,622 votes while Norbert Schienker... [MORE](#)

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- Polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.: Results to follow *Saanich News* - Nov-15-2008
- Election results validate incumbent performance *Saanich News* - Nov-17-2008
- CHEK-TV hit with another round of layoffs *Victoria News* - Nov-19-2008
- Central Saanich election results *Peninsula News Review* - Nov-15-2008
- Police bait truck too enticing for couple *Gulfstream News Gazette* - Nov-07-2008
- Fortin sweeps into Victoria mayor's chair *Victoria News* - Nov-15-2008
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- Fortin captures Victoria mayor's race *Victoria News* - Nov-15-2008
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RECYCLING

Business as usual at depot, despite economic stresses

Regional operators consider options

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A continuing slump in commodity prices combined with low demand for materials has left many recycling facility operators across the province and on Salt Spring Island scratching their heads.

Last week, staff at the Bowen Island Recycling Depot Society (BIRD) told clients to keep their plastic containers at home until further notice.

It turns out the private company on the mainland contracted to handle the plastics has run out of room to store the material.

"It's going to turn around, but right now we have nowhere to send and no room to store these materials," said BIRD president Bill Carr.

Similar issues have not yet manifested themselves with other recyclables such as metals and fibre products, he added.

Here on Salt Spring Island, operators like Laurie Hedger are having to contemplate

raising recycling rates to compensate for increased costs of shipping materials to their markets.

"Well, there never was a demand [for those materials], but it's worse now," he said on Tuesday. "Right now it's cheaper to go to the dump than it is to be recycled."

Hedger said the fact that Salt Spring's local recycling services are susceptible to global commodity markets shows just how much less control people have over their local economies.

Hedger said he has no other choice but to hope customers will pay the additional fees in order to keep their recyclables out of the landfill.

At the Capital Regional District-funded Rainbow Road recycling facility operated by Community Services, general manager Peter Grant said it remains business as usual for the time being.

Grant said the markets for recyclables collected at the Rainbow Road facility have yet to experience the same stresses that other companies have encountered.

Representatives from other depots in the southern Gulf Islands, he said, have

"Right now it's cheaper to go to the dump than it is to be recycled."

LAURIE HEDGER
Recycling operator

arranged a meeting tentatively scheduled for Dec. 4 to address concerns facing the recycling industry.

In order to reduce the strain on recycling facilities over the next few months, Carr said, he has been encouraging residents on Bowen Island to consider buying products with the least amount of packaging possible.

"The three 'Rs' starts out with 'reduce,' then says 'reuse,'" he said. "It would seem that the final result is to recycle. This creates the opportunity to consider your experience, learn from it and stop buying some of the [over-packaged] products that manufacturers are producing."

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Communal Living

Communal living is a topic I have come back to, time and time again, over the years.

Imagine a group of seniors buying say a three-to five-acre piece of land. Each person or couple builds a small cottage for themselves. Each cottage is situated in such a way that everyone has privacy created by careful planting of shrubs and trees. All the cottages surround a large vegetable garden and small orchard with an outdoor dining table and garden chairs placed here and there in groups for conversation. There is a large greenhouse for growing seedlings for the garden which also serves as a great spot for tea and a chat in bad weather.

The group realizes they don't need individual cars so they buy a van and a couple of small eco-friendly cars. They invest in good equipment for the garden for this is where they grow their own organic vegetables and fruit and get most of their exercise.

They built a bocce ball court where spirited games take place most of the year.

All the cottagers, realizing there are times when privacy is necessary, come up with a system of signaling their friends and neighbours when company is appreciated, or not.

During those times when sickness strikes, there are members of this new family to first, be aware, and second to help with practical needs. A bowl of

soup delivered with love is sometimes as valuable and healing as medication.

As I am writing this I realize this same model would work just as well for young families. Imagine building a huge playground and tree forts for the kids. Imagine sending your kids out to play with the full knowledge they were safe, that your friends and neighbours are all known to your kids and are watching over them.

Maybe one mom stays home and looks after all the kids during the day as her paying job, which means moms and dads can rest easy knowing all is well.

Some of us are old enough to remember the hippy communes of the '60s and '70s, which were doomed to failure. But now that we are older and have some understanding of community I feel it would work. This has got to be better than millions of lonely people living alone hoping someone will visit.

I have heard of condo units being built with large inside common areas and communal kitchens but don't know of anything like I am imagining.

What do you think? Do any of you have experience living communally? Did it work or did it drive you mad?

maggiec@blackpress.com

maggiec@blackpress.ca



MAGGIE CALLOWAY

LiveSmart Community Heroes

MARION PAPE



Marion Pape is devoted to fostering both community and environmental sustainability. She shines as a local leader known for her ability to empower others with the notion that making a difference is within every person's grasp.

Pape says she recognizes there are problems afflicting the planet, and resolving them will require the collaborative efforts of many. For Pape, community involvement is essential.

"Change is going to take leaders," she says, "but leaders need people to show them the way."

The accomplishment she is most proud of is her nine-year effort as Nova Scotia's provincial librarian to lead an Internet networking project that connected people in all corners of the province, including remote fishing villages — the first province-wide library network in Canada.

But since Pape made Salt Spring her home in 2001, her involvement has swelled to include the following:

- project coordinator for the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Task Force
- board member of the Institute for Sustainability Education and Action (I-SEA)
- coordinator of City Green grant project that helps fund home energy assessments on Salt Spring to guide future home energy efficiency upgrades
- coordinator of the Salt Spring Micro-hydro Feasibility Project that is looking at small-scale micro-hydro renewable energy involving creeks and streams
- researching OCP processes for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
- creator of "Okurimono; the Gift" a documentary film on the Murakami family/Murikami Gardens and "The Nettle Solution," on solutions to the global food crisis, now available on YouTube
- Green Drinks aficionado
- member of Standing Committee of Environment and Economy (SCOEE) of NDP helping to interpret and communicate SCOEE's Sustainable BC document, philosophy of sustainability
- Unitarian lay chaplain who performs spiritual rights-of-passage ceremonies, with a specialty in Earth-based spirituality

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ELIZABETH WHITE - SALT SPRING ISLAND

Elizabeth White's name is synonymous with sustainability on Salt Spring Island.

A founder of the Earth Festival Society (which coordinated the Salt Spring Community Energy Strategy with assistance from other groups beginning in 2003, Elizabeth is also an EnerGuide for Houses Energy Advisor and the go-to person when anyone needs information on home upgrades that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy costs at the same time. She is also an authority on green building issues and sustainable resource use.

Most recently, Elizabeth has:

- sought funding for the solar hot water system and other energy upgrades to the new Murakami Gardens community housing project;
- undertaken preliminary planning for a new "deep green" affordable housing project;
- worked to convince B.C. Parks that it is appropriate to have traditional agricultural activities in Class A parks. (Increasing local food production is key to creating a more sustainable community.);
- provided input to the OCP review process on energy, climate change and affordable housing;
- been doing a local micro-hydro feasibility study to see what the potential is for that kind of alternate energy on Salt Spring (along with Marion Pape of the Salt Spring Community Energy Strategy);
- been involved with the Crofton Citizens Airshed Group and its attempts to reduce air pollution coming from the Crofton Mill.
- served on a food security round table and on the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance, the group charged with overseeing the implementation of the Area Farm Plan.

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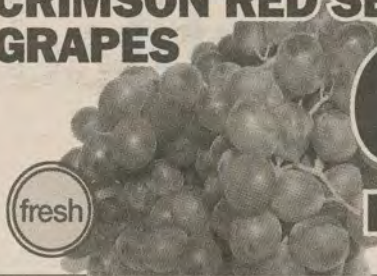


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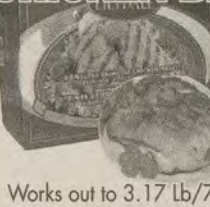
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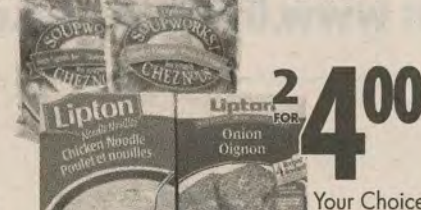
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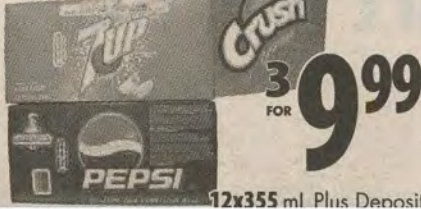
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NEWSBEAT

GYPSY MOTHS

Local experimental gypsy moth program results in eradication

No moths found in 2008 traps

A satisfying conclusion to three years of hard work, much of it performed by local volunteers, to eradicate an invasive gypsy moth population on Salt Spring Island has been announced by the Ministry of Forests and Range. No gypsy moths were found in this year's traps, and the eradication program has been declared successful and completed.

It all began in the winter of 2006 with an organized protest of the provincial government's plan to overhead pesticide spray south Salt Spring Island when the Canadian Food Inspection Agency found gypsy moth egg masses and moths in the Fulford Valley and Lees Hill area, recalls Leslie Wallace, who spearheaded the protest. Numerous individuals and groups, including the Farmers' Institute, Island Natural Growers, Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, Salt Spring Conservancy, Water Preservation Society, Salt Spring Salmon Enhancement Society, Salt Spring Butterflies, local trustees George Ehring and Peter Lamb, CRD director Gary Holman, Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and the parents of children attending a daycare centre in the middle of the proposed spray zone sent letters to the Ministry of the Environment asking them not to grant a spray application to the Ministry of Forests and Range. All of these groups, together with influential islanders such as Robert Bateman and Briony Penn, signed on to a special website created to update residents on developments as they took place, and a petition opposing the spraying was signed by over 2,000 islanders.

"One of my favourite memories from that time," said Wallace, "was phoning the Ministry of the Environment to find out how many letters they had received by the deadline for public comment on the spray application. A very nervous sounding man at the other end of the line told me that it would be at least a month before he could tell me. How long does it take to count a few letters? I asked him. I could hear a machine operating in the background, but didn't realize what I was hearing until he called me back, prompted by a similar inquiry from the Driftwood. He told me that over 70 letters had been received and that the letters were still coming in. His voice changed for a few seconds while he was telling me this, and I realized in a flash that he'd turned his head to look in the direction of the fax machine — a fax machine that was spitting out letters from Salt Springers."

A letter that was hand-delivered to every household in the spray zone together with public meetings were

the first steps in engaging other islanders and recruiting volunteers to be a part of an organizing committee. They created the alternative gypsy moth control plan that they hoped the Ministry of Forests and Range would undertake as an alternative to overhead pesticide spraying, Wallace recalls further.

That plan comprised an egg mass search, ground spraying with a product approved for use on organic farms, mass trapping of male gypsy moths and a public education and awareness program. Volunteers, who had yet to be recruited, would be responsible for implementing much of the ground work. On February 22, the plan was presented to representatives of the Ministry of Forests and Range at a meeting at the Islands Trust office in Ganges. As a result of that meeting, the Ministry withdrew its spray application and agreed to the alternative program. It was March 6.

"He told me that over

70 letters had been

received...."

LESLIE WALLACE
Alternate gypsy moth control program coordinator

Training sessions hosted by the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency were quickly put into place to teach volunteers how to identify gypsy moth egg masses and where to look for them and, later, how to assemble traps. Salt Spring resident Ray Hatch taught volunteers the procedures for hanging, coding and collecting traps. For three years in a row, volunteers searched for egg masses and assembled, hung, collected and examined a total of over 5,000 gypsy moth traps.

"The involvement of over 300 dedicated volunteers who gave several thousand hours of time and energy to this program is what has made the program possible," said Wallace. "We were very fortunate in having the support of local government," she continued, "which I'm sure was a significant factor in getting the ministry to the negotiation table. And without the consistent cooperation of property owners and tenants in the ground spray zone who allowed volunteers access to their land, we wouldn't have had a program at all. I can't thank them enough."

In 2007, the Salt Spring Island Community Gypsy Moth Control Program received an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award "in recognition of outstanding work by an organization for implementing an ecologically-friendly program to control the outbreak of gypsy moths."

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MEN'S SOCCER

Salt Spring FC mounts comeback

Strong second half captures win

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After beating Bays United FC 8-0 earlier this year, players on Salt Spring FC may have been a little overconfident ahead of Sunday's rematch.

"It was a lot closer than it should have been," said Salt Spring FC's Jordon Morrison of the team's 4-2 victory. "We took them a lot lighter than we should have."

Despite taking an early lead off a goal by Harrison Jason, FC fell behind by a goal before the end of the first half.

"We had plenty of chances to make it 2-0, 3-0 and 4-0," Morrison said. "Being down at half time was quite shocking."

Thanks to some post-half changes, FC mounted a stunning comeback with goals by Julian Smith, Zoltan Kodaly and Colin McDougall.

The victory gives FC a 3-3-4 record with 13 points. The team is preparing for its next match, against fifth-place Prospect Lake (5-5-2) on Vancouver Island Saturday. FC tied Prospect Lake in a match earlier this season.

Salt Spring FC remains only five points out of third position in the Vancouver Island Soccer League's second division.

In other men's soccer news:

- Ganges Gremio failed to get the better of its opponents on Sunday, as the team dropped a tightly fought 2-1 decision to Nanaimo United.

"We were just kind of flat and let them control the pace of the game," said Ryan Smith.

"I'd love to make excuses, but we just let them win. In the end we didn't play and they did."

Smith scored the game's lone goal for the Gremio side.

The defeat gives the team a record of 5-2-2. Gremio remains in a three-way tie for third position in Division 5A.

Ganges Gremio will take on one of those teams, Hel-



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

The camera captures some close action at the Bays United net as Salt Spring FC beats Bays United 4-2.

las FC (5-1-2), on home turf on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 2:15 p.m.

- Salt Spring FC Alumni improved its lead atop the Masters B division to eight points after defeating Nanaimo United 2-0 on Sunday morning.

Michael Brown and Jude Shugar combined to provide all the offence Salt Spring

would need as Ken Marr registered another shut-out performance.

The victory improves the team's record to 8-0-1. Salt Spring's defence has limited its opponents to only eight goals so far this season.

Alumni travels to Vancouver Island this weekend to meet Vic West FC (3-2-6) on Sunday at noon.

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what's on?

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SPORTS & RECREATION

YOUTH SOCCER

U18 girls first in league; U16s, U13s eyeing top spot

While boys silver squad turns golden

With a 8-1-1 season so far, Salt Spring's U13 silver boys "Oasis" will become the island's only gold team when it moves into the more competitive division this

weekend.

The team wrapped up its silver season with a decisive 6-1 win over Juan de Fuca last week, scoring a total of 66 goals in its 10 games.

The Oasis squad is not the only island team scaling to the top of its league, with at least two other Salt

Spring groups battling for top spot.

Coach Rob Holmes' U18 girls nabbed another win this week, beating Lakehill for a firm first-place position.

The squad has won nine of its 10 games and lost only one for 27 points against

second-place Prospect Lake's 24 points.

Although the U13 silver girls sat in first place last week, a loss on Saturday against top contenders Cowichan dropped them to fourth in their league's tightly contested race.

The squad has won seven

of its 11 games for 22 points, while first-place Cowichan has 25 points.

The U16 silver girls are also sitting in fourth place, having played only nine of their 11 games. The team has won six and lost three for 18 points, compared to first-place Sooke, which has

played all of its games and has 24 points.

Both Salt Spring's U15 silver girls and U16 silver boys are sitting in seventh place, while the U15/U16 local squad is in fourth place in the bronze pool, having played only six of nine games and winning five.

Local squads overpower opponents and welcome new players

• The Salt Spring Storms U15 boys played an exciting game against Victoria's Lakehill.

"Left Foot Cannon" Sam Lewis started off scoring with a quick one, assisted by Luc Comeau, and followed shortly after by an amazing Armando Morineau goal.

The boys were feeling confident when Morineau knocked in another well-placed marker.

The Lakehill team fought back and scored its first of the game. Then, a scramble in front of keeper Byron Mussell resulted in another goal for Lakehill.

A beautiful shot from Comeau to Lewis and into the net was unfortunately disallowed due to an offside call.

An injury to a Salt Spring player by an aggressive opponent got the boys rattled and Lakehill took advantage, tying up the

SOCCERKICKS

game.

A similar aggressive move resulted in a yellow card and penalty kick against Lakehill. This excellently-executed shot earned Morineau a hat-trick and secured the win for the island boys.

Injured player Mauricio Escandon was released from hospital, but will be on crutches for a while.

• The U-12 girls continued their winning ways on Saturday, beating a tough Peninsula Storm squad, 4-2.

Goalkeepers Ella MacQueen-Denz, Roxie Daillie and Sofia Pickstone repeatedly saved the day. These three also played solidly in

defensive, midfield and scoring roles.

Kiara Johnston kept her scoring touch, and Ella Fisher, Ajra Doobenen, Shayce Johnston and Emma Lewis put repeated pressure on the Storm goal.

The storm was weathered by Jade Barnard, Indigo Porebska-Smith, Lena Bird and a surging Charlotte McIntyre.

• Salt Spring's U13 silver "Oasis" boys faced fourth-place Juan de Fuca at the GISS field Saturday, their last before moving up to gold this weekend.

The addition of two players — Noah Price-MacGillivray and Wes Pickering — provided Oasis with even more depth for the anticipated tougher competition.

The frigid temperature made for a slower-than-usual start for the Oasis, giving up the game's first goal to an energized Juan de

Fuca squad. It was the first goal scored on keeper Eldin Miller-Stead for over 90 minutes of play and would be the only one to get past him on this day.

Salt Spring opened its scoring with a nice finish by Tai Levitt on a clever Justin Kopetzki feed. Minutes later, Lukas Wenzel pounced on a loose ball and sent it hard into the back of the net.

The half ended 2-1 with promising play by newcomers Pickering and Price-MacGillivray.

The second half was all Oasis, with Levitt getting his second, Wenzel scoring two more for the hat-trick, and Kopetzki converting a nice breakaway to score a left-footer down low. The game ended 6-1, giving the Oasis 66 "goals for" in their 10 games to date, versus 23 goals against.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Dragons fall to fourth place in tough Ladysmith match

Opposition wins on "sloppy" goal

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Dragons missed an opportunity to pull into sole possession of third place over the weekend, losing a close back-and-forth match to Ladysmith by a score of 3-2.

The Dragons took an early lead off a "beauti-

ful goal" that Jeannie Gray managed to place just above the reach of Ladysmith's keeper.

With the score tied at one, the Dragons regained the lead on a goal by Carol Adam.

Ladysmith tied the game before the half.

Though players remained confident going into the second half, player Joanne O'Connor said, they became "a bit slower and not as hungry for the

"I just think we need

to regroup and

really get hungry

again."

JOANNE O'CONNOR
Dragons player

ball" as the game wore on.

Ladysmith capitalized on a sloppy go-ahead goal with less than 10 minutes to play.

Despite a few late-game offensive surges, Ladysmith's defence held up and efficiently chewed away time on the clock.

The loss marked the Dragons' third consecutive game without a win.

Despite the loss, O'Connor said, Gray and Amy Gessinger had stand-out performances.

The loss leaves the Dragons (4-3-2) in fourth position in the Lower Island Women's Soccer League's third division, 13 points behind the first-place Cordova Bay Spitfires.

The Dragons travel to Vancouver Island this weekend where they will play two games against Bays United (2-5-2).

Getting some points against the fifth-place team is essential if the Dragons are to remain in the hunt for the division lead.

"I just think we need to regroup and really get hungry again," O'Connor said.

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*Model shown is the 2009 Forester 2.5X (9J1 X0) with MSRP of \$27,410 including freight and PDI (\$1,495) and air and tire levies (\$120). License, taxes, insurance, PPSA and dealer charges are extra. The model used for comparison to the 2009 Forester 2.5X (9J1 X0) is the Honda CR-V LX. The MSRP for the Honda CR-V LX is \$31,470 including freight and PDI (\$1,560), air and tire levies (\$120). License, taxes, insurance, PPSA and dealer charges are extra. **The difference in price is \$4,060. This information is based from the www.honda.ca website on October 15, 2008. CR-V is a trade-mark of Honda who is not affiliated in any way with this advertisement. Subaru and Honda dealers may sell for less. Visit your local dealer for details or www.western.subarudealer.ca



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TRAIL & NATURE

Christmas lunch caps off shorter Dec. schedule

Harbour House event on Dec. 9

The Trail and Nature Club Christmas lunch this year will be on Dec. 9 in the Green Room, Harbour House Hotel. (Note the location is not at the Legion as in past years). Entry is from the rear parking lot.

Doors will be open at 11:30 a.m. Tickets will be \$19. We will sell only 100 tickets this year, so people should purchase them before Dec. 4. Tickets will be available at SaltSpring Soapworks (but please do not phone Soapworks to reserve tickets) or from your coordinator (Frauke Prystawik, Dulcy Wilson or Lise Fraser). You may pay by cheque or cash.

Also please note on your calendar: The annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22 at the Legion's Meaden Hall. This year a light luncheon will be served; tickets will be available from your coordinators or from Soapworks in early January. Doors and bar will be open at 11:30 a.m. The business meeting will follow the meal (at approximately 1 p.m.) and every member is invited and urged to attend at least the meeting part.

On Thursday, Jan. 1, Kees Visser will lead an easy New Year's Day hike or moderate walk through Andreas Voigt and adjoining Crown lands, probably finished before 12:30 p.m. Just take a snack. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or join at the Jasper Road/Stewart Road intersection.

Membership dues for the 2008/2009 season are now due.

Cost is \$20, increasing to \$25 after Dec. 31. Please complete and sign a membership/waiver form and leave it with your cheque at the Cobbler's Box, or present it to our membership secretary, Barry Spence (250-537-2332). Membership/waiver forms are available at the Cobbler's Box or on our website, where you can also view our activities, rules and guidelines: www.saltspringtnc.ca

The following is our schedule for December:

Nature Group: Monday, Dec. 1, the group will visit Goldstream Provincial Park to observe spawning salmon and their various predators (most obviously bald eagles, gulls and ravens) that not only feed on the salmon but

fertilize the surrounding forest etc. with the "processed" fish. We will leave Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to catch the 9 a.m. ferry to Crofton. For further information, contact John Flannagan (250-653-2344) after Nov. 23.

Hikers

Dec. 2: Mary Hof will lead us on a moderate hike over the ridge of Mt. Tzouhalem. (Some steep sections). Meet at Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to catch the 9 a.m. ferry to Crofton. We'll meet Mary at the corner of Maple Bay and Tzouhalem Road. (QofA school parking lot) at 9:45 a.m. to organize a car shuttle. For more info, e-mail gmhof@shaw.ca or phone 250-743-4074.

Dec 7: SUNDAY HIKE. Zeke Blazecka will lead a moderate hike up Mount Erskine from Toynbee Road. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to carpool. Bring a lunch and sturdy hiking footwear.

Dec. 9: Fred Powell leads us on a short easy hike prior to the Christmas luncheon. Meet at the Harbour House Hotel, rear parking lot, at 9:45 a.m.

Walkers

Dec. 2: Andrea Rankin will lead a moderate walk in the north Channel Ridge area, Ailsa's favourite trail. Leave ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

Dec. 9: Terry Ison and Nancy Holcroft will lead a moderate walk on the beautiful trails around Ganges. Mostly flat, but some uphill. Hiking boots recommended. Leave Harbour House Hotel at 10 a.m.

Ramblers

Dec. 2: Betty Ball will lead a leader's choice ramble. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Dec. 9: Terry Fuoco will take us on a walk on Churchill Road before the Christmas lunch at Harbour House. Carpool from Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Dec. 16: Ramble for a cup of coffee. Meet at Centennial at 10 a.m.

New members

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 250-537-2332 or Zeke Blazecka (president) at 250-653-4782, or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in.



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

ON THE BALL: A Salt Spring FC Alumni player clashes with a Nanaimo player as the local squad beats the visitors 2-0 on Salt Spring Sunday. Jude Shugar and Michael Brown scored for the home team; while Ken Marr nailed the shutout.



Pro-Derm Skin Care products are once again available on Salt Spring Island. Call Tamara Benloulou 250-537-6751

Letter to the editor?

Press release?

What's On calendar event?

Send it to news@gulfislands.net.

Ganges Gas

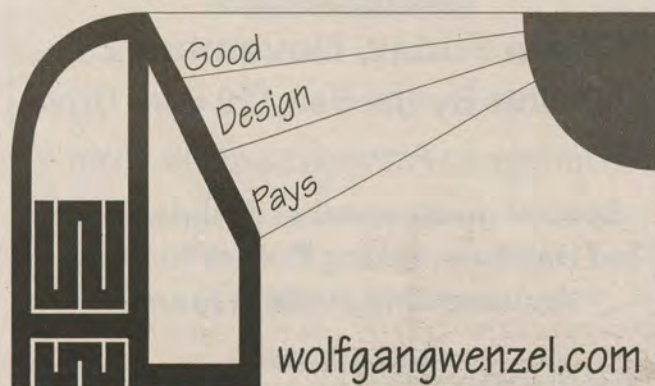
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Thursday & Friday!

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CARDS OF THANKS

A BIG thank you to all who helped make the recent Artful Eye 2008, BC Art Teacher's Association Annual Conference, a huge success: The conference committee: Geraldine Charlton, Deborah Miller, Gail Neumann, Stefanie Denz, Elodie Stauffer, Kathryn Akehurst, Marianne Allan, Moray Kennedy, Sylvia Lauwman, Marlene Cormack. Our sponsors: School district 64, Island Blue Print Co. Ltd., Jostens, OPUS, School Specialty, Fulford Day Society. The Keynote Speakers: Robert Baleman, Nick Bantock and Ted Harrison. The caterers: Salt Spring Catering by Chef Kelly, Dinner's Ready, GISS Chef Al and Susan Lercher, Laughing Daughters Bakery, Barb Slater, Raven Street Café, Justin Taylor - our logo designer. The entertainment: Salt Spring Brass Quartet, The Stack Sisters, The Gezers, Synergy, The Wrangelian Gumboot Dancers. The Harbour House Hotel, Seabreeze Inne, Salt Spring Inn and the many B&B's that helped make our guests' stay memorable. Art-Sprague, Fulford Hall Association; Angel Cottage, Admirals Specialty Foods, Apple Photo, Fulford Inn, Foxglove Nursery, Fraser's Thimble Farms, Ganges Tea Co., Gall's Hair at the Hotel, Garden Faire Nursery, Harlan's Chocolates, Jill Louise Campbell Gallery, Galleon's Lap Gallery, Love My Kitchen, Magic Cottage Creations, Mouats, Marks Work Wearhouse, Moonstruck Organic Cheese, Ocean View Cottage B&B, Pharmasave, Rainbow Trading Co., Ropcy Fishing company, Ruphi Ceramics, Sabine's Book Shop, Salt Spring Roasting Co., Salt Spring Vineyards, Salt Spring Island Cheese, Salt Spring books, Salt Spring Soapworks, Salt Spring Conservancy, Sacred Mountain Lavender, SSI Sea Products, SS Global Worming, Sea Change, Sister Stone Buttons, Skin Sensations, Stone Wallrus Gallery, Stuff and Nonsense, The Fishery, Treenway Silks, Watermark Books, Melissa Searcy, Patricia Brown, Karen and Don Brown, Suzanne and Jim Predergast, Allan and Anna Hoskins, Jim Lightfoot, Robert Rustad, Nancy McDonald, Brian Finmore, Marie Beaudoin, Linda Burgess, Shelly Johnson, Rosemary Kilmer and many more behind the scenes volunteers. Thanks again! You helped make the job a whole lot easier. Johanna Hoskins, Conference Chair.

COMING EVENTS

The 3rd Annual Salt Spring Christmas Tour

3 LOCATIONS 6 ARTISTS

StoneRidge Pottery & Flowers by Arrangement
 520 LONG HARBOUR RD.
 Gary Cherneff - Pottery & Sculpture
 Beth Cherneff - Seasonal Decor
 Lisa Cherneff - Glass Jewellery

Pat Webber's Pottery Studio
 425 STEWART RD.
 Ulrike Benner - Art you Wear
 Pat Webber - Pottery

Martinus Studio
 145 SEAVIEW AVE.
 Jewellery in Gold & Platinum

Saturday & Sunday November 29 & 30 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Please join us on this special weekend!

COMING EVENTS

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT, Tues., Dec. 2, 6:45pm at Salt Spring Centre, 355 Blackburn Rd. Join us. 250-537-9130.

GRIEF RECOVERY PROGRAM is putting a one night session for those who is with grief and would like help to get over the holiday season. Tuesday December 2 at 7:00pm-9:00pm At Crofton Brook, if you have any questions please call Susannah 250-537-2570.

MONSOON COAST
 Fans can get their spice fix at the Fulford Christmas Craft Fair, Dec. 5, 6, 7. Drop by for some Chai, Chat, gift boxes and some spicy news!

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OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC MEETING
 To present the first draft of the St. Mary Lake watershed management plan. Open house: 3 - 5pm, Public meeting: 7 - 9pm. Thursday Dec. 4. Lions Hall.

SCIENCE & ART OF HERBOLGY, 4th annual, 10 month apprenticeship. Class runs first Sun. of each month. Begins Feb. 1 thru Nov. 1. Registration taking place now. Tuition \$1300, includes course books & certificate. Contact Community Herbalist Sachi Spindler @ 250-653-0068.

COMING EVENTS

Storewide SALE 20% off
Nov. 29 - 30 Sat. & Sun.

SIDE clothing co.
 121 McPhillips Ave. 250-537-2330

COMING EVENTS

THE THRIFT Shop will be holding their annual in store Christmas Sale on Sunday Nov. 30 from Noon to 4pm Come One Come All!

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP, Amanda Tarling from Victoria will deliver the sermon "More to U than Eat, Pray, Love", Sunday Nov. 30 at the SS Senior's Centre, 11 a.m. Welcome all.

INFORMATION

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Christmas Around the World
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Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we invite members of the community to enjoy a special evening of Christmas music from around the world.

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 6 pm
221 Vesuvius Bay Rd.

With light refreshments following. Admission is free, but donations to the Food Bank gratefully accepted. For further information please call Jenny Svendsen 250-537-1983.

COMING EVENTS

BOOK LAUNCH

Slide Show & Talk by author **Lloyd Kahn**

7:00 PM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
Duck Creek Gallery
 181 Broadwell Road
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARDS OF THANKS

BEACON COMMUNITY Services - Home Support wishes to acknowledge the many anonymous donations received in memory of Bob Akerman. Bob's generosity of spirit is reflected in the response of family and friends to support ongoing training of staff who work in the community. At the request of the family, funds will be used for palliative care training for Community Health Workers here on Salt Spring Island.


COMING EVENTS

DEATHS

ATKINSON, Joy
 Joy Atkinson (Charlton), born Joy Cooper in Lancashire, England passed away peacefully at home in her 89th year on Wednesday November 19, 2008. Joy was pre-deceased by her parents John and Margaret Cooper, brother Marmaduke Cooper and his wife Mina, also husbands Alfred Atkinson and Richard Charlton. She will be sadly missed by daughter Lynda Rollins of Belleville, son John Charlton (Laureen) of Salt Spring Island B.C., and step-son Bradley Atkinson (Kathy) of Ajax. Lovingly remembered by her grandchildren Ashleigh Rollins of Belleville, Caitlin Atkinson of Ajax, Jesse Charlton of Niagara Falls, Laurel and David Charlton of Salt Spring Island, B.C.

There will be a cremation followed by private graveside ceremony in Prince Albert, Ontario. The family invites friends to gather at 2 p.m. on Sunday November 23, 2008 in the lounge at the Prince William Apartments, 165 Herchimer Ave., Belleville, Ontario to celebrate Joy's life. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hospital Foundation or Cancer Society. The family wishes to thank Dr. Levesque and his great team at the Belleville Cancer Clinic, Dr. Goddard-Hill, the VON, and the Red Cross workers for all the great care and assistance they have given Joy over the years.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



7 pm Friday, November 28
All Saints By the Sea, 110 Park Drive
 Update on Pathways will be given
Special guest speaker & slide show
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INFORMATION

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SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (Gulf Islands)

A regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held at **School Board Office** Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Public welcome!

To view the agenda for this meeting, please refer to www.sd64.bc.ca/board_meetings.html.

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LOST AND FOUND

FOUND CAT Long Haired Tortisehell, female, found on Epron Road, very friendly and young. Call the BCSPCA at 537-2123.

FOUND CAT Short Haired Tabby with Orange Patches, Female, White Chin, very friendly, found on Merganser Place. Call the BCSPCA at 537-2123.

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CLINICAL SUPERVISOR - Alberni Community and Women's Services Society Clinical Supervisors We are seeking a Clinical Supervisor(s) for a contract position. You will have: A Masters Degree in a relevant discipline; At least a combined 10 years experience in the field and as a Clinical Supervisor; Direct experience providing clinical supervision to counselors that work with adults and youth; Significant direct experience supporting victims of trauma; Strong ethics; Feminist and/or Social Justice Philosophy; Skills and Knowledge in: EMDR Art & Play Therapy Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Narrative Therapy Brief Therapy Applied Positive Psychology Integrative Psychotherapy if you believe your philosophy and approach aligns with our feminist organization, please send your CV, Cover Letter, and references to: Ms. A. Graboski Executive Director Alberni Community and Women's Services Society 3082 3rd Avenue Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2A5 No later than 4:00 p.m. on December 10th, 2008.

HARBOUR HOUSE Hotel is hiring in their housekeeping department. Experience preferred but not necessary. Keep eye for detail is essential. Leave resume at the front desk. Attn: Charlene.

HELP WANTED

AN EXCELLENT Opportunity! Work From Home. Windshield wiper manufacturer looking for sales people. Unique product, unique opportunity. Email: sales@heatflexx.com. Ph# 705-949-0067 or 989-414-2714. www.heatflexx.com. www.scrubberblade.com.

CLASS ONE Driver. Well established trucking company in Kamloops requires Class One driver for Super-Train flatdeck job. New tractors, .49/mile, tarp pay, benefits, BC medical paid, fuel bonus. Call 1-800-760-1420. After hours leave msg. 1-250-682-0321.

CLINICAL SUPERVISOR - Alberni Community and Women's Services Society Clinical Supervisors We are seeking a Clinical Supervisor(s) for a contract position. You will have: A Masters Degree in a relevant discipline; At least a combined 10 years experience in the field and as a Clinical Supervisor; Direct experience providing clinical supervision to counselors that work with adults and youth; Significant direct experience supporting victims of trauma; Strong ethics; Feminist and/or Social Justice Philosophy; Skills and Knowledge in: EMDR Art & Play Therapy Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Narrative Therapy Brief Therapy Applied Positive Psychology Integrative Psychotherapy if you believe your philosophy and approach aligns with our feminist organization, please send your CV, Cover Letter, and references to: Ms. A. Graboski Executive Director Alberni Community and Women's Services Society 3082 3rd Avenue Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2A5 No later than 4:00 p.m. on December 10th, 2008.

HELP WANTED

HARBOUR HOUSE Hotel is hiring in their housekeeping department. Experience preferred but not necessary. Keep eye for detail is essential. Leave resume at the front desk. Attn: Charlene.

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER

Required for Salt Spring Centre School to begin immed. P/T, 24 hours/month. Flexible schedule. Please contact Shelby 250-537-9130.

ROCK SALT Restaurant is hiring a barista to work Tuesday through Friday, 7am to 2pm. Apply by email rocksalt@shawbiz.ca.

SALT SPRING Centre of Yoga requires a part-time bookkeeper. Quickbooks proficiency is essential. Please email your reply to vivian@saltspringcentre.com

HOME CARE/SUPPORT

ARE YOU a senior who needs help at home? Experienced live-in caregivers available for senior, disabled or child care. \$1350/month for 40 hours/week. Pacific Live-in Caregivers 250-616-2346 www.pacificcaregivers.com

PROFESSIONAL/ MANAGEMENT

FULL CHARGE part time bookkeeper wanted for non-profit agency. Reporting to the Controller this position will benefit from an experienced individual who is competent to work on their own and has excellent English verbal and written communication skills. Position is responsible for full accounting cycle including payroll and benefit reports and adherence to internal controls; two days per week with flexibility to meet deadlines. Requirements: minimum three years senior bookkeeping experience; proficiency with Quick Books or Simply Accounting; Excel, Word and Outlook. Details will be forwarded on receipt of resume sent to controllermetis@rogers.ca

SALES

SALES PEOPLE **JORDANS LANGFORD** **JORDANS FLOOR COVERINGS** in LANGFORD has openings for **SALES PEOPLE.** A background in flooring sales would be an asset but is not essential for the right candidate. This position has potential for advancement & superior remuneration plus full benefit package. Reply with resume: Attn: General Sales Manager, Fax: 604.733.6306 or E-mail: knoxm@jordans.ca

TEACHERS

INSTRUCTOR WANTED for Children's Liberal Religious Education Program Sunday morning with the Unitarian Fellowship. (3/4 hr. class & prep). Environmental/social justice curriculum supplied. Remuneration \$50/week. Relevant experience with children or teaching. Contact: mokulit@shaw.ca before Dec. 12.

VOLUNTEERS

THE LADY Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society needs a helping hand for 2 hours per week, morning or afternoon, to serve tea at the Extended Care Unit at the hospital. Please can you help? Contact Sharon Callahan 250-537-1583 or Margaret Mackenzie 250-537-1705

WORK WANTED

AWESOME CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Hard working, reliable and efficient, framing, drywall, interior finishing carpentry, paint, truck and all tools. Mark Bremer 250-538-7068 (cell) or 250-653-9366. On Island Ref's. Avail. immediately or book for Dec and Jan.

CARPENTRY, RENOS, repairs. Anything to do with your home. Now available. Peter 250-538-1952.

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HARDWORKING, RELIABLE woman available for house cleaning, etc. \$20 per hour. Call Michelle 250-537-1613 eves. or leave message.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE, Fall clean up, fruit tree pruning, 15 yrs. exp. Call Doug 250-653-9292.

INSULATION

WORK WANTED

HANDYMAN/FINISHING carpenter has openings for small jobs. Call Grant, 250-538-7077.

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EDUCATION/TUTORING

DRUMMERS CALL: Drummers wanted to assist with teaching and practicing rudiments for snare, bass and tenor drummers in the SSI Legion Pipe Band. Short or long term help appreciated. Even better: Join and play with us! Call Doug Fraser 250-537-1676 or totemtot@telus.net or Bevan Wrate 250-537-5071 or 250-537-5002

INTERESTED IN a career in Health and Wellness? Become a certified colon hydrotherapist by attending one of the most highly rated colon hydrotherapy courses available. Contact Prime Pacific Health Innovations Corp. at 1-800-223-9374 for more information or visit us at www.pphic.com.

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RECYCLING

SALT SPRING Island Recycle Depot is located at 349 Rainbow Rd. We are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 5pm. This service is operated by Salt Spring Island Community Services. Please call the Recycle Depot at 537-1200, or Community Services at 537-9971 for information on materials accepted for recycling.

ROOFING & SKYLIGHTS

GERMAN ROOFWORX. Green roofing with clay or slate tiles. BBB-Accredited German Roofer Masters. Call 250-208-4548 for your free estimate.

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SINGLE HORSE trailer for sale. Floor in good condition. New electrics. Good for small horse, ponies, sheep...your mother-in-law? \$1500 firm. Call Sue Yardley 250-653-4322.

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PETS

TIMES ARE tough for pets too. Adopt a homeless pet! Now more than ever, you'll be saving a life. Dogs, cats near you at Petfinder.com


SEE A PHOTO YOU LIKE?

Call the Driftwood
250-537-9933



PETS REMEMBERED

JED



Jed "the smiley dog" died Tuesday, Nov. 18th following a short struggle with cancer. He was the namesake and welcoming committee for the Smiley Dog Grooming Spa. Jed's gentle & loving nature will be missed by all who knew him but especially by Michelle & Brian, Laurie and Bob, Scooter & Noodle. Special thanks to Dr. Harold Bond, Nora and the SS Vet clinic for their kind care of our big beautiful brown boy.

Have fun Jed till we meet again at Rainbow Bridge.

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PETS REMEMBERED

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19" COLOUR tv. Works Great. U-pick up. Long Harbour. 250-931-7777

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LARGE IKEA country kitchen table. Solid wood, 6 ft long x 40" wide x 29" high. \$100. Very sturdy. 250-537-5385

LOVELY NATURAL wicker couch and loveseat and glass topped coffee table. Wicker shows some wear; cushions and glass table top are like new. \$250 for group. 250-537-4297.

ORTHOPEDIC DOUBLE-BED with headboard, \$1200. Couch & matching chair, \$100. Propane countertop stove, \$50. TV in wooden cabinet, \$25. Please call: 250-538-9463.

GARAGE SALES

LIONS GARAGE Sale: Fridays & Saturdays only, 10am - 12pm. Many household items. Note: We no longer offer pickups. We do not accept appliances. Drop-offs accepted only on Fri. & Sat. morning. Please no garbage!! 103 Bonnet Ave.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

2 KID CARRYING backpacks, Kelly & MEC. \$50/ea. 1 Petmate dog kennel for med/lg. dog \$100. 250-537-1010

78" LOVESEAT & 92" Sofa. Curved front, rolled arms, contemporary style, luxury as new \$699; TEAK 99" w Wall unit w/desk & 4 locking cabinet doors \$399, 39" headboards, bookcases & cabinets too! Antique 6pc Dining Ste \$599; Antique-Mahogany Bedroom Ste incl mule dresser, vanity w/framed mirror, bench, night table & queen /King headboard \$899; King-size Cherry sleigh bed c/w Simmons BeautyRest pillow-top mattress set \$599; Nesting tables, plant stands, hat/coat racks, hall-trees, mirrors, Armoires, wall clocks, lots of lamps & fixtures! Axes, mauls, tarps, carpenter/mechanic & power tools. Big selection, all on sale cheap! BUY AND SAVE 9818 4th St. Sidney. buyandsave.ca

8' FIBERGLASS, white, truck canopy: screened sliding windows, working rear door, exc. cond. \$750. 537-4346.

ATTENTION CRAFTERS. Local wool knitting yarns, roving and wool products including fleece for felting projects. Contact John 250-537-4895. www.saltspring.com/bullocklakfarm

BUILDING SUPPLIES

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

ADD AND Save on home phone re-connection. Bad credit - no problem! Up to \$30. off for new customers, plus lower monthly rates! Call Tembo 1-877-266-6398 or sign up online www.tembo.ca.

BEST WATER, best tanks, best service, best prices. Salt Spring Water Co. 250-538-0102.

DRILL PRESS \$100. Brass bed \$100. 220V industrial heater \$30. 250-537-4655.

HOLLY FOR sale: 8 choice stems for \$25, incl. delivery on SSI. Shipping extra. Call 250-653-2424.

INFRARED SAUNA, very cheap, 2 person with stereo. 250-537-1010.

LOCAL DUVETS Wool or alpaca filled duvets and pillows made on Salt Spring. Keep warm this winter, great Christmas gifts. Call 250-537-4342 or 250-537-4895 for more information. www.gulfislands spinningmill.com

METAL ROOFING, forest green, new, 16' lengths, \$1.50/ft. Case 590 Backhoe, loaded, 4x4. \$30,000. Call 250-537-7195

MIRROR 79" X 34" metal frame \$50. Ceiling fan, white, w/ lights \$20. 2 Track light units, 3 light, blue \$10 each. 10 Fluorescent lights 3' 2 bulb \$5 each. 250-538-6254.

NEW LOADED Computer Only \$29.99/month! Everyone's approved. MDG desktop right to your doorstep from only \$29.99/month: Intel processor, 2 GB RAM, 500 GB HD, 22" LCD flat panel, Windows Vista and loads of software, or 15.4" notebook! In-house financing (*call for conditions) 1-800-236-2504.

NORDIC TRACK Walk Fit 4000 \$50. 4 tank water filtration system w/digital read outs, new \$3000, asking \$300, works fine. Double stainless steel sink w/taps & hoses \$25. 4 x 8 utility trailer w/2ft. sides, non insurable, great for the farm \$250. 250-537-1706.

SHALE SALE. Cheap fill, 12-yd. quantities min. for drainage/driveway base. Prices negot. 250-537-7320.

\$9,050 Prefab Kit \$9,895 to Lock-up



Permit May Not Apply

- Artisan Studio
- Farm Workers Cabin
- Workshop • Office Space

SMALL FOOTPRINT DESIGNS

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250-537-7832

STOP WHINING! Start wining! Wine bottles \$5/dozen. Four maple, colonial dining chairs \$50. Bone pedestal sink/basin \$20. High-back hall bench/chest. \$80. 537-1383.

SUNSET FARM STUDIO

has great wool comforters, mattress pads, pillows, knitting wool, and socks for the winter. Also sheepskin rugs and slippers.

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WANTED- COMIC Book Original Art! Private collector looking to purchase original hand-drawn black and white storyboard artwork, used to produce comic books and strips (DC, Marvel, etc) Cash Paid! (631)-848-5647.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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Buy your loved one a kayak for Christmas. All sales come with a FREE rescue lesson on the lake in the Spring. Singles: Eliza for Women \$1100, Zoar \$799, Looksha 17 \$1499, Eskia \$999. Doubles: Necky Amarak \$1299, Seaward G3 \$2800. Please call the SS ADVENTURE CO. for more info @ 250-537-2764.

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

WANTED: DRAFTING table in good shape. Call 250-537-7436.

WANTED: LINE-DANCE teacher. Please call 250-537-4408. Interested in learning? Call same number.

WOOD LATHE wanted, any condition. will look at anything. 250-537-2713

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GULF ISLANDS

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This corner lot, 1100 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bath home has fenced-in patio area, small raised garden & double carport.

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Your Salt Spring Connection is selling off all its stock in one weekend.

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REAL ESTATE

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RENTALS

APARTMENT/CONDO

APARTMENT, SEPARATE small bedroom large open concept living, kitchen. Sliding doors to deck on 2 sides. Private, quiet, self-contained, furnished, private drive, parking, garden, \$575/mo. incl. util's, multiple TV channels, NO cats, small to medium dog, preference to someone who could do garden and handyman jobs for 6 hrs./wk. @ \$20/hr. Excellent references required, 250-537-4137.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

550 SQ. FT. office/studio at Merchant Mews near Ganges. Skylights, wood paneling, extras. Richard 537-1669.

970SF SHOP for lease avail. now at Merchant Mews, nr. Ganges. Insulated, heated, skylights, bathroom. Ideal as warehouse or construction shop. Richard 250-537-1669.

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STUDIO/ACCOMMODATION: Small, self-contained unit on shared lot, quiet neighbourhood. Open plan, skylights, wood stove. Seeking mature, quiet tenant, long term. N/S. Refs. req. \$600 + hydro. 250-537-8733.

HOUSE SITTING

HOUSE/DOG SITTER required for end of Dec. Two labradors, North End. Island Ref's please. 250-537-1690.

RESPONSIBLE HOUSESITTER new to SSI. Will take loving care of your home. Seek place Jan 1 to Apr 1 or so. Ref's. Rosie 250-537-0095

HOMES FOR RENT

1 BDRM, shared property, \$750+ util's, long term, N/S, N/P. Quiet, resp. single/couple only. Ref's. Call 250-537-5681

2 BEDROOM townhouse, newly renovated, new washer, dryer, fridge, stove. 2 bathrooms. Avail. Dec. 1. \$1050 per mo. Call 250-537-6860.

2 BEDROOM trailer. New washer/dryer, 2 decks, \$650/ month. Avail. Jan. 1/09. Call 250-537-6860.

3 BDRM, 1.5 bath duplex, oceanview, W/D, close to Fernwood School, NS, \$975/mo. avail. Jan 1/09. Long term. 250-537-4413

BEAUTIFUL, SECLUDED, 1 bedroom cabin by ocean, near Ganges. Avail. now, long term. \$850/mo. Skylights, carport, open plan. Suits single/couple. NS, NP. Richard 537-1669.

BRINKWORTHY - SINGLE wide, approx. 700 sq. ft. for single or two adults over 55. \$725/month. Contact Russ Crouse, Royal LePage Realty. 250-537-7654.

COZY 4 year old cabin on Stark's Road. 1.5 treed acres. Wood stove, W/D, large kitch. and bath, loft BDRM, huge deck, backs onto park. Very quiet. Avail Jan 1. \$850 + util's. By appt only on Sunday Nov 30. Call

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

EXECUTIVE WATERFRONT 3 bed, 3 bath. Studio, office, workshop, RV pad, 2 car garage. Priv. w/ southern exposure, steps to ocean. Central location. N/P, N/S \$2800/mo, negot. 604-581-0321 or csher@telus.net

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, warm, bright, beautiful 2 bdrm., 2 bath, furnished home on scenic south end acreage. Avail. Dec. 1 - Mar. 31 for non smoking tenants with ref's. W/D, wood & elec. heat. \$1000 plus util. 653-4117.

OCEAN VIEW, sunny partially furnished house 2 BDRM plus den near Ganges, beach access. Avail. Jan 1st for 6 months (flexible). Suits couple with one child. NS NP \$1250/mo. 604-251-3508

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

ONE YEAR new, wood floors throughout, large one bedroom, three piece bath, big living area and kitchen, ground level. Clean. On bus route, Mobrae area. \$850. 250-537-5166.

QUIET TENANT for 2 BDRM house. \$950 + hydro. NP, NS, 250-537-2192.

SALTSPRING (IN desirable Fulford area), 4 bdrm country house on a treed 1 acre lot, 2 bath, very private, across from lake, all new appls, pets ok, avail immed, \$1400 mo + util, 403-620-8756, please leave contact number and will reply.

CLASSIFIED HOTLINE
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RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

SALT SPRING ISLAND - Charming House Close To Town. Fully Furnished. Phone & Internet, 2 1/2 Bed, 2 1/2 Bath, Wood & Baseboard Heating, Separate Studio Space. Unexpectedly Available From Dec 1st To May 31st Or Shorter Period. Rent \$1500/Mo (Negotiable) CALL: 250-538-5531

SMALL PRIVATE trailer on beautiful acreage close to town, outhouse \$400. Also, private, furnished, room in basement with own entrance & bathroom. Small fridge. \$400 (negotiable) Or room could be rented as rehearsal space. Also, storage space available. 250-538-8858.

WATERFRONT CABIN: 1 bdrm, Living room, large kitchen, shower and tub, very clean, large windows, skylight, tranquil gardens, 5 min. walk to Ganges. NS, NP, References 250-537-4500.

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This Week's Horoscope by Michael O'Connor



Tip of the Week:

On November 26 at 11:09 am PST Pluto will re-enter the Tropical Sign of Capricorn. At that time, Venus will be about 5 degrees away from Jupiter also in Capricorn and will appear as a lovely couplet in the early morning skies of the Eastern horizon. The Sun, Mercury and Mars closely aligned in Sagittarius. The Moon will be in the late degrees of Scorpio at the time but will be conjunct the Sun in the morning of November 27th to form the New Moon. Meanwhile Chiron aligned with Neptune, Uranus in Pisces and Saturn in Virgo complete the basic picture. The line-up of planets spanning from late Scorpio to Pisces at the time of Pluto's ingress into Capricorn where it will remain until 2023 hints at a dramatic and interesting story indeed.

What the planetary alignment suggests is that over the next 15 years humanity will turn its attention to cleaning up the government. People are increasingly aware that the higher levels of government are corrupt to the core because the real powers of the world operate behind and dictate to governments all over the world. However, the government remains a key player especially where the voice of the larger collective of society can have some effect.

Pluto in Capricorn will be a major focus for Astrologers over the coming months and years. The main message for now is that Pluto's ingress at this time reveals an ardent push on both sides – the government bodies themselves and the general public. The wrestling match will continue for many years and the outcome will determine whether humanity will awaken from its relative slumber and apathy to act to safeguard democratic rights and freedoms or whether the governments of the world as pawns in the hands of the big money power players behind the scenes continue to succeed in their agenda to lock-in the power structure and effectively create a slave planet. While this evolutionary process of our modern world will continue long after the next 15 years, it stands to be a very important time period during which much that has been and remains hidden will be revealed. I will shed more light on this and especially offer a portrait of the new U.S. President in my upcoming New

Moon Newsletter which you can subscribe to on my web site. Stay tuned!

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)
 Last week's full Moon will have activated a new momentum. This week you will take full flight as inspiring new perspectives and opportunities come forward. Taking calculated risks backed by the wisdom and determination to learn new skills will bring you to new levels of confidence. Focus now, and within a few months you could be soaring. Major change accompanies this momentum, embrace it! ★

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)
 Mergers and expansions of one kind or another are keeping you busy. Although the pace remains sober and steady, there is definite movement underway. In some very real ways, you feel better than you did not long ago. A deepening is underway now but, to keep pace, you are wise to deepen your studies, investigations and research. Balance the hard cold facts with the possibilities and the deeper layers.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)
 The quality of your relationships takes on added importance now. Others may pose challenges that trigger subconscious fears. Be aware of your imagination creating a stir of negative future scenarios. Gratitude combined with focusing on what is here and now will help. Be willing to let go of stuff and attitudes that have outgrown their use. Clear the way to create balance and harmony.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)
 Before this week is over, some very real changes will have begun. You are not alone in this. In fact, everyone is experiencing it. Opportunities are knocking and the doors you are now passing through will prove to be very engaging and transformational. If you have any doubts as to your direction, seek guidance now because by next week it may be too late to alter your course. Fasten your seat belt!

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)
 A creative and exuberant cycle is on your doorstep. If you have creative projects brewing, begin them now. Your ability to

pay attention to the details will increase. Balance this by keeping an open mind. Focus now and for the next 2-3 months with diligence and you will be rewarded with new awareness and increased popularity. Be willing to give fully and embrace a spirit of service and adventure!

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)
 Everyone is feeling the shift and for you it will bring an increase in your personal power. This is just the beginning so pace your self. Allow for a variety of creative outlets but not too many. Clear, adjust and renovate, if necessary, to create a space that supports your ambitions. Access your own reserves and do not lean on others, yet do be open to spiritual guidance.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
 Tremors close to home may well turn into shakes and quakes by week's end. The good news is that these will bring unexpected opportunities. Your confidences may well be growing, especially as you release the grip of traditional attitudes and approaches. Summon the courage to take a pioneering approach and explore new territory and possibilities. See familiar people and places with fresh eyes!

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
 Assessing your worth and value continues. Beyond marketable skills, talents and other gifts, anchor into your soul nature. For the sake of pushing you towards doing what you love and loving what you are doing, get ready for challenges, especially in terms of your own habitual perspectives. Become aware of your subconscious; how is it influencing conclusions about what you deem the facts?

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
 Like a ship that has crossed a great ocean, you can rejoice in finally touching upon solid land. At least it is in sight now. Your learning curve is accelerated and you are wise to be building upon a foundation of knowledge for long-term use and consideration. Every stage brings its own

challenges. Be willing to explore this new territory but establish a solid base first.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
 Your power potential is rising steadily now and so too are your ambitions. The time has come to make some major moves. You will not suffer fools gladly now. In certain respects, the learning curve is steady, yet this is a time for action so you must proceed with what you have. Be open to learn along the way and trust that the time is right to expand your horizons. Confront inner fears and just do it!

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
 Some very powerful changes deep within will begin this week. Already you are feeling faithful enough to chance fate with faith. If you feel stuck or blocked, you will begin to notice shifts designed to loosen this hold, especially from within. Like a caterpillar in a cocoon and well on its way to becoming the butterfly, you are wise to trust and enjoy this metamorphic process. Be your own best friend!

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
 Returns and rewards according to prior efforts will begin to enter your stage this week. This is a powerful and expansive time for you. Hopefully, you have been diligent and sincere over the past few years; otherwise the returns could prove burdensome. Your career potential and public and social popularity stand to soar now so take full advantage of this cycle. Make efforts to be seen and heard!

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Canucks can prove they're not a one-trick pony

But nothing wrong with team relying on all-star goalie for wins

As I made my way into Jersey City in Victoria's Mayfair Mall last Saturday, I looked up to the two LCD TVs hanging from the ceiling of the store and had somewhat of a revelation.

It came about five minutes into the first period of the Vancouver Canucks / Pittsburgh Penguins afternoon match-up when for the first time in his entire NHL career, Roberto Luongo left a game with a groin injury.

Okay, well maybe it wasn't really a revelation because anyone who's seen even a fragment of a Canucks game since the 2006-2007 season knows that Luongo has been by far the best and most important player on the team.

Luongo's injury has brought to mind

many questions and concerns about where the Canucks are headed now after coming off a great road trip that included some stellar performances from the all-star goaltender.

The Canucks have been labelled a one-trick pony ever since that first season when Luongo played 76 games and boasted an incredible 2.29 goals-against average that would ultimately lead the team to the second round of the playoffs where they'd fall short to the Anaheim Ducks.

Critics argue that had it not been for Luongo's tremendous play, the Canucks would not even be close to contention for a playoff spot due to their gaping offensive void. My take on what the critics have to say is — so what?

Every team in every sport has their bona



Patrick Cwiklinski

LET'S TALK SPORTS

ley Cups without Wayne Gretzky? Not a chance.

So whatever you have to say about the Canucks and their dependency on Luongo to perform and be their best player on a nightly basis is really nothing but animosity towards how great of an athlete he really is.

With that being said, the Canucks can't rely on Luongo until he returns to the line-up healthy and ready to play.

In the meantime, it'll be up to backup Curtis Sanford and Manitoba Moose

fide superstar, the player who makes the big plays at crunch time and is always counted on to be their go-to guy when they're needed.

Do you think the Chicago Bulls would have won six NBA championships without Michael Jordan or the Edmonton Oilers five Stan-

call-up Cory Schneider to step up and try to shut the door while their goaltending counterpart gets what's likely to be almost, if not all, of Vancouver's medical experts working to get him in shape in the shortest amount of time possible.

So the new game plan should be quite simple: offensively the Canucks need to keep doing what they have been doing by generating opportunities and scoring goals with players like Kyle Wellwood and Pavol Demitra playing some of their best hockey recently.

As for Luongo, virtually the entire province of British Columbia is hoping he comes back soon, but while he's temporarily out of the picture, best of luck to the Sandman who, by the way, went on to win that game against Pittsburgh 3-1 for anyone who could bear to watch the game after Bobby Lu was carried off the ice.

So here's to looking at the glass half full.

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†MSRP is \$16,290 for a new 2009 Honda Fit DX, model GE8729E and includes \$1,310 freight and PDI. License, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. MSRP of Fit Sport model shown, model GE8789E is \$20,590. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. *Fit mileage based on data compiled by Honda Canada. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. Refer to the Government of Canada's EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide for more information. Based on Honda Fit with 1.5L engine and automatic transmission. Visit www.vehicles.gc.ca for more information.

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