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Wednesday, December 3, 2008 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 48TH YEAR — ISSUE 49 **\$1.25** (incl. GST)

HOSPITAL

Public rallies for OR info

Ad hoc coalition forms after meeting struck by nurses' union

BY AMY GEDDES
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Seniors, medical professionals and concerned citizens packed into Central Hall for a public meeting chaired by the B.C. Nurses' Union (BCNU) on Thursday.

Long-held questions about Lady Minto Hospital popped around the room like prescription drug container lids being opened. But hospital staff, scattered among the audience, remained silent — unable to speak for fear of losing their jobs.

A rumour that the hospital was closing, circulated by e-mail earlier in the week, was quickly dispelled, but the audience still sat on a number of questions.

"Can someone find out why we don't have a surgeon?" one male audience member called out, opening the floor for others to stand up and voice their concerns.

"We are just a group of nurses who have come from Victoria," said Ronni McCallum, union co-chair for the south islands region, in an attempt to tame the crowd and clarify that the union did not have any answers.

They did not know why Dr. Roy Preshaw, the hospital's former surgeon, was asked to resign. Nor did the union have any updates about the status of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) recruitment campaign for Preshaw's replacement that has dragged on for six months.

"We are able to gather you together to help you organize and get some action going," McCallum said.

They suggested the Salt Spring Island public write letters to VIHA board members, the media and politicians, in particular.

"As the public, you have the right to hold your elected officers accountable," said Wendy Strong, the union's lobby and campaigns representative.

"We've told them until we're blue in the face," shouted a male audience member.

HOSPITAL continued on A2



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

SANTA CRAZE: Casi Little scores with a candy cane and mandarin oranges as over a hundred children visited with Santa at Mahon Hall on Saturday, part of a Driftwood and Salt Spring Arts Council event.

FEDERAL POLITICS Salt Spring politicians ponder coalition

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP calls coalition a disgrace

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Gary Lunn has seen nothing like it in his 11-year political career.

Speaking in an interview following question period in Ottawa on Tuesday afternoon, Lunn said he and other members of the Conservative party are prepared to do "whatever it takes" to prevent a coalition government comprised of the Liberal, NDP and Bloc Quebecois parties from taking power on Parliament Hill.

"We are going to use every single tool available to us if Mr. Dion wants a coalition," Lunn said. "This is absolute madness."

When questioned as to whether or not his party would attempt to prorogue parliament before opposition parties are slated to vote on a non-confidence motion on Monday, Lunn said that decision remains exclusively in the hands of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Any decision to suspend parliament until the new year would also require consent from Governor-General Michaëlle Jean.

Lunn stood by his party's record on handling the recent economic downturn, calling efforts to form a coalition a blatant power grab.

"It's the oldest motivation and it's not a noble one. It's an absolute disgrace," he said.

For Liberal and NDP sup-

COALITION continued on A4

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DEC	TIME	HEIGHT m	HEIGHT ft	TIME	HEIGHT m	HEIGHT ft	
03	01:26	0.8	2.6	07	00:24	2.2	7.2
WE	09:59	3.5	11.5	SU	04:23	2.0	6.6
					11:40	3.3	10.8
04	02:03	1.0	3.3		19:13	1.3	4.3
TH	10:27	3.4	11.2	08	02:25	2.5	8.2
	18:19	2.3	7.5	MO	05:32	2.3	7.5
	19:07	2.3	7.5		12:01	3.3	10.8
05	02:43	1.3	4.3		19:43	0.9	3.0
FR	10:53	3.4	11.2	09	03:45	2.8	9.2
	18:26	2.0	6.6	TU	06:46	2.7	8.9
	21:49	2.1	6.9		12:24	3.4	11.2
06	03:28	1.6	5.2		20:17	0.5	1.6
SA	11:17	3.4	11.2				
	18:47	1.7	5.6				

NEWSBEAT

Public meeting seeks Lady Minto answers

HOSPITAL
continued from A1

Two participants read responses to personal letters aloud, unsatisfied with the replies: one from Saanich North and Islands MLA Murray Coell and the other from Lady Minto Hospital. Audience members chuckled at portions of the letters steeped in what one female letter writer called "political" jargon.

"It's hard for us to organize," someone said, "Why is the administration from the hospital not here?"

When asked if anyone from VIHA administration was present, not a single hand was raised.

Nurses, nursing instructors and other hospital affiliates were present however, but they made it clear they could not speak on their employer's behalf.

When asked if a Lady Minto staff member would divulge what was discussed at an internal meeting with VIHA executives the previous day, a woman spoke up and said they regrettably could not.

"We would like to say something but we can't," said one nurse.

"But on behalf of the operating room, we appreciate your support," said another.

Key questions raised at the meeting were:

- Why the community cannot seem to attract or maintain a surgeon?
- What is VIHA doing to recruit a new surgeon and on what terms?
- Will staff be trained to sterilize equipment if a new surgeon is hired or will equipment be sent off-island?

That the hospital suffers a chronic nursing staff shortage was another issue raised.

"It bothers me that all this is being kept up under wraps," said concerned citizen Lynne Johnson at the meeting.

BCNU co-chair McCallum encouraged audience members, who were somewhat discouraged, to not give up trying to get what they want.

"I think you have a really good plan of action and you are capable of moving mountains."

Torn notebook pages were passed around the room as a few members of the public gathered names of those interested in forming a coalition.

On Monday, a group of eight organizing medical professionals and non-partisan residents met for the first time under the freshly crafted name of the Ad Hoc SOS — for "Save Our Surgery."

They drew up a game plan that began with sending VIHA a letter asking for a detailed response by Dec. 15 about the status of the hospital's surgical program.

If an adequate response is not received, they will take various courses of action that include striking the first Ad Hoc SOS public meeting to which all those who gave their names at the BCNU meeting will be invited.

VIHA was later asked in an interview with the Driftwood why none of their representatives attended the public meeting.

"We did not attend because we were not asked and it would not be appropriate for us to do so," said VIHA spokesperson Shannon Marshall.

VIHA would not provide any details about the proceedings of their internal meeting with Lady Minto staff held earlier in the week about the status of the operating room and hiring of a surgeon.

"Nothing transpired because it was simply an 'information-sharing' meeting," she said.



SOARING WITH THE EAGLES: Sophie Gold gives the new Spirit Eagle outside of Thrifty Foods a hug.

LOCAL ELECTION

Different trustee results do not affect outcome
Vote numbers finalized

Final Salt Spring trustee election numbers released last week were slightly different than preliminary ones issued after the Nov. 15 elections.

According to the confirmed totals, George Ehring received 1,783 votes and Christine Torgrimson received 1,712. Kimberly Lineger finished in third place with 1,647 votes and Norbert Schlenker came in fourth with 1,461.

A story on the election of trustees printed in last week's Driftwood neglected to mention the election of Bowen Island municipal trustees Nerys Poole and Alison Morse.

Both will sit alongside Bowen Island municipal councillors David Wrinch, Doug Hooper, Cro Lucas and former trustee Peter Frinton for three-year terms.

All 26 trustees representing 13 Local Trust Areas will be sworn in at the next quarterly Trust Council meeting set for Victoria from Dec. 10 to 12.

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COMMUNITY CHARITY

Hamper organizers hope giving spirit returns

Food bank donations are down, but need persists

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's getting increasingly tough to find segments of society not feeling the impact of recent economic woes and the Salt Spring Island Community Services' Christmas food hamper effort is no exception.

"We are a bit concerned with the number of food bank donations this year," said Gloria McEachern, Community Services' food bank and hamper co-ordinator. "Everything seems to be increasing in price and that is hitting everybody, rich or poor, across the spectrum."

With only a few weeks to go before hampers are delivered to islanders on Dec. 21, the food bank especially needs canned goods like soups, stews and pasta sauces. Sources of protein such as canned meat and fish are also always greatly appreciated.

Staff at Country Grocer have posted pink signs identifying items in high demand and Thrifty Foods has set up a program for shoppers to donate \$10 and \$20 food packages.

The trick, she added, is making sure shoppers remember to contribute before they leave the store and well before the holiday season rolls around.

Donors can also make monetary donations that will be used to purchase chickens, turkeys, fresh vegetables and other perishable items closer to the delivery date.

The program is made possible thanks to the work of more than 70 volunteers who help collect, package and deliver the goods.

While food donations are below normal for this time of year, McEachern said, the supply of volunteers is as strong as ever.

"They're great," she said. "A lot of our programs [at Community Services] would not happen without the wonderful efforts of our volunteers."

In 2007, the Christmas hamper effort delivered an estimated 150 baskets of food to individuals and families on the island. In 2006, the group produced 180 hampers.

As of Monday afternoon, nearly 100 individuals had signed up to receive Christmas hampers, but McEachern predicts that number will rise as the holidays approach.

Hampers provide islanders in need with healthy and festive meals over the holidays. Volunteers make sure that each and every hamper contains a holiday bonus such as a tin of cookies or other seasonal treats.

Eve Hinds, Community Services' food bank coordinator, would rather there be no need for the service, but rising demand has kept her and other volunteers who work at the centre busier than usual.

"This is a thing that has really grown," she said while stacking cases of spaghetti onto the shelves at the food



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Eve and Ted Hinds hope donors can fill the shelves at the Salt Spring Food Bank.

bank.

Demand for supplemental food comes from people of all ages on the island. The service also assists seniors on fixed incomes, young families, single-parent households, youth and the homeless.

Four cases of Rice Krispies, 10 cases of pancake mix, 13 cases of peaches, 128 bars of margarine, 17 cases of Wheat Thins crackers and 48 tins of salmon are just some of the items on a two-page list of items the food bank ordered in 2007.

Hinds took the opportunity to remind potential donors that there is always a demand for toothpaste, bathroom tissue and other toiletry items.

She said it's hard to blame people for tightening their belts considering talk of economic woes and tanking stock

markets, but she hopes people will regain the giving spirit before the hampers get distributed to island homes.

"We managed to get a little from Duncan, but that's it," she said. "They can't do it."

In spite of their low supplies, food bank volunteers encourage anyone in need to step forward and register for a hamper. People whose friends, neighbours or acquaintances may be in need can also submit those individuals' names to ensure they receive a hamper.

Christmas hampers can be arranged by contacting Community Services at 250-537-9971.

Food items can be dropped off at the Community Services building at 268 Fulford-Ganges Road Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or in bins at island grocery stores.

News briefs

Portlock track to sport warning signs

Users of the Portlock Park athletic track will soon be seeing signs of the times.

Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) voted last week to install signs advising walkers and runners that during wet track conditions the track can only be used "at your own risk."

PARC has been unable

to acquire the black cinder material traditionally used to resurface the track every few years, making what is essentially a clay surface slippery during wet winter conditions.

PARC manager Kees Ruurs reported at last Monday's commission meeting that he is investigating affordable options for resurfacing the quarter-mile facility.

"In the meantime," he said, "when the track is wet it is truly dangerous."

Putting up warning signs

will at least reduce PARC liability should a track user be injured as a result of the slippery surface, said Ruurs.

Fifteen per cent of Trust area protected

More than 15 per cent of the Islands Trust area is now protected by public and non-profit conservation organizations, according to an Islands Trust press

release issued last week.

The 12,000 protected hectares are comparable in size to Galiano and Gabriola Trust areas combined.

Since 2005, the Islands Trust Fund alone acquired five new nature reserves and 18 new conservation covenants, adding more than 380 hectares — about the size of Stanley Park — to the Islands Trust protected area network.

"Reaching this milestone," said Sheila Malcolmson, chair of the Trust Fund Board, "... speaks to

the time and effort island communities, conservation and government partners dedicated to the protection of natural spaces on the islands."

Over 25 conservation organizations work in the Islands Trust area.

Bruce book launch on Saturday

Salt Spring author Anthony Bruce has just released his fifth novel — The Conse-

quence of Memory — with a launch and reading set for Saturday, Dec. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at ArtSpring.

With an initial hard-cover print run of only 500 numbered and signed copies, fans of the writer's previous espionage and political thrillers will be lining up to get a copy of The Consequence of Memory, which centres on a murder in Kenya.

People can read part of the new novel in advance at www.anthonnybruce.com.

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1 Ganges Local
Monday - Friday

A	H	C	D	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Hospital	Lv. Brinkworthy Place	Ar. 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

2 Fulford Harbour
Monday - Friday

A	I	J	K	E	E	K	J	I	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Fulford Hall	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Hall	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cushman 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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NEWSBEAT

WATER

St. Mary weir set for level upgrade

Raising weir and adding V-notch to mimic beaver dam, but better

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

To maintain Duck Creek's viability as a thriving coho salmon and cutthroat trout spawning zone, the existing St. Mary Lake weir requires some adjustments.

The weir will be raised and a "V-notch" will be added some time next year, announced Trevor Hutton, manager of North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD), at a water trustees meeting last Wednesday.

Tweaks are required to keep the creek from being pummelled by winter rainstorms, explained biologist Kathy Reimer on Monday.

"Every time we have a winter storm, all the water goes storming down the creek and causes damage to the creek."

Gravel carried on the fast flows now runs the risk of eroding the stream bed and crushing fish eggs.

"This is one glitch we have to straighten out," Reimer said.

The weir was installed in October 2006 by NSSWD to control the outflow of the lake into the creek. The concrete

structure has successfully lowered winter lake levels and kept the creek from drying up in the summer.

"Before the weir . . . the beaver could shut down the water entirely and we wouldn't have anything running through the creek," recalled farmer and conservationist John Wilcox.

A beaver dam at the head of the creek often clogged water flows. Now the weir functions like a beaver dam, only with increased regularity.

But despite the weir's success, there is still room for improvement. Reimer hopes upcoming improvements will allow the weir to behave "more naturally."

"The problem now," Reimer said, "is there is nowhere for the water to go in a storm except down creek."

The weir sits too low and does not hold back enough water. Raising the weir will slow down water flow into the creek.

NSSWD has hired consulting engineer Philip Grange to design a V-notch, a "V-shaped depression to regulate the outflow of the lake and act as a measuring device."

The Ministry of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans must approve the design before it is finalized.

While the weir replaced the former,

often troublesome, beaver dam at the Duck Creek headwaters, Reimer assures that resident beavers "are still quite happy" and continue to build dams at various intervals further downstream.

In other NSSWD news:

St. Mary Lake aerators were shut off two weeks ago for the winter season.

They will be restarted again in spring. Dissolved oxygen levels during the two months they were running showed the aerators were working properly, according to Ron Stepaniuk, NSSWD operations manager.

The house fire on Cranberry Road last week brought to light that the area needs larger screens.

"[Firefighters] were really taking a lot of water off quickly. Everything went well, but we had a bryozoa plug in the screens," said Stepaniuk, who unplugged screens after a pressure drop from firefighters refilling their tank at a Cranberry Road hydrant.

"The screens are undersized for what we're asking them to do," he said to the other trustees.

"I recommend we expand them up to 12-inch double screens. If that had been a big plug they could potentially have lost water."

An insertion meter, he said, would be necessary to monitor water flows of the new screens.

BUDIMCIC

Joe Somebody prepared to get on with life

Cleared islander thanks supportive community

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring handyman is eager to resume a normal life after his name was cleared by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRBC) last week.

"I get to have my life back," said Josip Budimcic during an interview on Thursday, two days after he

received news of the IRBC's final decision. "I'm going out to put up some Christmas lights."

He took the opportunity to thank everybody in the community who showed their support before, during and after the December 2007 hearing.

"They were really helpful," he said.

"I respect everything that everyone did for me."

Budimcic arrived in Canada with his wife and two children in 1995 as a refugee fleeing ethnic violence and

civil war in what is now Croatia. He worked for a garage in Weyburn, Saskatchewan before moving to Salt Spring Island in 2001.

The IRBC hearing determined that Budimcic did indeed qualify for refugee status. It further determined that Budimcic did not participate in war crimes or crimes against humanity while he was a member of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army in 1991.

The panel determined that evidence backing allegations of war crimes was

"deficient and unreliable."

"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 a part of the judgment.

Budimcic is relieved that his name has finally been cleared and plans to throw a party in the new year to thank everybody who stood by him through the ordeal.

"Now I just want to get back to work," Budimcic added.

Locals offer opinions on federal coalition

COALITION

continued from A1

ers over on Salt Spring, however, the turn of events in Ottawa is far from disgraceful.

"For a lot of people it's a dream come true," said Irene Wright, chair of the NDP's provincial standing committee on environment and sustainable economy. Wright spent much of Tuesday morning with her eyes glued to CPAC, Canada's parliamentary channel.

She attributed the coalition to the Conservative party's failure to address the economic downturn that has affected so many Canadians in recent months.

"They brought this on themselves," she said.

Wright added that Conservative party members'

claims that the coalition is an attack on democracy is "political posturing."

Wright said Harper is acting as though he has a majority of seats in the House of Commons, even though Conservative MPs were elected to 143 of 308 seats on Oct. 14.

According to terms of the coalition agreement signed by leaders of the three opposition parties on Monday afternoon, the Liberals, NDP and Bloc Quebecois will work alongside one another for at least 18 months in an effort to avoid another federal election.

According to the coalition agreement, Liberal party leader Stéphane Dion would be prime minister until May, at which time his successor would take over.

According to local Liberal party supporter Pat Barclay, the move towards a coalition government is the product of three leaders reaching a compromise to benefit all Canadians.

Barclay said she isn't surprised that the Conservative party has denounced the coalition as undemocratic and, added, that there exists plenty of constitutional precedent to support the move.

Though there have been several precedents set in provincial governments across the country, Robert Borden's Union government, formed in 1917, is the only federal coalition government in Canadian history.

"There will be a lot of misinformation spread by the Harperites," she said on Tuesday, adding that the cre-

ation of a coalition government is a sign of a healthy democracy.

"Canadians have always loved a compromise," she said.

Salt Spring resident and former Saanich-Gulf Islands Reform MP Jack Frazer, however, remains skeptical of the proposed coalition, especially considering that it involves the Bloc Quebecois, a party that seeks the creation of an independent Québec.

"I've never seen anything like this and I hope to never see it again," he said on Tuesday. "I'm surprised by it and think it's a little out to lunch to have the Bloc propping it up."

Frazer said the potential consequences could be "disastrous" given the state of the world's economy.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

HIGH HOPES: Students at Gulf Islands Secondary School set out on an AIDS walk on Monday, marking World AIDS Day.

WATER RESOURCES

Water council gives nod to toilet rebate proposal

Half of Green Cities award goes to water initiative

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

There was much straight-faced "potty talk" at the Salt Spring Water Council meeting on Friday at Lions Hall.

Representatives from a number of water interest groups fine-tuned the details around a pilot low-flush toilet rebate program for Salt Spring.

At a previous council meeting, Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman and Islands Trust trustees agreed to use half of Salt Spring's \$25,000 Green Cities award to establish a low-flush toilet rebate program based on the Greater Victoria CRD rebate program for which Salt Spring residents are not eligible.

On Friday, council members deliberated over how to best adapt the program to suit Salt Spring.

A sub-committee was struck at Friday's meeting to work out administrative details and rebate qualification criteria.

As it stands, the \$12,500 of Green Cities award money would fund a \$75 rebate for numerous home owners to replace their existing water-guzzling toilets with more efficient ones that use less than six litres per flush.

Holman suggested water

districts could match each \$75 rebate given to customers in their area, essentially doubling the number of rebates available.

But there were mixed feelings at the table about whether water district participation should be mandatory or voluntary.

"It puts a real burden on the smaller water districts," said Bob Francis, Mt. Belcher water district representative. "... Some may have to their raise fees to participate in the program."

Trustee George Ehring argued districts would benefit from direct financial savings if they participate; the less water customers consume, the more districts would save on water-treatment costs.

Bob Watson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustee, pointed out water districts faced with more pressing water supply issues would be more inclined to participate.

Council passed a motion to ask the water districts for feedback on their willingness to match funds. They approved the toilet rebate program in general and agreed to accommodate private households not serviced by a water district.

"Drinking water conservation is one of the key goals that water council is trying to encourage," said Holman in a June interview with the Driftwood.

In other water council news:

The council moved to "encourage the new CRD director to participate in and fund the water council."

"I chose not to because CRD director-elect Garth Hendren was invited to the meeting but did not attend.

"I chose not to because I've not been sworn in and I don't think that's appropriate," Hendren said in an interview Tuesday. "Some may have had business to finish with Gary [Holman] and I don't want to interfere with that."

After Hendren is sworn in as CRD director on Dec. 10 he will attend water council meetings.

"People who sit on these [groups] feel there is value to them so I can't pick and choose. Generally these committees are formed for a reason. It's highly unlikely there's something out there [that shouldn't be]."

"You have to have something to reflect the larger picture," he said praising the public inclusiveness of the water council.

To proceed with the St. Mary Lake ground-truthing project aimed at mapping the watershed boundary, the council will contribute \$1,000 in addition to \$5,000 from a CRD grant-in-aid, \$2,000 from NSSWD, \$1,000 from the Salt Spring local Trust committee, and \$2,000 from the Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society.

WATER COUNCIL: an umbrella group

Salt Spring Water Council is a public forum established in 2003 by Gary Holman in his first term as Capital Regional District (CRD) director. It brings the CRD, Islands Trust trustees, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Ministry of Environment, Salt Spring water districts, stewardship groups, biologists and members of the public together to facilitate the protection, conservation and better management of surface and ground water resources on Salt Spring.

It does the following:

- Provides a forum for agencies, groups and researchers to share information and resources.

- Coordinates data collection and research.

- Coordinates the water protection, conservation and management strategies and actions undertaken by government agencies, water districts and stewardship groups.
- Supports initiatives and promotes partnerships between stewardship groups including educational, stewardship and water management projects.

- Provides advice to local, regional and provincial government agencies and reps.

- Identifies and accesses funding from various government and non-governmental sources.

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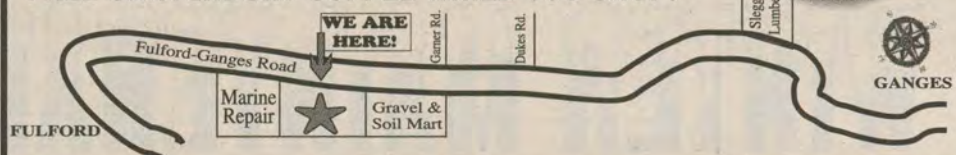
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NEWSBEAT

CRIME AND SAFETY

Vigilance urged as phishing scams persist

When offer is too good to be true, chances are it is

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A recent offer in Guy Chace's e-mail inbox was simple enough. It asked for the recipient to participate in an anti-fraud program to prevent identity theft and online scams. All Chace needed to do was hand over some financial information and a few personal details. The company even offered to pay him \$50 for his effort. "We are proud to announce that Scotia Bank in association with all Canadian Banks launch a new campaign against online fraud and reward all partici-

pants with a 50,00 \$ bonus just for answer 5 survey questions [sic]," the e-mail began.

Punctuation errors and misspellings, combined with the fact that Chace doesn't even have an account with Scotiabank were enough to convince him that something was up.

He immediately reported the phishing scam to RECOL, an initiative that involves an integrated partnership between international, federal and provincial law enforcement agencies.

"I just had enough," he said.

The experience wasn't the first time Chace has been targeted and probably won't be the last. Each year, RECOL service receives more than 1,500 complaints from British Columbia resi-

dents alone. The initiative's website (www.recol.ca) offers visitors a description of different types of scams and information on what to do in the event you think you may be a target.

Statistics released in November indicate that identity theft-related fraud and mass marketing frauds victimized nearly 15,000 Canadians since the beginning of 2008. The estimated combined losses reached nearly \$30 million, an average of \$2,000 per person.

Scams may come in a variety of guises, but the goal is often the same — accessing an individual's personal information.

Fortunately, people can do something about it. Within hours of Chace's call to report the e-mail, officials somewhere in cyberspace

blocked the website address noted in the suspicious e-mail.

According to Salt Spring RCMP Sgt. Danny Willis, the golden rule is to get suspicious whenever someone asks for your personal information.

"If you're foolish enough to be sending personal information, you will be a victim of crime," he said.

When it comes to banks, companies never ask for information out of the blue and nearly always ask clients to confirm information they already have on file.

The person on the other end of the line should be able to tell you who he or she is, where they are calling from and how you can get in touch with them.

If you're still in doubt, ask to make an appointment

"If you're foolish enough to be sending personal information, you will be a victim of crime."

SGT. DANNY WILLIS
Salt Spring RCMP

and deal with the situation in person at the branch.

To help reduce the risk of telemarketing scams, Willis recommends signing onto the National Do Not Call List. (www.lnnte-dncl.gc.ca), a nationwide initiative set up by the federal government to protect resi-

dents against fraudulent callers. All you need to do is enter your telephone number into their database.

Since signing up earlier this fall, Willis said, he has only had one telemarketer contact him.

"I used to have about five or six a week," he said. "As far as I can tell, it's working."

Tips to avoid getting scammed:

1. Ask callers to identify themselves and where they are calling from. They shouldn't hesitate.
2. Ask if more information is available online. Is there a number where you can contact them?
3. Sign on to the National Do Not Call List at www.lnnte-dncl.gc.ca.

ISLAND STARS

Salt Spring actor takes to the ice in cult-classic hockey series

Greyston Holt's acting career continues to rise

Local television celebrity Greyston Holt is skating in the path of greatness following the release of Slapshot: The Junior League on DVD last week.

"It's really cool," Holt said during an interview from his home in Vancouver on Monday. "It was a real honour to work on this movie."

Just last week, Holt was in Toronto with



GREYSTON HOLT

co-stars the Hanson brothers to drop the puck at a Toronto Maple Leafs game. Then came a week of no less than 30 interviews with radio and television stations, magazines and newspapers in the Toronto area.

In his role as Riley, a young hockey coach overseeing a squad of hockey playing orphans, Holt starred alongside comedy legend Leslie Nielsen.

The movie documents the trials of turning the rag-tag group into a force to be reckoned with as they play to save their orphanage from the wrecking ball.

The Slapshot series kicked off when Paul Newman starred as the coach of a bumbling squad of aspiring hockey heroes in 1977.

Holt said the third installment of the Slapshot franchise is intended to attract a new generation of hockey-movie enthusiasts, while still appealing to veteran fans loyal to the Newman classic.

"We were definitely not trying to recreate

the original here," Holt said.

Now that the promotional blitz for Slapshot 3 is winding down, Holt said he intends to spend the next several weeks looking at scripts and testing the waters for future roles.

He plans to return to Salt Spring where he will spend the holidays with parents Mike and Nancy Stefancsik.

Over the past year, Holt also starred in Lost Boys 2: The Tribe and recently finished shooting season two of Durham County, a television series that airs on Showcase.

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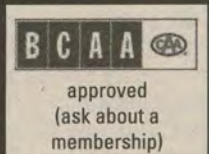
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RECYCLING



Stephen Pal, left, of Edmonds Batteries Ltd. and the Salt Spring recycling depot's Dan Horth are teaming up to make sure islanders' old batteries don't end up in the dump.

Wanted: old, used batteries

Salt Springer heralds an idea whose time has come

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new program implemented at the Rainbow Road recycling depot will give new purpose to those worn-out batteries gathering dust in your drawer.

"Up until last week, we never had the opportunity to recycle these little batteries," said Stephen Pal, owner of Edmonds Batteries Ltd., the company responsible for

picking up islanders' used batteries from the island's main recycling depot.

"Now they can be recycled."

Pal's company will soon start delivering batteries to a Teck Cominco smelter in Trail, B.C., where components are melted and given new life.

Small white pails situated next to the Rainbow Road facility's plastics section mean islanders can now drop off both run-of-the-mill and rechargeable batteries whenever they feel like it.

The facility also accepts the "button-type" batteries

commonly used in watches and clocks. Pal urges people to wrap these flat batteries in clear tape so they do not react with one another in the recycling pails.

"All batteries are recycled reusing their base components," Pal said. "For example, alkaline batteries contain zinc and manganese which are recovered in the smelting process. Even the steel jackets [get sold as recycled steel] and the residual slag is sold to cement manufacturers."

Pal has been recycling the larger lead-based batteries used in cars, boats

and trucks for the past 35 years, including the past 15 he's spent on Salt Spring. He estimates that Salt Springers already unload up to 2,700 kilograms (6,000 pounds) of such batteries every month.

He said nearly 226,796 metric tons (250,000 tons) of small batteries are sold in North America each year, an estimated 90 per cent of which are buried in landfills, decaying over time and seeping toxins into soil and ground water.

For more information about the local battery recycling program, call the recycling depot at 250-537-1200.

SALT SPRING RADIO

CFSI-FM seeking program ideas and participants

Mount Erskine tower should soon be visible

Salt Spring's new radio station, CFSI-FM, is now inviting program proposals. "Got an idea for a radio show? Music? Talk? Discussion? Information? Sports? News? Chess? Mime? Comedy? Now's the time to turn it into a full-fledged

proposal," states a news release from programmer Richard Moses.

"How would it work, who would host it, how often would it be on, how long would it be? Write it up, put it down, e-mail it in to info@cfsifm.ca."

The station also wants to hear from people who would like to be involved as DJs, writers, hosts, newscasters or sportscasters.

Moses said islanders will soon be able to view the tower up on Mount Erskine, catch sight of the CFSI-FM sign at the studio and, before long, set their radio dial at 107.9 and actually hear the product.

"We'd like to hear and see you as part of the new station," said Moses. "Send us your program proposals, ideas and thoughts: info@cfsifm.ca."



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Opinion

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 Best Spot News Photo, 4,000-12,499 circ., Village Resort Fire, GOLD
 Best Front Page, 4,000-6,499 circ., SILVER
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EDITORIAL

No dull moments

Canadians who have been looking wistfully across the border wishing our version of federal politics was as exciting as our U.S. neighbours' have gotten exactly what they wished for.

The drama unfolding in Ottawa in the past week has been riveting to watch and an early ribbon-wrapped Christmas gift for political junkies. Could we really be barreling down this previously untrod path allowed by our system of parliamentary democracy?

Our current MP, Gary Lunn, calls what is occurring in Ottawa as "absolute madness."

He may be right, but for a different reason than he believes. Why the Liberals and NDP would want to take the reins of government at this time of unprecedented economic turmoil is questionable.

That's especially true for the Liberals, whose leadership situation is anything but stable. If things go off the rails, which could occur for any number of reasons in a coalition situation, they will face an even harder uphill battle to regain their traditional base of federal strength.

THE ISSUE:

Political scene in Ottawa

WE SAY:

Canadians glued to excitement

The NDP would certainly have less to lose. A perennial question mark, though, would be how the Bloc Quebecois holding the real balance of power would truly play out.

If you're Prime Minister Harper and the Conservatives, it's hard to deny the narrative of the electoral math. Theoretically, 62 per cent of voters in the Oct. 14 election are on the side of the coalition group and they may well support the ousting of the current governing party, although it's true they did not specifically vote for a coalition government.

Our prediction?

With Lunn and other Conservatives stating their party will use any legal means available to head off a coalition "takeover," we will see a request for Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean to prorogue Parliament until the end of January. If the Conservatives' wish is granted, the coalition's momentum may wear off and the government will have time to mount a public relations counter-offensive. The Conservatives definitely know how to make the most of funds earmarked for negative advertising.

Regardless of the choice made by the Governor General in the next few days, one thing is certain: the Canadian political scene won't be deemed "dull" by anyone in the foreseeable future.



Coalition of self-interest damaging

BY GARY LUNN

Over the next few days, Canadians will hear a lot from the Liberals, NDP and the separatist Bloc Quebecois on why they feel justified to bring down a government democratically elected less than two months ago.

They will say our government has not done enough to help the economy in a time of fiscal uncertainty.

In fact, despite a global economic slowdown, Canada is currently in the best position of any G8 nation. Our banking system is stable and the envy of the world. In the third quarter of 2008 our economy actually achieved modest growth. We have injected billions in tax cuts to stimulate the economy, and are funding the largest infrastructure program in Canadian history.

Then they will claim that Conservatives won't let the minority Parliament work. Granted, we proposed to eliminate the \$1.95/vote subsidy that all parties receive each year — a move vehemently opposed by the other parties. Conservatives feel that Canadians shouldn't fund political parties with tax money, but should instead have to raise it from supporters directly.

Yet this proposal cannot be the reason to topple the government; we removed it from the Economic Update specifically to maintain the confidence of Parliament. It is how minority Parliament works; a government reluctantly withdraws some policies, so that others may pass.

These justifications and any others that follow will all ring hollow, and for good reason — they are hollow. Because underneath all the sophistry and sly talk, the real reason for this attempt to overthrow an elected government is the oldest rea-

VIEWPOINT

"The real reason for this attempt to overthrow an elected government is the oldest reason in politics — ambition for power."

son in politics — ambition for power. While it is the oldest motivation, it was never a noble one. It is the very reason Canadians put so little faith in politicians of all stripes. On days like this, one can hardly blame them.

I have been proud of what Conservatives have accomplished as a minority government since 2006, and proud that Canadians trusted us with a second, larger

minority. At the same time, I am ashamed to find myself in a Parliament where the MPs who think the crass overthrow of a government is acceptable have somehow come to outnumber the MPs who do not.

I'm also worried for a Parliament held hostage by the Bloc, whose chief goal remains the destruction of our Confederation. With the support of the Liberals and the NDP they may just succeed. For our country's sake, I hope not.

During the election, the Liberals campaigned against forming a coalition. Mere weeks later, they are attempting to seize power via a series of pre-arranged deals hatched in the back rooms of Ottawa — with no mandate other than the one they have smugly given themselves.

If the calls to my office this week are any indication, this coalition of opportunists and separatists are right to fear the ballot box. Canadians are disgusted, and I can understand why. What is happening here is beyond madness, and has the potential to bring irreparable damage to not only our institutions, but our entire country.

The writer is Conservative MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands.

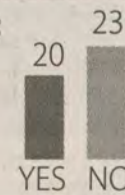
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Is a surgical program essential for LM Hospital? Yes No

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LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you trust vote-counting machines?



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Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.
 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
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Yearly Subscription Rates:

In the Gulf Islands \$49.88* Elsewhere in Canada \$84.00*
 Six months elsewhere in Canada \$58.30* Outside Canada \$179.00

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This newspaper acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward its mailing costs. Publications Mail Registration No. 08149 International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782



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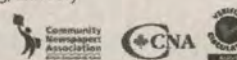
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SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: How do you feel about the move towards a coalition government in Ottawa?



LUCIA GABBER

If it means a way to work together, so be it. I'd rather them work with one another than against each other.



NIEKE VISSER

If [the NDP and the Liberals] have a better plan for the economy then they should go for it.



JIM PRENDERGAST

Harper has attacked the unions and the opposition in his first month back. What other choice do they have?



PHIL CHEEVERS

I don't think it can work since I don't see Jack Layton and Stéphane Dion staying in bed past midnight. It's too bad we don't have leaders instead of politicians.



ROBIN & LUGH ANNSCHILD-LOVERING

We say: "Coalition before election."

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.

Darcy Hughes charity drive

We are appealing to fellow islanders to help fulfill a young woman's wish.

This past summer our beautiful young niece, Darcy Hughes, tragically died in a car accident. Darcy was born and raised on Salt Spring and like a true islander brought the spirit of giving to her community wherever she went.

For the past few years Darcy and a friend had organized toy and food drives in Montreal where she was attending school.

All the donations would be loaded into cars and delivered to shelters and food banks.

Darcy's hope was that her efforts would grow each year.

With that goal in mind, friends from across the country are supporting local toy and food drives in her memory. They have unofficially named it "The Darcy Hughes Coast to Coast Toy Drive."

We know of toy and food

drives being supported in Waterloo, Ottawa, Montreal, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria. We are asking anyone who would like to honour Darcy's memory and her spirit of giving to consider making a donation of non-perishable food items to the food bank or a new unwrapped toy to our local Santa's Workshop (drop boxes to appear soon).

Donations of women's toiletries, warm clothing (hats, socks, pajamas) or reading materials to the Transition House would also be appreciated. These can be dropped off at the Transition House Thrift Store in Ganges.

As well, any donation may be brought to our residence at 138 Acheson Road. Let's do it for Darcy!

ELLEN AND HANS HAZENBOOM, SALT SPRING

Information needed

The Driftwood is to be congratulated for last week's editorial in which it was pointed out that misinfor-

mation on our hospital's closure came about because of VIHA's reluctance to keep islanders informed, despite frequent requests for satisfactory information.

I, together with other seniors on the island, attended the meeting held at Central Hall last Thursday, where we were given all the possible reasons why Lady Minto Hospital is having problems re-opening the operating room.

Those at the meeting were encouraged to write to elected public officials requesting more pertinent information from appointees at VIHA. I hope that this will come about.

In passing, I would like to add that I do not think that I was alone in being disappointed by the absence of our newly elected CRD director.

V. PITMAN, SALT SPRING

False sense of security

Wake up, all you people. It seems some of you were lulled into a false sense of

security by the item on the front page of last week's paper headed "Hospital closure rumours untrue" and decided not to attend the meeting on Thursday, Nov. 27 at 12:30 p.m. at Central Hall.

Nothing to worry about? There sure is. There are no clear answers forthcoming from the Vancouver Island Health Authority regarding the use of the operating room at the hospital and when we can expect to have a surgeon available on the island.

There are a number of other questions regarding the hospital that also need clarification, not just the vague answers that have been forthcoming from VIHA.

I am a concerned citizen.

KIT STEVENS, CREEKSIDE DRIVE

Post-election peace?

As a relative newcomer to Salt Spring I followed with interest the pre-election articles and letters in the Driftwood and also attend-

ed several all-candidates meetings.

I was surprised by what I read, heard and saw. I was particularly struck by the polarization and acrimony on some issues, coming from what I always thought was a respectful, friendly and cohesive community.

Now that the election is over I trust that the three who were elected will incorporate their thoughts into a plan, which will positively and effectively address the community's priorities.

WAYNE MCINTYRE, BROADWELL ROAD

Compost sour grapes

The composting proposal bylaw for treating sewage passed handily! It is now time to compost the sour grapes and crocodile tears that have lingered since the recent local election.

Falling tears from PARC and bursting tennis bubbles are minor matters for our CRD representatives and the two Trust members to consider.

More important con-

cerns for local government are: a threatened down-sized Lady Minto Hospital; an already down-sized four-day school week; a shortage of provincial funds to maintain Croftonbrook; a ferry system bloated with idled big German-built ships, while little local ferries are forced to gouge local islanders; limited affordable housing for low-wage workers (in our stores, our pubs, our restaurants, etc.); limited funds to house and care for mentally challenged, physically challenged and drug-addicted newcomers.

A general world recession makes major new luxury developments on the island unlikely for some time, so the Trust and CRD representatives' work and worry in that area should be much reduced.

Let us all give our support to our new little local government to try to solve the real problems we all face!

RON STACEY, QUEBEC DRIVE

MORE LETTERS continued on A10

Don't roll over for lazy government park rule

Everything I am, I owe to my dogs. Now my father and a small handful of narcissistic ex-girlfriends may have something to say about that. But in my mind's eye, everything I am, such as it is, I owe to my dogs.

In my less enlightened days, if one of my dogs would have an accident on the floor, I would smack him.

Over time, I learned patience and forgiveness. I no longer raise a hand to God's creatures, great or small. And in retrospect, it was my fault for not walking him enough.

I learned to take responsibility for my actions. I learned to apologize and mean it.

I have to thank my dogs for my relative good health. It isn't the great vistas that get me up Mount Erskine three times a week.

The dogs need the exercise. I have learned that if your dogs are fat, you aren't getting enough exercise.

When I have the occasional intense personal meltdown (usually brought on by one of the aforementioned ex-girlfriends), it is my dogs that provide solace and comfort, without judgment.

As they age, I am schooled on the art of selfless caregiving and patience.

And in death, I have learned to keep grief

in perspective. Everything I am, I owe to my dogs.

My dogs ask very little in return for this education — a bit of food, a tummy rub, and at least once a day, a chance to do what dogs do best . . . romp in the woods or on the beach.

As such, it grieves me to read that Ruckle Park has arbitrarily slammed the door on dogs, limiting them to the parking lot and the short walk down to the campsites.

That's it. Less than 20 per cent is now open to dogs, with or without a leash. Who did this? Who had the right? Who owns the park, anyway?

More importantly, why?

The official answer coming out of Joe Benning (B.C. Parks supervisor for Saanich and the Southern Gulf Islands) is that there was very little compliance to the leash law . . . that there was a real and present danger that off-leash dogs may terrorize the park sheep.

At the very least this is another example of nanny state government. At worst it is



Peter Vincent

HEAD TO HEAD

just plain lazy bureaucracy — of some guy with a clipboard sitting behind a desk in Victoria using ham-fisted solutions to a nonexistent problem.

The thing is, there are no documented cases that I can find of a dog on a walk with its owner suddenly going all-

out wolf and tearing a sheep to pieces. It doesn't happen. If there are any problems, it is caused by dogs running away from home, forming little punk packs and going after the sheep.

According to animal control officials, the real culprits are likely cougars. If you're going to ban dogs, let's ban cougars, or at least leash them.

Oh, by the way, there are over 1,300 dogs registered with licences on Salt Spring Island, making it one of the largest groups on the island.

And Salt Spring being Salt Spring, I would hazard a guess that there are at least that many again whose owners ignored a licence. Let's just say there are 2,000 dogs wagging their tails on Salt Spring. For these

2,000 and their owners, Ruckle Park is no longer an option. Let's count the sheep in Ruckle Park.

It begs the question, what is Ruckle Park anyway? Is it mainly a park with a farm attached, or a farm with a park attached?

Let's face it. This is an unwarranted ban put in place for the convenience and pleasure of the park staff and Victoria bureaucrats rather than the people that actually use the park. And that's just wrong.

It's the same philosophy that turned Mouat Park in Ganges from a convenient campsite to a near deserted Frisbee golf park. Several years ago, the park was plagued with marauding teens in noisy cars.

Instead of fixing the problem it was way easier just to ban the campers. It's lazy. It's incompetent. It's plain wrong.

Dog lovers of Salt Spring, unite! We should all meet in the Ruckle parking lot, and in the spirit of Gandhi nonviolent protest, we should leash our dogs up and march to Yeo Point. We shouldn't lay down and roll over for this kind of lazy government. It's our park.

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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

Enjoy concert

We are seeking funding for a tour we are planning for the teenagers known as the Salt Spring Island Fiddlers. The tour to New York City is planned to take place in March 2009. The group is made up of 12 young musicians, and three or four accompanying adults (myself as teacher, Kim Hunter as tour manager, and one or two parent chaperones).

The projected cost of the tour is \$30,000. The kids have worked hard playing music and to date have raised over \$10,000. Fundraising efforts continue with concerts and more. We want to insure that everyone can go.

We are doing a fundraising show for the Christmas season called A Victorian Christmas Concert on Friday, Dec 5 at 7 p.m. at ArtSpring. We would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy our concert.

CAROLYN HATCH,
 MUSIC DIRECTOR, THE SALT SPRING ISLAND FIDDLERS & THE FIDDLERS HATCHERY

At a time when most nations are investing capital and stimulating their economies, Harper is proposing shrinking the economy and a host of other nasty changes that continue to erode our democratic rights.

Apparently Harper doesn't understand how a parliamentary system works or he forgot he didn't get a majority government in the last election.

I guess Harper didn't realize that if you try to introduce legislation that will not be supported by at least one of the three opposition parties, our parliamentary system allows the opposition to vote against the legislation and thus dissolve Parliament and that the Governor General, rather than immediately ordering an election can invite the opposition parties to form a coalition. Shame on our prime minister for once again misleading us even though every constitutional expert tells us that this is how our parliamentary system works.

TED SNIDER,
 MOUNT MAXWELL ROAD

Congrats to entrepreneurs

On behalf of Women's Enterprise Centre, I would like to send my heartfelt congratulations to Salt Spring Island's Julia and Susan Grace who are featured in a new book that celebrates women entrepreneurship and innovation in B.C.

They have been recognized by Women's Enterprise Centre as one of B.C.'s 100 New

Pioneer Women Entrepreneurs 2008 and are among the women who share their stories in the inspiring book just published, entitled *New Pioneers: Stories of 100 B.C. Women Entrepreneurs*.

Small business represents 98 per cent of all businesses in B.C. and women own 35 per cent of the small businesses in B.C. today.

This book will help to raise awareness of the many successful female entrepreneurs living and working in communities throughout our province. We are proud to be able to share their inspiring stories in this beautiful, full-colour, coffee-table-style book that recognizes their pioneering spirit, showcases their achievements, and celebrates their success.

The women entrepreneurs featured in the book were selected because they are pioneers, role models and innovators who have blazed an entrepreneurial path for others to follow. They represent a variety of business sectors, age groups and cultural backgrounds.

We encourage all Salt Spring Island residents to congratulate Julia and Susan on their achievement. For those who would like a copy of the book, a limited number of complimentary copies of *New Pioneers: Stories of 100 B.C. Women Entrepreneurs* are available through our website at www.womensenterprisecentre.ca.

LAUREL DOUGLAS,
 CEO, WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE CENTRE, KELOWNA

How our system works

Apparently Stephen Harper thinks it is undemocratic for the opposition parties (who happen to represent almost two out of every three Canadians who voted in the last election) to form a coalition government.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FOUNDERS' TREE: Salt Spring Centre School principal Erin Porter is aided by students as the school plants a sugar maple tree in honour of the school's founders.

What's in a name?

What is in a name? Does a roasting coffee bean smell as sweet if it comes from a food processing facility or in an industrial development?

Call anything on the island "industrial" and half of all islanders rise in arms. Call it part of the agricultural community and it takes on a much more benign slant. But agriculture, as practised in North America for about a century begins with heavy machinery destroying a vibrant, complex ecosystem which it replaces with an artificially introduced monoculture. It encourages the monoculture with chemicals, maintains it with poisons or introduced predators and diverts fresh water, which is released in degraded form back into the watershed. All this is aided by more heavy machinery. Finally, the product is transported (often huge distances) in more polluting machinery.

Of course, on the island for the past couple of decades, farmers have expended enormous intelligent effort to move towards kinder, gentler, less industrial methods. Organic and permacultural practices are used to mitigate the effects of agriculture on the environment. Not that we will ever return to the pastoral scenes of peasants leaning on their hoes or strong women in long skirts scattering seeds onto hand-plowed ground as long as we need to feed a continuously growing population, but there has been wonderful improvement. None-

theless, the changes made to pre-existing ecosystems still remain.

So why is agriculture okay? Well, here on the island we generally see only the fuzzy green end of the process. The clear-cutting is in the distant past and the industrial underpinning of our agricultural system - mines, mills, refineries, chemical plants, etc. is in somebody else's backyard. And we all do like to eat regularly, so we accept some industrialization and environmental changes for the sake of putting the tofu on the table. A balanced choice.

My point is that while there is no clear line between industrial and agricultural processes, we can minimize the harmful consequences of creating and processing food. We can choose a small facility roasting organic beans which have been grown responsibly and traded fairly, a facility employing many islanders and supporting both distant and local economies, built by responsible people in environmentally aware ways, well within the 100 km locavore circle for about two million people. It may sit in a watershed but that has already been profoundly changed by former agricultural practices. Or, we can listen to a few vocal SIBUNs (Single-Issue, Blinkered, Uninformed Nimbys) and preserve a small piece of the agricultural land that was created by the industrial process described above.

Let's wake up and smell the coffee.
ANDREW OKULITCH,
 LITTLE MOUNTAIN ROAD
MORE LETTERS continued on A12

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

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OPINION

RANTS and Roses

Rants

It's frustrating to be subjected to non-stop Christmas "everything." Not all of us celebrate Christmas! How about seeing something in the Driftwood about other holidays this winter season? Solstice, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, etc. All the Christmas stuff gets to be a bit much. CH Furst and WJ Cutler

Roses

The Salt Spring Lions garage sale would like to thank Salt Spring Islanders for being respectful of our property with regards to drop-offs. We have had very little in drop offs when we are closed. Our garbage bill is going down and we do appreciate it. Thank you for your support. SS Lions

A bountiful bunch of Salt Spring roses to Danny Evanishen and Louise Nye for their great contributions of time, energy, sto-

ries and memorabilia to the 30th anniversary of cinema at Central celebration. And an extra large, sweet rose to Donna at Embe Bakery for the incredible job decorating the cake: it looked just like Fritz!

Roses and sincere thanks to all our friends and very patient customers for their support and good wishes during our recent crisis. Sam is well, and Anderson Appliance Repair re-opened for business on December 1. Season's greetings, everyone. Sam and Wendy Anderson

A huge bouquet of rose scented poinsettias to all of Santa's Elves who joyously provided an afternoon of Christmas delight for many island children with Santa at Mahon Hall on Saturday. The gingerbread-person decorating and house building were the most perfect focus as the wee ones waited for Santa's arrival. And may we

wish Santa the best of evenings when he takes to the skies in a few weeks!

White Christmas roses to all those who attend and volunteer at the Fulford Hall Craft Fair from Dec. 5 to 7.

A large bouquet of roses to all the volunteers who made the cultural celebration and fundraiser for the Raramuri People in the Sierra Tarahumara a great success. Thank you to Alvaro Sanchez and Jose Sanchez, who provided us with beautiful Latin-American music; Daisy, Betsie, Emma-Sky and Andrea for helping make delicious hand-made tortillas; Yoga, Shanti and Marcello for giving us a hand with the set-up of the venue; Krishna, who gladly helped us with the projector; Jan Mangan for lending us all those wonderful pictures to display; Leonie for all the help in preparing the food; the Driftwood for

allowing us the space to tell the community about this wonderful project; School District 64 for the venue and for passing the information around and the staff of Terralingua who made this event possible. Terralingua

A huge bunch of Sierra Tarahumara roses to all those who came to Terralingua's fundraiser in benefit of the Raramuri people on Thursday evening last week! Your enthusiasm and support for the project was much appreciated. Another huge bunch of roses to Terralingua's wonderful helpers and volunteers, particularly Tania Aguila, Ortixia Dilts, and Leonie Muldoon — we couldn't have done it without you! And to Jose Sanchez and Alvaro Sanchez for the delightful musical entertainment. Jan Mangan's photos of the Raramuri were another wonderful complement. Luisa Maffi, Terralingua director

MORE LETTERS

continued from A11

Extravaganza thanks

We, the co-founders of the Institute for Sustainability Education & Action (I-SEA), thank everyone that made this past Saturday's Slow Food Extravaganza at GISS a great success!

Held at GISS in the multi-purpose room, the event raised awareness about I-SEA's eco-mentoring programs. Over 80 people attended the dinner and enjoyed the local, vegetarian feast prepared by Bruce Wood. Bruce was able to source most of the ingredients from local farms and Natureworks. Thank you to all farmers for their hard work.

A huge thanks to the other I-SEA board members, including Brenda Guiled, Ellie Parks, Marion Pape and Peter Allan, many of whom spoke about their own mentoring experiences. We were lucky to also have several students of I-SEA, Roberta Skye and Jacquie Harkema share their own I-SEA project experiences. Marion and Manfred Pape also provided all the greenery and apple

juice for the dinner, sourced from their own beautiful garden. More thanks are due to the Global Action Group from GISS — Kelsey, Sierra, Nicole, Emily, Sam, Olivia and Callum, who started the feast off by passing appetizers while modelling fair wage clothing from Om Grown.

Warm thanks to Alan Miceli for the soothing sounds before and during dinner, it was the perfect accompaniment to the fantastic food and conversation. Thank you to Island Escapades, the Driftwood, Om Grown Clothing and Salt Spring Coffee for sponsoring the event and supporting our eco-mentoring programs.

Jack Rosen of Island Escapades deserves special thanks for his talk about Island Escapades role in eco-mentoring over the years, and sharing photos of the many trips Jack and Candace have taken with youth.

And a fundraiser wouldn't be complete without the fantastic door prizes from Jill Louise Campbell, Rainbow Trading, Alan Miceli, Gecko Green Living, Om Grown, Louise Adele, Suzanne Ambers, Salt Spring Books, Graham Smith and Bruce Wood. We really appreciate your generous support.

We also thank all the volunteers, including many family and friends who spent most of their Saturday helping set-up the school to make it look like the candlelit dining room we had hoped for. We couldn't have done it without you! And those organizations who set up information tables — the Farmer's Alliance, SOLID, Earth Festival Society and Salt Spring Books.

The money raised from this event will help fund ongoing projects at I-SEA into 2009. To find out how to become a Friend of I-SEA and support these programs, please visit our website (www.i-sea.org) and click on Friends of I-SEA to download the form. Also on the site is an updated list of all our recent sustainability events and projects, including our newest project, the Salt Spring Greenwise online map, in collaboration with Brenda Guiled.

It is a gift to live on this island, and it is our gift back to the island to have these awareness building events, that both strengthen our community and our planet. Thank you, Salt Spring.

**MARGERY MOORE
AND MARK STARIK,**
I-SEA

MORE LETTERS continued on A18

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Still waiting for accountability

BY MIKE BEST

It is not surprising that Gary Holman took exception to all eight pages of my letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) ("Tennis controversy refuses to die," Nov. 26 Driftwood).

Whenever people such as Don Gainer, former PARC commissioners Steve Peterson and Carol Dodd, Fraser Hope and I question his decisions, Holman launches a verbal attack on each of us via the Driftwood.

Let's discuss here the part that most upset Holman: my charge that there has been a lack of CRD transparency and accountability.

Yes, it was Holman that "launched the investigation" that required KPMG to perform an audit of the indoor tennis debacle and resulted in what he terms a "public hearing."

He failed to mention the CRD was already under investigation by the Ombudsman's Office (whose staff were studying fairness to the taxpayer) and that by initiating the investigation, Holman was able to get the Ombudsman's Office off his back.

One bullet dodged. Holman also fails to mention that as part of getting the CRD board to approve the Cover-All expenditure at its Sept. 14, 2005 meeting,

IN RESPONSE

he promised a "public hearing within three weeks."

The KPMG meeting that Holman claims answered this promise was Aug. 31, 2007, almost two years later, well after all the damage had been done.

By Holman's judgment, he kept his commitment, even though it took him two years. Another bullet dodged.

But the KPMG meeting wasn't a "public hearing" at all.

The public was denied access to the audit report until after the meeting, so it was difficult for an audience member to participate and ask pointed and pertinent questions.

At the end of the meeting, 10 hard copies were handed out, and the CRD officials claimed the report could be found online at the CRD website, but that wasn't true; CRD's webmaster confirmed a "glitch" kept the report off the website for almost a week.

That certainly helped dissipate criticism and scrutiny; another bullet dodged.

And having the CRD order up the KPMG audit was like asking the fox to watch the henhouse.

KPMG acknowledged

that they were instructed to show the final draft to the CRD and accept "comments and changes" to the report. The CRD maintains those changes were just "clerical adjustments," but it might necessitate a Freedom of Information request to really examine the spin here.

The KPMG meeting wasn't a "public hearing" at all.

The CRD doesn't refute KPMG's citing over 30 instances where decisions had not followed CRD protocol, the most glaring of which was that the RFP and subsequent tender was "not competitive" and that is why the taxpayers ended up saddled with a bill I believe was three times higher than a competitive tender would have provided.

A mighty example where by the best interests of the taxpayer were violated.

The response to the Driftwood from then PARC chair Rosemary Trump stated the Cover-All structure cost \$294,737 and total costs to date were \$342,197. Half a year later, the KPMG report

revealed that the total project cost was pegged by KPMG at \$333,254, with \$320,189 of the total included in a \$341,135.88 invoice issued by Cover-All. As well, KPMG used entirely different numbers from those in Trump's response.

It was because of the deficiencies cited in the KPMG report and the CRD's non-responsiveness that the Ombudsman's Office reopened its investigation — an investigation that is ongoing today and was ongoing during the recent election campaign.

It seems interesting that during the election campaign Holman did not seem to be aware of the Ombudsman's investigation.

All the while, I believe there was, and is, a satisfactory solution.

PARC could have obtained (and still can) a replacement bubble at Portlock Park that costs \$125,000 — with money held by the SSTA — no public monies necessary.

So what is PARC waiting for?

Like the rest of us, for Holman to exit, and then hopefully the CRD's transparency and accountability can be restored.

The writer is a professional tennis coach and Salt Spring Ratepayers Group founder.



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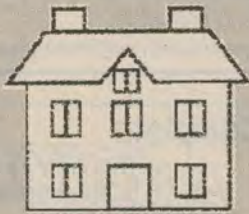
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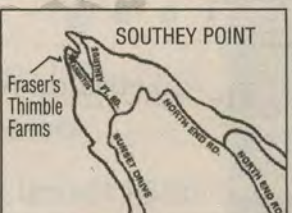
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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A12

Cuba needs

My sister and I are travelling to Cuba on Dec. 12 and are soliciting donations of educational items and vitamin supplements for children to distribute there.

For anyone planning a trip to Cuba, be aware that any tourist travelling there is allowed to bring in 22 pounds of humanitarian aid for the people. Here is a list of what we want to take:

- Children's vitamin supplements (pill or chewable form);
- Pens, pencils, markers, crayons;
- Any other small and lightweight educational materials;
- Children's aspirin and/or Tylenol;
- Medium to large ziploc bags.

The vitamins should not be stale-dated.

JUDY LEVINE,
SALT SPRING

Pressure VIHA for answers

Recent rumours of the closing of our hospital have impelled me to write this letter.

It is long overdue in that quite apart from the current "dust-up" I need to publicly express appreciation for the excellent care I received from the doctor and staff during my 15-day hospitalization period for my stroke followed closely by another



SPEAKING TO THE NATION: Radio Canada Montreal journalist Ania Kazi interviews Gulf Islands Secondary School French Immersion students for the Allo Ados program that airs nationwide on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. (PST) on the 97.7 FM dial. The students talked about living on the island, their involvement in environmental issues and the arts. The segment can also be heard on the Radio Canada website.

12 days for double pneumonia.

The afternoon of the stroke, Dr. Holly Slakov attended me. Holly, your decisive approach in the management of my case was very reassuring. I will always love you for the personal interest you took in me and for your caring ways. You really extended yourself. Thank you!

There are too many staff to thank to recite their names here, but you all know your names!

Last Thursday I attended a meeting ostensibly to dispel the rumours of Lady Minto's closure. This spirited meeting was packed to overflowing and the attendees were not shy about asking their questions and expressing concerns and frustrations over unanswered questions regarding the dismissal of Dr. Preshaw and the hiring of his replacement. When I first heard the hospital closure rumour it made a very personal impact on me. I have a speech impediment as a result of a stroke, otherwise I have almost fully recovered. I was in the emergency room being treated within an hour of the stroke. What would have been my prognosis had treatment been delayed for hours?

I live close to the hospital and I am very aware of sirens of the ambulances at all hours of the day and night; some of them due to life-threatening emergencies.

I think of the potentially negative impacts on the lives of those suddenly afflicted with illness, as well as their

loved ones, if the hospital was closed.

I have read the letter from the chief of staff, Dr. Shane Barclay, about the meetings with VIHA. Despite those reassurances, given the past record of the provincial government regarding closures of hospitals on a province-wide basis, there is a pattern of just this sort prior to closure — enough to raise doubts.

References to the attempted recruitment of a surgeon, nursing staff shortages and scarcity of funding generally should give us all pause to pressure VIHA for public answers.

No doubt you will be hearing more on the subject.

RAY PHILLIPS,
SALT SPRING

Democracy and coalitions

With the prospect of a Liberal-NDP coalition government in Ottawa becoming more and more likely, I would like to counter the government's claims that it would be undemocratic for the opposition parties to form a government or undemocratic for the Governor-General to ask the Leader of the Opposition to form a government.

One of the features of Canadian democracy of which all Canadians can be particularly proud is our system of checks and balances that were put in place to prevent gross abuses of power. The existence of an Upper Chamber — the Senate — and the role of the Governor General are

important elements of that system of checks and balances.

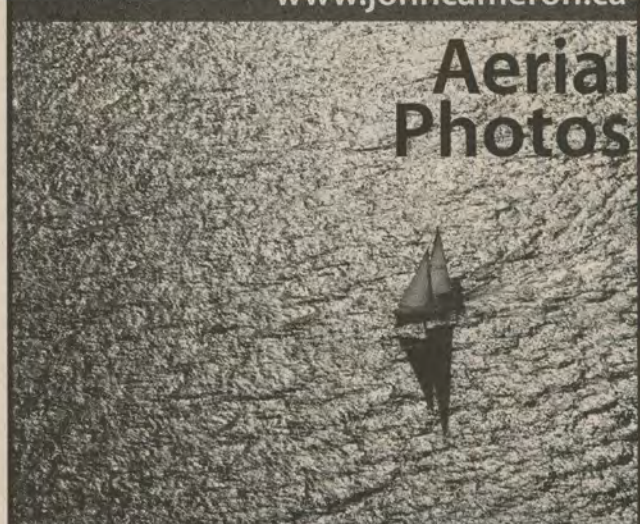
When a minority government such as that led by Stephen Harper loses a vote of confidence in the House of Commons, the government automatically falls. There are only two options available under the Constitution. One is to call another election. The second option is for the Governor General to ask the Leader of the Opposition, in this case Stéphane Dion, if he can win the support of parliament. If the Leader of the Opposition can convince the Governor General that this is so, then she will ask him to become Prime Minister of Canada.

With the last election less than 50 days behind us and all three opposition parties signing a historic agreement on Monday, Dec. 1 to cooperate as members formal (Liberal and NDP) and informal (Bloc Quebecois) in a coalition government, it is unlikely that the Governor General will choose the option of another election. The result will be a government that represents over 60 per cent of Canadians who voted in the last election instead of a government that won that election with less than 40 per cent of the popular vote. With strong action planned by the coalition on the economy and on climate change, I believe that Canadians looking back on this time will be glad that the current Prime Minister did not have unlimited power to determine our future.


LESLIE WALLACE,
SALT SPRING

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Sports & Recreation

MEN'S SOCCER

Gremio eyes 2nd spot in division

Players urge fans to show support at next home game

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ganges Gremio played to a 0-0 tie in a slip-and-slide match versus Hellas FC on Salt Spring Sunday.

Keeper Dan Bennett stood his ground in the Gremio net to preserve the draw and earn the team a single point in the standings.

"There were some good opportunities on both sides," said Gremio's Ryan Smith. "These are the kind of guys that would annihilate you and then help you up off the ground. It was a great game."

Gremio (5-2-3) remains in fifth place in Division 5A of the Vancouver Island Soccer League (VISL) with 18 points, 11 points out of first position but a mere two points behind second-place Comox Valley United.

Gremio hosts Comox Valley on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2:15 p.m. at Portlock Park. A win could potentially vault the team into second place in the division.

"This is definitely going to be another huge game," Smith said.

The teams played to a 4-4 tie earlier in the season.

In other men's soccer action, Salt Spring FC also played to a scoreless draw on Saturday afternoon against a tough team from Prospect Lake.

Player Jordon Morrison said Salt Spring FC had plenty of chances to place the ball in the net, but failed to capitalize on the numerous opportunities.

"It was a hard-fought game," he said. "We played nicely at times and then went back to our scrumbly style."

Players Zoltan Kodaly and Jay Moulton came close to scoring go-ahead goals midway through the first half as well as in the game's final moments.



Gremio's Ryan ("Leroy") Smith goes up for the ball, clashing with the Hellas keeper in a 0-0 match on Salt Spring..

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

Miguel Alvarado posted a perfect game in goal for Salt Spring FC.

Salt Spring FC (3-3-5) is in seventh place of the VISL's second division with 14 points.

The team travels to Port Alberni on Dec. 13 to play sixth-place Alberni Oceanside (5-5-3). FC trails the Port Alberni club by a mere three points.

Salt Spring's FC Alumni (9-0-1) continued its season-

long domination of the Masters-B division by defeating Vic West 4-1 in Victoria on Sunday.

Richard Lee, Sean Norgard and Jude Shugar (2) provided all the goals Salt Spring FC Alumni needed to pad its lead atop the division.

FC Alumni's next game is at home against Lakehill Goal-Tek (3-3-6) on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m.

The Salt Spring Old Boys (0-10-1) lost their 10th game

of the season on the weekend in a close game against Peninsula Cove Reunited on Sunday. The team remains in last place in the Masters C division with a single point.

The Old Boys will try to inject some new life into their game when they travel off-island to play Gordon Head Nearly Dead on Dec. 14.

The team has been outscored 14-1 in four games since Nov. 2.

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Land Bank contact: Neddy Harris 250-653-4573.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

FOOTBALL

Awards passed out at annual football banquet, ceremony

Fantastic season celebrated by two school teams

BY PATRICK CWIKLINSKI
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The 8th annual Salt Spring Island football banquet and awards ceremony got underway last Wednesday with players from both Salt Spring's middle school and high school teams coming together for some good food and company to wrap up what is sure to be remembered as one of the most successful seasons in Salt Spring football history.

After defeating the number one ranked Mark Isfeld Ice in the semi-finals in the British Columbia High School Football Association (BCHSFA) Tier 2 playoffs, for the first time ever the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Scorpions football team made it to the finals, but ultimately fell short to the G.P. Vanier Towhees. But the loss was really a win; it brought confidence to a much smaller, less-experienced Scorpions team that is sure to build on this season's successes and continue to pursue their first championship.

In their first game of the season against the Abbotsford-Collegiate Panthers, a 31-15 loss, the Scorpions stayed extremely cool and collected against a much bigger Abbotsford team. No one will ever know if running back Ian Barrett had been there that day to face the Panthers, would the Scorpions have won? The answer — probably. With nearly 840 yards in a mere four games, 10 touchdowns and a jaw-dropping 15.46 yards per carry, Barrett was the spearhead of the Scorpions' offence and the third-ranked BCHSFA AA rushing leader deserved no less than winning the Most Valuable Varsity Player award for the second year in a row as well as the Best Offensive Varsity Player. Barrett has also not ruled out the possibility of playing football beyond the high school level.

Kevin Abbott's 373 yards in five games earned him the Most Valuable Junior Varsity Player award; the fullback ranked 17th amongst AA rushing leaders and recorded an impressive average of 74.60 yards per game.

Zach Corley's first year as starting quarterback this season was a blueprint of the Grade 10's offensive talent and won him his first Best Offensive JV Player award.

Myles Raposo's last year with the Scorpions will not be forgotten as the defensive linebacker's 23 tackles and two sacks won him the Best Defensive Varsity Player award as well as establishing himself as the leader of the team, on and off the field. Myles' brother Mason won the Best Defensive Junior Varsity Player award after a great season, filling the void of injured lineman Gordon Fraser who went on to win the Best JV Lineman award.

"... it brought confidence to a much smaller, less-experienced Scorpions team that is sure to build on this season's successes..."

Graham Moore's persistence, work ethic and dedication to football won him the Best Varsity Lineman award. After being sidelined with a broken arm late in the season, Moore didn't want to miss the Tier 2 final and returned to the line-up with a bright green cast on his arm against the Towhees. Moore is now slated to play next year for one of the prestigious Idaho State football teams.

Aaron Hoffman was named as the JV Unsung Hero while Oliver Schnare took the Unsung Hero prize home amongst varsity players. Both Hoffman and Schnare played big parts in the team's success down the stretch and were factors in the Scorpions' playoff run.

So with another Scorpions football season in the books, coaches Doug Mitchell and John Foley have a long off-season to relax and prepare for the upcoming season that's sure to be an adequate follow-up.

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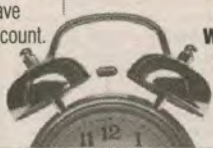
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 Info: 250-537-2154

DEATHS

MCMANUS, MAJOR JOHN OMM, CD (retired) WW2 veteran,
R.C.L. 92. Served during and after the war with
Gordon Highlanders, 4th PWO Gurka Rifles and
The Royal Canadian Regiment.
Died at Royal Jubilee Hospital BC November 19, 2008.
 Predeceased by his sister Marie and his beloved wife Charlotte.
 Survived by Daughters: Patricia (Andre), Georgina (Bruno),
 brother James, sister Margarette (Bill),
 granddaughters: Christine & Lianne, great granddaughter Charlotte.
 Cremation. Funeral private. Donations in John's memory may be
 made to Lady Minto Hospital, SSI, BC.
 Condolences to family at mcmamusjock@hotmail.com
Rest in Peace

COMING EVENTS
Book Launch for
THE LIFE AND ART
of
DAVID MARSHALL
by Monika Uilmann
Saturday, Dec. 13th
5:30-7:30 pm.
Reading 6:30 pm
Pegasus Gallery
 The first in the
 ground-breaking series,
The Unheralded Artists of BC,
 Mother Tongue Publishing.
\$34.95, 95 colour and
b&w plates, 176 pages.
 Info: 250-537-4155

SCIENCE & ART OF
HERBOLOGY. 4th annual,
 10 month apprenticeship.
 Class runs first Sunday 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.

DEATHS

COMING EVENTS
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.

DEATHS



COMING EVENTS
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!

DEATHS

Nancy
Keith-Murray
(nee Gautschi)
 It is with regret and sadness
 that the family of Nancy Keith-
 Murray announces her death
 on Nov. 24, 2008 at the age of
 100 due to natural causes at her
 home in Meadowbrook Seniors'
 Residence.

Born in Vancouver on Aug. 8, 1908 to May and Henri Gautschi,
 who had emigrated from England in 1904, Nancy lived a full life
 during her one hundred years. Schooled at the Sacred Heart
 Convent in Vancouver, she attended finishing school in Geneva,
 Switzerland.

After graduation she returned to Vancouver and took a lead
 role in the running of her parents' hair salon, Maison Henri.
 Voyaging back to Switzerland in 1931, she met David Keith-
 Murray, a handsome tea plantation manager on his way home
 to England from India. They became engaged soon after arrival
 in England.

Marriage followed a year later, and three children were born in
 the years prior to World War II. In 1945, Nancy and her children
 returned to Canada through the historic Pier 21 in Halifax,
 traveling by train to Vancouver. David joined her there after
 being posted to Ceylon for a year.

Nancy held positions in retail management, and eventually
 transferred to UBC where she held a senior administrative role in
 the President's Office. She and David visited Salt Spring in the
 mid-60's, considering it for retirement. Unhappily, he died far too
 early in 1968, and Nancy came on her own in 1972.

She became a vibrant force in the Salt Spring community,
 lending her considerable energies to the Library, Greenwoods,
 Trail and Nature, and Gardening clubs, as well as to weavers,
 yoga, travel and bridge groups. She was creative, active,
 organized and productive. She offered generous financial
 support to many community groups. Her beloved house on Mt.
 Baker Crescent, designed by Hank Schubart, was a great source
 of joy and a showplace for her magnificent gardening skills and
 knowledge. The house was so well designed that she was able to
 live in it until she was 97 years of age. Moving into Meadowbrook
 she immediately planted a garden. Just days before she died,
 three sweet peas were picked from her garden giving her immense
 pleasure as she smelled the lovely scent.

She lived to enjoy her 100th birthday celebration in August
 where she was the recipient of much love, respect and admiration
 from her many friends and members of the family. She credited
 her longevity to healthy living, friendships, bridge, yoga, a
 lifelong thirst of learning and reading and the occasional Scotch
 or martini.

Nancy was predeceased by her husband David, and her brother
 Edward. She will be sadly missed by her three children, Peter,
 Marnie and Mark, her grandchildren, Andrea, Chris, Colin,
 Drew, Leslie, Paul and Wayne, and her great grandchildren.

Many, many thanks to her wonderful care givers from Beacon,
 especially her marvellous Joyce and Becca, private caregivers
 Kirsty and Marnie2 who were gems, the palliative nurses and
 her beloved Dr. David Woodley who helped Nancy achieve her
 final wish; to die in her own home.

It is Nancy's wish that there be no formal service. In lieu of
 flowers, Nancy would have encouraged donations to the Library,
 SS Island Foundation, Greenwoods and Lady Minto Hospital.

*I tried to explain you to
 someone new.
 But something just
 wasn't right. Because
 people like you are
 very few. You were
 nothing less than a
 shining light.*

*You always wanted to
 look your best and you had a special way
 of loving.
 You taught me that it is in God I should rest.
 And to continuously be hugging.*

*Its been 5 years now and I can still see your
 face, And Clark the memories of you
 will never be erased.*

*Thank you for every laugh, tear, hug and
 moment we shared together.*

We miss you just the same.



Gilbert Moise Marcotte
December 11, 1946 to
November 30, 2008

*Gilbert left this earth after a short battle
 with cancer. He was surrounded by
 family and friends and will be missed by so
 many. He started his early career with B.C.
 Ferries, working as an engine room oiler,
 working through all the ranks and retiring
 as Chief Engineer.*

He lived his life to the fullest and had no regrets. He was a
 proud father and grandfather and was always there for anyone
 that needed his help. Gilbert leaves behind Georgina and their
 two children Don (Tami) grand children, Reagan, Benjamin
 and Timothy, and Collette (Sam) grandchildren, James and
 Stephanie. He also leaves his brother Ed (Lucille) and
 family, his sister Caroline (Robert) and family, his sister Linda
 (Henry) and family, his brother Frank, and his sister Samantha
 (Ron) and family. At Gilbert's request there will be no funeral
 but there will be a celebration of his life at Saltspring Island
 Rod & Gun Club on December 13/08 at 2:00pm.

Please bring your stories and jokes to tell at the last Choir
 Practice for Gilbert.

BIG HUGE special thanks to
 Alana Watkinson for making his last days so comfortable for
 him, as well as all the doctors and nurses at
 Lady Minto Hospital.



DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

classified@gulfislands.net

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS **BCjobnetwork**

COMING EVENTS

COLD/FLU CLINIC
Walk in or book appt.
Treat & Prevent Winter Ailments
with **Homeopathy**
Tami Dos Santos, BSc, DCH
Karin Beviere, BA, DCH
Mon. & Fri. 8am to Noon
until December 15th
Arbutus Therapy
(above Apple Photo)
\$15 for 15 minutes
(remedy included)
Call 250-537-4728
or email to:
tds@arbutustherapy.ca
www.arbutustherapy.ca

GISS Christmas Alumni basketball game. At the high school, December 19. Women's tip-off 5pm. Men's tip-off 7pm.

COMING EVENTS

STEFANIE DENZ
Annual Open Studio
Saturday and Sunday
Dec 13 & 14
471 Beaver Point Road
www.stefaniedenz.com

THE "ALPACA BOUTIQUE" - CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - 3450 Kingburne Drive (off Thain Rd), Cobble Hill Dec 5 & 6 from 10 am - 4 pm. Come and browse the best selection of alpaca products for that unique and timeless Christmas gift. That special gift is here. Sweaters, blankets, critters, gloves, socks, toques, yarn etc. VISA MASTER-CARD and Interac accepted. 250-743-7177 - www.alpacafarmbc.com

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP. Dan Miller, of the Heathen Freehold Society talks about how religions act within societies in a Discussion Service Sunday Dec. 7, 11:00 a.m. at the SS Senior's Centre. Another interesting service...join us.

INFORMATION



Bessie Dane Hospice
'Christmas Social'
Wednesday December 10th
2008 at 7.00pm
at the Seniors Centre
Pot Luck finger food
Everybody Welcome!
Come and have fun and meet our new volunteers!

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Advertisers are reminded that Provincial legislation forbids the publication of any advertisement which discriminates against any person because of race, religion, sex, colour, nationality, ancestry or place of origin, or age, unless the condition is justified by a bona fide requirement for the work involved.

We are now accepting enrolment for 3 & 4-year-olds for January classes.



Salt Spring Cooperative Preschool
For more information please contact Crystal @ 250-537-5343

IF YOUR Driftwood subscription label has the date highlighted, now is the time to renew!

PERSONALS

DATING SERVICE. Long-term/Short-term relationships, free calls! 1-866-512-8367. Exchange voice messages, voice mailboxes 1-866-573-0914. Live adult casual conversations -1on1, 1-866-522-7131. Meet on chat-lines. Local single ladies 1-866-512-9083 (18+).

MANDY BROWN, can you contact Perry Kendall at 250-595-4215 for information re family.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: DARK green rubber garden clogs mistakenly left late Oct. after Sunday morning Yoga class at Ganges studio. My black clogs size 8 to 9 were taken instead. Please call 250-537-4562 to exchange. Thanks.

FOUND: GUITAR left in my car after giving you a ride in September. Call 250-538-8391.

RING FOUND at Tami and James' Halloween Party. Please call 250-653-0023 to identify.

TRAVEL

TIMESHARE

SELL/RENT Your Timeshare Now! Maintenance fees too high? Need Cash? Sell your unused timeshare today. No commissions or Broker Fees. Free Consultation. www.sellatimeshare.com 1-866-708-3690.

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.

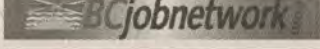
TRAVEL

ALL INCLUSIVE Packages - Book Online at www.canadatravels.com and save more on your vacations. Use code NCA74327 for discount or call us toll-free at 1-800-563-5722.

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VACATION SPOTS

MEXICO- 2 BRDM furnished waterfront, private home on island, Mazatlan. \$500/wk for 2 people. Marita, 250-338-4759.



BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ADVERTISE YOUR business in the largest outdoor publication in BC. **THE BC FRESHWATER FISHING REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS 2009/2010** publication - 435,000 copies, year long presence to outdoors men & women. Call to get in the next annual issue. Contact Annemarie at 1-800-661-6335 ext 744.

MONEY MAKER - Local route, no selling on your part. For more info call 1-866-821-2569. A GREAT OPPORTUNITY to own a pet food business - High quality cat/dog food. Excellent returns, exclusive territories. Information call Julie Mutch toll-free 1-877-738-3287 Ext. 217 or (604) 518-7706, www.ripleesranch.com.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

SALES!! NO Experience Necessary! Join our Young-minded, Rock-n-Roll, Blue Jean Environment, Skateboarders, x/y gen, Music Lovers Welcome! \$500 Sign-on! Start Work- Travel USA! Wanda #866-386-5621.

TRAVEL NURSE CANADA and never miss a pay check. We are seeking RN's for OR, ICU and ER assignments. Visit www.travelnurse.ca for more information.

WANT TO be a Practical Nurse? Train to be a Resident Care Attendant! Earn your BBA Degree! Call: 250-310-4473 www.sprott-shaw.com

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

AIRLINES ARE Hiring - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance (888) 349-5387.

BECOME A Veterinary Assistant in 24 weeks at Granville Business College. Specializing in veterinary assistant diplomas for 15 years. Classes every 3 months. www.vet-assistant.com, 604-683-8850.

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Call 250-537-9717

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TRAIN FOR a New Career in medical transcription. Train from home! Work from home! Contact CanScribe today for a free information package. 1-800-466-1535, www.canscribe.com, info@canscribe.com.

CLASSIFIED HOTLINE
250-537-9933

COMING EVENTS

HELP WANTED

\$99,000 plus to start!! BC centrist political party. 85 MLA candidates wanted from all over BC. Strong personality a must. For details email to: votemike@telus.net

BENCHMARK PLUMBING and Heating requires journeyman experienced plumber. Fax resume to 780-778-6954. Will pay based on years of experience versus years of school. Closing date Dec. 12/08. Whitecourt, Alberta.

Business Brands Management Consultants seeks in office help.

Growing company has many positions available for a reliable and customer service oriented individual.

Apply at
www.businessfundmc.com
Send resume to:
hrbbmconsultants@gmail.com

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST Required. A/R, A/P, people-oriented person, exceptional organization skills. Pay negotiable, experience an asset. 199 Saltspring Way, Saltspring BC, V8K 2G2 or call 250-537-1400.

FULL OR part-time hair stylist required at Lock Stock & Barber Shop. Contact Fiona, 250-538-8761.

MOONSTRUCK CHEESE seeks a part-time milker. Long term, 15-20 hours per week. Competitive salary. Transportation required. We will train. Contact Susan at 250-537-4987.

REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY Class 1 drivers for chip and log haul. Log haul will run until approximately March 31. Must be willing to operate with a cross shift as trucks work double shift. Successful applicants must come prepared for a full season. Accommodations are provided. Paying top wages. Must have minimum 2 years driving experience with on and off highway hauling. Fax resume with current drivers abstract to Dan Bloomfield 780-523-5910 or Keith Branting 780-523-5422 at Buchanan Lumber in High Prairie, Alberta. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

REACH 2.5 MILLION READERS in BC and the Yukon through Community Classifieds. Contact ads@bccommunitynews.com or 1-866-669-9222. www.bccommunitynews.com

COMING EVENTS



Kindergarten Openings
for January 2009
Mondays-Thursdays,
8:30-12:15
Child centred
Montessori-inspired
learning environment,
Enrichment in:
French, Art, Music,
Horticulture, & Theatre
Come for a visit to see
what we have to offer!
phone for appt. 5379130



WINTERCRAFT
Dec. 5-21
10 am - 5 pm
Heartwarming stocking
stuffers + dazzling presents.
Mahon Hall
114 Rainbow Rd.
250.537.0899

Dec. 27/08 - Jan. 1/09
ANNUAL New Year's Eve
Vipassana Retreat
TEACHER: Heather Martin
Location: The Gatehouse,
190 Reynolds Road,
Salt Spring Island,
For more information
and to register,
please visit our website at
www.ssvipassana.org
or call 250-653-4308.

Jill Louise Campbell
FINE ART GALLERY
2 for 1 Art prints
Free Shipping
NEW gifts under \$25
Desk/Perpetual Calendars
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for beautiful art & gifts
to last a lifetime

STIR CRAZY at Fulford Xmas Fair. All your regular favourites plus seasonal treats. Gift Trios ideal for holiday giving.

CARDS OF THANKS

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent **PARSA/V.O.W. Fundraising Raffle** to build a school and Widows Garden Project in the Hazarajat Region of Afghanistan.

Congratulations to the winners:

1st Prize - Aveda luxuriant gift basket
- Nicki Cameron

2nd Prize - Juliette's Hair Studio
Hair colour, and styling
- Donna Taylor

3rd Prize - Juliette's Hair Studio
Hair cut and styling
- Leslie Wallace

This project is administered by PARSA, a small non-profit organization administered by volunteer Marnie Gustafson.
www.afghanistan-parsa.org
Donations are ongoing through the Salt Spring "Voice of Women".
For more info
please contact Juliette Laing 250-537-9542

INFORMATION

INFORMATION

CONGRATULATIONS
Here are the winners of
The Driftwood's Light-Up contest

OVERALL:
Love My Kitchen

Most Creative:
Love My Kitchen
Mouat's Clothing
Soapworks

Best Use of Lights:
Love My Kitchen
Admirals
Stone Walrus
HM: B-Side

Best use of Materials:
Island Savings
Love My Kitchen/B-Side
HM: Ganges Gas/Soapworks

Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960
328 LOWER GANGES RD. • 537-9933

COMING EVENTS

Creative Fire Art Studio
...where art transforms the soul and energizes the spirit ...

Mother Daughter Intuition Workshop

- Sacred Doll Making
- The Baba Yaga Tale
- Intuition Stones
- Sharing stories and skills

Winter Solstice Sunday Dec. 21st (9 to 4)

Cost: \$70.00 adults and \$30.00 for each child (includes all material costs) Deposit: \$50.00
Contact Tracy Harrison at 538-0144 or Tracy@creativefirestudio.org

Christmas Around the World
You are invited to An Evening of Christmas Music, featuring Choirs, Soloists, Harp & other instrumental music

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.

Book Launch and Reading at ArtSpring!

Don't miss the Salt Spring Book launch of Anthony (Tony) Bruce's fifth novel,
"The Consequence of Memory"

The initial hard cover print run is a limited edition of 500 numbered and signed copies and 217 copies have to date been pre-ordered. Make sure to get your signed copy at the book launch!

Saturday, December 6th, 2-4 pm ArtSpring.

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served.
anyone interested in reading a portion of the new novel is directed to my website www.anthonnybruce.com or www.glendambo.com



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Great selection Gourmet Gift ideas

ADMIRAL'S SPECIALTY FOODS & SUSHI BAR
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Salt Spring Island Monetary Foundation
December 17, 2008 at 5:00 PM
8-111 Fulford-Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I cordially invite you to the annual general meeting of the Members of Salt Spring Island Monetary Foundation.

At the Annual Meeting, members will be asked to consider and vote upon the following matters:

- * Approval of the Report to Members from the Board of Directors;
- * Approval and acceptance of the financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2008
- * Election of Robert McGinn, Erin Booth and Donn Tarris as the Directors of the Society for a one-year term expiring at the fiscal 2009 Annual Meeting of Members.

Following the formal business of the Annual Meeting there will be a discussion of the future of \$\$ Dollars.
All members of the public are welcome.

Salt Spring Island Monetary Foundation William E. Krebs, CA Secretary / Treasurer
PO Box 790 Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2W3 Tel. 250.537.0999 Fax. 250.537.4902
Email: wkt@saltspringdollars.com

LIONS Santa Ship

Saturday Dec. 13th
7:00 pm Santa arrives with a fireworks display in the harbour. Then off to the Salt Spring Elementary Auditorium to distribute gifts. He'll also visit Greenwood's and Lady Minto Hospital.

sponsored by
BELLINGHAM & SSI LIONS CLUB

BCjobnetwork

PERSONAL SERVICES

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

PETS

HELP WANTED

SALES

HOLISTIC HEALTH

COMPUTER SERVICES

TELEPHONE SERVICES

PETS

PEOPLE PERSON WANTED!

Sales Assistant required for busy retail location
• Part/Full Time •
Apply in person with resume to:



SALT SPRING Coffee Co is looking for an HR Administrative Assistant with strong administrative abilities, professionalism, attention to detail and ability to work independently! Are you committed to uncompromising service and believe in our company? Experience with Excel, Word, Quickbooks and administrative procedures preferred. 16 hours/wk; wage commensurate with experience. Special project hours also likely. Please send resumes to hr@saltspringcoffee.com by Monday, Dec. 8

SALT SPRING Island Co-Op Preschool requires a Part time ECE for a temporary position from January until June 2009. Possibility for permanent position in Sept. Applicant must have ECE certificate and have a great understanding of our 'Learn Through Play' philosophy. Applicant must be able to work co-operatively with adults and have the ability to develop positive relationships with children. The position is for the four year old class. Tues. and Thurs. 8:45 to 2:30 and Wed. 12:30 to 3:30. Three meetings per month. Approximately 50 hours per month. Paid orientation and professional development. Starting rate is min. \$20.00 per hour depending on experience. Please send resumes to SSI Co-Op Preschool, 110 Aldous Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2W3 or email to little@telus.net. Interviews will start December 10th. Please call Lisa @ 250-537-8908 for more detailed information. Also accepting applicants for the sub list.

SECURITY GUARDS Required immediately in Fort St John BC. Starting Wage \$17/hour. Accommodation, meals, transportation and generous clothing allowance provided. Guards must have current Security License and Driver's License. Email resume to adrian@footprintssecurity.com

MEDICAL/DENTAL

DENTAL HYGIENIST F/T or P/T RDH needed at Nanoose Bay Dental to develop and run a periodontal program. Great communication skills & a desire to educate patients towards ideal oral health is necessary. Contact by email to: nskida@shaw.ca

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.com

CLASSIFIED HOTLINE 250-537-9933

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

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: mokultch@shaw.ca before Dec. 12.

WORK WANTED

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

AWESOME CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Hard working, reliable and efficient, basic framing, drywall, interior finishing carpentry, paint, etc. Truck and tools. Mark Bremer 250-538-7068 (cell) or 653-9366. On Island Ref's. Available for December/January

DO YOUR project before Christmas. Painting, Carpentry, Renos. Call Peter at 250-538-1952

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YARD REFUSE REMOVAL

GARDEN MAINTENANCE & BRUSH REMOVAL

WE ALSO BUY ESTATES

David: 1-250-858-1311
Office: 250-538-1971

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

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

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

SUNSET CONTRACTING

Fences, decks, carports, sheds, renovations, siding & finish carpentry. Ref's avail. Danny Stutzke 250-537-2086 or 250-537-6439
****X-mas Light Installations****

TREE SERVICES

Demolition & Hauling

Falling & bucking trees,

clearing land, brush & windfall

ALSO: DEMOLITION & HAULING

Call Gabriel 250-537-7536

PERSONAL SERVICES

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AMAZING RELIEF the first night! Restless Leg Syndrome and leg cramps gone. Sleep deeply, safe with medication, proven results guaranteed! www.alcalm.com. 1-800-765-8660.

CHANGE YOUR MIND. Change Your Life! Book your session today with Jennifer Nelson, Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist. SSI Confidential Hypnotherapy. Call 250-931-0319. www.shaktara.com

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Weddings, Parties, Birthdays. Exquisite Gourmet Food. Reasonable rates. Professional, experienced service for that special day.
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Please ring 250-537-1517

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BRAIN GYM and Specialized Kinesiology helps learning become easier and more enjoyable. Special techniques and movements "switch on"; left/right brain integration, eyes, ears and whole body co-ordination. For an appointment or information call Mariette: 250-538-1868.

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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Alberni area 250-758-1526

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DO YOU ARE you sinking in debt? 1st, 2nd & 3rd Mortgages - Bruised Credit - Bank Turndowns - Debt Consolidation - Refinancing - Power of Sale - Past Bankrupt - Home Renovations. We can lend a Hand. www.canadaland.com. Toll-free 1 (866) i CAN LEND (1-866-422-6536) CALL NOW!

LEGAL SERVICES

DIAL-A-LAW offers general information on a variety of topics on law in BC. 604-687-4680 (Lower Mainland) or 1.800.565.5297 (Outside LM); www.dialalaw.org (audio available). Lawyer Referral Service matches people with legal concerns to a lawyer in their area. Participating lawyers offer a 30 minute consultation for \$25 plus tax. Regular fees follow once both parties agree to proceed with services. 604-687-3221 (Lower Mainland) or 1.800.663.1919 (Outside LM).

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

ACCOUNTING/TAX/ BOOKKEEPING

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES available 15 years experience with SSI businesses. Please call Tamsin at 250-537-1040

CLEANING SERVICES

HARDWORKING ZEN housecleaner. Resp., reliable, focused, thorough. Eco products. Ref's. 250-538-1970

LOCAL HOUSEKEEPER available for Xmas house tidy or regular home services. Reliable & honest. Betsy 250-537-6130.

MAIDS PERSONALLY

Thorough, professional cleaning. Excellent service. Attention to detail. Dependable. Trustworthy. Bonded. References 250-537-1517.

CALL BOB McIvor for troubleshooting, software and networking support. We do house calls. 537-2827 or (cell) 538-7017. Please go and back-up your important data now!

SNEAKERS SALES SERVICE SUPPORT
#6-2353 Bevan Ave., Sidney
250-655-3566

CONCRETE & PLACING



GULF COAST MATERIALS
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OVER 10 YEARS experience in all renovations & repairs. No job is too big or small. Call Trevor (Victoria) 250-217-4610 trevhoskins@gmail.com

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.

CLASSIFIED HOTLINE 250-537-9933

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PETS

HAULING

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.

LIVESTOCK

ARAB/WELSH 14.1h., 20 yrs. Perfect child's pony; suitable for a beginner or more advanced young rider. Lovely personality. Easy keeper. Great feet. This pony is exceptionally well trained - a good jumper or could take a talented youngster to Level 1 dressage. Will not sell as a school horse. 537-0711.

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PETS

2 DOGS need a new home. Together or separately. 3 yr. old rotti-lab cross and 4 yr. old border collie cross. Both well tempered and affectionate. Free to a good home. For more information, contact Tom or Linda at 250-653-4511 or tommyj12@telus.net

ADOPT A Homeless Pet This holiday season, give the ultimate gift - save a life. Find 1000's of adoptable dogs, cats near you at Petfinder.com

ADORABLE MINI Schnauzer puppies - super cute and cuddly! Family raised and loved - vet checked, first shots. \$650. Call 250-897-0565 or 250-218-4827.

IF YOU Could talk to the animals! Study Animal Health Technology at NAIT, Fairview, Alberta campus. On-campus residences and full working farm, large and small animals. September, 2009. 1-888-999-7882.

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HOME IMPROVEMENTS

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

MY NAME is Brutus. I'm a healthy, 5 year old Yorkie/Shih Tzu male, looking for a small, healthy female to have puppies with. Your breed is not as important as your temperament and personality. I want one puppy from the litter to make part of my family. If you're interested, have your people call my people at 250-537-1775.

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

HAIER MINI bar fridge. 19x19x19 near new \$45, 250-537-1648.

ART OBJECTS

CAROL EVANS print for sale. #61/350. Beautifully framed by GI Picture Framing. Print measures 33.5" x 18.25". \$650. Can e-mail photo. Call 250-538-0052

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WINDOWS TOP grade double pane OSM 900X1600 (35 7/16 X 63 inches) and OSM 600X1500 (23 5/8 X 59 7/16 inches) clear Douglas Fir interior, white aluminum clad ext. Heat Smart Plus. One of each. Still crated. Fifty per cent OBO. Excellent for renovation. 250-537-9035

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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.

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FOOD PRODUCTS



FREE ITEMS

2 YEAR old shop vac. Has "issues". 250-537-5761.

CEDAR SHAKES, great kindling. Take all. 250-537-1408.

FREE: DELL PC, Windows, XP-pro, Word, Excel, PowerPoint & more. Monitor & keyboard. 250-537-0092.

FREE: MOVING boxes and paper for stuffing/wrapping. Very sturdy boxes, various sizes. 250-537-4622

FREE: PAIR twin bed boxsprings and mattresses. Cal 250-526-0530.

FREE TO a good home - older Singer sewing machine in cabinet, needs tension spring, works well. 250-653-2083.

FREE: TOBOGGAN, plastic, and magic carpet. Like new. 250-537-5700

FREE: WINDOWS, doors, vinyl siding, various sizes. Steve 250-537-2173

FREE: WORK bench, refrigerator, and old kitchen cupboards. 250-538-1915

FREE: YAMAHA Electone organ. Works fine. Slider knobs of all sorts reproduce many instrumental sounds. 250-653-4656

TAUPE CARPET, approx. 70 sq. ft, plus pieces and underlay. Please call 250-537-2351

THIS COLUMN is designed for free recyclable items only (no animals). There is no charge to place items in this column. Ads can be submitted in person at the Driftwood office (328 Lower Ganges Road) by normal deadline (Tuesday 10am) or by phone 537-9933, fax 537-2613 or e-mail driftwood@gulfislands.net.

FUEL/FIREWOOD

DRY SEASONED Firewood for sale, ready to burn! Call 250-537-1816 to leave a message or try me on my cell 250-537-0239. \$250/cord split and delivered.

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APPLIANCES

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FURNITURE

CHESTERFIELD & loveseat, light blue/grey & dusty rose, puffy pillow style, great cond. \$400 250-537-9583

GARAGE SALES

APARTMENT SALE 167 Rainbow Road, Saturday, December 6: Antique desk, tools, a bit of everything, lighten my load. 250-931-1124.

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.

RECYCLE THIS Xmas, Spend less on home furnishings, Accessories, Mattresses & Tools! Cheval & wall mirrors, coffee & sofa/hall tables, lamps, plant stands, nesting tables, curio & china cabinets, lingerie & jewelry cabinets, footstools, desks, bookcases, TV stands, armoires, more! Truckloads new & used mattresses on sale. Carpenter, mechanic and power tools, all cheap! BUY & SAVE 9818 4th St, Sidney. buyandsave.ca

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

SHOPRIDER DELUXE 4Wheel Scooter Canopy, cover & battery charger. Perfect cond. Inquiries welcome. Will deliver \$2000. 537-9557 / 537-6947

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

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

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

BISTRO TABLE, maple top, 36" diameter, 40" high, & two stools with leatherette seats, \$250. Chess set: Unique rural theme with ceramic pieces. From American Gothic King & Queen 4" high pieces to 3" high "outhouse" pcs for castles, to chickens as pawns. Board is 23" square. This makes for a great gift, \$125. 250-537-1352.

APPLIANCES

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

CEDAR SHAKES different grades. Large clear cedar slabs for tables, mantles. Will also custom cut your wood. 250-538-8733

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

FREE SPIRIT Electronic Treadmill, excellent condition \$300. Man's brown suede jacket, new, never worn size M \$75. Call 250-537-5268

GEMSTONE COLLECTION \$200; 12 string guitar w/case \$200 obo. Native art, painted skull, grizzly rug, drums, rattles prices vary. 250-537-7235

GREAT HOLIDAY Savings! #1 online Shopping Mall One Stop Shopping: Wal-Mart, PetSmart, i-Tunes, Macy's, Dicks, NBA Store, Toys-R-Us, 1-800-Flowers, Hallmark, many more!! Visit www.savedirectbuy.com.

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

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

RECYCLE THIS Xmas, Spend less on home furnishings, Accessories, Mattresses & Tools! Cheval & wall mirrors, coffee & sofa/hall tables, lamps, plant stands, nesting tables, curio & china cabinets, lingerie & jewelry cabinets, footstools, desks, bookcases, TV stands, armoires, more! Truckloads new & used mattresses on sale. Carpenter, mechanic and power tools, all cheap! BUY & SAVE 9818 4th St, Sidney. buyandsave.ca

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

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WOODEN BUNKBEDS (Jusk) \$100; computer desk (Costco) \$100, lift chair \$300, electric Nordic track \$50; child's Ikea wardrobe \$40. 250-537-9309

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

WANTED: INVERSION table. Please call 250-537-1291

WANTED: USED 40' shipping container for storage on Salt Spring. Please call 778-840-2390 or email: ephannah@shaw.ca

SPORTING GOODS

LADIES SKI package: Volk V 1.20 skis/poles, Marker bindings, Dalbello size 8? boots \$350. 250-537-1648

REAL ESTATE

APARTMENT/CONDOS

APARTMENT BUILDING 15,000 sq.ft, 15 units in beautiful Gold River, Nootka Sound. Buy a home and business for \$975,000. Toll free # 1-888-709-0884 www.usellahome.com ID# 4656

APARTMENT/CONDOS

CONDOMINIUM FOR Sale. Mountain View Over 55 Complex. Campbell River, BC. 2nd floor, 2 bdrm, 2 bath corner suite with beautiful view of mountains. 5 appliances, underground parking available. Priced below October 31, 2008 appraisal. More info 250-923-3403 (250-287-1474 cell.)

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

700+ SQ FT One level corner unit at Merchant Mews: Unit 17 fully finished with 3 piece washroom. Quality display showroom. \$198,000. Call 250-537-1408 Duart Campbell

FOR SALE BY OWNER

LEASE-TO-PURCHASE properties available in all price ranges throughout the Greater Victoria Area. Contact janwall@oakgrove.ca.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

REAL ESTATE listings for the Gulf Islands are viewable anywhere in the world with internet access. www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

REPOSSESSED PRE-FAB HOMES!! Save 50%+!!!! Canada manufacturer's USA order cancellations. Brand new 1260SF pre-engineered package originally \$29,950.00, liquidation \$14,975.00! Other sizes - sacrifice prices! Green-R-Panel Building Systems: 1-800-871-7089. FALL/SPRING DELIVERY AVAILABLE!

RENTALS

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.

IN GOVERNMENT bldg, 1357 sq. ft. for lease. Can accommodate variety of uses. Ample parking, wheel chair accessible. Richard, 537-2239.

COTTAGES

NEAR GANGES - Cabin for rent - 2 bedroom, 700sq/ft cabin, newly renovated; hardwood floors; Quiet, shared acreage; 4.5km south of Ganges; Shaw cable/internet. \$850 plus utils. Available now, longterm. 653-4761

ST. MARY LAKE 2 BDRM furnished cottages from \$700/mo. N/P, N/S, avail Nov 1- Apr 1. 250-537-2585.

DUPLEXES/4PLEXES

OCEAN VIEW - For Rent: Available Immediately Beautiful 1000 sq/ft 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, on 1 acre with ocean view, Hardwood and newly renovated. Fridge, Stove, Micro, W/D. Long term tenancy preferred. NS/NP. \$900/mo plus share utilities 537-1741 or 403-233-9298

HOUSE SITTING

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

HOUSE SITTER WANTED for Jan. 24 to Feb. 27. Rustic south end home. Wood heat, free rent in exchange for looking after 2 cats. 250-653-9475.

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

1 BDRM, shared property, ground level, wheelchair accessible, open plan. 3 pce. bath, 2 appl., w/d, hardwood floors, electric & wood heat, covered decks. Quiet neighbourhood. Close to town & bus route. Cable, wireless int. & water included \$1000 + hydro/ mo. Suits single, NP, NS, Ref's. Avail. Jan 1/09. 250-537-6130.

2 BEDROOM townhouse, newly renovated, new washer, dryer, fridge, stove, 2 bathrooms. Available immed. \$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

AVAILABLE JANUARY 1st: Lovely cozy cottage with sleeping loft suitable for ONE QUIET mature responsible person. Wood floors, skylights, walk to town (10min.), N/S, Washer, Hydro incl. No dogs. Long term only. Ref's. Shared driveway. \$750/month. Evenings only between 6:30-8:30 pm. 250-537-4155

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

HOMES FOR RENT

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 OVER 55, 2 BDRM, 1.5 bath, 1100 sq.ft., N/S, N/P, large private lot with SW exposure, bright l-shaped kitchen, dining, living, and utility room for \$1000/mo. Reply to Box 27 at the Driftwood.

CHURCHILL ROAD: beautiful house on gorgeous property for rent. Master bedroom plus den and guest room. Large kitchen with island counter, 2 bathrooms, front loading W/D, huge front porch, enclosed back porch, D/W, large living room, fireplace, wood stove, H/W floors. Ocean/harbour views, minutes walk to beach. Suits couple. Long term, lease. N/S, N/P. \$1250 plus util's. January 1, Ref's. Call 250-537-9787

GANGES HARBOUR VIEW. As new, spacious, 3 bdrm, 3 bath., with dble garage, and low maint. garden. Craftsman quality throughout: hardwood floors, fir doors & trims, 9' ceilings & more. Ideal layout, will accommodate in-laws or home based business. Long term avail., incl. all appliances & bonus for early occupancy. \$1950. 250-537-2716.

HOUSE SUBLET: Jan. - March incl. Quiet, NE 2 bdrm, 2 bath, W/D, wood heat, cat. \$500/mo. & approx. \$200/mo. util's. N/S, no partying. Ref's & damage dep. 250-537-4077

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

HOMES FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

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2 bedroom high end townhouse, Summerside \$1350

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ROYAL Property Management Ltd.

2 BDRM 1 BATH acreage lake view cls to town elec heat NS NP \$1000. + util Mid Island 116552

4 BDRM 2 BTHRM 2 appl older home acreage private wood stove/electric NS \$1500. + util South End 116154

2 BDRM 1BTHRM 4 appl elect heat new lower level suite NS NP \$1500. +% util South End 116153

STUDIO STYLE COTTAGE shared property 2 appl shrd laundry wd stove + elect NS NP \$875 +% util Mid Island 91391

2 BDRM 2BTHRM 4 appl wd stve + elect avail now with lese NS NP \$875 + util Mid Island 68391

LOWER SUITE 2 APPL up level mature tenant 1 bdrm shwr only shared laundry new construction NS NP \$ 800. + %util Mid Island 98381

2 BDRM 3 BTHRM with lower suite 5 appl elect heat ocean view cls to town NS NP \$ 1900. + util Mid Island 114284

2 BDRM 1 BTHRM recent reno 4 appl country setting NS NP \$1175. + util Mid Island 114285

2 BDRM 1 BTHRM lakeview mth to mth older hme new renos avail now 4 appl NS NP \$1000. + util Mid Island 113967

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RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

SIMPLE ACCOMMODATION, small trailer, water, elec., kitchen, out house, poss. work opp., central, \$425/mo 250-653-9898.

SEASONAL ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION for the Gulf Islands is a mouse-click away. www.gulfislands.net.

SHARED ACCOMMODATION

LOOKING FOR roommate to share home. \$350. Call Liz at 250-930-6822

SHARED, TEMPORARY housing (males only), \$375 incl. Near Ganges. No drugs or alcohol. Please call 250-920-5056.

SUITES, LOWER

1150 SQ. FT. 2 BDRM ground floor of house in Vesuvius. Available now to responsible client. Natural setting, internet avail. \$975/mo. plus utils. Lease. Phone 250-537-2809.

1 BDRM suite on Cusheon Lake, NS, NP, W/D. Long term renter wanted, references req'd. \$750/month. plus hydro. 250-653-4868.

LARGE 1 BR, bright, clean and modern, ground level suite avail. long-term for quiet adult. Private entrance. Vesuvius area. W/D. NS. Refs., \$725. Avail. now. 250-537-6984.

OCEAN FRONTAGE - LARGE and BRIGHT self contained 1200 sq/ft studio style with washer, dryer, four piece bath, fireplace, convenience kitchen, hi speed internet, cable. Ocean frontage on Fernwood bus route. Covered parking. NS. NP. \$925. 250-537-9035.

VESUVIUS BACHELOR Main floor self-contained suite, priv. entrance, sundeck, ADSL wireless, Sat TV, incl's utils. Nov to May. \$550/mo. Call 250-537-9169.

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2 GOODYEAR snow tires. Still lots of tread. M/S 225 \$75 ea. 250-537-2778

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CARS

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1993 HONDA Accord, 4-door, 4-cyl, neat & clean, reliable, good on gas, peppy, \$4000. 250-537-4155

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CARS

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1996 INTERNATIONAL School Bus, low kms, 36 Passenger. For further information contact Peter Skilton, Operations Supervisor, School District 84, Gold River, 250-283-2241.

MOTORCYCLES

ELECTRIC SCOOTER, 2008 Commuter, 80 km, paid \$1800, sacrifice \$1200. Must See. Call 250-931-1124



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TRUCKS & VANS

1989 TOYOTA Hiace, 31K, seats 6, pick-up. R.H.D., 1.8L gas engine, \$6900. 250-537-3077.

1994 SAFARI 8 passenger van, AWD, great for skiing and winter driving. \$2800. 250-537-2571.

2001 DODGE Grand Caravan Sport, 115K, green, extra set wheels & rims. Centre console. New trans. \$8000. 250-537-0721.

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This Week's *Horoscope* by Michael O'Connor

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Do you feel the power? This could prove to be the beginning of a major assertion in your life. That it may also come with some measurable changes is the other side of the coin. If you can accept and work with both then you are in a good position. Your desire to expand is probable and you are engaged in thought, word and deed. Reaching out for more knowledge, education and skills remains a good idea. Charge!

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)
Changes in what you perceive to be true are coming in strong now. Prior beliefs, attitudes, convictions and the like are up for review. Others may be presenting these challenges. If you can engage cooperatively without excess defence then you are probably on track. Anyway, check and re-check your facts. On the other hand, if even they are subject to scrutiny, then you are on a roll. See power in a calm, open mind.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)
The time has come to join forces. Whose team do you want to be on? This could imply involvement with major organizations or could simply represent the need for more cooperative efforts. Where you have shown kindness in the past, rewarding returns are coming your way. If you feel you are getting the short stick or painfully poked, take some time to review the quality of your overall attitude, approach and style.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)
Shifts and shakes are evident everywhere now. This could be just the opportunity you have been wanting. Certain areas of your life are deepening, others changing, while others ending altogether. Fortunately, opportunity is knocking. Your response will require intelligent action. Learning and training is implied. Set your intentions to focus and follow through with diligence. Act on your intuitions!

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)
The time has come to pay extra attention to the details. This will prove to bring your skills and abilities to a much higher level. You have some work to do and wisdom will have you diligently focused over the next two months, especially. Clean-up your act and get ready to reach out to and/or meet a wider audience. Outline your dreams, goals, plans and strategies and enjoy the follow through process.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)
Your power potential is growing steadily now. Inspiring opportunities are coming your way, as well. Staying close to home and/or feeling that you are connected to your core somehow, is important to you. This includes honouring your resourcefulness. Variety is the spice, so why get too focused in any one area, method or approach? Aim to express a balanced spectrum of skills and expressions.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)
Some major forces of change are shaking you at core levels. You may feel mixed about it ñ partly glad and partly mad. Reconciling these two emotions can prove confusing. Part of the answer is to surrender, to let go of control. Flow with and cooperate as you can. Consider whatever is happening is somehow happening for you (us). That can be a stretch to believe. See a bigger picture because ðthe lord works in mysterious ways.í

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Is opportunity knocking or are you perhaps in hot pursuit of opportunity? Either way, you will be challenged to keep a very open mind. You may be offered or discover openings that require important changes. Now is a good time to gather and take stock of all your assets ñ money, holdings, knowledge etcetera. Above all, honour your individuality and inventive ingenuity. See yourself and the world and in the world in new ways!

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Exploring new territory is keeping you busy now. You stand to feel clear and strong about your objectives. Your focus is pointed now and you feel good about that. At worst, you may either be too opinionated or too resistant. However, standing for and asserting what you deem truthful and important will feel right. Keep an open mind all the while and honour the process. One step at a time! O.K. big steps.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
With Pluto now in your sign joining forces with Venus and Jupiter, you will be hurdling obstacles, disarming your opponents and breaking through any walls restricting you. If you are not already fully active in this regard, you may be wondering how exactly you will be. It may take until the Sun enters Capricorn in a couple of weeks or your birthday, but there is some big push for change here now so engage consciously.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)
The change for you is happening deep within. It may not seem so obvious to others but for you it will feel major. Accessing a fuller measure of faith may feel necessary and will prove helpful. I am referring to faith in the natural processes of life. This includes periodically clearing out at subconscious levels. How this can occur is another question. For now, simply be willing!

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Returns are now coming your way. You will soon learn where you have been diligent and where you have not. Your ideals and convictions are growing, but be careful not to ðshouldí on everyone. If and when you feel the urge to ðshouldí listen to your own advice and get going. This is a call to lead by example. Also, allow others their roles, opinions and follies. As for your career, aim to advance and proceed with intelligent diligence, now!



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Salt Spring's U13 boys Oasis had a couple of tough outings in their first weekend of gold play, facing both Gorge and Peninsula's top teams.

Salt Spring kicked off against Gorge on their home field mid-day Saturday, a rare outing on the artificial turf.

From the opening whistle, it was evident that gold soccer was a big jump for the boys, who had become comfortable playing, and winning, at the silver level. The Oasis were able to keep the strong Gorge side off the scoreboard for about 10 minutes, but gave up four goals in the first half.

Second-half action continued in the same fashion, despite some strong saves by keeper Eldin Miller-Stead. The defensive core, led by Forest Junker-Allen, stayed strong, but the mid-field transition came up short, leading to plenty of scoring chances for Gorge. The only Oasis goal came late on an unassisted marker by Lukas Wenzel, whose strong shot got through the keeper's hands. The game finished 9-1.

The second outing was no easier,

SOCCERKICKS

facing league-leading Peninsula Phantoms. Alex Graham had a strong game in defence, all but neutralizing Peninsula's top scorer. However, the Phantoms had many other weapons in their offensive arsenal, taking a 4-0 lead into half-time.

Second-half action saw strong play by Sam Montalbetti, who stepped seamlessly into a defensive role. Again, however, Peninsula was too strong for the Oasis on this day, finishing the contest 9-0.

• Salt Spring's U12 boys silver team travelled off island this weekend to the swanky new turf fields in Langford to meet Juan de Fuca.

Salt Spring dominated play, with three goals each from Gabe Gold, Nick Pringle and Thomas Weatherby, two each from Johnny Klassen and Matt Mason, and one from Johnny Caron.

At the time of printing, it is alleged

that not all of the goals did in fact count, so the actual score may have a slightly lower outcome. Goaltending was shared by Caron, Weatherby and Mason, with little action seen by any of them, and no balls hitting the back of the Salt Spring net.

Rory Johnson was consistently solid in mid-field and instrumental in moving much of the action forward, while Matt Traer was "defence personified," not allowing any offensive players to get past him.

• Salt Spring's U16 girls took to the field at Lambton Middle School against Bays United Spartans Saturday afternoon, winning a close match, 1-0.

Despite the cold and the fog, the Salt Spring girls took control early in the first half. With great runs up the wings by Becky Edwards and Clover Fedoriuk-Russell, many chances arose. But it was the determination of Kai Fishleigh that nailed the only goal of the game.

With the second half came more great opportunities from Liz Fennell,

and critical defence from Tilly Morgan and Christine Villadsen. Keeper Megan Jarman got the shut-out.

Next week the U16 girls go against Sooke in a game which is sure to be heated and will be important to where the girls find themselves in the standings.

• The boys U15 Salt Spring Storm won their fourth straight game since moving up to silver from the bronze division.

The team travelled to Duncan to defeat the Cowichan Silverbacks 4-0.

Byron Mussell earned his first shut-out of the year with the help of strong defensive efforts from Cory Miles, Leh Smallshaw, Kyle Yun and Torin McIvor.

Storm's offence clearly over-matched the Silverbacks' defence and despite many offside calls, goals were scored by Luc Comeau (two), Armando Rivero Morineau and Paul Jordan.

Strong mid-field play rounded out a good team effort.

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GISS VOLLEYBALL

Scorpions rally for 8th-spot finish

Senior boys face tough competition at provincials

BY SUSAN LUNDY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) senior boys volleyball team faced highs, lows and some squeaky-tight matches to secure an eighth-place finish in the AA Provincial Volleyball Championships last week in Kelowna.

The finish, which marked an improvement from the team's pre-championship ranking of ninth, wrapped up one of the high school's most successful volleyball seasons ever.

After winning the north island and Vancouver Island AA championships last month, the boys travelled to Kelowna for the province-wide event, which ran last Wednesday to Saturday.

Head coach Kellie Booth said the team completed round-robin play on Wednesday with an 11th-place finish overall.

GISS defeated Mt. Sentinel in its first match (25-18, 25-20), and then dropped two games to Pacific Christian (26-24, 25-17) and Fernie (26-24, 25-20).

By Thursday morning, Booth said, "the boys had caught up on their sleep" in time for one of the most exciting games of the tournament as they faced off against sixth-seeded Templeton.

"In a thrilling, five-set match," Booth said, "the Scorpions won the first two games, dropped the next two and then fought hard to earn a 19-17 victory in the final over Templeton." (Scores for the matches were: 25-23, 25-19, 20-25, 21-25, 19-17.)

The win sent the GISS team to the quarter-finals against second-seeded Langley Christian.

Booth said the boys started their quarter-final match extremely strong, running up a 10-4 lead over Langley, which eventually won tournament bronze.

The game took a turn for the worse, however, when GISS's crucial middle-blocker Chris Howe aggravated a knee injury sustained at the Vancouver Island championships and had to bow out of the rest of the competition.

"While the team gave it their all," Booth said, "they were unable to shut down the Langley offence without the services of Howe patrolling the net and they lost the match [25-19, 25-12, 25-18]."

"They were so in control up to that point."

On Friday, the Scorpions took on College Heights from Prince George but were unable to grasp victory in a very tight match, 25-27, 27-25, 15-13.

Saturday morning the boys lost their final game of the tournament to Fernie, finishing eighth overall.

While disappointed with the end result, Booth said, the boys can be proud of



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

GISS senior boys volleyball players Casey Knight (left) and Cole Wrigley go for the ball at the net during the provincial championships in Kelowna.

their achievements this season.

"Winning both the north islands and islands for the first time and finishing eighth in the province are significant milestones for the senior boys volleyball program."

Mennonite Educational Institute of Abbotsford, which won gold at the event, has taken the top spot six out of the last seven years. Fraser Valley Christian won silver. Other Vancouver Island AA teams advancing to provincials included Mark Isfeld and Pacific Christian. They tied

for 15th spot.

In the AAA provincial event, Dover Bay from Nanaimo placed seventh; Oak Bay took 15th and G.P. Vanier placed 17th.

Booth said the 2009 GISS team will see four returning players (Casey Knight, Evan Henshall, Graham Wrigley and Drew Storey) as the Scorpions look to match the success of the 2008 team.

Grade 12 squad members this year included: Stewart Garside, Hal Cook, David Outerbridge, Chris Howe, Cole Wrigley, Cayce Fedberg and James Cameron.

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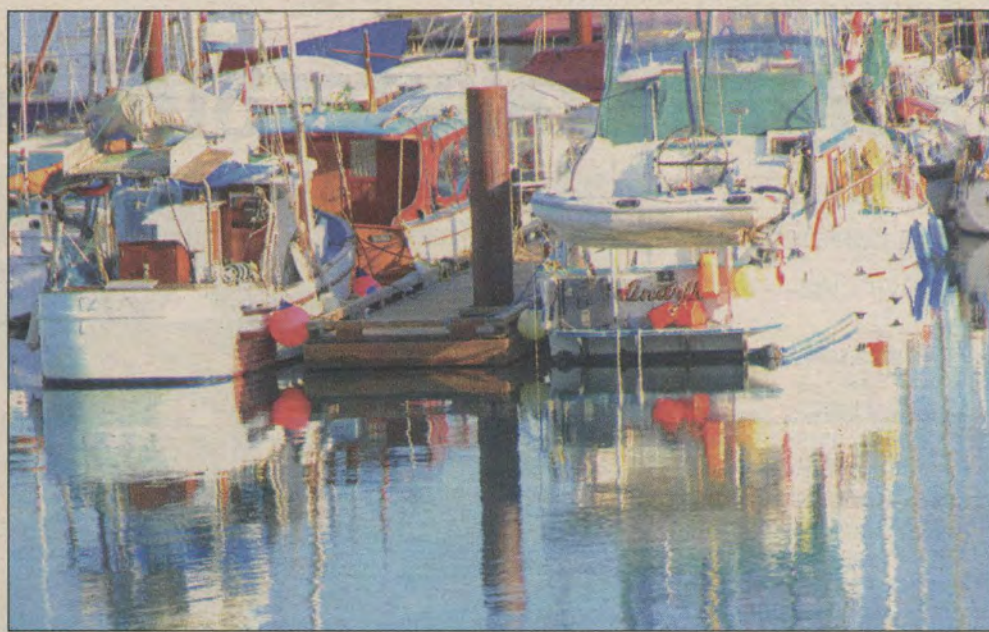


PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

UPON A PAINTED SEA: Boats anchored at a dock in Ganges Harbour.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Dragons outscore Bays

Team reclaims offensive kick

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After a couple of lacklustre outings, the Salt Spring Dragons women's soccer team regained its footing on Sunday by defeating Bays United 5-2.

"It was a really good game," said team spokesperson Joanne O'Connor. "We kept the momentum going the entire time."

A young and energetic Bays United team took the early lead, only to have the Dragons respond with three

consecutive first-half goals. "We really answered back," O'Connor said.

Lorna Walde, Carolyn Flam and Cheryle Johnson each notched a single goal thanks to some quick and accurate passing in the Bays United zone.

O'Connor and Liz Wilson scored in the second half to put the game well out of reach of the over-powered Bays United players.

"We always had forwards right in their box. We were really on them from the beginning," she said. "This wasn't a case of a lot of missed chances."

Keeper Kym Bellavance

made some incredible saves for the Dragons along the road to victory.

"Her hands were just magic," O'Connor said.

The victory leaves the Dragons tied for fourth position in Division 3 of the Lower Island Women's Soccer League with 17 points.

The team's next outing is an all-important match-up against second-place Vic West (7-4-1) on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 12:30 p.m. on the lower field at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

The Dragons tied Vic West 2-2 in a previous game this season.

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