



Grace Point Square struck. **PAGE 2**

# Christmas stories

Driftwood contest winners. **PAGES 18-24**



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# NEWSBEAT

## FIRE



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Firefighters straddle piles of snow as they try to stop a utility bunker fire from spreading at Grace Point Square in Ganges.

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Keith Oliver

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DEC	TIME	HEIGHT m ft	TIME	HEIGHT m ft	
24	05:17	3.3 10.8	28	07:28	3.5 11.5
WE	09:34	3.1 10.2	SU	12:50	3.0 9.8
	12:41	3.2 10.5		15:16	3.1 10.2
	21:07	0.5 1.6		23:23	0.4 1.3
25	05:53	3.4 11.2	29	07:54	3.5 11.5
TH	10:44	3.1 10.2	MO	13:30	2.9 9.5
	13:17	3.1 10.2		15:55	3.0 9.8
	21:41	0.4 1.3		23:55	0.5 1.6
26	06:27	3.5 11.5	30	08:18	3.5 11.5
FR	11:33	3.1 10.2	TU	14:13	2.8 9.2
	13:57	3.1 10.2		16:38	2.8 9.2
	22:15	0.4 1.3			
27	06:59	3.5 11.5			
SA	12:12	3.0 9.8			
	14:37	3.1 10.2			
	22:49	0.4 1.3			

# Grace Point blast stuns onlookers

Fire crews contain transformer explosion

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As if the weekend's snowfall wasn't enough to complicate things for last-minute shoppers and holiday travellers, islanders venturing into Ganges on Monday morning were greeted by a scene more akin to a disaster area than a winter wonderland.

Fire broke out in a small utility bunker housing an electrical transformer at Grace Point Square seconds after a large explosion echoed through the village core just before 10 a.m.

To witness Arlo McGowan, who was across town when he heard the blast, it was as though a bomb had gone off.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Auntie Pesto's co-owner Shawn Walton in his drenched cafe.

"I could feel it way over at Embe [Bakery]," he said. "It was like a bomb or something out of the war. You could feel the concussion in the air."

Bruce Beattie heard the explosion from Centennial Park where he and a friend were conversing.

"All of a sudden, the [power] pole about 15 feet away from us just seemed to explode with a really loud bang," he said.

Within seconds of the explosion, thick black smoke could be seen billowing from the utility bunker adjacent to the Frankly Scarlet jewel-

lery and art objects store. A large crowd of onlookers, many of whom had been evacuated from the Grace Point Square complex earlier that morning due to concerns about the structure's electrical system, looked on as fire, ambulance and RCMP personnel attended the scene.

Salt Spring Fire Rescue captain Dale Lundy said the specific cause of the fire is under investigation, but added it may have begun when water pouring into The Upstairs Bears shop and then Auntie Pesto's restaurant through the ceiling caused a short-circuit in the building's electrical system.

Lundy said fire crews devoted most of their attention to preventing the fire from spreading to any exposed surfaces on the main building.

FIRE continued on 4

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### ISLANDS TRUST

# Economist calls on Trust to reduce spending

Proposed 4.5 per cent tax increase up for debate

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A resident of Passage Island in Howe Sound is calling on the Islands Trust to cut spending because of the current economic crisis.

Ken White, a retired University of British Columbia economics professor, said the Trust must consider a freeze on hiring new staff, eliminating unnecessary programs and limiting spending on special projects and official community plans in light of the "hard times" being experienced by islanders throughout the Islands Trust region.

He has also called upon trustees and Islands Trust management to consider rolling back their salaries to 2006 levels.

"The major issue is that everybody is going to have to cut back," White said. "Local governments can't do what they've done in the boom times."

He'd also like to see trustees figure out how to reduce the travel expenses incurred by trustees and staff travelling between islands.

To make matters worse, White added, Islands Trust budget increases over the past several years have been disproportionately higher than most other local government bodies in the province.

"It is the most expensive planning department in B.C. by far," he said.

White's comments coincide with a preliminary 2009-2010 budget forecast that anticipates a 4.5 per cent increase in Trust-bound property taxes. Early projections place the 2009-10 budget at \$6,442,099, up from \$6.16 million in 2008-09.

According to Islands Trust treasurer Craig Elder, the word "preliminary" is the operative concept when examining budget predictions.

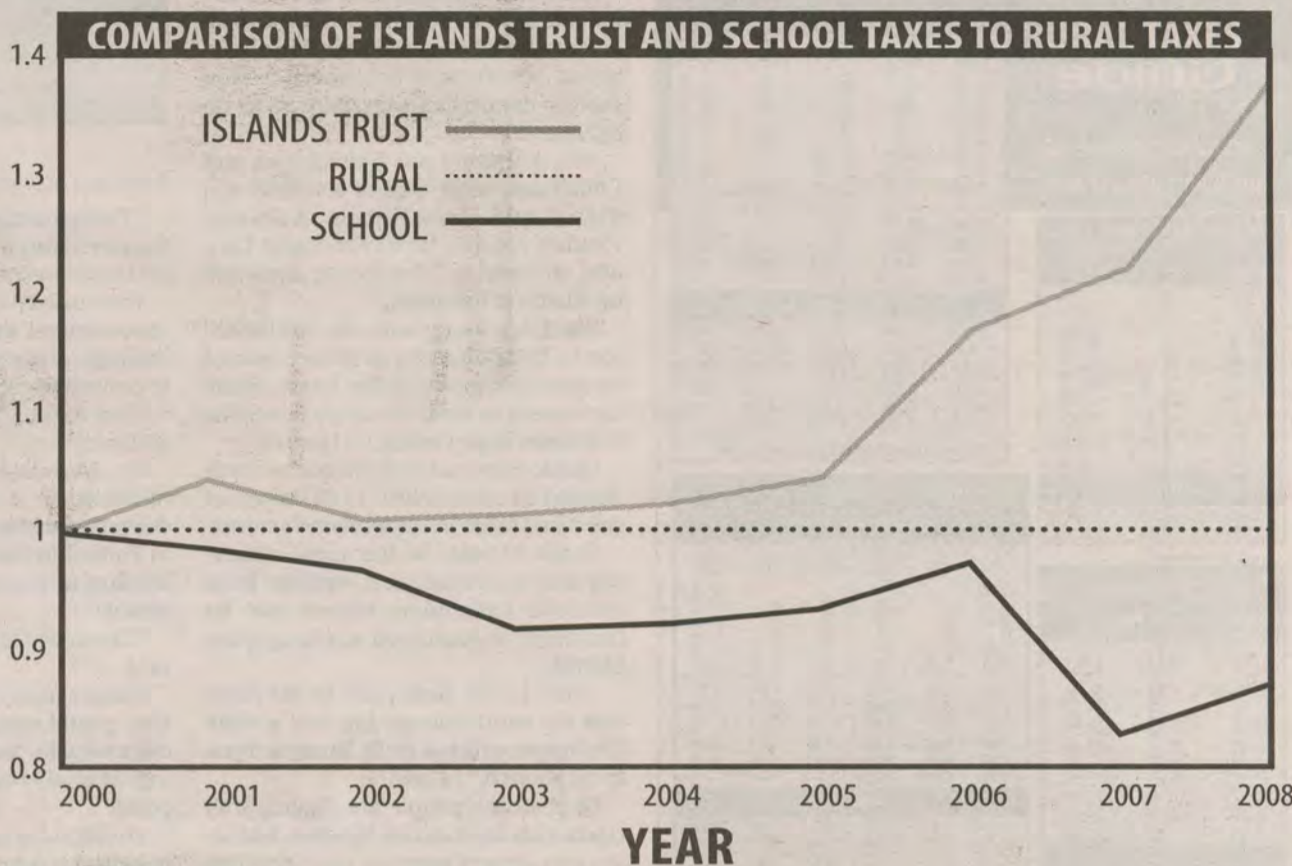
In an interview on Friday, Elder noted that figures are especially liable to change in the wake of Trust elections held in November.

With newly elected trustees and financial planning committee members, a different set of players will be crunching the numbers when the committee meets in January.

"They recognize that we are in economic turmoil and they don't want to make things any worse," Elder said.

During their quarterly Trust Council meeting in Victoria earlier this month, trustees passed a motion calling on the financial planning committee to consider measures that could see property taxes limited to the annual rate of inflation or even reduced to zero per cent.

With much of the 4.5 per cent increase coming from staffing increases, Elder said the best way to minimize financial



GRAPH BY KEN WHITE

Retired economist Ken White has tracked the relationship between provincial rural taxes, the Islands Trust tax rates and those levied by West Vancouver School District No. 45. According to his data, Islands Trust property tax increases since 2000 are nearly 40 per cent higher than rural tax levels.

burdens on Trust-area taxpayers would be to look at service cuts.

"When you reduce budgets it means reducing services, so there's a balance that has to be made," he said. "It's a matter of looking at everything. In my view, the best thing is relatively small cuts in numerous areas [as opposed to cutting entire programs]."

Considering that the economic slowdown could mean fewer development-related applications passing through Trust offices, Elder said, the next few years could prove an excellent opportunity to accomplish significant work on community plans and land-use bylaws (LUB).

According to those preliminary figures, \$159,500 is dedicated to OCP/LUB matters, including \$75,000 earmarked for phase two of Salt Spring's OCP review and initial work on

the island's LUB.

Taxpayers will have their say regarding the Trust's proposed budget through a public consultation process in March.

Though the proposed figures may be different, White said it's pretty much guaranteed that the current economic conditions will remain the same.

He said it is up to individual island taxpayers to speak up and let their elected officials know the time has come to tighten spending.

"This is a challenge to the new Islands Trust Council," White wrote in a letter to council. "To ignore the economic reality and pass any tax increase at all to islanders would be shocking, shameful and irresponsible."

He has not yet received a response.

## News briefs

### Fewer sailings on Christmas, New Year's

BC Ferries customers are reminded that a handful of regular sailings are cancelled on routes serving the Gulf Islands during the holiday season.

On Thursday, Dec. 25, and Thursday, Jan. 1, service will begin with the 7:50 a.m. sailing from Fulford Harbour and the 9 a.m. sailing from Swartz Bay.

In other words, the 6:15

a.m. Fulford and 7 a.m. Swartz Bay sailings are cancelled.

Between Crofton and Vesuvius, the first three and last three sailings of the day from both terminals are not available on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

The first sailings leave from Vesuvius at 9 a.m. and the last one is at 5 p.m.

For travellers heading to Pender Island from Swartz Bay on Christmas or New Year's days, the first sailing is at 8:35 a.m.; it's 9 a.m. for Saturna and Mayne-bound travellers; and the

first sailing to Galiano Island from Swartz is at 10:20 a.m.

For more information about BC Ferries schedules, including updated service notices, visit [www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com).

### Feeders aid overwintering hummers

A North Beach Road resident learned last week that the hummingbirds are hungry too.

Ling Weston was trim-

ming some foliage outside on her property on Thursday when a big hummingbird buzzed by.

"So I quickly put out the hummingbird feeder. Since then I've had three or four."

Weston has two feeders and ensured one was filled and ready to go by the time the liquid in the other one became frozen.

She believes the birds are overwintering Anna's hummingbirds.

Weston recommends making the mixture a little stronger than in spring and summer months. She also

hangs her feeders in a more sheltered place.

Other islanders have reported hummingbird sightings to the Driftwood in the past two weeks.

### On the cover

As is the Driftwood tradition, this week's cover art is provided by the winner of the annual Christmas issue cover design art competition.

Salt Spring Arts Council manager Vivienne Pearson and wildlife photographer Shel Neufeld judged the entries provided by Gulf

Islands Secondary School art students, with a little tie-breaking help from an informal WinterCraft counter poll.

No name was initially attached to the running shoe entry, but some sleuthing revealed that it was the work of Grade 10 student Sofia Sherrin, who wins \$50 from the Driftwood.

Other students earning kudos from Pearson and Neufeld for their cover designs were Justin Rainsford, Alix Wilson, Teagan Taylor and a student named Freddie.

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#### 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. Fullard Hall	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fullard 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

### WEATHER

# Winter wallop buries islanders

More snow and rain in forecast

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After the weekend's 38-hour snowfall left little doubt that winter arrived on Salt Spring in grand style, an island-based severe-weather watcher says mother nature has even more tricks up her sleeve.

"It's definitely not finished yet and I don't care what kind of a vehicle you drive," said Drew Watson, a severe-weather watcher for Environment Canada, on Tuesday. "The driving is just hell on wheels at this point."

Black ice along with an additional five to 10 centimetres of snow expected by mid-Wednesday is the latest winter excitement to befall the island since the first flakes began falling on Dec. 13.

On Monday morning, Watson's records showed 34 centimetres (13.26 inches) of snow had fallen in the weekend's storm.

In the 10 years he has spent observing and recording local weather from his Cedar Lane home, Watson said, he has never encountered anything quite like this.

"This is the first time in 40 years that the entire country has had a white Christmas, which is really fantastic if you think about it," he said.

By the time people are digging into cold turkey sandwiches, however, islanders can expect warmer temperatures and widespread melting to add a new series of challenges.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

A familiar scene across the island

"The warming trend has begun so now we are looking at the flip side of the coin and concern about flooding," he said.

Watson advised people to face their snow shovel one last time to create drainage channels around their homes to prevent water from building up.

"Just make sure it doesn't all go into your neighbour's yard," he said.

On Monday, weather conditions remained so severe that a Canada Post delivery truck failed to make the trip over to Fulford in time for Monday's deliveries due to heavy snow on Vancouver Island.

"There was nothing to deliver," she said.

Ganges postmistress Lynda Traer said that postal workers using four-wheel drive vehicles had few problems delivering the mail to island residents until that point.

The Monday morning mail truck finally arrived at 6 p.m., with workers coming in early Tuesday morning to tackle the late load.

## Power outage could continue for some

### FIRE

continued from 2

"I'm pretty confident protecting the exposure saved the building," he said, adding that the Frankly Scarlet store sustained no damage in the incident.

Before the explosion, however, staff at Auntie Pesto's spent the morning clearing out whatever food, beverages and equipment could be salvaged from the flood. Much of the food was delivered to people in need via the Copper Kettle Community Partnership group.

A sign on the cafe door posted Monday afternoon reads: "Closed due to total destruction. Have a happy holiday."

Michael Lalonde, the owner of Parkside News, said he was given notice to evacuate soon after electrical devices in his shop began emitting black smoke.

"We all had to grab what we could and get out," he said.

By Monday afternoon, Lalonde was one of the few businesses in the square that had reopened for business.

"I have to be here. I've got to pay the bills," he said, adding that he will operate by candlelight if need be. "I'm just trying to do whatever I can do."

Lalonde said he had spent the past seven nights at his business since he cannot afford to risk being snowed in and closing the shop.

"Even without all this this morning, it was already a disaster," he said. "It's devastating."

According to Rick Bissett, the foreman of a BC Hydro crew working on the scene Monday, the complex could be without power until Wednesday afternoon. Crews' top priority, he added, was restoring power to residents living in the Grace Point condominiums.

Traer said workers should be able to get caught up with the backlog by the end of today (Wednesday, Dec. 24).

Salt Spring Search and Rescue's Chuck Hamilton said volunteers equipped with four-wheel drives remain on stand-by to assist ambulance crews in the event of a medical emergency.

So far, he said, there has been a surprisingly low demand for his group's assistance.

"I'm actually surprised that we haven't been called," he said. "The road crews have been fantastic."

For those who are stuck on the island's smaller roads, Hamilton said, the best thing to do is to remain at home if you don't need to travel.

He called on neighbours to check up on each other and consider carpooling if they need to get supplies.

"This is a great time to help people out," he said. "It's a great opportunity to build community."

BC Hydro spokesperson Ted Olynk said more than 1,700 customers on the Gulf Islands were without power during the storm's peak. By Monday, off-island crews helped restore power to at least 1,500 customers.

As of Tuesday, isolated outages remained in effect throughout Salt Spring's south end and around Grace Point Square.

Olynk reminds people to conserve energy over the next several days as the power grid is stressed by weather conditions and the spike in demand as more people regain access to electricity.

BC Hydro spokesperson Ted Olynk said rerouting of the electrical supply meant power to most businesses in the Ganges core was restored within hours of the incident.

Uli Temmel, Salt Spring's senior Capital Regional District building inspector, said on Tuesday that it could be two or three days before power is restored and things return to normal at the complex, which also houses the government liquor store.

An electrical inspector from the government agent's office in Duncan, he said, was scheduled to assess damage to the building's electrical systems on Tuesday afternoon.

"We don't know exactly what caused this so we don't know exactly when it will re-open," Temmel said.

See the Driftwood's video of the fire and on-scene interviews online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com.



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DRIVING

# National snow tire shortage felt here

Local suppliers struggle to find stock

BY AMY GEDDES  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Snow tires have become a hot commodity on Salt Spring since heavy snow hit last week, but some drivers may have to make do without.

Canada's snow tire supply has been drained as more than 4.5 million Quebec vehicle owners attempt to meet a new provincial law requiring use of the tires in winter months.

The West Coast is not exempt from feeling the effects.

Salt Spring mechanics tasked with scouring Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland suppliers are coming up empty handed.

On Thursday, Harold Harkema from Harold Harkema Repairs was installing the last four snow tires he had in stock.

"There's not much left out there to buy," he said.

"Some orders I can't fill because there are no tires available."

In the past two weeks, Harkema has received five to six requests per day for snow tires, half of which he has been unable to fill because only a few sizes are left in stock.



Noah Hughes installs a tire at Harkema's garage on Fulford-Ganges Road.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Two months ago, for Salt Spring Auto Services, orders were easy to fill.

But when snow hit the coast, tire suppliers serving Salt Spring Island saw their stock quickly run out.

Gyle Keating, owner of Salt Spring Auto Services, said unlike other years when almost any size and quality was available to order,

"It's come to the point where we'll take whatever we can get."

On the West Coast, where cold weather sets in later than other provinces, garage and tire store operators have the unfortunate disadvantage of scavenging for the last of the national supply.

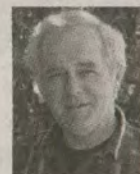
Salt Springers who waited

**"There's not much left out there to buy."**

HAROLD HARKEMA  
Mechanic/business owner

until now to get snow tires may be out of luck.

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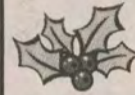


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## Advertising Deadlines



Please note the Driftwood Office will be closed:

Thursday, December 25th & Friday December 26th  
The Driftwood office will close Wednesday December 24th at 2 pm.

**Deadlines for the Driftwood - Wednesday, December 31st**

Display deadline: Monday, December 22nd, 4 pm  
Classified Display Deadline: Monday, December 29th, 4 pm  
Classified Word Deadline: Tuesday, December 30th, 10 am

Classifieds may be placed on-line at:  
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**The Driftwood office will be closed Thursday, January 1st.**

Regular Deadlines will apply for the Driftwood of Wednesday, January 7th.

**The Driftwood Weekender will not be published: Friday, December 26th and Friday, January 2nd**

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## NEWSBEAT

### HOMELESSNESS

# Weather woes stress need for a permanent facility

Cold snap stretches shelter services

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The past week's snowfall and icy temperatures offered no respite to volunteers as Salt Spring's lone emergency weather shelter prepared for its 12th consecutive night in operation yesterday evening.

"We are really having challenges and are quite stretched," said Cheryl Bell-Gadsby, Salt Spring Community Services' director of adult services, on Monday afternoon. "We're truly quite stressed."

Bell-Gadsby said volunteers, many of whom are contending with their own issues left over from the weekend's storm, have kept the shelter operating on two nightly shifts since Dec. 11.

Volunteers, working in the Salt Spring United Church basement on Her-

ford Avenue, have provided between five and seven people a night with dinner, breakfast and a warm place to sleep.

"Most of the people are very well known to us," she said.

Though Community Services offers limited funding for the program, pressures begin to mount during extended cold spells such as this one, Bell-Gadsby added.

She thanked the church for offering the space and volunteers during the busy holiday season.

The shelter operates between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. whenever temperatures dip below freezing or if snow remains on the ground.

United Church members and other volunteers from the community, she said, have done a great job coping with the stresses of providing meals and operating the shelter, considering the circumstances.

"What this really points

**"What this really points out is that a temporary shelter is not adequate."**

CHERYL BELL-GADSBY  
Adult services director,  
SS Community Services

out is that a temporary shelter is not adequate," she said.

"We still need to work together for a solution."

In January, Bell-Gadsby added, Salt Spring Community Services intends to host special training courses to teach volunteers how to work with individuals who have a history of mental illness.

Those wanting to help out can contact or leave a message for Bell-Gadsby by calling 250-537-9971.

### GANGES PATHWAYS

# Financial institution grants: \$10,000 to pathway coffers

Second PCP project now has \$60,000 in hand

As 2008 winds to a close, good news continues to flood in for the second Partners Creating Pathways (PCP) project, with the organization receiving two generous grants in the same week.

"We have just learned in the last week that we can add \$10,000 more towards our second project and bring our grand total to just around \$60,000," states Jean Gelwicks, PCP committee chair, in a recent press release.

An \$8,000 grant was generously donated by Vancity (credit union) and another \$2,000 came from the TD Bank's Friends of the Environment Fund.

"Both of these organizations are new funders to Partners Creating Pathways and we greatly appreciate their support to our project," said Gayle Baker, a PCP board member.

The year 2008 was a successful one for PCP, bringing islanders the new and well-used pathway from Wildwood Crescent to Blain Road and raising almost half of the money required for the second project.

In the early new year, PCP, a partnership

between Island Pathways, the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and the Salt Spring Transportation Commission (SSTC), hopes to raise the remainder of the funds in order to start construction in the spring.

The second PCP project will include three distinct sections: a pathway down Atkins Road past Meadowbrook to Swanson Road; a short pathway on Blain Road from Braehaven to Lower Ganges Road; and another short pathway on Crofton Road leading from the hospital past Heritage Place to the crosswalk on Lower Ganges Road.

PCP has already received \$15,000 from SSTC, \$10,000 from a grant in aid from past CRD director Gary Holman, \$10,000 from the B.C. Transmission Corporation, \$5,000 from PARC, \$5,000 from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, \$2,000 from the Legion and \$500 from the Lions Club.

"I think everyone knows more people need to leave their cars at home and walk if they are able," said trail and nature club president Zeke Blazicka. "We need many more pathways on Salt Spring. These are really only a start."

Any islanders available to help at pathway work parties should contact Gelwicks at 250-537-4859.

### POLAR BEAR SWIMS

# Vesuvius NY dip not set for '09, but Fulford's carries on

Last-minute planner could still step in

The Vesuvius Beach Polar Bear Swim is without sponsorship once again.

Driftwood newspaper staff filled a void to ensure the event ran on New Year's Day in 2008 after Ssplash decided to bow out.

But not wanting to be responsible for a public event with potential liability concerns, the Driftwood

ance, which turned out to be considerable.

Unfortunately, the bad news arrived too late to put out a call for others to pick up the ball and run with it before now.

Initiated in 1980 by the Vesuvius Inn, the Polar Bear Swim has been passed around by a few groups over the years.

The annual Fulford Polar Bear Swim will take place as usual with the dip at noon sharp. It is held at "Secret" or

the salmon ladders on Morningside Drive.

Hot chocolate arrives by wheelbarrow and is doled out first to those with wet hair, says co-organizer Margaret O'Hara.

But anybody still wanting to take on the Vesuvius version and announce it in the Dec. 31 Driftwood can call editor Gail Sjuberg at 250-537-9933, ext. 210, to arrange pick up of the easy-to-follow instructions, or send an e-mail of inquiries to



PHOTOS BY DERRICK LUNDY

**FOOD FOR ALL:** Above, volunteers shop, stack and fill Christmas food hampers at the Farmers Institute. At right, even the pets of needy families get Christmas treats, as Calli Gossett (left) and Julia Sorrentino fill bags of cat food for the hampers.



TRANSIT

# Survey determines students want extended bus service

Later runs and Sunday service on youth wish list

BY AMY GEDDES  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Grade 12 student Elizabeth Woods rides Salt Spring public transit two times a week to get to and from her south-end home to her jobs at Transitions Thrift Store and Rainbow Road Pool.

She rides the bus because it is a cheap alternative to taking the family car and it helps her do her part in mitigating climate change.

But Woods says she would benefit if bus services were expanded to include later-in-the-day runs and Sunday service.

As a member of Gulf Islands Secondary School's (GISS) student government, Woods and Grade 12 student Ryder Bergerud have been tasked with overseeing student transportation issues.

The pair initially sent a delegation to the Salt Spring Transportation Commission (SSTC) in January 2008 to represent student needs when public transit began running.

And on Dec. 9 they stood before the commission again to present results of a public transit survey commissioned by the GISS stu-

dent government.

Woods is not alone in her desire to keep public transit in check with the needs of high school students.

About half of the 600 students handed a survey in homeroom responded, with a majority of those supporting later evening and Sunday runs, Woods said on Friday.

Students were asked if and how often they use public transit and were permitted to comment on how the service could better serve them.

Of the surveys received, Woods said, "It was amazing how the same kinds of comments were on every page."

The GISS school day ends at 4:15 p.m. Woods explained students are often out of luck when trying to catch the last bus out of Ganges if they participate in after-school activities or sports.

Depending on the route, the last weekday run times from Ganges can range from 2:55 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

Students also felt disadvantaged by the absence of Sunday bus service.

Those who travel to part-time jobs on the weekend must find other means of getting to work on Sunday.

Other needs expressed included routes servicing more of the island and a 7 p.m. Sunday departure

from Fulford to accommodate students arriving home from off-island activities.

"The commission was

**"It was amazing how the same kinds of comments were on every page."**

ELIZABETH WOODS  
GISS student government

very pleased with the extent of the survey," said SSTC chair Bob Fenske.

"Their input is going to be very useful when we look at expanding the service next year."

BC Transit has been put in the queue for an additional 1,500 hours of service beginning as early as the fall of 2009.

If those hours are approved, Fenske said, the commission plans to first use them for a Handi-DART service, but student requests, weighed alongside those of other interested parties, will be given consideration when it comes to determining the use of extra hours.



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# Opinion

Photo Essay, under 30,000 circ., Day in the Life of SSI, GOLD  
 Special Publication, Gulf Islander Visitors' Guide, SILVER  
 Spot News Photo, under 30,000 circ., Village Resort Fire, BRONZE  
 Cartoonist Award, Home Size OCP Proposals, SILVER  
**2008 BC and Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards**  
 Best All-Round Newspaper, 4,000-6,499 circ., GOLD  
 Best Editorial Page, 4,000-6,499 circ., GOLD  
 Best Photo Essay, 4,000-12,499 circ., Day in the Life of SSI, GOLD  
 Best Spot News Photo, 4,000-12,499 circ., Village Resort Fire, GOLD  
 Best Front Page, 4,000-6,499 circ., SILVER  
 Best Newspaper Promotion, 4,000-12,499 circ., Sustainability Challenge, BRONZE  
**2008 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Awards**



EDITORIAL

## Community support

For the past few years, Driftwood editorial staff have mused about the need to thank the many people who help us gather the information you need to read each week.

They're people in all kinds of public positions, our various correspondents and friendly individuals in community groups or even the unaffiliated who are there when we need them. We often call in a slight panic at deadline time, crossing our fingers that they'll come through — and most times they do.

When we started to assemble our collective list, we could see how massive it was and how dependent we are on the goodwill of this community.

Then the Grace Point Square disaster occurred on Monday, and the interconnectedness was blatantly apparent again as we shared in the despair and

couldn't help but add it to everything else the business community has endured in the past several months: Fewer than usual summer visitors, and those who did come spending less; and the worldwide economic downturn causing many to put a clamp on their personal spending, even if they are not necessarily affected to a great degree.

**THE ISSUE:**

Economic interdependence

**WE SAY:**

Supporting each other is crucial

We've had almost two weeks of snowy weather, which keeps people at home and away from stores; and now, for the Grace Point merchants, comes this sudden shut-down in the last few days before Christmas.

Business owners everywhere so often donate to charitable efforts, even when they may not be any more flush than the rest of us. Several people noted to the Driftwood, for example, Auntie Pesto's generosity in regularly contributing to the Community Services food bank and free lunch program. And on Monday, cafe owners Shawn and Lis made sure no food went to waste by distributing it to the local cold-weather shelter and to the Copper Kettle Community Partnership, which ensured a number of in-need families had some wonderful food on Monday evening.

We all need an awareness of the importance of helping each other; supporting local enterprises so they can continue to thrive and be in a position to keep our economic ball rolling and the free soup flowing for charitable causes.

It's a topic for serious examination in the new year, but until then we wish everyone the warmest, driest possible holiday season, and our heartfelt thanks for all the support the Driftwood receives throughout the year.



## Impaired driving costs keep rising

BY JOHN VAN DONGEN

Most drivers recognize that the holiday season is also Counterattack season in communities across B.C. An additional reminder to plan a safe ride home came recently, as the Province moved to make ignition interlock devices mandatory for thousands more drinking drivers starting Feb. 1.

It's becoming easier to measure the growing cost to you, personally, if you choose to drink and drive. If decades of media coverage chronicling the devastation haven't convinced you not to drink and drive, then consider the growing penalties and consequences for doing so.

**Automatic vehicle impoundment:** A towing bill and a taxi home. Drunk drivers caught behind the wheel -- even under the legal limit -- and given a 24-hour roadside prohibition from driving automatically lose the keys to their vehicle for 24 hours and earn a visit to the impound lot. **Driving prohibition or licence suspension:** Better to call a friend or take a cab. If you have a blood alcohol level over the legal limit, or you fail or refuse to comply with a breath or blood alcohol test, police can issue you a 90-day driving prohibition, and you'll surrender your licence immediately.

**Moreover,** if you're convicted of a motor-vehicle-related Criminal Code offence, you'll automatically have your driver's licence suspended for at least a year. If you have a conviction in the previous decade, the suspension will last three years; if you have two or more convictions, the suspension will be indefinite. After a suspension, you'll pay another \$131 in reinstatement and licence fees.

**Incarceration:** How much do you earn in a week? Judges can jail a drunk driver on a first offence for up to seven days. Jail is mandatory for 14 days for a second offence.

**Civil forfeiture:** What's your vehicle worth? We toughened B.C.'s civil forfeiture law last spring. Now, if a judge rules that your impaired or reckless driving was likely to cause death or serious injury, he or she can order your vehicle forfeited.

**Mandatory alcohol rehabilitation:** You'd have to pay \$880 for this program. Launched in 2005, the Responsible Driver Program is mandatory if you have an alcohol-related conviction or

### VIEWPOINT

multiple offences below the legal limit (such as two administrative driving prohibitions or three 24-hour prohibitions within five years). Ignition interlock: This would cost you \$1,560 for one year.

As recently announced, having a monitored ignition interlock device in your vehicle will be mandatory if you get one impaired driving conviction, two 90-day administrative driving prohibitions or three 24-hour roadside suspensions.

The dashboard-mounted breath-testing device requires your blood alcohol content to be well below the legal limit to start your vehicle, and demands that you pull over and provide additional breath samples at random intervals, to prove you're not drinking while driving.

**Driving while suspended or prohibited:** The first time you're caught, you get an automatic 60-day vehicle impoundment. The second time, you lose the keys for 90 days. Towing and storage fees for a typical 60-day impoundment total over \$1,000. We also increased the fine for driving while prohibited or suspended to \$500 from \$300 in 2005.

**ICBC Driver Risk Premium (DRP):** You could pay \$1,110 over three years. Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, you'll pay a DRP if you've had two or more roadside suspensions, or if you've been convicted of one or more driving offences where alcohol was a factor, since Jan. 1, 2008.

Some readers may shrug and say, "I never get caught." Rest assured: we've done our research, and police are better equipped than ever to find you and gather the evidence to convict you.

Ultimately, if we don't catch you and you do injure or kill someone, don't expect ICBC to pick up the tab. If you crash while impaired, you're in breach of your insurance policy. That means you're 100 per cent liable if you damage someone else's property or injure them.

The bottom line: if you're not willing to protect others, consider your family and your future. More than ever, driving while impaired can really cost you.

*The writer is the B.C. Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.*

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

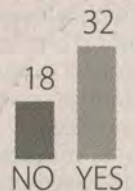
Did the weather change your Christmas plans?  Yes  No

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before

Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:**

Is the bulk of your Christmas shopping done on the island?



## Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.  
 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3  
 Phone: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll Free: 1-877-537-9934  
 Email: [driftwood@gulfislands.net](mailto:driftwood@gulfislands.net) Website: [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

**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

\* Includes GST

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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## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** How are you coping with the winter weather?



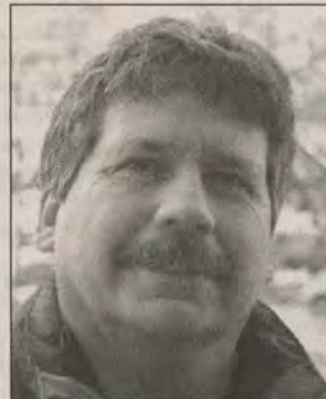
**HEATHER LUNA-ROSE**  
It's no big deal. Everyone always loves to complain about the weather.



**PAIGE BLANCHFLOWER**  
Terribly. I arrived [back from Montreal] expecting a rainy Christmas.



**MARTY LEWIS**  
Chains and more chains.



**ROB BOOKER**  
It's great. What's to cope with? We're playing in the snow, chasing the dog and sledding.



**DALE DOW**  
No problem at all. I've already taken care of everything that has to get done. Everything else can be put off until later.

## 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](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) under the Opinion tab.**

### Words count

Patrick Cwiklinski doesn't get it. ("Does punishment fit crime?" Dec. 10 Let's Talk Sports column.)

The problem with Sean Avery's remark about his ex-girlfriends is not that the guy was a bit rude. It is that in referring to a woman as "sloppy seconds" he is not calling her a person but a thing. The descriptor "sloppy" speaks about a woman's genitals in a way that reinforces societal revulsion of female sex parts. It also reinforces the old-fashioned belief that women ought to be attractive, not active.

Calling her "seconds" suggests that his own history with her is more important than her identity as an individual. The word "my" alludes to a view of a woman as a possession.

Young women these days are in a double-bind; expected to be both extremely sexy and also pure. The reason this is a problem is that these views are still prevalent in our society. Patrick may not see the damage being done but he should open his eyes and look

at all the teenage girls starving themselves, all the female victims of male violence and the unequal economic position of women — even in Canada. It is way too common for girls and women to believe that their status as a sex object is more important than their ability to write a sentence or do valuable work.

Sean Avery is in a position of social choice. He gets the privilege of the public ear. This role confers the responsibility of making the world a brighter, more enlightened place. We all have this choice, but Sean with his TV cameras and paid interviews is already standing on a platform. Both Sean and our very own Patrick Cwiklinski receive pay for their words; they should make them count.

**EMILY MCIVOR,**  
RAINBOW ROAD

### Support

The Salt Spring community has extended itself to the spirit of the Pass it On program in countless ways.

We have dynamic young women on our youth advisory team and wise adults on the adult advisory.

Our school district has worked in partnership with us. Island businesses and organizations have offered top quality service for graphics and provided beautiful venues. The Driftwood helps us "pass it on" by running articles about workshops and on going events. A spectrum of people have shared resources and insights.

Delight and gratitude has been expressed for the work we are doing with island youth. We, too, are thankful to be serving our community.

Pass it On will continue to explore avenues for supporting girls and young women in our community in the New Year. We're thrilled that Pass it On for Boys will have its start-up in January.

All the best for a Happy New Year.

**CHRISTINA ANTONICK,**  
**DEBBIE MAGNUSSON,**  
PASS IT ON COORDINATORS

### What Quebec wants

Brian Smallshaw's first step toward enlightenment (Dec. 17 "Quebec part of Canada" letter) is accepting that not

everyone will fall into line with his directives. The issue is not whether his Canada includes Quebec but, rather, what Quebecers want. Quebecers have made it clear that separation from Canada is an option for them. If it becomes an option that they elect, would Brian deny them their preference?

Both Quebec and Canada would be happier going their separate ways. Quebec's social values derive from the European collectivist tradition. The rest of Canadian society values the individual freedoms that derive from British social thought.

Quebeckers' loyalty to Confederation is tied to federal equalization payments while the rest of Canada understands that those payments are intended to supplement need.

Danny Williams was recently put in his place by the Conservative government for that reason and, when the Conservatives treated Quebec according to the same principles, Quebecers showed their petulance by voting for the Bloc. Quebecers should be

allowed to become "maîtres chez eux" and we the same in our national home. We can then elect effective governments without the Bloc dooming Parliament to minority rule or the curse of political coalitions.

We can have Quebec and Canada national hockey teams face off annually to celebrate our past.

**MICHAEL FRIEDMAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Reporter's fate

I'm sure many people found it amusing, as I did, when journalist Muntadar al-Zaidi threw his shoes at President George Bush.

Some may have missed his comment about the second shoe, which was, "for the women and children of Iraq who have died." No wonder it was edited out of most media reports.

After a day or two I began to wonder about the fate of that reporter.

I logged onto the Reporters Without Borders (RWB) website for some information. According to RWB, the reporter was clearly injured during his arrest, is in an Iraqi prison

and could be sentenced up to seven years for "insulting a foreign head of state." RWB is appealing for leniency.

Another article on the Amnesty International website stated that, according to his brother, the Egyptian TV reporter had suffered a broken hand, broken ribs, internal bleeding and had an eye injury as a result of being beaten by security officials after his arrest.

Since the 2003 invasion of Iraq by foreign countries, 222 journalists and media assistants have been killed. Half of those who died were in the so-called safe area of Baghdad. In a country not much larger than Manitoba, with a population smaller than Canada, Iraq is now considered the most deadly conflict area for the media since World War II.

As this year comes to a close, I hope some will reflect upon the fact that 2008 is the 60th anniversary of the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights.

**CLAIRE HEFFERNAN,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 10

## New Depression Christmas wish list for islanders

Welcome to the New Depression. Some call it an economic slump or downturn. Others call it a "recession." I say "no"! Recession is what's happening to my hairline. This is much bigger. Like I said, welcome to the New Depression.

As 2008 draws to an end, we are forced into the realization that Christmas has us in its sights right between the crosshairs. Even though we all know that this feeling is supposed to herald the arrival of the "joyous season," we traditionally feel added pressure as the daylight hours dwindle towards the solstice.

Much of the pressure revolves around the issue of gifts. Did I shop enough? Did I spend enough? Did I get enough? What did I do with that receipt? These are questions that haunt our collective consciousness at this time of year. Shopping malls turn into shark-infested waters as consumers circle the aisles in apparent feeding frenzies.

In past years, it seemed there was no limit to this orgy of excess. Christmas stockings were beginning to look more like Christmas stockyards. By mid-morning on Christmas day, each household had enough torn and crumpled gift-wrapping paper to fill a metal

dumpster at the recycling depot.

But as I said before, welcome to the New Depression. There's a hole in the Christmas stocking and it doesn't look like it's going to get darned any time soon. We've got a lot of belt tightening going on these days. It's time to trim a little fat off the old turkey, and we might as well begin with the traditional "wish list." So get out your pencils and erasers, kids, because here is a revised, bare-bones, no-frills Christmas Wish List for Salt Spring:

- For Gary Lunn, our diminutive MP in Ottawa whose portfolio has changed from Natural Resources to Minister of Basketball, and whose party is struggling to sift through the ashes of its traditional conservative values, how about we give a pair of platform shoes.
- For Murray Coell, our Liberal MLA in Victoria whose party presently enjoys a 39 per cent popularity rating (according to the November Angus Reid poll), let's offer a lukewarm bowl of Campbell's Chunky Turkey Soup.
- To the Islands Trust, let's give two brand new chairs that were previously purchased

but are no longer needed for Trust meetings.

- To Garth Hendren, our newly elected CRD director, a couple of toques that were successfully worn by a past director.
- To Islanders for Self Government, who have been lobbying for the past few months to bring about a more streamlined political vehicle by which to rule the good citizens of this unruly island, we have a used copy of the 478-page Municipality of Metchosin Book of Bylaws.
- To the good men and women of the Salt Spring Fire Department, who deserve a shiny new station or at least a shiny new pumper truck, we sadly offer a shiny new Super Soaker water gun.
- To the Gulf Islands School Board, which has creatively managed a 7 1/4 hour day in a four-day week in a 42-week year, we give a copy of "How to Cram a Minute's Work into 50 Seconds" by J.R. Cruncher.
- To Lady Minto Hospital, which is so desperately in need of a full-time cutting surgeon instead of half-baked budget cuts, we can



**Shilo Zylbergold**

### NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

only give a second-hand electric carving knife we picked up for a toonie at the Lady Minto Thrift Shop.

- To Salt Spring's public transit system, which has so valiantly been serving the needs of island commuters and trying to change the gas-guzzling behaviour of the driving public, let's splurge a bit and offer Peter Vincent's driving gloves and the Air Miles from his yearly gas purchases.
- To the Salt Spring Coffee Co., which has had such difficulty finding a home for its new roasting facility, all we can offer is a tall glass of cold, clean water.
- To the Ford Lake Watershed Preservation group, which is battling the coffee goliath over its relocation plan, it's time to mellow out with a double shot of an espresso/cappuccino/mochaccino/Americano/macchato/latte with a spurt of 1% soy milk.
- And finally, to all the regular readers of this fractious little biweekly manifesto, I have nothing to offer but best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season, and a hope that good spirit and resilience will see us through these tough times. Some day we'll look back at these times and laugh at that old New Depression.

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- To the Salt Spring Coffee Co., which has had such difficulty finding a home for its new roasting facility, all we can offer is a tall glass of cold, clean water.
- To the Ford Lake Watershed Preservation group, which is battling the coffee goliath over its relocation plan, it's time to mellow out with a double shot of an espresso/cappuccino/mochaccino/Americano/macchato/latte with a spurt of 1% soy milk.
- And finally, to all the regular readers of this fractious little biweekly manifesto, I have nothing to offer but best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season, and a hope that good spirit and resilience will see us through these tough times. Some day we'll look back at these times and laugh at that old New Depression.

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**OPINION**

**Greener homes and quality of life important to region's home buyers**

What follows is the first Property Lines column with a focus on local real estate issues, as written by Tom Navratil, a Salt Spring realtor and "keeper of the stats" when it comes to property sales and trends. Other real estate agents are also welcome to propose submissions for this space.

BY TOM NAVRATIL  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It is perhaps not well known that the Victoria Real Estate Board (under which most of the southern Gulf Islands properties for sale are listed) has taken a leading role in two important initiatives.

One is in the philosophy of "quality of life," formally adopted by the board in July 2005.

It reflects the commitment of realtors to their communities and it also represents a fundamental shift in the board's outlook from their interest in issues impacting only realtors to much broader interest in issues that are of concern to their communities.

The five principles of the quality of life are: ensuring economic vitality, providing housing opportunities, protecting property owners, building better communities and preserving our environ-

**PROPERTY LINES**

ment. These principles are providing an action framework for realtors' community outreach, government relations and environmental preservation.

One could say it is a balanced approach to accommodate growth while helping to build better communities.

The other initiative that the Victoria Real Estate Board embraced is that of "greener real estate."

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation 2004 Pollara survey of consumer demand found significant interest in sustainable residential property.

When asked to rate a list of housing features they would consider when buying a new home, 89 per cent of respondents said energy efficiency was the most important, followed by water conservation, improved indoor air quality, improved ventilation and efficient use of resources.

The most interested in these features were the first-time homebuyers and buyers under 35 years of age.

What is greener real estate?

The British Columbia Real Estate Association broadly defines the term "greener real estate" as "an environmentally and socially responsible perspective of land, anything permanently affixed to it (such as buildings), and the related business of real estate." This greener perspective can be summarized in three main elements:

1. Efficiency and reduced use of energy, water and materials;
2. Health as it relates to the occupants, surroundings and the stewardship of the environment, and
3. Cost and value, including initial and ongoing equations.

One of the more known components of the greener real estate perspective is the process of home energy rating. In some countries, such as the U.K. and Denmark, the home energy rating report is compulsory any time a house is put on the market.

In the U.K., no home can be listed and marketed unless it has the Home Information Pack (HIP), which must include the Energy Performance Certificate.

There are many certifying groups and their respective certification systems worldwide.

In California, for instance, the system is called HERS (Home Energy Rating System), now I believe in the process of becoming compulsory.

In Canada, the most known rating system is Energuide. Energuide is based on a scale of 0-100, 0 being a home with a major air leakage, no insulation and extremely high energy consumption, while 100 would represent a house that is airtight, well insulated and sufficiently ventilated and requires no purchased energy.

Most new conventionally built well-built houses would likely score around 85.

For existing homes, there are federal grants available (up to \$5,000 per home) through the ecoENERGY Retrofit program for renovations or retrofits that would improve the energy efficien-

cy and reduce the impact on the environment.

Optionally, you may employ a government certified energy advisor who comes to your home and provides you with a comprehensive report, including a checklist of recommended retrofits to improve the energy efficiency.

**One could say it is a balanced approach to accommodate growth while helping to build better communities.**

The list of eligible retrofits can be found at the Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) website ([www.nrcan.ca](http://www.nrcan.ca)), click on "English" and follow the link "Energy" and then "Energy Efficiency."

But wait — there is more: the B.C. government has also gotten into the act with its own grant program. See [www.livesmart.ca](http://www.livesmart.ca).

The Victoria Real Estate Board encourages and provides many resources for its member realtors to adopt both perspectives as a way of doing business. After all, buying a home is no longer just a mere business transaction, but rather, more often than not, about buying into a way of life often in a new community.

Next month we will have a look at how real estate fared on Salt Spring Island in 2008 and where 2009 is likely going to take us.

**MORE LETTERS**

continued from 9

**Clinic funds needed**

If you or your readers are thinking of making a donation to Planned Parenthood (otherwise known as Options for Sexual Health), now would be a very good time to do it.

Although we have paid our rent to the end of March and the telephone to the end of January and we have about \$300 in the bank, we do have a debt to the provincial organization of about \$14,000.

Since our teenage clients do not have a lot of money, you could all help us subsidize the service we provide to them and to others by sending money to Box 654, Ganges Post Office, V6H 2W3.

If you would like to see the clinic you will find it on the second floor of the Core Inn.

It is open on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and it usually has a doctor in attendance as well as the nurse coordinator and volunteer counsellors.

A. JEAN ELDER,  
SALT SPRING OPTIONS FOR SEXUAL HEALTH BOARD

**Services available**

I am writing on behalf of Island Women Against Violence (IWAV).

Based on Salt Spring, IWAV is a non-profit society that also serves the other Gulf Islands.

We are dedicated to the safety of women and children who are experiencing abuse in the home and in the community.

ships. As almost everyone knows, the holiday season is often the time when violence in the home erupts.

Nerves are frayed and there are many pressures on the family, both internal and external.

Frequently, families feel isolated with nowhere to turn.

Our statistics for 2007 provide an insight into the kind of service we provide in our community.

During that year we processed 732 crisis calls, provided 1,270 bed nights, served 252 women and provided 865 counselling hours to women and children.

IWAV wants to remind islanders that our services are available any time of the day or night each and every day of the year.

Our dedicated staff are well educated in the dynamics of violence and are able to provide compassionate, helpful advice and referral over the phone.

In addition to our counselling and support services, we provide a secure residence for women and children who would otherwise be in unsafe circumstances.

In closing, we wish to acknowledge all of the other island agencies who work to support women and children.

We also want to thank our many donors, volunteers and supporters whose efforts enhance IWAV's work on the islands.

On behalf of the IWAV staff and board of directors, I wish to extend greetings of the season to your readers.

Working together, we can make this a safer and happier holiday for all of our citizens.

RUTH PEPIN,  
IWAV CHAIR



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**THE MARKET MUST GO ON:** Despite the frigid weather last Saturday, both vendors and buyers turned up for the annual Christmas Market in Centennial Park.

**MORE LETTERS**

continued from 10

**Season's greetings**

What does "Season's Greetings" mean to you?

For those who do not claim Christmas as their seasonal celebration, being greeted by these two words includes us in this time of year that looks to reinforce family-oriented connections as well as honours individual responsibility to the wider community.

One of the key reasons for choosing Salt Spring as our home was our sense that there was a welcoming attitude regarding individual uniqueness and

diversity.

In this community of well read, highly educated, talented and creative people, I expect a level of awareness and sensitivity regarding the variety of spiritual perspectives that seems, at this time of year, to be conspicuously absent.

It would be a small thing for people to be mindful when they offer seasonal wishes — a little adjustment from saying "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings" would go a long way towards inclusiveness for all.

I love hearing the music piped from the fire hall during this time of year; it adds to the festive feeling and is another

way we can share various cultural traditions.

To augment the Christmas songs played, I put together and donated several CDs containing a range of seasonal music that included Christmas standards, Handel's magnificent Messiah and children's Hanukkah songs.

Hopefully we'll all get to hear a wide sampling of music, along with a broader awareness of what sharing this season of good cheer, light, hope and friendship can mean.

Wishes for a happy, healthy New Year — every one!

**JOI FREED-GARROD,**  
QUARRY DRIVE

MORE LETTERS continued on 12

**RANTS and Roses**

**Rants**

To the three youths throwing snowballs at the swans in Ganges Harbour. Observers of this festive scene had no problem identifying the bird-brains. Albert Macfarlane

No roses, but a bed of thorns for the cheap cowards who have dinged my parked car four times in the past two years, fled the scene, and cost me hundreds of dollars. I am a senior on a fixed income. Shame on you. Jill Evans

**Roses**

A dozen blue roses — azure, cobalt, cornflower, cyan, electric, indigo, peacock, Prussian, royal, sapphire, steel and ultramarine — to Drew of Blue Angel Towing for his reminder about my insurance. Whew! GBJ

Roses to Mainroad crews who have been doing a great job cleaning the snow off our roads. Jean

Dozens of little red roses to those who bought raffle tickets, supported the Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair and the vendors who donated door prizes. Thanks also to Patterson's Market, the teachers, students and parent volunteers for making our fundraiser such a great success. Little Red Schoolhouse Preschool board

Huge bunches of Nootka roses and western trilliums for the many generous donors who contributed to the successful campaign to buy and protect a parcel of temperate rainforest on Salt Spring Island in 2008. The Creekside Rainforest is flourishing thanks to the people of all ages, from near and far. Special thanks to the children who helped. mm

Jingle bell roses to my snow angels, Arthur, Bruce, Muriel and Hope for dashing through the snow on a one horse open sleigh... Laughing all the way; making spirits bright, to deliver Meals on Wheels just right." Catherine

Sackfuls of sparkling snowflakes and smiling snow angels to Sherry, Andrea, Barbara, Lorill, Sandra and Jordan at Salt Spring Island Daycare for ensuring that the Christmas tea and concert went ahead on a very snowy day. The timing, the food and crafts were perfect. It was a great opportunity to enjoy the children's performance after all that practice when so many events have been cancelled this season. Merry Christmas to you all and best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Snowy white roses to Irwin Collision! Thanks for the couple of passes; nice new toy. Wish I had one! 173 Park Drive. Merry Christmas!

Dozens of roses to Hannah Brown for connecting us with Janice and Brian Finnemore. Bushels of roses to Janice and Brian for graciously giving

shelter, delicious food and wonderful company when we were stranded in the snow. And more roses to Tony and Silver Shadow Taxi for getting us safely home the next day. Many thanks, Sada and Nona

A large basket of roses to the thoughtful person who paid our vet bill at Dave and Sacha's wonderful clinic. It was appreciated very much. Dave, Elly and all our kittens

Glowing golden roses to Susan and Brian Cunningham for the three Christmas trees set up in their flower beds beside North End Road — a lovely sight!

A rose to BC Hydro crews for braving the treacherous Bulman Road hill to restore our power.

Roses and more roses to Jim Proctor, who loaded me, my dog and all sorts of parcels into his van and got us home from the ferry in a blizzard on Wednesday. SL

From Shawn and Lis at Auntie Pesto's, please give a bunch of sweet-smelling roses to Mike Hunsberger and his incredible crew for their quick action, to Barry and Jeremy for warming our bellies, to Barry Kazakoff for the use of his freezer, to the Copper Kettle for taking all that food off our hands, to Salt Spring Air for all their kindnesses, and most of all to our intrepid BC Hydro crew... without you all, we are less.



*Nairn Howe*

April 30, 1957 - December 25, 2005

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- It cannot silence courage.
- It cannot invade the soul.
- It cannot steal eternal life.



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# NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**CHRISTMAS OUTING:** Mr. and Mrs. Claus, the local RCMP and island children came together for a special Christmas event at the RCMP detachment on Tuesday.

## FUNDRAISERS

### Tree chipping and bottle drive set

Islanders who drop off their Christmas trees at the high school parking lot Jan. 3 will see them disposed of in an environmentally friendly way, and help support a high school soccer team.

A tree chipping service and bottle/can drive marks the first of many fundraisers planned by the team, which is aiming to travel to Costa Rica in 2010.

The event occurs next Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gulf Islands Sec-

ondary School parking lot off Rainbow Road.

The Christmas trees will be chipped into mulch, which can either be left for disposal or taken away.

The soccer team, composed of high school students in grades nine to 11, is planning a 2010 spring break trip to Costa Rica, where the girls will train and play soccer.

Each girl hopes to raise over \$2,000 in the next 14 months.

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Trust puts lid on Hornby trash

Supreme Court decision upholds land-use bylaw

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has upheld an Islands Trust position that a Hornby Island property owner must remove salvaged materials from his yard on the grounds that his property does not have the appropriate zoning.

"This has been going on for a long, long time," said Trust bylaw enforcement officer Miles Drew.

The case against William Wilson proceeded after neighbours complained that zoning regulations did not permit him to collect and store "waste and salvage materials" on his property.

Wilson has until May to clear the offending materials from his property, which is zoned small-lot residential. According to Hornby Island's land-use bylaw, only industrially zoned land can be used to store such materials.

In the event Wilson does not comply, the Islands Trust will remove the waste and salvage material at Wilson's expense.

The decision comes as the Islands Trust pursues legal action against John Quesnel and Salt Spring Metal Recycling for allegedly operating a transfer station on his split-zoned rural and agricultural property.

Quesnel argues that the island's lack of industrial land has given him no choice but to continue operating his business on his Rainbow Road property.

According to Drew, the Hornby case is quite different than the court action against Quesnel. Nor does it represent a trend among the Trust's bylaw enforcement staff, he added.

"This gentleman [on Hornby Island] is not in business in any way," Drew said. "It was a significant accumulation of material."

He added that persistent and vocal opposition from Wilson's neighbours was the main impetus behind the Trust's decision to act on the matter.

"Communities have an expectation that bylaws developed in consultation with residents will be enforced," Drew said in a press release following the decision. "The Islands Trust will carefully monitor Mr. Wilson's progress to ensure the work is completed."

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 11

### Kindness

And so it is Christmas. And what have you done?

Do you wonder what you could have done, or if it would have done any good?

I want to talk about what some of you have done. In years past, for our family, things were markedly more difficult than they are this year. Poverty, sudden single parenting, isolation and a general dread of the demands of Christmas with young kids had built into a strong sense of impending disappointment.

Then we found out that the Waldorf School had chosen us

to be their Christmas "family." Another year, the Pony Club did the same. These small groups brought huge, lasting effects into our lives with their generosity.

And what gifts Salt Springers with love in their hearts chose to give! They bought from artisans, artists and entrepreneurs on our island, which made us feel really good. Not only because they were so beautiful, but also because it spread the season around . . . scarves from the ladies in Soweto, beautiful beauty items we could never have bought, clothing, toys, The Pony Quilt (held in great reverence by the baby who has pulled every little yarn tail in it, twiddling away) holds

such a dear place in the family. There were ornaments, fantastic toys, gorgeous books, art supplies, puzzles — it all spread out into the middle of the room. The children went absolutely crazy with excitement on those Christmas mornings. Their happiness was added on to a sense of Christmas that had all the trimmings, bringing us dignity, inclusion and wonder.

Our island's Community Services volunteers and donations really shine brightest at this time of year and so many people are made happy by the deliveries — cheery! through the snow this year — and the meals made by those charities who give up their holiday dinners to serve others. It makes the families and diners feel not only human, but special, cared about, with friends. We know it is hard work to put out that effort, but it does work!

And then there is the Copper Kettle. Firewood — huge piles of it to cut our heating bill down to nothing. Thank you so much for all you have done, over these past years, for us and everybody you've helped. Food, friendship, compassion. Respect with mercy.

And now, I'll say I'm not a Mormon, have never been one, and know just a few of their faith. But the way they follow their articles of faith to their fellow human beings is so worthy of praise. Their generosity to us has been unstinting and given with God's love. We want to say thank you. We are so very moved by your kindness. We remember going into the garden to pick vegetables just weeks ago, and we felt they were given to us with God's pure love. You helped us over many mountains.

This year, we know that many families are going to be helped in the way we have been. And it is comforting to know that there are really loving people out there. For us, things aren't so great that we can help others much yet, but we're okay now. And we will never, ever forget, nor stop giving thanks, for the true heart of Christmas we have been so blessed to share with you, through you. Thank you all again. And so it is Christmas. To each of you, good cheer, whatever your faith.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**SEASONAL SOUND:** Natalia Smith plays the violin at a recent Christmas event on Salt Spring.

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**MUSIC**

## John Lefebvre's debut CD speaks from the heart and colourful past

Legendary musical figures aid island resident with Psalngs

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With a past as unique as his, it's no surprise Salt Spring's John Lefebvre had plenty of inspiration for a two-CD debut album released last week.

Lefebvre's eclectic history has seen him sing in a choir, spend time in a federal prison as a teenager, drive a taxi, complete law school, busk on the streets of Calgary and, most recently, earn a fortune by developing an online money transfer system and facing the American justice system as a result.

"Lefebvre's experiences are so colourful they make a kaleidoscope look bland," reads a press release issued with his new CD.

Psalngs contains a mix of



29 original and cover songs that represent Lefebvre's heartfelt appreciation for music both old and new.

"They are songs that speak from my heart and they do so candidly, truthfully and completely," Lefebvre said. "There's nothing in any of them that is contrived. I

would scratch out a lyric if it was something I don't feel or think. If it was just sort of clever, it was gone. Clever wasn't good enough."

Lefebvre recorded the project in 2007 at California's famed Village Recorder studios. Assisting him with the project were a raft of

legendary musical figures assembled by producer Brian Ahern, whose past includes work with Emmylou Harris and Johnny Cash.

Lefebvre's collaborators on the project, including Jim Keltner, Al Kooper and Greg Leisz, have worked with musical giants such as Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones, John Lennon and the Smashing Pumpkins.

In addition to creating a must-have CD for music lovers on Salt Spring Island and elsewhere, Lefebvre has also taken the pioneering step of offering his songs to the public free of charge through his website at [www.psalngs.com](http://www.psalngs.com).

"It's art, not a business deal," Lefebvre said from his home on Sunset Drive.

"I'm fortunate that I don't have to repay an avaricious record company's investment. For me the job was done when the record was done. The rest is letting people enjoy it if they want to."

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

# Bach: the Great Recycler

Oratorio is all about celebrating

On Jan. 6, 2009, J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio will be performed at ArtSpring by Bach on the Rock. This is the second in a series of three articles written by George Ehring in preparation for that performance. The remaining article will appear in the Dec. 31 Driftwood.

BY GEORGE EHRLING  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

When Bach was hired in the spring of 1723 as cantor of the St. Thomas church in Leipzig, he set about immediately to write music for the Lutheran church calendar. He launched into a frenzy of cantata writing, composing nearly one a week in his first year, and by 1729 he had composed five complete annual cycles.

Often a cantata performed at the morning service at St. Thomas was repeated at the afternoon vespers at the St. Nicholas church — also led by Bach.

The Sunday service at St. Thomas began at 7 a.m. and lasted for about three hours. Of Leipzig's population of 30,000, about 2,000 worshippers regularly attended these services, so the opportunity for Bach to edify (and overwhelm) the average citizen was considerable.

In the middle of the 18th century, Christmas in the German states was a very festive occasion, celebrated with special music. To heighten the drama of

Christmas and Easter, musical performances were traditionally suspended in the weeks running up to the holidays.

For the Christmas season in 1734, Bach composed a series of six separate but related cantatas to be performed from Christmas Day to the Feast of the Epiphany on Jan. 6.

Together, these are called the Christmas Oratorio, one of Bach's greatest and most celebratory choral works.

When Bach sat down to write these cantatas, he reached back, as he had done many times before, to music that he had composed for other occasions. Like many composers of his era, Bach was a great recycler.

In this case, he looked back on cantatas that he had written within the last couple years, borrowed some of his own music, changed the key in which it was written, sometimes gave it to a different solo voice and set it to new texts.

In musical terms, this recycling is called "parody" music, though there's nothing funny about it.

It's also not meant to suggest that the music is precisely the same — though it is immediately recognizable — because Bach was always intent on making refinements and improvements to his own music.

In this case, Bach recycled music from a handful of cantatas written for secular purposes.

One source was a cantata written to celebrate the eleventh birthday of Prince Friedrich Christian of Saxony. It's a story of "Hercules at the Crossroads," engaging and symbolic enough for a young aristocrat.

Bach took music from six movements from that cantata — all the arias and choruses except the final chorus, and sprinkled them throughout the first four cantatas of the Christmas Oratorio.

Bach also took four more parts from a cantata written the previous year in honour of the birthday of

the Electress of Saxony and Queen of Poland (the young prince's mother) and used them, too.

The recitatives in the first four cantatas were taken from Luke 2:1-2 and, in the last two cantatas, from Matthew 2:1-12. Naturally enough, these passages tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

**In this case, he looked back on cantatas that he had written within the last couple years, borrowed some of his own music, changed the key in which it was written. . . .**

It's worth remembering that in Bach's day, political rulers were understood to derive their earthly powers and authority from God.

From Bach's perspective, celebrating the birth of a worldly "lord" was similarly a celebration of the majesty of God — praise and rejoicing went with both. Hence there was no confusion in his mind about using music intended to celebrate the birth of a prince and music for the birth of his Lord.

The Christmas Oratorio is all about celebrating; its music is lively and engaging, warm and welcoming. Perhaps because the opening chorus was borrowed from the festive birthday of a queen, Bach even brings tympani into the church — an extraordinary event.

"Triumph, rejoice, rise, praise these days now," he says, urging the congregation to "Join, filled with triumph and gladness, our song."

## What's a cantata?

A cantata is an extended work for one or more solo voices, often with chorus, and normally with orchestral accompaniment.

In the Baroque period (1600-1750), the cantata was the most common form of vocal music, apart from opera.

A cantata may be sacred music written for the church or it may be secular music written for any other purpose. Bach wrote as many as 300 cantatas, many of them now lost, and among these are many that were composed for secular occasions like the birthdays or funerals of aristocrats and the crowning of kings.

By Bach's time, a cantata normally included solo arias, choruses and chorales (hymns).

These are linked in story-telling fashion by recitatives. In music for the church, the recitatives are often biblical passages, linked to the Gospel lessons for that time of the church calendar.

Typically an individual cantata has roughly eight to 12 parts (more or less), and most last between 20 and 30 minutes.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ON STAGE

## Show calls for new island tradition

Scrooge and Swing Shift goes ahead despite weather

BY HANNAH BROWN  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

What a wonderful evening at ArtSpring last Friday night — we were treated to a condensed version of Christmas with Scrooge plus Christmas with Swing Shift, playing the Nutcracker in Strayhorn-Ellington styling.

The concert, titled Scrooge Meets the Duke, was a long-awaited collaboration between Monik Nordine, director of Swing Shift big band, and Sue Newman. Swing Shift led off the performance with the signature Ellington classic: Don't Get Around Much Anymore, featuring fine trombone solos by guest Victoria musician Mark Wilson and island-raised Geoff Cronin, back for the holidays from his music studies at McGill.

The main work of their program, however, was the Nutcracker as re-orchestrated by Strayhorn and Ellington in 1960.

Nine parts of the Christmas favourite were chosen by the Duke and his long-time writer and arranger to render in the swing genre. Although most of the themes are recognizable, the pieces are highly inven-

tive and challenging to play, as was explained by Nordine with assistance from band pianist Karen Arney. Swing Shift rose to the challenge and carried the suite off with fire and energy, which more than compensated for the inevitable rough spots.

As Wilson commented, the score has a lot of "space" in it and all the members were more exposed at one time, especially as almost all of them soloed.

The brass were especially strong; it was good to hear the father-daughter team of Murray (trumpet) and GISS student Jesse Hunter (trombone).

In the reed section, Ryder Bergerud and Jan Macpherson both doubled on tenor sax and clarinet to fine effect, as did Mylene Dammel-Sherrin on baritone sax and bass clarinet.

I especially loved Sugar Rum Cherry (Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy) with its long tenor sax solo by John Moore.

The last movement, Arabesque Cookie (Arab Dance), was complemented by a team of six tap dancers, headed by Sue Newman. A little kitschy? Maybe, but the Duke would have loved it!

Unquestionably the emotional high point of the evening came after the intermission, as Virginia Newman took her place at the

ArtSpring Steinway, to the delight of the audience, for Christmas with Scrooge. Virginia tickled those ivories as only she can do as. Backed by Ian Van Wyck on bass, she flawlessly accompanied the old favourite pieces that she and her late husband Ray composed for the musical version of the Dickens classic.

Sue entertained us royally with her dancing and singing. Her command of the stage is always a delight for me to experience. Her talent and beauty shine through, as does her love for her mother.


All the Scrooge elements were there: the dancing, singing fairy lighting the lamp; the Three Spirits; the Spotty Dogs! Patrick Cassidy as Scrooge, Martin Thorn as Bob Cratchit and Jessica Mack and Lilith Bentley gave especially strong performances. The band backed the Christmas Round and The Christmas Ball, playing Monik's arrangements.

Being a "newbie" to the island, I have never seen the full version of Christmas with Scrooge. I would encourage Sue and her family and talented friends to re-institute this Salt Spring tradition.

I spoke with Tiny Tim after his performance. He told me that after "hearing that story he knew exactly what Tiny

Tim would say." And, he certainly did. All of the characters were so much fun and so connected to the human condition that we all experience that I found myself sitting back and delighting in their portrayals of them. I hear that in the full version there are several other characters that I would love to meet.

Let's hear it for Swing Shift and the Newman family players starting a new December tradition on the island.



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### MOBY'S MUSIC

## Special events Boxing Day and New Year's at Moby's

Regular music events return with blues on Jan. 8

Moby's Pub keeps its seasonal traditions rolling with the annual Boxing Day party and New Year's Eve fun with Auntie Kate and the Uncles of Funk.

The Boxing Day band features KC Kelly, Dave Roland, Doug Rhodes and Sandy Proffitt, who are guaranteed to get people onto the dance floor.

Music starts at 9 p.m. The \$5 cover is waived if people come in for dinner.

Then on New Year's Eve, Auntie Kate and the Uncles of Funk are here to rock in the New Year. Tickets are going fast for the party and are selling at the bar for \$10.

Regular music nights return on Thursday, Jan. 8 when Dave Roland and friends start off 2009 with a Blues Jam.

"We will be carrying on with weekly music, monthly karaoke and all sorts of entertainment to while away the dreary winter months," promises Moby's manager Jim Burrows.

We would like to thank our customers for their support and to wish them and all our friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Keith Seibbards & Sandy McNeil

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# What's On This Week

**Wed.**  
December 24

**NO ACTIVITIES**  
No events scheduled at this time.

**Thurs.**  
December 25

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Community Christmas Dinner.** Sponsored by the United Church at Meaden Hall. All welcome for free dinner at noon.

**Fri.**  
December 26

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Boxing Day Party.** With KC Kelly, Dave Roland, Doug Rhodes & Sandy Proffitt at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.  
**Hey Boy Hey Girl.** Perform at the Oystercatcher upstairs for a Boxing Day party.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Rollerblading.** At Fulford Hall. Fridays, 7:30-9 p.m.

**Sat.**  
December 27

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Chamigos.** Latin music with Alvaro Sanchez, Laurent Boucher and Dick Smith at El Zocalo. 6:30 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Annual New Year's Eve Vipassana Retreat.** With teacher Heather Martin. Runs at the Gatehouse until Jan. 1/09. Info: www.ssvipassana.org; 250-653-4308.  
**New Moon Float.** Rainbow Road Pool event. 7-10 p.m. Info: 250-537-1402.  
**Christmas Bird Count.** Info: Gil Schultz, 250-537-9469.

**Sun.**  
December 28

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Women's Intuition Workshop.** Sacred doll making and story telling. At Creative Fire Art Studio. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: tracy@creativefirestudio.org; 250-538-0144. Postponed from Dec. 21 and changed from "mother-daughter" title.

**Mon.**  
December 29

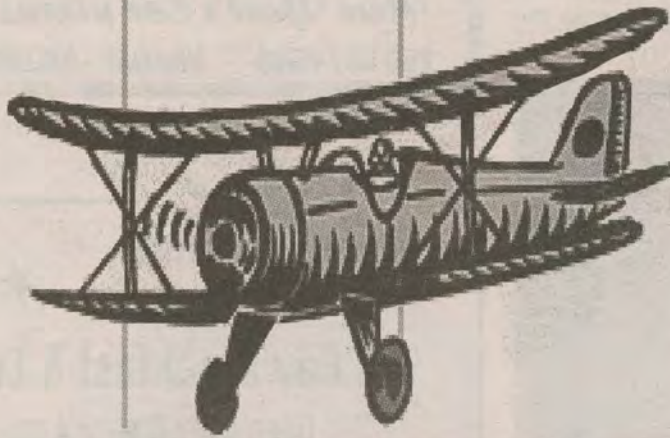
**NO ACTIVITIES**  
No events scheduled at this time.

**Tues.**  
December 30

**NO ACTIVITIES**  
No events scheduled at this time.

**Wed.**  
December 31

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**New Year's Eve with Workshop.** R&B at the Fulford Inn.  
**Swing Shift.** Big Band plays at Falconshead Grill for New Year's Eve.  
**Auntie Kate & the Uncles of Funk.** New Year's Eve at Moby's Pub



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**Changeling & BOLT** play next at The Fritz!

**CABLE TV**  
• **Attention Shaw Cable TV Channel 11 viewers** — The Daily is your source for stories reflecting southern Vancouver Island people and places. The program is about half an hour in length and repeats continuously during the day and evening with new stories added daily.

**EXHIBITIONS**  
• **WinterCraft** show of fine handmade gifts runs daily at Mahon Hall, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Wed., Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.  
• **Filippa Wolf** is the December artist at Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe in Ganges.  
• **Three Artists-Three Mediums** at Cafe Talia. Lisa Lipsett, paintings; Nathalie Carles, jewellery; Ulrike Benner, Art You Wear through January.  
• **Sherren Ann MacLeod** shows watercolours of local places at Island Savings until March.  
• Photography by **Megan Manning** is on display at Salt Spring Books.  
• **Shari Macdonald** shows new photos at Jana's Bake Shop.  
• **Salt Spring Fine Art Tour.** Pick up a self-guided tour map at galleries and other outlets and see the island's finest art.

**Community Christmas Dinner**  
Sponsored by the Salt Spring United Church  
Thursday, December 25th at noon, Meaden Hall  
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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**FOR SALE:** Vendor Grant Wickland sells his handmade, black walnut banjo at the Christmas market in Ganges.

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**PULL-OUT TV GUIDE**  
**PAGE 21**

**ARTS GRANTS**

**Pender groups earn Innovations funds**

2010 Legacies Now benefits anti-bullying and storytelling projects

Two Gulf Islands arts organizations will each receive \$10,000 in Innovations funding from 2010 Legacies Now, in partnership with the province of B.C.

The B.C. Access to Media Education Society and the Ptarmigan Music and Theatre Society (based on Pender Island) are just two of 22 organizations in nine communities sharing in close to \$205,000 in Innovations funds.

"2010 Legacies Now and the province encourage and support creative activities through programs like Innovations, which helps arts, cultural and heritage organizations create new opportunities for community members to participate in arts and cultural activities," states a recent press release.

B.C. Access to Media Education Society is undertaking an anti-bullying project by producing a series of short videos using stories from youth, which will eventually be presented in youth-led school workshops.

Ptarmigan Music and Theatre Society is a group aiming to increase understanding and connection to the Gulf Islands by engaging local artists, community groups and schools in historical storytelling of the area using a variety of art forms.

"This is an intergenerational project that will allow community children to have a greater sense of their local history, cultural heritage and their own identity as Gulf Islanders and British Columbians," said Patrick Smith, artistic director of the society.

Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the

Islands, stated, "By providing this funding, our government is helping to create a sustainable future for the arts in our region . . . creative communities enrich the lives of all residents."

Since 2005, the Innovations program's overall investment in the arts exceeds \$1.6 million. The group states that "2010 Legacies Now is committed to increasing community engagement in creative activities, improving the arts and culture sector's economic base and organizational capacity, and strengthening the sector's ability to achieve artistic excellence."

**"This . . . project . . . will allow community children to have a greater sense of their local history."**

PATRICK SMITH  
 Artistic director

2010 Legacies Now is a not-for-profit society that works in partnership with community organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector and all levels of government to develop sustainable legacies in sport and recreation, physical activity, arts, literacy, accessibility and volunteerism.

The organization is said to be actively assisting communities in discovering and creating inclusive social and economic opportunities leading up to and beyond the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

For further information, visit [www.2010LegaciesNow.com](http://www.2010LegaciesNow.com).

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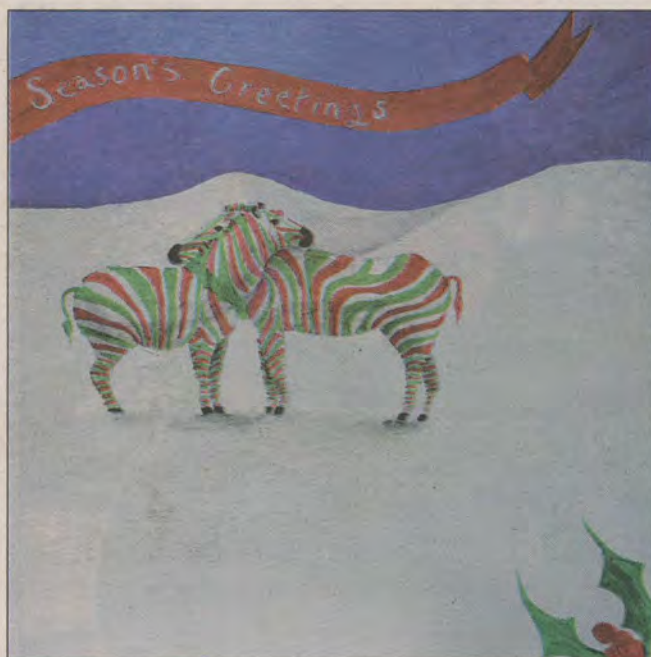
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## CHRISTMAS STORIES



Among the Driftwood's cover art contest entries noted by the judges were those by Alix Wilson, above left, and Teagan Taylor.

### STORY-WRITING CONTEST

# Record number of entries created for annual Driftwood story contest

14 winners from 221 stories submitted in 2008

**BY GAIL SJUBERG**  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

One of the Driftwood's favourite annual traditions unfolded with gusto rivalling the region's pre-Christmas weather this year.

The 2008 Christmas story writing contest attracted a record-breaking 221 entries, proving literacy is alive and well in the islands. Several school classes submitted stories en masse, while enthusiastic individual writers ensured their entries were received in time for the Dec. 4 deadline.

Judging was carried out once again by retired teacher Alex Mitchell and his experienced helpers: Louise Nye, Victoria Olchowecki and Betty Poole, except for the high school entries. Mitchell, Olchowecki and Poole had approximately 50 stories each to read!

Gulf Islands Secondary School English class students returned to the contest this year, thanks to teacher Peggy Williams-Gerlach, who had both her Grade 10 and 11 English classes participate and contribute a high level of writing.

Part-time Driftwood staffer Meghan Howcroft, who has a creative writing degree and teaches writing workshops

to youth, took on judging of these two categories, after preliminary shortlisting by other staff, since Mitchell's usual high school story judge was unavailable.

Overall quality of the story ideas and the writing was impressive. Congratulations to the teachers and parents for inspiring and instructing the kids in the story writing craft.

Fulford Elementary's Grades 1-3 class even used special Christmas-themed paper bordered in green and red holly design for their stories, which were all neatly hand-written by the children.

For a number of years, teachers have been motivated to submit entries from every student in their class in order to be eligible to win \$100 for the charity of the class' choice from the Driftwood.

From a total of eight classes with all students submitting stories, this year's winner is the Phoenix Elementary School intermediate class.

Story winners are:

- Age 6-7 — First place, Haley Cadenhead; second place, Kaleb Morgan; honourable mention, Sacha Rouselle, Kane O'Scalleigh, Helena Cuddy.

- Age 8 — First place, Kachina Small-Wolf; second place, Madeline Woodley; honourable mention, Nicola MacKenzie, Molly Patterson, Isabel Galea-Ley, Jimmy Steel, Nina Pickstone.

- Age 9 — First place, Melia Smith; second place, Alexandra Barnes; honourable mention, Catelyn Creswick, Rowan Demain Landaiche, Kiara (no last name) from Fulford Elementary.

- Age 10 — First place, Nixie Palm; second place, Adam Wolfermann; honourable mention, Shayce Johnston, Maia Beavais, Riley Kirkpatrick, Aaron Elsser.

- Age 11-13 — First place, Phoenix Emery; second place, Amaranta Williams-MacAllister; honourable mention, Isaiah Halliday, Elise Pearson, Shasta Steadman.

- Grade 10 — First place, Becky Edwards; second place, Kynan Price-McGillivray. Honourable mention, Anna Melious, Aren Ludlow, Anna Hoskins.

- Grade 11 — First place, Carmen Esquivel; second place, Joey Luna. Honourable mention, Kate Hosie, Lukas Braune.

First place winners are printed in the following pages of this issue, with second-place stories also posted online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) under the Entertainment tab.

Winners of first prize awards receive a \$30 cheque from the Driftwood, while second-place winners earn \$20. Cheques can be picked up from the Driftwood office beginning Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

## Mouse and Rabbit's Christmas

**BY HALEY CADENHEAD**

AGE 6/FIRST PRIZE FOR AGE 6-7 CATEGORY

Once upon a time there was a fat mouse. He lived in a tunnel under the floor of my house. He loved eating cookie crumbs from my kitchen floor.

One day he met a rabbit that was stuck in a cage. He found the key on the counter and he tried to unlock the cage. It worked!

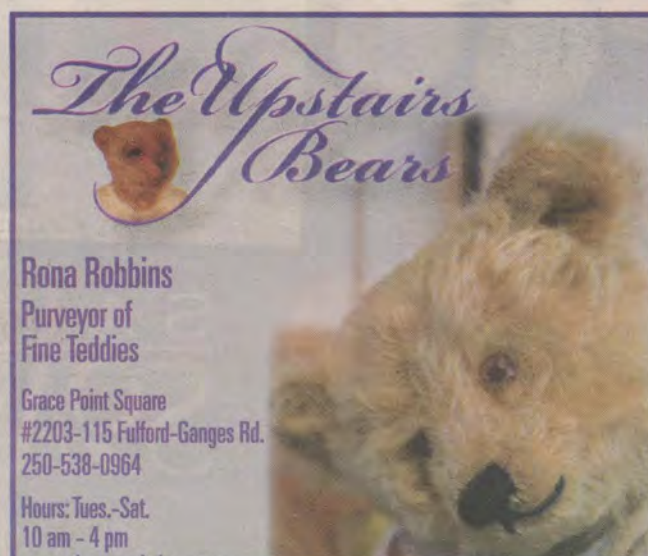
Then the mouse and the rabbit had a Christmas dinner together under the Christmas tree.

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# CHRISTMAS STORIES



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## CAROLS FOR

**ALL:** Salt Spring Elementary School students entertain passers-by with Christmas carols as they gather in Ganges on a wintery December day.

# The Christmas Fairy

BY KACHINA SMALL WOLF  
AGE 8/FIRST PRIZE

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Kathy. Kathy did not believe in Santa Claus, but deep in her heart she wished that he did exist.

Two weeks before Christmas, Kathy was wrapped up in her blankets sound asleep, when she was woken up by a sparkly light in her room. Once Kathy had wiped the sleep from her eyes, she could see what had woken her . . . it was a small fairy, about 8 cm tall, standing on her bedside table. She was dressed in a green and red sparkling gown, with a gold crown and wand.

Kathy said to the fairy, "What are you?"

To her surprise, the fairy answered her in song, "I'm Belle, the Christmas Fairy and I'm here to ask you, why you don't believe when he believes in you."

Kathy thought for a moment and said, "Only babies believe in Santa, but how did you know that I didn't believe?"

"Because I'm the Christmas

Fairy," replied Belle. "I know almost all there is to know about Christmas. I'm here to find out why you write to Santa every year, if you don't believe in him?"

"I guess there is a little bit of me that believes," Kathy answered, "a little hope that he'll answer my letters."

Belle told Kathy that she wanted her to write another letter to Santa, but this time to ask for something different from her other letters. Belle said that this present would be delivered on Christmas Eve and if she got what she wanted, then she would have to believe in Santa.

Kathy did what Belle asked, wrote another letter and mailed it the next day. She waited for almost two weeks, with the hope of her getting her present growing each day.

On the morning of Christmas Eve, Kathy was afraid to go downstairs, afraid of what she might or might not see.

When Kathy's Mama called her down for breakfast, she had no choice but to go downstairs.

When Kathy entered the living room her heart sank. Everything was the way it was yesterday, no present under the tree.

She went to the kitchen and sat at the table. Her Mama asked, "Why do you look so sad?"

"No reason," Kathy replied.

"Well, I have something that might cheer you up, so close your eyes for a moment," Mama said. She disappeared into the bathroom and came back a minute later saying, "Now open your eyes."

Kathy couldn't believe her eyes. The present she wanted was in her Mama's arms . . . a white puppy!

Mama explained that she had found him digging in the garbage looking for food. He was very grubby so she gave him a bath and decided to make him a member of the family. There was no question in Kathy's heart: Santa was real.

It took forever for Christmas morning to arrive but finally it arrived. Kathy was the first one in the living room but she could see right away

that her present wasn't there. She put on a good act for her Mama so she wouldn't know how disappointed she was.

They had a good Christmas together, Kathy, Mama and Belle the puppy, but as they were about to sit down for dinner the doorbell rang. Mama answered the door, but when she screamed, Kathy went running. There in the doorway stood Kathy's Daddy and he was kissing Mama!

Kathy ran to him and wrapped her arms around his waist. He picked her up, said "Merry Christmas," and gave her a big hug.

Kathy wrapped her arms around his neck and whispered, "Thank you, Santa." He had brought her Daddy home from the war.

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## CHRISTMAS STORIES

# The Interesting Christmas Story

BY NIXIE PALM  
AGE 10/FIRST PRIZE

It was the week of Christmas in Alabama, and there lived two very different families in the same neighbourhood on Alahabamba Street. First I'll tell you about the Van Haufin family.

The Van Haufin family was very rich and got practically everything they wanted with money. They had a daughter named Veronica who was a brat and had no friends that were loyal. Then there was the Barker family. They were totally opposite. They were very poor, but never complained. They had a little boy whose name was Charlie. He had one friend but that was all he needed.

Now, back to the story. One day, the day before Christmas, Charlie's school was giving out their report cards. Charlie and

his parents all crowded around the table to look at what he got: all "A's" except for one "C," which was in P.E. Charlie was a very weak boy but did his best in all he did.

In Veronica's private school, they were also giving out the report cards. Veronica was proud of herself because she didn't get all "C's"; she got one "F" and one "I."

Her parents were talking about it in the night when Veronica was asleep in her stuffed pony-filled bedroom.

"I got a note from the principal," said Veronica's mother. "It said she was showing off and rubbing it in people's faces again."

At the Barker house, everyone was very happy with Charlie's grades and had a special meal of Mac 'n' Cheese with peas in it.

In the middle of the night when Charlie was asleep, Mrs. and Mr. Barker crept down the loft stairs and placed two presents under the tree, just small ones the size of a shoe box.

"Do you think he'll like them?" asked Mrs. Barker.

"Of course he will, he has been wanting those for the longest time," said Mr. Barker, hugging his wife.

At the Van Haufin house, they had an everyday steak and potatoes, gravy and perfectly cooked carrots for dinner.

"Off to bed now, Veronica," Mr. Van Haufin said after supper.

"Why?" asked Veronica rudely.

"Because it's bedtime," he said.

Veronica thumped up the stairs and slammed the door.

Mr. Van Haufin sighed. "What are we going to do with this child?" he mumbled.

"I have an idea..." said Mrs. Van Haufin. She whispered into Mr. Van Haufin's ear. He nodded his head and smiled.

The next morning, the morning of Christmas, Charlie's parents were waiting downstairs at the table sipping their tea and coffee, when Charlie came down and had a bowl of cereal.

"Would you like to open your presents, Charlie?" asked Mrs. Barker.

"I don't need presents," said Charlie. "Christmas is for being happy and celebrating birth."

"I think you'll like it," said Mr. Barker.

"Okay," said Charlie, going over the bare Christmas tree in the corner. He glanced and said, "Are these both for me?"

"Yes," said Mr. Barker.

Charlie took them over to where his mother and father were and opened the first one.

By the look on Charlie's face, his mother and father could tell he was speechless, in a very good way. Charlie had wanted a sling shot kit with marbles since he was five. Now he was nine and still wanted one, and in the box, the exact one was there.

"I have some great news, Charlie. Your father got a job and is being paid five times more than he was before," said Charlie's mother excitedly. "We can do almost anything now!"

"Open the second one," said Charlie's father.

Charlie started unwrapping the second one with a smile on his face. To his surprise, there was a pair of new trousers.

"Thank you so much!" said Charlie, tightly hugging his parents.

"I have another surprise for you, Charlie: we're moving to Canada!"

"Wow! You must have a really good job, Dad!" exclaimed Charlie.

In the Van Haufin house, things weren't going very well. "I wanted another pony! Not a new bike," Veronica said with a big frown.

"I'm sorry, darling. I'm afraid I have some bad news. I lost my job, some new person got it, and I'm afraid we have to move to Iceland," Mr. Van Haufin said in a worried voice.

"NO!" Veronica screamed. "I WON'T!" she yelled again, except this time even louder.

"I'm sorry, but it's the only way. There are no jobs here in Alabama."

Veronica ran up to her room stomping so loud it sounded like she was going to break the stairs.

Two months later...

Beside a fire, in a tiny cabin, sipping warm water, there were the Van Haulfins. No one was talking and they were all in parkas. Outside were people sledding and having fun in the snow, but the Van Haulfins never went in the snow and never wanted to. Suddenly there was a loud crash and a shattered window right by the door. No one said anything, but everyone sighed at the same time. With the Barkers, everything was going great and Charlie was now in a good private school with an excellent education. They lived in a house big enough for all three of them and Mr. Barker's job was so good that Mrs. Barker didn't even have to work. She could stay home, cook the meals and sew things. Everything was great.

So I guess this story all adds up to be happy with what you have, and usually it will bring karma. Merry Christmas!

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from everyone at the Harbour House Hotel



## The Winners

Here are the winners for the Driftwood's

## Holiday Gift Guide

Thanks for shopping local!

### Grand Prize of \$500

Natalie De Witt



West of the Moon

### \$100 Winners

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Ray Colleran  
Romy Chapman  
Tracy Cottrell  
Grace Bracher

Love My Kitchen  
Sweet Something  
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ISLAND STAR VIDEO presents...

# Flick Pick



Wanted pushes action envelope on road to mayhem

Imagine the faux-counter-culture stylings of Fight Club wedded to The Matrix's "you are the One" conspiracy angle, with a dose of Star Wars' father/son issues and topped off with bullet-ballets courtesy of a John Woo cop movie... what have you got? A mess, surely, but a mess that's exhilaratingly fun the whole way through.

Wanted stars upcoming star James Macavoy as Wesley Gibson, drowsing through a dreary existence as an "account services" cubicle-slave who's not only beat down by his abusive boss but cheated on by his skanky, whiny girlfriend.

Enter Fox (Angelina Jolie), a slinky, no-nonsense hottie who informs Wesley that he's actually the son of a recently killed legendary assassin and that it's the kid's fate to become avenge his father's murder. She brings him to meet Sloan (Morgan

Freeman), the leader of "The Fraternity," a group of assassins who (hang on here) read a constantly-weaving loom that tells them which people in the world need to be killed before they can do wrong.

You can pretty much guess what happens next: training montage, first mission, a little bit of sexy friskiness with Fox, a few twists and turns, and a whole lot of punching and shooting.

Wanted was adapted from the graphic novel of the same name, which is probably one of the darkest, most anti-PC comics I've ever read. It would make a hell of a movie, but naturally the filmmakers decided to tone things down for the mainstream crowd. Otherwise it probably never would have made it off the ground.

This doesn't mean that Wanted fails to excite. In fact, thanks to Russian import director Timor

Bekmambetov (who created cult phenomenons Night Watch and Day Watch), this is a film that pushes the action envelope in ways that few American directors would dare try.

It's not realistic at all, so those of you that are constantly whining about logistics better head for the exits. The assassins are all near-superheroes — the film explains why — and can do things like jump between skyscrapers and shoot guns so the bullets bend around barriers to hit their targets.

Never mind how silly it all sounds. Wanted never hides its debt to other action films, and in fact eagerly climbs aboard their cliches to create brand new worlds of ridiculous, hilarious, vicious mayhem. It's not great art and it's not going to change your intellectual world, but there might not be a better way to waste two hours of your precious time.

## New Arrivals...

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- THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR • TRAITOR

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# TV Listings

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STATION	CBC-CBUT	SRC-CBUFT	Knowledge	TSN	CH Victoria	OMNI BC	Global BC	CTV BC	Channel M	A	Citytv	CW-KSTW	FOX-KCPO	ABC-KOMO	NBC-KING	PBS-KCTS	NewsWorld	CBS-KIRO	YTV	Sportsnet
Shaw	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23
ExpressVu	257	120	268	400	255		251	250	254	256	253		290	288	287	291	502	289	552	407
Starchoice	308	702	354	400	358		336	321		389	359		382	380	379	383	390	381	543	419

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

5 PM	:00 The Simpsons	Pyramide (N)	(25) Maggie and Beast	NCAA Football	CHek News	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Early News	W-FIVE Presents in Pursuit of Happiness	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	A Miser Brothers' Christmas	(4:30) Poker After Dark
	:30 Wheel of Fortune	L'Union fait la force (N)	Wunder Pets Reindeer!	Hawaii Bowl - Hawaii vs. Notre Dame (Live)		Frasier	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News		BBC World News		CBS Evening News		Pratt & Taylor
6	:00 News	Le Téléjournal	Think Big		News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show Winter	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	The Nutcracker	Sportsnet Connected
	:30		Christmas Orange			George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy		KING 5 News					
7	:00 "It's a Wonderful Life" ★★★★★ (Dra, '46) James Stewart.	Mission Antarcique	The Nutcracker		Tube Tales	Scrubs	Entertainment Tonight	Corner Gas	Matchmaker	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	L.A. Holiday Celebration	Queen Elizabeth II: Born to Reign	Entertainment Tonight	Santa Claus Is Coming to Town	Sportsnet Connected
	:30	"Voyage au pays imaginaire" ★★★★★ (Dra, '04) Johnny Depp.			TV Made Me Do It	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law		Victims Unit	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition			The Insider		
8	:00					The Practice	Bones The Santa in the Slush	Rita MacNeil's Christmas Special	Vancouver Nights	"Home for the Holidays" ★★★★★ (Dra, '05) Sean Young.	The Murdoch Mysteries	The Flight Before Christmas	Bones The Santa in the Slush	"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" ★★★★★ (Dra, '05) James Stewart.	Mormon Choir (N)	News	Old Christine	He-Man and She-Ra: A Christmas Special	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30		(45) Christmas in Vienna	NFL Films Presents (N)		Third Watch Men	Bones Man in the Mansion	"A Christmas Carol" ★★★★★ (Fant, '51) Alastair Sim.	Sabor Latino		The Murdoch Mysteries (N)	The Story of Santa Claus	Bones Man in the Mansion		Christmas at Luther	CBC News: The National	Criminal Minds The Crossing	Weird Years	Best Damn Sports Show Period	
9	:00																			
	:30		Louez un mari	Madden Nation																
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	Christmas in London	Poker World Series - Main Event	Inside Hollywood	The Daily	Painkiller Jane	Hola Que Tal	Stargate Atlantis	Little Spirit: Christmas in New York	Seinfeld	Q13 News		Renaissance Christmas	Queen Elizabeth II: Born to Reign	CSI: NY Taxi	Martin Mystery	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30						Diya					Seinfeld The Jimmy						Monster Warriors		
11	:00	The Hour	Le Téléjournal	A Tudor Feast at Christmas	SportsCentre Year in Review	News	It's a New Day	News	TV Patrol	Christmas Choirs	Electric Playground	Frasier	Family Guy Blue Harvest	News	The Best Winter	St. Thomas Christmas	CBC News: The National	News	Fries With That?	Sportsnet Connected
	:30		La Messe de la nuit		What Happened?				CTV News	CTI News	"The Big Picture" ★★	CityNews International	Frasier We Two Kings	King of the Hill	(35) News Nightline	Escapes		(35) Voices of Christmas (N)	Weird Years	Sportsnet Connected
12 MID	:00	Arrested Development	The Nutcracker	Best of Off the Record	Chelsea Lately	Paid Program	(05) E.T. Canada	"Christmas in Connecticut" ★★	Jai Fiji	(Com, '89) Kevin Bacon.	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Christmas Mass	Mormon Choir	The Hour		Malcolm in the Middle	Sportsnet Connected
	:30	This Hour 22 Minutes		IHF Hockey	That '70s Show	Happy Days Passages	(35) Late Night Poker		Caribbean Beat			South Park	TMZ				(35) Paid Program	Futurama		

## THURSDAY DECEMBER 25

5 PM	:00 The Simpsons	Pyramide (N)	(25) Maggie and Beast	NBA Basketball - Washington vs. Cleveland (Live)	The Island Farm Santa's Light Parade (N)	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Home to Stay	4Real	Punjab Times	Paul Anka: Live at the Rehearsal	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	Problem Solvers Gift of Giving	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	(4:00) "Casper's Haunted Christmas"	(4:30) SN Connected	
	:30	Wheel of Fortune	L'Union fait la force (N)	Arthur		Frasier	Global National	4Real	Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons			BBC World News		CBS Evening News		Sportsnet Connected	
6	:00	The Queen's Message / (10) George Canyon	Le Téléjournal	How the Gimquat Found Her Song		Dharma & Greg	News	News		Jann Arden: Live at the Rehearsal Hall	CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	"To Grandmother's House We Go" ★★ (Child, '92) Mary-Kate Olsen.	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30		Têtes à Claques (P)		CHek News Island 30	George Lopez	Everyday Heroes		CTI News		CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy		KING 5 News						
7	:00	Coronation Street	Mission Antarcique	Noël Noël	SportsCentre Year in Review	Tube Tales	The Daily	Entertainment Tonight	Corner Gas Poor Brent	Matchmaker	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Life A House Built	Diana's Jewels	Entertainment Tonight	World Combat League	
	:30	Jeopardy	"L'Odyssee d'Alice"	Christmas Music		TV Made Me Do It	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law		Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition				The Insider		
8	:00	"Booky and the Secret Santa" ★★★★★ (Fam, '07) Megan Follows.	Tremblay (Fant, '02) Sophie Lorain.	Christmas in Vienna	Jr. Hockey Preview	Deal or No Deal (N)	Smallville Committed	"Christmas Town" ★ (Dra, '08) Nicole De Boer.	Barenaked for the Holidays	What's in Vancouver? Kirdaar	The Carol Project	Ugly Betty Crimes of Fashion	Smallville Committed	Kitchen Nightmares Peter's	Ugly Betty Crimes of Fashion	Deal or No Deal (N)	"Ballet Shoes" (Fam, '07) Emma Watson.	News	Without a Trace Claus and Effect	"Crazy for Christmas" ★★★★★ (Dra, '05) Andrea Roth.	World Combat League
	:30			A Child's Christmas in Wales		Supernatural A Very Supernatural Christmas		"Terry" (True, '05) Shawn Ashmore.	Dheeyan Ghar Sadabahr Naghmae	Christmas at the Concert Hall	Operation Herbie: A World of Difference	Supernatural A Very Supernatural Christmas	Kitchen Nightmares Handbar	Grey's Anatomy There's No 'I' in Team		From Heart to Heart		CBC News: The National	CSI: Crime Scene Two and a Half Deaths		UFC Countdown 92 Griffin vs. Evans
9	:00		Rendez-vous de Marie		Madden Nation						Stargate Atlantis	The Murdoch Mysteries	Seinfeld The Mango	Q13 FOX News	Private Practice Nothing to Talk About	The Office Business Trip	Beethoven's Plea for Peace	Diana's Jewels	Eleventh Hour Savant	Martin Mystery	Sportsnet Connected
	:30					Diya			Desi Uncle			Seinfeld The Doodle			The Office Frame Toby					Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	A Tudor Feast at Christmas	Poker Night	Inside Hollywood	The Daily	Painkiller Jane	Bravo! Videos	Realty TV	Realty TV	Frasier	Family Guy	News	News	Journey of T. Merton	CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30		"Nez Rouge" ★★ (Rom, '03) Patrick Huard.						CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	Frasier High Holidays	King of the Hill	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Tavis Smiley	The Hour	(35) The Late Show	Ghost Trackers	Sportsnet Connected	
11	:00	The Hour		Christmas in London	SportsCentre Year in Review	News	It's a New Day	News	TV Patrol	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	Frasier	Family Guy	News	News	Journey of T. Merton	CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30					Everyday Heroes		"As Good as It Gets" ★★★★★ (Com, '97) Jack Nicholson.	CTI News	(35) Conan O'Brien	CityNews International	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Tavis Smiley	The Hour	(35) The Late Show	Ghost Trackers	Sportsnet Connected	
12 MID	:00	A Gospel Christmas	Christmas Lights	Best of Off the Record	Chelsea Lately (N)	Paid Program	(05) Ent. Tonight	★★★★ (Com, '97) Jack Nicholson.	Punjabi Vibes	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Show With Jay Leno	Tavis Smiley	The Hour	(35) Late, Late Show	Malcolm in the Middle	Best Damn Top 50 Bizarre Plays	
	:30			IHF Hockey	(35) Late, Late Show	Happy Days Passages	(35) E.T. Canada		Desi Rhythms	(35) Conan O'Brien	South Park	TMZ		(35) Conan O'Brien	Passport to Adventure		(35) Late, Late Show	Futurama			

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 26

5 PM	:00 The Simpsons	Pyramide (N)	(25) Maggie and Beast	(4:30) IHF Hockey	CHek News	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Early News	W-FIVE Presents	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Odd Parents Love Struck	(4:30) Poker After Dark	
	:30	Wheel of Fortune	L'Union fait la force (N)	World Junior Championships - Canada vs. Czech Rep. (Live)		Frasier	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News		BBC World News		CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Pratt & Taylor	
6	:00	News	Le Téléjournal	Heads Up		Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	iCarly		
	:30	For Laughs: Gags	Têtes à Claques.TV	Time and Place	CHek News Island 30	George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy		KING 5 News				iCarly	Canucks Connected	
7	:00	Coronation Street	Mission Antarcique	Hockey: A People's	NBA Basketball - Toronto vs. Sacramento (Live)	Tube Tales	Scrubs My Nickname	Entertainment Tonight	Corner Gas Demolition	Matchmaker	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Moneytrack	the fifth estate	Entertainment Tonight	Drake & Josh	NHL Hockey - Edmonton vs. Vancouver (Live)
	:30	Jeopardy	"Le dîner de cons" ★★★★★ (Com, '97) Jacques Villeret.	History The Golden Age		TV Made Me Do It	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law		Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	Conversations at KCTS 9		The Insider			
8	:00	"Celine" ★★ (Bio, '08) Christine Ghawi.		The World's Oldest Boy Band		"The One That Got Away" (Dra, '07) Shane Koyamier.	Enigma		Weekly News Forum	CTS Night Club	Wife Swap McCaslin/Deekens	Crusoe Hour 5: High Water (N)	Everybody Hates Chris	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	Wife Swap McCaslin/Deekens	Top Chef 12 Days of Christmas	NOW	News	Ghost Whisperer Holiday Spirit	iCarly	
	:30								CTS Night Club		Crusoe Hour 6: Long Pig (N)	Everybody Hates Chris	Don't Forget the Lyrics	Supermanny Baulsch Family	Dateline NBC	Bill Moyers' Journal	CBC News: The National	Ghost Whisperer Haunted Hero	Falcon Beach Chemistry Lessons	Sportsnet Connected	
9	:00		Nouvelle-France: L'aventure d'un film (N)								Stargate: SG-1	Crusoe Hour 7: Bad Blood (N)	Seinfeld The Glasses	Q13 FOX News	20/20 (N)		"Great Expectations" ★★★★★ (Dra, '46) John Mills.	the fifth estate	Numb3rs Graphic	Dark Oracle Full Circle	Sportsnet Connected
	:30			Hoop Dreams					Vitamin			Seinfeld The Fusilli Jerry								Mystery Hunters	
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	"Le violon rouge" ★★★★★ (Dra, '98) Samuel L. Jackson.	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	TV Patrol	News	Electric Playground	Frasier	Family Guy	News	News		CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30								CTV News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	King of the Hill Aisle 8A	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno			(35) David Letterman	Ghost Trackers		
11	:00	Arrested S.O.B.s		Best of Off the Record	Chelsea Lately	Paid Program	(05) ECW Wrestling	(05) CSI: NY Manhattan Manhunt	Vancouver Masala	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Show With Jay Leno	Roadtrip Nation	The Hour	(35) Late, Late Show	Futurama	Ultimate Fighter 6	
	:30	Kenny vs. Spenny		IHF Hockey	(35) Late, Late Show	The Daily			Music Bank	(35) Conan O'Brien	South Park	TMZ		(35) Conan O'Brien	Roadtrip Nation		(35) Late, Late Show	Pinky & the Brain			

Table with 21 columns: STATION, CBC-CBUT, SRC-CBUFT, Knowledge, TSN, CH Victoria, OMNI BC, Global BC, CTV BC, Channel M, A, Citytv, CW-KSTW, FOX-KCPQ, ABC-KOMO, NBC-KING, PBS-KCTS, NewsWorld, CBS-KIRO, YTV, Sportsnet. Rows include Shaw, ExpressVu, and Starchoice.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27

Schedule grid for Saturday, December 27, 2008. Columns represent time slots (5 PM to 12 MID) and stations. Rows list programs such as NHL Hockey, Le Téléjournal, and various news and entertainment shows.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28

Schedule grid for Sunday, December 28, 2008. Columns represent time slots (5 PM to 12 MID) and stations. Rows list programs such as Curious George, Le Téléjournal, and various news and entertainment shows.

MONDAY DECEMBER 29

Schedule grid for Monday, December 29, 2008. Columns represent time slots (5 PM to 12 MID) and stations. Rows list programs such as Simpsons, Le Téléjournal, and various news and entertainment shows.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 30

Schedule grid for Tuesday, December 30, 2008. Columns represent time slots (5 PM to 12 MID) and stations. Rows list programs such as Simpsons, Le Téléjournal, and various news and entertainment shows.

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## Contractor's DIRECTORY

### WHO'S WHO IN CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

New for 2009 - A special supplement containing listings, advertisements and complementary editorial for Island contractors. You'll get lots of exposure in this directory - in print and on-line, when you purchase an ad - you will receive a free listing. The Contractor's Directory will also be on-line - connected to both Driftwood Websites.

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DEADLINE: JANUARY 15 | PUBLICATION: FEBRUARY 4

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## CHRISTMAS STORIES

# But Who Are They?

**BY CARMEN ESQUIVEL**  
GRADE 11/FIRST PRIZE

Every year it sits under the tree, the words on the lid nearly completely gone with age

It's a reminder; a keepsake of that day

Inside lies one cigarette, untouched and never to be smoked

Then Granddad speaks. He was there, hearing, seeing

And now I will never forget.

I see the pure bitterness, it flows clearly from the old man's chapped lips

Hatred; at first there's only hatred.

But the words have ink; everything lies before me as though Granddad wasn't alone

Then he speaks of the cold Now I am there, hearing, seeing

And now I will never forget.

We dig fast, driven by the hope that with movement some heat might come

The mud is unmoving, deep and taunting

Those who can't dig lie helplessly in blood and rain, their flesh slowly decaying in the water

Their suffering is unending But they were there, hearing, seeing

And now I will never forget.

His profile is wrinkled and rough, his face is one of a tired man, nearing the end

The soul is as damaged

Then, suddenly the ice melts in his eyes and I see a glimmer of the impossible sliding down the man's

creased skin

Lights; now he speaks of lights

For he was there, hearing, seeing

And now I will never forget.

Could it be a trick? These lights can't be of candles, monsters don't speak the language of love and joy

But they shone; the Christmas trees were up

Suddenly a strange noise broke through the distance of time and space, it waited over no man's land

A song? Could it be a song?

"A happy Christmas to YOU Englishmen!"

Tears stream down my Granddad's face as he remembers that night

For he was there, hearing, seeing

And now I will never forget.

At first hesitation responds to the beckoning calls of the enemy; each could only see the nightmare on the other side

They sat, waiting, not trusting

Then one man got up and avoiding his dead comrades, he slowly walks to the centre of the barren land

That day his body would not fall

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After hands were shaken, conversation began like the strange buzz of an unknown creature

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The hatred was gone

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From nowhere a ball fell amidst the men and they divided themselves into even groups

A game began

The men played for hours until the ball was pierced by the barbed wire protecting the trenches

It wasn't the only thing that was destroyed

Granddad was there, hearing, seeing

And now I will never forget.

Both sides knew that, as quickly as everything had begun, it would end

The sight evaporated on Christmas Eve

Once again the battles raged, but inside the great turmoil had finally stopped

They were men

These people had families and loved ones, they sang songs, and they gave gifts

And he was there, hearing, seeing

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That's where the cigarette box had come from; a man no different from Granddad had placed it in his hands

No claw marks can be found on the wood

That's why the old man tells the story; he wants to show us what had made his eyes open

It was Christmas,

That's why he was there, hearing, seeing

And why now, I will never forget.

# My Awesome Story

**BY MELIA SMITH**  
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It was almost Christmas, and snow crept throughout the town of Ganges. I was inside playing with my little sister Sally. The fire was filled with warmth, and Sam, my brother, was outside chopping our tree down with Dad.

I had to go to the attic and get the decorations for the tree. I hate going up there; it was filled with dust and it was as cold as outside. I could hear Sally calling me to get back to the game.

As I put my hand on the door it slammed shut, and the lights flickered, then I fell down, down, and all I could hear was me screaming. I fell with a soft landing, except for the small jab in my back. I looked around, and all I could see were little faces staring down at me.

I felt them lift me up. It felt like they were taking something out of me but really they were peeling something off me. It was an elf that I was on top of, but then I realized

that all the other little faces were elves too. I stood up and then fell back down.

Then a fat man took my hand and pulled me up. It was pretty obvious that he was Santa Claus, though I was not sure.

Then I apologized to the elf named Zack, and then I went to Santa Claus to ask a few questions. First I asked how I got here and then I asked why I was here. And he said, "Why, little girl, I have brought you here because you have been the best little girl I have seen in a long time. So me and all the elves have agreed to having you get the first Christmas gift of the season."

And he said that I could think about it. And then I knew what I wanted. As I was walking into Santa's room I felt myself scream but it wasn't because I was excited or fell, it was because I saw myself in the workshop. I was hugging Santa Claus! My wish came true!

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# People & Community

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**CHRISTMAS WITH VALDY:** Residents at Lady Minto Hospital's Extended Care Unit and family members got a Christmas treat on Monday as Valdy entertained at a special dinner.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Co-op preschool spaces open up for Jan.

Kids aged three and four have separate classes

The well-known and much-loved Salt Spring Co-operative Preschool now has openings in both of its classes for January 2009 enrollment.

"My son, Duncan, is so excited to go to 'playschool' that he barely eats

breakfast," describes co-op preschool secretary and parent Jenny Willis-Crowder in a recent press release. "I too am keen to get there early. Friendly faces, big and small, greet us before we even open the gate. Duncan runs off to join his friends while I set up a play date. Behind me, I can hear someone offering childcare to a sick mom. After

settling Duncan I take a deep breath and think, 'this is why I love co-op preschool.'"

Space is available in the two separate classes for three and four year olds at the preschool on Aldous Road.

For more information, contact Crystal Allen at 250-537-5343 or at calen04@hotmail.com.

*Merry Christmas*

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## Disc-usted with sloppy DVD users

Hey, folks, they're not saucers, coasters or kiddies' toys

I'm right in the middle of this DVD, a P. D. James mystery, see, and those ol' blue eyes of Adam Dalgliesh are boring into the defences of some hapless miscreant when BZZT URPP BLP and the whole thing stops.

You know what made it stop and I know what made it stop. It's not a faulty disc, not the library or Tim or John's fault; nope: it's because of the stupid, careless, inconsiderate yoik who had the ruddy disc out sometime before I did!

I rise from my comfort, trudge to the machinery array, remove the unhappy disc, turn it over and what to my wondering eyes doth appear? Somebody's been eating off this thing! Using a knife and a fork, then wiping his or her feet all over it and maybe warming up the heavy-duty sandpaper. I can't believe it and let loose the usual torrent of imprecatory utterance. You can just hear the culprit's excuse "Hey! Dese tings is undes-structable, ain't dey?"

No, friend they are not. Not quite as vulnerable as the old LPs, they still require some TLC, some edge handling, a clean hand or



**Richard Moses**

### OL' CURMUDGEON

two. They are not saucers, or coasters, or toys for the kiddies. They come in "jewel" boxes and should be treated accordingly.

But there is a good side to these one-sided items: they can be repaired! I clump off to the bathroom and grab a tube of toothpaste; the motto here is "a little dab'll do ya." A scratch can be gently massaged with that dental dab or, in this case, virtually the whole side can be smeared thinly with the stuff, then just rinse it off with water. Nine out of 10 times that'll do the trick. Hold it up to the light for inspection. Sometimes a repeat treatment is called for.

If the home remedy doesn't do it, if the guy before has carved his initials into it, run it down to Island Star Video where Tim and John have this incredible machine that, in a few seconds, manages — they tell me — to actually melt the plastic surface of the disc so it comes out looking pretty much like new.

I took one of the library's

discs over one day and while she operated the melting machine the clerk quipped, "You should see how some of them come back!"

I know. I was a librarian for 20 years, long before CDs and DVDs, and it wasn't just the ruined LPs that broke your heart, it was the variety of stuff used for bookmarks. A shoelace was not so bad, but a strip of bacon?

I know some folks who don't use the library for fear of what they might find in the book. Even before they read it!

Ah well, I know that readers of this page would never walk on a DVD or put bacon in a book; I'm prob'ly just preaching to the choir.

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SUNDAY Closed Dec. 21	MONDAY Closed Dec. 22	TUESDAY Open Dec. 23	WEDNESDAY Open Dec. 24	THURSDAY Closed Dec. 25	FRIDAY Closed Dec. 26	SATURDAY Closed Dec. 27
SUNDAY Closed Dec. 28	MONDAY Open Dec. 29	TUESDAY Open Dec. 30	WEDNESDAY Open Dec. 31	THURSDAY Closed Jan. 1	FRIDAY Open Jan. 2	SATURDAY Open Jan. 2

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## PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

### PROFILE

# Gannon — fabulously fit at 89

Pender woman proves you're never too old to sweat

BY **CHERIE THIESSEN**  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Early in the morning, when many of us are just opening one eye and thinking of putting on the coffee, Shivaun and friends are already bopping to the music in the gym at Pender Island's community school. On Mondays and Fridays the music starts at 7:30 and the beat goes on until at 8:30.

Shivaun, a retired phys ed teacher from Winnipeg, has been treating Penderites to these free, low-impact, aerobic dance classes for the past 23 years. She's her own best advertisement for the benefits of regular exercise. Just shy of five feet tall and with a trim figure 20-year-olds would envy, she celebrated her 89th birthday at Easter.

This mother of six, grandmother of 22 and great grandmother of three points to the family photos occupying a large part of her living and dining room walls. You can see her Irish roots in the red-gold hair gracing the faces of many of those photos.

Shivaun emigrated from Ireland in 1957 with her husband Joe and five of her children. The youngest, Peter, was born in Canada. Joe died 20 years ago, but she is rarely alone. Although none of her children live full time on Pender, weekends and holidays will usually find family members in residence. The beautiful seven-acre property overlooking Port Browning and Hamilton Beach accommodates three homes. The latest, a beautifully crafted large log home, was recently built by her youngest son, Peter.

Shivaun is one of those residents that small communities treasure, someone with a lot to offer, who happily gives more than she gets. During her 26-year teaching career in the Winnipeg school district, for example, she started up an after-school aerobic rhythmic class for teachers in the district.

"It concerned me that while students were getting exercise, the teachers weren't. I was really influenced by Lloyd Percival. He knew about



Shivaun Gannon looks through photo albums at her home on Pender Island.

PHOTO BY CHERIE THIESSEN

the importance of warming up before strenuous activities or sports, and he was horrified at the way hockey players would just start playing competitively without any warm-up activity first. He was one of the first Canadians to emphasize the benefits of a pre-game warm-up and he instigated exercise programs for athletes and published several important books.

"He was really my inspiration. I decided to put on a fitness program for teachers, and offered sessions once a week and soon they were coming from all over the district. Everyone really seemed to enjoy the dance program as well as the exercise, so I just kept right on doing it."

And she did, right up until she retired in 1984. But little did she know there was to be no retiring from aerobics. Shortly after she and Joe arrived on Pender, crafty Penderites quickly realized what they had. Within a year or two Shivaun was the recognized aerobic dance guru of Pender.

Islanders actually got a double bonus in the Gannons because Joe turned out to be a virtuoso on the piano, and needed no encouragement to join a group of musical Penderites. The Swingalongs entertained islanders and visitors alike at the original Pender Island Lodge, the Legion and wherever else swing music was called for.

"Pender had wonderful dancers," Shivaun enthuses,

"and when the Swingalongs were playing at the lodge, they would come to listen and finish up dancing. So finally one of them said, 'We should get a little dance group going,' and looked at me. Peter and Eleanor Adamson had a wonderful large space in their home on Magic Lake, which they offered to the community. We called it the Green Room, and all kinds of activities took place there."

That's where Shivaun joined a handful of keen locals.

"From my teaching days, I still had the music and the program all ready to go, so we were all set. This little group was very enthusiastic, and pretty soon more people started coming and then the Green Room was too small. We needed a bigger place to leap around in and have fun, so we moved to the elementary school and started using the gym. The school has always made us so welcome."

Once a teacher, always a teacher. Shivaun is very organized and structured. She keeps attendance, has her dozen music tapes carefully labelled and follows a careful, balanced dance program. Each session begins with a little yoga — the Sun Salutation. It may look easy, but do it five times in a row and you'll be surprised. The fluid movements align both the mental and the physical while stretching and limbering up the body. From there, it's into the aerobic dance

routines, starting with the slower music and picking up the pace from there.

After a half hour of twirling and sashaying, there's the cool down, followed by an equal amount of time on the mats, working on stomach, arms and legs, and ending up with stretches.

**"It concerned me that while students were getting exercise, the teachers weren't."**

SHIVAUN GANNON

Sessions are relaxed and even the biggest klutz can feel comfortable as everyone swings and rocks to their own beat.

"It doesn't matter if people don't get the steps. The only important thing is that they keep moving. I think everyone enjoys the fact that I'm not there to pounce on them. Newcomers just follow along and they soon get used to the moves."

We should all have a Shivaun Gannon in our midst to show us all the benefits of keeping active and to lead us all into the dance. It's clear that the physical, mental and emotional benefits are enormous, as Shivaun demonstrates by her example.

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- Raven Street Market
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- Driftwood



**SNOW FIGHT:** Mountains of plowed snow on Salt Spring provide the perfect perches to enjoy the sport of snowball fighting. Here, Harrison Johnson takes aim.

## Mats Sundin is coming to town

Is it hype or the real deal?

It took him five months and 18 days of non-stop media badgering and enough rumours and speculation to start his own MTV reality show to come to a decision, but it's finally official... Mats Sundin is a Vancouver Canuck.

On July 1, 2008, Sundin became the unrestricted free agent to get in the off-season after spending the last 13 years of his career with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The Bromma native became the Leafs' all-time leader in goals and points, was named to nine all-star teams and played for three Swedish Olympic hockey teams, one of which won a gold medal in 2006. With a resume that pretty much speaks for itself, it's no surprise why Canucks general manager Mike Gillis was so keen to bring Sundin to Vancouver.

Gillis offered Sundin a very lucrative two-year, \$20-million contract and thought that he'd immediately win over the services of the 37-year-old Swede, but that just wasn't the case.



Patrick Cwiklinski

### LET'S TALK SPORTS

Though the Canucks' offer was by far the most generous, Sundin reiterated time and time again that it wasn't about the money for him but rather the opportunity to compete for a Stanley Cup. Soon the Canucks became just one of a large group of teams that included the New York Rangers and Montreal Canadiens that felt Sundin was the best fit for their team. Before long it seemed that the chances of acquiring one of the greatest players ever to come out of Sweden were becoming nothing more than a fantasy that would never be realized.

As the summer came and went and the regular season got underway, Sundin was still undecided about his future as a National Hockey League (NHL) player with talk that that he wouldn't carry on with his hockey career and would opt for retirement instead. But

everything came to a screeching halt a couple of weeks ago when it was reported that Sundin was indeed coming back to the NHL and would sign with either the Canucks or Rangers. And just as it seemed that the bright lights of New York were imminent for Sundin, on Dec. 18 the Canucks announced that they had signed the former Leaf captain to a one-year deal.

There's no question that virtually every Canuck fan, myself included, is ecstatic over the signing and this move gives Vancouver a much-needed boost both offensively and from just having his name on the roster, but I'm just wondering if Sundin has been hyped up just a little too much?

At 37, Sundin isn't really "in his prime" and though he can tell us that he hasn't felt this good in years, you have to wonder if a guy who openly admitted that he was considering retirement is still mentally and physically fit to play the game. Another thing is the on-going debate on whether or not he actually wanted to come to Vancouver in the first place or whether it was a result of the deal with

New York falling through. And let's not forget the failed Mark Messier experiment that turned a perfectly good hockey player into a... well... let's not go there.

Nevertheless, Mats Sundin is not a spokesman for Lays chips but he is a Canuck and I know he will be welcomed with open arms by the organization and the fans that have stood by this team so gallantly over the years.

It's obvious that a player who hasn't had fewer than 70 points since the 1994-1995 season will be a tremendous addition to the line-up and with the return of Roberto Luongo between the pipes, who knows, maybe the Canucks are due for a Stanley Cup. But make no mistake, if they indeed do defy all odds this season, it'll be because of a team effort, not the individual efforts of any one player.



## Girls beat the weather to nail a win

Salt Spring's U13 silver girls managed to sneak their last game of the fall season in on a freezing Dec. 13 against Juan de Fuca at Willway school on Vancouver Island.

Juan de Fuca came out strong and the girls had to play a physical game. There was a lot of hard checking and aggressive play.

Juan de Fuca was continually on the offensive and — although the Salt Spring

### SOCCERKICKS

defence worked hard — had a lot of shots on goal.

Becky Steel made numerous saves, but Juan de Fuca scored when she was caught too far out of the net.

Salt Spring's offence had a few chances, but the turning point came when Jasmine Cooper single-handedly took the ball from her side of the

half, drove it up and scored, making it 1-1 at the half.

The game turned around in the second half with Salt Spring taking the offensive and putting on the pressure.

Steel scored once, twice and again on a corner kick that actually went off someone else (possibly the goalie) and into the net. Jade Beauvais barely managed to not freeze solid in goal in the second half. The team is now in third place.

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Please find information about the shelter and all of our adoptable animals at: [www.sPCA.bc.ca/SaltSpring](http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/SaltSpring) 250-537-2123

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Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men!

**WINSOME WHITE**  
Please Read: Romans 10: 9-13  
Joel 2: 32  
May Jesus fill your heart with peace. Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

# SPORTS & RECREATION

## TRAIL & NATURE

# January hiking schedule set for rain or shine weather

AGM also on tap for Jan. 22

The Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22 at the Harbour House Hotel in the Green Room.

This year a luncheon will be served with tickets (\$14)

available from your coordinators or from Soapworks in early January. Doors and bar will be open at 11:30 a.m. The business meeting will follow the meal (at approximately 1 p.m.) Every member is invited and urged to attend at least the meeting part.

Fall Trip 2009: September 15, 16 and 17 have been

set aside for a fall trip to Cathedral Lake Provincial Park. Participation will be limited and is restricted to members only. Accommodation will be in the lodge (or camping if so desired). If interested, call Nieke Visser (250-537-5443). More information will be available on green flyers in the Cobbler's Box or on the website.

The following is our schedule for January 2009.

### Hikers

Jan. 1: Kees Visser will lead a short moderate hike (also suitable for strong walkers) on Thursday, New Year's Day over the 80 Acres, Andreas Vogt and Crown lands. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or join at the Jasper Road/Stewart Road Junction. Bring a snack and wear appropriate shoes. We will be back by 12:30 p.m. Come join us!

Jan. 6: Lynn Thompson will lead a moderate hike to Christie Falls (Ladysmith) and an abandoned mine beyond. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to carpool for the 9 a.m. ferry. It does involve a river crossing on a log, but not too difficult.

Jan. 13: Sharon Sullivan will lead a hike to Reginald Hill with a little twist. If the weather cooperates, we will continue on and do the Indian Reserve. Reginald Hill is a three-km return trip, 1.5 hours, some steep sections with great views of Fulford Harbour and the valley. The Indian reserve is about three kms round trip. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or Drummond Park at 10 a.m. Jan. 20: Jean Gel-

wick and Charles Kahn will lead a moderate hike that starts and ends at the north end of the Channel Ridge properties. This hike will explore the newly acquired Conservancy property and have lunch on the beach. The route will be moderate. Meet at Portlock Park at 9:45 a.m.

Jan. 27: Simon Rook will lead us on the Cogwheel trail. It is a moderate/strenuous hike. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the corner of Fulford/Ganges and Cranberry Roads at 9:50.

### Walkers

Jan. 6: Nieke Visser will lead a walk from Beaver Point Hall into Ruckle Park. Leave ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at Beaver Point Hall at 10:15.

Jan. 13: This will be a "follow your nose" walk. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. and decide who leads and where to go.

Jan. 20: Bill Earl will lead a moderate walk in Ruckle Park along the shore. Leave ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at Ruckle Park at 10:20.

Jan. 27: Anke Smeele will lead an off-island walk on the Saanich Peninsula at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, followed by a pub

lunch with the possibility of exploring a new park in Sidney on the way to the ferry. Leave ArtSpring at 9 a.m., catching the 9:50 Fulford ferry, meeting Anke at the ferry, or make other arrangements to meet at the ferry.

### Ramblers

Jan. 6: Kathy Darling will lead a road walk around Vesuvius. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. or at the beginning of Chu-An Drive at 10:10.

Jan. 13: Eleanor and Norah Lloyd will lead a ramble at Duck Creek. Carpool from Centennial Park at 10 a.m. or at Sunset Drive at 10:10.

Jan. 20: Frauke Prystawik will take us for a walk in the area of Walker Hook Road and North Beach Road. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. or at the Fernwood Dock at 10:10.

Jan. 27: Terry Fuoco will lead a walk in the Ganges-Churchill Road Area. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

### New members

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



"O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray."

## The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island Christmas Services for 2008

Wednesday, December 24th

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's  
11:30 p.m. Choral Eucharist at All Saints

Thursday, December 25th

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's

Sunday, December 28th

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at All Saints  
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's

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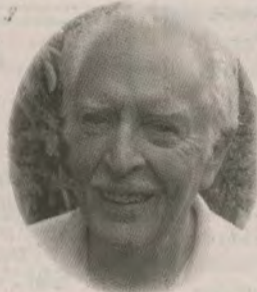
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Lorraine Sullivan



Rick MacKinnon



Susan Lundy



Kim Young



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**DEATHS**

A celebration of the life of **Ron Dickson** will be held on **Saturday, December 27, 2008** 2:00 pm at the Salt Spring Island Golf & Country Club

**CARDS OF THANKS**

The Akerman Family send heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people, the Fulford Hall & businesses who sent condolences, prayers, flowers, food, donations in Dad's name to Home Support and kind words on the passing of our dear father, grandfather, & great-grandfather, Bob Akerman. This will be the 1st Christmas on Salt Spring in 97 years that he won't be here.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

All the Akerman Family

**COMING EVENTS**

**CHRISTMAS TREE CHIPPING**  
Saturday January 3rd  
Country Grocer parking lot  
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**INFORMATION**

**Islands Trust SALT SPRING LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING**  
The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be meeting to consider various matters of general business, such as applications received, bylaw reviews and meeting notes.  
DATE: January 8, 2009  
TIME: 12:00 PM (note earlier time)  
PLACE: ArtSpring  
100 Jackson Avenue  
Starting at 12:00 pm up to 45 minutes will be available for the public to discuss local land use matters with the Local Trust committee. Those who wish to present a more formal petition, or make a delegation to the Committee as an Agenda item, must advise Islands Trust staff at least one week in advance of the meeting so that they can be added to the beginning of the Agenda. For information about the Agenda, please call the Islands Trust at 250-537-9144.

**Letter to the editor? Press release? What's On calendar?**  
Send it to [news@gulfislands.net](mailto:news@gulfislands.net)



**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CARDS OF THANKS**

CUDMORE CONSTRUCTION would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You and to wish you all a Happy Holiday and a Healthy, Prosperous New Year! We look forward to helping you with any of your construction projects in 2009. Season's Greetings from Cudmore Construction.  
[cudmoreconstruction@saltspring.com](mailto:cudmoreconstruction@saltspring.com)

**COMING EVENTS**

3 POTTERY WORKSHOPS for women starting January 19. #1 10am-12:30pm. #2, 5pm-7:30pm. & January 20 #3 10am-12:30pm. Once per week, 4 or 8 sessions. Two weekend classes in Feb & March are still in planning process. For more info, call Rita Alexandra's Studio - 250-537-8981.

**COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHAPEL'S EVENTS.** Christmas Eve Service December 24 @ 7pm.

**NEW YEAR!! NEW START!!**  
Time to gift yourself!! In 2009 enhance your relationships with gentle and effective skills! Join us for an experiential weekend workshop to learn the power of **Loving Presence & Mindfulness.** January 18 & 19 in Victoria  
Cost: \$250 +gst or Early Bird \$195 +gst (by Dec.15) Info & Registration please call 250-478-2794 or email: [cherylet@telus.net](mailto:cherylet@telus.net) or call [www.hakomi4you.com/trainings](http://www.hakomi4you.com/trainings)

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**LOST AND FOUND**

LOST: 11 foot aluminum boat & red kayak, Booth Canal, Please call 250-538-8211.

**DEATHS**

**WINTER, DAVID**  
Passed away suddenly on December 18, 2008 in his home in Cobble Hill. David was born on July 28th, 1936 in Victoria and was well known for his enthusiastic interest in hot rods, and later in life, his love of sailing. He also loved music, especially Blue Grass.  
Dave married Donna Mouat, from Saltspring Island, in August of 1958, and they lived in Victoria until 1962. At that time they moved to Saltspring, where Dave worked at Mouats Store. He and Donna raised two children on the island, Keith and Laura, and in the summer of 1976, moved back to Victoria. Over the last three decades Dave was well known to a very large circle of car enthusiasts for his amazing ability to custom paint any and all cars. Later branching out to trucks, fire engines, and other vehicles, Dave could letter, stripe, scallop or flame anything that presented a challenge.  
In 1983 Dave and Donna purchased their first sail boat to cruise the coastal waters of BC. In 1992 they sold their home and purchased a larger sail boat, on which they lived aboard for 6 years to continue their tidal travels. In 1998 they purchased a home in Cobble Hill, and during the last 10 years enjoyed summers aboard at Desolation Sound, and beyond, making friends from all around the world.  
He will be sadly missed by all whose lives were touched by him. He leaves behind his loving wife of 50 years, Donna, his son Keith (Laurie Nelson) and daughter Laura (Eric Rowlett), and his granddaughter Nicole Winter. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made by contacting Betty Anne DeWitt at the Cowichan Valley Basket Society at 250-746-1566. A gathering to celebrate Dave's life will be held in the new year, with the date to be announced sometime after Christmas.

**DEATHS**

**WASEND Gordon Alfred (Gordie),**  
born February 9th, 1924 in Loon Lake, Saskatchewan, passed away on December 6th, 2008 with his two daughters by his side.  
Gordon was the 11th of twelve children born to Gunhild and Anders Aslaksen Wasend and is survived by his sister Helene Raimor, son Victor Wasend, daughters Wendy Dallian and Janis Wasend, as well as three grandchildren.  
Gordon was a compassionate, loving man with an incredible imagination, a sharp mind for invention, and a mischievous sense of humour. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by family and friends.  
There will be a small private family gathering on Salt Spring Island, December 20th. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Organ Donation and Transplant Association of Canada. Cards and letters of memories would be cherished always and may be sent to #104-137 East 1st Street, North Vancouver BC V7L 1B2.

**CALL FOR ENTRIES**  
The new **HERITAGE RUG HOOKING GALLERY** on Saltspring Island invites B.C. Artists to submit their work for upcoming juried show.  
For information email: [bee.president@shaw.ca](mailto:bee.president@shaw.ca) (250)538-0263.

**seven stars tai chi club**  
**Tai Chi Chuan: open house**  
Tuesday, January 6  
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Phone Osman 537-5667

**CALLING ALL Scrabble Players** for February Tournament raising funds for The Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmother to Grandmother Campaign. For information contact: [rugonia@gmail.com](mailto:rugonia@gmail.com)  
**FOR A complete calendar of coming events** check the Driftwood Community Calendar, in our office in the Upper Ganges Centre, 328 Lower Ganges Road, or on our website at [www.gulfislands.net](http://www.gulfislands.net). Use the calendar for event planning and to make sure your date doesn't conflict with someone else's.  
[www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

**THE WALL** is offering FREE CLIMBING during the month of January! Thursdays and Sundays from 6:30 to 9:30, and Sundays from 3:00 to 5:30. Info: 250-537-8970 or [ahasenratz@gmail.com](mailto:ahasenratz@gmail.com). The Wall is Closed from Dec. 22 to Jan 3. Happy Holidays!  
**UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP.** Wishes you a Joyful Christmas and New Year. Next service Jan. 4. Join your neighbours all over the world to work towards peace.

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**LOST: White Binder of Poetry, Stories by Lillian Smith**  
Reward for Return  
Reply to Box 28 at the Driftwood

**Islands Trust**  
Seasons greetings from the staff at Islands Trust. Our Salt Spring Island office will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 25 to Friday, January 2, 2009. Regular office hours will resume at 8:30 am, Monday, January 5, 2008.  
We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

**TRAVEL**

**VACATION SPOTS**

GET AWAY to Bucierias, Mexico. Feb. 2 - 16. Suite in luxurious home two blocks from Beach \$550/wk. All Mod/cons., pool, maid service. Single, couple or couple w/one child. Call Steve or Sharon 250-653-9904 for more info. Can view on internet.

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**COMING EVENTS**

**New Year's Day Hot Yoga**  
Jan 1, 11-12:30 - NE Fitness - \$15 drop-in or \$4 + 1 punch on DEBFIT punchcard  
Begin the New Year with purpose, inspiration and renewed health! This will be a special extended class including more postures, incredibly relaxing breathing exercise, guided meditation + heavenly neck massage.  
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**COMING EVENTS**

**SSI United Church invites you to their Christmas Events**  
Wednesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 7 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 25 Gary's Christmas Day Community Dinner (at Meaden Hall) 12 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 28 Worship Service with Rev. Al Tysick 10 am  
111 Hereford Ave. 250-537-5812 for more info.

**Connecting your giving to island needs**  
Each year your community foundation distributes over \$100,000 in grants to our island's charitable organizations. Please send your donation to SSIF, Box 244, Ganges PO, SSI, BC V8K 2V2 or donate through the Foundation's website.  
For more information please go to the website, phone 537-8305, or email [info@saltspringislandfoundation.org](mailto:info@saltspringislandfoundation.org) [www.saltspringislandfoundation.org](http://www.saltspringislandfoundation.org)



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**\$3500-\$14,000** a Week Easily, PT!! No Selling or Convincing-Ever! Act Now! Limited Availability!! First 100 Visitors Only! Go to [www.getmoneyatyourdoor.com](http://www.getmoneyatyourdoor.com) Now!!

**A \$45 BILLION** Industry. Join America's Premier Weight Loss franchise in a Day Spa Environment. Great Income Potential! Low investment, financing available, training/support. Free Info 24/7, 1-800-850-1494.

**SALES! NO** Experience Necessary! Join Young-minded, Hip-Hop, Rock-n-Roll, Blue Jean Environment, Skateboarders, x/y gen, Music Lovers Welcome! \$500 Sign-on! Start Work-Travel USA! Debbie 877-539-8673.

**EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS**

For free individual tutoring to improve your reading, Writing, and basic math skills

Call 250-537-9717

**SALT SPRING LITERACY**

Medical Lab Assistant Get the Career You've Always Wanted! MTI Community College 310-2MTI or [www.mticc.com](http://www.mticc.com)

**HELP WANTED**

**PEOPLE PERSON WANTED!**

**Sales Assistant required for busy retail location**

- Part/Full Time •
- Apply in person with resume to:



**PULL-OUT TV GUIDE PAGE 21-22**

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

**SALT SPRING STINGRAYS SUMMER SWIM CLUB**  
We are now accepting resumes for the positions of Head and Assistant Coach. The positions will run from May 1, 2009 until the completion of Provincials in 2009. Applicants must be motivated and enthusiastic. We require the Assistant and Head Coach to hold a NCCP Level 1 and current NLS, Level 2 is preferred. Knowledge of Hytek and Meet Manager (or willing to learn) would be an asset. Coaches must be accomplished swimmers and have a thorough knowledge of base of swimming. We require coaches who are enthusiastic and enjoy working with developing swimmers. An active, personal involvement in swimming as well as prior experience with other teams would be assets. Coaches must be strong and effective communicators and be willing to deal directly with parents and the club executive. Strong time management and organizational skills are a necessity.

**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](http://www.pacificcaregivers.com)

**WE ALSO BUY ESTATES**  
David: 1-250-858-1311  
Office: 250-538-1971

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

**PAINTING SERVICES:** prompt, tidy work. Rod 250-537-5432 or 1-778-858-0992 cell.

**YOUNG MAN** available for work. Moving, cleaning, landscaping. \$14/hr. Lv msg. for Mike. 250-537-1204.

**WEIGHT LOSS** and Healthy Chocolate! "Eating, tasting parties and making money" Healthy Chocolate can contribute to weight loss OV: 801.437.5994 [www.TheChocolateCD.com](http://www.TheChocolateCD.com) Toll Free: [www.GetInShapeWithChocolate.com](http://www.GetInShapeWithChocolate.com)

**WE HAVE SANDBAGS!**

**READY MIX**  
• WASHED GRAVEL  
• REINFORCED STEEL  
• BAGGED CEMENT  
250-537-2611  
345 Rainbow Road

**COMPLETE HOME** reno's. Specializing in kitchen and bath. Custom cabinets and built-ins. Pearson Contracting. Steve Pearson 250-538-0303 and 250-538-8659.

**LET'S GET STARTED!**  
Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.  
PLEASE CALL  
**HELSET DESIGN**  
250-537-1037 & ask for Jim

**SEE A PHOTO YOU LIKE?**  
Call the Driftwood  
250-537-9933

**APPLIANCES**

**A VALLEY HEALING**  
RMT, Spa Therapist,  
Homeopathic Practitioner  
*X-mas Gift Certificates Available*  
Mobile Only  
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**Special Events Catering & Dining Preparation**  
*Georgiana's Personal Touch Catering*  
Weddings, Parties, Birthdays. Exquisite Gourmet Food. Reasonable rates. Professional, experienced service for that special day.  
*Bonded. Qualified. References.*  
Please ring 250-537-1517

**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!

**CONCRETE & PLACING**

**GULF COAST MATERIALS**  
Serving the Gulf Islands  
Salt Spring, Galiano  
Mayne, Penders



**CONTRACTORS**

**DRAFTING & DESIGN**

**ALL EMPLOYMENT ADS** are posted on [BCJobNetwork.com](http://BCJobNetwork.com) and [BCClassified.com](http://BCClassified.com)  
Ask us about running job ads off-island for you!  
(i.e. Duncan, Sidney, Nanaimo, Vancouver)  
[www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)  
537-9933

**APPLIANCES**

**APPLIANCES**

**WINTER SERVICES**  
Same Day Service, Fully Insured  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
• Yard Clean-Ups • Snow Removal  
• Pruning • Hedges  
• Gutters • Rubbish Removal  
• Landscaping • Odd Jobs  
• CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TAKEN DOWN  
**Jim's Mowing**  
310-JIMS (5467)  
BOOK A JOB AT  
[www.jimsmowing.ca](http://www.jimsmowing.ca)

**SRK WOODWORK,** Custom cabinets, Built-ins, Finish Carpentry. Commercial/Residential. 250-619-8659

**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.

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

**THE JOB SQUAD,** on Salt Spring since 1989. 250-537-5703. 20% Winter Discount.

**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.

**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](http://Petfinder.com)

**BEAUTIFUL P.B.** lab pups, black & yellow. \$400. First shots. 250-653-4567.

**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](http://www.sellatimeshare.com) 1-866-708-3690.

**MOVING SALE:** Water smart, small capacity washer & full size dryer. Exc. cond., 5 yrs. old. Must sell \$300. Pls. call. 5 - 9. 250-537-5652.

**NEW GE** Fridge, 16 cu.ft., top freezer, white, \$500. 250-537-4746

**CLEAR WATERS** 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

**SOLD, MOVED,** no room, 75 bronze art sculptures for sale, Phoenix Art Foundry. 250-653-4272.

**KONA STUFF** 17", disc brakes, Marzocchi bomber shock, \$650. 250-653-9161.

**BOXING WEEK** Sale at Island Escapades 25%-70% off everything, including jackets and beachwear. 163 Fulford Ganges 250-537-2553

**FLAGSTONE &** building stone for sale. 250-537-4156.

**GREAT HOLIDAY** Savings! #1 Online Shopping Mall One Stop Shopping: Wal-Mart, PetSmart, Footlocker, iTunes, Macy's, Dicks, NBA Store, Toys-R-Us, 1-800-Flowers, Hallmark, Overstock, Lillian Vernon, choose from over 50 stores! Visit [www.savedirectbuy.com](http://www.savedirectbuy.com)

**SEE US FOR A FAST QUOTE ON ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS!**

- Flooring
- Heating
- Eaves
- Plumbing
- Roofing

For all your building requirements, large or small!  
**SLEGG LUMBER LTD.**  
804 Fulford-Ganges Rd.  
537-4978

**Caldwell's OAKSPRING FARM 3**  
Free Range LOCAL AND Grain Fed  
Pork, Chicken & Beef  
537-2152 • 537-5380  
SINCE 1882

**FRESH FROZEN ROASTING CHICKEN** from North End Farm, \$4.50/lb. Sr's discount 10%. 250-537-4442

**HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD**  
GUARANTEED CORD  
Cut, Split & delivered  
Cedar Fence Rails  
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**KONIG & SON FIREWOOD**  
Serving Salt Spring 25 years  
Competitive & Reliable  
FIREWOOD LOGS WANTED  
250-537-9531

**LIONS GARAGE SALE, CLOSED DEC. 17 - JAN 9.** Many household items. Note: We no longer offer pick-ups. We do not accept appliances. Drop-offs accepted only on Fri. & Sat. morning. Please no garbage!! 103 Bonnet Ave.

**WANTED. THINKING** of selling your excavators, dozers, backhoes, farm tractor with loader, rough terrain cranes, skidsteers, graders, wheel loaders. Any condition. [prairieequip@telus.net](mailto:prairieequip@telus.net) or collect 250-547-8993.

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

**DELUXE WINNEBAGO** for rent with use of main house. \$500/mo. Other rentals avail. 250-931-4448.

**1656 SQ.FT.** manufactured home in Brinkworthy: 3 bdrm, 2 baths, dining room, private lot. Renter must be 55 or older and approved by Tripair Communities. 1 year lease possible \$995/month. To view call Phyllis at 250-537-5578 or 250-537-5553.

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

**3 BDRM.,** 1.5 bath, just renovated, 5 new appliances, above Mahon Hall, spectacular view of harbour, 5 min. to village, NS, NP, \$1600/mo + utilities. Call Richard 250-537-2239.

**3 BDRM.,** nice, newly renovated, 1800 sq. ft. 1/2 duplex, ocean view. Large deck, workshop, pets allowed. \$1200/mo., long term. 250-538-2067.

**1000 SQFT** Ganges prime retail space in Creekhous. 250-537-4522

**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.

**HOT TUB,** 6 person. New cover, new digital spa pack. Stealth circ. pump & jet pump. \$1900. 1 year warranty. 250-538-8244.

**STEEL BUILDINGS.** All sizes welcome. Steel prices are down! Will help with design. Additional discounts available. [www.greylensteel.com](http://www.greylensteel.com) 1-866-802-8573.

**SUNSET FARM STUDIO**  
has great wool comforters, mattress pads, pillows, knitting wool, and socks for the winter. Also sheepskin rugs and slippers.  
Call 250-537-2082

**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.

**ALTO SAX,** Yamaha, YAS-23, mint cond. and just serviced. \$650 with great case. 250-653-0022.

**WASHBURN OSCAR** Schmidt Delta blues semi-hollow electric guitar, looks like a Gibson ES-335. Cherry red, with case, both in excellent condition. \$300 obo 250-537-2728

**REAL ESTATE**

**COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL**

**HOMES WANTED**

**REAL ESTATE SERVICES**

**RENTALS**

**COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL**

**COTTAGES**

**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

**MISCELLANEOUS FOR RENT**

**HOMES FOR RENT**

**COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL**

**COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL**

Buying new appliances?  
Learn how you can save hundreds at LiveSmartBC.ca

Need a new furnace?  
Save \$1,130. Learn how at LiveSmartBC.ca

New water heater time?  
Save over \$500. Learn how at LiveSmartBC.ca

Upper Ganges Village Shopping Centre  
PRIME LOCATION  
UP TO 3300 FT<sup>2</sup>  
Contact: Ferd Kallstrom  
(250) 701-3591

# DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES  
TUESDAY 10 AM

classified@gulfislands.net

**RENTALS**

**HOMES FOR RENT**

**3 BDRM** top floor, \$1150 + utils. W/D, yard, NS, NP, Jan. 1 or 15. 250-537-2692.

**3 BEDROOM**, 1 1/2 bath duplex, ocean view, W/D, close to Fernwood School, NS, \$975. Avail. Jan 1/09 Long term. 250-537-4413.

**924 SQFT** mobile home, 2BDRM, 1 bath, DW, S/F, W/D, skylight, modern kitch. NS, NP, \$850. 250-537-9990

**AMAZING VIEWS**. Close to town. Furnished 800 sq.ft. 1.5 bdrm, 1 bath cabin. No 220V; shared laundry & util. Responsible individuals. Ref's req'd. \$750./mo incl. cable. 250-537-2129.

**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

**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.

**CHARMING, FULLY** furnished 2 to 3 BDRM house. Separate art studio office. Close to Ganges. From now til May 31. \$1100/mo.+ util's. Please Call 250-537-1677

**DELUXE WINNEBAGO** for rent with use of main house. \$500./mo. Other rentals avail. 250-931-4448.

**DOUBLE WIDE** trailer across from high school, 4 appliances, NS, NP, \$900/mo + utilities. Call Richard 250-537-2239.

**GANGES HARBOUR VIEW**. As new, spacious, 3 bdrm, 3 bath., with dbl 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.

**LOG CABIN** home for rent. Cozy, wood & electric heat, W/D, close 2 town, private, Maxwell water, clean & comfortable, 900 sqft. Open plan. Long Term. \$1000/mo. 250-537-4156 lv msg.

**NORTH END**: Oceanview, spacious accommodation. Landscaped garden, 2 BDRM, 2 bath, 5 appl., F/P and woodstove, 2 car parking, NS, NP, \$1500/mo. + util's. 250-538-7049

**OCEANVIEW RANCHER** in Crofton, 3 BDRM, 2 full bath, 5 appls., large fenced yard, garage, 3 mins. from ferry. Avail. Jan 1 or 15, \$1400/mo. Call 250-537-1517

**VESUVIUS AREA**, 2 bdrm house, \$950 month, avail immed, 250-598-2762.

**SEASONAL ACCOMMODATION**

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

**VICTORIA**: 1 bdrm, fully furnished, South Fairfield, NS, NP, suits single or couple, Jan 8 to Apr 8, 250-539-3177 or email: atom@pacificcoast.net

**SUITES, LOWER**

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

**SUNSET AREA** - Seeking quiet professional pseudo vegetarian to share custom Sunset area home. Secluded ridge top, spectacular views, separate wing/entry, en suite bath, private deck, share gourmet kitchen, sat hookup, furnished/unfurnished, NS/NP, month to month, \$800 incl. utils. 250-537-5760

**HOMES FOR RENT**

**RENTALS**

**SUITES, UPPER**

**600 SQ. FT.**, new, bright & beautiful, walking distance to town, suitable for quiet, single person. Fully furn. bachelor suite, hi-speed wireless, private entrance, NS, NP, Avail. immed. until March 31/09. \$650. 250-537-2838.

**TRANSPORTATION**

**AUTO ACCESSORIES/PARTS**

**FOUR TIRES**: two snow, two all season, all on rims. Good condition. Fit most Japanese cars. 195/70R14 \$50 each or \$180 for four. 250-537-1909

**AUTO FINANCING**

**Dreamcatcher Financing**  
No Credit, Bad Credit, No Problem

You Work, You Drive!  
APPLY ONLINE "0" Down! O.A.C.  
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Non-Prime Mortgages Available  
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**AUTO SERVICES**

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now here!

**COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS**  
Unleaded Fuels • Diesel  
Tires • Batteries • Accessories

537-4554 or 537-9300

Monday-Saturday 8 am - 7 pm  
Sunday 9 am - 6 pm  
Corner of Rainbow Rd. and Jackson Ave.

**CARS**

**www.carcreditbc.com** Automobile loans. Trucks/Vans/Cars/Suv's. Turned down? Rates too high? Trading in? Instant money available online. Complimentary delivery. No down payment. Apply online. Call anytime. 1-877-513-9564.

**SPORTS & IMPORTS**

**1993 HONDA** Accord, 4-door, 4-cyl, neat & clean, reliable, good on gas, peppy, \$3800. 250-537-4155

**2008 SMART** Pure Coupe, Yellow and Black, 1000 kms, fog lights, rubber floor mats and trunk tray. \$15,500 firm. 250-537-4746

**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**  
PAGE 16

**HOMES FOR RENT**

**TRANSPORTATION**

**MOTORCYCLES**

**SCOOTERS**  
Gas & Electric.  
Island's Largest Selection.  
Vespa & Yamaha & Honda

730 Hillside Ave., Victoria  
250-382-8291  
www.sgpower.com  
marc@sgpower.com

**TRUCKS & VANS**

**1989 F-250** pickup, high mileage, needs tires, lots of new parts, well maintained. \$1200. 250-537-5488.

**1991 CHEV**, S-10 Blazer, V6, std., 4 x 4, \$1300 obo. 250-537-7355.

**1994 SAFARI** 8 passenger van, AWD, great for skiing and winter driving. New trans. & water pump. \$3200. 250-537-2571.

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

**MARINE**

**BOATS**

**OUTBOARDS**  
Yamaha • Suzuki  
Honda  
from 2 HP to 350 HP  
Four strokes  
New & Used  
Great selection  
Great prices

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www.sgpower.com • jay@sgpower.com

**SIMPLY SALTSRING**

**QUALITY CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN** with experienced local builder & timber frame specialist. Landscaping projects, renovations, new homes. Custom bandsaw milling of your own timber. 20 years on Salt Spring - excellent island references, finest quality work guaranteed. Alan Monrichard @ 250-537-4510.

**CARS**

**SIMPLY SALTSRING**

**"DO IT FOR SANTA"**  
Time to get that flue cleaned  
**Dave the Chimney Sweep**  
Mention this ad for 25% off  
250-538-0085

**EXERCISE BIKE** wanted to buy or loan for knee rehab. Upright kind preferred. Celeste 250-537-4658

**FOR WHAT'S ON IN THE PYRAMID** see www.saltspringpyramid.com / 250-538-0924.

**GOTTA SELL** your car, truck, boat, RV, trailer or motorcycle? Advertise it in the Driftwood for 8 insertions at only \$49.95. (Private party ads, 3 lines, 1 vehicle per special, must be prepaid.) Your ad will appear in 8 consecutive issues of the Driftwood and the Driftwood Weekender. Your ad will also be posted to bcclassified.com and bcautocentral.com. Call 537-9933 for details.

**GULF ISLANDS Optical**. Eyewear accessories make great Xmas Gifts and stocking stuffers. Gift certificates also available. 50% refund on the cost of your eye test when you purchase a full set of frames and lenses. Gulf Islands Optical at the Lancer Bldg, 250-537-2648.

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

**SWIM MEMBERSHIPS AT THE SUMMERSIDE POOL**  
Enjoy swimming on your own time! Private, UV filtered, saltwater pool. Open 7 days a week 6am. to 9pm. New reduced rates for 3 / 6 month or 1 year packages. Memberships also include access to our private fitness room. Or come and get energized with our \$6 Drop in Aquafit Classes every Mon/ Wed / Fri 9:30 -10:30 am. or join our low impact walking aquafit classes every Mon/Wed 10:30-11:30am. For more info, call Julie at: 250-537-9433.

**SWING IN THE NEW YEAR** at the Falconshead Grill with Salt Spring's own Swing Shift Big Band. Information, menu and tickets available at the Grill and at the Raven Street Market Cafe. 250-537-2273.

**THE JOB SQUAD**, on Salt Spring since 1989. 250-537-5703. 20% Winter Discount.

**VANPOOL RIDERS** wanted available immediately: fulltime, shared & drop-in seats travelling between Swartz Bay terminal and Downtown Victoria. For more information call 250-952-4827 (Day) or 250-653-2019 (Eves)

**WANTED TO buy**: firewood logs/standing timber. Konig & Son Firewood. Phone 537-9531.

**Driftwood Letters Online**  
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

**CARS**

**SIMPLY SALTSRING**

**The Wardrobe ~ in Fulford**  
**30-80% OFF** Everything on Sale  
**End of Season Clearance**  
Scarves, Shawls, Mitts, Gloves, Hats, Bags, Silver, Stone, Wood & Shell Jewelry, Natural Fibre Clothing & Accessories by "Om Grown"  
Open Daily 11-5:30 Closed Jan 5-Feb10

**HOMES FOR RENT**

**HOMES FOR RENT**

**ROYAL** Property Management Ltd.

**3 BDRM 2.5 BTHRM** lease assignment  
**5 appl newer home** NS NP \$1950. + util  
Mid Island 79463

**2 BDRM 1BTHRM** 4 appl elect heat garage available  
**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 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 home new renos  
avail now 4 appl  
NS NP \$1000. + util  
Mid Island 113967

**2 BDRM 1 BTHRM** oceanfront cottage acreage 4 appl  
avail 1 Sept - 30 Jun  
\$900 + util NS NP  
South End 88611

See these Homes at  
www.royalproperty.ca **250-537-5577**

Licensed Strata/Commercial/ Residential Management

**ISLAND EXPLORER**  
Property Management Ltd. & Real Estate Services

**2 bedroom cabin near Lake**, single or couple only, N/S.....\$ 950

**2 bedroom + Loft in Fulford**, N/S, N/P, avail. immed.....\$1000

**2 bedroom Half House**, spacious, sunny, N/S, N/P, avail. immed.....\$1000

**3 bedroom High End Home**, furnished, N/S, N/P, Channel Ridge, avail. immed.....\$1800

**4 bedroom Home in Sunny Vesuvius Area**, N/S, N/P.....\$1650

250-537-4722  
1-800-800-9492

Island Explorer is a fully licensed, bonded management company under the laws of the B.C. Govt.

**New car hunting?**

Save up to \$4,000. Learn how at LiveSmartBC.ca

LiveSmart BC

**Trading in your old car?**

Get back over \$2000. Learn how at LiveSmartBC.ca

LiveSmart BC

**Looking for a new truck?**

Save up to \$4,000. Learn how at LiveSmartBC.ca

LiveSmart BC

**Claudia Picks a WINNER!**

Place a classified ad in the Driftwood & your name is automatically entered to win a BC49 Lotto ticket.

**THIS WEEK'S WINNER IS DONNA JOHNSTONE**  
Come to the Driftwood office to claim your prize!

**328 Lower Ganges Rd. 250-537-9933**

(Tickets are held for 2 weeks from the date of publication. Unclaimed tickets will be re-entered to our contest pool.)

Driftwood  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

You could  
*win*  
\$250.00  
worth of  
gasoline!  
For your vehicle



When you  
subscribe or renew  
your current subscription to  
the Driftwood,  
your name will  
be entered in  
our monthly  
draw for a  
\$250.00 gas  
certificate!

Congratulations to  
**LINDA SANGSTER**  
our winner for November!

Claudia will be calling to make  
sure you don't miss an issue.

**Driftwood**  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

328 Lower Ganges Road,  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V3  
250-537-9933

## HELP WANTED

Driftwood Publishing is looking for an advertising proof reader. Necessary skills for this position include excellent English/grammar skills, eye for detail, communication skills, must have good telephone skills and be highly organized and experienced in Adobe InDesign 3. The successful candidate will proof read all advertising, email / fax ad proofs and communicate with clients regarding ad changes and corrections. Assistance in ad corrections and ad building make experience in InDesign 3 a must. This job is permanent part time. Please send resume via email, fax, mail or in person to 250-537-2613 or production@gulfislands.net, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island V8K 2V3, attention Lorraine Sullivan. No phone calls please.

**Driftwood**  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

## Advertising Deadlines

Please note the  
**Driftwood Office will be closed:**

Thursday, December 25th & Friday December 26th  
The Driftwood office will close Wednesday  
December 24th at 2 pm.

**Deadlines for the Driftwood -  
Wednesday, December 31st**

Display deadline: Monday, December 22nd, 4 pm  
Classified Display Deadline: Monday, December 29th, 4 pm  
Classified Word Deadline: Tuesday, December 30th, 10 am

Classifieds may be place on-line at:  
[www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

**The Driftwood office will be closed  
Thursday, January 1st.**

Regular Deadlines will apply for the Driftwood of  
Wednesday, January 7th.

**The Driftwood Weekender will not be published:  
Friday, December 26th and Friday, January 2nd**

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# This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor



### Tip of the Week:

As we draw to the closure of 2008, the first # 1 year of the New Millennium, we have reason to pause and reflect upon the past 12 months or so. Yes, the Millennium of 2000 taken as a whole is symbolized by # 2. This presents a clue to the emerging feminine power, as would be the case in the Age of Aquarius. For 2008, when the digits are added and reduced to a single digit, it = 1. (I offer more background on Numerology on my website in Articles). Already in 2007 and again at the onset of 2008, I said that this year would prove pivotal. (I invite you to my site to the first weekly horoscopes of the year, and the Horoscopes for the entire year for a closer review). 1 is about beginning, initiative, pioneering, new precedents, leadership, bold action, invention, activating and emerging trends. So, let's review the events that indicate that this is indeed the case. The following list are the top 10 initiatives that set important precedences and gave birth to important new trends that will prove to shape the world over the next 8 years especially, to complete this first official 1-9 year cycle of the Millennium.

Thank you to all my readers and clients for your interest and support in 2008 and Blessings for health, happiness and fulfillment in 2009.

### Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Amidst the backdrop of bigger changes and power moves in your public and professional life, the New Moon on Dec. 27 will plant the seed of even more yet. This will culminate in 2 weeks time, at the Full Moon. A powerful determination to get the edge coming in to the New Year will be evident. Sharing ideals and visions of the future with significant others is part of the plot. Expect your mood to be enthusiasm and determined balance by sober caution.

### Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

Changes in your core philosophy and choices about the future are bubbling. You want to make slow, well chosen moves. While you are ready to take risks, you also want more background and facts. This is no time for pre-mature judgements. Yet, the flow has its own say and there is wisdom in going with it as well. The

key message you may be hearing is: get back closer to the land! However you do it, get grounded!

### Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Purging, merging, clearing and claiming a news sense of freedom should be keeping you busy. What dreams, visions, illusions and fantasies no longer serve? Seek council with your higher mind to decide. There is power in numbers and the time is ripe to shares dreams and decisions. Investments made now may be slow on return, but will probably eventually. Find security and solace in close ties and bonds.

### Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

A new day is dawning in your relationships. Some significant forces, key players and events are activating change. Fortunately, these include opportunity. Travel in the short term and possibly linked to career is highlighted. You are seeing a new world more clearly with each new day. By the time of the New Moon, important changes will be revealed and opportunities presented. Look to the future now and accept that change is inevitable.

### Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

Do you notice how aware of the details you are already becoming? Your focus and vision is getting sharper. You seek scientific precision and mastery in whatever is claiming your passions. This is a time of change and the audience is undecided. People want answers, but every source and angle seems to bear limitations. Therefore, it is a good time to evaluate where the trends are going. Be willing to see where you can improve your performance.

### Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

A whole new level of creative power and charisma is emerging for you. Soon, more and more people will be seeking solid answers and reliable information. This is your fortet. Your ability to offer logical facts backed by solid research across a spectrum of disciplines will be rewarded handsomely. Positioning is important now and you may notice this is a strong current theme. Aim to be of service by offering solutions to humanities woes.

### Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Some powerful energies are shaking things up close to home. Renovations, moves, plumbing or repairs of structural problems and so on are likely themes. These may take on a purely physical form or they may affect you psychologically or your family life. The ground you stood on not long ago is no longer as secure as you may have supposed. Trust that there is a natural cyclic theme at work and nurture a sensible response.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Fixed notions, attitudes, behaviour patterns and habits are up for review. Deciphering the difference between power, force and control will remain a lingering theme. The old ways will no longer work. This is a call to at least begin to re-invent your self, your style, image, approach and perspectives. If you dig deeply enough beneath yours or anyone else's surface you will come arrive at spirit. Once this is clear you can begin to build the new empire!

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

A restructuring of your entire foundation is now underway. Personality is everywhere but character is not as established in society anymore. This will not due and personally and collectively, life will now guide us to re-acknowledging the importance of strength of character. A grounded vision that supports simple values and core principles is needed. Discipline, logic, science and intuition will take care of the rest. Personal responsibility free of blaming attitudes is the key.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Already you are taking some powerful new strides and the New Year has not even begun. Then again, the start gun for you was fired in late November. This week will be extra noticeable in terms of important key initiatives. The time has come to assert new directions. The environment, the economy and the social sphere in

general is changing quickly now as a consequence. Humanity needs new answers and leadership that makes sense to a wider populace.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Many new assertions without counterbalanced by many deep changes within are underway. Looking to the current situation, the past and the future you may find reason yet also feel challenged to keep the faith. This paradoxical situation may be a source of confusion. The time is right to retreat and rest for a while. 2009 stands to be busy and the more deeply you can recharge now the better. Meditate, retreat, sleep and dream a bright future for us all.

### Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Gaining stimulation from the social scene is the call now. This may mean networking or going out more or keeping up to date on the news and world affairs and events. This is a good time to clarify where your commitments lie. Gaining new knowledge and targeting your focus or market is ideal. You may feel a little unclear about things now. This will resolve itself by summer anyway. For now, establish an integral foundation with flexibility in the design.

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- TRACY

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:

**"I promise to do things  
that are good for me."**

Why would anyone need a resolution to be good to oneself? After all, human self-preservation is instinctual for us, and despite the lack of sharp teeth, big bodies, fur, or highly developed senses, humans prevail in sickness and in health. But self-preservation and survival are a far cry from quality living.

Most of us have the ability to change our environment positively in small or large ways to suit our individual needs. A positive change affects us internally through the body, spirit, and mind. We can make choices that enhance our lives authentically by keeping these three areas content.

That said, it seems that this time of year makes people lose their equilibrium. It's a rush, (and not the fun kind), to find the perfect gift, spend money lavishly, drive like an idiot, bake/wrap/decorate/sing carols/have a party/go to parties/bake a turkey/ trim the tree - Aargh!! Suddenly the beauty of this time of sharing and giving is eclipsed by seemingly more pressing matters -- self-preservation.

It's not supposed to be like this and doesn't have to be. The Driftwood's 'To Your Health' page puts you in touch with all the gifted island professionals who are here to help you stay grounded throughout the holidays and beyond. Investing in peace of mind and minding your body encourages you to celebrate the parts of you that are excellent and improve the parts that, well, need work.

Our ancestors had to worry about attacks from large, hairy animals, but these days, that nasty animal more often appears in the form of stress. Health practitioners in all areas have noticed the stress/climate change and have responded. There are more spas, massage therapists, psychotherapists and New-Age healers operating in our part of the world than ever before, and they are joined by holistic practitioners of all-kinds and in any area you can imagine. Those who appear on the Health page offer an eclectic variety of services to choose from and encourage readers to take stock of their own health.

**SO MAKE A LIST - one that specifically names your goals for better health.**

Ask yourself how this next year can be an improvement over the last in terms of personal wellness. Do you constantly live with pain? Do you over-eat consistently? Are you depressed? Do you know anything about nutrition for your gender, age, and body type?

For wellness to happen, you must ask yourself honest questions and act on the answers. Health practitioners are there to assist you in your journey to WHOLE health.

You only get to enjoy one body, one mind, and one spirit in this life.

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PHOTOS BY DERRICK LUNDY  
**SNOW SCENES:** As troublesome as it is in many areas, the recent snowfall on Salt Spring has also created stunning photo ops. Seen here are St. Mary Lake, above, and, at right, snow-covered berries.

## Two feet equals six feet under

Do you, like me, have a soft spot for modern fairy tales? The Cement-Filled Cadillac? The Choking Doberman?

The first one is a tale of just deserts for a rich guy caught fooling around with the wife of a cement-truck driver. The Choking Doberman? It's about a family watchdog found to have a throat obstruction — three human fingers belonging to a burglar still cowering in a bedroom cupboard.

Urban Legends — morality tales just a little too vindictively satisfying to be true.

Here's another one you can add to the list: Cement Shoes. You know how this one goes. Cement Shoes are the grisly fate of, say, Machete Joe Maniago, a low-browed gunsel who worked for The Mob as an enforcer until he got caught skimming from his weekly "collections."

Police investigators would later piece together the grisly details of his demise. How he was ambushed in the parking lot of a strip club, thrown into the trunk of a Lincoln and driven to a remote shack in the Jersey Pine Barrens. There, he would have been tied to a chair, tongue-lashed and pistol-whipped. Finally, his interrogator would have smiled and said "Okay, Joe, now kick off your Guccis."

Machete Joe would have watched with eyes as big as hard-boiled eggs as his feet were immersed in a tub of cement. Joe knew what came next. A quick trip through the night to a small boat moored to a deserted pier. A short ride out to the middle of the river or the ocean offshore and then . . . over the side with Joe. Cement Shoes, an impossibly horrible fate.

Except . . . not.

Well, think about it. Hit



Arthur Black

### WIT & WHIMSY

men — even sadistic ones — are time management specialists at heart. They know murder is exceedingly illegal, to be got over with as quickly as possible. You think they're going to kidnap a guy, drop the hammer — and then sit around for an hour or two waiting for some cement to dry?

And then there's the weight factor. Pasta lover that he was, chances are better than average that Machete Joe was already a bit of a porker. You think the hit squad would want to add another hundred pounds or so of Portland cement to their burden?

As Paulie Walnuts would (approximately) say: "It don't make no freakin' sense."

Indeed it doesn't. And although the plot device of throwing someone into the drink with their feet encased in cement has proved extremely hardy with underworld gossips, night club comics, crime novelists and television producers, an examination of criminal records reveals that exactly zero bodies, or remains of bodies, have ever been recovered anywhere that were dipped in tubs of cement.

This is not to say that certain parties have not been weighed down with heavy objects and turned into involuntary sea-bottom attractions. Various corpses have been found with heavy objects in their pockets or wired to cinder blocks. Racketeer Johnnie "Chink"

Goodman was fished out of a stream in New Jersey back in 1941 closely involved with a big block of concrete — but his body was chained to the ballast, not immersed in it. That negates the entire grisly charm of the cement shoes.

Nevertheless, personal experience compels me to confirm that the Cement Shoe concept can be extremely effective as an agent for public change.

I offer you the case of Larry W., a fellow in our community well-known for climbing aboard various bandwagons. A few years back, Larry got his picture on the front page of our local newspaper.

The photographed showed Larry sitting on a chair, sledgehammer by his side, dressed in Bermuda shorts with his legs clearly immersed in a washtub of hardened cement.

Larry, the newspaper copy informed us, had vowed not to smash his way out of the cement until . . . I forget what particular issue Larry was protesting that day, but he vowed his feet would remain encased in the cement until the issue was favourably resolved.

That same afternoon I ran into Larry at the pub. He was barefoot (not all that unusual for Larry), languidly sipping a beer. "Larry," I said, "you won your protest already?"

"Not at all, boy," said Larry. "I just got thirsty."

And that's when I recalled that Larry had been wearing gumboots in the newspaper photo. Gumboots which he could slip out of any time he pleased, cement or no cement.

Moral of this Urban Legend: if anyone ever offers to outfit you with cement shoes, remember to request gumboots.

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