



The cat that came back

A Chanukah miracle. PAGE 18

Winter woes

Weather stories. PAGES 2 and 4

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YEAR IN REVIEW

PAGES 23 - 26



Driftwood

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Wednesday, December 31, 2008 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 47TH YEAR — ISSUE 53

SSI TRANSIT SYSTEM

Island's buses ready and rolling

Visiting dignitaries celebrate "historic event"

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

The newest bus service in the province hit the streets Monday morning as visiting dignitaries, community groups and local politicians ushered in a new era for Salt Spring Island and its residents.

"The bus is on the road and is actually moving," said Bob Fenske, interim chair of the Community Transit and Transportation Commission during an energetic ceremony marking the occasion.

"This is an historic celebration. I was so excited I could barely sleep last night."

Roughly 125 exuberant participants cheered and applauded the transit system's highly anticipated arrival that became official Monday at Meaden Place. Residents and visitors have access to bus service on three routes Monday through Saturday.



JASMIN RETURNS HOME

Recovering 7-year-old gets surprise welcome

Crowd greets Jasmin Wilson after her release from Vancouver hospital

BY AMY GEORGE

As the Long Harbour ferry pulled into the terminal Sunday afternoon, the shoreline brimmed with clusters of coloured balloons, waving signs, handmade signs and cheers accompanied by celebratory honks from a fire truck.

It was an elaborate yet appropriate homecoming for one brave little girl.

Released last Friday from B.C.'s Children's Hospital in Vancouver, this was seven-year-old Jasmin Wilson's long-awaited ride home — the near-end of what her grandfather Ken Barnes describes as "a long haul."

But her journey toward full recovery after being diagnosed with Compartment Syndrome in December is not yet over. Jasmin and her parents Rob and Liz have physiotherapy to tackle now, and once Jasmin is walking again, they will have to work to piece their lives back together.

But the Wilsons are not alone; Saturday's turnout made that clear.

JASMIN continued on 4



Dynamite recovered from dock at Vesuvius

Threat of detonation potential deemed low

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Salt Spring Island RCMP working in conjunction with a Vancouver island-based underwater recovery team, retrieved two sticks of dynamite from waters below the government wharf in Vesuvius on Monday.

Police received an anonymous "third-hand report" that an individual dropped dynamite into the water on April 20, according to a Salt Spring RCMP press release issued on Monday.

"Given the information received, the report was believed credible," Sgt. Danny Willis states in the release.

RCMP officers immediately notified B.C. Ferries of the potential danger and contacted the E Division's underwater recovery team and explosives disposal unit.

B.C. Ferries spokesperson Deborah Marshall confirmed the company's security department received notification of the incident on Monday.

DYNAMITE continued on 2



A member of an off-island RCMP special underwater recovery team brings out a bag containing dynamite from under the government wharf in Vesuvius.

Community theatre 'accommodates'



GISS VOLLEYBALL



Clockwise from top, Casey Knight, Cole Wrigley, Stuart Garside, Cayce Fedberg, Dave Outerbridge and Evan Henshall celebrate their first-place volleyball finish in the high school gym on Saturday.

Scorpions rule the court as sr. boys win island title

FALL FAIR



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

Homespun fair event dazzles visitors

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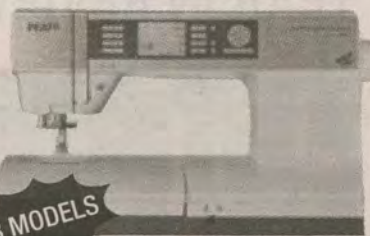
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NEWSBEAT

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

SNOW FLIES: Several days worth of snowfall has had island residents and business owners out in force, clearing snow from roof-tops and walkways.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Family feels 'abandoned' in storm

Crews unable to clear road for two weeks

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring Island family is recovering from a Christmas they won't soon forget after the recent snowfall left them snowed in on Spring Gold Way on the east side of Mount Erskine.

"We were feeling a little bit abandoned [by road maintenance crews]," said Christina Surbey on Monday. "When they say they are going to do something, they should do it or tell us why they can't."

Surbey's frustration turned to anger when her repeated pleas to the Mainroad South Island Contracting company were not followed up. Surbey said she was told her street was "on the list" each of the 15 times she called the company contracted to maintain island roads.

With a promise that her street would soon be cleared, Surbey proceeded to drive her daughter back to the Lower Mainland for work.

She managed to get



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Vehicles in ditches have been a common sight recently.

down the hill, but when she returned she realized the plow hadn't come, and she faced a whole new set of challenges.

Driving through more than a metre (3.3 feet) of snow nearly resulted in catastrophe when her chained four-wheel-drive vehicle slid off the road and came close to plunging off a 60-metre (200-foot) cliff.

"I would have been gone," she said.

Surbey and her family moved to a newer subdivision on the island seven months ago from Vancouver. She said she never imagined her family would be stranded as they were.

"This is definitely something to talk about," she said. "There were a lot of people [on the island] who were stuck and I don't think that's right."

Spring Gold Way was finally plowed on Saturday, Dec. 27.

Louise Doucet said treacherous roads made it impossible for her parents, also island residents, to travel to her Reynolds Road home for Christmas dinner. She ended up spending Christmas with neighbours who found themselves in a similar situation.

When she finally got through to Mainroad Contracting's office in Langford,

a representative said hers was the first complaint from a Salt Spring resident.

"I guess if the line is always busy or messages are never checked, a company could presume that all is well with its service," Doucet wrote in a letter to the Driftwood.

"In the spirit of this holiday season, maybe I should approach this problem from a more positive perspective," she added. "Here goes: congratulations Mainroad Contracting for finally ending the old adage 'the mail must go through.' Ours has been undeliverable since Dec. 17 . . . You equal Air Canada in your ability to keep loved ones apart at Christmas."

Vehicles left abandoned on some roads also caused major problems.

Three cars "parked" at the top of the big hill on Charlesworth Road effectively trapped residents living on Mount Belcher Heights, Cudmore Heights and Wilkie Way for four days, said area resident Nathan Cardinal, because the road could not be plowed.

"Those of us who had to work were forced to brave the deadly unplowed roads, not knowing if we would

ROAD WORK continued on 4

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17:27	2.7	8.9
JANUARY 01 00:59	0.9	3.0
TH 09:00	3.5	11.5
15:40	2.4	7.9
18:33	2.5	8.2
02 01:30	1.2	3.9
FR 09:21	3.5	11.5
16:21	2.1	6.9
20:06	2.3	7.5
03 02:03	1.5	4.9
SA 09:41	3.4	11.2
17:00	1.7	5.6
22:15	2.2	7.2

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LOOKING AHEAD

Islanders offer hopes and goals for upcoming year

2009 heralds new priorities

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A flip through the Driftwood's Year in Review on pages 23-26 of this week's paper reveals that 2008 was yet another Salt Spring blend of the unforeseen, the predictable, the tragic and the just plain wacky.

Included are some of the stories that helped define what living on the island is all about, but looking back can only provide part of the picture. Getting everything in focus requires a look ahead to what islanders can expect in the 12 months to come.

With that in mind, representatives of various Salt Spring organizations and institutions were asked to state their top priority for 2009. It turns out, perhaps not unsurprisingly, that most respondents found it challenging to name just a single issue.

Salt Spring RCMP

According to RCMP Sgt. Danny Willis, the island's seven active police officers are on staff to serve the interests of islanders.

More officers are always welcome, but the detachment appears in pretty good shape, in terms of staffing levels, compared to previous years, Willis added.

In 2008, the detachment set out to clean up the downtown core, target driving infractions and prevent drug use on the island. What local RCMP members focus on in 2009, Willis said, depends on what the community wants.

In January, officers will begin asking islanders to suggest directions in which the detachment should head. Comments can be submitted directly to the station or through the Crime Prevention Society's brand new website at www.saltspring-crimeprevention.org.

"It may be those same issues [identified last year] or it may be some different issues," Willis said. "That's why we're asking."

Salt Spring Fire Rescue

The department may not have succeeded in its early-2008 campaign to purchase land needed for a new and improved fire hall near Ganges, but fire chief Dave Enfield is resolute in fulfilling his mandate.

"Fire and life safety [is the priority] for everyone on and visiting the island," he said.

Recruiting, training and building on the department's successes will remain clear goals in 2009.

"That includes having a highly trained and motivated



DANNY WILLIS



DAVE ENFIELD



CHUCK HAMILTON



JUDY RADDYSH

firefighting force, who have confidence in their tasks, are equipped with the best possible equipment and have access to other needed resources when the situation calls for them," Enfield added.

No word on whether a new proposed fire hall site is yet in the cards.

Search and Rescue

"You mean other than more chocolate?" responded Search and Rescue search manager Chuck Hamilton when asked about his hopes and dreams for 2009.

In lieu of chocolates, Hamilton said, he would be more than satisfied with a few more volunteers to top up Search and Rescue's 27 eager and multi-skilled core members.

The group will hold an open house at the high school on Jan. 20 as part of its 2009 recruitment drive.

Hamilton added that getting more volunteers certified and re-certified in first aid and rescue techniques is always a top priority. Saving up for a SAR-specific rescue and/or gear storage vehicle, he added, would be a major goal if things proceed especially well in 2009.

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee

The past year saw the election of first-time trustee Christine Torgimson to the Islands Trust. She will sit with returning trustee George Ehring and chair Sheila Malcolmson from Gabriola Island.

"As a new trustee, my top 2009 priority is to help the community engage in respectful, productive dialogue about important matters like affordable housing, watershed protection, industrial/commercial zoning, governance improvement and other pressing concerns," Torgimson said. "Our

often-polarized community is really in need of more constructive individual and collective conversations, including via the Driftwood. Let's develop and participate in thoughtful, thorough problem-solving processes that build relationships, bridge differences and create effective solutions, while honouring the Trust's 'preserve and protect' mandate."

For his part, Ehring said picking a single most-important priority is a luxury not available in an "activist community" such as Salt Spring.

"I have not so much a priority, but a commitment: to continue to work with the community on all the various issues that face us," Ehring said. "To pick just one priority is to suggest that others are not so important, and that's not how government ought to work."

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee's first meeting of 2009 is on Jan. 8.

Gulf Islands Secondary School

Principal Judy Raddysh said her school and others within the Gulf Islands School District plan to continue their emphasis on what is commonly referred to as "constructivist" learning. That means students, teachers and parents can expect to spend more time working alongside one another to make education more meaningful, efficient and rewarding.

"It's based on building knowledge on what we already know," she said. "It's not so much what you learn, but it's more to do with what the student wants to learn."

Mentorships, apprenticeships, distance learning programs and courses designed to enhance specific skills, Raddysh said, are proving more effective as more students get exposed to them.

"That's really the direction we are going," she said.

News briefs

1940s ferry schedule

A Salt Spring Islander spied a local historic treasure in the collectibles section of Craigslist Victoria last week.

Alice Trueman noticed a Salt Spring schedule of the Gulf Islands Ferry Co. Ltd. from 1948, being sold for \$40.

The schedule details the Cy Peck's four daily sailings (with Wednesday being the exception).

Cost for travel between Swartz Bay and Fulford was 75 cents for a car under 2,000 pounds and its driver, although the cost was \$1.50 if the vehicle weighed more

than 4,000 pounds. An extra car passenger cost 15 cents and the foot passenger fare was 25 cents. No mention was made of fuel surcharges.

Advertisers on the schedule were Turner's Gift Shop, Jack Smith's taxi, Vesuvius Lodge and Devon Lodge.

The item can be viewed at <http://victoria.en.craigslist.ca/971060477.html>.

RCMP puppy names chosen

The Salt Spring RCMP's Name the Puppy Contest came up with seven potential monikers for the country's newest batch of police dogs.

As selected by a panel of guest judges, winners were:

1. Bullet (two-way tie — Sam and Takin Marvsti)
2. Bandit (Anna Rithaler)
3. Boris (Norees Gasper)
4. Boomer (Rita Dods)
5. Bentley (Bonnie Tarantino)

Contest rules stipulate that the new dogs' names must begin with the letter B. Last year 10 names beginning with the letter A were chosen from across Canada.

Qualifying names from Salt Spring will be forwarded to the RCMP National Police Dog Service Training Centre in Innisfail, Alberta for the 2009 national Name the Puppy Competition.

The local RCMP detachment gave "bucketfuls of

bountiful bones" (similar to Driftwood "roses") to all people submitting names, and to everyone who visited the detachment on Tuesday, Dec. 23 to visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus and "Budolph," the red-nosed Buffalo who was tasked with the job of pulling Santa's custom-made sleigh.

First LTC meeting Jan. 8

Island political life gets back on track next week when the first Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting runs on Thursday, Jan. 8.

Regular attendees should note the earlier-than-usual start time, however. In order

to allow working people to speak their piece during lunch hour, the ArtSpring meeting will begin at noon (rather than 1 p.m.) with a town hall session.

It will be the first meeting of the new LTC with Salt Spring trustees George Ehring and Christine Torgimson, and Sheila Malcolmson from Gabriola Island, who replaces Kim Benson as chair of both Trust Council and Salt Spring's LTC.

The agenda issued Dec. 29 listed the proposed Salt Spring Coffee and Land Bank Society Rainbow Road rezonings among other topics.

Inclement weather cancelled a number of public meetings set for December, including one on Dec. 17

set to give details about the Land Bank Society project, and the ad hoc Save Our Surgery committee meeting that was scheduled for Dec. 18. The latter meeting was postponed to Jan. 15, 7 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel.

Tree chipping cancelled

Weather has claimed another island event. A tree-chipping service and bottle drive scheduled for Saturday in the high school parking lot has been cancelled. The event was a fundraiser for a girls soccer team, heading to Costa Rica in 2010. The girls hope to re-schedule the event for another date.

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1 Ganges Local
Monday - Friday

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

Saturday

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

v-Trip continues as Route 3 Vesuvius

4 Long Harbour
Monday - Friday

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

Saturday

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

5 Fernwood
Monday - Friday

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

Saturday

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

2 Fulford Harbour
Monday - Friday

A	I	J	K	E	E	K	J	I	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Fulford Hall	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Hall	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
7:10	7:16	7:23	7:27	7:30	7:40	7:43	7:47	7:54	8:00
9:10	9:16	9:23	9:27	9:30	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
11:10	11:16	11:23	11:27	11:30	11:40	11:43	11:47	11:54	12:00
3:10	3:16	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
5:10	5:16	5:23	5:27	5:30	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00

Saturday

9:10	9:16	9:23	9:27	9:30	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
11:10	11:16	11:23	11:27	11:30	11:40	11:43	11:47	11:54	12:00
3:10	3:16	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
5:10	5:16	5:23	5:27	5:30	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00

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NEWSBEAT

WINTER WEATHER

Season's spirit shines through storms

Extra effort preserves traditions

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As successive snowstorms in recent weeks left islanders with enough holiday horror stories to last through a Gulf Islands power failure, it's good to know that the wild weather can also bring out the best in residents.

"God disposes 19 times out of 20," wrote Margaret Mackenzie, the Extended Care Unit (ECU) volunteer coordinator with the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary, in a letter sent to the Driftwood. "On the 20th time communities have to step in."

For as long as she's volunteered with the group, the auxiliary has helped put on a Christmas feast for ECU residents and their families.

Organizers usually count on between 60 and 80 people turning up for the feast, so when it became apparent that

a leak in the building meant the hospital's kitchen was out of service for the group's Dec. 23 event, uncertainty prevailed.

For a while, it was looking as though the annual feast would feature cold sandwiches instead of turkey and cookies instead of plum pudding.

Thanks to some help from the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, hospital auxiliary members and the combined efforts of caterers, hospital staff and volunteers, the event featured a marvellous turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

"Not even the third dump of heavenly snow stopped Valdy, volunteers and families from celebrating a memorable family Christmas dinner, looking out of the window at a winter wonderland," Mackenzie continued.

"Everyone came together," she added.

As volunteers worked to get the feast on the table, Salt Spring's Mike Best was intent on continuing a little family

tradition of his own.

Reached Tuesday morning while he was recovering from a cold, Best couldn't recall exactly when his family began offering lifts to snowed-in staff from Greenwood and Lady Minto Hospital.

"As a family, we've always felt that nursing staff and other healthcare providers are undervalued," he said. "They are always getting short shrift."

To express his gratitude, Best offers rides to nurses and hospital staff from all corners of the island whenever there is a serious snowfall and he is on the island.

This year, Best estimates he provided lifts to more than 10 staff who had trouble making it into work.

"It may be the holidays, but the hospitals are still open," he said.

Having a four-wheel-drive vehicle and plenty of winter diving experience from his days in Minnesota means Best is a prime candidate for

the job.

Best added that he is but one of the many people who went out of their way to help others in need. Whether it was checking up on neighbours, helping people out of the ditch or running errands, residents provided more than enough reason to celebrate the spirit of the season.

According to information on the BC Hydro website, more than 1,500 customers on Salt Spring Island were without power at some point as a result of the snow, wind, rain and cold to befall the island.

While icy roads and snow banks linger, the forecast from Environment Canada predicts the worst of December's snowy weather is over and done with.

Island residents can expect warmer temperatures and showers to usher in the new year, a welcome relief for an island that's had its fair share of cold but still managed to preserve plenty of spirit.

Roads: 'please be patient'

ROAD WORK continued from 2

make it home again," he said.

A number of islanders expressed mystification at why their roads were not plowed, were done only once in the course of two weeks and why sand was not used to provide traction once snow was cleared off.

According to David Turenne, the manager of Mainroad Contracting's Gulf Islands division, crews continue to work overtime to ensure the island's major arteries are cleared.

"What we've had is a series of storms that haven't given us a break in between so we can't do the clean up that we want to do," he said on Monday.

Turenne said Mainroad's 11 Salt Spring Island employees clear the streets on a priority basis. Isolated side roads are only reached once the main roads and bus routes are clear.

Unfortunately, he said, the short time between snowfalls means smaller roads have been subjected to multiple storms without getting serviced.

"It's been difficult," he said. "Please be patient. We will get there and have everyone plowed out in due course."

Though the company may not be able to return every message left at its office, he added, all calls are recorded and transferred to employees.

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2004 HYUNDAI ACCENT, 4 cyl. auto	\$6,995
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2007 TOYOTA COROLLA

2005 MAZDA B300 **IN MINT SHAPE!**

2005 JEEP LIBERTY

CASH FOR CARS! Car buyer on duty



PHOTO BY STEVE WENSTE

VESSEL CHAT:

Coast guard vessel Cape Kuper drops by to check on the Queen of Nanaimo in Long Harbour on Dec. 23. Soon after departing from the terminal at 3:30 p.m., the crew dropped anchor in order to investigate an electrical problem. BC Ferries spokesperson Deborah Marshall said the cause was traced to a tripped breaker on an emergency generator panel. The vessel was delayed by about 90 minutes.

POLICE

RCMP targets abandoned vehicles

Time now to move vehicles off the road

Salt Spring's RCMP detachment advises motorists who have left vehicles abandoned along island roads to move them or risk being stuck with the price of a tow.

RCMP Sgt. Danny Willis said officers have been lenient on drivers given the recent snowfall. Now that condition are improving, however, he said officers

will start getting serious about clearing vehicles left in places that impede traffic flow or present a danger to motorists and pedestrians.

"The advantage of being in a small community is that we don't have to be overly officious, but we still have to enforce the law," Willis said. "Now that they've had time we are going to be less lenient."

Willis said the detachment has received several complaints from drivers about vehicles blocking circulation

in the Mount Belcher area and along Beaver Point Road.

Owners of impounded vehicles must pay for the tow in addition to a storage fee of between 10 and 15 dollars per day. "It can add up," Willis said.

Officers may still give islanders a break by not issuing traffic violations for improper parking, he added.

Individuals who suspect their vehicles have been impounded can contact the Salt Spring RCMP at 250-537-5555.

BUSINESS

Lights back on at Grace Point Square

Liquor store among those back in business

Business is slowly returning to normal at Grace Point Square after BC Hydro crews replaced a transformer housed in a utility shed that caught fire last week.

On Tuesday, just in time to prepare for New Year's festivities, the provincially operated liquor store opened its doors for the first time in more than a week. Island residents seeking a holiday tittle had to patronize the island's privately run liquor stores, where higher than usual demand was reported.

Michael Lalonde, owner of Parkside News in Grace Point Square, said things are looking up now that power to the complex has been restored and many businesses have re-opened.

Business owners and tenants at the complex were evacuated by Salt Spring Fire Rescue personnel moments before a dramatic explosion and subsequent fire on Dec. 22.

The explosion occurred after water poured into the Upstairs Bears and Auntie Pesto's cafe.

A fire department spokesperson was not available to comment on whether or not the specific cause of the explosion and fire has been determined.

Letter to the editor? Press release?
What's On calendar event?
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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
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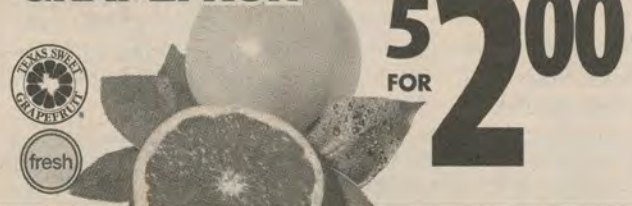
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NEWSBEAT

Earth to computer geeks — get real!

He was at it. Again. Five short years after David had taken Amy up the aisle and promised fidelity 'til death do us part, here he was fooling around on her. She'd caught him once before, but that was before they'd tied the knot — and besides, it was with a hooker that time. This time, she walked right in on the two of them. In her own house.

Amy had had enough; she slammed the door, put on her hat, went down to the lawyers and filed for divorce. Got it, too — making legal history in the process.

Says in the newspaper that David had "met" someone else in an Internet game called Second Life. This is a virtual world where players invent on-line versions of themselves ("Yes, I'm blonde, six-foot-three and a black belt in Karate who speaks 11 languages . . .") Cyberguy then proceeds to flirt with cybergal and vice versa. They invent their own backgrounds, go on on-line adventures together and eventually co-inhabit their own alternate universe.

Sometimes it spills over into real life. David and Amy for instance, met online back in 2003, looked each other up in real life and got married shortly thereafter. Mind you, they celebrated by having a second, pseudo-wedding online — as their two cyber characters.

Are you with me so far? Good, because here's where it gets confusing. The reason that David and Amy's divorce made legal history is that there wasn't actually a physical "other woman" involved. Amy caught her husband in flagrante delicto with . . .

A computer screen. David Pollard was having sex by computer.

I'm not even sure how you go about that.

But I guess a few other people are figuring it out. Millions of players around the world spend at least some of their leisure hours hunched over a computer involved in Second Life.

It's not the only alternative cyberworld out there. There's another one called MapleStory that attracts enthusiastic fans. Jealous ones too. Last year a Japanese man logged on to his MapleStory sweetie and gave her the heave-ho online. "I want to see other women" he explained to her monitor.

The jilted woman turned off her computer, put on her hat, tracked her virtual husband down and shot him dead.

Really, not virtually.

Psychiatrists have a name for this baffling new phenomenon. They're calling it The Truman Syndrome, after The Truman Show, a movie in which Jim Carrey played Truman



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

know his entire life was being broadcast on television as he lived it. People suffering from the Truman Syndrome are utterly convinced that their lives are secretly playing out on a reality TV show.

Canadians are not immune. In fact, there's some evidence that we are world leaders in the Delusionary Cybersweepstakes. For instance, what would you guess is the number one topic ferreted out by Canadians on the web — pornography? Rick Mercer skits? Old Stephen Harper speeches?

Nah — it's hockey, natch. This is Don Cherry country, after all.

Or used to be. Hockey info — NHL stats, trades and trivia — has for years been by far the most popular topic for Canadian users of the Internet, but no more. According to Yahoo Canada, Hockey Hunger has been toppled by RuneScape.

Wot dat? Why, RuneScape is an MMORPG, of course. In fact, it's the most popular MMORPG from Prince Rupert to PEI and from Pangnirtung to Point Pelee. MMORPG stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Which is to say, RuneScape is like Second Life and MapleStory — an alternate web universe in which real life is replaced by pixels.

How popular is this stuff? Mighty. The experts say that the Second Life game alone attracts more than ten million players worldwide. Some observers worry about what that's doing to the health of the people involved, especially kids. Colin Higgs is a sports science researcher who worries about juvenile obesity. "We're headed for some serious health problems down the road because of this shift to video games," he says.

I'm more concerned about the mental fallout. How much time can you safely spend in a fantasy space where you assume the role of someone else with a different family, job, friends — country, even — before you begin to have problems deciphering what is real from what is not?

The poet T.S. Eliot wrote:

*Humankind
Cannot bear very much reality.*

Maybe not. But whenever I run into a heavy-duty computer freak, I feel an impulse to shake him by the shoulder and say, "Hey, man — have you looked out the window lately? The



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Icy roads and walkways pose extra risk to seniors

Prevention best way to avoid injury

Jo Twaites, clinical co-ordinator at Salt Spring's Lady Minto Hospital, has seen it all before.

Every time the snow falls, hospital emergency rooms are filled with people nursing the consequences of a slippery sidewalk or unsalted front step.

Twaites doesn't have any numbers to indicate how many people have gone through Lady Minto with slip-related injuries since the first snowfall on Dec. 13, but she's got more than enough experience to know more victims are on their way.

Unless, that is, individuals remain vigilant of the risks involved in travelling about town.

According to statistics compiled by B.C. Ministry of Health in 2005, more than 10,000 seniors are hospitalized each year as a result of a fall. Treatment costs the province more than \$150 million.

Twaites reminds everyone to take precautions on the island's icy roads and walkways, but has a special warning for anybody over the age of 80.

"Once you're over 80, you're at extreme risk," she said.

The B.C. Injury Research and Prevention Unit advises seniors to avoid carrying

heavy or awkward loads and reaching for items. The group recommends that seniors wear appropriate footwear, have somebody shovel their front steps and driveway, and use a walker or cane when venturing outside.

Though the most severe type of injuries are hip related, Twaites said, she has seen all sorts of long-term consequences from fall victims.

"We've seen a little bit of everything," she said.

The most important thing people can do, she added, is to ask neighbours, friends, family or volunteers for help getting around and running errands.

"Being willing to ask for help is not easy for anybody," she said.



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OPTIMIST: Salt Spring bird lover Henry Otto calls his budgie an optimist, after its attempt to hatch some chicken eggs brought into the house last week.

FERRY SCHEDULE PAGE 27

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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
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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

New round of news

The Driftwood's annual Year in Review pages once again illustrate how much can happen in the space of 52 weeks in one community, and prompt speculation about what might make the news in 2009.

Here's a brief list of things to watch out for in the coming year:

On the political front, all eyes will be on recently elected local officials. As usual, a new Salt Spring Local Trust Committee will take its seat with high-voltage issues on the table. Viewpoint writer John Sprague has already challenged George Ehring and Christine Torgrimson to show how "green" they really are when it comes to considering the Salt Spring Coffee Company and Blackburn Meadows rezoning applications. Minimizing conflict and improving community cooperation are high on Torgrimson's priority list for the year, though, and we hope those goals can be met.

THE ISSUE:

On the horizon in 2009

WE SAY:

A year of challenges ahead

The outcome of new CRD director Garth Hendren's efforts to garner a provincially funded incorporation study will also be highly anticipated.

We wonder what the community survey of parks and recreation needs and priorities will come up with, and how a PARC commission with only one member remaining from one year ago will fare with the inevitable pressures.

What about the Salt Spring Fire Protection District? Will it be able to find a voter-approved property for the new fire hall it needs?

Will we see tangible progress in growing the local affordable housing stock and improving conditions for the island's homeless and families most in need?

What about the Channel Ridge village development, or the Salt Spring Island Village Resort, the latter in receivership limbo once again?

And will the next step be taken to address the problems of our beleaguered library building?

One huge question mark is how the global economic situation will play out in the Gulf Islands: whether the tourism and construction industries will be visibly pummelled, or if a lower Canadian dollar and fuel prices will help mitigate potential negative impacts.

These are just some of the issues we know to be on the horizon for 2009, yet experience tells us most of the news will be unexpected and unprecedented — somewhat like the weather maelstrom visited upon us during the last two weeks of 2008.



Trustees must consider big green picture

BY JOHN B. SPRAGUE

Salt Spring recently elected two "green" trustees. They face some difficult decisions, and it will be interesting to see how deeply the green runs.

In particular, our local Trust committee (LTC) will decide on two development proposals that are quite similar. Both applicants want changes toward commercial or industrial use, both applicants are "green" and both locations are near lakes needing protection.

One application asks to change the agricultural classification of Blackburn Meadows golf course to allow a caretaker's residence, bigger clubhouse, restaurant, big workshop and a storage building. This would also mean cancelling a land use contract which protects the environment. The other application is for spot rezoning of 1501 Fulford-Ganges Road to allow Salt Spring Coffee Company to build a factory and headquarters.

Both applicants are green. The young man who runs the golf course is as sincere and environmentally friendly as one could wish. Although the steering committee for the Cusheon Watershed Management Plan was not pleased about a golf course on the shores of Blackburn Lake, it said only good things about its operation, which uses no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Salt Spring Coffee produces a certified organic product, intends to build an environmentally favourable operation and also provides employment.

A major problem is that both the properties are located on or near sensitive lakes. Drainage from the golf course goes directly to Blackburn Lake, then to Cusheon Lake. Such land runoff is the biggest cause of the serious nutrient problem in the Cusheon system and the management plan made strong recommendations about restricting development in the watershed. Further development of the golf course would increase its contribution of phosphorus to the lakes, instead of helping in the needed reduction. The property proposed for the coffee plant is only 400 metres from Ford Lake, which does not yet suffer over-enrichment, and is mostly surrounded by a band of

VIEWPOINT

natural vegetation that is habitat for many species and partly owned by Ducks Unlimited.

The previous LTC seemed to support both requests. The Cusheon Lake Stewardship

Committee made a presentation to the LTC about problems in further development at the golf course. One trustee told the delegation that its members did not appreciate the "big picture" because the present agricultural zoning might sometime result in large numbers of polluting cattle beside the lake. That is possible, but unlikely since it is not seen on nearby agricultural properties.

If zoning is downgraded it will almost certainly stay that way. One concern is the "thin edge of the wedge" scenario. Commercialization of one property is likely to encourage adjacent property to go the same way. Another concern is what might happen in future decades, when and if the golf course or coffee company disappears — another much worse commercial operation would be free to come in.

The land surrounding our lakes is simply the wrong place for downgrading towards commercial or industrial use. These concerns are part of the "big picture" that trustees should consider. The environmental assessment report paid for by Salt Spring Coffee does not consider that bigger picture.

Islands Trust can put special restrictions on property use. However, in the experience of the Cusheon stewardship group, such restrictions are usually ignored and remedies for infractions have been of doubtful value. Perhaps the LTC can come up with better solutions such as helping the coffee company find a more suitable location.

So it will be interesting to see whether the LTC follows the precautionary principle for these two parallel applications. Will the newly elected trustees move to the green side or the development side?

The writer is a retired biologist who lives on Salt Spring and helped produce the Cusheon Watershed Management Plan.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

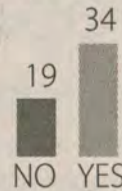
Will Mats Sundin save the Canucks?

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Did the snowy weather change your Christmas plans?



Driftwood

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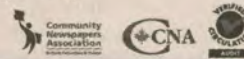
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Island Voices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"You equal Air Canada in your ability to keep loved ones apart at Christmas."

LOUISE DOUCET, WRITING TO MAINROAD

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What is your resolution for 2009?

**WADE BORTZ**

Do more kite surfing.

**DARRYL MARTIN**

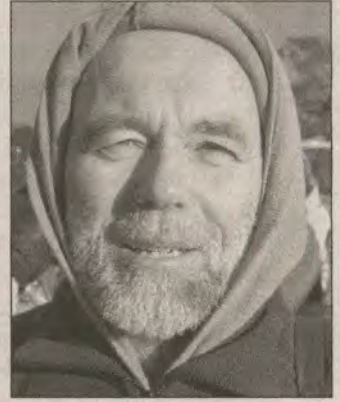
I'm just trying to survive Christmas and the storms.

**SARAH COLEMAN**

Lose weight and get my husband to do the cooking.

**CRYSTAL ROSE**

Less stress.

**DOUGLAS LANGLES**

I don't know. It's not a tradition of mine. I'm continuously making resolutions and getting in touch with the way things need to be.

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 comment on letters at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com under the Opinion tab using Disqus.

Meals delivered

Oh my! I know why I choose to live in this community and it is confirmed almost daily.

So we know it snowed and then some. We know we shovelled that driveway last night and will have to shovel it again and again. Just getting the wood in became a major task each day, let alone even thinking about getting out and about.

However, I am proud to say Meals on Wheels (MOW) still delivered meals. Truthfully, it was not easy some days, but the smiles on peoples' faces and seeing your footprints in the snowy driveways when there had been none before confirmed we were doing something good.

I have come to understand that when in doubt about

what to do or say when someone has done a kindness, a simple "thank you" has the most wonderful resonance to it, both for the speaker and the receiver.

I say thank you to:

- The dedicated cooks and kitchen crew at Greenwood, day in day out, and on Christmas Day the turkey dinner was delivered.

- Arlene D., who offered to cook, shop and look out for the clients in her neighbourhood.

- Dawn S., for the thoughtful boxes of treats for the MOW clients.

- The Unitarian Fellowship, whose members put together wonderful Christmas baskets.

- The Girl Guides and Pathfinders for the bright Christmas cards.

- To all of the drivers for MOW who drive throughout the year.

- To Richard, for giving

up a week of his holiday to battle the difficult roads and driveways in the 4x4.

- To Al, Rita, Jane, Jim, Don, Hope, Arthur, Bruce and Muriel for getting those meals out on really snowy days.

And finally to all volunteers from my volunteers, we know why we do it — thank you.

The heart that gives is the heart that gathers.

CATHERINE BENNETT,
MEALS ON WHEELS,
ADMINISTRATOR

Wonderland dinner

Gods dispose — 19 times out of 20. On the 20th time, communities have to step in.

The slow, measured and efficient progress of the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary ladies in the midst of their preparations for the

Extended Care Unit family Christmas dinner was halted when the first disposition came to pass: the unit sprang a leak, closing down two of the residents' rooms, the office of the staff activities coordinator and, of course, the kitchen where the dinner was to be cooked. Sandwiches and cookies loomed.

Then came the community. The Hospital Foundation board, providentially meeting at the onset of the crisis, decreed that the dinner go ahead, using a caterer, to supply the meal for the residents, their families, the staff and the volunteers who set up the festivities and served the meals.

Visions of sugar plums and full turkey dinners re-emerged. These all became a reality through the efforts of Christine Godlonton and her elves at Dinner's Ready catering and the famous

Embe Bakery sausage rolls, spanakopita and mini quiches.

Not even the third dump of heavenly snow stopped Valdy, volunteers and families from celebrating a memorable family Christmas dinner, looking out of the window at a winter wonderland.

As a result of the efforts of hospital staff and volunteers and the cooperation between the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary and the Hospital Foundation, yet another of the unit's Christmas dinners was a success.

The ladies in the hospital Thrift Shop, whose masterly selling activities provide funds for regular activities and extras in the unit, and the gods, must have smiled. A huge thank-you to all concerned.

MARGARET MACKENZIE,
ECU VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR,
LMH AUXILIARY

Time to move cars

The snow has made it difficult for many drivers to get their vehicles to their homes. The RCMP and Ministry of Transportation have been lenient due to the circumstances.

Now that roads are improving and the suddenness of the storm has passed, owners of vehicles parked unlawfully will need to remove their vehicles themselves from these situations or have them towed.

The RCMP will be ordering vehicles impounded if they pose a risk to other users of the roads, or they are parked unlawfully, or they appear abandoned.

SGT. DANNY WILLIS,
SALT SPRING RCMP

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Measuring hardships and blizzards at year's end

At 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 17, I found myself driving through Washington State's Snoqualmie Pass in one of the worst snowstorms on record.

Trucks, semis, SUVs and astonishingly ill-prepared family sedans littered the ditches and medians, their headlights still blazing up through the falling snow in unnatural angles. I navigated my 4X4 through this whiteout hell for more than two hours, following the tail lights of a Hummer, until it too slid into the pine trees.

Hungry and nerves frayed to the ragged edge, I limped into Pendleton, Oregon and the sanctuary of a Super Eight Motel. Slumped at the end of the bed with the Weather Network barking out snow hazard updates, I gulped down a giant cocktail, quickly followed by another. Long story short: I regained consciousness a few hours later nursing a giant headache and as the owner of a new flat-screen TV, which I had apparently bought on-line before doing a face plant into the polyester pillow. (You know that old adage, "Never go to a grocery store hungry?" Here's the latest version for the new millennium lexicon: "Never go on eBay blowing .08 or more.") In one fell swoop I had engaged in two of the nation's time-tested favourites in holiday stress relief: booze and shopping.

This year there are plenty of reasons other than the garden variety seasonal stressors to raise blood pressure and prompt you to chase your dog around the coffee table with,

a large blunt instrument. Google any country on the planet and you will likely be deluged with ethnic violence, natural disasters, famine, AIDS epidemics, human rights abuses — pick your poison. Thumb through one of our national papers. You will read that more than 350 Canadian soldiers have been injured in Afghanistan in the past three years, along with the 106 killed, that we are going into our national line of credit and that the opposition parties are sharpening their claws for the next parliamentary bloodbath.

On a personal level, you can insert your own private hell here. Any manner of crises, from divorce to unemployment, doctors' reports, deadbeat cousins, incontinent pets — all stuffed into a very untidy box. It's no wonder there is a national unabashed love affair with Prozac. And alcohol.

Regardless of experts' declarations that alcohol is the worst thing possible during times of stress, Canadians aren't buying it. Our provincial health officer, Dr. Perry Kendall, released statistics that revealed alcohol consumption in British Columbia has gone up eight per cent since 2002. The average B.C.er over the age of 15 gulps down more than 500 drinks per year. Predictably, the government wants to increase the tax on certain liquor as both a disincentive and

**Peter Vincent**

HEAD TO HEAD

to cover the extra costs of this rampant bingeing. Good luck with that. Given the already stratospheric prices we fork over for a bottle of garden variety wine, it's enough to drive a man to drink.

My other favourite stress reliever — shopping — has also taken a major hit this season. The daily onslaught of terrifying economic news, climbing unemployment and whispers of a depression rivalling the Dirty Thirties has caused consumer confidence to plummet to a 27-year low, according to the Conference Board of Canada. Close friends and relatives have blurted out stories of losing \$75,000, \$100,000 and more from their retirement fund in the past few months. Vacations have been cancelled or severely modified.

That new flat-screen television winging its way to my door was bought with holiday Air Miles points. The dream of a white sandy beach this year seems unrealistic . . . might as well use the points for something. Given the bleak economic outlook, my gut says I should be buying farming implements and fishing gear. You can't eat a flat-screen, can you?

To all this less-than-cheery news, let's mix in the extreme weather throughout the continent. That same winter blizzard responsible for the permanent finger depressions in my steering wheel has also whacked our

own corner of the world, causing many to forgo post Christmas pilgrimages to big box stores. It's proving tough enough to trek downtown for groceries, let alone braving an outing to Nanaimo or Victoria.

It seems that all the gods have conspired to make this a hard Christmas season indeed — one that may force many to rediscover the other less commercial aspects of the season — activities that don't involve breathalyzers or camping overnight outside electronics stores. At the risk of sounding like Jimmy Stewart, I am rediscovering the borderline dysfunctional joys of friends and family.

My dear old mum had a wee stroke two weeks before Christmas, forcing siblings to roll up collective sleeves to make the best of a heartbreaking situation. The staff dinner at Hastings House has morphed into a potluck at my house. Strip away the credit cards and fiscal abuse, and one's better nature occasionally will float to the surface. Personal growth trumps a flat-screen TV.

I just met a woman whose son was hit by a motorist. The driver was young and without adequate insurance. Theresa has been taking care of her quadriplegic son now for 11 years. Every day for 11 years. Saint Theresa. I can't imagine. Somehow my drive through the Snoqualmie Pass doesn't seem such a hardship.

Visit Peter Vincent's website/blog at <http://web.mac.com/republicofsaltspring>

The Salt Spring Island Sustainability Challenge

LEARN HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION!

Slow Cooking

Most of us are starting to change some habits around the house as we become more aware of the damage we can unintentionally do to the environment. What about our places of work, our offices, plants and factories?

A client of mine, who is passionate about his company's impact on the environment, commissioned me to research the sustainability of every product his company buys from other producers. It didn't take me long to understand there are circles within circles within circles. Where does the wood come from? Is it sustainably harvested? Is the logging company a responsible employer? Is the sawmill run sustainably?

I am sure there are many business owners who run their company in an environmentally conscious way (and I would love to hear about them) but one that grabs my attention is the way the owners of Grouse Mountain Resort in North Vancouver are committed to be great stewards of their piece of paradise.

You can check their commitment out yourself on their website at www.grousemountain.com but let me give you a taste. They call their mission, their commitment to sustainability, Blue Grouse.

"The idea behind Blue Grouse is simple. Blue Grouse is about balance and responsibility, both in ecological and economic terms. We recognize that what is good for the environment can be equally good for business. Our mission is equally clear. We are committed to embedding the principles

of sustainability into every aspect of our life."

The alpine fleet runs on biodiesel. All public faucets and soap dispensers are hands-free to save on water. The food and beverage operation, which is sizable, uses eco-friendly cleaning products and biodegradable trash bags.

The restaurant venues are certified Ocean Wise, which means they only use sustainable seafood. All the restaurants at the resort work with responsible local growers to reduce transporting food long distances. The resort offers a battery recycling program to all employees. And the list goes on.

Coming soon, and this is the best news of all, they are working with the requirements set out

by the District of North Vancouver to install a wind turbine on the top of the mountain. The exciting project, when completed, would be the first viable wind energy solution.

When employers set out a policy of sustainability, miracles can happen. But the responsibility rests with us all. We need to push the envelope and start talking to our work colleagues to get them on board, then approach our employers with a plan of action.

I work alone in my home office, as do an increasing number of you, with no one looking over our shoulder to make sure we are doing the right thing...I'm in, are you?

maggiec@blackpress.ca


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MAGGIE CALLOWAY

LiveSmart Community Heroes

GARY HOLMAN



Salt Spring voters may have recently bid farewell to Gary Holman as their Capital Regional District director, but his work over the past six years, and well before that, makes for perfect LiveSmart Community Hero material.

Gary used his grants-in-aid budget of approximately \$40,000 per year to give financial support to a number of projects that reduced greenhouse gas emissions, often helping to leverage funds from other levels of government and agencies, or provided expertise and other non-monetary support.

When it comes to mitigating climate change, Gary's most significant contribution may be his leadership role in getting the wheels turning on a public bus service on Salt Spring. The service, which began operating in January of 2008 under direction of the newly created Salt Spring Transportation Commission of the CRD, has exceeded all expectations in terms of ridership and demand for more service.

He also supported projects such as:

- Partners Creating Pathways Lower Ganges Road trail, completed in 2008, and the next pathways project.
- North Ganges Transportation Management Plan (in progress), which will make that part of town more friendly for pedestrians and reduce vehicle use as a result.
- The Salt Spring Energy Strategy, which heightened awareness of the need for climate change action through a number of initiatives, including the One-Tonne Challenge.
- Energy retrofits and low-flush toilet rebate programs.
- Transfer station bylaw amendment promoting chipping of clean wood waste rather than burning or transporting the material off the island.

Gary's efforts for a number of years have resulted in preservation of natural areas throughout the island. He was a co-founder and chair of the South and West Salt Spring Conservation Partnership, whose member agencies saved 2,600 acres of the Texada lands in 2001. He was also involved in efforts to preserve a major Ford Lake property and properties on and near Mount Erskine.

In the more general environmental realm, Gary supported a number of initiatives related to water quality on the island, including creation of the island's water council and upgrades to various water systems, as well as the Burgoyne Bay liquid waste treatment site.

LiveSmart Community Hero MONTHLY WINNER

RYDER BERGERUD - SALT SPRING ISLAND



As the winner of our monthly LiveSmart BC Community Hero draw Ryder has won \$100 and will be entered in a provincial competition. Three Grand Prize winners will be profiled on the LiveSmart BC website, receiving a \$500 cheque and a framed "I LiveSmart" certificate signed by Premier Gordon Campbell.

As if being a high school student wasn't hard enough, Ryder Bergerud has consistently gone out of his way to take on some of the island's and the world's most pressing environmental and social issues.

"I'd like to help make a positive change in the world," Bergerud said in a September interview for the Driftwood's Great Kids supplement.

At the time, the 17-year-old was making that difference on a local level through initiatives like the Islands Trust's student trustee program and the Global Awareness group at Gulf Islands secondary.

Ryder began sitting as a student trustee with the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee in 2007. As a student trustee, Bergerud gave a voice to students' demands for a greener island by supporting the island's public transit system, recycling programs and initiatives to mitigate climate change in the island's new official community plan.

Engaging other students in the political process isn't always an easy task, but it's essential if there is to be any hope of solving the world's environmental predicaments, he said.

"Most of the work I'm doing now is less individual and more with larger groups of people," he said.

Since the beginning of the school year, Ryder has been a strong supporter of the high school's new Environmental Action Group Encouraging Responsibility (EAGER).

Ryder said members are developing a local sustainable shopping guide with island business owners and intend to begin a series of programs aimed at making consumers more aware of the needless packaging sold with so many products.

The group has literally "greened up" the school by adding plants and trees to classroom and common areas.

It all comes back to making sure students and other members of the community can see and feel the effects of their efforts first hand.

"It's important to show people that they can make a difference," he said.

Learn how at www.LiveSmartBC.ca



The Salt Spring Island
SUSTAINABILITY Challenge

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-Holly, Prince George

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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from 11

Incompetent

Some people insist that the Earth is warming up. This is very much contrary to my recent experience. We have been "blessed" with an extended white and very chilly Christmas. Brrr.

I'd like to pass on a house-warming tip that I discovered just two weeks back. In retrospect it's so obvious that it makes one wonder why it didn't occur to me 50 years ago.

Our woodstove does a marvellous job of heating the air in the ceiling just above it. Because heat loss is directly related to the difference in temperature between the ceiling and the roof above it, the number of calories that escape this way is very significant.

But keeping an electric fan blowing horizontally on to the woodstove circulates the heat in such a way that even rooms down the hall are comfortably warm. I'm agonizing about all the money I could have saved if I had thought about this before.

Incidentally, those expensive thermo-electric fans to put on the top of woodstoves are useless. They just don't have the oomph to do the job.

This is not what I started off wanting to write about.

I wanted to write about Salt Spring's incompetent drivers and the expense their insurance claims burden me (and you) with.

At some future time I might rant on about tailgaters. But for now I want to talk about the (expletive deleted) driver who insists of venturing forth on slippery roads that require skills beyond his/her competence. Let us start by agreeing that we really ought to be aware of our own limitations.

It's snowing. Depending on my situation and where I live, I have several options. I can simply stay home for a few days. I can walk to a cleared road and hitchhike or take the bus. Alternately I can exercise my inalienable right to go Ganges (or Fulford or wherever) in my bald-tired, two-wheel-drive sedan, and if I get stuck, it's the fault of Highways for not doing their job.

Right! In the last couple of weeks I have watched in amazement as Salt Spring's entitled, their tires spinning in panic, slither and slide off some steep and slippery hill. Into the ditch they go. And sometimes into each other.

When I become emperor, I shall suspend ICB insurance coverage for the duration. If you can't stay on the road today, don't try.

HAROLD BROCHMANN,
SALT SPRING

RANTS and Roses

Rants

Lumps of coal to the person who stole the safety triangles set up to keep my brother's car visible in the snow on Quebec Drive. Santa will already have you on his "bad" list for next year. Anders Nielsen

Roses

A snowy bouquet of Christmas roses to the very kind and extraordinary folks who appeared magically to push my Volvo out of the snow on Atkins Road at Rainbow last Thursday. Many thanks! Teresa Hitch

A thousand shovels full of snow drops for Bryce Chapman for his tireless efforts in clearing our driveway entrances on Channel Ridge. A&B Fenske

Infinite premium yellow blossoms to Dr. Shea and his technician, Erin, for service performed mid-morning Dec. 24 at Lady Minto Hospital. Cortisone injection in left knee and extraction of several milliliters of fluid restored mobility and killed pain, permitting the patient, me, to experience the holidays with considerable joy. Grazie mille... Dan Callahan

A huge bouquet of snow roses (Serissa foetida) to the United Church, those who donated food and the many volunteers who helped feed the "masses" on this snowy Christmas Day. The Lee Road community

A lifetime supply of near beer roses to Art Falardeau for adventure-packed rides into town and the unstinting kindness, generosity, humour and wisdom he extends to the Creekside crew — and beyond.

Roses to our bus drivers. What a treat to be able to leave the car at home and catch the bus into town on these snowy days. Thanks to all the bus drivers for getting us around safely and thank you to everyone else who has made our local transit a possibility.

A huge bouquet of Siberian roses to Colin Drummond for his timely tip on the whereabouts of a missing dog. Visiting the island for Christmas,

"Willow" the Husky went for an evening stroll on her own heading who knows where? If not for his help, we four searchers could have looked all night in vain! Thanks again, Colin. L, M, H and G

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Santa's Workshop come true for another year! It was a great success and made a lot of little children very happy again this Christmas. Also thank you to Mouat's, West of the Moon for their drop-off boxes, CIBC and United Church for their Angel Trees, and helper Christa. Santa Bob and Large Elf Judy

A big red rose to Lisa and everyone at Salt Spring Air who made it possible for our family to be together for Christmas. Thank you. The Bennett family.

A huge bouquet of roses to the Hydro crews who worked through the holidays to restore our power. You kept us from freezing in the dark and we know that you missed Christmas with your own families in the process. You are true community heroes. Thank you.

An armful of white roses to Thomas McKeachie Jr. for liberating his Sky Valley neighbours from the snow on Dec. 23. CC

Bouquets of roses with thanks and appreciation to each of the community health workers who braved snow and ice and all other winter adversities to reach their clients during this holiday season. The determination and dedication of all staff working throughout the year has been noted by Santa and each of you have been placed on his "nice" list for 2009. Best wishes for a Happy New Year from Susan and Barbara

Bushels of roses to Ron Spencer for keeping our road passable over the past two weeks. Without you and your plough and your big heart we would have had to cancel Christmas. Dubois and Musgrave Road residents

A heartfelt bunch of roses to Mike Best, who helped so many Greenwood employees get to and from work during the snow. Your help made all the difference.

A Note Of Thanks At Year's End

As the year comes to a close, we welcome the opportunity to extend our thanks to you, our customers, for your friendship and invaluable support.

We hope the coming year brings good fortune to you, and we look forward to serving you in 2009.

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By now, most of you have heard of the fire and flood damages at Grace Point Square. We at Frankly Scarlet would like to send our warmest thanks to the firefighters who quickly rushed to the scene, the Hydro crew, the maintenance team and to all those who helped out during this time of need.

We also wanted to pass on our sincerest condolences to all owners and staff at Grace Point Square for their losses.

David & Moriah

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CREATORS IN THE COLD: Vendors Ocea and Ben Clark shiver and huddle together as they sell pies and cutting boards at the Christmas Market in Centennial Park.

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FINE ART

Best of the best set for '09 solstice

Fine Art Group planning underway

Although it may only be the beginning of winter on the island, the Salt Spring Fine Art Group is already looking ahead to summer solstice 2009 and the launch of the first-ever Masterpiece Weekend, featuring their best new fine art works.

"Artists from participating galleries will present one work each, creating their very best work; combining to create a room full of 'masterpieces,'" states a recent Salt Spring Fine Art Group press release. "This premise is a first for Salt Spring and will showcase the very best of the best. Salt Spring Island has twice been voted Canada's number one art town (from the book, The Best Small Art Towns in America by John Villani)."

The three-day event will open with a Best of Show event, beginning Friday, June 19 at ArtSpring. Throughout the weekend visitors can experience the art culture responsible for garner-

ing such positive attention across North America. On Saturday, June 20, the artists of participating galleries will be on hand to discuss their latest works.

People will also be able to participate in the Fine Art Walking Tour, a self-guided excursion through Ganges village.

The Masterpiece Weekend is an event organized by the Salt Spring Fine Art Group

consisting of J. Mitchell Gallery, Martinus Studio-Gallery, Pegasus Gallery of Canadian Art, Steffich Fine Art, Galleons Lap Atelier-Gallery, Jill Louise Campbell Fine Art Gallery and Original Studio, Stone Fish Gallery with sculptor Allan Crane, the Salt Spring Arts Council and sponsors, Hastings House Country House Hotel and ArtSpring.

"Watch for a surprise

musical guest announcement.

Experience the 'best of' fine art accompanied by local wine and cheese during Masterpiece Weekend. Plan now to indulge in a rare opportunity to escape from the everyday and experience timeless pieces celebrating what Canada's number one art destination has to offer."

For future updates, visit www.saltspringfineart.com.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

The story of six cantatas: getting set for rare Bach Oratorio performance

Audience prepares for Jan. 6 show

On Jan. 6, 2009, J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio will be performed at ArtSpring by Bach on the Rock. This is the third in a series of three articles written by George Ehring in preparation for that performance. Previous articles in this series (in the Driftwood on Dec. 17 and 24) gave background on Bach's life and the cantata generally; this final article looks more closely at the Christmas Oratorio itself.

BY GEORGE EHRLING
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Bach's magnificent Christmas Oratorio is made up of six separate but related cantatas, first performed between Christmas Day, 1734, and the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, 1735.

It is one of Bach's most lively and festive vocal works, a re-telling of the story of the birth of Jesus, based on biblical texts from Luke and Matthew.

In discussing the entire work, the six cantatas are commonly referred to as Part I through Part VI.

Bach begins the Christmas Oratorio with a stirring and triumphant chorus. The music is taken from a secular cantata Bach wrote one year earlier to celebrate the birthday of Maria Josepha, Electress of Saxony and Queen of Poland.

The libretto for the original cantata was written by Christian Friedrich Henrici, known as Picander; he was the poet for many of Bach's cantatas and for the St. Matthew Passion.

(Picander became the postmaster in Leipzig, and also its wine inspector, both vital jobs.)

The chorus starts with an orchestral introduction that opens surprisingly with a solo timpani—something very unusual for church music.

The opening words from the queen's birthday cantata say "Sound, ye drums! Ring out, trumpets!" so Bach brings these instruments into the church and has them do just as he asked.

But a new libretto (possibly also written by Picander) is necessary for the sacred occasion to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and the text is changed to "Triumph, rejoice, rise, praise these days now." Verses originally celebrating the life of a queen now urge the congregation to "Serve ye the Highest in glorious chorus, Let us honour the name of our ruler!"

Five of the six cantatas begin with a chorus accompanied by the orchestra.

The exception to this is Part II, which tells the story of the shepherds tending their flocks.

Rather than start with a chorus, Bach establishes the calm, pastoral nature of this particular cantata with an orchestral sinfonia. It avoids trumpets and timpani and calls for the use of unusual baroque oboes—called oboes d'amore and oboes da caccia ("hunting oboes"), the latter a favourite of Bach's.

These are both lower in pitch than a regular oboe, with a more resonant and less piercing sound.

Today these parts are often played

by English horns.

The oratorio has an unusually large number of chorales, which are hymns, some of them written by Martin Luther, all of which would have been familiar to a Lutheran congregation. (For example, in Part I, chorales numbers 7 and 9 are verses of hymns by Luther.)

Bach also re-used the same melody from time to time within the oratorio. One example of this occurs with the first chorale of Part I (number 5) and the concluding chorale in Part VI (number 64).

But while number 5 is set as a reflective prayer, number 64 is a world apart. To close the work with drama, Bach accompanies the chorus with the full orchestra, and includes a prominent trumpet part.

Even though it uses the same choral melody, its mood is triumphant and glorious, a fitting conclusion to the two week celebration of Christmas.

Though he intended it as six related cantatas and not one stand-alone work, Bach's great Christmas Oratorio is now performed the world over at Christmas, eclipsed of course by Handel's Messiah—which was written for Easter and not Christmas.

But on Jan. 6, 1735, when the sixth cantata was performed at the St. Thomas church in the morning and at the St. Nicholas church in the afternoon, it would be the one and only performance of the work for over a century. Not until 1857 when it was finally played in Berlin, did anyone have the chance to hear it again.

You might not want to miss it.

CONCERTS

Entire Bach oratorio on Tuesday

On stage at ArtSpring

The Bach on the Rock Christmas Oratorio series concludes on Tuesday, Jan. 6 with presentation of the complete work by J.S. Bach written in 1734.

Featuring a chamber choir and orchestra of both Salt Spring and off-island professional musicians, the event begins at 7 p.m.


Soloists are Monica Orso, Carol Brown, Isaiah Bell and Angus Bell.

Jim Stubbs, a professional musician who moved to Salt Spring from New York last year with his family, is the show's musical director.


George Ehring, a Salt Spring classical musical expert, penned articles about Bach, the cantata form and the Christmas Oratorio itself in the Dec. 17, 24 and 31 Driftwood issues. (See above). They're intended to help audience members get the most out of their experience when it comes to showtime on Epiphany.

The evening includes a complimentary catered intermission and a reception at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$20 for seniors and children under 12, and are available at the ArtSpring ticket centre (250-537-2102).



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BOOK REVIEWS

Revelations of the Americas and caribou books make for some fascinating reading

Two Return of the Caribou authors live on Salt Spring

BY MALCOLM BOND
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Two recently published non-fiction books are well worth looking at for their wealth of information pertaining to the subject matter of each. The first one discussed herein has a Salt Spring connection as two of the authors, Bergerud and Camp, live here.

It is *The Return of Caribou to Ungava* by A.T. Bergerud, Stuart N. Luttich and Lodewijk Camp. Publisher is McGill-Queen's University Press in 2008.

The second book is *1491* by Charles C. Mann, Vintage Books, 2005.

The former title revolves around much of the life work of Dr. Bergerud, an internationally recognized expert on caribou.

It summarizes caribou population cycles in the Ungava environs of Quebec and Labrador, particularly from the 1950s to the present. It also reviews events prior to this in these and other caribou herds. Impacts of predators (including humans), nutrition, diseases, as well as other factors studied through their research is well covered and discussed.

A most striking finding was the population explosion of caribou documented as a result primarily of rabies decimating the wolf populations of the region.

A prior idea that winter feed is a major limiting factor on survival was also discounted. The spring and summer feeds were found to be of far greater importance

because calf birth weights and weaning weights seem essential to calf survival for the replacement herd. Migrations are well documented as well as a huge mishap in which 10,000 animals are drowned at a river crossing.

Although the book contains many graphs and statistical analyses, which might be confusing to the non-biometrically trained person, the narrative is well written and clearly explains the graphs and statistical findings.

The second book, *1491*, contains new revelations of the Americas before Columbus. The revelations include the finding of an Andean civilization that predates those of old Egypt, China and the Indus Valley and is contemporary with that of Mesopotamia.

Another highlight is that the pre-Columbians were probably the first genetic engineers through their crossbreeding of plants to develop maize rather than by selection of existing genotypes in already established wild grains such as oats and rye, etc.

It also is discussed that the human populations of the Americas prior to the conquistadors was much higher than previously thought. The roles of human and animal diseases introduced by the Europeans in wiping out vast numbers of pre-Columbians are also covered.

An additional interesting and fascinating discussion shows how difficult it is even for anthropologists to shake off prior theories in the face of new evidence.

An example cited is that it took many years to realize that the Clovis and Folsom settlements were not

the earliest human activities noted in the Western Hemisphere. (It will be interesting to see what will be said in 100 years of our present-day scientists re global warming or cooling in view of whether CO2 or cosmic radiation is the trump card.)

An additional interesting and fascinating discussion shows how difficult it is even for anthropologists to shake off prior theories in the face of new evidence.

The book *1491* is an easy and informative read. A word of warning, though. Do not confuse the title with two other recent books with similar titles — *1421* and *1434*, both by Gavin Menzies.

These latter two books put forth a theory that the Chinese in the first book circumnavigated the world and that the Chinese sailors in the second book initiated the Renaissance in Venice. Both are short on evidence and long on imagination.

Salt Spring vet and farmer Malcolm Bond writes: "Since I have had two hip surgeries in the last two months, I have had reading time, although my preference for such time is on a beach in Hawaii."

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Milford Sorensen
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

IMPROV THEATRE

GISS hosts friendly evening of improv

Time to test theatre mettle with live audience

The 2009 entertainment year kicks off with a bang on Friday, Jan. 9 with the Salt Spring Island Improv Invitational at ArtSpring.

That's when improv teams from Victoria High, Esquimalt, Highlands and others join two Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) groups at ArtSpring beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Teams are getting ready for the north and south Vancouver Island regional tournaments of the Canadian

Improv Games (CIG) and could use more experience with an audience.

"The teams have been rehearsing their improv skills in the laboratories and studios of their respective high schools and it's time they start performing more live shows," states a press release about the event. "The Canadian Improv Games' oath stresses having a good time and learning from each other and that's only a portion of what this show offers."

The show provides the first ever mixed-team performance by CIG teams outside of the CIG competition itself. A portion of the evening's revenue goes towards sending the Vancouver Island regional champions to the national tournament in Ottawa later in the year.

GISS Improv is coached by Jason Donaldson and includes Lulu Fulford, Prairie Moat, Zoe Cocker, Sean Cunningham, Jesse Grindler and Franz Heinrich.

The evening, put on by Second Story Theatre, the umbrella title for GISS theatre arts, will include GISS Improv alumni as referees, including Alex Corley and Dejan Loyola.

Tickets are \$10 and available through the ArtSpring box office.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

A woodpecker on a tree makes a splash of colour on snowy Salt Spring.

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PULL-OUT TV GUIDE
PAGE 19

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- * **Family Place:** See www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca for fall schedule.
- * **Let's Do Brunch:** Tuesday, 9:30am - 12:30pm
- * **Food Bank:** Open Tuesday, 11am - 4pm
- * **The Wall:** Indoor Rock Climbing Gym, Contact jalexander@ssics.ca
- * **Recycle Depot:** Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 250-537-1200.
- * **Seniors Wellness Programs:** Call Sharon Glover at 250-537-4607.
- * **Emergency Mental Health Services:** Available 4 pm to midnight through Emergency Room at Lady Minto Hospital. Call 250-538-4840
- * **24 HR. Crisis Line:** Toll free: 1-866-386-6323. Caller is connected with the Need Crisis Centre in Victoria.
- * **Nobody's Perfect:** Registration at Family Place 250-537-9176.

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ISLANDERS' STORIES

Kitty comes home for the holidays

South-enders hope to hear from Iris' possible friends

BY WENDY JUDITH CUTLER
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It's December and there's about a foot of snow on the ground. We last saw her in July.

Iris, also known as Pip-squeak, and also Isis, named after the Egyptian goddess, had a bit of the wanderlust in her during her short two

years of existence.

She had to be rescued three different times when she was stuck in trees. The third time she remained for three nights. She was once gone for three days and then suddenly reappeared on Christmas Day. And she would often disappear on our regular walks in the woods with our dog and our other kitty, Simon (also known as Osiris, the brother/partner of Isis), only to reappear that day or later at night.

When she disappeared this July, we were heart-broken and vigilant in our attempts to find her. We posted signs with her picture on mailboxes on our road and the roads nearby. We put an ad in the Driftwood: "Small, striped tabby cat, sweet, female. Tattoo. Roland Road and Isabella Point Road area. Missing since July 19." We received no responses.

I was certain she had been eaten, probably by one of the rotund raccoons we've seen trudging through the forest, or by an owl, mostly because she was always quite small and somewhat skittish. It was hard for us to imagine her moving in with someone else, since she was shy with strangers. After a while, we grew accepting of her absence, though we missed her so.

Since we had brought her and Simon home from the local SPCA in September of 2006, a series of events occurred with our animal family. In November 2007,



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Iris, who had been missing for more than five months, relaxes at the Driftwood after getting an A-1 check-up report from the vet.

Fanny, our 15 1/2-year-old Australian shepherd-cockerlab, went outside to pee and never returned. We searched for days but never found her — not even her collar.

Then in May we returned home from Oregon with Rosey, a gentle and exuberant border collie-blue heeler puppy.

Two months after that, Iris disappeared.

In November, one year after Fanny disappeared, Simon, who had seemed sturdy and strong, a playmate with Rosey who playfully nibbled on his ears, became quite ill and, after lots of medical treatments and deliberation, we helped him die and buried him on our land, behind the fairie circle.

Only Rosey remained.

This winter's solstice, marking the return of the light, coincided with our

celebration of Chanukah, also known as the Festival of Lights. The miracle was that the oil to light the menorah, which was only supposed to last for one day, burned for eight days. We light candles for eight nights to honor the resilience of our Jewish ancestors.

Our Chanukah miracle occurred on the third day of Chanukah. Returning from a morning walk with Rosey, one month after burying Simon, my partner Corrie heard a familiar-sounding, soft meow, followed by another one. Under the porch, she saw to her amazement Iris walking towards her, five and a half months after her disappearance. She picked her up and brought her inside.

"You'll never believe who's here!" she said and handed

MIRACLE continued on 21

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Starchoice	308	702	354	400	358		336	321		389	359		382	380	379	383	390	381	543	419

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31

5 PM	:00	The Simpsons	Pyramide (N)	MarthaSpeaks (30) Maggie	(4:30) IJHF Hockey World Junior Championships	CHEK News	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Early News	CTV News	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 New Year's Eve Special	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:30) Poker After Dark
	:30	Wheel of Fortune	L'Union fait la force (N)	(40) Arthur			According to Jim	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News		BBC World News		CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Best Damn Sports Show
6	:00	News	Le Téléjournal	Think Big	p - Canada vs. United States	News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Charlie Brown	Period
	:30		L'affaire L'île aux perdus!	The Last Polar Bears		CHEK News Island 30	G. Lopez (Part 1 of 2)			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy Da Boom		KING 5 News				Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected
7	:00	Best of Just for Laughs	Tout le monde en parle	Elton John: Live at the Royal Opera House	NHL Hockey - Edmonton vs. Calgary (Live)	TV Made Me Do It	The Daily	Entertainment Tonight	Corner Gas	Matchmaker	"Anne of Green Gables: The Sequel"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	The Mama Mia Story	Entertainment Tonight	Poker Heads-Up Championship	
	:30					Tube Tales	Frasier	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law	Gables: The Sequel	Victims Unit	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	Wings Over Canada		The Insider		
8	:00	Air Force: Final Flight! New Year's Eve (F) (N)		Celebrating Mozart: A Concert Gala		Knight Rider Knight Fever	Stargate: SG-1 Solitudes	Bones Yanks in the U.K. (Part 1 of 2)	"Shrek 2" (Ani, '04) Voices of Mike Myers.	Vancouver Nights Iranian Pop	*** (Fam, '87) Megan Follows. (Part 1 of 2)	Less Than Kind (Corn/Dra, '03) Mandy Moore.	"How to Deal" **	Bones Yanks in the U.K. (Part 1 of 2)	"Shrek 2" (Ani, '04) Voices of Mike Myers.	Knight Rider Knight Fever	Live From Lincoln Center New York	News	Old Christine Traffic	(15) iCarly	Hockeycentral
	:30																				Canucks TV
9	:00	Ron James: Manitoba Bound (N)				"Last Chance Cafe" ** (Thrill, '06) Kate Vernon.	Third Watch Men	Bones Yanks in the U.K. (Part 2 of 2)		Sabor Latino	City Year End Special			Bones Yanks in the U.K. (Part 2 of 2)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Cold	Philharmonic New Year's Eve Gala Concert (N)	CBC News: The National	Criminal Minds Tabula Rasa	(45) iCarly	Best Damn Sports Show	
	:30		Le Téléjournal		SportsCentre						TMZ										Period
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Infoman 2008	(20) New Year's Concert 1987	Poker World Series - Main Event	Scrubs	Painkiller Jane Thanks for the Memories	CSI: NY Hostage	Hola Que Tal	Stargate Atlantis	CityNews Tonight	Seinfeld The Barber	Q13 News	New Year's Eve (N)	New Year's Eve With Carson Daly (N)	Great Performance's Garrison Keillor's New Year's Eve Special	The Mama Mia Story	CSI: NY Hostage		Sportsnet Connected	
	:30					Diya					CityTV's "Traditional New Year's Eve Bash"	Seinfeld The Face Painter									
11	:00	The Hour New Year's Eve Special	Bye Bye 2008		SportsCentre	Niagara Falls New Year's Eve Special (N)	It's a New Day	News	TV Patrol	Fashion Television	(35) TMZ	Frasier Rdwre	New Year's Eve Live	News	News	Year's Eve Special	CBC News: The National	News	(35) The Late Show	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30									"Moulin Rouge"	CTI News	Frasier Bully for Martin		(35) New Year's Eve (N) (Part 1 of 2)	(35) New Year's at the Needle						
12 MID	:00	"Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged M...		Elton John: Live at the Royal Opera House	Best of Off the Record	Paid Program	(05) E.T. Canada	(05) E.T. Canada	Jai Fiji	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (15) Biography	(15) Electric Playground	That '70s Show					The Hour	With David Letterman	Malcolm in the Middle	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30		Studio 12		IIHF Hockey (35) Late, Late Show	The Daily	(35) Late Night Poker		Caribbean Beat	(35) Tonight Show		South Park	RENO 911!		(35) New Year's Eve			(35) Late, Late Show	Futurama		

THURSDAY JANUARY 1

5 PM	:00	The Simpsons	Pyramide (N)	(25) Maggie and Beast	NCAA Football Orange Bowl - Cincinnati vs. Virginia T. (Live)	CHEK News	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Early News	CTV News	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	NCAA Football Orange Bowl - Cincinnati vs. Virginia T. (Live)	(2:00) NCAA Football To Be Announced	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour New Year's Eve Special	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	NHL Hockey - Vancouver vs. Nashville (Live)
	:30	Wheel of Fortune	L'Union fait la force (N)	Arthur			According to Jim	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens				BBC World News		CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	
6	:00	For Laughs: Gags	Le Téléjournal	Kratts' Creatures		Ad Persuasion	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show			News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	
	:30	Coronation Street	L'affaire L'île aux perdus!	Working Animals			G. Lopez (Part 2 of 2)			CTI News	Concert Hall	CityNews International	The King of Queens							iCarly	
7	:00	Coronation Street	Infoman 2008	Strange Days		TV Made Me Do It	The Daily	Entertainment Tonight	Corner Gas	Matchmaker	"Anne of Green Gables: The Sequel"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Rooftop	Deal or No Deal	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Oregon Field Guide 20th Anniversary Special	Suzuki Diaries	Entertainment Tonight	Transformers Animated		
	:30	Jeopardy		(55) Michael Palin's New Year		Tube Tales	Frasier Can't Buy Me Love	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law	Gables: The Sequel	Victims Unit	Deal or No Deal	Jeopardy	Inside Edition		The Insider	Wolverine and X-Men	Sportsnet Connected		
8	:00	"An Inconvenient Truth" *** (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	Bye Bye 2008	Europe War and Peace		"Love Notes" (Dra, '07) Laura Leighton.	Smallville Abyss	Deal or No Deal (N)	So You Think You Can Dance Canada	What's in Vancouver? Kirdaar	*** (Fam, '87) Megan Follows. (Part 2 of 2)	The Murdoch Mysteries	Smallville Abyss	The Year in Animals Home Videos	Deal or No Deal (N)	Performances From Vienna: The New Year's Celebration 2009	News	The Big Bang Theory	Mystery Hunters	Hockeycentral	
	:30			(55) We Built This City Paris	SportsCentre	Supernatural I Know What You Did Last Summer			Finale	Dheeyan Ghar	30 Rock	Supernatural I Know What You Did Last Summer	(15) Post-game (Live) Family Guy Death Lives					How I Met Your Mother	Prank Patrol	UFC All Access	
9	:00		Le Téléjournal		Madden Nation					Sadabahr Nagmae	TMZ	30 Rock				Magnificent Mind at Any Price	CBC News: The National	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation For Warrick	Prank Patrol	Best Damn Sports Show	
	:30																			Period	
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Tout le monde en parle	Vertical City	Poker World Series - Main Event	Hollyw. Mysteries (N)	The Daily	Painkiller Jane Playback	CSI: Miami	Desi Uncle	Stargate Atlantis	Friends	Seinfeld	Q13 FOX News	Private Practice Past Tense	The Office Goodbye, Toby (SF) (N)	Age With Dr. Daniel Amen	Suzuki Diaries	Eleventh Hour Containment	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30			Design: E2		Ad Persuasion	Frasier Can't Buy Me Love			Desi Rhythms		Friends	Seinfeld							Adrenaline Project	
11	:00	The Hour New Year's Eve Special		Lottery on Ice	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	Comedy Now	Really TV	Frasier	Family Guy	News	News		CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30					What Happened?				CTI News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	Frasier Mother Load	King of the Hill Hillenium	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Back Care Basics: Yoga for the Rest of Us		(35) The Late Show	Ghost Trackers
12 MID	:00	Fashion File		Michael Palin	Best of Off the Record	Chelsea Lately	Paid Program	(05) Ent. Tonight	(05) "The Mummy" *** (Adv, '99)	Punjabi Vibes	Desi Rhythms	(35) Conan O'Brien	That '70s Show	King of the Hill	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Conan O'Brien	Gospel of Elvis	The Hour	With David Letterman	Malcolm in the Middle	Sportsnet Connected
	:30	Canadian Reflections	"Le fabuleux destin d'...	(55) We Built City	STIHL Timbersports	(35) Late, Late Show	The Daily	(35) E.T. Canada					South Park	RENO 911!					(35) Late, Late Show	Futurama	UFC All Access

FRIDAY JANUARY 2

5 PM	:00	The Simpsons	Pyramide (N)	(20) Maggie and Beast	(4:30) IJHF Hockey World Junior Championships	CHEK News	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Early News	CTV News	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	(4:30) NCAA Football Sugar Bowl - Utah vs. Alabama (Live)	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:30) NHL Hockey - Vancouver vs. Atlanta (Live)
	:30	Wheel of Fortune	L'Union fait la force (N)	Arthur			According to Jim	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens				BBC World News		CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	
6	:00	News	Le Téléjournal	Heads Up	p - Quarter-final #2 - Teams TBA (Live)	News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show			News	News	CBC News: The National	News	The Mighty B!	
	:30	Living In Vancouver	"Pirates des Caraïbes: La	Time and Place		CHEK News Island 30	George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens							iCarly iRule the Day	
7	:00	Coronation Street	Malédiction de la Perle Noire" ***	Hockey: A People's History Soul of a Nation		TV Made Me Do It (N)	The Daily	Entertainment Tonight	Corner Gas Rock On	Matchmaker	"MVP 2: Most Vertical Primate" * (Fam, '02)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Tangled	Deal or No Deal	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	the fifth estate	Entertainment Tonight	H2O: Just Add Water		
	:30	Jeopardy				Tube Tales	Frasier	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law	PrimeTime Live	Victims Unit	Deal or No Deal	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	Conversations at KCTS 9		The Insider	NHL Hockey - Vancouver vs. Atlanta		
8	:00	Air Force: Final Flight! New Year's Eve	(Avent, '03) Johnny Depp. (Part 1 de 3)	Poirt The Adventure of the Clapham Cook		"Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict" (Dra, '08)	May to December No Place Like Home	"An Accidental Friendship" (Dra, '08)	Ghost Whisperer Weight of What Was	Weekly News Forum	Cameron Bancroft. (Part 1 of 2)	The Murdoch Mysteries Let Loose the Dogs	Everybody Hates Chris	Wife Swap Kinsman/Thompson	Deal or No Deal (N)	Washington Week NOW	News	Ghost Whisperer Weight of What Was			
	:30				Madden Nation					CTS Night Club											
9	:00	Best of Just for Laughs	Les galas du festival grand rire de Québec	Dalziel and Pascoe Exit Lines	Boxing Evander Holyfield vs. Nikolai Valuev	Sally Pressman.	Enigma	Chandra Wilson.	"Sticks and Stones" (Doc/Dra, '07) David Sutcliffe.	Here Comes Aajumma	Don't Forget the Lyrics	Lipstick Jungle (N)	Everybody Hates Chris	Sugar Bowl Post (Live) Family Guy	Supernanny Park Family	Lipstick Jungle (N)	Bill Moyers' Journal	CBC News: The National	Ghost Whisperer	Falcon Beach Family Portrait	
	:30									Vitamin	Stargate Atlantis	Crusoe Hour 8: Heroes and Villains	Seinfeld The Masseuse	Q13 FOX News	20/20 Extreme Motherhood (N)	Dateline NBC	"Doctor Zhivago" *** (Epic, '65) Omar Sharif.	the fifth estate	Numb3rs Chinese Box	Dark Oracle Boiler Room	
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal			Hollyw. Mysteries (N)	Scrubs My Student Sandesh	Painkiller Jane Jane 113					Seinfeld	Wash. Most Wanted (N)						Mystery Hunters	
	:30		Studio 12			Ad Persuasion															
11	:00	The Hour		Sombrio	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Electric Playground	Frasier	Family Guy	News	News		CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30		"Père et fils" ** (Com, '03) Philippe Noiret.							CTI News	CTI News	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	CityNews International	Frasier	King of the Hill Old Glory	(35) News Nightline	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		(35) The Late Show	Ghost Trackers	
12 MID	:00	Fashion File		The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes	IIHF Hockey World Junior Championships	Chelsea Lately	Paid Program	(05) ECW Wrestling	(05) CSI: NY	Vancouver Masala	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	King of the Hill	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Conan O'Brien	Gospel of Elvis	The Hour	With David Letterman	Futurama	FSN Pro Football Preview
	:30	Kenny vs. Spenny				(35) Late, Late Show	The Daily			Music Bank	(35) Conan O'Brien		South Park	RENO 911!					(35) Late, Late Show	Pinky & the Brain	

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
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

SATURDAY JANUARY 3

5 PM	:00 (4:00) NHL Hockey - Ottawa vs. Toronto (Live)	(3:30) "Les chevaliers de Shanghaï" ★★	(05) WordWorld (15) Mama (40) Babar	(4:30) IJHF Hockey World Junior Championship - Semifinal #2 - Teams TBA (Live)	CHEK News	Dhoop Chaon	Family Guy	NFL Football Wildcard Game - Teams TBA (Live)	(4:30) Swiat Polskiej	Fashion Television	Nite Life	Cold Case The Lost Soul of Herman Lester	Friends	KOMO 4 News	NFL Football Wildcard Game - Teams TBA (Live)	The Lawrence Welk Show	Antiques Roadshow Hughcliff Castle	KIRO 7 News	(4:00) "Shuriken School: The Ninja's Sec..."	Poker After Dark
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Pirates des Caraïbes: Le Coffre du mort" ★★	Profiles of Nature Camouflage	That News Show (N)	Dharma & Greg	News	Global National	NTDTV Weekly	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye	The Murdoch Mysteries	Inside Fashion	CSI: Miami Losing Face	Two and a Half Men	News	As Time Goes By	Saturday Report	News	Evening News	Adrenaline Project	Red Bull Air Race World Series Perth
6 PM	:00 NHL Hockey - Dallas vs. Edmonton (Live)	Coffre du mort" ★★	Explorer Science of Dogs	TV Made Me Do It	Awaz E Quam	Indian Lions Den	Global Currents Real Fight Club	Entrepreneurial Leader	The New Island Weekend	Survivorman	CSI: NY Jamalot	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Vicar of Dibley	Obama Goes to Africa	Entertainment This Week	Holverine and X-Men Transformers Animated	World Combat League		
	:30	Le Téléjournal "La vie est belle"	Heartbeat The Heart of a Man	NFL Films Presents (N)	El Special (N)	Mirchi TV	Zero Hour	To Be Announced	Phoenix Gathering	Kool Countdown	Crusoe	Boston Legal Tortured Souls	Cops	"Sleepless in Seattle" ★★ (Rom, '93) Tom Hanks.	Mike Holmgren	Monarch of the Glen	Saturday Report	In My Head (P) (N)	Avatar	World Combat League
7 PM	:00 (40) Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Festival grand rite François Léveillé	Midsomer Murders Four Funerals and a Wedding	Madden Nation	"Me, Mom, Dad, and Her" ★★ (Dra, '07)	Foundations	Mob Stories	To Be Announced	Asian Variety Show	Stargate Atlantis	"Killer Bees" ★ (Act, '02) C. Thomas Howell.	Boston Legal Fat Burner	America Most Wanted	Jean Enersen Special	New Tricks God's Waiting Room	Saturday Report	Cold Case	Avatar	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "La vie est belle"	Heartbeat The Heart of a Man	NFL Films Presents (N)	El Special (N)	Mirchi TV	Zero Hour	To Be Announced	Phoenix Gathering	Kool Countdown	Crusoe	Boston Legal Tortured Souls	Cops	"Sleepless in Seattle" ★★ (Rom, '93) Tom Hanks.	Mike Holmgren	Monarch of the Glen	Saturday Report	In My Head (P) (N)	Avatar	World Combat League
8 PM	:00 (40) Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Festival grand rite François Léveillé	Midsomer Murders Four Funerals and a Wedding	Madden Nation	"Me, Mom, Dad, and Her" ★★ (Dra, '07)	Foundations	Mob Stories	To Be Announced	Asian Variety Show	Stargate Atlantis	"Killer Bees" ★ (Act, '02) C. Thomas Howell.	Boston Legal Fat Burner	America Most Wanted	Jean Enersen Special	New Tricks God's Waiting Room	Saturday Report	Cold Case	Avatar	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "La vie est belle"	Heartbeat The Heart of a Man	NFL Films Presents (N)	El Special (N)	Mirchi TV	Zero Hour	To Be Announced	Phoenix Gathering	Kool Countdown	Crusoe	Boston Legal Tortured Souls	Cops	"Sleepless in Seattle" ★★ (Rom, '93) Tom Hanks.	Mike Holmgren	Monarch of the Glen	Saturday Report	In My Head (P) (N)	Avatar	World Combat League
9 PM	:00 (40) Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Festival grand rite François Léveillé	Midsomer Murders Four Funerals and a Wedding	Madden Nation	"Me, Mom, Dad, and Her" ★★ (Dra, '07)	Foundations	Mob Stories	To Be Announced	Asian Variety Show	Stargate Atlantis	"Killer Bees" ★ (Act, '02) C. Thomas Howell.	Boston Legal Fat Burner	America Most Wanted	Jean Enersen Special	New Tricks God's Waiting Room	Saturday Report	Cold Case	Avatar	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "La vie est belle"	Heartbeat The Heart of a Man	NFL Films Presents (N)	El Special (N)	Mirchi TV	Zero Hour	To Be Announced	Phoenix Gathering	Kool Countdown	Crusoe	Boston Legal Tortured Souls	Cops	"Sleepless in Seattle" ★★ (Rom, '93) Tom Hanks.	Mike Holmgren	Monarch of the Glen	Saturday Report	In My Head (P) (N)	Avatar	World Combat League
10 PM	:00 (40) Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Festival grand rite François Léveillé	Midsomer Murders Four Funerals and a Wedding	Madden Nation	"Me, Mom, Dad, and Her" ★★ (Dra, '07)	Foundations	Mob Stories	To Be Announced	Asian Variety Show	Stargate Atlantis	"Killer Bees" ★ (Act, '02) C. Thomas Howell.	Boston Legal Fat Burner	America Most Wanted	Jean Enersen Special	New Tricks God's Waiting Room	Saturday Report	Cold Case	Avatar	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "La vie est belle"	Heartbeat The Heart of a Man	NFL Films Presents (N)	El Special (N)	Mirchi TV	Zero Hour	To Be Announced	Phoenix Gathering	Kool Countdown	Crusoe	Boston Legal Tortured Souls	Cops	"Sleepless in Seattle" ★★ (Rom, '93) Tom Hanks.	Mike Holmgren	Monarch of the Glen	Saturday Report	In My Head (P) (N)	Avatar	World Combat League
11 PM	:00 (40) Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Festival grand rite François Léveillé	Midsomer Murders Four Funerals and a Wedding	Madden Nation	"Me, Mom, Dad, and Her" ★★ (Dra, '07)	Foundations	Mob Stories	To Be Announced	Asian Variety Show	Stargate Atlantis	"Killer Bees" ★ (Act, '02) C. Thomas Howell.	Boston Legal Fat Burner	America Most Wanted	Jean Enersen Special	New Tricks God's Waiting Room	Saturday Report	Cold Case	Avatar	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "La vie est belle"	Heartbeat The Heart of a Man	NFL Films Presents (N)	El Special (N)	Mirchi TV	Zero Hour	To Be Announced	Phoenix Gathering	Kool Countdown	Crusoe	Boston Legal Tortured Souls	Cops	"Sleepless in Seattle" ★★ (Rom, '93) Tom Hanks.	Mike Holmgren	Monarch of the Glen	Saturday Report	In My Head (P) (N)	Avatar	World Combat League
12 MID	:00 (40) Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Festival grand rite François Léveillé	Midsomer Murders Four Funerals and a Wedding	Madden Nation	"Me, Mom, Dad, and Her" ★★ (Dra, '07)	Foundations	Mob Stories	To Be Announced	Asian Variety Show	Stargate Atlantis	"Killer Bees" ★ (Act, '02) C. Thomas Howell.	Boston Legal Fat Burner	America Most Wanted	Jean Enersen Special	New Tricks God's Waiting Room	Saturday Report	Cold Case	Avatar	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "La vie est belle"	Heartbeat The Heart of a Man	NFL Films Presents (N)	El Special (N)	Mirchi TV	Zero Hour	To Be Announced	Phoenix Gathering	Kool Countdown	Crusoe	Boston Legal Tortured Souls	Cops	"Sleepless in Seattle" ★★ (Rom, '93) Tom Hanks.	Mike Holmgren	Monarch of the Glen	Saturday Report	In My Head (P) (N)	Avatar	World Combat League

SUNDAY JANUARY 4

5 PM	:00 "Eloise at The Plaza" ★★ (Fam, '03) Julie Andrews.	Muziklips	(10) Mama Mirabell's (35) Babar	Hockey World Under 17 Challenge - Gold Medal Game - Teams TBA (Live)	CHEK News	Tomorrow's World	Family Guy	To Be Announced	Spazio Libero	Battlestar Galactica	Reviews on the Run	Everybody Hates Chris	American Chopper	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	In Search of Myths and Heroes	Obama Goes to Africa	KIRO 7 News	(4:00) "The Sandlot II" ★★ (Com, '05)	Ms. Fitness World
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Terre: la puissance L'atmosphère"	The Saddle Club	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	To Be Announced	Italia Focus	Escape Velocity	Role That Changed	The Game	Family Guy	News	News	Oregon Field Guide	CBC News: Sunday Night	News	"Roll Bounce" ★ (Com, '05) Bow Wow.	Best Damn Top 50
6 PM	:00 Heartland True Enough (N)	L'atmosphère	The Saddle Club	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	To Be Announced	Italia Focus	Escape Velocity	Role That Changed	The Game	Family Guy	News	News	Oregon Field Guide	CBC News: Sunday Night	News	"Roll Bounce" ★ (Com, '05) Bow Wow.	Best Damn Top 50
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Terre: la puissance L'atmosphère"	The Saddle Club	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	To Be Announced	Italia Focus	Escape Velocity	Role That Changed	The Game	Family Guy	News	News	Oregon Field Guide	CBC News: Sunday Night	News	"Roll Bounce" ★ (Com, '05) Bow Wow.	Best Damn Top 50
7 PM	:00 "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" ★★ (Fant, '05) Georgie Henley.	Les 400 coups de Québec	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Zone doc Liberty USA"	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
8 PM	:00 "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" ★★ (Fant, '05) Georgie Henley.	Les 400 coups de Québec	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Zone doc Liberty USA"	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
9 PM	:00 "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" ★★ (Fant, '05) Georgie Henley.	Les 400 coups de Québec	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Zone doc Liberty USA"	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
10 PM	:00 "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" ★★ (Fant, '05) Georgie Henley.	Les 400 coups de Québec	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Zone doc Liberty USA"	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
11 PM	:00 "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" ★★ (Fant, '05) Georgie Henley.	Les 400 coups de Québec	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Zone doc Liberty USA"	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
12 MID	:00 "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" ★★ (Fant, '05) Georgie Henley.	Les 400 coups de Québec	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Zone doc Liberty USA"	Doc Martin On the Edge	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Waiting for God	24: Redemption	The Big Bang Theory	Samantha Who?	"Golden Key" (Com, '08)	Cold Case Lotto Fever (N)	"Die Another Day" ★★ (Act, '02) Pierce Brosnan.	"The Trail of the Pink Panther" ★★ (Com, '82) Peter Sellers.	24: Redemption	Makeover: Home Slaughter Family (N)	Nature The Gorilla King	"An Inconvenient Truth" ★★ (Doc, '06) Al Gore.	60 Minutes	Million Dollar Password (N)	Prank Patrol	Poker Saturday Night

MONDAY JANUARY 5

5 PM	:00 The Simpsons	C'est ça la vie	(25) Maggie and Beast (35) Arthur	(4:30) IJHF Hockey World Junior Championship - Gold Medal Game - Teams TBA (Live)	CHEK News	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Early News	CTV News at Five	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	(4:30) NCAA Football Fiesta Bowl - Ohio State vs. Texas (Live)	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:30) Poker After Dark	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
6 PM	:00 News	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
7 PM	:00 Coronation Street	Virginia (N)	Undersea Explorer	Best of Off the Record	How I Met Your Mother	One Tree Hill Things a Mama Don't Know (N)	The Practice The Pursuit of Dignity	"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" ★★ (Act, '05) Brad Pitt.	The Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half Men	Marimar	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	One Tree Hill Things a Mama Don't Know (N)	Fiesta Bowl Post-Game	Family Guy	The Bachelor (P) (N)	Superstars of Dance (N)	Antiques Roadshow	News	The Big Bang Theory	Malcolm in the Middle Pilot
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
8 PM	:00 Little Mosque (N) Sophie (N) (Part 2 of 2)	L'Auberge du chien noir On s'échappe (N)	A History of Britain Burning Convictions	Best of Off the Record	How I Met Your Mother	One Tree Hill Things a Mama Don't Know (N)	The Practice The Pursuit of Dignity	"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" ★★ (Act, '05) Brad Pitt.	The Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half Men	Marimar	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	One Tree Hill Things a Mama Don't Know (N)	Fiesta Bowl Post-Game	Family Guy	The Bachelor (P) (N)	Superstars of Dance (N)	Antiques Roadshow	News	The Big Bang Theory	Malcolm in the Middle Pilot
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
9 PM	:00 Being Erica Dr. Tom (P) (N)	Les Boys (DS) (N)	Studio The Life and Times of Alex Colville	Best of Off the Record	How I Met Your Mother	One Tree Hill Things a Mama Don't Know (N)	The Practice The Pursuit of Dignity	"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" ★★ (Act, '05) Brad Pitt.	The Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half Men	Marimar	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	One Tree Hill Things a Mama Don't Know (N)	Fiesta Bowl Post-Game	Family Guy	The Bachelor (P) (N)	Superstars of Dance (N)	Antiques Roadshow	News	The Big Bang Theory	Malcolm in the Middle Pilot
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
10 PM	:00 CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
11 PM	:00 News / (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"	Taste Buds	That News Show (N)	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	Global National	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	CityCooks	That '70s Show	Family Guy	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected	
12 MID	:00 (05) Fashion File	La zone	A History of Britain Burning Convictions	Best of Off the Record	How I Met Your Mother	One Tree Hill Things a Mama Don't Know (N)	The Practice The Pursuit of Dignity	"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" ★★ (Act, '05) Brad Pitt.	The Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half Men	Marimar	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	One Tree Hill Things a Mama Don't Know (N)	Fiesta Bowl Post-Game	Family Guy	The Bachelor (P) (N)	Superstars of Dance (N)	Antiques Roadshow	News	The Big Bang Theory	Malcolm in the Middle Pilot
	:30	Le Téléjournal "Popular Mechanics"																			

PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

Owners 'just grateful' for cat's presence

MIRACLE

continued from 18

her to me, asking "Is this really Iris?"

At first I wasn't sure, but soon her purring, kneading, pressing her nose against my face, as well as her classic tabby features of elegant stripes, bracelets, necklaces and the distinct "M" on her forehead convinced me that it was indeed her. Naturally she can't tell us where she's been — whether she was living in a home

or was off by herself in the wild, or some combination of the two.

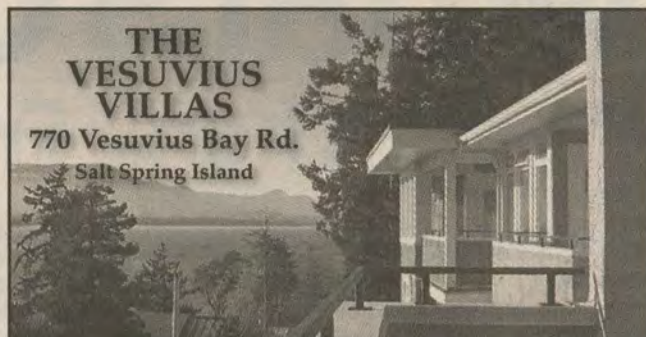
She was ravenous, but other than that she looks about the same.

Corrie thinks she looked a bit thinner, but I can't tell much difference, except that she's even more affectionate and calm, and she and Rosey are getting along better than ever.

We've been keeping her inside for the past days. When we let her go outside, we have no idea whether she'll stay or go on another walk-about, or try to return to her other

home, if she has one. Clearly this is another lesson in non-attachment and surrendering to the mysteries of this life. We're just so grateful to have her presence in our lives, if only in this moment.

Wendy Judith Cutler and Corrie Hope Furst live in the serene south end with their animal family. They would love to hear from anyone who knows where Iris has been during these past months — but no custody battles, please!



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POOL HOURS ARE:

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7am – 1:30 pm and 2:30 – 8 pm

Thursday and Saturday 11:30am – 1:30pm
and 2:30 – 6:30pm

Sunday 9am – 1:30pm and 2:30 – 6:30pm

CLOSED TUESDAYS.

The pool is closed from 1:30-2:30pm for maintenance.

MORNING MOVES

7:15 – 8:00 am

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Boost your day with this shallow water fitness class. A qualified instructor will lead you through a series of moves to work all your muscles and challenge your senses. You will leave the pool feeling refreshed and ready for the day.

The rating for this class: 7 - 10

ENERGIZER

8:00 – 9:00 am

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

This combination class offers both shallow and deep water exercises. A qualified instructor will guide you through a warm up, cardio, strength, stretch and warm down. It's a perfect way to start your day.

The rating for this class: 6 - 8

AQUALITE

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Aqualite is a shallow water fitness class in which you will be shown how to stretch and move through the water with fitness in mind. It's a perfect class for those folk that are looking to increase their range of motion and flexibility.

The rating for this class: 3 - 6

DOWN AND DEEP

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

This class is conducted in the deep end of the pool so all participants must know how to swim. A qualified instructor will lead you through all the components of a high energy aerobic workout. If you are looking for a great way to use the pool with low impact on your joints then this is the class for you.

The rating for this class: 8 - 10

RATING SYSTEM

1 - 4 Focuses on stretching and flexibility

4 - 8 Focuses on stretching, flexibility and moderate aerobic work

9 - 10 Focuses on stretching, flexibility and high aerobic work

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What's On This Week

Wed.
December 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
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.
Around Midnight. Pop, country-rock band at the Legion for New Year's Eve.
Workshop. R&B band at the Fulford Inn for New Year's Eve.

Thurs.
January 1

ACTIVITIES
Fulford Polar Bear Swim. Whiteshell (aka Secret) Beach, just past salmon ladders on Morningside Drive. 12 noon sharp (!) for the dip.
Hot Yoga. Special New Year's Day event at North End Fitness. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reserve spot: info@debfit.com, or 250-537-7696.

Fri.
January 2

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

Sat.
January 3

ACTIVITIES
Christmas Tree Chipping. Food bank fundraiser at Country Grocer parking lot. (Min. \$4 donation)

Sun.
January 4

NO ACTIVITIES

Mon.
January 5

ACTIVITIES
Triathlon/Duathlon Club. With Bruce Grey. Starts today. Info: Rainbow Road Pool. 250-537-1402.

Tues.
January 6

ACTIVITIES
Bach's Christmas Oratorio. Chamber orchestra and soloists, directed by Jim Stubbs for Bach on the Rock at ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

Wed.
January 7
NO ACTIVITIES



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<p>CHANGELING A TRUE STORY 2 hrs 22 min Rating: 14A</p>	<p>BOLT JOHN TRAVOLTA MILEY CYRUS 1 hr 36 min Rating: G</p>
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CINEMA
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Changeling — A mother prays for the return of her kidnapped son. When her prayers are answered, however, she begins to suspect the boy who comes back is not her child. Inspired by true events that took place in Los Angeles in the 1920s. Oscar-worthy performances by Angelina Jolie & John Malkovich
Australia — with Nicole Kidman & Hugh Jackman plays 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
 • **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; Ulrieke 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.

Christmas Oratorio
 J.S. Bach's masterwork presented by **Bach on the Rock**
 Tues., Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.
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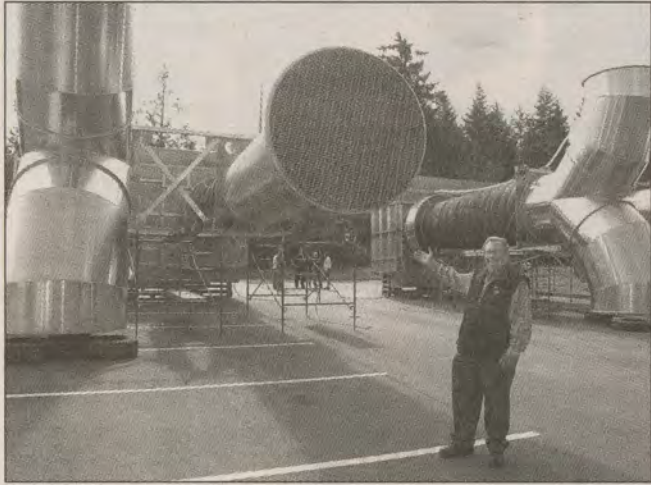
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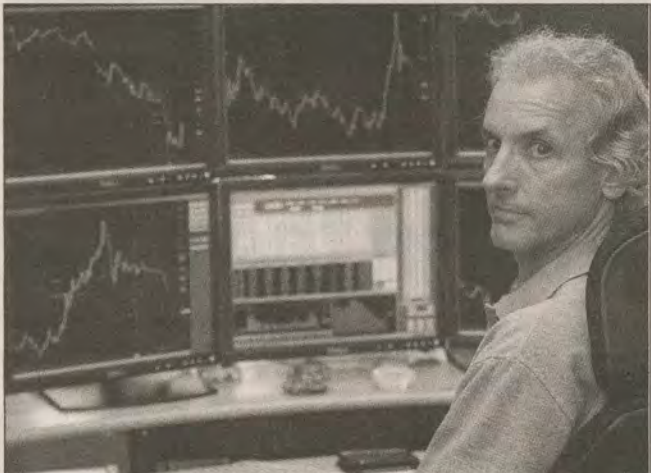
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DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTOS

Some of the news highlights for Salt Spring and beyond in 2008 included: (above) aerators awaiting installation via helicopter in St. Mary Lake to improve the lake's water quality. Below, a worldwide financial crisis; and (at right) the opening of the Rainbow Road indoor pool facility.



Looking back at the news highlights of 2008

January

- Property values on Salt Spring continued to climb, although the rate of growth had slowed for the second consecutive year. Value of a "typical" non-waterfront house on Salt Spring rose by 8.2 per cent to \$449,600. The jump was 6.9 per cent the year before, compared to 18.7 per cent between 2004 and 2005, and 24.7 the year prior to that.
- The Salt Spring Fire Protection District adopted a revised 10-year plan focussing on "urgent and immediate challenges of preserving its volunteer base, replacing the Ganges fire hall and improving training facilities."
- Portlock Park and the surrounding areas were swarmed by trained searchers as Salt Spring Search and Rescue (SAR) members and others looked for a 54-year-old island male reported missing to local RCMP. The search involved 22 local SAR members plus about 40 searchers from six different Vancouver Island communities. As it turned out, the man was safe, warm and dry, and not missing.

February

- Seven-year-old Jasmin Wilson was met at the Long Harbour ferry terminal by a huge welcoming crowd as she returned from a long stay at B.C. Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Diagnosed with Compartment Syndrome,

Jasmin and her family were the focus of fundraising efforts on the island.

- The Save Salt Spring rainforest campaign — aiming to raise money for the purchase of land on Creekside Drive — got a boost from a surprising place. Children in a grades 4-5 class in Vancouver raised \$250 for the cause, as the initial Feb. 29 deadline approached.
- Hobby farmer Elizabeth Cooper was calling it quits on Salt Spring after a provincial judge ordered her to remove her prize-winning flock of bantam roosters from her Garner Road property. Cooper said the cost of fighting the noise bylaw forcing removal of the roosters was not worth the expense.
- Fire department trustees voted unanimously in favour of a conditional agreement to purchase land at the corner of Long Harbour and Upper Ganges roads for a new fire hall. A referendum would be required to complete the purchase.
- PARC approved a motion seeking more input into the construction of a \$275,000 single-court tennis bubble. Under the proposal, the bulk of the funding — \$175,000 — would come from the Salt Spring Tennis Association, and PARC would advance up to an additional \$100,000.

March

- Twenty-year-old Koby Trociuk, also known as the "machete bandit," was sentenced to several months of

- house arrest and two years of curfews. In addition, he was given 50 hours of community service, ordered to pay restitution, undergo counselling and write a letter of apology. In Oct., 2006, the man held up Island Savings Credit Union armed with a machete and garden implement and made off with \$20,000. He was later caught trying to pay for a video game with a marked bill.
- Island trustees voted in favour of a monumental agreement that would preserve 25 hectares (63 acres) of Fulford Valley farmland. Victoria-based Three Point Properties would donate the land in exchange for one additional density at 203 Musgrave Road as part of an amenity zoning proposal.
- Five cases of pertussis (whooping cough) had been reported on Salt Spring and the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) expected the number would increase due to the high number of children not immunized on Salt Spring.
- At \$1.37 a litre, the price of gas on Salt Spring was believed to be the highest in Canada.

April

- A campaign to raise over \$1 million in pledges towards the purchase of 19.5 acres of Creekside rainforest on

LOOKING BACK continued on 24

MILESTONES

- Salt Spring's **transit system** got rolling on Jan. 7 with the launch of two buses for the island.
- A collaboration between J. Mitchell Gallery and the owners of Grace Point Square resulted in the installation of three large **bronze sculptures** by Lynn Demers into the square.
- Salt Spring's **Rainbow Road indoor pool facility** finally opened May 17 with 250 people attending a free swim and pool-side celebration.
- The Islands Trust voted unanimously to adopt a **soil and rock removal bylaw**, bringing an end to nearly four years of extensive debate and negotiation.
- An **off-road trail** was opened along Lower Ganges Road between Blain Road and Wildwood Crescent. The \$100,000 project was spearheaded by the non-profit Partners Creating Pathways group.
- Two 14,000-pound **aerators** were dropped into St. Mary Lake via a Boeing 234 Chinook, the largest Canadian-registered helicopter in Canada.
- The first tenants moved into **Murakami Gardens**, a new affordable housing complex on Rainbow Road.
- The streets of Ganges were draped in colour and celebration as hundreds of people marched in Salt Spring's first gay pride parade.
- Salt Spring Middle School was awarded \$5.5 million in **seismic upgrade work**, which began in September and was expected to run for a year.
- The Immigration Refugee Board of Canada **dismissed accusations of war crimes** against island resident Josip Budimcic, allowing him to remain in Canada.



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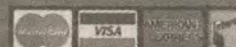
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CANADA POSTES
POST CANADA



YEAR IN REVIEW

IN THE NEWS



Briony Penn



Christine Torgrimson



Bob Akerman



Garth Hendren

HEROS OF 2008

- **Deb Ahrweiler** and **Rob Coulter**, on their boat *Gulf Tide*, were hailed as heroes after waking at 4 a.m. to the sounds of a man struggling to get out of the water. The couple managed to lift the man, a visitor to Salt Spring, out of the water by his belt buckle, an effort that took about half an hour.

- The Lifesaving Society of B.C. was set to honour three islanders for their part in a heroic rescue of a father and son from the Strait of Georgia. Pilot **St. Clair McColl** and passengers **Mary Paul** and **Jonathan Yardley** would be honoured for their part in the rescue that took place a year earlier.

- Salt Spring soccer star **Clare Rustad** played every minute of every Team Canada game, even assisting in a goal, in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Also in Beijing, triathlete **Simon Whitfield**, who now calls Salt Spring home, thrilled all of Canada with a come-from-behind silver medal finish.

- Salt Spring's **Maureen Moore** was honoured with an Islands Trust Stewardship Award for her part in organizing the campaign to save the Creekside rainforest.

- GISS grad **Natalya Alonso** was named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20 youth by the non-profit Youth in Motion group.



Salt Spring soccer player Clare Rustad thrilled islanders with her soccer prowess as she played for Team Canada in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Ferries, Lady Minto, Islands Trust in the news

LOOKING BACK

continued from 23

Salt Spring was successful, with pledges continuing to roll in after the March 31 deadline.

- The Islands Trust announced it was ready to re-open dialogue on the legalization of seasonal cottages and secondary suites in hopes of resolving the island's shortage of affordable housing.

- B.C. Ferries employees based on Salt Spring were concerned over a possible plan that could see the Vesuvius ferry home port changed to Crofton due to a critical staff shortage.

- Fire district trustees, staff and volunteer firefighters expressed disappointment upon hearing the results of a referendum that turned down a proposal to purchase land for a new fire hall at 300 Upper Ganges Road. The referendum failed 789 to 551.

- Local RCMP, working in conjunction with a Vancouver Island-based underwater recovery team, retrieved two sticks of dynamite from the waters beneath the government wharf in Vesuvius. Police believe the dynamite was disposed of in a careless manner.

- A five-month investigation into the deaths of Nancy and David Denovan concluded the cause was murder suicide, with David killing his wife, and not a suicide pact as previously speculated.

May

- Islanders for Self-Government was looking ahead to the local elections in the fall, announcing it was seeking three candidates to run on pro-incorporation study platforms. At the same time, Garth Hendren announced he would throw his hat into the CRD ring with a pro-incorporation position.

- Salt Spring's Dustin Little, 24, was working with children in China when a devastating earthquake in the Sichuan province occurred. The island man was safe and able to help by carrying children from the orphanage.

- A labour shortage on Salt Spring was causing some employers to look at bringing in Mexican workers.

- Community Services Minister Ida Chong rec-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTOS

Above, Lady Minto Hospital made the news as its operating room was closed. Below, artist Lynn Demers is seen with one of her bronze sculptures installed in Grace Point Square.



ommended the Islands Trust hold a referendum to determine public support for increasing the number of elected Salt Spring Trust officials from two to four.

- The Salt Spring Tennis Association announced to PARC that in light of further delays in the process, the association intended to seek another

location to install a tennis bubble.

June

- Pertussis or whooping cough continued to be a problem on Salt Spring. Of the 55 cases reported in the Capital Regional District, 25 were on Salt Spring. Health authorities urged parents to have their children immunized against the disease.

- A coalition of Gulf Islanders based on Hornby Island called for a coast-wide day of action to protest the rising costs of B.C. Ferries travel.

- Tupperware bins of snakes were removed from shelves in a Rainbow Road area home, making national news after the BCSPCA made the case public. The 41 snakes, ranging from 25 centimetres to nearly 1.5 metres in size, were found crammed into plastic containers. Charges were pending under the Cruelty to Animals Act.

July

- Due to a staff shortage, Lady Minto Hospital was operating without a surgeon or on-call anaesthetic services until further notice.

- A damning report compiled by 12 coastal ferry advisory committee chairs pointed to a looming crisis for B.C. Ferries and ferry dependent communities like Salt Spring.

- Islanders learned that beginning Aug. 1, ferry riders would face a 10 to 17.6 per cent fuel surcharge on all ferry routes. For those not using the Experience Card discount, the cost of the Fulford to Swartz Bay route would jump from \$37.70 for a round trip to \$42.45.

August

- By a margin of 13-12, Trust Council trustees voted to refuse Bylaws 199 and 200, ending the hope for a conclusion to the long dispute over residential use of Galiano's forest land lots. Although Hornby Island trustee Ron Emerson supported the proposed bylaws, he had to catch a ferry home and was unable to participate in the vote.

- PARC announced a willingness to re-open a discussion that could see new life blown into an indoor tennis facility on Salt Spring.

- A Canada-wide outbreak of listeria-relat-

LOOKING BACK continued on 25

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2

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3

Load your Smile Card and use it to pay for your purchases



4

Group receives 5% of accumulated funds

IN THE NEWS



Josip Budimcic

• **Mary Tanti** took third place in a prestigious knitting competition by the Cherry Tree Hill Yarn company.

• Nine-year-old **Gabe Gold's** puck-throwing skills landed him an overnight trip to Vancouver and Canucks tickets after he beat out 300 contestants at a Salmon Kings match in Victoria. The youngster's puck landed closest to the event-winning blue dot in the middle of the face-off circle.

• Salt Spring singer/songwriter **Eric Prof-**

IN THE LIMELIGHT

fitt was invited to open the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking Conference with his music.

• The GISS Improv team, consisting of **Lulu Fulford, Halley Fulford, Alex Corley, Steve Dawson, Chak Estable** and **Prairie Moat**, qualified to attend a national competition for the second consecutive year.

• Salt Spring Toastmasters **Andrew Lewis** and **Rowan Metcalfe** each won their divisions at a district speech contest in Campbell River,

springboarding them to the provincial event.

• Salt Spring Rotarians honoured **Malcolm Legg** for 35 years of service in the soccer community.

• GISS varsity football coach and former football player **Doug Mitchell** was inducted into the Windsor-Essex County Sports Hall of Fame.

• Former SIMS principal **Kevin Vine** received a B.C. Coalition for Music Education's 2008 Principals of Music Award.

Bear attack and politics steal the headlines

LOOKING BACK

continued from 24

ed illness resulted in the pulling of numerous packaged meat items from grocery shelves.

September

• A man from Sidney was airlifted from Salt Spring to the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria after an explosion aboard his sailboat at Fulford Marina left him with severe burns. The helicopter arrived on scene and landed at Fulford Elementary School within 12 minutes of the 911 call.

• A report from the province's Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General showed that the crime rate on Salt Spring was down, in keeping with the rest of the province.

• Three males narrowly escaped from their crashed SUV before it burst into flames on North End Road. The men, who were on Salt Spring for a wedding, veered off the road and crashed into a tree. Eyewitnesses left their cars to assist the men and help them escape from the vehicle.

• Salt Spring's **Blain Pharis** was recovering from injuries sustained when he was mauled by a black bear in Port Renfrew. The bear swam from a dock and boarded the boat Pharis was on before attacking him. A group of bystanders attacked the bear with a fishing gaff, hammer and pocket knife before it finally died.

• A nudity scandal arising from a 1996 incident prompted Saanich-Gulf Islands NDP candidate **Julian West** to pull out of the federal election race.

• A spree of vandalism targeted elections signs on Salt Spring, especially Liberal party signs featuring candidate **Briony Penn**.

October

• Saanich-Gulf Islands MP **Gary Lunn** held onto his seat in the federal election, receiving 43.43 per cent of the vote to win the riding for the fifth consecutive time. Salt Spring's **Briony Penn**, of the Liberal party, came second, grabbing 39.36 per cent of the vote.

• Lady Minto Hospital's \$3-million, state-of-the-art operating room remained closed as VIHA had



Affordable housing complex Murakami Gardens opened its doors to its first tenants in 2008.

DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

not yet named a new surgeon.

• Salt Spring SAR volunteers found a hiker lost on Mount Maxwell. He was discovered on a steep slope on the mountain thanks in part to the fact he was carrying a cell phone and whistle.

• The Islands Trust launched legal action against **John Quesnel's** Rainbow Road scrap metal recycling business, saying it violated a land use bylaw by using a split-zoned rural and agricultural property.

November

• Governance was the issue of the day as local election candidates battled it out for CRD and Trust positions. At the same time, only a few people turned out to hear about pending referendum issues, which asked questions on increasing the number of Salt Spring trust repre-

sentatives and upgrades to the Burgoyne Bay liquid waste management facility.

• Local elections returned **George Ehring** to the Islands Trust along with newcomer **Christine Torgrimson**, while **Garth Hendren** beat out incumbent **Gary Holman** as the island's director to the CRD. The Islands Trust referendum failed, while the liquid waste referendum passed.

• The Gulf Islands reacted quickly with e-mail chains and letters to politicians when auditors recommended the B.C. government discontinue its ferry fare subsidy to students. The government said the subsidies would stay.

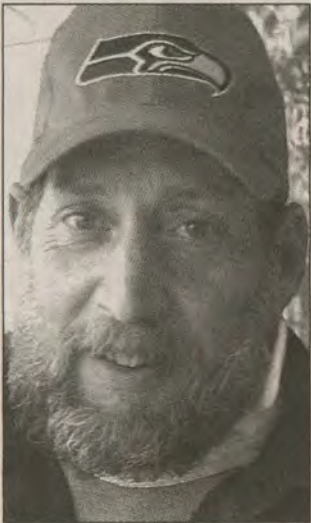
December

• Seniors, medical professionals and concerned citizens packed

Central Hall for a public meeting to discuss concerns over the future of Lady Minto Hospital. Concerns stemming from an e-mail that circulated the island suggesting the hospital would close were quickly put to rest.

• Heaps of snow landed on Salt Spring, sending vehicles into ditches, forcing cancellation of numerous Christmas events and festivities, and causing many to make alternate holiday plans.

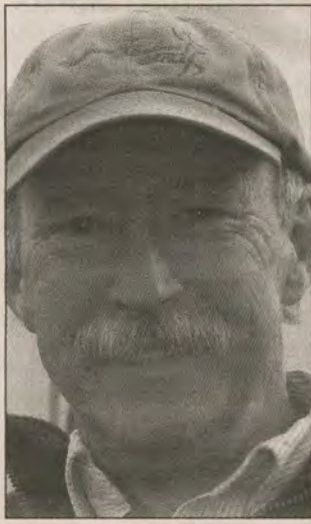
• Fire broke out in a small utility bunker housing an electrical transformer at Grace Point Square just two days before Christmas. Firefighters doused the flames, but power remained out for businesses in the square for the next few days. Some were able to keep their doors open despite the lack of electricity.



Blain Pharis



Diana O'Brien



George Ehring

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YEAR IN REVIEW

THE LAST WORD ON OPINION

The Driftwood published **542 letters** in 2008. An additional **132 pieces of opinion** were published under the names of "in response," "in-depth," "guest column" and "viewpoint."

Letter-writers were most voracious in the pre-local election weeks in early November. Some 40 letters were printed in the first two weeks of that month. In com-

parison, only 29 letters were published in all of August — the lowest letter-writing month of the year.

In the Rants and Roses section, islanders were compelled to write a total of **486 roses in 2008**. Graciousness to others peaked in November, when the Driftwood received 58 roses, and April, when people sent in 50 roses. Islanders were crankiest in October and Novem-

ber when they sent out 17 of the year's **56 rants**. They were most peaceful in August, when the Driftwood received only three during the entire month.

Biggest angsts among rant-senders were fellow drivers, theft, vandalism and garbage, while other issues, such as Murphy's Law and Christmas, received singular blasts.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTOS

At left, the undefeated GISS senior boys volleyball team takes first place in the Vancouver Island Championships, while, above, GISS basketball star Kayla Gromme shows her stuff.

PASSAGES

- PARC operations and project manager **Dave Gibbon** called it quits and announced in January that he would leave PARC when his contract ended in June.

- The long-time standard method of pumping and then paying at the gas station passed into oblivion as a new method was introduced in February. Called "**Grant's Law**," the new method of pay-before-you-pump was introduced to stop "gassing and dashing" and endangering station/store employees.

- PARC commissioners **Carol Dodd**, **Bob Brewer** and **Fraser Hope** resigned from the commission amid a power struggle with CRD director **Gary Holman**, relating to how the PARC manager position would be filled once Dave Gibbon left in June. Ultimately, the PARC position was taken over by **Kees Ruurs**, hired as a CRD employee, as Holman wished, and not a contractor.

- **Diana O'Brien**, a model from Salt Spring, was murdered in Shanghai, drawing a host of grieving friends and family as well as national attention.

- **Ganges Village Market's** store name was changed to **Country Grocer**, although the ownership remained the same.

- Island pioneer **Bob Akerman** died at age 96.

- The days of walking dogs through all areas of **Ruckle Park** were past, as B.C. Parks made some areas off limits due to ongoing issues with area livestock.

Island athletes out on top in 2008

- GISS senior basketball teams took first (girls) and second (boys) spots in the third annual Nairn Howe memorial tournament as 12 teams vied for top positions in the round-robin event played before hundreds of cheering islanders. **Bobby Byron** and **Kristi Lee** were awarded the Nairn Howe Outstanding Player awards.

- Grade 11 student **Olivia Morgan** was named as assistant coach to **Sue Spencer**, head coach of a U12 girls soccer team competing in the B.C. Summer Games.

- Led by tournament MVP **Kayla Gromme**, the GISS senior girls basketball team stormed the Vancouver Island AA championships to secure a berth in the provincial championships in Kamloops. The team eventually took 12th spot at the B.C. event and was named the most sportsman-like team.

- Karate student **Tara Brown** won the grand champion trophy at a Vancouver Island karate tournament.

- Grade 11 student **Katrina Villadsen** was the lone gymnast from Salt Spring to advance to the provincial championships where she placed seventh and eighth in her events.

- Fourteen-year-old **Sierra Lundy** was named to the B.C. U15 girls pro-

- vincial soccer team.

- **Salt Spring's U18 boys** team defeated Bays United in a come-from-behind 4-3 victory to take the silver league district cup. Star of the game and much of the season was German international student **Ricky Goller**, who scored three of the four goals.

- Some 700 players and 48 teams competed in the fourth annual Salt Spring Youth Challenge Cup soccer tournament.

- **Mel Sumner**, 87, was honoured with the Canadian Association for Disabled Skiers' first ever Skier of the Year award.

- Island track athletes **Kevan Brown** and **Grace Morgan** qualified to compete in the provincial high school track championships and later the B.C. Summer Games.

- Motocross racers **Harrison Bradley**, **Austin Archer**, **Wyatt Scheres** and **Brandon Johnson** qualified for the provincial championships.

- Island rider **Marina Holding** and her horse Reilly qualified to compete at the B.C. Summer Games. Other qualifiers included basketball player **Adrian Alonso** and soccer player **Lukas Wenzel**. **Jim Proctor** also attended the games as part of the staff.

- Several Salt Spring Stingrays swim-

- mers qualified for provincials in Trail after placing in the top three at the regional championship. (However, some decided not to attend the provincial event.) Those who qualified in individual events included: **Arina Fraser**, **Jordan Kitchen**, **Liam Sinclair**, **Luke Hylands**, **Becki Steel**, **Cassidy Fraser**, **Arlo Bryn-Thorn**, **Olivia Budd**, **Brendan Nickerson**,

- Salt Spring's **Judith Beaglehole** nailed the top spot in her division (women, aged 65-69) in the Royal Victoria Marathon, completing the half-marathon course in 1:57:04. Fastest islander in the full marathon was **Richard Hayden** with a time of 3:04.

- Several GISS swimmers qualified for the B.C. provincial championships at the regional event, and others were springboarded into the competition as alternates. Qualifying in individual events were: **Danica Lundy**, **Christine Villadsen** and **Jeremy Marchi**. One relay team — **Lundy**, **Villadsen**, **Stefanie Kos** and **Emily Rothwell** — also qualified.

- **GISS' senior boys volleyball team** stormed the competition to make GISS history and take the Vancouver Island AA title. The win volleyed them to a provincial berth, where they eventually took eighth spot overall.

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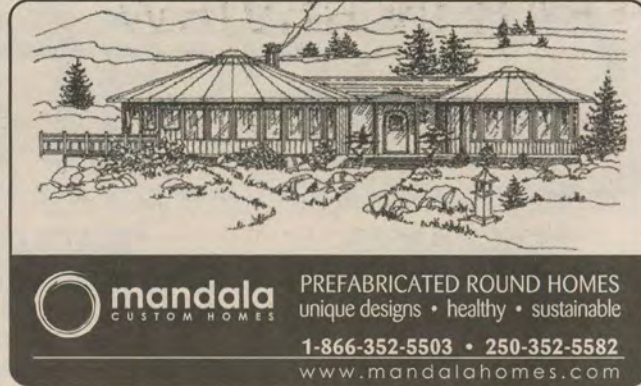


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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

ON THE BALL: High school alumni basketball player Eland Bronstein, right, holds the ball away from senior girls coach Tony Mason, as boys and girls basketball players practise throughout the holidays in the GISS gym.

Dolphins turn it around big-time

A year ago, quarterback Chad Pennington was a starter for the New York Jets, but after eight seasons with the team and no real play-off success, the Jets decided to let Pennington go and acquire Brett Favre, one of the greatest quarterbacks ever to play in the National Football League (NFL). But little did Pennington know that he would get the last laugh against his old team as he led the Miami Dolphins back to the top, clinching the AFC East title and thus completing the greatest one-year turnaround in NFL history.

The long journey back to glory for the Dolphins started in the 2008 off-season after coming off the worst year in franchise history, not to mention one of the worst in NFL history. Miami went 1-16 and quickly became the laughing stock of the league with a horrific record to accompany their abysmal play. After letting head coach Cam Cameron go after just one season with the team, he was replaced by first-year NFL coach Tony Sparano. But perhaps the biggest off-season move was signing the 32-year-old Pennington to a two-year deal to try to put an end to their lack of firepower in the QB position.

The Dolphins' pre-season



Patrick Cwiklinski

LET'S TALK SPORTS

looked very promising, but fans and analysts both speculated about whether it was the real deal or just plain dumb luck. Soon all the doubts would be addressed as Miami came into the regular season poised, boasting sensational numbers on both offence and defence, and quickly making a name for themselves.

Miami deserves full credit for being able to pull it off.

It all came down to the final on Sunday and to Pennington and his career-high season, and the Dolphins against Favre and the Jets. With the New England Patriots winning their game earlier that same day, it was a must-win for Miami if they wanted to take the AFC East

title and make the playoffs. Just as advertised, the game was very close with almost no room for both teams to breathe, but in the end it was the Dolphins who came out victorious, winning 24-17 as Pennington trumped Favre and showed up his former team-mates, leading his new team to the playoffs.

It doesn't matter if you're a fan of the Dolphins or even a fan of football for that matter, this is a remarkable turnaround and Miami deserves full credit for being able to pull it off. A team on the ropes, with only one win in the previous season, coming back to be crowned division champions is almost more inspiring than watching Seabiscuit with Tobey Maguire. And to be frank, it doesn't really matter what the Dolphins do in the playoffs now because they're already going to be remembered for this incredible season, but then again, a Superbowl ring wouldn't hurt either. Pennington has also made a statement by coming to a team that had virtually no success last season, having a great year as not only a player but also as a leader, rallying his troops and making it happen when it really mattered.

Miami has a tough playoff road coming up next week-

end in the wild-card round against a very difficult Baltimore Ravens team that beat them earlier in the season 27-13. But with the Dolphins' fate lying squarely in their own hands, they have to do everything in their power to make this memorable season... well, even more memorable. And for this season's 0-16 Detroit Lions, take note and keep your heads up because you never know what next season holds.

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The volunteer members of the **Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary** wish to thank all Thrift Shop customers for their donations, good wishes and custom during this past year.
MAY YOU ALL ENJOY A HAPPY AND FULFILLING 2009

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.

Happy 50th Captain Dan

Love Jacqui, Nina & Sammy

DEATHS

GRUNDY, Lexi Jade, 16 of Bridgetown, formerly of Salt Spring Island. Lexi went to heaven December 24, 2008 from the QEII Health Sciences Center, Halifax. Our little angel now has her wings. Born in Rimby, Alberta, she was the daughter of Michael and Angela (Brown) Grundy. Lexi's sweet soul and kind heart touched everybody she knew very deeply. She had a great love for her sisters and her Mom and Dad. Lexi recently found another great love and that was Andrew. Lexi loved her kitty Endora and would play for hours with her. Lexi also had some very close friends that will deeply feel her absence, as will her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Lexi loved life and everything about it. Lexi is survived by her parents, her sisters, Brittany of Salt Spring Island, Chanel and Mikhaela both at home, paternal grandparents Tom and Judy Grundy of Salt Spring Island, maternal grandmothers: Eve Brown of Edmonton and Bernice Brown of Alberta. Visitation and Funeral services were held by the Rev. Barry Aitken at the Kaulbach Family Funeral Home in Bridgetown. Donations in Lexi's memory may be sent to the Neuro Surgery Unit at the QEII Health Sciences Center, Halifax. Email condolences may be sent to: KAULBACHFH@ns.aliantzinc.ca
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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.

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.gulfislandsdriftwood.com. Use the calendar for event planning and to make sure your date doesn't conflict with someone else's.

Brian Lloyd Jewell
February 27, 1944 to December 25, 2008

Brian passed away quietly at home early Christmas morning with his beloved wife Michelle by his side following a 10 month battle with cancer. He will be greatly missed by his sister Lauretta (Bob), brother John (Val), niece Serena, nephew Andrew (Donna), grand-nephew Dezmond, his Uncle Alan, Auntie Anita, and Auntie Alice, and a multitude of friends.

A shy, quiet man with an enormous heart, Brian stood tall above the crowd with his generosity and his empathy for others, especially those whose road he perceived as perhaps more difficult than his own. A dreamer, a thinker and an inventor, Brian was at his happiest when he was building something in his shop.

A celebration of his life was held Tuesday, Dec. 30th at the United Church followed by a reception at the Harbour House. Special thanks to Dr. Jan Malherbe, Bonnie, and Pat for their kind attention and care, and to First Responders Geoff and Mitchell and the paramedic ambulance team, who did their very best to save him. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the local food bank.

New Year's Day Hot Yoga
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GANGSTER'S BALL: Sat. Dec. 20th. Costume and dance party at Beaver Point Hall. Old-school meets new-school, as local DJ's mix up jazz, swing, breakbeat and hip-hop featuring live performances including an appearance by the legendary Cream Burlesque, plus poker tables, cigarette girls, and prizes for best dressed and sexiest couple. Doors 9:30. Tickets \$20 at the door. Dress code: Gangsters, floozies, flappers and vintage.

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UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP. Welcoming back Rev. Mac Elrod, whose topic deals with "The Public Drug Policy and Unitarian Values". Join us 11 a.m. at the SS Seniors Society Jan. 4.

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**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.

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FREE BABY and childrens' clothes under 6, at Family Place, 268 Fulford Ganges Road. Drop off on Mondays 10:00-1:00 at Rugg Huggers or at Dad n Me on Saturdays 8:30 - 10:30.

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

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RENTALS

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RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

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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 manner, be highly organized and have 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 III 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, attn: Lorraine Sullivan. No phone calls please.

Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS



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.

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 forte. 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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