



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 49TH YEAR — ISSUE 11 \$1.25 (incl. GST)

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust ups property taxes by just .96%

Tough times lightens islanders' tax load

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council has approved a .96 per cent Trust-wide property tax increase for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

The increase, passed at council's quarterly meeting on Gabriola last week, represents an increase of 55 cents on every \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The hike is considerably lower than a proposed 4.5 per cent increase forecast in late 2008.

Linda Adams, the Islands Trust's chief administrative officer, said the budget process highlighted many residents' concerns about the long-term impacts of the economic slowdown.

"That's the mood out there," Adams said.

Salt Spring trustee Christine Torgimson said the increase was kept to a minimum without sacrificing any of the Trust's major initiatives.

"We did not eliminate any complete programs, but rather reduced some funding for offi-

BUDGET continued on A2

INCORPORATION DEBATE

Province silent as study deadline passes

Hendren ponders 'plan B'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director Garth Hendren wasn't overly optimistic on Tuesday afternoon as the province's deadline on whether or not to approve a formal incorporation study for Salt Spring Island expired without

any clear indication of what may happen next. "No news is bad news," Hendren said on Tuesday afternoon.

Hendren said calls he placed to the Ministry of Community Development on Tuesday morning were not returned.

Last November, Hendren contacted the province's Ministry of Community Development less than 48 hours after learning that he had defeated

incumbent CRD director Gary Holman in local elections.

Undertaking an incorporation study on Salt Spring Island was Hendren's focal campaign issue.

The province's delay in providing a response does not mean the issue is off the table, he added.

STUDY continued on A2

BC ELECTION

Past CRD director will be next NDP candidate

Gary Holman chosen from group of four nominees

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A firm belief in the importance of the social contract has motivated a local politician to take the next step.

Gary Holman, Salt Spring director to the Capital Regional District for two terms until he was narrowly defeated by Garth Hendren last fall, was selected from four nominees as the NDP candidate for Saanich-Gulf Islands.

A vote among NDP members in the area saw Holman take the lead over fellow nominees Mike Roscoe, a forestry worker, Saanich farmer Robin Herlinveaux and Jagmeet Grewal, a BC Ferries employee.

Because of the meeting location in Sidney, mail-in ballots were allowed to include participation from the Gulf Islands. Holman said perhaps as many as two thirds of the 140 ballots were mailed in.

Although he "studiously avoided partisan politics" and had a good working relationship with Liberal MLA Murray Coell during his years as CRD director, Holman said, he always held strong opinions about B.C.'s eroding social state.

Those views led him to finally accept the NDP's invitation to run as provincial candidate.

"My emphasis is on restoring the social contract, in terms of my personal motivation, because I do feel that over the past eight years our social

HOLMAN continued on A2



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CHILLIN': Busker Daryl Rasmussen uses fingerless gloves to combat the persistently cold weather as he plays the guitar and entertains passersby in Ganges

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| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Arts..... | B1 | Health..... | B11 |
| Classifieds..... | A16 | Horoscope..... | A13 |
| Editorial..... | A8 | Letters..... | A9 |
| Ferry Schedule..... | A14 | Sports..... | A14 |
| | | What's On..... | B6 |

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NEWSBEAT

Knowledge gained through CRD experience



PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Gary Holman

HOLMAN

continued from A1

contract has been shredded. This is despite strong economic growth, so in the face of a serious recession, I have very grave concerns of what will happen with another four years of Liberal government.”

Holman pointed out that despite having one of the strongest economies over the past five years, B.C. has the highest rate of child poverty in the country.

At the same time, the Liberals have devoted billions of dollars to two projects in Vancouver: re-roofing B.C. Place and building a new convention centre.

Holman said local evidence of the eroding social contract includes the four-day school week, the closure of Lady Minto Hospital's operating room and the tearing up of health workers' contracts. Affordable ferry travel is another key concern. Island taxpayers contribute to highway projects benefitting

the Lower Mainland, but deal with terrible roads at home, while “the Liberal government does not seem to accept that BC Ferries is part of the high-ways system.”

“This is what I find very difficult to reconcile, that these conditions have been allowed to develop and worsen.”

Although the NDP has yet to release its full platform in these early pre-election days, Holman said problems such as poverty and homelessness have roots and solutions at the provincial level.

The party will focus on providing a green infrastructure with projects such as affordable housing, public transit and renewable energy sources.

Holman said the NDP has also committed to ending homelessness in five years. He observed that during the 1990s, the NDP continued to build affordable housing even after federal funding was cut.

As a Gulf Islands resident seeking to represent a broader riding, Holman will have to work on becoming known on the Saanich Peninsula.

However, Holman's six years' experience as CRD director have given him important knowledge of the area and some of its players.

“I was on the regional district board and met many of

the local mayors and councilors,” Holman said.

“A lot of provincial politicians come from local politics. Certainly it's helped me understand some of the issues and given me a sense of how to deal with them.”

In the weeks to come before the provincial election on May 12, Holman will participate in several all-candidates debates, such as one to be hosted by the South Island Health Coalition.

He said he's looking forward to working with provincial NDP leader Carole James.

“People have been really inspired by the election down south, with the election of a black president. Maybe here we could have a woman premier with First Nations background.”

“I really do believe it's time for a change.”

Offices are being set up on Salt Spring at the former Sports Traders building on McPhillips Avenue and on the Saanich Peninsula.

Governance study could be May election issue

STUDY

continued from A1

“I'm not going to shrug my shoulders and walk away,” he said.

Hendren pushed for work on an incorporation study to begin as early as February 2009.

The delay could make the debate about a governance study a prominent local issue ahead of the provincial election in May, Hendren added.

A spokesperson from the Ministry of Community Development could not confirm the government's position in time for the Driftwood's Tuesday

afternoon deadline.

Hendren said estimates place study costs to the province at roughly \$35,000.

The study would consider forms of incorporation and compare them with the status quo in anticipation of a possible referendum, he said.

“I'm not going to shrug my shoulders and walk away.”

GARTH HENDREN,
Salt Spring CRD director

Overall Trust budget set to increase by 4.7 per cent

BUDGET

continued from A1

cial community plan reviews in the northern islands, for mapping software and scientific studies, and for overhead and travel costs,” she said.

Trustees agreed to cut funding in some areas to make room for a 2.5 per cent wage increase required under the collective agreement and to enable compliance with Bill 27, the Province of British Columbia's new climate

change legislation, reads a press release issued by the Trust.

Torgimson said she is pleased to see the budget include funding that will increase planning capacity on Salt Spring to help complete the island's OCP review and begin work on the land-use bylaw update.

The budget also allows for the hiring of a property manager to oversee properties owned and monitored by the Islands Trust Fund.

“We've been operating way below staff capacity to manage the 75 properties we own and covenant — a total of 975 hectares or 2,409 acres,” Torgimson said. “Now we can better manage these responsibilities, not only to protect the Trust Fund legally, but to enable us to preserve more special places in the Trust area.”

Provincial funding for the Islands Trust will increase by \$24,000 in the next fiscal year, up from the current \$156,000.

The funding increase is attributed to the province's attempts to help local governments stimulate regional economies.

The tax increase will raise property tax revenues by \$49,477. The Islands Trust overall budget will rise from \$6.16 million in 2008-09 to \$6.45 million in 2009-10, an increase of 4.7 per cent.

The Capital Regional District board will pass its 2009-10 budget at a special meeting in Victoria on March 25.

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| TH | 18:25 | 1.0 | 3.3 |
| 20 | 03:26 | 3.1 | 10.2 |
| FR | 19:28 | 1.1 | 3.6 |
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| SA | 10:17 | 2.5 | 8.2 |
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Newsbeat

Heads up!

Breast & Prostate Cancer Forum:

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ArtSpring (See What's On for details)

ENVIRONMENT

Forum examines dwindling shellfish resource

Action needed to turn tide on contaminated areas

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Speakers at a Friday evening discussion about the health of shellfish found along Salt Spring's shoreline called for more action to restore what's been lost and protect what few healthy clam beds remain.

"We can lobby for better monitoring of areas that have been closed for a long time to make sure that they are prioritized because things do change," said geographer and former federal Liberal party candidate Briony Penn.

Penn was among three speakers at a Salt Spring Conservancy-sponsored event, titled *The Clam Controversy: Why Can't We Eat Local Clams?*

She said the idea to organize the event stemmed from an inability to curtail the continued disappearance of safe shellfish harvesting areas in the Gulf Islands and elsewhere along the coast.

A resurgence in interest about local food, she added, is encouraging more people to look to their backyards and neighbourhoods to complement their daily menu.

In the Gulf Islands, where generations of early European settlers and First Nations residents have harvested clams at low tide, shorelines are a natural source of fresh local fare.

A stronger connection between our environment and our food, Penn added, has the additional benefits of fostering a unique local culture and a stronger sense of community.

"There are so many levels to clams. There's the cultural, political and the economic," Penn told a packed house at the Lions' Hall. "It is a very political issue, and we're all realizing that the '100-Mile Diet' is something that we should be paying attention to."

The problems facing shellfish areas in the Gulf Islands are nothing new. Permanent closures in once popular harvesting areas like Ganges Harbour and Booth Canal have resulted from elevated levels of effluent released from septic tanks and industrial operations.

As development and permanent settlement have increased, so too have the closures of harvesting areas due to poor sanitary conditions.

"Just trying to wrap your head around some of the chemical concerns is pretty ridiculous," said Tom Child, a researcher who studies the impact of pollutants on First Nations' traditional food sources.

His work to date has found persistent fat-soluble pollutants such as PCBs and PBDEs in marine species large and small along both sides of Vancouver Island.

For Child, the time has come for us to reassess our relationship with the ocean and take personal responsibility for any potential impacts we are having on our marine environment.

Checking to ensure septic tanks are functioning properly and lobbying local, provincial and federal govern-



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Elevated fecal coliform counts along much of Salt Spring's shoreline have forced indefinite closures on the harvest of a once-plentiful healthy local food source.

ments for more testing are some of the ways to limit the pollution of coastal waters.

"We live at a time when just about everything we do is unsustainable," he said. "If we don't give more thought to what we are eating and where it comes from, we may as well all be driving stretched humvees. Our modern food system is a modern horror show."

DFO representative Rick Harpo said marine vessel discharge and effluent from septic tanks account for nearly 20 per cent of sewage-based contaminants. That may not seem like very much but, he added, it represents the two largest pollution sources. More than 55 per cent of sources are listed as "multiple sources," a fact that complicates attempts to restrict the flow of pollutants.

He told the audience one way to preserve healthy areas is through creation of marine preserves where shellfish resources can be protected.

"We must protect the beaches that we have and that are open now and try to get those set aside," he said. "When there's new development, then those areas are flagged as sensitive areas and that helps."

Updates on current shellfish area closures are available at www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca or by calling DFO's shellfish information hotline at 604-666-2828.

More information on how to get involved in the protection and rehabilitation of shellfish harvesting areas is available from the Salt Spring Conservancy (www.saltspringconservancy.ca).

News briefs

Ferry service resumes

Ferry service between Vesuvius Bay and Crofton was temporarily suspended on Tuesday afternoon as mechanics rushed to fix a problem aboard the Howe Sound Queen.

Work on the vessel identified a problem with its steering system. Repairs forced the cancellation of

all sailings between 11:40 a.m. and 3 p.m. Normal service was back in place by mid-afternoon.

CRD office open Mondays

Monday will be CRD director's day on Salt Spring, with the official opening of the office at

#5-105 Rainbow Rd.

Garth Hendren, Salt Spring's electoral area director to the Capital Regional District, or his alternate director Darlene Steele will be in the office and available to meet with islanders on Mondays.

The office phone number is 250-538-0009 and the e-mail is directorssi@crd.bc.ca.

Hendren can also be

reached via cell phone at 1-250-888-7044.

RCMP get serious

Salt Spring RCMP officers advise island motorists that they will start enforcing the new speed limit in a playground zone area near Portlock Park "effective immediately."

Since the 30 km/h speed limit signs were installed

at the end of February, officers have let motorists off with only a warning. In one 90-minute stretch, an RCMP officer issued 14 such warnings.

People caught traveling in excess of the posted limits will face a \$196 fine.

The new playground zone stretches from the Community Gospel Chapel to the Central intersection.

FOR THE RECORD

Last week's Driftwood contained an article that referred to the death of Edith Sigmund as being caused by suicide.

Her death was in fact accidental. The Driftwood apologizes for this error and the additional grief it caused to Edith's family members and friends.

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NEWSBEAT

FIRE DEPARTMENT

New deputy chief steps up to the plate

Arjuna George puts focus on volunteer recruitment and retention



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Arjuna George is set to take on a new position with the fire department.

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A respected member of the Salt Spring Fire Department has received the support of his superiors with the promotion to the deputy chief position.

Arjuna George is already active in the position, following the retirement of long-time member Dan Akerman last month.

George has lived on Salt Spring for 30 years and joined the department as a volunteer in 1997. In 2001, he became a career firefighter and started moving through the ranks.

He was made captain and then assistant chief before receiving his latest promotion.

"Dan had 40 years' experience. That's a lot of experience in the department and on the island that's going to be missed, for sure," George said.

While he admits that taking over the position will be a learning experience, the new deputy chief already has a good handle on the scope of his responsibilities.

These include all the administrative operations such as department health and safety procedures, training and firefighting ground-control command. George said his most important duties, however, will lie in personnel management and volunteer recruitment and retention.

During the past two years, George said, recruitment levels have been very good, with

close to 20 new volunteers.

"It's going to be more about retention than recruitment: keeping them on board, keeping them motivated, keeping them happy."

"We have a very dedicated crew. They've spent numerous hours training and responding, so we're very proud of them, to be sure."

As for his vision of where the department is heading in the future, George noted the coming months will see big changes for staff and volunteers.

"Definitely it's going to be a big transitional year with a new chief coming on board in July. Dave Enfield has been chief for 10 years, so most of the members have had him as chief ever since they've been on the force."

George said the local department will continue to evolve as a customer service organization that responds to

all sorts of emergency calls, including medical calls and hazardous waste reports.

"Environmental issues are also something we should take a lead on," he asserted.

George reported the department is looking at using LED lights and water conservation methods. Fire engines that run on diesel are already using bio-diesel, and low-emission producing propane is used in training procedures.

Chief Enfield had high praise for George.

"AJ is a dedicated person, family, work and his career are his focuses. He never balks at a challenge and can be relied upon to think things out and always handle them the best interests of all involved. He is ensuring that he gets as much relevant education as possible and the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District supports him in this

"We have a very dedicated crew. They've spent numerous hours training and responding."

ARJUNA GEORGE
Deputy fire chief

venture." Enfield also said George was extremely thorough when handling his duties and not afraid to ask questions of his peers to ascertain quality work.

One goal of the fire district and department is to ensure an adequate number of persons from "within" that can be promoted to all ranks in the near future.

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Monday - Friday

| A | H | C | D | A |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges | Lv. Hospital | Lv. Brinkworthy Place | Lv. Rec. Centre | Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges |
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| 10:05 | 10:08 | 10:12 | 10:20 | 10:22 |
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v-Trip continues as Route 3 Vesuvius

4 Long Harbour
Monday - Friday

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| Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges | Ar./Lv. Long Harbour | Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges |
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Saturday

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5 Fernwood
Monday - Friday

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| Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges | Ar./Lv. Fernwood Dock | Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges |
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Saturday

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F-Trip continues as Route 5 Fernwood

2 Fulford Harbour
Monday - Friday

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

Driftwood wins 2nd consecutive tops-in-Canada award

Plus six other awards at national competition

For the second year in a row, the Gulf Islands Driftwood has been named best all-round paper in its circulation class in Canada.

Results of the annual Better Newspapers Competition of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association were released Monday.

In addition to winning the best all-round title for the 4,000 to 6,499 circulation category, the Driftwood's front page and editorial page were also first-place winners.

Third-place awards went to Derrick Lundy's photo of "Mr. Fantastic" and for the spring 2008 edition of Aqua magazine for special publications.

A Pegasus Gallery advertisement won second place for ad design and Dennis Parker's cartoon of an old-time vet serving

as the Lady Minto surgeon won second place for local cartoon.

Awards will be distributed at the May 20-22 Ink and Beyond conference in Montreal.

The Driftwood is also a finalist in six categories in the provincial Ma Murray Newspaper Awards, including for best all-round. First, second and place awards will be announced April 4 at the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association annual gala in Richmond.

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Keith Oliver

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Cell phone: 604-290-6375

NEWSBEAT

OLYMPIC SECURITY

Group speaks up for seaplane operators

Security restriction could mean Olympic-level losses

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Proposed security restrictions affecting seaplane flights between the Gulf Islands and Vancouver should not be what the Olympics are all about, according to a spokesperson from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

"The spirit and intent of the Olympics is not to shut operators out or give one group a competitive advantage and that's where [the Vancouver Organizing Committee] has failed," said Brian Bonney, director of provincial affairs for the CFIB.

Acting on behalf of 10 small airline companies that fly in and out of Vancouver's Coal Harbour seaplane terminal, Bonney is urging the provin-



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Salt Spring Air floatplane at the dock in Ganges.

cial government and the RCMP's 2010 Olympics Integrated Security Unit (ISU) to rethink their security protocol.

Bonney awaits a response from Finance Minister Colin Hansen, to whom he wrote a strongly worded letter in early March.

"The bottom line is that the unintended consequences of the Olympics, as it pertains to Vancouver harbour air security, will likely now shut down a number of small businesses during the 60-day window of the Olympics.

Further, this situation could result in some of these businesses going into bankruptcy. This will be a direct result of the Olympics coming to Vancouver," Bonney writes.

Last week, airline operators serving smaller communities across the province voiced public concern over the ISU's proposal to require all passengers entering or leaving the Vancouver area be screened through an approved security checkpoint.

Since many smaller communities, includ-

ing Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands have no such facilities, the proposal will force seaplane operators to redirect Vancouver-bound flights through Nanaimo, where such a security facility exists.

At Vancouver's Coal Harbour terminal, only one wharf, leased by Harbour Air and Baxter Air, will have a security station in place.

In an interview last week, Salt Spring Air's director of marketing Phillip Reece said the additional time and fuel requirements associated with the detour are significant blows to smaller airlines.

"There's going to be all sorts of mess," he said. "Either way we are going to lose."

Restrictions will last from Jan. 29 until March 24, 2010.

RCMP Sgt. Cam Kowalski, the lead aviation planner for the ISU, said the precautions are a result of more than two-and-a-half years of discussions with airline

industry leaders.

He said restrictions will impact all flights arriving and departing from terminals within a 24-kilometre radius of the Vancouver International Airport.

"What we are trying to accomplish is a safe and secure environment for the Olympic Games," he said.

"Since 9/11, we have to look at airplanes with a different mindset."

Kowalski said precautions for the 2010 Games are based on standard practices for high-profile sporting events or political summits held anywhere in the world.

"We are not reinventing the wheel here," he said.

DIANA O'BRIEN

O'Brien's killer receives death sentence

Sentence could be commuted to life in prison



DIANA O'BRIEN

The teenager charged with the murder of Salt Spring Island's Diana O'Brien in Shanghai last summer was sentenced to death Friday.

The court's ruling gives Chen Jun, 18, a two-year reprieve before the death sentence can be carried out.

Under the Chinese legal system, a reprieve means Chen's sentence could be commuted to life imprisonment for good behaviour.

O'Brien, a 22-year-old fashion model who also worked

at the Oystercatcher and Mix Café restaurants on Salt Spring, was working with the Jh Model Agency and had been in the Chinese city for two weeks before she was killed

on July 6, 2008.

According to subsequent news reports, O'Brien happened upon Chen robbing her apartment.

Chen reportedly stabbed O'Brien when the Salt Spring Island native challenged him to return her belongings.

Police arrested Chen, who was found with several of O'Brien's possessions, in a nearby hotel.

A closed-circuit video camera monitoring the apartment complex showed Chen leaving O'Brien's apartment complex shortly after the murder.

Reports from Canwest Media state that Chen made off with a laptop, two cell phones, one necklace, three rings and C\$255.

He was convicted of the murder in November 2008.

This story was first posted to www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com at noon on Friday, March 13. Check our website for breaking news stories.

ENVIRONMENT

Earth Day groups get coordinated

On April 22, millions of Canadians will participate in International Earth Day.

As volunteer coordinator for Earth Day Canada on Salt Spring Island, Clare Cullen wants to know what various groups are doing to celebrate and hopes to get them working together to promote their events, engage the community and celebrate the Earth.

People can contact Cullen at ssearchday@telus.net or 250-537-2682 to have their event included in promotional materials and to receive resources and assistance in planning. "Let's have a meaningful impact and lots of fun on Salt Spring's Earth Day," said Cullen.

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

AT THE PODIUM: Salt Spring's Briony Penn speaks at a federal Liberal party gathering at ArtSpring on Saturday.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Ganges pathway project gets major gov't grant

Sum of \$61,750 comes through for Partners Creating Pathways

BY MEGHAN HOWCROFT
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's Partners Creating Pathways group received more good news this week when members heard the non-profit group received more than \$60,000 in gaming grant revenue to put toward creation of more island pathways.

Receipt of the grant means the pathways group is just shy of its approximately \$150,000 goal to complete three additional paths that will connect Lower Ganges Road to schools, homes, town centres, shops and health services.

The announcement came Monday from Saanich North and the Islands MLA Murray Coell, who stated, "The new pathways will make walking safer for pedestrians and encourage other people to walk rather than using their vehicles."

According to Jean Gelwicks of Island Pathways, "Partners Creating Pathways — a successful partnership between Island Pathways, the Trail and Nature Club and the Transportation Commission — couldn't be happier. We are now sure that all three short pathways which make up this year's project will become a reality."

The pathways, which will hopefully be constructed in June, include:

- one path down Atkins Road past Meadowbrook to Swanson Road
- a short pathway on Blain Road from Braehaven, past Greenwood to Lower Ganges Road; and
- another short pathway on Crofton Road from Lady Minto Hospital, past Heritage Place to the crosswalk

on Lower Ganges Road.

"These pathways will benefit all the seniors living in the area, students coming to and from schools and PE classes, people going to work and anyone who just wants to walk their dog or go for a nice walk in safety," Gelwicks said.

"We are now sure that all three short pathways which make up this year's project will become a reality."

JEAN GELWICKS
Island Pathways

"These pathways are a small part of a larger vision that has pathways running all around and into Ganges and up to Rainbow Road to the schools. Eventually, if you live within walking distance of Ganges, we hope you will be able to travel most, if not all of it, on a safe pathway."

Partners Creating Pathways thanks all donors who have contributed to the project so far, as well as the many volunteers who have attended recent work parties to put the finishing touches on the first completed pathway.

The next work party is on Friday, April 3 from 10 a.m. to noon. People should bring a wheelbarrow and shovel.

Through the province's Major Capital Project grant program, non-profit organizations can apply for funds to build a new facility or to renovate or maintain an existing one to support their community-based programs.

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Capital Regional District

Invitation to Tender

Supply & Install Ultraviolet Disinfection System at Rainbow Road Recreation Center, Salt Spring Island, BC

Contract 09-1625

Sealed Tenders, plainly marked on the envelope "Supply & Install Ultraviolet Disinfection System at Rainbow Road Recreation Center, Salt Spring Island, BC, Contract 09-1625" will be received by the General Manager, Environmental Services of the CRD at their offices at 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC up to 11 am local time on April 2, 2009, at which time they will be opened in public.

The works to be constructed under this Contract generally include the following:

Provide all labour, equipment and materials for the supply and installation of two ultraviolet disinfection systems for the lap pool and swirl pool located at the Rainbow Road Recreation Center on Salt Spring Island.

Specifications, Drawings, Contract Documents and Tender Form may be seen at the offices of the Vancouver Regional Construction Association, 3636 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC; the Southern Vancouver Island Construction Association, 1075 Alston Street, Victoria, BC; and the CRD, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC on or after March 12, 2009.

Copies may be obtained from the CRD Environmental Services Department on payment of \$25 (GST included) for each copy requested, the sum of which is non-refundable. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

A pre-tender site meeting will be held at Rainbow Road Recreation Center on Salt Spring Island, at 10 am, on March 26, 2009.

For information and/or enquiries on this project please contact Ray Riddell, ASCT, at 250.360.3143.

R. Daniel Telford, PEng
Manager, Engineering and Construction Services
Capital Regional District

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
PAGE B6

NEWSBEAT

COURT

Young grow-op owner pleads guilty after RCMP smell pot from the road

Accused overwhelmed by his horticultural success

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring man received a six-month conditional sentence after he pleaded guilty on March 10 to operating a grow-op on his parents' property.

Defence counsel Tybring Hemphill argued that his client, 24-year-old Micah Bielert, started the operation after acquaintances recommended he "take advantage" of a greenhouse and other nursery facilities owned by his parents.

Police became suspicious of Bielert after driving by the property and detecting a strong odour of marijuana.

Upon further investigation, Salt Spring

RCMP officers discovered a greenhouse containing 87 marijuana plants and an additional eight kilograms of unprocessed plants in a trailer on the property.

Hemphill told the court his client never intended to sell the crop and was overwhelmed by the operation's success.

"He never had any real notion of what would be produced [when he planted the seeds]," Hemphill said.

Hemphill said Bielert is remorseful, embarrassed and ashamed of what has transpired.

"It was a mistake," Bielert said. "Considering what I'd heard about the island, I figured this wasn't a bad thing to do and I just went ahead and wasn't thinking."

Bielert, who grew up in Florida, was on

the island visiting his mother when he started the operation.

Justice Evan Blake recognized Bielert as a young man with enormous potential to lead a fulfilling life and urged him to use this event as a valuable learning experience.

"I appreciate we all make mistakes, but the main thing is that we learn from them," he said.

"The problem of marijuana production in this province and on this island in particular is such that I must deal with this by means of a conditional sentence."

Bielert will have to respect a curfew between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., shall not possess or consume alcohol and can expect routine visits from RCMP officers to ensure he is in compliance with sentence conditions.

Impaired drivers pack Ganges courtroom

Judge levies fines, issues driving prohibitions

COURTDOCKET

legal limit is quite another," he said.

In other court news:

• Justice Blake issued a one-year driving prohibition and a \$600 fine to a Lake Cowichan resident who pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention in an incident dating back to January 2007.

Court heard that Mark Wildman and two passengers were on their way to the Fulford ferry terminal when their vehicle failed to negotiate a turn on Fulford-Ganges Road near St. Paul's church.

The vehicle sustained irreparable damage after it launched off a concrete barrier and landed near the shoreline 20 metres below the road.

Wildman was hospitalized for several weeks after the incident and the passengers were treated for minor injuries.

Wildman confessed to having consumed several bottles of beer while visiting his father earlier that day.

"May this be the link that might help to turn things around for you," said Justice Blake.

"In a sense you are very fortunate to have dodged a bullet and avoided a drinking and driving charge."

• Salt Spring's Murray Richardson was issued an \$850 fine and a one-year driving prohibition after pleading guilty to impaired driving in Ganges Provincial Court last week.

Richardson was pulled over at an RCMP roadblock at 1 a.m. on Nov. 4, 2007 while on his way back to Ganges from the Fulford Inn.

Police reported that Richardson, 48, was very cooperative with police during the incident.

He provided blood-alcohol readings of 0.130 and 0.120 on the second incident.

Richardson said he had

spent the evening scouring the island for a bite to eat when he happened upon the Fulford Inn, where he consumed several alcoholic beverages after discovering the establishment's kitchen was closed.

• Weston Reynolds received a \$600 fine and a one-year driving prohibition after pleading guilty to operating a vehicle while impaired on March 2, 2008.

RCMP officers charged Reynolds after he was pulled over at a roadblock on Lower Ganges Road just after midnight.

Police administered a blood-alcohol test after noting that the accused was swaying back and forth and emitting a strong smell of alcohol.

He provided blood-alcohol readings of 0.100 and 0.110.

"The problem was basically that I'd had two beers in three hours," he said.

"I did, unfortunately, drink a beer before going home."

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NOTICE OF NOMINATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ELECTION OF TRUSTEES



Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for trustee (3 positions) will be received between:

**9:00 A.M. Tuesday March 24th, 2009
and 4:00 P.M. Friday April 3rd, 2009**

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Ganges Fire Hall or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Thomas Moore at (250) 472-0059.

The three (3) Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 20th, 2009 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2012.

The Election is to be held on **Monday, April 20th, 2009** at the **Ganges Fire Hall** from **11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** in the Training Room. An **Advance Voting** opportunity will be held in the Training Room on Saturday, **April 11th 2009** between the hours of **11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.** Candidates shall be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Fire Hall or from Thomas F. Moore, Returning Officer (250) 472-0059.

Those persons eligible to vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to this election
4. Be an owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Ganges, B.C.
this 12th day of March 2009

Thomas F. Moore
Returning Officer

Spirit of Salt Spring



Meghan Ignatescue (holding certificate) of the Phoenix Program receives her scholarship to attend a filmmaking course at the Gulf Islands Film & Television School awarded by the Our Island, Our World Film Festival Society last week. She is surrounded by Phoenix and festival personnel: Stacy Mitchell, Ian Mitchell, Joanne Perkins and Carol Grace* Shelley.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations.

First-come, first-served basis as space permits.

Call Peter for details.

Driftwood
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Opinion

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



EDITORIAL

Securely grounded

Every so often a news item soars by that clips the wings of logic.

Recent announcements that Gulf Islands floatplane operators are among those slammed by 2010 Winter Olympics security regulations is one of those stories.

We understand that preventing incidents of terrorism is a priority for the Games. And with the Olympics' security budget having ballooned to \$900 million from a July 2008 estimate of just \$175 million, it's clearly become an even bigger deal for organizers.

But the situation that came to light last week — where some airlines will be severely hampered in serving Vancouver bound and departing customers from Jan. 29 to March 24, 2010 — seems like overkill or a case of poor planning.

Communities throughout B.C. whose airports do not have machine screening will see Vancouver-bound passengers re-routed through places like Nanaimo or Port Hardy so passengers

and their luggage can be cleared through a security check.

A security station has been granted to the private dock used by Harbour Air and Baxter Air at Vancouver's Coal Harbour terminal, but that won't even change those companies' needs to get their passengers and luggage machine-screened in

THE ISSUE:
Olympics airline security regs

WE SAY:
Current situation not workable

Nanaimo for flights originating elsewhere.

Those two airlines' customers can depart all checked out from Coal Harbour, but other companies, such as Salt Spring Air, Seair Seaplanes and Pacific Coastal Airlines, do not necessarily have guaranteed access to that wharf. How their passengers departing from downtown Vancouver are supposed to be cleared has not been addressed.

People use floatplane services to travel quickly between two points.

If those travelling to and from Ganges Harbour, for example, are told they will be taking a detour to Nanaimo, they will no doubt think twice about whether the cost is worth the additional time and hassle. And if they can only travel one way, but not back on that same airline, they probably won't do it at all.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business has now taken up the cause for 10 small airline companies and Salt Spring Air has an online petition on its www.saltspringair.ca website.

This situation has made some companies and travellers Olympic losers before the first starting gun is heard.

We hope this isn't a done deal.



Ferries can make the connections

BY ROSS KING

I would like to comment further on the ferry connectivity issue. (Connection at Swartz Bay-Fulford Remains Top Concern for Travellers, Feb. 25 Driftwood.)

The story states: "BC Ferries spokesperson Deborah Marshall said the corporation would not be changing its policies in the foreseeable future to accommodate connectivity for people travelling between Salt Spring and Tsawwassen via Swartz Bay . . ."

Why not? A "customer-service" orientated organization would not come out with a flat refusal such as Marshall offers without some kind of satisfactory explanation. These people are employed by us, for us. They are our employees and our servants.

Marshall adds: "Those two routes don't connect." Codswallop! When did BC Ferries last look at a route map? And at the timetables of ferries we Salt Spring Islanders can use to get home? If they don't connect, why (as you report) were laudable efforts made by scheduling Fulford departures 10 minutes earlier to accommodate the arrival times from Tsawwassen?

Marshall chooses to misunderstand my suggestion for singling out through-traffic for "early unloading" at Swartz Bay, trying to get off the hook by claiming that I was looking "to jump the queue." Tendentious nonsense. Through-traffic could be identified at Tsawwassen by means of a coloured windshield card, lined-up with the rest, and (as each one presents him/herself at the loading-ramp, is diverted down the (say) far right hand lane(s) which is (are) designated for "priority unloading," not priority loading. (Space at the back of those lanes can be topped up with, say, 10 minutes to go, with any remaining traffic, Salt Spring Island-bound or not.) This way, Salt Spring Island-bound travellers take their place in line, but can get off quickly to facilitate the connection to

VIEWPOINT

"... if WestJet can do it, why can't BC Ferries?"

Fulford Harbour. (Given the outrageous pressure on Salt Springers to make the connection via the suburbs of Sidney, and the concomitant and illegal speed of execution, I can assure everyone with a grouse about this "priority" who is going to Victoria will not be held up by slow-moving Salt Springers on the highway!)

I note Marshall fails to address the suggestion of real-time, on-screen information emanating from "central control" ("the tower") that's available to:

- up-front ticketing staff (who could advise taking the Duke Point/Crofton route instead);
- loading officers (as in: "Watch for 10 Salt Spring Island-bound cars interspersed in line");
- pursers ("Yes, here's the latest up-date for the situation at Swartz Bay . . . The Fulford ferry can wait 10 minutes.")

Presumably BC Ferries won't, or can't, refute this idea out-of-hand. Is this progress by BC Ferries standards?

If BC Ferries management had invested as much time trying to make these simple expedients work as they spend on public relations and inventing reasons why they can't work, we would have a solution in short order. I suspect it stems from an indolence bred of sinecures in a monopoly business, in an excessively cozy relationship with government.

Remember, if WestJet (with a vastly more complex organization) can do it, why can't BC Ferries?

Remember, The Queen of Nanaimo has honed efficient methods of sorting out traffic for differential unloading.

Also remember, BC Ferries is owned by us and for us — they are our employees. Indifference to our views is not an option.

The writer is a retired professional engineer.

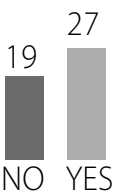
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay and Fulford ferry routes 'connect?' Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you still long for the old CBC Radio 2?



Driftwood

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Peter McCully
PUBLISHER
sales@gulfislands.net



Gail Sjuberg
MANAGING EDITOR
news@gulfislands.net



Lorraine Sullivan
PRODUCTION MANAGER
production@gulfislands.net



Eva Kuhn
OFFICE MANAGER
ekuhn@gulfislands.net



Claudia French
CIRCULATION
cfrench@gulfislands.net

President: Frank Richards **Editorial:** Sean McIntyre, Amy Geddes, Susan Lundy, Derrick Lundy, Elizabeth Nolan, Meghan Howcroft
Production: Kaye Segee, Emma Yardley, Mireille Dijks **Advertising:** Rick MacKinnon, Tracy Stibbards, Karen Hepp, Kim Young, Erin Jory
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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:
"Since 9/11, we have to look at airplanes with a different mindset."

RCMP SGT. CAM KOWALSKI

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What do you use your Salt Spring Resident's Card for?

DON MADSEN
I've tried it out but it's hard to keep track of what's available.

CHRIS HEAD
The sale at [Country Grocer] is about it so far. It makes a big difference.

JEN RITSON
We only just got ours. It reminds me of the one we had in the 1970s.

LINDSAY MUNDY
I haven't registered it yet, but I do all my shopping on Salt Spring and like to support everybody on the island.

ANGELA ANDERSON
I've registered it and used it. It would be nice to have some better incentives. Everybody likes free stuff.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less.

Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication.

 Read and reply to letters online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com under the Opinion tab.

Make effort to buy on-island

After reading the letter from Richard Elwell of Salt Spring Design Centre in last week's paper, I thought I would add my two cents.

I agree that the perception that things are always more expensive here is not only wrong but potentially very destructive. I have found that the businesses on this island try very hard to keep the cost of their products comparable to "off shore," but another part of this equation, and I think a more important part, is our responsibility to our friends, neighbours and other members of this community. Whenever I want to buy a spool of thread, a bag of nails, a can of paint, groceries, rent a CD or video, get some fabric, glasses, plastic containers, go to the doctor, lawyer or do my banking, I go to my local merchant.

They are the ones who go out of their way to help, give me a smile, tell me some news or try to repair something that hasn't worked. I don't have to wait in ferry line ups, use gas, my precious time, or pay extra shipping when buying "online" because almost everything I want I can get here.

It's because we have such a vibrant community base, but if we as islanders don't make a conscious effort to support each other and these businesses we will lose them. Then we will be sorry. Folks will continue to move away and we'll be left crying over our loss. Our community is under constant pressure from the "Wal-mart mentality" and the lack of thought that sometimes comes with visitors or newcomers, so it is important for those of us who make this island our home to use our consumer dollar wisely. We must make an effort to buy "on island" whenever possi-

ble and not spread rumours that it is more expensive to shop here. It just isn't true.

On another note, has anyone seen those loonies sporting a "notankers.ca" label? Get informed, that's an issue for another time and something to ponder before the election.

SUSAN AND DOC PAYNTER,
KING ROAD

Musical world is larger

I have lately seen some letters and columns decrying the drift at CBC Radio away from classical music. I would like to offer three quick points in response.

It is hardly fair to judge today's popular music in its social context but not do the same for classical music. On this score I say the emperor has no clothes. The people who purchase Coldplay tracks on iTunes today might be seen by some as

part of a dumbed-down culture. On the other hand, the patrons who paid Mozart can be seen as treacherous thieves nicely dressed up as courtiers and priests.

The bulk of what CBC 2 was playing is the product of a corrupt society that was sustained by kleptocracy, repression, colonialism and enforced poverty for most people. I'm sure this isn't the "cultural education" Mr. English has in mind (March 4 Driftwood In Response piece), but it sure is the reality. (I hope I'm not being too blunt about this.)

Next I want to re-emphasize that one man's noise is another man's music. You might cheer on Beethoven, Chopin, Bruckner and Wagner, to which I might reply Charlie Mingus, Roland Kirk, Bill Evans and Ornette Coleman. I will never agree that your bunch was any more cultured or sophisticated than mine, and there is no proving either of us

right.

Lastly, I think it obvious that nothing survives forever and classical music has been fading slowly for decades. To my ears it's just too ancient, white and European. The musical world really is so much bigger than that.

Wiser men than me have said that lamenting change is really lamenting our mortality, but that's beside the point. Or is it?

KUNO EGGER,
SALT SPRING

For Edith

I am and have been Edith Sigmund's sister-in-law for 10 years. We were so close and shared a lot of time and laughter together. I intended to read this note in the service on Friday but I was unable to as the tears were so strong. But I need to say:

Edith:

You will never be forgotten, you will always be missed. I will always

remember how silly excited we would get to see each other. I will miss spending time with you, miss looking forward to seeing you, miss our shopping and how we would argue about clothes. I will miss how much you looked up to me, telling me I was the sister you always wanted and watching the love and patience you had for your two nephews. It was easy to see they meant the world to you and you never let them doubt that for a moment. I especially will miss our long late-night talks and giggles while we painted each other's nails after you made me stay up so late watching movies.

You said you always felt I understood who you were. Funny thing is, I thought the same of you. I love you so much, Edith. Rest in peace.

Love, your sister in law
Ashley

ASHLEY HEADON,
LLOYDMINSTER, ALTA
MORE LETTERS continued on A12

Auto-immune revolution needed to regain control

Have you noticed how everything is getting more and more automated these days? It seems you can't go anywhere or do anything without having a little red motion or light sensor blinking at you.

I remember one time walking into the washroom aboard one of the big ferries to Tsawwassen and suddenly all hell broke loose. Every single toilet and urinal started flushing. Even the taps above each of the many sinks began spewing water. It seemed I had walked in on a "Royal Flushathon." My guess is that my huge personal energy (recently fortified by strong coffee and donuts) had triggered some kind of force field and had caused all the sensors to go off in unison.

Completely forgetting my original goal, I backed off gently before the soap squirters, hand dryers and paper towel dispensers joined in the party. As the washroom door closed behind me, I half expected to see the ferry, locked on autopilot, turning wide circles in Georgia Strait, while random announcements self-broadcast over the loudspeakers.

What happened that day underscores the sensation that we're losing what little semblance of control we thought we still had. Events we once considered to be strictly within the realm of science fiction are now infiltrating our everyday lives. Now I'm not one of those who cling desperately to the

past. I know the "future is now," as the saying goes. I had just not prepared myself for "now" to be quite so, well, "NOW."

Sure, I have ventured bravely forth, albeit reluctantly, into the digital age. I actually own a computer, an answering machine and a DVD player. I know these are no longer considered to be on the cutting edge of technology, but heck, somebody has to be at the back end of the gadget race. I have no cell phone, no iPod, and no iPhone. The only kind of blackberry that gets anywhere near me is the one you can eat. Although my music of preference is stored on compact discs, I still have not trashed my vinyl and cassette collections just in case we were all to suddenly un-digitalize.

You may have seen movies like Robocop, Terminator, and I, Robot, in which technology is seen as an evil force that threatens to enslave and possibly annihilate the human race. This fear is nothing new.

Perhaps you've also seen Charlie Chaplin's classic 1936 film Modern Times, in which man is hilariously pitted against machine on the industrial assembly line.

A couple of decades later, France's Jacques Tati featured his Everyman, Monsieur Hulot, in a futile struggle against the sinister high

tech-devices of the day, such as the garage door remote.

Nobody asked me, but I don't think anybody would ever accuse me of being a conspiracy theory kind of guy. There's no secret society bent on our demise. Let's face it: the Freemasons may have a secret handshake and a long history clouded in subterfuge, but the only threat they pose today is the possibility of running over your foot with their silly little scooters or selling you a raffle ticket for a leaky kayak.

Technology isn't out to get us. That doesn't mean it won't get us anyway. As somebody once said, "just because you're paranoid doesn't mean there isn't actually somebody following you." As a case in point, let's take a look at what happened to a friend of mine.

A couple of weeks ago, when snow had blanketed the island and its roads, my friend decided this was a good time to teach his teenage son a vital lesson he himself had learned in his youth: that male rite of passage on how to do donuts in the snow.

He found a nice, safe cul-de-sac and proceeded to jam on the brakes so as to send the vehicle into a tight, circular swerve. What he had not considered was that the "auto" mobile's built-in computer sensed the loss of control and, following its pro-


Shilo Zylbergold
NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

Thanks to you Salt Spring

Our popular Save a Tape program has been operating for 25 years, where the store has donated one percent of all cash register receipt totals collected in its charity boxes. Through the diligence and generosity of our shoppers we were able to surpass our Save a Tape fundraising goal of \$100,000 reaching a final total of \$113,521.00. That is \$45,521.00 more than last year!

The following are the names of the island associations, projects and non-profit organizations that will benefit from your kindness.

(The totals for last year and this year reflects Save a Tape and all other donations)

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION | MASONIC HALL | ISLAND STREAM AND SALMONID ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY | PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY | 4 - H SHEEP CLUB | LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE |
| GOLF CLUB JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT | SOUP'S ON | I. W. A. V. | BAPTIST CHURCH | JAPANESE GARDEN | EARTH ANIMAL (E.A.R.S.) |
| HONOR CHOIR | FULFORD HALL SOCIETY | YELLOW SUBMARINE / COMMUNITY SERVICES | ROTARY CLUB | PHOENIX HIGH SCHOOL | S.I.M.S. - FIELD TRIPS |
| JAZZ AND BLUES | S.I.M.S. MUSIC PROGRAMME / BANDS | PLANNED PARENTHOOD | PAINTER'S GUILD | DISC GOLF ASSOCIATION | G.I.O.S.S.I. |
| WATERBIRD WATCH COLLECTIVE | TUNED AIR | COPPER KETTLE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP | TRACK AND FIELD CLUB | YOUTH ARCHERY PROGRAM (ROD & GUN CLUB) | FIDDLER'S HATCHERY |
| GULF ISLANDS RADIO BROADCASTING SOCIETY | ANGLICAN PARISH | S.I.M.S. TSUNAMI BASKETBALL | FRIENDS FOR CATS | FIRE AND RESCUE - VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT | TOASTMASTERS |
| CONSERVANCY | GREENWOODS FOUNDATION | THERAPUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION | ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - BRANCH 92 | S.I.M.S. - MIDDLE SCHOOL P.A.C. | LORNA CAMERON SOCIETY (HUNTINGTON DISEASE SUPPORT) |
| DAY CARE SOCIETY | S.P.C.A. | SALTY WHEELS SQUARE DANCE CLUB | SEARCH AND RESCUE | PONY CLUB | ISLAND COMFORT QUILTS |
| WILDLIFE CENTRE | BANDEMONIUM MUSIC SOCIETY | ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | SALTSRING SINGERS | BEAVER POINT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION | G.I.S.S. PERFORMING ARTS |
| SCOUTS CANADA (BEAVERS, CUBS, SCOUTS, VENTURES) | CO-OP PRESCHOOL | FERNWOOD SCHOOL | MEADOWBROOK (GULF ISLAND SENIORS RESIDENCE ASSOC.) | GULF ISLAND COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL | CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP (ALZEIMER'S) |
| SALTSRING FOUNDATION | MINOR BASEBALL | LIONS CLUB | G.I.F.T.S. PROGRAM (GULF ISLANDS FAMILIES TOGETHER SOCIETY) | MARY'S MATINEE | COMMUNITY EDUCATION |
| B.C. SPECIAL OLYMPICS | SENIOR BOWLERS | ISLAND PATHWAYS | EXTENDED CARE - LADY MINTO HOSPITAL | WRITER G.I.S.S. SCHOLARSHIP | BRAIN INJURY, DISEASE, STROKE SUPPORT GROUP (BIDS) |
| G.I.S.S. PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL | MEALS ON WHEELS (HOME SUPPORT) | COMMUNITY SERVICES - FOOD BANK | SKATEBOARD PARK | STAGE COACH THEATRE SCHOOL SOCIETY | WATER PRESERVATION SOCIETY |
| EASTERN STAR FOR CANCER PROJECTS | SENIORS SERVICES SOCIETY | COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHAPEL | BESSIE DANE FOUNDATION (HOSPICE) | COMMUNITY POLICING VEHICLE | SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS AIDS SOCIETY |
| CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (SCHOLARSHIP BURSARY FUND) | ARTSPRING | PHOENIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY | SALTSRING COMMUNITY HOUSING AND LAND TRUST SOCIETY | DANZ KIDZ |
| G.I.S.S. MUSIC PROGRAMME | PUBLIC LIBRARY (MARY HAWKINS) | G.I.O.S.S.I. | FULFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | HEALTHY ECO SYSTEMS HEALTHY COMMUNITY | GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION |
| CORE INN YOUTH PROJECT SOCIETY | 4 - H COMMUNITY CLUB | S.W.O.V.A. | S.S.P.L.A.S.H20 | BIG BROTHERS / BIG SISTERS (C/O R.C.M.P.) | SALTSRING ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN |
| STINGRAYS SWIM TEAM | LADY MINTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SOCIETY | H.E.A.R.D. (HANDICAPABLE ENRICHMENT, ARTISTIC, REALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT) | PARENTS FOR A SAFE GRAD | WOOD WORKER'S GUILD | TENNIS ASSOCIATION |
| UNITED CHURCH U.C.W. | DAUGHTER'S OF THE NILE | GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA | FARMER'S INSTITUTE BURSARY FUND | | 676 KITTY HAWK AIR CADETS |
| | CENTER SCHOOL | | FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION | | |
| | TREE FROG DAYCARE | | | | |
| | CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA (OUR LADY OF GRACE) | | | | |

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at Cedar Hill Road
Victoria

SIDNEY BY THE SEA
2531 Beacon Ave
Sidney

WESTSHORE TOWN CENTRE
2945 Jacklin Road, Langford

ATHLONE COURT
2187 Oak Bay Avenue
Oak Bay

PORT ALBERNI PLAZA
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Port Alberni

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680 Gram Tub

OPINION



PHOTO BY AMY GEDDES

OFF-SCREEN: Niko Bauer celebrates at the pool with Salt Spring Centre School after students successfully met their school-wide goal of spending the equivalent of 600 days away from TV and computer screens during the month of February.

MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

Protecting rainforests

Anyone who saw the film about the people of the Amazon at the recent film festival must applaud their determination to protect their homeland. It looks like

it's about to get a lot harder.

According to a Washington Post article from Oct. 14, 2008, "Construction began late last month on one of two massive hydroelectric dams that are to span the Madeira River, a main tributary of the Amazon River and a major waterway that runs from the Andes

across the rainforests of South America. But the prospect of damming the Madeira has been widely criticized by social and environmental groups for its potential damage to the environment, river residents and nearby indigenous tribes . . ."

ROGER BRUNT,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on A13

RANTS and Roses

Rants

Rants to the driver of a yellow vehicle who hit my silver car in the Country Grocer parking lot last Friday around 11:30 a.m. Please check your right passenger side for you left some of it on my car and now I am out of pocket. Call me so we can talk. Masayo Hora. 250-537-5233 (work); 250-537-4051 (home).

Roses

An armload of roses to kind Salt Springers who helped me and my mother, Florence, as she was passing away. She passed peacefully and at home, something that would have been impossible without the love of Kathleen of the Bessie Dane Foundation and the unfailing support of Dr. "Hansie" De Kock and Marjorie. Thanks, also, to so many of you who offered hugs and help. She lived a long (98 years!) and amazing life, and was blessed to have spent her last years in our wonderful community. Gayle Baker

A thank you to all our customers who respect the fact that we are unable to pick up your garbage or be open on the snowy days. And to the others that just dump it at our gates when we are closed due to the weather conditions, also a big thank you for leaving your names and addresses in the garbage so that we may bill you properly. Staff of Salt Spring Garbage Services Ltd.

A rose from Salt Spring Island Community Services to Embe Bakery, Rock Salt Restaurant and Cafe, and Pharmasave for their thoughtful and generous donations for the Celebration of Life drop-in for Edith Sigmund held Friday, March 6 at Community Services. Cheryl Bell-Gadsby, director of adult services.

Thanks to Barbara, the Rippees Ranch girl, for braving the roads and snow to deliver full bags of great grits. Love from Ava, Oskar and Zoe

Thank you to Salt Spring Country Grocer and Paul Large for your support at our Fulford Elementary School Family Swim. We had a splash. And thanks to Salt Spring Coffee Co. for your delicious coffee at our Fourth Annual Fulford Elementary Talent Show. The show was a buzz. Fulford Elementary PAC

Roses to all the helping hands on Thursday who wheelbarrowed over 100 loads of dirt and landscaped along the "newish" pathway on Lower Ganges Road. Also, a big thank you to Country Grocer and the Plant Farm for donating plants to the pathway. Next work party is on Friday, April 3, 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your wheelbarrow and shovel.

Copper Kettle roses to the crew — Adam, Rick, Rick, Mark, Martin and Val! To the musicians — fun is #1. Thanks to Dave and Country Grocer, especially Paul. See you next time.

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Letter to the editor?
Press release?
What's On calendar
event?
Send it to
news@gulfislands.
net.

OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A12

Fields opinions

I am not surprised that there were not more letters to back Barb Pellerin's note.

I had started a letter and like so many islanders had procrastinated long enough, so now I am finally expressing my view.

How does losing Fields affect our community? The Fields store offers tons of different items at a very low cost to the consumer. Young people, single moms with kids, older people all shop there. Many of these people and others may be unaware of what is happening. If Fields is forced to close, islanders will have to shop off-island. The people without cars won't have that luxury.

How do the people at Fields feel about losing their store? I suggest that they feel very badly. They have all worked incredibly hard to make the store a success, which it has been.

I really don't approve of this happening and I know so many others are not even aware.

We have shopped at Country Grocer (GVM) for years. I, for one, don't want it to become a "yuppy" store where people can sit around and drink their lattes or whatever. We definitely need Fields more than we need a larger area for trendy stuff.

In a panic, with the thought that Fields would soon be gone, I did a power shop for stocking stuffers, for children and adults. A bag of stocking stuffers

is now stashed away, waiting to be wrapped. I don't normally do Christmas shopping in March, but I will be going on another binge to buy various clothing items for my nine grandchildren.

I am asking the people of Salt Spring who agree with me to write or phone their protest to Country Grocer manager Paul Large and express their opinion.

I would like to add that GVM/Country Grocer has been "my" store for years and I remain a satisfied customer. All the staff are like family, as most have been there since I started shopping as a resident of the island.

DONNA M. DOBSON,
SALT SPRING

Fiddlers off to NYC

On Friday, March 20, the Salt Spring Island Fiddlers will board a plane and fly to New York City.

They have been raising funds since last May and have literally played their way to the Big Apple. The group consists of 11 fiddlers and one pianist as well as three adults and their music teacher. They have prepared music from many countries and of many styles. Included are: The Staten Island Hornpipe and the Salt Spring Island Hornpipe, America the Beautiful, a Scottish Set, an old English Set, the Big Apple Rag, three jazz pieces, as well as other jigs, waltzes and reels.

The tour consists of five concerts, including a concert at the United Nations, several schools and at a homeless shel-

ter in Times Square. The students will attend a Juilliard recital, a dress rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic, a jazz concert in the Village and a Broadway show. They will also visit museums, a Gothic cathedral and other sightseeing places. All in all they will be busy seeing what the big city is like.

This is a very exciting trip for these kids and the Fiddler's Hatchery would like to acknowledge everyone who has supported them in their efforts. This includes all of you who have donated funds as well as those who have attended the concerts they have played. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We will be thinking of you on Salt Spring as we fiddle and frolic our way around NYC. Stay tuned for a report from the kids about the trip!

CAROLYN HATCH,
551 FIDDLERS,
WOODHALL PLACE

Leaving a bad taste

Might I add more words to those already written to regret the loss of Fields? It's dreadful that the only place where the majority of working islanders, and people with children, can find inexpensively-priced items, is disappearing. We are told it will be for one year, but there is no guarantee it will ever return.

I am very sorry that Country Grocer has chosen to expand at the expense of losing Fields. Although we are told that Country Grocer does not own the plaza but that it is owned by a numbered company in Victoria, that does not

mean that the owners of Country Grocer are not connected to the owners of the plaza. It's not transparent.

I am not the first to say that the loss of Fields is going to mean the loss of business to many others Salt Spring establishments. When people have to pay ferry fares to leave the island, they attempt to compensate by buying as much as they can at better prices than the island can offer, and filling their gas tanks, before returning. I am no different. Those very people are not only going to shop at such places as Wal-Mart and Superstore, but they are going to purchase off-island a lot of items that Country Grocer is offering.

I've seen a huge improvement in Country Grocer during the 10 years I've lived on Salt Spring, and I always look forward to some free coffee and a bit of whatever yummy concoction is being offered at the demo table. Their desire to turn into a mega-store, however, leaves a very bad taste.

TOBY FOUKS,
SANDPIPER PLACE

Ecological gifts

Thank you very much for helping to spread the word about Canada's Ecological Gifts Program in your Green Edition on Feb. 25. Canada provides substantial tax incentives to encourage Canadian landowners to protect ecologically sensitive land, and we appreciate your coverage of this program.

I would, however, like to clarify some details in the article. Firstly,

donations of land can be made to a variety of possible recipients, including all levels of government, and eligible charitable recipients (predominantly land trusts) approved by Environment Canada. Most ecological gifts are

made to these eligible charitable recipients, and not, as the article described, to government agencies.

Secondly, a donation doesn't guarantee that the donor will not pay income tax for six years: it depends on fac-

tors such as the donor's income and the value of their donation. Further information on the program and example tax scenarios can be found at our website, www.cwscf.ec.gc.ca/egp-pde.
DAVID CUNNINGTON,
CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

This Week's Horoscope by Michael O'Connor

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20) - The Sun entering your sign now will bring an added boost of energy to your flow. With Mercury and Mars still in Pisces however, and Venus retrograde in Aries, the road will continue to be a winding one. With a good attitude it could prove exciting. However, being clear about what is around the next corner is unlikely.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21) - Spring is here and the time has come to do some cleaning. Take a thorough approach and set your sights on clearing the clutter, inside and out. This can include your home, basement, shed and yard. At deeper levels, it can include inner doubts and negative thinking, or blame and frustrations that tend to be projected upon outer players.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) - What is likely a much-needed boost in your life continues to take you to new levels. How you work with these energies will determine whether the new level is higher or lower. With your individuality shining and ideals running high, you are eager to push for what you want. This may simply include setting clear boundaries.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) - Assertions, initiatives and new intentions are high on your mind these days. You are ready now to assert yourself more dynamically. Seeking earned rewards and/or favours from authority figures is likely. This includes making investments and/or meetings with investors. Sharing dreams, ideals and visions can be very inspiring.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23) - A fiery enthusiasm is rising in your heart. Spring has a way of melting away the blahs. You feel passionate and determined to make some measurable changes in your life. Remembering that outer change often follows inner change will prove helpful.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22) - As the seasonal

cycles usher us into a time of growth and renewal, you can sense the emerging possibilities. Inspired by changes, yet challenged by other realities, you have reason to pay attention. People and circumstances are pushing you to respond.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) - Some new spark to old relationships is gaining your attention now. You feel moved to give more, to exercise a more constructive, if still critical, attitude. You want to see the good and the beauty in others. Some people and situations in general, can make doing so seem extra hard.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) - Asserting some creative new ideas and approaches is on your mind. The time has come to enter the game in a new way. Generating ideas and possibilities that you can believe in and feel inspired by is important.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) - Your creative leadership is on the rise now. This will involve making some measurable changes close to home. In order to consolidate a more reliable base, it will have to undergo some very real changes. This includes the health and quality of your lifestyle.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) - A new wave of energy is rolling in now. You are in the mood to take some key initiatives. You are determined to build upon a brighter future. You know there is no going back so why even look? You may feel inspired to follow new paths and stimulate new associations. Exchanges with movers and shakers of some kind are what you seek.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19) - Your mind and body are ignited with new ideas. This includes meeting new people and going places. Your energy levels may not be as high as your ambitions so you may have to make extra efforts

to strike the balance. This is generally an expansive time for you so taking risks to broaden your horizons makes sense.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) - An assertive momentum continues. You may want to shift into cruise mode but you will probably have to maintain a steady focus. Commitment is ever an important theme and is especially strong these days. Ideally, your focus is fixed upon a higher power.

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COMMUNITY FORUM: BREAST & PROSTATE CANCER

FRIDAY, March 20, 2009

ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Avenue
Salt Spring Island

Free admission ~ Everyone welcome

Presentations on diagnosis,

management and prevention

Panel discussion

Questions from the audience

10:30 am Breast Cancer

1:00 pm Prostate Cancer

SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Sally Smith – Victoria Cancer Center
- Dr. Abe Alexander – Victoria Cancer Center
- Dr. Alexander Atwell – Victoria Cancer Center
- Dr. Mildred Martens – Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Dr. Mark Scholz – PCRI Prostate Cancer Research Institute, Los Angeles California
- Dr. Stanley Brosman – Pacific Urology Institute and Pacific Clinical Research Santa Monica, California

Free admission ~ Everyone welcome

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

THE ELECTION OF THREE TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given that at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on April 21st, 2009, three trustees are to be elected. Two trustees to serve for a period of three years and one trustee to serve for a period of one year. Nominations of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed, seconded, with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office, 761 Upper Ganges Road, at or before 12:00 noon, April 1st, 2009.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the Improvement District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the Elections Act.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office.

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| 7:50 am except Sun | 9:00 am |
| 9:50 am | 11:00 am |
| 11:50 am | 1:00 pm |
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| 5:50 pm | 7:00 pm |
| 7:50 pm | 9:00 pm |

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YOUTH SOCCER

U13 girls end season in second spot

Narrow loss to Cowichan in overtime

BY KAREN HUDSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The U13 Small and Mighty girls' soccer team, who were even smaller with a roster of 10, hosted Cowichan Norton's full squad on Saturday for quarter-final cup play.

The girls came out strong, with Becki Steel making impressive saves in goal.

Jade Beauvais finessed a kick to Zorah Wiltzen, who left-footed it in for the early lead 1-0.

Just before the half, Cowichan came back with one.

Beauvais was taken out with a knee injury, leaving the girls with nine players.

Rookie goalie Maggie Birch stepped in and defended the goal like a pro.

Driving, determined footwork by the defence and mid-field kept the ball flying up the field, until Steel passed to Wiltzen, who tapped it in for 2-1.

Cowichan came back with one, before Steel was also taken out with a knee injury, leaving the girls with eight players.

Not only did the girls



Salt Spring U13 player Jade Beauvais makes a one-touch, heads-up pass.

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

not give up, they played their hearts out, ending regulation time 2-2.

The girls maxed ener-

gy, strength and skill to make it to the end of overtime, only to have Cowichan slip the ball

a few inches into the goal, with two minutes left to play.

Congratulations to

the Small and Mighty U13 girls for finishing an awesome season second in the league.

SPORTS FISHING

Go fish: freshwater fishing season opens April 1

Online licensing system offered

For people thinking of going fishing when the season opens on April 1, now is the time to buy a freshwater fishing licence.

Many traditional licence vendors have signed up to the provincial government's

online licensing system, which was introduced last year. But individual anglers can also easily purchase a licence online at home, from their office, at a Service BC centre, or hotel business centre, said Don Peterson, president of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C.

"The system is simple and

secure. All that's needed is a major credit card and a printer," he said.

The electronic system also provides critical data to fisheries managers.

To buy a licence, go to <http://www.fishing.gov.bc.ca/> to register for an angler number and make the purchase. People who purchased online last

year will need to use their angler number, which can be found printed near the top of the 2008 licence.

Revenue from the licences supports two non-profit organizations, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. (www.gofishbc.com) and the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (www.hctf.ca).



HANS STRAUB

There's a special offer coming your way.

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Offer not available at the Driftwood office

SPORTS & RECREATION

MEN'S SOCCER

Gremio tie — 'as good as a win'

Team remains undefeated by division leaders

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A shorthanded Ganges Gremio crew persevered through the worst that winter could muster to tie division-leaders Maynard West in Victoria on Sunday.

"We tied, but we're considering it a win," said Gremio player Ryan Smith. "We are the only team in our division they hadn't beaten, so our goal was to not let them beat us."

Maynard West (10-1-3) got on the board first, taking advantage of the undermanned and outplayed Gremio squad to score what Smith called a "rather dubious goal" midway through the first half.

Gremio came out strong to start off the second, applying steady pressure in Maynard West's end.

The team's perseverance paid off as Gremio evened the score 20 minutes into the half.

The goal, scored by a Maynard West player on his own goal, capped a dramatic and hard-fought drive into the Maynard West zone, Smith said.



Gremio player Jordan Haenen shows his stuff in Sunday's tie game in dreadful conditions in Victoria. SHOOT-2-THRILL EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

With roughly 10 minutes to play, Gremio's Marlow Hart's trick knee forced him to the sidelines.

Outnumbered 11 players to nine, Gremio miraculously managed to hang on and preserve the tie in spite of a peppering of shots from May-

nard West in the game's dying moments.

"We were just fighting for our lives," he said.

"Everyone just pulled together and it was a really good team effort."

With two remake games left to complete this season,

Gremio sits in fifth place in the Vancouver Island Soccer League's division 5A with a 4-2-6 record and 18 points.

Smith said he is uncertain if the games will be played considering the sorry state of weather-beaten fields throughout the region.

BASEBALL

Victoria Seals draft island youth

Dream job brings Mason Scott closer to home

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When he underwent surgery on his elbow just over three years ago, there were more questions than answers about Mason Scott's future as a professional baseball pitcher.

Following up on years of rehabilitation, however, Scott has engineered a comeback that has earned him a spot on the newly formed Victoria Seals baseball team.

Born in Vancouver, Scott lived on Salt Spring between the ages of two and 17.

He threw his first pitches here

under the guidance of his coach Russell Hardy and parents Del and Sandy Scott.

"It all started there when I was little," Scott said in an interview from his home in Victoria.

During high school, Scott pitched his way up the ranks with junior teams in the Victoria area until he attracted the attention of a college in New Mexico and moved south.

Since getting drafted out of the Arizona Winter League earlier this year, Scott said he has been keen to be part of the Victoria Seals inaugural year in the 10-team Golden Baseball League.

"It was a good score," he said. Not only is Scott, 23, playing the game he loves, he's able to do it close to his parents, who still live on Salt Spring Island.

"It all started [on Salt Spring] when I was little."

MASON SCOTT
Baseball player

Scott said he expects to play in front of several thousand people, something he admits will require finding the right headspace.

"I'm not so used to playing with a lot of people watching," he said.

"I've got work to do mentally."

The Seals will play 44 games at Victoria's Royal Athletic Park.

The team's home opener is against Long Beach on May 29.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Dragons clinch win in wicked weather

Team ends cup play on positive note

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The only thing more awesome than the weekend's gale-force winds and driving sleet was the Salt Spring Dragons' offensive explosion against the Castaways on Sunday.

"It was a very epic game," said player Joanne O'Connor. "It had a hard-edged feeling from the beginning and you just kind of had to suck it up and play your best."

The team's "best" translated into a 5-0 trouncing of their Division-4 opponents in the final game of the Stephanie Shergold Cup's opening round.

A 1-1-1 record in first-round play means the Dragons do not have enough points to move on in cup play.

Ending the season with a victory, "kind of" makes up for the team's early exit from the tournament, she added.

"It's nice to end it on a high note and nice to end it like that," she said.

The Dragons got on the scoreboard with the first of two goals by stalwart defender Lorna Walde.

"She threaded it up the middle and poked it in," O'Connor said.

Christine Godlonton, Sarah Greer and LeeAnn Norgard added extra goals to the Dragons' tally.

Keeper Kym Bellavance remained steady in net to keep

her shutout intact until the referee called off the one-sided game due to weather with 10 minutes to go.

O'Connor said the game highlighted players' strong sense of teamwork and unselfish play that helped the Dragons complete their season so successfully.

The team is set to begin training for May's Challenge Cup tournament on Salt Spring Island.

The Dragons finished this year's regular season in second position in the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association third division.

The top-two finish means the team qualifies to play in the highly competitive Division 2 when the 2009-10 season begins this fall.

BUS SCHEDULE
PAGE A4

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George Johan Hume

April 19, 1946 – March 13, 2009

After a long and valiant battle with multiple types of cancer, George Johan Hume is now at peace and has joined the spirits of the many golf fanatics who have gone on before him.



George was born in Rotterdam and came to Canada with his war bride mother Johanna (Visser) Hume to join his father Arthur Scott Hume in Ontario. He spent many years in the horse racing industry around North America, was a former member of the United Steel Workers of America, and dabbled in several careers during his life – most recently he spent many long and happy hours tending the grounds, attacking broom, enjoying nature's beauty and (most of all) playing on Blackburn Meadows Golf Course. A celebration of George's life will be held at Blackburn later in the Spring and in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Pre-deceased by his father and sister Lawrenza, in Ontario, George leaves his beloved daughter Serina Hedley (Paul), mother Johanna, brothers and sisters Marie, Theresa (Mike), Georgina (Robert), Lorraine, Patricia, Roy (Sue) and Arthur, plus his very cherished grandchildren, Kaitlin, Ethan and Sarah, and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. On Salt Spring he leaves behind his loving partner of over 14 years, Anne Williams, his little golfing buddy Atreyu and his little princess Shekinah. He will be sadly missed by their mother and father Sarah Jane Giddy and Kyle Parks, James Giddy of Vancouver, and his many friends on Salt Spring, especially his 'Blackburn family', as well as many friends of Bill W. here and in Ontario. Also missing their 'papa' are his precious critters – Queenie, Bear, Burton and TiWa.

Many thanks to all who helped George and I along his journey, especially Dr.'s Hansie De Kock and Bob Crossland, all the wonderful and caring nurses and staff at Lady Minto, Sharron McKinnon and the group at Home Nursing Care and the wonderful volunteers at the Bessie Dane Foundation and Hospice, especially Kathleen, Bill and Mark. Blessings to all of you.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society, the Bessie Dane Foundation and Hospice, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation or to the Blackburn Meadows Junior Golf Program would be greatly appreciated.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

BINGO MEADEN HALL

Royal Canadian Legion

7 PM THURSDAY
Mar. 19
Early Birds, 6:30 pm

Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary
 Royal Canadian Legion Br. 92
All proceeds to bursaries for Salt Spring Students.

CAUGHT in the Middle: 8 week Parent/Child Support Group to help families overcome issues related to divorce and separation. Running Wed. 5:00-6:30pm Mar. 25 to May 13. Light meal will be provided. Call Maryanne at 250-537-9938

CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, Mar. 29th @ 1:00pm

Public Welcome
 Info: Call Valerie Hutton 250-537-0049

DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

FABULOUS FLEAMARKET
 Sat. March 28 from 10am-2pm at Fulford Hall. Table rental 8 ft. \$20, 4 ft. \$10. Delicious home-made food available. To book table please call 250-537-5482.

FELT-MAKING WORKSHOP, this weekend, March 21 and/or 22! Three Dimensional Felting. Info: Ulriek Benner-Art You Wear, 250-537-1723. www.ulriekbenner.com

FOR A complete calendar of coming events check the Driftwood Community Calendar, in our office in the Upper Ganges Centre, 328 Lower Ganges Road, or on our website at www.gulfislands.net. Use the calendar for event planning and to make sure your date doesn't conflict with someone else's.

HOT YOGA strengthen, detox, relax. It's hot. It's yoga. It's addictive. Now 2 Sunday classes! North End Fitness. For more info and other class times: 537-7696 debfit.com info@debfit.com

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UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sun, Mar. 22nd at 11am: "The Gift" by Marion Pape. Exploring how gift-giving is a transformative power going beyond the gift itself. SS Seniors' Centre. We are a "Welcoming Congregation". www.saltspringunitarian.com

DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS



LADY MINTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY
 Annual General Meeting

Mon. March 23 @ 1:30pm
 at the Lion's Hall

Election of Officers

All Members Urged to Attend

PAINTING CLASSES: 1st hour free to new students. Watercolour or acrylics. Mid April to June. Small classes. Beg. and Intermed. welcome. Call Val Konig 250-537-4660.

"RITES OF Spring" original art show and sale, by SSI Painters Guild. April 14-28 at ArtSpring, 10am-4pm. Contact Nixe Gerbitz 537-5994.

SSI GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB Opening Day Tues. March 31st. 9 holes of golf. Shotgun start. Scramble at 10am followed by Luncheon & Fashion Show. All Lady Members and Guests welcome. Tickets in Pro Shop.

ENTERTAINMENT

PERFORMANCES WANTED for b'Earthday Cabaret. April 22, 7pm. Contact Shoshanah @ 537-8598 before Apr 16.

INFORMATION

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



ISLANDS TRUST SALT SPRING ISLAND 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: Thursday, April 2, 2009
TIME: 12:00 pm
PLACE: ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Ave

Starting at 12:00 p.m. 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 537-9144.

More news online

We've joined BCLocalNews.com, the largest online news-gathering organization in B.C.

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Salt Spring Centre School Art Lottery

SSCS is holding an art lottery at ArtSpring on April 1. Tickets are only \$75 and entitle ticket holders to a piece of art of their choice. Tickets are randomly drawn, then you have 1 minute to choose... Viewing is at 6 pm (the time to pick your favourites!) with the lottery at 7 pm. \$10 tickets are also available for anyone who just wants to enjoy the wine, cheese, live auction and entertainment. Tickets are limited. Available at Salt Spring Books and Gecko Green Living. Questions? call Leonie at 537-5478.

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Sunday March 29, 2009

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Farmers' Institute Hall

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For additional information and registration for workshops and private sessions contact:
 SarahJane
 email: sgiddy@telus.net tel: 250.653.9512

A life changing experience.

EDITH MARILYN SIGMUND, age 22 years

passed away suddenly, and by accident, on March 4, 2009, at Ganges, Salt Spring Island, BC

Beloved daughter of Lee Dianne Sigmund (Phillips), and Phillip Martin Sigmund of Salt Spring, sister Dean Phillips Sigmund of Lloydminster, AB, and Eric Martin Sigmund of Salt Spring. Edith had family from Ontario, Alberta, the Yukon, California and British Columbia.

Edith was born in the hamlet of Bragg Creek, Alberta, a small foothill community west of Calgary. She moved to Salt Spring as a small child and grew up on the island. Edith graduated from high school through the Phoenix program, thanks to the very special and caring attention of many of the staff there. She then worked for her father, volunteered at the SPCA, and in the past, babysat and cleaned in several households on Salt Spring. In doing this many community members experienced her kind and loving ways. Edith held a special passion for animals, especially those who had been abandoned or were in pain.

The family wishes to thank all of our friends who were extremely kind and caring during our period of grief. Michael Budd came from Calgary, consoled the family, and helped us to restore a sense of order in our house. A special note of gratitude is extended to the Salt Spring RCMP who have been sensitive and supportive during these troubled times. Many, many medical staff at Lady Minto and at Community Services have acted lovingly to help not only Edith but her family. We especially thank Marnie Poole, Dr. Karen Berg, and Dr. Nicholas Sladen-Dew, for persevering to the end.

Donations may be made in Edith's name to any mental health program that seeks to restore the dignity of the individual and value to the community of those who suffer from mental illness and addiction.



DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

classified@gulfislands.net

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION



NOTICE
The Salt Spring Island, Islands Trust office will be closed to the public on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Regular office hours will resume at 8:30 am, Thursday, March 26, 2009.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

In case of emergencies, please contact our victoria office at 250-405-5151.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

Re: ESTATE OF GORDON CECIL SCARFF, also known as CECIL GORDON SCARFF, LATE OF SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC

NOTICE is hereby given that creditors and others having claims against the estate of the above deceased are hereby required to send them to the undersigned at 3rd Floor, 612 View St., Victoria, BC V8W 1J5, before April 20, 2009, after which date the Executrix will distribute the said estate among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which she then has notice.

AUDREY SHAW, Executrix,
By her Solicitors HORNE COUPAR

PERSONALS

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WHEELS
PAGE B12-15

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONALS

DATING SERVICE. Long-term/short-term relationships, FREE CALLS. 1-877-297-9883. Exchange voice messages, voice mailboxes. 1-888-534-6984. Live adult casual conversations-1on1, 1-866-311-9640. Meet on chat-lines. Local single ladies. 1-877-804-5381(18+).

LOST AND FOUND

BLACK WALLET lost in the vicinity of Centennial Park. Reward. 250-538-0083.

FOUND "JACKS" jean jacket with brooch. Left at Afghan Tea on Sat. Call to identify. 250-537-9542.

FOUND: MEN'S Lands End jacket near Reynold's Road. Call 250-653-4312.

FOUND NORCO bicycle. Owner please call 250-537-2840 to identify.

FOUND: SMALL tin containing drill bits. Owner may claim at the Driftwood.

LOST: CAR keys on ring with Mercedes remote, at the pool. Also 3 keys on ring near Crofton Road. 250-537-2620.

LOST: GERMAN shepherd, male, neutered, name is Highway, Dukes Rd. Sat. 653-9601.

LOST: GOLD Wedding/engagement ring with a diamond. Rings joined together. Reward will be smoked tuna. 250-537-5043.

TRAVEL

ADVENTURES

EASTER IN CALGARY! Travel in a comfy, new, Montana van on April 7 or 8. Share the driving. wjmar-challe@shaw.ca

GETAWAYS

LONG BEACH Storm Watching Special Ucluelet - Deluxe waterfront cabin sleeps 6. Fully equipped with BBQ. 2 nights \$239. 3 nights \$299. Rick: 604-306-0891.

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

COMING EVENTS

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TRAVEL

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

LOS CABOS, Mexico-best value condos! Beautiful 1 to 5 bedroom condos fully furnished and equipped with all the comforts of home. Rates starting at \$139us p/nt. dble occup. One block to the beach, the marina and downtown! Mention this ad get a 15% off on your reservation. Toll Free 1-866-389-6666 or www.marinasolresort.com

TIMESHARE FORECLOSURES -Save 60-80% off Retail! Best Resorts & Seasons! Call for free catalogue today! 1-800-597-9347. Browse hundreds of worldwide properties online—www.holidaygroup.com/bcn.

BCjobnetwork

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ADVERTISE YOUR Outdoor business in the BC HUNTING REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS publication- 200,000 copies-year long presence to outdoors men. Call to get in the next annual issue. Contact Annermarie at 1-800-661-6335 ext 744.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY To Own a pet food business - High quality cat/dog food. Excellent returns, exclusive territories. Information Call Rippees Ranch Toll-Free 1-877-738-3287 Ext. 217, www.riplees-ranch.com.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY To Own a pet food business - High quality cat/dog food. Excellent returns, exclusive territories. Information Call Rippees Ranch Toll-Free 1-877-738-3287 Ext. 217, www.riplees-ranch.com.

INFORMATION

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

NEED MORE Money? Want a career? Work from home! We train you! Check out the Freedom Project! www.judys-mini-office.com.

TRAIN For a new career in Medical Transcription. Learn from Home! Earn from home! Contact CanScribe today for a FREE information package. 1-800-466-1535 www.canscribe.com, info@canscribe.com.

VOLUNTEER in Africa and Central America: Campus California TG places trained, international volunteers in communities suffering from: Poverty & lack of Education/Resources. Programs are 9, 14 & 20 months. Fees apply. www.cctg.org Phone; 510-734-6777. Email; anthony@cctg.org.

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

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

ALL CREATURES great and small! Study Animal Health Technology. Fairview, Alberta Campus (Fairview College). Hands-on, large and small animal instruction. On-campus working farm. Residences. Fall 2009. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

DOG LOVERS! Enjoy a healthy, profitable career as a professional dog trainer. Government accredited program - student loans and grants. Two spaces available for our spring program. Ben Kersen & the Wonderdogs. www.wonderdogs.bc.ca. 1-800-961-6616.

bcclassified.com

INFORMATION

BCjobnetwork

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

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

Call 250-537-9717
SALT SPRING LITERACY

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

PENNY WISE Journalism Scholarship for women. The winner will receive a total of \$2,500 to study journalism in the eight-month journalism certificate course at Langara College in Vancouver. Visit www.bccommunitynews.com for details. Deadline: May 01, 2009.

HELP WANTED

ALTERNATIVES TO ADDICTION, a small Salt Spring based non-profit society, seeks P/T experienced, grant writer/administrator, honorarium basis. 250-931-5555.

POWERBOATS IN Summer, snowmobiles in winter, ATV's in between! Become an Outdoor Power Equipment Technician. Fairview, Alberta Campus (Fairview College). Apprenticeship opportunity. On-campus residences. 1-888-999-7882; www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview.

"Do you have something to say about a Driftwood story or letter? Comment online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com"

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



With 47 ports of call, 37 vessels, and more than 500 sailings every day, BC Ferries is the largest independently-owned ferry company in the world. Dedicated to safety, excellence, innovation, and people, we are committed to continuously improving the west coast travel experience of our customers.

Seasonal Employment Opportunities
Salt Spring Island (Southern Gulf Islands)

Cooks
You prepare and cook menu items; perform cleaning duties; and assist in other areas of the galley as required. Minimum qualifications include 1 year Culinary Arts program and 2 years' apprenticeship.

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You prepare and serve a variety of food and beverages while ensuring cleanliness of the interior passenger and crew areas of the vessel. Food Safe Level 1 or HAACP Certificate is required.

Email your resume, quoting position title, to erswb@bcferries.com or fax to 250-656-5817.



For more information on position requirements and how to apply, visit our website at: www.bcferries.com

We appreciate the interest of all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



PARC GRANTS-IN-AID

Applications for Grants-In-Aid to assist community groups with parks and recreation related projects or programs, which directly provide additional recreation facilities, equipment, services or programs, are considered twice each year - in the spring and in the fall.

The deadline for the current applications is Tuesday, March 31, 2009.


Application forms and guidelines are available on our website www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc or at the PARC office. Call 537-4448 or email parc@saltspring.com

Connecting your giving to island needs



Each year your community foundation distributes over \$100,000 in grants to our island's charitable organizations. Please send your donation to SSIF, Box 244, Ganges PO, SSI, BC V8K 2V2 or donate through the Foundation's website.

For more information please go to the website, phone 537-8305, or email info@saltspringislandfoundation.org www.saltspringislandfoundation.org




PUBLIC MEETING ISSUES IN FULFORD

The Fulford Study Group has a continuing mandate to assist with planning Fulford's future by studying local needs and bringing recommendations to the Islands Trust and other agencies.

Please bring your issues, ideas and energy to a **PUBLIC MEETING** on **Thursday, March 19, 2009** **7:30pm** **OAP Room, Fulford Hall**

All are welcome - here's a chance to become more involved in the future of the Fulford area!

For more information, please contact **Larry Woods @ 250-653-9892**



PLANNING SECRETARY CLERK STENOGRAPHER R9
SALARY RANGE: \$35,795.30 - \$40,500.25
Full time permanent BCGEU position
LOCATION: SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC
Competition: CS2009:45860

The Islands Trust is incorporated under the Islands Trust Act of British Columbia. The objective of the Islands Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust area and of the Province generally. The Islands Trust is comprised of 16 distinct corporate entities: the Trust Council, 13 Local Trust Committees (LTC), one municipality and the Trust Fund Board.

There is a Local Trust Committee for each island or group of islands designated as a local trust area under the Island Trust Act. Comprised of locally elected trustees and one Executive Committee member, a LTC is responsible for land-use planning and regulation for its area of jurisdiction. As such, its responsibilities include preparation and adoption of an Official Community Plan, comprehensive land use bylaws regulation of soil removal and deposit, and authorization of certain Local Government Act permits.

In addition, there is an Islands Trust Fund Board, a special provincial conservation agency, that has a broad goal to preserve and protect significant areas and features on behalf of the Board and is authorized to acquire and hold money, land and partial interests in land with a mandate to accept conservation covenants on land, as well as reception of land itself from benevolent landowners.

Under the direction of the Regional Planning Manager, this position provides stenographic and administrative support to the applications and planning process; coordinates minutes for Local Trust Committee Meetings, Public Hearings and Public Information Meetings; provides records management for the Advisory Planning Commission and other Advisory Bodies; provides support to the Local Trust Committee within a highly complex political environment; responds to telephone and public counter inquiries and provides meeting arrangements.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Grade 12 or equivalent education and experience including business, college or a post secondary school certificate;
- Three years of practical clerical and technical experience in a computer oriented environment;
- Practical and general knowledge of office procedures and practices within a government agency or body;
- Excellent knowledge of proper business procedures and English grammar;
- Strong knowledge of computers and business machines;
- Experience using various applications (i.e. word processing, spreadsheet, database and tracking systems), on a local area network. Proficiency in word processing is essential (Microsoft Office preferred);
- Experience in political environment preferred;
- Ability to keyboard 50 accurate wpm;
- An eligibility list may be established. Required to work evenings/weekends. Must be willing to work overtime. Travel is a requirement. Flexible work options are available.

For a complete list of qualifications and responsibilities, please review the duties and qualifications on our website at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/hr/default.cfm


Please quote the competition number CS2009:45860 in your application and submit it to:
Islands Trust
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8
fax 250-405-5155
or email employment@islandstrust.bc.ca

Closing Date: March 23, 2009
For more information please contact Leah Hartley at 250-538-5607

SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NOTICES

The annual general meeting of the members of the Association will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at the Lower Hall of the Salt Spring Island United Church, 111 Hereford Avenue, Ganges.

A resolution to amend the bylaws of the Association will be presented for approval by the members of the Association present at the annual general meeting to be held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. The full text of the proposed resolution will be posted in the Library, 129 McPhillips Ave., Ganges, between the publication of this advertisement and the annual general meeting.



LOST

LOST

Missing 2 Dogs



KEIRA is a female (spayed) Rottweiler/Heeler X with a bobtail, mostly black, some brown and white chest and front legs with dots. She has an ear tattoo - TL 20.

GIORGIO is a male (neutered) Lab/Samoyed X, short cream coloured coat with gold brown on back and ears. He will be limping badly.

Giorgio & Keira went missing on January 21, 2009. Keira was spotted alone on Booth Canal Bridge on February 18th, 2009. Giorgio has not been reported seen for nearly eight weeks. The dogs have most likely lost their collars and we have reason to believe they are separated.

According to one witness, Keira may have been picked up by someone who does not know she is lost and has not attempted to contact me or the animal authorities. Keira has a medical condition, which has to be dealt with immediately!

We are prepared to offer a reward for the return of either animal.

Please contact **Nina Holldorf** if you find them, see them or have any info: **250-538-1917 (H) or (250) 537-6178 (c).**

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

classified@gulfislands.net



HELP WANTED

CLEANER FOR medical clinic, approx. 3-4 hrs/wk. Cleaning and disinfecting must be done to current medical cleaning standards with attention to details. Names and contact information for 3 references are required. Pay to be negotiated on experience and abilities. Criminal record check required. Bondable. Drop off resume at the Salt Spring Family Health Clinic in the Upper Ganges Centre by March 31st.

ORCHARD/GARDENER'S helper, weed eating, chainsaw & compost work, etc. Beddis Beach area. Start 1st week in April, Wed., Thurs, Fridays @ \$15/hr. Must have own vehicle. 537-9729 to arrange interview.

SALT SPRING INN requires staff for housekeeping. Drop off resumes or call Tom, 250-537-9339.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

HELP WANTED

PRIMARY TEACHER Salt Spring Centre School is hiring a primary teacher (probably for grade 3/4 class) for Sept. 2009. Must be BC certified, have experience in primary years, knowledgeable of the BC curriculum, and have strong communication skills. Please send resume to: info@saltspringcentreschool.ca or phone for more info. 250-537-9130. Deadline March 27.

VEHICLE SALES. If you are an honest hardworking professional, high achiever and have a desire to be highly paid. We want to talk to you. We offer excellent benefits, advancement in a fun environment and a great family community. Moving allowance. Call or email: Richard Leslie in strict confidence. Brentridge Ford Wetaskiwin, Alberta, 1-800-463-5838; r-lesli2@brentridge.dealeremail.com; www.brentridge.com.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE SUPPORT CLERK

SECRETARY ADMIN. Assistant. Top notch secretary required for busy office. Individual would provide clerical and administrative support. Communication and word processing skills, including Word, Excel and Microsoft Outlook required. Individual should have telephone and email skills, and experience with maintaining a filing system, purchase order system, spreadsheets and databases. Duties would also include arranging of meetings, travel and appointments; liaising with members of staff or external contacts; taking orders, and overseeing shipping arrangements. Bookkeeping experience would be an asset. Please fax resume to 250-537-8851 or call 250-537-8857 for an interview.

WORK WANTED

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

EXPERIENCED CARPENTER(S) Get a jump start on spring projects. New or Reno's/Repairs. Free quotes. Danny 537-2086 or 537-6439

GARDEN MAINTENANCE. Fruit tree pruning. 15 yrs. exp. Call Doug 250-653-9292.

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

NEED A HAND? Carpentry, reno, repairs, painting, clean up, hauling by long time Islander. I'll get it done. "Seniors Friend". Andy 250-537-2294

TREE SERVICES Demolition & Hauling
• Felling & bucking trees, clearing land, brush & windfall
• demolition & hauling
• and other jobs
Call Gabriel 250-537-7536

PERSONAL SERVICES

FACIAL REJUVENATION

LOOK RADIANT & Renewed as a Revolutionary method of Facial Rejuvenation, using Micro current and Colour energy, takes years off your face. No chemicals, needles, or pain. Transform yourself. Demonstration Saturday March 21 10:30 or 2:30 To book your seat phone Diana Bickford TCMP at 250 478 8190

PERSONAL SERVICES

EDUCATION/TUTORING

WANTED GRADE 7 students to join our successful home tutored school program at a beautiful independent location near Central. Start Sep/09 For information and cost call Lisa 250-537-1256 or Emma 250-537-5717.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

\$5000 LOAN Service, by phone, no credit refused, quick and easy, payable over 6 or 12 installments. Toll Free: 1-877-776-1660.

BECOME 100% Debt free!! One easy monthly payment. Free Consultation. Member of BBB. Check us out at www.iamdebtfree.com 1-800-565-4595.

DEBT CONSOLIDATION Program. Helping Canadians repay debts, reduce or eliminate interest, regardless of your credit. Steady Income? You may qualify for instant help. Considering Bankruptcy? Call 1-877-220-3328 FREE Consultation Government Approved, BBB Member.

DEBT STRESS? Consolidate & lower payments by 30-40%. End those phone calls & the worry. Avoid bankruptcy. Contact us for a no-cost consultation. Online: www.mydebtsolution.com or toll-free 1-877-556-3500.

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LONG TERM resident with first aid/CPR in adult care, ready to help. Call 653-4503.

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REMOVE YOUR Record: A Criminal Record can follow you for life. Only PARDON SERVICES CANADA has 20 years experience. Guaranteeing record removal. Call: 1-8-NOW-PARDON (1-866-972-7366). www.RemoveYourRecord.com.

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

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\$15/HR FLEXIBLE SENIORS' RATES
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HELP WANTED

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

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COMPUTER SERVICES

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

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- BAGGED CEMENT

250-537-2611
345 Rainbow Road

CONTRACTORS

FINISHING/CABINET Carpenter. 30yrs. exp. Ex. Ref's. By contract or hourly. Call 250-537-9858.

NOUVEAU CONSTRUCTION & Cabinets we do rock walls, laneways, shallow servicing, bush clearing, septic, weeping tile, reno's, new construction, cabinets, counter tops. Phone Al, 250-306-7502; www.nouveaugroup.ca.

DRAFTING & DESIGN

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

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

HOME IMPROVEMENTS & renovations. Exp carpenter, lic & insured. References & FREE estimates/Consultations Kitchen, bathroom, addition, suite, deck. Call 250-744-4557 www.renovation-carpentry.com

SALT SPRING PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- *Home Renovations*
- *Interior/Exterior Painting*
- *Gardens*
- *Housekeeping*
- *Home Staging*
- *Interior/Exterior Design Consulting*

250.537.2580

we're online at
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

RECYCLING

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

ROOFING & SKYLIGHTS

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

WINDOW CLEANING

TIME FOR Spring cleaning. Renew your view. Fast, reliable service. WCB insured window washing. Call Genevieve at the Final Touch. 250-538-8427.

PETS

EQUESTRIAN

HORSE & RIDER training available, French method \$50/hr. Specializing in Jean Claude Racinet's methods of dressage riding which is fulfilling without needing to be competitive. 40 yrs. exp. in equestrianism. 100'x200' riding arena avail. Please phone Ann Watson 250-653-4184

FEED & HAY

GOOD QUALITY local hay for sale. 250-537-5718.

LIVESTOCK

PEACOCKS TO a good home. Delaine Faulkner 653-4444.

PETS

BEAUTIFUL TABBY (black & white) female, 9 yrs/o. Very affectionate indoor cat. All records avail. Present owner has allergies. 250-537-1481.

BORDER COLLIE Needs New Home. Saved from being put down after the passing of one parent and the hospitalization of the other this special guy needs an active new parent(s). This highly intelligent 3 year old dog has some issues so needs and thrives on disciplined activities. Would make a great dog for the right home. Loves children but tries to herd them and nips so maybe not the best option. If interested please call 250-537-9299 or email yogaware@telus.net Papers and pix available, no fee but the right home a must.

CKC REG. Min. Smooth Dachshund Puppies 4 months old, 1 red female & 1 red male, very outgoing and love kids, have had their shots and vet check-up. 250-336-8428

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

BUILDING SUPPLIES

KITCHEN CABINETS, upper & lower, used. Best offer. 250-538-7632.

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

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What's On calendar event?
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Also available: wool socks, comforters, knitting wool, pillows, and sheepskin rugs.
250-537-2082

FREE ITEMS

16" DELL monitor. Works well. Please call 537-0092.

BRIGGS & STRACHAN gas lawnmower, self-propelled. Runs, but needs new spark plug, oil, etc. 250-538-1936.

ELECTRIC BED (twin). Everything works: head & foot go up, massager. Call Gayle 250-537-4482.

FREE: SIMMONS queen size beauty rest mattress, new cond, medium firm, 250-537-8938.

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HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD
GUARANTEED CORD
Cut, Split & delivered
Cedar Fence Rails
250-653-4165

GARAGE SALES

380 CRANBERRY (Cabin) Sat/Sun 21st/22nd 11-2. Art, Antiques, odds & ends, freebies. Advance viewing 250-537-5499.

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

MOVING! SAT. March 21 - earlybirds welcome - 367 Robinson Rd. Upright Freezer, s/w diningroom table with 8 chairs, bikes, kitchen items, oak desk, filing cabinet, outdoor wicker, chairs, couch, kids toys & Books. Long Driveway - Lots of parking at house.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

2 DELUXE custom made matching love seats, by Saggers. Spotless cond, \$300 each. Large mahogany entertainment center, 93w x 22d x 50h, interior lights, great storage spaces, \$250, 250-537-8938.

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

A FREE Telephone Service - Get Your First Month Free. Bad Credit, Don't Sweat It. No Deposits. No Credit Checks. Call Freedom Phone Lines Today Toll-Free 1-866-884-7464.

A NEW Computer Now! Brand Name laptops & desktops Bad or No Credit- No Problem Smallest weekly payments available. It's yours Now! Call 1-800-317-7891.

COMMERCIAL QUALITY Bodyguard Executive K2 stair-climber in great condition. Originally over \$3000. Buy it for \$425. One Trek 7000 21-sp mountain bike with slicks on it. Perfect for Salt Spring roads. In great condition. Paid \$1200 Buy it for \$425. Check both http://web.mac.com/republicofsaltspring or call me at 250-538-1705.

GET A New Computer! Brand Name laptops & Desktops BAD or NO Credit No Problem Smallest weekly payments avail. Call 1-800-640-0656.

HOT TUB (SPA) COVERS. Best price. Best quality. All shapes & colours available. 1-866-652-6837 www.thecoverguy.com

CARPENTRY

HELP WANTED

SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY

Has the following part time job opening:

Emergency Mental Health Response Practitioner, on-call after hours, rotating shifts Monday - Sunday 4:00 pm to 12:00 am.

The EMHR professional responds to mental health emergencies on Salt Spring Island after hours. This position requires being on-call Monday-Sunday nights on a rotating basis from 4:00pm to 12:00am and responding to call outs as is realistically possible. Referrals are responded to on an urgent basis either via telephone contact or professional visit. Clients and family members are interviewed at the Lady Minto Hospital for assessment, consultation and referral. This position requires a close working relationship with the on call physicians and first responders including the RCMP and hospital staff.

Qualifications, experience – a mental health professional with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing or Social Work or Counselling Psychology or equivalent combination of education and extensive direct experience working with the mentally ill both as in and out patients. Three years supervised outpatient psychiatric experience in community mental health and/or inpatient psychiatry is required. Eligibility for registration with appropriate governing body is required. Familiarity with hospital protocols and current familiarity with associated medications is desired.

Apply by March 31st, 2009, 4:00 pm with resume and cover letter to

Cheryl Bell-Gadsky
Director of Adult Services
Salt Spring Island Community Services Society
268 Fulford Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K 2K6

SUMMER DAY CAMP LEADERS
Salt Spring Island

Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission is looking for innovative and enthusiastic leaders to create a fantastic experience for participants of its 2009 Camp Colossal summer daycamp program. Camp Colossal is a 42 day, Monday to Friday program, that takes place in July and August with a focus on local outdoor activities and crafts for children in the 5 to 12 age group. The Camp offers a number of off-island day trips to venues such as the Butterfly Gardens and the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.

This is a bargaining unit position (CUPE Local 1989). Camp Leaders will be employees of the Capital Regional District (CRD) and are paid every two weeks at a rate of \$12.30/\$13.70 per hour plus 11% in lieu of benefits (\$13.65/\$15.21 per hour).

First Aid Certification, a Class "4" B.C. Drivers Licence and a clean driving record are mandatory. Lifeguard Certification is an asset.

Reply in writing, on or before April 10, 2009 including a resume and references, to:

Camp Colossal
Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission
145 Vesuvius Bay Road
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 1K3
Email: parc@saltspring.com

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MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

GREAT SAVINGS on outerwear and apparel at Island Escapades Winter Clearance Sale. Shop now for quality merchandise at Huge discounts!! Sale ends March 31st. 163 Fulford Ganges Rd. 250-537-2553 Open 7 days a week.

H & H Trailer Sale. Bow Valley Ford, Canmore, Alberta. Discounts to \$4,100. Cargos/flats/beds/car haulers/goosenecks and more! 1-800-403-0084 ext. 257 or alan_way@bowvalleyford.com. Selling fast, don't delay!

HOT TUB, big! LED lights, good condition, new cedar skirting, new digital control pack, 24 jets, new 4.5 hp pump, new cover, circ. pump. Warranty. \$2800. 538-8244.

HOT TUB COVERS From \$289, (4 in. thick from \$339). Free delivery, free disposal of old cover. New foam inserts from \$80/ea. 250-538-8244.

KENMORE WASHER & Dryer. 5 yrs/o Exc. cond! \$650 & hide-away sgl bed couch in grey tweed. \$75. 537-6934

KING-SIZED MATTRESS and box spring. Perfect condition. \$150. Call 250-537-5837.

SAWMILLS FROM only \$3,495.00 - Convert your LOGS TO VALUABLE LUMBER with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwoodsa.com. 1-800-566-6899 Ext:400OT

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BC Made: Assorted Colours
8 pc Set: Queen Size, Add \$100 for King Size
BLOW OUT all 2008 Mattresses CHEAP
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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 9AM - 4:30PM

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ON STAGE

Iconic music brought to life in new production of Tommy

Lauren Bowler behind 'edgier' side of musical theatre

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A great love for the music of The Who's classic rock opera, Tommy, will see an island daughter return to her roots for the debut of her new production company.

Lauren Bowler may be better known locally as "Sue Newman's daughter," but the young woman is an accomplished professional who's been working steadily since moving to Vancouver seven years ago. Her recent roles include Gypsy Lee Rose in Gypsy and Eliza in My Fair Lady.

Tommy was one of the first shows Bowler appeared in after going out on her own, and she admits that sentimental value had a part to play in bringing her own version to the stage. But it's the strength of the material that really has her coming back to the edgier side of musical theatre.

"Mostly I had a desire to hear that music and play that music with a live rock band," she explained.

Released as a lauded concept album in 1969, Tommy is the story of a boy who is deaf, dumb and blind because of the tragedy he witnessed as a child. He suffers emotional, physical and sexual abuse in this state, later becomes healed and the leader of a cult, and finally reaches enlightenment and redemption.

For many, the story is perhaps most familiar in its film version, but it's also been produced as a Broadway musical and as a concert staging. The album was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, while individual songs became hits that are still part of popular consciousness.

All of this means some pretty big shoes to fill, but Bowler said her fledgling company is more than up to the task. Bowler has hired a line-up of professional musicians from Vancouver, Victoria and Salt Spring with many years experience working in the industry; and all of them are people she's worked with in the past.

In fact, she's employed three GISS grads and all of her immediate family, but only because she knows they have the skills to pull it off.

"It was extremely important to me to have a band who knows and loves this music, and who could play to the theatrical elements. From a musical standpoint, the people involved are so immersed in the Canadian music community."

The format of the show will be more like a concert than a play. Bowler said the band will be playing most of the music

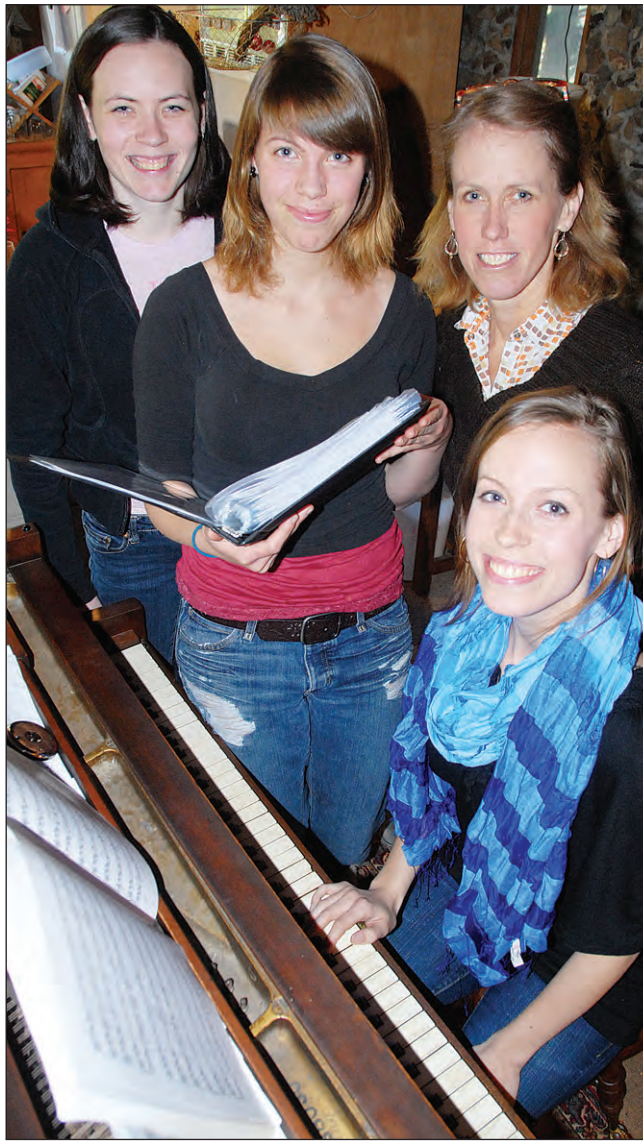


PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Getting set for Tommy are (from left) Jessica Mack, Patrice Bowler, Sue Newman and Lauren Bowler.

from the original staged musical, with theatrical elements effected through visual imagery in video, and photograph projection and lighting.

As Who historian Richard Barnes has pointed out, calling Tommy a "rock opera" can be misleading, since the original musical did not have sets, separate dialogue or acting. Bowler's version is therefore staying true to the format first performed by its creators.

Bowler will take the role of Tommy's mother Mrs. Walker, a role for which Ann Margaret was nominated for an Academy Award in 1975. Scott Perry plays Tommy. Perry is lead singer and songwriter for the Vancouver-based band Redgy Blackout, and singer with Famous Players Band. Mr. Walker is played by Steve Thompson; the lead singer with Vancouver's Finding Friday has stage credits that include Jesus Christ Superstar and Tommy with Vancouver theatre company URP.

Some of the band members include guitar player Rob Hamilton, who has toured with Soul Decision, Moka Only and Lee Aaron, and played with Soul Stream, Ray Brown, and Suzie McNeil.

Juno-nominated Shawn Soucy is known as one of the busiest drummers in Vancouver and has toured countless times over the last 20 years. The five-time winner of the B.C. Country Music Association's Drummer of the Year award has played with Cheech Marin, Tiller's Folly, Chilliwack and Shari Ulrich.

Piano player Karel Roessingh has composed extensively for film, radio and TV, including co-writing music for the film In the Company of Men, which won the Filmmakers' Trophy at the 1997 Sundance Festival, and was an official selection for the 1997 Cannes Film Festival.

Debuting the production on Salt Spring was a natural choice for Bowler, who said, "I think I'll always consider Salt Spring as a home of mine in some way. I love this community, and my mom is still here. I have friends here."

If Bowler is fortunate to have the support of her home community, the island also tends to benefit from the relationship.

"Part of my mandate with Little Lamb Artist Group is to partner with charitable organizations that have programs that are relevant to the shows I am producing. Tommy is a child facing abuse, and the mental state he's in is a result of that, so it was important to me to work with a group with programs for children and youth."

Partial proceeds from Tommy will therefore go to Salt Spring Community Services' addictions and mental health programming. The opening night performance on March 24 will be a "pay what you can" donation at the door. Tommy also runs March 25 through 27 at 8 p.m.

Tickets (\$20 adults, \$12 youth) are available at ArtSpring, 250-537-2102.

J. Mitchell Gallery

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERT REVIEW

Duhks live up to show fame

Eclectic sound; musical prowess

BY MEGHAN HOWCROFT
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Sometimes you feel especially lucky to live on Salt Spring Island. After having the opportunity to see the award-winning band The Duhks play a last-minute show at Fulford Hall last Saturday night, I found myself re-counting my blessings.

After an enjoyable opening by Victoria-based singer/songwriter Genevieve Rainey, a notably confident young woman with capable guitar skills and a fresh voice, the Winnipeg-based Duhks (pronounced ducks) took to the stage, minus drummer Christian Dugas who bowed out due to illness.

I wondered how the quintet would fare sans percussion, but from the moment lead singer Sarah Dugas belted out the first notes, we realized we were in for a musical treat and most likely an unexpected one considering few in the crowd likely knew the group.

It's time to spread the word that The Duhks are a band that deserves

every ounce of the quiet hype that's been made of their new album, their eclectic sound and their musical prowess. They've earned numerous Juno nominations, including one win, and even a Grammy nomination for Best Country Vocal Performance, alongside groups such as the well-known Dixie Chicks.

The latest incarnation of the five-year-old band includes newcomers the Dugas siblings, fiddler Tania Elizabeth, guitarist Jordan McConnell, and band founder and banjo player Leonard Podolak, who is most likely the band's rock, around which swirls a whirlwind of musical styles, sounds, influences and interests.

The group's musical DNA is hard to categorize. They've been described on their website as "a fusion of traditional bluegrass, folk rock, Afro-Cuban jazz and soul [that is] so accessible and yet so hard to pigeonhole."

It's exactly this extreme diversity of style and sound, along with their seamless transitions through musical genres, that makes The Duhks so incredibly delightful. Simply put, mixing things up is their bag, and man, does it work!

Sarah Dugas' unbelievable voice made it difficult for me to imagine the band before she joined. At once soulful,

sultry and yet incredibly powerful, her voice seemed at times too big to be contained by such a small, unassuming venue like Fulford Hall.

The band dished out fun call-and-response numbers, then slid in some banjo-heavy "dance music" and a few fiddling tunes that got the crowd's feet thumping. They really gelled in the gospel tune Turtle-dove Done Drooped his Wings and were tight as the missing drum in their fast-paced instrumental pieces.

The group's musical DNA is hard to categorize.

To add to the variety of musical styles already heaped on the table, The Duhks pulled out an a cappella Brazilian number that was hot, hot, hot, then jumped head-first into a straight-up country two-step entitled Dance Hall Girls.

The crowd warmly embraced fiddling sensation Elizabeth, who actually lived for a year on (of all places) Duck Creek Farm on Salt Spring. Elizabeth provided lead vocals on a few numbers, all the while fiddling up a

storm with swaying hips and manic bow circles.

Elizabeth's lilting, Celtic-sounding voice, combined with Dugas' jaw-dropping powerhouse vocals, created a surprisingly perfect blend that stole the show.

Podolak gave them a run for their money on the banjo and won the crowd's hearts when he encouraged folks to get up and dance, joking, "Here's the perfect opportunity to get out there and meet your future ex."

Needless to say, the band got a huge standing ovation and for their encore turned Fulford Hall into a "big Cajun dance party" where every audience member was up on their feet.

After first hearing The Duhks on CBC Radio 2 and thinking of the recent debates in the Driftwood surrounding recent programming changes, I can't help but point out that The Duhks are the perfect example of the engaging, current and truly worthwhile "pop" music that Radio 2 introduces us to on a regular basis.

We all know that crummy pop music abounds, but with multi-talented and diverse groups like The Duhks leading the way, there is proof that certain popular music may one day be deemed as relevant and soul-stirring as the "music of the past."

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Leticia Brewer, Soprano

Vienna Volksoper, l'Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, Banff Centre for the Arts



Erin Lawson, Mezzo-Soprano

Calgary Opera, Stratford Festival, Top prize in 2005 Canadian Music Competition



Alexandre Sylvester, Bass Baritone

Opéra de Montréal, Canadian Vocal Arts Institute, Centre for Opera Studies in Italy



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ISLAND STAR VIDEO presents...

Flick Pick



Jason Tudor

Main character woefully inconsistent in *Elegy*

Isabel Coixet's morose drama *Elegy* is based on a 2001 Philip Roth novel, but it sure ain't no Portnoy's Complaint.

David Kepesh (Ben Kingsley) is a university professor and cultural critic living in Manhattan who loves to talk about America's subverted hedonistic spirit. Of course, this means he's a devoted tomcat, scooping up adoring young graduate students for sexy thrills not a moment after the grades go up in the hallway.

One such student proves to be almost more than he can handle, however. Consuela Castillo (Penelope Cruz) is not only beautiful but bears a stately aura of distinction and maturity. David's instantly smitten, and despite her obvious affection he becomes not only jealous but increasingly anxious about the potential pitfalls the age difference might have on their relationship.

Certainly *Elegy* has its share

of excellent efforts by gifted performers. Not only have we got Kingsley playing somewhat against type as an emotionally immature intellectual, but Penelope Cruz is around to show that she's actually much better when removed of the "Spanish firebrand" context that wins her Oscars. Meanwhile, Peter Sarsgaard, Dennis Hopper and Patricia Clarkson provide great backup work.

Meanwhile, the film looks and flows beautifully, with Coixet deftly maneuvering us in and around spaces such as David's immaculately masculine apartment. Everything looks beautiful in this Manhattan, but it's a formal, almost funereal beauty that nicely evokes the film's title.

There's one big problem: David's character is woefully inconsistent. At certain times he's an ultra-sophisticated urbanite who has negotiated his way

through innumerable one-week-stands, at others he's a whimpering, babbling fool who can't go half a day without checking up on Consuela.

I suppose this shift in his behaviour is supposed to be explained by Consuela's beauty and grace, for after all David is an avid consumer of beauty in all its forms. Maybe I just don't see what he sees in her. But it's not enough for the script to simply have David say how he feels, we have to feel it with him and be swept up by it.

Who knows, perhaps the problem is the source material. After all, there have been criticisms of Roth's recent writings, noting that it is mostly the self-indulgent ramblings of an aging horn-dog (see Allen, Woody). I'm guessing that the book probably works a little better than the movie, but maybe we should leave both of them well enough alone.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ARTS COUNCIL

Arts council AGM is a hit

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Above-average turnout, live music and dance performances, and a preview of the 2009 Easter Art Tour combined for a highly successful annual general meeting for the Salt Spring Arts Council last week.

Rineke Jonker, the organization's new chair, said directors and the general membership made a significant start in strategic planning for the next year, while the direct consultation of the board with the members strengthened the group's purpose.

Four long-serving and dedicated directors whose terms had ended were Gary Cherneff, Celia Duthie, Ralph Bischoff, and Gail Sibley.

"We're going to miss them — they've put in a lot of time and energy and been very involved," Jonker said.

The five incoming directors who were introduced are Robert Steinbach, Bob Leatherbarrow, Gillian McConnell, Janet Halliwell and Stefanie Denz.

"I think we've got a really dynamic board this year and I'm really looking forward to working with them," said Jonker, who spent her first year with the group as vice-chair.

Some important work was also accomplished regarding upgrades to Mahon Hall and a vision for the group's future. Although much has been put into restoring the hall's appearance over the past couple of years, members would still like to see a kitchen installed and heating issues addressed, both making hall rentals more appealing.

Another idea that's been suggested by directors for some time saw great support: creation of a community arts school. A committee will be struck to look at the logistics of implementing the idea.

While the council now has its full compliment of 11 board members, Jonker said that community members are welcome to join the committees. The group is particularly looking for help with fundraising.

CONCERTS



Klezmer's 'avenging angel' to manifest at Mahon Hall

World-famous Geoff Berner and band celebrate new album

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

I've known Geoff Berner since the first day of Grade 8, but it was only at the end of Grade 11 that I realized his comic genius. His ongoing radio play about A Mime Called France was so funny that our fellow participants at Co-op Radio's youth show could hardly read their lines from laughing.

As for Berner's musical talent, I was kind of late to recognize that, as well. I think it was in 2002 that I heard him play Light Enough to Travel on the small stage of Vancouver's Railway Club. It was a song that haunted me for days despite being played solo on accordion. I later learned the song turned into a hit for the Be Good Tanyas after they covered it on their debut album.

Humour and exceptional songwriting will both come into play when Berner visits the island next Thursday, March 26 for a concert at Mahon Hall. Having just released the third album in the Whiskey Rabbi trilogy, Berner is pleased to be appearing with the trio he's played with on all three albums.

Berner and his accordion have become known at folk festivals and bars across Canada and Europe. He's got a regular following in Norway, where his Facebook fan group is based. He's also been widely heard on CBC and college radio programs, such as the one concert organizer Rob Pingle used to host at the University of Victoria.

While he jokingly refers to himself as the avenging angel of klezmer music, Berner explained that he writes his own songs in the style of klezmer, based on his observations of the world. Many of these observations appear to dwell on drinking and women, but there's also plenty of biting social commentary.

Take his new anthem, the Official Theme of the 2010 Vancouver/Whistler Olympics, subtitled The Dead

Children Were Worth It!

"It's about the office to investigate children's deaths that we used to have, but can't afford now. It's set to a fun, marching tune."

A catchy song I remember from past concerts is The Maginot Line, a detailing of the useless defensive line built by the French before the Second World War. Berner agreed that the song is "pretty indicative" of his songwriting in that it combines lyrics involving history, irony and humour with a waltz — "so you can dance to it."

"People have been dancing . . . There was a conga line in Toronto."

GEOFF BERNER
Musician

"The new record, Klezmer Mongrels, is about the mixing of cultures and peoples and describes that as a socially positive thing," Berner said.

But even these "cultural foot soldiers in the trenches" are always having a good time, with songs like fiddle player Diona Davies' song Drunk All Day.

Celebrating recent news of a Canada Council grant that will send the entire group to Europe, Berner promised the Salt Spring gig will be a fun party for everyone.

"People have been dancing," he confirmed. "There was a conga line in Toronto."

Island singer Ora Cogan will be the opening act for the show, playing songs from her new album called "Harbouring," released on Borne Recordings from Spain. She will have copies for sale and is taking off on a European tour shortly after the show.

Doors open at 8 p.m. and the show begins at 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 at Acoustic Planet, Stuff & Nonsense and at the door.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Geoff Berner promises a great dance party when he and his band land at Mahon Hall, next Thursday, March 26.

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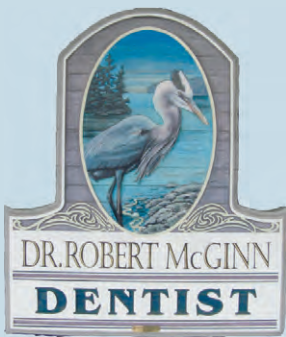
We are currently accepting applications for female and male RCMP Guards for work at the Saltspring Island RCMP Detachments in Ganges, BC. These positions are best suited for persons seeking part-time on-call casual employment. Applicants must live on Saltspring Island.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ART EXHIBITS

Six decades of Canadian scenes

Haworth retrospective at Pegasus Gallery

A vital part of Canadian art history brings spring to Pegasus Gallery for the rest of March, with a retrospective exhibition of works by Barbara (Bobs) Cogill Haworth and Peter Haworth.

Doors open at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 20, with the opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m.

As a professional artist, college professor and founding member of national art societies, Bobs left a legacy of over six decades of artistic contribution, explains Pegasus press material.

After completing art studies at the prestigious Royal College of Art in London, England, the Haworths moved to Canada in 1923.

With full-time careers as art instructors, every summer Peter and Bobs would take nine or 10 weeks, often with A.Y. Jackson and Lawren Harris, to sketch and paint landscapes of Georgian Bay, Isle d'Orleans, Gaspé, the Maritimes and Cape Cod.

Bobs was an accomplished master in a variety of media, including watercolour,



Art by Bobs Cogill Haworth is on display at Pegasus Gallery.

gouache, oil, mixed media, silk screen prints and ceramics. Her luminous watercolour landscapes in the 1930s combine rounded flowing shapes with soft, rich colours. During the war, Bobs was one of only a few women war artists, painting scenes at Canadian military bases.

In the 1940s she abandoned her earlier decorative style and began experimenting with abstraction, for which she would be most recognized. Beginning with bold

simplified paintings with their direct reference to the land, she then progressed over the years into pure abstraction.

"Bobs can easily be considered one of the most influential women artists and mentors in the history of Canadian art," states the gallery.

"She was continually in the leading edge of new art movements as well as a founding member in the early days of Canadian art societies. Her courage and foresight inspired countless new artists, especially women, to boldly experiment with new genres, techniques and media."

Peter Haworth met Bobs when both were students at the Royal College in England. After they emigrated to Canada, he soon became director of art at the Toronto Central Technical School (later the Ontario School of Art).

Peter is known for his intricate stained glass installations as well as his paintings. His early representational landscapes evolved into semi-abstracts, which are rhythmic, geometric and complex in style.

The Haworth retrospective spans the 1920s through the 1970s.

The show continues daily at Pegasus Gallery until March 30.

WORLD CULTURE

Mystic journey set for spring equinox night

Event takes place at Salt Spring Centre

Islanders are invited to celebrate the spring equinox on Saturday, March 21 at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga with an organic vegetarian Middle Eastern dinner and a concert

of new world music, ancient sacred poetry and a whirling dervish.

Providing the backdrop of improvisational music, the band Saffron features Niel Golden on tabla and hang, Ken Hall on Middle Eastern oud (lute), ney (flute) and guitar, and Enrique Rivas on guitar

and tres.

Music will be interspersed with the inspirational poetry of Rumi, Hafiz and others, read by Sharada Filkow and Savita Young, and the dances of whirling dervish Tevhide Tanya Evansen.

Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

People should RSVP to the Salt Spring Centre, 250-537-2326 to reserve by cash, cheque or credit card for dinner and the concert. (Cost is \$30.)

To attend the show only, people can reserve ahead of time or pay cash at the door — \$15 and \$12 for students and seniors.

**BUS
SCHEDULE
PAGE A4**

ART & FUNDRAISING

Art lottery a winner for treasure seekers

Limited number of tickets available for April 1 event

BY CLARE CULLEN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Children love making art, whether they are spreading paint and squishing clay with their fingers or making pinhole cameras.

In art class and at home, kids need the space and time to express themselves and, notwithstanding the household staples of paper-towel rolls and flour-paste, they need materials to really get those creative juices flowing.

Enter the "Art Lottery." A fundraiser for the Salt Spring Centre School's art program, the fundraiser is a novel way to raise money for art materials for budding artists, as well as profile some amazing artists in our community.

Here's how it works: over 60 local artists have generously donated pieces of art valued at \$100-plus.

On April 1, from 6 to 10 p.m., a gala wine and cheese evening will be held at ArtSpring where the art pieces will be on display. Tickets are sold for \$75 (available by cash or cheque only at Gecko Green Living and Salt Spring Books), each one entitling its holder to select a piece of art of their liking.

Here's the fun part. Tickets will be numbered and then drawn at random! As a ticket holder you must view all the art prior to the draw and get ready to make your choice when your number comes up.

You then have one minute to make a decision, so the pressure is on!

Depending on when your number comes up, you may be choosing your first, second or fifth choice, and with the great variety of pieces available, no one will be disappointed — everyone goes home with a piece of art.

In keeping with the April 1 date, the live entertainment will include comedy stylings of Sid

Filkow and great music.

A live auction component will take place for higher-value art pieces.

If the lottery is not quite your cup of tea, tickets to participate in the live auction are just \$10. All guests will be able to enjoy the wine bar as well as lovely appetizers throughout the evening.

Many prominent artists have generously donated — too many to list here — but you can see the list at www.saltspringcentreschool.ca.

Everyone at the school is very grateful for all the donations and enthusiasm.

Remember: tickets are limited for the Art Lottery to ensure everyone gets a work of art, so don't be disappointed — get your tickets soon!

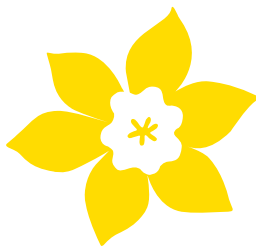
Salt Spring Centre School students are looking forward to creating wonderful art with the help of this fundraiser.

And one day, perhaps their art will be profiled and won at the Art Lottery.



Photograph by John Fearnall © Photosensitive

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Visitors to J. Mitchell Gallery check out an exhibit by Ian Thomas.

Ian Thomas turns to the light at J. Mitchell Gallery exhibit

Well-known artist offers beautiful series

Ian Thomas is an artist whose expressive oil paintings are often characterized by fluid movement and uneasy subject matter.

A recent series of large-scale canvases dealt with both the contrasts and the relationship between the banal and the disturbing, characterized particularly well by a hellish scene of the Mayfair Mall food court.

More recently, however, Thomas says he has turned away from dark thoughts and their expression.

"I've kind of lightened up and started looking around me more, rather than looking into my miserable self," he joked.

That shift has been revealed in landscape paintings that celebrate the artist's immediate surroundings. His newest series, *Houselights*, is an even more direct study of the warmer side of humanity.

Houselights is a group of a dozen monoprints, one-off pressings made by painting thinned oils onto a non-absorbent enamel surface, and pressing onto damp paper. It is a technique Thomas has used before, notably in the *Sistine Suite*, which contrasted the beauty of Michelangelo's paintings with the frantic tourist scene below.

On hand at the J. Mitchell Gallery last weekend, Thomas described why he continues returning to the monoprint technique between large canvas series.

"This is the latest occasion where I've explored it, and I really like it. It's right for me."

Portraying himself as usually



being uptight and needing to feel in control of his art, Thomas said this style allows him to be fluid and free.

"If something doesn't work out you can repaint, alter it, change the lighting or the colour, or just wipe the whole thing clean. You have some record left on the plate to work with, and you can run it through again and again until it's right."

Thomas noted that historically, many artists have worked through a series of monoprints. One benefit he's personally found to the technique is that the oil-based inks dry evenly. Thomas also likes being able to work in acrylic paint for an added dimension.

Houselights is a celebration of illumination through darkness, inspired by visits to Vancouver during Christmas time. The scenes mainly follow the pattern of a single heritage-style home

seen from the street, warmly shining into the night. In many cases, a single figure is seen outside, an observer looking in or passing by, but not cast as an alienated outsider.

In scenes where Christmas lights are on display, they appear more as ropes of light than separate electric devices. The soft glow (produced particularly well through the monoprint technique) emphasizes the age-old importance to humans of illuminating the darkness around them, particularly during the winter solstice.

The effect of the series is a sense of human connection through our building of homes close to each other, rather than a sense of urban anxiety. This rings true even in the one painting that is not a house, but a corner store on Denman Street.

On a different note are two paintings of Russell Square in London. Both very tall canvases, the paintings depict different aspects of the English city park. Number II reveals an austere stretch of manicured grass, with imposing stone and brick buildings from an earlier period towering behind. The single figure in the scene is a groundskeeper with a leaf blower; as Thomas pointed out, he's clearly an immigrant from a third-world country.

Number I (not currently on display) focuses on the statue of Lord Russell, which can also be glimpsed in II. Thomas observed that such parks dedicated to the bringers of empire can be found all over London, while the people working in them are there as a result of the colonialist agenda. It's this ability to embed nuanced layers of meaning into a very pleasant painting that make Thomas' work so interesting.

New work by Thomas will continue at J. Mitchell until March 31.



Elizabeth Nolan

ARTBEAT ON THE ROCK

MOBY'S ENTERTAINMENT

Blues, karaoke and rock at Moby's this week

KC Kelly is the Thursday night Blues Jam special guest this week.

"On the last blues night, Moby's rocked with great music. Special thanks to Bill Henderson and Matt Stef-

fich and, as usual, Brent Shindell pleased us all," said Moby's management in a press release. "So you never know who might get up and give us a treat."

Hosted by Dave

Roland, Blues Jam music starts at 8 p.m.

Friday night sees the return of karaoke, with the fun hosted by Dave and Nikki beginning at 9 p.m.

Saturday Live rocks

with the local band Loaded.

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March 20th-30th, 2009

"Waterdown, near Toronto" Bobs Haworth Watercolour 1929 20"x20"

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 Doors open at 10 am
 Refreshments from 5pm - 8pm

Seaside at Mouat's Salt Spring Island

www.pegasusgallery.ca
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What's On This Week

Wed. March 18

ACTIVITIES

Contemporary Dance Class. For all ages and levels. 211 Horel Rd. W. 4-5:30 p.m. Info: Robbyn, 250-537-5681.

Tea House Poetry Collective. Poets meet at Arbutus Therapy Centre on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. Info: www.teahousepoetrycollective.com.

Grossology at the Library. Get the real poop on poop. What animal scat tells us with David Denning. For 7-10 years. 1 p.m.

Griefwalker. Film screening and Q&A with palliative care educator Stephen Jenkinson. ArtSpring. 2 p.m.

Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild. Mystery quilt night. Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Road (around the back). 7 p.m. Info: ptquilts@telus.net.

SSI Poultry Club. Topic is hatching and brooding. Farmers Institute. 7 p.m.

SS Painters Guild Workshop with Gillian McConnell. "Figure in Focus - Drawing." Extend your drawing skills, way of seeing and creative thinking. ArtSpring. 9 a.m.-noon. Info/register: Carolyn, 250-537-5114.

Portrait Drawing. Drop-ins welcome. ArtSpring. 9 a.m.-noon. Info: Jose, 250-537-1121.

Creative Fire Workshop. Chicken & Rooster Rattles. Kids ages 6 and up make paper mache rattles. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Info: Tracy, 250-538-0144.

Thurs. March 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blues Jam. With guest KC Kelly. Moby's. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salty Wheels Square Dance Club. Dances at Central Hall every Thursday. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Info: Marilynne, 250-537-5356.

Bingo. At Meaden Hall. 7 p.m. Early bird games at 6:30 p.m.

Triathlon Group. Training sessions with Bruce Grey. 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 250-537-6542.

Creative Fire Workshop. Build and paint sea serpents for kiln firing. Ages 5 & up. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Info: Tracy, 250-538-0144.

Fri. March 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Spirit & Space. Guitar and cello with Michael Waters and Allannah Dow. All Saints. 8 p.m.

Karaoke. Hosted by Dave & Nikki. Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Awareness Through Movement Class. Fridays at Cats Pajamas Studio. 10-11 a.m. Info: Anna, 250-537-5681.

Wilderness Adventure and Primitive Skills. For kids. Fridays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. starting March 6. Info: Wisdom of the Earth, 250-653-9122 or instinct@saltspring.com.

Breast and Prostate Cancer Information Session. Six experts answer questions and give valuable information about prevention and treatment of these diseases. Refreshments served. ArtSpring. Breast cancer portion is at 10:30 a.m., prostate cancer portion at 1 p.m.

Grossology at the Library. Slugs: what's with all that slime? Find out with David Denning. For 7-10 years. 1 p.m.

Hot Yoga. With Deb LeBlanc. North End Fitness. 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

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

Ger Lyons-Core Transformational Healing. Lions Hall. 7-10 p.m.

Owls of Salt Spring Island. John Neville presentation at Mahon Hall. SSI Conservancy event. 7 p.m.

Sat. March 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday Live. With guest band Loaded. Moby's. 9 p.m.

La Sonnambula. Met opera broadcast at ArtSpring. 10 a.m. 9 p.m.

Pacific Opera Victoria. Free event with Pacific Opera Magic Flute cast members at ArtSpring. 2 p.m.

Aether. Fundraiser for the Seed & Plant Sanctuary for Canada. With Big Bass Theory, Intrinsic, Jerms, Gnosis and Hightower. Mahon Hall. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Ger Lyons - Core Transformational Healing. Lions Hall. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Drawing and Painting with Stefanie Denz. Mixed media. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Info/register: 250-653-2018.

Journeying with Voice and Writing: Listening to our Inner Voices through Vocal Improvisation and Writing. Workshop for women with Ella Topaz and Wendy Judith Cutler. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Info/register: Ella, 250-653-4261 or Wendy, 250-653-4286.

Sun. March 22

ACTIVITIES

Ger Lyons - Core Transformational Healing. Lions Hall. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Mon. March 23

ACTIVITIES

Eckhart Tolle Practising Presence Group. Drop-in. 7:30 p.m. Info: Amrita, 250-537-2799.

Kundalini Dance. Third-eye chakra session. Core Inn 3rd floor. 7-9 p.m.

Floor Hockey. Fulford Hall. 7 p.m.

Triathlon Group. Training sessions with Bruce Grey. 6 - 7:30 p.m. Info: 250-537-6542.

Osho Kundalini Moving Meditation. Drop-in. 5:30 p.m. Info: Amrita, 250-537-2799.

Hot Yoga. With Deb LeBlanc. North End Fitness. 10 - 11:10 a.m. & 11:30 - 12:30.

Voiceplay. Mahon Hall. 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission. Regular monthly meeting. Portlock Park portable. 7 p.m.

Creative Vessels Support Group. Fun activity, art therapy & discussion group helps people deal with challenges of the creative process. Arbutus Therapy Centre. 7-9 p.m. Info: 250-537-5833.

Tues. March 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Who's Tommy in Concert. Rock opera at ArtSpring. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Argentine Tango. Core Inn third floor on Tuesdays. Beginners' class from 6:30-8 p.m., with practica afterwards. Info: Julianna, 250-537-1818.

Ger Lyon - Core Transformational Healing. Lions Hall. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

SS Transportation Commission. Public meeting in the meeting room at 118 Fulford-Ganges Road, off of hallway near CRD office. 7 p.m.

Wed. March 25

ACTIVITIES

Reflections on Hope. Free program of music & dance at All Saints. 11:30 a.m.

Teahouse Poetry Collective. Poetry-writing group. Arbutus Therapy Centre. 6-9 p.m. Info: www.teahousepoetrycollective.com

Contemporary Dance Class. For all ages & levels at Antler Ridge Studio on Wednesdays from 4-5:30 p.m. Info: Anna, 250-537-5681.

Caregiving and Dementia. With Irene Barnes and Marg Monro. Salt Spring Seniors Services Society (across from Country Grocer). 2 p.m.

Grossology at the Library. Microbugs: they're everywhere! For 7-10 years. 1 p.m.

Ger Lyons - Core Transformational Healing. Lions Hall. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

SS Genealogy Group. Meets the last Wednesday of each month at Mormon church, 221 Vesuvius Bay Rd. 7 p.m. Info: Claudia, 250-538-1708.

Caught in the Middle. 8-week parent/child support group to help families overcome issues related to divorce and separation begins today. 5-6:30 p.m. Light meal provided. Call Maryanne at 250-537-9938.

Creative Fire Workshop. Make and paint turtle pinch pot for kiln firing. Ages 5 & up. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Info: Tracy, 250-538-0144.

Wed. March 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Who's Tommy in Concert. Rock opera at ArtSpring. 8 p.m.

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Hotel for Dogs and **Last Chance Harvey** (Dustin Hofman & Emma Thompson) play next at The Fritz!

CABLE TV

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

EXHIBITIONS

• **Pegasus Gallery** begins its spring season with the **Retrospective Works** of **Barbara Cogill Haworth** and **Peter Haworth**, 1920s-1970s. This is a rare opportunity to see this collection of historic paintings showcasing the Haworths contribution to Canadian art. Opening reception is on Friday, March 20, 5 to 8 p.m. Doors open at 10 a.m. The exhibition continues to March 30.

• **J. Mitchell Gallery** presents **New Work** by **Ian Thomas** from now through March 30, and the **Spring Show** and **Grand Finale** opens Friday, March 20, with an opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

• **Splash! and Splish!** — **Splash...H2O's** fundraising art shows by **Teresa Gaye Hitch** and **Gillian McConnell**, are on now display at **ArtSpring** until the end of March. A percentage of funds raised will go towards the new Ultraviolet water purification system for the Rainbow Road Pool.

• The March artist at the **Salt Spring Coffee Company** cafe is **A Mother and Daughter Paint: Patricia M. Macdonald** and **Alex Macdonald**.

• **Strujohemaza** — collaborative ceramic monster made by **Creative Fire** studio kids is on display at **Love My Kitchen** for the month of March.

• **An Immense and Unexpected Field of View** — Works on paper by **Jamie Callum Macaulay** runs at **Salt Spring Books** until May 15.

• **Cody Conner** shows oil paintings at **Island Savings** until the end of May.

• **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.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BUSINESS OF ART

Gallery announces surprise ending

J. Mitchell Spring Show will double as Grand Finale

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Rumours about the imminent closing of the J. Mitchell Gallery have already reached local artists, but for many in the community, the news will come as a surprise and a disappointment.

With an end date of March 31, the upcoming closure is hardly less surprising to gallery Judy Mitchell, although it was her choice to do so.

But while many might put the economy to blame, the woman who's become a champion of Salt Spring artists wants to set the record straight: her decision was due entirely to reasons of timing and personal health.

"I just feel so badly that my health or my desire to slow down at this stage in my life end up reflecting on the value of what we've had in this community. It's demoralizing for everybody, but it shouldn't be," Mitchell said.

"There is an assumption that the gallery is going under, but the artists need to know that their artwork stood up very, very well in the economic downturn, and the supposed downturn in the art market, which we didn't ever have here. In fact, we had a better year last year than the one before."

"A solid core of clientele have continued to support the gallery and this community of artists and have allowed us to prosper during tough times."

The gallery was indeed hurt by an unexpected 10-day closure in December when Grace Point Square businesses were damaged by an exploding power transformer.

But it was while consulting her lease as a result of that incident that Mitchell was shocked to find out that it would expire at the end of March 2009— she believed



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Judy Mitchell outside her gallery.

she'd have another year until that happened.

Nearing retirement age and having already battled some health concerns, Mitchell realized she just couldn't commit to another five years, which the lease required.

She immediately set out to find a private buyer who would carry on with the gallery exactly as it was.

Two seasoned businesspeople have come close to taking over the space, but backed out at the last minute. Still, Mitchell said it's a testament to the gallery that serious thought was put into offers.

"My profit/loss statements for the past five years show that revenue has continued to grow, even despite the market

downturn. We've never, ever been 'in the red,' and for a small gallery featuring local artists in a tourist economy, that's quite something."

"It really speaks to the established, professional artists represented here."

"We're going out with a bang."

JUDY MITCHELL
Gallery owner

Mitchell said that when she first started eight years ago, people thought she was crazy to show just local artists. But in that time, many of the talented locals she represents have moved from virtual obscurity to the recognition they deserve. Without a prospective buyer, she's afraid that won't continue.

Now the gallery's regular spring show featuring new work by all the 30-odd artists will be combined with five solo shows already planned for the season. Asha Robertson, Denise Stambuck, Ian Thomas, Bly Kaye and Karen Reiss will have a number of new works showcased at the show, which opens March 20.

"We're going out with a bang," Mitchell laughed, adding, "We've gotten pretty good at showing a large range of work all together."

While sad that the gallery won't continue on without her, Mitchell is clear that her time there has finished, albeit much sooner than she expected.

"It's sure had its moments and its joys. It's been a huge satisfaction building this gallery — but there's also been huge exhaustion."

New work by Ian Thomas is now showing at the gallery. The Spring Show and Grand Finale opens Friday, March 20, with an opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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CONCERTS

Program rouses spirit of Lent

Pieces range from Pergolesi to McKennitt

With the return of spring expected by Wednesday, March 25, it's an ideal time to enjoy a program of music and dance called Reflections on Hope, offered in the spirit of Lent.

The event at All Saints features dancers Lottie Devindisch and Gale Hingston, and singers Jean McClure, Connie Holmes and Anke Smeele, with Jean Knight on violin and David Storm on piano.

"Among the highlights on the program are duets and solos from music by Pergolesi, Bach, Faure, a recent Ave Verum by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins and Loreena McKennitt's Dante's Prayer," states press material. "The Meditation from Massenet's opera Thais by Knight and the specially themed dances by Devindisch and Hingston promise to create the meditative and inspiring sense of hope and optimism that Easter brings."

The free concert begins at 11:30 a.m. and is followed by light refreshments by donation.

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INTERNATIONAL AID



PHOTOS BY DERRICK LUNDY

High school servers at Saturday's Afghan tea check out the goodies; while below, Britney Oswell serves tea to Adrienne Linder and Perna Ma.

Annual Afghan fundraiser nets group \$3,700

Small-scale aid has huge impact

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Efforts by a small yet devoted Salt Spring Island non-profit organization are helping to make a serious difference in the lives of countless children and women living in Kabul and outlying areas of Afghanistan.

"It's my job to let you know that you are making a difference," said Marnie Gustavson, the executive director of PARSA, a group that has supplied medical treatment and education to residents of Afghanistan since the early 1990s.

"They deeply appreciate the efforts of people from the international community," she added. "They are kind of upset with the military, but not with our countries."

Gustavson visited the island Saturday to speak with members of Salt Spring Voice of Women and others about her group's ongoing aid projects in rural regions of Afghanistan.

Gustavson's praise for "community-to-community" style support projects was punctuated by



strong condemnation of how larger established aid organizations such as UNICEF and USAID use their funds.

By the time money reaches projects on the ground in Afghanistan, it is not uncommon, she said, for up to 80 per cent of donations to get eaten away by red tape, security expenditures and administration.

Not so with PARSA, she added.

Gustavson, an American born in Afghanistan during the early 1960s,

speaks the language, knows the countryside and is well acquainted with the region's cultural intricacies.

Her family is established in the country and she doesn't pretend that her work will be over anytime soon.

"I have an interest in the country and its people that is for the long term," she said.

Rather than travel between her home in Kabul and the group's projects in a multi-vehicle armed convoy, as is the norm for NGO person-

nel, she said, Gustavson and her driver choose to motor along the country's dirt roads in a weather-ravaged beater that would probably be more at home on Salt Spring Island than in a war zone.

Staying under the radar, she explained to the gathering of roughly 50 people enjoying mountain chai and traditional Afghan sweets at All Saints, is the key to making inroads in a country devastated by decades of war, religious fanaticism and unimaginable social inequity.

PARSA originated in Kabul and continues working with widows, their families and the disabled, and mentally ill men and women in Kabul, explains VOW member Juliette Lang.

Gustavson has also been working with the main orphanage in Kabul and has extended the program into the rural region of Bamiyan.

Funds raised from Saturday's auction and raffle will go towards the Salt Spring VOW organization's ongoing support of a small village school in the district of Paghman that has been recognized as one of the best projects of its kind in the country.

Money will provide meals, fund activities, and offer supervised mother-child play and discipline.

"I have an interest in the country and its people that is for the long term."

MARNIE GUSTAVSON,
 Executive director, PARSA

"The classes give children a healthy beginning to their education and teach communities the importance of a compassionate and violence-free childhood for the youngest in their communities," Gustavson said.

The history of PARSA's nearly 20-year effort proves that not all Afghan stories must end in tragedy. What's best of all, she added, is that so many concerned donors on Salt Spring and throughout the world are still willing to listen.

For more information about the program, visit PARSA online at www.afghanistan-parisa.org.

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PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

ACTIVISM

Coincidence marks the timing of local yarnbombers' debut

Watch for more handiwork of island 'craftivists'

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Arthur Black is known for being quick on the uptake, but last week he proved even more prescient than usual.

Black's regular Wit & Whimsy column in the Driftwood's March 13 Weekender spoke about the international proliferation of non-violent protests with "yarnbombers," crafty people who use up languishing projects and beautify public spaces at the same time.

Crafters are said to tag their work in the same way that graffiti artists do, and their projects can vary from the decorative to the obstructive. Their motto is "improving the urban landscape one stitch at a time."

"And if you think the Great White North is immune from attack, think again," wrote Black. "Yarnbombers have already struck in Vancouver and Montreal. Chances are you'll see their handiwork around your hometown someday very soon."

It was entirely due to serendipity that an anonymous Salt Spring group made its first hit the same day Black's article was published, creating a clandestine tableau at the unused flower bed beside Thrifty Foods.

A representative said the members came to the idea after reading about yarn bombers in a National Post article published March 2, and then visiting the website of the original Texas-based "craftivists" who started the trend, called Knitta.

"A group of women had been planning to beautify a little spot that needed it and did it after meeting



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

The colourful products of "yarnbombers" recently appeared throughout Salt Spring.

for drinks at the Salt Spring Inn," the anonymous source explained.

"After they finished, one of the members picked up the Weekender and saw that Arthur Black's article was about yarnbombing! They were just gobsmacked, it was so funny."

The anonymous group has more plans for projects in the near future, the representative said.

To learn more about yarnbombing, visit the source at www.yarnbombing.com.

NATURE

John Neville Owls of Salt Spring repeated by popular demand

Conservancy event at Mahon Hall Friday

BY DAVID DENNING
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

If you ask John Neville about owls on Salt Spring Island he will tell you who gives a hoot.

This is not a "brush-off," it's Neville demonstrating his exceptional skills at identifying bird calls and telling others about them.

If you can describe or mimic the owl sound you heard, he will be able to tell you who the hooter is, what it is doing here and almost anything else you might want to know about it.

Neville is a resident expert on bird sounds and bird natural history.

Last month, he presented an illustrated and audio-enhanced talk about the Owls of Salt Spring Island to an

overflowing crowd at the Lions Hall.

In fact, so many people were turned away at the door that a repeat of the event has been scheduled for Friday, March 20.

According to Deborah Miller, chair of the Salt Spring Conservancy education committee, "We should have known that John Neville talking about birds would draw a huge audience. Fortunately, John has generously volunteered to repeat the talk for all those who were turned away or who otherwise missed the last event."

Neville's interest in birds dates back to his youth in England, where a naturalist grandfather stimulated a lasting interest in nature and wildlife.

In the 1990s, Neville trained in birding and professional bird recording and in 1995 he started Neville Recording, which specializes in market-

ing bird songs on music CDs.

His website, www.nevillerecording.com, lists all of his CDs and publications, and has a shopping cart for anyone interested.

Neville will also have his bird song CDs available at the presentation.

If you haven't yet heard Neville's talks about birds, you've missed one of our great local naturalist educators.

Neville has an uncanny ability to get the entire audience involved, including a particularly keen group of young naturalists sitting up front in the February talk.

His personal stories and vast knowledge of birds were woven together in a talk that entertained and informed everyone.

The repeat of Owls of Salt Spring Island will take place at Mahon Hall on March 20, starting at 7 p.m.

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- * **Food Bank:** Open Tuesday, 11am - 4pm
- * **The Wall:** Indoor Rock Climbing Gym, open Thurs. & Sun. 6:30-9:30 pm and Sun. 3-5:30 pm
- * **Recycle Depot:** Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 250-537-1200.
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- * **Nobody's Perfect:** Registration at Family Place 250-537-9176.



AFGHAN STYLE: Emily Bishop shows off some Afghan clothing at Saturday's fundraising tea event.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FUNDRAISER Seed sanc. event staged

At Mahon Hall
Saturday night

On Saturday, March 21 at Mahon Hall, local businesses Ahimsa Communications and Bassfission Studios present Aether — the first event in The 5 Elements series.

Based around the cycles of the Earth, the events will celebrate music, life and creativity, and raise awareness and funds for the Seed and Plant Sanctuary for Canada.

A charitable organization dedicated to the health and vitality of the planet through the preservation and promotion of heritage seeds, the seed and plant sanctuary is based on Salt Spring.

The line-up includes seed sanctuary founder Dan Jason, plus local dub/reggae stars Big Bass Theory, and DJs Intrinsic, Hightower, Jerm & Gnosis. Visuals will be provided by Rim Visuals.

Doors open at 9 p.m. Admission is \$15 before 10 p.m. and \$20 after. Entrance includes a free heritage seed pack.

The sanctuary's website is www.seedsanctuary.com.

LOCAL LIBRARY

Library closed for staff training

New computer system being introduced

Staff and volunteers at Salt Spring's public library expect a new cataloguing system will finally launch it into the same league as the province's best.

"This is not an April Fools' Day joke," said librarian Marilyn Ming in a press release.

Under the new "SITKA system," users can place holds automatically, renew materials, check

outs, edit address information and build their own book bags.

"You can keep track of what you have checked out, what you had out in the past, what you want to read, and you can either share these lists with others or keep them private," Ming said.

"These features will all be available from home, of course."

The library will be closed on April 1 as staff learn to use the new system.

Normal library hours will resume on April 2.

Librarians ask for patrons' patience as training continues through the month of April.

Because this is a province supported system, you will also be able to see what other Sitka libraries have in their collections, but interlibrary loan procedures will not change, Ming stressed.

The new system will require each patron to present their own library card each time they borrow materials from the facility.

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PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

SS United Church becomes 'affirming ministry'

Decision makes church officially welcoming to LGBTs

BY PAT BARCLAY
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

After a year of study and preparation, the congregation of the United Church in Ganges has voted unanimously to become an "affirming ministry" within the United Church of Canada.

A special celebration of this landmark decision will take place during regular morning service at 10 a.m. on March 29, and all interested members of the Salt Spring community are welcome to attend.

Affirming ministries within the United Church of Canada are local churches, regional ministries, retreat centres and colleges which welcome lesbians, gays, bisexual

and transgendered persons (LGBTs) and their families in all aspects of church life, promote reconciliation of LGBTs in church and society, and minister to and with them.

Becoming an affirming ministry might seem a simple matter for a church which already identifies as progressive in its spiritual practice.

But as writer Mike Milne reveals in Raising the Rainbow-Coloured Flag (United Church Observer, April 2007), "Not long after the United Church's General Council decided in 1988 that all were eligible for ministry regardless of sexual orientation, about 30 families left the congregation at Edmonton's Mill Woods United in protest."

It was another 16 years before the same church, "... after about three years of committee meetings, study

groups and collective soul-searching... voted by a comfortable majority to become an affirming congregation."

During its own affirming process, the United Church in Ganges held a talking circle, watched and discussed three films, and facilitated three discussion groups, one of which included members of GLOSSI (Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island).

Fundamental change can be difficult for most of us. But by making a carefully considered decision to become an affirming ministry, a United Church congregation declares itself in solidarity with those who continue to struggle against discrimination. And LGBTs seeking a welcoming and safe spiritual community will find it in Ganges United Church.

For those who wonder what constitutes a "safe spiritual community," West Hill

United Church in Toronto offers this explanation:

"... it isn't as if we are providing you with a product. There is no Progressive Christian pill we can give you that will suddenly break down all the boundaries that have crept into traditional modes of belief. Progressive Christianity isn't a thing or an idea so much as an exercise, a process we bring to bear on our daily living. And like any exercise, it takes commitment."

"The instant you step into our midst, our community changes irrevocably. You challenge and enrich us. There ceases to be a "we" and "you" — together, we become part of a larger human system — a community. At the same time, you assume the responsibility which goes along with being part of a progressive spiritual community. This is the

"Progressive Christianity isn't a thing or an idea so much as an exercise."

WEST HILL UNITED CHURCH

responsibility of doing your part to ensure that the community continues to provide the inclusive conditions which allow for an authentic engagement with the spiritual dimension of our lives."

The United Church in Ganges welcomes all who wish to share in its celebration of becoming an affirming ministry within the United Church of Canada on Sunday, March 29 at 10 a.m.



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Bowen Therapeutic Technique

Many people still have not heard of the Bowen Therapeutic Technique (Bowenwork). Bowenwork is a gentle treatment which involves small, non-invasive moves performed over the muscle and connective tissue. It triggers the body's self-correcting mechanisms such as changes to structural balance, muscle tone, blood flow and lymphatic drainage. The list of conditions that can benefit from Bowenwork is too long to list. Ailments affecting many body functions (musculoskeletal, respiratory, digestive, lymphatic, circulatory, endocrine and gynaecological) can be improved by this technique.

As an example, consider Frozen Shoulder (acute capsulitis), a common complaint which is particularly resistant to improvement using conventional methods. It can be frustrating and debilitating to the sufferer. Quite often the cause is not known, it could be injury, hormonal changes or poor posture. The initial restriction and pain in the shoulder usually leads to lack of use, which perpetuates the condition. However, use of the arm through the pain threshold can also

worsen the problem. Something is required to break the cycle. Bowenwork can be just the thing that is required. A majority of clients find immediate relief after the first session and generally only need up to three more sessions to treat the condition permanently (though long term pain may require more sessions).

TESTIMONIALS:

"I wasn't familiar with the Bowen technique, but Christin is very knowledgeable about her practice and was able to answer any questions I had. The real treat, though, is in the experience of it! I was pleasantly surprised by how gentle and effective the treatment was, and I could feel my body moving back into alignment for days after the session. I will go back to Christin again and do recommend her to others!"

Leah Hansel, CSFC, CPC
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"Many years ago I had severe pain, stiffness and a clicking sound in my left shoulder possibly from overworking it in my profession as a cellist. Christin Boyd gave me several Bowen Treatments and a few special exercises to do and I have been pain free (and click free) ever since."

Anne Boyd, Musician, Ottawa

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ISLAND WHEELS

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NEW CAR REVIEW

Urban toughness – powerful and efficient

2009 Honda Ridgeline redefines the word 'truck'

BY JEANNIE OWENS-WALLACE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

For Canadians who want a light-duty truck that can get the job done and fit nicely with their urban lifestyle, the 2009 Honda Ridgeline is it.

"Honda made the Ridgeline to be a tough, well-built truck that is safe and still fun to drive," says David Glabais, sales manager at Campus Honda.

Enhanced for 2009 with chiseled detailing, the Ridgeline's stocky build has a refined edge and misses a bit of the "been there, done that, lived it" genetics that might otherwise scream "outback trustworthy."

Leaving aside traditional truck-like attributes, the Ridgeline forges a different direction in performance and versatility.

The remarkably sophisticated, car-like ride of the Ridgeline (if it wasn't for the larger frame, it'd be easy to think I was driving a sedan) is blended with kick-butt capability when needed.

Honda ensures that the Ridgeline is tough by giving it a heavy-duty unibody design which sits on a lower ladder frame. The Ridgeline's front and rear independent suspension offers superior rigidity and extra comfort.

Plus, the Ridgeline is outfitted with a 3.5-litre V-6 engine for 250 horsepower and 247 torque lb-ft @4300 rpm, for plenty of power. Coupling a high-output performing V6 with a reinforced frame stretches the Ridgeline's capabilities to meet a high degree of work and play.

Maximized power with optimized efficiency and lower emissions from Honda's VTEC engine is another bonus with the Ridgeline.

RIDGELINE continued on B13



Honda's 2009 Ridgeline: 'fun to drive!'

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ISLAND WHEELS

Lots of pluses in new Honda truck

RIDGELINE
continued from B12

Generally the Ridgeline runs in two-wheel drive and has a proactive four-wheel drive system with four modes of operation. At the detection of slippage to any wheel, power is introduced through a torque system to provide control to all four wheels for immediate traction. Full-time four-wheel drive can be locked in for more aggressive conditions, however, only in first, second and reverse, and when the vehicle is operated below 29 km.

Consumer Reports recommends the Ridgeline by stating, "It is capable in most off-road

conditions, and with 5,000-pound towing capacity the Ridgeline fits between most compact and full-sized trucks."

The Ridgeline also has enhanced transmission capabilities, for the highest tow rating of any Honda vehicle, and comes with a tow-hitch package included.

Safety on the Ridgeline includes four-wheel anti-lock brakes; dual-stage front airbags, front side airbags and side curtain airbags; the LATCH car seat system for kids in the second row; and stability control with traction control.

Nifty for the truck bed is a steel-reinforced composite cargo box with a secure in-bed trunk (fully sealed with a plug for draining if

it's used as a cooler) and a back gate that folds down or swings open to make the Ridgeline that much more versatile.

Inside there are lots of storage spaces and easy fold-down 60/40 split rear seats for extra cargo.

Despite a monochromatic impression, the interior of the Ridgeline has soft-textured panels, cushiony seats and (on the EX-L level I was in) leather-trimmed accents.

Bottom line: the 2009 Honda Ridgeline offers all the comforts, adequate power and stylishness fitting my family's lifestyle, which might be reason enough to adjust to Honda's new definition of a "real" truck.

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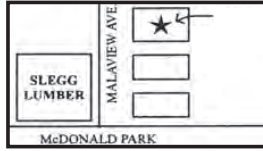


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Province amends Motor Vehicle Act

Recent Motor Vehicle Act amendments include a new penalty for fraud related to B.C.'s new high-security driver's licence and identification card, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General announced last week.

As well, the same fraud

penalties will apply to the enhanced driver's licence (EDL) and identification cards (EIC), which will be introduced later this year to enable travel to the U.S. by land or water without a passport.

New fines of \$400 to \$20,000 could come on top

of an existing maximum six months' imprisonment.

The purpose of these changes is to prevent all these documents, which are trusted forms of government-endorsed photo identification, from being fraudulently obtained or used.



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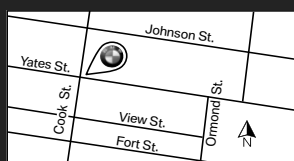
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| 2610 | 535i Twin Turbo White/Black | \$77,295 | \$20,000 | \$57,295 |
| 2679 | Z4 3.0 si Black/Black | \$63,895 | \$15,000 | \$48,895 |

2008 Dealer Demonstrators

| Stock # | Model | MSRP | Savings | Now* |
|---------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2675 | X5 3.0 White/Black, 10,000 kms | \$54,695 | \$14,700 | \$39,995 |
| 2904 | 323iA White/Black, 9,200 kms | \$41,395 | \$8,000 | \$33,395 |
| 2873 | 323iA Silver/Black, 5,400 kms | \$40,595 | \$8,000 | \$32,395 |



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†Lease and finance rates are those offered by BMW Financial Services Canada only on approved credit (OAC). Lease and finance examples are based on the MSRP of a 2009 BMW 323i with an automatic transmission including freight and PDI (\$1995) \$38,495. Lease example: 3.9% for a 48-month lease and a \$3,995 down payment, each monthly payment is \$398. Total obligation is \$23,251.92 plus tax. The residual value of the vehicle at end of term is \$17,155. Annual kilometres limited to 20,000; \$0.15 per excess kilometre. Excess wear-and-tear charges may apply. Finance example: 2.9% for a 60 month term based on a principal of \$38,495 and a \$5,000 down payment, each monthly payment is \$600. Total obligation is \$41,022 plus tax. Cost of borrowing is \$2,527. Offers require Retailer participation. First month's lease/finance payment, a security deposit of approximately one month's lease/finance payment, A/C excise tax (\$100), a PPSA registration fee of \$53, Retailer administration charges (if any), and all taxes are extra and required upon signing. Retailers are free to set individual prices and charge administration fees, which may change the APR or the price of the vehicle. †Offer applies to all 2009 3 Series Sedan and Touring models excluding Diesel and M3 models. No cash equivalent available. Offer expires March 31, 2009. Delivery must be taken by March 31, 2009. Offer is subject to availability and may be cancelled or changed without notice. Certain conditions apply. See Victoria BMW for full details. DL#2422.

*BASE MSRP includes msrp, freight and delivery. "Now" prices are cash only and are subject to availability and may be cancelled or changed without notice. Licence, insurance, taxes and vehicle registration are extra. Please see Victoria BMW for full details. DL#2422.

ISLAND WHEELS

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

BC Transit hosts first double-deck hybrid bus on Victoria test runs

New technology given a ride

North America's first hybrid double-deck bus debuted in Victoria last week.

According to a BC Transit press release, the Enviro500H hybrid double-deck bus, manufactured by Alexander Dennis, will be placed on various routes to test the vehicle's performance and reliability, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and savings in fuel economy while in service mode.

"BC Transit has a long history of leadership and innovation

when it comes to technology and environmental stewardship, including the testing and use of alternate fuels," said Manuel Achadinha, BC Transit president and CEO. "We are delighted that Alexander Dennis has partnered with BC Transit to test their newest hybrid."

"We have high expectations for this bus. With the price of fuel and increased traffic congestion, hybrid technology takes double decks to a new level," said Stephen Walsh, vice president of Alexander Dennis. "Given that BC Transit was the first to introduce the double decks to North

America, it was the most logical choice to launch our hybrid version with them in Victoria."

Delegates from Mexico City and its Secretary of Transportation also visited Victoria to view the bus and learn of BC Transit's double-deck operations in Victoria.

BC Transit was the first to purchase production hybrid electric buses in Canada, which still operate in Kelowna and Victoria today.

Alexander Dennis is the world leader in double-deck technology, with fleets throughout Europe, Asia, and North America.

VEHICLE INSURANCE

Stable, reduced rates announced

Income down but financial situation OK

ICBC is reducing optional rates by three per cent and basic rates are expected to remain the same in 2009.

"We are very pleased to be able to reduce optional rates by an average of three per cent, and preliminary indications are that basic insurance rates

will stay the same," said Jon Schubert, ICBC's president and CEO, in a press release. "We are working on the final recommendation on basic rates for the British Columbia Utilities Commission."

This means customers who have purchased the same basic and optional policies from ICBC over the last five years have, on average, seen their premiums go down.

ICBC is reporting net income of \$497 million

for the year ending December 31, 2008, down \$145 million or 23 per cent from the previous year.

"Despite the drop in net income, ICBC's financial performance was strong thanks to a moderation in claims and the corporation's disciplined investment strategy."

"ICBC's conservative investment strategy generated a rate of return of just over one per cent in 2008 during one of the most dif-

ficult economic times in memory."

"Our strong financial position allows us to both reduce rates and contribute more to our retained earnings which will continue to cushion customers' rates during these volatile economic times," said Schubert.

ICBC thanks its customers who are doing their part by driving safely and reducing crashes to help keep rates low and stable.



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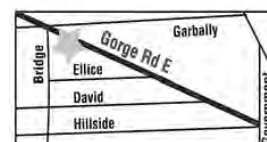
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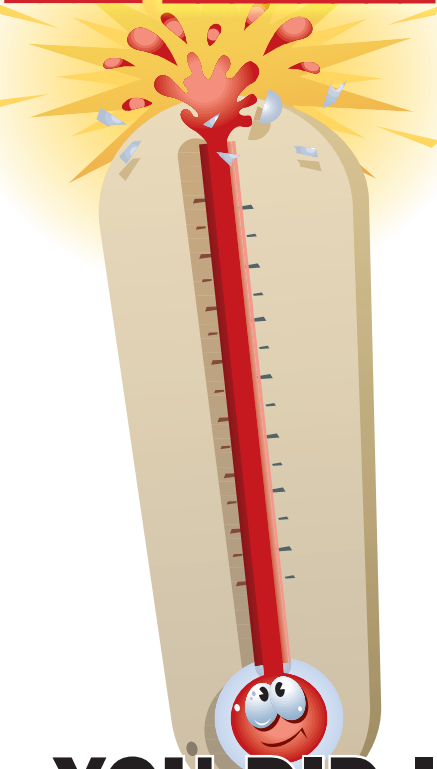
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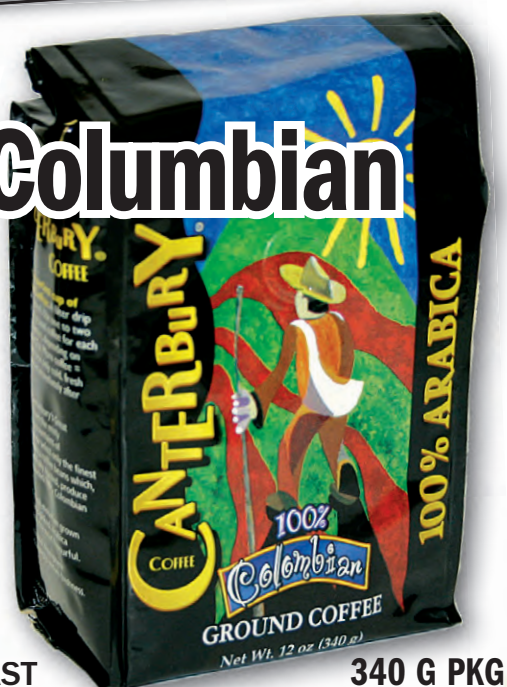
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What's for Dinner?

TUSCAN BEAN BRUSCHETTA

Short cuts to cooking for one or two © 2009 with Sarah Lynn

Tuscany is located in central Italy where the varied and hilly landscape creates many micro-climates where wine production thrives. This variety in climate results in a wide array of spectacular wines. Tuscan wine is present, even today, at virtually every meal. In addition, Tuscany is known for its rich history, art, beautiful estates, delicious food and superb vintage. Tuscany is also home to many scenic hill towns. Tuscany's traditional cuisine is known as "La Cucina Povera Toscana" which is the tuscan peasant's cuisine (essentially country cooking). Each cuisine, with its regional flavor, tells the story of the land, history and people. Taking basic ingredients and combining them can make a simple and yet tasty treat to share with all your friends. So close your eyes and take a tasty trip with me...you won't even have to leave the kitchen.

In a bowl combine **4 chopped sun dried tomatoes, 1/4 cup wine or cooking wine, 1 can beans** of your choice drained, **4 cloves minced garlic, 1 can chopped tomatoes drained, 2 tablespoons olive oil**, the **juice of 1 lemon, 1/4 cup chopped Italian parsley and 2 tablespoons oregano**. Toss all ingredients together, chill and serve with crispy crackers or baguette.

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