



All wet
Folks take the plunge at Fulford and Vesuvius.
PAGE 2

Margo abroad
Salt Spring youth talks about experience in Ghana.
PAGE 4

\$125
(incl. GST)



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, January 6, 2010 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 50TH YEAR — ISSUE 1



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

ROCKING NEW YEAR'S: Harry Manx is the man of the midnight hour as he performs to a full house at Fulford Hall on New Year's Eve. The event served as a benefit for the Wolf Kids educational program on Salt Spring Island.

FIRE

Quick action stops fire in its tracks

Ganges pasta shop re-opens today

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Storing paper products next to a pot light in a closet caused a minor fire at Pasta Fresca del Vecchio last Thursday morning.

Salt Spring firefighters were called to the Gasoline Alley/Restaurant Row establishment at 8:26 a.m., where they quickly extinguished the flames and removed smouldering materials from the building.

Business co-owner Carly Goring said it was fortunate the fire was stopped before it could spread throughout the building that houses several businesses.

"We're really lucky I was down here when it started," she said.

With a fire extinguisher she was able to prevent the fire in the ceiling from growing beyond the kitchen area.

In addition to the impact of the extinguisher chemicals, Salt Spring Fire Chief Tom Bremner said the premises suffered damage only from smoke and a one-foot-square burned area in the ceiling.

Bremner said very little water was used and firefighters were at the scene for about an hour.

No one was injured in the incident.

Following an intensive, top-to-bottom clean-up operation with the aid of a fire-restoration specialist company, Goring said the business will be open today (Wednesday).

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Gulf Islands land values take a dip

Trend differs from province-wide stats that saw an overall increase in property values

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Property values for the Gulf Islands dropped an average of 1.9 per cent from last year, according to 2010 assessment data for single family dwellings issued by BC Assessment on Monday.

Gulf Islands assessment rolls for 2010 showed an average property value of \$407,494 versus \$415,392 in 2009. This trend differs from the provincial roll that saw an increase of 1.7 per cent.

A detailed breakdown of Gulf Islands prop-

erty assessments is in a graph on Page 2.

Magic Lake waterfront properties on Pender Island saw the most significant drop at 21.5 per cent, while the Salt Spring north waterfront saw the largest per cent increase at 11.1 per cent.

That data contrasts with real estate sales comparisons between 2009 and 2008, as reported by Tom Navratil on Page 4 of this paper, but the two items are not directly comparable.

Among Gulf Islands properties, average values are highest for Salt Spring North waterfront at \$1,103,166 and the lowest for Saturna non-waterfront at \$267,092.

Gulf Islands property owners can expect to see their notices in the mail any day if they haven't already received them. Property owners who disagree with their assessment can file for an appeal by Feb. 1, 2010.

"Property owners who feel that their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2009 or see incorrect information on their notice should contact the BC Assessment office indicated on their notice as soon as possible in January," says Rick McMahon, deputy assessor for BC Assessment.

For more information, including assessment values for other properties, see www.bcassessment.ca.

ASSESSMENTS continued on 2

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NEWSBEAT

TRADITIONS

Polar bear swimmers display love of event

Fine weather graces 2010 plunges

Informal New Year's Day polar bear swims at Vesuvius Beach and Fulford provided lots of fun as usual.

While no numbers were recorded at Vesuvius Beach, many more people participated than were expected, since the event was not formally promoted.

Swimmers continued to take the plunge even after the 11:05 a.m. jump-in time, said organizer Ellen Ross.

"It was awesome. The water wasn't even that cold," said Ross, although she admitted she just jumped in and out. "Way more people than what we expected to show up, showed up."

Ross and co-swimmer Cindy Clark have agreed to take on the responsibility of organizing a more formal event for Jan. 1, 2011.

Meanwhile, down at Secret Beach in Fulford Harbour, six souls



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Ellen Ross makes a hasty exit from the water in last Friday's annual Polar Bear Swim at Vesuvius Beach.

jumped into the water at noon.

John Rowlandson said the tide was up, but not so high as to prevent the crucial run-

ning start.

The weather also cooperated.

"Rain clouds gave way to an unexpected break and we had blue

skies and sun for the few minutes that it took us to come and go from the freezing and curative waters of Fulford Harbour."

The event was "punctuated as always" by his wife Margaret O'Hara's "ultra thick and splendiferous hot chocolate."

Gulf Islands average assessments: 2009 vs. 2010

ASSESSMENTS

continued from 1

A change in property assessment figures doesn't necessarily predict what will happen with a property owner's ultimate tax bill, issued in May.

That's because various taxing authorities, from the Capital Regional District to the Islands Trust to the provincial government — which sets the rural area and school district rates — have not yet passed budgets and/or made the 2010 mill rates public at this point.

Property	2009 Assessment	2010 Assessment	% Change
Salt Spring North End Non Waterfront	\$451,843	\$458,039	↑1.4%
Salt Spring South End Non Waterfront	\$436,121	\$405,747	↓7.0%
Salt Spring North Waterfront	\$993,053	\$1,103,166	↑11.1%
Salt Spring South Waterfront	\$811,802	\$890,167	↑9.7%
Galiano Non Waterfront	\$402,050	\$346,663	↓13.8%
Galiano Waterfront	\$749,468	\$674,763	↓10.0%
Mayne Non Waterfront	\$313,103	\$299,904	↓4.2%
Mayne Waterfront	\$649,527	\$551,351	↓15.1%
Saturna Non Waterfront	\$249,585	\$267,092	↑7.0%
Saturna Waterfront	\$571,064	\$502,344	↓12.0%
Pender Non Waterfront (Magic Lake)	\$297,978	\$305,768	↑2.6%
Pender Waterfront (Magic Lake)	\$706,317	\$554,163	↓21.5%
Piers Island	\$600,609	\$599,747	↓0.1%



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TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT
	m		ft
JAN 06	02:02 1.4 4.6	10 03:52 3.1 10.2	
WE	09:26 3.6 11.8	SU 06:47 3.0 9.8	
	16:36 1.5 4.9	11:23 3.3 10.8	
	22:20 2.3 7.5	19:52 0.6 2.0	
07	02:45 1.9 6.2	11 04:38 3.3 10.8	
TH	09:54 3.6 11.8	MO 08:43 3.1 10.2	
	17:30 1.2 3.9	12:03 3.2 10.5	
		20:34 0.5 1.6	
08	00:41 2.5 8.2	12 05:17 3.4 11.2	
FR	03:36 2.4 7.9	TU 09:59 3.1 10.2	
	10:22 3.5 11.5	12:51 3.2 10.5	
	18:20 0.9 3.0	21:14 0.5 1.6	
09	02:43 2.8 9.2		
SA	04:53 2.8 9.2		
	10:50 3.4 11.2		
	19:07 0.7 2.3		

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Newsbeat

Heads up!

PARC meeting

Monday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.

Portlock portable

PARKS AND RECREATION

PARC seeks public input on its 10-year plan

Better trails, water access, sports fields and pool expansion on the table

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

As 2010 begins to unfold, one of the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission's tasks is completion of a new strategic plan — a document to guide PARC activities in the next decade or more.

PARC hopes islanders have had a chance to look at the consultant's proposed strategic plan report — or at least the executive summary — online, at the PARC office or the Salt Spring library with the aim of providing feedback on it by Jan. 15. Later in the month the commission intends to talk about the report and the input received so it can create a final plan.

Open house sessions at the end of November saw interested islanders take in a presentation at Lions Hall from plan consultant Bob Yates of Yates, Thorn and Associates of Victoria, where the path to creating the plan and some of its recommended strategies were outlined.

Among the strategies are:

- To focus on ocean and lake access as the key element in expanding the island's "passive park" system.
- To continue developing trails for walking, biking, and the Ganges linear park/boardwalk.
- To increase the capacity for sports activity by developing a Portlock Park expansion plan and investigating options for increased use of school fields.
- An increase in PARC's operating budget from \$1.95 million in 2009 to \$2.1 million in 2010 and \$2.25 million to create reserve funds for improved trails, pool expansion, other strategic plan aims and increased grants to community groups.

Yates also praised the "lovely" new Rainbow Road Pool in his public presentation, but has recommended its expansion in the next five to 10 years. He said an increase in revenue from a therapeutic and fitness facility component would offset the capital investment.

"When you look at other facilities . . . the most economical combination is a pool that serves as many people as possible and a fitness facility."

Wendy Rosier, the current president of the indoor pool society Ssplash, praised the work of PARC staff and volunteer commissioners so far on the plan.

"I personally have only seen the summary, but as it applies to the pool, I am impressed and in agreement," she said. "If Phase 2 is designed correctly — incorporating



aspects of health, wellness and fitness along with play and learning — it will maximize the recreation opportunities for a broader number of islanders and, in doing so, help to minimize the operating costs."

Importance of partnerships with other community groups is also stressed in various sections of the document.

"It's interesting that the [island's] seniors and youth centres are run by non-profits," observed Yates at the open house.

But some wording in the report related to building rela-

tionships with partner groups was of concern to at least one representative of those groups. Rob Grant, executive director of Salt Spring Community Services, which runs the Core Inn Youth Centre, said some of the language was "PARC-centric" and he didn't like the feel of that.

"The beauty of partnerships is that they are greater than the sum of their parts," he said.

For more information about the proposed strategic plan, contact the PARC office at 250-537-4448, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road or parc@saltspring.com, or visit www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-parc/strategicplan/workshop.htm.

A public survey provided some of the input for the strategic plan. Some 2,000 surveys were mailed randomly in April of 2009, with only 377 returned. Consultant Bob Yates said he was disappointed with such a low return rate but that the results yielded nothing surprising when compared to similar surveys done in other communities.

Some survey results were:

- Improved trails for walking and biking, water accesses and parks for green space topped the list of preferred amenity additions or enhancements. At least 70 per cent

of respondents were supportive or very supportive.

- Parks for activities such as disc golf or lawn bowling were supported by 49 per cent but opposed by 19 per cent.
- Expanding the Rainbow Road Pool received 48 per cent support and 30 per cent opposition.
- An ice arena garnered support of 31 per cent and was opposed by 48 per cent.
- Higher taxes for improved services and amenities were supported by 66 per cent of respondents and opposed by 22 per cent.

The views of islanders aged 55 to 74 were over-represented in the survey with 58 per cent of respondents in that age category, when only 37 per cent of residents are in that age bracket, according to 2006 census data. Only 12 per cent of respondents were between 20 and 44 years of age (compared to 26 per cent of the island's population).

Almost one quarter of survey respondents had children living at home, which is close to the 27.7 per cent of Salt Spring households with children as recorded by the 2006 census.

News briefs

Drinkers disturb peace on NYE

Salt Spring drivers took the responsible route on New Year's Eve, according to local police road checks.

RCMP officers were, however, kept busy with several

other alcohol-related calls for service on Dec. 31.

- RCMP answered a call for assistance from a 47-year-old Salt Spring male in Centennial Park.

After attending the call, police then received 911 phone calls from the same individual seeking unrelated assistance.

Upon further atten-

dance, the man was found to be intoxicated and was arrested for breaching the peace.

He was held until sober the following morning.

- A report was received of an intoxicated male standing in the middle of Rainbow Road stopping traffic. When police approached, the man was found to be

intoxicated and unable to care for himself.

He was arrested for causing a disturbance and held until sober the following morning.

- A report of an intoxicated male refusing to leave a liquor establishment was attended by RCMP.

The man was gone on arrival, but then located in

the parking lot across the street.

The 55-year-old Salt Spring male was arrested and issued a violation ticket for being intoxicated in a public place, and was detained overnight.

- Detachment jail cells were further populated by a 23-year-old Salt Spring male found intoxicated in Ganges

on New Year's Eve.

- Just before midnight, police were called to assist ambulance personnel at a house party where a 16-year-old female youth was passed out in the bedroom, apparently suffering from alcohol poisoning.

The youth was transported to the hospital and her parents were advised.

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NEWSBEAT

VOLUNTEERISM

Teen goes overseas for volunteer work

Three months in Ghana helps set career direction

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

For people who aren't sure what path in life to take, 18-year-old Margo Milton has some advice: volunteer with an NGO.

Newly returned from three months in Ghana, the Gulf Islands Secondary School graduate can be viewed as taking an alternate version of the British "gap year," in which young people take a year to see the world and learn about themselves before starting university.

But while many gap years revolve around beaches and beer halls, so far Milton's has been more about bricks and bandages. Her volunteer work in Africa has immersed her in another culture and cemented her personal goals in the process.

Milton's journey was initially inspired by a visiting speaker at GISS, who talked about working with an NGO in Malawi. Although Milton interviewed with the group, as a graduating student she found the cost of participating was financially out of the question.

Research led her instead to Projects Abroad, an organization that links volunteers with work and destinations according to their interests.

As its website explains, Projects Abroad "sends over 6,000 high schoolers, university students and professionals on short-term international service projects each year."

While Milton was still thinking of going to Malawi when she looked into the organization, she found there were just two African countries with projects she could apply for. Email correspondence with a woman in Ghana helped convince her to get that country a try.

Milton's first project in the town of Cape Coast, Ghana was to help build a school. She also did some teaching on the days when building work wasn't happening. She lived with a host family, along with three other volunteers, in an atmosphere she describes as extremely welcoming.

"It is very different [in Africa] in terms



Margo Milton at an orphanage in Ghana.

of the things they don't have, obviously, but also in the way they live their lives," Milton said of her experience.

"They're very happy with what they have, and everyone is very friendly. It's very friendly over there."

Milton said her host family members were careful to give the volunteers the space they know Westerners sometimes need, but were instantly responsive if she opened conversation. Raising three children of their own, the host mother is the head teacher of an all-girls school and the father has just started a new NGO.

After helping build the school, Milton's main project was working at the accident and emergency wing of the local hospital. Her previous experience at Lady Minto, first during a work-experience week in Grade 10 and then through volunteer candy stripping, was probably no comparison to the responsibilities she enjoyed in Africa.

Milton's jobs in emergency included inserting patients' IVs and taking blood samples, as well as generally helping the nurses in any way possible.

"Every day there was something new to learn, and they let you do so much hands-on stuff they would never let you do anywhere else. It helped me decide I really do want to go into medicine," Milton said.

For Milton, her time working at the hospital was the obvious highlight of the trip, but meeting the local Ghanaians and the international volunteers was another valuable aspect.

As might be expected, while most of Milton's time abroad was "amazing," she did also witness Africa's darker side. In her first few weeks in Ghana a share taxi or "tro-tro" van crashed right in front of her and the driver crawled out covered in blood and glass. Milton also got a scare when she and three other female volunteers were mugged walking home along a dangerous stretch of road. She lost little more than a phone, but was understandably shaken.

Despite those shadows, however, Milton said the decision to volunteer overseas "was the best thing" and definitely recommends it for others.

"I'm so glad I chose to do that. If you're not sure what you want to do or you have something in mind, there's something out there for everyone."

Milton said it is a good idea to contact a volunteer already working in the country you plan to visit: "Get all your questions answered before you go because everyone is willing to help." Once there, the best thing to do is "forget about being homesick and just put yourself right into the experience — you'll get so much more out of it."

With her African experience as inspiration, Milton is currently looking into doing a refresher year in science at a Canadian university before applying for a pre-med program in England next year.

People interested in participating in volunteer programs in Africa or elsewhere can visit www.projects-abroad.ca for details on current projects and requirements for Canadians.

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Riders Guide

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

2 Fulford Harbour

Monday - Saturday

Direction	Station	Time
L.V. Visitor Info Centre	L.V. Cusheon Lake Rd.	7:10
	L.V. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	7:16
	L.V. Park 'N' Ride, Fulford	7:23
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	7:27
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	7:30
L.V. Visitor Info Centre	L.V. Cusheon Lake Rd.	7:40
	L.V. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	7:47
	L.V. Park 'N' Ride, Fulford	7:54
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	8:00
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	8:00
L.V. Visitor Info Centre	L.V. Cusheon Lake Rd.	9:10
	L.V. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	9:16
	L.V. Park 'N' Ride, Fulford	9:23
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	9:27
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	9:30
L.V. Visitor Info Centre	L.V. Cusheon Lake Rd.	11:10
	L.V. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	11:16
	L.V. Park 'N' Ride, Fulford	11:23
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	11:27
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	11:30
L.V. Visitor Info Centre	L.V. Cusheon Lake Rd.	3:10
	L.V. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	3:16
	L.V. Park 'N' Ride, Fulford	3:23
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	3:27
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	3:30
L.V. Visitor Info Centre	L.V. Cusheon Lake Rd.	5:10
	L.V. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	5:16
	L.V. Park 'N' Ride, Fulford	5:23
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	5:27
	Ar. Fulford Harbour	5:30

M-F Trip operates Monday to Friday only.

3 Vesuvius

Monday - Saturday

Direction	Station	Time
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Portlock Park	6:30
	Ar. Vesuvius	6:37
	L.V. Vesuvius	6:45
	L.V. Portlock Park	6:57
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	7:03
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Portlock Park	8:30
	Ar. Vesuvius	8:37
	L.V. Vesuvius	8:45
	L.V. Portlock Park	8:57
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	9:03
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Portlock Park	12:10
	Ar. Vesuvius	12:17
	L.V. Vesuvius	12:25
	L.V. Portlock Park	12:40
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	12:53
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Portlock Park	3:30
	Ar. Vesuvius	3:37
	L.V. Vesuvius	3:45
	L.V. Portlock Park	3:57
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	4:10
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Portlock Park	4:30
	Ar. Vesuvius	4:37
	L.V. Vesuvius	4:45
	L.V. Portlock Park	4:57
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	5:10

M-F Trip operates Monday to Friday only.

c - Combined route: Trip routes from Ganges via 1 Ganges Local & continues as 3 Vesuvius.

5 Fernwood

Monday - Saturday

Direction	Station	Time
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar./L.V. Fernwood Dock	10:30
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	10:43
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	11:00
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar./L.V. Fernwood Dock	2:30
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	2:43
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	3:00
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar./L.V. Fernwood Dock	6:05c
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	6:38
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	6:53

M-F Trip operates Monday to Friday only.

c - Combined route: Trip routes from Ganges via 1 Ganges Local & continues as 3 Vesuvius.

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BUS INFORMATION

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4 Long Harbour

Monday - Saturday

Direction	Station	Time
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar./L.V. Long Harbour	1:15
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	1:25
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	1:35
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar./L.V. Long Harbour	SAT 1:50
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	2:00
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	2:10
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar./L.V. Long Harbour	M-S 3:00
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	3:10
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	3:20

M-F Trip operates Monday to Friday only.

SAT Trip operates Saturday only.

M-S Trip operates Monday to Saturday.

1 Ganges Local

Monday - Saturday

Direction	Station	Time
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Meadowbrook	8:05
	L.V. Hospital	8:08
	L.V. Brinkworthy Place	8:11
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	8:15
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	8:22
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Meadowbrook	10:05
	L.V. Hospital	10:08
	L.V. Brinkworthy Place	10:11
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	10:15
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	10:22
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Meadowbrook	12:55
	L.V. Hospital	12:58
	L.V. Brinkworthy Place	1:01
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	1:05
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	1:12
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Meadowbrook	2:10
	L.V. Hospital	2:13
	L.V. Brinkworthy Place	2:16
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	2:20
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	2:27
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Meadowbrook	4:05
	L.V. Hospital	4:08
	L.V. Brinkworthy Place	4:11
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	4:15
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	4:22
L.V. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	L.V. Meadowbrook	6:05
	L.V. Hospital	6:08
	L.V. Brinkworthy Place	6:11
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	6:15c
	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	-

c - Combined route: Continues as 3 Vesuvius & 5 Fernwood. Drop off only at Brinkworthy Place.

REAL ESTATE

Despite increased sales activity in 2009, prices drop 10-25% from previous year

Prediction for 2010 is for more optimism

BY TOM NAVRATIL
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The year 2009 was an interesting one for real estate on Salt Spring. Preceded by a quiet period from June 2008 to about April 2009, it developed into a relatively active year.

Total sales were 188 properties as compared to 172 in 2008. However, historically, an average "good" year would be about 250 properties sold.

The remarkable difference from 2008 is that in 2009 about 65 per cent of all residential non-waterfront detached homes sold for under \$500,000, as compared

to 38 per cent the previous year. This is of course easily explained. With the unprecedented low interest rates, coupled with lower prices and long amortization periods, many properties once again became relatively affordable. In this category, 117 properties sold as compared to 100 in 2008. The problem is that such a demographic shift tends to distort the neat science of stats numbers. i.e. the median sale price value for this sector dropped by 20 per cent from last year (the average sale price by 17 per cent). The oceanfront SFD homes look even worse: a 36 per cent drop in the median sale price and 46 per cent in the average.

So how much did the market really drop? When we compare 2009 and 2008 selling prices, the general consensus is that in the under-\$500,000 category the prices likely dropped in the 10 to 12 per cent range, and between 15 to 25 per cent in the luxury market. The least expensive home on the island sold for \$249,000 and there were 19 homes that sold for under \$350,000.

On the other side of the scale, the most expensive home sold for \$2.6 million (and guess what, it was not a waterfront!), followed by three waterfront properties with sale prices between \$1.8 to \$1.85 million. A total of 12 properties sold for over \$1 million as compared to 17 last

year and 18 in 2007.

The forecast? More than likely the year 2010 will bring a similar market except with somewhat increased optimism and more certainty as to the state of the world's economy.

The unknown factor is the possibility of a gradual interest rate increase after mid-summer and the implementation of the HST, even though it will only apply to new homes and subdivided land.

The Olympics? In my opinion, no net result, up or down.

The writer is a realtor with Royal LePage Salt Spring who contributes the Property Lines column on real estate matters to the Driftwood.



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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CHIPPER DAY: Bruce and Natalie Mills help son and tree chipping business owner Cal Mills chip Christmas trees in the Country Grocer parking lot last Sunday. Half of the proceeds went to the food bank.

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LIVING STRONG STUDIO

COMMUNITY GOODWILL

'Angels' create joy-filled dinner event

Islander appreciates all who contributed

For one Salt Spring woman, the gratitude she felt after hosting a Christmas Day dinner for 11 community members exemplified what the Christmas season is all about.

"It was a miraculous time," she said. "They were wonderful guests."

Known simply as "The Cookie Lady," she invited

several homeless individuals to her home on Dec. 26 when she learned only one other community dinner was happening on the island this year.

But, as she explained to the Driftwood, she was not able to accomplish the task alone, so she called on a number of "angels," who made the event possible.

Firstly, she asked for assistance from members of the Copper Kettle Community Partnership, who approached

Country Grocer manager Paul Large about providing turkey dinner for the event. He generously agreed to do so.

Other donations came from Pharmasave, Saltspring Soapworks, Harlan's Chocolates, Island Star Video, Barb's Buns, Salt Spring Natureworks and Salt Spring Coffee — specifically the cafe's Louise Goodman, who donated two days' worth of tips.

Four much-appreciated "sleigh drivers" provided transportation for the din-

ner guests, or "elves," who the host said also deserve much thanks for their work in creating the dinner itself.

The whole event was joy-filled and helped her see the value of reaching out and expressing goodwill towards our brothers and sisters on the street.

"Once the idea was there it was a matter of asking everyone and I didn't have to ask twice. What an incredible community we have here," she said.

NEW YEAR'S BABY

First Salt Spring Island baby wastes no time greeting 2010

Oliver Henry Friesen born Jan. 1

The first baby born to Salt Spring parents in 2010 arrived at 7:52 a.m. on Jan. 1, to Danna-Rae and Brent Friesen.

Baby Oliver Henry Friesen was born at Victoria General Hospital, weighing 6.9 lbs. and measuring 20 inches long.

Baby, mom and dad were reported to be doing well while staying in Victoria to recuperate.

Dad is a constable with the Salt Spring RCMP detachment and mom is a nurse at Lady Minto Hospital.

As the New Year baby, Oliver and his parents will receive a number



Oliver Henry Friesen was the first baby born to island parents in 2010.

of gifts donated by local businesses.

Gifts will also be given to the first baby born at Lady Minto, courtesy of the hospital auxiliary, and the first home birth of the year on Salt Spring by a group of work-at-

home moms.

The mother of Salt Spring's first baby born at home in 2009, Elsie Brown, spearheaded the new official first-baby acknowledgment.

At press time no other births had yet been reported for 2010.

What Parents Need to Know

Dear Parents,

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), given to Grade 4 and 7 students, does not count towards your child's marks. The results do not actively support your child's learning.

- FSA tests are expensive and waste money at a time when cuts are being made.
- FSA tests do not help students learn or teachers teach.
- FSA tests take valuable time away from more meaningful learning.
- The data does not provide real help to students, parents, or schools.
- The results are misused to rank schools and promote privatization.

Teachers in the Gulf Islands recommend that you write a letter to your school principal, or detach the following letter, requesting that your child be exempted from the FSA.

To learn more about your child's progress and the real assessments done in the classroom, talk to her or his teacher.

A message from the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association

Please detach and use the letter to request that your Grade 4 or 7 child be withdrawn from the January and February 2010 FSA testing.

Dear Principal,

I understand that parents may request the principal to excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, lengthy illness, or other extenuating circumstances.

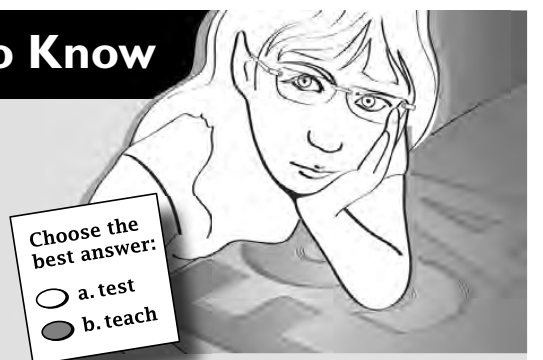
Please excuse my child, _____, from all three Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests for the following reason:

- family emergency lengthy illness
- other extenuating circumstances

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sincerely,

Parent/guardian signature



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NEWSBEAT

ENVIRONMENT

Tar sands focus of educational event

Trio of speakers at ArtSpring Jan. 16

A blockbuster, post-Copenhagen review asks if there is possible redemption for Canada with Truth, Trials and Tar Sands, a co-presentation between I-SEA and the Raven Trust scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. at ArtSpring.

Organizers say that after living through Copenhagen it is clear that the tar sands are at the top of the list of environmental factors contributing to global warming.

And there is one small band at the forefront of the fight to prevent environmental catastrophe.

The evening features presentations by Jack Woodward,

a pre-eminent authority in Aboriginal law who will talk about the Beaver Lake Cree legal action and how it can stop the expansion of the tar sands (www.raventrust.com); James Hoggan, who will discuss his highly acclaimed book Climate Cover-Up (www.desmogblog.com/climate-cover-up); and Alan Bibby, a filmmaker premiering excerpts

from his documentary Liquid Truth (www.media-group.com/).

A reception follows a book signing by Mr. Hoggan. Participants are invited to stay for a chance to speak with presenters.

Admission is \$20 or \$10 students/seniors.

Proceeds will help the Raven Trust continue its work.

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in the next Salt Spring Island Directory, complete a "Change of Information Card" located in the last page of the current phone book.

Drop off boxes are located at the Bank of Montreal, Credit Union or outside the office door at the Lions Hall at 103 Bonnet Ave.

Alternatively, you can send us an email with information change to lionsdirectory@telus.net. We do not get automatic changes from Telus or Shaw. Deadline for changes or advertising is February 12, 2009.

We'll take it from there!



Hitchhike hand signals — a guide for island drivers

Q. Because I live off a road fairly close to town, I've always wondered what the proper signal is to give to hitchhikers waiting by Embe Bakery to let them know I am only travelling a short distance (and not going to Fulford). Usually I gesture with my thumb and first finger, indicating a small amount, hoping they'll understand I'm not ignoring them . . . but is this understood by most?

Meghan Howcroft, Salt Spring Island

A. Being the hitchhiking mecca we are here on Salt Spring Island, it stands to reason that we have a comprehensive sign language to

go along with it. Some drivers are comfortable staring straight ahead while whizzing past; others want to communicate out of respect for the laid back, trusting hitchhiking culture our island is famous for.

After surveying locals who hitchhike as their primary means of travel on the island, the following four driver hand signals were dubbed the most commonly used ones — the first is the one mentioned by Meghan and it is indeed generally understood.

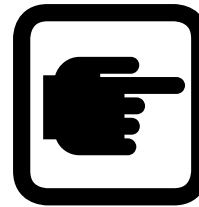


DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY AMY GEDDES

Hopeful hitchhiker seen in December of 2008.



Only going a short distance



Turning right soon (when flipped it means turning left)



Too full



Whoopsie doodle? (a miscellaneous signal that is open to interpretation)

I have labelled the hand signals above, but on the street they don't seem to have official names; hitchhiking is predominantly an art of the visual.

But in the small window of drive-by time, hand signals



Amy Geddes

YOUASKED

READ THE BLOG AT WWW.GULFISLANDS.NET/WORDPRESS

can often be misinterpreted. The whoopsie doodle, for example, is a frequent gesture drivers use, according to local hitchhiker Daniel Mattingly, who says he is never quite sure what drivers intend this to mean.

"I can't stop," for whatever reason, is what he gathers it says. Although its meaning is unclear for him, it is at least a courteous acknowledgment of the hitchhikers' existence that is much appreciated.

The top three reasons drivers give for not picking up hitchhikers, according to Digihitch.com, are as follows:

- risk of personal assault or theft;
- the driver is not in

the mood to make conversation or deal with supposed uncomfortable factors (in some cases, the hitchhiker's smell or dirtiness, risk of being asked for money or otherwise propositioned, etc.);

• the hitchhiker is standing at a place where it is not safe for a car to stop.

With hand signals, drivers can communicate various reasons for not stopping, but whether or not their reasons are genuine is always suspect.

Mattingly says a driver once flashed him the "short-distance" signal at the Ganges hill, only to see him a few minutes later in Fulford after Mattingly had hitched a ride with someone else.

Think this hitchhiking hand signal glossary is incomplete? Post your descriptions of other signs on the blog or email your comments to ageddes@gulfislands.net.

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Contractor's DIRECTORY

WHO'S WHO IN CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

2ND ANNUAL - A special supplement containing listings, advertisements and complementary editorial for Island contractors. You'll get lots of exposure in this directory - in print and on-line, when you purchase an ad - you will receive a free listing. The Contractor's Directory will also be on-line - connected to both Driftwood Websites.



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NEWSBEAT

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Child honouring centre opens doors

Open house on Jan. 17 at Long Harbour Road premises

BY MAUREEN MOORE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Salt Spring's newest non-profit society, the Centre for Child Honouring, invites the community to an open-house style celebration with music, information and delicious refreshments in the main lodge.

The event takes place on Sunday, Jan. 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. at 291 Long Harbour Road.

What are the "ABCs" of the centre's mission and programs?

A: Adults, especially those addressing the priority needs of the young in their most formative years, are the focus of the centre's educational component. Programs are twofold: one will train parents, educators, legislators, policy makers and other leaders toward greater awareness about the developmental needs of children and how these can be met. The centre is affiliated with the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its programs are related to every child's birthright to respectful love, nourishment and security.



The new Centre For Child Honouring on Long Harbour Road.

The second focus is restoring the health of the interconnected world in which we live. In this era of unprecedented planetary change, the Child Honouring lens offers sustainable policy choices from a "children first" perspective. Using this lens, adults can make decisions now to ensure our children inherit a livable Earth.

B. "Beluga Grads" (the millions who grew up listening to Child Honouring founder Raffi's most famous song) — many of whom are now parents — are invited to connect with each other to increase

the centre's outreach and support. Partnering with both local and international people and organizations, the centre will not duplicate the work of other non-profits.

C. Cultural Issues Concerning Children: Since physical punishment is endured by over 80 per cent of the world's children (UN Study on Violence against Children) the centre will be addressing this issue with an alternative, positive approach. This is in keeping with Child Honouring's Nonviolence principle ("First, do no harm"). The centre's programs will address many

aspects of culture harmful to children's well-being as well as those which enhance child development, such as experience of the natural world.

For those interested in additional details, Salt Spring's bookshops carry the excellent and moving anthology Child Honoring: How to Turn This World Around, edited by Raffi Cavoukian, a recipient of the Order of Canada and the UN's Earth Achievement Award, and Sharna Olman, Ph.D., Professor of Clinical and Developmental Psychology. The foreword is by the Dalai Lama.

Raffi, says, "Respect for the child as a whole person was the core value during my music career."

The Centre for Child Honouring is Raffi's legacy work now. He's not alone. A board of directors will guide the centre's work. (Three board members are from Salt Spring Island: Erin Porter, principal of Salt Spring Centre School, Eamon Murphy, managing partner of a local law firm, and Raffi himself.) See childhonouring.org for a complete list of directors and much more.

Raffi's "Covenant for Honouring Children" will be available at this free event. Come to the centre and enjoy this opening celebration with us. Everyone welcome!

Connecting Generations — Los Reyes Magos

Youth, adults and seniors needed for new project

Today's LivingLinks column is the first in a series about School District 64's new Connecting Generations project.

BY SARAH HOOK-NILSSON
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Today, Jan. 6, is 12th Night or Epiphany, a Spanish "fiesta" marking the arrival of the Three Kings in Bethlehem.

Traditionally, all over Spain, a regal and splendid procession on the eve of "Los Reyes" is followed by an exciting evening when children can finally open the gifts that have been left for them by three royal visitors while they were out of the house watching or joining in with the magnificent march.

For those who have not been "good," this can include a lump of coal, which in our day and age has become a sweet and popular punishment made by burning sugar until it is black!

In our household, after living in Spain for 13 years, we grew accustomed to celebrating a "season" of secretive giving,

LIVINGLINKS

shrouded in a magical mystery, of which El Dia de Reyes was the last in the series.

For us, the first was the arrival of the Swedish "Jultomten," the Christmas gnome with a strong resemblance to Santa Claus who has always announced himself with a loud knock at the door on Christmas Eve and the question "Are there any nice children here?" then disappeared again before my (Swedish) husband has returned from fetching something from outside.

Representing the English-speaking side of the family, I became "Mother Christmas" on chimney duty and responsible for surreptitious stocking stuffing.

Here the busy commercial season of giving may be over with the last sale of "Boxing Day Week," but this year School District 64 has an original and special "gift certificate" available throughout our school year which will, we hope, benefit the donor as much as the recipient.

Connecting Generations is School District 64's new and exciting project which

begins now with an invitation to all adults and youth who are interested in having a conversation about a skill, interest or life experience with someone of a different generation whom they might not otherwise meet.

For more information or if you are an adult interested in talking with a youth about a skill you have, a student who would like to have a conversation with an adult with whom you have an interest in common, or a senior who would be willing to share a first-hand account of a life experience, please contact Sarah Hook-Nilsson, the project's coordinator, at shooknilsson@sd64.bc.ca or call the high school at 250-537-9944.

Application forms are available electronically or by mail and every application will be followed by an interview which will take place at the high school or another mutually convenient location.

The purpose of Connecting Generations is to connect youth with adults, including seniors, in order to encourage face-to-face conversations, gifts that are given in person from hand to hand and which may be as much for those who speak as those who listen.



KELLY REGEN

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To our friends on Salt Spring!
"Thanks for stopping by."
- Geoff



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You Asked
Gulf Islanders' quandaries -- resolved.

www.gulfislands.net/wordpress
a new Q&A column and blog by Driftwood reporter Amy Geddes. See the column on page 6.


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Opinion



GOLD - Photo Essay, Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island / GOLD - Special Publication, AQUA - Gulf Islands Living
 GOLD - Feature Photo Award, under 25,000, Derrick Lundy / GOLD - Ad Design Award, Under 25,000, "Pegasus Gallery"
 GOLD - Ad Design Award, Under 25,000, Collaborative "Cardino's" / SILVER - Best All-Round Newspaper, Category C
2009 BC and Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards



GOLD - Best All-Round Newspaper, 4,000-6,499 circ.
 GOLD - Best Editorial Page, 4,000-6,499 circ. / GOLD - Best Front Page, 4,000-6,499 circ.
 SILVER - Best Local Cartoon, Circ up to 9,999, Dennis Parker
 SILVER - Best Ad Design, 4,000-12,499 circ. "Pegasus Gallery"
 BRONZE - Best Special Section, Circ. 4,000 - 12,999, AQUA
 BRONZE - Best Feature Photo, Circ. 4,000 - 12,999, Derrick Lundy
2009 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Award

EDITORIAL

An island wish list

Looking back at the Driftwood's editorial page wish list for Salt Spring for 2009, it's remarkable how much things can change in a year.

Some items on that list — from resolution of the Ganges Marina float camp issue to hiring of a regional planning manager for the Salt Spring Islands Trust office to a year free of road fatalities — came true.

As we'd expect, a new batch of issues has arisen that we hope will be dealt with in 2010.

- SS Coffee Company location. We hope an ideal spot can be found on the island for the coffee company's new roasting plant and greenhouse operation, and education centre, if feasible. As reiterated by company president Mickey McLeod recently, he and his company are trying to do the right thing for the planet and community and

shouldn't have to relocate off the island.

- BC Ferries. Let's hope something comes of Comptroller General Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland's Nov. 6, 2009 report that recommended changes to the ferry corporation's structure and improved accountability to the public.

THE ISSUE:

2010 Salt Spring wish list

WE SAY:

Islanders must apply pressure

- Salt Spring's healthcare needs study being conducted by VIHA. We're waiting patiently for community involvement, promised for this month, with the conclusions to follow soon after.

- New fire hall and ambulance station. Last year we cited a need to resolve the replacement of the Ganges fire hall following an unsuccessful land-purchase referendum in 2008. Add to that the critical need for a new spot for the ambulance station. The motel was a temporary solution only and it's been long enough already.

- Ganges library project. It may be too much to expect a glitch-free library construction process, but you never know.

- Reflective-paint road lines. Bring them back! Driftwood letter writers continue to point out serious problems caused by disappearing road lines in some parts of the island. We're inevitably looking at much pain and suffering that will be directly caused by the lack of road lines in dangerous spots such as "Rock Crusher Corner." The Ministry of Transportation is being negligent if it doesn't fix the problem now.

Several of these items require provincial government-level action. That means islanders must persuade decision-makers in Victoria to add our ills to their to-do lists for 2010.



Saving the planet from overload

BY CHRIS LEICHNER

I was reading a newspaper article the other day about using the scraps from your Christmas wrap if you are a recycler or environmentalist.

Actually, clever environmentalists don't use wrapping paper at all.

First, consider where the wrapping material comes from. I don't mean the environmental aspect, I mean the company that is making money off of your purchase. Usually it is Hallmark or Carlton or some such large corporation. Are they a subsidiary of a larger company like American Greeting Corporation?

Do you know where your money goes and what it supports?

There are alternatives that are ethical and environmental. Here are some to get you started next year.

When you purchase that bag of chips in a foil bag, simply tear down the seam and wash off the surface. Voila, you have foil wrap and it can be used more than once.

Another that I like because it keeps me on my toes throughout the year is to look for appropriate wall paper at the thrift stores.

I look for solid reds and greens or striped, and even some patterns that work.

This is great for wrapping because it is thick and doesn't tear like the cheaper wraps.

It can be used again because tape comes off cleanly.

If you can't find a good colour then just buy a roll and use the beige back side. Do some vegetable stamping on it with the kids or have a painting party.

Ethically, you are contributing to the community through the hospital auxiliary or some other good cause.

VIEWPOINT

Actually, clever environmentalists don't use wrapping at all.

Cloth bags are a perfect solution. We have used the same homemade cloth bags in our family for over 25 years.

The kids remember the bags and have favourites and they look forward to seeing not only what is in it but who gets what bag.

My husband's favourite wrapping is flyers.

We know his gifts because they are wrapped in flyers that would probably go straight into the fireplace or recycling bin except that they do get this one extra life.

Many of his gifts are also gag gifts bought at the thrift stores and assigned funny captions like "Ky, you will need this when you do your first round of nursing" (he is in his third year at UNBC) and he opens it up to find a pair of pink runners — which happen to be my daughter's size so she trades him for the orange polypropylene placemats her dad gave her.

They may eventually go back to the thrift store, but they will be contributing again when and if someone buys them.

Personally, the kids and I have been saving them up. What my husband doesn't know is that one of these years soon he will get his own back and oh what a good laugh we will all have.

Think twice about where you buy your wrapping, and even more importantly, use wrappings that are creative, ethical and don't contribute to the pollution at Christmas.

I am sure if you put your mind to it you could come up with hundreds of ways to save the Earth from paper overload at Christmas.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Parliament have been prorogued?

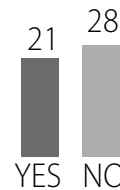
Yes No

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:

Is increased airport security necessary?



Driftwood

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

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

Yearly Subscription Rates:

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

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



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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:
"It was awesome. The water wasn't even that cold."

ELLEN ROSS, VESUVIUS POLAR BEAR SWIM

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What are you looking forward to in 2010?

CLIFF KELLY
Another year on a beautiful island.

SALLY HYSOP
Hope for the family in society.

DAVID PIPERNO
For us to do good in the winter Olympics.

KAREN ROBICHEAU
A better economy overall.

KEN PARKES
I want us to find life in another galaxy.

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.**

Safety at stake with invisible lines

The Dec. 30 "Renew centre lines" letter prompts me to write.

On a foggy night recently I found myself completely on the wrong side of the road.

Even though this was a main road there were no visible lines at all, either centre or side.

Fortunately I did not go off the road, and there was no other traffic at the time, but the absence of lines could have tragic consequences.

Although I know the lines were painted less than a year ago, the paint used is so inferior that it only lasts a few months in some places.

As a resident and frequent user of the road I find it a serious problem. It must be particularly confusing and dangerous for visitors to the island.

Before our road maintenance was privatized, the paint used for road lines was thick, durable and contained reflective particles.

I know this because, even after many years, remnants of it remain on the road by my house in Fernwood, in the white line at the side of the road.

The recent posts with reflectors are helpful in a few dangerous places, but I find them confusing on the hill on Stewart Road where they are so big and bright they almost look like on-coming headlights.

I think the presence of bright reflective centre lines and white reflective side lines would be a better investment in making our roads safe both day and night.

I would also appreciate repairs to broken road edges, particularly on corners near St. Mary Lake.

The change to reflective paint may need to be written into the contract with our road maintenance pro-

viders. I hope it will be, for the safety of us all.

NANCY WIGEN,
FERNWOOD ROAD

Dangers for walkers and riders

As I was driving on a very dark rainy night, I passed two bikers riding without any flashers or lights and at least three pedestrians wearing dark clothes and walking without flashers or lights.

I understand that folks feel they have a right to ride and walk anywhere, but it is extremely dangerous, especially consider-

ing the average shoulder is about six inches wide. When an oncoming car has the newer extremely bright lights or does not lower its high beams, it is a very dangerous few seconds for those walking or biking.

Please publish this as a concerned citizen who likes to bike and walk in safety. I do not want to have anyone become a statistic unintentionally.

S. WORRALL,
SALT SPRING

HMS Ganges at library?

That beautiful model of the sailing ship HMS Gan-

ges after which the town of Ganges is named has always seemed to be looking for a good display location — a home in Ganges.

In the past it has been displayed at various locations, the last two being Mouat's Hardware and ArtSpring, but it now seems to have been evicted from any place of prominence.

Would an ideal location be the new library? It might just be a hit with visitors to Ganges as well as being readily available for local admirers.

GORDON BARNES,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 11

Death option was 'nail in the coffin' of prostate decision

They say it's better to give than to receive. This holiday season I got into the spirit of giving by offering up my prostate gland.

It all began about three years ago when my doctor referred me to a urologist to look into my excessive need to urinate. Several blood tests, a couple of ultrasounds, and one prostate biopsy later, I was informed that I was the one of the one in six men who hit the cancer sweepstakes.

In my case, the cancer was small and localized in a narrow region in the prostate. My doctor recommended we adopt a treatment called "active surveillance" (also euphemistically known as "watchful waiting"). This was the least intrusive of all possible actions and called for me to have regular blood tests and a yearly biopsy to make sure my disease was not growing or spreading.

So life progressed for the next two and a half years. My blood tests kept track of the PSA (prostate-specific antigen) in my bloodstream. A rise in PSA can often, but not always, indicate the presence of cancer. My annual biopsy determined the aggressive nature of the actual cancer cells, as reflected by a number on something called the Gleason scale.

Men with prostate cancer are much like fantasy sports geeks discussing batting averages and power play percentages. They love to sit around and talk numbers and statistics. It's not unusual to hear something like "Joe's PSA count has dropped to a 6.8 but his Gleason score has gone up a half point." A statement like this is usually accompanied by empathetic head nodding.

I was starting to believe that if I had enough prostate biopsies, I would effectively have my prostate removed piecemeal and never have to go through radical pros-

tatectomy surgery. Unfortunately, a few months ago the numbers changed and my doctor suggested a different course of action. He looked me in the eye and said, "Let's stop farting around and get that sucker out." Or words to that effect.

As I was being wheeled into the operating room, I couldn't help but think about the matter of my mortality. What if I didn't make it? My father had died on an operating table when he was about the same age as I was now.

I tried to assess my options. I asked myself how much time is enough time. Would sticking around another 10, 15, maybe 20 years really make that much difference to me or the rest of the world?

There was definitely an up-side to checking out early. For one thing, I would never have to go through (and pay for) all the dental work I had been putting off for over a decade. I would never have to organize my desk or clean out the attic. Equally appealing on the "glass half full" side of dying was the thought that I would never have to miss another ferry because of some stupid trivial technicality.

Another tempting thought was the realization that I would not have to waste another breath of my life waiting for the Toronto Maple Leafs (the glory team of my youth that had now strung out over 40 futile hockey seasons) to compete for another Stanley Cup. Upon further consideration, however, I realized that I could survive the operation and live still another hundred fruitful years without the chance of ever seeing a Leaf captain hoist the cup anyway.


Shilo Zylbergold
NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

As with most choices, there was a down-side to dying. The unbearable possibility of never again seeing my wife and life partner, Jane, pretty much clinched the deal on my sticking around. To a lesser extent, I reflected on how close I was to finally

getting my senior's card, and how I really wanted the satisfaction of getting discounted admission rates at the Fritz Cinema and riding the ferries for free (Mondays to Thursdays). Lastly, I felt badly about all the miles I still had left on the warranty on my brand new winter tires. That pretty much put a "nail in the coffin," so to speak, of the death option.

The operation itself went well. My surgeon, Dr. Goldenberg (we like to call him "Goldfinger"), utilized a laparoscopic technique that allowed him to sit a fair distance away from the operating table at a console much like a stainless steel PlayStation3. From this position he was able to pull levers back and forth while watching a monitor relaying images from a tiny camera inserted into my abdomen. His intricately accurate hand motions apparently controlled the several arms of the "da Vinci" robot which hovered over my prone body (picture Star Wars' R2-D2 with about a dozen scalpel-wielding tentacles). I wonder if he was answering emails and updating his Facebook site at the same time.

Nonetheless, about five hours later I was lying in a mental haze in the recovery room. I was now "de-prostated." There were seven small bandaged incisions spread out across my abdomen. I was attached on one hand

to an IV drip line attached to a bag at top of a metal pole. Another line ran from my drainage catheter to a urine bag positioned near the bottom of the metal pole.

For the next 24 hours that metal pole became my best buddy. We were inseparable and did everything together. In a sense, I had become a one-man watershed ecosystem with my own wastewater management treatment plant.

Two days after the surgery Jane and I returned to the island. We stopped off at the local pharmacy to pick out a large package of diapers that I would use to control my residual "leakage." It was difficult to make the choice between Huggies and Pampers, but in the end we settled on the more adult-oriented "Deep Ends." (Note to adult diaper manufacturers: there's a fortune to be made from diapers with the Canucks logo or the 2010 Winter Olympics symbol stamped across their bottoms.)

There has never been much pain involved with the entire experience. All the medical professionals instructed me that I had a better chance of getting back full control of my bladder if I practised something called Kegel exercises. Women have been doing these for eons to help them with childbirth and its subsequent after-effects.

For a man, a Kegel exercise consists basically of moving your testicles on the south end in a straight line through your mid-section towards your Adam's apple on the north side until they touch. Fifty of these at a time is a good start.

Nobody asked me, but I'm delighted I made the choice to stick around on this planet for at least a little while longer. Now about that desk that needs organizing . . .

thyme2001@hotmail.com

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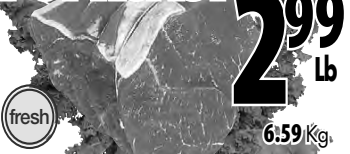
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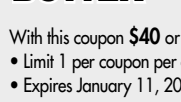
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OPINION

Protect the ears with lower volume

BY MYNA LEE JOHNSTONE

Why is it that sound guys think they have to play canned music of their choice at unbearable volume before and between sets of the musicians we have come to hear?

I have asked this many times and protested it plenty.

I come to hear the live music and, as Charlie Mingus used to say, "Don't rattle your glasses . . . and after you hear music . . . it lingers in the air."

This was a major flaw in New Year's Eve at Fulford Hall. Also, since doors opened at 7:30, many of us arrived at 8 p.m. expecting the real music to begin shortly after.

"One of the advantages of being over 60 is you can lose the social intimidation to speak out /protest/ provide feedback."

We were kept waiting almost three hours before we got to hear the real deal. Prior to this there was a presentation on the Wolf Kids project, which the benefit was for.

Then the musicians took the stage for a lengthy set minus the Man(x). It could be comfortably listened to at the far end of the hall, near the door or outside.

Once Harry Manx took the stage, those of us over 60s getting tired and now rather perturbed and impatient, immediately perked up.

Harry instantly commands attention and rhythm. The entire set was excellent.

The young woman Emily Braden was outrageous and the blend of voice with Manx and company was riveting, to say the least.

Remarkable rifts were supplied by the other musicians and very noteworthy were those from the electric guitar player, whose name I would like to know.

Although the sound balance could have been better, occasionally this guitar overpowered the instrument Manx was playing, especially the first tune with Harry on banjo. I stayed in the front the whole time giving my appreciative feedback.

INDEPTH

Where else could one be three feet away from the key performers and able to view close hand the instrumental finesse?

I protested the smoke/fog machine, whatever the gimmick is, that went off for a second time. It was toxic and dumb and sent some respiratory-compromised folks out of the hall.

Back to the performance: well, again, every choice was just fabulous!

At midnight, the promised Weston Lake surprise jumped on stage and we welcomed in 2010 with who else but Valdy, who had quick-changed from his Newfie shirt to colourful tie-dye, outlandishly us with a community singing of Auld Lang Syne. Thanks, Valdy. Always enjoyable.

One of the advantages of being over 60 is you can lose the social intimidation to speak out /protest/provide feedback.

If one has to shout to be heard, though, it is probably better to conserve energy and hold up prepared signs, like: "It's too loud!"

Hey! Thanks everyone. We eventually had a great time. Musically, one of my best.

Next time Harry, let us know what time you intend to play, OK?

Around 1:30 a.m. we even got to stop and wish our local RCMP a Happy New Year. Between the four of us in the car we had probably consumed about two glasses of wine the entire evening and our driver had not had a drop.

Not sure what the carbon footprint for the evening was. A few people did carpool.

But, let's remember about noise levels and what is tolerable to our sensitive ears.

When music is spot on, my ears tingle with response. If too loud, I end up with a headache.

And about that canned music played between sets, I have protested this for about 25 years. One owner of a venue in Victoria told me they do it because it keeps people revved up and they buy more drinks. I don't think the parents of the Wolf Kids want to do that.

Protect those little ears!

The writer is a Salt Spring resident who is never afraid to express her opinion.

RANTS and Roses

Roses

A huge heart filled with wildflowers to my most amazing peer support workers, Naomi, Tim and Sebastian. Once again you made the In from the Cold Shelter a most welcoming and safe place to lay one's head. Thanks to all who continue to reach out and give to those who need our continued support. Cheers. Donna Dunnigan (outreach worker, Community Services)

Roses to Jack and Glenda Woodward for opening up the Harbour House restaurant for Green Drinks

on Dec. 22. They have gone above and beyond to support I-SEA's Green Drinks for almost two years! Thankx!

Special pink, fragrant roses to Kathleen Rathwell, an octogenarian whose gardening is still winning all sorts of prizes. At the fall fair this year, she entered 17 events and won 13 ribbons and two honourable mentions. It is the same at the Garden Club parlour show. Wow. What a dynamo. Kathleen, you are amazing. Keep up the great work.

A large, fragrant, bouquet of Nootka

roses to all the wonderful volunteers who gave us crucial and dedicated help on moving day at the Centre for Child Honouring. Thank you!

A bouquet of roses to Dan the bus driver for his kind assistance when I got off the Long Harbour ferry loaded down with bags. You are an asset to the community.

We would love to send many beautiful fragrant roses to Crystal from Santa's Workshop! Our children loved everything. From a couple of needy families

OPINION

Proposed ArtSpring mandate change deserves scrutiny

BY APRIL CURTIS

Are you a voting member of ArtSpring, the Island Arts Centre Society? You could be.

Are you aware of the proposed change of mandate that will be voted on at the Sunday, Jan. 17 meeting listed below? Very few usually turn out to these meetings and changes occur.

When ArtSpring was conceived, it was promoted as a "home for the arts." Numerous island people, groups and organizations worked hard at fundraising and planning before the building phase even began.

There was a rocky period of mixed agendas, which greatly impacted several founding organizations.

There was a strong commitment included in the mandate to fostering local creative efforts.

It may be a fact that audiences prefer imports, or it is available for rental when it is available, but, I question the need to remove from the mandate, with a wave of a pen, the obligation to support local groups and to add a clear shift to imports.

ArtSpring is already presenting off island and international artists. For years, there has been lip service to "balanced" programming. What does that mean?

INDEPTH

My concern is that I found this information only after insufficient notice in the paper required a rescheduling of the meeting, and the reference to a change in the mandate did not include the text of the proposed changes in the Driftwood.

This caused me to hunt through the website and, after reading the excerpt copied below, I felt these important changes should come to the attention of everyone who loves ArtSpring.

"You are invited to attend the IACS annual general meeting which has been re-scheduled to Jan. 17 from its earlier announced date of Nov. 22. In addition to the customary business of receiving the audited financial statements for 2008-09, electing new board members, etc., the AGM will be asked to consider a proposed revision of the IACS Mission Statement. The current Mission Statement and the proposed revision are shown below.

Current Mission Statement:

The purposes of the society are:

a) To support all other organizations on Salt Spring Island having as their purpose the advancement of the performing, visual

and creative arts and crafts.

b) To promote, build, operate and maintain, and to acquire the necessary property and proprietary rights for, a theatre, gallery, display space and workshop space for the performing, visual and creative arts and crafts.

c) To develop and execute public education to support the performing, visual and creative arts and crafts through a theatre, gallery, display space and workshop space.

Proposed Revision:

The purposes of the society are:

a) To support the advancement of the performing, visual and creative arts and crafts on Salt Spring Island.

b) To operate and maintain, develop and promote ArtSpring as a facility comprised of a theatre, gallery, display space and workshop space for those engaged in the performing, visual and creative arts and crafts, as well as for other groups and individuals engaged in activities of community benefit.

c) To develop and execute public education to support the performing, visual and creative arts and crafts.

d) To bring high-quality B.C., Canadian and international performing artists to Salt Spring audiences by presenting music, dance, theatre and other professional per-

"... I felt these important changes should come to the attention of everyone who loves ArtSpring."

formances.

I'm sure board members have had many discussions and, at this point in time, feel there are reasons to expand their focus. However, new board members may not understand the history and the origin, which was rooted in providing a place and support that would foster opportunity for the artists who make their home on this island and have given much time and effort to build and support ArtSpring. I would hope this balance could continue and even increase.

Are you a voting member of ArtSpring? You could be. I urge you to participate and vote.

The writer is a longtime Salt Spring resident involved in the visual and performing arts and the creation of ArtSpring.

MORE LETTERS

LETTERS

continued from 9

Hospital ECU should get recognition and thanks from community

In the midst of the debate in Canada on the provision of health care services, there is one aspect that resonates loudly on Salt Spring Island: elder care.

With the progression from Meadowbrook to Braehaven, to Greenwoods and thence to the Extended Care Unit at Lady Minto Hospital, the island possesses the full range of facilities to care for seniors.

Perhaps the most out of sight — paradoxically, as it is where the greatest need for assistance exists — is the Extended Care Unit, that part of the hospital to the left off the main hallway as one turns right to go to the acute care wing.

The Extended Care Unit is where the most tender care is provided to seniors on Salt Spring.

This was no more apparent than during the recent festive season when the unit's staff went far above what was required to give its residents a happy, enjoyable and healthy celebration of Christmas and New Year.

It is impossible to watch the ECU staff at work and paying caring attention to the residents under their care and not realize the dedication they bring to their vocation.

It is truly remarkable how the staff went out of their way to provide a welcoming environment for the residents and their families, while at the same time coping with the everyday trials and tribulations of hospital realities.

To the staff at the Extended Care Unit must go the heartfelt thanks from the entire community of Salt Spring.

Much of what the staff is able to do would not be possible without the dedicated corps of volunteers of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the hospital, through those who work at the thrift shop to those who serve refreshments morning and afternoon to the residents from Monday to Friday, to those running the hospital foundation and who provided the fully catered Christmas dinner.

To say that Valdy put the icing on the cake with his Christmas carolling would be no exaggeration: in these times of financial stringency, no amount of hard work by the staff could provide both adequate health care and a home-style atmosphere.

To the staff of the Extended Health Care Unit and to the volunteers who give so much of their time and efforts, much is owed.

As we begin the year, let us continue to be of service and to be thankful for our many blessings.

MARGARET MACKENZIE,
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, ECU,
LADY MINTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY



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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY
Valdy takes the microphone to count down to midnight as a full house at Fulford Hall celebrates New Year's Eve with Harry Manx and a collection of musical friends.



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THEATRE

Actors needed for community theatre's comedy production

Two sessions on tap for Jan. 6 and 13

Two enterprising women, a major business deal at stake, a scantily clad male model and two jealous husbands misconstruing events lead to big trouble and many laughs in Salt Spring Community Theatre's winter production of *Who's Under Where?*

The play's director, Steve Coopman, is looking for five men and two women to perform in this uproarious comedy, which promises to be a fun show for

actors and audiences alike, says the community theatre group.

Performances are scheduled for the last two weekends in March at Mahon Hall.

This will be Coopman's directorial debut with SSCT.

"We feel extremely fortunate to have someone with the depth of theatrical experience that Steve brings working with us," said Ann Stewart, president of SSCT.

Coopman directed many professional and amateur shows while living in Ontario.

He was at the Stratford Festi-

val for two seasons and worked extensively with Theatre Ontario.

He has 20 years' experience as a stage director and educator, teaching theatre at the University of Toronto and Brock University.

Auditions will be held in the portable behind the Parks and Recreation Commission office at Portlock Park on both Wednesday, Jan. 6 and 13, starting at 7 p.m.

For further information about auditioning, call Steve Coopman at 250-653-9904.

TANGO

Tango session offered by Buenos Aires teacher

Family connection makes Sunday event possible

Por el Amor del Tango group members had the unexpected pleasure of receiving a dance lesson with Silvana Solver of Buenos Aires, Argentina over the

holiday season.

"While visiting family on the island, Silvana and partner Steve were amazed to discover that Argentine tango flourishes in a small community far from South America," said Karen Pedersen of the tango group.

Solver has studied tango since she was 14 years old and cur-

rently teaches in London, England.

A second lesson has been organized for Sunday, Jan. 10, from 4:30 to approximately 7 p.m. on the third floor of the Core Inn. Cost is \$15 per person.

For more information, call Karen Pedersen at 250-653-4589.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

ON STAGE: Meghan Casault of Pulselab cranks up the sound at Mahon Hall during a New Year's Eve bash last Thursday night.

Eclectic roster on tap

Coming up this month at ArtSpring:

- Salt Spring Island Improv Invitational — Friday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. Up to seven improv teams present a friendly, improvised evening of amazing entertainment. Hosted by GISS' 2nd Story Theatre Improv.

- Met Opera Live in HD: Der Rosenkavalier — Saturday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. Strauss' comic masterpiece of love and intrigue in 18th-century Vienna stars Renée Fleming as the aristocratic Marschallin and Susan Graham in the trouser role of her young lover.

- GISS presents Dracula — Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 13 & 14, 7:30 p.m. GISS Acting 11-12 students present their take on the classic vampire tale, with music and dance. Not suitable for young children.

- Met Opera Live in HD: Carmen — Saturday, Jan. 16, 10 a.m. One of the most popular operas of all time, Carmen "is about sex, violence and racism — and its corollary: freedom," says Olivier Award-winning director Richard Eyre about his new production of Bizet's drama.

- Truth, Trials & Tar sands — Saturday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. Presented by I-SEA and the Raven Trust. After living through Copenhagen it is clear that the tar sands are at the top of the list of environmental factors contributing to global warming, and there is one small band at the forefront of the fight to prevent environmental catastrophe. The evening features Jack Woodward, pre-eminent authority in aboriginal law, to talk about the Beaver Lake Cree legal action and how it can stop the expansion of the tar sands; James Hoggan, to discuss his highly acclaimed book Climate Cover-Up; and Alan Bibby, a filmmaker premiering excerpts from his documentary Liquid Truth.

WHAT'S ON AT ARTSPRING

- Duplex with Veda Hille — Sunday, Jan. 17, 2:30 p.m. Veda Hille has an almost cult following in Vancouver as a musician, composer, artist and generally cool person. Among her many activities, Veda has an eclectic band called Duplex, made up of young and old family members and friends, that performs music for young audiences. ArtSpring has snagged them for a Sunday afternoon gig that will appeal to children of all ages, parents, teachers and dentists.

- Islands Arts Centre Society AGM — Sunday, Jan. 17, 5 p.m., Multipurpose Gallery. The public is invited to attend the IACS annual general meeting. In addition to the customary business of receiving the audited financial statements for 2008-09 and electing new board members, the AGM will be asked to consider a proposed revision of the IACS mission statement.

- GISS Music — Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. GISS' first-term music students present senior composition with new and exciting original works, choir performances and jazz combos.

- Paula Kiffner & Friends — Sunday, Jan. 24, 2:30 p.m. Salt Spring

cellist Paula Kiffner has had a long, distinguished musical career, including many years playing with the Vancouver Symphony. She joins with three fine Victoria musicians (Sharon Stanis from the Lafayette Quartet, Yariv Aloni, artistic director of the Galiano Ensemble, and Arthur Rowe, head of the piano department at UVic) to present a wonderful afternoon of chamber music, including Bach's Goldberg Variations arranged for string trio and Brahms' Piano Quartet in C.

- TheatreStagecraft — Where is upstage? What are germans? What is a ghost light, a ghost load, a grid, a flygallery, a sandbag, the difference between a Leg and a Leko? Where is the greenroom? ArtSpring's technical director, Marv Coulthard, answers these questions and more in this course for adults beginning Friday, Jan. 8. Running from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Sundays, components include theatre etiquette, job responsibilities for every part of a production and technical terminology.

- A Little Night Music — A new course in classical music appreciation and history conducted by George Ehring runs in the theatre at ArtSpring on seven Monday evenings from Jan. 18 through March 8, from 7 to 10 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

<p>Thursday, Jan. 7, 8-11pm Blues: Gary Preston</p> <p>Sunday, Jan. 10, 7-10pm Jazz/Folk: Hugh Fraser</p> <p>Monday, Jan. 11 Eastern Food Theme Specials</p>	<p>Wednesday: Pint Club Beer & drink specials! Draws for great prizes! Proceeds to local causes.</p>
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LITERARY EVENT

Nautical night starts literary year

Dalton, Lundy and Patterson team up

Salt Spring Sailing Club is the appropriate setting for Night of the Living Sailors, a literary evening and coffee house presented by Theatre Alive! and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Three writers with sea water in their blood — acclaimed authors Anthony Dalton, from Delta, B.C., and Salt Spring residents Derek Lundy and Kevin Patterson — will share their works on Saturday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Press material describes Dalton as an adventurer, an author and

an accomplished public speaker. His books include *Alone Against the Arctic*; *Baychimo: Arctic Ghost Ship*; *J/Boats: Sailing to Success*; and *Wayward Sailor: In Search of the Real Tristan Jones*. He is currently working on a two TV documentaries based on his books.

Lundy is the author of *The Way of a Ship: A Square-Rigger Voyage in the Last Days of Sail*, and the bestseller *Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters*, which has been translated into nine languages.

He has also published *The Bloody Red Hand: A Journey Through Truth, Myth and Terror in Northern Ireland*, and a short

biography, *Scott Turow: Meeting the Enemy*. His forthcoming book, *Borderlands: Riding the Edge of America*, is about a motorcycle ride along the United States' borders with Mexico and Canada and will be published by Knopf Canada in September 2010.

Patterson is a medical doctor and literary writer whose short story collection, *Country of Cold*, won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize in 2003.

He has also published *The Water in Between*, a travel memoir of his sailing expedition in the Pacific Ocean, and his first novel, *Consumption*, was published in September 2006.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

BELTING OUT THE SOUND: Singer Emily Braden wows the New Year's Eve crowd at Fulford Hall as she sings at the Harry Manx event.

ON STAGE

Dracula gives GISS's 2nd Story Theatre a big production bite

Show runs next Wednesday and Thursday only

Gulf Islands Secondary's Acting 11/12 class is taking a step away from wildly popular modern vampire stories and getting back to the classics with a production of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

Featuring live music and dance, real fire, shape shifting, spontaneous combustion, romance and the undead, the production runs at ArtSpring on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m.

"Set in 19th-century England and the Carpathian Mountains of Transylvania, the play begins with a young man approaching a crumbling castle in Transylvania and

evolves into a cross-Europe chase of the powerful and mystifying Count Dracula accompanied by a spine-chilling ensemble of ghosts, trees, wolves, vampires and insane asylum patients," explains a 2nd Story Theatre press release.

GISS's Acting 11/12 class has been involved in every aspect of the production: acting, live music, scenic construc-

tion, lighting, costume and props design, promotion and stage management.

The show is directed and produced by GISS theatre teacher Jason Donaldson.

As the production is definitely scary, it is not recommended for young children.

2nd Story Theatre is the umbrella title for GISS theatre arts. Tickets for *Dracula* are \$10 and available at the ArtSpring ticket centre.

THEATRE

Workshop set to create play's songs

Original production planned

A local stage production of *The Secret World of Og* by Pierre Burton is now in the works through The Academy Presents, but the show needs some creative help from the community.

Salt Spring resident Penny Berton — the daughter of the book's author — has completed the play's script, but she's banking on a songwriting workshop to create some songs to complete the process. Island vocalist and instructor Ella Topaz will lead the songwriting workshop, open to all ages, starting Jan. 17.

"Come as a family or otherwise and co-create songs for the musical chorus of *The Secret World Of Og*," urges a press release from the Salt Spring Arts Academy. "Create the songs, then, if you wish, become part of the chorus. No experience required."

A cappella improvisation will lead to original songs and choral arrangements to be used in the May 14-16 production of the Canadian classic. The workshop will run for six Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. from Jan. 17 through Feb. 21. Cost is \$50. People should call 250-537-4294 or www.saltspringartsacademy.ca to register or for more information.

The Academy Presents is a production company that operates to build and maintain a bursary fund for the Salt Spring Arts Academy.

Making BC's roads safer was an easy call.

An overwhelming majority of British Columbians support restricting cellphone use by drivers.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

STALEMATE: After 15 minutes in the water at Vesuvius Beach, Aunabeth Ross and Steve Abbott both take honours for being the last to emerge from the ocean in the annual Polar Bear Swim.

HISTORY

History of provincial police force shared at next society gathering

Bob McWhirter presents interesting cases

The Salt Spring Island Historical Society's 2010 program opens next Wednesday, Jan. 13, with a look at the history of a storied police force.

Historical society president Bob McWhirter will present A History of the B.C. Provincial Police Force (BCPP) from the Gold Rush to 1950 at Central Hall beginning at 2 p.m.

McWhirter will explain local policing under the BCPP and will outline the early enforcement of justice during the Gold Rush and the influx of miners from the U.S.A.

His talk will include a general description of the organizational aspects of the BCPP, as well as their growth in the province, and he will relate some of their more interesting cases.

The general duties of the B.C. Provincial Police included enforcing fishing and hunting licenses, providing customs and excise functions, livestock brand inspections, managing trap-line permits and dog licences, vital statistics and serving civil court documents.

"They also functioned as court prosecutors, jailers and prisoner escorts. During the labour troubles in Vancouver during the Great Depression, the BCPP helped to enforce martial law against strikers on Vancouver's troubled docks and evict protesters from the city's main post office," explains a press release from the historical society. "During this period, horses for the mounted squad were relocated from Vancouver Island to the Oakalla prison farm in Burnaby.

"At the time of its dissolution on Aug. 15, 1950,

the force consisted of 520 men and their budget was \$2,250,000. The 492 members who stayed on were taken on as part of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's E Division, which has had the contract for provincial policing in B.C. ever since. McWhirter has a special interest in this topic since his father was a member of the BCPP, and was transferred to the RCMP upon the takeover."

The presentation takes place following the general meeting, and refreshments are served following the program. All are welcome.



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What's On This Week

www.gulfislandstourism.com/calendar.htm



Wed. Jan. 6

ACTIVITIES
SS Community Theatre Auditions. Five men, two women needed for comedy Who's Under Where? PARC portable. 7 p.m. Info: Steve, 250-653-9904; Ann, 250-537-9250.
Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild. First Wednesday of each month at SS Baptist Church (around the back). Show & tell & demonstration of techniques. 7 p.m. Info: Patti at pbquilts@telus.net.
Swing Dance Class. Six-Wednesday session begins tonight at Mahon Hall. 7-9 p.m. Info: Morley, mgallery@telus.net or 250-537-4898.

Thurs. Jan. 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Blues Night. With special guest Gary Preston at Mobys. 8 to 11 p.m.
Open Mic. Hosted by Stephanie Rhodes at The Local. 8 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Flu Clinic. For both H1N1 & seasonal vaccine. SS Health Clinic. Appointments only through 250-538-4880.
Salt Spring Badminton Club. Thursdays at the GISS gym. 8-10 p.m. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.
Family History Centre. Open at 221 Vesuvius Bay Rd. on the first Thursday of each month. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: Sonja Baker, 250-653-4430.
Bingo. At Meaden Hall. 7 p.m. Early bird games at 6:30.

Fri. Jan. 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
SSI Improv Invitational. Regional high school improv teams compete with GISS and SIMS teams. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.
Billie Woods. Live music at the Tree House. 5 to 8 p.m.
Alan Moberg. Country-folk music at the Harbour House lounge. 6:30 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Library StoryTime: Meet the Author. Elsie Bosnell, island author and illustrator, reads from her book called Gorse the Horsey. For children in early grades and pre-schoolers. 1 p.m. at the library.
Training in Power Academy Intro. Learn to access your power and intuition at a free intro session offered by the Training in Power Academy (traininginpower.org). Call Patrizia for location and details at 250-931-3188.
Rollerblading. Fridays at Fulford Hall. 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Met Opera Live in HD: Der Rosenkavalier. Strauss' comic masterpiece of love and intrigue in 18th-century Vienna. ArtSpring. 10 a.m.
Night of the Living Sailors. Literary evening and coffee house with authors Derek Lundy, Kevin Patterson and Anthony Dalton, plus music from Bob McIvor, Michael Aronoff and Jane Squier. SS Sailing Club. 7:30 p.m.
Vaughn Fulford. Live music at the Tree House. 5 to 8 p.m.
Alan Miceli. Guitarist performs at the Harbour House lounge. 6:30 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Neighbourhood Night at the Raven. Every Saturday at Raven Street Cafe from 8 to 11 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Hugh Fraser. Live jazz at Moby's. 7 to 10 p.m.
The Barley Brothers. Still alive and un-plugged. Every Sunday at the Fulford Inn. 6:30 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Ballroom Dancing Open House. Workshop and registration for upcoming classes. Mahon Hall. 5 to 7 p.m. Info: kathy@ballroomonsaltspring.com; 250-537-5058
Tango Lesson. Por el Amor del Tango presents a lesson with Silvana Solver of Buenos Aires. Core Inn, 3rd floor, 4:30 p.m. Info: Karen, 250 653-4589.
Salt Spring Badminton Club. Sundays at the GISS gym. 7-9 p.m. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.

Mon. Jan. 11

ACTIVITIES
PARC Meeting. Inaugural public PARC meeting for 2010 at Portlock Park portable. 7 p.m.
Life Drawing. Mondays at the Core Inn upstairs. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Info: Jose Campbell, 250-537-1121.
Toastmasters. Mondays at the Crofton Room at the Harbour House. 7 p.m.
Tues. Jan. 12
ACTIVITIES
SS Transportation Commission. Meets at 118 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (off of the hallway near the CRD office). 7 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Dracula. GISS Acting 11-12 class presents Bram Stoker's Dracula at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
A History of the BC Provincial Police Force from the Gold Rush to 1950. SS Historical Society presentation by Bob McWhirter. Central Hall. 2 p.m.
GI Board of Education Meeting. Public school trustees meeting at SIMS. 1 p.m.
SS Community Theatre Auditions. Five men, two women needed for comedy Who's Under Where? PARC portable. 7 p.m. Info: Steve, 250-653-9904; Ann, 250-537-9250.

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CINEMA

Brothers - When a decorated Marine goes missing overseas, his black-sheep younger brother cares for his wife and children at home—with consequences that will shake the foundation of the entire family. Stars Natalie Portman, Tobey Maguire & Jake Gyllenhaal

Up In the Air - The timely odyssey of Ryan Bingham, a corporate downsizer and consummate modern business traveller who, after years of staying happily airborne, suddenly finds himself ready to make a real connection. Stars George Clooney

The Princess & the Frog January 15th; **Sherlock Holmes & It's Complicated** coming Jan. 22nd!

- EXHIBITIONS**
- The Salt Spring Coffee cafe show for January is the third annual **cafe staff group show**.
 - Check out the ArtSpring lobby for the new **Salt Spring Painters Guild** exhibit.
 - **Gillian McConnell** has work hanging at **Salt Spring Books**.
 - **Starfish Gallery & Studio** is Salt Spring's newest fine art gallery, open at **1108 Grace Point Square**. Fine art photography plus new etchings from **Anais La Rue**.
 - **Lisa Lipsett** is exhibiting her work at **Island Savings Credit Union**.
 - **Shari Macdonald** shows new photos at **Jana's Bake Shop**.

Our Calendar - on your smartphone

On your smartphone, go to getscanlife.com and download the free software. Use the scanlife software to take photos or scan the barcode. Information in the barcode will direct your mobile browser to the on-line version of the Driftwood's What's On Calendar.

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

MESSENGERS: Ted Olson and Tom Mitchell erect a new message board at Ganges United Church.

SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Resolutions may tune up our bodies, but what about tuning our hearts?

Heart tuner now available on Salt Spring

BY AMY HAYSOM
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

With Christmas, Hanukkah and other seasonal celebrations leaving us with an awareness of our debauchery over the last weeks — and heck, possibly the whole last year — it is the well-known time to commit to a cleanse as we ring in the New Year. A host of options greet us as we put down the shot glasses, surreptitiously sneak that last shortbread cookie in the tin and haul ourselves off the couch after that final Christmas Simpsons special. Three-week diet cleanses in a box, gym passes and a plethora of vitamin blends will call at us to start us on our road to pure health.

Yet, in all our fervour as we shift into gear for 2010, what attention do we plan to give to our spiritual and emotional health?

On Dec. 12 and 13, Dan Winter came to Salt Spring and presented the concept of “astral cleansing,” reminding participants at his two-day conference that humans are surrounded by an electrified “aura” and that, with attention to our mind-heart connection, our aura can be sacred in shape, leaving us with nothing short of true bliss.

Winter, who is trained as an electrical engineer from the University of Detroit, is now famous for his deep research into the science of “life force” and the actual physical geometry of electrical charges emitted from all things on earth. Implosion: Sacred Geometry and Fractal Science of Spirit is somewhat of a misnomer for the two-day conference held at GISS; do not fear, we are

far from imploding in on ourselves! Rather, Winter explains that when we focus on developing a fractal electric field for ourselves and our lifestyles, we will develop a perfect level of compression of our charge, or life force, that will manifest the optimal level of radiance or bliss we feel, and subsequently give off, to others.

Despite being somewhat confusing to those of us less trained in mathematics and physics, this is scientific proof that how we deal with life at the spiritual and emotional levels determines what energy we give off to all things around us. Winter shows brilliant images of sacred geometry-shapes of electrical charges that move through lattice, cobweb and spiral forms — increasingly intricate, and limitless within their movement. He suggests that our lives have the ability to move in this realm of infinite possibility, where all our actions can be absolutely bliss-filled, full of passion, love, empathy and compassion.

So how exactly do we go about this spiritual or “astral” cleansing? Winter makes many sugges-

tions, which do in fact include being conscious of good eating and exercise — so we are on the right track with our New Year’s resolutions! However, he goes further, suggesting that we can look at the architecture of our homes — do we live within a space that allows the energy to flow from one room to the next? — that we can recognize the existence of sacred space in the world (i.e. Stonehenge, Macchu Picchu) where waves meet and converge, and use those to recharge our own spirit and emotions; and finally, that we can “tune” our hearts to reach optimum emotional bliss.

There are many ways to tune our hearts, but Winter has made it easy, developing a “heart tuner” that offers bio-feedback through reading heart and brain waves to measure passion, empathy and compassion. “Basically, the heart tuner looks at moving emotion from the head, where it is conceptually centered, to the heart, which is where it should be,” states Winter. “The heart tuner examines whether your heart is at the same wavelength as your head, and

then helps to make some readjustments so there is more alignment between the two.”

This tuner also reads not only how an individual feels, but how two people relate to or feel about each other.

“This is perfect fun for a teenage party!” Winter jokes. But he then clarifies on a more serious note that the heart tuner can be used for conflict resolution, tantra training, peacemaking, spiritual or conventional healer training and relationship counselling. Not cheap, the heart tuner sells for around \$1,500 US. However, local Salt Spring resident Jeff Grant owns the tuner and will be offering sessions in the New Year.

Grant, who organized the early December conference, states, “After only one session, you feel an incredible shift. It really works on making the mind-heart connection and removing holes from your aura.” Grant charges a small fee and is open to discuss individual and group sessions in the new year. Contact him at 250-931-7998.

Those interested in future presentations by Dan Winter can go to www.goldenmean.info.



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Flick Pick



District 9 - not for the faint of soul

District 9 takes place in a fictional Johannesburg, South Africa, 20 years after a humongous alien spaceship dropped from the sky and parked itself over the city. The ship had run out of fuel, and we humans decided to remove its completely malnourished worker-class crew to put them in their own district of the city. Over time the aliens multiplied and “District 9” grew to a vast slum with a population of 1.8 million aliens.

Now, due to pressure from a human population who hate the presence of ugly, anti-social, occasionally violent aliens, the government has hired a multinational corporation called MNU to move the aliens to what amounts to a concentration camp 200 kilometres out of the city. The naive and dimwitted bureaucrat Wikus Van Der Merwe is given control of the operation and — in the process — contaminates himself with some black alien fluid. As changes start to wreck his body he becomes the subject of MNU’s horrific scientific experiments and is forced to escape... with the only hiding place being District 9.

The basic metaphor of District 9 is obvious: the treatment of the aliens in the film represents the treatments of blacks

under apartheid. Initially this feels forced, almost too on the nose, and upon my first viewing of the film I found myself going “so what?” A second viewing, however, revealed a greater depth to Blomkamp’s political vision, a skewering of not only apartheid but the greater inhumanity found in modern global capitalism.

District 9’s power, its most interesting quality, is its combination of a dark, ugly vision of modern humanity with a dynamic, exciting storytelling style. Blomkamp uses the faux-documentary look, shaky-cam and all, to evoke a visceral realism even when we’re looking at spaceships and powered alien combat-suits. This is the rare science-fiction film that has lots of “cool stuff” in it, but doesn’t revel in it and instead uses it almost as a lure to get your average viewer into the theatre.

Only the rarest Hollywood blockbuster would dare to give us such an unsympathetic hero, or show with a judging eye the effects of the gory violence on screen. I can almost imagine some guy expecting something like X-Men or Star Wars, and instead ends up watching the supposed protagonist laughing at the murder of cocooned alien babies. This is provocative, revolutionary stuff, and not for the faint of heart... or soul.

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7:50 am except Sun	9:00 am
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11:50 am	1:00 pm
1:50 pm	3:00 pm
3:50 pm	5:00 pm
5:50 pm	7:00 pm
7:50 pm	9:00 pm

DISC GOLF

Frisbee golfers hit their marks in annual winter tournament

Mouat Park improvements enjoyed by participants

Twenty-five disc golfers from on and off the island competed in two divisions at the Salt Spring Disc Golf Association's 11th annual Boxing Day disc golf tournament.

Taking first place in the open division was Joah Chlopan, with Markus Hundt in second, and third place a tie between Vince McGrath and Gordon Field. Field also won \$50 for his closest-to-the-pin shot.

Dean Crouse took first spot in the advanced division, followed by Alain Grange and Andrew McLean.

Charlie Ross-Collins made his tournament debut in the amateur division.

The Mouat Park course has been improved in several areas since the last Boxing Day tourney, said association spokesperson Hundt.

New tee pads, culverts, a bridge replacement and signage have all been much appreciated, he said.

However, he added, poten-



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Disc golfers fling their Frisbees at hole #18 at the Mouat Park disc golf course at an annual Boxing Day tourney.

tial over-use of Mouat Park is a concern and the group still hopes to see a second public course created on the island.

"We need just three acres," said Hundt.

A larger course would facilitate Salt Spring hosting

provincial and national-level tournaments and the economic benefits that would result.

No discontent for winners of first day of winter's games

Some diehard players include bridge in holiday season activities

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Night and day, they were as one on Dec. 21, solstice day, and the beginning of winter — one of discontent for some, but on the other hand, George Laundry and Paul Retallack must have been very contented about coming first among four full tables,

BRIDGETRICKS

with Gillian Mouat and Jennifer Quick following them quite happily.

Norbert Schlenker and Dave Blizzard drifted in for a visit and gained third place, with Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette coming fourth.

Dec. 28 saw only three and a half tables of post-Christmas bridge nuts showing up, with George Laundry and Paul Retallack repeating their win. This time Patricia

Hewett and Bob Morrisette were second, while Gillian Mouat and Jennifer Quick occupied third place in a switcheroo.

There had been no game on Dec. 14, thanks to a treacherous slippery snowfall and a late cancellation. May there be no more such happenings as we hope that the winter of the non-winners' discontent will be made glorious summer by better future games.

For information, just call George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or email pastorale@shaw.ca.

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242627	2009	Pontiac	G5 Coupe	\$18,850.00	\$3,896.00	\$14,954.00
442702	2009	Pontiac	Vibe GT	\$26,255.00	\$4,100.00	\$22,155.00
154253	2009	Pontiac	G6 SE Sedan	\$25,395.00	\$7,155.00	\$18,240.00
124947	2009	Chevrolet	Aveo Sedan	\$16,035.00	\$3,105.00	\$12,930.00
202604	2009	Chevrolet	Cobalt Coupe	\$16,430.00	\$4,139.00	\$12,291.00
197431	2009	Chevrolet	Cobalt Coupe	\$18,100.00	\$3,272.00	\$14,828.00

STOCK #	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MSRP	DISCOUNT	SALE
213643	2009	Chevrolet	Cobalt Sedan	\$18,300.00	\$4,367.00	\$13,933.00
239609	2009	Chevrolet	Cobalt Sedan	\$18,430.00	\$3,262.00	\$15,168.00
276175	2009	Chevrolet	Cobalt Sedan	\$18,400.00	\$3,262.00	\$15,138.00
231717	2009	Chevrolet	Cobalt Sedan	\$18,300.00	\$3,381.00	\$14,919.00
544562	2009	Chevrolet	HHR LT	\$28,285.00	\$8,343.00	\$19,942.00
572801	2009	Chevrolet	HHR LT	\$26,445.00	\$8,061.00	\$18,384.00
165075	2009	Chevrolet	Impala LT	\$29,880.00	\$7,121.00	\$22,759.00
193881	2009	Chevrolet	Malibu Hybrid	\$29,790.00	\$9,579.00	\$20,211.00
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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	IN MEMORIAM

Marilyn "Tippy" Joan Fuchs

Marilyn "Tippy" Joan Fuchs, age 78, died December 30, 2009, in Kansas City, MO.

Born 11/9/31 in Detroit, Michigan to Jacob & Elsie Tipton, the family moved to Trenton, MO during WW II. Tippy was in many school activities and was given the opportunity to take flying lessons as a teenager. Her solo cross country flight was from Trenton to Kansas City at age 16. After graduation she moved to Kansas City and worked several office jobs. Meanwhile she had several modeling opportunities including being in the first issue of "Seventeen Magazine". As receptionist at the Advertising and Sales Executive Club she met Dick Fuchs, a fellow from New York, relatively new to Kansas City who was a Naval Aviator in WWII and had just joined a small insurance agency. They dated for a relatively short period of time until he realized she was the girl of his dreams. They married at Visitation Church on October 17, 1953. They both wanted a large family as Tippy had been an only child and they had their wish come true with six living children. A seventh daughter followed, Haley Louis, who only survived for ten hours. Tippy was a beautiful, talented wife and wonderful mother. The kids all returned her love and caring ways. As a large loving family they all remained in the Kansas City area. During the busy time raising her family she still demonstrated outstanding talents. She was a member of the Weavers Guild and created beautiful and inventive weavings, was a terrific cook, pianist, singer, poet and beautiful artist, specializing in pastels. She also played the flute, and took Spanish lessons for their frequent trips to Mexico. Tippy and Dick traveled extensively around the world, and also had properties in Breckenridge, CO, Taos, NM and Salt Spring Island, British Columbia where they loved to entertain their family and friends. In addition she operated several businesses, a clothing boutique, "I, a Woman", and two art galleries, "In the Spirit Gallery" and "MJF Gallery" both of which specialized in southwestern art.

Tippy is survived and held in loving memory by, her husband Richard C. Fuchs, children Richard and Gail Fuchs and their sons Richard III and Cody, Robert and Sophie Fuchs, and their children Nicole and Jacob, Kimberly and Kristian laCour-Madsen, Lise and Kirk Strobel, and their children Haley, Adam, and Lise's son Kevin his wife April and their four children Samantha, Jake, Sara, and Jessica, Courtney Fuchs and Robert Swisher, and their daughter Marilyn "Emmy", Christopher John Fuchs.

It was Tippy's wish once her children were grown to contribute to many individuals and charitable organizations, which prompted her to start her "Tippy's Angel Fund" at Operation Breakthrough. So the family asks in lieu of flowers, friends are invited to make a donation to "Tippy's Angel Fund" at Operation Breakthrough, 3039 Troost, Kansas City, MO, 64108 or www.operationbreathrough.com

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, January 2nd, 12:00 p.m., at McGilley State Line Chapel, 12301 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO.

Gillian Ingrid Lee

November 12 1961 - December 31st 2009



Gillian died peacefully in the company of her sister Jennifer, brother Ingmar and father Ken, from pneumonia, and complications due to Huntington's disease, a hereditary neuro-degenerative disorder.

Born in Wawa Ontario, Gillian attended schools in Ontario and finally McGill, Guelph, and UVIC. She obtained a degree in English and a Teaching Certificate from McGill, and later, a Diploma in Early Childhood Education from Langara College in Vancouver.

Gillian was a gifted and inspiring writer, a visual artist and a musician who played both the flute and banjo. Always fiercely independent, she travelled widely.

She loved animals and children and was especially devoted to her niece, Rowan, and her nephew Kane who reside on Denman Island. By an extraordinary coincidence Gillian died on the day of a Blue Moon, a classic that she often asked Ken to play on the piano.

After a family camping trip to Banff Park, she began her long love affair with the Rocky Mountains, and the outdoors. She developed a lifelong interest in tree planting and put herself through all her schools with this toughest of tough jobs, which explains her remarkable fitness and strength.

Gillian spent her final three years at BraeHaven, Salt Spring's new Assisted Living facility, and finally, in the loving care of the staff at Extended Care Unit of Lady Minto Hospital.

The family wishes to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the doctors, nurses, and all the wonderful support staff and residents at Lady Minto and BraeHaven for the extraordinary care and love that they gave to Gillian as she succumbed to this brutal disease.

At her own request, Gillian has donated her body to the Huntington's Disease Research Centre at UBC and has asked that no service or memorial be held. Donations to Lady Minto Hospital Foundation



IN MEMORY OF MY DEAR PEGGY

Margaret Mary Small

May 1, 1926 to
 Jan. 5, 2006

Remembrance is a golden chain
 Death tries to break,
 But all in vain.
 To have, to love, and then to part

Is the greatest sorrow of one's heart.
 The years may wipe out many things
 But some they wipe out never.

Like memories of those happy times
 When we were all together.

I remember -- Bert

DEATHS

Elizabeth Lee
Funeral Consultant
537-1023

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Island Arts Centre Society

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2010

Time: 5:00pm

Place: ArtSpring multi-purpose gallery

In addition to customary AGM business, members will vote on proposed revision of the IACS Mission Statement.



AUDITIONS

January 6, 13 7 pm
 Mobile, Parks & Rec.
 145 Vesuvius Bay Rd.

Salt Spring Community Theatre (SSCT) is looking for 7 actors: 5 men, 2 women for a production of the comedy "Who's Under Where?" For more information call Steve Coopman (director) 250-653-9904, or Ann Stewart 250-537-9250

Our Calendar - on your smartphone

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS

Lavinia Wagg
JUNE 17, 1947 - JANUARY 4, 2010

Though she is going home to the Lord, it is with great sorrow that we announce Lavinia's passing. Born in Duncan, BC on June 17, 1947 she died at home in Sooke, BC on January 4, 2010. She leaves behind a loving husband Les, brother Max Allard and sister-in-law Roberta, daughters: Maria, Teresa, Leanna and Alana, 3 grandchildren Danielle, Elisee and Marquez and numerous other relatives. A funeral mass will be held on Friday, January 8, 2010 at St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church 2085 Maple Bay Rd. Duncan BC at 11:00 am with Father Frank presiding, interment at Mountain View Cemetery 6493 Somenos Road Duncan, BC and reception to follow at the church hall. In lieu of flowers, donations to the BC Cancer Foundation or Sooke Hospice Society would be appreciated.

aRA Miles
March 15, 1952 - December 13, 2009

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of aRA (Rosalie) Miles. aRA passed away in her home sometime on the night of December 13, 2009 in 100 Mile House, BC. aRA is survived by her three children: Tamu, Max and Ola, her mother Sarah, her sister Ruth, her brother Paul and her grandchildren Dustin and Jenna. aRA grew up in Alberta but found herself on the coast in her late teens. Salt Spring has been her home, on and off, for the last 35 years. The people and the land of Salt Spring had a deep impact on who aRA saw herself to be, as well as her visions and dreams for the world. aRA did many things in her life, everything from fishing on seine boats to following spirit in the desert. She had a deep love of life and for the earth and was able to see the core of each person she encountered. aRA believed in the potential of humanity and hoped someday to see that potential expressed. Now she will be watching from the other side. We love you aRA and will never forget your beauty, love and the fire that burned within you.

Anderson, Theresa ('Jeanne') Mary
Dec 3, 1929 – Dec 27, 2009 (80 yrs)

Jeanne Benoit grew up in Southern Alberta in a family of nine children. After the war, she married Richard Anderson in 1949. Together, they raised three girls and a boy, in towns in Alberta and BC: Vulcan, Dawson Creek, Sylvan Lake, and Salt Spring Island, retiring to Langley in the 80s. Jeanne passed away at Fairhaven Nursing Home in Burnaby, where she had lived for the past year. She was known by everyone as a gentle-hearted, sociable, and quietly devout woman, and will be remembered as a devoted and loving mother and grandmother by her family. Her family and relatives will cherish our memories with her. Survived by a brother, Henry (Irene) of Ontario, her children Brenda (Geoff), Shelley and Brian (Masako), son-in-law Laurier, fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband Richard (2008), eldest daughter Arlene (1999), and seven siblings.

A Funeral Service was held at 1 pm Monday, January 4, 2010 at Bell & Burnaby Funeral Chapel, 4276 Hastings St Burnaby, BC.

In lieu of flowers, you are encouraged to donate to the Alzheimer's Society of BC. A Memorial Service will be scheduled for summer at Sylvan Lake Cemetery, Sylvan Lake, Alberta. You may offer the family condolences at www.bellburnaby.com.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

FREE BALLROOM Dance Open House. Sunday, Jan. 10 from 5 - 7pm, Mahon Hall. Workshop & registration for classes. Lessons Jan 17, 24 & Feb 7, 14, 21, Mar 7. New-comers: 5pm to 6, Advanced: 6:30 - 7:30, half hour practice times. \$60 per person for 6 nights, incl. practices. kathy@ballroomsaltspring.com 250-537-5058.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP "Gratitude" Kimberly Lineger will explore aspects of this grace in our lives 11 am, Sunday Jan. 10, 2010, at S.S. Seniors' Centre. www.saltspringunitarian.com

SWING DANCE Class, 6 nights 7-9pm starting Wed. Jan. 6 at Mahon Hall. Morley 250-537-4898 or email: mgallery@telus.net

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS

SAMUEL THOMAS COCHRANE
(1930 - 2009)

Sam's journey ended on Dec. 30. He had been very ill for 12 days.

Many will remember him as the postman.

Sam is survived by Elsie, Betty, dear friend Susannah, old friend George Coles and the dogs Nicki & Jenny.

Predeceased by his brother Bill, Sam leaves 4 sisters: Anne, Mary, Margaret & Kathryn. Service was held at our church, Salt Spring United on Jan. 4 at 2:00pm.

During Sam's final illness we are thankful to those who travelled this journey with us. To Dr. Woodley who showed such caring, to Virginia who drove us to appointments on some very stormy days and guided me with quiet calm.

An Irish toast to all from Sam: "Confusion to our enemies, God's greatest gifts to our friends".



Nora Sharp
(nee Rous)

Born: September 2, 1912
Died: December 31, 2009

Peacefully in Greenwoods at age 97, after a full life.

Nora grew up in the Ottawa Valley, one of the beautiful Rous daughters. Her life changed dramatically when she met and married Flight Sergeant Marshal Sharp from Vancouver in 1938. As an airforce wife she travelled the country with him, bearing five active children. They took early retirement and moved to Salt Spring Island in 1960 where they continued to raise their children, create gardens, build rock walls and sail the coast in their boat, Sonsy. Marshal died in 1973, and Nora continued the manufacture of flint and steel survival firefighters and providing copies of his photos (now in the Salt Spring archives).

Nora is survived by her five children, Betty Taylor (SSI), Bob Sharp [Clara] (Whitehorse), Don Sharp [Gail] (SSI), Diane Sharp [Bertrand] (Qualicum Beach) and Brenda Timbers [Bob] (Ship's Point), nine grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She will be deeply missed by her sister Dorothy Jessiman and her family in the east.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

BINGO
MEADEN HALL
Royal Canadian Legion

7 PM THURSDAY
January 7
Early Birds, 6:30 pm

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

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

POTTERY LESSONS!!

CLASS A:
Wed. Jan 27th 6-9pm
Thurs. Jan 28th 6-9pm
Sat. Jan 29th 10-3pm.

CLASS B:
Wed. Feb 3rd 6-9pm
Thurs. Feb 4th 6-9pm
Sat. Feb 6th 10-3pm.

CLASS C:
Wed. Feb 17th 6-9pm
Thurs. Feb 18th 6-9pm
Sat. Feb 20th 10-3pm.

Working with slab and wheel thrown forms and lots of decorating! Cups, mugs, vases and bowls. Classes \$180.

Please call Julie MacKinnon at: 250-537-2100.

Salt Spring Island Historical Society

will present the following program:

Wednesday January 13

General Meeting and "A History of the BC Provincial Police Force from the Gold Rush to 1950"

Presenter: Bob McWhirter

2:00 p.m. Central Hall
Coffee & Tea to follow.
All are welcome!

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
INFORMATION

CHILD-CENTRED SUPERVISED ACCESS
serving Gulf Islands and Victoria. Criminal Record check. Supervisor, Geoffrey Anderson, BA. Lay counsellor. 250-532-8785 or email: geoffreyanderson@live.com

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LOVE is letting go of FEAR
ENOUGH is letting go of GREED
WE is the inversion of ME

Who reads us?
88% of Islanders read the Driftwood each week. -Combase survey

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS

Margaret (Peggy) Jacobs recently of Meadowbrook Seniors Residence died on Monday, December 28th, 2009. She will be remembered on Salt Spring Island for her ready smile, her lively conversation, her interest in the arts, in conservation and hiking and her strong interest in the sciences. She leaves to remember her fondly her two children, Angela and Adrian, her three grandchildren Tom, Peter and Leslie, and seven great-grandchildren as well as many many good friends in Western Canada, especially on the island and some still in England.

Peggy was born close to the Lake District in England in 1916 and met her future husband, George, during beagling meets, but they also enjoyed field hockey, mountain climbing and kayaking, the latter especially on the great rivers of Europe. She was persuaded not to study sciences or engineering where she really wanted to go, and instead studied Home Economics at Battersea Polytechnic in London and then became a school teacher in her native Barrow-in-Furness. After marriage to George, by now a solicitor (lawyer) they settled outside Windsor, England where they raised their two children. In addition during the war years she worked to increase voting registration especially among women, made electrical coils for the war effort, started a kindergarten initially in a spare bedroom in their flat which then moved to it's own building. She also gave cooking lessons for both children and adults in nearby Windsor. The family moved to Edmonton, Alberta in the mid '50s. She initially became a substitute teacher in junior high schools, then moved to the Correspondence School teaching Grade XII biology. She was then asked to redesign and rewrite the course. This led to her preparing a series of TV programs to teach distant Correspondence School student supervisors around the province about the new course. In order to increase her understanding of teaching and communication she went back to university to earn an M.Ed in Educational Psychology (with distinction). Peggy was then taken on as a faculty member by University of Alberta, Faculty of Home Economics, to teach communications, especially to the young women who would become dietitians in the community. Her final academic position was as Research Associate in the brand new Athabasca University.

Peggy was widowed in 1965 and remarried in 1974, returning to Cambridge, England where they lived in a unique National Trust protected house some 500 years old. She was able to meet and become friends with many world-renowned scientists, including Stephen and Jane Hawking, during those years. She returned to Canada, to live on Salt Spring Island, in 1981, living on Old Scott Road for almost 27 years. She joined the Hiking Club and quickly made many friends on the island. She enjoyed her garden, her painting, hiking both on and off island, the Arts and especially music and keeping up to date on current affairs. Her living room table was always covered with a mass/mess (!) of periodicals, magazines, books and newspapers. She loved conversation and the sciences, and only a month before her death was asking about the latest findings on black holes. She enjoyed her computer to keep up to date with her friends both here and in England and had it brought in to Lady Minto Hospital to try to keep going. Alas that was not to be, and she died peacefully, her friends by her side, a smile on her face.

The family wishes to thank very sincerely all her friends who visited and supported her while she was in Lady Minto, as well as the health care team from the kitchen aides and servers to the nurses and physicians who were so kind to her. Thank you. You all made her stay much more bearable.

There will be a reception at Meadowbrook Seniors Residence, 121 Atkins Road, SSI on Wednesday, January 6 between 2 and 4 pm



DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Vijnana Yoga with Cathy Valentine

Classes Beginning the week of Jan. 10

Mondays 5 - 6:30 pm Level 1 at The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Road

Wednesdays 8:30 - 10:30 am Level 2/3 Practice at Foodforest Farm, 380 Starks Road

Level 3 Session Sundays January 10 & 24, February 7 & 28

Introduction to Vijnana Yoga Workshop Saturday January 16

Private classes by appointment 250-537-1477 www.valentineyoga.ca

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (Gulf Islands)

A regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held at the Salt Spring Island Middle School **Wednesday Jan 13, 2010 at 1:00 pm**

Public welcome!

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

Re: The Estate of ROBERT MICHAEL AKERMAN, Deceased, formerly of 2501 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 1Z4.

Creditors and others having claims against the Estate of ROBERT MICHAEL AKERMAN, are hereby notified under section 38 of the Trustee Act that particulars of their claims should be sent to the Executors at Box 414, Ganges P.O., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2W1, on or before February 10, 2010, after which date the Executors will distribute the estate among the parties entitled to it, having regard to the claims of which the Executors then has notice.

James Pasuta, Solicitor for the Estate of ROBERT MICHAEL AKERMAN.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: "TRICK" bike. Phone 250-537-4709.

PHOTO FOUND in front of Mahon Hall, appears to be an elementary class of Miss Persson's.

TRAVEL

GETAWAYS

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

Free tutoring and resources for adults: basic literacy skills, ESL, a study centre and exam invigilation.

Call 250-537-9717 Email: coordinator@saltspringliteracy.org SALT SPRING LITERACY

HELP WANTED

ATTENTION TRAINERS wanted. 50 yr old Distribution Company is looking for Online Trainers. You work flexible hours, from Home on your computer. See: www.123yoursuccess.com

COFFEE SHOP MANAGER experience a must. Qualified barista, wages and benefits based on experience. email resume: plarge@clintana.com

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY as mother's help in London, UK, Jan.-June, then on Salt Spring July - Aug. Live-in position in beautiful Notting Hill flat. Nannying & cleaning req'd, hours & pay neg; all exp. paid. Apply to: robinrudgley@hotmail.com

EXCITING SALES OPPORTUNITY

NuTech IT Solutions seeks full time Sales Experts to join our team in delivering professional mobile computing services onsite to business clients located throughout South Vancouver Island.

Successful candidates will be bondable and have technology sales experience and own reliable transportation and possess a valid driver's license.

Positions are available today in our Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo offices.

Interested applicants please email jobs@nutechitsolutions.com to obtain application.

EXPERIENCED HEAVY duty mechanics required for North Vancouver Island Logging Company. Full time, union rates & benefits. Fax resumes to 250-956-4888 or Call 250-956-3123.

JOIN US for a rewarding career supporting a female adult at her home and in the community with communication, behaviour, employment and life skills. Experience preferred, training can be provided. Valid drivers license required. Please submit covering letter and resume to GIFTS 152 McPhillips.

THE SALT SPRING CENTRE OF YOGA

seeks an administrator to oversee program and retreat registration, advise clients and assist in marketing and bookkeeping. The successful applicant will have proficiency in Microsoft Office including Access, excellent communication skills and experience working in a spiritual retreat environment. Personal involvement with yoga a definite asset. 20 hr/wk, \$15-18/hr. Resume to shankar@saltspringcentre.com

Photos are available for purchase @ our on-line photostore gulfislandsdriftwood.com

INFORMATION

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.

Salt Spring Island FOUNDATION

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

to our patients

Please be advised that the office of

DR. ROBERT CRICHTON will be closed for vacation

Monday January 25 - Friday January 29

The office will reopen Monday February 1, 2010

we apologize for any inconvenience

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Changes

PARC Inaugural Regular Public Meeting will be held on **Monday, January 11th at 7PM in the Portlock portable meeting room**

Parks Planning on January 11th is cancelled.

PARC Regular Public Meeting on January 25th is cancelled.

Please contact the PARC Administration offices with any questions 250-537-4448.

PARC 145 Vesuvius Bay Road SSI BC V8K 1K3 Fax: 250 537-4456

parc parks & recreation Info 250-537-4448

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vijnana Yoga Introductory Workshop Lyndsay Savage & Cathy Valentine

We will share with you the main principles and practices of Vijnana Yoga, giving you a sense of our teaching styles and a class experience.

Where: 138 Bullock Creek Road

When: Saturday January 16, 2010 10am-1pm

\$30

Call Lyndsay to register today: 250-538-0177

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EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

DOROTHY PRICE CERTIFIED YOGA TEACHER www.dorothyoga.com

YOGA - 2010 SCHEDULE

Mon. 8 - 9am - ALL LEVELS The Core Inn (3rd floor), Ganges

Mon. 4:30 - 6pm - ALL LEVELS SSI Centre of Yoga, 355 Blackburn

Tues. 7 - 8:30pm - ALL LEVELS The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds

Wed. 9am - 10:30am - ALL LEVELS The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds

Wed. 6:30 - 8pm - ALL LEVELS The Core Inn (3rd floor), Ganges **Starts Jan. 4**

Thur. 4:30 - 6pm - ALL LEVELS SSI Centre of Yoga, 355 Blackburn

Fri. 8am-9am - ALL LEVELS Pranayam & meditation option at 7:15am SSI Centre of Yoga, 355 Blackburn

250-653-4655 dorothyoga@hotmail.com

INFORMATION

INFORMATION

Notice of Meetings of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee regulates land use within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area. This Trust area includes Salt Spring Island, Piers Island, Prevost Island, the Secretary Islands and Wallace Island.

Local Trust Committee meetings are open to the public. Notice of these meetings is posted on the bulletin board at the Islands Trust Office located at 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island. Each meeting's date and time will also be advertised in a local newspaper.

The scheduled meetings will usually be held on the first Thursday of each month at Artspring, 100 Jackson Avenue, commencing normally at 10:30AM unless specified. The meeting dates are as follows:

February 4, 2010	August 5, 2010
March 4, 2010	September 2, 2010
April 1, 2010	October 7, 2010
May 6, 2010	November 4, 2010
June 3, 2010	December 2, 2010
July 8, 2010	

The proposed meeting agenda is normally available 1 week prior to the meeting and may be obtained at the Islands Trust office, on our website or by registering on our email distribution list.

Visit our website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca Contact us at (250) 537-9144

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Occasional homemakers replace other Homemakers due to heavier work days, vacation, illness, etc. Hours based on need: minimum of 2 hours daily to maximum of 5 days a week.

Duties and Qualifications: To see a Homemaker's job description, please refer to www.heritageplace.info under "Occasional" Homemaker.

Wages: Start at \$16.00 per hour

Please submit questions, resumes and references until January 15th, 2010 to General Manager: manager@heritageplace.info

SALT SPRING INN requires experienced prep cook. Resumes in person please.

Read it off-island on-line. gulfislandsaqua.com

PETS REMEMBERED

HELP WANTED

SEACHANGE SAVOURIES is creating a new management position. This job requires excellent communication and management skills. Successful applicant will be experienced with both Macs and PCs, Excel, Word, and databases (preferably FileMaker), and will be able to perform basic technical support tasks. Daytime hours Monday to Thursday at SeaChange on Salt Spring Island, starting wage \$18.00/hr. Send resumes to: nicki@seachangesavouries.ca (no hyphen).



view online at gulfislandsaqua.com

PETS REMEMBERED

HELP WANTED

NEW Job for your New Year

Join our active team and help us stay on track in our busy, multi-faceted operation. We need a pro-active office person who is experienced in business protocol, organized, personable, and detail-oriented. Responsibilities include: fulfilling front line role, maintaining office systems and equipment, working fluently with Microsoft Office programs, and administering other general office duties. Hours: 12 to 20 hours per week. Competitive salary. Resumes will be accepted until Monday, January 18th at Box 15 c/o Driftwood Publishing, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V3. Please provide references with your resume.

HOME CARE/SUPPORT

FORMER LPN over 20 yrs exp to provide a wide variety of Home Care Services for Seniors. Call (250) 474-2555.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

MEDICAL/DENTAL

RN'S & PN'S REQUIRED AS INSTRUCTORS

Sprott-Shaw Community College is currently seeking RNs and PNs to teach in our health care programs at our Courtenay and Nanaimo campuses. Areas of work could include: instructing classroom courses, supervising nursing arts labs, supervising clinical and practicum environments.

Requirements:
• Registered Nurse or
• Practical nurse (Active registration required for Clinical work)
• Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team preferred:

Sprott-Shaw Community College is an accredited private post-secondary institution training over 4000 students per year. We offer a competitive package & excellent team work environment.

Please fax cover letters, resumes and copies of your credentials to

Lana H. at: 250-897-1889 or email to lanah@sprott-shaw.com

WORK WANTED

CARPENTER AVAILABLE. Renovations - new construction and property maintenance. Excellent references. Contact John Caron @ 250-537-9397 or jbcaron@telus.net

COMPLETE GARDEN maintenance, Fruit tree pruning. 15 yrs. exp. Call Doug 250-653-9292.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

WORK WANTED

JOURNEYMAN CARPENTER Contractor available. Additions, renovations, solariums, sun decks, concrete work. Quality experience and integrity. Jim Anderson 250-537-0779. References.

NOW ACCEPTING new clients. Beverlee Caron, SSI resident of 25 years...cleaner extraordinaire and gardener magnificent!! Excellent references. Organizational skills will have your home and gardens what you always wanted!! Contact 250-537-9397 or jbcaron@telus.net

WORK WANTED: plumber does remodel, reno's, carpentry, electrical, painting, etc. Refs. 250-537-7235.

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RESIDENTIAL CLEANER avail. Fridays to fill full time 5 hrs. or more as of Jan. 2. Great Ref's. Call Diana at 250-537-2930 lv. message.

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250-537-1037 & ask for Jim

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COURTENAY COMMERCIAL properties for lease. Automotive dealership relocating to new facility in Fall of 2010. 2x3/4 adjacent properties each with building and service garage. Excellent location in centre of Courtenay. For more information call Chris or Danny at 250-338-1988

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RENTALS

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2 BDRM HOME, Vesuvius Bay, 5 acres plus workshop, \$1150 plus util. 604-858-5272 or rabosnell@shaw.ca

BEAUTIFUL 4 BDRM house on acreage, Woodstove, Garden, central, \$1800 plus util. 250-653-9898.

COTTAGES ON St. Mary Lake, fully furnished, NS, NP. Starting at \$650/mo., available Oct. 15 to Apr 1. 250-537-2585.

LARGE 1 BDRM, long term apartment near Ganges. \$850 incl util, Avail. Jan 1. 250-653-9898.

SMALL RUSTIC south end cabin, near Fuckle Park. Long term, wood heat, NS, cat negotiable. 1 person only. Avail Feb. 1, \$500/mo. incl Hydro. Ref. required. 250-653-9475.

SUNNY, CENTRAL 1 bdrm & loft designer cabin (#4-750 Lower Ganges). Avail Jan 1 for long term. N/S, N/P, \$900. 250-537-4579.

VERY COMFORTABLE 35' trailer, complete, bathroom, wood stove. + outdoor soaker tub. Located in secluded woods, central island. \$400 incl. util. 250-537-6382 or themailstrom@yahoo.com

SEASONAL ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION INFO for the Gulf Islands is a mouse-click away: www.gulfislandstourism.com

COMPUTER SERVICES

In Memory of Tessa

Our loyal and loving friend & companion November 30, 1997 to January 3, 2009

"The dawn emerges from the eastern sky While my heart urges yours to fight on. Your eyes knowingly question mine, why? And expectantly seek the glowing dawn.

Yet I, my loyal friend, overwhelmed with pain, My ears straining for the beat of your heart, Hoping some ground from death to gain, Missed the wise message you tried to impart.

But, when your heartbeat was gone And your spirit merged with the gentle new light, Through my darkness I caught a glimpse of your dawn

And I lost my fear of the sinister night."

Goodbye Tessa, until we meet again.

- Melitta & Sepp



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Run your classified ad in The Driftwood 'til it sells!
All ads appear on-line at: gulfislandsdriftwood.com and bcclassified.com
Your private party (merchandise) classified ad will run in our next 4 insertions • If you need to modify the ad or run it again, just call us and we'll run it again for another 4 insertions • Extra lines at 1/2 price • Please, no more than 3 items, call to remove an item.

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BAUHAUS WHOLE home 2 pc. sectional, med. brown, 3 toss cushions, exc. cond. \$1200 250-537-5395.

OAK STEREO/ENTERTAINMENT stand with 4 tinted glass doors (48x47x20") with shelves. Perfect cond. \$200. Call 250-537-7666.

GARAGE SALES

HOUSE-SALE SAT. Jan. 9. 191 Reynolds Road 8:00-12:00 p.m. Antique Furniture, King Tempurpedic Bed, wool rugs, Other Small Items.

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

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ACCESSIBLE BATHTUBS - Bathe safely in your own home with a full-size, deep-soaker spa tub by Aquasure. Walker, wheelchair & lift accessible. Gov't grants available. Canadian made. 1-866-404-8827 www.aquasure.com

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27" TOSHIBA TV, 9 years old. Good working condition. \$200. Call: (250) 537-2458.

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MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ART. Offering for sale a private collection of works from Papunya Tula Artists Co-op. Exhibition quality, acrylic on Belgian linen. Investment potential. These paintings depict ancient Dreamtime stories of Pintubi people from the Western Desert. Works by acclaimed artists: Nanyuma Napangati (61 x 55cm) \$995, Pantjiya Nungurrayi (91 x 46cm) \$1750, and Miriam Napanangka (107 x 28cm) \$995. Includes authenticity certificate with cultural story and artist bio. (250) 931-7899, redochre@shaw.ca, www.livingtraditions.ca

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Shades of red — high expectations for a high-flying roster

Alright, the results are in — time to complain.

Team Canada executive director Steve Yzerman and his management team have chosen 23 of our nation's biggest and brightest hockey superstars in an attempt to win the highly sought-after eighth gold medal on home soil at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

With 14 players on the roster under the age of 26, Team Canada has opted to go with a younger line-up that will include current NHL sensations Sidney Crosby, Rick Nash and Ryan Getzlaf, but also pivotal in their success will be the play of veterans such as team captain Scott Niedermayer, Jarome Iginla and Chris Pronger.

It also looks as though Canada will have one of the best goaltending tandems in the tournament with Martin Brodeur, Roberto Luongo and Marc-Andre Fleury. Though there is no official word from management as to which goalie will act as starter, I'd put my money on the guy who just broke Terry Sawchuk's shut-out record.

Hint: it's Brodeur. Notable omissions from the roster include Vincent Lecavalier, Dion Phaneuf, Mike Green, Martin St. Louis, Jay Bouwmeester and Robyn Regehr. So far, none of those players



Patrick Cwiklinski

LET'S TALK SPORTS

have pulled a Mikael Samuelsson and told the team to go . . . well . . . look it up.

Any surprises? Not really. Considering the amount of Canadian talent, it'd be hard to go wrong with any player you put on this team. But let's be honest, a first-line combination of Crosby, Iginla and Nash doesn't sound half bad, does it?

However, there are a couple of things I'd like to bring to light.

As much as it pains me to say this about such a great defence-man and leader, Scott Niedermayer should not be the captain of this hockey team.

It isn't a question about his abilities as a player at 36, because he's still good.

Damn good. It's more to do with the make-up of the team and that kind of structure, in my mind, sees Iginla wearing the "C" in Vancouver.

Of course, though Iggy is far too humble to admit it and has way too much class and respect for Niedermayer and the fact that he is the only player to win every major North American and international championship, he knows he deserves

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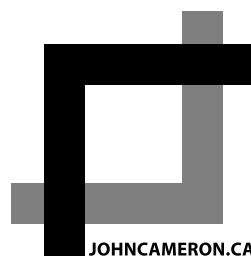
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RENTALS

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GROUND LEVEL, clean, newly renovated 2 bedroom suite available to responsible N/S for Feb 1st. W/D, wireless internet and utils incl. \$900 On bus route (Fernwood), 10 mins to town. 250-537-0621

NEAR GANGES: as new, spacious, ground level, 1 bdrm & open den, 9' ceilings, skylight, patio, FP, hd. wd. flrs, 5 appl. \$875 + approx \$50 util. NP. Avail. Mar. 1 or sooner 250-538-8878.

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4 MICHELIN, 14" snow tires with rims for sale, used one season, \$500. 250-537-1197.

SABINE'S BOOKS announces that regular book buying will resume in spring. Until then we are available to evaluate and purchase special collections and estates. Call 250-538-0025 for appointment.

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This Week's Horoscope
by Michael O'Connor
SEE THE WEEKENDER FOR THIS WEEKS HOROSCOPE PUBLISHED FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2010

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What's for Dinner?

TEX-MEX FAJITAS

Short cuts to cooking for one or two © 2009 with Sarah Lynn

FAJITA: The word fajita is Spanish for belt or girdle. Fajita is a dish of meat and vegetables cut into strips, cooked, and wrapped inside a tortilla. In exploring the history of fajitas, several credible stories emerge. All of them, I found, have roots in the Rio Grande Valley of southwest Texas. Regularly, during cattle roundups, steers were butchered to feed the cattle hands. Throwaway items such as meat trimmings and skirt steak were given to the Mexican vaqueros (cowboys) as part of their pay. Hearty, spicy dishes like fajitas were created in the original Tex-Mex culinary style (Tex-Mex means an adaptation of Mexican dishes by Texan cooks).



Thinly slice **1 lb. steak or chicken**. (Tough cuts of meat can be marinated in the **juice of one lime** the night before.) Cook over high heat with **2 tablespoons vegetable oil** for six to eight minutes, turning regularly until almost cooked through. Reduce heat to medium. Add **1 package Fajita Spice Mix** and stir until combined. Add **1 tablespoon salsa, 1 teaspoon cumin, 1 tablespoon lime zest** (use the smallest side of your grater to acquire lime zest). Stir. Add **1 thinly sliced bell pepper, 1 diced tomato and 1 sliced onion**. Cook 3-5 minutes more. Serve with warm **flour tortillas, 2 tablespoons grated cheddar cheese** and a **dollop of sour cream**.

Shopping list:

- Steak or Chicken
- Vegetable Oil
- Fajita Spice
- Salsa
- Cumin
- Lime
- Bell Pepper
- Tomato
- Onion
- Flour Tortillas
- Cheddar Cheese
- Sour Cream

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