

# Barnacle

## Island Journal

Tuesday, December 18, 200  
Salt Spring Island, B.C.  
Vol. 4, Issue 51

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Photos by  
Derrick Lundy

# Coping WITH Christmas

By PIRJO RAITIS

**T**he holiday season is not necessarily a time of comfort and joy.

For many people it is rife with expectation and stress. For some it is a lonely time away from family and loved ones, and complex and varied feelings often surface.

It can be a "blue" Christmas.

"Christmas can be a painful time," says United Church minister Rohana Laing. "People are feeling alone in a culture where the emphasis is on family. People may be separated or have the worry of ill health, the insecurity of employment, or broken relationships."

On Thursday afternoon Laing led a Candles of Hope Service at the church.

The candle lighting ceremony was meant to

let people know they are not alone. Four candles were lit to represent grief, courage, memories and love. It was an emotional service where a few tears and a lot of thoughts flowed freely.

Laing observed that people have more often been turning to one another since September 11.

"Christmas, although stressful, can bring out the best in people. This season is a time

for us to reach out to one another, especially those in the margins," she said.

Laing said this is the first time church members have held such a service and they are exploring whether it could become a yearly event.

Sharon Glover and Brenda Hodge from the Island Counselling Group agree that the holi-

*SURVIVING THE SEASON cont'd on*



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## December 2001

### Women's Health in Midlife Project

A Mini Film Festival: first of a series  
Monday 10 December at Salt Spring Seniors  
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Videod presentations of renowned Canadian experts  
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1:00pm - "Heart Health & Menopause"

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We are looking for warm hearted people who like to bring joy to others & have a little spare time each week. **Friendly Visitors** provide regular, long term visits adding a bright spot to the week of a lonely senior! **Right now, we are especially looking for female Friendly Visitors - one who smokes and one who likes to walk!** Please call 537-4607 if you would like to participate or for more information.

### No Blood Pressure Clinic in December

next clinic: Monday 28 January / 10am - noon

Call Sharon at 537-4607 if you are interested in any of these:

\*Arthritis Self-Management Program \*Breast Self-Examination Teaching Clinic  
\*Community Kitchens for Seniors \*Diabetes Support Group

## PLEASE NOTE OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE CHANGE

For the issue of Monday December 24th, 2001

Display Ad Deadline:  
Noon, Wednesday, Dec 19th

Classified Deadline:  
5pm, Thursday, Dec 20th

Too Late Too Classify Deadline:  
Noon, Friday, Dec 21st

For the issue of Monday, December 31st, 2001

Display Ad Deadline:  
Noon, Monday, Dec 24th

Classified Deadline:  
5pm, Thursday, Dec 27th

Too Late Too Classify Deadline:  
Noon, Friday, Dec 28th

**Barnacle**  
Island Journal

## News briefs...

No, it isn't another hulk for the harbour.

If you happened to spy the large float home moored in Ganges Harbour on Monday, be assured it is not another potentially permanent fixture at Ganges Marina.

According to a marina spokesman, the float home is being repaired at that particular site and will be moved out once the repairs are complete.

• If you plan to drink and drive over the next couple of weeks — don't.

Salt Spring RCMP are stepping up their road

check campaign until the new year and drivers can expect to be stopped and checked.

"We could be anywhere. Hopefully it will be a deterrent," says Cpl. Dave Voller. "We've set aside time on every shift for road checks at various locations on the island."

Voller says drivers will be removed from the road if they have been drinking.

• Lions Hall was packed last Thursday with mainly Mount Belcher-area residents concerned about a density transfer proposal that would see 15 additional lots created in a new subdi-

vision between Rainbow Road and Wilkie Way in exchange covenanted protection of 219 acres of Mount Erskine land.

Residents were mainly concerned about the potential future impact of a gated, emergency access road proposed to give emergency services alternate access to Mount Belcher.

Some of those attending pressed Trust staff to explain how Phase II of a Juniper Place subdivision (37 lots with the density transfer) could be contemplated when problems with arsenic-contaminated water in Phase I had not been dealt with to the satisfaction of all residents there.

Trust planner John Gauld

explained each application had to be dealt with on its own merits.

About a dozen people kept a later part of the meeting lively by commenting on an application for expansion of an aquaculture licence at McFadden Creek.

See Thursday's Driftwood for more details on both issues.

The final Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting of 2001 is also set for Thursday at Lions Hall. It begins at 1:15 p.m. with an open "town hall" session where members of the public can ask trustees and staff questions on any topic concerning the community and the Islands Trust.

## Surviving the season *cont'd from p1*

day season leads some to look forward to the festivities, while many dread the stress and heightened expectations.

"We tend to have high expectations of ourselves, others and the season," the women stated.

"Although our lives may already be busy, we pressure ourselves to do many extra things and then end up tired, disappointed or frustrated.

Advertised images of wonderful, loving family get-togethers and constant goodwill may fall far short of our own reality.

"The holiday season does not magically change our lives. Many people feel let down, confused and unsure about how to survive the coming weeks. If we are struggling with financial worries, ill health, addictions, family conflicts or grief, it may seem overwhelming to consider the challenges of

the holidays.

"It's easy to say 'Bah Humbug!' because things are not what they used to be or not what you want them to be," said Glover. "For some of us, painful memories from past years can intrude on the present."

Glover and Hodge said some small changes can mean the difference between surviving or thriving.

The counsellors suggest people try a few of their suggestions and see what happens.

• As the "December rush" begins, take time to reflect on what this season means to you;

• Think about what you do value, then put your time and energy towards that;

• Change your expectations: let go of what doesn't fit your present situation;

• Change your "self talk": find meaning or joy in what you like and ignore the rest;

• Change your behaviour: stop or modify old traditions or habits that no longer work;

• Be open to creating new rituals;

• Explore many options to ease stress, difficult problems and painful situations;

• Plan and focus on your own self-care and well being;

• Identify a recurring holiday season problem and decide how to change it;

• Try to spend less: ease the January financial pinch;

• Talk to a friend or professional about your feelings.

Holidays are stressful, especially financially, but there are a number of ways to make the season memorable and joyful — and you don't have to spend next year's fortune to do it.

• Consider cost-saving measures like making your own gift wrap and cards. Last year's cards can be re-used as gift tags; newspaper roll ends can be stamped with stamps made from potatoes.

• Give someone who may need it a load of firewood, or some kindling to help keep the home fires burning warmly. Baked goods and homemade jams and jellies are an appreciated and thoughtful gift idea.

• Offer to plow someone's driveway when they have been blocked by winter snow.

• Burn some favourite and meaningful songs to a CD. You can also design and create your own CD covers for a personalized touch.

• Do something with the people you care about. Your gift can be something as simple as visiting an elderly relative more often. It will be a gift that lasts a lot longer than a bar of soap.

• Bring dinner to a friend who is house-bound or not well. Share a casserole or larger meal weekly with your co-workers.

• It is the thought that counts, no matter what. Being loving and caring does not cost a thing.

Finally, just remember that the holidays are what you make them.

For those still unable to cope, there are a number of places people can find help.

The Salt Spring Community Services Society is a non-profit society providing free confidential services which include crisis counselling, alcohol and drug counselling, and a mental health nurse. They can be reached at 537-9971.

A 24-hour toll free crisis line is also available through 1-877-435-7544. Many private counsellors on the island are listed in the health care directory of the Lions phone book.

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Day	Time	Feet	Day	Time	Feet	Day	Time	Feet
27	0340	8.5	30	0605	10.8	03	0820	11.8
NOV	0755	7.5	NOV	1020	9.2	DEC	1310	9.8
TUE	1355	10.5	NOV	1455	10.5	DEC	1620	10.5
	2110	3.6	FRI	2230	1.3	MON		
28	0435	9.5	01	0650	11.2	04	0030	0.7
NOV	0845	7.9	DEC	1110	9.5	DEC	0905	11.8
WED	1415	10.5	SAT	1520	10.5	DEC	1435	9.8
	2135	2.6		2305	0.7	TUE	1700	9.8
29	0520	10.2	02	0735	11.5			
NOV	0935	8.5	DEC	1205	9.8			
THUR	1435	10.5	DEC	1550	10.5			
	2200	2.0	SUN	2345	0.7			

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# High school nerd squad excels at mock UN forum

By PIRJO RAITIS  
Staff Writer

They call themselves the Nerd Squad and they embrace that name fully.

They like to debate and expand their minds.

They may call themselves nerds but they are also polite, courteous and consummate political animals.

The Nerd Squad was the smallest contingent of delegates and travelled the furthest to attend a mock UN conference held in Montreal in mid-November, yet they brought home three honourable mention awards.

The Gulf Islands Secondary School students raised all of their own travel and conference money (roughly \$1,000 each) through part-time jobs and their own personal savings.

Six hundred students from both Canada and the U.S. attended the conference put on by McGill University students.

The GISS students were the only delegates from west of Manitoba. Group members were Adrian Leitch, Tristan Sharp, Byron Fetherstone, Rory Allen, Adam Davies, John-Michael McColl and Stewart Webb.

They returned home fired up and enthusiastic. The experience hasn't really changed any of their minds about what they may want to do after high school, but it did steer a number of them into thinking about the international legal and political ring.

The calibre of debate encountered in Montreal has left a lasting taste in their mouths for more.

At least one member wants to be prime minister one day; another has his sights set on international law; another is interested in international relations; while others want to be teachers, politicians or professors. It wasn't the conference that gave them these goals, but it did solidify their resolve.

"It was four days of total excitement all of the time. It was worth all of the hassle," said Davies.

The whole adventure wasn't without its hassles. At the very last minute their flights and tickets were affected by the Canada 3000 closure, but they insisted on thanking Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Gary Lunn for coming through with two airline tickets which helped defray the extra costs, as well as the Royal Canadian Legion



**NERD SQUAD** — Seven students from Gulf Islands Secondary School travelled to Montreal in November to take part in a mock United Nations symposium. Seen here are: Adrian Leitch, Rory Allen, Byron Fetherstone, John-Michael McColl, Stuart Webb, and Tristan Sharp. Missing from the photo is Adam Davies.

Branch 92 and Thrifty Foods.

"It was an incredible experience, incredibly entertaining. It's interesting, and more what it would be like in Canadian government. After two days you discover instinctively that you could become a wheeler-dealer politician," said Sharp.

Conference guest speakers talked about world issues such as terrorism, refugees, violence and Afghanistan.

Leitch said the way ideas were presented to them dispelled a lot of misconceptions and myths. He learned to be more cynical about what people hear through American propaganda.

Allen was on the legal committee which dealt with global issues like the new world economy. He did research before he went to the conference and said it helped him learn about the

issues you see in the world.

"Now I can watch the news and understand what is going on," he said.

The students credit their teacher David Columbin for encouraging them to attend. Columbin said he never got a chance to do it himself when he was in high school.

"I was jealous . . . I wanted to speak out; it was hard to bite my tongue," he said.

Nerd Squad members encourage any student to consider attending future conferences.

"Go! Go! Seven people got three awards. It's amazing what anybody can do. You don't need experience, just interest," said Leitch.

Probably the one person who summed it all up was Fetherstone when he said, "We're from Salt Spring — conflict and debate is what we're bred on."

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# Brad Magnus set to dance, speak as advocate in Japan

By MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Staff Writer

Salt Spring dancer Brad Magnus has been invited to perform for the Crown prince of Japan in March 2002.

Perhaps even more significantly, the young man with Down's Syndrome has been asked to speak to several Japanese associations as an advocate for people with disabilities.

When asked how he felt about this opportunity to travel and perform, he replied: "One word — awesome."

"In Japan they are still at the stage of hiding people with intellectual disabilities and being ashamed," said Brad's mother Ethel.

"They really want to understand how we treat our people in Canada and learn what is different from them to help people reach their potential."

She described how a Japanese doctor showed a video of Brad dancing to

prospective parents of children with Down's Syndrome.

"They were so excited about hope for their children," Ethel said.

Brad was invited to Japan by researcher Ryo Takahashi.

"Mr. Takahashi said, 'You are at the grassroots of opening Asia this way; it's really quite amazing,'" she said.

Brad met Takahashi in 1998 at a conference for the Association of Scientific Studies of Intellectual Disabilities held in Cyprus.

"He asked Brad, 'Why do you come to this conference to dance?' and Brad said, 'Because I want to give what I can.' This Japanese gentleman was so impressed... they came to visit us on Salt Spring in 2000 and invited us to come to Japan," Ethel said.

Remembering Takahashi's visit, Brad noted that the two performed the song Amazing Grace together during a concert for family and friends.

"Ryo sang and I danced. He's a very good singer," Brad said.

Contemplating how he could help Japanese people with disabilities he said:

"If you want to fall in with me to dance, I could teach you. (If) it's only your way to teach me your dance, maybe I could pick it up or you could share your dance with me."

Brad has aspirations of becoming a dance teacher and promoter. He would also like to build a dance studio.

"I'd like to teach dance to anybody, but not too young." Before helping others in Japan, Brad could use some local assistance.

"If there's someone in the community who knows something about Japanese dance or movement, that would be great to include (in Brad's performance) — even a simple greeting could be extended a little bit," said Ethel.

The Magnus family is also overwhelmed by the prospect of an expensive two-week trip to Japan where costs can exceed three times Canadian prices..

"I've heard a can of Coke costs \$10," Ethel said.

Fortunately a Japanese association has donated ¥300,000 (\$3-4,000) to help the Magnus family manage the trip.

The Barcapel Foundation of Glasgow, Scotland has also donated £2,500 (\$5,800).

Local Barcapel director Jed Wilson said he's seen Brad perform and called him "extremely talented."

He hopes the Magnus family will use part of the donation to buy a digital camera to document their trip.

"I see him as an ambassador for Salt Spring, Canada and mentally handicapped people."

"I'm hoping that I can reach out to the local branch. If you want to help you can. If you want to donate something, I'm happy for it," Brad said.

Brad Magnus has a trust fund called Project Japan set up at the Bank of Montreal (Account #0715-3076-358).

## Grant opportunity

Local Barcapel Foundation director Jed Wilson is interested in hearing about registered charities that need financial assistance.

Barcapel granted \$5,800 to Brad Magnus and another \$5,800 to Phoenix High School this year.

The Scottish charitable group also donated \$22,000 to the Salt Spring Cooperative Preschool last year.

Barcapel has a mandate to support talented and/or disadvantaged youth or alternative medical research.

Wilson is interested in helping local organizations that fit the Barcapel aid profile.

"I'm not Father Christmas but I'd be interested in hearing appeals," Wilson said.

"I'd like to support local organizations," he said.

Wilson can be reached at 538-0003.

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and the government shall  
be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be  
called Wonderful, Counsellor,  
The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace.*

— Isaiah 9:6

*The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island*  
**Christmas Services for 2001**

**December 23**  
2:30 pm Christmas Carol Sing at St. Mary's

**December 24 - Christmas Eve**  
7:00 pm Family Eucharist and Blessing of the Creche at All Saints'  
7:00 pm Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's  
11:00 pm Midnight Mass at All Saints'

**December 25 - Christmas Day**  
10:00 pm Holy Eucharist at All Saints'

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**CORE INN BASH** — Youthful energy sizzled at the Core Inn Friday night as the island's youth centre hosted a dance that lasted well into the night. Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Choirs at Credit Union

The sound of singing children Christmas songs touches everyone's heart.

Today choirs from Fernwood and Salt Spring Island elementary schools will sing at Island Savings Credit Union on McPhillips Avenue.

Over 50 students from Fernwood Elementary School will sing seasonal favourites beginning at 10 a.m. Shortly after 1 p.m., 30 or more students from Salt Spring Elementary will entertain credit union customers and staff.

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## Voices tuned for annual sing-a-long

By **GAIL SJUBERG**  
Staff Writer

People itching to give one of the most enduring gifts of all need only bring their voices and families to ArtSpring on Friday night.

The December 21 Christmas Sing-along is the third annual free community carol sing at ArtSpring, and promises to be as popular as ever.

"At this time of year people do like to sing," notes event co-organizer Shirley Bunyan. "We do it so very late in the season that people are really in the mood for it."

People wanting a seat are advised to come early, since it has been a standing-room-only affair in the past.

Bunyan has been assisted in event planning by Richard Moses.

He suggests that if the Salt Spring Concert Band's Celebrate Christmas! event at the beginning of December was one "book-end" for the holiday season in music, then the ArtSpring Sing-along is the other one.

The evening is a mix of performances by island choirs on stage, alternating with the audience singing carols to the accompaniment of a brass quartet.

Participating choirs each singing two selections are Fernwood Elementary School Choir, The Lost Chords, Salt Spring Honour Choir, Women of Note, United Church Choir and

Tuned Air. Actor Scott Hylands will also do a reading.

Quartet members are Gary Dunn, Mitch Howard, Simon Miller and Joanne Roach.

Vaughn Fulford, fresh from his professional stint in The Music Man show in Vancouver, will hopefully have enough energy left to be the evening's MC.

The sing-along is also a successful goods collector for the Salt Spring Food Bank, and everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable item to the evening.

Bunyan explained the sing-along originated four years ago when ArtSpring wasn't yet open but a Christmas bash was held there anyway.

"Bandemonium had played and then a spontaneous thing happened with a number of

people standing on stage or sitting in their seats singing Christmas carols."

The following year the ArtSpring board thought a free, public carol-singing event should be offered. Paired with the annual Canada Day concert, the two events are the Island Arts Centre Society's gratis offerings for the community.

Bunyan and Moses point out how special the sharing of Christmas songs with family and friends can be.

Moses recalled a highlight from last year, when at the end of the evening a little voice piped up from the audience and said, "Could we sing Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer?"

Although older, more traditional carols dominate the agenda, Moses thinks young

Rudolf fans will be accommodated on Friday.

Carol books are provided.

As it has in the past two years, the evening will end with everyone singing the glorious Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's The Messiah.

"Each year one of the choirs has it up and practised, and this year it is Tuned Air," said Bunyan. "They'll be singing last and they'll be on the stage to sing it. We'll ask anyone else to sing it from their seats."

She said there will also be some scores available to use, although anyone who has the music at home is urged to bring it along.

The evening begins at 7 p.m., with the early start time hopefully encouraging families with children of all ages to attend.

## Cats of the Week



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**- Holiday Hours -**

\* through to Dec. 23 - regular hours 8am-8pm

\*Monday, December 24 - 8am-6pm

\*Tuesday, December 25 - CLOSED

\*Wednesday, December 26 - CLOSED

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\*Tuesday, January 1 - CLOSED

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# James, I hardly knew ye, and now it's too late



*Isle Say! ...  
with John Pottinger*

Doug Rhodes' van was parked in the shade of a big maple tree, just off to the side of the outdoor stage that was set up in Drummond Park for Fulford Day. The back doors were open and I was sitting there eating my lunch, using the van as chair, table and resting place.

Rose Hip Jam musicians were playing light and lively when a big smiling face plunked itself down beside me. It was one of those familiar Salt Spring faces; they belong to people you haven't "officially" met, but you see them often, smile and say "hi" when you pass.

"Do you find yourself laughing at things you wish you could say but you can't because this is a family event? If I were the MC I'd have to censor out half the lines that pop into my head."

I broke out laughing before he'd finished the second sentence. Those very thoughts had been rambling around my head when his words came and mingled with them.

"I know! When they asked me to list off the door prizes, I wanted to add something about a \*\*\*\*\* donated by \*\*\*\*\*." He chuckled and said he would like to announce to the crowd that "\*\*\*\*\*" had shown up at the picnic and was looking for "\*\*\*\*\*."

We sat like that for 20 minutes or so, dangling out the back of Doug's truck, giggling like a couple of school kids each time we thought of a line we'd like to use but couldn't. A couple of them were so funny (to us at least — which is all that mattered) that we dared each other to get up on the stage and go for it. We chuckled a lot as our similarly programmed minds pictured people trying to drag one of us from the stage, hollering, laughing and clinging to a microphone.

The set was over, so we abandoned our private sit-down stand-up routine and I hopped back on the stage to continue with the real MC duties.

On my next break, I asked Doug who that funny guy was. He said, "That's 'The James Gang.' His name is James Wilkinson, but I call him The James Gang 'cause he's funnier than one guy can be."

Months later, my daughter Gillian moved to Salt Spring. The place she rented had an electrical problem, which the absentee owner said he would arrange to have fixed. One day a big smiling face walked into her office and plunked itself down beside her. He said his name was James and he needed the key to her place so he could fix the electrical panel.

He told her he would hide the key under a rock in front of the house when he was finished.

As she drove home that evening she remembered that some major construction work had just been done to the entrance area of the house, so there were now rocks scattered all over the place. It was dark and she figured it could take her hours to find the key. She shouldn't have worried. James had used flowers and sticks and rocks and whatever else he could find to create big arrows all over the ground, all pointing to the "hidden" key.

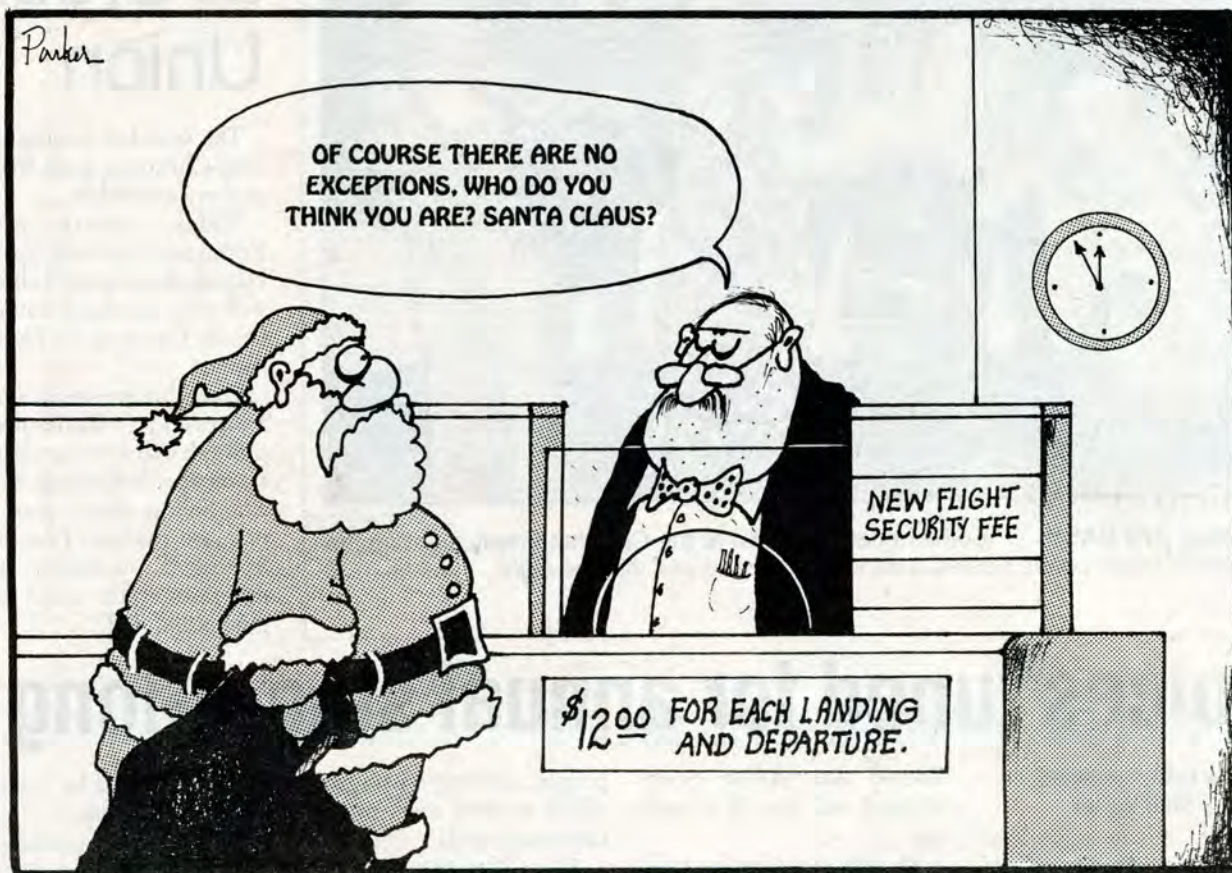
Over the last few months she told me more stories about this guy James. She works in an open area in a large and busy Salt Spring office, where half the population of the island does business on a regular basis. "He's so nice, and oh my god Dad, he's so funny. Most people just wave, but he always does something to make me laugh. When he sees I'm busy with somebody at my desk he pretends to throw his "Frisbee" at me. I can't stop from ducking, so the customer wonders what I'm doing, sitting at my desk talking to them with my head and shoulders bobbing all over the place."

Gillian and I only realized last week — when we bumped into James at a concert — that the "nice guy, funny guy James" she talked about was the same "James Gang" I had made those funny memories with at Fulford Day.

In our "too busy doing things we have to do, so we don't have time for the things we want to do" life, we miss out on opportunities that will not pass this way again. Like when somebody plunks themselves down into your life and you know that you'd like to spend some time with them and get to know them better. So you'll call them tomorrow.

Tomorrow's too late.

James, I know you're making somebody smile right now. I wish it were me.



## Barnacle: suppressing the news

By ANASTACIA WILDE

Having been a reporter for both the Driftwood and the Barnacle (in its former life), I am keenly interested in news coverage on this island.

With no intention of offending anyone in the sphere of the recent amalgamation of these two newspapers, I must say I have some real problems with the current system of news dissemination in our community.

My discomfort stems primarily from the erroneous and unethical assumption that a publisher can and will suppress information in one of his newspapers so that he can print it later in another one of his newspapers.

In this case, I am referring to the Driftwood publisher and owner, who has decided his newly-acquired Barnacle will stop attempting to print the "news" and focus instead on arts and features. This leaves the hard news stuff to the Driftwood — the newspaper of record — for which it has won many coveted awards over the years for its high-quality news coverage and stories.

This plan sounds reasonable in theory, but under scrutiny, it fails to meet the grade of journalistic integrity or excellence. In fact, to think or believe that it can be executed without compromising news integrity and the efficient dissemination of news is both fallacious and ignorant.

News is chaotic stuff. It cannot and should not be controlled or placed in a nice or neat box. Human events — whether tragic or illuminating — occur suddenly, randomly and often times without rhyme or reason. The job of all publishers, editors and journalists is to report these facts accurately and with the utmost speed for

their readers. Unfortunately, with this new Barnacle/Driftwood system in place, the Driftwood has tied its own hands.

We, as a readership, can no longer rely on the Driftwood leadership to spit out the news as quickly as it once had.

To support my assertion, I submit the case in point of the recent shooting of a southend man several weeks ago. The crime took place on a Wednesday, with two or three identifiable suspects fleeing in a car, armed with at least one gun. The Barnacle came out the following Tuesday with nary a mention of this highly newsworthy and volatile incident.

Instead, editors chose to delay printing this vital information — including police sketches of the suspects — because the Barnacle is not a "newspaper." Thus, community awareness of the shooting and police sketches were not made public until the subsequent Driftwood, one or two days later.

In my opinion, from a purely journalistic perspective, this decision was irresponsible and weak. But what about the issue of safety? It could have also posed a threat of danger to our community. What if someone had seen the suspects or their car on Monday or Tuesday and not been able to identify them because police sketches weren't made available to her?

Shouldn't Driftwood/Barnacle readership be alerted with all possible swiftness if armed criminals are roaming Salt Spring Island?

Why were we made to wait so long for those police sketches when Driftwood staff had them in their possession the day the Barnacle was pub-

lished?

It is likely other situations like this will occur in the future. What about the death of beloved actor, comedian and musician James Wilkinson? He was taken off life support and passed away on Friday, December 7.

Why do we not get the full details of his death or the subsequent tribute to his life until six days later in the Driftwood when the Barnacle had plenty of time to print it sooner?

With all due respect to Driftwood people whom I have worked with and like, this new system should be modified immediately.

Either make exception for timely news stories and run them in the Barnacle or put the rag out of its misery!

This conflict of interest is hurting efficient news coverage and in the long run will prove detrimental most to the Driftwood.

*Editor's note: Contrary to the commentary, both the shooting and the death of James Wilkinson (including the time and date of the memorial service) were included in the News Briefs section of The Barnacle. The newspaper office did not have composite drawings of the shooting suspects in time for the Barnacle deadline. It is common in the newspaper world for one company to own two publications with different focuses and publish twice weekly. However, the Driftwood/Barnacle staff does recognize the need to improve the Barnacle's News Briefs section to deal with the time delay issue. At this time the Barnacle remains in a transition state, with plans to firm up its focus in the new year.*

**COMMENTARY:** This space is reserved for you, our readers. It is a spot for informed opinion, an outlet for the voices of the community. Everyone is invited to submit opinion articles with a maximum of 800 words.

**the Barnacle**  
Island Journal

A division of Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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## Who drove?

I enjoyed your juxtaposition in a recent issue of columnist Arthur Black's characterization "witless booze hounds" and John Pottinger's piece on the guys' get-away.

Hey John — was it you, Jeff or Bruce who only sucked on the scurvy-preventing limes and volunteered as the designated driver?

**BILL CURTIN,**  
Beddis Road

## Doing great, John

We just want to say, "Keep up the good work John Pottinger!"

We both howled with laughter at his wilderness adventure story and not once did either of us think the fellows needed counselling for alcohol abuse like was suggested in a previous letter to the editor.

Not to downplay the letter writer's concern about alcohol abuse and the serious effects it has on people and their families, but there seems to be fewer and fewer things to laugh about in today's world, and we think John's story was wonderful. It brought smiles to our faces and tears to our eyes (but that was from all the laughing!)

Don't change a thing John, you're doing great.

**BARB BUDD,**  
**TRUDY LYNCH,**  
Salt Spring

## Conflict

According to the Council of Canadians, Senator Michael Kirby heads a committee suggesting steps to privatize Medicare; he is also a director of Extencare, a for-profit health corporation.

Surely these actions are a blatant conflict of interest in his work on the Senate health care committee!

**VIRGINIA NEWMAN,**  
Salt Spring

## Poem for James

I would be grateful if you would print this poem by Jane Siberry in loving memory of our friend James Wilkinson, and in recognition of the outpouring of "gestures of respect," large and

small, from this amazing community for James, his friends and his family:

from The Narrow Bridge

*This is the narrow bridge  
And you will stand there  
Peering at the unraveling  
Of a dark line across a chasm  
And you will not philosophize,  
decide, weigh  
You will simply put your  
head down and start moving  
Feeling your way inch by  
inch, unguided by voices  
Using only the sound of  
your own sound reflected  
This is your protection*

*Every moment spent bent  
over work*

*Not cutting corners, doing  
things with care,  
is protection*

*Is the bridge to carry you  
through the darkness*

*For to do something with  
care*

*Is the closest thing to the  
feeling of love that can be  
found*

*It is all I know  
This is protection  
This is the narrow bridge*

*And the hand reaches out  
for the drink, the drug  
And it grabs a cloth  
instead*

*And you protest  
And you start to clean  
And you clean the corners  
like they've never been  
cleaned before*

*And you weep as you  
clean, but you keep on going*

*And in this tiny gesture of  
respect*

*The protection is found  
And the cape of grace  
Moves softly down about  
the shoulders*

*Throwing a safety line out  
to love.*

**ANNE CULLINGHAM,**  
Salt Spring



A journal as literary as the Barnacle can be found in the most unusual places. Take, for example, the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada. Jack Hallam is seen at the sanctuary, which has a population of 50 donkeys and mules, and a human population of five. The Donkey Sanctuary of Canada is located four miles south of Guelph, Ontario.



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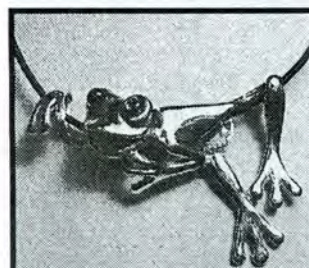
**Calvin's Bistro  
will be closed from  
Dec. 25, 2001 through Jan. 18, 2002  
for the Holiday Break.**

*Hermann & René  
would like to take this opportunity to thank  
all our valued customers for making our  
1st year on Salt Spring a success.*

*From all of us we wish you a  
Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!*

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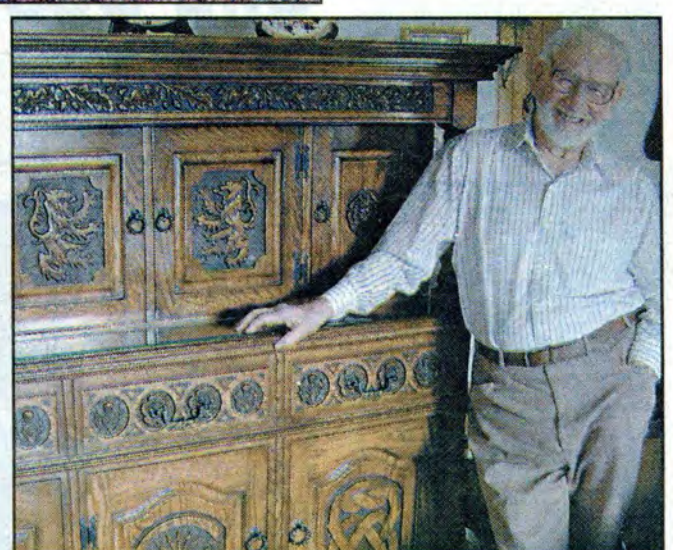
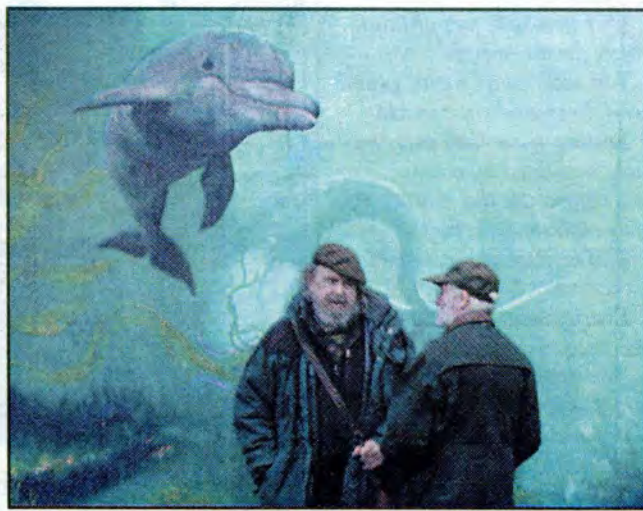



# We Are Salt Spring!

A weekly photo supplement to the Barnacle Island Journal

December 18, 2001

Photos by Derrick Lundy





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# Scrooge tradition back on stage

By PIRJO RAITIS  
Staff Writer

Bah! Humbug!  
He's mean, he's a miser and he dislikes just about everything.

He has lost all feeling for the people around him and the only thing that seems to make him smile is the jingling of coins in his pockets — Ahhhh . . . the money, the money, the money.

He is Scrooge. He has sadly replaced love with money. His sour disposition invites ghosts for a visit and he does not like what he sees at all.

A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens' classic tale of greed and need comes to the stage at Mahon Hall on December 20 to 23 in a slightly different version called Christmas with Scrooge.

A musical penned by the late Ray Newman and his wife Virginia, the first version of Christmas with Scrooge hit the stage on Salt Spring 30 years ago. The Newmans has just arrived on the island with their family and all members were very much a part of the play. This year's performance is directed by Sue Newman, with Virginia playing piano.

Familiar roles have been filled by many actors over the years: Alf and Margaret Howell, Olive and Gerry Clayton, Mary Williamson, Vaughn Fulford, Barb and Kevin Wilkie, Patrick Cassidy, Margaret Jardine, Lynda Jensen, Reid Collins and several kids, grandkids and spouses of the Newman family and other actors.

With a few exceptions, familiar faces will be performing their roles this year.

Scrooge is being played by Eric Booth, who performed the role several years ago when it was staged in the United Church.



"Funny . . . he still remembers every word in Ebenezer's grouchy song, 'Bah! Humbug!,'" says Virginia.

Booth steps into the old miser's boots supported by Kevin Wilkie as Bob Cratchit, and Patrice Bowler as Tiny Tim. Korena Vine will play the role of the young Ebenezer Scrooge's fiancée, the woman who leaves him because his heart lusts for the security of material possessions rather than the insecurity of love.

Christmas with Scrooge is returning to its roots at Mahon Hall. The musical has been staged all over the island during the last 30 years and this year comes full circle, back to the warmth and charm of Mahon Hall.

If the weather permits, a mini-scene will welcome audiences in the hall parking lot. People can then enter the theatre space singing or humming their favourite Christmas carol. A few minutes into the play, the audience will be treated to Ebenezer Scrooge's Bah! Humbug! song, which leaves no doubt about the grumpy miser's view of the holidays.

"What a joyful experience for us all, as he changes into the generous, loving person after his night of re-visiting his wasted life. How happy he is in the finale to join Tiny Tim and the whole Cratchit

family singing God Bless Us Everyone," said Newman.

Tickets for Christmas with Scrooge are available at et cetera and at the door. Thursday, December 20 is preview night and all seats go for \$5. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. with the Sunday matinee beginning at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$4.50 for students.

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ON STAGE THIS WEEK-  
END — Actors rehears-  
ing for Scrooge are, from  
left, Korena Vine as Belle,  
Eric Booth as Scrooge  
and Charlotte Curtis as  
the Ghost of Christmas  
Past. Scrooge opens  
Thursday at Mahon Hall.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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## Celebrating Your Friendship

Our thanks go out to old acquaintances and new, for their loyalty and support. We enjoyed serving you, and look forward to your visits again this year. Have a very happy 2002, everyone.

Krista & Elaine

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CHRISTMAS EVE:

Monday December 24th: Mass at 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Tuesday December 25th: Mass at 10:00 am  
NO MASS AT ST. PAUL'S

NEW YEAR'S EVE:

Monday December 31st  
Candlelight Midnight Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Tuesday January 1st 2002 Mass at 10:00 am  
NO MASS AT ST. PAUL'S

Everyone Welcome!



# Bad rap for beards with dearth of positive role models

There are several thousand valid reasons to loathe and despise Osama bin Laden and his verminous pack of psychopathic lunatics. I would like to add one more.

They've given beards a bad name.

Beards are not only common among the mujahadeen — they're mandatory — ordained by a warped inter-

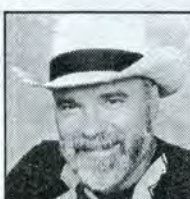
pretation of the Koran which also sentences women to spend their lives living under blankets.

But even without the recent bad press, it's been a long time since beards have had a really good public image.

It wasn't always that way. Canada was once decidedly beard-friendly. Our first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, flirted with facial fuzz from time to time. George Brown, his political

rival and founder of what became the Globe and Mail sported a hedge of chin whiskers that could have been used to sweep chimneys. Back then, a good full beard denoted prosperity, steadfastness and, well — virility. Most public figures, if they wore trousers, also wore beards.

Times change. Check out the White House in



*Wit & Whimsy ...  
with Arthur Black*

Washington or Whitehall in London — scarcely a five-o'clock shadow, never mind a chin whisker. Same on Parliament Hill. There's nary an unshaven mug in the Chretien cabinet (as befits a collection of submissive human sock puppets). Matter of fact, I can't think of any major Canadian public figure who's bearded. Even Don Cherry shaved off that goofy goatee he sported for a while.

There is a serious dearth of positive bearded role models out there.

Nowadays, beards flourish only in environments friendly to Middle Eastern fundamentalists, obscure university profs, Grateful Deadheads, lumberjacks, mountain men and religious zealots with private gun arsenals and multiple wives.

Plus, well — me, actually.

Aside from a rash (pun intended) moment in the late '70s when I allowed my jaw to be clearcut in order to raise money for charity, I've had an upholstered chin for more than 30 years.

Why? Why not?

The question isn't why some men have beards, but rather why most men voluntarily submit to the barbaric custom of scraping the bottom half of their faces with a sharp instrument seven days a week and sometimes twice on Sunday.

The Irish playwright/intellectual George Bernard Shaw, who had enough fur on his face to knit a throw rug, said his beard was inspired by his father.

"I was about five at the time" said Shaw, "and I was standing at my father's knee whilst he was shaving. I said to him 'Daddy, why do you shave?' He looked at me in silence for a full minute, before throwing the razor out the window, saying, 'Why the hell do I?' He never shaved again."

Still, there's no denying that some folks just can't handle the sight of a fur-rimmed mandible. I sense it, sometimes, when I'm introduced to a stranger and they recoil like they've been asked to do a slow dance with Fidel Castro. Some folks just flat out don't like beards.

But that's okay. I've found that, by and large, I don't much like people who don't like beards, so my face fur serves as a social marker buoy to help us avoid close contact.

And anyway, I think the tide is turning on beardophobia. Tom Hanks showed the world that beards can be good guys. In the movie Castaway, Hanks cultivated a crop of facial fleece that cried out for a Massey-Harris combine-harvester. (Mind, you he was marooned on a desert island. His only option would have been self-mutilation with a clamshell.)

Yet it's not as if we're entirely bereft of other positive bearded icons.

We have it on biblical authority that Jesus and his disciples wore beards.

For every Marx, there's a Moses. For every Ted Kaczynski, there's a Kenny Rogers.

Not to mention the most famous bearded huggubunny of all — the guy who'll be making house calls real soon.

P.S.: If you're going to leave a treat, make it ginger ale, not Coke or Pepsi.

Colas can leave an unseemly stain on white whiskers.

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## Joint Review Panel GSX Canada Pipeline Project Public Consultation Sessions January 11 to 18, 2002

### BACKGROUND

The National Energy Board has received an application from Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline Limited to construct and operate the GSX Canada Pipeline. A three-member independent Joint Review Panel has been established by the federal Minister of the Environment and the National Energy Board to consider this pipeline proposal. The Panel will make recommendations to the Minister regarding environmental assessment matters and make decisions concerning the public convenience and necessity for this pipeline proposal.

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSIONS

The Joint Review Panel will be holding public consultation sessions to hear comments from the public on which issues the Panel should consider during the hearing process and what further information should be obtained from the applicant. To allow the Panel to hear from as many people as possible, you will have 10 minutes to complete your oral presentation. The Panel will also receive your comments in writing.

If you wish to present comments to the Panel or participate in the January 12 workshop, you should register with the Panel Secretary by January 7, 2002. To register, please call the Panel at 1-800-899-1265, send a fax to (403) 292-5503 or an e-mail to [secretary@neb-one.gc.ca](mailto:secretary@neb-one.gc.ca). Panel staff will be on hand one hour before each session to explain the procedures, to answer questions and to accept last minute registration requests.

### TIME AND LOCATION

1. **Vancouver**  
Friday, January 11, 2002, 9:30 a.m.  
Renaissance Vancouver Hotel, 1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C.
2. **Sidney**  
Saturday, January 12, 2002, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Workshop)  
Mary Winspear Community Cultural Centre @SANCHA  
2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, B.C.
3. **Cobble Hill - Monday, January 14, 2002**  
9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (three sessions)  
Arbutus Ridge Golf and Country Club  
3515 Telegraph Road, Cobble Hill, B.C.
4. **Salt Spring Island**  
Wednesday, January 16, 2002, 7:00 p.m.  
Harbour House Hotel, 121 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C.
5. **Victoria**  
Thursday, January 17, 2002, 2:00 p.m.  
Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe, 45 Songhees Road, Victoria, B.C.
6. **Saturna Island**  
Friday, January 18, 2002, 7:00 p.m.  
Saturna Community Hall, Saturna Island, B.C.

### FIRST NATIONS SESSIONS

The Panel will also hold sessions regarding First Nations issues on Saturday, 12 January 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the Mary Winspear Community Cultural Centre @SANCHA, 2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, B.C. and on Tuesday, 15 January 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the Comiaken Room, Quw' utsun' Cultural Centre, 200 Cowichan Way, Duncan, B.C. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Mr. Guy C. Hamel, Regulatory Officer, at 1-800-899-1265 or [secretary@neb-one.gc.ca](mailto:secretary@neb-one.gc.ca) (e-mail). Details on all consultation sessions, including the January 12 workshop, will be available on-line at [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca) (click on "Regulatory Update") and then on "GSX Canada Pipeline Project") and at [www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca).

**Canada**

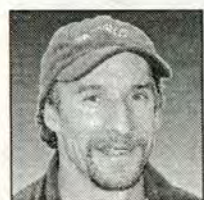
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## Some poinsettia pointers: timely topic for Christmas



*Life in the garden  
...with Joe Clemente*

Some of you may have noticed that poinsettias have been in the garden shop since early November.

It seems to me once Halloween has finished, the Christmas stuff is brought out at the local stores. The poinsettia is a traditional red flower that seems to symbolize the holiday season.

The plant itself was first introduced into the U.S.A. many decades ago by a fellow who obtained the exotic plants from the wilds of southern Mexico.

Poinsettia is from a large family of plants known as Euphorbia. Years ago it was very simple to walk into the florist shop and choose a red poinsettia, however, nowadays that has all changed. Over the years many new varieties have been developed, and this year I've noticed that a purple poinsettia has arrived.

A beautiful, variegated-leaved specimen has also made its arrival.

With all the interesting poinsettias to choose from, a quick visit to the garden shop may end up taking a little longer. When you eventually do decide on the right

plant that best suits your taste, make sure your poinsettia is protected with a plastic wrap before you take it outside to your vehicle.

Bringing this tropical plant from a warm garden shop out into the colder temperatures outdoors unprotected isn't the best thing to do.

Watering is also important and you must not let your plant sit in standing water. Overly wet soil lacks sufficient air, which can result in root rot. It's best to check the soil daily for better results. Plants exposed to low humidity and high light require more watering.

Poinsettias love to be placed near a sunny window where they will have the most available sunlight. Unfortunately our island

winters aren't the sunniest, so a bright area of your home will be just fine.

Poinsettias are a tropical species and require warm temperatures of 65 to 70 degrees F for a happier plant.

Prolonged temperatures below 60 degrees F can create stress on this species. Also avoid exposing the plant to cold drafts, which may cause premature leaf drop.

These few tips will let you enjoy a healthy poinsettia throughout the holiday season.

Unfortunately, very few people tend to keep this species as a house plant afterwards and most end up in the compost pile. However, there are some keen gardeners who have had great success keeping their poinsettias from year to year, and even getting them to rebloom nicely.

Hope you have fun shopping for your favourite poinsettia.

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For information or support call the Crisis Line at 537-0735 or TOLL FREE at 1-877-435-7544.

**SUPER SINGING** — Members of the Salt Spring United Church Choir warm up their voices before a Sunday morning service.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Thank You!

On Dec. 8th, Santa's Helpers, Lee, Mary Anne McColl & family, owners of Salt Spring

Bulk, fed Santa's sleigh (actually a 118 ft. ship) for its journey through the southern Gulf Islands. A special r-O-o-a-a-r of appreciation is given by the Salt Spring Lions Club, the Lions Clubs of Bellingham and, we are sure, the community at large for the McColls' continued support of this yearly venture. You really bring in the Holiday Season with a lot of smiles and cheers. Merry Christmas from us all!

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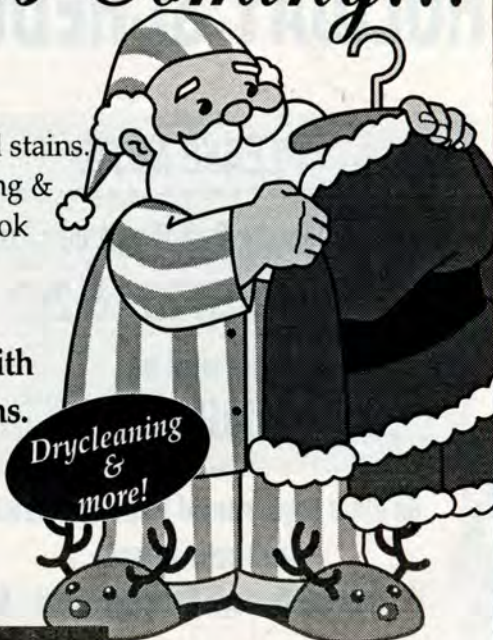
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in the Salt Spring Island Directory, complete a yellow form located in the current phone book and drop it in the mail, or drop it in one of the black boxes located at GVM, Thrifty Foods, Bank of Montreal or the Post Office.

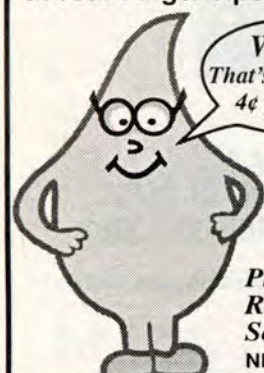
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as well as  
**JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

On other days, normal hours of operation  
will be in effect.

IE: Tuesday through Saturday 10am - 5pm

## Moulin Rouge deserves a standing ovation



*Flick Pick ...  
with Jason Tudor*

Just when you think you've seen everything, a movie jumps up and bites you in the butt. Usually there's one a year or so.

This year's movie is Moulin Rouge.

It's Paris, circa 1899, and Bohemian poet Christian (Ewan McGregor) arrives at the Moulin Rouge. A haven of illicit revelry with dancing girls, leering men and an insane turn of the century energy, the Moulin Rouge is also the home of Satine (Nicole Kidman).

Satine is a performer/courtesan who — to keep the establishment going — will be forced to marry the evil Duke of Monroth (Richard Roxburgh). Of course, Christian and Satine fall in love, and the rest is history.

Well, not the history you'd think. Moulin Rouge takes the musical-anachronism thing to a new level, as characters routinely explode into variations on pretty much every pop-song you've ever heard on lite-radio.

They're the kind of songs so overplayed that even if you hate them you know the words, like that song from Officer and a Gentleman, or worse, Titanic.

Incredibly, and believe me, I thought I would have a hard time with this, it works.

It works brilliantly. Director Baz Luhrmann, best known for the Miami Beach version of Romeo and Juliet, has managed to pack so much energy into this movie it threatens to pour off the edge of the screen.

The cast is uniformly excellent, even singing their own songs. The music is simultaneously totally absurd and utterly engaging. The sets are garish and glorious. Best of all, the love story is credible and powerful.

Yes, Moulin Rouge is somewhat of a chick flick, and it does drag a bit towards the (darker) end. Some people, notably cynics, are going to HATE it.

However, there are sequences in this film that will echo forever in film history, sequences that are so perfectly realized you might later tear up just thinking about them. Well, I did, at least.

Bravo to Luhrmann and company for taking a risk and winning it all. If I could give a standing ovation, I would.

Rating: PG

Running Time: 2 hours, 7 minutes

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May the spirit of the season  
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Best wishes for the new year.  
Many thanks for your generosity  
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## Time now to make plans for New Year's

New Year's Eve on Salt Spring looks promising with a number of bands helping to celebrate the coming of 2002.

Swing Shift Band, an old-time jazz band, will play at Meaden Hall from 8:30 p.m. to past midnight. The ticket price of \$25 includes hot snacks and a glass of champagne. Tickets are available at the Royal Canadian Legion bar.

If you were at the Fulford Inn on Hallowe'en then you would have heard The Escape Goats. This band had the place hopping and they will be there again on New Year's Eve. Music starts at 9 p.m. and continues through 2 a.m. The inn has a special menu planned along with party favours and all the usual New Year's stuff. There is no cover charge and no tickets means get there early.

The Harbour House is planning a special New Year's Eve buffet dinner starting at 9 p.m. in the dining room. Enjoy the buffet while listening to Murray Anderson on the

piano and, if the mood hits, you can take your partner for a spin around the dance floor.

The Vesuvius Inn doesn't do New Year's Eve. In fact the inn will be closed at year's end, but it will be hold the popular annual Boxing Day bash.

Three Chord Sloth will get the place rocking from 4 p.m. onwards.

The place should be packed, with no tickets to buy and no cover charge. A regular dinner menu will be available. The inn will close at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Moby's Marine Pub will present The Big Tones on New Year's Eve.

The group has performed at Moby's in the past and should have the place reeling and rocking to an eclectic mix of music, including some Cajun and fiddle music.

The band starts at 11 p.m. and will carry on until the wee hours of 2002.

Snacks, party favours and hats all complete the New Year's picture. The Moby's gathering is also free.

## Waldorf staff presenting medieval Christmas play

In a switch on the traditional Christmas concert, Waldorf schools all over the world put on a Christmas play presented by the staff as a gift to the students.

Waldorf on Salt Spring is carrying on this tradition with a Medieval Christmas Shepherd's play being performed at Central Hall on Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

As the staff is relatively small, some parents have also been invited to complete the cast.

These Christmas plays were passed on in the oral tradition and were discovered in the mid-1800s on a small island on the Danube in Germany.

"Germans migrated there in the 16th century and carried on the cycle of religious plays they had received by tradition," said Ghassan El-Moussa, a teacher at Waldorf on Salt Spring. "They were originally played in the Elizabethan theatre by men only."

He said the men cast in the roles were expected to

lead a moral and respectful life for several months before the plays were presented to audiences.

"They lived a purer life before they put it on," he said.

"They would go in the procession through the village and start acting the Paradise Play, then the Shepherd Play and eventually to the King's Play in January."

The plays would start at a suitable venue (usually a pub) and continue on far into the night until the very last audience member either left or fell asleep.

The Salt Spring actors won't engage in that part of the tradition.

"We're not professional actors, and it's quite simple and not traditional by any means. It's quite different," said El-Moussa.

El-Moussa is co-directing the play with Marsha Flad.

There is no admission to the event, but El-Moussa asks for a donation to help defray the costs of mounting the production.



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### CHRISTMAS DEADLINE

Classified - THURSDAY 5 pm  
Too late to Classify - FRIDAY noon

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130 Health	178 Welding
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300 Antiques	329 Farm Items	351 Misc. Wanted
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325 Crafts	343 Health Supplies	386 Water Sales
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328 Exchanges	350 Misc. For Sale	

### REAL ESTATE

400 Appraisals	440 Misc. Real Estate
410 Real Estate For Sale	450 Mobile Homes
420 Financing	450 Wanted to Buy
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510 Commercial Space	535 Situations Wanted
520 Houses for Rent	540 Wanted/Rentals
525 Rentals, Misc.	

### ACCOMMODATION

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615 Holiday Accommodations	625 Resorts
620 Hotels	690 Websites

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815 Boats & Marine, Service	845 Recreational Vehicles, Sales
820 Boats & Marine, Sales	850 Tires
822 Campers & Trailers	855 Trucks/4x4s
825 Cars, Sales	856 Buses, Vans
830 Cars, Service	860 Vehicles Wanted

900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY - NOON MONDAY

### 8 CARDS OF THANKS

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port. Most of all, your per-  
sonal accounts of how you  
remember our Steve continue  
to heal our spirits. Georgia  
Asproloupas and Family.

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Cathy Cronin, Alf at the  
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### 20 COMING EVENTS

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### 20 COMING EVENTS

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### Christmas Issue Deadlines:

Classified - Thursday, Dec. 20- 5 pm  
Too late to classify - Friday, Dec. 21-noon

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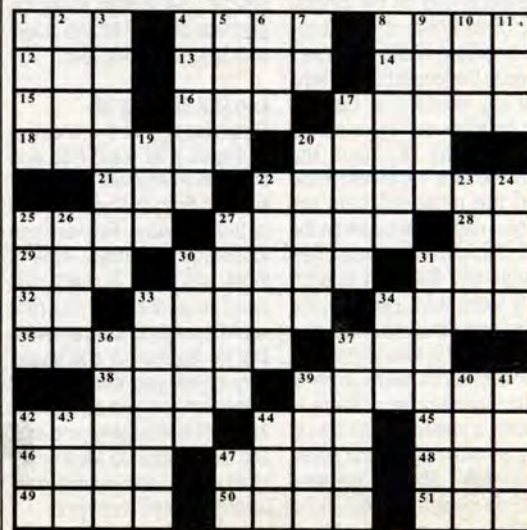
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Bernice Rosella and James Kilner



### ACROSS

- 1 Flutie's league, once
- 4 Brogue or pump
- 8 Canadian popular music  
award
- 12 Brew
- 13 A lot
- 14 Enough (arch.)
- 15 Pekoe or Djarling
- 16 Collection
- 17 Out of the mainstream
- 18 Prairie schooner
- 20 Meat
- 21 Crumb
- 22 Craftsperson
- 25 Music genre
- 27 Support
- 28 Carre or Havre preceder
- 29 Seafowl
- 30 Stagger
- 31 Homo sapiens
- 32 Household computer, for  
short
- 33 Canadian movie award
- 34 Let up
- 35 Endangerments
- 37 Barley beard
- 38 Current units
- 39 Visually appealing
- 42 Riel followers
- 44 Wager
- 45 Wedding words
- 46 Oast
- 47 Strata
- 48 Prefix denoting new
- 49 Food store, for short
- 50 Canadian theatre award
- 51 Space

### DOWN

- 1 Roman statesman
- 2 Expand and contract
- 3 Canadian literary award,  
for humour
- 4 Clever
- 5 Search
- 6 Oxalis
- 7 What say?
- 8 Vancouver theatre award
- 9 Military orgs.
- 10 Winken and Blinken  
companion
- 11 Be obligated
- 17 Letter
- 19 Noah's boat
- 20 Thanksgiving
- 22 Doric column feature
- 23 Unfortunately
- 24 Spanish baby
- 25 Absorbed
- 26 Cry of pain
- 27 Smuts
- 30 Hurdles
- 31 Canadian new products  
award
- 33 Canadian television  
award
- 34 Ms Sheep
- 36 Honey Badger
- 37 Gemini forerunner
- 39 Prophet
- 40 Notion
- 41 Enclosure
- 42 Up to date, so to speak
- 43 Early gardener?
- 44 Prefix denoting life
- 47 CFL scoring play

Crossword answers page 15

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## Tip of the week:

In addition to the excitement of Christmas and the celebrated birthday of Jesus of Nazareth (credible sources say he was probably born in March as a Pisces - the sign of the fish) it is also the time to pay tribute to the Winter Solstice. This time honoured event celebrates the return of the Sun (son). While it is experienced as the longest day of darkness, it is actually the beginning of the movement towards the longest day of light. Is it any wonder that this was the time chosen to celebrate the birthday of Jesus the 'Christed One'? It is also ironic that the move towards the longest day would begin on the first official day of winter! Few people pay attention to such facts these days. However, the more one does the more one realizes how in tune with nature our ancestors were in their annual celebrations. There is actually a powerful trend now to re-align with natural and celestial rhythms. After all, the wise men did follow a star that shone brightly in the heavens! Merry Christmas everyone!

## Aries (Mar 21 - AP 20)

An impulse to connect with the real meaning of Christmas is upon you. Is it the exchange of gifts, the festivity of lights and decorations, the gathering of family and friends? Or is it the spiritual and historical significance? What about people in need? Or is it all of the above. In any case, you want to see it in a new light and embrace it differently. What can you do this year that will make it special and memorable? Traditions must be born too.

## Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

Clearing away the past to make way for the new is in focus. This calls for a delicate approach. Tradition does have its place. Putting simply being together with loved ones above things is ideal now. This could include giving gifts that are activity oriented, like games or concert tickets etc. Knowledge and 'How to' books can awaken new modes of creative expression. Quality time spent on the phone to a distant friend or relative will warm your heart. Innovate!

## Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

This is a time of sharing and communion in one way or another and you are eager to engage. Yet, you also want to do things somewhat differently this year. This will take some

thought and planning. What can you do differently that will really show your love? Financial concerns need not be a setback. Creative possibilities abound. It all depends on attitude. Remember, the true meaning of Christmas is about love and compassion and creativity too.

## Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 21)

Melting differences, resentments and other divisions is the call now. It is expectation that tends to breed disappointment. Also, when we righteously hold grudges we do well to remember that the holding robs us of our very own life force. "Forgive and it shall set you free", said a wise man long ago. Interestingly there is more economics in this statement than ethics. Thus, forgive, let go and restore your energy. Make forgiveness of yourself and others your biggest gift this year.

## Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 22)

Gratitude for all the creative energies that went into and continue to support every person and thing that you do have is the call now. Rather than focus any negatives, think of those who are ill or are in real need in some way. Current world events are a reminder that life is precious and fragile. Say thank you and mean it whenever you can and everything will look brighter and look and taste better too. Meanwhile, allow cultural and creative celebrations to uplift your spirit.

## Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Enthusiasm to express your creative leadership finds you leading the chorus. You know that the real spirit of the season is when people gather together and sing and laugh and give thanks. Yet, it is also a time when people tend to overindulge and get reckless. This is where we need to take extra precautions and keep an eye on our friends who may not feel so inclined. Make special arrangements if you must for sleep-overs and trust your intuition if you feel that spirits have been flowing too freely.

## Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

Home where the heart is and the hearth fire is burning is where you want to be now. This is a good time to invite friends over rather than have to stray too far. Besides, you can flirt at home as easily as anywhere else right? However, there are also strong indicators that travel is precisely what you will do. If you must drive, leave plenty of time to arrive and stay clear of others who are not so wise. Concentrate on the task of arriving at your destination safely rather than turning the journey into a "folly of distractions".

## Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 22)

This is a special time and opportunity to stretch our hearts open wider than usual. This year you will find that you are extra eager to do just that.

Still, there may be a tendency to be reactive and critical too. All the more reason to let your open heart stretch your mind as well. Allow the abundance and generosity in the air to hold your attention above and beyond other reality concerns. A New Year is just around the corner and you will have plenty of time then to take care of business. Enjoy now!

## Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Alright! It is true that amidst the fun and frolic of the season business can be better than ever. What the heck, egg nog spiked with future prospects can be a splendid mix. The question is are you genuinely able to connect with the spirit and real meaning of this time? After all, jolly Saint Nick is probably a Sagittarius. Plans for the future are acceptable as long as you are not missing out on the joy of the moment. Sing songs and have a hearty laugh amidst all the deal swinging and elbow rubbing.

## Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

The winter solstice is marked by the entry of the Sun into your sign. This year you will feel this as a wake up call out of some degree of slumber that you have been enjoying. What you are realizing is that winter has really set in and you want to escape somehow. This could mean taking off to a hot climate or it may imply pioneering into the snowy white mountains. In either case, you feel moved to get away from the routine for a spell. Share your desires with friends who have the same aspirations as well.

## Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

The urge to retreat into a safe, cozy and private den of some sort is strong now. That you want to enter this space with some select friends is likely. Some special time to dream away or to work on some dreams is what you want. Sleepy as this may sound, you actually want to break free and through habitual patterns and limiting circumstances. This is a time when you may turn to prayers in search of inner guidance a perhaps a small miracle that will make all the difference. Ask precisely for what you want.

## Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

In addition to that last minute Christmas list, you do well to outline some key goals. Better yet, take a few moments amidst the excitement to outline a mission statement. This is designed to encompass the greater expanse of your life. You can tend to the details and refinements later, but just a few key ideas that will direct your attention will suffice. Look at it as more than some New Year resolutions, yet an outline that encompasses them as well. Freedom of expression usually starts with a plan.

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WIN A PANASONIC 27" TV. Buy a Bell Expressvu or Starchoice Satellite system from your local Radio Shack and enter your name in the draw box. Last chance Dec. 22. Winner will be declared and prize ready for pickup Dec. 24. Quadratic Solutions, 537-4522.

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SOLD IN error - please help! At Lions Club Garage Sale last Saturday, the back van seat of our handicap bus was sold to a lady in error. We desperately need that seat back for our handicap bus to service the people of Salt Spring. Money back plus reward to the lady on its return. Please help us. Call 537-2088. Lion Jim Adrain.

#### ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE

C	F	L	S	H	O	E	J	U	N	O
A	L	E	M	U	C	H	E	N	O	W
T	E	A	A	N	A	A	S	I	D	E
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O	R	T	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	
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D	E	L	I	D	O	R	A	G	A	P

### PLEASE NOTE OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE CHANGE

For the issue of Monday December 24th, 2001

Display Ad Deadline: Noon, Wednesday, Dec 19th

Classified Deadline: 5pm, Thursday, Dec 20th

Too Late Too Classify Deadline: Noon, Friday, Dec 21st

For the Issue of Monday, December 31st, 2001

Display Ad Deadline: Noon, Monday, Dec 24th

Classified Deadline: 5pm, Thursday, Dec 27th

Too Late Too Classify Deadline: Noon, Friday, Dec 28th

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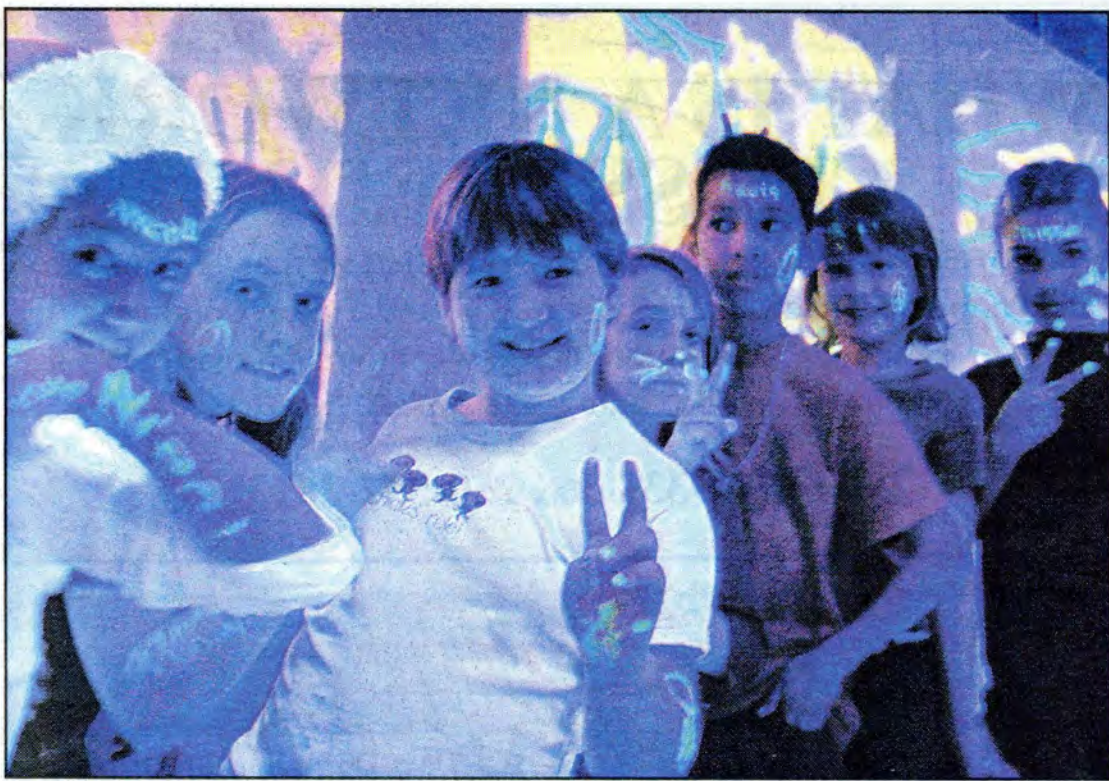
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**BOWLING BLITZ** — Shannon Davenport celebrates her ninth birthday with friends and a little "black light" bowling at Kings Lane Recreation on Sunday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## School singing

The entire student population from Salt Spring Island Elementary School will raise their voices in song on Wednesday, December 19.

The students, led by choir master Linda Mills, will gather in the parking lot outside Mouat's Trading Co. and the Tree House Cafe from 1:10 to 1:50 p.m. to sing Christmas songs and carols.

If the weather is particularly nasty or snowing heavily, the students will try again on Thursday, same place, same time.

## Commemorative seal poster benefits seals, wildlife centre

Who isn't taken by the innocent faces of young seal pups?

Over the last 30 years, those innocent faces have so moved people that an entire sealing industry was shut down.

For the last three years the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre (IWNCC) has been saving young harbour seal pups and releasing them back into their natural environment.

In October the group celebrated the release of their 100th pup, and to commemorate this achievement the

centre has produced a thoughtful and eye-catching full-colour poster splashed with the unforgettable faces of the 100 lucky seal pups.

The wildlife centre wants holiday gift-givers to consider buying the commemorative poster as an alternative charitable gift.

Designed by IWNCC founder Jeff Lederman, the seal pup poster is available through local retailers such as Pharmasave and Ganges Village Market for \$20. It is also available through the centre at 537-0777.

Money raised through sale

of the posters goes towards saving the next 100 seal pups.

On an island where preservation of our natural environment and its fauna is passionately embraced, the poster and all it stands for makes a moving and considerate gift, says Lederman.

The IWNCC is a volunteer-run registered charity funded through private donations and from projects such as the seal pup poster.

The IWNCC can be contacted at 537-0777 or on the Internet at [www.sealrescue.org](http://www.sealrescue.org) or [iwncc@aol.com](mailto:iwncc@aol.com).



"Concepts burden the memory.  
An artistic and imaginative presentation  
builds up the memory.  
Active involvement anchors the memory."  
Rudolf Steiner

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## TO ALL MY PAST CUSTOMERS

Thank you all for being so great.  
I'll miss you, so drop by the Driftwood,  
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Wishing you all the best

in the  
New Year.



- Debbie Wrate

## Season's Greetings

to all our customers

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Please be advised that  
**THE VESUVIUS PUB**

will once again remain open during  
the months of Jan. & Feb. with reg.  
hours of operation 11:00am - 11:00pm  
7 days/week.

However, the pub will **shut down at 5pm on  
Christmas Eve & close Christmas Day.**  
Boxing Day, the pub opens at 4pm for the  
annual Boxing Day Bash featuring the music  
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great selection of COLD BEER and  
WINE TO GO.



From all of us at the Vesuvius Pub,  
Happy Holidays and please  
celebrate responsibly!  
**DON'T DRINK & DRIVE**



## Let's Eat... with Linda Koroscil

To have a break from the sweet stuff, here are some good ones for the buffet table.

### Swiss Cheese Rounds

1/2 c. flour  
3/4 c. butter  
1/2 tsp. salt  
dash cayenne  
3 c. Swiss cheese, grated  
1 egg, slightly beaten

Knead butter in dry ingredients, then cheese. Shape into one-inch balls, place two inches apart on greased cookie sheet, flatten, then brush with egg. Sprinkle with a little more cheese then bake at 425 degrees F for 10 min. Makes 30.

1 or 2 garlic cloves, minced  
2 tbsp. parsley, chopped and divided  
1/2 c. parmesan, divided

Remove stems, chop. Scrape inside of mushroom. Combine stems, ham, raisins, nuts and capers. Melt butter and add ham mixture 'til liquid has evaporated. Add parsley, salt, pepper and parmesan. Stuff mushrooms and place in buttered pan. Bake at 375 degrees F for 20 min.



**JULIE HOWARD**

Julie Howard,  
Usui Reiki Master,  
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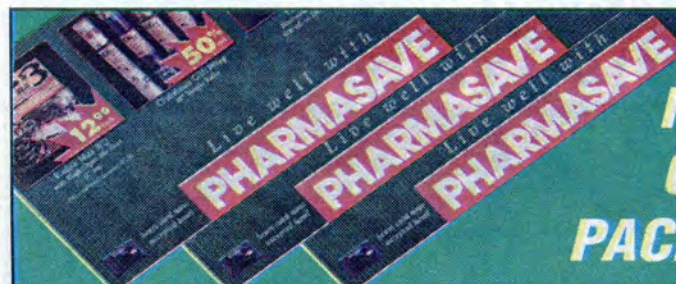
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