Library accepts Booth proposal

By GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood Staff

The board of the Salt Spring library has accepted Kellie Booth's offer of assistance to solve a funding shortfall in its next fiscal year.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) director has offered a $12,000 grant-in-aid contingent on the board producing a detailed library services plan.

Booth has also received confirmation from the municipal affairs ministry that it will match those funds. Library board chairwoman Grace Byrne said members went through Booth's detailed September 28 letter at their board meeting Friday and agreed to accept her proposal.

"It's the only way to go," Byrne said Monday.

The $24,000 compares favourably with the $22,826 per capita grant received from the province in 1997. A policy change eliminated that grant for the current fiscal year.

The board will soon start work on the library services plan, which Booth stipulates should "clearly specify the association's short and long-term goals and objectives, the overall service model and the service levels to be provided, timelines for implementation and projected costs, and an inventory of all sources of funding available.

If a counter-petition or referendum was desired by the board, that would be included in the plan. In August Booth turned down a library board request that she approach the CRD board to collect $100,000 in tax support for the volunteer library association.

Booth asked that the library services plan be ready for community comment by mid-1999.

Tempting apple

Jakob Kaeppele holds out a luscious-looking apple picked during an apple harvesting blitz Saturday at his Burgoyne Valley home. His property features an orchard with various heritage-type apple brands.

On-call police hours maintained despite RCMP cuts

By SUSAN LUNDY
Driftwood Staff

Salt Spring RCMP officers have chosen to work on-call hours without pay following an announcement last week of cutsbacks in provincial RCMP services.

The local money-saving move is just part of a detachment shake-up that Salt Spring RCMP Sgt. Paul Darbyshire hopes will result in more road time and investigations hours for island police.

Last week the RCMP announced an $8.5 million provincial deficit in its $375 million budget.

According to RCMP media relations officer Sgt. John Ward, "The two per cent deficit is not huge, but it is against the law for us to go over budget." Therefore, all provincial patrol vessels - such as the PV Higgit which periodically visits the Gulf Islands - have been docked and air services grounded. However, Ward said, "they are being kept in a state of preparedness for an emergency situation - the assets are still there."

In addition, provincial detachments have been told to cut back on on-call and overtime costs.

"These restraints are only temporary," Ward said. But they could be in place until the end of the RCMP's fiscal year March 31. For local police it means that instead of receiving one hour's pay for eight on-call hours, they will be ready to answer and attend

POLICE CUTS 6
Potential school cuts will be presented

By GAIL SJUBERG
Dundarave, Oct. 15

Everyone with an interest in education in the Gulf Islands is being offered plentiful and informative news of how the school board might meet Education Minister Paul Ramsey's demand for a balanced budget.

Anticipating public interest in the latest news and proposals, the school board will meet at Gulf Islands Secondary School instead of the board office today (Wednesday) at 12:30 p.m.

Several programs have been put on the examining table to see how much money would be saved without them. Schools superintendent Andrew Duncan said last week they include the cafeteria, music and drama programs at the high school, special education services, maintenance and support staff and the Ridge Forest Acres subdivision.

While School District 64 officials spent the last week looking for ways to "spread the pain around among smaller and tolerable bits," Gulf Islands parents were busy mounting a campaign of opposition to the proposed recut.

The District Parents Advisory Council released its first draft of land-use bylaws Tuesday for a pitched battle.

One side bugged by what it sees as its first draft of land-use bylaws and the potential school cuts will be presented today (Wednesday) at 12:30 p.m.

DPAC chairman John Munro said a letter to Ramsey asking for a deadline extension and adherence to recommendations of the district's efficiency advisory team June report.

A meeting with Ramsey and senior ministry staff, along with other district partners, was also requested.

"We told the Driftwood there also appears to be "great interest" in holding some sort of demonstration, which would have to be organized quickly."

Regarding the amalgamation possibility, Duncan reported that officials from Saanich and Cowichan school districts were adamant last week that "amalgamation is not viable financially or in terms of programs." Those discussions reportedly have representatives from partner groups still expressed support for the idea, even with a united approach to Ramsey's threat.

Munro said because of the responsibility the board has handled financial problems in recent years, it has earned the support it is now receiving from its partner groups and parents.

At the same time, all groups know proposed cuts will be hard to accept.

Teachers' association president Laurie Dewinetz, who is also a coalition member, said the Galiano Conservancy, "The LTC is having none of what the political power battle between the coalition's Jim Trueit, trying to achieve in development the political power battle between the coalition's Jim Trueit, writing in the organization's newsletter THE VOICE."

The LTC says this isn't the case all.

"We are being taxed the residents that can be passed from property to another and no new development will be possible."

"There are other questions involved, such as residential entitlements that can be passed from one property to another and whether the LTC will actually allow the forest lots to be rezoned.

But perhaps more interesting is the political power battle between the coalition and another group called the Galiano Conservancy."

"I think the conservancy is still angry that we would have the audacity to buy these lots and not give them to the (conservancy)," says Dewinetz.

"It's not obvious that they control the (LTC) by its refusal to accept any other view than (completely) no development in forest lands.

Building lines softened as aprt of new guidelines

The expansion at Ganges Village Market will be the first example of how aesthetics are being incorporated into new building guidelines on Salt Spring.

"The expense of a commercial development was given final approval at the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) bi-monthly Thursday."

Rather than a simple linear approach to an existing strip mall, the changes will include "a softening of the building's lines to create nicer landscaping and pedestrian access," says LTC regional planning director Linda Adams.

"This will give people an idea of what kind of changes we are trying to achieve in development under the new OCP (Official Community Plan)."

The building's owners received approval to expand to 14,000 more feet of retail space plus 4,700 square feet of warehouse area.

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Diversion program wins grant

Salt Spring's Community Diversion program has won a $5,000 government grant — $400 more than it requested.

The program obtained the grant after Vince Stancato, an official with the Ministry of the Attorney General, visited a diversion program dinner and session on October 1.

"He was very impressed with the quality of the program and the group of trainees," said program coordinator Irene Wright.

The program had requested $4,600 from the ministry to purchase items such as books, videos and a filing cabinet.

Instead, the ministry handed the local group the maximum grant available.

The $5,000 is a one-time handout. However, according to Wright, Stancato also said he would consider recommending that the program become a provincial pilot project, leading to the possibility of enhanced funding in the future.

The Ganges Residents Association commends local officer Const. Gerard Choquette serving his organization of Rally 'Round the Rock and his work towards rejuvenating the local island, he took it upon himself to organize a meeting.

"Not only is he there at police incidents, but (he) is also involved in far more community activities than we would expect .... When concerned citizens approached him regarding unacceptable behaviours in various parts of the island, he took it upon himself to organize a meeting.

The letter concludes by saying, "We are very fortunate to have Gerard Choquette serving us."

Two young drivers charged by police

Two island youths have been charged with driving without due care and attention after a driver reported their dangerous negotiation of Fulford-Ganges Road.

The complainant told police the two youths, who were driving in tandem, were passing cars on a double solid and around curves. The complainant said the youths were going 100 km/h or more.

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Association commends local officer

The Ganges Residents Association has written a letter of commendation to Const. Gerard Choquette and sent it to the RCMP Const. Gerard Choquette and sent it to the RCMP.

The letter notes that while all local police officers make "great efforts" to provide services, Choquette "stands out in (their) minds.

"It seems that no matter what the circumstances, the person that is always there is Const. Gerard Choquette."

The letter points out that Choquette patrols the "most troublesome spots" on foot during Hallowe'en, and when youth see him he is recognized as a "good cop," who has their respect.

Choquette is also commended for his organization of Rally 'Round the Rock and his work towards rejuvenating the local coast guard auxiliary.

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Sailing delayed by car crunch

A minor accident on board the Howe Sound Queen delayed the ferry's 3 p.m. departure from Vesuvius on Sunday.

According to Salt Spring RCMP Const. Gerard Choquette, the open door of a vehicle was struck by the rear of a trailer carrying a boat.

An angry conversation between the motorists resulted in a decision to remain on board the vessel until police could examine the situation.

Choquette arrived on scene at approximately 3:10 p.m. and the ferry was able to leave shortly afterwards.
Eighty per cent of our investments...
Local health nurses gear up for November flu shot clinics

With flu season just around the corner, Capital Health Region (CHR) nurses are getting out the hypodermic needles and preparing for flu shot clinics that will begin early next month.

Island doctors can also give the shots, which prevent people from falling victim to the many symptoms — chills, fever, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, fatigue and nausea — associated with influenza.

Salt Spring health nurse Chris Smart said the flu vaccine would arrive on the island early next month, and three nurses are scheduled to work the first clinic set for November 5.

In addition to flu shots, health officers can now offer a one-time shot of Pneumococcal, which vaccinates recipients against pneumonias.

Both shots are offered free of charge to people over 65, those with chronic chest conditions, susceptible to bronchitis and asthma, and those with other debilitating diseases can also qualify for a vaccination at their doctor's discretion.

Smart said some children, especially those suffering viral-induced asthma symptoms, can also get the shots free.

Those who have no medical indications but still want to obtain a flu shot can pay for it (at a cost of $10-$12) at the CHR office behind Lady Minto Hospital.

Health nurses are paid a regular salary which does not increase with the number of shots given. However, a doctor bills the Medical Services Plan for each patient visit.

On the other hand, if the shot is given by a doctor while the patient visits for another matter, then the MSP billing does not increase and the shot does not cost the system additional funds.

Energy saver
B.C. Hydro meter reader Serge Koroscil is using muscle power to propel him via bike around certain parts of Salt Spring. Cycling meter readers are being encouraged by the power company as an economical and environmentally friendly method of transportation.

Photo by Dennis Longy

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

Fishing lifts ban on shellfish harvesting

Shellfish harvesting has reopened in the Sansum Narrows area.

A red tide closure of the harvesting of bivalve molluscs was lifted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the general area of Sansum Narrows, Satellite Channel and Saanich Inlet.

Further details can be obtained from the fisheries department in Duncan or the Ganges Coast Guard.

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POLICE CUTS: Priorities set

From Page 1

in emergencies," he added. Much of the local detachment's over-time budget has been spent send-
ing police to court in Duncan. However, many court cases are now being rescheduled to Ganges Provincial Court which re-opened in September. The cutbacks will not affect Salt Spring's ability to access additional services such as foren-
ic identification and police dog handlers. But the cutbacks to provincial RCMP budgets have spawned renewed calls to get RCMP auxiliary officers back on the streets. The auxiliaries' promised their ser-
vice in protest early last summer when the attorney general's min-
istry removed their authority to carry guns. The detachment man-
tain that declaration or to return guns to the auxiliaries will be based on the findings of a report, originally scheduled for release in September. It is unknown when that report will be complete.

Darbyshire agreed that "in this community (the auxiliaries) were a nice addition — it's good to have extra bodies around." Darbyshire and Citizens on Patrol (COPS) coordinator Const. Gerard Choquette hope renewed enthusiasm based on an expanded program among COPS members will also ease some pressure on local police.

Darbyshire said he is aware many islanders feel police take too long to investigate crime and spend too little time on the road. And, after three months of obser-
vation by himself and Voller (they both arrived on Salt Spring in July), he has several plans to com-
tbat that perception.

"One of my goals is to take administrative jobs and download some of that to civilians," Darbyshire said, adding that some planned changes have already been implemented elsewhere. For example, administrative work relating to guards — com-
pletion of time sheets, hiring and training — can be handed over to a civilian.

"Anywhere else, this is not something officers would be doing," he said.

In addition, members currently use a notebook to document their activity. Traditionally, they have then filled out other police reports based on these notes. Under the new system, local offi-
cers can merely photocopy their notebook notes and place them in the files.

"I'm working toward making the job in the office less." But to open up more crime time for police, the community may need educating: "The days of 'no call is too small' are gone," Darbyshire said.

Police are too frequently called to handle complaints such as property line disputes, noise and burning issues or cougar sightings, which do not fall within their jurisdiction.

Following community consulta-
tion, Darbyshire added, the local police detachment may have to follow the lead of other areas where types of calls have been prioritized.

Under this scenario, several types of complaints would be brought to police only during office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. This might include incidents such as theft from an automobile, parking lot hit and run offenses, telephone harassment, chronic missing per-
sons and Below interactions.

Darbyshire said that right now, the two most common complaints received by police are driving and traffic complaints — for which they patrol the area, looking for the offender — and noise com-
plaints.

Of 15 calls on a recent week-
end, he added, about three had substance.

But back in the office and in police cars, morale among Salt Spring members remains good despite frustration with the cut-
backs.

"We are trained from day one that you give 110 hours," Darbyshire said.

And at RCMP headquarters in Vancouver, Ward wants to assure people that cuts in services will not mean that "murderers can run free.

"We don't want people to stop calling us but they have to realize not everything is an emergency," he said. "If you call us with a bear on your back porch, we may not respond. But if someone is break-
ing into your house, we will be there."

Extra cadets, higher wages, budget cuts result in deficit

How have provincial RCMP offi-
ers fallen so far into the red? According to RCMP media rela-
tions officer Sgt. John Ward, the provincial RCMP's $8.5 million deficit has grown from a number of sources.

"We are not immune to the rising costs of business," he pointed out, but several other factors have also spurred the outward flow of cash.

Anticipating a future drop in the provincial detachment's budget was approximately $375,000 this year after a six-year freeze. Part of that raise was funded internally. The provincial RCMP's 1997-98 budget was approximately $8.5 million.

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Gloomy market may get brighter

By TONY RICHARDS
Driftwood Staff

It's a buyer's market for local real estate but there aren't that many buyers around.

According to records compiled by Marshall Lindholm, a Westmeere Salt Spring Realty sales associate, house sales are down by 10 per cent so far this year, and land sales by 26 per cent.

In the first nine months of the year, 120 homes have sold on Salt Spring, down from 133 in the same period last year. Lot sales dropped from 34 to 25.

But things could be worse, Lindholm writes in the latest copy of his Salt Spring Island Real Estate Report. Sales would not have reached their current levels had it not been for the reduced value of the Canadian dollar against its American counterpart, he says.

The drop helped attract "a noticeable increase in American buyers this last summer," according to Lindholm.

For Canadians, however, the future is less certain. They will continue to wait it out until economic conditions improve, leaving Lindholm to conclude that the real estate market has not yet bottomed out.

Buyers share that sentiment and are expecting that whatever they buy today will be worth less in the near future. Therefore they're offering rather less than what sellers are asking for.

Lindholm writes: "... many sellers do not fully understand this market and are turning down offers for being too low only to discover in the following months that there are no other offers coming.

Ultimately they end up accepting an offer that is less than the first one."

Lindholm suggests that sellers not look at what they paid for their property, but what they want to do with the proceeds of the sale.

Despite the gloomy conditions, Lindholm is upbeat about next year and points out there is good news in the fact that the market is not dead. He is optimistic about next spring because of this year's exposure to American buyers. Interest from south of the border should remain strong if the Canadian dollar remains low.

The bulk of home sales between January and September were priced under $200,000. There were 44 sales in that price range with an average price of $157,500.

There were 18 sales in the $251,000-$300,000 range, while next in line were waterfront homes. There were 15 sold with an average price of $251,780.

The percentage difference between asking and selling prices ranged from a low of three per cent for townhouses to a high of 16 per cent for lots between five and 10 acres.

Seaweed sought

Ganges Coast Guard went on a search for Seaweed October 6. The boat, not the plant.

A hunter started when the sailboat Seaweed had not closed the sailing plan it had filed with the coast guard. Auxiliary members went looking for the craft, which was eventually found at a dock in Ganges Harbour.

In another call Tuesday, the coast guard had to track down the cause of a jammed signal. A boat in the area had left its radio on, blanking out any other communications on that frequency.

The coast guard searched for Seaweed taking an offer that is less than the plant.

Roger Black, left, and Tugger check out Ganges driving conditions in the Ganges Village Market parking lot for Harold Fitzgerald. Actually the three were spotted last week waiting for a police/CBC seatbelt inspection.

Doggie drivers

Rotary offers to build heronry observatory on North Beach land

Fans of the great blue heron will be able to view the McFadden Creek Heronry in comfort next spring, thanks to the Salt Spring Rotary Club.

According to Waterbird Watch Collective coordinator Nina Raginsky, the club has offered to build a covered public viewing observatory on North Beach Road, which should be complete by February when the herons will return to nest.

In addition, island artist Donald Gunn has received a grant from the Canadian Wildlife Service to produce an interpretive mural for the observatory.

In the campaign to purchase the heronry property, Raginsky said Mouat's Trading Company last week added $2,000 to the cause, reducing the amount needed to under $20,000.

Full-colour Audubon bird cards with a simple message appropriate for Christmas are also now available for purchase, with all proceeds benefiting the heronry purchase.

As of Monday, Raginsky was not sure where they would be sold, but welcomed inquiries to her number at 537-4515.

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USA, MASTERCARD, HOMEDEAL
Desperate measures

Education Minister Paul Ramsey comes from a distant riding in Prince George and may not be aware of the capacity of Gulf Islanders for protesting when they believe something’s amiss. But he’s about to find out.

Parents and school district staff began rallying around the Gulf Islands School Board last week in the wake of Ramsey’s ultimatum regarding district finances. The board has directed it to come up with a plan that cleans up the deficit mess or faces the voters with a tax levy as low as it is. Last week was Fire Prevention Week. This week should be Firefighter Appreciation Week. They deserve our thanks and appreciation.

Library solution a good one

Two months ago we suggested that regional director Kellie Booth should assist the Salt Spring library in accessing revenue through the tax base. Instead, Booth has come up with a better idea.

The volunteer-run library has been denied provincial funding until it can demonstrate to the government’s satisfaction that it enjoys community support. A large membership base — with dues paid voluntarily — wasn’t enough for Jenny Kwan, the minister responsible for library services. Show us that taxpayers care enough to agree have a library levy on their property tax bills and then we’ll consider your request, was the ministerial message.

The library board duly approached Booth about such a levy, but found little support for its position. Since then, however, the director has not been idle on the issue.

In a detailed, three-page letter to the library board last month, Booth set out a proposal whereby a library tax question could be put before voters next fall. The letter reveals that has Booth done her homework.

She proposes to seek support from the taxpayers but not until the library develops a long-range plan. In the meantime, she has arranged bridge funding to tide the library over for the coming year.

On Friday, the library board of directors agreed to Booth’s conditions and the planning process will go ahead.

The library is funded for another year, a long-range plan will be developed and the library has a chance in future and voters will have a chance to pledge or deny their support.

The regional director has come up with a commendable plan that will meet everyone’s needs and, perhaps, address some of the concerns that have surfaced about local library service.

Thank you, firefighters

Having focused on the problems and opportunities facing Salt Spring’s public library, we would be remiss if we neglected this week to acknowledge another strong volunteer organization.

For years islanders have been very well served by the members of the volunteer fire department. Local firefighters make themselves available 24 hours a day to respond to fire calls and motor vehicle accidents, emergency situations that require a great deal of skill and dedication.

They also gather every week to practise their skills in readiness for the emergency call that might come at any time from any one of us.

Without the volunteers, the fire department would not operate with a tax levy as low as it is.

Last week was Fire Prevention Week. This week should be Firefighter Appreciation Week. They deserve our thanks and appreciation.

Fresh water swimmer speaks out against potential access closures

By TERRY GRAHAM

Tom Gossett of the Water Preservation Society has revived the narrow perspective wherein swimmers are targeted as a principle cause of deteriorating drinking water quality. Driftwood, September 10 (Driftwood, September 16) and Don Stevens of the Beddis Waterworks has, inadvertently, reinforced that notion (Driftwood, September 30).

Watch for the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) or property owners around our island lakes to take up the hunt; or for a post ’86 immigrant from West Van to once again exact the sanctity of the Capilano water supply.

Without an outspoken defence by swimmers, powerful people may have long since forgotten the joy of a swim in clean water could deal a crippling blow to a true country sense of “rural values” if their propaganda campaign is successful.

Then the Department of Highways, unbridled, may even be encouraged by the CRD, will take another stab at public access closure like it did in 1993 (Driftwood, June 30, 1993) where the deceitfully-charming decay of “caring for our access safety” and the popular front of “liability concerns” was employed. With the added weaponry of “the swimmer as a prime polluter,” they may hang in the next time.

And if the accesses can be rendered even temporarily impervious — what then? Eventually self- interest-come-ignorance will reveal a CRD plan, like the one presently being tested-driven over some 20,000 Washingtonians to put public lake-access land up for private sale at market value so that people would only be able to access the lakes by trespassing.

Then there’s always the bylaw of their dreams, an outright ban on swimming in fresh water...

2. PARC may go along to lighten their load concerning access outhouse facilities and litter receptacles. In the summer of 1993, which gratefully trusted me to charge them whatever I needed to repair the Blackburn Lake wharf, two PARC employees did their best to convince me that swimmers are in the habit of defecating in our lakes. The PARC must have been duped into believing thatoplled-in reports of lakeshore deposits were those of humans when they were actually from dogs — another unfortunate aspect of Salt Spring’s roaming dog syndrome.

A dog named Nannie was doing his dirty work on the shore of Stowe Lake around that time and I also in 1996 helped a woman track down her big dog who was show-up ing up repeatedly at Blackburn around suppertime when most of the swimmers had left. Dogs love lakes more than anything else, and the smell of mink, other dogs, etc. at the beach often inspired them.

3. Highways will logically do no more than they have to in the same way that our government gave highways maintenance up to privatization in order to shift more of their focus toward the easy money of lottery gambling and further away from the pesky public. The CRD sat back while Highways used privatization to leave public access in the lurch and responsibility for access upkeep was shuffled around.

The truth is that deteriorating water quality can be blamed on over-burdened septic systems; out-of-date and not-up-to-standard systems; systems too close to the water line; waterfowl and animal droppings; home heating diesel oil spills like the one into Canyon I while back; phosphated soaps; and a host of other significant watershed factors.

The writer has been a Salt Spring lake swimmer for more than 20 years.
Letters to the Editor

Order, courtesy

Many thanks to Parks & Rec for resolving the recent impasse at Duck Creek.
It is unfortunate that one person’s interpretation of what’s right or wrong should have caused such distress to so many people, to say nothing of the physical injuries to dozens of dogs.
To our mind it is far more important that people’s dogs are under control and that no one is injured, rather than being technically correct on a leash. As evidenced by recent events, the dogs were out of control and totally inappropriately muzzled as seen by the wounds inflicted on the unfortunate victims.
In Dogwood Park in White Rock, the Sea Walk in West Vancouver, Beacon Hill Park in Victoria, to name just a few, dogs run free, their owners chat to each other while the dogs play and everyone has a good time, and courtesy is the order of the day.
Any dog that is belligerent is leashed and muzzled, and muzzled with an underbite.
Come on you Salt Spring dog owners, let’s have order, control and courtesy at all times. Bring your doggy bag and let’s have fun again with our pets in beautiful Duck Creek Park. We are so lucky to have it—a place for grown-ups, children and pets to enjoy nature.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: How do you feel about Education Minister Paul Ramsey’s ultimatum to the school board?

Sieggy Karl
What can we do other than speak out about it?

Ben Taylor
I think it’s wrong. The school board has already had government auditors there who found they couldn’t do a thing about it.

Linda Taylor
I’m not happy about it. It’s nice to keep the Gulf Islands with their own (school board) and there’s got to be a way to do that.

Julia Hengstler
The province is a partner in the problem so they should be a partner in solving it.

Sandra Ditloff
Rather than working with the school board to find a solution it’s a power-play to control the school. Does the government think we should dissolve them because they can’t balance their budget?

Letters to the Editor

System is undemocratic — votes should count

By NICK LOENEN

Recently, 2,200 citizens gathered in Prince George under the banner, "Have you had enough yet?" Their leaders issued a warning that the opposition parties had better get their act together or else! In the search for a more representative form of government, many are calling for a coalition or at least some united opposition to the two major parties in the province’s election.

People are genuinely worried about the future. Government is seen as unaccountable, arbitrary and illegitimate. Much of this is due to our voting system. Unless we reform the voting system, British Columbians cannot expect government that is representative, speaks for them and is accountable to them.

Our outdated, winner-take-all voting system awards 100 percent of government power to a party whose platform and leader is rejected by 60 percent of voters. The NDP’s Glen Clark has a majority government on only 39 percent of the vote. In this regard, the many Social Credit governments of the past were marginally more representative.

Under our voting system, legislatures are manufactured and fake; they are not an expression of the will of the people.

The writer is a director of Fair Voting BC and author of Citizenship and Democracy.

OPINION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1998 • B

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

Frank Richards wonders in his September 30 column if incapacitating a mayor and council to sock it to islanders with taxation is a way to solve the problem.

The writer

Tell us what you think

Did you see something you liked or disliked in this week's paper? Write your comments below and send them to us by mail at The Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2R5, or by fax to 250-537-2613. Please include your name and phone number.
The Creation and Care of Gemstone Jewellery

The ornamentation of the human body has excited the creative interest of Jewellers and designers since the first stirrings of Civilization. Feathers, bells, tassels and shells which were cut, carved and pierced, are the oldest evidence of such ornaments.

Our present day precious gems evolved from glasy pebbles which were chipped and fitted to the hunt's or fisherman's gaudy garb. True, some sectors have been hard-hit by a bad crop due to unseasonal weather. Without a lot of fanfare, the agriculture ministry has put in place a new marketing board as a result of the 1990s' recession. The policy development process is expected to be complete by the end of the year and scheduled for implementation in early 1999.

There is a lot at stake. Asked to list the province's major industries, Mr. Humphrys states, "You can't send a dog to Sunday school and teach it the Ten Commandments..." Does this mean you purchased the dogs as guard dogs? Further in the article Mr. Humphrys states, "You can't send a dog to Sunday school and teach it the Ten Commandments..." Mr. Humphrys, you can send a dog to obedience training and get some control over an unruly animal. Mr. Humphrys, you have no right to own a dog that you cannot control. If you did purchase this animal as a guard dog, it should be so well trained that it will discontinue an attack and stop again or another dog with a simple command from your voice.

Would you lose this animal on a person trespassing on your property with no intention of calling it off? Would you let the dog continue its attack until the intruder's throat had been ripped out?

Gary C. Rivest

Please be careful when cleaning your gem. All may be cleaned with soap and water, but do not use toothpaste as it can abrasive. Some, such as the green variety of Tourmaline and Clean with a soft toothbrush, rinse well and dry. Do not use the method on pearls, amber, coral, turquoise, opal or topaz, they may be scratched with a damp cloth and dried with a soft brush. Proper care and animal imposition is a reliable and knowledgeable jeweller will ensure your gemstones and gemstones will last for generations to come. Enjoy your jewellery and wear it good health.

The following chart represents a thousand precious coloured gemstones from all over the world:

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More letters

Thank Valerie Rizely who so graciously placed her dream in the knowing and comfort of April, her cost and crew. Thank you and congratulations to one and all.

I am looking forward to seeing it one more time.

JEANNE PASCALE, Salt Spring

Parlee farewell

I would like to thank the Drillwood for the thoughtful words regarding my departure from Salt Spring Island. It was a pleasure and a joy tolive on Salt Spring Island for five years, and work with the staff, volunteers and clients at Community Services. It was also a privilege to be elected to the Gulf Islands School Board, and I commend the teachers, special education assistants, administrators and board for their continual efforts at providing quality education to students in the face of financial struggles with the provincial government.

Many people have wondered why I went so quickly and where I went, and there have been those who wished I would have provided more notice before leaving my responsibilities. Unbelievably, and I am sure my realtor Arvid Clambers will use it in a skit one day, our house sold to the first people who viewed it. My family and I were originally only testing the market to think about options we wanted to explore, including a different location on Salt Spring. I also had decided to look at the demand for executive directors in the non-profit sector, and I sent my resume out to a few ads I saw in the Globe and Mail.

We were considering leaving Salt Spring because of opportunites that were missing for some members of my family, particularly my need for an exit to playing football and his desire to carry on with it into university, and the need for clear proximity to a major city for other business of the family. It came as a stunning moment when our home sold and, at the same time, I was offered a very exciting position with the Children’s Centre for Ability and the Vancouver Neurological Centre (one agency) in Vancouver.

As their new executive director, I am administering programs which employ occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, social workers and physiotherapists who work with children from birth on who have complex neurological disorders. Additionally, the centre administers the provincial brain injury program for children and has a separate board for fundraising called the B.C. Neurological Foundation, which I am also the executive director for.

While very different from Salt Spring Island Community Services, my passion to advocate for issues regarding children and individuals with challenges is a perfect match with this innovative and head, hence the references to British emblems. That represents both our past and present reality. The setting sun represents the fact that B.C. is the most western province. She bemoans the fact that it is cluttered. What would she have, an anti-British, bland piece of compromise like most of the world’s flags, including the Canadian maple leaf? She doesn’t like the colour scheme but I do, and anyway, there’s no accounting for taste. She also complains that it does not represent today’s reality.

Well, may I suggest that we show a small piece of Union Jack being totally overwhelmed by a large stars and stripes, to represent the fact that Americans are taking over our culture, our business, our industries and with the loo dollar, even some of our land. Being an ex- and very anti-American herself, I’m sure Virginia would love the irony of that. I think, Virginia, that in spite of everything you still have some of that Boston-Tea-Party-let’s-kick-the-darn-Brits-out blood running in you.

The B.C. flag is colourful, distinctive and represents our system of government and law we are desperately trying to preserve. Let’s keep it like it is.

SIMON H. ROOK, Ganges
Islander pulls prize
out of Weston Lake

Where water is, fish is. And where fish is there lie the tales.

This story, completely true and sworn to, is of Weston Lake, in the chill fall of 1997, which adds up to a year ago.

Rich Harris and his brother were braking the chill and laying into the magnificent fish which are in the lake to taunt the fishermen.

The boaters were using rods to tempt the trout and flies to catch the trout’s eye. It was not a warm day and they wore gloves to protect their faces from the chill.

Ryan stood firm in the boat and took a mighty swing with his rod. It was a perfect cast. Or perfectly awful. Alas! The gloves!

Out shot the fly and the trout were probably just waiting to sample that lure. They got it 100 per cent. As the Burch arms reached the end of the swing, the slightest of a tug brought the fish to the line on the distant water, the chill air took over. The rod reached the far extremity of the arms. It aimed beyond that limit. With a mind of its own the rod slid through his line Jamie watched his catch come to the surface. Not a fish in already run out about a year ago.

But I'm out of that one. I ain't got no lawn!

Quickest thaw I ever saw!

There are still members of my family around who send me gifts on their birthdays or Christmas, and I know now, but I didn't then, that the butter wrapper is metallic and instantly responsive to the thunderbolts of any half-way decent conductor. At least it was.

Seems to me that I have chased up the stats for life expectancy. In 1918 it stood at 54 years. That means that if everyone had his rights and no rod, no line and no fish.

That’s the end of a fishy story.

Butter Burns Hot

I was hungry and there was no butter. It wasn’t the age-old debate over butter or margarine. I was preparing some kind of goo for eating and the recipe called for butter. I heard the call and removed some from the freezer. It was frozen and I was in a hurry so I tossed it into the microwave to thaw it out a little. Quicker than I ever saw! One flash of lightning and the oven was ablaze. I was near enough to switch it off but I carried a bonfire to the kitchen table.

I know now, but I didn’t then, that the butter-griller is metallic and instantly responsive to the thunderbolts of any half-way decent conductor and takes a length of wire already run out about a year ago.

That catch was better than any old trout or bass or whatever he caught in Weston Lake.

BUTTER BURNS HOT

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Year running away

The year is reaching for its close and I’m a year older. The end of the decade approaches and the next millennium is waiting around the corner of 1999.

There are still members of my family around who send me gifts on my birthday. This year I received two copies of The London Times because my birthday coincided with the year that the British are celebrating with the errors from the Daily Express already in my possession.

The life of a man, same war, same news I compared the two and found many items running parallel in importance.

Fighting was heavy, reported both journals, in the area around Amiens, where a German offensive sought to recover two villages lost two weeks ago.

The Express also carried a list of wealthy Americans with an estimated wealth of $250 million. J.D. Rockefeller headed the list at 12 million pounds ($60 million). His liability was estimated at seven and a half million pounds, but he made an interesting comment in the year that the Express already in my possession.

That’s why the Salt Spring Preschool Society noticed of its intention to use the classroom for much-needed office space, and preschool parents and Ruddell began to search for other rental premises. When that proved unsuccessful, the idea of building a preschool next to the centre was investigated and approved by the Community Services board.

That’s why the Salt Spring Preschool Society is now launching a fundraising drive to raise $50,000 by February 28, 1999.

Sandra Ditlof is a member of the group’s building committee. She stressed that if the funds are not raised, the school will be forced to close and the community will lose an extremely valuable asset.

The evidence is clear that children’s awareness of social conventions, their social skills and ability to cooperate with parents, other adults and children are all affected by preschool experiences, says Ditlof.

"Salt Spring Co-op Preschool is a special place because it’s a full-time family growth experience — both parents and children take their first educational steps together."

She adds that Ruddell is an exceptional early childhood educator.

The preschool encourages "learning through play" and development of social and emotional skills which facilitate the transition from home to kindergarten. It is called a "co-op" because parents are heavily involved, from regular help in the classroom to fundraising to taking on special jobs which keep the school running.

Parent education programs are also held monthly and it benefits from association with the Vancouver Island Co-operative Preschool Association.

Except for the occasional grant received for new equipment, parent fees and fundraising are the school’s sole income sources. The building committee is now searching high and low for grants and foundation funding possibilities and has several fundraisers planned for coming months.

The two major raffles, concession sales at entertainment events, a live and silent auction at a wine and cheese evening, wreath sales at the Last Minute Christmas Craft Show and a Tunad Air benefit concert.

Letters of support for grant applications are also needed. Anyone who knows of the preschool’s positive work is encouraged to provide Ditlof with a letter.

In order to meet government licensing requirements, the new preschool must be at least 1,000 square feet in size and have a two-seated washroom plus two sinks. Ditlof says the group plans to start building in early March, or as soon as the $50,000 is in the bank, for a September opening.

The first major donors to the campaign have been Rob Robinson and Birgit Bateman, who gave $1,000 plus a limited-edition print for use as a raffle prize.

Ditlof hopes the rest of the island will be as generous with donations of funds and building supplies, volunteer labour, attending fundraisers and buying raffle tickets. Preschool “alumna,” or those with up-and-coming preschoolers, may be especially motivated to help.

Anyone wanting more information about the preschool or its building and fundraising plans is urged to call Ditlof at 537-7569.

Preschool must raise $50,000 by February for new building

By GAIL SJUBERG

Driftwood Staff

In the past 24 years, hundreds of Salt Spring children have entered their first “classroom” at Salt Spring Co-op Preschool in the Community Centre. The excited voices of 30 preschoolers now in two classes taught by Barb Ruddell will be the last ones heard in the centre. If all goes well, however, their chorus will still ring in the playground outside.

Last November, Salt Spring Community Services and preschool parents Ruddell and Graham started to search for other rental premises. When that proved unsuccessful, the idea of building a preschool next to the centre was investigated and approved by the Community Services board.

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They include two major raffles, concession sales at entertainment events, a live and silent auction at a wine and cheese evening, wreath
Parent involvement essential to wellbeing of kids at school

By LARRY FIELD
Most parents never get involved with their child's school and teach- ers are not part of their kids' learning.

But in this rapidly changing world, parents and teachers need each other more than ever. This is because schools are being forced by declining state funding to look for new sources of material and emotional needs that were once fulfilled by the family.

Few would dispute the idea that strengthening the partnership between the home and school is a good thing. Research studies have shown that increased parent involvement results in a student's performance improving, student attitudes and self-concept improving and students' achievement improving. These results are especially true for students who are struggling in school, providing a positive and supportive environment.

It is important that parents discuss the school program and student progress with the teacher regularly—phone calls, notes and direct contact all work well. Most teachers will welcome this. Essentially, anything parents can do to send children to school physically, emotionally and mentally prepared will provide support to the school. This is what parents positively communicate and show in building the child's self-esteem. As schools are being forced by declining state funding to look for new sources of material and emotional needs that were once fulfilled by the family, the schools need the help of parents to educate their children.

Involvement can take many forms and can be as simple as volunteering to make parents feel more comfortable in school, informing them of school programs and events, helping them to answer the questions about their child's progress.

In the opinion of this reviewer, if parents want to make a difference in their child's education, the involvement is powerful for student success and achievement.

Larry Field is a teacher and president of the Gulf Islands Teachers Association.

Local win shellfish grant

Fisheries Renewal B.C. has announced a $130,000 grant to Island Sea Salts of Salt Spring and a consortium of partners. Fisheries Renewal sees the project as an opportunity to diversify the shellfish industry.

Producing mussel seed will eliminate the need to purchase from outside the country.

The grant was one of six providing support to B.C.'s shellfish industry.

Salt Spring Island Foundation

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: 1997

OUR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Salt Spring Island Foundation is your community foundation. It is committed to "enhancing the quality of life in our island community by providing a steady stream of income for the support of a wide range of worthwhile island organizations".

HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

Every penny contributed to the Salt Spring Island Foundation is preserved in permanent, endowed funds. The interest earned on them is distributed annually in the form of grants to registered charitable organizations on Salt Spring. A contribution to the Salt Spring Island Foundation can therefore be thought of as "a gift that keeps on giving" every year, in perpetuity. We do not compete against other charitable organizations. We support them. The analogy is sometimes made that a contribution to the Salt Spring Island Foundation is like having a personal trustee.

ADVANTAGES OF ONE-STOP GIVING

We are all besotted completely for donations by many charitable organizations, each worthy in its own way... so much so that it is often difficult to decide which one to donate to. Those decisions become much easier by donating through the Salt Spring Island Foundation. The interest earned on your contribution will then be distributed proportionately to a wide range of charitable island organizations each year thereafter.

BENEFICIARIES

Grants of $7,000 distributed in 1997 brought the total to $221,879 for over 200 charitable organizations on Salt Spring since inception of the foundation in 1984. Grants change from year to year as community needs and priorities change.

Beneficiaries have included such organizations as:
- Youth Services
- Skip's Nest (Salt Spring Island Youth Centre)
- Community Services Society: group home for teens at risk
- Island Pathways: construction of demonstration bicycle lane adjacent to Portlock Park
- SPCA: relocation of cut cottage
- Strawberry and Salmon Enhancement Society: educational materials on salmonids for teaching school children
- Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission: construction of new dance studio
- Community Services Society (Fort Langley, BC)
- Construction of Rotary Park marina
- Project Salt: construction of public access alternative to salt water (in Fort Langley)
- Community Services Society (Port McNeill, BC)
- Project Salt: construction of public access alternative to salt water (in Fort Langley)
- Salad Island Conservancy (Purchase of the Mill property)
- SSI Festival of the Arts (Concert grand piano)

SCHOOL FILE

Sales. While these activities are essential to a healthy school, their effect on student achievement is not easily measured. According to a recent study (Journal of Educational Research, August 1998), more involvement that takes the form of positive parent style and parent enthusiasm.

Parents can continue learning by encouraging an attitude of exploitation and discovery. By asking questions, discussing what has been discovered, encouraging the students to connect what they are learning at school, parents can send a positive message about learning to their children. At home, they can provide a time, place and materials for home study.

It is important that parents discuss the school program and student progress with the teacher regularly—phone calls, notes and direct contact all work well. Most teachers will welcome this. Essentially, anything parents can do to send children to school physically, emotionally and mentally prepared will provide support to the school. This is what parents positively communicate and show in building the child's self-esteem.

GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD

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Larry Field is a teacher and president of the Gulf Islands Teachers Association.
Nobody’s Perfect classes start again for island parents

By GAIL SUERBERG
Driftwood Staff

It’s often said that there’s no training provided for the most important job a person can hold—being a parent.

"The little critters don’t come with manuals," jokes Christine Webber, Salt Spring parent of two children aged four and two and a half.

But Webber found something even better than a manual when she took the Nobody’s Perfect parenting program last year at Family Place.

Co-facilitated by Family Place coordinator Ragahl Flakstad and public health nurse Chris Smart, the program covers several topics in six weekly sessions.

Mainly through group discussion, participants learn about children’s health, safety, development and behaviour. They develop new tools for responding to moments of conflict and improving their self-image and coping skills. As a result they gain confidence in themselves as parents.

While it’s not Webber’s usual style to put herself on the back, she has no trouble asserting that since taking Nobody’s Perfect, she is able to "think I've turned into a great parent.”

One skill she developed is "a level of calm and ability to read a situation and see what’s really needed by the children." Now, instead of reacting immediately to a problem, she is able to "take a breather" and delve into her kids' state of mind to identify and solve the real issue.

The program also pointed out other useful resources to cultivate throughout one's parenting life.

This session begins at Fulford Elementary School on Tuesday afternoon beginning November 3.

For Webber, Nobody’s Perfect showed her that other parents experienced the same stresses she does, that her kids' annoying behaviours were actually part of normal developmental stages, and how to deal with difficult moments.

It provided valuable first aid and health information and underlined the importance of taking time out for herself.

"I learned that if I take care of myself I’ll be better able to take care of my children."

Thinking of her own young students, Webber says these techniques are "practical and organic." She has "also used them in the school setting to give children a sense of calm during moments of conflict."

Webber found her class sessions "highly motivating and refreshing."

For Webber, the program offered "a realistic level of funding for the school district” and real dialogue began between your ministry, the district and its partner groups, we were encouraged and hopeful that a solution was within sight.

Instead, you put a stop to that dialogue and established a climate of confrontation and controversy. You demanded that the board make even further cuts to a school system already decimated by years of restraint and staffing cutbacks.

We ask you to consider this question in the context of your ultimatum to our board:

How is this good for kids?

Teachers agree with other members of our community....

The funding system is broken.

But, please, Mr. Minister.... Fix it!

Don’t simply throw it out!

The Gulflands Teachers’ Association, 200 Wilkie Way, Salt Spring Island, B.C.
We have a crisis in our schools

OUR CHILDREN’S EDUCATION IS AT RISK!

The Minister of Education, Paul Ramsey, has threatened to replace our democratically elected School Board with a Trustee OR amalgamate us with another district if he does not receive a plan of action that would reduce our budget by $600,000 to $750,000 before October 31. The Minister’s own Efficiency Advisory Team examined our District with microscopic intensity in June, and they concluded that there were FEW REDUCTIONS that could be made to our budget, without creating grievances in the collective agreements with staff. They recommended that “the government change their Funding Allocation System to provide adequate financial support for the District”. This recommendation was rejected by the Minister. He has chosen to saddle us with the blame AND have our children live with the consequences of his poor administration, by not accepting that the level of funding required by the Gulf Islands School District to comply with the Collective Agreement AND provide students with appropriate programs is inadequate. What follows is the picture as it stands today.

What we’ve lost...

What your children have lost to date in our schools since the tax levy was “equalized” throughout the province (1991), and our Minister continued to ignore the true costs of running our schools:

- Elementary French
- Elementary Band
- All Elementary and Secondary Gifted Programs
- Some Secondary Elective Courses (e.g. Agriculture)
- District Continuing Education
- All Specialist teacher support
- All Elementary School Librarians
- All Elementary School Counselors
- Reduced Counselling services at the Middle and High Schools
- Reduced Librarian time at the Middle and High Schools
- Equipment replacement and upgrading

What we have done...

- District Program and Implementation support
- Most Technology (Computer) support
- Reduced custodial, maintenance and grounds staff
- 10% reduction in teaching staff
- Elimination of Family Life Co-ordinator and District Psychologist Programs
- Reduced computer repair services
- Elimination of any technology (computer) replacement
- Reduction of school flex funds (pays for school supplies and services, clerical salaries)

What we risk losing...

If our board is forced to cut up to $750,000 from our budget:

- Reduction in staff by 6 teachers (5.8% of our teaching staff) and 6 paraprofessionals (24% of our paraprofessional staff)
- Creation of 91 grievances according to the Collective Agreement
- All High School and Middle School Electives, such as Band, Drama, Computer Graphics, Cafeteria Programs, and Fine Arts and Skills Program
- Special Education Support
- The Phoenix School Program and Saturna School
- Possible whole school closures on Salt Spring Island
- High extracurricular travel (ex. Sports)
- Substitute teachers
- Reduction of equipment replacement (desks, chairs)
- Reduced clerical support and school office closures
- Independent Board status. Salt Spring becomes an 'Outer Island' again.

What can you do...

It’s time to speak up on behalf of our children and let the politicians know that the schools in BC are not funded properly. The Ministry had the opportunity to deal with The Collective Agreement AND the discrepancy in funding allocation in June, and chose not to. The Gulf Islands is the first of a dozen districts to have this knife held at their throats. We must let Minister Ramsey, the Premier and the Liberal Education Critics know that proceeding with these threats will cripple every child in the Gulf Islands.

What you can do now is write and fax to these politicians to let them know how you feel about this. Write to the Minister and send copies to the Premier, our MLA and the Liberal Education Critic.

PLEASE DO IT NOW

HONORABLE PAUL RAMSEY
Minister of Education
Box 9045, Stn "Provincial Gov't" Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X1
Ph: 250-387-1977 Fax: 250-387-3200

PREMIER GLEN CLARK
Room 156, West Annex Parliament Buildings Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Ph: 250-387-1715 Fax: 250-387-0087

MS. APRIL SANDERS, MLA
Liberal Education Critic Room 201 Parliament Buildings Victoria B.C. V8V 1X4
Ph: 250-387-2746 Fax: 250-387-2749

MURRAY COELL, MLA
Sanicle North & The Islands
Ste. F - 2412 Beacon Ave., Sidney, B.C. V8L 1X1
Ph: 250-656-0013 Fax: 250-656-7059
REV. ROHANNA LAING RETURNS TO SALT SPRING
CHURCH, NEW MINISTER WANT TO REACH OUT

By SUSAN LUNDY
Driftwood Staff

Sitting in her new office, where one of her handmade, earth-tone batiks covers a large portion of the wall, books line two room-length shelves and a desk overlooks the United Church's lush meadow property, Rev. Rohanna Laing describes in tones as earthy and soft as her artwork the steps that brought her back to Salt Spring.

Laing, who lived on Salt Spring in the mid-1960s and attended the Hereford Avenue United Church, will be acclaimed as its new minister in a Covenanting Service on Sunday.

"It seems like a real time warp," admits the former college fine arts teacher who moved to Salt Spring with her family 14 years ago to test out the role of island artist.

"We tried the Salt Spring lifestyle — we bought two acres, had the kids, the garden, the dog, and kept adding to the house as we could afford it," she laughs. "We spent the first winter with the pink insulation showing in the walls."

Her three sons, Chris, Marcus and Lucian, all attended school here until she received a calling to enter the ministry.

For her the calling occurred through "meaningful dreams and unusual experiences" combined with the support and encouragement of the United Church.

"It was sort of a small thing and an approach from above and below," she says, noting she is still in touch with Rev. A Waldner, who was the United Church minister at the time.

"I have always been interested in world religions, spirituality and the meaning of life and death," she adds. "A lot of artists are interested in spirituality."

Laing was ordained in 1988 after attending the Vancouver School of Theology where she was a classmate of Rev. Sharon Cooke, who along with her husband Rev. Barry Cooke, left Salt Spring in August after spending several years sharing ministerial duties at Salt Spring United Church.

Laing spent two years ministering to three small churches in the Toronto area.

Her three sons, Chris, Marcus and Lucian, all attended school here until she received a calling to enter the ministry.

"I believe there are many ways to God," — Rohanna Laing

"I feel like work with the congregation. I'm just privileged to be a little more educated than some members."

"Since arriving at the church in mid-September she has held two "talking circles" in which congregation members discussed possible paths for the church to take."

"They came up with 69 different things for us to do," Laing says, but several trends emerged, including desires to learn more about other religions, and reach out to others in the community.

"We're looking forward to bringing in an alternate form of worship for non-church-goers, people who can't make it Sunday mornings or, for some reason, want something different."

"Something different" is about to begin November 8 with the introduction of video viewing and discussion, a move the congregation hopes will attract younger people. The church plans to screen movies such as Star Wars, Mission and Kundan that "have a deeper meaning," and follow them up with a conversation.

Laing says it will take until January for the church to decide how it wants to proceed with interfaith activities and informative session that will educate in other interpretations of Christ.

"I believe there are many ways to God," she says.

Laing stresses that while the church evolves and seeks "ways of worshipping God that are relevant and attractive to others," its Sunday morning service will continue in its traditional mode.

"We might hold an alternative worship service on Friday nights or early Sunday afternoons."

Services could include more upbeat music, drumming and discussions rather than sermons.

Laing says some church members have shown interest in learning about meditation.

But the activities won't be determined by Laing. They will be whatever comes up from the grassroots.

NEW CHURCH LEADER: Rev. Rohanna Laing will be welcomed as the Salt Spring United Church's new minister at a special service on Sunday. A former island resident, Laing returned to Salt Spring mid-September.

PHOTO BY DEREK LADDY
Vanpools prove popular on Salt Spring

By HOLLAND SIDNEY
Driftwood Staff

Commuting from Salt Spring to a job in Victoria is feasible but it can also be problematic, expensive and stressful.

The cost of commuting with a car can run close to $450 a month, not including parking and vehicle maintenance. The commute itself isn't overly time-consuming, but life is governed by the ferry schedule and traffic on the Pat Bay Highway.

It's tiring driving to and from work every day on top of working the usual eight hours and there's also the concern of polluting the air with a single-occupant vehicle.

The bus offers another option — one that is environmentally friendlier but indirect and takes a lot of time.

It's for all these reasons and others that vanpools have been such a success on Salt Spring, where commuting has many seasoned veterans who have been travelling to jobs in Victoria for years.

A vanpool is a group of commuters travelling to and from work in a van and paying a monthly fare. Commuting costs are dramatically reduced and the worry about vehicle wear and tear is eliminated. For many Salt Spring residents who work in Victoria, it's by far the best form of commuting.

"Everybody likes it," says Wayne Locke, who works for the provincial government in downtown Victoria and helped start Salt Spring's first vanpool four years ago.

The organization behind the vanpool concept on Salt Spring, and elsewhere in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island, is the Jack Bell Foundation (JBF), a non-profit organization started in 1992 by the Vancouver philanthropist of the same name. Bell saw traffic congestion and pollution as one of the biggest problems on the Lower Mainland and recognized vanpooling as a solution.

Modelled itself after a successful vanpool program operating in the Seattle area, JBF buys vans, with the help of interest-free loans from Canada Trust and Richmond Savings Credit Unions, insures them and makes them available to commuters. There are 29 vanpools operating in the JBF area, with the majority travelling to Victoria.

Vanpool riders pay only a monthly "fare" based on kilometres travelled each month, which covers gas, maintenance and insurance costs. Salt Spring vanpool riders share costs for parking and the van's ferry fare.

Until the end of August, there were two vanpools operating on the island, but the smaller of the two has since disbanded due to lack of riders.

Mike Rowling, who has ridden in both, has found vanpools to be the best way of commut­ ing to his job as a systems administrator at a Victoria computer company.

He had been commuting for five years, both to his job and to the University of Victoria while he was still finishing his degree in computer science, before joining a vanpool. He used to take the bus but found it was a waste of time, and he didn't make a connection or didn't make the ferry, he said.

"When I joined the vanpool, I got really serious about my job. I knew when I would get there and when I would be done," he says. "It's absolutely the best way for commuting. You don't feel so alone as you do on the bus."

The local vanpools got started — appropriately — on the ferry, as most commuters take the first ferry off the island at 6:20 a.m. and .

Communal Driving: The non-profit Jack Bell Foundation is the think-tank behind the vanpool concept — an option embraced on Salt Spring by many Victoria-bound commuters.

CATCHING A LIFT

The foundation has also found vanpooling to be one of the most cost-effective modes of computer transportation.

"We all had this one time slot in common. It made it easy to form the vanpool because we were already recognized group. We all knew each other before — some by sight, others quite well," says Locke, who had heard about vanpools through work. "It was easy to get a one from designated pick-up locations at fixed times, both in the morning and in the afternoon. People have to be on time or they'll miss the ride to the ferry."

While some vanpools operate on the premise that the driver gets to ride free in exchange for driving, Salt Spring's vanpools have always shared the driving among several people, keeping fares low for everyone.

Because driving the 12-passenger van requires a special licence, Locke says there are currently only three or four drivers, depending on who is on vacation.

For Rowling, a big advantage of vanpooling is that he has extra time to read.

"It's very economical and saves a lot of personal time. You can sleep, chat or do whatever you want," says Locke. "But it's not just saving money; it's one vehicle versus 12, which makes it wonderful for the environment. It makes me feel good that I'm not adding to pollution."

According to one study, quoted in the JBF newsletter, vanpools reduce pollutant emissions by 150 tons per year, with the current incremental cost savings to society estimated at $1.3 million annually.

The foundation has also found vanpooling to be one of the most cost-effective modes of commuter transportation. Locke pays just $100 a month, plus his own ferry fare. The most Rowling paid, when there were only three people in his vanpool, was $178.

R ic hmond Savings
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Other people are also recognizing the advantages of this form of transportation.

"One day the captain of the ferry knocked on the van window and asked what he could do to help the vanpools," says Locke. He ended up acting as a liaison during negotiations with the ferry corporation, which resulted in the vans being given assured loading if they arrive at the terminal 15 minutes before sailing time.

Locke says that assured loading is just an experiment, but hopes it will continue.

For Salt Spring commuters vanpooling itself was an experiment. It has proved to be a very successful one.
Islanders Jim and Connie Moulton are seen at their Salt Spring home. Born in Sidney in 1956, Jim moved here when he was three years old. He has worked at dangerous tree removal, in the oil fields, and as a carver, chef and school district custodian. Clerical worker Connie, 40, was born in Edmonton and has lived here for 17 years.

Drop-in centre opens doors

The Yellow Submarine is welcoming the world on Thursday afternoon.

The mental health drop-in and resource centre located in the Community Centre at 268 Fulford-Ganges Road is holding an activity-packed open house from 4 to 7 p.m.

There will be an art exhibit, Internet demonstration, videos, door prizes and hors d'oeuvres, along with brochures and literature on mental illnesses such as depression, manic depression, schizophrenia and anxiety disorders.

The drop-in centre opened last year, providing resources and activities for individuals and families dealing with mental illness.

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Visiting soprano leaves red mark on a fun-loving Galiano audience

To say lyric coloratura soprano Nancy Hermiston left her "mark" on Galiano is to state the obvious.

At the end of the evening more than a few Galiano male concert-goers sported red buss marks on their foreheads or balding pates, gifts from the singer and her "Naughty Ladies of the Night." Roaming through the auditorium almost as often as singing from the stage, she brought her audience a lovely voice, familiar tunes and a lot of good-natured fun.

Her costumes were fabulous — a different one for nearly every selection. Feather fans and boa suggested opulence, red velvet hangings on the stage repeating the theme. The red geraniums on stage were local, a happy addition to the general decor.

Accompanist Richard Epp, musical director of a UBC workshop and conductor of the White Rock Community Orchestra, with cleverly written dialogue, introduced many of Hermiston's ladies: Mozart's Queen of the Night; Offenbach's doll Olympia, Puccini's Musetta and more recent femmes from Oklahoma, Carousel, Chorus Line and Cabaret.

Perhaps the singer's most affecting selection was Andrew Lloyd Webber's I Don't Know How To Love Him — beautifully realized. Epp played two solo numbers, the Meditation from Thais (Massenet) and a medley from Johann Strauss' Die Fledermaus.

Miss Hermiston is currently head of the UBC School of Music's Opera Workshop, and will soon become head of the voice department there. For a dozen or more years she was first coloratura at the Narabug Opera, singing a variety of roles. She enjoyed her years there. "A wonderful island city with many artistic challenges for the singer. I went with no German except that memo-

ized for my roles. No one spoke English there, that is until I learned some German! It took about a week to make my wants known — then I was to discover almost everyone spoke English!"

During the intermission, concert society organizer Elizabeth Bender supervised the drawing of three prizes offered in conjunction with the society's summer membership drive. The prizes were books and records and went to Viola Lerb, Mary Emery and Ingelese Lihlott.

Land use bylaw

The long-promised Islands Trust land use bylaw arrived in Galiano mail boxes on Friday. Containing amendments to the 1996 draft of the official community plan, trustees Debbie Holmes and Margaret Griffiths insist the new document faithfully translates the will of the people and their ideas for the island's future development.

They offer the new document for comment and have called a public meeting to discuss it at the Activity Centre, 1 p.m. on October 24.

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Steve Somerset, Investment Advisor

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Occupation: Fire Chief
Years with dept.: 29 1/2
Likes: Helping the community, successfully extinguishing fires.
Dislikes: Burn victims & people in distress
Safety tip: Be safe-be careful. Don't play with fire...it hurts.

ERLING JORGENSEN
CAPTAIN
Occupation: Full time firefighter
Years with dept.: 24
Likes: It's a satisfying profession, training & working with a team.
Dislikes: The 4am false alarms. Safety tip: Have a home “fire plan” with your family.

DAN AKERMAN
DEPUTY CHIEF
Occupation: Full time firefighter
Years with dept.: 29
Likes: Helping people
Dislikes: Early-morning calls

RUSS MURCHESON
CAPTAIN
Occupation: Mechanic
Years with dept.: 18
Likes: Helping the community.
Dislikes: Clean your chimney or you’ll end up with a bunch of people on your roof.

KERRY AYERMAN
CAPTAIN
Occupation: Self-employed
Years with dept.: 16 1/2
Likes: The experience, training and knowledge to be effective in an emergency
Dislikes: Not being able to convince the guys to help me sell Christmas trees again!!

JIM BUCKLEY
LIEUTENANT
Occupation: Highways maintenance crew member
Years with dept.: 11
Likes: People of all ages working as a team
Dislikes: Attending MVAs caused by impaired drivers

RICH BAHY
LIEUTENANT
Occupation: Self-employed
Years with dept.: 9 1/2
Likes: Operating in a challenging environment.
Dislikes: People who call 911 on their cell phones and don't stay at the scene.
Safety tip: Never put your woodstove ashes on the porch.

JUDY NICKELS
CAPTAIN
Occupation: Mechanic
Years with dept.: 15
Likes: Satisfaction of successfully putting to the test everything you learn in practice.
Dislikes: Not having something cold to drink after a fire.

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Years with dept.: 11  
Likes: Helping people in need, working with a great bunch of guys  
Dislikes: Alarm bells at 2:30 a.m.

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**TODD McINTYRE**  
Occupation: Electrician  
Years with dept.: 9 1/2

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**LAWRENCE SPENCER**  
Occupation: Engineer, BC Ferries  
Years with dept.: 10  
Likes: The feeling I get when we are successful in putting out a fire,  
Dislikes: A boot full of hot water.  
Safety tip: Respect fire & the damage it can do & act accordingly.

---

**PAT SHOULDICE**  
Occupation: Self-employed  
Years with dept.: 8  
Likes: Working to help the community as a team.  
Dislikes: Bad accidents  
Safety tip: Be careful and respect fire.

Thanks Guys...we really appreciate your hard work!

MOUAT'S

537-5557

---

**TONY HEAD**  
Occupation: Fisherman  
Years with dept.: 6 1/2  
Likes: To help out the community.  
Dislikes: People who don't pull over for a big red & white truck with lights & sirens on.  
Safety tip: Wear your seatbelt and don't drink and drive.

"Keep up the great work!"

MURRAY COELL, M.L.A.  
Saanich North and The Islands Constituency Office  
Suite F 2412 Beacon Ave.  
Sidney, BC, V8L 1J4  
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Tuesday - Thursday 9:30am - 4:30pm  
Friday 9:30am - 1:30pm  
To call toll free: call 1-800-663-7867 (Enquiry BC) and request to be transferred to this office.

---

**DALE LUNDY**  
Occupation: Self-employed  
Years with dept.: 6 1/2  
Likes: Making a difference in someone's life.  
Dislikes: Some people's perception of our dept.

---

**DAN LEE**  
Occupation: Grocery store manager/Thrifty Foods  
Years with dept.: 4 1/2  
Likes: Meeting people and community involvement.  
Dislikes: Nothing  
Safety tip: Watch out for a little black Volkswagen Rabbit when you're driving near Ganges.

---

**BOB BIRCH**  
Occupation: Food retail, Thrifty Foods  
Years with dept.: 5  
Likes: The thrills, and hard work under pressure.  
Dislikes: Not a thing.  
Safety tip: Don't repeat your mistakes and learn from others' misfortune.

---

**ARJUNA GEORGE (AJ) RECRUIT**  
Occupation: Apprentice baker  
Years with dept.: 1  
Likes: Anything to help the community.  
Dislikes: -  
Safety tip: Listen to & read all fire warnings & closures and obey all bans.

---

**JAY BOURDIN**  
Occupation: Plumber  
Years with the department: 12

---

**RICK KILBOURN**  
Occupation: Grocery clerk  
Years with dept.: 3

---

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Occupation: Apprentice baker  
Years with dept.: 1  
Likes: Anything to help the community.  
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Occupation: BC Ferries
Years with dept.: 3
Likes: Working with a bunch of good guys as a team.
Dislikes: Bad accident scenes and dealing with any trauma.
Safety tip: Never play with matches.

RICHARD PERRON
Occupation: BC Ferries
Years with dept.: 3
Likes: Helping people in need of care.
Dislikes: Drunk drivers hurting other people.
Safety tip: Listen to your parents when they say "Play ball with matches."

FRANK WORSLEY
Occupation: Electrician apprentice.
Years with dept.: 3 1/2
Likes: Working with a great bunch of guys.
Dislikes: Drinking and driving.
Safety tip: There's more to fire than people think, please be careful.

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MIKE LANE
Occupation: Self-employed
Years with dept.: 5
Likes: The excitement and experience.
Dislikes: Politics.

JON WARD
Occupation: BC Ferries, deck hand
Years with dept.: 6 1/2
Likes: Everything about it.
Dislikes: Not much to dislike.
Safety tip: Watch for other drivers. There's some bad ones out there.

BRIAN HARTLEY
Occupation: Self employed
Years with dept.: 2 1/2
Likes: Working with the crew and helping the community.
Dislikes: Dealing with major injuries.
Safety tip: Remember to keep chimneys clean.

KEN AKERMAN
Occupation: Self employed
Years with dept.: 4
Likes: The excitement and experience.
Dislikes: Politics.

ROB MINVILLE
Occupation: Courier driver
Years with dept.: 9 mos.
Likes: Doing good for my community, working as a team.

PAT BEATTIE
Occupation: Self employed
Years with dept.: 10 mos.
Likes: Teamwork, and assisting the public.
Dislikes: Alarm bells at 4:00am.
Safety tip: Drive safely and clean your chimney.

STAN MULDER
Occupation: Self employed
Years with dept.: 1
Likes: Being part of a team.
Dislikes: Getting close to the call and being called off.
Safety tip: Clean your chimney.

JAMIE HOLMES
Occupation: Equipment operator
Years with dept.: 3 1/2
Likes: Getting out of cleaning house when the pager goes off.
Dislikes: Missing calls.
Safety tip: Slow down.

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Migration mystery doesn’t necessarily add up to autumn

By LINDA CANNON
Driftwood Contributor

Recently a number of people have pointed to the Canada geese flying overhead in V-formation and said to me, “There’s a sure sign of autumn.”

OUR BETTER NATURE

I sagely nod my head in agreement, but I’m really dodging the truth, a la Clinton. Fact is, the spring and autumn migration of geese or any other bird isn’t quite as cut and dried as most of us were taught in school. In the fall birds go south, in the spring they return, right?

The answer definitely is, “Sometimes.” For example, some Canada geese migrate, but others, with introduced domestic genes, stay here all year. Many other bird species, without domestic genes to blame, also send most of the troops south for the winter, but not all. No one knows why.

Migration still confounds scientists. How do birds know when to go? It’s currently thought the shortening days and cool air of autumn encourage birds to travel south. Some birds do have hormonal changes and weight gain before migration begins, building up their fat reserves which will be burnt up on the long journey.

And how do birds find their way? Again, no one really knows. Birds seem to follow a sequence of clues — orientation from the sun, stars, and earth’s magnetic field, and by simply following landmarks like rivers and coastlines. They may use taste, smell and air temperature to get where they’re going, and wind direction is a factor, too. Certainly no tiny maps have been observed tucked under wings.

Birds generally migrate in flocks; some species travel by day, some species travel by night. Migrating flocks can travel in vast numbers, like the Western sandpiper, seen in British Columbia in flocks up to 100,000, as they make their way south from Alaska to points as close as San Francisco or as far away as Peru.

Almost the entire world’s population of Western sandpipers passes by our coast. But they don’t wait for fall — they leave early, with the peak migration going out of our area around mid-July.

If you’re sorry you missed them this year, never fear, for sandpipers will still be travelling through in October and even as late as November. Why they don’t all go at once is a mystery, perhaps there’s just too many of them for any one area to accommodate.

Just imagine hundreds of thousands of sandpipers travelling from Alaska to Peru, all passing through British Columbia between June and November. It’s quite a project by anyone’s standards.

But it’s the logistics of the move that puzzles me the most. When on earth determines who goes when?

A 3,000-year-old Chinese concept sweeps modern offices and homes

Affirmation of the month
I TRUST THE PROCESS OF MY LIFE

Feng shui is sweeping the country, literally! Our homes and offices are becoming more organized and clutter-free, along with our lives! I don’t know of anyone who wouldn’t give this theory a try, do you? What is this marvellous concept or real deal? Feng shui literally means “wind and water” and is a 3,000-year-old Chinese concept that works with two very important factors: chi energy and sha energy, chi being positive and sha being negative.

A Black Hat School (BHS) feng shui has been known over 3,000 years and has proven to be very effective when applied.

There are many “schools” of feng shui: the BHS which uses science as its guideline, and a much more updated school which became popular in 1986 and looks at the present, chi and energies from a more spiritual point of view. Experts in this field are commissioned for their input by real estate agents, city and town planners, and home owners who are simply looking for a better flow of energy in their homes.

The site for the Vancouver City Hall in Richmond B.C. was “feng shued” before the ground was even broken, which is common in many cities around the world.

Placement of a house or building on a site is very important, as objects and spaces in a home. One simple theory that has to be “cured,” as the Chinese say, is: when you open your front door and the path or hall leads to another door directly down the hall then your money will go in one door and out the other. This is something to be aware of for sure!

A cure for this would be to put a decorative screen up to hang a crystal from the ceiling to block the flow of sha energy. Another belief is that leaking taps drip your money away and shelves above your bed or where you sit in the family room or other place will feel like you have burdens above you at all times.

Chi energy needs to flow through an area so if you have boxes under your bed the energy is stuck and therefore you are, too.

When renting or buying a home take a child with you — their innocence and uncluttered mind will pick up good and bad energy, chi and sha.

There are many “cures” and remedies involved in feng shui and in future columns I will expand on them. As you can see, this is an endless and interesting subject.

In the meantime, Nancy Wydya’s book called Feng Shui, A Book of Cures is a must to read. Island Books Plus has been very hasty in ordering it for my clients to read.

Join myself and co-host David Large Saturday evening on AM900 for The Messenger Files. Toll-free number is 1-888-592-8255.

A 4th Annual SPCA Goods & Services Auction

At the Sidney & Gulf Islands Community Centre October 23, 1998

ATTEND AND HAVE FUN AT OUR 4TH ANNUAL SPCA GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION

Saturday, October 17, 1998
Meaden Hall (Lower Hall) - The Legion
Blain Road, Ganges

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM

Local people have donated pure, freshly decorated stuff & services including a framed print from Robert Bateman.

Don’t be a pussy cat. Come raise your paws! You can be daggone sure we’ll be petter off for it. It just makes good horse sense, cat you see?

THANK EWE
The Animals of Salt Spring
GOING...GOING...GONE!

$2.00 at the door
REFRESHMENTS -
Mayan students benefit
When Sheila Reid gives a slide show on Mayans in Guatemala this weekend, she is hoping to link the subjects of her presentation with Salt Spring students and their families.
Reid has worked for years to improve the lives of Central American people. Now she has established the Moya Scholarship Fund/Guatemala to help Mayan students attend junior and senior high.
Her presentation takes place at Ganges United Church at 1 p.m. on Saturday.
As Reid explains, high schools are located in the larger towns and cities, where students must pay fees plus room and board. "Up until this decade, Mayan families have usually seen themselves as working units in which everyone, even young children, participated," she says. "They still see themselves this way but a new urgency for education has entered the picture and they are willing to lose a worker for the time it takes for him or her to secure an education."
Unfortunately, education is usually only available through outside help, says Reid. She hopes islanders will be moved to help support a Mayan student, who will provide reports detailing both his daily life and ancient Mayan culture.
The Mayas Scholarship Fund/Guatemala is a project of the Vancouver Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) in collaboration with Foundations for Education, a Guatemalan group also working to secure scholarships for Mayan youth.

University group raising funds for two $500 GISS scholarships
Salt Spring's branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is raising funds in the hopes of offering two scholarships this year.
To raise the scholarship fund, the group is selling enter­tainment coupon books at a cost of $33 each. The total face value is $46 for the Lower Mainland book.
The group's $500 scholarship has been awarded to an outstanding female student graduating from Gulf Islands Secondary School and attending a degree­granting program.

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All about sheep seminar
Sheep farmers can learn some tips at a demonstration day or­ganized by the Salt Spring sheep­breeders group. Sponsored by the Farmers' Institute, the October 25 event is designed to introduce new and prospective sheep owners to the basics of sheep care and the need for sheep management.
The program will include:
• hoof care — basic trim on healthy and unhealthy feet;
• judging condition of sheep;
• pain management.
Presentations will be made by some of the most experienced members of the sheep­breeders group.
The 25th event, which begins at 1 p.m., will take place at Sunset farm (1325 Sunset Drive) at the back of the property. Those planning to attend should confirm it by calling 531­6030.

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Ometepe friendship group adds additional aid projects

Ometepe friendship group adds additional aid projects

By ANDREW GIBSON

The Ometepe-Gulf Islands Friends Association (OGIFA) is known to many islanders, partly because of the Ometepe Coffee which the group imports and sells locally.

OGIFA and visitors won't know much about the group, so here is a brief summary.

Ometepe, with an area of 276 square kilometers, is by far the largest island in the largest Central American lake, Lake Nicaragua.

Essentially, 5,000-foot volcanoes joined by an isthmus, it is mainly agricultural and like the rest of the country, very poor, but it is, however, spared the devastating effects of the embargo, one of which was the near-collapse of its electrical and water services.

That done, we started on a gravity system for the southern volcano, for the southern volcano, for the southern volcano, for the southern volcano, for the southern volcano.

The second project is an office for the indigenous society. Such a facility is needed to provide the necessary building for the society.

The headquarters for the Ometepe second sister island of Boscaccia, where we have provided the materials for the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines which now provide the potable water lines.

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**ECONOMIC SUPPORT GROUP: Challenging special needs and environmental issues, and raising the size without compromising the training of the children.**

Way cool experience

Helen James enjoys the experience as Palu Rainbowsong demonstrates his Solar Meditation on a recent Saturday in Centennial Park.

Stingrays meeting looks at expanding the program's competitive numbers

Whether or not to enlarge its competitive swimming program will be the main issue on the agenda when the Salt Spring Stingrays hold its annual meeting October 22.

The swim team is Salt Spring's most popular competitive program with a roster now of 126 swimmers.

Limited pool time kept the race team down to 60 swimmers this past season, and Morgan Savin, head coach of the Salt Spring Aquatic Club, hopes that the number can be increased for 1999.

The meeting will also be for pre-registration of returnees to the competitive program. Newcomers will have to wait until the meeting to see if there is any space open.

Those wanting to participate in the developmental program will wait until spring to register.
Four delicious novels offered as fall, winter fare

By MONA FERTIG
Driftwood Contributor

* A Recipe For Bees by Gail Anderson-Dargatz. Published in hardcover by Knopf, $32.95.

This is the second novel by the author of the wondrous Cure For Death By Lightning. A former B.C. resident, she now lives in Alberta on a farm.

I found this novel to be a competent and excellent weave of bee imagery, folklore and visions. These paranormal aspects are the author's writing strengths.

The story is set in one day on Vancouver Island. The aging narrator, Augusta, through flashbacks, reviews her lonely life as a farmer's wife, her brief affair, her strained relationship with her daughter Joy and husband Karl and her friendship with Rose. All this while she waits to hear the results of her son-in-law's brain tumour operation.

Throughout the story I found the syntax quite ordinary and the sentence structure is perfect and the left-field intelligence. The adventures include being left to survive on a west coast beach with no food, struggling up the aging and famous frozen Chilkoot Pass, dancing in the mud in the spring thaw, tasting watered-down brew and squating for months in the frozen tunnels burning smoky holes to melt the permafrost.

This story is retold through the eyes of the 14-year-old Peak who wants to set the story straight. An upbeat novel, this fiction would make a great movie. Four stars.

* Kiss Of The Fair Queen by Thomson Highway. Published in hardcover by Doubleday, $32.95.

The line-up for the uncorrected proofs of this novel went on for over an hour at the Canadian Booksellers Association.

This first, partly-autobiographical novel from the renowned Cree playwright is a magical and troubled story of the Ojibway brothers from Mistik Lake, Northern Manitoba. Their father is a hunter and winner of the 1951 World Champion Dog Derby. From birth to death this novel moves from the abuse they suffer as young boys in the hands of the Roman Catholic priest at the Birch Lake Indian Residential School to the lives they try to make for themselves in a white world. The older brother, "Creephant" Jeremiah, born after his father's great win, suffers as a brilliant and lonely alcoholic pianist. The younger brother, "Dancer" Gabriel, suffers as an extraordinary dancer who struggles with depression, self-hate and AIDS.

The story moves lyrically between Cree mythology and Catholic symbolism (and guilt), with the Cree trickster "Weesageechak" ever present as The Fair Queen, and other foxy guises. Many other fantastic characters reveal themselves as important and pivotal beings in the North American Indian culture.

What is fascinating about this novel is that there are no fences between dream and reality. The collective consciousness of Highway's writing is richly Cree and a great departure from the usual linear fiction. This is a good first novel that we'll hear a lot about.

I would have liked to have seen some of the narrative and dream-like threads woven more carefully and found the prose at times forcibly overflourished, but the tragicomic ending still lifts me.

Three stars.

* The Man From The Creeks by Sean F. Peek , published by Knopf, $29.95.

This is a moving and famous frozen Chilkoot story. The story is set in one day on 1896. Partly autobiographical, this is a heartwarming story, a quick read most will love.

The story is retold through the eyes of the 14-year-old Peak who wants to set the story straight. An upbeat novel, this fiction would make a great movie. Four stars.

* Four Letters of Love by Niall Williams. Published in paperback by Picador, $13.95.

This novel was recommended by a Salt Spring friend who recently returned from visiting Ireland. It is an eloquent and brilliantly written first novel. When you read exquisitely prose like this you savour every sentence.

Set in Ireland, this novel alternates between two destined lives. The first story is of a young boy named Nicholas. When his quiet father decides to quit work and become a painter because God has spoken to him, their separation from the world becomes profoundly tragic. The second story is led by guilt-ridden Isabel, whose brother Sean has become limp and speechless after taking a fit while dancing. She leaves her island and her brother to attend a school run by nuns on the mainland. Their stories move towards each other with grace and sadness.

This novel is about love and God and destiny. It brilliantly captures the subtleties of the unseen, the unspoken, the mysteries, the sacrifices that are made. It is about separations and the obsessions of young love. This is a novel that believes in miracles. This is a novel I will reread. Five stars.

Mona Fertig's new book of prose poems called Sea, Death & Travel was published this spring by Oberlin Books. She is working on her first novel but will also submit a book review column to the Driftwood from time to time.

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ON THE BOOKSHELF

Robert Kroetch. Published in hardcover by Random, $29.95.

This is a striking change from Kroetch's previous work as the well-respected writer of layered poetry and novels, winner of the Governor General's Award for fiction. This novel, his first since he moved to Victoria, is as hard as a boat in a bay. Inspired by the poem The Shooting of Dan McGrew by Robert Service, The Man From the Creeks is a quick read most will love.

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ANOTHER COMFORTING IDEA

October is BC Hydro Power Smart month. The perfect time to make your home more comfortable with Power Smart lighting. Longer lasting and of course, much more energy efficient than conventional incandescent lights. So head down to your lighting retailer today and look for money saving coupons for selected Power Smart light bulbs made by G.E. and Philips. You'll feel better. And so will your home.
Flexible attitudes make island a comfortable place

Sonja Hollingsworth
Age: 30
First visit to Salt Spring: 1978
Moved: from Victoria in 1990

Expectations
I didn't come here to stay. I was too scared to stay in Victoria and felt I needed to go somewhere. But Salt Spring? It never occurred to me because I was totally middle-class and it seemed like this hippie place. I came and stayed the summer at friends' and never left. I don't think I had any real expectations but I loved the concept of a small community because that's who I am. And everyone was so nice, which was just what I needed.

I admitted that I was worried at the beginning about not fitting in, about the community not accepting me, but that didn't last long because this is a place where everyone can fit in if they want to.

I very quickly got married. Then I moved on from there, but I've always had an amicable relationship with (my former husband) so my kids can have a relationship with their dad. As a single parent I was intimidated to raise two children alone, but when I started working at the gym I found such amazing support from people just like me. Wherever isn't working picks up the kids.

Through my kids, and their schools and activities, I got involved with 50 families just like that.

Now I'd never leave because this is an incredible community to raise kids in.

Salt Spring has really changed me for the better. I'm far more comfortable with myself now. Women of all shapes and sizes come into the gym, and they seem so comfortable with that, which is very cool.

I was brought up in a shallow, narrow way. You see that here too, but my experience (since coming) has been that Salt Spring is a very open, supportive place. I think people who can't get into that tend to leave.

As my kids get older I'm sure I will become more involved (politically). It is my community and I feel I should have a say. I think I can make a difference here.

Mechanics
My goal was that by 30 I would have a comfortable home, have my kids settled and a job I love. Now that I am 30, I think Salt Spring is the only place I could have achieved all of this; certainly it would never have happened in a city.

Before I had kids I was more nervous of things here, but they have helped me integrate totally into the community. First it was the co-op schooling and now the soccer association has picked up where the co-op left off. There is always something here to be involved with.

As a mother I think the services here are excellent. I'm absolutely happy with the hospital and the schools.

I have to admit it's good there aren't many things to spend money on here, like stopping at McDonald's on the way home. But it does bug me that it is impossible to get nice clothing at a reasonable price.

When we go to visit my mom and dad (in Victoria) for a family event, a Wal-Mart run is vital.

I go out to a restaurant maybe once a month. We'll go to Harbour House if there is a good band on and maybe to Moby's for drinks. That's my social life, and it's just the way I like it.

Vacations aren't a factor because we're at the beach every day in summer and find lots of things to do in the winter.

OK, I just baled and got cable because usually (friends') kids come over here. There's always lots of video watching.

I've only been to the movie theatre once in eight years.

Salt Spring Style
This summer I decided to only work part-time to have more time with the kids. You can't do that in a city.

I think people really feed off (flexible) attitudes like this. Everyone treats each other really comfortably.

They seem to be comfortable in their own skins. I guess that's because they want to be here, not because they have to be.

I love knowing everyone in the lineup at Thrifty's and it makes me realize, what better place is there to learn about people?

It has created a diversity (of types) that really intrigues me. I hang around with lots of different people instead of the middle-class girls I'd be with in Victoria.

There is a closeness that can cause problems if you're not careful. I've seen people hurt by malicious gossip.

It's so important not to get sucked in by it. Ignoring it has been easy for me.

When I split (from my husband) we kept a friendly relationship and eventually people got bored with it.

I love that the lawyer also sells carpets and that the real estate guy is also in the Hysterical Society. Where else would you find everyone doing something else.

I figure there is so little judgment on people here, and maybe that's why people try so many things.

Salt Spring has taught me to love what I am doing now, not when I retire. It's sad that some people never get there.
**Key Contact Lens Tips**

- Hygiene - many studies show that only 25-30% of contact lens wearers follow all the directions of their eye doctor and the lens manufacturer in caring for their lenses. To avoid eye health problems, it is recommended that contact lens wearers get their eyes checked annually by an eye doctor to make sure no complications develop.

- Trends - Contact lenses are a medical device, but according to the B.C. Association of Optometrists, there is a disturbing trend to treat them as a commodity. All contact lenses are not alike - just because the name of a particular contact lens is on everyone’s lips doesn’t mean it will work for everyone. Various brands are designed and manufactured differently. Only through regular eye exams can the optometrist check the health of the eyes and determine how they react and adjust to a particular pair of lenses.

- Expectant mothers need to work closely with their optometrist to avoid contact lens wearing problems and to maintain good vision: hormonal changes, water retention, and a reduction in tears can bring slight changes in vision during pregnancy and affect contact lens wearing. Discontinue contact lenses can be a good choice for women in their childbearing years. The lenses can be adapted easily to changes in the eyes and/or vision experienced during pregnancy. For some mothers, however, it is necessary to limit wearing time or even discontinue wearing contacts during pregnancy.

**Computers & Vision**

Can surfing the net or playing video games all night ruin your eyes? There is no proof that surfing or a computer screen for too long will harm anyone's vision, at work or at play. It could, however, aggravate minor vision problems that are normally not treated. And it can definitely cause eye strain.

Over-concentrating on the screen can make people forget to blink, causing the eyes to dry out and start to itch or burn. Give the eyes a 10 minute break every hour, perhaps do things that don’t require near vision.

Watch for signs such as general discomfort, headaches, blurred vision, or minor vision problems that may surface due to computer use. If these persist, have an eye exam by an eye doctor (optometrist or ophthalmologist). They will not only check your vision but also your eye health. It’s important for computer users of all ages to have regular eye exams.

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**Eye Health Canada Month**

**Optometrists Launch Eye “Owner’s Manual”**

Richmond — To mark the national launch of Eye Health Canada Month in October, doctors of optometry across Canada have published a brochure on vision care, entitled “Your Eyes - an Owner’s Manual.” Recognizing that few things are more precious than one’s eyesight, the “manual” addresses how to take care of the youngest eyes in the family, and what happens at people’s eye age.

**The Eye - A Window to the Body**

The eye is the only part of the body where blood vessels can be examined directly without using an invasive procedure. When the optometrist dilation the pupil to examine the inside of the eye, he or she can detect not only the health and vision conditions, but also early signs of diabetes, high blood pressure, and other diseases of the body. By scheduling regular checkups with their optometrist, patients can be sure that vision and ocular health conditions, an even certain systemic diseases, are detected for timely treatment. The minimum recommended frequency of eye examinations by the Canadian Association of Optometrists is:

- infants: at six months;
- preschoolers (2-3 years): at age 3 and again before entering school;
- school age (6-19 years): annually;
- adults (20-64 years):every one to two years;
- older adults (65 and over): annually.

The optometrist will determine the frequency based on the patient's health and visual status at the preliminary examination.

**Three candles on the cake? Full eye exam advised at age 3**

About 15-20% of children have vision problems that may impair their ability to learn. As early detection of such conditions is essential for successful treatment, B.C. doctors of optometry recommend that all children have a thorough eye examination at age three, and again before entering school. The child does not need to know the alphabet. A comprehensive eye examination will assess eye health, and identify vision problems such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, crossed-eyes, “lazy eye” and colour perception.

**Vision First Check**

In some regions, optometrists offer a free Vision First Check for children age 2 and 3, in conjunction with local health units. B.C. optometrists are working with government to offer this program province-wide. Another benefit is the general awareness it creates of the need for eye care for pre-school children.

**Annual Exam Recommended**

As a child advances, school work puts more visual stress on the eyes as more reading is required while the print size decreases. As well, computer use can aggravate existing vision problems: a small refractive error which normally does not need correction can suddenly cause problems if computer use increases. Regular preventative eye exams can correct such conditions, before they interfere with the child's performance at school or in sports.

**Free “Get Visible”: Reflective Stickers**

Darkness and traffic can place children at risk as they set out trick-or-treating on Oct. 31 — or any time of the year. To make children more visible, optometrists are giving out free reflective stickers as part of their “Get Visible” campaign. The sticker can be affixed to clothing, plastic and metal, and will reflect light up to 300 times more than plain clothing.

**Presbyopia, a “short-arm” disease**

A vision condition called presbyopia may well precede thickening waistlines and graying hair as the first signs of middle age, say doctors of optometry. Telltale signs a tendency to hold reading material at arm's length to focus better, difficulty reading in poor light, trouble with small print, eyestrain or headaches after reading or other close work, including computers.

The Vision Problem of Middle Age

Presbyopia is an age-related vision problem that affects almost everyone after 40, and brings about the need for reading glasses and bifocals. Presbyopia progresses for a number of years, and thus requires regular eye exams from age 40. Because eye health problems are more common at this stage, it's all the more important for optometrists to perform a thorough eye health exam.

Presbyopia actually begins in early childhood, but only becomes noticeable after 40, it occurs because, over time, the lens loses its ability to flex and help the eye focus. Optometrists can help presbyopes see better by prescribing glasses or contact lenses. There are many lens choices today: reading glasses for close work, multifocal lenses for near and far, bifocal contact lenses and mono-vision, where one eye is corrected for distance and one for near vision.

Advances in eye surgery may make it possible in the near future to restore the eye's ability to adjust focus.

**TOYS CAN HURT EYES**

Every year thousands of children in North America suffer eye injuries caused by projectile toys: guns, sling shots, or toys that shoot missiles, arrows, balls, etc. Even if the projectiles are sponge-tipped, the speed at which they move can still cause serious eye injury. B.C. doctors of optometry issue a cautionary note: Be wise about toys considered particularly hazardous to the eyes.

Call 270-9909 for more information.

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This is one owner's manual you can't afford to try to read! For your copy, contact your local optometrist, or the B.C. Association of Optometrists (604) 270-9909.
**Theatrics**

Michael Curtis as Henry II, King of England and April Curtis as Eleanor, his disfavoured queen, are amazing audiences with their acting prowess in Off Centre Stage's The Lion in Winter. The show winds up this weekend, playing Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at Mahon Hall, beginning at 8 p.m.

**1st Annual dance-a-thon**

LIVE MUSIC, MARIMA, BLUES, SAMA, ROCK, DJ's

at the Activity Centre Saturday, October 24th / 4pm - 2am

Go for CASH PRIZES for most money raised

Go for CONTESTANT PRIZES drawn throughout the night

Go for CASH PRIZES for "still dancing contestants" at 2am OR

Go for it: JUST FOR FUN as a non-contestant, and

"dance the night away"

**Top 10 Videos**

1. **Twilight**
2. **Primary Colors**
3. **Hush**
4. **Wild Things**
5. **City of Angels**
6. **Mercury Rising**
7. **Object Of My Affection**
8. **Nightwatch**
9. **Good Will Hunting**
10. **A Price Above Rubies**
Vivaldi singers perform

Growing international experience and a repertoire that bulges with classical and folk music will highlight an impressive resume for the Vivaldi Chamber Choir when it appears at All Saints By-the-Sea Saturday evening.

The Burnaby-based ensemble has focused primarily on performances around British Columbia — and two trips to Mexico — during its 10 years, but this year broke out with a two-week invitational tour of the Czech Republic to perform at the International Festival of Sacred Music.

In Prague, Hluboka, Velesin, Marienbad and Carlsbad, the choir performed both sacred and secular programs.

This experience will anchor the choir's performance on Salt Spring under conductor Rita Radzikowski. The program will include favourites from the tour, by mostly Canadian and U.S. composers.

Salt Spring resident Pamela Holm rejoined the choir for the Czech and autumn concerts and plans to perform a Czech folk song picked up during the eastern European tour.

Singing along with Valdy

Avis Bateman was one of many extended care patients at Lady Minto Hospital who sang along with Valdy on Thursday during Thanksgiving dinner. The Salt Spring folk singer gave a free concert for the event.

Potter mixes media at Vancouver show

Salt Spring ceramist Gary Cherneff has thrown a twist at the pieces he is using as part of the artist's show at Granville Island's Gallery of B.C. Ceramics.

Cherneff, best known at home for functional pottery, has mixed clay with graphic media for one-of-a-kind products in his "Scratching the Surface Of Middle America" show.

He has created 30 ceramic pieces and four prints using unique processes such as low-fire maiolica, burnished terra-cotta, multilayered coloured clay slips, primitive pit-firings and 18-carat lustre gold firings.

Pots in the show are both wheel-thrown and hand-built.

The show runs in Vancouver until October 28.

Orchestra and cellist featured across the sea

For people whose enjoyment of live classical music outweighs a ferry ride, the Victoria Symphony Orchestra (VSO) is performing Friday night at the Cowichan Theatre in Duncan.

The Cowichan Symphony Society is presenting the performance which features cellist Joseph Elworthy. Both Elworthy and the VSO will be conducted by Peter Mc Coppin.

The program includes Eckhardt-Gramatté's Molto Sostenuto For Strings, Elgar's Cello Concerto and Brahms' Symphony No. 2.

Ticket prices are $17.50 for adults, $9 for students. (Rows ABE are $15.50 and $8.)

The show begins at 8 p.m.

Further information can be obtained by calling the Cowichan Community Centre box office at (250) 748-7529.
Avian vocalists trill, chatter and soothe on Neville CDs

By GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood Staff

Some of the "cuts" on a John Neville CD have been heard thousands of times or even daily. But that hasn't made Neville a household name, and until you hear one of his CDs in hand, the vocalists might remain a total mystery.

Since 1994, Neville Recording Productions has created CDs celebrating hundreds of feathered vocalists: Birds of the Kootenays, Bird Songs of the Creston Valley, Bird Songs of the Okanagan and Songs and Sounds of the Canadian Rockies. In between each bird "tune" is a short introduction from Neville which may include a habitat description or explanation of the bird's behaviour at the time - such as a Sheller's Jay imitating a red-tailed hawk. Neville calls it "a sound picture of the environment."

"Bird CDs are not something that will be on the hit parade," he says, "but they sell for a long time."

Not that Neville treks into the woods or heads to the beach at dawn with a vision of CD sales in his head. Not at all.

He and his wife Heather simply thrive on being in the birds' habitat, whether that's in the Rocky Mountains, by a Kootenay lake or, more recently, on a west coast island, and sharing that experience with others.

"You have to look for quiet, peaceful places. Dawn is also the best time, when they're feeding and the males are proclaiming their territory," says Neville. "That's the real joy in this thing - being out there and recording the birds or sometimes being surprised by something.

"While many of us will be snug in our beds approaching dark winter mornings, Neville will be "somewhat uncomfortable" at the water's edge, with headphones on, a flask of coffee as his main source of warmth and his microphone on a tripod about 30 feet away so he can surreptitiously record the conversations of sea birds. They will form a crucial part of his current project - a CD of B.C. coast bird songs.

Neville and his wife have already explored and recorded on several islands since moving to the coast from Nelson. Both physiotherapists, they "wanted to slow down a bit" and then saw Marg Gilchrist's Salt Spring physiotherapy practice advertised for sale. Neville was also ready to conclude a 20-year career in municipal politics and eager to capture the voices of coastal birds.

Since taking a field recording workshop at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology in 1993, Neville has been devoted to spreading the words of the birds.

"One of the rewards for me is the number of people that have been able to learn the bird songs themselves."

A couple of weeks ago he gave a presentation at a Salt Springs Rotary Club meeting. The next week four different people said they were now listening to the birds in their yard.

Then there's the woman who expressed fountainous gratitude to Neville in the middle of a bank. "She said, 'I heard that bird all my life as a kid and now I know what it was!'"

Numerous people have taken that large step along the birding path - from watching them to identifying their calls - thanks to his CDs.

Neville, who lives with a visual impairment, notes that 80 per cent of bird counts are done by ear alone.

He has also been heard on Peter Gawronski's and Vicky Gabreau's CBC Radio shows, and his recordings have been used in a TV series, an upcoming NFB film called The Pocket Desert and for a Stokes series of bird CDs.

Heather Neville observed that when her husband has a conversation with a bird recording, friend about their latest achievements, "It sounds a bit like two guys talking baseball cards."

Salt Spring residency has already provided an array of visual treats for Neville: California quails, the sound of a red-breasted sapsucker drumming first on a tree and then on the bottom of a mailbox, a Heron's vireo in August and a great recording of a Buck's wren which he had never encountered before.

"I can still walk around the block here some mornings and go 'what's that?'" It pinpoints one of the central attractions of birding. "There's always lots to learn."

And as its popularity grows in North America, Neville's CDs will continue climbing a different kind of hit parade.

OUTDOORS STUDIO: John Neville's passion is recording the songs and calls of birds. He is now compiling material for his fifth CD, one which showcases west coast vocalists.

Photo by Gal SJUBERG

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GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD
30 • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1998
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Old Boys undefeated after crushing Castaways

BY MIKE LEVIN

Sea Otter Old Boys survived a shaky start and a bruising opponent to emerge with a 5-3 victory over Victoria Castaways in over-30 soccer at Gulf Islands Secondary School Sunday.

With the win, the Salt Spring team remained undefeated in league play with a 4-0-1 record. Neither team brought much of a defense to the high school field in a first half that produced six goals: three by each side. But the second frame was a treat to watch with much more disciplined play from Old Boys and some exciting runs that produced the decisive goals.

"We were slow getting going because only two of our regular defenders were here," says Chris Cottrell, who had two goals including the winner in the 55th minute.

"But we settled down in the second half and showed (Victoria) what we could do."

At the outset the opponents appeared mismatched. Salt Spring gave away at least two inches and 20 pounds per player. The size difference showed with Victoria easily controlling the air and able to bounce the Old Boys off the ball.

The advantage paid off for the visitors in the eighth minute when Garth McKenzie completed a perfect long left cross with his head for a 1-0 lead.

With the going tough in midfield, Salt Spring moved the ball to the outside and was rewarded 11 minutes later on a lucky tip by Rainer Funk.

Funk launched an innocent cross from 15 yards out on the right side. The ball caught a defender's toe and bounced unexpectedly through the Castaways keeper's legs.

Victoria regained the lead in the 23rd minute when Peter Fulgem, a former pool player for the Danish national team, scored in a goal-mouth scramble.

Cottrell's first tied it in the 35th minute, and the teams traded one more marker each before the break, Joe Duff scoring for Victoria and David Norgaard counting a 20-yard blast while reeling from a nasty body check.

"They were a more physical team than we've played before," admits Cottrell. "Our team deserves full marks for taking control after the half."

Sea Otter's defense tightened in the second period, which allowed the team's forwards to release early for long passes from the back.

In the 55th minute, Cottrell corralled one and ran in virtually un molested from 30 yards out, easily beating Victoria's keeper high to the left corner.

Salt Spring completed the final score from a corner in the 72nd minute. The ball came directly to Arnie Hengster, whose header bounced off the right post and ended up at the feet of Pete Bantel. With the Victoria keeper sprawled out of position, Bantel had only to tap the ball across the goal line.

Sea Otter's next action is Sunday at the high school when they host Victoria Athletics.

Geezers score 3 to slam Cowichan

The scoring touch proved a welcome friend for the Salt Spring Geezers when the Over-40 men's soccer team blanked Cowichan 3-0 Saturday at Portlock Park.

Although the locals have yet to taste defeat this year, they have not scored often enough to gain the offensive confidence that is vital to a first-year team.

But Saturday Gordie Speed put the hosts up 1-0 in the first half and added another early in the second before Rainer Funk rounded out the scoring.

Funk would also mark a goal in Over-30 play the following day.

The Geezers have a bye in league play this weekend but will try to arrange an exhibition match Saturday against either Parksville, in Parksville, or Galiano Island, on Salt Spring.

Overtime shoot-out leads to heartbreaker in Scorpion boys match

The boys' soccer Scorpions from Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) had their first taste of defeat in secondary school play Thursday, losing a shootout heartbreaker to Frances Kelsey in Mill Bay.

The loss was particularly painful considering a win earlier in the week over Shawnigan Lake's A team October 6, at Shawnigan Lake, that restated the Scorpions' local dominance.

Despite having its travel schedule complicated by ferry problems at Mt. Washington, GISS rolled easily to a 4-0 victory in GISS.

Despite its lead at halftime, the host school was outclassed by the Victorian boys through much of the second half and allowed the team's B team to stay in the game and able to bounce the Old Boys off the ball.

The advantage paid off for the visitors in the eighth minute when Garth McKenzie completed a perfect long left cross with his head for a 1-0 lead.

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Sea Otter's next action is Sunday at the high school when they host Victoria Athletics.
Fickle foursome wins game

It’s been 26 years but the Fickle Fingers golfing group is still going strong.

At its annual tournament Wednesday at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club, the foursome of Walter Swing, Don Archer, Dennis Boyle and Ron Dickson captured the Anniversary Trophy for best combined score.

Fred Slaney marked the longest drive during the day’s competition on the seventh hole, while Steve Walter was closest to the pin on the second hole.

Coulter couple takes top

Blackburn Meadows Golf Club’s season-long closest-to-the-pin competition wound up October 6 with two Coulters taking honours.

The men’s side, which took place on the links’ third hole, went to Bruce Coulter and included a cash purse worth more than $160.

Joanne Coulter won the women’s side, which took place on the seventh hole and brought the winner $48.

Hardy takes turkey shoot low gross

Salt Spring Golf and Country Club’s 18-hole women’s division faced off in a Turkey Shoot October 6 at the local club.

Connie Hardy took honours with a low gross of 93 with Pat Lavender following by one stroke.

Barbara Maguire recorded the lowest net score at 70, while Maxine Whorley was one stroke behind at 71.

In nine-hole division play last Wednesday at the local links, Linda Woodley was the low gross winner. Becky Armstrong carded the lowest net score.
Young island players aid 13-1 hockey win

Disciplined, two-way play by Fuller Lake and its six Salt Spring players helped push the bantam hockey team to a 13-1 exhibition victory over Duncan on Sunday.

The team rounded out its exhibition season in North Cowichan Minor Hockey League District play with a 3-1 record.

On Sunday Fuller Lake took advantage of Duncan's short bench to pitch its opponents all over the ice. The hosts had the services of only AMD 64MB SDRAM before taking command.

The frustration showed as Duncan took penalty after penalty while Fuller Lake managed to stay out of the box all night.

Salt Spring's Ethan Becklode exploded on offense, scoring three goals and adding four assists to spearhead the victory. His seven points was a game high.

Following Salt Spring's coldness, Aidan McArthur added a pair of markers while other Salt Spring players figured heavily in the scoring.

Adam Davies and Stuart Sinclair both notched a couple of helpers, while Owen Beasley tallied one assist.

Girls volley to six losses before taking command


The Salt Spring team started slowly, absorbing six losses, before regrouping to take six of their final eight games.

Scorpions dropped early games to Kwalicum, from Qualicum Beach, 7-15, 9-15, to host Woodlands, 9-15, 12-15 and to Carihi, an AAA school of Nanaimo, 15-11, 16-14.

They then took a 2-1 decision over Ballenas, another AAA school from Parksville, by 15-3, 11-15 and 15-8 and were seeded to five-of-six victories over Duncan Christian 0-15, 15-9, 15-9 and Wellington, of Nanaimo, 15-11, 16-14.

Scorpions' Maia Vaillancourt had a particularly strong tournament accounting for 16 points, while Shelia Stacey added 14 kills.

The girls open their regular season Saturday at Vic High in Victoria.

Slackers take second

A superb defensive effort by Salt Spring Slackers secured the Under-19 girls team second place at the prestigious Richmond Girls Soccer Tournament over the weekend.

Although the team did not allow one goal, and limited opponents to a paltry 10 shots during four games, it was edged out of the gold-medal spot by half a point.

The girls marked a record of two wins and two ties during the event.

The team's next game is against Oak Bay Sunday at Portlock Park.
Biker extraordinaire Jeff Grant struts his stuff as he uses amazing balance and bike-control to creep along and then off a picnic table in Centennial Park. The Salt Spring man last year placed sixth in the National Championship Series mountain bike trials, held in the United States. Unfortunately, his bike career was stalled this year following his involvement in a hit and run car accident last March.

High wheelin'

A finely tuned defense and excellent conditioning were the key factors that pushed Salt Spring's Strikers to the Under-14 title at the Richmond Girls' Soccer Tournament over the weekend. The Strikers ran up four straight victories Saturday and Sunday, while allowing only two goals and playing both the semi-final and championship in the same afternoon.

The Strikers opened with two shutouts in round-robin play. The first was a 2-0 win over Ladner Strikers, with Bliss Wiebe turning in an excellent performance in the net. Goals for the winners came from Laurel Tommel and Diana Anglos. Anglos moved between the posts for the second contest and helped blank Richmond Racers by a 1-0 score. Tristin Morton scored the only goal the team needed to advance to the championship round. The semi-final was a more wide-open affair against Surrey Sonics. Valri Cunningham struck for two markers in a 4-1 Salt Spring win. Jocelynn Langdon and Kelley Kerr each added single markers. The gold-medal game started a mere 90 minutes later, but the Strikers found enough fresh legs to edge Ladner Voodoo 2-1 in a closely contested game.

Salt Spring's Melanie Moore gave her team an early lead with a high, arcing shot from 18 yards out that fooled the Ladner keeper and dropped softly into the back of the net.

The Voodoo tied the match before the half, but with only minutes remaining in regulation time, Langdon fed a short pass to Moore who made no mistake with her powerful shot.

The Strikers continue their regular season play Saturday at Victoria's Lambrick Park when they take on Gordon Head.

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On October 1, 1996 British Columbia introduced new regulations that require a refundable deposit on a wider range of beverage containers than before. Most ready-to-drink beverages sold in BC are included but there are a few legislated exceptions:

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CHRIS A. LINDA are invited to announce the birth of their baby boy Joseph Brian, on September 7, 1998, at St. John's Hospital.

PETER & KIM Pizzane are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Justin Dione, born on September 7, 1998, at St. John's Hospital. 

The happy family can be viewed at: http://www.qcis.ca 

The Canadian Cancer Society appreciates your generous support.

Please send name of deceased, number of years survived, name and address of donor for tax receipt purposes (if accepted).

DAMPIER, Maureen, died September 18, 1998, at her home in San Francisco, CA. She was the beloved mother of two, and a devoted friend. She will be missed by all who knew her.

DURIE, Edward, died September 18, 1998, at St. John's Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Janet and father of four. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

DURIE, Janet, died September 18, 1998, at St. John's Hospital. She was the beloved wife of Edward and mother of four. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

WILLIAM, David, died September 18, 1998, at St. John's Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Joan and father of three. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

WILLIAM, Joan, died September 18, 1998, at St. John's Hospital. She was the beloved wife of David and mother of three. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

The happy family can be viewed at: http://www.qcis.ca

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22 COMMUNITY SERVICES

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23 COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

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Donations of cash, property, securities, or through your estate will help ensure that Salt Spring Islanders for generations to come, "In Memoriam" gifts will be acknowledged with a card. In addition, we will be grateful for addresses of recipient, next of kin and donor for tax receipt.

This year's selection of cards includes a beautiful RobertBadenetums.

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V.M.

in the dark as solar shine.

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This is an event for the legend, huge glow in the dark as solar shine.

35th Annual Spring Island Chamber of Commerce Auction

The public is invited to attend the annual Fall General Meeting on October 29, 1998.

This is an event for the legend, huge glow in the dark as solar shine.

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Pigeon pie in the sky

Year after year dozens of pigeons perch on wires on Vesuvius Bay Road across from Portlock Park, creating a gray-spotted foreground to the changing sky. No one at the Driftwood is sure exactly why pigeons are attracted to this particular set of wires. Anyone who has an answer is invited to submit it, either by phone, e-mail or letter, to the Driftwood office.

The Capital Health Region is reviewing a list of applicants for new board members to help oversee the formation of upcoming health policies.

Some of the questions the board is facing include new programs for in-home and palliative care as well as the ongoing search for doctors to work on the smaller islands.

Salt Spring and Pender are combining their Home Support Services to create an agency that will expand the program to all the Gulf Islands. The goal is to supply applicants reviewed in-home supportive care to those who can't leave the house or who aren't hospital out-patients. Palliative care is also gaining a great deal of interest as the region's population ages. This care is for individuals who can express their own needs vocally.

Noreen Lerch, the region's clinical nurse specialist in palliative care, is offering to conduct Advance Directives workshops on any of the Gulf Islands, focusing on how it could affect volunteers and health-care specialists.

The doctor problem continues. Galiano Island residents are still searching for a replacement for Barry Lovell, who will retire at the end of the month.

And Pender Island is looking for a second doctor to replace Don Williams, who has recently retired.

Transport official will talk noise

Aircraft noise and a litany of ongoing complaints in the Gulf Islands have finally reached the door of Transport Canada in Ottawa. Following a letter from the Islands Trust Council (TC) to the federal department, noise specialist Gilles Bourgeois will make the trek west to discuss the matter.

Trustee Tony Law will be the point man in the discussions. At the top of the list are altitudes of planes using Gulf Island airspace.

Federal guidelines put those heights at 500 feet over rural areas and 2,000 feet for urban areas.

The Gulf Islands are currently ruled a rural area, and some want that designation changed.

The TC, however, is caught in a dilemma of whether the area is rural — for environmental protection reasons, or urban — for environmental control reasons. Bourgeois will arrive in late November or early December to hold talks with interested parties.

These positions might be changed to salaried jobs instead of fee-for-service ones. Mayne Island is looking to reinstate its nurse-coordinator position which was cancelled in July.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SALT SPRING ISLAND TRANSITION HOUSE

The Executive Director has direct supervision of all staff, programs, and operations; develops, organizes, directs, controls and administers all agency activities, programs and operations consistent with Board-approved policy, goals and objectives in accordance with legal, statutory, constitutional and other requirements; ensures that a high standard of client-based program delivery is maintained; promotes the agency activities through contact with the community.

The person hired will:

Minimum education requirement: BSW and at least three years experience in Transition House operation or a related field. This is a 20 hours per week position offering an annual salary of $25,000.

Send resume to:
Gulf Islands Women's Resource Network
c/o Patsy Siemens
124 Webster Rd.
Salt Spring Island, V8L 1Y4
Fax: 1-250-653-9109
DEADLINE: November 1, 1998
Health line opened to islanders

Gulf Islands residents now have free access to health information at the tips of their fingers. The Capital Health Region (CHR) has opened a health support telephone line to islanders, effective October 1. The number is 1-800-660-9015.

The support line — part of a two-year joint CHR-Medical Services Plan research project called Partnership For Better Health — was previously available to 12,000 CHR households that were randomly selected as project participants. Staffed by specially trained registered nurses, the health support line operates from 3 to 10:45 p.m. Monday to Friday. The nurses are supported by a comprehensive health information database to assist people with health issues.

The support line is designed to provide:
- personal, confidential health assessments to assist individuals in determining the most appropriate level of care;
- general and specific information on a broad range of health issues, symptoms and chronic conditions;
- discussion of treatment options;
- help for callers in preparing for any necessary follow-up visits with their health providers.

The Partnership For Better Health project was launched last fall. Participants — including about eight percent of Gulf Islanders — received a comprehensive self-care handbook, access to the support line and a quarterly health newsletter.

But according to project manager Andrew Hume, "Gulf Islands residents face rural access issues in having their health needs met, so we decided to extend access to the project health support line with a toll-free number."*

September of 1963 recorded hottest day

Thirty-five years ago
- Local weather observers noted that the month of September produced not only the hottest day of the year (at 85 degrees) but also only one-third of the normal rainfall (0.52 inches compared to 1.56 inches).
- The new Canada Savings Bonds were advertised with a 12-year maturity term of 5.03 per cent.
- Not bad, considering you could buy an entire load of slab-wood fir for $16 from TV Sawmills.

Thirty years ago
- Local drivers were introduced to a new system of penalties for driving infractions.
- The new style used a point-deduction system whereby those caught for offences would have a running tally of point losses, until the stage where they'd have their licence suspended.
- A new housekeeping service, arranged through Salt Spring's churches, was offered to those who needed help at home due to sickness or other emergencies.
- The service would have an hourly charge, unless the recipient was on social assistance.

Twenty-five years ago
- Later to be affectionately known as Bicycle Bob, Bob Simons returned from a 3,000-mile, two-wheel trip from Salt Spring to Halifax.
- He made the 40-day trek with father Art and had only a few major breakdowns before making the return trip by rail.
- CRD chairman Jim Campbell warned islanders about the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' plan to replace local government with commissions and trusts.
- He said the implementation of an Islands Trust would probably

Sea sweep

Twelve-year-old Andrew Martman pauses in front of a colourful sea mural as he gives his dad a hand sweeping and cleaning up around Ganges building.

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- The Support line is designed to provide:
- help for callers in preparing for any necessary follow-up visits with their health providers.

The Partnership For Better Health project was launched last fall. Participants — including about eight percent of Gulf Islanders — received a comprehensive self-care handbook, access to the support line and a quarterly health newsletter.

But according to project manager Andrew Hume, "Gulf Islands residents face rural access issues in having their health needs met, so we decided to extend access to the project health support line with a toll-free number."*

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Great performance. Great convertible.

Great convertible.

ISLAND SAVINGS

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