Phone outage: scary moments for family

By GAIL SUBERG
Driftwood Staff

A loss of island-wide phone service coinciding with a medical emergency Saturday night exposed the stark vulnerability of Salt Spring’s communications system.

None may not have been aware of it, but most islanders were unable to make contact with the outside world via regular telephones from about 6:30 p.m. until just after midnight.

“The problem was that a circuit board of sorts on the Salt Spring Island communications system got fried,” explained Telus communications manager Doug Smichan. “It involved getting the replacement part in and getting it installed. Some people on the island would have been able to call locally, but not long distance.”

For part of the Sunnyside Drive neighbourhood, the outage figured hugely in what resident Paul Sadler described as a “life-and-death” situation.

The Sadler household was entertaining guests when they answered a frantic knock on their door at about 6:45 p.m. It was a neighbour — whose last name is unknown — saying “she thought her husband was dying and their phone wasn’t working,” he said.

They had been to their immediate neighbour’s home where the phone was also inoperative, but the Sadlers’ phone was out of order.

Sadler went to the distressed neighbour’s house and could see the man was having difficulty breathing and turning blue.

PHONES OUT A3

Nature Trust to acquire parcel

A combination of Salt Spring and B.C. Nature Trust funds should result in the first non-watershed purchase of Texada land.

Up for grabs is over 80 acres of waterfront property immediately below an ecological reserve on the south side of Mount Maxwell.

The property is commonly known as “Parcel 7” and was described by a boater at a community meeting last Friday as one of “the crown jewels of Salt Spring.”

“It’s a stunningly beautiful place,” naturalist Lenny Penn said Monday, adding that the property can only be accessed via boat or through private property and the ecological reserve.

Penn told the meeting that the B.C. Nature Trust and Texada Land Corporation were able to agree on a price for the Garry oak-laden parcel because it has no Douglas fir trees on it.

The Nature Trust asked the Salt Spring community to chip in one-quarter of the $465,000 price tag — a move that was endorsed at Friday’s public meeting.

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It’s an important chunk,” Penn said.

She hopes the purchase will act as a lever for other future acquisitions in the area.

“It might show the feds that there’s movement and spur on either the national park (proposa) or the biodiversity package,” she said. “It might start the ball rolling.”

Although those at the meeting supported transferring about $122,000 of community-endowed funds to the Nature Trust, Elizabeth White of the Salt Spring Island Appeal said the money needs to be replaced immediately.

She said the Appeal needs all of its pledged $850,000 in order to secure financing for a larger parcel which incorporates the area around Parcel 3 and Burgoyne Bay.

Fares up elsewhere, but same on Salt Spring

Salt Spring residents were spared the pain in B.C. Ferry Corporation’s first announced rate increase since 1997, while travellers between Vancouver Island and the other Gulf Islands will be coughing up another loonie and change after February 15.

Ferries announced its decision on fare changes Friday, following several months of public consultation on how to raise $9 million and make the rate structure more equitable at the same time.

Overall, ferry fares will rise 3.8 per cent across the system, but will remain unchanged for routes such as the three serving Salt Spring, with distances travelled now taken into consideration. Almost two-thirds of respondents to an online questionnaire favored using distance as a fare factor.
Biodiversity package: last chance

In a "last chance" effort to save a portion of Salt Spring Island, islanders are urging support to a federal-provincial land acquisition deal currently on the table.

Although details of the proposed $110-million biodiversity protection package have not been officially released by government, information was reported in the Vancouver Sun last night, as she urged Jean Chretien and Premier Ujjal Dosanjh to support the Prime Minister's agreement to the land purchase.

According to a hand-out distributed at the meeting, the two levels of government are currently negotiating the "largest land acquisition funding agreement for new protected areas in Canadian history.

The governments are looking at providing the money for purchase of key biodiversity spots or areas considered "endangered species spots," says the handout.

The view over B.C. Gulf Islands, Burns Bog in Delta, the Sooke Hills near Victoria, parts of the Gulf Islands, Burns Bog in Delta, the Sooke Hills near Victoria, parts of the Gulf Islands, Fraser River wetlands, and the South Okanagan pocket desert.

Those supporting the purchase are urging the prime minister at House of Commons, Ottawa, (613) 957-5762.

B.C. Premier Ujjal Dosanjh's address is: Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V1X4. His office can be reached by phone at (250) 387-1715, or faxed at (250) 387-0987.

Calendar

Jan 17: Biodiversity: Last Chance
The last chance to save a portion of Salt Spring Island for its biodiversity.

Jan 18: FERRY FARES
Save 10% - 40% off instock selected items

Gulf Island Class

January Clearance

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LOGGING PROTEST!
A painted, cardboard replica of a logging truck was towed through Ganges Friday, creating a stir and even bringing in the police (lower left corner). The giant sign reminded islanders of a Texada town hall meeting that night.

PHONES OUT: Importance of radios, cell phones

From Page 1

David Eyles was one of the Saddlers’ guests. He zoomed off to try the public payphone at the Fulford post office and when it failed decided to get his cell phone from his home near Snowell Lake.

Even though cell service is hit-and-miss in the south end, I managed from my place to phone 911, said Eyles. "Then (the dispatcher) told me to go back to (Sunnyside) because they wanted more information (about the situation). Again we had to go up and down the road looking for a place where the cell phone would work."

Sadder confirmed his neighbour’s is a “bad area” for cell phone reception.

“It was a very scary situation for (this neighbour) and her daughter,” he said.

But the long call for help was also going out by a second means at the same time. Another Sunnyside resident — Mike Beach — is a ham radio operator and member of the island’s emergency program group. Beach said neighbour Carls Kambouth came over that night asking for his assistance. Beach, who has had an amateur radio licence for 50 years, made the call to another ham operator in Sardis on the mainland. Beach said that man “did the rest of the work” of contacting 911.

Sadder said the fire department’s first responders arrived quickly, followed by an ambulance crew.

Norm Slater, coordinator of the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program (SSIEP), said he and his volunteers were called out when the communications vacuum was discovered.

“With the phone system being out we lost 911. The second thing we lost was all of our business alarm systems. The fire guys lost everything except their pager system, and at that point they called us out.”

SSIEP set up a portable radio at the hospital to ensure the island was covered for any more emergency situations.

Assistant fire chief Erling Jorgenson said several firefighters carried portable radios and manned at least two halls.

Slater praised the efforts of volunteers involved in the evening, noting it wasn’t all fun. "Standing around in the cold, stamping their feet and sipping old coffee,” and all common experiences are to be expected.

Satter said it made him realize “how dependent we are on cell phones, and that with the dead areas we have around Salt Spring, in an emergency we need to have better coverage on this island. When it comes down to the crunch, it is vital.”

Small sewer tax increased

Three sewer systems on Salt Spring and Pender islands will be getting the royal treatment when it comes to “source control” if sewer area residents agree to pay a little more.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) board voted January 10 to send Bylaw 2854 through a counterpetition process. It will request that users of CRD-administered sewer systems pay about 59 per cent more than they now do for programs aimed specifically at improving the quality of sewer discharge. Affect on a property owner’s total sewer bill would be small.

Ganges sewer users currently contribute $1,800 to the $623,930 source control program’s budget. If Bylaw 2854 is passed, that would rise to $3,049. The Malaview system’s share would increase to $1,801 from $623,930.

Stowell Lake Spokane systems pay about 59 per cent more than they now do for programs covered for any more emergency situations.

If Bylaw 2834 is passed, that would rise to $1,068. The net effect will be to improve sewer development of better source control would be up to a maximum of $157 per $1,000 of assessed property value in 2001.

Trevor Smyth, supervisor of the CRD’s source control program, said the extra funds will improve sewer inspection services, public education about the program and speed up development of better “codes of practice.”

The net effect will be to significantly reduce the quality of material being discharged from the sewer systems, and reduce its polluting effects.

BC FERRIES’ "HEADS UP" LIST

BC Ferries is establishing a coastal community e-mail and fax network to quickly update our customers on service issues.

This could include updates on holiday schedules, cancelled sailings, schedule revisions, service interruptions and more.

Subscribers to our "Heads Up" list will receive Service Notices related to the local routes. Business subscribers can post these notices for the information of their customers. Others can share the information with friends and neighbours.

Get plugged in. Join BC Ferries’ "Heads Up" list today!

To be added to the list, e-mail donnab.binn@bcferries.com, or fax your request to (250) 703-2340. Please be sure to identify your community.

BC Ferries Communications
Unit #101, 501 4th Street
Courtenay, BC V9N 1H3

www.bcferries.com
Flying Club responds to fears

By GAIL SILLBERG

December Staff

If the Salt Spring Flying Club had only two words to transmit to the group's president, John Hansen, and the airstrip's length—2,100-feet versus a fuel stop, paved runway, flying International, and nothing could be traffic over Salt Spring, say the 4

won't happen because the grass

Air

from the club before landing there.

By

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY

The cafe is charging $1 per half-hour of computer

ment stipulates the cafe must be sustainable, and all

other CAP sites charge a fee.

Volunteers, sponsors and fundraising events are

needed to help make the cafe work and offer free service.

The decision to charge for access caused some con-

cerns for Mary Hawkins library volunteers, who feared

that definitely can't be

the club has access to and manage-

ty would not alarm islanders.

Agricultural Land Reserve land can

ISLANDS

The Islands Trust has been established by an Act of the provincial legislature to

Preserve and protect the Trust Area, normally referred to as the "Gulf Islands".

Salaries Range$: $57,137 - $61,140

Duties:

This position is responsible for coordinating and leading the overall decision-making and planning processes for two autonomous Local Trust Committees (elected local governments) and for leading a team of professional planners and support staff who provide land-use planning services to these local trust committees. Key duties are: provide planning expertise and advice to Local Trust Committees and Local Advisory Committees within the Islands Trust; develop and administer policies and regulations reflecting the planning, legislative requirements and political decision making regarding land use; provide supervision of staff, direction to consultants, and advice to the Trust Area Planning Unit, Executive Committee, Trust Council and Management.

Qualifications:

A Masters degree in Planning is required with at least six years of progressively responsible positions in planning and policy development, three years of which must be in local government.

Applicants must contact Daphne Armstrong at (250) 405-5153 for a complete applicant package. Please submit a resume with covering letter, quoting competition #MA2001, by 4:30 pm, Thursday, January 25, 2001, to:

Islands Trust

#200 - 1627 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8
Attention: Doug Levelt, Director of Administrative Services
Tel: (250) 405-5150
Fax: (250) 405-5155

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• built-in vault (good working order)
• very well maintained building - quality tenants
• excellent landscaping
• customer parking
• terrific exposure - across from tourist Info. Centre
• long-term lease available

Ideal for bank, trust company, brokerage, major retailers, family art gallery, etc.

UNIT C:
• available now
• approximately 1,000 square feet
• windows on two sides
• fronts a covered walkway on one side
• great exposure - across from Tourist Info. Centre
• paved customer parking
• well maintained building - quality tenants
• excellent landscaping
• long-term occupancy

Ideal location for retail store, art gallery or other similar business.

CONTACT: KEVIN BELL
Mossat's Trading Co., (250) 537-5593
Impaired charges rule court

Impaired driving convictions were the order of the day in Ganges Provincial Court on January 9, with Judge Ernie Quantz presiding.

- Richard Kitchen pleaded guilty to charges of impaired driving and was sentenced to a $700 fine and a 12-month driving prohibition. His arrest came after he crashed his 1977 Dodge flatbed on October 3 near Mwareside Road. Court heard Kitchen was driving north on Fulford-Ganges Road when he crossed the solid yellow line, hit a utility pole and slid down an embankment on the highway's east side. A fire broke out and the accused extinguished the flames with his jacket. His client, Driftwood publisher Tony Kimball, surmised it was the result of jamming coins without giving up a newspaper in exchange. The most recent problem was a fire that started when a chimney was inserted in the coin slot where it created a sticky mess. Kitchen's lawyer noted he was 'fully cooperative with the police,' and provided court with a letter of recommendation from his employer of 30 years. She also informed her client that the no-show Joshua Timothy Brainard had been found guilty of consuming three beers.

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blue dragon naturals
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In addition, Insurance companies have, of late, taken a greater interest in ensuring that these chimneys are within the regulations.

How do you tell if your chimney is acceptable?

- If it was installed prior to 1981, it is not.
- If it was installed prior to 1991 and does not incorporate 2" of insulation, it is not.
- Chimney installed after 1991 is likely to be acceptable, however if it is 1" insulated chimney you must ensure that it is ICC, factory built chimney.

If this sounds confusing, we can help.

Call us today for a FREE inspection. If your chimney is not acceptable, we will give you an estimate for a new ICC chimney system and will guarantee that it will fully comply with current standards.

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Pacific Travel Ltd.
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Salt Spring from an Irish perspective

We go this week to County Galway, Ireland, for some glowing comments about Salt Spring art by David Burke, editor and publisher of the Team Herald, who visited here last summer. Upon his return home he wrote a series of columns that introduced his readers to the many features of the islands. Here are excerpts from one:

Salt Spring Island is home to a motley collection of artists, aging hippies, the rich and retired, and ordinary people like you and me who run and work in newspapers, shops, restaurants and other businesses, and make up its 10,000 or so permanent residents.

The island is heavily dependent on tourism, but it hasn’t been that way for long.

It’s a little like Ireland used to be in that it attracts the discerning visitor who makes an effort to get there rather than the mass market.

The up-market clientele is reflected in the proliferation of art galleries — there are at least 13 within a easy walking distance of each other in the village of Ganges, the biggest centre of population on the island. Naturally the quality varies, but even the commonplace is of a high standard and some of the work is extraordinarily good.

We got to see all of them on a Tuesday morning walkabout, and if my pockets were as deep as those of the rich Americans who berth their yachts in the marina, I would have had a severe excess baggage problem on the flight home.

Kathy Venter is a South African sculptor who has made her home here and works in terracotta, usually in life size figures.

Her technique is advanced and she features in a private collection in Ireland, as well as in South Africa, Canada, the U.S. etc. She exhibits in the Vortex Gallery.

Just a couple of doors down the street is the Naikai Gallery where hung the work of another immigrant, Carol Heigh from Lincolnshire, England ... a self-taught painter who has the finest hyper-realistic technique I have ever seen.

She works in acrylic on illustration board, painting scenes of beach, boat and sea which at first glance as if they are printed reproductions, so fine is the brushwork. Her work is not just technically excellent, it also has depth of soul.

The gallery owner, Don Rich, says she could command three or four times her price of £3,500 to £7,000 per painting were she to exhibit in Seattle or Los Angeles, but she refuses, preferring to remain on her island with her family.

What is interesting about almost all the art I saw on the island was its rootedness in nature. There was little or no pure abstraction, and this was explained to me by one artist who said.

"This is how we pay homage to the beauty of nature around us — this is a sacred place, and we live by it."Which ties in nicely with the slightly new-age atmosphere that pervades many of the galleries and craft outlets.

There is a general feeling of optimism and positive thinking about the place it is a welcome change from the empty nihilism that often passes for sophistication in the art world on this side of the Atlantic.
We asked: What are your thoughts on the Fulford Valley aerodrome?

Letters to the Editor

Flabbergasted

I retired to Salt Spring Island, which has the reputation of being "God's Waiting Room." But what a place for utilising it.

I never regretted my move. There's always so much to do! Each season I await eagerly the arrival of the PARC recreation programs brochure to arrive in my letter box. It has something for everyone: those interested in performing arts can choose from music appreciation, dance or voice. There's cooking, gardening, crafts, fitness, gymnastics and obedience classes. Everyone can register for folk dance lessons.

When I went to the PARC office to register for falck dance lessons I found out that winter/spring 2001 recreation programs will be the last ones offered. This announcement was made in December 27, 2000 Driftwood which got thrown into the recycle wastepaper basket together with my Christmas wrapping paper.

I was flabbergasted! I wonder how many PARC recreation program users are aware of this?

In the Driftwood article, PARC chairman Wayne Fraser said "...we felt although the registration of programs is important, it's further down the totem pole from some of our other areas." PARC's name implies, stands for Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission. As far as I am concerned, arts certainly is a part component of the totem pole; and very much on top of it.

The projects the PARC feels more important right now are building the indoor recreation facility site complex on the newly acquired property next to the high school on Rainbow Road, for which we taxpayers voted you in the referendum regarding the property's purchase.

I voted yes with the view of enjoying the facilities later in life when it's finally built. Right now I want to keep fit and enjoy the excellent recreation programs PARC has arranged. With the decision to discontinue the programs, PARC is cutting off the bread that feed you and also cutting off my dancing feet as well.

To those unaware of the cancelation, PARC's role in future recreation programs, please ring 537-4448 or fax 537-4456. There's going to be a public meeting on 29th January. Attend if you can.

LIND WESTON,
North Beach Road

Aerodrome threatens more than Salt Spring serenity

BY CARA JOY HUGHES

At the outset let me say I'm sure now I have been the only one to anger or feel bad feelings against pilots who live on Salt Spring and want to use their private planes based here. Let me assure you we understand your relationship with the insurers — with a registered aerodrome (Section 301) you can negotiate lower rates to cover your aircraft when they are based here. And there is great convenience in having your aircraft here, your recreational hobby at hand. With this we sympathise.

That said, let me present you some of the facts and assertions of our community, especially residents of the southern part of the island, should Cudmore's airstrip be registered and published in the March Gazette. I speak for myself but I believe I represent a majority view.

Firstly, you do not own the land and you, your newly formed club, cannot control future development on that land nor direct future changes of ownership. You cannot bind future owners, though you may influence future development (perhaps with self-interest). You would be tenants, likely paying fees for use of the strip and any future facilities it spawns.

Secondly, you plan exclusive access for visiting aircraft, fuelling becomes almost a necessity; perhaps your airpark patron would share in purchase of one of those special aircraft fuelling trucks. It could do the dangerous cargo run from Vesuvius and tank up in Duncan as needed.

Of course the locked enclosure for it and the cement pads for a fueling area would be in place.

And since the valley floor can be soggy at this late winter season, it is sensible that a paved runway be built for safety. Transport Canada would doubtless agree. Nice little aerodrome we've got going here.

Well, I hear you say, to what, lady holy deal? It's our choice of recreation. Ah, but you would have a registered aerodrome to the tourist-attractive Gulf Islands.

Nothing — and certainly not your idea of recreation — could do the dangerous cargo run from Vesuvius and tank up in Duncan as needed.

The Minister of Transport has designated the Gulf Islands to be a sound sensitive area. My good friend tells me that doesn't mean much, but with a registered aerodrome it would mean nothing. My scenario, I suggest to you, is a natural flowering of the seed of a registered and published aerodrome. Private air traffic would be banned (if built) would definitely be private or charter-plane types, scaring ferry trips to Salt Spring. Oddly, the Minister of Transport, in effect, had told the Southern Gulf Islands a similar thing.

Every week a few small planes come to our airport — there's no room to land aircraft here, your recreational area, a machine shop: vroom, our community, especially residents of the southern part of the island, should Cudmore's airstrip is sensible that a paved runway be built.

As far as I am concerned, arts certainly is a part component of the totem pole; and very much on top of it.

Thirdly, as time goes by, it is abundantly clear that a paved runway be considered the Gulf Islands to be a sound sensitive area. My good friend tells me that doesn't mean much, but with a registered aerodrome it would mean nothing. My scenario, I suggest to you, is a natural flowering of the seed of a registered and published aerodrome. Private air traffic would be banned, if built.

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And since the valley floor can be soggy at this late winter season, it is sensible that a paved runway be built for safety. Transport Canada would doubtless agree. Nice little aerodrome we've got going here.

We have just flown by a new Whistler Village atop Mount Tuum is certainly enhanced by the possibility of a little airfield operating in the Fulford Valley. Their real estate agents will love it. Big-hutivo jet-setters who want to attract for beautiful "weekend condos" (if built) would definitely be private or charter-plane types, scaring ferry trips to Salt Spring. Oddly, the Minister of Transport, in effect, had told the Southern Gulf Islands a similar thing.

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Grateful veil of illusion
I salute the consummate skill with which John Centrella of Qualicum...
THRUDESDAY, JAN 18

The Limey (1999, Suspense) An ex-con fresh out of prison tries to avenge the death of his estranged daughter.


World Trade (1998, Drama) The son of a woman who opposed her husband's decision to build a building contract from a wealthy man is trapped in a downward spiral of paranoia and mistrust after his wife vanishes.

Paranoia (1974, Comedy) A Transylvanian descendant returns to the ancestral castle.

A Midwinter's Tale (2000, Drama) A young hustler looking for a quick way to make some money signs a contract for a sexual favor.

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Breakdown (1997, Suspense) A marriage vanishes after their car breaks down in the middle of nowhere. Kurt Russell, Kathleen Quinlan (3h)

Beyond Silence (1998, Drama) A gift-made communication device for an deaf world for her parents who are deaf and hearing. Michael Maloney, Richard Brooks (1h30)

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**GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD**

**S - SALT SPRING ISLAND & O - OUTER ISLANDS**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**

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Weekend provincial judo event springboards athletes to nationals

A happy group of young Salt Spring judo athletes travelled home Saturday night after a competition in Campbell River.

Eight entrants brought back nine medals and a provincial championship in juvenile women, plus a place at the nationals on the B.C. team.

Fourteen-year-old Megan Leitch earned a gold medal, the provincial championship title in juvenile women (57-kilo), which means she will represent B.C. at national competition, and a bronze medal in the even-higher junior women’s division.

Coach Shaun Adams said Leitch captured the bronze despite suffering a shoulder injury in her first junior women’s match.

“This was after already fighting through the pack in the juvenile division. Exhausting work!”

Other contestants were Graham Wrigley, age eight, gold medal; Cole Wrigley, nine, silver; Kyle Venier, nine, silver; Natalya Alonso, 10, gold; Geneva Lerner, 11, silver; Jerome Peet, 12, gold; and Jandi Janzen, 14, bronze.

This was the fourth of five provincial tournaments which qualify athletes for the nationals. Two Salt Spring club members other than Leitch may yet make the team, said Adams, with Janzen and Kevin Ostapowich close to qualifying.

HIGH ROLLERS

High rollers in recent bowling league play at Kings Lane were:

- Golf Ladies’ Maxine Whithey, 208; Shirley Parsons, 202.
- Circus League: Connie Hardy, 201/225; Lance Leask, 214, 211, 210/216; Brian Radford, 215.
- Saturday night: Jim Glenn, 208; Martha Hall, 207; 116/216; Pat Cunningham, 201, 223; Brian Radford, 215.
- Tuesday night: Harold Repen, 202; Tom Jackson, 210; Lance Leask, 212/220; Pat Taylor, 217. Tuesday p.m.; Vanda Winstone, 208.
- Special Olympics: Sharon Way, 162; Jimmy Beck, 168; Mahjir Rains, 149; Gloria Dale, 159; Stuart Elliott, 159.
- Friday seniors: Mary Campbell, 207; Mung Baker, 216; 207, 212/637; Bill Gile, 207.

Strikers blast opposition in 4-0 victory Saturday

Determination and aggressiveness were the hallmark of a Salt Spring U-12 Strikers 4-0 win over Juan de Fuca Saturday.

Coaches credited the entire team with working hard for all 60 minutes to secure the win.

Liam Johnson opened scoring from a Cardin Davis pass in the 10th minute.

Soon after, Davis scored again, shooting to the low side of the net after receiving a superb pass from Alex Hannah.

Just before the half-time whistle, Davis added another goal for a comfortable 3-0 half-time lead.

The second half saw the local squad keep the ball in Juan de Fuca’s end with pinpoint passing and possession. Johnson got the final goal with a one-touch blast past the goalie from another Davis set-up.

Saturday’s match was the first after a long Christmas break.

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SALT SPRING ISLAND
Community

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SALT SPRING ISLAND, B.C.
Scorpions keep their cool, take 3rd

By GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood Staff

Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Scorpions made a mark on the Vancouver Island boys basketball scene over the weekend, placing fourth in a total new NSSD with their own second-game legs.

"Then they went on a run on us," said coach Myles Wilson. "By the third quarter it was 32-45 for them."

GISS "clawed their way back" to within eight points in the fourth quarter. It was 60-52 for NDSS with three minutes left in the game.

"By the one-minute mark it was 62-57 for them," said Wilson, "and they committed a foul. It was a key foul and we went to the line and both shots were successful."

NDSS then took the ball down the court, but lost it, allowing GISS to score on a lay-in and make the tally 62-57.

The last 30 seconds of the game held enough tension and drama to fill an entire game. Scorpions surged with a full court press, with Tom McCollm passing the ball over to Sam Hannah, who hit a three-pointer, putting the boys up by two.

With play getting chippier, an NDSS player took a disqualifying foul and was ejected from the game. GISS missed two foul shots, but again put on full court pressure before some NDSS players really lost their cool and handed GISS six foul shots, resulting in a 68-62 score for the Scorpions.

"It was a good, character-building event," said Wilson. "All the girls did their job. Everybody did their job and that's how they ended up winning it!"

High scorers in the voluble game were doubles, with El; Hannah, 18; Al Lemay, with 17; and captain Rhys Beasley, 14.

But all of the action wasn't going up and down the court. An upset NDSS parent even caused "an incident" by coming over to the Scorpions' bench after the game to "arguing with our players." Wilson's crew had to hustle into the change room to avoid the antagonists.

As a result, Wilson is sending a report to both the referees' association and the schools.

Lead-up to the semi-final match with NDSS wasn't quite as exciting, but gave the team some chances to hone their skills and analyze possible weak spots.

GISS lost their first game of the tourney by 15 points to a strong Ladysmith squad on Thursday.

"We played three good quarters and they played four good quarters, and that was the difference," said Wilson.

High scorers were Hannah, 19; Beasley, 17; and Lemay with 16 points.

On Friday, GISS trounced Shawnigan Lake by 50 points, and beat Woodlands of Nanaimo 81-61 on Saturday morning before the big NDSS match.

After a slow start and a close score at half-time, GISS picked up the pace in the second to strain their way to victory. Lemay led scoring with 25 points; Beasley was right behind him at 23.

The 14-team tournament at Chemainus and John Barsby schools also saw participation by teams from Australia and Vancouver.

GISS beat up Frances Kelsey 82-50 in an exhibition game Thursday. While the boys tourney in order to make the provincial championships for the second year running is already starting to unfold — and it isn't easy. They have to be able to beat Ladysmith, Lambbrick Park and Kwalikum squads.

Even before that, the Scorpions have another unenviable task: they'll be meeting cranky NDSS again Friday night at a tournament in Ladysmith.

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dren without arms, contaminated
enemies and splintered families.
inhabit the nostri l of every person
Dre a m s of peace permeate his
being and p e rplex h is senses , but
seeking a better

All of this and m ore a r e r ea l
H e is pai d well to wres tl e th e roots
victims to fend for daily necessities,

When Wilson approaches an
international post, there are chil­
dren without arms, contaminated
water, bitterness between political
enemies and splintered families.
Dreams of peace per­
meate his
existence and per­plex his senses, but
seeking a better

The 54-year-old, on­again-off­
again United Nations employee is a self-proclaimed “band-aid” man.
He is paid well to wrestle the roots
of time­less feuds, chisel at the
stone heart that walls the peace,
tag at the sensitivity of a few good
men amidst the countless others
trained to the teeth in militarism and
killing.

And for good reason.
AIDS replenishment and
drug peddling are the international
crimes these days,
Wilson stated emphatically, mone­

tical monsters with an in­
satiable hunger for virile young
men, missiles, guns, prostitutes and rub­
less dictators.

"Post-crisis recovery" is the
catch-all term used to identify his
line of work. Having served the
UN, CIDA, UNICEF, US-AID,
CUSO and a host of non­governmental
agencies since 1969, job
descriptions, countries and long­
winded titles leap from his curricu­
mum vitae like Mexican jumping
beans: Liberia, senior demobiliza­
tion and reintegra­tion officer;
Mozambique, representative of the
Canadian government; Brazil,
planner for the state government
and city of Salvador, Jamaica, con­
sultant for the Ministry of Finance
and Planning.

His latest post transports him
back to his favourite continent,
beloved Africa. This very week,
Wilson traded the comfort of his
wife and a Salt Spring bed to bunk
in a tent inside the confines of a
UN-controlled military buffer
zone.
Stationed between adversarial
African states, his goal is to imple­
ment the month­old Ethiopia­
Eritrea­Ethiopian peace accord.
The for­mer is a relatively new offspring of the
latter, a country that broke
away in pieces, leaving its mother
landlocked and frustrated.

Open savanna, chronic drought,
hot days and cool nights character­
ize the northeast countries, he said,
part of the African Horn and
source of the blue Nile. En­
choned in a 25­mile protected corridor
between the warring countries,
Wilson is civilian advisor to the
Canadian military arm of the bi­
lateral UN peacekeeping mission.

Building bridges, installing water
systems and distributing food are
all priority tasks, he explains, as is
kick-starting the post-war econ­
ym and reintegrating massive num­
bers of mobilized men back into
civilian life.

"This is the first time the whites
have gone back to Africa in a long
time," he said. "Armies are not
designed for discussion. How do
you integrate hundreds of thou­
sands of men back into a society
who only know how to steal, f— and
fight?"

Fully conscious of age and gen­
erational differences, Wilson is
hoping his father­figure demeanor
will have some effect on the young
African soldiers, who are about the
age of his own son Zachariah, a
Gulf Islands Secondary School
student.

"In my opinion, the relationship
of these young men who go to war
is very similar energy to the young
men in our society who do not see
an option for their own future."

In the weeks Wilson spent with
his family on Salt Spring between
jobs, he observed other clues that
confirm the sowing of global friction
can be found simmering closer to
home.

The wars being fought against
deforestation and greed­
driven development, he said, are simply
mirrors of the larger picture.

"It's a sensitive time. We have to
learn how to come to terms with
each other. Out of the chaos comes
the good," he acknowledged.

"I have a sound professional
understanding, and an open heart.
If I'm good from the inside, I can
be good on the outside. And it
doesn't matter if I'm baking a pie
or working with warring factions."
Rainfall down – weather not quite so ‘blah’

By ROBERT ASTON
Driftwood Contributor

Looking back at 2000, weather-wise, it would certainly seem that the description I gave for last year could well apply again: “Blah.”

Though it is said, however, the year did have one positive happening going for it — our total precipitation was way down from the immediately preceding years at 31.80 ins/80.77 centimeters compared to approximately 50 ins/127 cms that we have averaged since 1995.

Since the major improvements occurred during the last three months of the year, this had the secondary benefit of more sunshine during that time and, for most of us, was a distinct bonus.

Precipitation statistics for the year, measured at a Douglas Road waterfront location, are as follows:

- January: 6.17 ins (156.7 mm)
- February: 2.7 ins (68.6 mm)
- March: 2.74 ins (69.6 mm)
- April: 1.30 ins (33.0 mm)
- May: 2.07 ins (52.8 mm)
- June: 2.10 ins (53.3 mm)
- July: 1.31 ins (33.3 mm)
- August: 0.23 ins (5.8 mm)
- September: 0.78 ins (19.8 mm)
- October: 4.02 ins (102.2 mm)
- November: 3.11 ins (79.0 mm)
- December: 5.37 ins (136.4 mm)

Snow, nil.

Days with a high temperature of 60°F or more — eight — which is about average for these last five or six years.

Days with a high temperature of 70°F or more — eight — which is about average for these last five or six years.

Days with a low temperature of 20°F or less — none.

The last frost of spring, at 32°F (0.0°C) occurred in April, though it has to be noted that the temperature dropped to a more undesirable 32°F (0.5°C) overnight April 23/24.

The first frost of winter came overnight November 9/10, somewhat later than average.

To properly close off the old millennium, I have calculated new 20-year averages for 1981 to 2000 inclusive, but not wishing to “overload” on an excess of numbers, I will give now only the new yearly totals and leave the monthly averages until a more appropriate time.

These are: total precipitation, 39.72 ins (1008.88 mm), which includes 16.8 ins (426.2 mm) of snow.

Though there is no requirement for superlatives to describe the year, it was nevertheless a much better year weather-wise than the preceding one of 1999.
Successful burglars: unsuccessful

Forty years ago

* A Victoria delivery truck, sans chains and snow tires, slid into the bakery and dumped a load of flour into a snowbank. Harvey Reynolds' tractor soon had the off-island driver and his vehicle mobile again.

* Real estate company Salt Spring Lands listed a four-bedroom house with a full basement for $12,750. The family home was close to Ganges and offered more than one acre of property.

* Irish Digest reported this joke through the Driftwood: Woman to husband reading the newspaper, "You needn't bother saying 'uh huh' any more — I stopped taking five minutes ago."

Thirty-five years ago

* An interim zoning bylaw was given its final adoption by the Capital Regional Board. Born of bitter dispute on Salt Spring Island, the bylaw was entirely revamped halfway through its course and then suffered a long delay at the hands of the provincial cabinet. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a public meeting to invite island residents to establish what they wanted in the Salt Spring Island of the future and zoning bylaws in what they got.

Twenty years ago

* Police with tracking dogs, helicopter and police boat were searching the Beaver Point area for a naked man. The streaker was sighted in the snow and police were alerted and led to the belief that the runner had collapsed and died from exposure.

* Coast Guard officials were trying to determine whether patches of oil spotted off Pender Island were from the previous month's Alaskan crude oil spill in Port Angeles harbour, Washington.

Fifteen years ago

* Salmon farmer Chris Hatfield of Hatfield Biotechnology Ltd. was applying to the provincial ministry of lands, parks and housing for a foreshore lease essential for farm operations.

* Jonah Fisher had qualified for the Canadian national judo championships for the second year in a row. He was chosen for his consistently high standing at tournaments throughout the year.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2001 - 15
Protection society takes controversial bylaw to court

By ANASTACIA WILDE
Pender Editions Staff

Newly formed Pender Island Trust Protection Society (PITPS) has filed a petition in B.C. Supreme Court asking the court to set aside a controversial bylaw it says would negatively impact adoption of Bylaw 122 by the division size in Rural Residential North Pender Island Local Trust, existing Bylaw 103, which regulates land use. Bylaw 122 also represents a marked contradiction of the intent of Bylaw 103, the official community plan for North Pender — that was approved by a majority of voters in a 1993 referendum, states the PITPS petition.

In drafting and adopting Bylaw 122, the petition states, the LTC erred by failing to consider highly relevant evidence relating to impacts on groundwater, sensitive environment and the rural character of North Pender Island.

"By increasing density you are putting potential pressure on water and sewage matters. We don't believe that those items have been properly reviewed," said society spokesman Jill Taylor.

"We are acting with caution in the interest of the long-term health of the island and the community. We've got to take decisions about our water supply, not just on Pender but all of the Gulf Islands. This problem is not addressed or dealt with in Bylaw 122."

North Pender Island trustees Emil Round and Wayne Wright argue they are simply rectifying amendments that previous trustees made to the land use bylaw, which infringe on some landowners' present interests.

Those changes took place in February 1999 and set the minimum subdivision in Rural Residential lots at three acres. "There is no legislation before the people," Trustee Round said during a lengthy community information meeting and public hearing in October. "All of this work is remedial, to put things back the way they were before."

More than 58 islanders were present for the five-hour stalemated meeting, which included 50 fiscal, opinionated and well-articulated speeches in opposition to — or in support of — the divisive bylaw.

With substantial opposition from numerous residents clearly present at that time, some residents felt Bylaw 122 was pushed through second and third readings without enough deliberation. Other Draftwood sources said the trustees were just following through with campaign promises by adhering to their political platform, which led to their winning the November 1999 election.

A full-blown debate and long division within the island community has ensued since the implementation of both Bylaws 103 and its reversal Bylaw 122, with last week's petition to the B.C. Supreme Court indicating the fight is far from over.

Taylor said provisions of Bylaw 103 were developed and debated over a period of several years and drafted with the input of much of the community.

"This is not a personal attack on our trustees. We are not asking the courts to blame anyone. We just think that zoning should proceed with caution. Why would you suddenly downzone?" Taylor asked.

The society spokesman pointed out that the current Islands Trust Policy Statement finds LTCS to directive policies when it delimits regulatory bylaws.

Specifically, she said, Section 5.2.3 of the policy statement read, "Local Trust committees shall, in their regulatory bylaws, address the rate of growth, if any, and strategies for the management of growth that is not compatible with preservation and protection of the environment, natural amenities, resources and community character."

"We think there is an important principle about the nature of the Trust and we are looking for the courts to clarify what effect the Trust has on the way local government deals with issues."

"We're not suing anyone," Taylor stressed. "We are only looking for a judicial review by the courts on this local government decision made by the Islands Trust."

The spokesman added the broader aspect of the society's current activities is to use a communications campaign, initially via e-mail, to boost awareness of development pressure on the Trust area. PITPS was formed in December and is made up of both North and South Penderites. Its directors are Taylor, Bill Deverell, Peter Edshope, Kathy Curtis and Sara Stell.

"We found that we share a common love of these islands and want to work together for their benefit," Taylor said. "Above all, we support the existing philosophy and policy of giving protected status to the Trust area."

Round and Wright made it clear in a written statement that they and the Islands Trust are not connected to the suit.

It is expected the court will make a decision on the society's petition sometime in spring.

Sing-a-long, Speakeasy, workshop all in the stars for upcoming events

By KAE CHARMAN
Penders Editions Contributor

The Pender Craft Society is pleased to announce that we will be holding a workshop to be presented by the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperatives and Volunteers.

Facilitated by Lyn Cayo of Vancouver, a cooperative organization of professional co-op developers, topics will include how to develop and manage a cooperative, how co-ops are governed, and how agreements and contracts are finalized. Any food that is fully funded, there is no charge to attend.

Lunch and dinner are provided free of charge. Who says there's no free lunch?

Speaking for Pender Crafts, Margaret Ravenscroft said, "If we just get ourselves together and got going, we could do it."

Phone Judy Turner at 629-2037 to register for the workshop or call at 629-3892 for more information.

Dates are Saturday, January 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tentatively Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Campfire Singing

Do you remember how much fun it was to sit around a campfire? Whether it was with Scouts, family, or friends, sitting around a campfire injected just a little bit of peace and camaraderie into your life. Watching the flames, telling stories. Someone would bring a guitar, banjo, or harmonica, and play songs that everyone knows. Did you ever hear before, but haven't forgotten since. In this way, folk music is passed on to the next generation. And singing does something to your very core, singing gives a voice.

Carole Couchman will be hosting a campfire sing-a-long on the outdoor deck of That Little Coffee Place at 7 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, weather permitting. With a warm fire and a hot cup of coffee, our favourite emcee, Don Jacques, will lead us with his voice.

Come on out for some Friday night poetry. And, always a treat, Barry Round will continue the spell that music makes in warming evening.

The ninth Speakeasy will be held on Friday, January 19 at the Schoolhouse at noon. Poetry readings by people who wish to share with us. We have everything you need to protect your skin from winter's worst effects.

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Friday and Saturday 5 - 9 pm.
Audience ‘jiggled in jazz, coddled in Chopin and rapt in Reinhart

By KAE CHARMAN
Penders Edition Contributor

Knowing the Mahogany in the Mahogany Room’s presentation of the Marc Atkins Trio last Saturday night at The Timbers didn’t find any, the room was mostly cedar and glass.

*Glow Road* and *Mae Moore* had teamed up to bring a sense of music from the soul, music from which a man truly enjoys his craft is so deep inside that you have to smile to bring it out.

And in front is Atkins on, looking far too young to be playing this well. He played smoothly, with chording sometimes too fast for the bass line with precision and an out grin. "What happens when a woman’s sweat or sit by the fire at Sun Raven in his age group. I hear a mix of sweat will be held the following Saturday, January 27 with Cree elder Phill L’Hirondelle (The Swallow), Twenty dollars is suggested to help with transport and accommodation costs. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Limited space. Phone 621 to register. Potluck supper and social gathering after 4 p.m.

Two Pendersites passed the Marine Emergency Duties B1 course last week. Congratulations to Suzie Walters and Don Harrison.

On Sunday, January 21, there is an Ecumenical Open Door Potluck Supper at the Anglican Hall, 5:30 p.m. We are so lucky. There are several beautiful goats on the island each week — after which we can enjoy a chat at That Little Coffee Place.

George and Iron Ohlmann are happy and proud of their youngest son, polly, blue-eyed, Ethan enjoyed an extended visit with his grandparents and parents, Ken and Deb. Kelley will give birth to another baby Ohlmann in May.

Driftwood printed a wonderful photograph of our Magic Lantern Festival workers two weeks ago. This classic historical picture is available from Kelly Irving if you would like a copy.
By MITCHELL SERRIN
Driftwood Contributor

For the few islanders who haven't whisked themselves away to Mexico or Thailand for the winter, the Salt Spring Folk Club offered unseasonal warmth and unique cultural opportunities matching those to be found in other exotic locales on Monday night.

The stage was decorated with daffodils and tulips that challenged winter's grip. Suddenly it began to sound as if a seven-piece Essig Brothers band materialized on stage in support of the rollicking singer, but then he cut into storytelling mode and the song was transformed once again into an intimate tale of one old man's despair and redemption.

Essig took us down to the Delta to share the Mississippi John Hurt Melody, where old blues from the 1920s and '30s were interpolated with a rambling monologue that drew the audience into a smoky honky tonk parlours to hear about a dapper legend in a three-piece suit who beat out tunes on a little guitar.

On his performance with a meditative sense of hope and renewal in the dark of winter with a gentle smile and clear, resonant voice, he reassured us that there was something more in the world, like an arms deal he'd witnessed at a hotel cafe in Zurich. He inspired us to be more like Alice Munro, to open up our heads with a 12-gauge shotgun, and to look for black humour. By the incident he shared, whether Mr. Essig has a wife who saw the deepwell socket wrench, slipped it on his ring finger and ripped up the neck of his blues guitar with a withering combination of slide chords and finger picking.

Essig suggested that Declaration Day would be his inspiration of "the way love walks" — in contrast to his well-known song called The Way Hate Walks. When the opening lyrics of this song told of a man who opened up his head with a 12-gauge shotgun, I began to wonder whether Mr. Essig has a deeply twisted sense of love and happiness or an excessive penchant for black humour. But, following an insanely complex storm of notes and discordant syncopated rhythms, the song began to smooth into a redemptive calm and "the shadow of salvation's door" began to fall upon us all.

After a thunderous round of applause, Essig sent us off into the dark of winter with a gentle ballad for adults called End of a Long Sweet Ride. All through the chilly drive home, I found myself haunted, amused and enlightened by the songs of Essig, who has a rich and complex artistic vision.

Essig 'haunts' and 'amuses' at folk club show
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**JAN. 17**

- Adults

**JAN. 18**

- Bingo, Meaden Hall, 7 p.m.
- Community Meditation, United Church, 11:30-12:30
- Community Gathering, United Church, 5:30
- Seniors Sing-along, Salt Spring Seniors, 2 p.m.

**JAN. 19**

- Baller Con Fuego dance show, ArtSpring, 7:30
- Earthmen, Moby’s, 9:30 p.m.
- Roller-blading, Fulford Hall, 7:30-9:30

**JAN. 20**

- Hugh Fraser and Swing Shift, ArtSpring, 8 p.m.
- Robbie Burns Night, Meaden Hall, 6:30
- Earthmen, Moby’s, 9:30 p.m.
- Ramesh Meyers, Harbour House, 7-10 p.m.
- Adrian Town, work-colour workshop, 10-4

**JAN. 21**

- Ken Hamm concert, Core Inn, 2 p.m.
- Other Brothers, Fulford Inn, 6-8 p.m.
- Sue Newman, Moby’s Dinner Jazz, 7 p.m.
- Meditation session with Lama Chimi Kinley, 10:30 a.m.
- Adrian Town workshop, 10-4

**JAN. 22**

- Vipassana Meditation group, the Barn, 7:30-9 p.m.

**JAN. 23**

- Toy Library, Portlock
- Just for Women investment workshop, Harbour House, 6-8
- Drop-in floor hockey, Fulford Hall, 7 p.m.

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**JAN. 24**

- Burns Tea, Salt Spring Seniors, 2 p.m.
- Wednesday Night, LIVE! Moby’s, 9 p.m.

**JAN. 25**

- Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meets, Lions Hall, 1:15 p.m.
- OAPO Branch 32 meeting, Central Hall, 2 p.m.
- Trail & Nature Club potluck, Meaden Hall, 6 p.m.
- Community Meditation, United Church, 11:30-12:30
- Community Gathering, United Church, 5:30
- Seniors Sing-along, Salt Spring Seniors, 2 p.m.

**JAN. 26**

- Roller-blading, Fulford Hall, 7:30-9:30
- Bingo for seniors, Fulford Hall, 2-4 p.m.

**JAN. 27**

- The Runaways, all ages-dance, ArtSpring, 7 p.m.
- CFUW meeting, Lions Hall, 10 a.m.
- Estate Planning Seminar, Harbour House, 1:30
- Harbour House entertainment in the lounge

**JAN. 28**

- Parks and Recreation of Salt Spring Island, Salt Spring seniors, 2 p.m.
- Other Brothers, Fulford Inn, 6-8 p.m.
- Moby’s Sunday Dinner Jazz, 7 p.m.

**JAN. 29**

- PARC meeting, PARC portable, 7:30
- Vipassana Meditation group, the Barn, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Acting Schmacktizl classes begin, ArtSpring

**JAN. 30**

- Drop-in floor hockey, Fulford Hall, 7 p.m.
dance

• Baller Con Fuego — Dancing With Fire — a presentation of the Guild of Upland School dance department. One show only! At Art Spring Theatre, January 19, 7:30 p.m. Tickets $7 for students and seniors, $10 for adults.

music

• The Earthmen bring their all-original Afro-rock jazz sound to Moby Pub on Friday-Saturday, January 19-20, starting at about 9:30 p.m. They’re one of Victoria’s favourite bands, whose members also have deep Gulf Islands roots.

• Robert Bung Night — music with Trisikle and the Legion Pipe Band — at Mead Hall on Saturday, January 20, 6:30 p.m. Tickets $30 from et cetera, band members and the Legion. 

• Hugh Fraser with Swing Shift — an evening of big band jazz and swing with one of Canada’s winning trombonist Hugh Fraser and local big band Swing Shift. Original works by Hugh Fraser plus classic big band music. Art Spring, Saturday, January 20, 1 p.m., $15 adults, $8 students through January 20 (537-2102).

• Restaurant Night — at the HMS Ganges Lounge at the Harbour House Hotel, Saturday, January 20, 7:30 p.m.

• Ken Ham in concert — see the Toronto Blue Jays’s year 2000-centenary year of the year at the Legion Inn, Sunday, January 21, 2 p.m. $5 at the door, going to the Core Youth Project.

• Sue Newman Band takes the stage at Piano Bar Sunday Dinner Jazz, January 21, 7 p.m.

Every Week:

• Argentinian Tango group meets at Lido’s Monterey Hall and Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. $5 per person, 537-2707.

• Fridays — Roxy’s Cafe Open Stage — begins at 8 p.m.

• Saturdays — Alresco Restaurant — Saturdays Berry plays piano starting at 8 a.m.

• Saturdays and Sundays — Hubbard’s Restaurant. Call Murray Anderson for lunch or dinner.

• Saturday — Salt Spring Inn — The Other Brothers play from 8 to 10 p.m.

Meetings:

• Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary monthly meeting — Lions Hall, Monday, January 22, 7 a.m.

Activities:

• Men’s Breakfast — a meal and discussion at United Church on the last Friday of each month. January 18, 8-10 a.m.

• Bingo at Mead Hall, Thursday, January 18, 6 p.m. (Early birds, 6:30)

• Meditation session on the Heart

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for seniors

• Burns Tea at Salt Spring Seniors, Wednesday, January 24 — see local paper.

Every Week:

• Surfing for Seniors day is every Wednesday at the Internet Cafe. Call 537-9932 for information.

• Thursday luncheons run every week at Salt Spring Seniors. Served at 11 a.m. and Reserve in advance by noon on Wednesday by calling 537-4604.

• Bingo for seniors in the OAP end of Fullbath Hall, every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m.

• Seniors sing-along at Salt Spring Seniors takes place every Thursday at 2 p.m.

Cinema

• Billy Elliot — Held over for three more shows. Much to the horror of the world of ballet, a ten-year-old boy takes ballet lessons. Julie Walters and young Jamie Bell (a real find) are set in Thatcher’s England. Incredible performances packed with emotion.

The Toy Library

• Robert’s first ever cinema comedy starring Nicole Cage as a single guy who wakes up one morning as a $50,000,000,000,000,000,000-year-old man. (To Leo and the father of two.)

Arts & Crafts

• Paul Bryans, by Thunderbird Gallery is showing An Introduction to the Roast Spring Restaurant through January and February.

• Maureen Garibino is showing a series of acrylics on paper at Luigi’s Italia.

• Charlene Stellard has her paintings on display at Bar’s Buns.

• Timothy Hume is showing acrylic paintings at Moby’s Pub through January.

• Salt Spring Painters Guild members will be holding an exhibition in the lobby areas of ArtSpring.

• Jack Avision is showing a retro collection of watercolour paintings at Salt Spring Roast Co. In January until 20.

• Lori and Kelly Hunsinger is hanging “Patterned,” a selection of oil paintings and drawings, at Roasting Co. in Ganges after January 20.

• Salt Spring Island Painters’ Guild meets Wednesdays at the Lions Club from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon. The program on January 24 features Randall Parker, a painter noted for his demonstrations. Bring some work for help in identifying your style and Parker will critique it and answer your questions.

• Salt Spring Island Weavers and Spinners Guild meets Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, offering programs, workshops, study groups, equipment rentals, library and publishing. Info: Pat Davidson, 635-4750.

for for

• Cosmic Bowling at Kings Lane Recreation Hall on Thursdays from 9 p.m. to midnight. Bring your own CDs. Food and drink available. Book a lane by calling 537-1537.

• Roller-riding to music on Fridays at Fullbath Hall, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Every Week:

• Oodies of Noodles with chef Bob Twelvetrees — make them from scratch at Salt Spring Cafe on Saturday, January 20, 2-3 p.m. Ages 6 and up $11, includes supplies. Register at Salt Spring, 537-0929.

• Pre-school card and board games — with teacher and games without teacher. Register on Mondays, 1-2 p.m. from January 22 to February 26. Ages 3-5 per class. Register by calling 537-0726.

• Classic Games — learn classic board and card games. Monday afternoons from January 22 to February 26, 3-4 p.m. For ages 8 and up. $6 per class. Register at Salt Spring, 537-0028.

Every Week:

• Monthly Plans

The Earthmen bring their...
High school dancers prepare to ‘dance with fire’

By ANASTACIA WILDE
Driftwood Staff

If music is the language of the soul, then dance is the spirit that exists to manifest its movement.

And what better way to view that fluidity than with Salt Spring teenagers dancing a rainbow of pieces in their semester-end performance this weekend?

A total of 35 Gulf Island Secondary School (GISS) students will twist, bend, leap, flex and spin their way through 16 dance movements, ranging in style from ballet to contemporary, jazz to swing, hiphop to modern. Many of the pieces are choreographed by the youth themselves, who have been preparing for months to present the climax of their year-long training.

“These kids are so creative. They are excited, they are keen and they just come up with these fantastic ideas,” said Sonia Langer GISS dance teacher. And what tools do the students require to accomplish their feats? Langer said it’s really quite rudimentary.

Give them the opportunity, space, time and encouragement to do it and they fly.

“They deserve the credit. They are the ones who are pulling it off and I’m just giving them the chance,” she said.

Langer contends that dance is the most bare, the most vulnerable and yet the most perfect of the performing arts.

Imagine the scene: The stage is empty. A lone dancer takes the floor. The floor is his script to clutch, no instruments to play, no words to veil the nervous body.

It is the dancer and her physicality alone which transports the story.

“Dance really does work on self-confidence and that’s so important for teenagers. There is nothing to hide behind,” the dance coach observed.

Langer landed on Salt Spring two years ago and wasted no time hoisting the GISS dance department to new heights. Along with drama and music teachers, she is working to edify a performing arts department at GISS for years to come.

Langer adds that dance is the dancer and her physicality which enhance youth in other areas.

“The long-term vision is to build the program in numbers and in quality,” she said. “The dance program is growing. There is a renewed interest in dance. People are in the studio at lunch, students training in the evenings.”

This year, 90 teenagers from grades nine through 12 opted for dance class, choosing from an arts curriculum that encompasses music, drama, dance and visual art. Aside from the obvious physical benefits of fitness, flexibility and balance, Langer said dance instills many secondary skills which is the spirit that youth in other areas.

“It takes a lot of team work,” she said. “It takes a lot of communication in groups. For each member to learn the moves, it takes cooperation and listening. This is the stuff of life. These are life skills.”

While this mode of physical expression has been primarily a female domain at GISS, Langer is hopeful more young men will catch the dance wave. The more boys who join the ranks, she said, the easier it becomes for the rest to follow suit. (Four of the 35 young dancers taking the stage Friday are boys, roughly 11 per cent.)

“Dance gives them a method of expression. The energy and the vibrancy of what dance means to the kids cannot be duplicated. It gives them a space to perform and move in ways that they want to,” Langer said. “And Langer should know of what she speaks.”

The dance instructor cannot recall a time when she didn’t dance or revel in the world of movement. Since graduating from York University’s dance program, she shot ahead like a race horse to teach the very subject that gives her own life vibrancy and meaning.

“The most basic form of communication happens with the body. It’s exhilarating to communicate in that way. It’s enlightening, invigorating and totally, completely uplifting,” she enthused.

Most of the students who prance the mat in GISS’ dance studio have no previous training whatsoever, said Langer, who sees this chance to develop and encourage a lifelong interest in dance.

“I’m excited with this new energy for dance that I see in the school and I’d like to take that and run with it. I hope that people come and see the performance. The kids have been working hard and this is a culmination of their efforts. The kids deserve a big audience.”

Bailar Con Fuego (Dancing with Fire) is a one-night, knock-your-pants-off presentation slated for Friday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m. Prices are $7 for students and seniors, $10 for adults.

Aside from covering the rental costs at ArtSpring, monies raised at Bailar Con Fuego are earmarked for a new sound system for GISS students. “The more dance we have at the high school, the more we build the dance audience on the island. And that’s good for everyone,” Langer said.

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BETTY IRENE HOLSOSE, widow of Ernestin passed away Wednesday, January 10, 2002, Sonata 18th, who was her shining husband Wilfred, her daughter Karen and her grandson Ryan and her son Bill of Bath Springs, will always be a part of our family. We will not be a Bath and a Spring Island service, but in lieu of flowers, a donation to the Cancer Society or her behalf would be appreciated. A special thanks to the residents of Bath Springs.

WILLIAM HOWARD was born on Friday, January 12, 2002, following an operation. Call the PSCA office for more info. (250) 537-4448. Cost is $10.00. We cannot begin taking fire extinguishers, North masks and much more during our large supply sale Feb 18, 2002, Peach Pils, Upper Ganges Cms, 585-5655.

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**Notice of Business Meeting**

The Gulf Islands Local Tourism Committee will be organizing a business meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2001. The meeting will be held at the Salt Spring Memorial Hall at 185 Bennett Street, Salt Spring Island, starting at 1:15 p.m. The meeting will include discussions on business matters and the local tourism industry. For more information, please contact Jonathan Yardley, Ph: 537-7865, Cel: 537-7973.
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Popular guitar-plucking singer
back for Core Inn benefit bash

One of Canada's foremost interpreters of traditional roots and blues music will perform at the Core Inn on Sunday afternoon.

Ken Hamm, who has won both a wide following and a spate of awards for his acoustic and steel body National guitar playing, will perform songs from his new CD called Across the River beginning at 2 p.m.

Hamm began touring solo in 1978 and has since become well known for his original songs that reflect rural west coast life.

This year he was nominated in the Best Acoustic Act of the Year by the Toronto Blues Society and was a featured performer at the Montreal Jazz Festival.

According to his website, "the most impressive thing about Hamm's music is how he is able to make the music he plays his own."

When you see Hamm in concert, it is obvious that he has absorbed, arranged and restated traditional blues and roots music, and made it current and original.

His ability to accompany himself with driving and intricate slide and acoustic guitar completes the mix.

The music fits him like the old work clothes that have been shaped by his labour in the woods of Thunder Bay, Ontario and his honest and direct character.

Hamm was raised in Thunder Bay, Ontario and began his musical pursuits as a teenager by listening to old country and blues recordings at the local folk record store.

After playing in local bands and performing in coffee houses around Thunder Bay, Hamm began traveling the folk circuit performing in venues ranging from house concerts to concert halls to major festivals.

Hamm is constantly on tour in Canada and the United States, playing festivals and concerts as a solo act or with other musical friends. For Sunday's concert, Hamm will be joined by Donna Konsorado, who wrote the title track on his latest CD.

Tickets for the January 21 show are $10, with $1 from the sale of each ticket being donated to the Core Inn Youth Project.

Tickets are available at Acoustic Planet and the Core Inn or by calling John and Michele Law at 537-4874.

The laws note the Core Inn space offers both great acoustics and a sound system.

There’ll be dancing in the wing

Dancing at ArtSpring?

You bet. Islanders of all ages are invited to try it out on Saturday, January 27 in "the wing" with the Runaways and their friends from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Vaugn Fulford, Leah Hansel, Bob Delion, Gary Lundy and Laurent Boucher are the Runaways, a cool new band that’s ready to take the wing for a test run.

"The new soundproofing makes it possible," says Fulford. "I know ArtSpring wants to see more stuff in there, and this is my way of saying 'something can be done in here now, so let's try it out!'."

Tickets are $10, and $5 for kids aged 12 and under, and on sale at ArtSpring.

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New piano gets grand new home

Johnnie Wells' free piano has found a perfect home with the Chipman family.

Wells sharpened her pen to create a catchy Too Late to Classify ad in the Driftwood last week, and was overwhelmed by both the response and the family who ended up with it.

"I couldn't be happier," said Wells Monday. "They're such lovely people."

"People are still phoning, saying 'who got the piano?' And everybody is overjoyed that somebody like them got it," she said.

Chip and Val Chipman and their sons currently run Kings Lane Recreation.

Wells explained that the piano had become a huge obstacle in her small house, and hadn't been played for years.

"(My husband) Barry was the pianist. He had a stroke and there wasn't any more piano playing, except from his memory, and he used to play with Madge (Kimball). He learned all the Schubert song cycles by heart."

So the piano became merely something to bump into, until it was picked up by the Chipman clan Monday.

Chip said the piano is "absolutely beautiful," and he and his family were thrilled to be able to receive it.

"I took lessons when I was 11 and 12, then my instructor died and I never went back to it," said Chip. "Now I'm going to pick it up again for lessons and learn to play it again."

Two of his daughters have also played the piano in the past.

Wells acknowledged her free piano ad was pretty creative, and that the humorous approach has worked for her in the past.

"I said I experimented for years. I'm going to pick a new area to work in," she said.

Wells explained that the piano is "absolute­ly beautiful," and he and his family were thrilled to be able to receive it.

"We live in such an incredible place and people are so generous," he added. "It felt so lucky to be the one to get this."

Earthmen rock Moby's

With an infectious groove fermented in youth spent on the Gulf Islands, the Earthmen are going places fast.

Their first full-length CD, Carbon, is almost set for release, and Moby's patrons can get a preview of the band's polished and progressive funk-rock sound this Friday and Saturday night.

Now based in Victoria and popular at city clubs, current band members are Matt Reid and Neil Kerrigan, who both handle guitar, bass and vocals; Morgan Kennelly, vocals and harmonica; and Pat Hayes on drums and percussion.

Music starts about 9:30.