Chance of ferry strike on hold

By MITCHELL SHERWIN
Staff Writer

A projected ferry strike might not sail as scheduled if B.C. Ferries and the marine workers union are able to find a common berth before their labour contract expires Friday.

“We are very hopeful we can continue our talks and come to a reasonable agreement we can all live with, without having to take any strike action,” said B.C. Ferries and Marine Workers Union (BCFMWU) president Jackie Miller in an interview Tuesday.

Part of her reason for optimism is that B.C. Ferries has moved from its previous “extreme position” during negotiations, Miller said.

“The company actually tabled new proposals yesterday that allow us to have some meaningful discussion and the union is working on our response to that,” BCFMWU also completed a strike vote of its 4,000 members Tuesday but results were not available at press time.

“We are actually holding a press conference in Vancouver Friday to announce the results of the strike vote,” Miller said.

But the chance of a strike has dramatically diminished in the last few days, she said.

Aquatic survey coming

* Related opinion pages 8 and 12.

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Islanders wanting to express their pool facility preferences — and more importantly how much they’re willing to pay for them — should keep their eyes open for the Salt Spring Island Aquatic Survey.

The questionnaire could be sent out to 1,000 randomly selected island mailboxes as early as Friday, although it may not appear until next week.

Produced by the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) through a joint committee with the indoor pool society SSPLASH and Professional Environmental Recreational Consulting (PERC), the survey solicits opinions on various pool options, from a full-featured indoor facility to a less expensive outdoor one.
Long-submerged body found on Mayne

A decomposed body was discovered Monday at Bennett Bay beach on Mayne Island by two tourists at 7 p.m. from North Vancouver. Coroner Bob Crossland said identification of the body was not possible at the scene.

FERRIES: ‘Has to be mutual gain’

From Page 1

“We wouldn’t be able to give our 72-hour strike notice until a couple of things are sorted out. First of all, the essential service levels have to be set, our contract has to be signed and the contract talks have to break down. None of that has happened yet,” Crossland said.

The Labour Relations Board is evidence-gathering on the possibility of meeting to set essential service levels if a strike were to occur, he noted. In 1977, a 10-day strike of B.C. Ferries workers saw service levels reduced to 50 per cent.

But the general public seems to expect a strike, more than they may be warrant ed, Miller said.

PRIVATE WATERFRONT RENTAL

Mayne Island Trust, CRD Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, November 8th

at the Lion’s Hall

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE/TOWN HALL SESSION

CRD BUDGET / SERVICING ISSUES

TRUST GOVERNANCE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

The Salt Spring fire department plans to lighten the evening — or at least the skies — at 5 p.m. on Friday. The department’s annual display will take place in Ganges Harbour, but not in Fulford this year.

Those wanting to watch the lights and enjoy music can do so at the Tree House Cafe in Ganges. Cafe owner Jill Thomas said people want to make the Tree House their “first stop,” where Derek Duffy and Bob Delton will be performing their own music.

“It’s the last outdoor music until next summer,” said Thomas. “It is a dance evening for sure.”

Fulford Inn hopes that parents who want to trick or treat on Hallowe’en can put up on hot drinks, mulled wine and candy. “We’re right in the big scene with costumes and fireworks,” said Thomas. “It ends at 9 p.m. so you can go and party afterwards.”

For individuals who want to get up and dance rather than sit, Moby’s Marine Pub and the Fulford Inn offer live music throughout the weekend. Auntie Kate and the Uncles of Funk play Friday evening — or at least the evening — or at least the evening.

“I am the last person who would do that,” said Miller. “We don’t need to worry about Vancouver.”

The two record sales were

THE ISLANDS TRUST

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Bill 48 passage ‘boggles’

By GAIL SUIBERG
Staff Writer

Islands Trust members and aquaculture critics were making some waves after the provincial government’s passage of Bill 48 on October 23.

The controversial bill — which was unanimously opposed by all local governments attending the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention in Vancouver last month — allows the province to designate “farming areas” that would be subject to “right-to-farm” legislation.

For the Gulf Islands the change could potentially mean overriding of the Trust prohibition on oyster farms in marine waters or loss of control over shellfish lease sites.

Salt Spring local trustee Kimberly Linenger, whose Bill 48 concerns helped spur the UBCM motion put forth by Islands Trust Council, said passage of the bill was “a huge disappointment.”

As the Hansard record showed, the government even failed to mention the strong UBCM opposition, she noted.

“The mind boggles that the MLA’s forgot to mention the unanimous opposition to the bill at the UBCM,” Linenger’s colleague Eric Booth was also amazed the UBCM motion put forth by Islands Trust Council, said passage of the bill was “a huge disappointment.”

The government did not recognize that all B.C. municipalities and the Islands Trust had unanimously rejected the bill.

“Exactly who is the province representing, if not the municipalities and communities? Industry? Corporations? The province, our creator, has once again shown that it chooses to do what it pleases, when it pleases.”

SPEAKING in the Victoria legislature last week, Agriculture Minister John van Dongen said Bill 48 was primarily a “clarification” of the original intention of right-to-farm legislation brought in by the previous government in 1995.

“The bill provides a mechanism for the province to designate Crown land for farming, including aquaculture, on the basis of information that identifies the area as a good area for aquaculture. This will not be done hastily or in isolation. The province, in consultation with local governments, first nations and others, will identify Crown lands that are suitable for aquaculture,” said van Dongen.

Linda Adams, director of Trust area services, has been following the Bill 48 issue.

“The government” indicated in debate that they would only [designate the farming areas] if a local government wasn’t reasoning about agriculture and aquaculture, and only after local consultation.

We have yet to see where, or, if anywhere, they think a local government is being unreasonable, although I think Baynes Sound may be an area where this designation could be considered.”

Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use, the group opposed to the shellfish hatchery being developed at Walker Hook, also criticized the government decision.

“The fact that the province believes it can govern better than the local communities is wrong. We elect local government to address local land use issues, not to have their control taken over by distant governments that need to pay attention to other issues such as the lumber dispute and health care,” said group member Gary Holm.

“It’s infatuation with mis-leading, get-rich-quick aquaculture schemes that puts the purses of some individuals above the public interest.”

Booth said Bill 48’s passage had again underscored how the provincial government overrides the Islands Trust and the mandate bestowed by the province.

“The over past couple of years we have all grappled with issues involving aquaculture, mining and forestry. In each case, provincial authorities have held the trump cards. We are a creature of the province, and our limited powers to uphold the provincially imposed mandate are, in fact and action, little but window dressing.”

CONSIDER STORAGE

SALT SPRING MINI STORAGE

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“When convenience and security matter”

POOL SURVEY

From Page 1

As PARC operations manager Dave Gibbon explained Tuesday, “One of the big questions is, of course, is the community prepared to pay for the type of facility that some people feel is really important, or are the majority of them prepared to just have a basic facility, or perhaps nothing at all.”

The survey also asks what amount of annual tax increase islanders are willing to shoulder for a new pool.

PARC finalized the survey draft at the in-camera portion of its Monday night meeting.

The commission and SSPLASH need to know how islanders feel about pool options in order to proceed with planning for PARC’s Rainbow Road recreation site.

“The reason for the survey at this time was to give the joint review committee a better picture of the community’s feeling about how much and what kind of a facility they really want,” Gibbon explained.

PARC has taken the process to a point where we are looking at the different options. Those on the cautious side are saying we need to look at an economical, basic facility. Those on the impatient side are saying ‘no, we want to go for a full-feature, not all the bells and whistles necessarily, but at least a facility that has a good leisure pool and lots of activities for seniors and teens . . . and also a junior Olympic type pool that the swim club can use’. . .”

The $12,000 survey project cost was split, although not in equal parts, between PARC, SSPLASH and the Capital Regional District.

“SSPLASH offered to go in on us that and have committed dollars to us, as has the regional director Gary Holtman.”

Aquatic questionnaire investors will not be available to anyone except people receiving them in the mail.

Any variation from the random sample method would give PARC skewed results, noted Gibbon.

A quick return of the survey is requested, with the deadline made clear on the final document that will be mailed.

“Once PARC gets them all back, the analysis starts and we get a very detailed report,” Gibbon explained.

A final report is expected by mid-December.

Gibbon observed that people who have shown an interest in the pool topic to date are generally well-informed.

“People on Salt Spring are probably more informed about this particular issue than a lot of communities . . . simply because it’s been around for a long time.”

But PARC’s aquatic survey isn’t the only one floating around the island this week.

The Salt Spring Island Library Association has published a survey form in this week’s Driftwood canvassing opinion about a new library location and islanders’ use of the current facility.

A long-term planning committee of the library board has been working hard to determine the options for future siting of Mary Hawkins Library, which will serve general and space issues addressed.

The most perfect grams comes out its external ornamentation but is altering the original material to stand forth, beautified by being green form.”

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“When convenience and security matter”
Crofton mill aims toburn tires, coal and ties

By MITCHELL SHERIN Staff Writer

The Crofton pulp mill has applied for a trial permit to burn used tires, coal and old railway ties as alternatives to fossil fuels for "kindling" in their boilers.

And even though it might seem counter intuitive, burning alternative fuels such as coal and tires could actually be better for the environment, says the company and provincial government staff.

"What we're looking for is improving the bottom line," said environmental supervisor Michael Vessey of NorskeSkanza Crofton Division.

"If you really want to get very wet and fuel and these supplemental fuels would be an alternative to the natural gas and oil that we currently use.

She gave an example of the pulp-mill burning process to explain the use of supplementary fuels in power boilers.

"If you think of a fireplace, you've got your wood burning on the fireplace. If you've got really wet wood, you might add something to get it to burn a bit better and that's what we do.

Currently, the Crofton mill adds natural gas and bunker "C" all above hog-fuel (waste bark) in a power boiler, but the supplemental fuels don't mix well with the hog fuel below she said.

The new alternative fuels are solids that could be mixed right in with the hog-fuel to increase burning temperatures.

"Basically, the better the burn, you can see it in your own fireplace, the less particulate you have coming out. The less emissions, the more efficient the combustion.

Coal has already been used as an alternative fuel at NorskeSkanza's mill at Powell River, while tire-derived fuel (TDF) has been used at Campbell River and Port Alberni, she said.

In separate trials, biomasses coal could be added at a maximum of 20 per cent of heating value. Alternatively, chipped railway ties could be added at 15 per cent of mass, or TDFs could be added at 10 per cent of mass.

"We've seen really good results: improved combustion, being able to burn the hog-fuel better, and improved emissions, or no impact on ambient air quality," NorskeSkanza mills at Port Alberni and Campbell River have already completed trial periods, and now have renewed permits, she said.

Consequently, the Crofton Division of NorskeSkanza applied for a 30-month trial to investigate the alternative supplemental fuels on August 28.

"We are really enthused about the results they're seeing and we want to try them here at Crofton."

NorskeSkanza is waiting for the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) to make a decision in their trial plan and is also planning an open house in November.

"If this makes sense economically for them and they get environmental improvements, everyone is happy. I see this as a win-win situation for everybody," said WLAP environmental protection officer Bernard Bintner.

"People have seen tires burning in an open burn situation and that's what they think of. We're not talking about that. We're talking about a sophisticated power boiler that they're putting the fuel in, in a controlled manner under conditioned conditions."

Results of each supplemental fuel trial will have to extend over an extended operational period, Bintner said.

"It's our responsibility to see proof before we can just say, 'Go ahead.' We're not operating on faith, we're operating on facts."

Theoretically, the alternative fuels could reduce air emissions because those fuels could promote more complete burning in the boiler, he said.

"The idea is to get increased combustion efficiency and they're built on other positive experiences from similar coastal mills."

WLAP is currently hearing responses from the public, he said.

"We're in the early stages of a trial at Elk Falls [Campbell River] and the results so far have been encouraging."

The ministry has also seen improved air quality at Port Alberni and Powell River as a result of similar processes.

"When looking at improving combustion efficiency and once you do that, it's like, 'Hey, you get less smoke... this is a good thing."

A study conducted by independent observers over the 30-month trial would measure if emissions are reduced and particulates.

"As far as we're concerned, we would expect improvements," said Bintner.

The Crofton mill plans to schedule an open house meeting later in November but a date has not been set.

For more information, contact Graham Kissack at NorskeSkanza (250) 246-6227.
Students prepare for Earth Charter

By CAREY RUDISILL  Staff Writer

Two Grade 12 students from Gulf Islands Secondary School (GIS) have been selected to attend an Earth Charter conference at Lake Cowichan Education Centre next month.

Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) selected Daniel Fogarty as its sponsored student for the event. Camille Schmah, another Grade 12 student, will be sponsored by GIS.

Fogarty is thrilled about the opportunity.

"With so many kids and adults into the same thing, it'll be exciting," he said.

Fifty-five B.C. students will attend the conference, one of 15 organized worldwide under the Earth Charter Initiative.

Called Explore the Earth Charter, it takes place November 8-11 as part of Inclusive Leadership Adventures for youth.

Sponsors for the event include Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society, the Cowichan Valley branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association.


The charter's major principles centre around respecting Earth and its life, caring for the community of life, the construction of just, democratic societies, and insuring protection of the world's resources and beauty for future generations.

The conference is also linked to Fogarty's interest in mediation in international conflict resolution.

For now, Fogarty hopes to bring back knowledge gained at the conference to his GISX peers and the community.

"I hope to do presentations at elementary schools," he said.

Jean Gelwicks, chair of the SSIC education committee, said the group would have preferred to send all the students who applied.

"We'd love to send everyone that's love to go, but we don't have that much money," she said.

Gelwicks said students were asked to write a letter for the selection process stating what they hoped to get out of the experience.

"We didn't want to make it daunting," said Gelwicks. "We have to make a choice with the hope that we'll be able to do this again."

Boat fire on coast guard list

In addition to transporting canoeor Bob Crossland to the scene of a found body on Mayne Island Monday, Ganges Coast Guard crews responded to a report of a boat on fire last Tuesday.

Members discovered the 26-foot vessel at the sailing club was not actually up in flames, said Tonell.

"It turned out to be smoke coming from some insulation which had fallen off and rested against the engine. That was that," he said.

Islands represented in electoral reform

Two Victoria residents were chosen in a random lottery to represent the Saanich-North Islands riding in the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

Diana Byford, a retired 63-year-old, and 51-year-old sales manager Cary Laing will meet with other assembly members throughout the next year to examine B.C.'s electoral system and determine if a better method can be applied.

The assembly, an independent and non-partisan group of B.C. residents, is still amassing more members.

The selection process is slated for completion by November 25. Then, a total of 155 B.C. residents, including a man and woman from each of the province's 79 electoral districts, will meet from January to March to learn about different electoral systems.

Afterwards, public hearings in May and June will allow B.C. residents to voice their concerns to the assembly.

A final report is expected from the group by December 2004.
Peace event closes with circle of hope

By CAREY RUDISILL
Staff Writer

The closing on Sunday, this seamless aspect of the production was evident as new speakers replaced individuals who were unavailable for the day.

“T was thrilled at how well it went together,” she said. “It was meant to be.”

At the closing on Sunday, this seamless aspect of the production was evident as new speakers replaced individuals who were unavailable for the day.

For the group circle, Aria Squire stepped forward to replace a missing moderator. As everyone settled into the circle, Squire told listeners that she planned to read a poem called “Agape lives between the spaces.”

She commented on what peace means to her, and asked other circle members to do the same.

One after another, audience members gave a word that they felt had a connection to peace. From understanding to joy, words flowed until the last person finished the litany of adjectives and verbs.

Squire urged people to close their eyes for three minutes and find peace.

“It’s within us,” she said. Maggie Schubart, another Peace Works! member and organizer for the day, said she was glad the festival included a community visualization exercise for world peace.

“One of the movements we do to visualize peace better off we are. Every community needs to do this,” she said.

Schubart was also glad to see numerous children throughout the three-day festival.

Peace; Maggie Schubart honoured with a peace award for being “an outstanding representative of the many people who have given countless hours over many years in the interest of world peace.”; Sally Sunshine in the peace circle; Mohammad Ahmed singing and playing the drums; and Maria Elser dancing for peace.

The festival, organized by the local group Peace Works!, was held from Friday to Sunday at Mahon Hall.

Jo-Ann Tymchuk, one of numerous organizers from Peace Works!, said the event was well attended, and showed community members’ support in numbers of participants and volunteers.

“T was thrilled at how well it went together,” she said. “It was meant to be.”

Please note that the public hearing respecting Bylaw No. 380 for the Waldorf School at 120 Stark Road will proceed as scheduled.

The Islands Trust apologizes for any inconvenience resulting from this change.
Tourism up last month

A 23 per cent rise in the number of September visitors to Salt Spring was recorded at the Tourist Information Centre.

This month's Chamber of Commerce newsletter noted 5,226 tourists visited the island during the month, up from 4,208 in September 2002.

"There was a 23 per cent increase," said chamber manager Perry Newport. "We've had 1,018 more visitors." Newport attributed the increase to a few factors.

"Definitely the weather," she said. "With the fire forest fires in the Interior, people changed their plans and came to the West Coast instead of going to the Interior."

The rest of the summer was busy with 24,372 tourists registering at the centre.

In June there were 4,399 visitors, 9,034 in July and 10,939 in August. In 2002, 4,423 individuals visited during the month of June, 9,828 in July and 12,888 in August, for a total of 26,539 summer visitors.

Including September, the tourist centre saw 40,046 tourists, compared to 40,682 for the same period in 2002. "It's very close," said Newport.

Advertising in magazines such as Voyager Touring Guide and newspaper articles have also increased individuals' awareness of the island as a vacation destination, said Newport.

"There was an article in the National Geographic last fall — in Traveler. The 12-page article included pictures," she said. The island's exposure reaches beyond North America. This year, Australian airline Quantas' in-flight magazine featured an article on Salt Spring.

The chamber newsletter manager also stated that a key element of its marketing program is the three tourist brochures available on ferries and mailed to individuals requesting more information on the area.

JACK O'LANTEEN: Toby Stubbs and Mike Shipley get into the Halloween spirit as they show off prizes in a Harlan's pumpkin carving contest. Carvers are invited to drop off pumpkins at the Ganges store and enter to win chocolate prizes in various categories. Harlan's is just one of several Salt Spring businesses urging islanders to bring out their carving knives for prizes.

PARC grants: helmets, goalposts and continuing education services

Three non-profit groups have benefited from round two of a Salt Spring Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) grant program implemented this year.

At PARC's Monday night meeting, the commission reported on a decision made at a previous in-camera meeting.

Grants included $1,000 to the Salt Spring Island Football Association for soccer helmets, and $3,000 to the island's youth soccer association to help with purchase of goal posts for the Mini-program and practices.

The Salt Spring Island Council for Community Education will receive $17,200. Five applications were received by PARC. Also at the October 27 meeting, commission members pondered whether or not drilling a well on the property would be a feasible option to using the North Salt Spring Waterworks District system.

PARC BRIEFS

More continuing education news is on the horizon. The approvals marked the second batch of grant disbursements from a $28,000 fund set aside by PARC for the purpose this year.

- Preliminary design work for Rainbow Road recreation site servicing has commenced.

PARC operations manager Dave Gibbon reported that engineering staff from Bullock Baur Associates Ltd. of Victoria visited the property Monday.

"Sewer and water issues are fairly straightforward," commented Gibbon.

Bullock Baur was the successful bidder to provide civil engineering design services at a cost of $17,200.

Five applications were received by PARC. Also at the October 27 meeting, commission members pondered whether or not drilling a well on the property would be a feasible option to using the North Salt Spring Waterworks District system.

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A solid piece of masonry

Where once a maus was a risen brick wall. Such is the divide between members of the subcommittee charged with examining the matter of short-term vacation rentals (STVR). Salt Spring’s current controversy in progress.

The optimists among us, who saw the establishment of the committee as a way of addressing problems emanating from leisure houses to their tourism, were naïve. Surely the move could be crossed from both sides. But no one reckoned with the committee’s bricklaying skills.

It has been an intriguing experiment whose success can only be measured once the process has been concluded. The committee’s report must go first to the Advisory Planning Commission and then to the Local Trust Committee.

But it remains a disappointment that entrenched views didn’t change during several months of weekly meetings of the subcommittee. Not that there was much in the way of solid information for committee members to consider. The intended research has only just begun, which is odd considering the committee is about to make its report.

The minutes themselves indicate, in excruciating detail, that little real progress was made in identifying what the STVR problems were. There was little more than the same anecdotal stuff we’ve been hearing for a year or more, with little or no evidence to back it up.

This is frustrating for committee members who have given the legalization of STVRs, and perhaps for those who are neutral on the subject.

But it doesn’t matter to their opponents, for reasons which have not been wholly evident until now. This is more about the power of the people over land use issues than it is about commercial activity on residential property. There is a strong desire on the part of many to see the Islands Trust enforce its bylaws and ensure the preservation and protection values expressed by the community.

STVRs have become the lightning rod for enforced land use controls. The plan, therefore, is to be regarded as something of a sacred scripture. Change it to accommodate everyone’s concerns and you have created a slippery slope and a wedge’s thin edge in one fell swoop.

There are valid concerns on both sides of the STVR battle. The challenge for the APC and the Trust will be to recognize and address them.

Indoor or outdoor: competitive swimmers just need a pool

By SUSAN LUNDY

One of Salt Spring’s biggest pool users has remained quiet on the indoor/outdoor pool debate.

The Salt Spring Aquatic Society, which runs the Steigerwalt swim team, has chosen to remain “apoli-
cal” on the issue. Parents and swim-
ners are welcome to join SSPASH’S push for an indoor pool, or express other viewpoints on the issue, as long as they don’t claim to represent the society.

So I’m not writing on behalf of the aquatic society, of which I am currently president. But I can speak for myself and a number of friends who are parents of competitive swimmers and have strong feelings on all issues related to “pool.”

Many opinions recently expressed in the Driftwood are wrong.

I’m left-handed. So are about 10 per cent of the people in North America. Over the past several decades, many studies — some academic, some interesting and some just plain weird — have been conducted into left-handedness.

Is it genetic? Cultural? Is there a relationship between left-handedness and eye-colour? Left-handedness and left-right life-expectancy? Left-handedness and intelligence? (For us left-handers, intelligence is a co-conspirator.)

A few short years ago, left-

handedness was associated with nastiness, evil and witchcraft. (Which makes one wonder why the B.C. Liberals aren’t considered a party of the left.)

Luckily, a few hundred years ago, some left-handed leaders showed up at the right time and declared that it was no longer right to condemn the left.

As a result, we’re starting to get a feeling that the end of the bread bag is near.

Some of the greatest minds and talents of past centuries were left-handed. In the arts we had Da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo and Picasso. In music we had Beethoven, Schumann, McCartney and Starr. (Fifty per cent of the Beatles were left-handed.)

When it comes to great contributions to the world we had Einstein, Aristotle, Newton and Buddha. (Before you start writing letters to the editor, I’m talking about Jake Lundy from Idaho. He invented the little plastic thing that fits on the end of the bread bag to keep it fresh.)

It wasn’t easy for us — and it’s not easy now. When a left-handed starts school he has to adapt to a backwards world.

Dragging your hand over the letters carefully draws messes they mess up. Training is needed to make it easier.

When I became an air traffic controller things got even worse. Most of the time, I was sitting in front of a radar screen, one of them talks to all the aircraft and the other does everything else that needs doing. The coordinating with other controllers and most importantly, record keeping.

That’s done by simple handwriting. Symbols and numbers to depict the altitude, heading, speed and other critical information about each aircraft. All this stuff keeps the airplanes running into each other — which is the whole point of air traffic control.

It didn’t take long for word to get around that when I was on shift I should always be “talking to the airplanes” controller. Rather than a “data” controller. Letting in on the data chair often led to hilarious stories of near disas-

Left-handed compliment

JOSEPH POTTINGER

That’s why our important info about each airplane is written on a strip of paper that must be held in his hands. The radar-and-talking-to-the-airplanes person. What I can do is reliable but not readable.

Conversations often went on for quite a long time. Not completely, close. I almost climbed that jumbo jet to five thousand feet. Your "twe" looks like "frees." I didn’t have the courage to tell him it was a "twe."”

The last time I worked as the data person was a very busy day. The other controller and we were working fast and furiously for three hours or so, with him talking and me listening, and me asking what the heck this or that symbol stood for, and then we were his break and two other controllers sat down and took over. Our heads fell off and headed out-side for a quiet stroll.

In the case after a busy session of talking non-stop for a few hours, we did all we could to stay on top of it for the first 10 minutes of our walk. Eventually we came to the conclusion that we had worked for 1,000 people and not a moment passed, both of us sitting quietly, our heads leaning back against the bench, our eyes closed, each with our own thoughts. Then, quietly and without opening his eyes, Dave said, “Are you sure you’re left-handed?”
Vacation rental fight is all about the money

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

by Peter Vincent

Ooohh! I feel so... so violated! It’s about money. All. About. Money.

The B&Bs on this island have nothing to worry about. Despite horrendous ferry lineups and “peak season” ferry ticket prices, transportation problems and no Starbucks, tourists are booking to this island. Do you know what the vacancy rate on B&Bs is in the summer? Tourists are more than willing to sign up their unborn children for a couple of days’ accommodation here in the height of the summer. Go to the Chamber of Commerce and ask them what the vacancy rate is. Zero. There is plenty to go around.

Call me selfish, but I really enjoy a latte at the Moka House and the more than occasional_boîte maker at the Oyster Catcher. These businesses are thriving because they provide something that the B&B is not. And the B&Bs are just fine with that, aren’t they?

Vacation rentals are decimating Salt Spring. The area is a Save our Big Banks, and they are not keeping up with the demands of the community, and I will not allow that to happen. I will fight to ensure that the community is protected, and I will make sure that the B&Bs are held accountable for their actions.

Is it a taxation issue? Are the B&Bs trying to escape their fair share of local taxes? If they are, I will change the rules. I will make sure that the vacation rental people will be more than willing to pay any taxes that the B&Bs are paying. And I will be the one forcing them to do so. The B&Bs have been provided with all the tools they need to succeed, and I will ensure that they use them to their advantage.

What we need here is a realistic check. We need to ensure that the B&Bs are paying their fair share of local taxes. If they are not, I will change the rules. We need to ensure that the community is protected, and I will make sure that the B&Bs are held accountable for their actions.

Is it a matter of personal opinion? Is it a matter of the community’s well-being? If it is, then I will fight to ensure that the community is protected, and I will make sure that the B&Bs are held accountable for their actions.

We need to ensure that the community is protected, and I will make sure that the B&Bs are held accountable for their actions. We need to ensure that the community is protected, and I will make sure that the B&Bs are held accountable for their actions.

I will fight to ensure that the community is protected, and I will make sure that the B&Bs are held accountable for their actions. I will fight to ensure that the community is protected, and I will make sure that the B&Bs are held accountable for their actions.

I am asking you to join me in this fight. I am asking you to join me in this fight. I am asking you to join me in this fight.

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Insult added

Another step in the face for the south end is inflected by the Salt Spring Island Fire Department.

Surely it was enough to fire, without just cause, a long-serving, outstanding captain of the fire department, but to answer our objection to injustice by taking away from our children the Hallem’s leaving a Drummond Park certainly adds insult to injury.

MARY DAVIDSON, Fulford Harbour

Health roulette

It has been interesting to see Cowichan Valley newspaper letters making the link between Norske’s air pollution and Russian Roulette for a tax break. But, there’s been no mention of the fact that Norske’s application to burn coal, railway ties and rubble in a stone quarry will affect the air quality in the area regardless of what happens to taxes.

Let’s take just one extra pill and we will be breathing if Norske gets its way: mercury. Coal burning is the number one source of mercury pollution in our environment. Mercury is a powerful neurotoxin, affecting every system in the body.

If Norske and the B. C. government get their way, both Norske and the B. C. government are no known doses in young children. Just a readers Rock Russell Roulette with the mercury pollution in Fulford-Ganges Road.

A gravel quarry off concern, including MATI for a tax and perhaps Vancouver for an indoor leisure pool.

If Norske and the B. C. government get their way, both Norske and the B. C. government are no known doses in young children. Just a readers Rock Russell Roulette with the mercury pollution in Fulford-Ganges Road.

A gravel quarry off concern, including MATI for a tax and perhaps Vancouver for an indoor leisure pool.

More letters

More letters

J. CAMPBELL, for SRRA, Stewart Road

No harm

We are objecting to no objection to paying for a licence for short-term summer rentals like any other business on the island that provides accommodation.

However, we cannot understand how our small family business is having Salt Spring in any way. We believe that vacation rentals provide a unique service and are complimentary to existing facilities.

We own a 1930s oceanfront bungalow on the island, which we rent for the week for part of the summer. It has been in the family for 40 years and the mother lived there until she died five years ago. We also rent during the winter to a family from an outer island whose children attend school on Salt Spring. We will find it difficult to keep this property if we are denied the income from summer rentals.

We follow careers in places other than Salt Spring. Still, our hearts remain with the island. We visit as often as we are able, and spend time and energy on upkeep and restoration of the home’s 1930s character.

If forced to make this decision, we would likely be torn down and replaced by a much larger home, and more likely to be occupied for part of the year.

It is very unlikely that this expensive waterfront property could ever contribute to the island’s long-term rental market.

We think it unfair to state our hard work and our dreams hijacked by misinformation from a few.

RORY and JIM O’DONNELL

Vancouver and Duncan

Less scary

Thanks to Mr. Best for giving us his opinion again in last week’s letters to the editor.

Whereas he is quite right in saying that the operating costs of whatever property end up with a key financial issue, he is quite wrong in quoting an annual figure of between $600,000 and $950,000 for an indoor leisure pool.

Current research points to a figure of $340,000. It’s still a considerable sum, but far less scary, especially as this is before any receipts are taken into consideration. This would leave a deficit for the business.

We urge the public to continue clarifying these issues. As with AirSpring, a library on CRD land would have to be CRD-owned, but would have autonomy over its own operations.

Ultimately, the library board will decide on the location it wants to pursue after consulting with the community, but there is much more at stake here than dollars. It’s too bad the Driftwood would rather throw mud than play a constructive role in the debate.

GARY HOLMAN, CRD director

More letters

Not cruddy

If we truly want an inclusive healthy and thriving community, one basic action would be to stop pointing fingers and start concentrating on improving our own behaviour.

Last week’s editorial deriding the Capital Regional District – “CRD seems an appropriate name” – for them is unacceptable! CRD wants-in-kind have helped counted community groups over the years, not to mention the many excellent services that the board provides us with.

NINA RAGNIUS

Walter Bay

MORE LETTERS 11

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Environmental Services

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

GANGES SEWER LOCAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Ganges Sewer Local Service Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2003 at 7 p.m. at the Salt Spring Island Baptist Church, Lower Auditorium, Salt Spring Island, BC.

Residents of the Ganges Sewer Local Service Area are Welcome to Attend –

CRD Environmental Services

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

SALT SPRING ISLAND LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL LOCAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2003 at 7 p.m. at the Salt Spring Island Baptist Church, Lower Auditorium, Salt Spring Island, BC.

PUBLIC WELCOME –
Fallacy

I believe that short-term vacation rental properties are a threat to Salt Spring Island.

For years, they have provided a home environment for visiting families who would otherwise not find appropriate or suitable accommodation.

I purposely use the term "home" instead of "house" or "property.

Families want and prefer to stay in a home setting, which allows them privacy and space. Anybody with children certainly understands and appreciates that.

We all accept the fact that summers are indeed busier than other times of the year.

Firstly, B&Bs and other vacation rental properties provide a home environment for visiting families who would otherwise not find appropriate or suitable accommodations.

When the tourists come, the community benefits from their visits.

Money spent on food, souvenirs and recreation is a fallacy.

We all accept the fact that tourism brings visitors to Salt Spring Island.

The concerns we hear about are not serious.

The issue of excess water consumption is a fallacy.

The concern about traffic is a fallacy.

But what about spiritual issues?

Surely you must agree that it is a fundamental part of life — maybe not to you, but to a large segment of our population.

Spirituality has nothing, or very little, to do with "religion."

I am not talking about dogma — things that you must believe — but simply things that one may find helpful in dealing with "daily life:" things which have nothing to do with competition, commerce or rules regarding burning, supporting this or that politician in office, etc.

Of course when you think made us, never mind created us.

Oh, sure, we can get by without asking these fundamental questions, but where are we headed if we don't?

Sure, we can see ourselves and others being "victims" to our circumstances, our position in life, being a welfare recipient or a successful merchant, an efficient health-care worker, or whatever.

Whatever these classifications, of course, I include teachers of all kinds, emergency workers — male or female — and politicians of whatever stripe.

Who or what do you think made us, never mind created us?

I purposely use the term "house," instead of "property."

I believe that short-term vacation rentals are an asset to Salt Spring Island.

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

More letters

Reasons to support Vacation Rentals on Salt Spring

ASTAR (Association for the Short Term Accommodation Rentals) invites the public to participate in the Public Meeting, called by the Local Trust Committee, on Oct. 30th, at 7 p.m., at the Curling Hall.

The Report from the Resource Sub-committee on Vacation Rentals, which will be presented, is available in advance at the Islands Trust Office.

As members of this Community, the feedback that we are receiving shows that many people need to know more about Vacation Rentals. The concerns we hear about are linked to other issues.

Should you have any confusion because of the rumours around the Vacation Rental issue, please plan to attend.

Here are some of the reasons to support Vacation Rentals, which we offer for your consideration.

- There are at least 50 clauses in the Official Community Plan (OCP) that support the inclusion of Vacation Rentals (VRs) on Salt Spring Island. There is only one clause in the wording of bylaw 355 that causes them to be illegal. If the bylaw was amended as the OCP suggests that it may be, and then Vacation Rentals could be legalised.
- VRs bolster the economy. They create jobs locally. (OCP - B.1.10 & B.3.2.1.4)
- VRs benefit local shop owners, artisans, restaurateurs, and trades people via the infusion of tourist dollars into the community. A conservative estimate on local spending ($1000.00 per day) by VR guests in our community is calculated to be between $1,500,000 and $2,000,000, from June to Sept. and excludes the amount paid for accommodation.
- VRs have a rooted tradition on the island. For decades Salt Spring has been a holiday spot. And ever since people have had holiday homes or cottages on the island they have been lending or renting them out. It is one of the ways people have been able to maintain a home on the island. (OCP - B.1.6.1 & B.3.2.1.1)
- VRs are environmentally and socially "low-impact." They are simply houses being used as temporary homes for visitors, dispersed throughout the island. They use no more water than the average home on the island. They use no more power than the average home on the island. The average vacation rental booking is for fewer than four people. (OCP - B.1.3.1.1.6 & B.3.2.1.2)
- Most B&Bs do not permit families or pets. Vacation rentals allow families the opportunity to come visit Salt Spring Island and experience the island uniquely, in their "own home," and as a part of a neighbourhood.
- Many communities, in part depend on tourism have developed new residential zoning that allows Vacation rentals. Contrary to what we are being told, Vacation Rentals are legal in Whistler. They are also legal in Squamish, Lillooet, and Pemberton, the San Juan Islands, as well as in places such as Coffs Harbour and Chittering Australia and County Cork in Ireland. Communities are moving towards making VRs a part of the Home Based Business Regulations, or creating a Sub-zone for VRs, with a Permitting process.
- Vacation Rentals do not infringe on conservation lands, do not detract from the rural aspect of the island or consume resources beyond the properties capacity. (OCP - B.1.6.4)
- VRs are a creative way for islanders to earn part of their living that is compatible with and does not hinder the islands beauty and character. (OCP - B.1.10.2)
- Vacation Rentals are in fact no more commercial than other accepted businesses run in residential zones, i.e., B&Bs, craft studios, dentist practices, and law offices.

Those who are most vocally lobbying against Vacation Rentals are calling for the proactive enforcement of bylaw 355. This type of enforcement would also average the home. The average vacation rental of seasonal cottages and basement suites. Other infractions, such as the # of employees, the provision of off street parking, improper signs, using more the allowance etc., and other regulations in Home Based Businesses, would have to be enforced. Perhaps a better resolution would be to change the bylaw to better suit the community's needs.

Do I believe in God? Yes, certainly.

Do I think everybody should believe the same things I do? Certainly not.

FRANCOIS JAUBERT, Corbett Road

Support

We would like to thank the many hundreds of Islanders who signed the petition for our reinstatement.

If you have any confusion because of the rumours around the Vacation Rental issue, please plan to attend.

FRANCOIS JAUBERT, Bruce Patterson, Salt Spring
Adequate time should be taken to build indoor pool

IN RESPONSE

By WAYNE TAYLOR

Many people in our community want an indoor pool. Salt Spring is one of a very few communities of our size which does not have an indoor pool. We have long desired such a pool and now we have reached the time when we can afford it, if we go about it in a reasonable and responsible manner.

The question is whether we can afford to pay the operating expenses and the capital construction costs after fundraising and grants are received from the government.

The cost of constructing an indoor pool could be approximately $4,500,000 if Option 4 is selected. If the community is to have a pool, it must earn that privilege by reaching the funds to the level of at least $1,000,000. And we must apply for government grants for up to $2,000,000, such as the federal/provincial infrastructure grant.

The capital cost of the pool must be reduced as much as possible before construction begins, as the operational cost will always be significant.

Here's my analysis of the capital cost implication if the indoor pool was financed by the Municipal Finance Authority. The interest rate is seven per cent with one per cent for a capital reserve fund. The cost of borrowing is slightly over 10 per cent of the principal; that would be $450,000/year based on borrowing $4.5 million, or $350,000 if $3.5 million were financed.

The $1,500,000, the payments would be $150,000.

Of the more than 100 public swimming pools in B.C., and more than 200 in Canada, we are responsible people. Therefore, we must make the right decision for the results with our local situation.

An indoor pool of the right size for Salt Spring Island would be staffed with three to five full-time people and have about 15 part-time positions. This would account for about 75 per cent of the capital for the pool's operating expenses. The cost of operating about 40-50 weeks of the year with appropriate hours of operation would need careful study. It is always difficult to estimate revenues. We must consider the actual facility, its program and our demographic characteristics.

Swimming pools are used by 30 and 40 per cent of the people in many communities, a higher percentage than for any other public facility.

Leisure pools are an acknowledged asset in swimming pools throughout Canada and indeed in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and much of the United States. All the pools built in the past 15 years have utilized leisure concepts, meaning programs that let you get your money's worth in a reasonable and responsible manner.

We need a quality facility in order to reduce operating expenses. An indoor swimming pool can be part of our community in the next few years if we continue with our fundraising, obtain federal and provincial grants and keep operating expenses at a reasonable level.

Before a pool is built, we must have the approval of the taxpayer. An indoor pool can only be built on Salt Spring if we construct and manage it in a constructive and responsible manner. Let us do our time and do it properly.

The writer was involved with the 1987 referendum campaign to construct a pool on Salt Spring and the swimming pool society which established Shelby Pool.

NEW! NEW! NEW!

2004 Calendars

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RELIABLE DELIVERY
By CAPT. DAVE BADIOR
I am writing in response to an October 12 Province newspaper column written by Michael Smyth, which criticized “gravy trait” overtime provisions of the B.C. Ferries workers contract. A couple of minor corrections.

The industry standard for overtime in most of the rest of the marine community on this coast is in fact time and a half. Not double time like those “greedy” ferry workers.

The problem is that the overtime in those other marine unions is calculated in hourly increments. I am reasonably certain that those drowning-in-gravy ferry workers would much rather get an hour and a half pay versus the hour they get now for one minute’s worth of overtime.

The reason that ferry workers argue about one minute’s worth of overtime is simple. B.C. Ferries has built schedules that are imposed upon the employees.

Years ago when the “V” class ships were originally built, they carried many fewer vehicles than they do now. Then various government departments stretched and filled these ships and increased their capacity, finally crowding out the “Spirit Class” in the early 90’s.

The problem is that the schedule has stayed the same, whereas 30 years ago the ship was expected to load 180 vehicles and about 800 passengers and unload the same amount in 26 minutes. Today the same “Spirit” class is used to carry 355 vehicles and 2,048 passengers.

Surely the ferry workers have become extremely efficient. If only those darn passengers could drive and walk a little faster, I am certain that the ferry workers would not get that overtime. Remember that overtime is a penalty to the employer, not a benefit to the employee. It is gravy for workers, boat crews, and newspaper printers — you name it. If they get held beyond their regularly scheduled hours of work they are compensated (and the employer is penalized) for the employee’s loss of time with their families, etc.

To address the $5 million in overtime those greedy ferry workers got last year, $1,805.684 of that alone was what ferry workers had to work on their days of rest. What that means is that if someone didn’t come in on their “weekend” and work, a ferry would not have run. Those figures are readily available from BCFS — just ask them for the employee status codes for employees who work on a non-regulated workday.

Now that $1,8 million figure does not mean much, but I will put it into perspective another way. When the number of Days Per Crew are looked into, a department, an interesting picture develops:

In 2001 last year, if a captain did not come in to work on his days off, a ferry would not have sailed.

For 406 days, a chief engineer did not come in on his days off, a ferry would not have sailed.

634 days for the second engineer.

773 days for the third or fourth engineer, and these are entry-level certificates.

The problem B.C. Ferries has is that no officers want to work there. Thank goodness B.C. Ferries is a private company now and we don’t have to worry about government interference and continued mis-management by the same management team that has been here for the past 15 years.

The writer is president of the Ship’s Officers Component of the B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers’ Union.

Ferry workers ‘gravy boat’ a myth
Post office reno opens up mailbox and retail space

Salt Spring residents will notice changes this winter when they mail their packages at the Ganges post office.

Canada Post superintendent Terry Watchman said the Ganges post office is being renovated to increase space for displaying retail merchandise.

Watchman said Canada Post looks at town populations and locations when planning outlet changes, and that Ganges' popularity as a tourism centre made it a natural for the alterations.

He said the plans have been "on the books" for over a year. "This is something Canada Post does on a continuous and ongoing basis, according to the offices that do the best," he said.

Renovations will increase the use of a customer lobby and merchandise area to allow for the display of more projects, said Watchman. "Canada Post today is more than just postage stamps," he said. "We've got quite a range and variety of retail products, including our own packaging and Canadian mint coins.

In order to increase the retail space, Watchman said they "squeezed the workplace somewhat." "My office will disappear," commented Ganges postmistress Lynda Traer.

Her work space will move to the back of the post office. Customers can also expect to see visible changes in the counter area. "There will be brand new mail boxes," said Traer. "Overall there will be more boxes and fewer large boxes."

Projected completion date is the third week of November.

MAIL MOVES: Ganges post office employee Barb Bird puts away mail in the current mail boxes, which will be replaced as part of renovations now underway.

Unitarian meeting set for Sunday

People interested in forming a Salt Spring Island group of the Unitarian Service are invited to a November 2 event.

An event is set for 10:30 a.m. on Sunday at the Moose Lodge in Duncan. A free lunch is provided.

Islanders should keep their chimneys clean

A Saturday evening chimney fire at a Cranberry Road home re-enforced the importance of a good chimney cleaning.

"The owner said it hadn't been cleaned for at least two years," said fire chief Dave Enfield. "We recommended that at least twice a year but it depends on the extent of your burning." Enfield said there were additional risks.

"We found the people didn't have any smoke alarms. We temporarily solved it for him and put some in."

Last Friday firefighters responded to an extremely small fire that had dangerous potential.

A candle left burning in the mantle it was resting on, "When we spring forward and fall back, we ask people to check the batteries in their smoke detectors at this time," said Enfield.

The Living Word

I tell you the truth no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.

John 3:3

WIN SOME WHITE
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Salt Spring youth soccer teams fight for wins

*Salt Spring Roadrunners U11 girls nailed a 1-0 win over Prospect Lake in a home game at Portlock Park Saturday.*

### SOCCER KICKS

Although the Roadrunners pressed hard in the first half with shots on goal by Sierra Lundy, Grace Morgan and Jody Pringle, the Prospect Lake keeper kept the ball out of the back of the net.

Coaches noted impressive play by Hans Mulder, who kept the ball moving to the outside and up the field, Liz Fennell, who nailed a few headers, and Sofía Sherrin, who battled hard on defense.

Five minutes into the second half, Lundy trapped a pass from Brittny Witherspoon and put the ball in the net to give Salt Spring a one-goal lead.

The Roadrunners continued pressing and passing well. At one point, Jenna Park broke free with the ball and passed it to Pringle, who gave it a good kick, but the Prospect goalkeeper made a nice save.

- The Salt Spring Devils U12 Boys played off-island against Gorge last weekend, winning their game 4-1.
- Ashlee Baldwin played a strong first half in goal as Gorge dominated the first 20 minutes of play.
- Although Gorge held control, they had little goal luck against Bachman and Salt Spring’s strong defensive line, which included tight control by midfielder Keegan Pearson.
- Ben Match scored the team’s first goal on a breakaway pass by Kean Brown. Then Walter Rottman carried the ball all the way up the field, providing Much with another goal-scoring opportunity.
- Katelyn Girard became a wall in midfield; and Kaeli Dragomir in the midfield.
- The U14 silver boys brought home another win while shutting down Cheamian Xtimes at Sherman Park on Saturday.
- Colby Little scored the first goal when the Strikers’ keeper fumbled the ball.
- Number two came when Isaac Raddysh landed a beautiful ball in the left-hand corner, leaving in and out of the opposition, to score another beautiful goal.
- Brandon Shaw scored in net, thwarting any attempt to score by the opposing team.
- Matt Miller and Cameron Barter worked well together on the forward line, and Liam Krayenhoff landed a beautiful pass from Brittany Oswell and Morgan on defense, Rosalie Baldwinson on the forward line, and Kaeli Dragomir in the midfield.
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### ON THE BALL

At right Salt Spring U12 girls player Katie Girard concentrates on the ball, while above, Salt Spring U11 Roadrunners enjoy their halftime oranges.

- Salt Spring U15 Strikers boys played a fast and physical match-up against Cordova Bay Villas, but came out with a 5-2 loss.
- Ten minutes into the first half, outside midfielder Liam Johnston chipped the ball through the opponents to on-rushing striker Kirby Garside, who found the back of the net with a perfectly placed acrobatic shot over the keeper.
- However, Cordova Bay answered back with two quick goals 10 minutes later.
- Then the Strikers drew the game even from a set play when outside midfielder Bob Byron threw a long ball to DJ Lake who split the opponent’s midfield with a pass to Garside.
- Garside took on two defenders and the keeper for the Strikers’ next tally. Cordova Bay added one more in the closing minute of the first half.

Strikers defending midfielder Alex Hannah and centre back Elaad Brounstein denied the Villas any scoring chances through the central zone, but Cordova was able to add two more on flanking runs early in the second half.

Although down three goals, the Strikers were never out of the game with the midfield continuing to make the most of it, creating several brilliant scoring chances, only to be denied repeatedly by the Villa keeper.

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**or by appointment.**

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**UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Nov. 1</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Bays Utd</td>
<td>Royal Athletic Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Nov. 2</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Powell River</td>
<td>Timberlane Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Nov. 16</td>
<td>2:15pm</td>
<td>Gordon Head</td>
<td>Portlock Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Nov. 29</td>
<td>2:15pm</td>
<td>Cowichan</td>
<td>Portlock Park</td>
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**Check our website game day for changes**

**www.salt springsoccer.com**
Vic West’s offensive style challenges Dragons’ play

Salt Spring’s women’s soccer team felt there was an extra player on the field during their 3-0 Sunday loss to the Division 2 Vic West team.

Less practice time and Vic West’s strong offensive style hindered the Dragon’s play behind the Dragon’s play. West’s strong offensive style was a challenge to Dragons’ play. In the Sunday game, said assistant coach Joanne O’Connor.

The play kept bunching on Vic West’s strong offensive style. At half-time, coach Sue King laid out a new strategy, said O’Connor. After a few test runs, the Dragons stabilized and were able to dominate a few plays.

Two Dragons’ players work stood out during the game, she said. Alternate player Kim Hendess helped support the team during her first game of the season. Valeri Cunningham assisted play with long balls up the wing and helped control passing in the midfield.

On several occasions, Vic West drove in and shot at the Dragons net. Several shots were cleared by defenders. Robin Little and Lorna Walde, and others were scooped up by keeper O’Connor.

Midway through the first half, the home team punched through the Dragons line. Two players took on O’Connor and the second striker tapped the ball into the goal.

The dragons re-grouped and rallied with a stronger effort, but within 10 minutes Vic West had a multi-player breakaway. We s t drove in and shot at the Dragons net. Several shots were cleared by defenders. Robin Little and Lorna Walde, and others were scooped up by keeper O’Connor.

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The dragons re-grouped and rallied with a stronger effort, but within 10 minutes Vic West had a multi-player breakaway.
This event is a fundraiser for Fulford Hall.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**
10 am-2 pm

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### Thursday, October 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>TBS</td>
<td><em>The Simpsons</em> (9:00 PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>FOX</td>
<td><em>Family Guy</em> <em>American Dad</em> (9:00 PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>ABC</td>
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<td>CBS</td>
<td>* CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*</td>
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<td>NBC</td>
<td><em>American Horror Story</em></td>
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<td>FOX</td>
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### Friday, November 1

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Reserves enjoy ‘hat sale’ against beleaguered Native Wolves squad

By MITCHELL SHERRIN

Salt Spring’s FC Reserves asserted supremacy in Division 6 with one fell swoop when they downed the Native Wolves 14-0 at Shoreline high school field Sunday.

“The amount of goals and assists is mind-boggling,” said FC Reserves coach-manager-player Mike Brown.

According to the Vancouver Island Soccer League website (www.visl.bc.ca), Salt Spring scored more goals in one game than seven teams have scored this season.

“ Colin [McDougal] scored the prettiest goal of the game. It was a left-foot rocket from 20 yards out; a laser that just dipped under the bar,” said Brown.

McDougal alone scored five goals and two assists versus the Wolves. Tom Berry nabbed another three goals and five assists, Neil Korgian had three goals and an assist, Joel Berry had two goals and Ryan Wellington earned four assists.

If Brown had kept track of second assists, Joel Berry would have led the team, he said.

At Gorge there were two beautiful shots on goal that nearly added to the tally, but the Wolves keeper sacrificed his body to make the saves.

“He who is known as ‘Buttercup’ also got a goal on the penalty kick,” Brown said laughing.

Cryptically, Brown insisted that the moniker was “submerged” by one of the Wolves, who took out his legs when he jumped up to hit a header, Brown said.

“So, I still haven’t heard how he is. He went to VGH.”

The offending player was red-carded and ejected from the park, Brown noted.

“We really did play gentlemanly soccer,” Brown said. “We wouldn’t drop to their level. I’m so proud of the guys that they didn’t falter in their focus.”

The islanders next play the Lakehill Whitecaps at Portlock Park at 2:15 p.m. Sunday.

Weary Old Boys unlucky versus Castaways

By MITCHELL SHERRIN

Staff Writer

Despite a tremendous 40-yard goal-scoring shot by defender Lyle Brown, the Old Boys lost 2-1 at Arbutus Park against the Castaways Sunday.

“Our layoff of nearly three weeks took its toll in our timing and our fitness and we paid the price,” said coach Fraser Hope.

“Lyle had a great game in defence and provided the spark of attack. The rest of us were lacking that bit of fitness and sharpness.”

As another highlight, Damien Biazzo won a penalty kick but the opportunity was lost as the ball went off the keeper into the right-hand post, Hope said.

Old Boy Rainer Funk also suffered from a twinge of tough luck when his goal was disallowed, Hope said.

“Rainer had a perfectly good goal chalking off when he shielded the ball and turned around to put it in the net, but the referee judged him to have fouled the defender.”

Salt Spring’s substitute keeper Dennis Shaw had a great shift in net apart from one moment, Hope said.

“He now realizes he joined the goal-keepers club where one mistake shows up so dramatically compared to outfielders, who can make lots of mistakes and not have them show up with quite the same dramatic consequence.”

The small field at Arbutus school had a pronounced slope and the Castaways were better able to adapt to the conditions, Hope noted.

“We played a very good Castaways team, who harried and harrassed us and never gave us a chance to play our normal wide-passing game."

The islanders next play Gordon Head at Gulf Islands Secondary School at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Community newspaper... Community people.

SANDI POYSTILA

Job Title: Production Manager
Years at the Driftwood: 3 months

Life before the Driftwood: Was enjoying being a new mother on maternity leave in Burnaby before finding a new life and new position at the Driftwood.

Previously worked as production manager of the Employment Paper in Vancouver. Worked at the Campbell River Mirror for seven years and is also a former editorial cartoonist.

Life outside the Driftwood: Married to Andrew and mother of baby Amanda, enjoys enjoy sailing, snowboarding, downhill skiing, hiking, gardening and various creative hobbies including classical animation and crafts.
By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Salt Spring FC's Division-I men smoothed a top-calibre Vantreights squad with tight defence Sunday but they still took a 2-0 loss at Portlock Park.

It was probably frustrating for Vantreights because they didn't have time to do the kinds of plays they wanted to do," said FC player David McColl.

A powerful back line of islanders Colin Walde, Jordan Morrison, Tim McColm and Jordan Huenen shut down Vantreights' offence, McColl said.

"It was probably the best we've played all year."

The game remained scoreless until the last eight minutes of the match, McColl said.

"It almost felt like we got robbed."

The referee called a corner kick against recommendations of coaches and the linesman, and Vantreights capitalized on a beautiful shot, McColl said.

Vantreights then scored minutes later while FC was still attempting to rally from the foul.

"The boys let down for a couple of minutes and that was all it took: Vantreights is not the team they are," McColl said.

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GISS beats volleyball champ

By MITCHELL SHERROD
Staff Writer

The Scorpions senior girls volleyball squad placed fourth out of seven teams after hosting a tournament at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Friday and Saturday.

"They were the only team to beat Cowichan," said GISS teacher Sally Walker. The Mark Isfeld team from Courtenay placed third, Walker said.

GISS students showed strong support for the local volleyball team, she said. "There was a good turnout from the students for games, especially on Friday. I was quite impressed that many kids came out to watch. It was really nice."

In other GISS sports:

• The junior girls A-team beat FrancesKelley two out of three games to win their match on October 22. Emma Rieger was playing awesome, as usual," said team-mate Molly Hosie. "Emma Rieger was playing awesome, as usual," said team-mate Molly Hosie.

"Exchange students Laura from Germany and Mary-Anne and Jo from Quebec also played strong, Hosie said. The A-Team will play a tourney at Brentwood on November 1, she noted. "The junior girls B-Team won our first of three games against a mixed group of FrancesKelley and GISS A-Team players on October 22," said B-Team player Tika Okuda. "They were pretty lopsided games...We didn't play our best today." While individuals played well, Scorpions teamwork was sloppy, Byron noted. As a highlight to the match, new junior boys player Paris Haase had a chance to show how much he's learned, Byron said. Their next game is October 30.

TO THE NET: Members of the Gulf Islands Secondary School senior volleyball team (left) work to control the ball during a tournament held at the high school on Friday. The local girls took fourth place.

SALT SPRING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SURVEY

The Salt Spring Library Association is seeking your input into its facility planning project. The library board has received professional advice that the roof, west wall and foundation of the library must be repaired. In addition, the electrical and mechanical systems must be upgraded and the physical accessibility of the building must be brought up to standard. This work must be undertaken within the next three years.

The repairs will be costly. They will not provide the additional space that is needed to address current overcrowding and the expansion of services as our community grows and changes. The library board would appreciate your input into its deliberations in planning a new library facility.

1. How often do you or members of your household use the Salt Spring public library?
   - at least once per week
   - once per month
   - less than once per month
   - a few times per year
   - 2 or 3 times per month

2. How satisfied are you with the Salt Spring public library?
   - very satisfied
   - somewhat satisfied
   - somewhat dissatisfied
   - very dissatisfied
   - don't know, no opinion

3. Which of the current services do you use at the Salt Spring public library?
   - borrow children's books
   - borrow large print books
   - attend book sales
   - use the reading area
   - use reference materials
   - use the internet
   - other (please describe)
   - use interlibrary loans

4. Do you use any other libraries regularly?
   - a university library
   - a school library
   - another public library (please name it)

5. In recent years, community public libraries across Canada have expanded the range of services and formats of materials they make available. Because of overcrowding in both the public and non-public work spaces at the Salt Spring public library, it is not possible to catch up to these changes. If there were enough space, which of the following community public library services do you think should be added? (Please check as many as you wish)
   - research/quiet space & study carrels
   - authors readings
   - more children's programs
   - meeting room(s)
   - write-in-residencies program
   - shared programs with schools & others
   - reference services
   - more formats, e.g. CDs, toy lending
   - better access to local archives
   - special collections, e.g. specialized subjects

6. How aware are you of the space issues and the repairs that are needed at the public library?
   - very aware
   - somewhat aware
   - not very aware
   - not at all aware

7. The library board has confirmed that the current library site is too small for a larger building and the required parking. The Salt Spring Official Community Plan states that the public library should always be located somewhere in the village core. How important is it to you that the public library continue to be located in the village core?
   - very important
   - somewhat important
   - not very important
   - not at all important
   - don't know, no opinion

8. The Salt Spring Library Association owns the current library building and the land it sits on. If a new facility is developed which one of the following options would you prefer?
   - a facility built and owned by the Salt Spring Library Association, and located in the village core
   - a facility built by the Salt Spring Library Association but owned by the Capital Regional District and located on Capital Regional District recreational land on Rainbow Road.

9. We need the following information for the analysis of the data:
   a. In which age group are you?
      - 15 to 18 years old
      - 18 to 29
      - 30 to 49
      - 50 to 69
      - 70 years or over
   b. You are:
      - Female
      - Male
   c. Which of the following best describes your household?
      - one or more single adults share a residence
      - couple with no dependent children
      - single parent with dependent children
      - couple with dependent children
   d. How long have you lived on Salt Spring?
      - less than 4
      - 4 to 10 years
      - 10 years or over
   e. Do you work at the library as a volunteer?
      - Yes
      - No

Would you like to add any general comments?

If you would consider participating in a focus group on facility planning please let us know by calling the library at 537-4666. Please say you are calling to put your name on the planning focus group list. To learn more about the library planning project, ask at the library to see the Facility Planning Report (October 2003). You may drop this survey off at the library or the Driftwood or mail it to the library at 129 McPhillips Avenue, V9K 2T6 on or before Nov. 3. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey and for the information you have provided.
By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Members of the Salt Spring Island Ultimate disc team were reunited with successive from Victoria's Ultimate Llama Project team to field a mish-mash of players for the 11th annual Pumpkins Pull tournament in Victoria last weekend.

The Pumpkin Pull drew 32 teams from an area encompassing Idaho, Portland, Calgary and Alaska.

Disc-throwing teams pick a Hallowe'en theme and are rewarded for the best costumes and sport of play in the field sport of ultimate.

"Salt Spring came to the rescue and threw three stellar players our way" said team Holmes captain Dave Holmes.

This year's SUC members at Pumpkin Pull included: Sada Keel, now attending the University of Victoria, Asher Squire, from Simon Fraser University, and Squire's younger brother, Gulf Islands Secondary School student Elian Squire.

"All three were stellar players; although if I had to, I would nominate the brothers as the combined MVPs for the game. Each was great by themselves, but killer as a combo," Holmes said.

The team was named after their organizer because they couldn't come up with a consensus on time, Holmes explained.

"Our costumes, like our players, were a bit of a 'mish-mash' of miscellaneous materials. There were clowns, pimps, pirates (both of the Caribbean and the software variety), and one fellow (our main disc handler), who I think was trying to dress as all of the Village People stuck together.

"Last year a combined SUC/Llama Project team won the D-pool spirit award, but no games, with their scantily-clad team called the Sex Fools. They played against teams from Vancouver, Lasqueti Island, Whitehorse, Quadra Island and Seattle.

According to the SUC/Llama Project coach, Shelly Vermeulen.

"It would be a little different this year. It won't be hosted at the (Veesvius) pub but it will still be lots of fun."

Golfers will dine at the 19th Hole club restaurant after the tourney, she said. 2003 Gulf Islands Secondary School graduate Tyler Wosley benefited from a scholarship with funds raised in the tourney last year, Vermeulen said.

"I was actually there at the graduation ceremony to present the scholarship." Previous scholarship recipients have been Eric Beauchamp (2002) and Tyler Morris (2001).

Last year, a raffle generated $800 toward the junior golf fund and the event raised at least $2,500, she said.

Winners of the 2002 event are already hoping to win again, Vermeulen noted.

Dennis Andrews, Richard Ingle, Don Nemeth, Gord Hollingsworth and Hollingsworth's 10-year-old son Matthew scored a 29 over nine holes last year.

The tournament started in 2001, after the Vermeulen family was overwhelmed with contributions from the junior club at Richard Vermeulen's memorial service in September 2000.

Donations were so generous that a scholarship was made available and the Vermeulen family decided to host an annual event.

Interested golfers can register as individuals, a team or partial team, Vermeulen said.

The November 1 event costs $75 for golf and dinner, or $25 for dinner only.

Contact the pro-shop (537-2212) to register in advance, or sign up at the course on November 1.

An independent, national survey of newspaper readership has found that community newspapers are extremely well read right across Canada, with average readership of 69 per cent. But on Salt Spring Island, the Driftwood beat the national average by 21 per cent. The survey, conducted by ComBase, found that 90 per cent of adults on Salt Spring read the previous week's issue of the Driftwood.

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

WED., October 29
Simply Organic - Barry Valentine organ recital. All Saints, 10:15 a.m.
Four women, Live music with Charline Wilson. At Molby's 9 p.m.

Special Events
Jack o'lantern carving contest. Drop-off carved creations at Hartin's Chocolates.

THURS., October 30
Music
Open Stage. Cafe at Zocala. 7-10 p.m.
Meetings/Raffles
Mexican slide show. Info on Jim Meadour's cultural tours. At ArtSpring 9 p.m.
SSI Local Tour info meeting. Vacation Rentals Resource committee report. 7 p.m. at GISS multi-purpose room.

FRIDAY, October 31
Music
Special Events
Pumpkin Carving Contest. Tree House 9:30 p.m.
Legion Costume Party. Legion, 8 p.m.
Box Fest. 6-8 p.m.
MSF Music weekend. By Rotting Co.
Haunted House. SSE school gym, 7-9 p.m.
Fireworks, Ganges Harbour. 8 p.m.
Family Fun Fest. Community Gospel. 5-7 p.m.
7 Stories, Gratitude Theatre. 8 p.m.
Drop in haunted House & Buffet for Shelly's Birthday. 145 Chartwell, 4-9 p.m.

SATURDAY, November 1
Music
Atomic Blues Band at Fulford Inn. 9 p.m.
Special Events
Marinara allegra show at Mohon Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m.
Early bird tour concert. Art House South. 6:30 Uncle Kate. Molby's.

SUNDAY, November 2
Music
Umo Jazz Dinner at Molby's. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, November 3
Meetings/Talks
SSI Festival of Arts AGM. At Core Inn 7:30 p.m.
Kilovers' Group. All skills levels. Meets at Stitchers. 7:30-9 p.m.

TUESDAY, November 4
Meetings/Talks
Talk on the poor in India. Talk by Eye Institute At All Saints church at 7:30 p.m.

Activities
Drop-In floor Hockey. Fulford Hall. 6:30-9 p.m.
Info: Normand, 653-9465.

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Reservations Recommended

Cinema
Salt Spring Cinema

Filmworks at Fulford Hall
Finding Nemo - a family tale about a clownfish named Nemo who is captured by a dentist on a fishing trip. His dad, encounter- surfer dude turtles and sharks, must somehow find and rescue Nemo. One of the best films of the year. Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 4 p.m.

Cable
SSTV Cable Channel 12 runs continuous programming for 24 hours beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday. October 31. This week see The Burgoyne: a look at the ecological and cultural heritage of Salt Spring's new park. Followed by Joanna Macy: an inspiring talk by respected eco-philosopher, scholar of Buddhism, systems theory and author of The Great Turning: A Vision of Hope for the Earth. And courtesy of Dual Media Productions from Ontario, a special showing of Boys and Places, featuring our Saturday market, local people and places of interest.

Exhibitions
Peter McFarlane's 'escape' sculpture shows this week at StarBooks.
Charles Breth has work hanging at Salt Spring Roasting Co. Jaji exhibits artwork this month at Island Savings.
Dennis Phillips shows photography at Molby's for the month of October.

Drop-In Floor Hockey
Tuesdays at Fulford Hall. 6:30-9 p.m.
$4

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November 1, 2003

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The Raven Street Market Cafe
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Ask about our "Dinner and a Movie"
Crowd cheers for Crowe and youthful company

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Star writer

An awe-struck audience was wowed by the soaring, winged vocals and dynamic, thundering piano work of Allison Crowe at an ArtSpring concert Saturday.

For the music, the two girls cooed green wheat, while a second local talent threatened to steal Crowe’s show in the opening set.

At the “miniature Lilith Fair” evening opened with a charming performance by nine-year-old vocalist Sarah Robinson, accompanied by a spirited piano playing from her 13-year-old sister, Megan.

The Robinson duo received whoops and cheers for their winning performance, but then YIP’s Devin Bamman added drums to a bluesy jazz number to give the girls an even stronger punch.

Soloist Julia Beattie shared a laundromat-inspired song that knitted a cool rhythm line with swing-cyclic urgency to highlight her vocal range and stylistic songwriting.

Like Bamman and the Robinsons, Beattie will be a vocal piece, Stay, rippled like a recent visit to South America. Her voice seemed to mix the romantic spell of her native tongue with a mesmerizingʼs Portuguese inflections.

Another piece written by Bryan, called Shy, added a nostalgic rhythm to the girls’ talents that should convince anyone to buy their CD as soon as they print one.

During the intermission, audience members were left wondering whether Crowe might have unwisely raised the bar a little too high with such a potent mix of performers during the warm-up act.

Fortunately, the confident, confident resonance of Crowe’s singing in her opening song, Hallelujah, cast all doubts aside. Lesser buildings would have collapsed under the emotive onslaught of her voice.

Accompanied by Dave Baird on stand-up bass and Kevin Clevette on drums, Crowe mixed gems of her own songwriting with covers of Leonard Cohen, Keith Richards and Janice Joplin to create an eclectic combination of musical styles that highlighted her dynamic range.

The 21-year-old Nanaimo-based singer-songwriter thinks of Salt Spring as a second hometown after she performed one of her first major gigs as an opener for Tara MacLean at ArtSpring three years ago, said Crowe’s manager and event organizer Adrian Plessis.

“I love Salt Spring. It’s so nice. Serenity now,” Crowe giggled.

While the singer maintained bubbly banter between songs, her rich writing and radiant voice lifted listeners to the rafters with lyrical love songs like Montreal and the feverish pitch of the break-up survivor piece Harry. As a solo of Jewel’s Who Will Save Your Soul left the audience stunned with the delightful ecstacy of Crowe’s sustained singing.

Her voice seared brain synapses with raw power and then lapped ice-cream smoothia on her own songwriting.

The microphone died just before Crowe launched into Pearl Jam’s “Given to Fly” but the soundman didn’t even seem to notice a loss of quality since her unadorned voice still filled the theatre so majestically.

It was challenging to take notes for a review, I sat slack-jawed through songs such as Misdirected, Be Yourself and Alive and Breathing, without writing a word. I didn’t want to strip my attention away from the pure experience of the moment to keep notes.

To be honest, I didn’t want to share. I greedily gobbled up every note of her performance. And I refused to listen to any other music for the remainder of the weekend so I could savour the last little moments of the memory.

Fortunately, I won’t have to wait too long for another Crowe performance. Once the recent experience has dimmed, I will still have her new CD, Lisa’s Song, ready to pop open for a fresh blast of her roof-raising rhythm and grunge blues.

The 21-year-old Nanaimo-based singer-songwriter

An awe-struck audience was wowed by the soaring, winged vocals and dynamic, thundering piano work of Allison Crowe at an ArtSpring concert Saturday.

For the music, the two girls cooed green wheat, while a second local talent threatened to steal Crowe’s show in the opening set.

At the “miniature Lilith Fair” evening opened with a charming performance by nine-year-old vocalist Sarah Robinson, accompanied by a spirited piano playing from her 13-year-old sister, Megan.

The Robinson duo received whoops and cheers for their winning performance, but then YIP’s Devin Bamman added drums to a bluesy jazz number to give the girls an even stronger punch.

Soloist Julia Beattie shared a laundromat-inspired song that knitted a cool rhythm line with swing-cyclic urgency to highlight her vocal range and stylistic songwriting.

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ArtSpring winds up for busy November

WHAT'S ON AT

ARTSPRING

By JOHN WAKEFIELD
Driftwood Contributor

With lots of talent on tap at ArtSpring this November, everything from book signings to performances of international caliber will speak even the most insatiable thirst for entertainment.

• Huge pots seem to spring up effortlessly from the hands of the women of Zipaio create their remarkable wares with the simple techniques of antiquity. This is only one of the amazing sights that await you when Jim Meadow and Katie Law guide you through the remote villages of indigenous craftspeople, the Purepecha, around Lago Patzcuaro in Central Mexico.

• Catch this slide presentation on Thursday, October 30 at 7 p.m.

• Graffiti Theatre presents 7 Stories, an "edgy" play by award-winning Vancouver playwright Morris Pynch.

A man balancing precariously on the seventh story ledge of an apartment is isolated from committing suicide by connecting with the bizarre lives of 12 residents of the apartment.

• October 31 and November 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8, beginning at 8 p.m.

• Join Richard Moses for the "launch" of his book called By Degrees, the journal of his round-the-world voyage on a tiny freighter.

The event takes place in the Janus Lounge on November 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. and will include book sales and signing, free popcorn and Coke.

• Specializing in the popular music of the 16th to 18th centuries, the Baltimore Consort has delighted audiences from around the world with a rich trove of traditional song and dance. The Baltimore Consort features the bewitching sopranos by Carrie LaRue and lute, viol, flute, citrum, early guitar, rebec, recorder, crumhorn and bandora. Sunday, November 9, 2:30 p.m. Free pre-concert chat at 1:30.

• What do you get when you take a little Carol Burnett, add a dash of Anna Russell and throw in a hint of Miss Piggy? You get Mary Lou Fallis, Canada's very own Primadonna. Always funny, ballywitty and a truly impressive soprano, this

November 15 at 2 p.m.

Piggy? You get Mary Lou Fallis, Canada's very own Primadonna is first-rate entertainment. Wednesday, November 13 at 8 p.m. 

• Hailed as an exciting group of versatile singers, the Baltimore Consort has been featured all night and levels of ability on a variety of instruments.

• Steff Bop! is a ground-breaking presentation of music, slides and narrative tracing the history of Canadian jazz written by women. ShelBop features Mother of Pearl, Vancouver's all-female jazz and blues quintet, with piano, bass, drums, saxophone and voice. Sunday, November 23, 2:30 p.m.

• For one night only (November 27, 7:30 p.m.), the Gulf Islands Secondary School music department, led by music director Bruce Smith, will feature all of its groups this year in an early show. (They're normally held around Christmas. 2008.) 

• Some say The Glass Menagerie, Tennessee Williams' first hit play, is his best. According to Williams, "I wrote of the gentle, the beautiful; after this my writing was harsher."

WordPlay will present two readings of the play — November 29 at 8 p.m. and November 30 at 2 p.m. 

• For more information on these events, please visit or contact the box office at 537-9250 or visit www.artspring.ca.
Locals lined up for playful Sex Fools night

By CAREY RUDISILL
Staff Writer

Salt Spring's Beaver Point Hall resembled a Vancouver night club on Saturday evening, but only from the outside.

Partygoers waited, some patiently and some not, to get into the sold-out Sex Fools event.

I was one of those waiting, and found out just how well the island's word-of-mouth event. evening, but only from the outside. bled a Vancouver night club on Saturday

Component Terri-Ann Dunning captured the audience's attention with a safer version of fire spinning. She booked glow-in-the-dark lights to the pot, or rope. "It was a night of clowns and playing. It was like a private party," she said.

Dunning got into the event, dressing in all black from black chaps to black but wings.

For many party-goers, including me, it was an odd experience to arrive fashionably late and realize this was the one time you wanted to show up on time. Others in the line-up commented that they had waited time waiting at home.

The same word-of-mouth that sold out the night also created interesting stories. "I think a lot of people were afraid that it was going to be a big orgy but it wasn't that," said Dunning. "It was really a very playful evening.

"You could take it to any level you were comfortable with. There were lots of spaces for people to be in and chill out." As the night moved from performance into music, local DJ Adham Shaikh kept the energy going after Vancouver band Beaver Be Damned left the stage.

"Adham was a phenomenal DJ," said Luna-Rose. "People were hungry for him. He knows how to pull in a crowd and get them moving to really eclectic world beats.

He kept us all all day for so long."

Luna-Rose commended the volunteers who came out and helped in various areas from door security to performances. "I'm super indebted to all the people who helped. In order to keep the night running smoothly I relied on a lot of people to help out," she said.

Despite the large crowd, Luna-Rose and volunteers dealt with a few minor incidents. "Aggressive behaviour was not tolerated," she said.

One man was banned from re-entering the evening for heckling and trying to kick one of the performers.

Even with all the help, she was kept busy throughout the night. "I only danced three songs," she said.

Luna-Rose dug into her own time and pocket to make sure the event grew from an idea into reality, but said she didn't mind doing so. "I had $1.79 in my bank account on Friday night. I was happy Sunday to be able to deposit some money to cover the costs," she said. "I don't make a lot of money on this event. I put this on because I want this community to be able to celebrate sexuality in a positive way."

PLAYFUL PARTIERS: Three locals dressed up for Sex Fools.

in town by people saying it was the best party in years," she said. "So many people came up to me and said our island needs this. If people want it, then I'm going to do it more often.

The next Sex Fools could be as soon as next April or May, she said.

On Saturday, numerous performers took to the stage, cage and dance floor. I listened outside as cheering audience members and participants watched several acts, including the Blackburn Lake Crew's synchronized swimming, erotic dancing and Naked Guy Part II.

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Trooper set to ‘raise a little hell’ at Head kids benefit

A trust fund for the two children of the late Tony Head is getting some help from a Canadian music legend with a storied 29 benefit dance set for Fulford Hall.

The Salt Spring couple had a great time when Trooper played in Duncan recently so they decided to see if Trooper would perform a benefit concert for Head’s children Danielle and Jordan. Head died at age 33 in the Cap Rouge II fishing boat accident in the Strait of Georgia near the Fraser River on August 13, 2002.

“We just asked, and they said ‘yes’,” said Koett last week.

While the event is still a whole month away, Koett said there’s already been high demand for the $30 tickets.

“Lots of people are coming from off-island,” she noted.

The evening will also feature food — including Fulford Inn pizza — and a bar (which means it’s a 19+ and over-only dance).

Koett praised people she has worked with on the project so far, including Alf Reda of the Fulford Inn.

“He’s been a real big help,” she said.

The Fulford Hall committee has also been great, she added, noting that she would like to hold a benefit dance for the hall at some point, too.

Koett has released 10 albums between 1975 and 1991, and garnered fame through hits such as Raise a Little Hell and Two for the Show.

Tickets are available now at the Mortal’s office, Acoustic Planet, Fulford Inn and Tree House South. For more information about the event, call Koett at 653-4877.

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Writing in the fluctuating world of island humour, a local librarian, French­horn player and devoted popcorn enthusiast has published a book about his voyage around the world in a tramp freighter.

“I’m still amazed it happened. The terrifying thing is that we started this thing on a whim,” said local writer Richard Moses.

He had just returned from his circumnavigation of the world when his friend started coaxing him to turn his travel journal into a book.

“I just got back in August and a friend wanted to read it in the raw; ‘Don’t change the words,’ she said.”

Moses’ friend, Robert Shapiro, read his 350-page journal in 50-page installments and insisted he publish the work.

“She’s the one that kicked me in the pants.”

A book launch for the book called By Degrees, is now scheduled for Saturday, November 8 at ArtSpring.

A demand for the book is already evident around the world on the general-cargo freighter M.V. Triathion, stopping at 23 ports over four months. He even

Richard Moses celebrated his 60th birthday with the loading of steel pipes in Shanghai.

“The only thing I had was the journal. So I told everything to the journal,” Moses said.

Travelling as the solo passenger on much of the trip, Moses was accompanied by his journal and a faithful hot-air popcorn popper.

“I wasn’t sure about a crew of Philippians preparing Polish food,” Moses winked.

He found vessel operations fascinating. And his enthusiasm for his subject material, coupled with a buoyant sense of humour, has produced a delightful read.

“I have long known I wanted to make this trip and how. But the exact reason for it, I’ve never explained — even to myself,” Moses wrote.

“I can easily understand the father of a friend who, on family trips, was so reluctant to stop the car for anything that they have albums full of blurry pictures taken from moving car windows.”

And so Moses describes deck work, his stops in ports and the ways of killing time while waiting for popcorn to pop.

“Ah, a batch of popcorn, ice-cold Coke, a good book and the roll of the sea. How could I ask for anything more — except maybe a good company?"

One section even describes a desperate plan to have a batch of Jolly Time popcorn shipped to Guam, where the writer was feeling the pinch of his small supply.

“Picture it: a helicopter hovers 20 feet above the deck at the height of a terrible storm during the darkest hour of the night in the South China Sea. A rope ladder is thrown out the side, and a suit from the Jolly Time Popcorn Corporation is handed down.”

Popcorn-withdrawal hallucinations aside, Moses gives fabulous descriptions of the ship’s operations.

“This sort of freighter is the most interesting because they carry everything under the sun.”

While a container ship might average only six hours a port, the Bibbie spent as long as a week at some places, he said.

“In Thailand, they come on board the ship when you anchor and bring a complete restaurant.”

And a witty ship’s steward-captain caped Moses about the possibility of a romantic liaison whilst they were stopped in port.

“If I hadn’t kept this journal, I couldn’t possibly have remembered these things.”

Now he’s surprised to find the book launch already scheduled at ArtSpring on November 8 to share copies of By Degrees.

Shapiro and Moses’ proof-reader friend Florence Reich arranged for the event.

“They are my launch team,” he said, smiling.

“A lot of these things [like the freighter trip] I want to accomplish. I keep checking them off but more keep appearing at the bottom of the list. [The book] wasn’t even on the list at all,” Moses said.

“I started the usual publishing route and realized that could take the rest of my life,” Moses said.

Then he heard about an on-demand publishing service offered by Trafford Publishing of Victoria, and the whim became a reality.

“Unlike regular publishers, the book is in print for ever. Fifty years from now, they’ll print a copy if someone wants one. ‘Our usual run is one,’ they say.”

His relationship with Trafford staff was invaluable and Moses believes the company has struck a recipe for success.

“It is an exciting industry now. You can see the people who have these dreams. All of a sudden they can do something.”

Trafford carries some 3,000 authors and prints 10 different books a week, Moses said.

Moses’ friend and fellow Salt Spring Concert Band member Charles Buchwald designed the cover with professional polish, Moses noted.

“I am a catalogue down at the [Mary Hawkins] library. All of a sudden I have my own ISBN number. Guess who catalogued this book at the library?”

Moses feels a little uncomfortable about the idea of printing with a “vanity press” but recognizes the experience has been well worth the cost.

“When you come right down to it, a book is a book. Half the books on this island are self-published!”

Copes of By Degrees are available at local bookstores and Ganges Village Hand Market Manager Mike Tyson was the first purchaser, Moses noted.

“If I asked if he wanted to take two or three on consignment and he said, ‘Let’s start with 10. I’ll buy them myself.’ Good old Mike.”

Moses is uncertain which adventure was greater: the voyage around the world, or publishing a book about the journey.

“Certainly, doing it was terrific. But turning it into a book was one of the great things.”

Readers and friends of Moses can celebrate the launch of By Degrees from 2-4 p.m. November 8 at the Jankura Lounge in ArtSpring.

Hot-air-popped popcorn and chilled cans of Coke will be provided.
Fulford Filmworks wants attention.

By CARYE RUDISILL

Staff Writer

The movie theatre operates out of Fulford Hall, using a 16-millimetre projector and a 12-126-foot screen. A concession stand also provides popcorn, drinks and other snacks for hungry audience members.

"We really want to do what it takes to make sure people are having fun here," said McDonald. "We have a lot of local musicians who perform here, and we want to make sure they feel comfortable and welcome.

"We are looking to bring in more local artists and performers, as well as more film screenings and events that will help bring people to the theatre."

Fulford Filmworks is a non-profit organization that was established in June to provide a venue for local musicians and artists. The theatre has been open since July and has already hosted several events, including a concert with local band Offspring and a film screening of the classic movie "The Godfather." "We are excited to see how the theatre will grow and evolve over the next few months," said McDonald. "We hope to make it a place where people can come to enjoy good music, good films, and good company."

Local gallery celebrates 25th anniversary.

By MICHILE HINTFORD

Staff Writer

The Gulf Islands Grown Gallery celebrated its 25th anniversary this month with a special event.

"We are thrilled to have reached this milestone," said Gillian Reeves, the gallery's director. "We have come a long way since we opened our doors in 1988, and we are looking forward to many more years of success.

"We have a lot of exciting plans for the future, including expanding our program of local art exhibitions and reaching out to new communities."

The gallery has been a hub for local artists for 25 years, and has hosted numerous exhibitions and events that have showcased the work of Gulf Islanders and beyond.

"Our goal is to continue to be a place where artists can come together and share their work with the community," said Reeves. "We are proud to be a part of the cultural landscape of the Gulf Islands, and we look forward to many more years of growth and success."
Community store closes after 28 years

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

For the past 28 years, et cetera Salt Spring Book and Stationery has been more than a Ganges retail business. It’s been a community meeting place, the spot to lay out paintings and pen and ink drawings, put up posters, buy tickets to plays or for the 6049 lottery, or catch up on the week’s news.

When owner Dawn Luker couldn’t find a buyer for the business that had endured for four years as a labour of love more than a paying proposition, she decided to close the Upper Ganges Centre location as of October 31.

“It’s really an on-the-life-time kind of place,” said dedicated customer Nina Ragansky last Thursday afternoon.

“They’ve gone way beyond the call of duty. It’s a community store.

And rather than heating technology’s boilermaker and the big-box mentality, et cetera has concentrated instead on ensuring it could supply its customers with small quantities of sometimes obscure items such as colour typewriter ribbons or fountain pen nibs — along with stationary staples.

Carolyn Gibson has enjoyed working in the unique et cetera environment for about 14 years.

“I always thought this place, from the beginning, had its pulse on the community.”

And that is something that will miss “the steady stream of cool people who came through the door every day, and the organic version of news they provided. Gibson was known for using her artist’s eye and big heart to help people craft their posters, programs and other promotional materials.

“The reason I am so sad to see it go,” said Ragansky, “is they’ve done free stuff for all these years.

Ironically, some of et cetera’s more enduring characteristics contributed to its inability to survive beyond 2003.

Luker admits she was not an aggressive businessperson and so et cetera relied heavily on cultivating the support of loyal customers.

She bought the business called Salt Spring Book and Stationery from Barbara and Frank Richards in 1975, when it was located on Fulford-Ganges Road in the vicinity of today’s Harbour Low Cost, and then added the "et cetera," which became its common name.

Luker’s children Kris and Kirsten were pre-schoolers at the time, and she wanted a vacation that allowed them to be with her as much as possible.

"The kids grew up in the store," she recalls, and the older they became, the more Luker relied on them to help out.

"It was good for me and it was good for them," she said. "It was a labour of love, a business skill, and I gained two very reliable employees."

Snoozing cats such as the famous Edward and Krissy were also et cetera fixtures until recently, and in all of the store’s previous locations.

Et cetera ran in its original spot until 1983, and in 1982, Luker even simultaneously rented space in what was then known as the Valcourt Centre.

Then she shifted to the front of what is now Gailwood Alley (but was then Ganges Auto Marine) until 1985, and spent the next three years on McPhillips Avenue where Watermark Books and Roasting Co. is now found, after Island Savings Credit Union vacated that spot.

Luker then bought the Harvest Avenue building now housing Ganges Island Furniture, which had been the Legato Beach 92 until it moved up to Blain Road. After renovations, et cetera had ample space for books and stationery services from 1999 to 2003.

But four years ago, et cetera was forced by economics to shrink again and move to Upper Ganges Centre.

Even with maintaining an estimated 90 per cent of regular customers, it just wasn’t enough.

That loyalty was evident in the store last Thursday, which was Gibson’s last day, when grateful customer Bianca Baines brought in some delicious muffins to share.

Ragansky also came bearing gifts of appreciation for all the work Gibson has done through et cetera over the years.

“We wouldn’t have saved the things we did if it wasn’t for Carolyn,” she said.

Luker is glad to have provided such important services to the community for so long, even if she could have made a more lucrative living doing something else.

She had studied journalism and theatre before getting married, having children and then buying the business.

“I don’t regret any of it,” she said.

“It’s always been hard, but there’s always been a strong sense of feeling good about myself and how I deal with people, and that’s important, and I’ve been blessed with very supportive family and friends.”

Luker has also had great staff over the years, and thanks her current group: daughter Kirsten, Gibson and Mattie Hammond, as well as Sue Newman, who has been a stalwart over the years.

Harmond is the third member of the same family to work for Luker, with Hammond’s daughters Tan and Lorien also part of the staff in the past.

Luker is proud of the fact that all et cetera staff could keep doing transactions even during power failures.

“We didn’t need the computer, just the cash register or the lights. We knew how to do the math and use the calculator.”

Et cetera’s retail sales end Friday at 5:30 p.m., although lottery ticket sales for November 15 can still be purchased Saturday.

Luker will be selling the store fixtures until November 15 and invites respectful offers. Since she still has debts to pay, she is using people who owe her money — and there are a number of them — to please pay their outstanding bills.

Luker may continue offering some services through her own shop and then her husband’s business, but she doesn’t expect to do much longer.

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California resident Laura Roveda saw all of her interests "under one roof" when she noticed Ganges' Blue Moon business was for sale earlier this year. “The store represented many interests in my life,” said Roveda. With training in social work, lactation education and homeopathies, Roveda hopes to integrate her skills into the daily operations of the new business she purchased this summer.

She said the store at 148 Fulford-Ganges Road — now called Windflower Moon — has undergone more than a name change.

Windflower Moon will offer many new items, including merchandise made under fair-trade agreements and with "conscience," said Roveda. Other items include homeopathic products, clothing for “goddesses of many ages” and jewellery.

Roveda said she wants to promote items that make people stop and take a closer look.

“If you look at beauty and it makes your heart expand, that’s my intention,” she said. As the mother of a four-year-old, she plans to help other mothers by selling items they need.

“I want to offer things to support women, like books on herbs for women going through menopause and hormonal changes,” she said.

"Roveda, along with her husband Nick and son Oliver, have yet to move to the island.

“I bought a home here two years ago,” she said. “I’ve put the car before the house and it came together." The family has been a resident of Santa Barbara, California.

Roveda said the move cannot be completed until certain things are done, including a pending interview with Citizenship and Immigration Canada about acquiring permanent residency status.

The couple first thought about moving to Salt Spring while visiting friends here following the events of September 11, 2001. Windflower Moon employs Nikki Menard, Lori Kindrat-Cowan and Dawn Pears.

Tanya Lester and Tessa Dawn are also part of the store’s team, with Lester reading tea leaves and Dawn providing tarot-card readings.

The store’s phone number is 538-1889.
Witches’ hair expert at conservancy walk

One of only a handful of B.C. biologists specializing in epiphytes will lead a Salt Spring Island Conservancy walk and talk this weekend.

Nick Stanger knows all about lichens, mosses and liverworts, including those with Hallowe’en-like names such as devil’s matchstick, false pixie cup and witches’ hair.

He’s currently the mastermind behind a four-year study looking at the effect of Maryland Conservancy has invited Our Own Lions Hall from 7-9 p.m. on November 21, to share the results of their study of the subtle, but no less significant impacts of industrial forestry. The walk will be of special interest to those Salt Springers who worked against Texaco Land Corporation’s clearcut logging, says a conservancy press release.

“As epiphytes are influenced by prevailing winds, they are very sensitive to the changes in wind pattern that clearcuts can create. Looking at the epiphyte distribution across the Mount Maxwell landscape, participants may learn about some of the subtle, but no less significant impacts of industrial forestry.”

Suggested slide show donation is $5. Sunday’s walk runs from 9:30-1, and costs $10 to attend. Walk participants should pre-register by calling 538-0318, as there is limited space.

Pool society blessed by Bachman benefit

SSPLASH is delighted to announce that rock legend and island resident Randy Bachman has generously offered to play two benefit concerts for the indoor pool cause.

“Full details will be announced in due course,” said SSPLASH president Kathy Page, “but meanwhile we’d like people to know that the concerts will take place on February 20-21 at ArtrSpring, and tickets will be on sale in November. Naturally we are thrilled to have Randy’s support.”

• Terra Firma Builders has added two more Canadian Home Builders CARE Awards to its collection.

Along with a Gold Award for Environmental Achievement, Terra Firma Builders garnered the People’s Choice Award at a ceremony held in Victoria last month.

The Rammed Earth Healthy Home earned the people’s choice honour.

Terra Firma president Meror Kravchenoff expressed pleasure at the announcement in a press release, adding, “I thought Victorians were more conservative.”

To determine the People’s Choice winner, the CHBA circulated profiles of all the Silver CARE Award winners throughout malls and businesses in Victoria for five weeks. It’s the first time CHBA-Victoria has involved the public in the voting process.

• Salt Spring teacher Sarah Myers reports that new Bolivian president Carlos Mesa will hold a referendum to decide whether or not to export Bolivia’s gas.

Myers has been working as an environmental educator in the Bolivian town of Tarahumara for the past two months during anti-government protests that led to the resignation of the previous president.

The petroleum-rich town of Tarahumara was quiet during the recent anti-export uprisings in the north, but it is “starting to rumble a little” now, Myers wrote in an e-mail Monday. She believes that Tarah’s civic committee (municipal government) is trying to “unify the troops” to go ahead with plans to export to the U.S. as a result of encouragement from transnational petroleum corporations.

“There was a big march last week, but it’s hard to tell what is really the will of the people, and what is political coercion by the wealthy elite of the city.”

The environmental perspective regarding the potential impact of gas extraction has been suspiciously silenced since a meeting a few years ago between civic committee members and corporate representatives, she said.
New minister eager to experience island community, church outreach

The weekend Ruth Cairns arrived on Salt Spring Island, she divided her time between moving into her Vesuvius home and officiating a wedding.

Cairns is the new minister for Salt Spring's United Church, replacing Reverend Rohana Laing, who recently retired.

Cairns acknowledges that September is an odd time to begin. "It's an unusual time to start. Usually ministers start over the summer," she said.

Cairns, originally from Victoria, attended St. Stephen's College in Edmonton, Alberta from 1991 to 1996, and accepted a posting in High Prairie. After spending four years in northern Alberta, Cairns transferred to Merritt, B.C. where she remained until 2003.

"Northern Alberta is a different country in every way possible from Victoria," she observed. "I had several friends on Salt Spring Island when I lived in Victoria, so I was familiar with the island."

With regular United Church activities such as hall dinners and outreach programs, Cairns is eager to experience different aspects of church and island life.

"I'm really interested in doing work within the community," she said.

Cairns said the island’s United Church congregation has 120 members, with an estimated 100 more people who participate for part of the year.

A pastoral care committee, comprised of 15 individuals, keeps members in touch with one another. "They divide up the congregation into groups and take care of each other," she said. "It's a geographical, loose buddy system. It seems to be very effective."

The church also has several community-oriented activities, such as kitchen outreach and after-school programs for children.

Besides her vocation, Cairns enjoys early morning walks and reading. "I have lots of books still in boxes," she said.

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5 BIRTHS

Shaneil and Nick Jackson of Courtenay announce the birth of their healthy newborn daughter.

5 DEATHS

DOROTHY P. SINNED, Dorothy Phyllis Sinned died September 30, 2003 in her Salt Spring Island home. She was born February 12, 1915 in Vancouver, B.C. and attended Britannia High School. Although during her war years Dorothy worked for Mount-ain Bloodmobile, most of it was a chemist and teacher helping students reach their potential. She was the mother of Dorothy and Nancy. Her husband, Alexander Wilson Sinned, raised her to be both a scientist and a gardener, an expert in education. She died in 1982, 18 years after she retired to Salt Spring Island. Dorothy’s three daughters, Nancy, Dorothy and Nancy are grateful for her presence. Dorothy also appreciated her friends and family. She is survived by her children, grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Family members of Dorothy and Ari’s home are the centre for family and friends to gather. Dorothy’s family is their home for animals, especially dogs. Always a lover of music and nature, our aunt enjoyed books, was an avid reader and champion golfer and tournament bridge player. She loved her new life. Dorothy gave her time to the Children’s Home Society. Blunt Society, Moose on Wheels, The Cancer Society and most recently with the British Columbia Bone Cancer Foundation. Dorothy began her volunteer work in 2009 at the University Community Room on Monday, September 2, 2003. Harwalt’s Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements. Dorothy, her remains will be cremated. Many contributions may be given to the British Columbia Bone Cancer Foundation, Box 501, Ganges PC, VK 292 or The Cancer Society.

6 CARDS OF THANKS

FOR ALL who supported the Blueprint 2003 and the Concert for Cancer, Documentary Film Fundraiser. A very special thank you from Peter Price to: Laurent Boucher, Bob Delorme, Barry Livingstone, Jamie Royle-Thomas, Jana & Steve, Cork, Print, Lisa Martin, Cheryl Edgar, Greg Paule, Dave Davies, Louise Francis, Sam Grant, Min, Regan, Mary, Dorothy, Lani Stevenson, Cheryl and Jim. Dorothy worked for the British Columbia Cancer Foundation and enjoyed the BC Cancer Researchers. Dorothy enjoyed the company of her extended family, especially for Christmas. She will be dearly missed.

9 CARDS OF THANKS

We are grateful for the contributions of our community and look forward to more opportunities to come. Please visit our website for more information on future events.

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37 DRIFTCOMMUNITY SERVICES

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Horoscope

November 29 - December 5

Scorpio

In the third week of November, you may both find yourself in the position of a teacher or student. The focus now is upon helping others and sharing knowledge. Whether in a classroom setting or in a personal relationship, you are more than likely to learn something new this week.

Turquoise (Apr 21 - May 20)

Professional and personal relationships are strong this week. You may find yourself spending more time with friends and family, and your communication with colleagues is likely to be more open and honest. The atmosphere around you is friendly and welcoming, making it a great time to socialize and connect with others.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

You are experiencing a time of change and transformation. Your abilities to communicate and express your ideas are greatly enhanced, allowing you to more easily share your thoughts and insights with others.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

You are in a position to seize opportunities. Trust the guidance of your intuition and the wisdom of your inner knowing. Let go of any preconceived notions or limiting beliefs that may be holding you back from taking action.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

You have a sense of adventure and the desire to take action. It is a good time to pursue new opportunities and try something different. Use this energy to push beyond your comfort zone and explore new possibilities.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Your intuition is very strong this week. Pay attention to any hunches or inner knowing that may be guiding you. You are well suited for creative or problem-solving tasks.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

You are in a state of balance and harmony. Your relationships, both personal and professional, are thriving. Opt to spend time with loved ones and creating a nurturing environment.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You are feeling light and carefree. Your optimism and positive outlook are contagious. Lean into this energy to create a joyful and carefree atmosphere.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You are focusing on practical matters and your ability to manage your resources effectively. Prioritize your tasks and be mindful of your budget. This focus on practicality also extends to your relationships, as you need to ensure that you have the right support in place.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Your ideas and plans are taking shape. You may be feeling a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment. Enjoy this time to express your creativity and share your unique perspective with others.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You are in a state of grace and experiencing a sense of inner peace. Allow yourself to relax and let go of any worries. Your intuition is strong, so trust your instincts to guide you.

Tips for the Week

- Connect with nature through spending time in a park or garden. This can help you feel more grounded and centered.
- Practice self-care by taking a warm bath or enjoying a massage.
- Stay open and receptive to new ideas and unexpected opportunities.
- Reflect on your goals and visions for the future. What changes do you need to make in your life to align with your desires?
Awful English cooking on the rebound

"English cuisine is generally so threadbare that for years there has been a gentlemen's agreement in the civilized world to allow the Brits pre-eminence in the matter of tea—which after all, comes down to a little more than the ability to boil water."

At ease, all ye staunch defenders of Albion! I didn't say that—a Yankee scribe by the name of Wilfrid Sheed did. But having spent a couple of years living in London, I'd have to say the man knows his onions. Oh, there are marvelous restaurants in London, to be sure. German restaurants, French restaurants, Thai and Vietnamese and Indian restaurants.

Made-in-English eateries seem to be limited to chains of dingy tea shops with menus specializing in sticky buns, stale cookies and, of course, great steaming vats of tea.

Mind you, Old Blighty is not a total culinary wasteland. HP Sauce is English. So is Worcestershire sauce and a whole host of tangy relishes, dips, spreads and seasonings.

The English are good at condiments. They have to. Add-on flavour enhancers are the only way to restore some taste to food after English cooks have boiled, broiled, steamed, grilled, roasted, braised, blackened or otherwise friticased the bejeezus out of it.

They even mess up dishes they're supposedly famous for. The worst fish and chips I ever tasted came from shops in London. A couple of years ago the legendary banger was denied entry into the European Common Market—declared "not fit for human consumption."

And then there's England's infamous entry in the dessert category: Spotted Dick.

Is that a dish or a sexually transmitted disease? And what can you say about that signature chèche of a British meal, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding?

How about "slab of cow with half-defeated bun?" And yes, a dab of horseradish on the side, just to keep your taste buds from atrophying completely.

How did it come to this? There was a time when English food was second to none. Henry VIII ate like a . . . well, king—and had the silhouette to prove it.

In Pickwick Papers, Charles Dickens devotes whole chapters to rapturous descriptions of succulent feasts and mouth-watering repasts that his characters routinely tucked into.

But somewhere in the snakes and ladders of history, Rome lost its empire, Spain lost its Armada, France lost its arms, the French aristocracy lost their heads and the Brits forget how to put a decent meal on the table.

No matter. I am delighted to report that the gastromonic worm has turned and Merrie Englande is again marching toward the winner's podium of world-class cooking.

Personally, I think lasagna was the turning point. You know lasagna—that quintessential Mediterranean pasta dish that's as Italian as Sophia Loren?

Well, actually it's about as Italian as Margaret Thatcher, according to Maurice Bacon, a Parisian chef. He was rooting around in the medieval archives at the British Museum where he came across an ancient piece of parched paper written by the cook for King Richard II, back in 1390.

Entitled The Forme of Cury, it contained 196 recipes, including one for a dish called "Tooseyns" (pronounced "tazans").

The document (possibly the world's oldest surviving cookbook) lists two of the principle ingredients of lasagnes as cheese on a base of flat pasta.

"Whatever this English recipe is, it is certainly not lasagna as we now know it," said an official at the Italian Embassy in London, somewhat testily.

I think the Italians are worried, but not as much as the French. The latest buzz is that a very popular English cookbook—How To Cook, by Delia Smith—is about to be released . . . in Paris.

French publisher Hachette Pratique is releasing the French translation in the belief that today's busy French women have failed to learn how to cook at all, never mind how to cook well.

How do world-renowned French gastronomes feel about taking cooking lessons from the English?

If Parisian chef Alain Dutournier is any guide, they think it's high time.

"If the French are no longer guardians of their own temple—and they are not," Dutournier told the BBC, "then they need to be taught the rituals again by outsiders."

Ah, the Brits teaching the French how to cook. Revenge is sweet.

And, as we all know, revenge is a dish best eaten cold.

I think Winston Churchill said that.

FUNNY GAL: Leslie Parrott of Gabriola Island entertains at Lions Hall on Saturday night as part of her comic Lunar Afflicted show.

565.7531 | www.sphf.ca
India and Nepal visits part of next growers gathering

Next week's Island Natural Growers meeting features "farmer to farmer dialogue" reports from guest speaker Robin Tunnicliffe. Meeting at All Saints on Wednesday, November 5 for a potluck at 6 p.m. and the discussion at 7. Tunnicliffe will talk about what she learned through IFOAM and in India and Nepal this year.

Farmer-to-farmer dialogues between Canadians and South Asians commenced with the 2002 International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements Conference in Victoria and were reciprocated through a month-long trip to India and Nepal by Canadians last February.

Tunnicliffe will introduce the "Common Ground" statement, which came from these dialogues and looks to promote biodiversity, acknowledge farmers and support communities. She will use the statement as a base to explore some of the larger issues around agricultural sustainability, the importance of rural/urban partnerships, global trade issues, local control of resources and policy processes, and food sovereignty. Tunnicliffe will draw on farming experiences of both herself and her South Asian counterparts, and what she saw while visiting India and Nepal.

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