



Sleepless on Salt Spring

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Island Wheels

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Emergency

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Driftwood

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 48TH YEAR — ISSUE 4

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NAIRN HOWE TOURNEY

First, second for GISS teams

Fun, furor and flight at annual basketball tournament

BY SUSAN LUNDY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School's third annual Nairn Howe Memorial Tournament had it all: a winning local team, foot-stomping crowds, breathtaking buzzer-beaters, overtime wins and the slick moves of topnotch basketball players.

"It was another very successful community event," said Lyall Ruehlen, high school vice principal, tournament coordinator and GISS senior boys coach. "There were great crowds and lots of camaraderie among the teams."

The tournament is held annually in honour of the late Nairn Howe, who died in December 2005, after a life of active, positive involvement in school and youth-related activities on Salt Spring.

Twelve teams vied for top male and female honours in the round-robin event that saw the GISS senior girls team slam its way to an uncontested top-place finish, and the senior boys squad take second place in a nail-biter final that could have gone either way right down to the last 50 seconds.

Led by high-scorer Kayla Gromme, the eight-member girls' team trounced its opponents, beating Westview from Maple Ridge 76-18 and Ladysmith 51-35 on Thursday to win its pool and advance to Saturday's final against Kwalikum Secondary.

Even that game provided little opposition to the girls, who shot, dunked, defended and "three-pointed" their way to a 71-30 victory.

"This was our best game of the tournament," said coach Tony Mason, noting the first two games got off to a slow start. "We played much better defence, didn't give up many rebounds, and made our lay-ups and open shots. We had balanced scoring this game, with almost everyone getting on the score sheet."

"Our girls are playing really well," Ruehlen added. "They've got a good shot at provincials."

TOURNEY continued on A18

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust letter takes ISG group to task

Letter outlines 'incorrect and misleading' claims

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A letter addressed to the president of Islanders for Self-Government (ISG) from Trust Council chair Kim Benson has outlined a series of

"misleading, inflammatory, and alarmist" statements made in promotional material for the pro-incorporation group between April 15 and Nov. 7, 2007.

Benson's six-page letter, posted to the Islands Trust's website on Jan. 15, is a follow-up to a delegation led by ISG president Ken Marr at the Trust's quarterly council meeting in December.

Following Marr's call that the Islands Trust

seek increased funding from the provincial government and reconsider a proposal to expand the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee from two members to four, several trustees raised concerns over inaccurate information used to recruit new members.

As reported in the Driftwood on Dec. 12, 2007, Marr asked the chair to present a list of the

TRUST LETTER continued on A2



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

Chris Howe — son of Nairn Howe — goes up for the ball in the GISS team's final match against Burnaby at last weekend's Nairn Howe Memorial Tournament.

FIRE DISTRICT

Trustees adopt revised 10-year plan

District strengthens commitment to volunteer service

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) unanimously approved a revised 10-year strategic plan during their monthly fire board meeting Monday night.

"The major change from the original draft was returning, for the time being, to maintaining our core operations as a primarily volunteer composite fire department," said fire district chair Michael Schubart. "Other than dealing with the specifics of hiring 20 new firefighters as anticipated in the original plan, the rest is pretty much the same."

The 70-page document was completed by trustees Mark Wyatt and Tony Kennedy shortly before Monday's meeting based on recommendations compiled through a series of community discussions held since the draft 10-year plan was released last year.

Though members of the public were unable to see the document before it was adopted, trustees emphasized the plan remains "a work in progress," subject to review on a two-year basis.

"This is a public document," Kennedy said. "There is nothing secret about it and comments will continue to be invited."

Copies of the document are available on the internet at www.saltspringfire.com, from

FIRE PLAN continued on A2

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24 07:24 3.6 11.8
TH 12:54 2.6 8.5
16:55 2.9 9.5

25 00:03 0.6 2.0
FR 07:48 3.6 11.8
13:46 2.3 7.5
18:00 2.7 8.9

26 00:38 1.0 3.3
SA 08:10 3.5 11.5
14:37 2.0 6.6
19:15 2.5 8.2

27 01:11 1.4 4.6
SU 08:30 3.5 11.5
15:24 1.7 5.6
20:45 2.4 7.9

28 01:43 1.8 5.9
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NEWSBEAT

FULFORD TRAINING PLAN

Farmers, firefighters seek common ground

More talk needed to
break deadlock

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Groups representing the island's organic farmers and members of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District have agreed, after much deliberation, to discuss the fire district's proposal to expand its training facility

behind the Fulford fire hall.

"We are happy to make the effort," said fire trustee Tony Kennedy on Monday night. "I only wish this would've happened a year ago."

Trustees and fire department staff will meet on Feb. 2 at 10 a.m. to demonstrate their plans for the site should they be "non-farm use" approval on property within the Agricultural Land Reserve by the province's

Agricultural Land Commission and the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee.

Fire trustees invited farming community members to come prepared with their "most difficult questions" about the \$500,000 training facility's potential impact on the surrounding environment.

Speaking on behalf of Island Natural Growers,

Larry Starke said he appreciated the chance for more insight.

"We've met as a group and we've actually struggled to find a compromise that we could offer and were not able to do that," Starke told trustees.

"We remain opposed and don't believe this is an appropriate or acceptable activity in the middle of the Fulford Valley."

District aims to preserve volunteer base

FIRE PLAN

continued from A1

the library and at the Ganges fire hall.

According to the plan, the department's "urgent and immediate challenges" are preserving its volunteer base, replacing the Ganges fire hall and improving training facilities.

"The board of trustees is committed to taking every possible step to retain, strengthen and improve the volunteer character of the Fire/Rescue Service," reads a portion of the 10-year plan.

"This will be an uphill effort which will require patient and thorough exploration of various measures and combinations of measures. These will

be worked out and tested in consultation with the volunteers and career staff in flexible annual work plans and are not detailed here."

In the event the department cannot attract and retain the number of new volunteers needed, the plan includes a detailed four-year transition to provide 24/7 staffing at Fire Hall No. 1 in Ganges.

The draft plan had suggested a transition to full-time staffing begin this year.

"In addition to ending a strong island tradition, this solution would be costly," the plan reads.

Moving to a department staffed with increasing numbers of career firefight-

ers, the plan indicates, will only be done in the event volunteer recruits cannot prevent the deterioration of fire fighting and first responder capabilities on the island.

As of Jan. 22, the fire district has 29 active volunteers on its roster.

Trustees have said the department requires a minimum of 50 volunteers before the department can rule out hiring the proposed 20 full-time staff members.

"What is needed is a renewed commitment on the part of the board of trustees, the business community and the community at large to work with the SSIFPD to address the critical needs of volunteer firefighters."

'Irresponsible to educate with misinformation'

TRUST LETTER

continued from A1

alleged inaccuracies so his group could work to right them.

Of particular note among a list of six contentious issues is an ISG advertisement published on Nov. 7, 2007 that states Bowen Island trustees did not raise taxes for five years after that island became incorporated in 1999. In actual fact, Benson's letter indicates, general and parcel tax revenues on Bowen Island increased by 21.5 per cent during that period.

Furthermore, Benson writes, ISG material contains incomplete taxation information by implying islanders would be far better off if the island incorporated and as a result no longer had to pay rural property taxes

to the province.

"The advertisement neglects to provide information about the new responsibilities and taxes which islanders would pay to an island municipality for roads, policing, municipal administration and other local services," Benson writes.

Further comments in an Oct. 31, 2007 Viewpoint article written by Marr, in which he voiced concern the "rewriting" of the island's official community plan (OCP) could "seriously affect employment, housing, property rights, culture and employment," are, Benson added, "factually incorrect and very misleading."

"There is neither a draft OCP nor a proposed bylaw that would amend the current Salt Spring Island OCP

under consideration," Benson writes. "The current OCP is being reviewed, not re-written."

In response to the letter, Marr said ISG members are working to address the inaccuracies identified by the Trust. A formal reply is forthcoming, he added.

"ISG is a volunteer group without any professional research staff and it takes time to accurately prepare these responses in our spare time," Marr wrote in an e-mail while on a business trip in Saskatchewan Friday. "Rest assured, if there have been inaccuracies produced by ISG, we will take responsibility and continue to work hard to ensure that it does not happen again."

While he is pleased with the length and scope of Benson's response, Marr said he

would have preferred to deal with any allegations directly before having to make any public clarifications.

"It is unfortunate that Ms. Benson has decided to air this publicly before engaging our group directly with her concerns," Marr writes. "ISG has and will continue to attempt to avoid unnecessary mud-slinging which only clouds the real issue here, which is to educate islanders on improved governance for Salt Spring."

In an interview following the release of Benson's letter last week, Salt Spring Island trustee Peter Lamb said the letter was never meant to foster a confrontational attitude, merely to clarify some of the facts.

"To educate islanders with misinformation is very irresponsible," he said.

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REAL ESTATE

Salt Spring market strong despite continental jitters

Low-end values rise as high-end properties fall

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As the world's markets continue to fall and the U.S. economy contends with a looming recession, realtor Tom Navratil doubts Salt Spring's real estate market will feel the pinch any time soon.

And if 2007 offers any indication, he may be right.

"The anticipation for 2008 is the continuing moderate sales price increase with good solid volume, despite the doom and gloom south of the border," said Navratil, an island-based realtor who has kept a close watch on the local housing market for more than a decade.

While the island's real estate prices may no longer be experiencing the phenomenal double-digit growth encountered as recently as 2005, the median price of all island properties sold last year still increased by nearly six per cent, from \$412,000 to \$435,000. The average selling price of a Salt Spring Island property in 2007 was \$540,640, 20 per cent more than the average island property's B.C. Assessment value.

The increase coincides with average assessment increases of 8.2 per cent for non-waterfront properties and 17.1 per cent for waterfront residences.

Though values may not be increasing as much as they have in past years, Navratil said, there is ample evidence the number of buyers is on the rise.

"The preliminary stats show that we indeed ended up the year 2007 with the anticipated high volume of sales," he said.

"In 2007, we sold an all-time high record number of non-waterfront residential properties, 171, representing 57.6 per cent of all properties sold."

Even the soaring Canadian dollar fails to darken Navratil's forecast as an influx of buyers from Alberta and the Lower Mainland have helped pick up the slack from U.S. residents coping with higher exchange rates.

"We are getting fewer buyers from the U.S. as compared to before the 9-11 era when the Canadian dollar was in its low to the U.S. dollar," Navratil said.

Yet the outlook still doesn't bode well for first-time homeowners looking to get their foot in the door without committing to a property valued at more than \$300,000.

While the average median sale price of oceanfront properties was down 15 per cent in 2007, the average sale price for residential non-oceanfront properties rose by 7.36 per cent over the previous year.

The 2007 stats showed a rebound in the sale of vacant land under two acres, more than doubling to 23 sales from



\$266,838 July 1, 2003 ASSESSED VALUE	\$354,367 July 1, 2004 ASSESSED VALUE	\$435,876 July 1, 2005 ASSESSED VALUE	\$468,180 July 1, 2006 ASSESSED VALUE	\$510,000 July 1, 2007 ASSESSED VALUE
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This average-assessed North End non-waterfront home has seen its B.C. Assessment value almost double since 2003.

the previous year. Average price increases for properties in this category averaged 22.2 per cent.

Even if the price of higher-end and waterfront properties came down slightly, a continued rise in the price of entry-level properties has affordable housing advocates like the Salt Spring Island Land Bank's Neddy Harris worried the dream of home ownership on Salt Spring is increasingly beyond the reach of many islanders.

Of the 171 non-oceanfront homes sold on the island in 2007, only four per cent were under \$300,000.

Figures like that may be the reason Harris has had to field an increasing number of calls from would-be home owners looking for guidance.

As a follow-up to the Land Bank Society's affordable rental project on Dean Road, Harris said, plans are in the works to develop a homeowner program sometime later this year. The new program would provide low-cost, market-controlled properties to Salt Spring residents for between \$170,000 and \$200,000.

Thanks to funding from the B.C. Real Estate Foundation, the Capital Regional District and the Islands Trust, Harris

anticipates getting access to a housing needs assessment survey that will provide a clearer picture of the need for housing on the island.

For any project to work, she added, participation from multiple levels of government is required. For example, rezoning of properties to increase density may be needed to make any project financially sound.

"Once there is an indication of what is needed, then we can begin discussions putting the project together," she said. "We can show there is a need for this."

The Numbers: Non-Waterfront Sales in 2007

Under \$300,000	— 7	\$700K - \$799K	— 9
\$300K - \$399K	— 48	\$800K - \$899K	— 10
\$400K - \$499K	— 43	\$900K - \$999K	— 2
\$500K - \$599K	— 26	Over \$1 million	— 6
\$600K - \$699K	— 20		

News briefs

Barometric pressure extremes

A most unusual weather phenomenon occurred in the last few weeks, but it's something few people would have noticed.

Salt Spring weather observer Robert Aston reported that on Jan. 4 he recorded his lowest-ever barometric pressure reading, and then the highest one on Jan. 15-16.

Even more unusual is that the low reading should have

been accompanied by horrible, stormy weather, but it was not. Conversely, the high pressure period should have given us a sunny, blue sky, but grey clouds prevailed instead.

"At this time we should have clear skies, sunshine and cold," Aston said last Wednesday.

He heard a weatherman describe the phenomenon as "a dirty high."

While Aston did provide his own barometric readings (a low of 28.48 inches of mercury and a high of 30.81), he noted the specific numbers are not of par-

ticular importance because readings depend on how one's barometer is set.

Islander nets Oscar nomination

When nominations for the 80th Academy Awards were announced Tuesday morning, Salt Spring's Jim Erickson was among the names released.

Erickson was nominated for his set decoration work on the acclaimed film *There Will Be Blood*, the epic story about oil prospecting in

turn-of-the-century California, adapted from a novel called *Oil!* by Upton Sinclair.

Oscar winners will be announced Feb. 24. Because of the Hollywood writers' strike, the ceremony may not be held this year.

Lunn fires safety commissioner

Minister of Natural Resources Gary Lunn remains in the national spotlight following his decision last week to fire the president of the Canadian Nuclear

Safety Commission (CNSC).

Speaking before a House Standing Committee on Natural Resources on Jan. 16, Lunn held president Linda Keen personally responsible for her failure to enact measures that could have prevented a shortage of medical isotopes in the wake of the commission's decision to close an aging nuclear reactor in Chalk River, Ontario.

"The manner in which the president exercised her executive role, and in particular her lack of leadership during the extended shutdown of the NRU reactor at Chalk River, does not meet

the very high standard of conduct the Government, and Canadians, expected from public office holders," said Lunn, MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands.

One week before she was fired, Keen sent Lunn a letter questioning the federal government's decision to order the reopening of the Chalk River reactor, effectively overriding the decision of an independent regulator.

Keen retains a position on the CNSC board, but has been replaced by Michael Binder, an assistant deputy minister with the Department of Industry.



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8:05	8:08	8:12	8:16	8:20	8:22
10:05	10:08	10:12	10:16	10:20	10:22
11:00	11:03	11:07	11:11	11:15	11:17
11:25	11:28	11:32	11:36	11:40	11:42
11:50	11:53	11:57	12:01	12:05	12:07
12:55	12:58	1:02	1:06	1:10	1:12
2:00	2:03	2:07	2:11	2:15	2:17
2:25	2:28	2:32	2:36	2:40	2:42
4:00	4:03	4:07	4:11	4:15	4:17
6:00	6:03	6:07	6:11	6:15	6:17

2 Fulford Harbour - Monday-Saturday

Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Cusheen Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Fulford Hall	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Hall	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cusheen Lake Rd.	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
7:10*	7:16*	7:23*	7:27*	7:30*	7:40*	7:43*	7:47*	7:54*	8:00*
9:10	9:16	9:23	9:27	9:30	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
3:10	3:16	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
5:10	5:16	5:23	5:27	5:30	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00

*Operates weekdays only

3 Vesuvius - Monday-Saturday

Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Vesuvius	Lv. Vesuvius	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
6:30*	6:40*	6:45*	7:00*	7:05*	7:10*
8:30	8:40	8:45	9:00	9:05	9:10
12:15	12:25	12:30	12:45	12:50	12:55
2:30	2:40	2:45	3:00	3:05	3:10
4:30	4:40	4:45	5:00	5:05	5:10

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NEWSBEAT

SD64

Death-related passenger vans not used in local school district

Superintendent's research found vehicles unstable

BY SUSAN LUNDY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

While the death of seven school basketball players in New Brunswick has focussed recent national attention on the safety of 15-passenger vans, the Gulf Islands School District banned them several months ago.

"We don't need to use them — and we don't," said schools superintendent Jeff Hopkins, who became concerned about their safety after read-

ing an alarming report on 15-passenger vans released in the United States last year.

Use of the vans is now disallowed in this district through "administrative procedures," he said.

Hopkins' research indicated the vans can be unstable, depending on the load and how it's distributed.

"With 10 kids in the van with eight on one side and two on the other, it can be really unstable," he said. "There have been a lot of accidents involving roll-overs."

The only Gulf Islands students regularly using 15-passenger vans were those volleyball players who travel to Hawaii in alternating years. They will no longer be allowed to use the vans, which previously transported them between

the airport and hotel.

While many Gulf Islands Secondary School teams use the school's "mini bus" to travel to sports activities off-island, other school teams rely on parent drivers. Even the high school's mini bus has only recently returned to action after breaking down in the Lower Mainland last November with the senior girls basketball team.

Although it's back in use with a rebuilt engine, school authorities say a new bus will be needed soon.

Hopkins said he keeps a constant eye out for bus "deals" and the district recently purchased a "new to us" mini bus for Saturna Island.

"It's in far better shape than the one we have," he said, stressing, however, that all

school buses must pass regular safety inspections.

In the meantime, other school policies regulate volunteer parent drivers, who need to sign release forms allowing the district to check their driving records.

School insurance tops up liability insurance of private vehicles used on school outings, and it is the school's responsibility to ensure vehicles used are safe.

However, Hopkins believes that given the accident in New Brunswick, "it is time to relook" at district policies.

"It is a big safety issue," he said. "Driving is dangerous — stuff happens on roads — and we have to take all the measures we can to keep it safe."

"This has been a harsh reminder."

High school principal takes leave

Three VPs step up

Leadership at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) has changed hands following a sudden leave of absence by principal Mike Bell.

The school's three vice principals — Judy Rad-dysh, Lyall Ruehlen and Linda Underwood — have each assumed some of Bell's administrative tasks.

Bell's leave, taken for personal family reasons, is indefinite and may be permanent, according to schools superintendent Jeff Hopkins, who also said

the district will know in the next few months whether or not Bell will return to GISS.

"We're lucky to have three vice principals who can step up," he said Monday. "There is no lack of experience or knowledge of what's going on . . . We have the capacity in the system to address this hiccup."

All three vice principals have received additional administrative hours in exchange for less teaching time.

Hopkins said the district decided to spread admin-

istration between the three vice principals rather than asking for applications to fill the spot.

"It's not a good time to open up a competition for the position," he said. "There's not a lot of freedom of mobility right now."

In a GISS newsletter sent to parents last week, the three vice principals said, "[We] have all been closely involved with most aspects of the school's administration, so we expect to take this new responsibility on with little disruption to the school."



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MYSTERY MACHINE

Fulford "UFO" remains a mystery

Property owner threatens confiscation

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The origin of a strange-looking vehicle that turned up on the lawn near the Fulford visitor information centre last month continues to baffle area residents and passers-by.

"Nobody knows what it is or where it came from," said Alf Reda, owner of the Fulford Inn next door. "All kinds of people are stopping by to have a look and ask questions."

The vehicle, roughly the size of a medium-sized car, turned up on the grass near the corner of Fulford-Ganges and Isabella Point roads several days before Christmas.

Whoever left it there did so overnight and never returned to pick it up, Reda said.

The mysterious plane-like machine sits atop four small wheels and is equipped with



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Reed and Elijah Branscombe check out an abandoned "vehicle" in Fulford.

a jet engine. The only markings on the vehicle are strips of black electrical tape spelling out the initials U.F.O.

"If nobody comes to pick it up soon, we'll have no other choice but to confiscate it," he said. Reda said he would like to use the machine to host

guided tours of the island, though how he proposes to do so in a one-passenger vehicle remains as mysterious as the object itself.

Anna Gustafson, owner of the Blue Horse Folk Gallery, said the craft looks like a jumble of salvaged materi-

als welded together in somebody's workshop.

"Whatever it is, it's good folk art," she said jokingly.

Salt Spring RCMP Corp. Kerry Howse said the vehicle's removal is not a police matter since it was left on private property.

GRAVEL PIT PLAN

Province, owner seek queries on quarry proposal

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A south-end property owner seeking permission to operate a gravel quarry at the end of Jones Road in the Fulford Valley is encouraging people to come forward with their questions about the project.

"This is intended as a small family-run operation," said Patrick Akerman. "We have no plans on going hog wild or anything like that."

Before submitting his application to the province's Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources on Dec. 12,

2007, Akerman said, he distributed information to all neighbouring property owners as a courtesy.

Only one neighbour has come forward asking for more details about the project.

"I want to try and work with people," he said. "There is still time for them to contact me."

The proposed quarry area is at the base of Mount Bruce near the end of Jones Road. The site would occupy a clearcut area near a former quarry used by the Texada Land Corporation during the 1990s, Akerman said.

A vegetation buffer would block any

view of the site from Fulford-Ganges Road and blasting would be kept to a minimum, he added.

"We won't be setting off loud booms on a regular basis," he said.

Akerman could not say if the site would be visible from the top of Mount Maxwell, a destination popular with island visitors.

Gravel, sand and rock extracted from the site will be used to repair roadways and driveways on the island, he said.

"This is something that is needed on the island," he said. More information on the application is available at the Government Agent's office in Ganges.

Letter to the editor?

Press release?

What's On
calendar event?

Send it to news@
gulflands.net.

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9:00 am Mon-Sat & 11:50 am Sun-Fri
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Direct Downtown to Ganges
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Salt Spring Island
Local Trust Committee

Special Business Meeting Islands Trust Official Community Plan Review

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will hold a special business meeting as part of its ongoing review of the Official Community Plan (OCP). The purpose of the meeting is to allow the Local Trust Committee (LTC) to review material relating to the OCP review project. A town hall session may be held at the end of the business meeting, time permitting.

Wednesday, January 30 7-10 pm
Thursday, January 31 9 am-noon & 1-5 pm
ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Avenue

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Key background documents and maps related to the OCP review can be viewed on-line at the Islands Trust website (<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/default.cfm>).

Opportunities for public input on the review will be announced in upcoming issues of the Driftwood.

To receive e-mail updates on the 'Latest News' on the official community plan review go to: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/default.cfm>

To provide your comments, use our online feedback form from the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area homepage of our web site at: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/default.cfm> or

Contact Us by Phone, Fax or Mail:
Islands Trust, 1-500 Lower Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8
Phone: (250) 537-9144
Fax: (250) 537-9116

The Driftwood has put Lindsay Munday in the driver's seat of a new Subaru



**Lyndsay won a
one year lease on a
2008 Subaru Forester!
from Saunders Subaru**

Driftwood
SALT SPRING ISLAND'S LATEST NEWS

Thanks to all our Winners of \$250 Gas Certificates:
Jennifer Lee, Dean Edwards, Bob Marshall,
Melissa Grace Fisher

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NEWSBEAT

DRIFTWOOD NEWS

Online news coverage expands

Driftwood makes several 'new media' changes

Driftwood readers looking for the paper's usual website at www.gulfislands.net will find a little change of scenery and a lot more news online.

As of last week, Gulf Islands Online has diversified, with primarily Gulf Islands tourism information and Driftwood supplements front and centre.

Then at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com — which is also accessible with a click at the top left corner of www.gulfislands.net — the top stories in news,

sports, arts and entertainment, business and community, plus photos will be posted through the province-wide BCLocalNews.com system operated by the New Media Division of Black Press Ltd.

"We decided to make the switch for a number of reasons," said Driftwood publisher Peter McCully, "but the bottom line is that more content can be put online more easily."

In the past, only the top three news stories, one feature, editorial and front-page photo were found online. Letters to the editor and other opinion submissions were added in the last year. Now up to 10 news

stories and a few each from other sections of the paper, along with more photos, will be posted. Just click on the tabs at the top of the page for stories of the week along with those from the previous Driftwood issue.

As well, breaking news can be posted quickly, and the system accommodates use of video and audio clips, which the Driftwood intends to incorporate into its news coverage this year.

"The new website allows the Driftwood to be more flexible in its delivery of information and the format in which it is delivered," said McCully. "News hasn't changed, but the way people receive their news has,

and we're changing to meet their needs."

The Driftwood's events calendar is on both the new site and at www.gulfislands.net.

Since the switchover administered by Driftwood owner Tony Richards occurred earlier than anticipated, there was no time to give advance notification of the change, and the web poll question was also missing for a couple of days.

Gulf Islands real estate listings will continue to be found at www.gulfislandsrealestate.ca, and both the real estate and Driftwood news sites can still be accessed through www.gulfislands.net.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Small business success with upcoming course

Six weekly sessions offered

For people thinking of starting or continuing to run their own small business, a six-week course offered through Community Education will answer all of their burning questions and help them succeed at their mission.

"It's never as simple as 'if you build it, they will come,'" says Stan Shapiro, a retired SFU professor of marketing and one of two instructors in the course co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce. "There's also a great deal you need to know about the accounting, finance and marketing aspects of small business management. Of course, you can search the Internet for help.

However, much of what you'll find is designed for much larger 'small businesses' than those on Salt Spring Island. We will be helping you learn how to use material far more appro-

priate for our island-size businesses. As part of our last class, David Wood of Salt Spring Cheese will discuss how this successful Salt Spring business was built."

The other course instructor is Jan Harkley, a chartered accountant, long-time bed and breakfast operator and co-owner of Salt Spring Vineyards. Harkley also teaches business planning and entrepreneurship at Royal Roads University.

"Small business courses are most effective when learners immediately apply what they are studying to their own ongoing or proposed new business," Harkley believes. "There's also much to be learned by exchanging ideas and experiences."

"That's why we expect everyone in this class not only to have a business in mind but also to be willing to discuss that business. Be prepared as well to spend another few hours a week

reading and applying mostly online material. A little time spent now could increase the probability of success in the future."

Starting and Running Your Own Small Business: What You Need to Know meets at Gulf Islands Secondary School for six successive Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m., beginning Feb. 5. The total cost, tuition plus materials, is \$100 for students who register by Feb. 4 and \$110 after that date. As with all Community Education courses, partial bursaries are available.

People can sign up for this course either by completing the registration form found in Community Education's large Driftwood advertisements or by downloading that form from the Community Education website www.communityed.com. For more information before registering, either call (653-4788) or e-mail Stan Shapiro at sshapiro@saltspring.com.

WHEN THIS RUNS OUT ARE YOU PREPARED?



If a power outage unexpectedly happens, it's important to be ready. Have a plan and share it with your family. Prepare an emergency kit and store it in an easy to find location.

Your kit should contain:

- a good flashlight
- a first aid kit
- a battery-operated radio with extra batteries
- some non-perishable food and bottled water.

Use surge protectors for electronics and pull the plug on everything else. Be extremely careful if you're using candles, as they can be a fire hazard. Finally, keep a list of local emergency contact numbers and be sure to include 1-888 POWERON (1-888-769-3766) for reporting an outage.

In a Power Outage, Knowledge is Power.

For more information visit bchydro.com.

BC Hydro 
FOR GENERATIONS

NEWSBEAT

MURAKAMI GARDENS



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Housing project nears completion.

It's time to apply for housing spot

Application process gets underway

BY LIZZY ROE

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

If you've walked up Rainbow Road lately, you've seen the progress that's been made on the construction of Murakami Gardens.

The building is now roofed and closed in; windows and doors are being installed, balconies are being added, and the building's plumbing and wiring are roughed in.

In fact, Rose and Richard's dream is nearing reality: occupancy is tentatively scheduled for July 2008 and applications are now being accepted.

Who will be living there? Well, take a look at the architect's drawing at the site — and fill in the blanks with images of the people you're used to seeing on the street, meeting at the grocers, working with, volunteering with. Murakami Gardens will truly be community housing.

There are studio, one, two and three-bedroom apartments, so residents will be single people, couples and families with children. Several ground-floor apartments are wheelchair-accessible.

The federal and provincial governments have made major contributions to the cost of construction, and in

return have set maximum allowable rental rates — and also maximum allowable earning levels for tenants.

Murakami Gardens will provide affordable housing for individuals and families who work or live in the community.

People with family ties to the island, or who work on-island but can't afford rentals here, are also invited to apply.

All other things being equal, consideration will be given to applicants whose current accommodations are sub-standard, overcrowded or unaffordable.

If you're interested in applying, phone Community Services, 537-9971. (See also the advertisement in this paper.) All people on the preliminary wait-list have been contacted by mail in the past two weeks; they need to submit an application form in order to be considered for housing.

Information on two forms of rent subsidy is available from the B.C. Housing website at <http://www.bchousing.org/programs/RAP> and at <http://www.bchousing.org/programs/SAFER> or forms can be picked up from Community Services at 268 Fulford Ganges Road.

Community Services is accepting donations to build an ongoing fund to be used to provide rent subsidies for people on limited incomes.

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Plan to Farm

Setting the Table for Food & Agriculture on Salt Spring Island

**The Future of Farming on Salt Spring Island
Release of the Area Farm Plan
&
Local Food Dinner**

Join us for the unveiling of the community's Area Farm Plan. Listen to our guest speakers and find out about how farm plans work (Jill Hadfield), improving small farm viability (Brent Warner) and community farms as solutions to access to farmland (Ramona Scott & Heather Pritchard). Enjoy a delicious, locally grown dinner prepared by chefs Bruce Wood, Marcel Kauer, Christine Godlongton, Milly Sinclair and the GISS culinary arts students.

DATE: Saturday, January 26, 2008

LOCATION: Gulf Islands Secondary School

TIME: 3 pm – 8 pm

Everyone Welcome

Pre-registration is required by 24 January for dinner tickets (\$20).

Contact Anne Macey 537 5511 or email:
macey@saltspring.com

SSI Area Farm Plan sponsors: Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Island Farmers Institute, Island Natural Growers, The Islands Trust, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Land, Capital Regional District.



Opinion

EDITORIAL

Rescuing SAR

Salt Spring is full of unsung heroes, but among the most low-key of them all is the Salt Spring Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers who meet every Tuesday night.

Besides exercising their specialty of locating lost or missing individuals — and they've had some interesting and successful experiences over the years — SAR supplements southern Gulf Islands' emergency services in the case of major incidents ranging from forest fires to snowstorms that effectively shut down the islands.

But as SAR search manager Chuck Hamilton noted recently, the typical SAR volunteer personality isn't one that demands much attention or recognition. They're generally attracted to being outdoors, the necessary teamwork involved and serving the community behind the scenes.

THE ISSUE:
Salt Spring Search & Rescue

WE SAY:
Tax support justified

their volunteer ranks.

(On that note, the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District should be commended for deciding Monday night to embark on an intensive recruitment drive for volunteers rather than heading straight down the road to a round-the-clock full-time staffing model and the associated costs to taxpayers.)

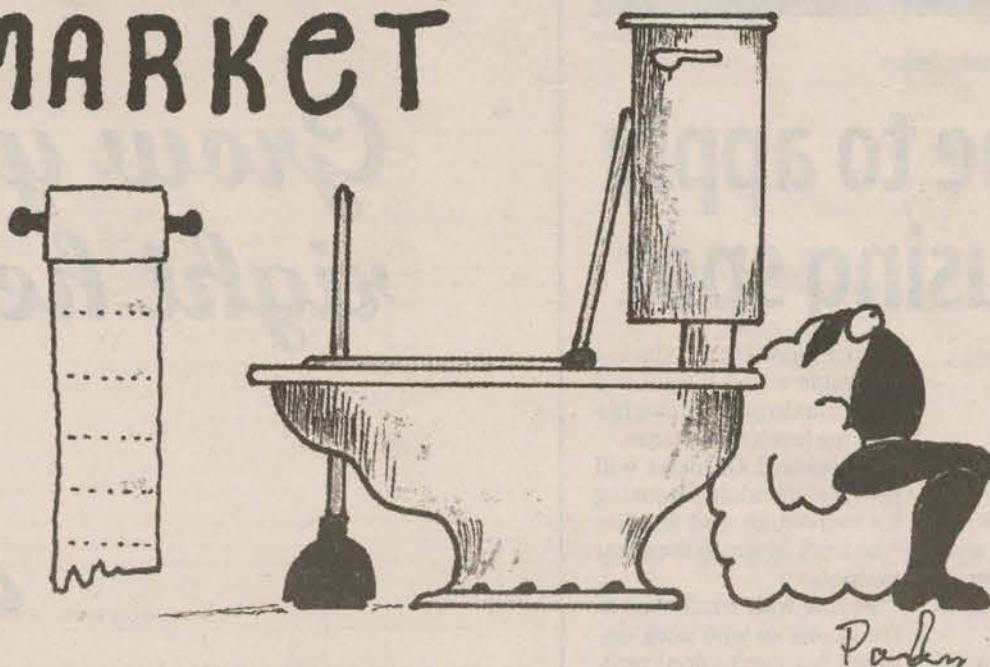
Almost as low-profile as the SAR volunteer service itself is the Capital Regional District's current counter-petition process that will ensure Salt Spring SAR gets a bit of annual funding for equipment, training and basic operating expenses — no salaries or honorariums. It will be administered by a larger emergency services body.

The amount of money involved is an estimated \$2.40 per year for an average-assessed household, or about \$15,000 in total.

The counter-petition period ends Jan. 31. If anyone feels that SAR should not receive modest taxpayer support, they can register their sentiment by filling out a form available at the Salt Spring Building Inspection Office.

However, in our view islanders would be hard-pressed to find a better bargain for an essential volunteer-run service.

STOCK MARKET



MP recounts Chalk River events

BY GARY LUNN

A key to good governance is to know when action needs to be taken. In my tenure as Minister of Natural Resources this has never been truer than with the recent events surrounding the shutdown of the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor at Chalk River.

The potential for an extended shutdown of this reactor threatened a national and international health crisis. The reactor supplies more than 50 per cent of the world's medical isotopes, responsible for over 25,000 medical procedures a day, crucial in the diagnosis and treatment of serious illnesses such as cancer and heart disease. A continued shortage of isotopes would have meant life or death for some patients.

The growing health crisis and the impasse between Atomic Energy Canada Limited (AECL) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on a licensing issue required that the government take all reasonable steps to find a resolution to this matter.

I first learned that the shutdown was anything but routine on Dec. 3, 2007.

For the next nine days, department officials and I were fully engaged in a profound effort to resolve the problem, including:

Asking both the AECL and the CNSC (ultimately unsuccessfully) to explore all possible options to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

Technical experts at both CNSC and AECL and independent experts confirmed that the reactor was safer than it had been at any time in its 50-year history. AECL and independent experts advised it was both possible and prudent to return the NRU to service safely and expeditiously.

In the absence of action from the CNSC President, our government introduced emergency legislation, which passed unanimously on Dec. 12, to restart the reactor.

Claims that the Auditor General's report on AECL addressed these issues are without foundation. The AG reports on long-standing problems facing the corporation, the long-term neglect

of the funding to meet those challenges, and the need to take a strong and determined approach to tackling them. Our government is accepting its responsibility and moving to resolve the issues highlighted by her report.

However, I want to be very clear. The report contains nothing to suggest that anyone would have had advance notice or could have anticipated the licensing issue that led to the extended shutdown of the NRU and the related shortage of medical isotopes. This was not the subject of the report and the Auditor General makes it clear that these issues fall outside the terms of her review.

Let me emphasize that both Prime Minister Harper and I fully support the principle of independent regulatory oversight for Canada's nuclear industry. We do question how the leadership of the CNSC applied that oversight during the recent crisis.

The failure of the CNSC president to consider fully and in a timely fashion the serious consequences of the growing shortage of medical isotopes, despite having the powers to do so, was of great concern to the government, and led to her dismissal as president.

Parliament did not overrule the CNSC lightly. We did so responsibly, with a bill that permitted the safe restarting of the reactor and requiring AECL to comply with their license within 120 days. With the unanimous support of both Houses we were able to accomplish the task quickly.

In December, all MPs and senators clearly felt they had to do the CNSCs job. With the crisis successfully averted, some of these same MPs now would like to ignore their own voting history to suit more partisan interests. However, the government has never wavered; getting the reactor up and running was the right decision in December and the right decision now.

The writer is Saanich-Gulf Islands MP and the Minister of Natural Resources.

VIEWPOINT

"Parliament did not overrule the CNSC lightly."

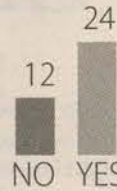
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you worried about falling stock market prices? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should MP Gary Lunn lose his ministerial position?



Driftwood

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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"ISG has and will continue to attempt to avoid unnecessary mud-slinging..."

ISG PRESIDENT KEN MARR

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: Why do you think the "SWOVA at Home" program can benefit parents?



NATALYA ALONSO

Because it's a really important opportunity for parents to learn about Respectful Relationships firsthand.



EMILY BISHOP

I think it will help parents relate to their children.



CAITLYN PAL

It will give parents insight into their child's life at school and encourage a healthier relationship.



MAGGIE DAVIDSON

It will open up communication between parents and their children.



HANNAH GARVIE-RANSEN

It will give them an opportunity to speak with other parents about similar issues involving their kids.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Read and reply to Driftwood letters online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Laurie's view

I would like to extend our appreciation, gratitude and support to the workers maintaining the highways, hydro and ferry systems.

My view comes from a 67-year-old Salt Spring Islander witnessing these people struggling to keep us happy while most of us get the "collywobbles" running from our back door to our vehicle in a storm. Thumbs up, a wave and smile to you all!

LAURIE HEDGER,
LEE ROAD

Supreme law

It is an extraordinary event when the government intervenes in the operations of an administrative tribunal like the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission [Lunn at centre of national fracas Driftwood, Jan. 16]; but not without precedent.

James Coyne, Governor of the Bank of Canada, was fired in 1961 when he clashed with the government of the day over economic policy.

The principle involved then is the same principle involved currently in the demotion of Linda Keen from her position as president of the CNSC: should a senior civil servant be allowed to override elected representatives in determining the public good?

Gary Lunn would have understood the dramatic nature of his action and that he had a lot to lose by taking it. With little to gain, why would he have removed Linda Keen from her position?

To understand why, you have to understand the motivation of civil servants. Speaking on the basis of several decades of experience as a consultant to government agencies, I can tell you that civil servants are seldom motivated by a job description. Their actions have more to do with creating convenience for themselves, with protecting their position, with extending their authority or, as in the case of Linda Keen, with partisan politics.

Gary Lunn intervened as

an elected representative of the people of Canada. Linda Keen was behaving as a partisan Liberal appointee — no surprise that she is defended by Briony Penn.

There is an ultimate constitutional maxim that applies here: *Salus populi suprema lex est*; the welfare of the people is the supreme law. Gary Lunn should be congratulated for defending this maxim despite risks to his political career.

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN,
SKY VALLEY ROAD

Not clean hands

While I agree with Briony Penn's statements and view point on MP Gary Lunn's incompetence in handling the Chalk River nuclear power plant issue, I must remind her that the Liberals do not have clean hands in this issue.

According to an article in the Jan. 17 *Globe and Mail*, Liberal MP Ralph Goodale was responsible for overseeing Atomic Energy of Canada Limited as Minis-

ter of Natural Resources. In 1998 a copy of a document was delivered by the Auditor General to his office. There have been red flags on the Chalk River project for years. Goodale's response: "He doesn't remember."

Does the honourable member have some form of dementia?

M.L. JOHNSTONE,
LOWER GANGES ROAD

Half truths

The assertions made by Brian Milne about me in his last week's *Driftwood* ("Worthwhile projects") remind me of the story of the Blind Men and the Elephant.

A group of blind men (or men in the dark) touch an elephant to learn what it is like. Each one touches a different part, but only one part, such as the side or the tusk.

They then compare notes on what they felt, and learn they are in complete disagreement. The story is used to indicate that reality may be viewed differently depending upon one's per-

spective, suggesting that what seems an absolute truth may be relative due to the deceptive nature of half-truths.

Contrary to Mr. Milne's claim that I purported in a phone call that I was the owner of Lot 23 Creekside, I did no such thing. I can only therefore assume he was misled by a person who did call me in an effort to determine who the owners of Lot 23 were. I made it clear to that caller I was only the administrator of the company.

Mr. Milne is correct that one of my companies was a co-incorporator of Salt Spring Ventures Inc. However, if he had bothered to really look into my business affairs, he would have noted my company ceased to be a shareholder on April 6, 2006, nearly two years ago.

BILL KREBS,
WILLOW LANE

Insecure feeling

I was happy to read that a study group is being formed

to advise the Trust of OCP issues related to Fulford.

Where does trustee George Ehring come off saying that the recommendations made by the former focus group "remain very much in the hopper?"

The recommendations to increase residential traffic flow in the village and to include 100 or more acres of land in the village boundaries were taken off the table by the trustees on Sept. 6 and Nov. 1, 2007, respectively.

That leaves the hopper full, minus two.

As we have to get on with things, it's time we took a few things out of the hopper.

Perhaps our trustees could publicly respond to the above dates of Sept. 6 and Nov. 1 so we know just where we are in the whole process.

I'm getting that insecure feeling again.

DENNIS O'HARA,
FULFORD

MORE LETTERS continued on A12

Columnist fast, loose with publishing facts

BY GEORGE SIPOS

Reading Peter Vincent's Jan. 16 column entitled "Canadian writers need to stand on their own two feet" was quite a trip down memory lane. I thought I had left this kind of column behind when I moved here from Prince George, but evidently not.

Columns that trade on provocation and bombast are, of course, a form of entertainment and newspapers print them to stir things up when life seems dull. We're not meant to mistake them for thoughtful comment or analysis. Still, in case some readers are tempted to look to the column to become informed about issues in Canadian publishing, a number of errors of fact need to be corrected.

For starters, Raincoast Books has not "announced it would no longer publish Canadian authors." Raincoast has announced that it will no longer publish any original books.

The bulk of Raincoast's business has always been warehousing and distributing books from American and British publishers (and producing Canadian editions of such foreign titles as *Harry Potter*). Some 10 years ago they started up their own pro-

GUEST COLUMN

gram to publish manuscripts they acquired themselves directly from authors. For these they did all the editorial development, promotion, marketing and so on. It is this part of their business activities they have now decided to discontinue.

The decision had nothing to do with the quality of the books they were publishing. Raincoast books and their authors were always highly regarded in the industry, both in Canada and abroad. It was purely a business decision affected partly by the crisis of the U.S. exchange rate, partly by the growing difficulties of marketing new titles in the Canadian and U.S. markets, and so on.

How Vincent moves from this fact to denigrating Canadian authors is beyond me.

He goes on to "fervently pray that the 'Canadian' section in various bookshops becomes a thing of the past." What a strange thing to pray fervently for.

I owned a bookstore for 19 years and I know that those stores that label sections for Canadian fiction or history or what-

ever do so because their customers prefer it. Someone who comes in looking for a cookbook likes to be able to find the cookbook section, and so on.

It is a fact that since some time in the 1970s when Canadian publishing first came into its own, readers have sought out Canadian books over British or American ones in many categories. History, gardening, natural history, biography, environmental issues, First Nations subjects and many others are areas where readers want Canadian content and Canadian perspectives.

And believe it or not, with the exception of mass market genres such as thrillers, sci-fi, mystery and romance, readers want to seek out fiction by Canadian authors too.

Such sections in bookstores are not ghettos but cabinets of wonder for many readers, and that's what booksellers respond to.

Vincent ends his column with another piece of bad information. He refers to a website that "will publish 26 books, in hardcover, with a book jacket, for \$14 apiece." What he means, no doubt, is that there is someone who will "print" books at this price.

Publishing involves much more than

printing bound sheets of paper. There is a long editorial process that grows an initial manuscript into a finished book, an extensive organization to market the book both to retailers and libraries and to readers, a distribution network, and so on.

As unit printing costs go, \$14 is actually on the expensive side. Who has edited the book, who has designed it, who will make the effort to bring the book to the attention of readers who might benefit from it? The answer is nobody, and I certainly don't want one of these things for Christmas.

Fun is fun Mr. Vincent, and we all enjoy a good stiff belt of outrageousness now and then. But there are a lot of people in this country who take the task of writing and publishing and selling good books seriously. They believe it is important, and they do the best they can in the specific cultural and economic circumstances we all face.

I'm willing to bet their appetite for laughter is limited at best.

The writer, now executive director of ArtSpring, is a published poet and owned Mosquito Books in Prince George for 19 years.



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Looking for love in all the right places...

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DEAR MS. SALTYSPRINGER: I've had a long stream of dead-end dates. My dates are guys who are totally not my type, but they're out and partying than getting serious stuff and would like to meet someone out there with me. You'd think I'd find nature-loving men but I just can't. Any thoughts on meeting a guy who's serious?

So cue up your questions and ask away!

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pless on PRING

HMMM...I NEED SOME NEW IDEAS...HOW ABOUT YOU?



All the people portrayed on this page are fictional.

PRODUCTS AND SIAL SOMEONE.

NGER, I'm 23 years old and have had a s. My friends keep setting me up with my type — guys who are more into going tting to know me. I'm really into outdoorsy eet someone who would be into getting think the island would be crawling with just can't seem to find them anywhere. a guy with the same interests?

-Cheers, Disheartened
on Dukes Road.

DEAR DISHEARTENED,

We are now deep into the dark winter days and while it may seem like our woodsmen are curled up in caves like hibernating bears, they are, in truth, still out and about... but as the seasons change, so do their gathering places. Take heart, my young friend, with a little imagination and a lot of energy, you may just find the outdoorsman of your dreams, or at least one that would make a decent date.

While whipping on your bikini and traipsing to a popular summer swimming hole is out, there is a watersport that will still get your feet wet and your heart pumping. The Salt Spring Seals (Diana Hayes, 537-2538, diana@dianahayes.ca) is an all-season ocean swimming club that meets at different beaches around the island. So haul yourself into that wetsuit and snap on your snorkel and brave the brisk waters of the west coast. Now I'm not promising a date but, damn, if you're tough enough to swim across Vesuvius Bay in February you can definitely navigate the waters of the dating world!

If you prefer to stay on dry (okay, muddy) land, the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club (Ron Hall, president, 538-0046, woodlandchalet@saltspring.com) meets every Tuesday to tackle a trail, all which vary in degrees of difficulty from 'Rambles' to 'Hikes.' You'll get a chance to explore the island, discover new and beautiful spots, learn about island flora, fauna and, if you're really lucky, a thing or two about the birds and bees. If you

feel like venturing off-island, Island Escapades organizes mountaineering expeditions throughout the winter and is also a great place to pick any gear you may need for your now-busy schedule of excursions... a day pack, water bottle, or a cute tour guide (537-2553, www.islandescapades.com). Good luck and happy trails!



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Taxation on Salt Spring Island

Taxation on Salt Spring is complicated by the present system of governance. It is widely dispersed through a number of bodies operating on mandates that are sometimes clearly stated and limited and sometimes expressed so broadly that they are capable of manipulation or extension beyond their original intentions. The result is incoherent, irrational, ineffective and costly to the taxpayer. It also allows for a concentration of power in very few hands.

The Current System of Governance.

The Islands Trust is responsible for conservation through land use planning and regulation, and for leadership in stewardship. Each island has a Local Trust Committee with two locally elected trustees and a third trustee from another island. Salt Spring provides \$1,750,000 or 41% of the revenue of the Island Trust and receives approximately \$300,000 in trust services. The balance is used to defray costs on other islands and Trust Council expenses.

The Capital Regional District is a form of regional government for 12 municipalities in the Victoria area and three unincorporated areas, Salt Spring Island, the Southern Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca. On Salt Spring, its duties involve building permits, building inspection, animal control, enforcement of local bylaws (along with the Trust), sewer systems, some water systems, recreation facilities and programmes, library funding and a transportation system. Salt Spring also contributes to regional parks in the CRD and hospitals. There is one locally elected director.

Policing is controlled by the Provincial government, which sets the number of officers to serve on the island. Allocations are made on the basis of population, crime rate and availability of officers but Salt Spring has been chronically understaffed for years. Funding is based on the Provincial Rural Tax and the recently implemented Police Tax.

Roads are a provincial responsibility through the Ministry of Transportation. Maintenance is provided under contract by a private contractor while new roads and improvements to existing roads are an ad hoc political decision. Funding is derived from the Provincial Rural Tax.

The Fire Department is a local improvement district service governed by locally elected trustees. Trustees prepare a budget for the Minister of Consumer Affairs; if approved, the Trustees set the mill rate that will produce the desired amount of revenue.

The Transportation Commission has 9 members and has hired a coordinator to run a bus system on the island. The Commission was funded by taxpayers of Salt Spring by a counterpetition, plus contributions from the CRD, BC Transit and user fares. BC Transit will provide core annual funding as well as minibuses, planning and marketing; the CRD will determine service levels and set fares. The budget for the first year was set at \$180,000 but the contribution of the Salt Spring taxpayers to that budget and future operating losses is unknown.

The Library has a Board of 7 to 9 directors appointed internally, not elected and it is funded by provincial taxes and some CRD funds. Capital projects are funded from taxes approved by referendum, and aided by donations. It recently bought an adjacent property at \$600,000. Another referendum will be required for the proposed new building.

Parks and Recreation Commission has 8 commissioners, who were formerly selected by an independent community-based committee, but a bylaw is in the works to give control of the selection and appointment of commissioners to the CRD director. Funding for PARC comes from the CRD.

Some **water systems** are run by the CRD and some by Improvement Districts, which have locally elected directors. There are currently at least 11 water districts on the island, six of which are now administered by the CRD.

Future ads will outline the current taxation on Salt Spring, as it compares to Bowen Island Municipality.



For more information visit us at www.islandgov.org or email us at info@islandgov.org

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Ken Marr	Peter Lake	Gail Beattie	David Waddington
Nick Hunt	Susan Russell	Alix Granger	Steve Knight

Fill out the attached form, mail it in or drop it off at one of our Island Business Supporters:
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Or drop off at one of our island business supporters listed above.

OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

Headline choice

This is just to explain that I did not write the headline that appeared in the In Depth column on Page 11 of the Jan. 16 issue over the piece that I wrote.

The headline that I wrote was "Island Restaurants and Pubs."

TERRY ISON,
SALT SPRING

Bus support

Thank you all for the tremendous outpouring of support the new Salt Spring Transit bus system has received.

Things seem to be moving along very well. Our drivers are doing an excellent job of staying on schedule and informing the public. Our ridership has been higher than expected, which is wonderful.

Because there is such community support there are many people waving to us as we go by.

It's really quite funny though, that sometimes we cannot distinguish a friendly wave from a flagdown for the bus to stop.

There have been a number of hitchhikers who at the last moment, seeing the bus, decide to instead flag it down.

This means the bus might have to come to a sudden halt, running the risk of passengers being thrown off their seats.

It is a larger vehicle and because of its weight cannot stop that quickly.

In a situation like that the driver, more than likely, will find it safer to keep moving.

I wonder if the island could support the idea of using a kerchief or hankie to flag down the bus?

That way there would be no mistaking what is meant. At nighttime, maybe they could wave a flashlight in the air?

In general, the schedules we have adopted are working very smoothly.

It's too bad, however, that some of the runs do not coincide with some people's work schedules.

Some people with these issues have been able to adjust their work schedules to accommodate the bus and this is great.

If you are one of the unfortunate few this does not work for, we can only say that maybe, if we continue to do well, there will be the likelihood of more runs making it easier. We have to give it time to develop.

There has been the issue of which bus passes are valid on the island. The only valid ones are the "BC Bus Pass" for seniors and persons with disabilities and the CNIB pass for people with visual handicaps. Other than that, there are no other passes that we can accept. The monthly SS Transit passes available at our grocery stores and drugstores are the only ones for use on Salt Spring.

Another point to remember is that we have three drivers (and sometimes a fourth) working differing shifts.

So even though peo-

ple have been routinely picked up a few times at the same spot and time, they cannot expect that the next driver will automatically know to stop unless they let him or her know with a flagdown.

Maybe this letter will clarify and explain some issues.

We are so grateful for the good use so many of you are making of our bus system. Hopefully because of this it can just keep getting better and better.

If you're not waiting at a designated bus stop, from now on we'll be looking for your waving kerchief, hankie or moving flashlight in the dark. Let's make this a unique Salt Spring Island tradition!

INEKE DE JONG,
SS TRANSIT OPERATOR

Strong soil bylaw needed

The recent application for a gravel mine and quarry off of Jones Road near Fulford Harbour shows that Salt Spring Island needs a strong soil removal and deposit bylaw.

The mine permit application proposes to remove 250,000 cubic metres of material (up to 50,000 a year) until 2013 over an area of 3.6 hectares (8.9 acres). That would be the area of about eight football fields to a depth of about 6.9 metres (22.6 feet), a big hole!

The site is next to Mill Farm Regional Park and a salmon creek tributary. If you would like more information, write to the Ministry of Mines and ask for a public consultation meeting.

If this mine gets a permit, is there protection for the community? Right now, not much. But the Supreme Court of B.C. has ruled that local government can regulate mines permitted by the ministry. Our local trust committee (LTC) is considering a soil bylaw which could do just that. But the last draft I saw was so weak, it wouldn't protect us at all.

The LTC could and should pass a strong, enforceable soil bylaw that will protect the community by regulating hours of operation, noise, notification of blasting, buffers from other properties, etc. and protect all watercourses (such as a nearby creek) from damage from excessive runoff of water, rocks and silt which together could destroy this stream and make it unsuitable for salmon spawning.

The draft soil bylaw is to be presented to our trustees on Feb. 7. Before that, please write to our trustees, Peter Lamb, George Ehling and Kim Benson, asking for a soil bylaw that will protect through measurable standards, enforcement by the Trust itself (not a consultant paid by the mine owner) and by specifically covering mines! The last draft of the soil bylaw that I saw, strangely, exempted mines under ministry permit and other commercial operations.

MAXINE LEICHTER,
MOUNT BELCHER

OPINION

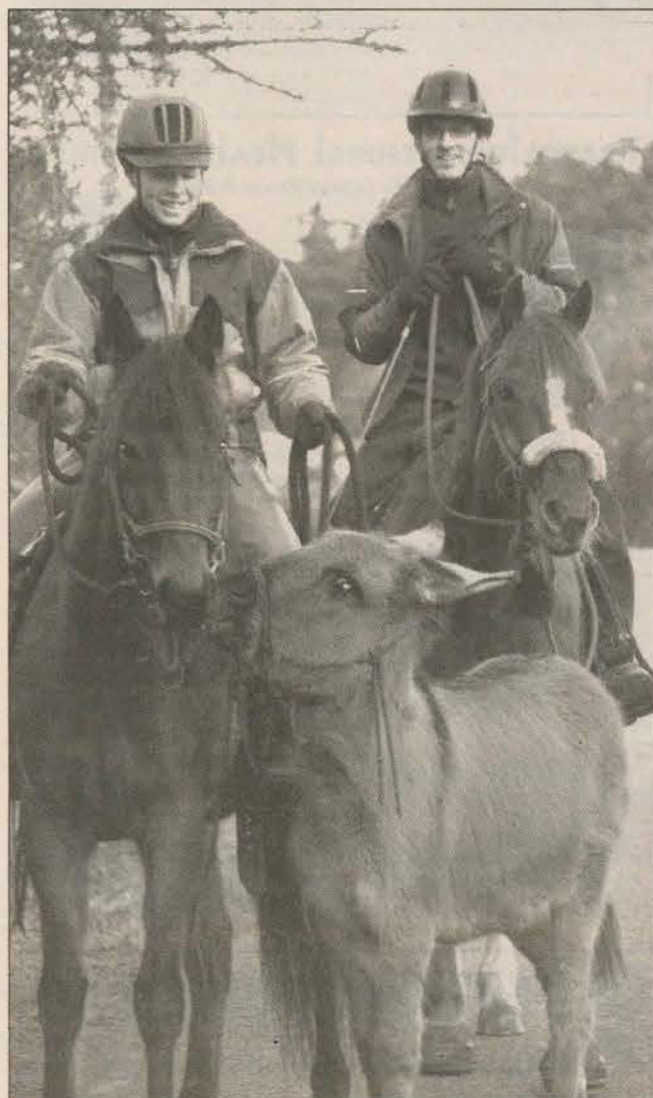


PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

WEEKLY WALK: Sacha Edgell (on Gaby) and Dave MacDonald (on Grubby) take one-and-a-half-year-old Pancho the donkey for his weekly walk.

RANTS and Roses

Another wreath of dark roses to Gary Holman for his faint protection of taxpayer dollars. WPC

Kyle Finemore deserves an acre of roses for collecting and disposing of a truck load of styrofoam and garbage from the beach at Drummond Park and the head of Fulford Harbour. Thank you, Kyle, for this clean-up and all the other occasions when you've quietly given your time and money to help keep our beach clean. M&D

Twenty acres of old-growth roses to everyone who donated to the Art For The Rainforest silent auction, and to the artists who showed their work and donated proceeds from their sales. Thanks for helping us put on another great fundraising event to save the Creekside Rainforest.

A big bouquet of electric pink long-stemmed roses to Jason and the B.C. Hydro crew for my nice new power pole and for so graciously bringing in a load of gravel to repair the long, steep driveway. Truly going the extra mile with a smile. Nina Raginsky

A stream of fair maidens on horseback casting roses and blessings to all on their way, and especially to the night angel. Thank you for your dedication and loyalty. You are missed. ACW

A huge series of books on roses for Li Read, for her continued support for the Gulf Islands Secondary School library. Your generous donation of money in memory of Donald Napier is much appreciated and will go towards opera and music

resources in the library. The students will be benefitting from your generosity for years to come. Thank you so much! From K. Logan, E. Cocker, L. Kimber and the music department too

Roses to the Dafoes of Vesuvius for saving my rowboat, which had been "involuntarily lost" from the Vesuvius dock. Thanks, neighbours. Peter Clarke

Rural life threatened

Last week's Driftwood classifieds carried an announcement that a request for permit has been filed for a commercial sand/gravel pit and rock quarry on Patrick Akerman's property at the end of Jones Road.

We own a 34-acre hobby farm at the east end on the south side of the Fulford Valley by St. Mary's Church. For several years now we have been acutely aware of the hum of heavy equipment working high on the forested ridge behind our property and several other properties along the south side of the valley.

Akerman Farms Gravel Supply owns an excess of 500 acres along this ridge stretching from Hamilton-Horne way over to Jones Road and we are further told that a development project of some 30 lots is being carved out on that ridge.

We have observed also for several years that there has been an unusual increase in water volume flowing down Soule Creek, particularly with heavy rains and snow.

Torrents of water bring down debris, gravel, dirt and sand that quickly plugs up culverts and fills the creek beds that flow through the farmland below.

Soule Creek is a salmon stream originating on the hillside of development behind the neighboring farm and winds its way down through our farm property emptying into the ocean by the Fulford Inn.

Now a mine is proposed on this same development property on the rugged wet hillside at the west end of the valley by Jones Road.

This extremely wet hillside appears to contain many water aquifers and development in this area could create potentially damaging runoff to the lands and salmon tributary creek that originates on that hillside and winds down through farm land and flows into Fulford Creek.

As we see from aerial photographs, Mill Farm Regional Reserve is also adjacent to the proposed quarry site. We are told that potential health issues exist from quarry dust and noise and will we view the scars of the quarry from one of our most famous vantage points, Mount Maxwell park?

Safety issues exist with Jones Road being very narrow with deep ditches on either side running full with water all winter allowing for very minimal room for two cars to pass. Residents

walking and children riding their bicycles would not be safe with heavy trucks coming and going daily.

Preservation of this unique "one of a kind" setting is essential for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Rural valley life is seriously being threatened by such a proposal and we are asking islanders to write to the Ministry of Mines to request a public inquiry so that all the issues above and more can be carefully considered.

STANLEY AND LOUISE WINDSOR,
FULFORD-GANGES ROAD

Firefighters respond

We, as members of the Salt Spring Island Volunteer Firefighters Association, would like to address some misunderstandings regarding the proposed firefighter's training ground that have been perpetuated by articles, editorials and letters in the Gulf Islands Driftwood.

We believe the key issue of the training ground is to improve the safety and efficiency of our operations. Most arguments have missed this key component of the discussion.

According to a 1999 study conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics (unfortunately Canada has not made a comparable study), firefighting is the single most dangerous occupation for injury and illness in that country with 20.3 per cent of firefighters suffering an injury or debilitating illness annually (that is one in five firefighters injured each year). Additionally, some 100 firefighters are killed in the line of duty across North America each year.

We do not wish to see Salt Spring volunteers added to the list of fatalities, injuries and debilitating disease. We've also witnessed several deaths among fellow firefighters on Vancouver Island in the last few years and we do not wish to attend a Salt Spring line-of-duty funeral. We all want to go home to our families every night.

We believe that the primary reason to improve our training facilities is not to save money, improve recruitment or reduce volunteer travel time as has been discussed in the Driftwood and during public meetings.

The training ground's chief function will be to augment existing weekly practices. It will not necessarily replace specialty courses members must currently take off island, although some of these courses may be available on

island with the proposed facility at reduced costs.

Firefighters need to maintain a comprehensive skill set that is used sporadically in the course of real-world events. But when these skills are needed, they must be performed at full competency under adverse conditions with life or death implications.

Currently, Salt Spring Fire Rescue has one classroom and the use of a few parking lots, thanks to the good graces of a few community businesses and services. These facilities do not meet the current needs of a fire service that requires constant training and upgrading.

In addition to protecting the safety of local firefighters, the community is better served by a well-trained fire service. Without effective training facilities, we might not perform to our best potential when it comes time to cut you out of your car for rapid medical attention. Our ability could be less than our desire when we are called upon to erect a ladder to rescue your son or daughter, or a fire might consume an entire house instead of just the room of origin.

Note that the proposed Fulford training facility is based on similar training sites neighbouring organic farms and elementary schools in communities such as Comox and Otter Point that have functioned for years without subsequent complaint.

We applaud the efforts of people hoping to preserve farmland in the Agricultural Land Reserve, but the Fulford fire hall has been located on the same site for 25 years and the land has not been farmed in that time. The training ground is not expanding onto new land; we simply want to utilize a boggy, now gravel-covered .8-acre section of the existing property. It is unforeseeable that this property will ever be used as farmland again, unless somehow fire rescue services are no longer required on the island.

We urge community members to support the safety and well-trained services of Salt Spring's volunteer and career firefighters by supporting an upgrade of the Fulford hall facilities. **SALT SPRING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS,** (29 SIGNATORIES)

MORE LETTERS AND LONG OPINION PIECES CAN BE FOUND AT OUR NEW AND EXPANDED NEWS WEBSITE: WWW.GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD.COM, UNDER THE "LETTERS" TAB.

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Inquiries: contact Andrew Lewis, Tel. 250-653-4770



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Salt Spring Island Provincial Protected Areas Planning Project

The Ministry of Environment (BC Parks) will host a second Open House to discuss management directions for Burgoyne Bay, Mount Erskine, Mount Maxwell, and Ruckle Provincial Parks, as well as Mount Maxwell and Mount Tuam Ecological Reserves.

Salt Spring Island Lions Club – Hart Bradley Hall
103 Bonnet Avenue, Ganges, Salt Spring Island

Thursday January 31, 2008
2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

For more information, please call
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A native of Manitoba, Waterfall has lived in all the western provinces and has done development work in Africa.

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LENICE

Now as a woman in my 40's, a mother of a beautiful 7-year-old daughter, and with training from Blanche Macdonald School of Esthetics, I have been able to work as an esthetician/spa technician for 3 years. Being a breast cancer survivor, it is as important to me as it is to my clients to use naturally grown and processed skin care products such as Eminence from Hungary.

I am Lenice and I look forward to introducing myself personally.

What drew me to my new home on Salt Spring Island was the natural and down to earth elements, which remind me of the first 17 years of my life in Stockholm, Sweden.

Throughout my earlier years as a young woman, I was involved in several employment opportunities, finally focusing on the health and wellness field.

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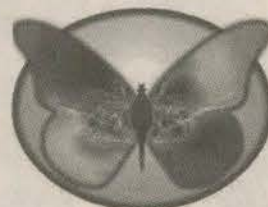
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TRACY STIBBARDS

Limited space available for upcoming editions of this weekly feature.

People & Community

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Shop students build for good cause

Pair's work deemed
'an inspiration'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Once Gulf Islands secondary students Sydney Kazakoff and Clover Fedoriuk-Russell finished up their woodworking assignments last fall, finding another project was a real no-brainer.

"We thought helping the island's seniors would be a nice thing to do," Kazakoff said, shortly after putting the finishing touches on a full-sized picnic table last week.

With help from people's donations at Thrifty Foods and funds from their peers, the students raised nearly \$400 to get the project rolling. Within two months, they'd purchased all the supplies, shaped the lumber and fitted the works together.

"We even bought an umbrella with the left-over money so people can use it rain or shine," Kazakoff said.

The table's rounded edges are designed to soften the blow if anybody walks into or falls on one of the corners, added Fedoriuk-Russell.

The finished product was delivered to Greenwood's Eldercare centre where it will occupy a prized spot in the facility's courtyard.

What's perhaps most notable about the girls' picnic table is that the project has inspired other students to work on similar initiatives for other community organizations.

"These projects can really make a difference," Kazakoff said.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Sydney Kazakoff, left, and Clover Fedoriuk-Russell with their picnic table.

As for their next assignment, work is already underway on Project Jasmin. The pair is raising funds to build a box filled with toys for Jasmin Wilson, a seven-year-old Salt Spring girl who is recovering from a rare vascular disorder in a Vancouver hospital.

"They're an inspiration," said the woodworking shop assistant Chip Chipman. "There are so many bad-news stories about young people these days, but this isn't one of them."

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PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

FILM FESTIVAL CAFE

Film explores risk-taking Greenpeace phenomenon

Islander leads discussion

Film Festival Café resumes Thursday, Jan. 31 at Barb's Bakery and Bistro with the film Greenpeace: Making a Stand.

According to Knowledge Network's press release, "Thirty-five years after Greenpeace's first seafaring vessel, the Phyllis Cormack, set sail for Amchitka to fight testing of the nuclear bomb, producer/director

Leigh Badgley follows Greenpeace's co-founder Rex Weyler to Argentina. Here, he meets young Greenpeace recruits on a potentially dangerous campaign — fighting to save the Chaco forest, homeland of the indigenous Wichi people. Together with John Watterberg, an energetic young campaigner from New York, Rex witnesses the bulldozing of vast tracts of virgin forest to make way for massive industrial soya plantations. The

film follows Weyler and Watterberg as they join the Greenpeace Jaguars — a daring squadron of Argentine activists who ride high-power dirt bikes into the forest to stop the bulldozers in their tracks.

"With dramatic action footage, still photographs, lively interviews, and evocative music, Greenpeace: Making a Stand explores the reasons people are inspired to risk their lives for their beliefs — whether it's sailing

a ship into a nuclear test zone, getting between a pod of whales and an explosive harpoon, or blocking bulldozers from mowing down a forest."

Bart Terriel, a Salt Spring resident and former captain of The Rainbow Warrior and several other Greenpeace vessels, will be on hand to share his experiences and facilitate a discussion about the film.

Greenpeace: Making a Stand is one film of over 70 that will be screened at

the March 7-9 Our Island, Our World Film Festival taking place at Gulf Islands Secondary School and The Fritz Cinema.

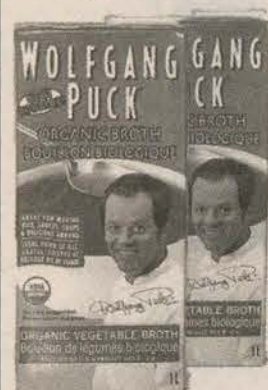
Next month's Film Festival Café selection will be Pete Seeger: The Power of Song, a retrospective of Seeger's activist life with lots of archival footage and great music.

Film Festival Café opens at 5:30 p.m. with the film beginning at 7 p.m. sharp.

Ganges Village Market News

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- ☐ Celery stalk
- ☐ Fresh bean sprouts



THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET EGG FOO YUNG

Short cuts to cooking for one or two @ with Sarah Lynn

Egg Foo Yung: Various incarnations of egg pancakes filled with meat or vegetables and seasonings have existed since ancient times. Contrary to popular belief, Egg Foo Yung is based on authentic Chinese dishes, North and South. It may be made with various vegetables often used in Westernized Chinese cuisine, such as celery. When meat is used as an ingredient, a choice of shredded roast pork, shrimp, or shredded chicken is most common. All it takes is a few eggs, crisp vegetables and seasonings to create an elegant dish that is perfect for breakfast, a main entrée or late night snack. Here's one of my takes on this classic dish.

Spray a small frying pan with light cooking oil. Over medium heat sauté 1 diced green onion, 1 diced celery stalk, ½ cup fresh bean sprouts - rinsed and drained, & ½ can shrimp, drained until tender. In a small bowl combine 3 eggs, 1 tablespoon milk, ¼ teaspoon each of salt, black pepper, paprika (or cayenne pepper) & 2 tablespoons sweet hot chili sauce. Add sautéed vegetables, stir until combined, then set aside. Coat a clean skillet with 2 tablespoons of oil & cook over medium to low heat either as individual patties or as one large foo yung until cooked through.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Kara Mackay (back row, second from right) celebrates her "sweet 16th" birthday with friends and a treasure hunt in Ganges.

Obstacles are surmounted in duplicate bridge steeplechase

Laundrys edge out frisky competitors

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

2008 is a leap year, and on Jan. 7 after the holiday rest period there was a combined effort to vault to the front of the duplicate bridge steeplechase, with a very close finish.

Winning by a nose were Flo and George Laundry, nudged by Sandy Thompson

BRIDGETRICKS

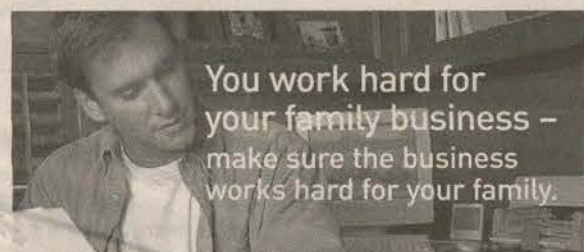
and Prem Margoese. Flying over the hurdles just behind were Blanche Poborsa and Hilde Dietereich.

Odd hands caused the rest of the field to stumble from time to time but keep up the pace.

There were some snow showers on Jan. 14, which scared off a few players, resulting in only three and

a half tables. Flo and George Laundry headed the pack again, followed by Ted Harrison and Bob Morrisette. Tilly Crawley and Isabelle Richardson occupied third place, and several other pairs had above average scores as well.

For those who would like to have a go at duplicate bridge with this friendly group, George Laundry can give you information if you call 653-9095 or e-mail pastorale@shaw.ca.



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Islands Trust

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SALT SPRING ISLAND
LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE
Proposed Bylaw No. 430**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will hold a public hearing concerning Proposed Bylaw No. 430, for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained therein. At the public hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions. The information session and public hearing for this bylaw will precede the regular monthly Local Trust Committee Meeting to be held on the same day.

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2008

LOCATION: ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Avenue, Salt Spring Island

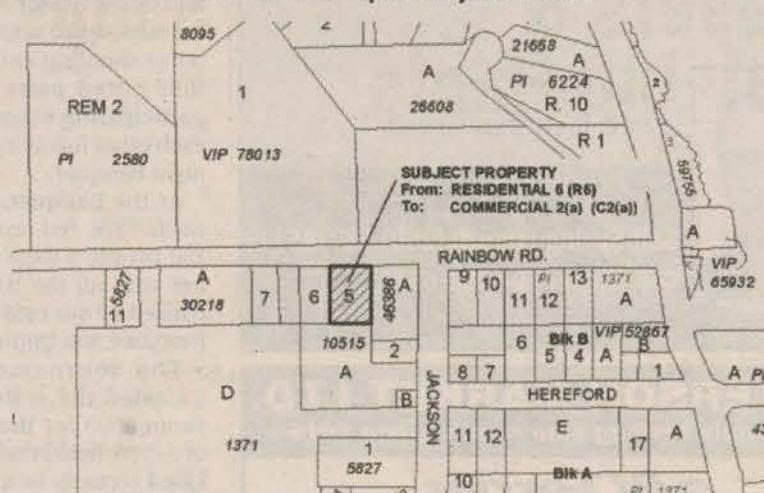
TIME: 1:30 PM – Public Information Session, followed by Public Hearing

1. **Proposed Bylaw No. 430, cited as "Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 1, 2007".**

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 430 is to amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 as follows:

- a. by creating a new Commercial 2 Zone Variation (a) – C2(a);
- b. by changing the zoning of Lot 5, Range 3 East, North Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan 5827, from Residential 6 to Commercial 2 Zone Variation (a) – C2(a), in order to permit the current use, a parking facility for employees working in Ganges Village, while maintaining flexibility in the zoning to allow for potential future uses such as mixed use commercial and/or residential development.

Plan No. 1 – Proposed Bylaw No. 430



Copies of the proposed bylaw, and any background material that may be considered by the Local Trust Committee, may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing Friday, January 18, 2008 and up to and including Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 4:30 PM. Proposed Bylaw No. 430 may also be viewed on the Islands Trust website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca

Enquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to the Islands Trust at (250) 537-9144, or to Planner Justine Starke, at (250) 538-5603. For Toll Free access, request a transfer to the Islands Trust via Enquiry BC: in Vancouver at 660-2421, and elsewhere in BC at 1-800-663-7867. Written submissions may be delivered as follows:

1. By mail to the Islands Trust at 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8; by Fax to (250) 537-9116; or online at the Islands Trust website via the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltr/ss/meetings.cfm> by completing the **Public Hearing, February 7, 2008 Submission Form** before 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 6, 2008.
2. To the **Local Trust Committee at the Public Hearing.**

Email comments should not be considered as complying with the requirements of this notice. The Islands Trust does not guarantee that any email comment will be received by the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide email comments, if they are opened and received, to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee for consideration, but the public should not rely on email as a means of providing a written comment.

All applications are available for review by the public. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

NO REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BYLAW WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

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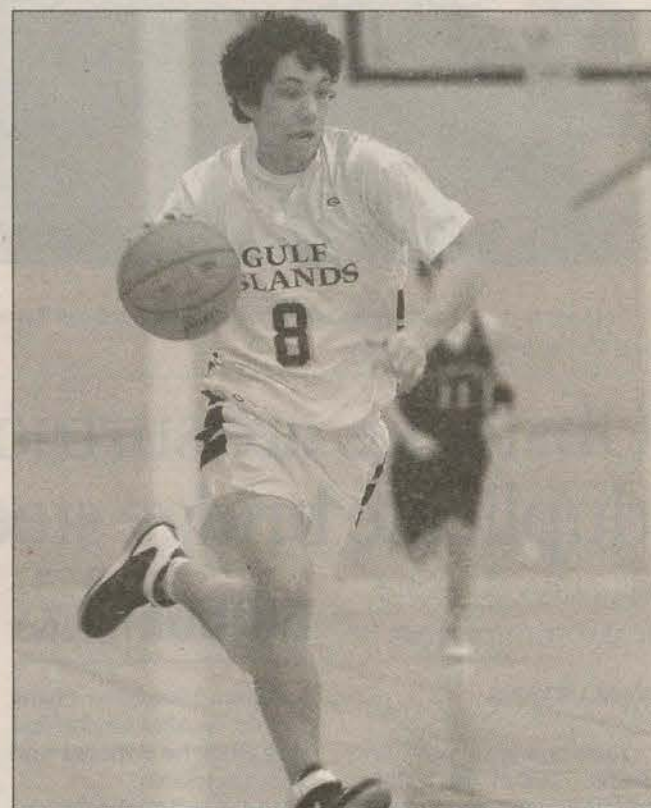
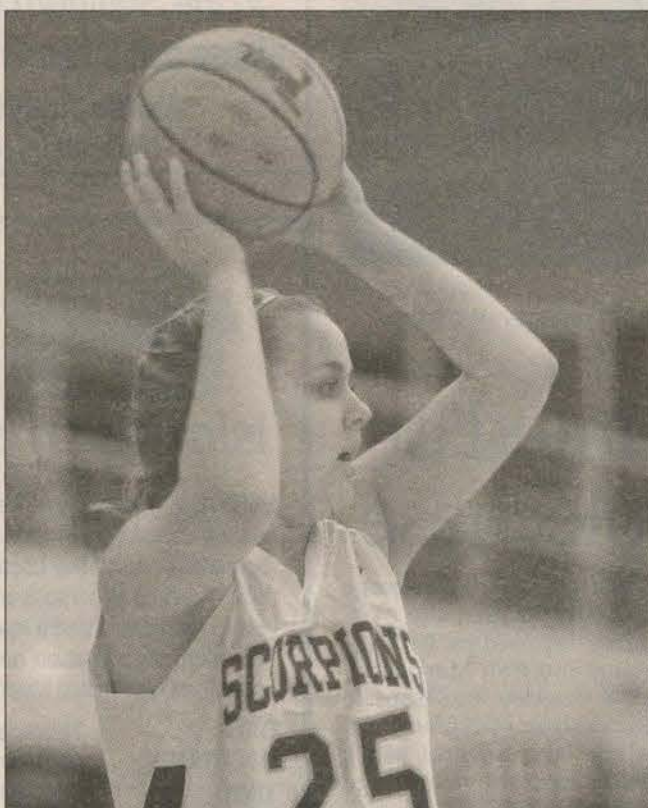
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PHOTOS BY JOHN CAMERON

Scorpions Kristi Lee and Bob Byron were awarded the Nairn Howe Outstanding Player Awards on Saturday.

Byron and Lee given Howe honours

TOURNEY

continued from A1

Gromme led tournament scoring for the girls, nailing a total of 73 points, including 31 in the first game. She and fellow GISSer Bob Byron teamed up to win a three-point shooting competition that pitted pairs from all participating teams against each other following a Friday night banquet.

At the banquet, Ruehlen said, "We fed more than 130 people a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings, cooked by our café program. Everyone was impressed."

The tournament also included the collection of some \$300 for the families of seven basketball players killed recently in a car accident in Bathurst, New Brunswick. A moment of silence was held in the boys' memory just prior to the start of the boys' final game between

GISS and Burnaby.

The senior boys' games provided more edge-of-the-seat drama than the GISS girls', as the team beat Kwalikum in its first match — despite an exciting last-minute comeback from the Kwalikum offence — and then downed a GISS alumni team in overtime.

(The alumni squad, which obtained a berth in the tournament when another team dropped out, went on to beat Kwalikum in a rousing double-overtime game.)

The senior boys battled Burnaby Mountain Lions in the final, playing a back-and-forth game, with each team taking turns in the lead and the score rarely moving beyond a difference of four points.

"It was one of the best basketball games I've ever been to," said Ruehlen, adding that everything from the skill level, energy, excitement

and a big crowd added to the atmosphere.

Both players Dylan Marsden and Bob Byron thrilled the crowd with buzzer-beater shots at the end of the half and third quarter, sending three-pointers sailing through the air and into the net just as the buzzer sounded.

The local boys were behind 15-14 at the end of the first quarter, ahead 32-29 at the half and up 47-46 at the end of the third quarter. They lost the game 68-64, after last minute baskets by Martin Lannan and Cayce Fedberg.

"It was pretty intense the whole game," said Byron, team captain. "We lost momentum late in the game when we shouldn't have."

He added the team is "pretty content" with its second-place finish. "We've won it the last two years... Burnaby is a triple-A school, which is pretty talented."

At the end of each team's final game, Nairn Howe Outstanding Player Awards were handed out to players who demonstrated a wealth of qualities, including positive attitude, leadership, strength, kindness and passion, as noted by their peers.

Byron received the honours for the GISS boys' team, while Kristi Lee picked up the award for the girls.

"Bobby Byron and Kristi Lee demonstrate, on and off the court, many of the qualities that Nairn shared with others during her lifetime," said Nairn's husband Bob Howe, who presented the awards.

Howe named a number of people who made the tournament a success, including organizers Ruehlen, Perry Ruehlen and Lee Ann Gordon, coaches, referees, concession and cafeteria workers, custodians and myriad other volunteers.

SPORTS FANS

Nine-year-old islander wins Canucks tickets

Beats out 300 for top prize

Gabe Gold's puck-throwing skills earned the nine-year-old islander an overnight trip to Vancouver and some Canucks game tickets.

Gold was among some 300 people participating in a contest at a Victoria Salmon Kings matinee on Sunday.

"The prize was to be awarded to the puck closest to the blue dot in the face-off circle," explained his mom, Natalie.

"Gabe's puck landed on the face-off circle on its edge and rolled directly into the blue dot in the centre of the rink, where it remained on its edge for the entire competition."

"I thought it was some random person's puck — I couldn't believe it landed in the centre," said Gabe's brother Elijah.

Gabe's father Blake had purchased 12 pucks — one for every member of their group, the SSI Hockey Nuts. The group was initiated by Tai Leavitt and

his father Peter as a very belated birthday present for Elijah.

When asked for his identification, Gabe had no driver's licence to offer, so instead produced the number of his puck — 669 — to take home his prize, which includes accommodation at the Georgian Court Hotel.

A Grade 4 student at Fulford Elementary, Gabe is looking forward to his trip to Vancouver on March 17 to see the Phoenix Coyotes.

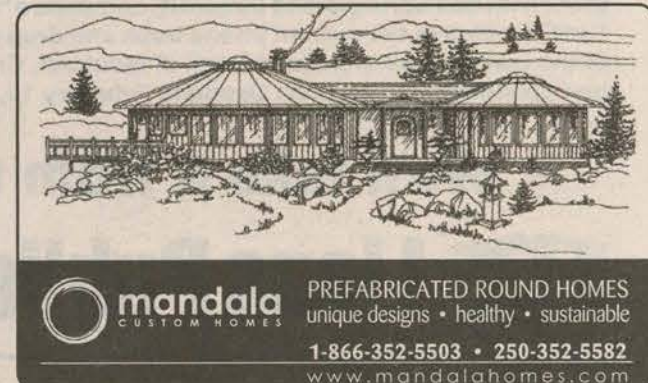
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SOCCERKICKS

• Salt Spring's U10 boys faced a stalwart Sooke team Saturday, but their passing and strong positional play created early momentum. Unfortunately, against the run of play, Sooke counterattacked and scored.

Salt Spring held on with strong defensive work by Josh Brown and Gabe Gold, plus some unbelievable goal-keeping by Matthew Traer and Kevin Marr. Isaiah Stonehouse set up Salt Spring's only goal with a powerful cross to Daniel Davies, who took full advantage.

Nick Graham put forth a fine performance demonstrating his skill in passing and a strong work ethic. The strikers showed a little razzle-dazzle with the quick footwork of Liam Hackett and the challenging and effective moves by Thomas Weatherby.

• Salt Spring's U12 boys Team Kopetzki played a well-schooled Gordon Head AC to a triumphant 5-1 win on a soggy, slippery pitch, dominating the match with 30 shots on goal.

Despite the outcome, the first half was tension-ridden and scoreless with beautiful "almosts" by Justin Kopetzki, Eric Weatherby, Tai Levitt, Cody MacQueen and Gurjyot Grewal. A few timely saves by first-half keeper Eldin Miller-Stead and rousing reversals by Alex Graham and Awstin Finer held Gordon Head at bay.

Gordon Head opened the second half with a quick, neat goal. Team K responded when a bull's-eye pass by Levitt was neatly booted from Kopetzki to Weatherby, who tucked the ball into the net. Gordon Head came back with two powerful shots, but keeper MacQueen snatched them out of the air.

More near goals were attempted and then the team found a patch of blue sky at the back of the net as Weatherby scored his second, Miller-Stead put one in and Kopetzki powered in two beauties to seal the game.

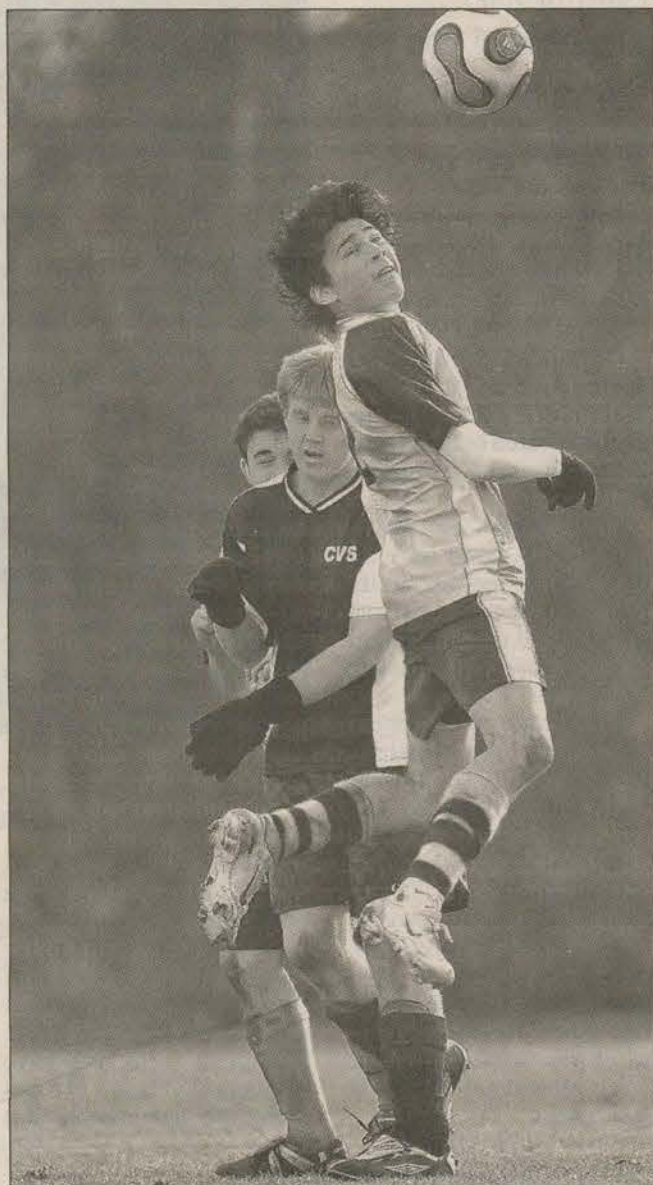


PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

Rodrigo Cruz goes up for the ball in Salt Spring U18 soccer action against Cowichan. The game finished in a 1-1 tie.

• Salt Spring's U14 boys Spartans started 2008 off in good form Saturday, facing a visiting Gorge team at Portlock. Accustomed to playing shorthanded or with only one spare, it was a rare day for the Spartans, with four extra players dressed to help keep the energy level high.

The first half of the game finished scoreless, with plenty of midfield play and no noteworthy scoring chances for either side. Gorge carried the play at the outset, with the momentum slowly shifting towards Salt Spring.

Scoring began midway through the second half, with Lukas Wenzel planting a

solid drive past the tall Gorge keeper, to finish off a short breakaway. The second goal, his first of the season, came from sweeper Arthur Irwin-Campbell, who made no mistake to finish off a 12-metre penalty shot.

The Spartans' final goal came when a Sam Lewis pass was finished at close range by Wenzel.

Gorge notched a late tally on a 12-m penalty shot, making the final score 3-1 for the home team.

Strong, tight-checking performances on this day by Aidan Holmes and Nick Slavok helped Salt Spring take control of this game.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Dragons grab tie in 'gusty' match

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Dragons kicked off the second half of their 2007-08 season with a 2-2 draw against Prospect Point in Victoria Sunday afternoon.

Not only did the game mark the team's return to the field after an extended holiday break, gale force winds wreaked havoc on the play for most of the match.

"We each took turns playing against the wind," said Sue-Anne Donaldson, the team's spokesperson. "We feel a little sore but, aside from that, it felt great to get back on the field."

Donaldson credited all who turned up with great performances and solid efforts, considering the harsh elements.

Despite taking a 2-1 lead into the game's halfway point courtesy of two "absolutely breathtaking" goals by Clara MacKenzie, Prospect Point players tied the game midway through the second half.

Donaldson said a solid stand from the Prospect Point keeper stopped several breakaway opportunities late in the game.

"It was very frustrating," she said.

The tie allowed the Dragons to retain a hold on third place in the Lower Island Women's Soccer League's third division.

The game gave the Dragons (6-2-3) a much-needed single point to help them keep pace with the as-of-yet undefeated Bays United squad (8-0-3).

Players will get a chance to close in on top spot during their next game, set for the lower high school field against the division leaders on Sunday, Jan. 27. Game time is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

WHAT'S ON
THIS WEEK
SEE PAGE B11

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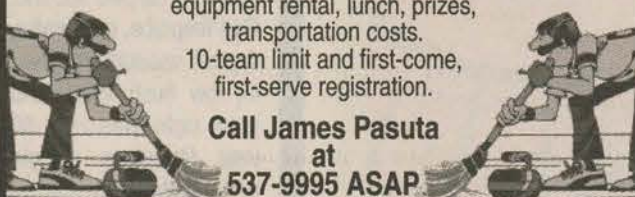
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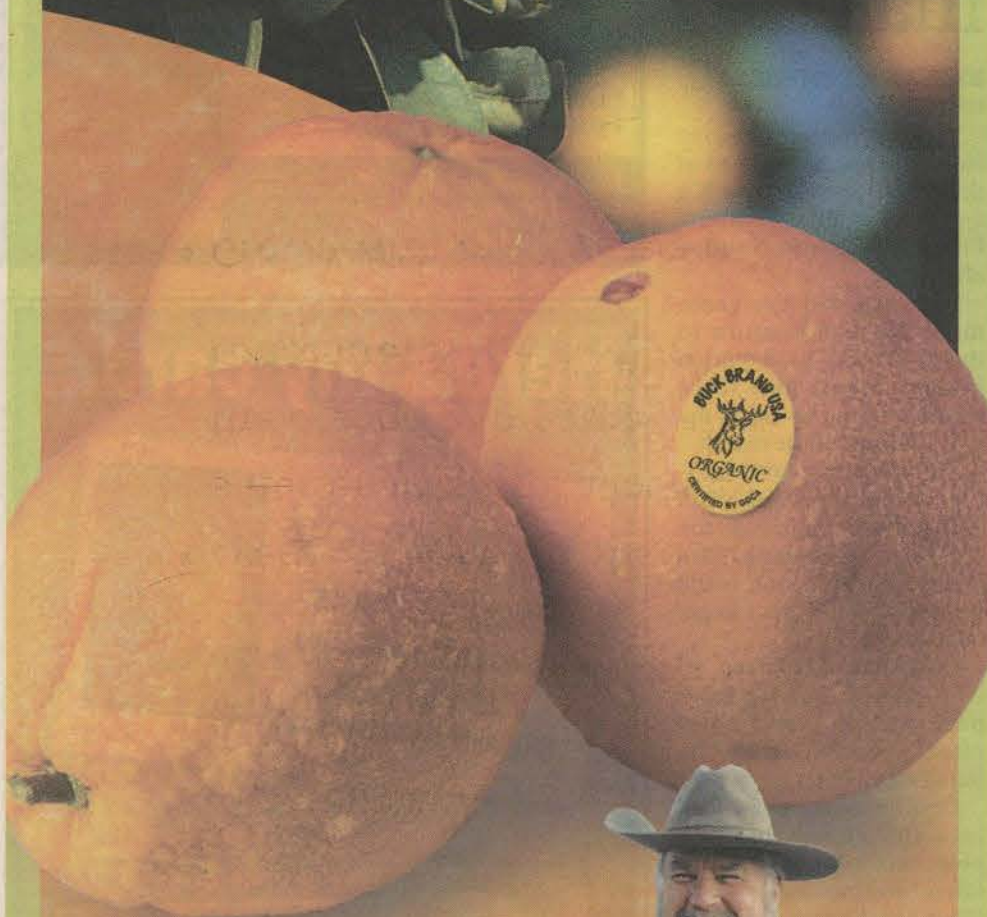
Application forms are available by:

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- Download from website
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For further information, or if you have
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SPORTS & RECREATION

MEN'S SOCCER

Island has lots to cheer about

Alumni still
undefeated, Old
Boys get a win

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring men's soccer teams started off the final leg of their 2007-08 regular seasons by raking up plenty of points this past weekend.

On Sunday afternoon, Salt Spring Alumni FC (11-0-3) maintained their quest for an undefeated season with a 2-1 victory over Vantreights FC (2-12-1).

Goals from Colin Walde and Sean Norgard were the only offence required as the team's consistent defensive stand wiped out any chance of a late-game comeback by Vantreights.

The team's next game is on Salt Spring against the Gordon Head Nearly Dead at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 27.

In other Masters C division action, Old Boys FC (5-5-4) players pulled off a convincing 4-2 victory against Prospect Lake on Sunday afternoon. Chris Cottrell scored two goals for Salt Spring, while Mike McCormack and Tony Mason notched one goal apiece.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Chris Cottrell gets past the keeper in one of his two goals against Prospect Lake in Old Boys soccer action last weekend.

The next Old Boys FC game is in Duncan against Cowichan Leon Signs FC on Sunday, Jan. 27 at 10 a.m.

Following a disastrous start to their 2007-08 season, players from the Div.-1 Salt Spring FC (2-10-2) have begun to show signs of a resurrection after pulling off a

draw against Vantreights at Finlayson Saturday evening.

Kevin Brazier scored the tying goal as the team's defenders helped preserve the draw through overtime.

The next FC match is against Cowichan Sussex on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 2:15 p.m. on Salt Spring.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Junior girls take second at tourney

Team finally gets some competition

Gulf Islands Secondary School's junior girls basketball team faced their first real competition of the year and rose to the challenge, taking second place at a Nanaimo tournament last weekend.

The squad held tournament winner Carhi to a 10-point lead in the final game, after soundly beating John Barsby and Point Grey teams.

"It was really successful," said coach Judy Raddysh. "The girls faced a high level of basketball and rose to that level."

She said the team had the opportunity to work on both its defence and offence.

Erica Rimmer was named player of the game, following the team's decisive win against John Barsby on Friday.

Although "quite afraid" going into the game against a strong Point Grey team Saturday morning, Raddysh said, the island girls started ahead and built on their lead. Kayley Rae Smith earned "player of the game" honours.

In the tournament final, the girls faced a strong AAA school with a provincial-level player on it. Carhi took an early lead but GISS held the final score to a 10-point difference.

"They came away from that game feeling like they'd won because they'd played their best," Raddysh said.

Kirsty Girard was named player of that game.

The girls have a home game tomorrow (Thursday) at 3:15 p.m. It's the first match of a GISS triple header, featuring the senior girls squad at 4:30 p.m. and the senior boys team at 6 p.m.

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