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It's been 756 days since Texada Land Corporation was first "welcomed" to Salt Spring with a pancake breakfast at the Holly Farm.

Peering back through one lens, it's been a slow-motion grind to the brink of a purchase that needs last-minute dollars to complete by Friday.

Open an eye to another view and the days have fallen faster than a Mount Tuam Douglas fir to a feller-buncher.

For those intimately involved in efforts to purchase as many acres as possible from the 5,000 bought by Texada in November 1999, their lives have been an emotional roller-coaster tossed by desire, fear, anger, a sense of justice and, some would admit, plain "pig-headedness."

Early on it became apparent no legislative or legal means could stop Texada from logging all of its lands and selling them off parcel by parcel.

The rich estuary of Burgoyne Bay, the largest intact Garry oak woodland in Canada, the island's last pristine source of drinking water, miles of hiking trails, and 40 known and potential red-listed plant and animals were at risk unless land trusts, government agencies or preserva-

tion-minded citizens came to the rescue.

Help is still needed. Some \$200,000 must be raised to finalize the purchase by November 30 and cover five years of financing costs on one part of the deal.

Well over a thousand donors and volunteers on Salt Spring and elsewhere have made and are still making the impossible unfold.

Five "torch-bearers" — modest folks who pass accolades around like a hot potato — agreed to talk about what kept them strapped in a roller coaster seat for two years; some managing to carry on with other parts of their lives, others less so. All

saluted the courage of those who

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went to court, jail or risked it. Four have even shed their clothes for the cause.

They are: Andrea Collins, co-

founder of the Save Salt Spring Society and a women's calendar impetus who has just bought more Texada land herself; Gary Holman, co-founder of a group called the South and West Salt Spring Conservation Partnership which has long envisioned a green belt cinched by the Texada lands, Crown lands and Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks; Briony Penn, another founder of that group, former board member of The Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLCBC) and Lady Godiva rider; Mort Ransen, who created the Gemini-nominated film *Ah the Money, the Money, the Money . . .* the Battle for Salt Spring, and is now

a Hunk for Habitat; and Elizabeth White, coordinator of the Salt Spring Appeal fund of TLCBC, which is trying to pull in the last wave of money to keep the crucial deal afloat.

What kept them all going, despite the wheels on a task of mythic proportions being slashed by frequent setbacks? Not surprisingly, their reasons are rooted in the island but reach far beyond it.

"If you can't do it on Salt Spring, where in the world can you?" asked naturalist Penn, now an environmental news reporter with the New VI TV station. "All of us who worked on it felt that if we bombed here we

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Closing the Deal

Story by
GAIL SJUBERG

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TUE	2110	3.6	NOV	2230	1.3	MON		
28	0435	9.5	01	0650	11.2	04	0030	0.7
	0845	7.9		1110	9.5		0905	11.8
NOV	1415	10.5	DEC	1520	10.5	DEC	1435	9.8
WED	2135	2.6	SAT	2305	0.7	TUE	1700	9.8
29	0520	10.2	02	0735	11.5			
	0935	8.5		1205	9.8			
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Paradise won or paradise lost

By PATRICIA LOCKIE
Special to the Barnacle

It's crunch time. Can we ante up \$200,000 by November 30 and save one of the top three most endangered ecosystems in Canada, or will we let a dream die?

If we fail to meet this financial target, in all likelihood the Texada land deal will collapse. If we allow that to happen, the commitment shown by hundreds of women, men, and yes, children, from this community during the past two years will have been dishonoured. The fundraisers, the letter-writers, the negotiators, the public speakers, the donors, Lady Godiva, the entertainers, the filmmakers and many, many others shared a vision: That the community could face down a powerful land corporation and protect some of the loveliest land on Salt Spring. The current purchase, if successful, takes in 1,643 acres, a land mass larger than Ruckle Park, which covers 1,264 acres.

Now we're very close to realizing that vision; but let's just pause for a moment and consider two very divergent scenarios. In the first, the Salt Spring Appeal is successful in its bid to raise the funds

necessary to complete the land deal; and in the second, the bid is unsuccessful and the money falls short.

What does the community stand to win and what might it lose post November 30?

Money raised & land deal closes

- A rare ecological area with its spectacular shoreline, lush valleys and rocky bluffs saved intact for future generations to enjoy.
- Trees saved and endangered species habitat protected.
- Sensitive marine life given the chance for renewal and growth.
- A new provincial and CRD parks system stretching from Mount Maxwell, embracing the lands around Burgoyne Bay, up the slopes of Mount Sullivan to Bruce Peak and taking in a part of Mount Tuam comes into existence.
- Additional campgrounds, thereby reducing the pressure on Ruckle Park.
- Low-impact recreational activities such as kayaking, hiking and birdwatching part of the life of the park.
- Islanders, through a process of consultation, to have a say in the management plan for the park.

Money not raised & land deal fails

• The potential for continued logging throughout the area and log sorts in Burgoyne Bay. Subdivision and house building on lands along the south shore of Burgoyne Bay. Degradation of the bay through industrial forestry and development.

- Deforestation resulting in loss of species habitat.
- The sensitive marine life of Burgoyne threatened by log sorts.
- Massive pressure exerted on an already overused Ruckle Park when the new Gulf Islands National Park is announced.
- Canadian and international visitors flocking to Ruckle for the only available public camping facilities.
- Access to trails and shoreline restricted or lost.
- No voice.

The choice is ours to make in the next three days. We have a rare opportunity to have and to hold something extraordinarily special. As one veteran campaigner so graphically put it, "It's as though you're down to the last few Michelangelos in the world and you're in danger of throwing one of them away." Let's not do that.

In praise of the people behind the push

For people who habitually volunteer to help their community, spreading the credit is essential.

There's nothing different about the run to close the purchase deal on 1,643 acres of Texada Land Corporation lands.

"All the wonderful, talented, eccentric and determined people who worked fabulously hard throughout the campaign" were a major source of inspiration for Elizabeth White, coordinator of the Salt Spring Appeal fundraising campaign.

But high-profile volunteer Briony Penn tosses the ball of credit back to White.

"One of the most important things was having someone like Elizabeth White who basically volunteered two years of her life at a critical time. We had done lots

of tottering away at it for years and years but Elizabeth formed a cheery, optimistic, straightforward kind of approach and helped keep that side of it very upbeat."

Terry Bieman of the direct action committee "kept coming up with these hilarious schemes when we were the most down and out . . .

"There's just so many people who did so much. I think it was the humour that kept us going."

"The other person who's been incredible is Gary Holman," said Penn. "He's maintained a steady kind of support; he's the unsung hero because he never gets mentioned."

People like Jacky Booth, Fiona Flook and other Salt Spring Island Conservancy members have worked to

keep south and west Salt Spring green for several years, she added, along with the decades-old vision of Tom Gossett, Mike Larmour and the Water Preservation Society for a protected Maxwell watershed.

It's fitting that this final week of the campaign has come to a feverish finish, with volunteers still working around the clock to bring in the last dollars needed. Salt Spring merchants have jumped on board by adopting individual Hunks for Habitat.

Although White was focused on fundraising, she acknowledges "the letter-writing campaigns, the lobbying, the peace camp and the blockades were all equally important in my view . . . to draw media attention, which in turn ultimately helped get the government dollars."

Holman agrees the direct action committee work was influential, along with the "technical case" for the lands' ecological values being made convincingly to the government.

"There is no question that without the government money on the table, we would not be looking at this

level of success," said White. "What got it there was a huge effort on the part of this community; many different initiatives by many, many people. I don't think we will ever know exactly what pushed the right buttons."

She cites the Manulife campaign coordinated by Murray Reiss, the preserve and protect women's calendar, Penn's Lady Godiva ride in Vancouver, the watershed campaigns, Nina Raginsky's adopt-a-tree plan, Mort Ransen's nationally-aired film, "and the hundred of volunteers organizing dozens of events — Stump Stomp, Art Meets Nature, concerts, rallies — the list is amazing."

Several people both on and off the island also had the right connections to ensure those millions came our way and stayed there once committed by the former NDP government.

"When I look at the map and at all the lands that are now protected, it brings a big smile to my face and a huge sigh of relief," said Andrea Collins of the Save Salt Spring Society, which also contributed large amounts of money. "Only passionate and committed people can make that happen."

Our mistake . . .

In the November 20 edition of the Barnacle, the story on the Salt Spring "old-timers" walk through south-end history contained some misinformation. John Bennett was kind enough to phone and clear up a couple of points. The George Maude quoted in the story was not a ferry captain, but his father was. Bennett also said the new ferry dock was built in 1974, not 1960 as stated in the story. Until then, he said, the ferry traffic lined up the hill.

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Deal cont'd from p1

couldn't do it anywhere, and we had a responsibility to give inspiration to other people because we are so privileged here. And so we are fighting not only for this piece of land but to raise awareness about the plight of endangered species and watersheds and the lack of legislation [protecting them]."

Ransen agreed. "I came here originally for the trees, and the reason I stay is for the people... This is a highly enlightened population. It would be terrifying if we couldn't do it here. If people with these extra resources can't manage to have some control over their environment, then what happens in other places where people are less fortunate?"

"What kept me going was the anger at not being able to control our environment as a community and the understanding that unless people attempt to stop that erosion of our rights that it will get worse and worse. That somewhere you have to take a stand and insist that communities have rights and that we should be able to have a say in our environment and that it isn't just money that controls what happens here."

White admitted that her "pigheadedness and stubbornness" helped her stay fixed at the helm of a rocky and pressure-filled campaign that is not over even yet. She admits she originally turned down a request to coordinate the Salt Spring Appeal. She was fairly new to the island, not a fundraiser by trade, and although her work involves sustainability issues, she didn't really view herself as a conservationist.

"However, south west Salt Spring has always seemed to me to be a very special, magical and wild place, a place to escape to when the rest of the island gets too busy. Emotionally and intuitively, for me the protection of the lands was critically important to the survival of our community."

Collins first got involved "like everyone else — going to meetings, standing in front of logging trucks and writing letters," mortified at the thought of one-tenth of her island home possibly being logged.

Perseverance comes through in Collins' words, too.

"I'm not a quitter, and I believe there is a solution for every problem. So, when people began talking about buying the Texada lands after they had been logged, I said, 'no way' and then went out and hired lawyers. That's how the Save Salt Spring Society came into being."

At that point, biodiversity funds had not formally surfaced and there was uncertainty about where to best funnel Salt Spring Appeal monies. The Save Salt Spring Society decided to focus on the Maxwell Lake watershed both financially and legally, aiding Water Preservation Society and North Salt Spring Waterworks District efforts to preserve the 265-acre secondary watershed.

White characterizes the fundraising campaign as marked by "a lot of ups and downs. So often we would think we were close to a deal, and then it would fall apart."

The "ups" included the overwhelming response to the May Day campaign waged from March to May 2000, when \$500,000 was quickly raised.

Throughout two years of sloggling for Collins, a prime motivator was a belief in the need to change the concept of "owning land" to one of stewardship.

"In many ways the 'battle to save Salt Spring' has allowed me to experience and intensify those beliefs to the point where I am willing to fight for them and continue fighting until the right kind of legislation is brought in."

Holman agrees the "really fundamental" issue of land use in the FLR not being regulated to take community and environmental values into account still needs to be tackled.

"The fact that local governments have no authority whatsoever on FLR lands meant that in terms of negotiating with Texada we were virtually powerless."

Development permit area provisions on some of Texada's non-FLR lands were the only preserving tool available.

"That's why we got into this mess and we are still vulnerable to it."



of the movers behind the movement are, from left, Elizabeth White, Terry Bieman, Gary Holman and Andrea Collins. They are seen leaning against a tree saved by Nina Raginsky's Adopt-a-Tree Program.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Despite the campaign's success, the fundraising and decision-making process was not always harmonious.

"It has been divisive within our group," said Holman. "We fought like cats and dogs at times."

White observed there were "inevitable squabbles about how things should be done," but she personally did not see the "entire community" divided by the Texada issue, as has been suggested in the media. "In the two years I have been fundraising, and talking to literally hundreds of people, I have met only two who were completely opposed to what we were trying to do."

Still, there's no doubt adversity with Texada Land Corporation was a powerful shaping force.

Penn speculates that the struggle "has been good for us. If it was all handed to us on a silver platter we probably wouldn't cherish it as much."

Ransen also feels the community may be better off as a result of its trials. "I now think this is a stronger and more united community, and if anybody else wants to do that to us, they better watch out."

Besides the campaign's obvious triumphs of protecting the watershed and Burgoyne Bay "jewels," Salt Spring Islanders have realized "what you can actually do if you aim high enough," said Holman. "Our capacity to take things on I think has grown immeasurably."

The mobilization of will and resources was occurring even before Texada, he notes, as demonstrated by McFadden

Creek, Mill Farm and Ford Lake purchases. The Fulford aerodrome purchase and Collins' recent purchase of Texada's Lot 2 for a watershed buffer — with options on three other lots — could be viewed as a continuation of the trend.

"There's been a whole set of relationships, connections between people that weren't there before and some people with access to considerable personal resources who have been mobilized," said Holman. "I hope that sense of capacity can continue forward in the future because I think if this community wants to take something on and they can cooperate enough, there is no telling what can be accomplished."

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Mucky magic in Burgoyne tidal zone

'An extremely important marine region'

By **DAVID DENNING**
Special to the Barnacle

One day last spring, a bunch of Salt Spring Islanders took a long walk on a short pier.

Well, actually, we didn't walk OFF the government wharf at Burgoyne Bay — we walked under it, and straight out onto the expansive flats exposed by a very low tide. We wanted to see what's out there.

It's not a clean place, Burgoyne Bay, at least not if you think "clean" means white, or tidy, or dirt-free. As we were to find out, Burgoyne Bay only gives up its secrets to those willing to get down and dirty — to really dig in and muck themselves up a bit.

Although mucky, Burgoyne Bay is also filled with magic. Up at the edges of the bay near the government dock, we quickly discovered a mighty mob of purple and Oregon shore crabs. These hide under rocks at low tide, and at high tide they scurry out to feed on bits of algae and, thankfully, they eat barnacles.

When a rock was turned, the exposed crabs, dozens of them, scurried for cover, holding our attention until they all disappeared. Now it was time to take a close look at the "upside-down" rock. It was literally "crawling" with life. Many types of tiny snails, a variety of crustaceans called isopods and amphipods, and several different kinds of worms — ribbon worms, nerieid worms (named after the snaky sea goddess, Nereis) and "hairy-gilled" worms cov-

ered at one end with white thread-like feeding tentacles. (These are also known by their scientific group name as Terrellid worms, a name I remember by thinking of "Terrible Al's Id.")

There are also flatworms — they're paper thin and they slither and slide across the surface like a small wet gob of silly putty.

"To protect Burgoyne bay is a step toward rebuilding the natural ecosystems of the Salish Sea region."

One could explore these rocks for hours, but it was time to wander out further into the "mud flats." Of course, each rock we had turned upside down was turned back "right-side up" exactly as we had found it — and we were as careful not to crush crabs in the turning.

Further out, we were soon digging holes in the substrate — a mixture of small rocks and sandy mud. Here we discovered a remarkable wealth of living things. It seemed like every shovel brought up several dozen worms and a few clams. This revealed the great biological importance of Burgoyne Bay. Just imagine! If every shovel had this much diversity and living mass, how much is there in the entire

bay? In millions of shovels of mud that cover the bay's surface?

As we were to learn that day, Burgoyne Bay is one of the richest and most productive ecosystems in the entire Salt Spring Island region.

It's a fact of biology — but not a commonly noticed one. These creatures live underwater AND under the mud!

But not everything lives completely buried. It wasn't long before we discovered perfect domes, about the size of tennis balls, sticking up out of the mud. By tugging on these hardened spheres, we were able to drag out the entire animal — and there was a lot more than met the eye.

These are Salt Spring's largest snails — moon snails. The snail's "foot" is a huge mass of squishy tissue, about six or seven times the volume of the shell. It's impossible to imagine the snail's body fitting into its own shell, but in a short while we observed the impossible. Through its own physiological magic, moon snails can rapidly force water out of the cells in their bodies, and shrink down into their shells. It was an amazing sight as we all crowded around cheering for the snail and washing our muddy hands in the cascading flow from an upheld snail.

Even more amazing things were discovered about moon snails during our explorations. Burgoyne Bay is absolutely loaded with them. We found them almost everywhere and in great abundance.

I have mucked around many a beach of the Salish Sea, and in my opinion, Burgoyne Bay is the Moon Snail Capital of the World. This is a good sign. To have a healthy population of predators means we have a healthy population of prey. Moon snails eat clams, so this part of the ocean food web is doing well.

And Burgoyne Bay has another outstanding basis for marine food webs: an exceptionally large and rich amount of eelgrass habitat. Eelgrass is the only flowering plant adapted to live in our local oceans. Like other plants (and unlike algae) it has roots, so it can hold itself in soft muddy substrate and grow there without competition. It waves around in shallow waters, harvesting sunlight and transferring tons of energy into the food web. And it also provides habitat — places for things to feed, to hide, to grow and to

reproduce.

The importance of eelgrass to our marine environment cannot be overstated. Eelgrass beds produce food that directly feeds invertebrates and many of our migrating ducks. The invertebrates, in turn, are important food for fishes. In fact, eelgrass beds harbour all of our juvenile salmon species for at least some time in their life cycle, and they also act as nursery grounds for the juveniles of other fish species such as red Irish lords, ocean perch, some species of rock cod, midshipmen and many others. Eelgrass beds are also home to adult fishes — the bay pipe fish and the tube snout are green or brown, long and thin, perfectly camouflaged among the eelgrass blades. And then there is my favourite, the spiny lumpsucker. These small fish, in turn, are the food for wintering diving ducks such as mergansers and buffleheads.

As we worked our way further out into the bay, we encountered more and more eelgrass beds. We mucked among the roots and discovered brittle stars and many of the dozens of other species that call this muddy habitat home. On the blades, we found bubble shells galore, and their jelly-like egg cases attached to every blade of grass. And then we discovered the camouflaged eelgrass sea slug and were amazed.

Our bay is an extremely important marine region because, all over the Salish Sea, eelgrass beds have been, or are being, lost to pollution, boat anchor disruption and other human-caused problems. To protect Burgoyne Bay is a step toward protecting and, in fact, rebuilding the natural ecosystems of the Salish Sea region that provide us with our wealth. Any fisherman or woman should recognize this, and so should any of us who hold out hope that we can save the source of those tasty native salmon we love to eat.

Three hours after the start of our hike, thinking of moon snails and salmon, we dragged our bodies back up to the government wharf. We took the short hike to the end of the wharf and watched as the rising tide covered more and more of our tracks across Burgoyne's mudflats.

And standing there, caked with mud, we wished we could share with other Salt Spring Islanders some of our mud and new insights about this extraordinarily rich, but hidden, ecosystem.

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SALT SPRING HUNK
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Photo by Deryck Lundy

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Looking back: Burgoyne, Maxwell history

By **CHARLES KAHN**
 Special to the Barnacle

The newly arrived British navy named everything in sight after their leading lights: Burgoyne Valley and Burgoyne Bay after Commander Burgoyne of the H.M.S. Ganges, Mount Bruce after Rear Admiral Bruce, Baynes Peak — at the top of Mount Maxwell — after Rear Admiral Baynes. Get the picture?

Meanwhile, the people who had lived here for thousands of years already had their own names for the same places. To the Hul'qumi'num people, Mount Maxwell was known as Hwmatetsun or "Bent-over place" and Burgoyne Bay was Xwookv'em or "Land of the sawbill (merganser)," a place where aboriginals hunted ducks. Middens all around Burgoyne Bay testify to the presence of native people there from very early days.

John Maxwell and his partner John Lunney established a 1,000-acre (400 hectare) cattle ranch in 1860 at the foot of Mount Maxwell in the almost flat west end of the Burgoyne Valley. When their longhorns arrived from the United States, they were pushed off the freighter and swam to shore. Maxwell took a 14-year-old native woman as a common-law wife, which eased his entry into — and possession of — what had been aboriginal lands. Nevertheless, some natives unhappy with the arrival of white intruders combined with white outlaws to occasionally descend from camps in the thick woods on the craggy top of Mount Maxwell to rustle some of Maxwell and Lunney's cattle.

The very first settlers in Salt Spring's south end came to

the Burgoyne Valley, home of perhaps the best farmland on the island. Norwegian-born logger John Sparrow settled here in 1860, as did horticulturist Joseph Akerman in 1862 and Irish-born Michael Gyves in 1864. Early maps of the island show the peculiar pattern of settlement as the early settlers each chose long narrow strips of the best available land.

In 1869, Maxwell and Lunney donated three acres for a wharf in Burgoyne Bay, the first wharf in the south end. From 1883 to 1900 when it closed, the Burgoyne Bay Post Office was in the Maxwell house and run by one or another of the Maxwell children. The original Maxwell house, now dilapidated and overgrown with brambles, still stands where it was built on the east side of the Fulford-Ganges Road.

There were about 91 people in the Burgoyne Valley in 1871, but this number almost tripled to 258 in the next 10 years. At first most of the settlers were single men, but by 1881 about 65 per cent of the population consisted of women and children. The Burgoyne Bay School District was formed in 1873, and a one-room schoolhouse was built across from what is today the Burgoyne United Church.

Known as the Union Church and built in 1887, it was meant to serve the needs of all Protestant settlers. Salt Spring's Anglicans later preferred to worship separately and used the schoolhouse across the road. In 1894 they built their own church farther south, St. Mary's, on land donated by Sparrow. This church was built by a "church bee" for a total cost of \$705, including furnishings.

From the time of the first settlers, most of the land from Burgoyne Bay to Musgrave Landing has been large, individually owned properties. The Maxwell farm extended all around Burgoyne Bay and up the sides of Mount Sullivan, where it met the large sheep farm established by the four Pimbury brothers in 1874. This large property, centred on Musgrave Landing and including much of Mount Bruce, was bought by Edward Musgrave in 1885. Much of this land was bought in 1958 by the Texada Logging Company, owned by Prince Thurn und Taxis of Bavaria.

Large parks are nothing new to this area either. The

B.C. government established two parks in 1938, a 474-acre (192-hectare) park on Mount Bruce, which lost its park status in 1955 and is now the Crown land surrounding the Mill Farm, and the 491-acre (196-hectare) Class A park on Mount Maxwell. The new park in Burgoyne Bay will connect the Mount Bruce-Mount Sullivan Crown land with Mount Maxwell Provincial Park and the Nature Trust of B.C.'s purchase to make one huge piece of publicly owned, ecologically significant and recreationally important land.

The early settlers would be pleased to see their lands still intact 150 years later.

SHOULD SALT SPRING ISLAND BECOME A MUNICIPALITY?

- ➔ Read the information on the incorporation question that was mailed to you last week.
- ➔ Attend one of the **town hall meetings - Tuesday, December 4** at 7:30pm in the Multipurpose Room of GISS (the high school) and **Wednesday, December 5** at 7:30pm in Fulford Hall.
- ➔ Check out the website: www.saltspring.com/incorporation
- ➔ Then let the committee know if you want a referendum on incorporation.

From the SSI Local Government Restructure Study Committee,
 Box 417, Ganges P.O., SSI V8K 2W1. E-mail study@saltspring.com

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MOUAT'S
Clothing Co.

Dark and stormy night with Jeff and Bruce



Isle Say! ...
with John Pottinger

A few weeks ago my friend Jeff sold his business — a business that had taken up all his time and energy for the past three years.

I had already planned a trip to my cabin, so I suggested to him and another friend, Bruce, that they should come with me. I told them it was the perfect place for us to forget about the rest of the world and simply enjoy ourselves for a few days.

I didn't tell them that I needed to take my dock out of the lake before freeze-up; a cold wet job involving several hours work with tow ropes, winches and chest waders. It was easy to convince them to bring waders after I described the excellent fishing.

Jeff's from Bermuda, where they make good rum — 160-proof rum. Luckily for me, they bottle their strong rum in strong bottles. At a pit stop in Hundred Mile House, I was rearranging the "groceries" in our vehicle and dropped the not-available-in-B.C. rum smack onto the pavement.

The bottle chipped in several places but didn't crack. If it had, Jeff and Bruce would have returned without me and sworn forever that I disappeared on a trip to the outdoors.

On our arrival at the cabin, Jeff poured a splash of the rum into each glass, then topped them up with ginger beer. This traditional Bermudian drink is called a "dark and stormy." We toasted our excellent adventure as the cabin began to warm up.

As the "pre-made on Salt Spring" chili simmered on the stove, Jeff treated us to another stark and dorny. The cabin became cozier as the wood fire crackled and we began to tell stories.

"Don't go for a walk without the bear spray," I warned. "It works well against the more dangerous local wildlife: bears, cougars, wolves and gold miners."

(The Cariboo Mountains are home to dozens of half-crazed hermits who call themselves gold miners. A few years back, while hiking miles from any road, I stopped at a ramshackle camp hidden in a small canyon. In answer to my question about the whereabouts of a certain trail, the old guy just stared over the top of my head and said, "I ain't got nothin' here that's worth you dying for.")

After finishing a fine meal of chili, served with some of Heather Campbell's bread, David Wood's cheese, and a little Merlot, we sat around the table talking about lost gold mines and ghost towns. Jeff poured us another store and darkly.

Although it's a one-room cabin, I was having difficulty finding the ladder to the loft, which was where I had put all my gear. Everything was getting dimmer by the minute as I stumbled around and grumbled about the lanterns running out of fuel. I told Bruce to shut up when he accused me of being snarky and dorky.

Turns out he was just offering me another drink.

We raised our glasses in one last toast to something very near and dear to the three of us. (Although I don't specifically remember what or who we were toasting, I know it was most significant.)

I couldn't see a darn thing as I tried climbing into my sleeping bag. The bloody thing was a lot thicker and heavier than I remembered. After fighting with it for 10 minutes I realized I had climbed under the mattress on my bed.

I apologized to the guys for all the noise I'd been making but they didn't reply. I shouted and they still didn't reply, so I turned on my flashlight and shone it in Bruce's eyes. He pulled a pair of earplugs out of his ears and asked me (a little snottily I think) what I wanted. I asked him why he had plugs in his ears.

He laughed as he said, "You've never slept in the same building as Jeff, have you?"

I looked at Jeff and saw that he had plugs his own ears so he wouldn't wake himself up.

Next morning, as the first dim light of a late autumn day stirred me from my sleep, a couple of fuzzy thoughts began to form in my head. The first was that Jeff's snoring wasn't bad at all: I hadn't heard a darn thing all night.

The second concerned those drinks we had. Although I'd only had a few, I felt like somebody had smacked me over the head with a hockey stick. I guess that's why they're called Marty McSorleys.



COMMENTARY

Cell phones pose danger to birds

By TIMOTHY RAVEN HUME

Self-appointed watchers are monitoring our every move in order to protect wild birds from ignorant people on the islands.

These diligent people are working round the clock to save rare or endangered bird populations. Nesting sites and feeding areas are under constant surveillance and anything that may disturb the birds is instantly reported.

The new environmental volunteer police are all self-appointed concerned citizens; their only weapons are their sharp eyes and the ability to instantly call in concerns to authorities with their ever-handy cell phones. The advantage new cell-phone technology has given environmentalists is awesome because now calls can be made from anywhere in the field. I have even seen some of these stealthy operators making extremely dangerous manoeuvres as they monitor the environment from behind the wheel of cars they are driving single-handedly.

Nothing can stand in the way of these dedicated protectors of our wildlife except perhaps these next few words, if they have the courage to read on and realize the folly of their chosen methods of communications.

The Journal of Medicine in 1997 published the results of a Canadian study citing the association between cellular telephone use and motor vehicle collisions. Researchers studied 699 drivers who had cellular telephones and were involved in motor vehicle collisions resulting in substantial property damage. Researchers concluded the risk of collision when using a cellular phone is four times higher than when a cell phone is not being used. The risk was the same regardless of age or driving experience. The study

also indicated telephones that allowed the hands to be free did not prove to be safer than handheld cell phones (Redelmeier, 1997).

That was my first point. So, secondly, let me also inform you of the hazards of cell-phone radiation. It is now well known that the use of this technology can and does have detrimental effects on your brain cells.

According to one of the most outspoken critics of the cell-phone revolution, the Cellular Phone Taskforce (CPT) headed by Arthur Firstenberg, "If a cellular phone will work where you live, you are being irradiated 24 hours a day."

Effects of low-level microwave radiation may range from dizziness, nausea and headaches to much more serious ailments. CPT considers the amount of radiation produced by the user of a cell phone to be more dangerous than second-hand cigarette smoke if the user is stationed within 100 metres.

Not only does the use of the phone have its effects on you, it also has determined negative effects on the environment and especially on bird populations. Recent research by the Swiss Bird Study Organization found that racing pigeons get confused near mobile antennas, and fly much lower than normal around such equipment.

At a distance of 200 metres from the same base station, the behaviour of racing pigeons changed dramatically. They became disoriented and unable to determine which way to fly. It would appear that the birds could no longer tolerate the change in the electro-magnetic radiation (EMR) environment.

Other studies have shown that caged birds are greatly disturbed by

the radio waves coming from cell phones. It was discovered that many birds' behaviours is changed by close proximity to operating phones. Eggs and nests are often abandoned and many birds also exhibit unusual aggressive behaviour toward their own young.

In a Sydney suburb, on a high-rise building, a change in habits of a "resident" flock of crows was observed after a digital mobile base station was installed on the roof. The birds became noisy and restless for a number of days before unexpectedly vacating the area.

In addition, cellular towers are said to be harming wildlife and birds in the USA.

With 1,000,000 towers scheduled to be installed in the next three years, the Environmental Protection Agency has said that, on average, 1,000 birds are killed per tower per year from their simply running into the tower.

Published accounts of birds striking tall lit structures first appeared in the literature in 1880. Incidents have been documented where large numbers of warblers, vireos, sparrows, thrushes, and other small birds collided with towers.

Beginning in the 1950s, researchers began publishing carcass counts and species variability for birds killed in collision with towers. Data indicates the most vulnerable birds are neotropical migratory songbirds that migrate north in the spring and summer to breed, then migrate south during the fall and winter. These species generally migrate at night and appear to be most susceptible to collisions with lit towers on foggy, low-cloud-ceiling

COMMENTARY cont'd on p7

COMMENTARY: This space is reserved for you, our readers. It is a spot for informed opinion, an outlet for the voices of the community. Everyone is invited to submit opinion articles with a maximum of 600 words.

<p>the Barnacle Island Journal</p> <p>A division of Driftwood Publishing Ltd.</p> <p>328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3 Canada</p> <p>Tel. 250-537-9933 Fax 250-537-2613 e-mail: driftwood@gulfislands.net</p>	<p>President Tony Richards</p> <p>Publisher Susan Lundy</p> <p>Managing Editor Peter McCully</p> <p>Advertising Manager Alice Richards, Lorraine Sullivan, Fiona Walls, Laura Moore</p>	<p>We encourage your submissions on any subject, but please include your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit submissions for accuracy, brevity, clarity, taste and legal obligations. Please keep submissions to 300 words or less. The publisher cannot be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photographs or artwork. All letters become the property of The Barnacle. Anonymous letters or those under a pen name will not be published. The views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors. Health-related articles are for general information only, and are not to be regarded as medical advice. Copyright 2001 by Driftwood Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use without permission is strictly prohibited. Printed by Island Publishers Ltd. International Standard Serial Number: 1496-3043. Publications Mail Agreement #400330482.</p> <p>Member: B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association Canadian Community Newspapers Association</p>
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Last chance

Today we are only \$240,000 away from purchasing and protecting some of the loveliest land on Salt Spring Island — in fact, some of the most spectacular undeveloped land in the southern Gulf Islands.

About two years ago, the Texada Land Corporation bought 5,000 acres in southwest Salt Spring — over one-tenth of our island — and began extensive logging.

Who would have dreamed then that all of Burgoyne Bay — the largest undeveloped bay and estuary in the southern Gulf Islands — would now be this close to being preserved? And that nearly all the Burgoyne Valley could soon be protected parkland?

Who would have dreamed that we would be this close to creating a magnificent park, stretching from Mount Maxwell in the north, south around Burgoyne Bay, up the slopes of Mt. Sullivan to Bruce Peak, even including part of Mount Tuam? That this incredibly rare ecological area, with its spectacular shoreline, its network of trails and breath-taking views, its scenic rocky bluffs and lush valleys, will be saved for our grandchildren, and their grandchildren, to enjoy?

All we need to make this dream come true is \$210,000. But we need it by November 30.

The provincial government has negotiated a purchase of 1,643 acres on behalf of B.C. Parks, CRD Parks, and The Land Conservancy of B.C.'s Salt Spring Appeal. The multi-million dollar deal involves \$13.4 million from the province, \$1.5 million from the CRD, and \$1.2 million from The Land Conservancy of B.C. We already have most of that \$1.2 million, now we need to raise the remaining \$210,000 by this Friday.

If we can come up with this final amount, the deal will go through and on November 30 islanders will have a park to take pride in and enjoy for generations to come.

Over the last two years, close to a thousand islanders have contributed to the Salt

Spring Appeal. Thanks to the Nature Trust of B.C.'s purchase of 705 acres of the north shore of Burgoyne Bay, we have protected the largest remaining Garry oak woodland in Canada. With much help from the community, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District has purchased and protected 47.5 acres of watershed next to Maxwell Lake. And the funding is now in place to help the waterworks purchase an additional 270 acres of Maxwell Lake's secondary watershed, complete with standing timber.

Many times over the past two years our dream of protecting these lands seemed just that — a dream. And now here we are, almost at the point of making it come true.

We will never again have the opportunity for an ecological investment of this magnitude on Salt Spring. Please help us complete the deal.

ELIZABETH WHITE,
Volunteer coordinator,
Salt Spring Appeal of the TLC

P.S. Cheques to The Land Conservancy of B.C. may be dropped in the TLC box at Island Savings, or mailed to 171 Vesuvius Bay Road, SSI, BC V8K 1K3. Or log on to www.hunksforhabitat.com, or donate at the various local stores which have "adopted" a Salt Spring hunk to help close the deal.

Hunting

Once again, deer hunting has become an issue on Salt Spring, and different views about it threaten to create anger and divisiveness. Surely, at this time in history, we don't need anger and divisiveness.

We've all had the unpleasant experience of what happens when a potentially divisive issue looms on the island: a meeting is called, people attend, each speaker digs into his or her own position, and no one — no one! — attempts to analyze the issue, seek common ground, or in fact listen to anything said by someone on the "other" side.

There's a better way. Let's have a meeting in which instead of arguing for or against the issue, we first try to look at its underlying ele-

ments. For instance, most people, no matter how they feel about hunting, would agree that the safety of people and animals (other than those being hunted) should be protected. Most people would agree that deer over-population is a problem on Salt Spring, negatively affecting drivers, gardeners and the deer themselves. Most people would agree that hunting regulations should be obeyed. And so on.

Once the underlying elements are agreed upon, we can begin a discussion of how to find answers that would deal with those specific elements. We could get off the dead centre offered by formulations like "hunting is good" or "hunting is bad."

And that discussion can use a formal consensus process to come to some decisions about which of those answers will work best, and meet most people's needs. Consensus is not a process of brow-beating the quieter people at a meeting into accepting the proposals of the noisier ones. It's as formal a process as voting — but it's a process that leaves room for people to ask specific questions about motions, add insights and in fact improve the motions, rather than having to say "yes" or "no" to a proposal even if they feel uneasy about some of its elements.

You may recall that 10 years ago B.C. Wildlife officers held a town hall meeting here. At that time a Wildlife Watch scheme was introduced by the Rod and Gun Club, and that process seemed to help the situation on the island; but now the Wildlife Watch process seems to have faded out of sight.

Obviously, hunting is a complex issue on a small island, and one for which the time is long overdue for us to take responsibility. The island now has a few thousand more people than it had 10, 20, 30 years ago, and we have seen housing developments move into formerly wild areas.

We suggest that those of us who are concerned about permitting clearly unskilled hunters from off-island to cre-



A journal as literary as the Barnacle can be found in the most unusual places. Take, for example, Edmonton, Alberta. Joyce Prothero's brother, George Pell, visited from Slave Lake and took the paper to the provincial museum in Edmonton. Here George and his friends enjoy a good read.

ate situations where islanders are in personal danger; about the problem of culling the deer in the absence of hunting; or about ensuring that the hunting regulations are policed and adapted to current settlement conditions, should take this matter into our own hands by sitting down and brainstorming our own solutions. If the solutions we arrive at prove to require government involvement, we can then present them with creative proposals.

Please call the writers, Yvonne Adalian (653-0033) or Susan Berlin (537-7277), if you are interested in holding an informal, non-adversarial brainstorming meeting so that this problem can be discussed and then dealt with in an intelligent way.

YVONNE ADALIAN,
SUSAN BERLIN,
Salt Spring
Misled masses

Re: Clean air nonsense heard on KIXI Oldies Radio of Seattle in September.

With the polished deceit of Hollywood's cutesie, baby-talkin' charm, a woman's voice chirps about how helpful it would be towards the cleaning up of Washington's air if Washingtonians would choose to mow their lawns only when it's windy.

Gag me with a cloud of diesel!

Can people really have that much blind faith in what they are told as to have let themselves be brainwashed into

focussing on tiny piston, single-cylinder, four-cycle lawn mowers (no oil mix) rather than the exhaust from burning diesel fuel-oil in pick-up trucks, older cars with little or no pollution control and two-cycle (oil and gas mix) motorcycles and scooters?

Has the fact that dirty diesel skirted air-care scrutiny resulted in the misled masses concluding that diesel doesn't therefore pollute as much as gasoline? Indeed that erroneous assumption became an unforeseen bonus for the petroleum industry after which they happily focussed on eliminating the only visible element of diesel pollution — the soot and the particulate.

They know that if the people can't see the exhaust, this respiratory-nightmare of fuels can be pushed a little longer.

Considering Salt Spring's alarming influx of new and used pleasure-diesel, their ill-gotten gains will be enjoyed a lot longer! Diesel fuel is the petroleum industry's biggest profit-maker, as labour-wise, it is only one step removed from crude!

There is no single environmental misconception more ignorant than the notion of diesel polluting on a par with gasoline, nor one further from the truth than that burning diesel fuel — which is oil, people — actually pollutes less.

A large diesel engine pumps out approximately 650 cubic feet per minute of sulfur dioxide-come-trioxide, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, butadiene, dioxin, soot and, according to CARB (the California Air Resources Board) 35 other industrial, shop-level chemicals.

Every diesel, even the cushy new Passats and Jettas, is a mini industrial factory on wheels and in your face. Diesel exhaust never rises up to blow or fade away. The clouds of exhaust only travel sideways on the breeze or fall if there is a lower elevation to be had.

Formaldehyde and dioxin have been conclusively linked

to breast cancer but we have yet to hear women's groups sing about diesel; Suzuki shows fail to even mention the word diesel; and government television lawsuit-preparatory propaganda spots don't talk about anything other than tobacco chemicals as being a threat to health.

What causes cancer is simply an immune system that has been over-taxed for so long that it no longer has the strength to defeat a particularly tenacious invading cancer cell, and there is nothing to match the danger of diesel exhaust, raw fuel vapours or older, poorly-tuned gas machines (in that order) when it comes to the bringing about of that condition.

TERRY GRAHAM,
Salt Spring
Benefit question

Life, what happens and events occurring within people's journeys vary from person to person.

I believe Christ paid the penalty for all mankind through death upon the cross so in that way I am feeling blessed.

Still, certain areas within living do confuse most disabled folk who obtain a disability payment and Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits. CPP is federal and should be classified as worked-for income rather than as a benefit from the government and as such it shouldn't be deducted from a person's welfare benefits when they are not able to work.

Since everybody employed is automatically deducted CPP from their paycheques, it should then be classified as worked-for income and not as a government benefit as it was deducted without choice.

Therefore I feel the provincial government hasn't the right to have whatever amount one receives from CPP as it was rightfully part of the person's income anyway.

WAYNE DALE,
Salt Spring

Commentary *cont'd from p6*

nights, like so many of the days and nights we have here in the Gulf Islands.

For reasons scientists haven't been able to explain fully, the birds are drawn to red lights and radio signals, which might disrupt the birds' navigation systems. The lights can be found at the top of the towers and many buildings. The birds routinely circle around the lights to regain their orientation but then hit guy wires holding up the structures, said Vernon Kleen, an avian ecologist for the Department of Natural Resources.

"There are some [wires] that have killed as many as 1,000 birds a night, maybe more," Kleen said.

Be forewarned. These high-tech aggravations may get worse before they get better. Some starlings and song thrushes in England are already feeling the influence of the high tech

world, according to The Independent, a British newspaper. The birds have changed their tune, with their current chirp being an imitation of the ring tones from cell phones. How aggravated will you be when you cannot distinguish the birds a-chirping from the cell phones a-ringing?

Take note, bird activists. Is that your cell phone ringing? No, it's the oystercatchers on Sunset spit, noisy little beggars aren't they?

Let's hope that the birds can learn phone numbers as well as the sound of the phone ringing. I'm all in favour of arming the birds with cell phones of their own and supplying them with the numbers they can call complaints in to. Yes, that's a good idea, give out the numbers to movements like the Waterbird Watch and have all the birds call in about who is disturbing who and what is being lost in this bat-

tle to save the birds.

Oystercatcher to headquarters: "Look I haven't seen a kid swimming on the spit for several years now, and this environmentalist comes out yelling, 'You're scaring the birds. Get off the beach.' Then there is this cell-phone radiation thing. Can't something be done? We need harmony to enjoy this planet, can't those people understand that?"

The message I wish to leave with all the environmentalists and other cell phone users is this. It's not the beach walkers, the kids in their sailing dinghys or picnickers destroying the birds; it's you.

Now is the time then, if you want to help save the birds, to hang up your phone, take a walk along the beach and really enjoy the fact that you are saving the birds by not being part of this most destructive technology.

Letters to the BARNACLE

Letters to the editor should be sent by e-mail, in text form (no attachments, please), to news@gulfislands.net, or faxed (537-2613) dropped off/mailed to the Driftwood-Barnacle office at 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3.

Barnacle letters should address issues raised in the Barnacle only.

Video game action flick falls short of brilliant



*Flick Pick ...
with Jason Tudor*

For those of you who don't have (or know the meaning of) a Playstation, Tomb Raider is one of last summer's mediocre crop of blockbuster action flicks.

The person doing the raiding is one Lara Croft, a sort of Indiana Jones for the '90s. Lara (Angelina Jolie) operates out of a massive English mansion, jaunting around the world and collecting ancient artifacts. Besides being both impossibly skinny and bountifully curvaceous, she has the dexterity of a cat and the weapon skills of a John Woo protagonist.

In this film, the plot has something to do with a group of mysterious baddies who want to get their hands on a powerful time control device. It's Lara's job to kick their sorry butts.

Tomb Raider is one of those movies taken from the world of video games and it ranks amongst the best of that group. Obviously, it's a pretty darn lousy group. Given that the average video game player is, say, 12 years old, you get a low level of sophistication here. There's lots of shooting and neat vehicles, set to Matrix-inspired techno music.

Ms. Croft is always wearing skimpy outfits, even in the Arctic. All of it is PG-13-certified: very rarely does a human really get hurt, while all the animated statues get blown to bits. Booty-wise, we are only afforded a side-view of Jolie's now-legendary chest.

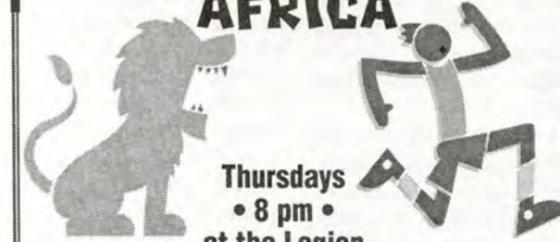
Despite all the ammunition, director Simon West just shoots blanks. He seems to have no ability to set up an action sequence — there are several great ideas for scenes that fall flat. When you're showing a firefight, it is necessary to show the audience where the combatants' respective positions are. Otherwise, there's no way for us to get into sync with the hero's movements.

Mr. West: before making another film, I suggest watching that rooftop sequence from The Matrix a few more times. Maybe 50 times.

Rating: PG

Running Time: 1 hour, 40 minutes

Survivor III: AFRICA



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CHRISTMAS BAKING — Women at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church pulled out all the stops for a bake sale and bazaar at the Drake Road location on Saturday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

M&M pianist turns to classical mode

Pianist Simon Rook returns on December 5 for the final concert of the year in the popular Music and Munch series.

In a delightful musical adventure, Rook's recital in June of last year explored the many styles of the great rag-time composers. Islanders shall again be given a taste of this

toe-tapping genre in December's event, but the main thrust of the day's music will be to focus on a classical mode. Organizers say this is a marvellous opportunity to enjoy Rook's versatility.

Having taught piano and performed since his arrival on Salt Spring, his skill as pianist

and harpsichord player is well established. December's program promises us the pleasures of Bach, Brahms and Schubert.

Passionate about everything he does, Rook enjoys many activities, including tai chi — which he teaches — hiking, kayaking and reading. He also has a master's

degree in languages.

The free recital begins at 12:10 p.m. at All Saints Church, followed by an optional lunch for \$4.75.

Audiences should note that Music and Munch traditionally takes a break in January and will commence its monthly winter schedule on February 6.

A gold mine that's all in the jeans



*Wit & Whimsy ...
with Arthur Black*

Chance is a wonderful thing.

Suppose, for instance, Morris Strauss, a bearded and nearly broke immigrant from Bavaria, had not been walking down that street in San Francisco back in 1850. Suppose he hadn't run into a crusty old gold miner who asked him what he'd brought with him from back east.

"A few yards of canvas," Strauss replied. The miner scoffed and pointed to his own ripped and shredded trousers. "You'da been better off if you'd brought a few pairs of hard-wearin' pants."

Pants, eh? Thought Strauss. He took some of his canvas to a tailor and paid him to make a pair of pants out of it. Then he took the pants back and sold them to the miner.

The miner was ecstatic. Finally, a pair of pants that could stand up to the rigours of hard rock mining. He became a walking billboard for Strauss' sartorial ingenuity. Pretty soon, other miners came looking for durable trousers. Mister Strauss had found his personal gold mine, but he needed a name for his popular product.

He decided to use his middle name: Levi. And he made a couple of changes.

First, he switched from canvas to a softer but still durable French textile that came from the French town of de Nimes and was finished in Genoa, Italy. Then he died it dark blue because it hid dirt and stains better.

He also introduced three new words to the English language: levis, denim (from the French serge de Nimes) and jeans, a corruption of Genoese.

It's been a long and winding century and a half for Levis since then. For most of that time Levis were pants for the working stiff — cowboys, miners, farmers. Then, a transformation. "Jeans" suddenly became chic. Everybody from Bob Dylan to Princess Anne was photographed in jeans.

Today jeans are a clothing phenomenon — they're class unconscious.

They're worn by blue collar workers and university professors; by cowboys and bank tellers.

The makers of Levis have evolved too. Customers of LVC (that's Levi's Vintage Clothing) buy personalized history prewashed into each and every pair of pants. Perhaps you'd like a pair of

Dead Man's Jeans, a replica of a pair that a man wore when he was dragged behind a pickup back in the '30's.

Or a pair of Kerouacs — replicated stain for stain from a pair worn by the author of On The Road.

But it will cost you. In Tokyo, one pair of Levi's 501 Signature series will set you back somewhere between \$1,000 and \$20,000 US.

That is not a misprint.

I guess that would have to be a back-handed tribute to the durability of old Morris Strauss' original brainwave back in 1850.

Speaking of durable, did you hear about the guy in Nevada, excavating his back yard who dug up a pair of mud-crust but still recognizable Levi's?

Experts authenticated the pants as having been made circa 1880 — the oldest known pair of Levi's in the world.

You can buy 'em yourself on e-Bay if you hurry. Guy's only asking \$25,000 US.

And what did the ancient pantaloons cost when they were first sold back in the 1880s?

A dollar seventy-five.

You know that somewhere the ghost of Morris Levi Strauss is shaking its head.



"If you want your children to be brilliant, tell them fairy tales. If you want them to be very brilliant, tell them even more fairy tales."

Albert Einstein

Waldorf on Salt Spring K-6 (250) 538-0246



**GANGES
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MARKET**

Your Community Food Store

IT'S CHRISTMAS at GANGES VILLAGE MARKET

Bring in unwrapped toys for kids aged 5-14
and donations for the Food Bank

See the tree in the lobby at front of store.



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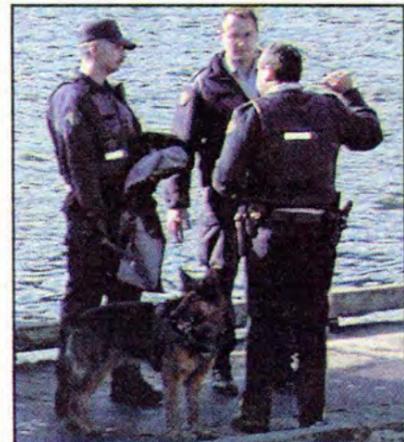
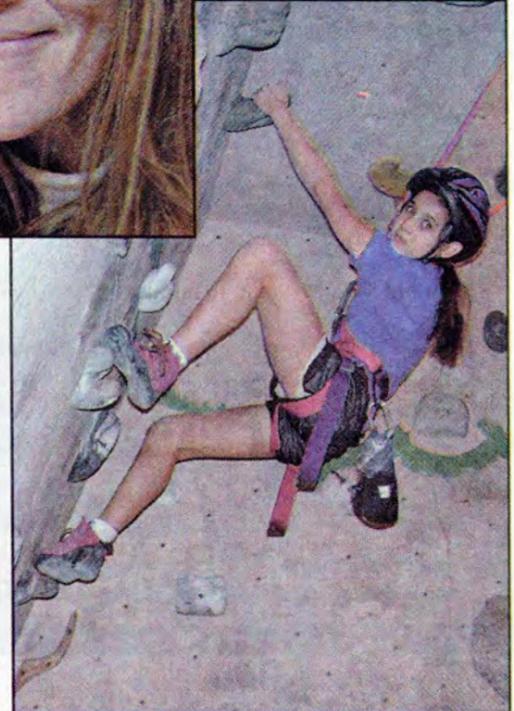
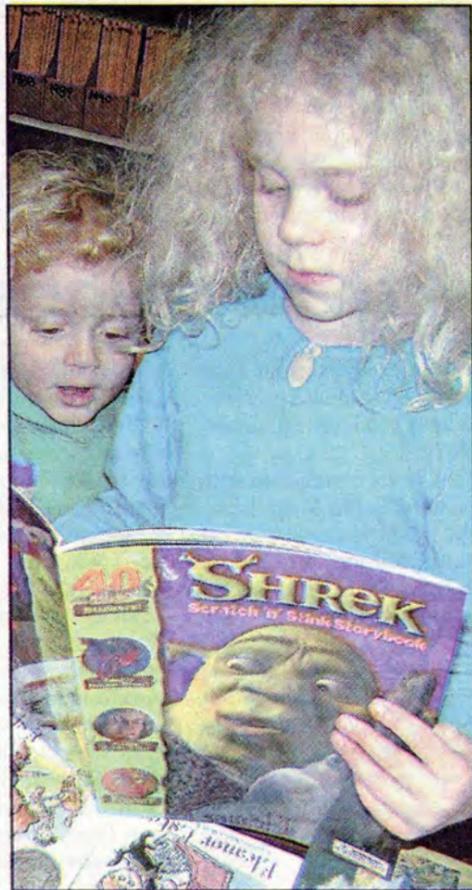
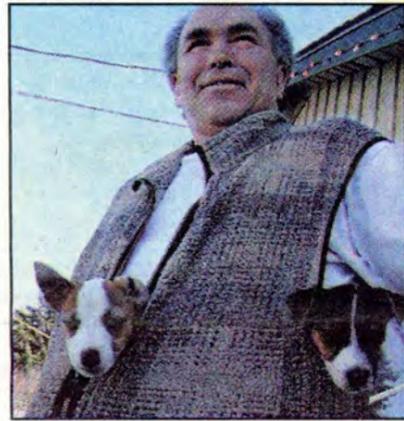
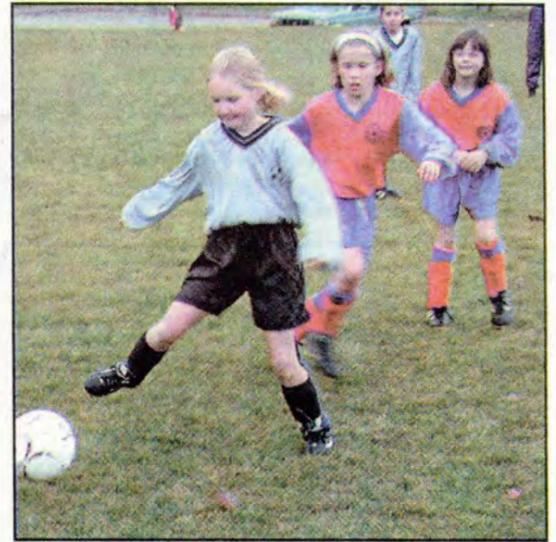
A weekly feature of the Barnacle Island Journal

November 27, 2001

Photos by Derrick Lundy



Seen here, clockwise from top left, are: Oria Dawn Atkinson at Core Inn; Katie Villadsen in U11 soccer action; climber Meredith Raddysh; J. Mitchell Gallery artists; Taavi Wickman and Tai Ramafield-Rani; police and dog handler; John Davies selling Jack Russell puppies; Maddy and Max McKay at Fernwood school book sale; Kaleb Morgan; Cameron and Lisa Wilson.



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PEACE POSTERS

Winners of a Legion-sponsored Remembrance Day poster contest, in which Fernwood Elementary School students participated, were Stuart Garside (third from left) and Cecelia Fraser (far right).

Photo by Derrick Lundy



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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5TH, 7:00PM
Saltspring Island Baptist Church
520 Lower Ganges Road



**Salt Spring Dollars Are Good
For Buying Salt Spring Singer
Christmas Concert Tickets**
ADULTS \$15 / STUDENTS \$10



Eric Booth buys his tickets from ArtSpring Box Office volunteer Sara Foster for the Singers Christmas Concerts Dec. 7, 8, 9.

Carol sing-along at Concert Band show

When Salt Spring Concert Band posters blare Celebrate Christmas! they mean it.

With participation by the Salt Spring Youth Honour Choir and a program well-lit by favourite sing-along carols, this weekend's concerts at ArtSpring could be the band's most "Christmassy" offering ever.

Concert band director Dawn Hage sees it as a perfect community kick-off to the holiday season, and a chance for people to get their voices tuned up for Christmas carol singing.

"The audience is definitely part of the show and we've got some exciting new arrangements done especially

for audience and band," she said last week.

Tony Royse, a prolific Ontario composer who is also a friend of band member Richard Moses, has arranged O Come All Ye Faithful, Deck the Halls and Good King Wenceslas especially for an audience and concert band mix. The pieces' world premiere will take place at the Celebrate Christmas! event.

Versions of the First Noel and Joy to the World will also rely on crowd vocals.

Youth honour choir members will inspire everyone to sing by moving into the audience for some pieces, as well as performing their own

selections on stage.

The Friday and Saturday night concerts are the first formal shows for the Salt Spring Youth Honour Choir, founded and directed by Mitch Howard.

"It's going to be a really great family Christmas show," promised Hage.

Other band repertoire includes a Vaughn Williams Christmas,

Rhapsody on Spanish Carols (arranged by Robert E. Foster), a Celebrate Christmas medley, and a beautiful arrangement of Greensleeves done by Claude T. Smith.

Hage can also hardly wait to have her musicians per-

form Wagner's impressive Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral from the Lohengrin opera.

The 40-member concert band has several new players, particularly in the brass sections.

Hage also points out that ticket prices were deliberately kept low this year to ensure the concert is accessible to families. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

The concert also starts a little earlier than most, at 7:30 p.m., to better accommodate youngsters.

Tickets are going fast through the ArtSpring box office at 537-2102.

Singers set to take Christmas stage

By PIRJO RAITS
Staff Writer

Johann Sebastian Bach's Magnificat will be the featured piece of music at the Salt Spring Singers' Annual Christmas Concert, from December 7 to 9, at ArtSpring.

Singers' musical director Bruce Smith is challenging

the 65-member choir this year, as Magnificat is presented with orchestra, choir and soloists.

A 13-piece orchestra will accompany the Magnificat, which will feature solos by David Ashton, Rosemary Delisle, Richard Hayden, Connie Holmes, Alan

Robertson, Barbara Ross, Anke Smeele and Deb Toole.

"Bruce Smith has led us to new musical heights," said the Singers' spokesperson Susan Russell. "He has high expectations and you can't not want to do it."

Magnificat was first performed in Leipzig on Christmas Day in 1723. Bach wrote music with a straightforward industriousness and sacred music accounts for a major portion of his work.

The Magnificat's text is in Latin. It is based on a passage from Luke in which Mary expresses her joy at the Annunciation.

Bach is a master of expressive word painting, and has used echo-like repetitions and layers in the piece's chorus, creating a mosaic with constant variety among the 12 brief sections of the Magnificat.

It has been suggested that people should try to listen away from the most obvious top line and follow the bass to hear the richness contained in each component of the musical whole.

Musical textures will shift from full choral settings to numbers for the soloists.

Russell says several family groupings are lending their musical voices for the concert, including: Diana English with son Miles; Patricia Brown with her son Geoff Roop; Emily Hickford and her mother Gillian; Illyd Perkins and his son Edward; and three members of the Yardley family — Jonathan, Sue and Emma. There are

number of couples as well who are singing together, they include: Bob and Judi Francis, Dennis and Susan Russell, and Pip and John Moore.

Diana English is also the piano and keyboard accompanist. The orchestra will feature local trumpeters Dawn Hage, Derrick Milton and Simon Millerd.

The Singers will also be presenting Marc-Antoine Charpentier's midnight mass for Christmas Eve called Messe de Minuit Pour Noel. This 17th-century composition is based on old French carols and has a lightness and gentleness perfectly suited to the occasion it celebrates. They will also present Vijay Singh's Pictures from the Northwest, a 15th-century carol called Lullay My Liking and Handel's Hallelujah, Amen.

The Gulf Islands Secondary School Choir will also sing under Smith's direction. Their pieces are Coventry Carol, A Child is Born (with soloist Tegan Adams), Mirabile Mysterium, Ring-Christmas Bell and Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy.

Each year this popular concert is anxiously awaited by the island community. Concerts take place on Friday, December 7 and Saturday the 8th at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 general and are available through the ArtSpring box office, at 537-2102.

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Dawn Hage - Conductor
and Guests
SSI Youth Honour Choir
Mitch Howard - Choir Master

Friday, November 30th &
Saturday, December 1st
7:30pm - ArtSpring

Tickets: Adults \$12 / Students \$5
Reserved Seating
Available at ArtSpring Box Office 537-2102

Survival sparks Earle's creativity

By PIRJO RAITIS
Staff Writer

Stacey Earle is an optimist. Married in her late teens, later divorced and a single mother for most of her adult years, her life experiences have given Earle fuel for her creative fire.

But she hasn't let her early years tarnish her positive outlook, nor her lyrics.

The lyrics are raw but real. They don't come from some romantic notion, they are born from a life of survival. Years of tough living have shaped and formed her music into what can best be called musical poetry from the Tennessee Hills.

"You take all that and you wrap it up and you have material," she said in a 2000 interview.

Back for a return engagement, Earle, along with Mark Stuart, will play at ArtSpring on Sunday, December 2 at 8 p.m.

Earle and Stuart have played on Salt Spring twice over the last few years. This time Salt Spring musician Alan Moberg will be opening for the duo.

Earle plays not-quite-



Stacy Earle: this weekend

county, not-quite-folk music, and her songs have been described as "poignant, eloquent views of small town America."

Her guitar is a testament to her late start in music. It has never been washed and every teardrop, coffee stain and scratch bears witness to her songwriting.

She is self-reliant. She says she had no obvious musical influences. As a single mother waiting tables for a living, she had no CDs, no radio that worked — all she had was her guitar. She sat, wrote songs and sang to her kids.

Earle's country-musician brother Steve has been a big influence in her life. While helping him deal with his drug addiction problems, she found her musical voice.

She sang backup on his album The Hard Way, and went on the road with him. On her own she has played at many of the major folk festivals across North America, and in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

In 1994 she met her soulmate, inseparable musical partner and future husband. She is 39, but her songs reflect a soul much older than that.

When she began the next stage of her career with her partner Stuart, things began to happen.

She not only found a musi-

cal compatriot, but an arranger, backing vocalist and ace picker of all-things-stringed.

Together they forged their way through the musical frontiers to produce a new CD, Dancing With Them That Brung Me. It's a follow-up to Earle's earlier self-produced debut release Simple Gearle. Stuart has released a CD entitled Songs From a Corner Stage.

They captivated Salt Spring Islanders twice before and chances are good they will do so again.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., music starts at 8.

Tickets are available through Acoustic Planet, et cetera, Music Emporium, Pretzel Motors, Stuff & Nonsense and the Vesuvius Store. Advance tickets are \$14, \$10 for students, and \$18 at the door, \$12 for students.

The concert is presented by TSUNAMI.

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Pears in mulled wine: a perfect holiday treat



Let's Eat...
with Linda Koroscil

You don't have to be called Martha Stewart to prepare these pears — they're very easy and can be beautifully presented.

Pears in Mulled Wine

- 1 bottle good red wine (never use cheap wine to cook with!)
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4 cloves
- 1/2 tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp ginger
- 8 peppercorns
- strip of 1/2 orange and 1/2 lemon
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 8 pears

Pour wine and all ingredients into saucepan to fit pears. Peel pears leaving the stem. Boil gently about 30 minutes. Remove pears. Reduce syrup to 1/2. Pour over pears to serve.

I would serve each pear in a super large dessert plate or bowl, drizzled with the syrup and served with a dollop of French vanilla ice cream and a sprig of lavender.


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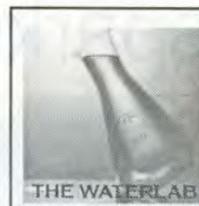
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DEADLINE

Classified - Friday 5 pm
Too late to classify - Monday noon

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830 Cars, Service	860 Vehicles Wanted

900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY - NOON MONDAY

10 CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY
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20 COMING EVENTS

RICHARD MILBURN has
been painting "fish". Osman
Phillips has been taking "pic-
tures". There will be a sale of
their work at Cedar Lane
Studio, 210 Cedar Lane on
Friday, Nov 30th. 11 am - 7
pm. Sat, Dec 1st 11 am - 6
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653-4945 or
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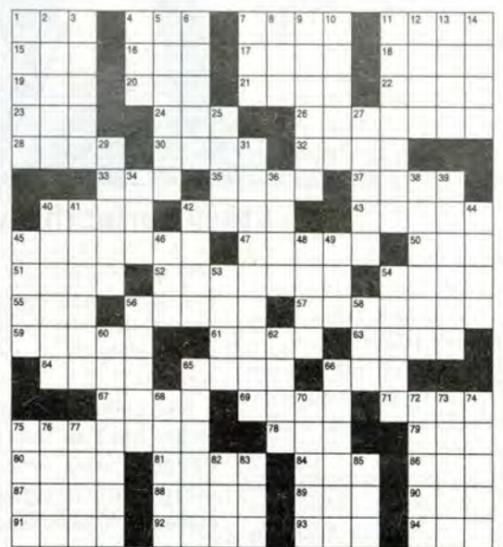
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- Hitchcock's "___ Window"
- Born
- Ostrichlike bird
- Highest
- Greek sandwich
- Caisson's contents
- Medley
- Boggy land
- Roundish
- Arabian garments
- Newspaper section
- Keel extension
- Certain amphibians
- Olive stuffer
- Calcutta coin
- In the know
- Baker's need
- To us
- Challenger
- "___ Joey"
- Goddesses of the seasons
- Absolutely
- Mournful poem
- Birds' beaks
- Like sustanlotion
- Hollywood notable
- Young salmon
- Misters
- Bowling alley
- Lateral portion
- Mine refuse
- Casual
- Hair-setting goo
- Before "blastoff"
- Came to ground
- At leisure
- Cleric's vestment
- Key limesdessert
- Stare open-mouthed
- Exultant joy
- Fishes' beginnings
- Certain railways
- Vase handle
- Descendant

DOWN

- Being obligated to
- Cozy
- Brooding one
- Once around the track
- Aviator
- Flourish
- Injure
- Fuss
- Revolver
- Purloin
- Clip-on jewelry's location
- Reflex site
- Greek vowels
- Gossip
- On a rampage
- Vine
- Many times
- Supervisors
- Geologic time
- Sickness
- Spinning
- Hard
- Foes
- Egg dish
- Sweet and ___
- Agile
- John XXIII, for example
- In addition
- As well
- Young newt
- Frog genus
- Leaf ribs
- African mammal
- Shoe tip
- Strong, cotton fabric
- Military jail
- Hawk
- Make gentle by time
- Horse sound
- "The Wreck of the Mary___"
- Runner with a long stride
- Doddering
- Honking waterfowls
- Sitar music
- Pizazz
- Facial features
- Kauai keepsake
- Always, in poems
- Nectar hunter

Crossword
answers
page 14

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Tip of the week:

Spirituality can perhaps best be described as love and unity. Interestingly, these are core themes for Sagittarius (as are law, philosophy, travel, education and culture). In our common speech the word 'they' is commonly used. Unfortunately, this word creates divisions and would ideally only be used with awareness and respect. 'We' is the word of the wise centaurs of Sagittarian lineage. 'We' dissolves the differences that 'they' creates. It also nurtures responsibility and purpose. When these are guided by vision, inspiration, love and unity joy is experienced. The word 'they' is almost always linked to opposition and negative thoughts and emotions. Beyond morals and ethics (also Sagittarian themes), the person(s) who use(s) the word 'they' unwittingly creates a state of separation and fear for themselves, let alone everyone else by the ripple effect. It is not about judgement. It is about energy, choice and consequences. On the eve of the meeting of the Sun and the South Node of the Moon at the Galactic Center (at approximately 26 degrees Sagittarius on December 18th) the time is right to shift our focus and language from 'they' to 'we'. With this and other such choices in our everyday usage of language, we can all create a world we all really want to experience.

Aries (Mar 21 - AP 20)

A communion of comrades and other old souls is stirring drama in the air. Since the world is shaking why not shake it more or at least shake with it. This means playing with ideas and voicing opinions in playful ways. Healing is needed and stale beliefs and styles need to be eliminated. Sometimes the hardest thing to learn is how to unlearn. You are not who you were, you are who you are now and becoming. Go out, join in, tempt fate!

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

Power in numbers has your ticket and is calling you out. True, the traditional approaches must be left behind but this is not a call to be alone. Deepen your bonds with friends and lovers who are eager to share and explore. Cultural and religious activities beckon. As you awaken to the power of gratitude and good will, self-limiting judgments of self and others will melt away. Witness your own shortcomings with love and humor and lead others by example.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

Relationship encounters remain front and center. A

healing of old rifts and patterns is underway. You are discovering that as long as you can genuinely love and accept yourself and your feelings you win. It takes awareness to recognize differences in perspective and opinion. Wisdom is what joins people, despite differences. There is always another way. There is no need to compromise. Communicate clearly and with empathy to negotiate a win/win deal.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 21)

A time of refinement and healing continues in full force. Beliefs are the main target. When we realize that much of what we consider to be true, real and important is actually anchored in beliefs we awaken to the opportunity to change those beliefs. Consider that you do not live in the world as much as you live in your own mind. Life is a trance dance and pure objectivity is an illusion. To give to others, open your mind to more empowering beliefs.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 22)

Your world is filled with drama and excitement these days. As you explore the potential of new possibilities you feel inspired. Learning how to communicate your truth more clearly and effectively is key. This implies allowing dreams and goals to be objectified. Brainstorm and make lists and collages of the direction you want your life to take. See the bigger picture over the next 12 to 24 months. Start now!

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Visions and plans are being born in the chamber of your mind. New directions and duties are on the horizon. By spring a whole new chapter will begin in your life. It is good to be mentally and emotionally prepared. This means flexibility. Your willingness is key. Start now to imagine how things could be different and better. Be ready to face certain fears and limiting self-concepts in order to realize your dreams.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

Your mind is flying freely and wildly on the wings of imagination. Whether in mind, body or both you are on a new adventure. Many new impressions and ideas are available for you to entertain. Caution and indecision concerning your focus are the main issues. One thing is for sure, you are in a good position to learn. Ideally, self-discovery is high on your list. If it is not now, it will be soon. Trust that if you look deep enough you will discover pure light.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 22)

A time of planning and building of foundations continues. You desire more freedom and independence on one hand and unity and closeness on

the other. The norm needs to be thrown into the storm. This implies your own daily rhythms and patterns. Do not concern yourself with other people's story unless you have a right, a boundary and a reasonable return. The best investment now is into a more expanded and nurturing point of view.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

A passionate pace continues. You are entering new territory every day and the air is swirling with drama and excitement. Like paisley and other psychedelic images, your mood is sassy and sexy. Beneath the surface, pressures to create a more realistic and enjoyable social life can be felt. Some more complimentary players are needed for the game. Life is too short to be alone. Take risks to speak your truth. What and who do you want?

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

In order to make the beautiful dream a beautiful reality it must first be outlined and identified. That is your task now. The key is to be willing to give to the process fully. Half measure commitments will yield half measure results. A simple outline of objectives that you can clearly see, add to and change will help. Once the materials are ready let your mind dream and contemplate the possibilities. Lie back, relax and get to work.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Gathering's with friends for fun and festivity is in the air. With open heart and mind you are in the mood for love. Yet old perceptions and attitudes may be making the punch sour. If so, be willing to take a new approach. Do not wait for others to go first. Say yes to invitations. Recognize that limitations experienced without are actually reflections of patterns within. Believe in the power of choice and step out boldly into a new you!

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Career considerations and obligations are drawing your focus now. You are determined to entertain new tools and approaches. You want to express your authentic gifts. Deeper layers of creative power beckon. Some form of plan and outline is required. Business meetings and other key initiatives are important. Start with what you know. Make an outline. Once the process begins it will take on a life of its own. Trust and begin now.

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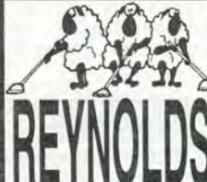
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Plethora of words play out in a popular tune



Musical Musings ... with Murray Shoolbraid

Some tunes are more popular than others, and in some cases there is a bewildering plethora of words to one tune (or close variants thereof), though usually only one set is considered the text, at least in one area.

In the United States, the melody of *O Tannenbaum* is usually known as *Maryland, My Maryland* from the poem by James Ryder Randall of Baltimore (1861) — of the many good songs to come out of the war between the states.

Elsewhere, naturally, other chauvinisms come into play. In its native Germany, it seems to have appeared first in 1799 as "Es lebe hoch," and in 1820 it was set to the Christmas Tree words with which it is mostly associated.

A little later, a student song (of around 1815) was set to the tune and passed around the universities (in many countries) because it was in the learned tongue of Latin:

Lauriger Horatius, quam dixisti verum:

"Fugit, Euro citius, tempus edax rerum."

Ubi sunt, O pocula, dulcora melle

Rixae, pax, et oscula rubentis puellae?

That is translatable as:

Laurel-wreathed Horatius, true it is your saying:

"Time flies swifter than the wind, all things ever slaying."

Draughts of wine so honey-sweet, where are now their traces,

Where the quarrels and the peace, blushing maids' embraces?

This tune for some reason supplanted *The White Cockade* (a good Scottish tune) as the melody to carry Jim Connell's immortal Red Flag:

The people's flag is deepest red,

It shrouded oft our martyred dead.

And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold,

Their heart's blood dyed its every fold.

Then raise the scarlet standard high,

Within its shade we'll live and die;

Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer,

We'll keep the red flag flying here.

In Britain, therefore, it's commonly known by this title.

It's very popular, hence has acquired, as pops do, several parodies, mostly cheeky or satirical. Try this, which is very close in many of the words and rhymes to the original; I got it from a Vancouver amateur mountaineer.

The people's crag is deepest red,

It cushioned oft our fallen dead.

And ere their limbs had ceased to twitch,

Their life's blood dyed its every pitch.

Then raise the piton hammer high,

Upon the crag we'll do or die;

Though leaders fall, and seconds spill,

We'll raise the standard higher still.

Chauvinism proper creeps in when a patriotic or nationally boastful song is employed by other nations to their own flattery; hence *The Roast Beef of Old England* becomes *The Old Scottish Broadwords* (by J. G. Lockhart, 1821), and *The Fine Old English Gentleman* has been transmuted into (of course) Scottish, as well as Irish and Dutch!

Quick-growing Escallonia is ideal for island gardens



Life in the garden ... with Joe Clemente

For those of you gardeners looking for a quick-growing evergreen specimen shrub or small screen, why not try Escallonia?

It's a species of plant native to areas of South America, namely Chile.

There are many different-named varieties of Escallonia. The two most-commonly grown in Ganges' commercial landscape are Pink Princess and Newport Dwarf.

The Newport Dwarf variety grows to about two-and-a-half-feet tall and equally as wide. It produces deep pink to red flowers over a long season. The leaves are a glossy green and smaller than those on the Pink Princess variety.

Pink Princess is quite common in island gardens and is often used as an evergreen flowering hedge that produces beautiful pink flowers throughout summer. There is a large one beside Central Hall and between the Chamber of Commerce and the firehall in Ganges.

Escallonia Pink Princess can grow to more than five feet high and easily as wide. It doesn't mind being clipped down to a smaller size but the pruning should be carried out in the spring and summer.

Escallonias are quite wind tolerant, especially if they are planted right near the ocean.

Although this plant is very common in temperate growing climates such as ours, I've seen this stuff freeze badly at prolonged temperatures below -10° Celsius. Mature plants are usually hardier and will resprout from the trunks when warmer weather returns.

Escallonia likes full sun to part shade and will take some drought when established. For best results, I would plant your Escallonia in good topsoil with excellent drainage.

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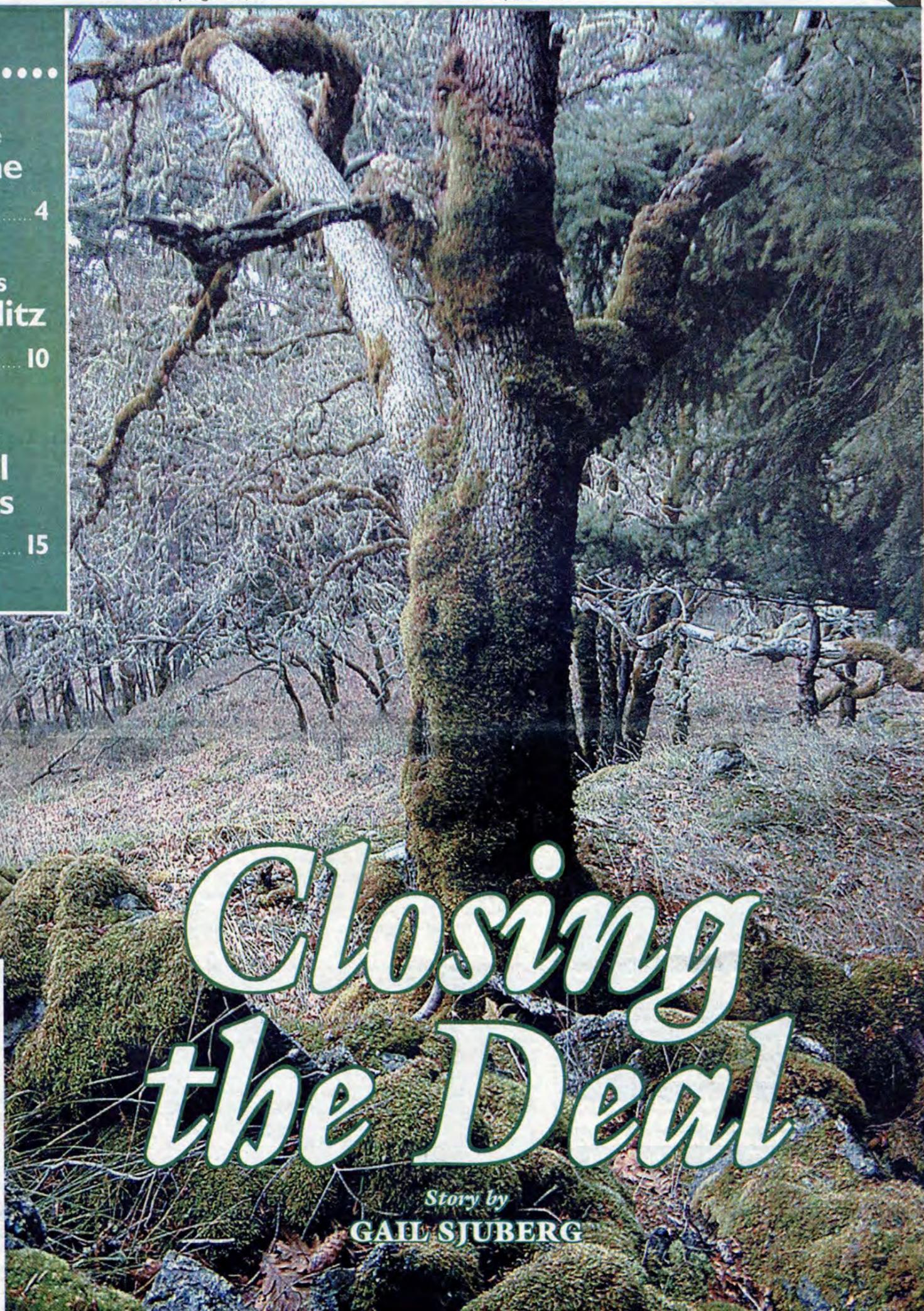
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Christmas concert blitz

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Murray's musical musings

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Closing the Deal

Story by
GAIL SJUBERG

It's been 756 days since Texada Land Corporation was first "welcomed" to Salt Spring with a pancake breakfast at the Holly Farm.

Peering back through one lens, it's been a slow-motion grind to the brink of a purchase that needs last-minute dollars to complete by Friday.

Open an eye to another view and the days have fallen faster than a Mount Tuam Douglas fir to a feller-buncher.

For those intimately involved in efforts to purchase as many acres as possible from the 5,000 bought by Texada in November 1999, their lives have been an emotional roller-coaster tossed by desire, fear, anger, a sense of justice and, some would admit, plain "pig-headedness."

Early on it became apparent no legislative or legal means could stop Texada from logging all of its lands and selling them off parcel by parcel.

The rich estuary of Burgoyne Bay, the largest intact Garry oak woodland in Canada, the island's last pristine source of drinking water, miles of hiking trails, and 40 known and potential red-listed plant and animals were at risk unless land trusts, government agencies or preserva-

tion-minded citizens came to the rescue.

Help is still needed. Some \$200,000 must be raised to finalize the purchase by November 30 and cover five years of financing costs on one part of the deal.

Well over a thousand donors and volunteers on Salt Spring and elsewhere have made and are still making the impossible unfold.

Five "torch-bearers" — modest folks who pass accolades around like a hot potato — agreed to talk about what kept them strapped in a roller coaster seat for two years; some managing to carry on with other parts of their lives, others less so. All

saluted the courage of those who

**Help is still needed.
Some \$200,000 must be raised to finalize the purchase by November 30 and cover five years of financing costs on one part of the deal.**

went to court, jail or risked it. Four have even shed their clothes for the cause.

They are: Andrea Collins, co-

founder of the Save Salt Spring Society and a women's calendar impetus who has just bought more Texada land herself; Gary Holman, co-founder of a group called the South and West Salt Spring Conservation Partnership which has long envisioned a green belt cinched by the Texada lands, Crown lands and Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks; Briony Penn, another founder of that group, former board member of The Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLCBC) and Lady Godiva rider; Mort Ransen, who created the Gemini-nominated film *Ah the Money, the Money, the Money . . . the Battle for Salt Spring*, and is now

a Hunk for Habitat; and Elizabeth White, coordinator of the Salt Spring Appeal fund of TLCBC, which is trying to pull in the last wave of money to keep the crucial deal afloat.

What kept them all going, despite the wheels on a task of mythic proportions being slashed by frequent setbacks? Not surprisingly, their reasons are rooted in the island but reach far beyond it.

"If you can't do it on Salt Spring, where in the world can you?" asked naturalist Penn, now an environmental news reporter with the New VI TV station. "All of us who worked on it felt that if we bombed here we

DEAL cont'd on p3

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Paradise won or paradise lost

By PATRICIA LOCKIE
Special to the Barnacle

It's crunch time. Can we ante up \$200,000 by November 30 and save one of the top three most endangered ecosystems in Canada, or will we let a dream die?

If we fail to meet this financial target, in all likelihood the Texada land deal will collapse. If we allow that to happen, the commitment shown by hundreds of women, men, and yes, children, from this community during the past two years will have been dishonoured. The fundraisers, the letter-writers, the negotiators, the public speakers, the donors, Lady Godiva, the entertainers, the filmmakers and many, many others shared a vision: That the community could face down a powerful land corporation and protect some of the loveliest land on Salt Spring. The current purchase, if successful, takes in 1,643 acres, a land mass larger than Ruckle Park, which covers 1,264 acres.

Now we're very close to realizing that vision; but let's just pause for a moment and consider two very divergent scenarios. In the first, the Salt Spring Appeal is successful in its bid to raise the funds

necessary to complete the land deal; and in the second, the bid is unsuccessful and the money falls short.

What does the community stand to win and what might it lose post November 30?

Money raised & land deal closes

- A rare ecological area with its spectacular shoreline, lush valleys and rocky bluffs saved intact for future generations to enjoy.
- Trees saved and endangered species habitat protected.
- Sensitive marine life given the chance for renewal and growth.
- A new provincial and CRD parks system stretching from Mount Maxwell, embracing the lands around Burgoyne Bay, up the slopes of Mount Sullivan to Bruce Peak and taking in a part of Mount Tuam comes into existence.
- Additional campgrounds, thereby reducing the pressure on Ruckle Park.
- Low-impact recreational activities such as kayaking, hiking and birdwatching part of the life of the park.
- Islanders, through a process of consultation, to have a say in the management plan for the park.

Money not raised & land deal fails

• The potential for continued logging throughout the area and log sorts in Burgoyne Bay. Subdivision and house building on lands along the south shore of Burgoyne Bay. Degradation of the bay through industrial forestry and development.

- Deforestation resulting in loss of species habitat.
- The sensitive marine life of Burgoyne threatened by log sorts.
- Massive pressure exerted on an already overused Ruckle Park when the new Gulf Islands National Park is announced.
- Canadian and international visitors flocking to Ruckle for the only available public camping facilities.
- Access to trails and shoreline restricted or lost.
- No voice.

The choice is ours to make in the next three days. We have a rare opportunity to have and to hold something extraordinarily special. As one veteran campaigner so graphically put it, "It's as though you're down to the last few Michelangelos in the world and you're in danger of throwing one of them away." Let's not do that.

In praise of the people behind the push

For people who habitually volunteer to help their community, spreading the credit is essential.

There's nothing different about the run to close the purchase deal on 1,643 acres of Texada Land Corporation lands.

"All the wonderful, talented, eccentric and determined people who worked fabulously hard throughout the campaign" were a major source of inspiration for Elizabeth White, coordinator of the Salt Spring Appeal fundraising campaign.

But high-profile volunteer Briony Penn tosses the ball of credit back to White.

"One of the most important things was having someone like Elizabeth White who basically volunteered two years of her life at a critical time. We had done lots

of tottering away at it for years and years but Elizabeth formed a cheery, optimistic, straightforward kind of approach and helped keep that side of it very upbeat."

Terry Bieman of the direct action committee "kept coming up with these hilarious schemes when we were the most down and out . . .

"There's just so many people who did so much. I think it was the humour that kept us going."

"The other person who's been incredible is Gary Holman," said Penn. "He's maintained a steady kind of support; he's the unsung hero because he never gets mentioned."

People like Jacky Booth, Fiona Flook and other Salt Spring Island Conservancy members have worked to

keep south and west Salt Spring green for several years, she added, along with the decades-old vision of Tom Gossett, Mike Larmour and the Water Preservation Society for a protected Maxwell watershed.

It's fitting that this final week of the campaign has come to a feverish finish, with volunteers still working around the clock to bring in the last dollars needed. Salt Spring merchants have jumped on board by adopting individual Hunks for Habitat.

Although White was focussed on fundraising, she acknowledges "the letter-writing campaigns, the lobbying, the peace camp and the blockades were all equally important in my view . . . to draw media attention, which in turn ultimately helped get the government dollars."

Holman agrees the direct action committee work was influential, along with the "technical case" for the lands' ecological values being made convincingly to the government.

"There is no question that without the government money on the table, we would not be looking at this

level of success," said White. "What got it there was a huge effort on the part of this community; many different initiatives by many, many people. I don't think we will ever know exactly what pushed the right buttons."

She cites the Manulife campaign coordinated by Murray Reiss, the preserve and protect women's calendar, Penn's Lady Godiva ride in Vancouver, the watershed campaigns, Nina Raginsky's adopt-a-tree plan, Mort Ransen's nationally-aired film, "and the hundred of volunteers organizing dozens of events — Stump Stomp, Art Meets Nature, concerts, rallies — the list is amazing."

Several people both on and off the island also had the right connections to ensure those millions came our way and stayed there once committed by the former NDP government.

"When I look at the map and at all the lands that are now protected, it brings a big smile to my face and a huge sigh of relief," said Andrea Collins of the Save Salt Spring Society, which also contributed large amounts of money. "Only passionate and committed people can make that happen."

Our mistake . . .

In the November 20 edition of the Barnacle, the story on the Salt Spring "old-timers" walk through south-end history contained some misinformation. John Bennett was kind enough to phone and clear up a couple of points. The George Maude quoted in the story was not a ferry captain, but his father was. Bennett also said the new ferry dock was built in 1974, not 1960 as stated in the story. Until then, he said, the ferry traffic lined up the hill.

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Deal cont'd from p1

couldn't do it anywhere, and we had a responsibility to give inspiration to other people because we are so privileged here. And so we are fighting not only for this piece of land but to raise awareness about the plight of endangered species and watersheds and the lack of legislation [protecting them]."

Ransen agreed. "I came here originally for the trees, and the reason I stay is for the people... This is a highly enlightened population. It would be terrifying if we couldn't do it here. If people with these extra resources can't manage to have some control over their environment, then what happens in other places where people are less fortunate?"

"What kept me going was the anger at not being able to control our environment as a community and the understanding that unless people attempt to stop that erosion of our rights that it will get worse and worse. That somewhere you have to take a stand and insist that communities have rights and that we should be able to have a say in our environment and that it isn't just money that controls what happens here."

White admitted that her "pigheadedness and stubbornness" helped her stay fixed at the helm of a rocky and pressure-filled campaign that is not over even yet. She admits she originally turned down a request to coordinate the Salt Spring Appeal. She was fairly new to the island, not a fundraiser by trade, and although her work involves sustainability issues, she didn't really view herself as a conservationist.

"However, south west Salt Spring has always seemed to me to be a very special, magical and wild place, a place to escape to when the rest of the island gets too busy. Emotionally and intuitively, for me the protection of the lands was critically important to the survival of our community."

Collins first got involved "like everyone else — going to meetings, standing in front of logging trucks and writing letters," mortified at the thought of one-tenth of her island home possibly being logged.

Perseverance comes through in Collins' words, too.

"I'm not a quitter, and I believe there is a solution for every problem. So, when people began talking about buying the Texada lands after they had been logged, I said, 'no way' and then went out and hired lawyers. That's how the Save Salt Spring Society came into being."

At that point, biodiversity funds had not formally surfaced and there was uncertainty about where to best funnel Salt Spring Appeal monies. The Save Salt Spring Society decided to focus on the Maxwell Lake watershed both financially and legally, aiding Water Preservation Society and North Salt Spring Waterworks District efforts to preserve the 265-acre secondary watershed.

White characterizes the fundraising campaign as marked by "a lot of ups and downs. So often we would think we were close to a deal, and then it would fall apart."

The "ups" included the overwhelming response to the May Day campaign waged from March to May 2000, when \$500,000 was quickly raised.

Throughout two years of sloggling for Collins, a prime motivator was a belief in the need to change the concept of "owning land" to one of stewardship.

"In many ways the 'battle to save Salt Spring' has allowed me to experience and intensify those beliefs to the point where I am willing to fight for them and continue fighting until the right kind of legislation is brought in."

Holman agrees the "really fundamental" issue of land use in the FLR not being regulated to take community and environmental values into account still needs to be tackled.

"The fact that local governments have no authority whatsoever on FLR lands meant that in terms of negotiating with Texada we were virtually powerless."

Development permit area provisions on some of Texada's non-FLR lands were the only preserving tool available.

"That's why we got into this mess and we are still vulnerable to it."



of the movers behind the movement are, from left, Elizabeth White, Terry Bieman, Gary Holman and Andrea Collins. They are seen leaning against a tree saved by Nina Raginsky's Adopt-a-Tree Program.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Despite the campaign's success, the fundraising and decision-making process was not always harmonious.

"It has been divisive within our group," said Holman. "We fought like cats and dogs at times."

White observed there were "inevitable squabbles about how things should be done," but she personally did not see the "entire community" divided by the Texada issue, as has been suggested in the media. "In the two years I have been fundraising, and talking to literally hundreds of people, I have met only two who were completely opposed to what we were trying to do."

Still, there's no doubt adversity with Texada Land Corporation was a powerful shaping force.

Penn speculates that the struggle "has been good for us. If it was all handed to us on a silver platter we probably wouldn't cherish it as much."

Ransen also feels the community may be better off as a result of its trials. "I now think this is a stronger and more united community, and if anybody else wants to do that to us, they better watch out."

Besides the campaign's obvious triumphs of protecting the watershed and Burgoyne Bay "jewels," Salt Spring Islanders have realized "what you can actually do if you aim high enough," said Holman. "Our capacity to take things on I think has grown immeasurably."

The mobilization of will and resources was occurring even before Texada, he notes, as demonstrated by McFadden

Creek, Mill Farm and Ford Lake purchases. The Fulford aerodrome purchase and Collins' recent purchase of Texada's Lot 2 for a watershed buffer — with options on three other lots — could be viewed as a continuation of the trend.

"There's been a whole set of relationships, connections between people that weren't there before and some people with access to considerable personal resources who have been mobilized," said Holman. "I hope that sense of capacity can continue forward in the future because I think if this community wants to take something on and they can cooperate enough, there is no telling what can be accomplished."

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 Sunday Dec. 9 9:00 - 5:30
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Mucky magic in Burgoyne tidal zone

'An extremely important marine region'

By **DAVID DENNING**
Special to the Barnacle

One day last spring, a bunch of Salt Spring Islanders took a long walk on a short pier.

Well, actually, we didn't walk OFF the government wharf at Burgoyne Bay — we walked under it, and straight out onto the expansive flats exposed by a very low tide. We wanted to see what's out there.

It's not a clean place, Burgoyne Bay, at least not if you think "clean" means white, or tidy, or dirt-free. As we were to find out, Burgoyne Bay only gives up its secrets to those willing to get down and dirty — to really dig in and muck themselves up a bit.

Although mucky, Burgoyne Bay is also filled with magic. Up at the edges of the bay near the government dock, we quickly discovered a mighty mob of purple and Oregon shore crabs. These hide under rocks at low tide, and at high tide they scurry out to feed on bits of algae and, thankfully, they eat barnacles.

When a rock was turned, the exposed crabs, dozens of them, scurried for cover, holding our attention until they all disappeared. Now it was time to take a close look at the "upside-down" rock. It was literally "crawling" with life. Many types of tiny snails, a variety of crustaceans called isopods and amphipods, and several different kinds of worms — ribbon worms, nerieid worms (named after the snaky sea goddess, Nereis) and "hairy-gilled" worms cov-

ered at one end with white thread-like feeding tentacles. (These are also known by their scientific group name as Terrellid worms, a name I remember by thinking of "Terrible Al's Id.")

There are also flatworms — they're paper thin and they slither and slide across the surface like a small wet gob of silly putty.

"To protect Burgoyne bay is a step toward rebuilding the natural ecosystems of the Salish Sea region."

One could explore these rocks for hours, but it was time to wander out further into the "mud flats." Of course, each rock we had turned upside down was turned back "right-side up" exactly as we had found it — and we were as careful not to crush crabs in the turning.

Further out, we were soon digging holes in the substrate — a mixture of small rocks and sandy mud. Here we discovered a remarkable wealth of living things. It seemed like every shovel brought up several dozen worms and a few clams. This revealed the great biological importance of Burgoyne Bay. Just imagine! If every shovel had this much diversity and living mass, how much is there in the entire

bay? In millions of shovels of mud that cover the bay's surface?

As we were to learn that day, Burgoyne Bay is one of the richest and most productive ecosystems in the entire Salt Spring Island region.

It's a fact of biology — but not a commonly noticed one. These creatures live underwater AND under the mud!

But not everything lives completely buried. It wasn't long before we discovered perfect domes, about the size of tennis balls, sticking up out of the mud. By tugging on these hardened spheres, we were able to drag out the entire animal — and there was a lot more than met the eye.

These are Salt Spring's largest snails — moon snails. The snail's "foot" is a huge mass of squishy tissue, about six or seven times the volume of the shell. It's impossible to imagine the snail's body fitting into its own shell, but in a short while we observed the impossible. Through its own physiological magic, moon snails can rapidly force water out of the cells in their bodies, and shrink down into their shells. It was an amazing sight as we all crowded around cheering for the snail and washing our muddy hands in the cascading flow from an upheld snail.

Even more amazing things were discovered about moon snails during our explorations. Burgoyne Bay is absolutely loaded with them. We found them almost everywhere and in great abundance.

I have mucked around many a beach of the Salish Sea, and in my opinion, Burgoyne Bay is the Moon Snail Capital of the World. This is a good sign. To have a healthy population of predators means we have a healthy population of prey. Moon snails eat clams, so this part of the ocean food web is doing well.

And Burgoyne Bay has another outstanding basis for marine food webs: an exceptionally large and rich amount of eelgrass habitat. Eelgrass is the only flowering plant adapted to live in our local oceans. Like other plants (and unlike algae) it has roots, so it can hold itself in soft muddy substrate and grow there without competition. It waves around in shallow waters, harvesting sunlight and transferring tons of energy into the food web. And it also provides habitat — places for things to feed, to hide, to grow and to

reproduce.

The importance of eelgrass to our marine environment cannot be overstated. Eelgrass beds produce food that directly feeds invertebrates and many of our migrating ducks. The invertebrates, in turn, are important food for fishes. In fact, eelgrass beds harbour all of our juvenile salmon species for at least some time in their life cycle, and they also act as nursery grounds for the juveniles of other fish species such as red Irish lords, ocean perch, some species of rock cod, midshipmen and many others. Eelgrass beds are also home to adult fishes — the bay pipe fish and the tube snout are green or brown, long and thin, perfectly camouflaged among the eelgrass blades. And then there is my favourite, the spiny lumpsucker. These small fish, in turn, are the food for wintering diving ducks such as mergansers and buffleheads.

As we worked our way further out into the bay, we encountered more and more eelgrass beds. We mucked among the roots and discovered brittle stars and many of the dozens of other species that call this muddy habitat home. On the blades, we found bubble shells galore, and their jelly-like egg cases attached to every blade of grass. And then we discovered the camouflaged eelgrass sea slug and were amazed.

Our bay is an extremely important marine region because, all over the Salish Sea, eelgrass beds have been, or are being, lost to pollution, boat anchor disruption and other human-caused problems. To protect Burgoyne Bay is a step toward protecting and, in fact, rebuilding the natural ecosystems of the Salish Sea region that provide us with our wealth. Any fisherman or woman should recognize this, and so should any of us who hold out hope that we can save the source of those tasty native salmon we love to eat.

Three hours after the start of our hike, thinking of moon snails and salmon, we dragged our bodies back up to the government wharf. We took the short hike to the end of the wharf and watched as the rising tide covered more and more of our tracks across Burgoyne's mudflats.

And standing there, caked with mud, we wished we could share with other Salt Spring Islanders some of our mud and new insights about this extraordinarily rich, but hidden, ecosystem.

Cats of the Week



I'm Alex and I have a beautiful orange coat. I'm about 4 months old and looking for a good home.



My name is Velvetino. Pretty fancy, huh? I'm a neutered male about 8 months old.

Please call the SPCA at 537-2123 or come to the open house every Saturday from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

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SALT SPRING HUNK
 Latest Hunk For Habitat model — Valdy — picks up a leaf and gets into the action with photographer Howard Fry. Valdy joins 10 other Salt Spring hunks in the fundraising effort.

Photo by Derrick Lunny.

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Looking back: Burgoyne, Maxwell history

By **CHARLES KAHN**
 Special to the Barnacle

The newly arrived British navy named everything in sight after their leading lights: Burgoyne Valley and Burgoyne Bay after Commander Burgoyne of the H.M.S. Ganges, Mount Bruce after Rear Admiral Bruce, Baynes Peak — at the top of Mount Maxwell — after Rear Admiral Baynes. Get the picture?

Meanwhile, the people who had lived here for thousands of years already had their own names for the same places. To the Hul'qumi'num people, Mount Maxwell was known as Hwmatetsun or "Bent-over place" and Burgoyne Bay was Xwookw'em or "Land of the sawbill (merganser)," a place where aboriginals hunted ducks. Middens all around Burgoyne Bay testify to the presence of native people there from very early days.

John Maxwell and his partner John Lunney established a 1,000-acre (400 hectare) cattle ranch in 1860 at the foot of Mount Maxwell in the almost flat west end of the Burgoyne Valley. When their longhorns arrived from the United States, they were pushed off the freighter and swam to shore. Maxwell took a 14-year-old native woman as a common-law wife, which eased his entry into — and possession of — what had been aboriginal lands. Nevertheless, some natives unhappy with the arrival of white intruders combined with white outlaws to occasionally descend from camps in the thick woods on the craggy top of Mount Maxwell to rustle some of Maxwell and Lunney's cattle.

The very first settlers in Salt Spring's south end came to

the Burgoyne Valley, home of perhaps the best farmland on the island. Norwegian-born logger John Sparrow settled here in 1860, as did horticulturist Joseph Akerman in 1862 and Irish-born Michael Gyves in 1864. Early maps of the island show the peculiar pattern of settlement as the early settlers each chose long narrow strips of the best available land.

In 1869, Maxwell and Lunney donated three acres for a wharf in Burgoyne Bay, the first wharf in the south end. From 1883 to 1900 when it closed, the Burgoyne Bay Post Office was in the Maxwell house and run by one or another of the Maxwell children. The original Maxwell house, now dilapidated and overgrown with brambles, still stands where it was built on the east side of the Fulford-Ganges Road.

There were about 91 people in the Burgoyne Valley in 1871, but this number almost tripled to 258 in the next 10 years. At first most of the settlers were single men, but by 1881 about 65 per cent of the population consisted of women and children. The Burgoyne Bay School District was formed in 1873, and a one-room schoolhouse was built across from what is today the Burgoyne United Church.

Known as the Union Church and built in 1887, it was meant to serve the needs of all Protestant settlers. Salt Spring's Anglicans later preferred to worship separately and used the schoolhouse across the road. In 1894 they built their own church farther south, St. Mary's, on land donated by Sparrow. This church was built by a "church bee" for a total cost of \$705, including furnishings.

From the time of the first settlers, most of the land from Burgoyne Bay to Musgrave Landing has been large, individually owned properties. The Maxwell farm extended all around Burgoyne Bay and up the sides of Mount Sullivan, where it met the large sheep farm established by the four Pimbury brothers in 1874. This large property, centred on Musgrave Landing and including much of Mount Bruce, was bought by Edward Musgrave in 1885. Much of this land was bought in 1958 by the Texada Logging Company, owned by Prince Thum und Taxis of Bavaria.

Large parks are nothing new to this area either. The

B.C. government established two parks in 1938, a 474-acre (192-hectare) park on Mount Bruce, which lost its park status in 1955 and is now the Crown land surrounding the Mill Farm, and the 491-acre (196-hectare) Class A park on Mount Maxwell. The new park in Burgoyne Bay will connect the Mount Bruce-Mount Sullivan Crown land with Mount Maxwell Provincial Park and the Nature Trust of B.C.'s purchase to make one huge piece of publicly owned, ecologically significant and recreationally important land.

The early settlers would be pleased to see their lands still intact 150 years later.

SHOULD SALT SPRING ISLAND BECOME A MUNICIPALITY?

- ➔ Read the information on the incorporation question that was mailed to you last week.
- ➔ Attend one of the **town hall meetings - Tuesday, December 4** at 7:30pm in the Multipurpose Room of GISS (the high school) and **Wednesday, December 5** at 7:30pm in Fulford Hall.
- ➔ Check out the website: www.saltspring.com/incorporation
- ➔ Then let the committee know if you want a referendum on incorporation.

From the SSI Local Government Restructure Study Committee,
 Box 417, Ganges P.O., SSI V8K 2W1. E-mail study@saltspring.com

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MOUAT'S
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Dark and stormy night with Jeff and Bruce



Isle Say! ... with John Pottinger

A few weeks ago my friend Jeff sold his business — a business that had taken up all his time and energy for the past three years.

I had already planned a trip to my cabin, so I suggested to him and another friend, Bruce, that they should come with me. I told them it was the perfect place for us to forget about the rest of the world and simply enjoy ourselves for a few days.

I didn't tell them that I needed to take my dock out of the lake before freeze-up; a cold wet job involving several hours work with tow ropes, winches and chest waders. It was easy to convince them to bring waders after I described the excellent fishing.

Jeff's from Bermuda, where they make good rum — 160-proof rum. Luckily for me, they bottle their strong rum in strong bottles. At a pit stop in Hundred Mile House, I was rearranging the "groceries" in our vehicle and dropped the not-available-in-B.C. rum smack onto the pavement.

The bottle chipped in several places but didn't crack. If it had, Jeff and Bruce would have returned without me and sworn forever that I disappeared on a trip to the outdoors.

On our arrival at the cabin, Jeff poured a splash of the rum into each glass, then topped them up with ginger beer. This traditional Bermudian drink is called a "dark and stormy." We toasted our excellent adventure as the cabin began to warm up.

As the "pre-made on Salt Spring" chili simmered on the stove, Jeff treated us to another stark and dorny. The cabin became cozier as the wood fire crackled and we began to tell stories.

"Don't go for a walk without the bear spray," I warned. "It works well against the more dangerous local wildlife: bears, cougars, wolves and gold miners."

(The Cariboo Mountains are home to dozens of half-crazed hermits who call themselves gold miners. A few years back, while hiking miles from any road, I stopped at a ramshackle camp hidden in a small canyon. In answer to my question about the whereabouts of a certain trail, the old guy just stared over the top of my head and said, "I ain't got nothin' here that's worth you dying for.")

After finishing a fine meal of chili, served with some of Heather Campbell's bread, David Wood's cheese, and a little Merlot, we sat around the table talking about lost gold mines and ghost towns. Jeff poured us another store and darkly.

Although it's a one-room cabin, I was having difficulty finding the ladder to the loft, which was where I had put all my gear. Everything was getting dimmer by the minute as I stumbled around and grumbled about the lanterns running out of fuel. I told Bruce to shut up when he accused me of being snarky and dorky.

Turns out he was just offering me another drink.

We raised our glasses in one last toast to something very near and dear to the three of us. (Although I don't specifically remember what or who we were toasting, I know it was most significant.)

I couldn't see a darn thing as I tried climbing into my sleeping bag. The bloody thing was a lot thicker and heavier than I remembered. After fighting with it for 10 minutes I realized I had climbed under the mattress on my bed.

I apologized to the guys for all the noise I'd been making but they didn't reply. I shouted and they still didn't reply, so I turned on my flashlight and shone it in Bruce's eyes. He pulled a pair of earplugs out of his ears and asked me (a little snottily I think) what I wanted. I asked him why he had plugs in his ears.

He laughed as he said, "You've never slept in the same building as Jeff, have you?"

I looked at Jeff and saw that he had plugs his own ears so he wouldn't wake himself up.

Next morning, as the first dim light of a late autumn day stirred me from my sleep, a couple of fuzzy thoughts began to form in my head. The first was that Jeff's snoring wasn't bad at all: I hadn't heard a darn thing all night.

The second concerned those drinks we had. Although I'd only had a few, I felt like somebody had smacked me over the head with a hockey stick. I guess that's why they're called Marty McSorleys.



COMMENTARY Cell phones pose danger to birds

By TIMOTHY RAVEN HUME

Self-appointed watchers are monitoring our every move in order to protect wild birds from ignorant people on the islands.

These diligent people are working round the clock to save rare or endangered bird populations. Nesting sites and feeding areas are under constant surveillance and anything that may disturb the birds is instantly reported.

The new environmental volunteer police are all self-appointed concerned citizens; their only weapons are their sharp eyes and the ability to instantly call in concerns to authorities with their ever-handy cell phones. The advantage new cell-phone technology has given environmentalists is awesome because now calls can be made from anywhere in the field. I have even seen some of these stealthy operators making extremely dangerous manoeuvres as they monitor the environment from behind the wheel of cars they are driving single-handedly.

Nothing can stand in the way of these dedicated protectors of our wildlife except perhaps these next few words, if they have the courage to read on and realize the folly of their chosen methods of communications.

The Journal of Medicine in 1997 published the results of a Canadian study citing the association between cellular telephone use and motor vehicle collisions. Researchers studied 699 drivers who had cellular telephones and were involved in motor vehicle collisions resulting in substantial property damage. Researchers concluded the risk of collision when using a cellular phone is four times higher than when a cell phone is not being used. The risk was the same regardless of age or driving experience. The study

also indicated telephones that allowed the hands to be free did not prove to be safer than handheld cell phones (Redelmeier, 1997).

That was my first point. So, secondly, let me also inform you of the hazards of cell-phone radiation. It is now well known that the use of this technology can and does have detrimental effects on your brain cells.

According to one of the most outspoken critics of the cell-phone revolution, the Cellular Phone Taskforce (CPT) headed by Arthur Firstenberg, "If a cellular phone will work where you live, you are being irradiated 24 hours a day."

Effects of low-level microwave radiation may range from dizziness, nausea and headaches to much more serious ailments. CPT considers the amount of radiation produced by the user of a cell phone to be more dangerous than second-hand cigarette smoke if the user is stationed within 100 metres.

Not only does the use of the phone have its effects on you, it also has determined negative effects on the environment and especially on bird populations. Recent research by the Swiss Bird Study Organization found that racing pigeons get confused near mobile antennas, and fly much lower than normal around such equipment.

At a distance of 200 metres from the same base station, the behaviour of racing pigeons changed dramatically. They became disoriented and unable to determine which way to fly. It would appear that the birds could no longer tolerate the change in the electro-magnetic radiation (EMR) environment.

Other studies have shown that caged birds are greatly disturbed by

the radio waves coming from cell phones. It was discovered that many birds' behaviours is changed by close proximity to operating phones. Eggs and nests are often abandoned and many birds also exhibit unusual aggressive behaviour toward their own young.

In a Sydney suburb, on a high-rise building, a change in habits of a "resident" flock of crows was observed after a digital mobile base station was installed on the roof. The birds became noisy and restless for a number of days before unexpectedly vacating the area.

In addition, cellular towers are said to be harming wildlife and birds in the USA.

With 1,000,000 towers scheduled to be installed in the next three years, the Environmental Protection Agency has said that, on average, 1,000 birds are killed per tower per year from their simply running into the tower.

Published accounts of birds striking tall lit structures first appeared in the literature in 1880. Incidents have been documented where large numbers of warblers, vireos, sparrows, thrushes, and other small birds collided with towers.

Beginning in the 1950s, researchers began publishing carcass counts and species variability for birds killed in collision with towers. Data indicates the most vulnerable birds are neotropical migratory songbirds that migrate north in the spring and summer to breed, then migrate south during the fall and winter. These species generally migrate at night and appear to be most susceptible to collisions with lit towers on foggy, low-cloud-ceiling

COMMENTARY cont'd on p7

COMMENTARY: This space is reserved for you, our readers. It is a spot for informed opinion, an outlet for the voices of the community. Everyone is invited to submit opinion articles with a maximum of 600 words.

<p>The Barnacle Island Journal</p> <p>A division of Driftwood Publishing Ltd.</p> <p>328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3 Canada</p> <p>Tel. 250-537-9933 Fax 250-537-2613 e-mail: driftwood@gulfislands.net</p>	<p>President Frank Richards</p> <p>Publisher Tony Richards</p> <p>Managing Editor Susan Lundy</p> <p>Advertising Manager Peter McCully</p> <p>Advertising Alice Richards, Lorraine Sullivan, Fiona Walls, Laura Moore</p> <p>Reporters Gail Sjuberg, Mitchell Sherrin, Pirjo Raits</p> <p>Photographer Derrick Lundy</p> <p>Accounting/Circulation Claudia French</p> <p>Production Kelly Waters, Robin Richards</p>	<p>We encourage your submissions on any subject, but please include your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit submissions for accuracy, brevity, clarity, taste and legal obligations. Please keep submissions to 300 words or less. The publisher cannot be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photographs or artwork. All letters become the property of The Barnacle. Anonymous letters or those under a pen name will not be published. The views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors. Health-related articles are for general information only, and are not to be regarded as medical advice. Copyright 2001 by Driftwood Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use without permission is strictly prohibited. Printed by Island Publishers Ltd. International Standard Serial Number: 1496-3043. Publications Mail Agreement #400330482.</p> <p>Member: B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association Canadian Community Newspapers Association</p>
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Last chance

Today we are only \$240,000 away from purchasing and protecting some of the loveliest land on Salt Spring Island — in fact, some of the most spectacular undeveloped land in the southern Gulf Islands.

About two years ago, the Texada Land Corporation bought 5,000 acres in southwest Salt Spring — over one-tenth of our island — and began extensive logging.

Who would have dreamed then that all of Burgoyne Bay — the largest undeveloped bay and estuary in the southern Gulf Islands — would now be this close to being preserved? And that nearly all the Burgoyne Valley could soon be protected parkland?

Who would have dreamed that we would be this close to creating a magnificent park, stretching from Mount Maxwell in the north, south around Burgoyne Bay, up the slopes of Mt. Sullivan to Bruce Peak, even including part of Mount Tuam? That this incredibly rare ecological area, with its spectacular shoreline, its network of trails and breath-taking views, its scenic rocky bluffs and lush valleys, will be saved for our grandchildren, and their grandchildren, to enjoy?

All we need to make this dream come true is \$210,000. But we need it by November 30.

The provincial government has negotiated a purchase of 1,643 acres on behalf of B.C. Parks, CRD Parks, and The Land Conservancy of B.C.'s Salt Spring Appeal. The multi-million dollar deal involves \$13.4 million from the province, \$1.5 million from the CRD, and \$1.2 million from The Land Conservancy of B.C. We already have most of that \$1.2 million, now we need to raise the remaining \$210,000 by this Friday.

If we can come up with this final amount, the deal will go through and on November 30 islanders will have a park to take pride in and enjoy for generations to come.

Over the last two years, close to a thousand islanders have contributed to the Salt

Spring Appeal. Thanks to the Nature Trust of B.C.'s purchase of 705 acres of the north shore of Burgoyne Bay, we have protected the largest remaining Garry oak woodland in Canada. With much help from the community, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District has purchased and protected 47.5 acres of watershed next to Maxwell Lake. And the funding is now in place to help the waterworks purchase an additional 270 acres of Maxwell Lake's secondary watershed, complete with standing timber.

Many times over the past two years our dream of protecting these lands seemed just that — a dream. And now here we are, almost at the point of making it come true.

We will never again have the opportunity for an ecological investment of this magnitude on Salt Spring. Please help us complete the deal.

ELIZABETH WHITE,
Volunteer coordinator,
Salt Spring Appeal of the TLC

P.S. Cheques to The Land Conservancy of B.C. may be dropped in the TLC box at Island Savings, or mailed to 171 Vesuvius Bay Road, SSI, BC V8K 1K3. Or log on to www.hunksforhabitat.com, or donate at the various local stores which have "adopted" a Salt Spring hunk to help close the deal.

Hunting

Once again, deer hunting has become an issue on Salt Spring, and different views about it threaten to create anger and divisiveness. Surely, at this time in history, we don't need anger and divisiveness.

We've all had the unpleasant experience of what happens when a potentially divisive issue looms on the island: a meeting is called, people attend, each speaker digs into his or her own position, and no one — no one! — attempts to analyze the issue, seek common ground, or in fact listen to anything said by someone on the "other" side.

There's a better way. Let's have a meeting in which instead of arguing for or against the issue, we first try to look at its underlying ele-

ments. For instance, most people, no matter how they feel about hunting, would agree that the safety of people and animals (other than those being hunted) should be protected. Most people would agree that deer over-population is a problem on Salt Spring, negatively affecting drivers, gardeners and the deer themselves. Most people would agree that hunting regulations should be obeyed. And so on.

Once the underlying elements are agreed upon, we can begin a discussion of how to find answers that would deal with those specific elements. We could get off the dead centre offered by formulations like "hunting is good" or "hunting is bad."

And that discussion can use a formal consensus process to come to some decisions about which of those answers will work best, and meet most people's needs. Consensus is not a process of brow-beating the quieter people at a meeting into accepting the proposals of the noisier ones. It's as formal a process as voting — but it's a process that leaves room for people to ask specific questions about motions, add insights and in fact improve the motions, rather than having to say "yes" or "no" to a proposal even if they feel uneasy about some of its elements.

You may recall that 10 years ago B.C. Wildlife officers held a town hall meeting here. At that time a Wildlife Watch scheme was introduced by the Rod and Gun Club, and that process seemed to help the situation on the island; but now the Wildlife Watch process seems to have faded out of sight.

Obviously, hunting is a complex issue on a small island, and one for which the time is long overdue for us to take responsibility. The island now has a few thousand more people than it had 10, 20, 30 years ago, and we have seen housing developments move into formerly wild areas.

We suggest that those of us who are concerned about permitting clearly unskilled hunters from off-island to cre-



A journal as literary as the Barnacle can be found in the most unusual places. Take, for example, Edmonton, Alberta. Joyce Prothero's brother, George Pell, visited from Slave Lake and took the paper to the provincial museum in Edmonton. Here George and his friends enjoy a good read.

ate situations where islanders are in personal danger; about the problem of culling the deer in the absence of hunting; or about ensuring that the hunting regulations are policed and adapted to current settlement conditions, should take this matter into our own hands by sitting down and brainstorming our own solutions. If the solutions we arrive at prove to require government involvement, we can then present them with creative proposals.

Please call the writers, Yvonne Adalian (653-0033) or Susan Berlin (537-7277), if you are interested in holding an informal, non-adversarial brainstorming meeting so that this problem can be discussed and then dealt with in an intelligent way.

YVONNE ADALIAN,
SUSAN BERLIN,
Salt Spring
Misled masses

Re: Clean air nonsense heard on KIXI Oldies Radio of Seattle in September.

With the polished deceit of Hollywood's cutesie, baby-talkin' charm, a woman's voice chirps about how helpful it would be towards the cleaning up of Washington's air if Washingtonians would choose to mow their lawns only when it's windy.

Gag me with a cloud of diesel!

Can people really have that much blind faith in what they are told as to have let themselves be brainwashed into

focussing on tiny piston, single-cylinder, four-cycle lawn mowers (no oil mix) rather than the exhaust from burning diesel fuel-oil in pick-up trucks, older cars with little or no pollution control and two-cycle (oil and gas mix) motorcycles and scooters?

Has the fact that dirty diesel skirted air-care scrutiny resulted in the misled masses concluding that diesel doesn't therefore pollute as much as gasoline? Indeed that erroneous assumption became an unforeseen bonus for the petroleum industry after which they happily focussed on eliminating the only visible element of diesel pollution — the soot and the particulate.

They know that if the people can't see the exhaust, this respiratory-nightmare of fuels can be pushed a little longer.

Considering Salt Spring's alarming influx of new and used pleasure-diesel, their ill-gotten gains will be enjoyed a lot longer! Diesel fuel is the petroleum industry's biggest profit-maker, as labour-wise, it is only one step removed from crude!

There is no single environmental misconception more ignorant than the notion of diesel polluting on a par with gasoline, nor one further from the truth than that burning diesel fuel — which is oil, people — actually pollutes less.

A large diesel engine pumps out approximately 650 cubic feet per minute of sulfur dioxide-come-trioxide, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, butadiene, dioxin, soot and, according to CARB (the California Air Resources Board) 35 other industrial, shop-level chemicals.

Every diesel, even the cushy new Passats and Jettas, is a mini industrial factory on wheels and in your face. Diesel exhaust never rises up to blow or fade away. The clouds of exhaust only travel sideways on the breeze or fall if there is a lower elevation to be had.

Formaldehyde and dioxin have been conclusively linked

to breast cancer but we have yet to hear women's groups sing about diesel; Suzuki shows fail to even mention the word diesel; and government television lawsuit-preparatory propaganda spots don't talk about anything other than tobacco chemicals as being a threat to health.

What causes cancer is simply an immune system that has been over-taxed for so long that it no longer has the strength to defeat a particularly tenacious invading cancer cell, and there is nothing to match the danger of diesel exhaust, raw fuel vapours or older, poorly-tuned gas machines (in that order) when it comes to the bringing about of that condition.

TERRY GRAHAM,
Salt Spring
Benefit question

Life, what happens and events occurring within people's journeys vary from person to person.

I believe Christ paid the penalty for all mankind through death upon the cross so in that way I am feeling blessed.

Still, certain areas within living do confuse most disabled folk who obtain a disability payment and Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits. CPP is federal and should be classified as worked-for income rather than as a benefit from the government and as such it shouldn't be deducted from a person's welfare benefits when they are not able to work.

Since everybody employed is automatically deducted CPP from their paycheques, it should then be classified as worked-for income and not as a government benefit as it was deducted without choice.

Therefore I feel the provincial government hasn't the right to have whatever amount one receives from CPP as it was rightfully part of the person's income anyway.

WAYNE DALE,
Salt Spring

Commentary *cont'd from p6*

nights, like so many of the days and nights we have here in the Gulf Islands.

For reasons scientists haven't been able to explain fully, the birds are drawn to red lights and radio signals, which might disrupt the birds' navigation systems. The lights can be found at the top of the towers and many buildings. The birds routinely circle around the lights to regain their orientation but then hit guy wires holding up the structures, said Vernon Kleen, an avian ecologist for the Department of Natural Resources.

"There are some [wires] that have killed as many as 1,000 birds a night, maybe more," Kleen said.

Be forewarned. These high-tech aggravations may get worse before they get better. Some starlings and song thrushes in England are already feeling the influence of the high tech

world, according to The Independent, a British newspaper. The birds have changed their tune, with their current chirp being an imitation of the ring tones from cell phones. How aggravated will you be when you cannot distinguish the birds a-chirping from the cell phones a-ringing?

Take note, bird activists. Is that your cell phone ringing? No, it's the oystercatchers on Sunset spit, noisy little beggars aren't they?

Let's hope that the birds can learn phone numbers as well as the sound of the phone ringing. I'm all in favour of arming the birds with cell phones of their own and supplying them with the numbers they can call complaints in to. Yes, that's a good idea, give out the numbers to movements like the Waterbird Watch and have all the birds call in about who is disturbing who and what is being lost in this bat-

tle to save the birds.

Oystercatcher to headquarters: "Look I haven't seen a kid swimming on the spit for several years now, and this environmentalist comes out yelling, 'You're scaring the birds. Get off the beach.' Then there is this cell-phone radiation thing. Can't something be done? We need harmony to enjoy this planet, can't those people understand that?"

The message I wish to leave with all the environmentalists and other cell phone users is this. It's not the beach walkers, the kids in their sailing dinghys or picnickers destroying the birds; it's you.

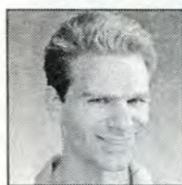
Now is the time then, if you want to help save the birds, to hang up your phone, take a walk along the beach and really enjoy the fact that you are saving the birds by not being part of this most destructive technology.

Letters to the BARNACLE

Letters to the editor should be sent by e-mail, in text form (no attachments, please), to news@gulfislands.net, or faxed (537-2613) dropped off/mailed to the Driftwood-Barnacle office at 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3.

Barnacle letters should address issues raised in the Barnacle only.

Video game action flick falls short of brilliant



*Flick Pick ...
with Jason Tudor*

For those of you who don't have (or know the meaning of) a Playstation, Tomb Raider is one of last summer's mediocre crop of blockbuster action flicks.

The person doing the raiding is one Lara Croft, a sort of Indiana Jones for the '90s. Lara (Angelina Jolie) operates out of a massive English mansion, jaunting around the world and collecting ancient artifacts. Besides being both impossibly skinny and bountifully curvaceous, she has the dexterity of a cat and the weapon skills of a John Woo protagonist.

In this film, the plot has something to do with a group of mysterious baddies who want to get their hands on a powerful time control device. It's Lara's job to kick their sorry butts.

Tomb Raider is one of those movies taken from the world of video games and it ranks amongst the best of that group. Obviously, it's a pretty darn lousy group. Given that the average video game player is, say, 12 years old, you get a low level of sophistication here. There's lots of shooting and neat vehicles, set to Matrix-inspired techno music.

Ms. Croft is always wearing skimpy outfits, even in the Arctic. All of it is PG-13-certified: very rarely does a human really get hurt, while all the animated statues get blown to bits. Booty-wise, we are only afforded a side-view of Jolie's now-legendary chest.

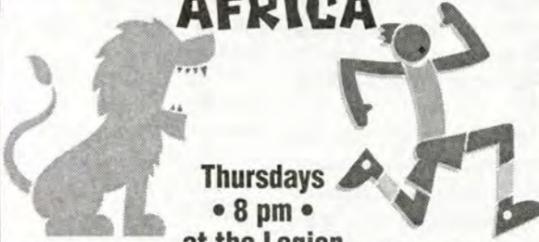
Despite all the ammunition, director Simon West just shoots blanks. He seems to have no ability to set up an action sequence — there are several great ideas for scenes that fall flat. When you're showing a firefight, it is necessary to show the audience where the combatants' respective positions are. Otherwise, there's no way for us to get into sync with the hero's movements.

Mr. West: before making another film, I suggest watching that rooftop sequence from The Matrix a few more times. Maybe 50 times.

Rating: PG

Running Time: 1 hour, 40 minutes

Survivor III: AFRICA



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CHRISTMAS BAKING — Women at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church pulled out all the stops for a bake sale and bazaar at the Drake Road location on Saturday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

M&M pianist turns to classical mode

Pianist Simon Rook returns on December 5 for the final concert of the year in the popular Music and Munch series.

In a delightful musical adventure, Rook's recital in June of last year explored the many styles of the great rag-time composers. Islanders shall again be given a taste of this

toe-tapping genre in December's event, but the main thrust of the day's music will be to focus on a classical mode. Organizers say this is a marvellous opportunity to enjoy Rook's versatility.

Having taught piano and performed since his arrival on Salt Spring, his skill as pianist

and harpsichord player is well established. December's program promises us the pleasures of Bach, Brahms and Schubert.

Passionate about everything he does, Rook enjoys many activities, including tai chi — which he teaches — hiking, kayaking and reading. He also has a master's

degree in languages.

The free recital begins at 12:10 p.m. at All Saints Church, followed by an optional lunch for \$4.75.

Audiences should note that Music and Munch traditionally takes a break in January and will commence its monthly winter schedule on February 6.

A gold mine that's all in the jeans



*Wit & Whimsy ...
with Arthur Black*

Chance is a wonderful thing.

Suppose, for instance, Morris Strauss, a bearded and nearly broke immigrant from Bavaria, had not been walking down that street in San Francisco back in 1850. Suppose he hadn't run into a crusty old gold miner who asked him what he'd brought with him from back east.

"A few yards of canvas," Strauss replied. The miner scoffed and pointed to his own ripped and shredded trousers. "You'da been better off if you'd brought a few pairs of hard-wearin' pants."

Pants, eh? Thought Strauss. He took some of his canvas to a tailor and paid him to make a pair of pants out of it. Then he took the pants back and sold them to the miner.

The miner was ecstatic. Finally, a pair of pants that could stand up to the rigours of hard rock mining. He became a walking billboard for Strauss' sartorial ingenuity. Pretty soon, other miners came looking for durable trousers. Mister Strauss had found his personal gold mine, but he needed a name for his popular product.

He decided to use his middle name: Levi. And he made a couple of changes.

First, he switched from canvas to a softer but still durable French textile that came from the French town of de Nimes and was finished in Genoa, Italy. Then he died it dark blue because it hid dirt and stains better.

He also introduced three new words to the English language: levis, denim (from the French serge de Nimes) and jeans, a corruption of Genoese.

It's been a long and winding century and a half for Levis since then. For most of that time Levis were pants for the working stiff — cowboys, miners, farmers. Then, a transformation. "Jeans" suddenly became chic. Everybody from Bob Dylan to Princess Anne was photographed in jeans.

Today jeans are a clothing phenomenon — they're class unconscious.

They're worn by blue collar workers and university professors; by cowboys and bank tellers.

The makers of Levis have evolved too. Customers of LVC (that's Levi's Vintage Clothing) buy personalized history prewashed into each and every pair of pants. Perhaps you'd like a pair of

Dead Man's Jeans, a replica of a pair that a man wore when he was dragged behind a pickup back in the '30's.

Or a pair of Kerouacs — replicated stain for stain from a pair worn by the author of On The Road.

But it will cost you. In Tokyo, one pair of Levi's 501 Signature series will set you back somewhere between \$1,000 and \$20,000 US.

That is not a misprint.

I guess that would have to be a back-handed tribute to the durability of old Morris Strauss' original brainwave back in 1850.

Speaking of durable, did you hear about the guy in Nevada, excavating his back yard who dug up a pair of mud-crust but still recognizable Levi's?

Experts authenticated the pants as having been made circa 1880 — the oldest known pair of Levi's in the world.

You can buy 'em yourself on e-Bay if you hurry. Guy's only asking \$25,000 US.

And what did the ancient pantaloons cost when they were first sold back in the 1880s?

A dollar seventy-five.

You know that somewhere the ghost of Morris Levi Strauss is shaking its head.



"If you want your children to be brilliant, tell them fairy tales. If you want them to be very brilliant, tell them even more fairy tales."

Albert Einstein

Waldorf on Salt Spring K-6 (250) 538-0246

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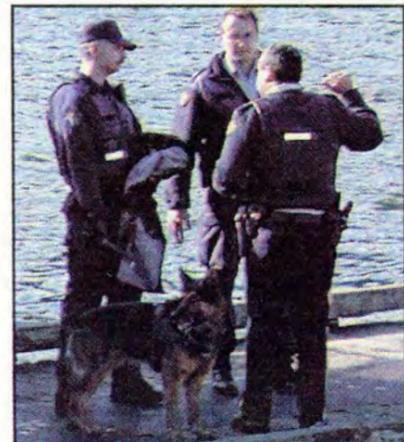
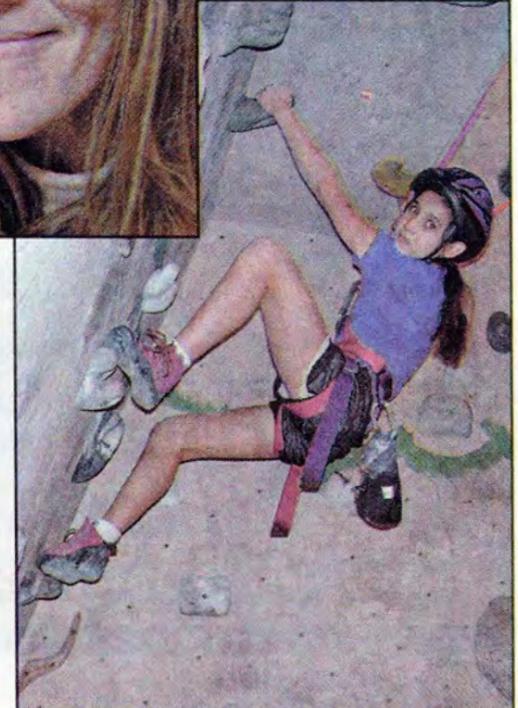
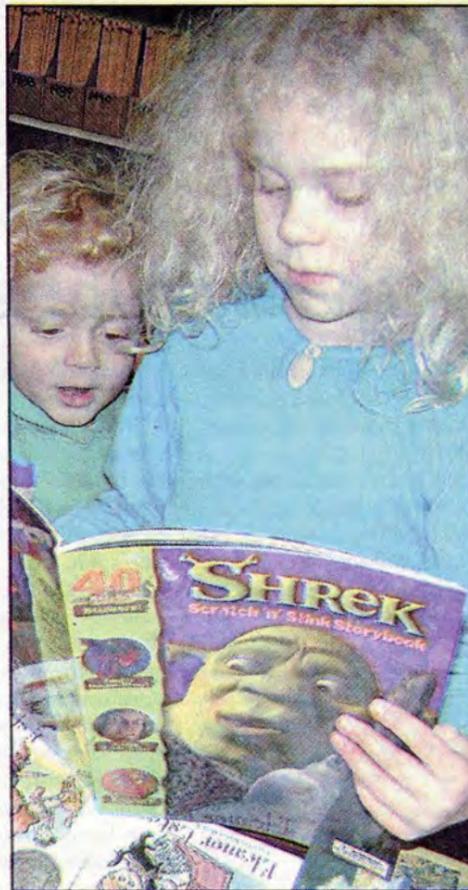
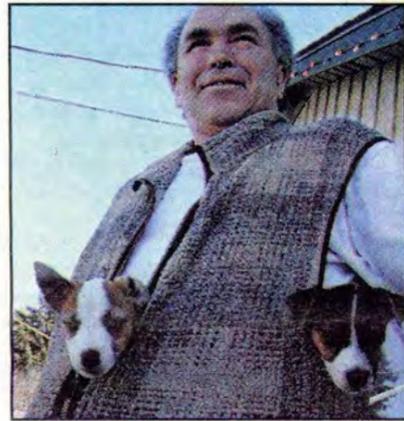
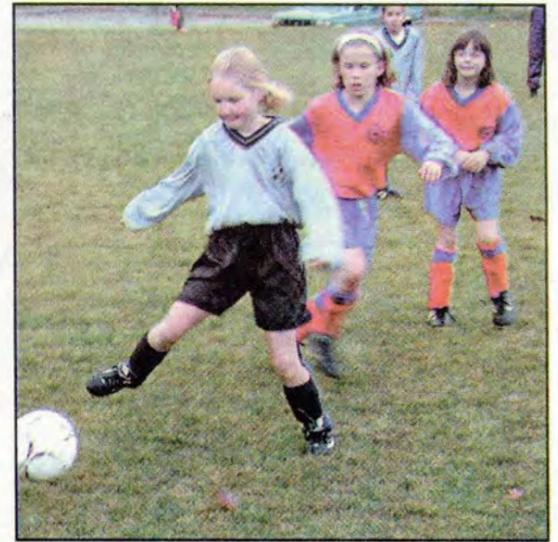
A weekly feature of the Barnacle Island Journal

November 27, 2001

Photos by Derrick Lundy



Seen here, clockwise from top left, are: Oria Dawn Atkinson at Core Inn; Katie Villadsen in U11 soccer action; climber Meredith Raddysh; J. Mitchell Gallery artists; Taavi Wickman and Tai Ramafield-Rani; police and dog handler; John Davies selling Jack Russell puppies; Maddy and Max McKay at Fernwood school book sale; Kaleb Morgan; Cameron and Lisa Wilson.



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PEACE POSTERS

Winners of a Legion-sponsored Remembrance Day poster contest, in which Fernwood Elementary School students participated, were Stuart Garside (third from left) and Cecelia Fraser (far right).

Photo by Derrick Lundy




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**Salt Spring Dollars Are Good
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Christmas Concert Tickets**
ADULTS \$15 / STUDENTS \$10



Eric Booth buys his tickets from ArtSpring Box Office volunteer Sara Foster for the Singers Christmas Concerts Dec. 7, 8, 9.

Carol sing-along at Concert Band show

When Salt Spring Concert Band posters blare Celebrate Christmas! they mean it.

With participation by the Salt Spring Youth Honour Choir and a program well-lit by favourite sing-along carols, this weekend's concerts at ArtSpring could be the band's most "Christmassy" offering ever.

Concert band director Dawn Hage sees it as a perfect community kick-off to the holiday season, and a chance for people to get their voices tuned up for Christmas carol singing.

"The audience is definitely part of the show and we've got some exciting new arrangements done especially

for audience and band," she said last week.

Tony Royse, a prolific Ontario composer who is also a friend of band member Richard Moses, has arranged O Come All Ye Faithful, Deck the Halls and Good King Wenceslas especially for an audience and concert band mix. The pieces' world premiere will take place at the Celebrate Christmas! event.

Versions of the First Noel and Joy to the World will also rely on crowd vocals.

Youth honour choir members will inspire everyone to sing by moving into the audience for some pieces, as well as performing their own

selections on stage.

The Friday and Saturday night concerts are the first formal shows for the Salt Spring Youth Honour Choir, founded and directed by Mitch Howard.

"It's going to be a really great family Christmas show," promised Hage.

Other band repertoire includes a Vaughn Williams Christmas,

Rhapsody on Spanish Carols (arranged by Robert E. Foster), a Celebrate Christmas medley, and a beautiful arrangement of Greensleeves done by Claude T. Smith.

Hage can also hardly wait to have her musicians per-

form Wagner's impressive Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral from the Lohengrin opera.

The 40-member concert band has several new players, particularly in the brass sections.

Hage also points out that ticket prices were deliberately kept low this year to ensure the concert is accessible to families. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

The concert also starts a little earlier than most, at 7:30 p.m., to better accommodate youngsters.

Tickets are going fast through the ArtSpring box office at 537-2102.

Singers set to take Christmas stage

By PIRJO RAITS
Staff Writer

Johann Sebastian Bach's Magnificat will be the featured piece of music at the Salt Spring Singers' Annual Christmas Concert, from December 7 to 9, at ArtSpring.

Singers' musical director Bruce Smith is challenging

the 65-member choir this year, as Magnificat is presented with orchestra, choir and soloists.

A 13-piece orchestra will accompany the Magnificat, which will feature solos by David Ashton, Rosemary Delisle, Richard Hayden, Connie Holmes, Alan

Robertson, Barbara Ross, Anke Smeele and Deb Toole.

"Bruce Smith has led us to new musical heights," said the Singers' spokesperson Susan Russell. "He has high expectations and you can't not want to do it."

Magnificat was first performed in Leipzig on Christmas Day in 1723. Bach wrote music with a straightforward industriousness and sacred music accounts for a major portion of his work.

The Magnificat's text is in Latin. It is based on a passage from Luke in which Mary expresses her joy at the Annunciation.

Bach is a master of expressive word painting, and has used echo-like repetitions and layers in the piece's chorus, creating a mosaic with constant variety among the 12 brief sections of the Magnificat.

It has been suggested that people should try to listen away from the most obvious top line and follow the bass to hear the richness contained in each component of the musical whole.

Musical textures will shift from full choral settings to numbers for the soloists.

Russell says several family groupings are lending their musical voices for the concert, including: Diana English with son Miles; Patricia Brown with her son Geoff Roop; Emily Hickford and her mother Gillian; Illyd Perkins and his son Edward; and three members of the Yardley family — Jonathan, Sue and Emma. There are

number of couples as well who are singing together, they include: Bob and Judi Francis, Dennis and Susan Russell, and Pip and John Moore.

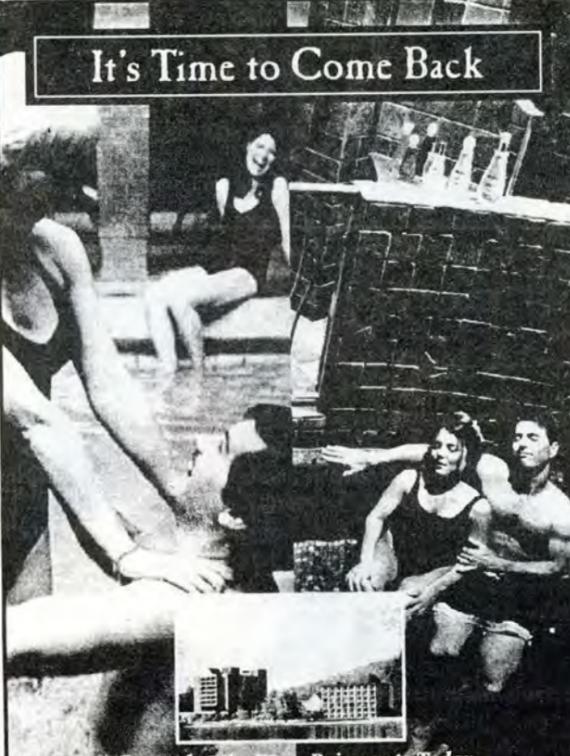
Diana English is also the piano and keyboard accompanist. The orchestra will feature local trumpeters Dawn Hage, Derrick Milton and Simon Millerd.

The Singers will also be presenting Marc-Antoine Charpentier's midnight mass for Christmas Eve called Messe de Minuit Pour Noel. This 17th-century composition is based on old French carols and has a lightness and gentleness perfectly suited to the occasion it celebrates. They will also present Vijay Singh's Pictures from the Northwest, a 15th-century carol called Lullay My Liking and Handel's Hallelujah, Amen.

The Gulf Islands Secondary School Choir will also sing under Smith's direction. Their pieces are Coventry Carol, A Child is Born (with soloist Tegan Adams), Mirabile Mysterium, Ring Christmas Bell and Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy.

Each year this popular concert is anxiously awaited by the island community. Concerts take place on Friday, December 7 and Saturday the 8th at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 general and are available through the ArtSpring box office, at 537-2102.



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and Guests
SSI Youth Honour Choir
Mitch Howard - Choir Master

Friday, November 30th &
Saturday, December 1st
7:30pm - ArtSpring

Tickets: Adults \$12 / Students \$5
Reserved Seating
Available at ArtSpring Box Office 537-2102

Survival sparks Earle's creativity

By PIRJO RAITIS
Staff Writer

Stacey Earle is an optimist. Married in her late teens, later divorced and a single mother for most of her adult years, her life experiences have given Earle fuel for her creative fire.

But she hasn't let her early years tarnish her positive outlook, nor her lyrics.

The lyrics are raw but real. They don't come from some romantic notion, they are born from a life of survival. Years of tough living have shaped and formed her music into what can best be called musical poetry from the Tennessee Hills.

"You take all that and you wrap it up and you have material," she said in a 2000 interview.

Back for a return engagement, Earle, along with Mark Stuart, will play at ArtSpring on Sunday, December 2 at 8 p.m.

Earle and Stuart have played on Salt Spring twice over the last few years. This time Salt Spring musician Alan Moberg will be opening for the duo.

Earle plays not-quite-



Stacy Earle: this weekend

county, not-quite-folk music, and her songs have been described as "poignant, eloquent views of small town America."

Her guitar is a testament to her late start in music. It has never been washed and every teardrop, coffee stain and scratch bears witness to her songwriting.

She is self-reliant. She says she had no obvious musical influences. As a single mother waiting tables for a living, she had no CDs, no radio that worked — all she had was her guitar. She sat, wrote songs and sang to her kids.

Earle's country-musician brother Steve has been a big influence in her life. While helping him deal with his drug addiction problems, she found her musical voice.

She sang backup on his album The Hard Way, and went on the road with him. On her own she has played at many of the major folk festivals across North America, and in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

In 1994 she met her soulmate, inseparable musical partner and future husband. She is 39, but her songs reflect a soul much older than that.

When she began the next stage of her career with her partner Stuart, things began to happen.

She not only found a musi-

cal compatriot, but an arranger, backing vocalist and ace picker of all-things-stringed.

Together they forged their way through the musical frontiers to produce a new CD, Dancing With Them That Brung Me. It's a follow-up to Earle's earlier self-produced debut release Simple Gearle. Stuart has released a CD entitled Songs From a Corner Stage.

They captivated Salt Spring Islanders twice before and chances are good they will do so again.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., music starts at 8.

Tickets are available through Acoustic Planet, et cetera, Music Emporium, Pretzel Motors, Stuff & Nonsense and the Vesuvius Store. Advance tickets are \$14, \$10 for students, and \$18 at the door, \$12 for students.

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Pears in mulled wine: a perfect holiday treat



Let's Eat... with Linda Koroscil

You don't have to be called Martha Stewart to prepare these pears — they're very easy and can be beautifully presented.

Pears in Mulled Wine

- 1 bottle good red wine (never use cheap wine to cook with!)
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4 cloves
- 1/2 tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp ginger
- 8 peppercorns
- strip of 1/2 orange and 1/2 lemon
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 8 pears

Pour wine and all ingredients into saucepan to fit pears. Peel pears leaving the stem. Boil gently about 30 minutes. Remove pears. Reduce syrup to 1/2. Pour over pears to serve.

I would serve each pear in a super large dessert plate or bowl, drizzled with the syrup and served with a dollop of French vanilla ice cream and a sprig of lavender.

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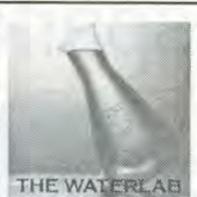
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20 words or less \$8.50 + GST, additional
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Call for sizes and prices

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DEADLINE

Classified - Friday 5 pm
Too late to classify - Monday noon

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TRANSPORTATION

800 Automotive, Bodywork & Painting	831 Limousine Service
805 Automotive, Repairs	835 Motorcycles, Sales
810 Bicycles, Sales & Service	840 Recreational Vehicles, Rentals
815 Boats & Marine, Service	845 Recreational Vehicles, Sales
820 Boats & Marine, Sales	850 Tires
822 Campers & Trailers	855 Trucks/4x4s
825 Cars, Sales	856 Buses, Vans
830 Cars, Service	860 Vehicles Wanted

900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY - NOON MONDAY

10 CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY
to John the Yukon Pioneer!
From your fans.

20 COMING EVENTS

RICHARD MILBURN has
been painting "fish". Osman
Phillips has been taking "pic-
tures". There will be a sale of
their work at Cedar Lane
Studio, 210 Cedar Lane on
Friday, Nov 30th. 11 am - 7
pm. Sat, Dec 1st 11 am - 6
pm, Sun Dec 2nd 11 am - 4
pm. Please investigate. 537-
5667

CHRISTMAS SALE Pat's
Weekenders Ladies fashion
Sat Dec 1st 10:00 am-4:00 pm
at 190 Mobrae. Great
Fashions! Great Prices! I
would like to thank all of my
customers for their support
and wish them a very happy
Christmas!

UNRESERVED AUCTION,
Monday, December 10, 2001,
9320 - 52 St. S.E., Calgary,
Alberta. Partial listing: 94
Hitachi EX220-3; 94 J.D.
892ELC; 94 J.D. 790ELC; 93
J.D. 690 ELC; (35) truck trac-
tors; highway trailers; 99 F550
c/w wheel lift; 1998 Case 8590
Square Baler; etc. For infor-
mation/brochure call CPA -
Canadian Public Auction Ltd.
403-269-6600 or visit home-
page [www.canadianpublicauc-
tion.com](http://www.canadianpublicauc-
tion.com)

Open House

ISLANDWEAVER
STUDIO
Diane Mortensen,
Handweaver
Home and fashion
accessories
Nov. 30 - Dec. 4 11-4pm
240 Monteith Drive
538-0040

Bah! Humbug!

Ebenezer Scrooge
is coming to town!

Salt Spring Vipassana Community
NEW YEAR'S EVE
RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND
MEDITATION RETREAT
with
JOANNE BROATCH
and **HEATHER MARTIN**
December 28th, 7 pm to
December 30th, 4:00 pm, 2001
at the
Salt Spring Centre
\$120 + Dana

*As we move from the end of one
year into the next, some pre-
cious personal time for inner
calm and quiet reflection, away
from the season's hustle and
bustle. What better gift to the
world than an open heart and
peaceful mind?*

Registration forms at Apple
Photo, McPhillips Ave.
Information: Barbara Dams
653-4945 or
bdams@saltspring.com

**New ... Buddhist Meditation
and Dharma class**
with Heather Martin
at the Salt Spring Centre
Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 pm from
December 6th - ongoing, drop-in
Cost = Dana

*Learn the hows and whys of
Vipassana/insight practice.
Instructions, investigation, dis-
cussion, practice. Discover inner
peace, clarity, compas-
sion. All levels of experience,
including none.*

Info: Heather 653-9729

20 COMING EVENTS

PRESENTATION ANTICIPATORY HEALTH CARE PLANNING

LEARN ABOUT...

- Representation agreements
for planning ahead.
- How health care decisions
are made when one is
unable to make them.

THURSDAY, NOV. 29
7 pm. - Greenwood

OR
Friday, Nov. 30, 10 am
United Church
(111 Hereford)

For more information call
Ellen Garvie 653-4756

Join us for a day of Aromatherapy.

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own essential oils for
your sense and psyche.*

Sat. Dec. 1
11 am - 2 pm
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Natural Foods

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WINTER
WOOLLENS SALE
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merino wool and pure silk
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112 Hereford Ave.
Saturday, December 1st
11am to 2pm

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CHORUS AND
ORCHESTRA AND
SEASONAL SONGS
AND CAROLS

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DECEMBER 7 & 8, at 8 pm
Sunday, DECEMBER 9, at
2 pm, at ARTSPRING

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25 EDUCATION

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www.achieve-consulting.com

29 LOST AND FOUND

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claim. 537-9933

34 NOTICES

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confiscation? Canadian - U.S.
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ium.net](http://www.erid-
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61-755-844900 (Australia),
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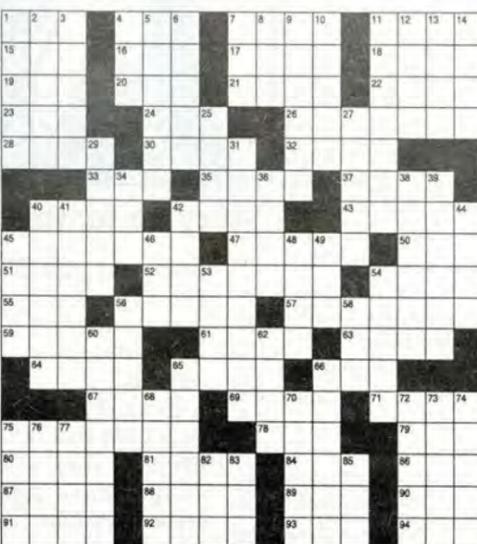
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Unit of electrical resistance
- Biography class,
for short
- Atlas parts
- ___ out (barely managed)
- Court romantically
- Feel unwell
- Mine entry
- Naysayer
- Gremlin
- Money player
- Ascended
- Hitchcock's "___ Window"
- Born
- Ostrichlike bird
- Highest
- Greek sandwich
- Caisson's contents
- Medley
- Boggy land
- Roundish
- Arabian garments
- Newspaper section
- Keel extension
- Certain amphibians
- Olive stuffer
- Calcutta coin
- In the know
- Baker's need
- To us
- Challenger
- "___ Joey"
- Goddesses of the seasons
- Absolutely
- Mournful poem
- Birds' beaks
- Like suntanlotion
- Hollywood notable
- Young salmon
- Misters
- Bowling alley
- Lateral portion
- Mine refuse
- Casual
- Hair-setting goo
- Before "blastoff"
- Came to ground
- At leisure
- Cleric's vestment
- Key limesdessert
- Stare open-mouthed
- Exultant joy
- Fishes' beginnings
- Certain railways
- Vase handle
- Descendant

DOWN

- Being obligated to
- Cozy
- Brooding one
- Once around the track
- Aviator
- Flourish
- Injure
- Fuss
- Revolver
- Purloin
- Clip-on jewelry's location
- Reflex site
- Greek vowels
- Gossip
- On a rampage
- Vine
- Many times
- Supervisors
- Geologic time
- Sickness
- Spinning
- Hard
- Foes
- Egg dish
- Sweet and ___
- Agile
- John XXIII, for example
- In addition
- As well
- Young newt
- Frog genus
- Leaf ribs
- African mammal
- Shoe tip
- Strong, cotton fabric
- Military jail
- Hawk
- Make gentle by time
- Horse sound
- "The Wreck of the Mary___"
- Runner with a long stride
- Doddering
- Honking waterfowls
- Sitar music
- Pizazz
- Facial features
- Kauai keepsake
- Always, in poems
- Nectar hunter

Crossword
answers
page 14



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Tip of the week:

Spirituality can perhaps best be described as love and unity. Interestingly, these are core themes for Sagittarius (as are law, philosophy, travel, education and culture). In our common speech the word 'they' is commonly used. Unfortunately, this word creates divisions and would ideally only be used with awareness and respect. 'We' is the word of the wise centaurs of Sagittarian lineage. 'We' dissolves the differences that 'they' creates. It also nurtures responsibility and purpose. When these are guided by vision, inspiration, love and unity joy is experienced. The word 'they' is almost always linked to opposition and negative thoughts and emotions. Beyond morals and ethics (also Sagittarian themes), the person(s) who use(s) the word 'they' unwittingly creates a state of separation and fear for themselves, let alone everyone else by the ripple effect. It is not about judgement. It is about energy, choice and consequences. On the eve of the meeting of the Sun and the South Node of the Moon at the Galactic Center (at approximately 26 degrees Sagittarius on December 18th) the time is right to shift our focus and language from 'they' to 'we'. With this and other such choices in our everyday usage of language, we can all create a world we all really want to experience.

Aries (Mar 21 - AP 20)

A communion of comrades and other old souls is stirring drama in the air. Since the world is shaking why not shake it more or at least shake with it. This means playing with ideas and voicing opinions in playful ways. Healing is needed and stale beliefs and styles need to be eliminated. Sometimes the hardest thing to learn is how to unlearn. You are not who you were, you are who you are now and becoming. Go out, join in, tempt fate!

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

Power in numbers has your ticket and is calling you out. True, the traditional approaches must be left behind but this is not a call to be alone. Deepen your bonds with friends and lovers who are eager to share and explore. Cultural and religious activities beckon. As you awaken to the power of gratitude and good will, self-limiting judgments of self and others will melt away. Witness your own shortcomings with love and humor and lead others by example.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

Relationship encounters remain front and center. A

healing of old rifts and patterns is underway. You are discovering that as long as you can genuinely love and accept yourself and your feelings you win. It takes awareness to recognize differences in perspective and opinion. Wisdom is what joins people, despite differences. There is always another way. There is no need to compromise. Communicate clearly and with empathy to negotiate a win/win deal.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 21)

A time of refinement and healing continues in full force. Beliefs are the main target. When we realize that much of what we consider to be true, real and important is actually anchored in beliefs we awaken to the opportunity to change those beliefs. Consider that you do not live in the world as much as you live in your own mind. Life is a trance dance and pure objectivity is an illusion. To give to others, open your mind to more empowering beliefs.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 22)

Your world is filled with drama and excitement these days. As you explore the potential of new possibilities you feel inspired. Learning how to communicate your truth more clearly and effectively is key. This implies allowing dreams and goals to be objectified. Brainstorm and make lists and collages of the direction you want your life to take. See the bigger picture over the next 12 to 24 months. Start now!

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Visions and plans are being born in the chamber of your mind. New directions and duties are on the horizon. By spring a whole new chapter will begin in your life. It is good to be mentally and emotionally prepared. This means flexibility. Your willingness is key. Start now to imagine how things could be different and better. Be ready to face certain fears and limiting self-concepts in order to realize your dreams.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

Your mind is flying freely and wildly on the wings of imagination. Whether in mind, body or both you are on a new adventure. Many new impressions and ideas are available for you to entertain. Caution and indecision concerning your focus are the main issues. One thing is for sure, you are in a good position to learn. Ideally, self-discovery is high on your list. If it is not now, it will be soon. Trust that if you look deep enough you will discover pure light.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 22)

A time of planning and building of foundations continues. You desire more freedom and independence on one hand and unity and closeness on

the other. The norm needs to be thrown into the storm. This implies your own daily rhythms and patterns. Do not concern yourself with other people's story unless you have a right, a boundary and a reasonable return. The best investment now is into a more expanded and nurturing point of view.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

A passionate pace continues. You are entering new territory every day and the air is swirling with drama and excitement. Like paisley and other psychedelic images, your mood is sassy and sexy. Beneath the surface, pressures to create a more realistic and enjoyable social life can be felt. Some more complimentary players are needed for the game. Life is too short to be alone. Take risks to speak your truth. What and who do you want?

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

In order to make the beautiful dream a beautiful reality it must first be outlined and identified. That is your task now. The key is to be willing to give to the process fully. Half measure commitments will yield half measure results. A simple outline of objectives that you can clearly see, add to and change will help. Once the materials are ready let your mind dream and contemplate the possibilities. Lie back, relax and get to work.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Gathering's with friends for fun and festivity is in the air. With open heart and mind you are in the mood for love. Yet old perceptions and attitudes may be making the punch sour. If so, be willing to take a new approach. Do not wait for others to go first. Say yes to invitations. Recognize that limitations experienced without are actually reflections of patterns within. Believe in the power of choice and step out boldly into a new you!

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Career considerations and obligations are drawing your focus now. You are determined to entertain new tools and approaches. You want to express your authentic gifts. Deeper layers of creative power beckon. Some form of plan and outline is required. Business meetings and other key initiatives are important. Start with what you know. Make an outline. Once the process begins it will take on a life of its own. Trust and begin now.

"Astrological Consultations" Call Michael O'Connor. (250) 352-2936. Gift Certificates *By Phone or in Person* All Tape Recorded! "Affirmation, Inspiration, Vision".

50 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION: MOMS. New Canadians & Others. Work at home. \$ Unlimited Income Potential. Call now toll-free 1-800-585-0451. www.uwin2.net

AROMATHERAPY, REFLEXOLOGY, KINESIOLOGY, Day Spa Practitioner, Natural Health Practitioner courses. www.naturalhealthcollege.com. 1-866-763-2418.

PIZZA FRANCHISE Opportunity. New location available, B.C. and Alberta. Turn key operation. Existing locations for sale: Agassiz \$65,000, Fort St. John \$70,000, Chatwind \$40,000. Financing available or AOC. Call Spiro Panagopoulos. Tel: 604.942.8414, Fax: 604.942.8427.

DREAMING of your own business? Do you take pride in working with the agricultural community? This might be the business opportunity you have been looking for. Investment of 30K+ required with unlimited earning potential. Our unique service has been helping Canadian Farmers and independent businesses save valuable time and money for the past 23 years. Call 1-866-821-3464 for more information.

GREAT CANADIAN Dollar Store franchise opportunities. With more than 100 stores across Canada, we offer one of the most thrilling and affordable franchises to own. To learn more, visit our website: www.dollarstores.com or call toll free 1-877-388-0123.

55 HELP WANTED

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ACCESS TO A computer? Win a free vacation and earn \$500 a week part time, \$1200 a week full time. Call 1-800-574-9415 or www.afortune-fromhome.com.

2 POSITIONS Small home services company needs reliable individuals for marketing and/or field reps. PT, FT available. Call 537-1517.

PARTS PERSON Required Ford experience preferred for dealership located in Whitecourt, Alberta. We provide an excellent pay plan plus company benefit package. Apply to: Mike Dobney, Spruceland Ford, Box 420, Whitecourt, AB, T7S 1N5. Fax 780-778-4140. Phone 780-778-4777. Toll free 1-877-422-2932.

ROOM ATTENDANTS required for hotels in Canmore, AB. Accepting resumes for 4 month term positions, beginning mid December. \$9.00/hr. Shared accommodation available. Ph. 403-760-0800, Fax 403-760-0810.

LAB MANAGER Experienced with wholesale, staff & clients, also Optician for busy dispensary - required full-time. Fax written reference letters & resumes to: (250) 765-3192 (Kelowna, B.C.)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY journeyman or apprentice auto-body mechanic. Good wages and overtime in Athabasca, Alberta. Phone 780-675-3855.

REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY full-time baker at Olds Garden Market IGA, Olds, Alberta. 40 hours per week. Benefit package. Fax resume to 1-403-556-8652.

JOURNEYMAN HEAVY-DUTY technician required for growing parts/service outlet in West Central Alberta. Successful applicant needs: Excellent troubleshooting and repair skills, good communication skills, good work ethic, own hand tools and small air tools, valid driver's licence. Class 5 minimum. Excellent wages/benefits. Willing to relocate. Fax resume to 1-403-638-4232.

ATTENTION: MOMS and Mr. Moms! Work at home on-line. No recession here! \$15/hour part-time - \$25/hour full-time; www.emailinfonow.com. 1-800-311-5812.

SEVENTY ROOM full service Motor Inn in Northwestern Alberta requires experienced maintenance person, night auditor and cooks. Benefits and staff housing available. Fax resume to B. James, Dunvegan Motor Inn, 780-835-5686.

55 HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED SALES person/Assistant Manager. Knowledge in one of following: flooring, furniture, kitchen cabinets, appliances, paint. Must be ambitious and personable. Send resume: modernhomedecor@shaw.ca or 157 Pembina Ave., Hinton, AB, T7V 2B7.

SSI Employment Services

Are you unemployed and need help with your job search? Are you thinking about re-training? If you are receiving Employment Insurance Benefits (or have received these benefits within the last 3 years) we have a variety of programs available to assist you. Counsellor comes to SSI once a week and services are free.

Please call Marta at 1-888-993-2299

60 WORK WANTED

JOURNEYMAN CARPENTER available for work. Additions, renovations, new homes, sun decks, green houses, etc. Reasonable rates. Quality and integrity. Jim Anderson. 537-9124.

WORLD FAMOUS on Salt Spring! Piko Renovations Ltd. creates excellent small- to medium-sized renovations, repairs, decks, etc. For discerning customers. Peter Blackmore, 537-4382.

ARTISAN JEWELLER seeks apprentice and/or work on island with established business. References. Portfolio available. Please call Alex @ 537-9725.

RELIABLE WORKER available for fall cleanup, yardwork. You supply tools, I supply labour. Island references. \$15/hr. Call Stuart at 653-0057.

116 CLEANING SERVICES



REYNOLDS
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY
CLEANING
653-4201
537-8168 pager

117 COMMUNITY SERVICES

DIAL-A-PRAYER - 537-4734. An interfaith recording by the United Church, 111 Hereford Ave., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2T3. The pre-recorded message changes regularly.

117 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Salt Spring Island Foundation logo with trees and sun

SALT SPRING ISLAND FOUNDATION
...your community foundation.

Help enhance the quality of life in your Island community. You can do this by contributing to our/your community endowment fund. Even \$10 will help make a lasting difference. All contributions are pooled and preserved in the endowment fund. The interest earned on it is distributed annually to a wide range of worthy Island charitable organizations. These vary from year to year as community priorities change. You can help also by having your purchases at Thrifty's and at GVM credited to the SSI Foundation. Further information, including latest annual report, is freely available upon request, without obligation. Phone 537-2501 (Bob Rush)

For all your advertising needs call 537-9933 Driftwood-Barnacle office

117 COMMUNITY SERVICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICES MEETINGS
Salt Spring 250-537-7573
Galiano 250-539-2222
Pender 250-629-3631
Women's Meeting Only
Thursday nights: 5:15 pm
Please call 250-537-1733 or 250-537-2993

138 MISC. SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT and maintenance. Professional carpentry and repairs of all types. \$18/hr. Seniors discount. Call Peter at 538-1952.

140 MUSIC LESSONS

LLOYD ENGLISH Music Studio. Instruction for serious guitarists in all styles. For all ages and levels. 653-1064.

156 RENTALS

PARTY TIME RENTALS
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160 SEWING

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178 WELDING

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Plethora of words play out in a popular tune



Musical Musings ... with Murray Shoolbraid

Some tunes are more popular than others, and in some cases there is a bewildering plethora of words to one tune (or close variants thereof), though usually only one set is considered the text, at least in one area.

In the United States, the melody of *O Tannenbaum* is usually known as *Maryland, My Maryland* from the poem by James Ryder Randall of Baltimore (1861) — of the many good songs to come out of the war between the states.

Elsewhere, naturally, other chauvinisms come into play. In its native Germany, it seems to have appeared first in 1799 as "Es lebe hoch," and in 1820 it was set to the Christmas Tree words with which it is mostly associated.

A little later, a student song (of around 1815) was set to the tune and passed around the universities (in many countries) because it was in the learned tongue of Latin:

Lauriger Horatius, quam dixisti verum:

"Fugit, Euro citius, tempus edax rerum."

Ubi sunt, O pocula, dulciora melle

Rixae, pax, et oscula rubentis puellae?

That is translatable as:

Laurel-wreathed Horatius, true it is your saying:

"Time flies swifter than the wind, all things ever slaying."

Draughts of wine so honey-sweet, where are now their traces,

Where the quarrels and the peace, blushing maids' embraces?

This tune for some reason supplanted *The White Cockade* (a good Scottish tune) as the melody to carry Jim Connell's immortal Red Flag:

The people's flag is deepest red,

It shrouded oft our martyred dead.

And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold,

Their heart's blood dyed its every fold.

Then raise the scarlet standard high,

Within its shade we'll live and die;

Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer,

We'll keep the red flag flying here.

In Britain, therefore, it's commonly known by this title.

It's very popular, hence has acquired, as pops do, several parodies, mostly cheeky or satirical. Try this, which is very close in many of the words and rhymes to the original; I got it from a Vancouver amateur mountaineer.

The people's crag is deepest red,

It cushioned oft our fallen dead.

And ere their limbs had ceased to twitch,

Their life's blood dyed its every pitch.

Then raise the piton hammer high,

Upon the crag we'll do or die;

Though leaders fall, and seconds spill,

We'll raise the standard higher still.

Chauvinism proper creeps in when a patriotic or nationally boastful song is employed by other nations to their own flattery; hence *The Roast Beef of Old England* becomes *The Old Scottish Broadsword* (by J. G. Lockhart, 1821), and *The Fine Old English Gentleman* has been transmuted into (of course) Scottish, as well as Irish and Dutch!

Quick-growing Escallonia is ideal for island gardens



Life in the garden ... with Joe Clemente

For those of you gardeners looking for a quick-growing evergreen specimen shrub or small screen, why not try Escallonia?

It's a species of plant native to areas of South America, namely Chile.

There are many different-named varieties of Escallonia. The two most-commonly grown in Ganges' commercial landscape are Pink Princess and Newport Dwarf.

The Newport Dwarf variety grows to about two-and-a-half-feet tall and equally as wide. It produces deep pink to red flowers over a long season. The leaves are a glossy green and smaller than those on the Pink Princess variety.

Pink Princess is quite common in island gardens and is often used as an evergreen flowering hedge that produces beautiful pink flowers throughout summer. There is a large one beside Central Hall and between the Chamber of Commerce and the firehall in Ganges.

Escallonia Pink Princess can grow to more than five feet high and easily as wide. It doesn't mind being clipped down to a smaller size but the pruning should be carried out in the spring and summer.

Escallonias are quite wind tolerant, especially if they are planted right near the ocean.

Although this plant is very common in temperate growing climates such as ours, I've seen this stuff freeze badly at prolonged temperatures below -10° Celsius. Mature plants are usually hardier and will resprout from the trunks when warmer weather returns.

Escallonia likes full sun to part shade and will take some drought when established. For best results, I would plant your Escallonia in good topsoil with excellent drainage.

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