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Lore Schmidts holds china cups at his Salt Spring home. He plans to use china donated by mothers in a bear mosaic, representing Canada in a Berlin show.

PHOTO BY PIRJO RAITIS

Creator of Berlin bear mosaic will honour mothers

By **PIRJO RAITIS**
Staff Writer

For six months this summer, 184 life-size bears will encircle a prominent square in Berlin, and one of them will have a Salt Spring Island connection.

Local artist Lore Schmidts was invited by the Canadian Consulate in Berlin to decorate one of the bears, and he plans to honour Canadian mothers in the process.

The broken backs and hard work Canadian mothers put into the shaping of this country deserve some recognition, said

Schmidts.

"I want this to be a fine and fragile metaphor for mothers. They broke their backs building this country and one day a year [with Mothers' Day] is no big deal. They are the unsung heroes of this country and I want to do something else that says thanks. I want to acknowledge their contribution. I'm sure many of them feel insignificant," said Schmidts.

"It's also a way to bring the world together."

Schmidts wants to create a broken china

mosaic on the Canadian bear and he wants the china to come from mothers in Canada. The idea of creating a piece of art work in mosaic came to him when he was in Venice. He said he was overwhelmed by the mosaics inside and outside of St. Marcos Basilica.

Another aspect of the bear will be the inclusion of petroglyphs done in a type of sand painting Schmidts developed for a North Vancouver Holiday Inn project.

He uses a mixture of epoxy, glue and sand to create the paintings, which he says

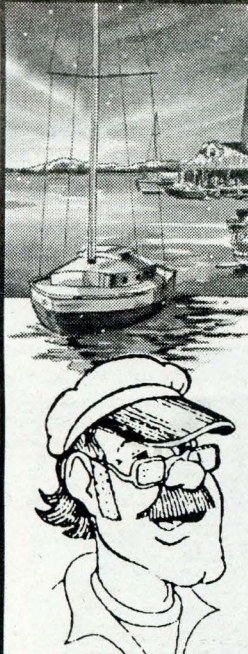
are not First Nations art but look more prehistoric. He also wants to include the indigenous people of Canada in the art work.

"I'm not sure yet how it is going to come together," he said.

Schmidts was approached to create the Canadian bear after a visit to Germany and some hobnobbing at the Canadian Consulate in September.

The bear project is being sponsored by a

BEAR MOSAIC cont'd on p2



TIDES

AT FULFORD HARBOUR

19	0140	7.5	23	0210	10.2
	0715	9.8		1810	2.6
MAR	1430	3.6	MAR		
TUE	2215	9.2	SAT		

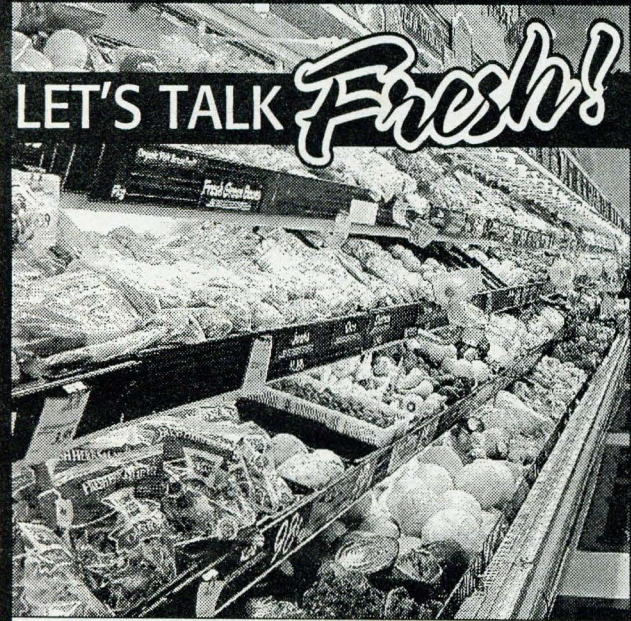
20	0230	8.2	24	0250	10.5
	0730	9.5		0845	8.9
MAR	1515	3.3	MAR	1100	8.9
WED	2345	9.5	SUN	1915	2.3

21	0340	8.9	25	0330	10.8
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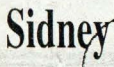
22	0110	9.8	26	0400	20.8
	0545	9.2		0930	7.5
MAR	0750	9.2	MAR	1405	9.2
FRI	1705	2.6	TUE	2100	2.3

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News briefs...

Handel arrest

Jay Handel was arrested Friday and charged with six counts of first degree murder related to the death of his children.

The remains of six children, aged 2-11, were found at the scene of a fire that consumed the Handel family home in Quatsino on March 11.

Handel and his wife Sonya Larson previously lived on Salt Spring with their older children before moving to northern Vancouver Island eight years ago.

Burgoyne Bay

Salt Spring residents will need to fill a stewardship role for the new Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park, a public meeting heard Thursday.

Chris Kissinger, of the Environmental Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP), told islanders that besides installation of some basic signage, there would likely be no infrastructure or official activity from the province's parks department for about two years.

Public input on potential park uses and information on trails is being collected by MWLAP.

The March 14 update meeting attracted a large turn-out to the high school multi-purpose room.

Wright response

Transportation minister Judith Reid has responded to comments from the Islands Trust and local ferry advisory committees about the Wright Report on B.C. Ferries.

While acknowledging the integral role of B.C. Ferries within the provincial transportation system, Reid noted serious problems with the Crown corporation's finances and structure of governance.

The Core Review Task Force will consider ferry advisory committee comments along with other submissions when determining the role of government with respect to B.C. Ferries, she said.



SWEET SOUND: Harpist Alison Vary entertained music-lovers at All Saints By-the-Sea at a March 11 performance.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Bear mosaic cont'd from p1

successful Canadian businessman. Eleven years ago Torontonian Tim Coughlin was selling muffins in Berlin.

He now owns four restaurants and catered to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien during the leader's recent trade mission.

The project, called United Buddy Bears, is the brainchild of the German foreign affairs ministry.

Officials want to create some public identity with Berlin's animal symbol, like that of Chicago's bulls and Toronto's moose.

The circle of bears will reside in Brandenburger Tor for six months. The work must be completed by the end of May.

Creating art is Schmidts' life and livelihood. A graduate of Emily Carr, he has been in the interior finishing business for 13 years.

Schmidts moved to Salt Spring Island two years ago from East Vancouver.

His large-scale murals are in some of the most prominent hotels and resorts in British Columbia. He just completed a huge 28- x 8-foot mural in the Wildflower Room at the Chateau Whistler and is now creating a five-panel screen with a simple mountain scene to complement the mural and light fixtures.

Schmidts gets help for his large projects from a cooperative of artists he knows through art school and the interior finishing business.

Future projects are at Sun Peaks and an airport in Amsterdam.

Schmidts loves touring galleries around the world and he admires young artists who are willing to go

"out there" in front of the public eye, but it's not for him.

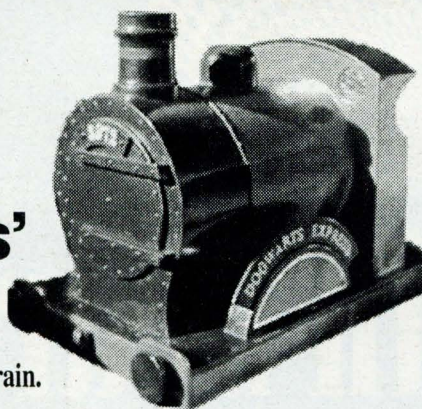
"My own work is private," he said. "A lot of it is figurative work and somewhat erotic. I don't show it or sell it. I'm not looking for my 15 minutes of fame, I'm having fun and I love what I do. I feel very blessed and very lucky."

People wanting to contribute their china to the creation of the Canadian bear can send it to Schmidts at 601 Upper Ganges Road, V8K 1R9. A box marked "china" should be at the mailboxes on Upper Ganges Road. China can also be sent to Tim's Canadian Deli, Einemstr 6, 10787 Berlin, Germany. The china must reach Schmidts in Ganges by April 4 and Germany by April 10.

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A little education and adventure: SEA program sails Gulf Islands

By PIRJO RAITIS
Staff Writer

If you took 39 Grade 9 students and squeezed them into small cramped spaces, sent them out on deck into the cold and wet, made them learn something totally alien and then gave them all jobs, you might expect a bit of teenage rebellion.

Not so for the potential sailors aboard three wooden sailboats who arrived in Ganges Harbour earlier this month. The mariners were all students from Calgary and this was their first sailing experience.

The cold, windy weather didn't dampen their enthusiasm one iota and all of them were raring to get back under sail.

Halfway through a five-day coastal sailing course, they had stopped briefly in Ganges Harbour to take showers and do laundry before sailing to Montague Harbour.

The three sailboats — the Passing Cloud, Duen and A Fine Madness — are all used as part of the SEA program, which uses Salt Spring as a stop-over every week from March to June.

SEA takes students out for four-day cruises which they pay for themselves. The kids visiting the Gulf Islands last week said they sold magazines, held bottle drives and did whatever it took to raise the money for the trip.

SEA stands for Sailing, Education and Adventure and that is exactly what the 14- and 15-year-olds were doing. Coming from -20 degrees C. weather in Calgary, these kids thought they had landed in paradise. They all thought it was "awesome."

Passing Cloud, owned by Greg Sager from Victoria, was built in 1975 and is 70 feet on deck. The wooden schooner easily does a handsome 10 knots on relatively calm water and has sailed the Victoria to Maui race. She was designed by Bill Roue for the World Bank and was built in Victoria. Roue is known for designing the Bluenose. She sleeps 16 in comfortable staterooms and bunks.

Duen, owned by Mike Hobbis, was built as a fish boat in 1938, refitted as a cruising boat and has been around the world twice. Her classic lines speak both of her past and her present.



AHOY: Skipper Mike Hobbis is seen with some of his young Calgary crew mates aboard The Duen (shown below), which recently motored into Ganges Harbour. The sailing vessel is part of the SEA Program, which will travel to Salt Spring on a weekly basis until June.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

Martin Pepper is the captain and owner of A Fine Madness, which is 60-feet long and 56 feet on deck.

All three boats were well maintained, classic in rigging and outfitted to accommodate large groups.

The three captains are partners in SEA, which they started three years ago. From February to May each week they teach students how to sail, spending eight days learning sailing theory before coming aboard.

"There are lots of schools but not many of them have certification. It's fun with three boats — we can race," said Sager.

Not only do the students learn all the fine points of sailing, they also do kayaking, absorb some marine biology and, most important, learn to work as a team. They also all have on-board jobs maintaining the boat and keeping her ship-shape.

The sailboats travel as a flotilla and anchor out each night.

"We stay away from civilization as much as we can," said Sager.

On the last day of the trip the students take over the boats and sail them to the last port of call. At the end of the trip they are certified and earn a Young Mariners Certificate.

Rahul Chakravorty, a



Grade 9 student, said this was his first sailing experience.

"It's a sweet, sweet trip. It is totally worth it," he said.

"Everyone from last year said it was the best trip ever," said student Ashley Hilton. "The cold is the hardest. It's been cold and windy."

When asked what the most difficult part of sailing was, all of the boys said tacking was the hardest, but they loved it when the cap

rail was in the water. The girls loved it all and said the most important thing they learned was teamwork.

"The kids are great," said Hobbis. "It's through their enthusiasm that the magic happens. It's so new to them, they even like the rain. They loved it."

Pepper echoed Hobbis' words. He said teaching the students to sail is "the most positive thing I've ever done."

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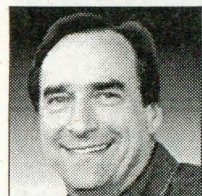
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The municipality of Salt Spring/Saltspring



Isle Say! ...
with John Pottinger

I'm surprised (and more than a little concerned) that there's so little discussion going on about incorporation.

In a few short months we're going to vote on whether or not to become a municipality.

This is a tad more important than most of the local issues that we get ourselves worked up about, yet in the pubs and coffee shops, in the aisles at Thrifty's and GVM, the talk is about barges, marinas and restaurants.

Whether we vote yes or no in the upcoming referendum will have a permanent effect on the future of our island. The results will, to a large degree, shape our priorities, our vision and our economy for years. Incorporation will give us more direct control over our tax dollars but that greater control will probably cost each of us more money. Yet there's precious little debate going on in the streets or in the newspaper.

Or is it newspapers? Like so many questions that pertain to life on our island, there's more than one right answer.

Like "How many papers are there on Salt Spring?" The answer depends on a whole recycle bin full of other questions: Is it published here? Intended to be read here? Printed here? Do you mean newspaper? Magazine? Journal? Weekly? Bi-weekly? Monthly?

See what I mean? One question, 10 answers.

And every newcomer's favourite question: "Is Salt Spring one word or two?" The provincial government says it's one word. The federal government says it's two words (as do most pioneers and history buffs).

B.C. Ferries says it's one word for dock signs (as in "Welcome to Fulford Harbour, Saltspring Island") and two words in printed schedules (as in "Salt Spring Island: Fulford Harbour Departures").

As usual, the transportation ministry can't decide. If you think I'm kidding, take a look at a pair of street signs on either side of Fulford-Ganges Road just north of Slegg Lumber. On one side the crossroad is called "Salt Spring Way." On the other side the sign says "Saltspring Way."

I don't think we should change the ways we spell Saltspring/Salt Spring. In fact, if we incorporate, I think one of our first bylaws should honour and confirm the important historical and cultural significance of two spellings. As our federal government has embraced and entrenched two languages, we should entrench two spellings.

There are important economic reasons to do so. We can't afford the battle that would ensue over which spelling to adopt. You think the sewer debate was stinky? Ha! You think Land Use Bylaw #355 was divisive? Double ha!

If islanders have to choose between Salt Spring and Saltspring, we'll be awash in smear campaigns. Each side will accuse the other of "ruining the island." Stolen and defaced signs will become a huge problem for the police (whoops, I guess I mean "slightly bigger" problem for the police).

And, no matter which side wins, half the signs, half the brochures, half the websites will need to change their spellings. Typical of B.C. Ferries, it'll cost more money no matter which side wins. They'll have to change either their dock signage or their schedules. At least if it's the spelling in the schedules that changes, they can just include it in one of their weekly printings of revised schedules.

Culturally, two official spellings of Salt Spring/Saltspring will be a constant reminder of what this island really is and what it really stands for. Official letterhead that says "Salt Spring/Saltspring" will proclaim to everyone: "We're not sure, so do whatever you like." What better metaphor could there be?

The one enigmatic truth of our little Island is that it's not quite sure of what it is — or what it wants to be. We all know it's "special" and we all want to preserve whatever makes it so. But we have very different and strong opinions on what that is, where it comes from, and how we can avoid losing it.

Where was I? As is often the case with this column I wandered off my intended path, so next week I'll rant a little more on why we'd better start seriously discussing the pros and cons of incorporation. In the meantime you may want to look at the following website: www.bowen-island-bc.com/. Three years ago Bowen Island became a municipality. The discussion on the website reveals how some of them feel about it now.



Say goodnight, Mavis

In tragedy, every moment is eternity. In comedy, eternity is a moment — Christopher Fry.

In the early spring of 1996, tragedy fell on 64-year-old Mavis Pickett like a Mack truckful of boulders.

It arrived in the form of a telephone call from a policeman in Whistler, B.C.

Her 30-year-old daughter, also named Mavis, was dead. She had tumbled off a cliff while skiing at Blackcomb mountain.

"She was my soulmate," remembers Mavis senior. "We could finish each other's sentences."

Poised on the cusp of senior citizenry, when life is supposed to smooth out and become simplified and pleasant, Mavis was instead plunged into a whirlpool of misery, faced with an unthinkable, inconsolable loss.

So the grey-haired, bespectacled grandmother did the only thing she could.

She became a stand-up comic.

Actually, it was an accident. Searching for some kind of relief from her pain, Mavis came across a night school brochure offering a course in grief management through humour. She signed up.

At her first class, her heart fell when she discovered she'd enrolled not in a lecture series, but in a stand-up comedy workshop.

"Not for me," she thought firmly.

She was no stand-up comedian. She was a retired elementary school teacher for heaven's sake.

She tried to withdraw from the course. The teacher, sensing something special in Mavis, begged her not to give up just yet — to at least attend a couple of classes and give it a shot.

Turned out Mavis had superb natural timing and a great stage presence.

She also had a personal comic motherlode of material all to herself.

There's a hoary old adage for writers that advises them to "Write about what you know."

Mavis decided she would take her humorous material from an area of life that she knew all about, that, curiously, no other stand-up comedian was tackling: what it's like to get older.

It became an absolute gold mine. Other stand-up comics were screaming and yelling about sex and booze and Osama bin Laden in sulphurous X-rated rants.

Mavis toddled out to the microphone and talked in a sweet voice about forgetfulness, decreased agility, fading eyesight and other hurdles of advancing age.

She never swears during her act, but she's not exactly a goody-two-shoes out there on the stage.

"Young people are really concerned about what old people think," she purrs into the microphone. "Just the other day, my granddaughter asked me 'Did you and Grandpa have mutu-

al orgasms?' And I said, 'Well, no dear. We had Metropolitan Life.'"

It didn't take the world of stand-up long to discover the fresh new voice coming out of Vancouver.

Mavis is a smash.

She's appearing at night clubs, cafes and conventions all over the city and the Lower Mainland. She could work just about every night if she wanted to, but she doesn't. She's got a real life.

She also teaches osteo-fit classes to fellow seniors six days a week.

"That's where I pick up some of my best material," she says.

The best thing about Mavis?

Her exit line. Most stand-up comics invariably end their routines with lame and hapless bailout lines like "Hey, you've been a terrific audience. Thangyuhverrymuch."

Not Mavis. When she finishes her last joke, she pauses, beams out at the audience and says quietly, "Say goodnight, Mavis."

By this time, the audience is in love with the woman.

The whole room roars "GOOD-NIGHT, MAVIS!" over their own applause.

Except Mavis is not really talking to the audience. She's talking to a specific person she can see sitting and laughing in the front row.

It's Mavis Anne, her daughter. Mavis Pickett is the only one who can see her, but that's alright.

the Barnacle Island Journal

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Support youth

On March 23, a demonstration will take place in Vancouver to protest the cuts to services introduced by the Campbell government.

A group from Salt Spring will be participating in the protest and will be leaving on the early ferry from Long Harbour and returning on the late ferry. A bus will meet us at Tsawwassen for the trip to Vancouver and the cost will be a total of \$20 for the bus and ferry.

If you are unable to join us but would like to sponsor another participant, please call me at 537-9884. We need to support the young people whose future is being put at risk by this government.

PAT O'NEILL,
Salt Spring

Pottfillis vacuus

I am greatly relieved that John Pottinger has had the courage to reveal the truth (The Real Reason Our Salmon are Dying, March 5, Barnacle.)

He has a few of his facts wrong, but that is to be expected, considering the time of year.

Just for the record, in 1975, when that rare species of mussel was discovered, the NDP lost the election, and for the next six years when the mussels were released along the coast, we were under Social Credit administration (Bill Bennett Jr.).

The secret plan to make lots of money at the expense of the environment was therefore, obviously, a Socred plan, not an NDP one.

Secondly, if I may address Mr. Pottinger directly, (may I call you John?), you have your Latin name wrong. Podsnappa vagras is not a mussel but a relative of the broom family, a plant in fact. The real name of the mussel is Pottfillis vacuus. You got the Bull Harbour right.

Isn't it amazing that a "rare" Icelandic mussel would continue to be rare in Iceland, but would proliferate so terribly in B.C. waters? You would think that something so mobile, so unstoppable, and so lacking in successful predators would have overtaken the oceans of the world by now.

I strongly urge readers of the Barnacle to lobby the federal government ASAP for a program to catch everything in the sea that is not Pottfillis vacuus, and keep them safe in special salt water tanks on land (rather like a Noah's ark in reverse). When the invasive mussel has destroyed everything in the sea, it will either mutate and overtake the land (God help us all) or, more likely, will become cannibalistic and turn on itself, leaving the oceans free once more and safe for the return of the other species.

In the meantime, we should all eat as many barnacles (sorry, mussels) as we possibly can, and harvest their discarded shells to use as an alternative fuel source — in mussel cars, perhaps.

Dénouement

Truth may be the first casualty of war but it is never fatal.

—Richard Cruickshanks

C. M. SMYLY,
Roland Road

Courage

This is a note to congratulate the writer of the "name withheld" letter on the letter of apology published in last week's Barnacle.

You will do well in this world of ours because you have handled a difficult situation with courage and guts. I would be proud to know you. Good luck in all future endeavours.

N. NYTE,
Salt Spring

Candour

As an off-island entrepreneur eager to bring employment, tourist income, and taxation benefits to Salt Spring, I have learnt from the errors of my two predecessors.

These gentlemen, one in forestry (and I believe a poet at heart) and the other in a marine business, failed to practise the candour which citizens rightly expect from those taking vital commercial initiatives.

This is particularly important when such initiatives may at first misguided glance appear to clash with aesthetic and ecological community values. I am therefore taking this opportunity to outline my plans with complete frankness, counting on you to bring them to the early attention of your intelligent and perceptive readers.

I am proud to announce that the foundations are poured and framing is well underway for a development guaranteed to be the most lucrative operation on the island. This can truly be described as a recreational wonderland attracting a wide off-island clientele. By day the facility will appear as a meandering street of 35 units of charming, somewhat semi-gentrified row housing.

By night, with exterior lighting limited to 40-watt bulbs and the use of theatrical fog-generators, the facility will authentically replicate the romantic gloom of a Vancouver waterfront alley of the late 1920s. I have already applied to our new business-friendly government for certification as a Genuine Heritage Facsimile.

The major reason for the hostility greeting the recent deforestation of the south end of the island, and the appearance of a rusting hulk in Ganges Harbour, was the shock of the unexpected. I am most anxious to avoid this difficulty by telling you frankly that the development is to be called Harlots' Alley.

The name is not only charmingly in keeping with its period setting, but also proof of my determination to be open and accountable.

The only thing I cannot reveal for some time is location, because we entrepreneurs must take a pre-emptive approach to avoid being choked by socialist red-tape.

I am confident that once Harlots' Alley is in full operation, the community will insist that any obstacles that may be found in zoning regulations, the criminal code, or religious theology are trivial.

As president and CEO of infinite BEAVER industries (iBi), the corporate parent of Harlots' Alley Development Ltd., I am sure I can count on your readers to support this new and powerful dimension of prosperity to your island.

I regret that for obvious reasons I am unable to reveal my name.

Editor's note: James Jackson, a self-described local hermit, has forwarded the above letter to the Barnacle. He claims to have found it in a plain brown envelope on Lower Ganges Road near the Driftwood/Barnacle office.

Barnacle letters policy

Letters to the editor should be sent by e-mail, in text form (no attachments), to news@gulfislands.net, or dropped off/mailed to the Driftwood-Barnacle office at 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3. The Barnacle Mailbox section gives priority to letters on issues raised in the Barnacle.

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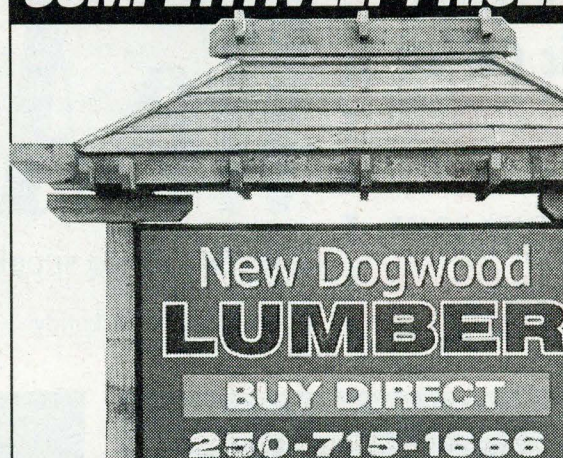
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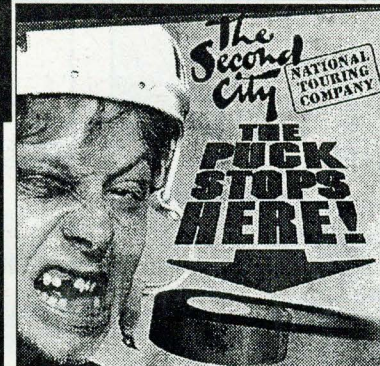
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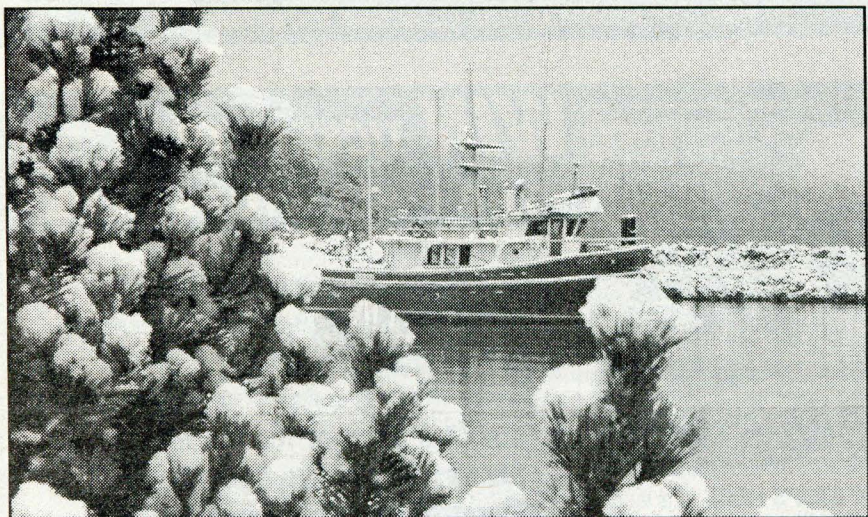
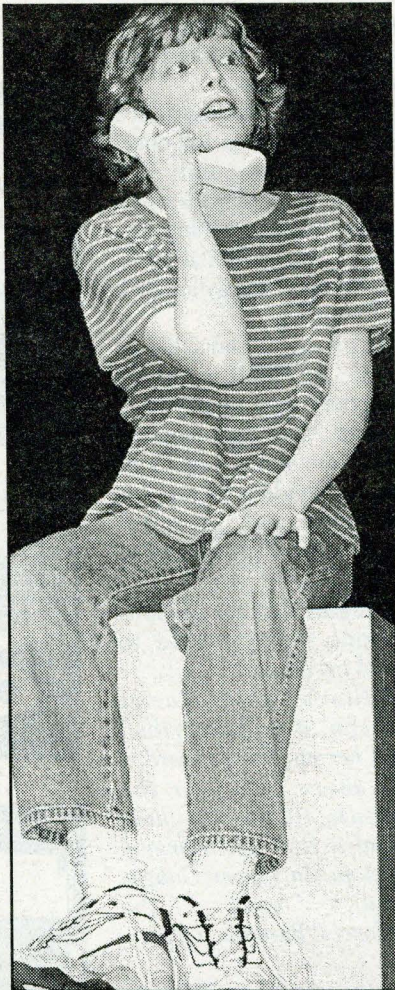
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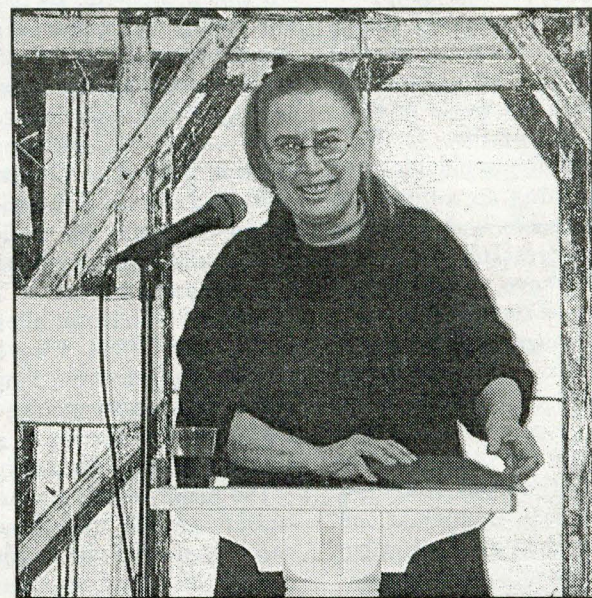
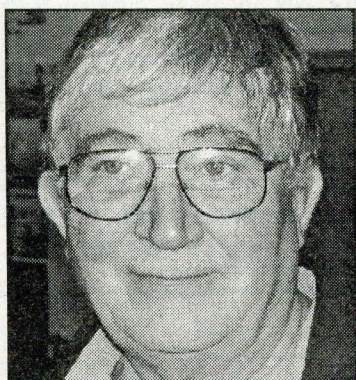
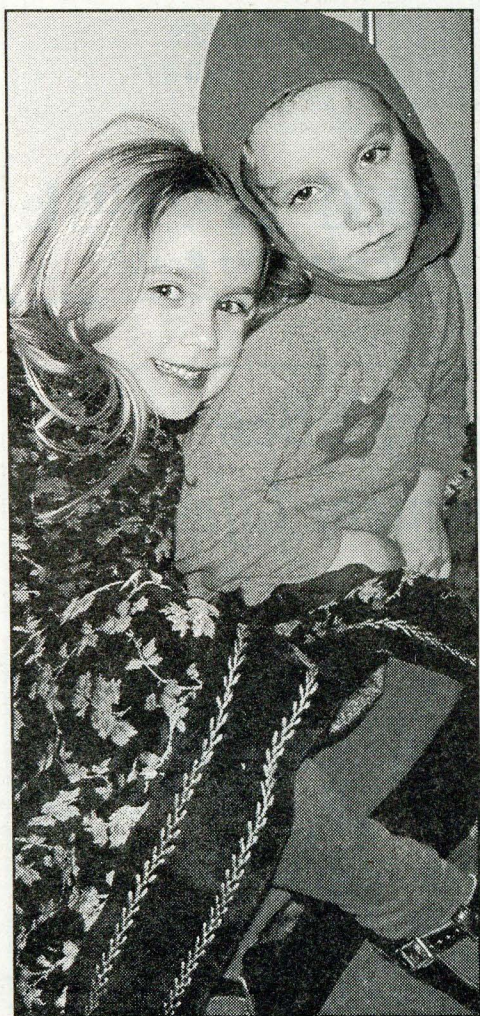
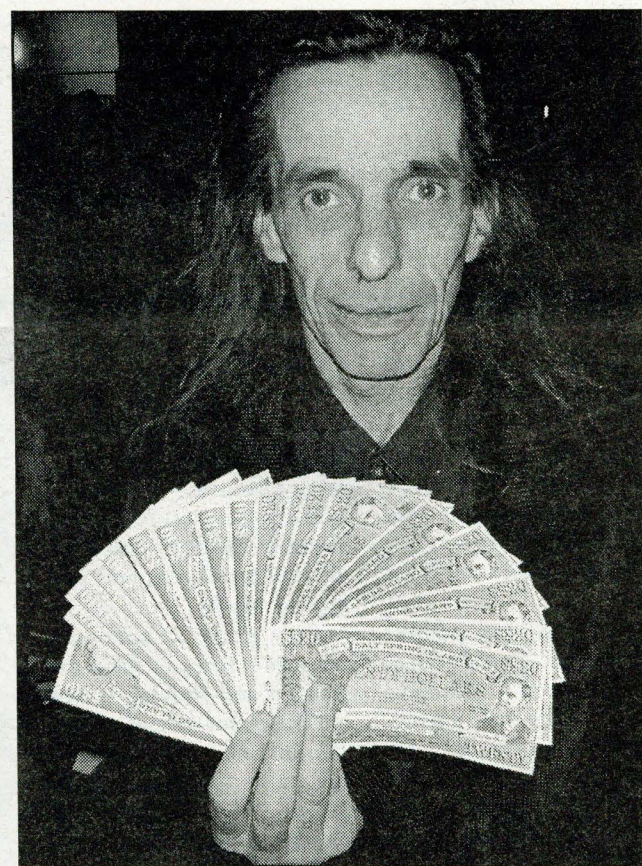
A weekly photo supplement to the Barnacle Island Journal

Photos by Derrick Lundy

March 19, 2002 • Page 6



Seen here, clockwise from top left, are: Nicola Wheston and Melissa Searcy hanging high school artwork at ArtSpring; Rebecca Hylands in "How To Eat Like A Child;" veggie-eating youths at the opening of Birgit Freybe Bateman's photography show; Stan Wharry with Salt Spring currency; Maxine Gadd launches her book; the Barley Bros. sing at the Gumboot Gala; Ruby and Jade Barnard; a snowy Ganges Harbour; Alan Wyatt, directing Spoon River Anthology.



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TUES. March 19	WED. March 20	THURS. March 21	FRI. March 22	SAT. March 23	SUN. March 24	MON. March 25
Meetings Cut Campbell Coalition meeting on cutbacks. 152 McPhillips 7 p.m.	Special Events I'm an Artist, That's My Choice! At ArtSpring, 1-4 p.m.	Special Events Bingo At Meaden Hall, 7 p.m. Early bird games at 6:30.	Stage Spoon River Anthology. Mahon Hall, 8 p.m.	Special Events Fabulous Flea Market. Fulford Hall, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 537-5482.	Special events SSI Philosophers' Cafe at Core Inn, 2-4 p.m. \$5/\$2. Info: 653-4788.	Special Events Blood Pressure Clinic at SS Seniors, 10 a.m. to noon.
Prostate Cancer Support Group. Group discussion. Farmers Institute meeting room, 1 p.m.	Music Wednesday Night LIVE! Open stage at Moby's, 9 p.m.	Stage Spoon River Anthology. Mahon Hall, 8 p.m. Tix \$10.	Music Get Some at Talons Nightclub.	Meeks the Clown Performance and workshop at ArtSpring. 1 p.m.	Ruckle Farm Day Demonstrations, 4-H animal display, music, food. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Meetings PARC Meets at Portlock Park portable, 7 p.m.
SS Golf & Country Club Women's spring business meeting at the club. 7 p.m.	Workshops Furniture Painting First of six-session series begins. Ulrieke, 537-1723.	Meetings Mount Belcher Improvement District AGM. SS United Church, 7 p.m.	Simone & Mike R&B, acoustic soul at Anise Restaurant, 7 p.m.	Stage Spoon River Anthology. Mahon Hall, 8 p.m.	Academy Awards Event. Harbour House Hotel from 4:30 p.m. Tix \$10 at Island Star Video.	Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society AGM at Lions Hall, 1:30 p.m.
Central Hall Board of directors meeting at the hall, 7 p.m.	Family Runes & Divination Workshop at Fables Cottage, 1-2 p.m.	Music SSI Public Library AGM. United Church Hall, 3:30 p.m.	Michael Kaeshammer At ArtSpring. 8 p.m.	Music KC Kelly at Anise Restaurant, 7 p.m.	Stage Spoon River Anthology. Mahon Hall, 2 p.m.	Islands Trust Council meets at ArtSpring, 2-5 p.m.
Proportional Representation Meeting. Lions Hall, 7-9 p.m.		Workshops Global Grooves. DJ music at Talons.	Purple Gang Dance at Meaden Hall, 8 p.m.	Allison Crowe at ArtSpring, 8 p.m. Tix through ArtSpring.	Music Blaine Dunaway Quartet. Moby's Sunday Dinner Jazz, 7 p.m.	Family Make Rubber Stamps Workshop at Fables Cottage, 3-4 p.m.
Family Wizard Wands Workshop With Jessica at Fables Cottage, 1-2 p.m.		Workshops Infant Massage at Island Massage Therapy clinic, 10 a.m. to noon.	Kinder Magic With Bob Twaites at Fables Cottage, 1-2 p.m.	Relationship Workshop. 9:30-4:30 Saturday and Sunday. Info: 537-9773.		
WHAT'S ON	WHAT'S ON	WHAT'S ON	WHAT'S ON	WHAT'S ON	WHAT'S ON	WHAT'S ON

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Cinema

Gosford Park — Robert Altman directs Michael Gambon, Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith, Charles Dance, Helen Mirren, Alan Bates and Emily Watson in an Upstairs-Downstairs-style tale about a hunting weekend for aristocrats that turns tragic. Altman's best film in years!

Snow Dogs — Cuba Gooding Jr. stars as a Miami dentist who inherits a team of sled dogs in Alaska. Great family entertainment.

Cable TV

Salt Spring TV, Cable 12 runs 24 hours of continuous programming beginning Friday, March 22 at 3 p.m.

Ruckle Farm History features Gwen Ruckle recounting the history of life on the farm at her family's Beaver Point homestead. Produced by Peter Prince for Island VideoWorks.

This is What Democracy Looks Like — The hundreds of camcorders that focused on The Battle for Seattle inform this documentary about people from all walks of life gathering to bring attention to the deficiencies of globalization.

Exhibitions

Youth Artwork exhibit is on at ArtSpring in conjunction with the arts centre's youth week.

Nikki Menard — Art exhibit and open house of watercolour, acrylic, sacred cloth (fabric art) and soul portrait journeys. 1510 Beddis Road, Saturday-Sunday, March 23-24, 1-6 p.m.

Tamara MacDonald is showing mixed media works at Moby's through March.

Judy Harper has work exhibited at the Salt Spring Roasting Company in Ganges.

Alane Lalonde displays a colourful photographic selection of Mexico at Luigi's Pizzeria.

Jannette Perry shows Fantastic Realism paintings at Starbooks.

Deborah Gainer is exhibiting paintings, felts and installations at Island Savings Credit Union.

Laura Keil has a bread and baking tray installation and felt work show at Barb's Buns.

YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR CONCERN —

a talk on how seniors can maintain a healthy lifestyle, with Dr. Bryan Dawson.

At Salt Spring Seniors Services Society on Wednesday, March 27, 2pm.

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MONDAYS ARE DOUBLE COUPON VALUE DAYS

Salt Spring Singers

is offering a \$250 Music Award for community members wishing to pursue music studies at an accredited institution.

Application deadline is March 31.

Call Judi Francis for more information 537-9543.

Woman who 'achieved impossible' nominated for award

By PIRJO RAITIS
Special to the Barnacle

A woman of distinction is described as being someone who touches the lives of those around her. She is also a role model, demonstrates initiative, has a pioneering spirit and is committed to her community.

Andrea Collins is one such woman.

She has been nominated for a 2002 YWCA Women of Distinction Award for her work in the category of Community Enhancement. As founder and president of the Save Salt Spring Society, she helped preserve island green space from the ravages of clearcut logging.

Four local people who believe she achieved "the impossible" nominated



Andrea Collins

Collins.

"I was shocked when I found out," said Collins. "I'm usually happier to work behind the scenes, but in this case I felt compelled to become more personally and physically involved and put

myself out there."

The Save Salt Spring Society was formed in 2000 following the Texada Land Corporation's purchase of 5,000 acres of Salt Spring property.

While Collins' main aim was to save the pristine Mount Maxwell watershed, she also recognized the value of parkland to the community.

Her strategy was to raise awareness and cash to purchase lands through a huge publicity campaign that included the sale of a Salt Spring Island women's "eco-warrior" calendar, T-shirts and benefit concerts. The society sold over 13,000 calendars in three months, eventually raising more than \$100,000 for land purchases

that were concluded last fall.

Collins, in her efforts to protect the watershed, obtained an exclusive "option to purchase" on four lots that run along the east side of the watershed. She bought a 50-acre corner section bordering Maxwell Park on the south side and the watershed to the east. The land provides a buffer zone for the hiking trail going up to Baynes Peak, the lookout point on Mount Maxwell, and the watershed. The other three lots are 73, 98 and 122 acres in size, with price tags ranging from \$348,000 to \$445,000. These lots have all been partially logged and replanted.

Collins has until the end of March to find "conservation buyers" for the remaining lots. She is looking for people

willing to own or live on the land with restrictive covenants in place to restrict future subdivision potential or clearcutting.

While there are still interested parties looking at the lots, and one offer which fell through recently, she remains optimistic that the lands will continue to attract buyers who are also interested in conservation.

If the lots remain unsold by the end of March, Collins said she will continue pursuing other options to protect them.

A panel of volunteer judges selects the nominees.

The nomination, if accepted by the YMCA, will be confirmed by March 22. The awards ceremony takes place in Victoria at the Royal Court Theatre on May 30.

Roadside improvements at library

At Mary Hawkins Library ...
with Charles Kahn

Have you wondered why the library's front yard has been dug up? Did you think that perhaps it was being made into a parking spot for the chair of the board or the head Third?

Well, don't worry, the devastation is a temporary phase as the library gets a much-needed roadside facelift, scheduled for completion by the end of April. And every bit of the labour and materials has been volunteered! The project is a surprise gift to the community.

Our professional library

Speaking of volunteers, the library now has 135 of them. We now have eight or nine retired professional librarians working several hours every week. Among other tasks, they catalogue the many new items arriving in the building every day. We also have several former school librarians among our volunteers.

Our volunteers also attend professional conferences, such as the annual conference of the British Columbia Library Trustees Association, and keep up to date on all the latest library news in the many professional journals the library subscribes to. There's probably

more professionalism in our volunteer library than in most other libraries of the same size.

And then there are the Thirds, many of whom also worked in libraries during their career days. Did you know that when the library first opened there were only two volunteers staffing the building, presumably one to check books out and the second to check books in?

Of course, this could only work if no one asked either of the two volunteers any questions like "Where could I go to find some information on earthquakes?" So the library added a third person to its staff, and the third person gradually took over the library. Today, as you'll know if you read this column regularly, the Thirds run the library. And a good thing too!

Did you know?

The library's annual general meeting is on Thursday, March 21, at 3:30 p.m. in the United Church meeting room. Come hear the report and recommendations of the long-term planning committee.

The library has decided to have another open-house celebration for Canada Book Day. Local authors and the public

are invited to participate on Tuesday, April 12, from 4 to 6 p.m. Watch our two local newspapers for further details.

The latest volunteer to join the library team is a bookkeeper, which has made our treasurer very happy.

The outstanding new library website is up and running. Check out www.salt-springlibrary.com. And, yes, you can reserve books using the website.

Your supermarket purchases can benefit the library. Put your check-out slip in the library's box at GVM or tell the clerk at Thrifty's to put the value of your purchases on #36.

The library also welcomes donations and puts these to good use. All monetary dona-

tions are tax-deductible and can be made at any time.

The library now has 15 copies of the Salt Spring incorporation study and the executive summary of the report, which can be borrowed for up to three weeks. Copies of everything else from the incorporation study committee's website is available in the library for in-library use.

Find out about what's involved in incorporation before the June 22 referendum.

Remember: If you'd like to volunteer in the library, call 537-4666 or contact Pat Prowse at 537-8728.

You can reach the library by e-mail at:

library@saltspring.com or by telephone/fax at 537-4666.

THE S.S.I. Presented in association with Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University PHILOSOPHERS' CAFE

No formal training in philosophy required. Real life experience desirable. Come join our discussions.

Sunday, March 24, 2002
2:00-4:00 pm at the Core Inn

Moderator: John Mills

Is War Ever "Just"?

Admission charge \$5 (students \$2)
Limited seating. Doors open 1:45pm
Advance reservations recommended, call 653-4788

Future Cafes—Sundays 2:00-4:00pm

April 28: What Is "Spirituality"?
May 26: What Can We Learn from History & Literature?



Ruckle Farm Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 • 10am - 4pm
At Ruckle Provincial Park

Ploughing Demonstrations by the Vancouver Island Draft Horse Club.
4-H Farm Animal Display - Blacksmithing
Farm Skills Demonstrations - Music - Food and more

Come & enjoy a day at the Park
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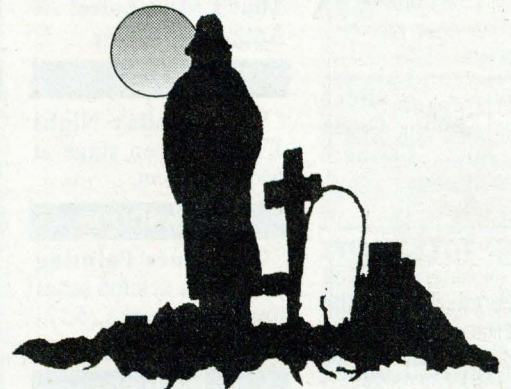
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Office: 538-0371

SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS

Edgar Lee Masters'

Spoon River Anthology

directed by Alan Wyatt



Mahon Hall

March 21, 22, 23 at 8:00 pm
March 24 at 2:00pm

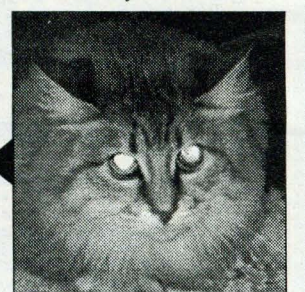
Tickets on sale at et cetera and Love My Kitchen / \$10 ea

Cats of the Week



My name is Ginger. I'm an indoor cat who is used to dogs but not good with little kids.

Daisy's best friend is now in Greenwoods so she needs a companion. She is about 7 years old.



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

The adoption fee of \$60 for a male and \$70 for a female covers the cost of spaying or neutering and a vaccination.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Coordinator: Sharon Glover 537-4607

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SENIORS
SERVICES
SOCIETY

Salt Spring Island
COMMUNITY
SOCIETY

March 2002

Blood Pressure Clinic - free!

Monday 25 March 10am - noon at Salt Spring Seniors
Have your blood pressure checked and recorded
in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere

Coming Events!! Mark your calendars NOW!!

* Wednesday 3 April -

Herbal Health for Elders - Heart Health

* 3 part Monday afternoon series on

SAFETY FOR SENIORS

- 15 April: Crime and Self-Protection on Salt Spring

- 13 May: Elder Abuse and our Community

Response Network

- 10 June: Creating a Safer Community for Seniors

(details to follow in future Wellness sheets)

Salt Spring classifieds

537-9933

SALT SPRING ISLAND'S MARKETPLACE

Deadlines:

Classified - Friday, 5 pm

Too late to classify - Monday, noon

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Run your ad for 2 weeks and
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7 IN MEMORIAM



**IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY DAD AND OUR OPA
RUDOLF CASPAR**

JUNE 25, 1930-MAR. 23, 2001

It's been a year since you left
us. So long already... Our
hearts are heavy with missing
you. We miss hearing your
voice, your gentle laugh, as
you beat mom to answer the
phone. Always there to listen,
with your gentle, understanding
ways. You gave us a lifetime of
wonderful memories and we
cherish every one. You were a
great person, Dad. Not only as
a Dad, Opa and Husband, but
also as a friend. Anyone that
ever knew you will agree with
that. You are in our thoughts
every day, Dad. We love you
and miss you. Smile down from
Heaven on us Dad and watch
over us all... til we meet again.
We love you, Dad.

Your daughter, Gabriele,
Gord; Grandchildren Collin,
Kevin, Mike and your
sweet Hayley.

20 COMING EVENTS

**WATERCOLOUR WORK-
SHOPS** and classes. Six
week sessions with Libby
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FELTMAKING CLASS, March
23, at Ulrike's Studio. 537-
1723

INFANT MASSAGE workshop,
Thursday, March 21, 10-noon,
Island Massage Therapy Clinic
537-5233 cost \$15.00

WIN TICKETS! to see Second
City live in Duncan
Wednesday April 17th. Tell us
"The Puck Stops Here" when
you place a classified in per-
son or by phone, and you'll be
eligible to win one of 3 pairs!
Contest ends April 4, the Driftwood/Barnacle
classifieds "small ads, big
deals"

BESSIE DANE Hospice, train-
ing session April 2-May 7,
Tuesday nights 7-9pm at All
Saints By The Sea. For info
and registration call Pat
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29 LOST AND FOUND

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Musgrave Landing on Sat eve
Mar 2nd. Tattooed & tags. She
lives in Victoria. 250-477-7361
or 250-592-8254. Last seen at
between Ganges and Fulford
on highway.

BLACK BICYCLE lock left by
cyclist going to Harrison Road
from 1010 Long Harbor Ferry
on Tuesday. Call Harry 653-
2007

FOUND GLASSES, on
Isabella Point Road, a couple
weeks ago, black case, black
and steel rimmed, one lens
out. Claim at Driftwood

32 MEETINGS

THE SALT Spring Golf and
C.C. Women's Annual Spring
Business Meeting will be held
Tuesday, March, 19th at
7:00pm at the clubhouse. All
women playing members are
welcome.

34 NOTICES

REUNION PLANNED for
Fairview High School of
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(now closed). Interested
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J. Argo at email:
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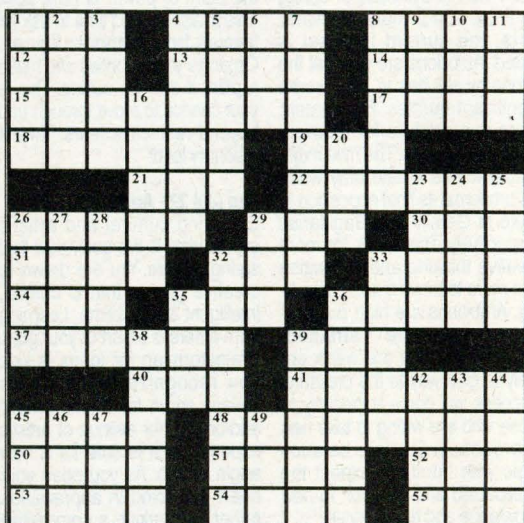
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ACROSS

- 1 Cry
- 4 Corrodes
- 8 Peter
- 12 Onassis, to his pals
- 13 Tire, in Terrebonne
- 14 Ubiquitous ore
- 15 Danny
- 17 Deliver a tirade
- 18 Soluble salts
- 19 Physician, familiarly
- 21 Mountain pass
- 22 Annie, for one
- 26 Norwegian com-
poser
- 29 Weight meas.
- 30 little teapot
- 31 Sluffs
- 32 Dearest
- 33 Barbara
- 34 Sense of self
- 35 Night flyer?
- 36 Vessel
- 37 Pamela
- 39 Marquee letters
- 40 Strange
- 41 Foster
- 45 Johnny
- 48 Desk-top essential?
- 50 Mail event
- 51 It is so!
- 52 Centre or gram pre-
ceder
- 53 Water jug
- 54 Mature
- 55 Deadly snake

DOWN

- 1 Epic
- 2 Spoken
- 3 Cheat
- 4 Concluding words
(var.)
- 5 Blacksmith's neces-
sity
- 6 English Breakfast or
Orange Pekoe
- 7 Day's end
- 8 Harvey
- 9 Period of time
- 10 Partisan or toxic
predecessor
- 11 Dynamite, for short
- 16 Ties
- 20 Cereal grain
- 23 Italian money
- 24 Aussie birds
- 25 Root veggies
- 26 Expanded
- 27 Latvian Capital
- 28 Icon
- 29 Bed
- 32 Section man's con-
veyance
- 33 Gone
- 35 Offer
- 36 Lorne
- 38 Let down
- 39 Traipse
- 42 Notion
- 43 Bugle call
- 44 Journey
- 45 Compass pt
- 46 Swede or chain fol-
lower
- 47 Beverage
- 49 Friend, in
Francoeur

Crossword answers page 10

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Tip of the week:

Happy Spring Equinox! The new season is here at last. Winter can seem like a long season to many. That is why winter sports are important aspects of life in northern climates. Also, winter can be irrevocable to both fall and spring coming early and leaving late especially in the mountains and northern latitudes. Anyway, the daylight is longer and the air is warmer. The Equinox actually indicates equal hours of night and daylight. In fact, the waxing exact half moon is symbolic of spring equinox. On a more predictive note, the current forecast is mixed. Ambitions are high yet the economy still has to clear some significant hurdles. Fortunately, there is a promise for recovery written in the stars. The next major hurdle will be in late May when Saturn forms its final opposition to Pluto in Gemini and Sagittarius respectively. The call is for more creative thinking and innovation and more teamwork and networking. Ambitions are high but relations may be strained. Foundations that are weak are likely to give way to the pressure. Success will come especially to those who are willing to take new approaches. Overall, balance logic with intuition, expect the unexpected and be open to new knowledge and experiences.

Aries (Mar 21 - AP 20)

With the Sun now in your sign and spring upon us you feel spurred into action. Ambitions on both financial and relational fronts continue to get you excited. Despite all else you feel confident about exploring new prospects. Accessing your higher vision about your personal needs and desires over the long term is highlighted. Many dreams are floating in your mind and some of them may be scary. What frightens you is their expression in reality. Be aware of what you ask for and/or go for right now, your requests will probably be realized.

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

Ideas are flying and your ambitions are soaring. Yet, you feel called within to both rest and to re-assess your direction. You are determined to continue to build upon a new foundation of knowledge and skills. Your greatest challenge now is likely to be your priorities. With many inspiring options to choose from you need to take your time to decide. You want to make sure that your dreams and desires meet with the significant others in your life. Communicate your ideas fully and take your time to decide. Ask and let the answers come to you.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

Summoning the courage to explore on both inner and outer

levels is a central theme now. Outwardly you are interested in new friends and/or activities to explore. Inwardly you determined to confront and overcome any and all lingering fears. Contemplation, meditation, reflection and prayer are all possible now even though you may not even be aware of what you are doing. Fortunately, you feel quite strong and independent these days. Continue to ask for guidance and to search for your reservoir of inner strength.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 21)

A bold and decisive lead is allowing you to enter places that were once denied. New tools and approaches are required now. You are eager to break through limiting beliefs and judgements. Acknowledge your right to change your mind. Yesterday is over and the point of power is here now. This is also a good time to ask for favours from authority figures. Organize your priorities and make a plan, if only an outline. This is your chance to move through and beyond restrictive fears. Take a visionary lead!

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 22)

Exploring cultural and artistic expressions is the goal, now that spring is here. You are drawn to creative genius that is unique, intelligent and sublime. Learning from others is a part of your goal. Brainstorming for ideas is key. You recognize that there is always room for improvement and/or another avenue of artistic experience. It is time for a new angle or two. As you open your heart and mind in appreciation rather than taking a competitive approach you will be inspired. Still, keep your options open and avoid major commitments for now.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Change is in the air! You are in the mood to meet with the new currents in both familiar and new ways. A willingness to flirt with new possibilities is the right attitude. Be prepared to take an assertive yet diplomatic approach. Avoid conflicts and other energy consuming activities that may cause you to lose your focus. Believe in yourself and the law of averages. In other words, identify your targets, aim and follow through in as many ways as seems necessary. Yet, do not spread yourself too thin. Discernment!

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

Exploring new relationship possibilities is a central theme now. Whether it is business, love or friendship, you are determined to make a good impression. While cautious about your approach, you do feel quite confident about the outcome. Since a major part of your bottom-line is simply to learn, there is no way you can lose. Your intention is to mix imagination with practicality. Hopefully, you have established a realistic health strategy in your life. If not, recognize that health and hygiene is the foundation of beauty and success.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 22)

Exploring and experimenting with new lifestyle approaches is topping your priority list now. You are determined to nurture a more adventurous and healthy attitude. More time spent in nature is the call. Whether you scale sheer cliffs or simply walk and sit in a forest or meadow is up to you. Just intend to commune with nature somehow. As you open your heart and mind and slow the endless mental chatter of duties and worries you will be uplifted. Give to your life by taking time for simple but all-important pleasures. Innocence!

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

A creative and passionate mood has arrived along with the new season. You are determined to do whatever it takes to break the ice of limiting patterns. Remember that freedom and or the lack of it begins and ends in the mind. Beyond mere intellect, mind here refers to your whole consciousness. This includes your physical and emotional habits. Put simply, change your style of clothing and stride rather than simply walk as initial ways of changing your self-concept attitude and habits. Integrated a new style.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Something powerful is awakening and stirring at the core of your being. It is a playful, adventurous and curious feeling. Dreams that have been brewing for a long while, perhaps even years or decades finally have a chance to be realized. Poetic ideas and sentiments are coloring your imagination with the possibilities. You are ready to take some risks, but not everyone agrees. Intend to negotiate a deal that allows you to pursue your dreams, but not at the expense of others. Follow through!

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Exploring new modes of perception is the call now. There is always another way of seeing and doing things. This spells changes close to home. You are determined to clear the way for new possibilities. Spring is here so flow with tradition and start cleaning. Get rid of everything that reflects who you used to be and how you used to think. Consider the art and science of Feng Shui. Once the old stuff is re-arranged and/or removed altogether, you will be more able to cultivate new perspectives. Get clear on all levels.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The time has come to take an even more deliberate inventory of your skills and talents. You are definitely more creative that you may know. Creative thinking from a brainstorming angle may be what you need. List all the abilities you have ever demonstrated. Add all the things you imagine you can do. Next, determine what is needed now in your community. Third, decipher ways of marketing your goods and services. In any case, access your creative intelligence and explore the possibilities. Now is the time!

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160 SEWING

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A	R	I	P	N	E	I	R	O	N	
G	A	L	L	I	V	A	N	R	A	N
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G	O	I	O	A	K	L	E			
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R	I	D	S	H	O	N	F	R	U	M
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S	A	L	E	A	M	E	N	E	P	I
E	W	E	R	R	I	P	E	A	S	P

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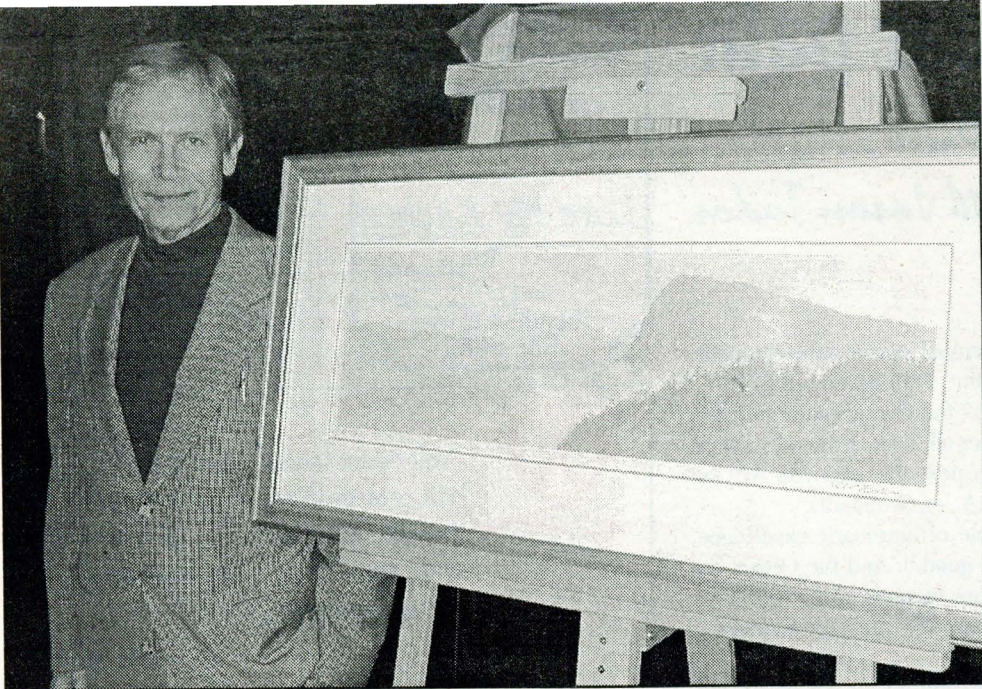
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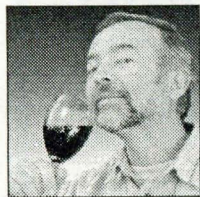
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\$100 VIEW: Salt Spring artist Robert Bateman unveils his painting of Mount Maxwell, which will appear on the back of the \$100 bill in Salt Spring currency. Bateman and other artists whose work will be featured on the local bills were on hand at a special launch earlier this month at ArtSpring.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Wines to fight weather blues



Wine Files ... with Steve Coopman

While we can tease ourselves with thoughts of the warmth of spring, the reality is a month yet of cool and wet and even down-right miserable weather.

Fortunately these are perfect conditions to enjoy a host of big red luscious wines to accompany all those lovely comfort food dinners we make to drive away the blahs.

One of the big reds getting more and more attention these days is wine made from the Shiraz grape. Since its emigration from the home country, France, where it is known as Syrah in the Rhone valley, the Shiraz of Australia has become the workhorse of the land down-under.

It is often paired with Cabernet Sauvignon and has become the most widely planted red grape variety in Australia where it exhibits a much sweeter and riper style than it does in France, tasting more of chocolate than the pepper and spice it displays in the Rhone.

At a recent tasting at The Thunderbird Gallery in Ganges, the most popular of six wines tasted was Leasingham, Bin 61 Shiraz, 1999, Clare Valley Australia (\$25.95). The colour was a

classic dark, intense, almost violet.

The nose was incredibly lush blackcurrant with floral overtones. It's the kind of wine you could almost not have to drink, just sit and smell all night. Fabulous. But then the taste. Bold, intense, luscious ripe fruit, pepper, earth and still some good tannin that will allow it to be put away and enjoyed for a couple of years. Not on local liquor store shelves but available through special order, it's a great crowd-pleasing wine and good value for the money. Rated "SSSS."

If you want to familiarize yourself with the taste of Shiraz but want something a little less expensive, try Lindemans, Bin 50, Shiraz, South Eastern Australia, 2000 (\$11.95).

Here again the colour is intense, dark, almost purple. The nose has both blackberry and floral notes, if not as pronounced as the Leasingham. The taste is big, ripe berry, with pepper and some herbal notes — a powerful wine that benefits by being opened a half hour before being served.

Less satisfying on the finish than the Leasingham but

still a crowd pleaser. Rated "SSS." Available on-island.

For something a little different but still in the "big red" category, try Quinta Do Crasto, Douro, Portugal, 1998 (\$19.95). Port lovers will recognize the name and region of Portugal where their favourite fortified wine is produced.

This red wine is made from some of the same grape varieties that go into the production of port and consequently displays some of the rich berry, earth and wood characteristics of its more alcoholic cousin. Rated "SSS 1/2."

Try it with the pot roast recipe from the February 2002 issue of Martha Stewart Living magazine. M-mm good. Available on-island. Cheers!



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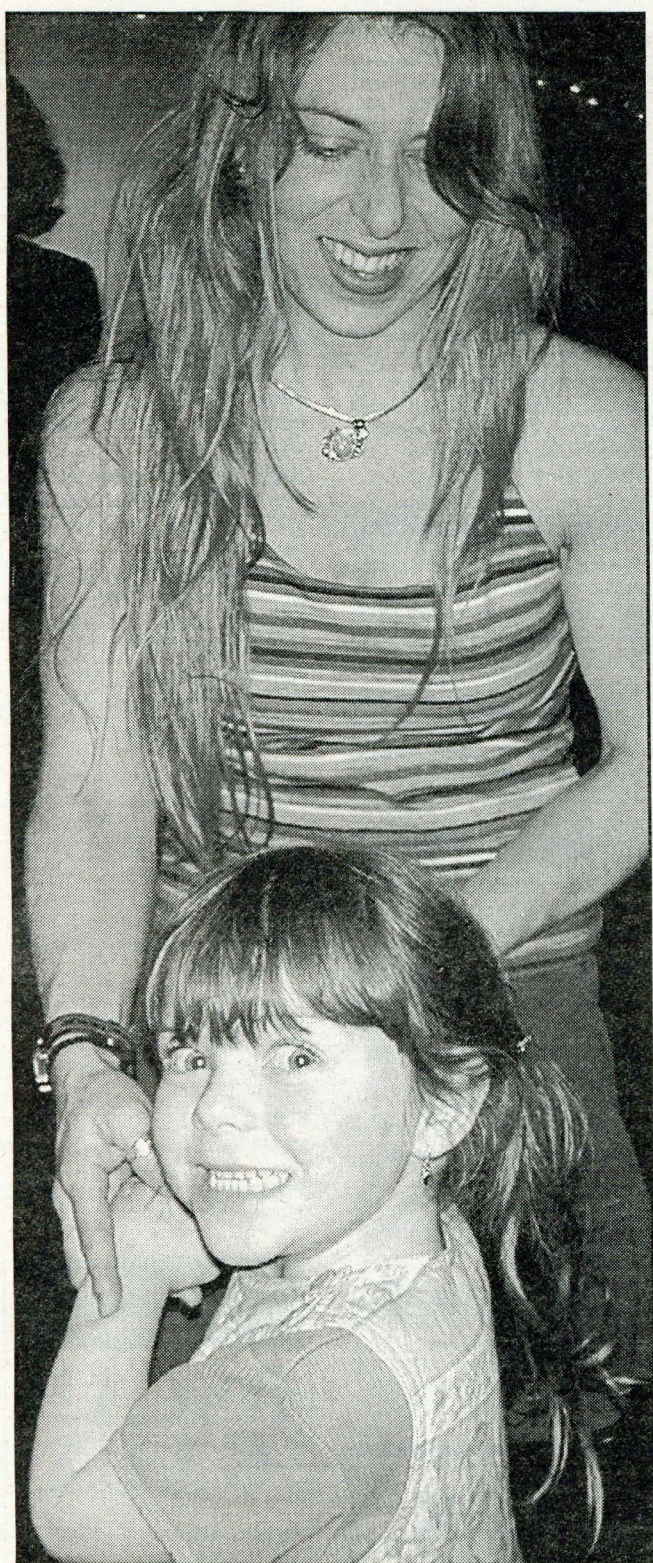
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A HIP HOP: Joy Williams and her daughter Jade enjoy the sounds of Synergy at a Salt Spring Centre School dance Friday night at Mahon Hall.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Royal Oscar pain



*Flick Pick ...
with Jason Tudor*

Ah, the good old Oscars. An annual source of excitement, tension and eventual disappointment. Do I sound bitter?

Oh, how could I be bitter? Don't the Oscars celebrate films with interesting things to say? After all, look at the message of Forrest Gump (be as stupid as possible and you will be rewarded), or Braveheart (go U.S.A., er, Scotland!).

Of course, there's that pinnacle of cinematic excellence, Titanic (um — special effects are good?). And the Oscars are right to pick them over other, more vacuous nominees. After all, Goodfellas is just a lame excuse for gangster shootouts. Pulp Fiction? Totally unoriginal.

Okay, so I'll stop being sarcastic and get to the point. The Oscars are a royal pain. Every year they nominate a wide variety of films. This year's nominees are a good example. There's a blockbuster (Lord of the Rings), a small independent film (In the Bedroom), a sentimental drama (A Beautiful Mind), a period piece (Gosford Park) and an "oddball" (Moulin Rouge!).

If you look over the various years — and this goes for the other categories as well — it's a clearly established pattern.

What it all comes down to, and I know this is a surprise, is money. The Oscars are a big commercial for Hollywood. If this were so, a casual analysis might say, then only the blockbusters would be nominated. However, Hollywood has an image to maintain. It can't go around just appealing to the masses — these aren't the People's Choice Awards, for cryin' out loud!

The Oscars nominate smaller, critically favoured films so that we'll think Hollywood cares about "the craft" and "making a difference."

That's not to say that there aren't talented people in L.A. There's thousands of them. But saying that the Oscars are a celebration of what film can do is sheer bombast.

That's why every year I watch with a sick stomach. A third of me really likes this crap, while another third is always hoping this is the year the Oscars finally get a clue. The last third just lays there and waits for the pain, just like Mel Gibson at the end of Braveheart.

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Rudolf Steiner

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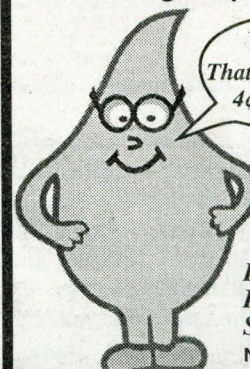
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