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August 4, 2004**

**44th year
Issue 31**

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Weekend

plans set
Annual Fulford Day events get underway at Drummond Park this Saturday. Schedule, information, pages B9-11.

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Weather

Sun and clouds are in the forecast this week and right through the weekend. Highs to 24 C on Friday and Saturday; overnight lows to 12 C tonight (Wednesday) and Thursday.

Driftwood Gulf Islands



TOOTH TACKLE: Salt Spring youth Von Good bites a plum right off the tree as he spends some time in Ganges' Peace Park on Monday afternoon. Hot dry weather has resulted in fast-ripening fruit on trees and berry bushes all over Salt Spring.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

Stand-alone vacation rentals knocked off list

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

The cracked-open door on free-standing short-term vacation rental (STVR) homes was slammed shut last week, following more than two years of community debate.

Salt Spring trustees Kimberly Lineger and Eric Booth gave those attending the July 28 local Trust committee (LTC) meeting a vivid back-and-forth replay of points made by both sides, with LTC chair David Essig forced to cast the deciding vote.

"This is, in my opinion, a seminal discussion of a larger issue Salt Spring is facing right now on the kind of community you are going to have," said Essig.

Islanders are faced with choosing the "commodifica-

tion of your lifestyle" and creation of a monocultural community overdependent on tourism, he said.

"Both trustees' arguments have been well made," said Essig, "but I don't believe that STVRs . . . should be part of the stock of residential homes."

Booth and Lineger had previously agreed to put forth bylaw amendments that will allow permanent residents to rent their homes for a one-time period of 30 days maximum each calendar year; and to consider issuing temporary use permits (TUPs) for STVR use for up to 100 seasonal cottages on Salt Spring, along with establishing a cap on all forms of accommodation units.

VACATION RENTALS A2

No Holman support for 2005 referendum

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Salt Spring trustees Eric Booth and Kimberly Lineger may be prepared to press for another incorporation referendum, but the island's third elected official is not.

Capital Regional District (CRD) electoral area director Gary Holman said he may be willing to support the request for an updated incorporation study recently made by an ad hoc group called Islanders for Self-Government (ISG), but not to hold a referendum as early as November 2005.

"I'm not willing to put the community through a divisive process so soon after the community resoundingly defeated it," he said last week. "To me it would be rushing us into that decision."

INCORPORATION REFERENDUM A2

Party honours straight-shooting Bennetts

By PAT BURKETTE
Driftwood Contributor

"Here comes the bride and groom," said Lynn Brand, as car doors opened outside Fulford Hall on Saturday afternoon.

It's usually parents who announce a couple's arrival at a reception, but this time, the tables were turned as Brand's father and mother, John and Ellen Bennett, walked into the hall.

Instead of starting out on a life together, the Bennetts were looking back on 60 years of marriage, greet-

ing the many friends, neighbours and family members coming by to celebrate the couple's diamond anniversary.

Eighty-year-old John had shed his baseball cap with the "old as dirt" slogan for one with the sunnier "Hawaii" across the brim, but Ellen didn't need to wear a hat. At the age of 77, she still has plenty of dark hairs among the grey.

The Bennetts were actually married in Calgary on August 4, 1944.

"We got married at night in

the army chaplain's living room," recalled Ellen.

She'd met John at the Colonel Belcher Hospital in March of that year, where the 21-year-old merchant mariner was recuperating from a recurrence of symptoms of diesel fume poisoning, first picked up while working as second engineer on coastal oil tankers at the age of 18.

Ellen, originally from Innisfail, Alberta, brought John his supper one night.

"I said, 'Hello cutie,'" he remembered, "and she said, 'Oh shut up.'"

John brought his bride home to Salt Spring, where he'd been born in 1923.

Ellen nervously scanned the newspaper headlines as they boarded the ferry for the crossing to the island. "The headlines said: Japanese subs located in inland waters. I was sure I'd be blown to kingdom come."

BENNETT ANNIVERSARY A5

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INCORPORATION REFERENDUM

From Page A1

Holman said none of the three elected officials campaigned during the 2002 elections on bringing forth another incorporation referendum within three years.

"Incorporation really wasn't an issue. Incorporation was dead in the last election and for them to raise it in mid term, we don't have a mandate to do that. If you want a mandate, you run in the next election and you get the mandate."

He said it will no doubt be an election issue next time around.

On July 23, ISG members met with Saanich-Gulf Islands MLA Murray Coell, who is also the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services. They asked him to consider funding a study to update figures from a 2002 incorporation report, used in advance of a referendum that was defeated by a 70-30 per cent margin, and to pose the incorporation question again.

"It's one thing to update the study and another thing

to set in motion a process leading to a referendum," said Holman.

"What concerns me is if the minister [Coell] is willing to put the community through that without all the elected reps being on-side."

Holman acknowledged the present local government system has flaws, including its fragmented nature.

"I understand the frustration with the current system. My concern is that the way we're conducting ourselves as elected reps, we're making the situation worse. We can be more effective. I don't mean that in a critical way. We are all rookies. I think that has something to do with it. It takes a while for newly elected people to find their feet, but we could absolutely be working together more effectively."

He and the trustees do co-operate and are working together on several projects, he stressed.

However, as he pointed out at last Wednesday's Local

Trust Committee meeting, an effort to improve coordination further would be a benefit to the current governing system.

For example, he said, the coordinating committee of Trust, CRD, Parks and Rec, and Ministry of Transportation representatives had not met since April.

"We should be meeting every month," he commented.

And a few months ago the LTC changed its regular meeting day to the last Wednesday of each month, which is the only day of the week he cannot reliably attend since CRD board meetings are usually on the same day in Victoria.

"This was not intentional," noted David Essig, Salt Spring LTC chair.

He added that he would like to see Holman at the table with trustees during the town hall portion of the monthly LTC meeting.

Essig also said Trust Council was still interested in gov-

ernance renewal, which was first raised during the Salt Spring incorporation debate of 2002, but had failed to produce any changes so far.

"The whole topic of governance renewal is still a top priority of Trust Council and the executive committee," said Essig.

He and Holman told the LTC meeting that Trust chief administrative officer Linda Adams is discussing the idea of a "local community commission" as an intermediate step between rural government and incorporation, with workshops likely held for trustees on the topic in future.

Essig said the community commission idea is "do-able — if we can figure out the mechanics, it's something that could work."

For the record, trustee Booth is not a member of the ISG group as reported in last week's story. He has simply discussed the issue at a meeting, said group member Susan Russell.

VACATION RENTALS: Trustees disagree

From Page A1

Those will be drafted into bylaws that will likely go to public hearing at the end of September, but without the Trust staff-recommended ability to issue up to 50 TUPs for STVR homes as long as they were managed by an individual residing on the island.

Based on input received from community members, Lineger said, she did not want to allow a scenario where off-island property owners could operate commercial STVR businesses in a residential neighbourhood.

"There's an underlying thread of concern about the commercialization of our residences to the extent that stand-alone vacation rentals represent that."

Lineger said she had "a very open mind" about the issue but now felt allowing stand-alones opened the door to speculation of residential properties on Salt Spring.

"As far as making a case that property values are

going up on Salt Spring because of vacation rentals, I would take extreme exception to that," said Booth.

He also argued that the limited number of STVRs allowed would be well regulated through the proposed TUP process.

It would start with reiterating that current STVRs have no permission to operate, he said, and TUPs could be pulled if the unit was not operated correctly.

Booth also attacked Lineger's argument about the intrusion of accommodation uses into a residential area.

"Almost all accommodation on Salt Spring is adjacent to a residential area," he said.

As other STVR proponents have stated, Booth also said homes currently rented as STVRs would not become long-term affordable housing.

He said he would be prepared to see 100 seasonal

cottages and up to 150 STVRs given permits to operate.

Lineger countered that tourism has radically changed on the islands in recent years, noting the new Poet's Cove resort on South Pender Island is renting for \$300 to \$800 per night.

She said the question is: "Do we want to be a destination resort ... or have tourism on the side?"

"Sure you set a cap of 50 or 150, but if you're a destination resort, the pressure is going to be on to raise that cap."

"We have to take a stand and say 'Whose community is this? Is it the tourists' or is it ours?' Quite frankly, it's mine."

Booth indicated he did not believe Lineger was correctly reading islanders' feelings about STVRs, and said he must have been talking to "a different 90 per cent" of people than Lineger.

"I have seen nothing that leads me to the conclusion that people do not want vaca-

tion rentals," said Booth.

When it was Essig's turn to speak, he noted that trustees have been given a "quasi-judicial role" that involves more than keeping score of constituents' opinions.

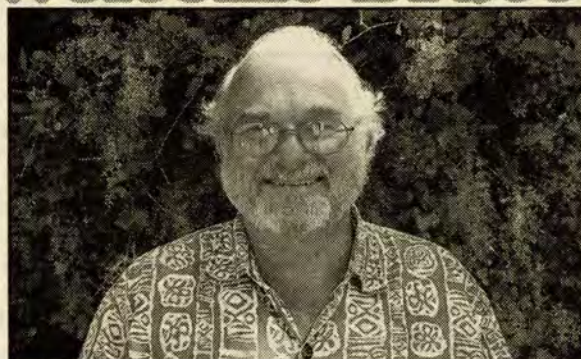
"Our job is not to conduct democracy by referendum," he said.

While both scheduled and spontaneous audience participation had been heard on the topic during the meeting, a quietly uttered comment on one side of the room broke the silence after the final vote: "Oh thank God — finally, finally."

In a related matter, trustees agreed that a TUP may not be the appropriate tool for legalizing secondary suites for affordable housing purposes at this point, as proposed by staff. Seasonal cottages will still be considered for permitting in the bylaw amendments, however.

Proposed bylaws affecting STVRs and other issues are tentatively set for public hearing at the end of September.

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Proposed harbour fill plan raises ire at Trust meeting

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Opposition to the latest proposal for redevelopment of B&B Ganges Marina properties on Lower Ganges Road formed instantly at last Wednesday's Salt Spring local Trust committee (LTC) meeting.

Following an architect's presentation of a new down-scaled plan, the LTC agreed to ask the company to refine its proposal and provide more detailed drawings for further consideration by the Trust.

The proposal would see five condominiums and 14 hotel suites, marina services and some commercial uses created on the waterfront.

Some harbour fill would be required.

The presently undeveloped waterfront strip running from the marina towards Upper Ganges Road would be dedicated as public park.

Across the street, another property owned by the company would hold a six-unit building, which a promotional sign erected Thursday



One of two new signs advertising "Mariners Loft"

describes as a strata-titled, fractional ownership opportunity.

"What you've just done is the thin edge of the wedge," said John Woodward, a board member of the Farmers Institute, which owns a small strip of land in the same area. "All of this development is to take place on filled land. What a departure from the official community plan and what a precedent to

set... Shame on you."

Earlier in the meeting, Woodward described a legal opinion the institute had obtained which sets out several reasons why the Islands Trust and then-Crown Lands department permission to fill the harbour received in 1989 had lapsed. He criticized Trust staff for continuing to consider development proposals that can proceed only with harbour fill.

Conrad Pilon, also a Farmers Institute director, said he and others were concerned about the old permit's validity, the impact on fish habitat and the official community plan (OCP) policy that harbour development should be done only for "the community good."

The OCP states that "additional shoreline should not be filled except for minor areas of fill to complete the Ganges boardwalk."

Peter Lamb, president of the 500-member Salt Spring Island Conservancy, reminded trustees of "the precautionary principle" of planning and said another legal opinion on the applicant's right to fill the harbour

should be obtained.

Trust planner Mark Head said the 1989 development permit in question only authorized some fill for boardwalk construction purposes, and pilings were installed at that time.

"On that basis we considered this 'fill option one' [5,500 square feet as referred to in staff reports]," said Head.

"This development would require a new development permit anyway," he said, adding, "Staff would recommend seeking additional legal advice."

The marina has presented a few different development scenarios to the Trust since October of 2002.

"I have hundreds of people who call me and say the project is fantastic," said marina project manager Robyn Kelln at the meeting.

He invited people with concerns about it to call him at (604) 230-4894.



OUTSIDE THE LEASE: Boats were still moored Monday at the Ganges Marina breakwater float, contrary to the Islands Trust development permit conditions for the structure.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Moorage violation irks trustees

Ganges Marina was given another deadline to meet when trustees Eric Booth and Kimberly Lineger demanded a halt to the practice of boats tying up on the outside of the marina's breakwater float.

A development permit was granted last year for the structure on the condition that no boats moor on the outside, which is not part of the marina's B.C. Assets and Lands water lease area.

"This is really really wearing my patience — not thin — it's gone," said an angry Booth to marina project manager Robyn Kelln at the July 28 Trust committee meeting.

Booth said trustees had been assured four months ago that plywood would be placed on the outside railings of the float so boat operators could not tie up there.

But Kelln said that posed a problem.

"We are offending a lot of people by going down and saying 'you can't tie up there,'" said Kelln. "We are trying to get a solution where we can get the lease extended."

Booth said he assumed the marina was not letting boats moor in the Crown lands area for free.

Both trustees said they had been monitoring the situation, which Lineger raised at the June LTC meet-

ing. Lineger said she wanted it resolved by the next meeting, but Booth insisted it be done within the week.

"Done," replied Kelln.

Boats were still tied up in the prohibited area as of Tuesday morning.



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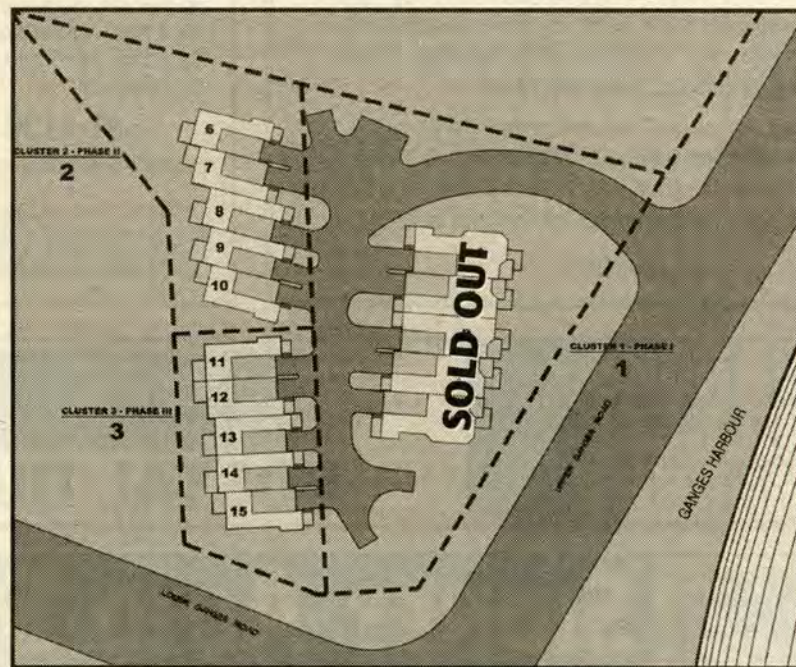
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Trincomali rezoning revived with a higher amenity sum

If a Trincomali Heights rezoning proposal goes ahead, the Rainbow Road recreation site will be \$185,000 richer, islanders heard last week.

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) staff reported last Wednesday that the amenity zoning amount now deemed appropriate for Trincomali Land Corporation to pay in exchange for a six-lot density increase was some \$35,000 more than originally estimated. The development was stalled last year after the LTC agreed to seek legal advice about the appropriate amenity zoning cash amount offered to the Parks and Recreation Com-

mission for the Rainbow Road site.

The proposed plan to subdivide a 50-acre parcel of land into 15 lots, rather than the nine its current zoning supports, has been opposed from day one by area residents.

Several neighbours attended the meeting, including Samantha Beare, who addressed the LTC on their behalf.

"We're going to challenge the recommendations from the staff that are based solely on the applicant's experts' opinions," she said. "We've seen . . . that applicants' experts are not always expert."

A Trust staff report notes that over 30 written submissions with concerns, including a 93-name petition, were received by the LTC about the plan when it was publicly examined last year. They range from worries about water availability to the increase in traffic on inadequate roads and how much a developer should pay for a six-lot density increase.

A rezoning bylaw received first reading last year and will now proceed to public hearing.

Trust staff have recommended that following public hearing the LTC require receipt of a traffic engineer's report and preparation of a

covenant related to subdivision design, road improvements and sealed casings for any drilled wells before the bylaw is adopted.

Trincomali Land Corporation has requested the subdivision be included in the Highland Waterworks District service area, which takes water from St. Mary Lake, but also has the option of drilling wells.

Gauld assured Beare that Islands Trust staff made recommendations based on more than opinions provided by an applicant's "experts."

Trustee Kimberly Lineger is unable to vote on the Trincomali rezoning because she lives in the neighbourhood.

Channel Ridge road debate continues

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) upped the pressure on Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. (CRPL) last week to put a second road access into its village development.

In a last-minute addition to its July 28 agenda, the LTC passed a recommendation that "the Ministry of Transportation Subdivision Approving Officer, Salt Spring Island Fire and Rescue, and Capital Regional District Building Inspection be advised that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee strongly recommends that, prior to the occupancy of units in phase one of the village development, the existing Broadwell

Road be extended through the Channel Ridge Village and continue as an open public road to current design and construction standards to connect to Sunset Drive or Channel Ridge Drive near Sunset Road in a manner to provide a second public access route for the proposed village."

However, CRPL community relations officer Deborah Folka said Tuesday that the company does not intend to build the second road.

"It isn't up to Islands Trust to require or demand a road. They have no jurisdiction in terms of roads," she said. "The three approving agencies that do have all said they are fine with the one road

now, so we don't intend to build another road at this time."

A second resolution referred a promotional brochure and materials for the marketing of Channel Ridge Village units to Islands Trust legal counsel "to advise respecting the potential to use existing and new regulations to ensure that the residential use of dwelling units in Channel Ridge Village is for permanent or seasonal use residents only and that no units are used for temporary or commercial guest accommodation."

The materials contain floor plans and package costs for various units, with estimated market values, property

tax costs, rates of investment return and how much units could be rented for on a weekly basis "to quiet friends and family that will respect your neighbours."

However, Folka said those materials contain both inaccurate information and were not sanctioned by CRPL. They were put together, she said, by "an overzealous board member" who presented them to meetings of people he knew personally.

"We were quite taken aback to see he had put something on paper," said Folka.

She said CRPL understands it cannot legally market the property until it has made full legal disclosure.

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Open Letter to Kimberly Lineger

I must say I was surprised to learn that you have become unable to make a decision on the Vacation Rental issues. It's one thing to ask for advice from Islands Trust staff and volunteers from the community to assist you in determining appropriate outcomes, it's another to hear their sage advice, ignore it and vote against their wise council.

It appears that you have chosen to waste our time, our tax dollars and our patience.

At last week's Trust meeting, when entertaining the pros and cons of the combined efforts of staff, volunteers and public attendees, you allowed an off-islander, David Essig, to swing the vote from the lucid position espoused by Eric Booth, to return to where we stood before you were elected to office. The net result of your indecision will be negative, community-busting, neighbour against neighbour.

If ever there was an example of why we need municipal status, with a far more democratic balance of representation, you have proven the point. Why not resign your seat in favour of someone who will respond to wisdom, not feelings?

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Coell needs more incorporation info

MLA Murray Coell said Tuesday he needs to talk to electoral area Gary Holman and get more feedback from the community before deciding whether his ministry can fund an updated incorporation study and referendum for Salt Spring.

Coell said it would be

"unusual" to take such action before five years had elapsed from the first vote, and to do it without the request of all three elected officials.

Holman said last week he was not in favour of having a referendum in November 2005 as proposed by a new group called Islanders for

Self-Government, whose aim is supported by trustees Eric Booth and Kimberly Lineger. (See front-page story in this issue.)

"In the normal case you would have all of the elected representatives in favour," Coell said. "I'll try to talk to [Holman] this week to see if he has any ideas on it."

However, Coell also said it was not unprecedented to revisit incorporation before the usual five-year period.

"One of the issues the trustees have brought forward is that the Islands Trust was going to make some major changes and that hasn't happened, so that is the reasoning behind coming forward with a proposal to re-open the incorporation study."

"In the case where the elected officials make a case that something hadn't happened or something hadn't changed, then you could reopen one before the five years. That has been done."

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ISLAND ICONS: Long-time Salt Spring residents Ellen and Johnny Bennett celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a big party at Fulford Hall last Saturday afternoon.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

BENNETT ANNIVERSARY

From Page A1

Still, Ellen was no quitter. "I had to adapt cause I didn't have the money to go home," she says.

Sixty years later, the Bennetts echo each other's philosophy on marriage.

"You've got to give and take," says Ellen.

"There has to be tolerance on both sides," says John.

The couple settled on the Bennett family farm on Dukes Road. The farm began as a 42-acre spread in 1919, owned by John's parents, John Edward and Alice Bennett.

John and Ellen bought the spread and at one time had 200 sheep, but eventually the holding was reduced to their current five acres.

John built their home, using timber from the land and a cross-cut saw. The cross-cut saw looms large in John's legend. Many of the anniversary guests got what John calls "the Salt Spring handshake," which mimics two sets of hands moving the saw.

John and Ellen have had a busy, hard-working life. John made a living at truck driving as a young married man. In 1963 he joined B.C. Ferries, working as a deck hand, and then as a first mate, until, in 1988, arthritis put him on long-term disability.

With a family of six to support, made up of daughters Barbara, Carol, Lynn, Jeanie, Marla, and son Randy, Ellen held a variety of jobs outside the home. She worked as a telephone operator for BC Tel from 1955 to 1964 when dial phones came in, then as a waitress, in real estate, and as office manager at North Salt Spring Waterworks.

Hunting helped supplement the Bennett dinner table, and both Bennetts are long-time members of the Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club.

John's hunting partner Phil Fisher read out 60th-anniversary best wishes from Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo (on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth), Prime Minister Paul Martin, Premier Gordon Campbell, and MP Gary Lunn, before Bernie Reynolds presented the Bennetts with a glass plaque commemorating their

"It's really unusual to see this — two people who have been able to shoot so well for so many years, and they're still here."
— Phil Fisher

years of service to the island club.

Fisher quipped: "It's really unusual to see this — two people who have been able to shoot so well for so many years, and they're still here."

John and Ellen joined the Rod and Gun Club in 1956 to help voice opposition to a doe season.

"In 1955, there was a big freeze-up," said Fisher. Ganges bay froze over. Animals died all over the island, and a lot of trees were killed. Biologists started a doe season on the island, thinking there wouldn't be enough vegetation to feed all the deer. We opposed it."

Fisher paused only a second, after mentioning Ellen was actually the better shot, before adding, "John was a great moose hunter. We went after a moose whenever we saw one."

It took no coaxing to have John share his recipe for his favourite moose part — the brain. "You cut the brain in half with an axe. Then you work all through and take all the membrane off. Take the brain and slice it, dip the slices in flour and fry it. It's really good."

But the Bennetts did more than feed, clothe and house their children over the years. According to daughter Lynn, "They taught us the things that are important. They taught us that your word is as valuable as a signed contract. They taught us to be good neighbours and serve in the community. They taught us old values, right and wrong, and the value of hard work. When I went to get a job I asked, 'Mom, what I should charge?' She said, 'You don't charge anything.'

They will pay you what you are worth."

Lynn doesn't have to tell me about Bennett integrity and community values. John wasted no time giving me a first-hand example, announcing, "I've got a bone to pick

with you" when he spotted me in the hall.

It turns out pegging Mary Inglin as the island's oldest native born person in a story I wrote last spring was wrong. With his usual sharp-as-a-tack memory for dates, John explained that his old friend Bob Akerman is two months older.

"It's hard to keep up with Johnny," laughed Akerman when I called to apologize.

Lynn returned to the island four years ago, after living in Vancouver and Nanaimo, and now lives with John and Ellen.

"I'm amazed how well I fitted into the community," says Lynn, who helps out with the island's Women's Institute and sings in the Community Gospel Chapel choir.

Maybe it's not so surprising for the rest of us.

For 60 years, the straight-shooting Bennetts have helped make Salt Spring the place it is. And though John jokes, "If I wrote a book about Salt Spring, I'd get sued," he offered only a two-word reply when asked what he'd change in the life he and Ellen have led here if he had a chance: "The calendar."



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Island company gets Rainbow site contract

Spencer's Excavating of Salt Spring is the winning bidder for off-site utility servicing of the Rainbow Road recreation site.

The company will install a new sanitary sewer line, replace the existing substandard water line and put in a "grey water line" so that reclaimed wastewater from the Ganges sewer plant may be used for irrigation in future.

Of five bids received, Spencer's was lowest at a cost of \$221,645.64, including \$14,500.18 in GST.

"Mr. [Ron] Spencer has given the community a great deal and he has certainly expressed an interest in trying to keep the costs down," said PARC chair Bill Curtin.

He said PARC had budgeted about \$275,000 for the work, since engineers' estimates two years ago put costs for the off-site servicing at \$220,000 to \$230,000.

"Company principals are well known on the island and have undertaken more than \$5.5 million in such work in the past five years," said a PARC staff report.

The competition closed last Wednesday and PARC met to make its decision the next day.

Exact facilities to be constructed on the property are not yet determined, but sewer and water lines will be needed regardless.

At the end-of-July regular PARC meeting, commission members discussed the benefits of installing the grey water line now, even if the

cost of reclaimed water itself was considered too costly at this point.

"I think we would be penny wise and pound foolish to not provide for that water line now when it is never going to be any less expensive," said Curtin.

In any event, Spencer's cost estimate for the line was only about \$5,000.



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Lake weir gets go ahead

North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) has secured the consent needed to construct the long-anticipated weir for St. Mary Lake.

Reporting to the Salt Spring Island Water Council on Friday, NSSWD general manager Trevor Hutton said property owners have now signed the necessary right-of-way documents.

"The weir will increase our storage by 200-acre feet," he said. "It means when the lake fills up with rainwater, we will be able to keep it up longer."

Hutton also used the meeting to clarify some figures in a July 14 Driftwood letter to the editor, which had been attributed to Hutton.

NSSWD users may have consumed 92 per cent of "available water supply" in 2003, but that is without the weir in place, said Hutton.

"If we built the weir, it would have been 49 per cent of the licence."



BLUE MOON RISING: A blue moon — or the second full moon in a month — is seen rising in Ganges Harbour Saturday night, just after 10 p.m. The first full moon of the month rose on July 2.

johncameron.ca

First Nations elders at mid-August fundraising forum

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

An August 15 educational fundraising forum organized by Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use and the Penelakut First Nations elders will bring noteworthy and respected speakers to the island.

The Syuhe'mun (Walker Hook) Protecting Sacredness event will take place in the Gulf Islands Secondary School multipurpose room from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., chaired by Penelakut elder Myrus James.

First up, the Penelakut First Nations elders will speak about protecting their cemeteries and traditional resource-gathering areas from desecration and development.

Cowichan Tribes member Tim Kulchyski will provide a younger person's perspective. Kulchyski works with the Cowichan Tribes group in resource management, which includes archeological resources, fisheries and the environment.

Salt Spring resident and archeologist Kimberly Kornbacher, a professional in the field for over 20 years, will address the importance of heritage conservation on the Gulf Islands.

Archeologist Eric McLay, who works with the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group in its negotiations, will also speak at the event. McLay is interested in integrating First Nations and heritage resource management with archeological research.

Renée Racette, a Cree-Métis First Nations member from Qu'Appelle Valley in southern Saskatchewan, will address the forum's audience. Racette is a Woodward and Company lawyer who represented the Penelakut First Nations elders at

the Environmental Appeal Board hearing regarding the Walker Hook sablefin hatchery in May.

Donna Martin and Sharon Bywater will speak on behalf of the Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use, a local group that opposes the industrialization of Walker Hook and supports the Penelakut community.

"I think this is a rare opportunity for our community to hear Penelakut First Nations elders voice their concerns directly to the community," said Bywater.

"This island has a very rich history long before white settlement and we haven't delved into that at all. It's been ignored or lost or perhaps both. They're offering that to us in this forum and to let us hear their point of view. We're very lucky to have them take time out of their community to come to ours."

The elders came to Salt Spring for a forum last September, but Bywater said this year's event will be much different due to progress in issues of lost or damaged heritage sites at Walker Hook and Channel Ridge.

"We can't continue to ignore this part of the history of the country we live in. I consider it part of my history as well. I want to know more about these people, how they lived and how they live now. This is their land as well," she said.

"I think it's a very unique event and I hope we have more like it in the future. It's time for the community to come forward and show their generosity."

Entrance is by donation, and all proceeds go to the Syuhe'mun defence fund. For more information, contact Bywater at 537-5000.

Extreme SSI fire hazard leads to work restrictions

The fire department responded to 10 calls during the past week, including five medical calls and several alarm bell calls.

• On Sunday night, the department received a report about somebody letting off fireworks in the Collins

FIRE CALLS

Road and Rainbow Road area, so fire crews inspected the area. Brush fires have been sparked in the past due to fireworks being lit.

• The fire hazard rating remains at the extreme level. Any work activity in Risk Class A is in shutdown, while work in Risk Class B is in early shift. Information about restricted activities is available from the fire department at 537-2531 or by dropping into the Ganges fire hall.

Coast guard aids crisis situation

On Monday night, Ganges Coast Guard personnel assisted the Salt Spring RCMP with an unusual call.

A man who owns a nearby island called the police because a person was trespassing near his property. According to the coast guard, he told police he would shoot the trespasser, so they came down with the coast guard to deal with the situation.

• During the morning of August 1, a local

man anchored his boat too close to the beach at Fernwood Dock. The boat went aground, which caused minor damages.

The coast guard advises boaters to check their tide tables and chart to avoid such incidents.

• At about 6:40 p.m. on July 31, the Ganges Coast Guard station received a call from a man who suspected that his wife, who suffers from dementia, had jumped

from the Spirit of Vancouver ferry on the Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay route. She had in fact taken a ride with somebody else on the ferry, and he didn't know where she was.

• On July 29 at approximately midnight, coast guard personnel towed a local man in his boat from Cape Kipel into Fulford.

He had broken down in the B.C. Ferries pathways near Swartz Bay.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee

BC Ferries has an ongoing public consultation program directed at ensuring that our service meets the needs of the communities and the customers we serve. Ferry Advisory Committees are an integral part of our program and actively represent the communities served by BC Ferries.

The mandate of these Committees is to share information between BC Ferries' management and representatives of local communities on the day-to-day operations of specific routes, planned improvements to terminals, and broader policy issues, such as the tariff, and corporate strategic plans.

The Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee is made up of twelve members comprising three from each of Galiano Island, Mayne Island, Saturna Island, and North Pender Island and South Pender Island (as one island) and has an opening for one new member representing the Pender Islands. Members are appointed for a three year term and may be re-appointed for a further term.

The Capital Regional District and the Islands Trust have agreed to assist BC Ferries in appointing members to the Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee.

There is no remuneration paid for service on the Ferry Advisory Committee. However, BC Ferries pays approved expenses incurred by members participating on the Committee.

Interested citizens, groups and organizations are requested to express their interest in writing by August 31, 2004.

Please write to:

Islands Trust c/o Kathy Jones
200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8



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PEACE BANNER: From left, Susan Newman, Genevieve Price, Krishna Cherry, Amanda Hoy, Susan Paynter and Marg Simons create a banner at the Core Inn last Wednesday to promote the August 9 Hiroshima Day events in Peace Park. See Visitor, Page B7, for event details.

Photo by Jennifer McFee

Annual school supplies drive seeks donations for local families in need

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

For the fourth year running, the Family Place School Supplies Drive is underway to help cover back-to-school costs for low-income families.

The program, initiated in 2000 by former Family Place director Ragnhild Flakstad, served 65 school kids last year with over \$700 worth of back-to-school basics.

While families don't receive supplies for the entire school year, the supplements usually last until the end of the first term.

"In the past years, there's been an excellent response," said program supervisor Rona Robbins.

Volunteer Marilyn Marshall said it's a terrible thing for economically deprived children to show up for school without new clothes. If they also lack new school supplies, she said it's a double blow for the kids.

"The first goal of the program is to raise the self-esteem of children in these families by providing them with school supplies," she said.

"The other goal is to help these kids to be ready to learn in the classroom. You can't have your mind set on learning when you don't

have school supplies or basic needs covered."

Drop boxes for donations are placed around town at both Pharmasave locations, GVM, Thrifty Foods, the Great Canadian Dollar Store and Community Services. School supplies lists are available at both Pharmasave locations.

"Pharmasave has been extremely supportive," said Robbins.

"Pharmasave called us in the spring to remind us to submit our list of supplies to purchase. In the past, private donors have also been extremely generous."

Donations in past years have ranged from pencils and erasers to binders and packages of lined paper. This year, Marshall hopes to

see computer printer paper donated for high school students.

"It would also be a good idea to provide something that's fun, like really good-quality crayons, markers or gel pens," said Marshall.

Registration forms for families with school supply needs are available at drop box locations, as well as at the food bank, Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society Thrift Shop, Mary Hawkins Memorial Library, Barb's Buns and the Roasting Company. Completed forms can be returned to the Community Services office.

"I expect and anticipate that the groups on Salt Spring who are politically active and aware of the plight

of the poor will support the program," Marshall said.

"From my perspective, there is brilliance in poor families as well. They have a right to be helped so they can leave poverty behind them as they grow up."

In addition to supply donations, financial donations can be dropped off at the Community Services office or mailed to Salt Spring Island Community Services, 268 Fulford-Ganges Road, V8K 2K6.

A note must be included with the cheque to indicate that the donation is intended specifically for the Family Place School Supplies Drive.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact the Community Services office at 537-9971.



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More public than it appears

Islanders worried about the future of Salt Spring can be excused for feeling deluged with development pressure.

There's an awful lot of wheelin' and dealin' going on right now, and if it all came to fruition overnight, we might not recognize some parts of the community.

But the process of making bylaw amendments or issuing development permits for complex projects can hardly be characterized as "rushed." It has more often been labelled painfully tardy by those on the developing side, while "simply painful" might best describe the attempts of Ganges Trust office staff and B&B Ganges Marina personnel to field a development plan that might eventually set sail from the dock.

New and improved plans just keep on coming back.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) may have requested more details last week about the latest version, which they had not even cast eyes on before being pressed to make that decision, but the multi-pronged proposal is still a long way from seeing significant light of day.

Determining whether filling of the Ganges Harbour shoreline is even a feasible option should also be a priority of the LTC.

When bylaw changes are needed for plans to proceed, as is the case with Ganges Marina, trustees must walk a tightrope between giving a property owner a decent chance to come up with a plan that flies technically and one that meets some sort of public approval.

At the same time, the LTC is under no obligation whatsoever to approve a proposal just because it has gone to a certain point in the whole process. That was recently seen with the LTC's rejection of a rezoning application involving a density transfer between Sansum Narrows and Isabella Point properties.

It doesn't mean islanders should sit back and only pay attention to rezonings and permit matters when they get down to the nitty-gritty of public hearings — hardly — but the legally prescribed process is certainly more mindful of public input and arguments than it may appear on the surface.

Shorelines, harbours should not be considered land banks

By PETER LAMB

As islanders, we are very protective of our natural environment, amply supported in our Official Community Plan, including the need "to protect our tidal and aquatic shorelines."

Development Permit Area 3 (shorelines) is also designated "to protect the natural beauty of the island's shoreline areas where commercial and industrial developments are allowed."

We are, therefore, alarmed that a commercial development on Ganges Harbour is now being seriously considered by the Trust.

Since October 2002, various proposals have been made by B&B Ganges Marina Ltd. to develop its land in front of the marina, as well as a parcel across the road.

The agreed objective was to allow completion of part of the Ganges boardwalk across the marina. Trust staff has supported none of the proposals.

VIEW POINT

However, at the July 28 Local Trust Committee meeting, and at short notice, a new proposal was presented for the marina land and the trustees agreed with a staff recommendation to "refine" the proposal without any opportunity for public comments.

Development of this site now contemplates in-fill of the harbour of 711 square metres on which a three-level, commercial/residential project would be built, comprising 14 commercial accommodation units, five residential dwellings, commercial retail space, four service buildings and a two-level parking lot.

In return, the applicant would complete construction of the boardwalk portion and, perhaps, dedicate the narrow strips of land north of the marina for public

use — where the boardwalk was earlier completed.

While completion of this part of the boardwalk would be desirable, it should not be at any price! The applicant has certainly lowered its expectations for the site but we believe there are fundamental issues, which should have been addressed from the beginning.

1. Development Permit DP 24-89 was issued in December 1989 to allow in-fill to facilitate building that section of the proposed boardwalk. However, the Trust has been given a legal opinion that the permit has lapsed. If this is true, then the trustees can consider any new development proposal unencumbered by this earlier permit.

The Trust should secure an independent legal opinion on this matter.

2. Our shorelines and harbours are not land banks for commercial interests. While in-fill of Ganges Harbour has occurred

in the past, that is no justification for continuing the practice. And we remind the trustees of the objective in the OCP "to adopt a principle of precaution in assessing those activities that could create impacts."

Will allowing this development open up the door to more applications for in-fill of our harbours and other shorelines?

3. In our view, changes to the OCP should only be considered if there is a significant public benefit.

Our OCP, often under threat from development pressure, is once again being subjected to proposed amendments, primarily to accommodate commercial interests.

One might ask if the proposed public benefits in this case justify such extensive waterfront development.

Our OCP clearly says that "the shoreline should not be filled in to create additional land except minor areas of fill necessary to

complete" the Ganges boardwalk.

What is being proposed is certainly not "minor" and is not necessary to complete the boardwalk!

4. There has been no attempt to assess the impact on the marine and shoreline environment from this project as suggested in DPA3. The current heavy use of the harbour and compromised water quality is no reason to ignore the potential impact of any new development.

Accordingly, we believe the applicant should provide a report, prepared by a qualified consultant and satisfactory to the Trust, of the environmental impact of this proposed development.

These are fundamental concerns that must be addressed before any final approval is given. Let's really "preserve and protect" our island!

The writer is president of Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

Ferries throughfare procedure outrages disabled user

By TREVOR HARRISON

I am outraged that B.C. Ferries is now complicating its throughfare procedure, putting people with disabilities, like myself, in a position to miss connections.

Last week's editorial and a story told how B.C. Ferries is disallowing direct ferry-to-ferry transfer for throughfare passengers travelling in both directions via Swartz Bay.

The change is a new effort to count travellers on each ferry.

This protocol requires all foot passengers to get a boarding pass for each trans-

IN RESPONSE

fer, rather than using the throughfare ticket obtained in Tsawwassen or aboard the machine on the Skeena Queen.

I have cerebral palsy, which makes walking slow and cumbersome.

To save time and energy, I always transfer to and from the car deck when I travel to Salt Spring Island.

The new policy forces me to disembark, go to the ticket booth for a boarding pass,

and then walk to the next ferry.

Although the walking is difficult, it's not my beef. What I do have a problem with is missing connections. If the ferry is at all delayed there is no time left to obtain a boarding pass.

Picture this: I'm on the 7 p.m. from Vancouver. If it is later than its normal 8:35 arrival time, for example, 8:50 p.m., it means I miss the 9 p.m.

Skeena Queen to Salt Spring, since tickets sales are suspended 10 minutes prior to the scheduled sailing.

On the way back through Swartz Bay to Vancouver, my chances of missing the Vancouver ferry are much higher because of the traffic. Even on the best of days, with no lineups, it'll take 10 to 15 minutes to transfer.

But if there is a lineup — which is usually the case — or the machine on the Skeena Queen is down, which forces me to use the ticket booth, I'll have to take much more time and likely miss the ferry.

Undoubtedly, there are others who cannot walk swiftly and are in the same predicament.

I understand why B.C. Ferries needs to keep tabs on each voyage, but there are other solutions that do not affect the disabled.

A throughfare-only ticket counter in the lower level of the Berth 2/3 waiting area would do the trick. Passengers could quickly get a boarding pass for either direction while being counted simultaneously.

As for returning to Vancouver, the ticket machine on the Skeena Queen could be wirelessly linked to Swartz Bay, transmitting the number of foot passengers coming through as the ves-

sel nears. If the next ferry is packed, foot passengers would be notified via the ticket machine on the Skeena Queen.

There are many other simple, low-cost solutions that would not force travellers back through the long foot passenger lines, increasing their chances of missing the superfluous 10-minute cut off.

Remember, they have already purchased a throughfare ticket.

The writer lives in both New Westminster and on Salt Spring.

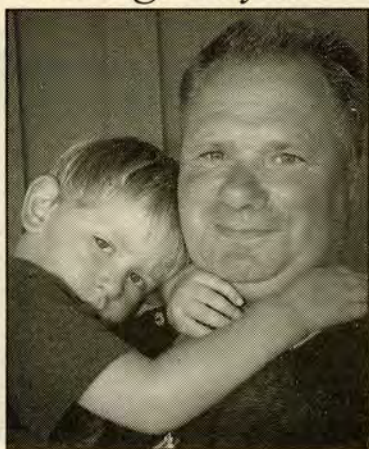
SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *If you could go anywhere on a summer vacation, where would you go?*



Alfred Gemperle

I would probably go to Europe because I like it and I have relatives there.



Barry Hayne with Alistair

If I had any other choice in the world, I would go to the Lesser and Greater Antilles. It's beautiful.



Anna Haltrecht

I'd like to go to Costa Rica. I've always wanted to go there. I'd also love to go to the Galapagos Islands, but I'm not sure if summer is the right time to go.



Laura Sargent

I would go absolutely anywhere in the States because [all the people who live there] are here, so it must be nice and quiet.



Dylan Cutler

Hawaii because of the beaches and it's hot and sunny.

Letters to the Editor

Progress defined

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting last Wednesday held an interesting contest between two versions of "progress."

Developers for the north shore of Ganges Harbour, over the distance covered by the incomplete boardwalk, made a careful and well-planned presentation seeking extended marina services.

This would include some residential accommodation for visitors and space for added commercial activity.

To construct this complex, it would be necessary to add a significant amount of fill for an extension of the shoreline.

The new facilities would, it was suggested, beautify what was considered to be at present an unsightly landscape.

An alternative view of "progress" was urged by community members who insisted that any amount of

new fill in the harbour was not only undesirable in itself but could easily lead to other such developments elsewhere in the harbour. It made me think of the way False Creek in Vancouver has been changed in the recent past — urbanization all the way to the water's edge.

The reaction to these two views of "progress" by the 80 or so persons present was clearly indicated by consistently sparse applause for the development proposal, and loud and long applause for a kind of progress represented by preserving a more natural, though not necessarily unaltered, state of the harbour.

The committee agreed to seriously consider further architectural drawings which the developer believed would justify approval of the proposal.

I left the meeting wondering what we mean today by "progress."

BOB WILD,
Hedger Road

Public backing

The applicants behind the proposed Stewart Road rock quarry may think they've got the bull by the horns, and that we're all ready to roll over and surrender. They've never been so wrong.

The Stewart Road Residents Association (SRRA) has followed the process closely from a year ago when Salt Spring Rock Products applied to Ministry of Mines to operate a rock quarry in the Stewart Road neighborhood.

The proposed quarry would devastate and destroy the serenity of our valley and, above all, the Stowel Creek watershed and the protected wetlands surrounding. The result of blasting nine acres of mountainside in our neighbourhood cannot yet even be imagined.

Not only will it look like a war zone if the application is accepted, but it will sound like one, too.

In June, Spring Rock Products conducted two test blasts. Pressure from SRRA forced the Ministry of Mines to monitor the blasts and record the noise levels.

Mines inspector Bruce Reid (also the power behind approving the quarry application), informed us that "the first blast at a monitoring station set up 200 metres east of the blast site recorded at the maximum noise of 128 decibels."

That is almost the equivalent of standing next to a jackhammer, which is recorded at 130 decibels.

How can this even be considered in a zoned residential neighborhood?

That question is echoing through our valley and homes and letters and phone calls and meetings, yet Bruce Reid recently assured us the application is actively proceeding.

In developing a Draft Soil Removal Bylaw to suit the Gulf Islands, the Trust modelled a bylaw drafted by the citizens of Metchosin, who

faced a similar issue to that of SRRA.

To our understanding, that draft will be reviewed at the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10.

The committee's comments will then be reviewed next at the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting, which begins at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25.

If clean water and noise pollution are important issues to anyone, it is crucial that they make sure our representatives pay attention to any suggested revisions.

A strong public backing may ensure that this bylaw will be enforceable, unlike so many others.

AMY GESSINGER,
Stewart Road

Lasting value

I was most interested to read the July 28 letter from Judy Levine about Mary Hawkins library.

As an African American writer who has been a landed immigrant in Canada since

2000, the library was one of the main reasons that I chose to settle on Salt Spring.

That Sylvia Stark, a black woman jeopardized by the U.S. Fugitive Slave Act, had been an early settler on the island was also a clear sign that Salt Spring was the place for me.

While there is always room for improvement, I've been highly impressed with the resources at the library. To be sure, the biography section is superb and the inter-library loan system has met all of my needs.

As a descendant of enslaved Africans, I come from people, like Salt Spring's own Sylvia Stark, who were forbidden, on the penalty of death, to learn how to read or write.

Perhaps as plans are made for a new library on Salt Spring, we can be mindful that nothing of lasting value comes without struggle.

EVELYN C. WHITE,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A10

Gentle and accepting attitude lets camp flourish

The good folks who call Salt Spring home deserve a standing ovation for the degree of tolerance and acceptance they hold in their hearts.

I know of no other community that would allow such a thing as the "Freedom Village" to not only gain a foothold, but actually thrive, expand and run roughshod over this unique Camelot.

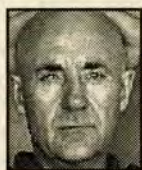
What other community would allow a group of complete strangers to establish a beachhead of old barges and battered school buses on arguably the most beautiful harbour on Salt Spring Island — a harbour that greets the thousands of tourists who travel here from the four corners of the world to experience the famous "Salt Spring Way?"

But we Salt Springers are a gentle and accepting lot.

What other community would stand by while the resident flocks of geese, kingfishers and migratory birds slowly disappear from

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

BY PETER VINCENT



the estuary? Maybe the good people in the Freedom Village don't know about the birds. After all, they aren't from around here, and are likely unaware of the damage they are inflicting on the local ecosystem while protesting rapacious developers high up on the slopes of Channel Ridge, miles from their waterfront encampment.

But we Salt Springers are a gentle and accepting lot.

What other people would let a group with no ties to the community virtually drain the local food bank, leaving the truly deserving with the crumbs? What other people would let a group crash a service at St. Paul's, one of the oldest churches on Salt Spring, and intimidate the minister and elderly parishioners, screaming that the church teaches lies and steals land?

What other people would tolerate the abuse of the public washrooms in their local family park, facilities likely built by volunteers from the community, facilities that occasionally end up looking like toilets behind a Turkish bar? Only on Salt Spring. Because we are a gentle and accepting lot.

Are the squatters protesting something? Most of them can't even seem to agree on the name "Freedom Village." (Locals have labelled it "Freeload Village.") One particularly sadistic commuter blows his air horn every morning at 6:30 as he drives by the slumbering camp on his way to earn a living.)

Maybe times have changed. Maybe the Freedom Village People are committed to free land, no taxes and an "all-you-can-eat-for-as-little-as-you-want-to-pay" kind of society.

In truth, I can't much remember what I was protesting about in the '70s — nuclear testing maybe, or outlaw whaling nations. There were one or two impassioned, dedicated leaders eager to stand

in front of microphones and cameras. The rest of us just wanted to get laid.

But maybe times have changed. If so, these Freedom Village People are using unusual tactics. Rather than chaining themselves to logging trucks like most garden-variety environmentalists, they seem to spend their time working on their tans and honing their bongo skills, much to the displeasure of all within earshot.

But we Salt Springers are a gentle and accepting lot. We are much more accepting than the Gabriola Island people, who had a similar group descend upon them 10 years ago.

The first evening the newcomers set up their buses and tents on the local beach, they were greeted by a welcoming committee of pick-up trucks and good old boys. Nobody was touched, nobody's rights were violated, but the entire group left on the first ferry in the morning. Message received. Coarse, but effective. That was Gabriola, and this is Salt Spring.

And such a direct form of communication just wouldn't be right. We prefer healing circles, studies, jurisdictions, committees and referrals to other departments. And so the Freedom Village flourishes. Many locals wistfully believe that the whole thing will just float away with the first high tide and winter storm. They may be right. But again, if you were on the street and on the dole, where would you rather spend your winter? Edmonton? Toronto? Montreal?

Looking at the alternatives, Salt Spring looks pretty inviting, particularly when the community is so... well... gentle and accepting.

And our community should remain gentle and accepting. And open minded. But not so open minded that our brains fall out. Not so obsessed with political correctness that we appease at any cost.

And not so apathetic that we forget where our backbones are located.

pvincent@saltspring.com

FERRY LANDING: The Howe Sound Queen — as photographed from the Vesuvius Inn — is ablaze with light as she motors into Vesuvius at twilight on a recent evening on Salt Spring.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



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More letters

Caution urged

Firefighters, residents, workers be aware!

"Sterility, severe headache, depression, slowed reaction time, memory loss, lack of focus, sleep deprivation, vertigo, and anesthesia-like sleep" are symptoms Susan Foster Ambrose, firefighter advocate and medical writer, found common to firefighters as a consequence of radio frequency (RF) radiation emitted by cell-phone antenna located on their fire station.

If the cell antenna/tower/repeater/whatever is allowed to operate from the tower on the Ganges firehall, it will undoubtedly affect, in similar fashion, those who live and work in Ganges.

In any event, I for one do not see this as a fitting installation in the Tony Head Memorial Clock Tower. Do you?

To help protect our emergency response firefighters and the resident and business community of Ganges, please voice your concern

that it is better to err on the side of caution than to suffer dire consequences.

RAY DORGE,
Howell Lane

The truth

A number of people have written recently with concerns for and against the work of the Crofton Airshed Citizens' Group (CACG). This is to be expected and healthy as we are all motivated by a cloud of unknowing.

Raising concerns or asking questions, no matter which side of the fence one stands, helps all understand the nature and legitimacy of the issue.

CACG fundamentally seeks to know the truth regarding the state of environmental and human health in the Crofton Mill airshed. If this is shown to be good or not good, we know where we stand and can consider an appropriate course. If it is shown that we don't know, then we will seek to know.

When letters make unfounded vendettas against individuals involved, be they CACG or Norske people, it is counter-productive.

Michael Ableman is a case in point. Michael has become the target of some very fearful and angry criticism.

Let me tell you what I know about him based on what I have seen.

As a neighbour, I see that Michael is a very hard-working, resourceful and productive organic farmer.

Over the past five-and-a-half years I have seen him working in his fields from dawn to dusk most days of the week. I have seen him build up his farm using organic methods to produce a great bounty of very healthy food, which feed

local and off-island residents and businesses.

He and his family believe very strongly in this ethic. I know that Michael lives close to the earth and rarely takes a holiday. I know him to be a compassionate, open, intelligent, hospitable, honest, gentle and fair-minded man concerned about good health.

He walks the talk. To watch him is to know him. If people see him with CACG out to destroy NorskeCanada, they are misinformed, uninformed or paranoid.

All that we seek is the truth, as mentioned. If anyone is afraid of this, I suggest they ask themselves why. The truth is present whether or not we recognize it.

The consequences may be optional.

RON HAWKINS,
Salt Spring

NIMBYs

Ah, the accusation of "NIMBYs" rings out once more — as it does every time, with every major health-related issue. (Keith Sketchley's July 28 letter.)

Always a variation on dismissive name-calling, "they're just extremists/hippies/weirdos/nimbys," we heard it with lead in gasoline, tobacco, pesticides on food, arsenic in drinking water, and many more such health disasters.

In fact, it's those very people who have been THE major force in many critical moves towards greater public health and safety.

And is the writer really going to try the sneer of "superstition" against the hundreds of professors at various universities around the world who have found direct harmful effects of microwaves at levels far below those that would be put out by this proposed antenna?

Who would you rather trust: Telus or numerous scientists such as Dr. Ross Adey of the University of California, neurology department?

Dr. Adey wrote in 1995 that the cell-phone industry is "lying" about the safety aspect of this technology (his word).

He stated, "The laboratory evidence for non-thermal effects of both ELF [power frequency] and RF/microwave fields now constitutes a major body of scientific literature in peer-reviewed journals."

It is my personal view that to continue to ignore this work in the course of standard-setting is irresponsible

to the point of being a public scandal."

I'm with Dr. Adey.
MICHAEL LINEHAN,
Salt Spring

No change

I must disagree strongly with the contents of the "Promote change" letter in last week's paper, concerning where the Mary Hawkins library is going.

The premise of the letter is that the library (*library n. collection of books; place for keeping such a collection* — Webster's) should be an agent for social change, and sponsor or provide community outreach programs, such as literacy programs (the library already provides literacy programs to a modest extent), and promote community values by sponsoring cultural events such as art exhibits, film showings or poetry readings.

Why should the library be an agent for social change or any other agenda outside of the scope of the function of a true library?

I would not wish for the library board to decide what social change it wishes to impose on the public at large. Salt Spring Island certainly isn't lacking for "agents of social change" already.

I wonder what other "outreach programs" the letter's author had in mind.

It does not seem to me that our community is bereft of cultural events "such as art exhibits, film showings or poetry readings," though I'm willing to admit we're not long on poetry readings.

The library already acts as a repository for materials relating to concerns of the community which, I hope, is what the author meant by "supports current concerns of the community."

The author never mentioned funding all these activities, but there is only one source available — increased taxes.

Since all of these proposals are outside the scope of the function of what most people believe is the role of a library and, since additional expense for such proposals would inevitably result in less funds available for the proper role of a library, fewer books and resource materials would ultimately follow.

Let's keep our library doing what libraries do best.

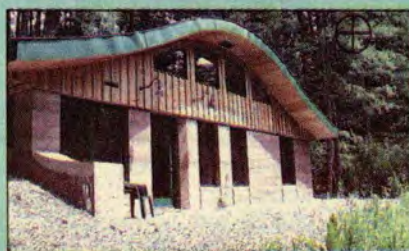
DON AND LOIS SLOTTEN,
Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A12



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ROYAL LEPAGE

Norton Mews offers affordable housing ice-breaker

By TOM O'CONNOR

Norton Mews, 26 dwellings to be developed at the end of Norton Road, is our first real shot at tackling affordable housing on Salt Spring.

Norton Mews will not only provide housing for moderate income families at virtually half the cost of a moderately priced home currently on the market, but it will also be an asset to the neighbourhood, and a source of pride for all of our community.

Unfortunately, a lot of myths have been floating around about Norton Mews and affordable housing, and I'd like to address them.

Myth #1: This development will take away from our agricultural land base.

Untrue.

The property was removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve in 1987, it was designated as "Residential Neighbourhood" in our OCP in 1995 (same as Brinkworthy), and the property owners have been paying residential assessments for more than a decade.

Myth #2: The community will pay the cost of servicing this development.

Completely untrue.

Water and sewer connections have been approved, and the entire costs will be borne by the developer, including improvements to the Ganges waste treatment plant.

The water conservation program for Norton Mews will realize a 40 to 50 per cent annual water saving, even though we will pay the same capital improvement assessments and hook-up charges that everyone else would pay.

Water mains in the neighbourhood will be improved at our expense, at long last supplying local hydrants with sufficient water pressure for adequate fire protection.

And the installation of a sewer main will give other homeowners along Norton Road the option of hooking in if and when older septic systems begin to fail;

IN DEPTH

meanwhile, they pay nothing.

Myth #3: Traffic will be horrendous.

Not true.

On reviewing the project, the Ministry of Transportation's written report states "The Ministry of Transportation would not require any upgrades or improvements to any of the surrounding public roads, as this development would not generate enough traffic to impact the existing road system."

Myth #4: This is "high-density" development.

Not true again.

Norton Mews is within the "medium-density" range as prescribed by our OCP for land designated "Residential

Neighbourhood."

The individual lots are actually slightly larger than Brinkworthy's, our neighbour to the immediate west.

Other Salt Spring developments are two or three times the Norton Mews density level, but these others are townhouses — at two or three times the price.

Myth #5: Homes priced in the order of \$200,000 are not "affordable."

Maybe not for some families, but they are for moderate income families — those making \$40,000 to \$60,000 — who can't afford the \$400,000 for a moderately priced single detached home on Salt Spring Island.

These are the families being forced to move off Salt Spring, or getting nowhere paying exorbitant rents for decent accommodation — the middle managers,

teachers, health care workers, police officers — the very people we need to keep here to keep our community balanced and sustainable. These are people with good jobs, people who can't get into the current real estate market.

Our OCP clearly states what affordable housing is intended for, and that's who will be living in Norton Mews.

And the prices of Norton Mews homes will be regulated, indexed so that homeowners make a reasonable return while the homes remain affordable into perpetuity.

Myth #6: These are going to be shoddy, low quality homes.

False.

Using the Ganges Village development permit area rules as a guideline, a

development scheme will ensure that all of the homes are architecturally compatible with each other and the neighbourhood, finished properly and within a reasonable time.

You won't see tarpaper siding in this development.

Myth #7: There will be environmental and natural habitat disruptions.

False again.

Not only is this project in compliance with OCP regulations on the environment and natural habitat, but this property owner has clearly demonstrated over the years that he is an excellent steward of the land.

Seven of the 12 acres being subdivided will be restricted from further subdivision into perpetuity.

In fact, a comprehensive, clustered residential development of this property is the

best environmental option.

Norton Mews is important for our community.

We continuously field inquiries from people wanting to know how to get a home there.

The reality is that the cost of housing on Salt Spring has gone seriously out of whack.

Norton Mews is the ice-breaker, and along with other private affordable housing initiatives and efforts such as the Land Trust, we can finally start to bring some sense of balance to home ownership here.

Hopefully, the Islands Trust will have the vision — the foresight — to make it happen, and soon.

The writer's company is O'Connor Project Planning, which is handling Norton Mews.

Fall is going to be fun!

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RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

Rants to people throwing cigarette butts and emptying ashtrays along our roads. A Driftwood reader called to say she counted over 50 butts in one quarter of a mile. Bad for the environment, bad for animals and small children, bad to look at! Marit McBride

ROSES

Dozens of red roses and

thank-yous to Petra and the staff of Thrifty's. When I lost an envelope of money and receipts, an unethical person (must have been a tourist) claimed it. When I called to claim it, your quick thinking, finding the person and asking for it back saved me so much grief I have to thank you publicly. Another "only on Salt Spring" moment. VN

A big bunch of yellow friendship roses to Lynn at Cinema Central, who sought

me out when she found the wallet with all my life data, took care of it, and called me to return it. LG

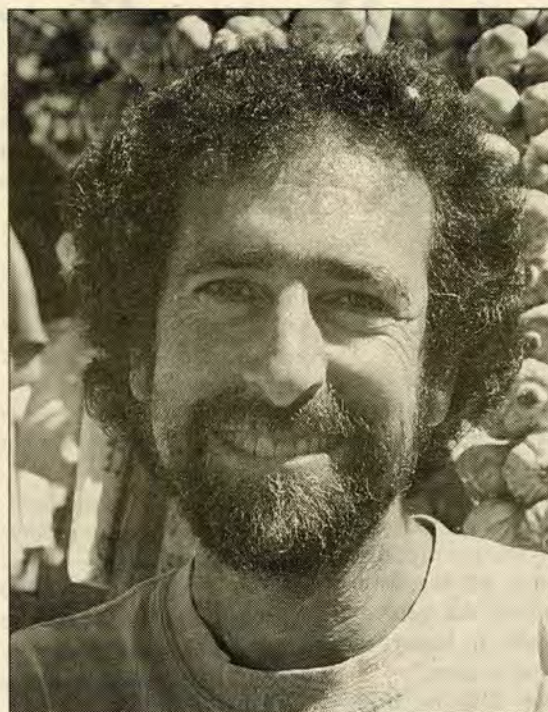
A huge bunch of roses to Tim and John at Island Star Video, and all the generous families and friends who helped send a child to Camp Colossal. SSI Daycare

Roses to Kisae and the boys — from week to week you have made our hearts sing. The plant divas bless your sacred medicine. We love you so much.

Roses to Michael Wheaton, John Woodward and the Farmers Institute for all their work to protect Ganges Harbour. JM

A large bouquet of roses to Patrick of Calypso Interiors for going the extra mile and helping us far beyond the call of duty. We thank you very much for all of your help. S&M

Dozens and dozens of colourful roses to all the people who showed up to my "Birthday Blender Bash." Special thanks to Dave for helping with the ice, and Tom and Nate for barbecuing. To Carrie and Kerrie — you guys rock — my party would not have happened if it had not been for your help. Also to all the "hot" boys (you know who you are) — you were the best eye candy a group of women could have had. Thanks for all the singing to me, and big hugs to the beautiful men who brought me beautiful flowers. Same time next year? PS



Name: CHARLIE EAGLE

537/538/653: 537

Occupation(s): Farmer.

Hobbies: Repairing things, travelling.

Home finished/unfinished: Finished — mostly.

Favourite people: Judi and Bree/Sadie and Nipper.

Favourite read: Catch 22.

Best thing about SSI: People who appreciate locally grown, organic food.

Worst thing about SSI: Summer traffic.

Best place to kiss on SSI?: In the corn rows.



DERRICK'S
ISLAND PICS

More letters

Voice concerns

I would like to thank provincial CUPE president Barry O'Neill for writing to our paper regarding the four-day school week.

Too bad his letter was stuck in a small corner on Page 14 of the paper. I noticed that the school district spin doctors managed a half-page sales pitch the week before in the first few pages to promote this cut to our schools.

I do agree with previous writers that if a four-day week is so wonderful for the community, why aren't the private schools rushing towards the same goal?

Working parents are barely making ends meet as it is without extra costs for daycare etc., not to mention the possible loss of work for others.

I encourage all concerned to join the Keep Five Alive coalition and voice your concerns. You are not alone. JOHN MARTIN-MCNAB, Salt Spring

Destructive

So many islands and so little time to exploit them.

That's how it feels for residents of Mayne Island who are committed to preserving what they value most about the Gulf Islands.

I'm referring to the proposed bylaw amendment to the C2 Visitor Accommodation bylaw, spearheaded by the Mayne Inn.

The islands are unmatched in their beauty, tranquility and quality of life and many of us, both long-time and more recent residents, are afraid about what future development might bring.

Our dilemma is not unique to those of us who either live permanently or have recre-

ational property on Mayne Island.

Like residents of Salt Spring, Pender, Galiano and Saturna, we know all too well the destructive outcomes that occur with unplanned development, indiscriminate logging and thoughtless land use. Residents, authorities and developers are often pitted against each other in the struggle to protect their different interests and, in the end, everybody loses the unique characteristics of Gulf Islands living.

What interests can be more important than rural settings, environmentally sensitive areas and bird and animal habitats?

What comes to mind is the phrase "short-term gain but long-term pain." Once these treasures are lost to development, they are forever gone and the impact on island life will be irrevocable.

Why would we want to destroy the very things that attracted us to these islands in the first place?

That's why we appeal to the Islands Trust to ensure that low-impact development and recreational activity continue to respect the values and vision that many Gulf Islanders have for their island communities.

We must work together to stop big development before it stops all of us. CAIRINE GREEN, North Saanich

Visitors

The first hummingbird of the season arrived on March 21st this year.

In preparation, I had one feeder hanging at the corner of the eave within sight of my easy chair. I guess my visitor found this arrangement to be satisfactory and decided to stay.

Early in April his lady turned up, and they set up housekeeping somewhere nearby. I didn't find out where they had built their nest, but they seemed to approach the feeder from the direction of the holly tree just 30 feet from the corner of the house.

There was lots of activity around the feeder. The odd time when I didn't notice that the nectar had run out, one or other of the twosome hovered in front of the living room window looking

up to the fact that my attention was required. As I hung up the replenished container they both swooped around my head, emitting angry little squeaks. I am sure they were imparting the message that this negligence must not happen again.

Soon the number of visitors to the feeder increased. A family had been produced. Line-ups formed and arguments took place. There was much chasing and threatening, rocketing straight up in the air, followed by hair-raising dives. It was a daily circus.

When I counted 10 hummers vying for the one feeder, I dug out another from the utility room cupboard, charged it up with more syrup and hung it on the other side of the deck. In no time at all I was filling both of those feeders twice a day.

Gradually the crowd has diminished and we are back to one feeder. Perhaps some have left home to be on their own, or maybe they have found a more tempting source of sustenance elsewhere. But two have stayed on to frequent the snack bar.

The weather has been and continues to be very hot and dry. One recent evening I was out with the hose watering the veggie patch. One of my friendly hummers arrived on the scene and proceeded to swoop right in front of the fine spray from the nozzle. I kept the water directed in one direction until my friend perched on the fence nearby and proceeded to preen his feathers. I directed the water over him, and he continued to preen and to lift one wing and then the other toward the shower. When he had completed his ablutions he flew away.

Then there was "comedy night." Once again I was engaged in watering the garden when Mrs. Hummer arrived on the scene. After swooping in and out of the spray, to my amused amazement, she turned her back to the spray, raised her little posterior, lifted her tail and fanned it out. Just like a member of the chorus line. I was so surprised I laughed aloud.

I just had to record this little event as a reminder of a hummingbird's sense of humour. ELIZABETH POOLE,

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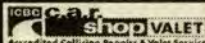
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More letters

Be proactive

Salt Spring Island stands in transition. We are being thrust into over-development and we can't keep the wolf away from our shores.

But we can pick our issues and make a proactive stand.

We have to help our Islands Trust fulfill their "serve and protect" mandate because our islands are under more pressure than ever before.

At the July 28 Local Trust Committee meeting, Stewart Road Residents Association (SRRA) members Ron Wright and Rosey Brennan pointed out that Salt Spring Rock Products, a company controlled by local developer Larry Bader, is going ahead with its application to blast 375,000 tons of rock out of a nine-acre property beside Peter Arnell Park, in a residentially zoned neighbourhood.

This would destroy an area which is the headwaters for Stowel Creek and watershed and home to a protected wetland.

Two recent test blasts at the proposed quarry were monitored by the Ministry of Mines.

Bruce Reid, Inspector of Mines, reported, "The first blast at a monitored station set up 200 metres east of the blast site recorded a maximum noise of 128 decibels."

To quote Ms. Brennan: "How loud is that? 140 decibels is a space rocket blast-off. 120 decibels — less than the test blast — is an ambulance siren or an amplified rock band. Can it get worse? Yes. The mines inspector told us this test blast is less than we can expect during operation of this proposed quarry."

Our local Trust representatives, Kimberly Liniger and Eric Booth, and the Agricultural Advisory Committee, chaired by Perry Booth, are reviewing a draft bylaw that could give our community a way to regulate quarries.

Given that the Stewart Road quarry application is actively proceeding, there is urgency to have this bylaw in place.

It's crucial to get the details right in the new bylaw or it will be as unenforceable as so many other bylaws seem to be.

Please show your support and concern for our rural environment and our island way of life by attending the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting on August 10 at 5 p.m., and the Local Trust Committee meeting on August 25 at 3 p.m.

Please wear blue to show



INTO THE FUTURE: Salt Spring's Doreen Minshall reads the cards at the Once in a Blue Moon Psychic Fair, held Saturday at a Park Drive residence.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

you care about our watersheds.

J. CAMPBELL,
for SRRA, Salt Spring

Diligent

I have never written a letter to a newspaper before, however, in light of an occurrence at the July 28 Trust meeting, I feel I must voice my concerns.

The official community plan policy and Development Permit Area 3 (shoreline) states "to protect the natural beauty of the island's shoreline areas where commercial developments are allowed" and "the shoreline should not be filled in to create additional land except minor areas of fill necessary to complete the boardwalk section of the Ganges public pathway system in Ganges Harbour."

Despite this, at the meeting on July 28, the trustees passed a resolution authorizing the developers of B&B Ganges Marina to prepare and provide drawings for some 19 hotel suite and condominium units, as well as commercial space and underground parking on a filled area of Ganges Harbour.

I fear that if this development is allowed to go forward under these circumstances it will open the floodgates for applications from other like-minded developers and the integrity and beauty of our harbour will be lost forever.

The beauty of this island is what attracted most of us in the first place.

Let us all be very diligent and protect this beauty while we can.

MYRTLE FITZ-PATRICK,
Salt Spring

Sad state

After a visit to Arnell Park, I was amazed at the state it was in.

Nothing has been done to it in years.

Trees and brush have grown up so high that the direction-finder on top of the monument that was built in memory of Peter Arnell — a land surveyor who lost his life — is useless now for the trees.

It is a park, so why is it left like that?

I guess it is "out of sight, out of mind," as they say.

JOAN BUCKLEY,
Salt Spring

SALT SPRING ISLAND'S

OTHER!

SATURDAY MARKET...

The Driftwood
Classified's Map of
Garage Sale Listings!

See page B16
for this weekend's
Garage Sale map



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ISLANDS TRUST

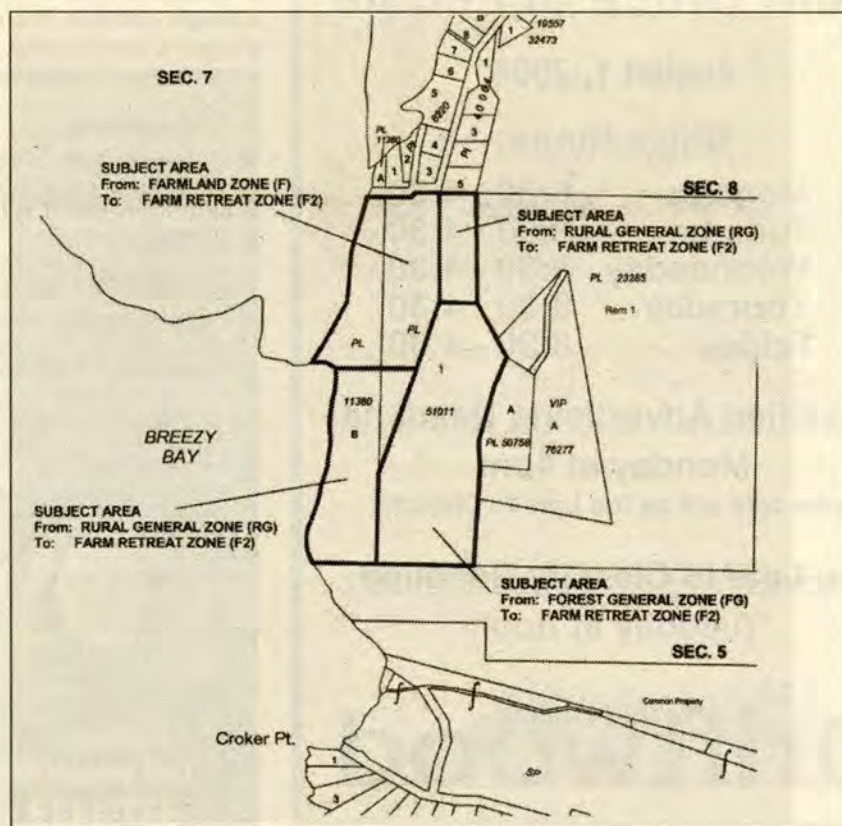
ISLANDS TRUST SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that Saturna Island Local Trust Committee will hold a public hearing on **Proposed Bylaw No. 82 — cited as "Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2002, A.m.endment No. 2, 2003"**, for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw at **1:30 p.m., August 18, 2004 at the Saturna Community Hall, East Point Road, Saturna Island.**

At the public hearing all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw.

Bylaw No. 82 — cited as "Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2002, A.m.endment No. 2, 2003"

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 82 is to rezone the parcel legally described as Lot B, Plan 11380, Section 7 and Lot 1, Plan 51011, Section 8 both in Cowichan District, Saturna Island from Farmland Zone to Farm Retreat Zone (F2) and from Rural General Zone to Farm Retreat Zone (F2) and from Forest General Zone to Farm Retreat Zone (F2). The F2 Zone would permit uses such as farm use, educational and instructional uses and residential uses together with accessory uses such as visitor accommodation, special events such as weddings and retreats, the serving of food and drink, retail and rental uses and home occupations. The maximum density of the parcel is not to exceed 7 residences and 7 cottages. The parcel subject to Bylaw No. 82 is shown below:



A copy of the proposed bylaw and any background material that may be considered by the Trust Committee in respect of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **August 4, 2004.**

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2)(e) of the Local Government Act, additional copies of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Saturna Island, B.C., commencing August 4, 2004 and can also be viewed on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca> and selecting Saturna Island / Bylaws / Proposed

Written submissions may be delivered to:

1. the office of the Islands Trust by mail at the #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, or by Fax (250) 405-5155, prior to **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 17, 2004;** and
2. after **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 17, 2004,** to the Trust committee at the Public Hearing at **1:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 18, 2004.**

Those persons who chose to make their written submissions by email prior to the time and date above provided ought to require confirmation of receipt on their email and in any event the risk that an email is not received lies with the sender. Email submissions should be sent to ghamblin@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Written submissions made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Planner, at (250) 405-5158 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

NO REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Kathy Jones, Deputy Secretary

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Wednesday	8:30 - 4:30
Thursday	8:30 - 4:30
Friday	8:30 - 4:30

Classified Advertising Deadline:**Monday at 4pm**

(after 4pm will be Too Late To Classify)

Too Late to Classify Deadline:**Tuesday at noon**Gulf Islands
Driftwood**MP Lunn enjoys some family time
after 'tough' June 28 federal election**By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

After spending some post-election time in "unwind mode," recently elected Conservative Gary Lunn is gearing up for fall sessions as the Saanich-Gulf Islands MP for the third consecutive term.

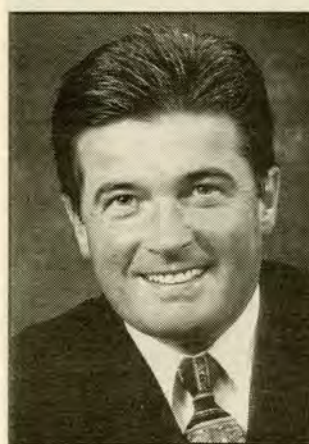
"The constituency office doesn't slow down in the summer. If anything, it speeds up. Problems don't stop in the summer," he said.

Lunn, his wife and their two children enjoyed a two-week vacation at his sister-in-law's cottage following his June 28 election victory.

"My little guy said to me, 'This is great, Daddy. We don't have to wear shoes for two weeks,'" Lunn said with a laugh.

During the campaign period, the father and husband worked up to 18 hours a day promoting the Conservative party and travelling among the riding's many islands. Finding time to spend with his family was nearly impossible, he said.

"It's been a drain. It was a tough six weeks. It was a tough schedule, but campaigns are rewarding, get-

**MP Gary Lunn**

ting out and talking to all the people."

The election went well and the Conservative party deserves to be proud of their accomplishments, said Lunn, who has also served the riding as a representative of both the Reform and Canadian Alliance parties.

"In six months, we merged two political parties, got ready for a federal election and reduced the Liberals to a minority government. We've established a solid base and that's important. I'm confident we can build on the base we have now," he said.

"I think we could be at the polls in less than two years.

Minority governments don't usually last longer than that. It's our job now in government to work with the Liberals on a case-by-case basis. I think the results are win-win for the taxpayer."

Lunn said part of his job will be to suggest changes for legislation that don't seem to be working, and to put positive amendments forward.

"We need to make sure issues like the environment are properly addressed, where there's been more talk than action," said the former lawyer and journeyman carpenter.

Salt Spring residents will be able to see changes locally on national issues following the federal election, Lunn said.

"Issues like health care and accountability are as important to people on Salt Spring as they are to people on P.E.I. All of these issues, although they're not localized in nature, are important to everybody and you will see a difference. The Liberal government will have to work with other political parties."

Lunn said he may not have gotten as many votes on Salt

Spring (24 per cent) as he did across the riding (35 per cent) because a local candidate, Green Party's Andrew Lewis, was running. He also earned fewer votes than in the 2000 election, when he got 38 per cent of Salt Spring's votes and 43 per cent of the riding's vote as a Canadian Alliance candidate.

"I think Andrew Lewis siphoned off a lot of our votes. A lot of people bought into some of the attack ads. And they didn't want to vote for the Liberals, so they chose the Green Party."

The Conservative party wants to ensure that Paul Martin comes through on promises made during election time, Lunn said.

"I'm getting more cynical that people will do anything, say anything, to get elected. But once the elections are over, they don't come through."

He said that voters are also getting more cynical because of broken promises.

"We have to earn their trust through our actions," he said.

Lunn is preparing for a full caucus meeting later this month and hopes to visit Salt Spring before the end of August.

**Galiano Wine Festival will
toast island wine producers**

Two Salt Spring businesses will be featured as part of this year's Galiano Wine Festival and annual fundraiser on August 14.

"We made a special effort this year to attract some of the newer wineries now making a name for themselves in our part of B.C. Five accepted, and between them, they'll open your eyes to the potential in our region," said a July 30 press release.

Salt Spring Island's Garry Oaks Winery will make an appearance, along with Blossom Wineries of Richmond, Marley Farm Winery

from the Saanich Peninsula, Saturna Island Winery and Vigneti Zanatta from the Cowichan Valley.

Salt Spring's Moonstruck Organic Cheese will also offer its products, made from the milk of purebred jersey cows, for tasting and sale.

Natural Pastures of Comox Valley will be at the festival as well, with hand-made specialty cheeses from a certified heritage farm.

In addition, 10 leading wine merchants will offer wines and beers from around the world for tasting.

Entertainment for the

event will include guitar music by Brad Prevedoros.

Visitors can try their luck with a raffle and silent auction, with proceeds benefitting the Galiano Health Centre.

The event runs from 1 to 4 p.m. at Lions Park, 912 Burrill Road, Galiano Island. Tickets cost \$30 and include unlimited tasting of wines and beers, refreshments and a souvenir crested wine glass. Tickets can be purchased over the phone at (250) 539-3506 or by e-mail at islandtime@gulfislands.com.

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Spirit of Salt Spring**Salt Spring
Foundation Donates \$\$\$**

Bob Rush of the Salt Spring Foundation presents a \$3,000 cheque to Salt Spring Historical Society Archives representative Mary Davidson. The donation will be used to purchase a laptop computer.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations.

First-come, first-served basis as space permits.

Call Penny for details.

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Driftwood
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SEA BOUND: Doug Mitchell is seen aboard Forest Ranger II as part of an annual gathering of forestry vessels from the 1930s and '40s held this year at the Long Harbour Road home of Neil and Patti Whittaker.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Historic vessels in Long Harbour

Patti and Neil Whittaker's home on Long Harbour Road was the scene of the 13th-annual rendezvous of the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron over the B.C. Day weekend.

Nine vessels, including Alpine Fir II, Dean Ranger, Forest Ranger II, Maple II, Nesika, Poplar III, Silver Fir, Tamarack and Yellow Cedar attended the squadron's first "anchor-in" rendezvous.

Formed in 1992, the squadron currently includes 18 retired ranger launches of the B.C. Forest Service that are now in private hands.

Highlights of the weekend included potluck dinners and

a magnificent northern B.C. spring salmon provided by former ranger Hank Doerkson, also of Salt Spring Island.

Dr. Ken Hargrove showed a fascinating collection of colour slides of ranger launches in their original working environment.

The slides were taken by Ken's father, a former senior ranger of the B.C. Forest Service.

This was the squadron's second visit to Ganges, with the 1998 rendezvous held at Salt Spring Marina.

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Missing the phantom kissing

Whatever happened to kissing?

Oh, I know it's still around, but it has changed — drastically.

Now, when I was a lad — back in the mists of time — a kiss was, well, take this line from the Show Boat song Make Believe, by Jerome Kern. Remember it?

"... only make believe our lips are blending in a phantom kiss, or two or three ..."

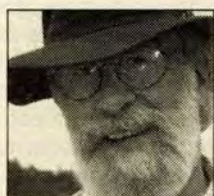
See: "blending," "phantom." The drift seemed to be toward tenderness, delicacy, finesse.

A kiss was something special indeed. And a first kiss, well, that was an event the prospect of which scared the daylight out of any self-respecting preacher's kid.

I can remember standing in front of Shirley's house, one autumn evening — standing stock still for at least an hour while my arm moved

OL' CURMUDGEON

WITH RICHARD MOSES



with infinitesimal slowness around her waist. A kiss? Unthinkable at that point.

But it did happen soon, and it was everything Mr. Kern imagined: a soft blending of slightly pursed lips, so tender and tentative that it was indeed almost phantom.

Tongue? Are you kidding? First kiss? Tenth kiss? I don't think so!

Pretty advanced stuff. Way too exotic, not to say—gasp! — erotic at our age.

You try it and you're looking for a cuff on the cheekbone.

It was all graceful and patient and, well, nice.

But the whole business has changed, at least from what I

can pick up as an osculatory observer of films and television.

Nowadays, first of all, it's kissing right away. Now! As the faces get nearer and nearer things start to happen: mouths open (not, just slightly, WIDE!), tongues start waving and flapping, the faces come together and there begins a wild sort of grinding, a pushing and shoving, a mutual mastication, if you will. It's all over the place.

There's no blending, nothing phantom about this; it's a sloppy head-on collision, a great mashing of mandibles and mouths.

And I'll tell you some-

thing: it ain't very pretty to watch. It's no Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman. It's more like apes in a cage having at some primordial rite.

Well, that's just me.

But it used to be fun watching screen love develop and waiting for that tender culmination as the actors portrayed the wonder of the moment: that first gentle kiss.

Now, frankly, it is something I rather dread.

Looked at objectively it might even be thought of as "kissing ad nauseam." But I know it's going to happen, so I make sure I haven't eaten a lot beforehand, and I keep the Tums handy. After it's over, I grab a handy tissue to clean off the TV screen.

Editor's note: Island gad-about Richard Moses will be submitting an Ol' Curmudgeon column to the Driftwood on occasion.

Leadership hopeful at Greens' potluck

Green Party members are hosting a national leadership candidate at a potluck event on Tuesday.

Tom Manley is the Green Party of Canada's agriculture and food advocate, who is running for the leadership position at the party's annual convention August 29.

Manley will attend the potluck set for 106 Old Scott Road beginning at 7 p.m.

According to a press release, Manley has expressed a vision for agriculture that focusses on organic methods rather than agro-chemicals and GMOs, and revitalizing family farms and the food system so farmers get a fairer share of the consumer dollar.

For more information, call Anne Macey at 537-5511.

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Gulf Islands
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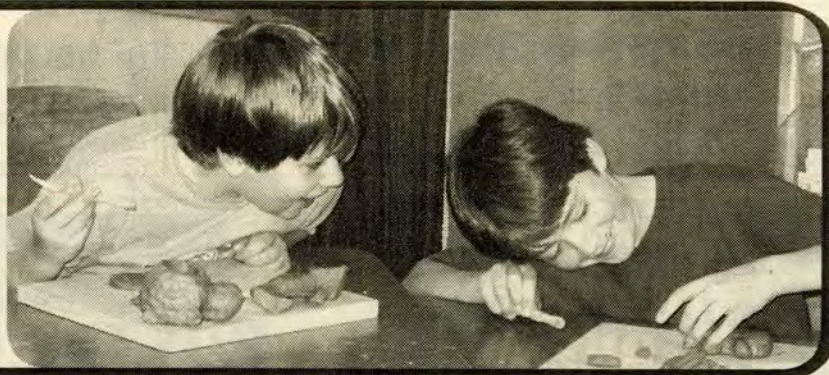
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- * **EMERGENCY FOOD BANK:** Open Tuesday 11-3.
- * **COUNSELLING SERVICES:** Crisis and short-term counselling provided by Community Workers.
- * **ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM:** Prevention & treatment service is free & confidential.
- * **FAMILY PLACE: PARENT & CHILD DROP IN** - Monday closed, Tuesday 9-11, Wednesday 1-4, Thursday 9-1 - walk in Mouat Park 10-11am followed by Family Place Drop In and snack, Friday 10:30-2:30, Rughuggers 11-1pm. Family Place Coordinator Rona Robbins, M. Ed. Counselling by appointment 537-9176.
- * **RECYCLE DEPOT:** Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am-5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.
- * **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- * **Emergency Mental Health Services available:** 4pm to midnight. Access is available through the Emergency Rm at Lady Minto Hospital call: 538-4840

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WEEKEND WHEELS: Horse rider Kim Mowatt on Salt Spring Prime Tyme enjoys a ride around Mouat Park with Elizabeth Wood — seen in the background.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Craniosacral, myofascial, yoga combined in Gabber treatments

By **LUCIA GABBER**
RMT

The idea to become a travelling masseuse germinated from the seeds of a creative visualization workshop.

My skills as a registered massage therapist, along with my curiosity about the island's people and places, dovetailed neatly as a mobile massage therapy service.

I was also aware of the potential for working on summer tourists because of my involvement with a local B&B.

What I offer is for both islanders and tourists alike — the convenience of having a professional therapist treat you in the comfort of your home or in-suite.

I use a portable table, linens and lotions, and a folding stool, pillow and heating pad.

All I require is a 8'x4' space to set up in.

Depending on the client's

HEALTH LINES

preference and the areas addressed, most sessions last 60 to 90 minutes and incorporate a variety of therapies.

Craniosacral therapy utilizes subtle palpation skills to gently access and align areas of trauma.

Because it optimizes the function of the central nervous system or the body's electrical unit, craniosacral therapy releases restrictions from impacts, particularly to the head.

Myofascial release is a gentle, hands-on form of stretching that treats the fascial system.

As a tough connective tissue that spreads in a three-dimensional network, fascia is similar to cellophane — it holds everything in place.

When traumatized, fas-

cia sticks together just like cellophane, causing abnormal pressure throughout the body.

This fascia needs to be freed up to allow the underlying structures, such as muscle, greater range of motion.

Similarly, pain may be felt in the upper shoulder but unwinding needs to be done in the low back.

Imagine a telephone cord with a spiral twist coiled together.

By holding the cord at one end, the phone is allowed to freely unwind at the other.

By working on the low back, the spiral twist releases itself and allows the shoulder muscle ease of movement.

As a certified Shioki yoga instructor, I can also provide a stretching routine in conjunction with the massage treatment.

Areas of habitual tension and muscle imbalance can be revealed by learning the proper set-up for one or two stretches.

Joint mobility and repetition are key to reversing postural problems.

Course builds cob house

A two-week workshop put on by Cobworks, a Mayne Island company, is teaching islanders how to build homes out of clay, straw and sand.

From August 1 to 14, workshop participants are helping to build a cob home and office for Becky and Paul Niedziela and their two-year-old son Sebastian at Baders Beach.

"About 20 people have signed up," said Becky Niedziela. "They will be camping here for two weeks. We feed them and they learn how to build a house."

Builders discover the art of making arches and doorways, putting in windows and creating benches as extensions of the thick walls.

"Every Friday afternoon, we're having an open house so people can come and take a look. People can pitch in if they want."

After the workshop is over, the family will continue to build until their new home is ready, which will probably be next summer.

"We're going to try to keep the work going. Any friends and local people can come and help out and have a potluck after. I know lots of people want to help out, but can't afford the workshop or can't take time off work," Niedziela said.

This project will create the largest cob house in the area, and the first completed home for a full family on Salt Spring, she said.

"It's a community-oriented building procedure. It's really nice to spend time together as a group," she said.

The open-house events will be held Fridays from about 3 to 6 p.m. at 110 Desirée Drive, off Benton Place. For more information, contact the Niedzielas at 537-8442 or visit Cobworks' website at www.cobworks.com.

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Gulf Islands
Driftwood

Logo Mania Contest 2004

- Thanks to everyone who entered our Logomania Contest!
- These randomly selected entrants correctly identified all 20 logos to the correct businesses and may claim their prize at the Driftwood Newspaper office at 328 Lower Ganges Road.

First Prize Winner: Kathy Hafting wins tickets for 2 to Vancouver or Richmond from Harbour Air Seaplanes.

Second Prize Winners: Roz Hobbs, Smith Murray & Maria Murril each win a \$100.00 gift certificate to Skin Sensations Spa

Third Prize Winners: Leslie David, Sam Keating & Jill Willmott each win a \$50 gift certificate to the Great Canadian Dollar Store.

Fourth Prize Winner: Shelley Day wins a \$50 gift certificate to Ganges Village Market

Fifth Prize Winner: Cheri Wilhelm wins a \$50 gift certificate to Harbour House Hotel, Porter's Restaurant.



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FALL FAIR FOCUS

Salt Spring's 2004 fall fair is only six weeks away, and it's time to think ahead.

For Section 6, Field Crops, farmers are encouraged to exhibit slices of hay and straw, and/or a sheaf of wheat, oats, barley or rye.

Many people are not familiar with different grains and their uses, and our fall fair is a great place to educate them.

Field Crops is also the home for exhibits of corn, potatoes, greenhouse produce, and the fun favourites — the longest zucchini, and the largest cabbage, watermelon, pumpkin or squash.

Those who are knowledgeable are encouraged to exhibit collections to display and identify medicinal plants, agricultural weeds, forage plants and poisonous plants from field and/or garden.

For further information, contact Larry or Roberta Sanders at 662-2275.

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Swim times topple

A handful of Salt Spring Stingrays swimmers competed in a limited number of events at a Victoria swim meet last weekend, winning personal bests and top-eight placements — but mostly taking it easy prior to the upcoming regional championships.

Hosted by the Sidney Piranhas swim club and held at Saanich Commonwealth Place, the meet is one of two annual competitions that tracks records in each event.

Two Salt Spring Stingrays set new meet records last weekend, with Div. 7 swimmer Nicola Temmel breaking records in the 200-metre individual medley and 100-m backstroke, and Div. 3 swimmer Sierra Lundy setting a new 50-m breaststroke record.

In addition, Temmel picked up three firsts, a second and a third, and nailed four personal best times (BTs) over the weekend. Also swimming four personal bests at the meet were Div. 3 athletes Emily Gix and Tilly Morgan.

In an effort to rest prior to next weekend's more intense competition, several swimmers swam for only one day of the event, and others refrained from competing in longer races.

Top-eight placements and BTs at the Sidney meet were as follows:

Div. 1: Larissa Andrews, 2 BTs; Liam Sinclair, 5th, 2 BTs.

Div. 2: Eryn Gix: 2nd, 1 BT; Rebekah Lee, 6th, 7th, 3 BTs; Abby Rothwell, 1BT.

Div. 3: Alex Crandall, 1 BT; Emily Gix, 4 BTs; Sierra Lundy, 1st, two 2nds, 3 BTs; Tilly Morgan, 8th, 4 BTs.

Div. 4: Olivia Morgan, 8th, 1 BT.

Div. 6: Miranda Logan-Webb, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 8th, 2 BTs; Noah McColl, 5th, two 6ths, 7th, 2 BTs.

Div. 7: Nicola Temmel, three 1sts, 2nd, 3rd, 4 BTs.



HAPPY CAMPERS: Salt Spring youths compete against each other as they play a game and work on basketball skills at Hoopla, a basketball camp held at Gulf Islands Secondary School last week.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Lots of hoopla at popular five-day basketball event

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

An enthusiastic group of Salt Spring's young athletes spent last week brushing up on basketball skills at Hoopla, the summer's anticipated annual basketball camp.

The week-long day camp, which ran in the Gulf Islands Secondary School gymnasium from July 26 to 30, is put on by Victoria's non-profit Braefoot Athletic Centre Association. The kids' four coaches have basketball experience at the University of Victoria (UVic), Camosun College and the University of Indiana.

"We've been coming over to Salt Spring for at least 10 years. We love coming here. It's the highlight of the coaches' summer," coach and recent UVic graduate Tom Hollingworth said Friday.

"We have a smaller group than usual this year for what-

ever reason. But these are great kids, so that makes my job easy."

Throughout the week, the nine- to 14-year-old basketball enthusiasts learned basic skills each morning. Then, in the afternoon, they played games based on the skills they'd learned earlier in the day.

"We build on technique as much as we can, but we really put the emphasis on fun," said Hollingworth.

Hollingworth, who is a Hoopla camp coach for the sixth year running, said he has seen some of the same kids return year after year.

"It's nice to see some of them, as they get older, play on the Vancouver Island and provincial teams," he added.

"The kids on Salt Spring have such a good attitude towards competition that the athletics on the island are just bursting with potential."

Nine-year-old Rae Ritson participated in the camp for the first time this year and said she liked everything about it.

"I'm coming here again next year. I've learned to shoot to score," she said.

Camp organizer Nairn Howe said the yearly camp is a great way for kids to develop game skills with talented and experienced coaches.

"This is the only on-island basketball camp. If it weren't for them, we'd have to travel into Victoria or elsewhere," she said.

"It's about having fun and having a chance to learn from some of the best coaches. Their enthusiasm is infectious."

Nairn encourages islanders to mark the camp on their calendar for the same time next year, and to watch school newsletters next spring for confirmation of dates.

Tennis offered at camp

Salt Spring's five-day Junior Tennis Camp will be in full swing starting Monday, and kids of all skill levels are welcome to join in the fun.

From August 9 to 13, eight- to 14-year olds are invited to take part in tennis activities at Portlock Park from 3 to 4 p.m.

Sponsored by Salt Spring Tennis Association and Parks and Recreation Commission, the camp costs \$5 per day.

"The main purpose is to encourage young players to come out and improve their skills or learn to play," said camp organizer Peter Lamb.

Lamb said camp leaders can gear the activities to accommodate any skill level. They will work with beginners to teach them the basics of the game. For players with more experience, they will organize different games. For more information about the camp and to sign up, contact Lamb at 537-4859.

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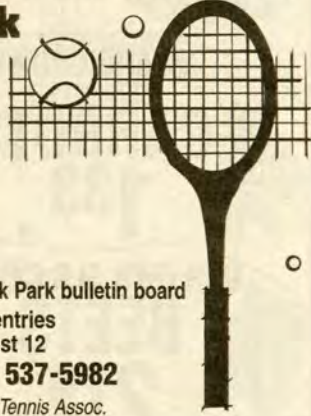
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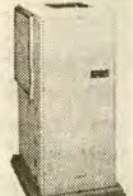
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Fly-in competitors soar over island

By JENNIFER MCFEE
Staff Writer

Eighteen athletes soared over the island last weekend in the 27th annual Salt Spring Fly-In hang-gliding event.

"It's a two-day event and a fun competition. The best flight of two days wins the fly-in," said local competitor Rob Cannon.

"It's a duration cross-country contest. You get a point for each minute duration in the air. Cross-country hang-gliding is really popular these days. The average length of a course is 100 kilometres."

In this year's event, the competing pilots launched at Mount Bruce and landed in Burgoyne Valley. An optional treasure hunt aspect added a twist to the race, in which pylons were placed near Cusheon Lake and Stowel Lake. At each pylon site, a large letter was made out of tape in the field. Pilots could

earn an extra 60 points per site for gliding over and correctly identifying the letter.

"It's hard to do," said Cannon, who has been involved in the sport for 22 years. "It's very difficult. Not many people actually pull it off."

The weekend's high-pressure systems hindered the pilots from flying long distances, so none completed the optional portion of the race.

Cannon said the weekend's highlight was a close race between two long-time friends who first took hang-gliding lessons together 30 years ago.

"They were soaring over Mount Maxwell for three hours together. It was tenacity. Finally one of them won out."

Les Sainsbury of Victoria, who has organized the event every year but never won, took first place this weekend with a score of 185 points.

His 30-year flying friend John McClintock of Vernon placed second, and Cannon came in third.

"I won it last year, which was the first time someone from Salt Spring won. The first day, it looked like I would win again. The second day, I bombed out. I did not have a good flight."

Cannon emphasized that the sport isn't as dangerous as many people

SIMPLY SOARING: Hang-gliders and even parachutists were out in force in the 27th annual Salt Spring Fly-In hang-gliding event, which took place here last weekend.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

believe it to be.

"We feel safe when we fly. We've all been doing it for years. We're proof that it's

not that dangerous because none of us has any major injuries. It has to be done with respect."

Summer Games medalist describes training schedule

Editor's note: Fifteen-year-old Salt Spring triathlete Lowell Rockcliffe provided the Driftwood with a typical training day schedule leading to his medal-winning 2004 B.C. Summer Games performance.

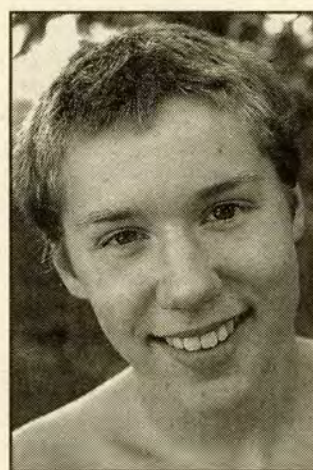
By LOWELL ROCKCLIFFE
Special to the Driftwood

Get up at 8 a.m. Ten hours of sleep is very important. Stretch for a good 15 relaxing minutes while casually drinking about 500 millilitres of water.

Go eat breakfast, which may consist of an organic banana, colourful organic vegetables, a couple of eggs, anti-oxidant vitamins C and E and a protein shake with flaxseed oil.

At 9 a.m., I'll go to the fitness centre and do an important core stretch workout for an hour.

Immediately following this, I hydrate and replenish glycogen stores with a power bar and eat something with



Lowell Rockcliffe

protein. (Smoked salmon is my favourite.)

The objective is to recover as quickly and fully from workouts as possible before the next one, so I'll go home and have a nice hot bath with Epsom salts while stretching.

At noon, I'll get on my triathlon bike and go for a sunny training ride for about 30 kilometres or one and a

half hours around beautiful Salt Spring.

While I ride, I'll be drinking water.

After the bike ride, I'll have a meal, play some music, read a good book (right now I'm reading The Art of Happiness), and then I'll go for an alleviating luxurious sports massage by Nelly Kosteljik.

After this, I'll take the 4 p.m. Fulford ferry and bus to the Commonwealth pool in Saanich where I do a hard-core two-hour swim practice or work with my triathlon team, depending on which day it is.

And at 7:30 p.m., I get to chill out in the hot tub or sauna with all my friends. We joke around a lot . . . a lot.

We'll sit and laugh or listen to our coach talk to us about our training plans leading up to the B.C. Summer Games, until I have to go shower and take the 9 p.m. ferry home, where I have no trouble falling deep into sleep.

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Coast guard offers courtesy boat inspections

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Hot summer weather is drawing many boaters out on the water, which should prompt islanders to check up on marine-safety plans and equipment.

"It's everybody's responsibility to be safe out there," said Ganges Coast Guard officer Sid Jones.

Now that regular coast guard crews have resumed courtesy inspections, it's that much easier to check out safety gear, Jones said.

"The direction we are going now is back to courtesy inspections. For search and rescue, it's very appropriate for us... It changes us from the attitude of enforcement."

Previously, auxiliary coast guard provided courtesy inspections after the Canadian Coast Guard moved offices from Transport Canada to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in 1996, Jones said.

"The auxiliary is still certified to do it," he noted.

Regular coast guard crews were directed to resume courtesy inspections after the Office of Small Boat Safety was relocated to Transport Canada in April.

But the Ganges station hasn't received any calls for inspections yet.

"When we come down to your boat, we will check everything from paperwork to batteries."

A courtesy inspection becomes an excellent opportunity for boaters to learn ways to improve safety plans on their boats.

"What you find is you start up a dialogue and share information back and forth," said Jones.

Coast guard crews can give many safety tips that go beyond required guidelines.

"It may not be written down as compulsory but it's



still something worthwhile doing."

Crews recognize that different boaters have different needs, depending on their activities.

"If you're paddling back and forth to Chocolate Island, you have different requirements than going to Vancouver."

Following a courtesy inspection, vessels receive a decal showing compliance with equipment requirements that can smooth relations with other enforcement agencies.

"It tells fisheries officers, customs officers or police officers they had all the equipment on board."

In addition to inspections, there are many things boaters can do to improve safety on the water, he said.

"Common sense has got to be the most significant thing. People get caught up in technicalities about who has the right-of-way."

But boaters should take a precautionary principle rather than get diverted by issues of entitlement, he said.

Jones recommends that boaters teach passengers, including children, how to operate a vessel and/or radio in case of emergencies.

"Everybody should train for 'What do I do in a man-overboard situation?' If you plan for something like that, it's less likely to happen."

Weather forecasts are critical on the water and boaters should exercise discretion when electing to travel, he said.

"It's better not to get to work than run into problems."

Jones would also like to see boaters inform on-shore contacts about complete boating plans, including all pertinent information, and to update their contacts about changes in plans. He can recall many fruitless searches for overdue vessels, which

used multiple emergency services.

"It's a terrific waste of money if someone changes plans and doesn't tell anyone."

VHF radios and navigation charts should be standard safety items aboard any boat, he said.

"A lot of people find their cell-phone battery dead when they have an emergency. There is no replacement for a VHF radio. Most people, if they can afford a boat, they can afford a VHF radio."

The coast guard's Safe Boating Guide is another excellent source of information, he said.

"Any mariner can pick that up and learn something from it. It's a really good little publication."

To arrange a courtesy inspection or acquire a Safe Boating Guide, call 537-5813 or drop by the Ganges Coast Guard dock.



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BUOYED BOYS: Ganges Coast Guard officers Roland Temmel (left) and Marco Khalil spend busy summer months educating boaters on water safety. Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

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11:40 am	8:40 pm	12:10 noon	9:10 pm
n 12:40 pm	9:40 pm	1:10 pm	10:05 pm
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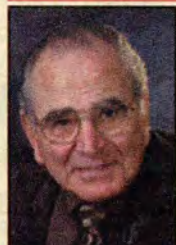
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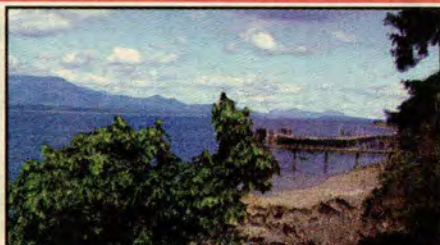
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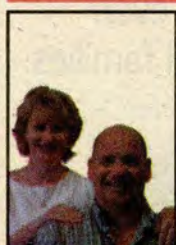
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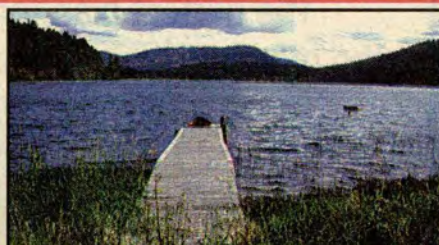
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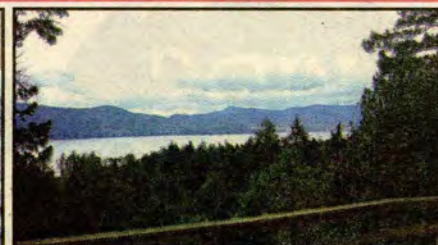
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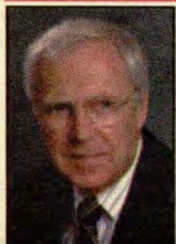
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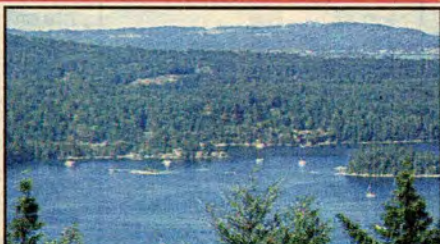
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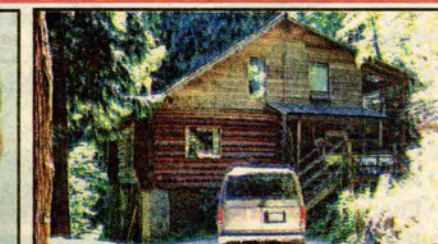
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