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THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Thrifty Foods
- Ganges Village Market
- Ganges
- Field's Stores
- Pharmasave
- Star Choice
- Mout's Home Hardware

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Arlene 537-4090

Farmers in the meadow

Salt Spring's farmers' market is set to reopen with a range of home-grown produce for sale. **Page B6**

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Weather

Sun and a few cloudy periods are in the forecast right through the weekend. Let's hope summer is finally here. Highs to 24 C today (Wednesday) and tomorrow. Overnight lows to 12 C tonight.

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PARC seeks power to evict campers

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

In response to pressure from the "Take Back the Park Delegation," Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) members are now seeking to strengthen a bylaw that would force the eviction of campers along the foreshore of Fulford Harbour.

The decision came during a Monday night PARC board meeting in which two-dozen members from a delegation comprised of south end residents and business owners reiterated their demand for commissioners to move towards acquiring land between Drummond Park and the Fulford bridge.

Speaking for the delegation at Monday's meeting, Ken Lee said health, safety and vandalism issues associated with a number of long-term campers along the foreshore near Drummond Park have grown to become a daily concern during the summer months.

The shoreline near Drummond Park is currently classified as Crown Land and camping on the land is permitted for a maximum of 14 consecutive nights.

"We are all here tonight to urge this commission to hold the course that was set last October," Lee said.

CAMPERS A3



WINDOW WASHERS: Clockwise from top left, Kirby Garside, Martin Lannan, Jeremy Byron and Shawn Lee participate in a car wash at Ganges Village Market. Members of the high school senior boys basketball team were out in force last weekend, raising funds for a team camp at Gonzaga University near Spokane.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Aging ferry service stretched to capacity

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

After a slew of ferry breakdowns has left travelers rearranging schedules and searching for alternatives, local ferry advisory committee chair Robert Jones said recent troubles indicate time is finally taking its toll on the ships.

"The fleet is an aged fleet," he said in an interview following news the Queen of Saanich was being temporarily taken out of service Monday morning. "Overall it performs remarkably well considering the limitations that are inherent in handling such a mixed bag of models, design and engines."

A renewed round of recent mishaps follow a June which ferry travellers using the Fulford-Swartz Bay route would rather forget, as routine maintenance of the Skeena Queen caused a daily ritual of congested terminals and delayed sailings.

The substitute vessel's unique configuration added an extra five to 10 minutes to the 35-minute run, wreaking havoc with the timetable and nerves of disgruntled travelers.

At the other side of Salt Spring, heavy traffic on the Howe Sound Queen left ferry-users traveling between Vesuvius and Crofton at

the mercy of unpredictable departure times as well.

Another problem on a Gulf Islands route surfaced July 5 when an electrical problem on the Queen of Nanaimo forced cancellation of the 10:15 a.m. sailing from Tsawwassen to Long Harbour, leaving passengers struggling to transfer via Swartz Bay.

Then on Sunday, July 10, the Queen of Cumberland lost power in three of its four engines just before docking at Sturdies Bay on Galiano Island at 10 p.m. while en route from Tsawwassen.

On Monday morning, the Queen of Saanich was pulled from service on the Swartz

Bay -Tsawwassen route due to problems with the ship's exhaust system.

No injuries were reported but delays added uncertainty to travel plans.

The new round of incidents came in the wake of a mechanical failure aboard the Queen of Oak Bay on June 30 that caused the ship to miss its berth and collide into a marina located in Horseshoe Bay.

Although Jones admitted the fleet is getting on in years, he stopped short of providing specific reasons leading to the troubles.

"Unless one is a surveyor
FERRY WOES A3

Island businesses scurry to fill Moby's void

BY MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Staff

The pub is dead — long live the pub.

With the passing of two local gathering spots this week, islanders have stepped up to provide Ganges with new venues for live-music and a "community living room."

Moby's Marine Pub closed

quietly on Monday afternoon while Anise Restaurant and Inn also slipped away on Thursday without much fanfare.

Restaurateur Barry Kazakoff is considering the golden-bubble opportunity of the recent closures and plans to expand his pub, Shipstones Taproom and Lounge.

"The opportunity lies in

giving the locals something they want," Kazakoff said.

"Moby's did a fabulous job for 15 years. It's a good lead to follow."

He plans to add 500-600 square feet, which will more than double the existing pub from 30 seats to 70 seats.

"Basically the entire bottom floor of the Oystercatcher will be a waterfront pub."

Kazakoff is just waiting to gain access to the west corner space of the Harbour Building from the current tenant whose lease expires on October 1.

"We'll set up for entertainment and we'll put a fireplace in there and be more of a traditional woody pub on the waterfront."

Kazakoff is not concerned

about missing potential tourism business during the summer.

"To be honest, the Oystercatcher and all the decks handle the tourists. Really, the community is missing a watering spot for the locals for the winter."

He wants to complete the

FILLING THE VOID A2

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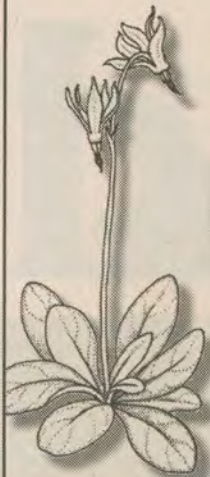
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Protest fears force early pub closure

A planned farewell bash for Moby's Marine Pub ended with a whimper instead of a bang when owners chose to close the pub early on Monday.

"We decided to take the safe road and close," said Moby's partner Jamie Macdonell. "It was very upsetting for everybody but it wasn't a decision we made lightly."

Owners opted to shut down the pub at 4 p.m. instead of a planned midnight closure after they received a warning from the liquor inspector, and learned about a planned parking-lot protest, Macdonell said.

"We would be under very tight scrutiny by the Liquor Control Board."

The liquor inspector indicated he would monitor the situation personally, Macdonell added.

An event dubbed the

"Outside Inn" would have also attracted a large cross section of islanders, and factored into the decision to close early, Macdonell said.

"Outside Inn" spokesperson Tom Flemons expressed remorse that an event planned to protest the pub closure led to cancellation of the final night.

"We had no intent for this to happen," Flemons said.

He issued a public statement on behalf of organizers: "We are sorry if our attempt to hold a peaceful gathering of Salt Spring citizens to mourn the passing of a great tradition and to express our dismay at corporate disregard for our community, has caused the staff or patron's of Moby's to suffer in consequence."

Organizers planned to relocate their potluck picnic once they heard concerns from Moby's management

but the pub opted to close anyway, he said.

"It attracts people maybe you don't want to have there," Macdonell said. "Once you have that many people, and they are drinking or whatever, you don't want it to get out of control."

Moby's also had a degree of responsibility to other tenants at the site, he noted. "There would be so many people coming down here."

Macdonell expressed regret for patrons who were unable to say goodbye to the pub as planned after its 15-year reign.

"There were many loyal long-term customers who wanted to come down. There was a couple having their 30th wedding anniversary."

But Moby's had previous difficulties with a rowdy mob on Saturday night, Macdonell said.

"An incredible number

of people showed up all at once."

People threw glasses at walls and chairs over the deck on Saturday night, he said.

And Moby's was unable to hire extra security for the Monday evening farewell.

"When you look at the pros and cons, there wasn't much choice," Macdonell said. "I think there was a 90 per cent chance something would have happened — and we didn't want to go out that way."

Instead, Moby's closed quietly and owners greeted familiar patrons on the steps outside, he said.

"I had more people say, 'Thanks a lot for the good times,' than not."

New owners Jerry Parks and Bonny O'Connor take control of the building 10 a.m. Thursday with plans to upgrade the marina and no plans for a marine-style pub.

FOR THE RECORD

• In a July 6 story on the Norton Road affordable housing project, developer Tom O'Connor was mis-

takenly quoted as commenting on the effects of a proposed power line upgrade. Actually, he only stated that the BCTC right-of-way did not pass over the Norton Road development. The Driftwood apologizes for any misunderstanding.

• A letter to the editor written by Moby's Pub staff, inadvertently

excluded Barry Edwards from the list of signees. Again, the Driftwood apologizes for any difficulties this caused.

• Gulf Islands School Board chair May McKenzie was recognized by the B.C. School Trustees' Association for long service over the past 12 years, not nine, as was reported last week.

FILLING THE VOID

From Page A1

renovation of the two-year-old traditional English-style pub to suite islander's needs.

"My goal is to be able to provide as much of the very successful things that Moby's did, which is a lot. Hopefully, we'll put a little twist on it, and find what people want."

And he wants to hear what islanders are looking for in a pub.

"Maybe there should be a couch or two for the true 'living room' feeling."

His current plans include low-priced traditional pub fare, live entertainment, a wood-burning fireplace and a heated exterior space.

"Make it woody and woolly but with the modern touches of lots of draft and nachos and wing nights and pizza nights."

Only island clientele can decide if the enterprise will succeed.

"I'm going to step out and try it. Hopefully people will

be attracted to it."

A new restaurant and inn won't re-open at the Anise site until sometime next year, said building manager Leon Aptekmann.

"It's a lot of work that has to go in there to get it up to scratch."

Over the last 50 years, the building housed the Log Cabin, the Ship's Anchor, Rita's Inn and the Tide's Inn before Anise, he said.

"It's all going to stay the same. We're just going to do a quality renovation job. The location is wonderful and it has potential."

Meanwhile, owners of the Vesuvius Inn, which closed in September, are still finalizing a deal with prospective purchasers.

"We've been in negotiations for a year," said islander Greg Simmonds.

"Basically, we'll know in the next week or so," Simmonds said.

Purchasers have been pay-

ing to keep the option open and negotiations have been proceeding, he said.

"If not, we'll do something with it ourselves or put it up for sale."

Simmonds believes remaining island businesses have a great opportunity to serve island clientele and visitors.

"You take Anise, us and Moby's [out of the market] and that's an incredible amount of summer cash chasing very few spots."

Gulf Islands Brewery will be looking for new taps to fill now that Moby's, Anise and the Vesuvius Inn are closed.

"All of a sudden there are not a lot of local options," said brewery president Murray Hunter.

"Moby's represented a significant part of local business," Hunter added. "They were one of the best pubs we ever dealt with."

But a Wednesday Night

Live open stage event has already relocated after a distinguished tenure at Moby's.

"These open stages have been going on Salt Spring well before I got here, which is 26 years ago," said local performer Terry Warbey.

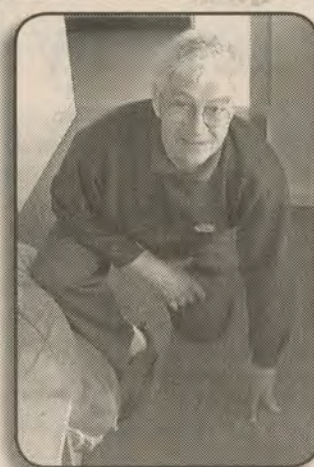
He will host the new open-stage event with Gene Grooms every second Wednesday at the Glass Onion Restaurant starting on July 20 (from 8-11 p.m.).

"As one thing closes, it starts up somewhere else," Warbey said.

Local entertainers can sign up on Mondays before open-stage performances, starting July 18, he said.

But he might need to relocate once again since the Glass Onion and Barb's Buns went on to the real estate market last week.

"Maybe we'll have to find somewhere else. Who knows? Maybe Anise will be reopened by then," Warbey said.



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BREAKING GROUND: Various dignitaries — including Greenwoods Foundation chair Jon Constable (third from left) — were on hand at Greenwoods Monday afternoon to participate in the official ground-breaking ceremony for a new assisted living seniors project. The new facility will connect to the existing Greenwoods building.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

CAMPERS

From Page A1

"The presence of campers on the beach, which was ended last year by a vigilante action, has gone on long enough and needs legal action by all the agencies concerned."

Last October, PARC members initiated a move to acquire land along the foreshore between Drummond Park and Fulford Bridge from the provincial government in order to build a nature trail.

The request followed last summer's Freedom Camp settlement at Fulford Harbour, a protest whose participants hoped would raise attention to the plight of the homeless.

Lee said delegation members feared PARC's concerns about excessive costs and staff time would lead commissioners to reconsider their position regarding the plan.

If PARC manages to acquire the Crown Land, the area would fall under its jurisdiction and be subject to its bylaws.

The move would place restrictions on camping in the area.

Reinforcing the PARC bylaws before the lands are acquired provide the commission with necessary tools to enforce its rules.

The trail has become a slippery slope since some commission members say

the motives behind the plan have little to do with the need for a trail and more to do with getting rid of the campers.

"This isn't about building a trail for the need of a trail," said commissioner Rob Wiltzen. "You are here to get the campers away and the use of staff time on that basis is not justified."

Wiltzen questioned whether the move fell within PARC's mandate and added he suspected the plan would achieve very little considering the expense involved.

"For all the amount of resources required, the only result would be to push this camp to another place," he said.

According to Gary Holman, controlling the foreshore fits with PARC's mandate as it would help protect public access to the water.

"The only reason the commission would reconsider is due to legal costs imposed by people camped in the area," he said.

Though commissioners could not specify the total cost involved, Holman said PARC should not let money stand in the way of meeting its mandate.

"Just because there is a delay in the process doesn't mean we should stop moving forward," he said.

Holman added the community was not shirking its

responsibilities to the homeless population as efforts, slow as they may be, were also being undertaken to develop housing projects for those in need.

Commissioner Peter Lake pointed out attempts to arrive at a solution required closer examination of the issue's root causes and remained skeptical gaining control of the foreshore and strengthening PARC bylaws did not guarantee the campers would simply disappear or move on.

"It is quite something to have power and another to have activity," said Peter Lake. "The idea that there will be a quick fix is not going to happen."

Lake added addressing the problem of homelessness required far more attention than the proposed changes could hope to provide.

"I understand it is difficult for residents of the south end who have to deal with this but this is a social problem that needs to be dealt with on a much higher level than PARC or the CRD," he said. "Poverty and homelessness are everywhere on the island, in the province and all over the country."

A meeting between representatives from the camp and the RCMP was scheduled for July 12 in order to promote a dialogue between campers and property owners.

Soccer boys aid national gold win

Salt Spring's Cardin Davis and Keegan Pearson, both came home with gold medals from a national soccer tournament held in St. Albert, Alberta last weekend.

Within U15 play at the Rocky Mountain Cup soccer tournament, Davis's B.C. squad beat Alberta (1-0), Manitoba (6-1) and tied Saskatchewan (1-1) to head into a gold-medal final against Ontario.

"It was a much anticipated tough match between these two teams," said Davis's mother Kathy.

Davis scored the first B.C. goal to tie the game and he then created the play that caused the penalty shot that won the game for B.C., she said.

"Their provincial team has been undefeated this year in all their tournaments."

The U15 B.C. team also won the tournament's fair play award.

Pearson's U13 team had similar success in St. Albert.

B.C. beat the St. Albert All Stars (4-0), Manitoba 2 (9-0), Alberta North (3-1) and finished 5-1 against Manitoba 1 in the gold-medal final.

"Keegan's team has also been undefeated for the season," said Kathy Davis.

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FERRY WOES

From Page A1

doing a complete inventory, it is impossible to suggest what the cause of the recent incidents would be," he said.

B.C. Ferries spokesperson Deborah Marshall said the problems resulted from an unfortunate string of coincidences, and users need not be concerned about large-scale maintenance related problems among the fleet's 35 vessels.

Marshall said the average age of the ships is 32 years and, though on the older side, crews of qualified mechanics are busily working to ensure the safety of passengers and crew.

Workers have borrowed parts from other ships in the fleet, hoping to sustain the fleet at full strength through the summer.

Though sharing parts may reduce the maximum

speeds of vessels in the fleet, the measure is necessary to ensure boats remain afloat during the peak summer season.

"In the summer, all our ships are in use so the break downs are really felt," she said. "Passengers may expect to have decreased service speed but can be assured service will be safe."

Neither Jones nor Marshall said a move to privatize the maintenance of B.C. Ferries was to blame for the incidents.

"The principle problem is a lack of efficiency," Jones

said. "This is old technology in an aging fleet."

He added short-term fixes like extending the viability of ships through retrofits and upgrades will continue to happen until concrete plans to address the needs of a modern ferry fleet are met.

B.C. Ferries recently ordered three new ships from a German shipbuilding firm and the first ship is scheduled to arrive in 2007.

Under the B.C. Ferries New Build program, 22 new ferries are expected to enter service within the next 15 years.

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Salt Spring fish farm falls fallow

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Salmon fins aren't flapping at Salt Spring Aquafarms but the water and land-based farm still offers a kettle full of business at Cusheon Cove.

"We're still very much in operation," said Salt Spring Aquafarms owner Chris Hatfield.

Up until a few weeks ago, four 13-square-metre pens housed approximately 10,000 Atlantic salmon used as brood stock for fish farms operated by Marine Harvest Canada (MHC), Hatfield said.

Now the fish are out of water, the pens are empty and the containment nets are gone after MHC closed the site.

"They are just going to leave the site fallow for a while until they decide what they are going to do with it," Hatfield said.

The Salt Spring based fish farm could go back into full production, it could be used for brood stock again or it could be moved up the coast, he said.

"They have the right to manage it or move it or whatever they like."

Though he's operated a fish

farm business on the property for the past 20 years, the salmon farm lease has been subcontracted to Marine Harvest Canada (MHC) for the past five years, he said.

But Hatfield still has other fish to fry. He's been selling seafood from his boat, the Armada, for the past two years and retailing from his farm stand since last summer.

"We sell clams, mussels and oysters which we raise at the farm."

He also collects seafood from other local producers, including crab from Gary LeMarchant and prawns from the Pender bluffs in the spring.

His boat visits Pender, Galiano and Mayne Islands to sell seafood between Saturdays and Mondays.

And he still supplies farmed Chinook salmon from MHC.

Salt Spring Aquafarms also offers farm tours that include the marine and land-based operations (sheep fields, apple orchards and an aquatic touch tank).

In addition, Hatfield has collected artifacts from the property dating back to the days when Bill Bullman's sawmill employed 150 peo-

ple on the site in the early 1900s.

"In my off hours, I have a little hobby of digging these things up and I have a museum of the things I've found."

One reason MHC might have shut down production at Salt Spring Aquafarms is because it is so isolated from the rest of operations based out of Campbell River, Hatfield said.

"They are sort of torn between this decision that it's an excellent site but it doesn't have other sites around it."

His last production crop had a 95 per cent survival rate and Hatfield affirms there's been neither fishy business nor foul play at the site.

"There's been no plankton problems here, no lice problems and no disease problems."

MHC environment and community relations manager Linda Sams agrees with Hatfield about the excellent quality of the site.

"It has very good oxygen turnover and that aids the bacteria in breaking down any organic substances such as fish feces [which works] like composting."

She couldn't say how long the fish farm would remain fallow but it would likely be three to 12 months.

"We definitely build fallow or resting periods into production at all of our sites."

Fallow periods usually fall between production cycles of 20-27 months, she said.

Because the Salt Spring site remediates itself so quickly, a short fallow period of three months would be sufficient but the closure could last longer due to administrative reasons, she said.

"We're still deciding where it might fit in the production schedule."

In the interim, the pens could be moved to Campbell River, she said.

MHC (the world's largest fish farm business under the parent company Nutreco) recently merged with B.C. based Stolt Sea Farms, she noted.

As a brood site, female fish were raised at Salt Spring Aquafarms for egg production, she added.

Previously, the island-based fish farm had been used for innovative projects with closed-containment fish pens and alternative fuel trials using canola and lamb in 2003.

Water council focusses on protection plans

By MURRAY REISS

Special to the Driftwood
It's been a year since the Salt Spring Island Water Council last reported on its activities in these pages, so the time seems right for an update.

The Water Council, as some readers may recall, is a joint Capital Regional District (CRD)-Islands Trust initiative. The council brings to the same table everyone with an interest in protecting, conserving and better managing surface and ground water on Salt Spring.

It encourages government agencies, island water districts, local stewardship groups, academic researchers, businesses and individuals to work as partners. By identifying problems, sharing information, coordinating research, and supporting projects, everyone becomes more effective at protecting and conserving our water resources.

Watershed protection is one of the Water Council's

main priorities. Over the past year this has taken several forms. The council supported the Cusheon Watershed Management Plan by co-funding (with the Islands Trust) research to measure inputs of phosphorus from the lands and upstream lakes of the Cusheon watershed. It's also helping to facilitate a watershed management plan for St. Mary Lake.

Even though the Water Council is an offspring of the CRD and the Islands Trust, at times watershed protection calls for lobbying the Trust. After identifying the lack of any regulations to prevent the infilling of lakes, streams and wetlands, the council has urged the Local Trust Committee (LTC) to expedite addressing the issue of shoreline modification, as part of its official community plan (OCP) review. The council has also recommended that the Trust allow no upzoning in drinking watershed zones, as specified in the OCP.

When concerns were raised about the accuracy of the Aqion report on water supply and demand in the North Salt Spring Watersheds District, the council

called for an independent technical review of the report, to be followed by a public meeting. Most recently, the Water Council has spoken out against proposed changes to a section of the Trust policy statement that protects freshwater resources. The council is also developing a comprehensive list of recommendations regarding water issues for the upcoming OCP review.

When our lakes are stressed, at least the problem is usually visible. This isn't the case with groundwater depletion. That's why the council has worked with the LTC to have Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) undertake a groundwater research project on Salt Spring.

They will map aquifer vulnerability and provide a model for sustainable water yield that can be used as a planning tool. NRCan researchers will be presenting the model at a workshop this summer, where they will also be soliciting information about local water use.

One of the off-island agencies with the most power over water issues on Salt Spring is the Ministry of Transporta-

tion. (MOT). Water Council members have begun discussions with MOT officials and the CRD stormwater program to develop a plan for retention ditches.

Salt Spring receives about a metre of rainfall a year. Much of this water, however, immediately runs off the land.

A system of roadside and drainage ditches, designed to remove excess water as quickly as possible, channels it into seasonal stream beds. They feed into year-round streams that carry the rainwater directly into the ocean. Changing the ditches to retain more water would slow down this rapid runoff long enough for more water to percolate downward through the soil and rock to recharge our underground reservoirs.

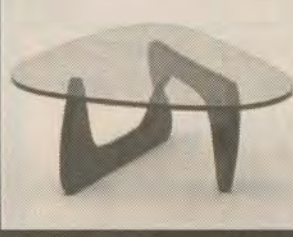
This past year has seen several of the island's smaller water districts become CRD entities to take advantage of more affordable water system upgrades and technical expertise. Beddis and Fulford Water Districts will be installing new treatment systems sometime this summer, funded two-thirds by the BC-Canada Infrastructure Program.

The Water Council is also in the process of helping to fund a pilot project for the Mt. Belcher Improvement District to set up the island's first long-term groundwater monitoring program.

The council meets the last Friday of every second month, and its meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is Friday, July 29 at Lions Hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will include updates on the St. Mary Lake Watershed Management Plan and the Mount Belcher Groundwater Monitoring Pilot Study.

For more information, contact me at mreiss@saltspring.

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Neighbours concerned about project

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Developers of an old mill property on Beddis Road need to repeat the public notification process after neighbours complained about improper signage to the Islands Trust and shared fears about threats to their water supply.

"It appears they are going to have to re-notify, particularly with the posting of a sign. They will have to do that again," said Islands Trust regional planning manager John Gauld.

Beddis Development Ltd. made an application to exclude a 5.02 hectare (12.4 acre) property from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in an area between Beddis and Fulford-Ganges roads.

"When they've satisfied the conditions of an application it will go to the Local

Trust Committee," Gauld said.

Bylaw inspection officer George Leukefeld also informed Beddis Development Ltd. that work near Mowhinna Creek could not proceed without a permit.

"The south and east portions of the property are located in DP6 — a development permit area — which is located in a high slope instability and soil-erosion hazard potential," Gauld said.

Beddis Development Ltd. spokesperson and Slegg Lumber manager Mark Rithaler said they were just cleaning up the old mill site for future considerations.

"It basically got scrubbed over so we scrubbed it out and filled in all the giant potholes. That's about it. You can't start anything until you know what you have."

Six acres of the property has industrial zoning from

a previous lumber mill, cement plant and gravel pit that goes back into the 1950s, he noted.

"We've been working on it since Christmas and we've had absolutely no comment except for 100 per cent positive. I probably get three enquiries per week for people asking for commercial space because there's a huge need for it."

Several Beddis development neighbours, including Ian Kyle noted that the previous ALR application posting couldn't be seen from the road.

"When you were standing on the side of the road, you couldn't read it unless you actually leapt the ditch. There's a bit of a deer trail going in there now from people trying to read it."

Area resident Amarah Gabriel is concerned that her water could be affected,

since her surface well (like many other wells in the neighbourhood) is located directly below the development site.

"We don't want our water contaminated by treated lumber or whatever. The whole stream could be silted."

Walker Bay Preservation Society member Don Sharp would like to see the matter resolved in a neighbourly fashion but he's also concerned about his water supply.

"Our only source of water is from a spring below the [development] property," Sharp said.

He hopes to see the developers follow a process that includes concern for environmental issues and the neighborhood water supply.

"The last thing we want to do is be overly involved but there has to be some concern for water issues and creek stability," Sharp said.

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Fire destroys Oak Spring barn

• Members of the Salt Spring Fire Department were called to the scene of a barn fire on Oak Spring Road at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6.

Salt Spring Fire Department's Captain Dale Lundy said the 200-square-foot structure was completely destroyed by the blaze.

He said the fire spread while the owner was installing a "torch on" roof requiring the use of an open flame for installation.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

• Two young children were taken to hospital with minor injuries after the vehicle they were traveling in collided head on with another vehicle traveling along Drake Road just after 11 a.m. on Friday, July 8.

911
FILE

Both vehicles were towed from the scene and no major injuries were reported. The driver of the vehicle was given a ticket for failing to remain on her side of the road.

• Officers from the RCMP and Salt Spring Volunteer Fire Department were called to rescue a driver after her vehicle went out of control near the 600 block of Isabella Point Road.

The vehicle drove down an embankment and into a boat house at 2 p.m. on Sunday July 10. The incident occurred after the vehicle's brakes failed

to work while the vehicle was coming down the road. The driver managed to use the vehicle's parking brake to try and control the vehicle before it came to a stop and escaped with no injuries.

The fire department's Lundy said it was incredible the woman came out of the incident unharmed.

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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. 89 – cited as "Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2002, Amendment No. 1, 2005", 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 pm, July 21st, 2005 at the Saturna Island 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. 89 – cited as "Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 78, 2002, Amendment No. 1, 2005"

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 89 is to amend the Sign Regulations by adding Community Services to the zones permitted to have two signs per use.

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 July 6, 2005.

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 July 6, 2005 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., Wednesday, July 20, 2005; and
2. after 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 20, 2005, to the Trust committee at the Public Hearing at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2005.

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.

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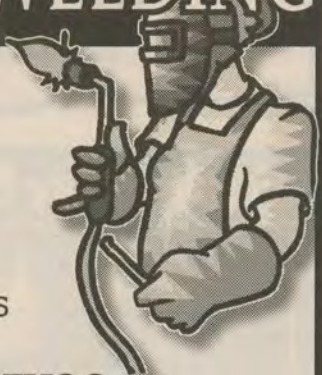
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Warsaw school joins Gulf Islands

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

People don't generally ponder over Poland when they think about the Gulf Islands, but the time has come to re-examine that thought.

Now that students at Maple Leaf School in Warsaw are wrapping up their inaugural year under the banner of the Gulf Islands School District (SD #64) Business Company, a small piece of the central European city could perhaps be considered a satellite island.

"It started as a little idea and it's grown into a little idea that's successful," said Terry Corcoran, SD# 64 director of instruction.

The SD #64 business company partnered with a Polish school last spring and opened Maple Leaf School for preschool, kindergarten and Grade 1 students in September, Corcoran said.

"It focuses on a Canadian theme as much as possible."

Students at Maple Leaf School get to experience a more flexible kind of education, compared to traditional methods used in Poland, and they are learning English rapidly, he said.

"Kids at that age pick

up language so quickly it's amazing."

But Polish students still find B.C. teaching methods a little unorthodox. Corcoran visited the school during spring break and students reacted with surprise when he sat on the floor to read them a story.

"The Polish way is for kids to sit behind desks in rows," he said.

The school is currently staffed by an English teacher who speaks a bit of Polish, a Polish teacher who speaks English, a Canadian teacher's aide and a cook-custodian, he said.

"It's typical in Poland that kids have lunch and snacks provided at school."

But Corcoran declined comment on current operating costs for the school since it is run by a private company.

"It's a highly competitive business," he said.

With an initial investment of \$18,000, Maple Leaf School, located in the converted manor house of an upscale Warsaw neighbourhood, peaked enrolment at 15 students this year.

"We didn't get in to advertise early enough to be com-

petitive with other schools, but it's grown."

Even though the class is a little smaller at the end of the year because some families moved away, the school is still breaking even in the first year of operation, Corcoran said.

"Our goal is to expand this school each year to provide dollars for our programs here," he said.

Under the current configuration, the Warsaw school could comfortably accommodate 35 students, but a suite upstairs could be converted into another classroom for a total of 50 students, he said.

Now, Maple Leaf School has been approached by another Polish school district that would like to start a second partnership, Corcoran said.

"As the school grows and the population grows, we could grow with them."

Warsaw is a rapidly growing city with great business and educational opportunities, Corcoran said.

And Canadian educators, particularly those from B.C. and Ontario, have developed a strong reputation, he said.

"B.C. institutions are known internationally for producing

outstanding teachers."

While many B.C. school districts in similar financial straits are looking for revenue from international students in Asia, the Gulf Islands have limited potential to expand in that area, Corcoran said.

"Were limited by one, the size of our high school, and two, the number of home-stay parents we have," he said.

"Other districts are pursuing Asia big time and we're not."

The foreign school is being pursued by the district's business company to fulfill education ministry requirements for liability protection, he noted.

"The ministry has required that revenue generation has to be at arm's length."

SD #64 created the business company in an effort to generate revenue as a result of declining enrolment and reduced funding, Corcoran said. B.C. currently has 62,000 Grade 12 students, but only 32,000 kindergarten students to fill those seats in the future, he said.

"Public education should be supported [by government] but it's not, so we have to do what we can."

Hopes hanging on 'Bucky' revenue

Gulf Islands School District (SD #64) trustees wrapped up a troubled year with a visit from a cartoon character during the last board meeting before summer break.

"The year was much harder than everyone anticipated it would be," said board chair May McKenzie.

Struggling with projections of declining enrolment and limited finances, the district received mixed reviews when they adopted a controversial four-day week as a cost-saving measure, McKenzie noted.

"But we came out treading water and everyone will be just fine."

And the board ended

the year on a high note by announcing a new on-line course for international students that could generate much-needed revenue, along with providing useful curriculum.

"We foresee this potentially benefitting our district," said international education program director Scott Bergstrom.

SD# 64 Business Company plans to release a new product called *Orientation to Studying in Canada* before classes resume in September. The computer program features images, video clips, interactive games and a talking cartoon host, named Bucky the Beaver, who guides students through

basic material on topics such as Canadian culture, history, geography, immigration, government and life with homestay families.

The course is currently offered in English, Korean and Japanese. And curriculum is written to parallel the Canadian immigration citizenship test, Bergstrom noted.

Staff from SD #64 Business Company first thought about creating a new computer program when local educators noticed that international students often arrived in Fulford Harbour with little prior knowledge about Canada, Bergstrom said.

The business company hopes to tap into a market of 160,000 international students (in all levels of education) who visit Canada each year.

Approximately 9,000 international students attend K-12 classes in B.C. each year, he said.

And school trustees moved to accept the program as a locally approved course.

Consequently, students can enroll in the program for \$495 or pay \$695 if they wish to earn two credits toward high-school graduation.

"The total investment is less than 200 courses, so we should be able to recoup quickly," Bergstrom said.

He expressed optimism that the business company can expect 1,000 registrations annually to generate \$500,000 in extra revenue.

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WHOOO'S WATCHING WHOOO?: John Bateman, Jocelyn Ferguson and daughter Annie Bateman were among a crowd of people parked on Cusheon Lake Road, watching an owl sitting on the wires.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



Diver still missing

A diver who failed to resurface while diving with her husband in Sansum Narrows on Tuesday, July 5 remains missing and is presumed drowned.

North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP have yet to find the body of a 33-year-old Ontario woman who was taking part in a chartered recreational dive near Burial Islet.

The woman was diving with Sidney based Docside Dive Charters and owner Kelly Stevenson said he did not know what caused the accident.

"Saying anything right now would be speculation," he said. "I wish I did know."

Stevenson has been diving in the Gulf Islands for 30 years.

The rescue effort lasted four hours and involved divers from the Canadian Coast Guard, Victoria Police Marine Unit and the Esquimalt-based Navy Fleet Diving Unit.

The rescue effort required the assistance of 11 divers, a coast guard hovercraft and several helicopters.

The accident remains under investigation by the RCMP with the assistance of the RCMP Marine Section and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Fire department looks at CRD

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Staff Writer

Joining forces with the Capital Regional District is the only way to lower explosive insurance costs and address the fire department's smoldering ability to enforce its own bylaws, according to some fire trustees.

"The advantages of being a CRD fire department are quite clear," said trustee Ken Lee. "If we are looking at infrastructure grants to build anything from new buildings to expanding service, being part of the CRD is the best way to get those funds."

Talk of the partnership arose from increasing insurance costs that he said are unsustainable in the long term. More funds would also mean added benefits of expanded service and an ability to monitor bylaw violations.

"Of course there is opposition and I don't know that all trustees would agree to this," he said.

"This is an important issue that should be looked at," he added. "The trustees would still be there and have input regardless of whether we are part of the CRD or not."

Opponents claim joining the CRD will extinguish powers of local officials by placing them in the hands of bureaucrats with little knowledge of the island's priorities.

"Everybody has concerns," said chair Ted Hinds. "Change does concern people but I was given the authority by the board to do preliminary research into the matter."

Hinds said a meeting was scheduled with representatives from the CRD to look at the advantages and disadvantages of joining forces.

Hinds confirmed bylaw enforcement, easier access to grants for infrastructure development and decreased insurance costs were benefits of joining the CRD, but could not provide specific information prior to further investigation.

Though funding is currently available through the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Affairs, membership with the CRD would ensure a steadier flow of funds.

As things stand, the Salt Spring Volunteer Fire Department is the only department in the Gulf Islands that is not part of the CRD.

Pender Island Fire Protection Society President Gordon Souter said membership with the CRD definitely has had its privileges although many people expressed apprehension with the plan in the beginning.

"I really haven't seen any change for the worse," he

said. "There were a few residents who looked at the CRD as big government and were skeptical but we haven't found any major changes."

Souter estimated the South Pender Island fire department saved \$3,000 in insurance costs, representing a 25 per cent savings.

Beyond providing relief to the pocketbook, links with the CRD also mean access to more resources.

"The upgrade that was needed was way beyond the professional or engineering capabilities we had," he said. "It quickly became quite obvious that teaming up with an organization with much larger resources could make things a lot easier."

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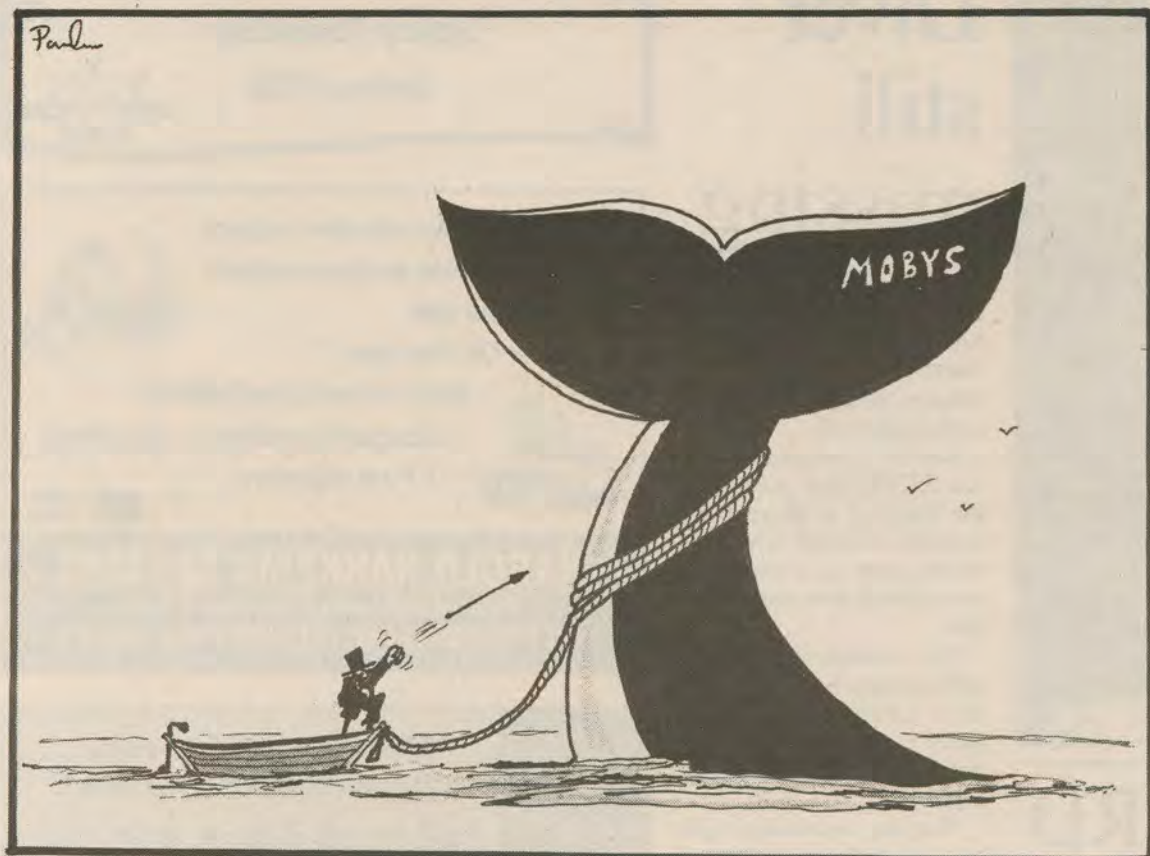
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Last call at Moby's

Closure of Moby's Marine Pub and Anise Restaurant could serve as a sign of the times.

Though the local businesses were both popular as "community living rooms," they will now evolve into different configurations.

Some islanders would argue that the process of community transformation is natural. Businesses come and go each year; consequently, a community should accept and embrace change.

A local business owner has already stepped forward with a stated goal to fill the role left by Moby's as an island gathering place. A popular open-stage event has also found a new venue. And other businesses will likely adapt to fill needs as required.

Other islanders responded to the Moby's closure as if something was taken from them. It is the spirit and familiar symbols of community that people are mourning and not the businesses themselves.

Perhaps a change of faces in Ganges businesses epitomizes concerns about a shift toward more services for visitors and less attention to local residents.

The issue might be heightened by alarmist reports of investment and migration from other parts of Canada and the U.S. to the Gulf Islands.

But we are all transient guests with obligations as citizens and stewards of the land whether we were born on Salt Spring or fresh off the boat.

If we want to protect the Gulf Islands from becoming an impersonal tourist Mecca, we might want to preserve the spirit of the "community living room" in our daily dealings with neighbours, acquaintances, visitors and business associates.

And local business people might well want to ask themselves if their true raison d'être is to actually generate profits or to serve the community at large — whether they be visiting boaters or local land lubbers.

Certainly, a business must be financially viable to be sustainable — and a loyal clientele, devoted staff and a community enriched by services adds to its true measure of success.

The question remains: is a business closure 'a tempest in a teapot' for islanders to discuss in characteristic fashion, or is it 'a canary in a coal mine' for the status of our community spirit?

If it is a warning, let's hope it's not the last call.

Driftwood

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SIMPLY SALT SPRING island made.

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Mt. Erskine creates diverse memories among hikers

By MURRAY REISS

Ravens and fairy doors, eagles and gnomes — these are just a few of the memories of Mt. Erskine treasured by hikers from Salt Spring and all over the world.

A water bowl at the mountain's peak, a memorial to a truly amazing dog named Rosie, comes with an invitation from Rosie's loving owners to write down one's thoughts as one sits in this beautiful spot.

For several years now, islanders and visitors alike have responded to Rosie's invitation, and written in her diary with words straight from their hearts.

With the Salt Spring Island Conservancy now coordinating a fundraising effort to buy 100 acres on Mt. Erskine, including the summit, this seems like a good time to remind ourselves of how special this place has been to so many people and why it is so important to preserve it forever.

VIEW POINT

What follows is a bit of a collage drawn from Rosie's diary.

• Many record that the hike up the mountain trail brought a fresh sense of perspective, a chance to let the busy world slip away and the small unnoticed wonders of nature come alive: swallows and hawks sharing the same piece of sky.

The marvelous hiss of a raven's wing as it flies past. A never-motionless bird trilling in a manzanita bush, reflecting on the hiker as its own small wonder, both of them finding the stillness of the same rock and shared piece of sky.

• For many islanders, Mt. Erskine is a favourite, magical place to share with friends and family. Where else, as one puts it, can you

find enchanting fairy doors, gorgeous scenery on the way up, and a stupendous view at the top? Mt. Erskine is one of those rare places where the trek up the mountain is as rewarding as the arrival at the summit.

People write of the steep trail, the slippery arbutus leaves, bumping into wasp's nests, the cool shade of sheltering trees. Then, at the top, the whole world opens up. Ravens croak and play, diving with fir cones in their beaks, dropping them for their playmates to catch, while eagles ride the wind's currents.

• For some who climb it, the mountain offers a lesson in life: you think of turning back, they write, but then dig deep to see what you're made of. When you do get to the top, they add, the view makes you forget how hard the climb was; you'd do it again in a minute. This goes for life as well, they conclude: The harder

you work to get to the top of your mountain, the better the view will be.

• For some, Mt. Erskine has become integral, even essential, to their sense of well-being. One person writes of the mountain as a touchstone of sanity, a place to visit three or four times a week to pray and thank God for the beauty and serenity this mountain gives. A place to scream, cry, laugh with friends and love life.

• Anyone who's been up Mt. Erskine knows about the fairy doors, knee-high and tucked away at the base of trees as well as more secret spots. These little doors, as well as Rosie's bowl, strike many hikers as the kind of beautiful gestures of selflessness that makes the hike up Erskine always enjoyable.

The notebooks that are always by the bowl also inspire many who read what others have written there. They make it clear, in one person's words, that many people

must descend Erskine taking a little piece of Rosie with them, her job in this life and wherever she is now to inspire gratitude.

• Whether it's cold and windy at the top of Erskine doesn't seem to matter to most people who make the climb. They find the vista itself heartwarming enough to make up for any cold winds. Finding rock, wind, water and friendship — all earth's power in one spot — makes for a magical memory whatever the weather.

By purchasing the 100 acres on Mt. Erskine that are now for sale our community has an incredible opportunity to ensure that future generations will also be able to hike this magical mountain, visit Rosie's bowl, and share their experiences with all who read her diary.

Look for pledge forms all over Ganges, or call the Conservancy at 538-0318 to make your donation.

The writer lives on Salt Spring.

Looking at the vision of perfect government representation

By ERIC BOOTH

With the fall local elections just four months away, it appears that at least one campaign has already begun. I refer to Joanne Elizabeth's. She has twice referred to me in recent, critical, letters to the editor as "one of our trustees." Why not just come out and say it was me? However, more importantly, why not tell the truth?

In her first letter, she stated I had tried to have Trust Council delete a policy statement that recommends Local Trust Committees to "address measures to ensure protection of water quantity and quality in their decisions

IN RESPONSE

regarding density and intensity of land use."

Nothing could be further from the truth. In March, at Trust Council, I had recommended, "that the Islands Trust Council direct staff to prepare a bylaw that would amend the Islands Trust Policy Statement by amending Policy 4.4.2 so that it would allow for the consideration of alternate approaches to the protection of freshwater quality and quantity when local trust committees and

island municipalities make land use decisions."

That motion was passed unanimously by Council and is a matter of public record. At no time have I ever suggested the policy be "delete(d)." I would therefore ask Joanne to publicly withdraw her accusation.

In her second letter she states, "The real problem, however, is that there is often no demonstrable evidence that the opinions, ideas and concerns expressed (by members of the public) are seriously considered or maybe even used in the trustee's decision making process."

This comment was made

in reference to my statement to the effect that I feel it is my duty to represent the 99 per cent of people on Salt Spring who don't regularly attend Trust meetings, not just those who have the time and inclination to do so.

While Joanne may not believe it, I listen closely to every opinion, argument, idea and concern expressed by every member of this community. Do I agree with everything everyone says? Of course not. Common sense dictates that would be either an impossibility or a lie.

However, my final decision, on any particular issue, is based on all of the evidence

put before me — public input, staff reports, committee advice and deliberations, history, future implications, and social, environmental and economic impacts and/or benefits. The big picture.

Joanne suggests I don't give community members the "respect and consideration they deserve" resulting in an atmosphere that does not "ensure that decisions made truly reflect the will of the whole community."

Well, considering that it's impossible to come up with a decision that would make everyone, in this "whole community," happy, I am left wondering what utopian picture of local decision making

she thinks she could craft which would achieve the impossible on Salt Spring — total agreement on any issue.

I humbly suggest the next time Joanne, or anyone else, wants to talk about me — have the courage to call me by name, and please, try getting your facts straight and present your vision of perfect, local government representation in more realistic terms. Otherwise, you might just lose any or all of your political credibility, before your nomination papers are even signed.

The writer is an Islands Trustee.

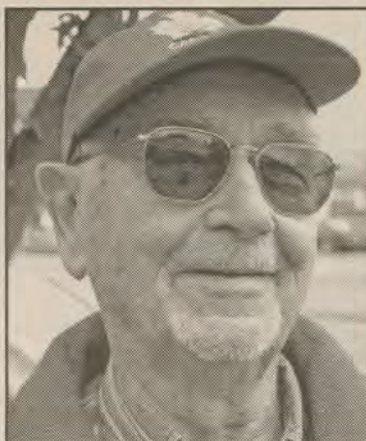
SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *Will you mourn the passing of Moby's Pub?*



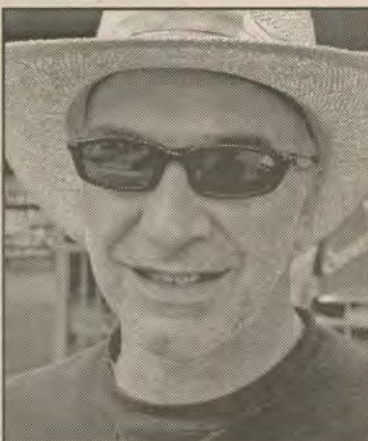
Judy McPhee

I don't go that often but I think I will because it is such a part of Salt Spring.



John Richardson

Absolutely. It's like losing an old friend and I'm afraid that Ganges is going to rack and ruin.



Robert McRae

I think it's disgusting. The community should get together and help keep it open.



Lyle Proudlove

I guess everybody will. It seemed like the only place around to have a drink in a nice friendly atmosphere.



Stephanie Rhodes

I will definitely mourn the loss and I hope the closing will spur somebody else to open a community pub.

Letters to the Editor

Living room

It is with a great deal of difficulty and a sense of loss, that I leave Moby's into the hands of others. Ol' Dick would not approve! Sometimes however, change is unavoidable and beyond control. We have to live with that, and grow.

It was in 1989 that we purchased the then Harbour's End Marina, and the shore lands, with the dream of building not only a marine pub, but something that would become special in the community.

The location was world class: on Salt Spring, on the waterfront. The building would fit in with the marine environment and surrounding landscape. Some realtors and developers would consider those two attributes to be a recipe for success in themselves.

Even so, we have all come to recognize that the success of Moby's was the result of the wonderful staff that has welcomed you over the years. They have done it

with enthusiasm, pride, fun, professionalism, and a true sense of caring and love for our community.

Location, a great building, the best staff. That should be enough to insure success. The crowning moment though, that secured Moby's place in the community, was when you, the people of Salt Spring, made it your living room.

Yes, you came here to eat, drink, and be merry. You also came here to sing, to dance, to laugh, to play, to celebrate your achievements and family milestones, and to cry and grieve your losses. For that I will always be grateful. Your acceptance of our dream, and allowing us a place in the community, has been much appreciated.

Change is always difficult . . . life goes on. As I get to work on the next chapter of my life, I hope I see you all, often. Another living room? I would like that. Take care.

BARRY EDWARDS
Salt Spring

Take time

In his July 6th article,

"Marina proposal gets first reading," Sean McIntyre quotes Islands Trust chair, David Essig, "In a perfect world, we'd like to spend another six months to a year reviewing the development of the waterfront."

Did Mr. Essig say what were the imperfections of this world that prohibit the Trust from taking whatever time it takes to do a proper review? I'd very much like to know what they are. For my part, I'm quite willing to allow the Trust whatever time it takes for them to do their job.

Apparently, the APC has done what they felt they needed to do. They have reviewed the Ganges Marina proposal and responded with a new bylaw that allows a three-storey structure, currently not allowed and 10 commercial accommodation units, which, if time-share is what is being planned, is also currently not allowed. Further, although not stated in the article, the bylaw allows for construction to the lot line, no allowance,

also currently not allowed.

The article goes on to state that Robyn Kelln says he "spent years addressing opponents' concerns." Who were those opponents? What was the forum for their expressing their concerns?

There were some very serious concerns expressed at the meeting. Particularly, Andrea Collins expressed concern on behalf of the Farmers Institute that this bylaw would set a dangerous precedent causing irreversible damage on the islands' shorelines. She stated that opposition to the project includes not only the Farmers' Institute but also Salt Spring Neighbourhood Coalition, Salt Spring Conservancy, CRD, and Parks and Recreation.

Both Eric Booth and Kim Liner said they would like to hear new information, but neither gave a definition of what "new" means in their context. From this article it would appear neither of them consider residents' opposition to perceived environmental degradation to be

information.

Nor do they seem to consider a comprehensive environmental study useful information, even though specifically instructed to act to "preserve and protect" for the benefit of the residents'.

It appears that our LTC is willing to make decisions with no information at all. Let's let Mr. Essig, Ms. Liner, and Mr. Booth know that we are perfectly willing to allow them the time it takes to do their job properly.

ZELLY TAYLOR
Isabella Point Rd.

Tax twist

Mr. Holman of the CRD certainly puts a twist on things! His reaction to the devaluation of my property on Lee Road seems to be: "Warner should be happy that his property tax has been reduced."

Simple arithmetic would show that it would take approximately 450 years for me to break even on this deal! (Property value reduction divided by annual tax reduction).

In the meantime I get to put up with the noise and smell plus the sight of loose garbage dumped on the ground within eight feet of my fence!

HARRY J. WARNER
Salt Spring

Sadness

It is with great sadness that I heard about the closing of Moby's Pub and the changes to the adjacent marina.

Moby's has been for many years a "Salt Spring institution" and is part of the heart of this community. As I witness the many changes that continue to happen here, I would like to say to those who look upon our island as merely a "business opportunity" — good neighbours try to enhance community, they don't set about to destroy it.

There is more to being part of a community than living there and reaping profits. Good citizenship is part of that.

LYNDA LAUSHWAY
Ganges

MORE LETTERS A10

When a sports parent's nightmares come true

By SUSAN LUNDY
Driftwood Staff

Salt Spring sports parents who frequently drive carloads of kids off-island are burdened by "what if" nightmares. On a recent Thursday evening, I faced my own demons and, as it turns out, they're as bad as I envisioned . . .

I'm driving three girls to soccer practice (cleats, shin pads, water bottles, food containers strewn throughout the wagon), music bopping on the radio (classic rock station shunned and replaced), and I'm at the field — but it's not there.

I find my cell phone to call a more organized mother and ask why the field has been moved, and my eye catches a warning light that says the car is overheating.

So I pull over, crank up the hood, and soon two charming young men stop to give a hand. They decide there's an air pocket in the radiator that's preventing water from getting to the engine. (This after they take off the radiator cap and a volcano of water spews upwards, knocking one of them — who I eventually realize is drunk — to the ground, and dramatically raising the excitement level of the girls inside the car.)

GUEST COLUMN

Eventually the problem is fixed — although all my daughter's drinking water is now in the radiator — and I get new directions to the field. It's just five minutes away, but the engine continues to creep into the danger hot zone.

The male soccer coaches are also charming but both acknowledge they service their cars (like me) according to warning lights — you know, oil light comes on; the car needs oil.

(Here I make a mental note to change my current life adage. It now goes like this: marry the first time for love, and the second time for money and car-servicing.)

By this time it's close to 6 p.m. and the Canadian Tire up the road is closed, so I pull into a gas station, and ask the 7-Eleven attendant if he knows anything about cars.

That's when I find my guardian angel, who is purchasing coffee at the counter. Not quite what I expected in an angel — some sort of biker dude with tattoos covering both arms and a couple of teeth missing. (But, keeping in

mind my new adage, I absently try to assess his financial status.)

An ex-mechanic, he spends about 45 minutes on my car, flushing out more air pockets and then hooking up the fan to activate as soon as the engine starts. He will accept no payment — doesn't even let me replace his coffee, which by now must be stone cold.

I leave the gas station absolutely glowing with the good nature of mankind. Life is good; disaster has been averted; and just after 8 p.m., I leave with my young soccer players for the 9:05 p.m. Bowen.

At this point, even the teen-pop music is okay, but I do notice one of my charges is a little quiet. Then, a few kilometres short of Sidney — and about 25 minutes before the last ferry is scheduled to leave — my car dies in a great cloud of smoke billowing from the hood.

At which point the quiet soccer player — apparently prone to car-sickness — opens the door and begins heaving onto the highway. The other two, oblivious to the dire situation, make annoying blowing noises behind me.

I call my mom, who lives in

Victoria, and she finds me a taxi.

I agonizingly watch the minutes tick by as cars thunder past on the highway. The car-sick child decides she'd feel better if she ate and although there's an alarm bell going off somewhere in my head, I'm too preoccupied with the ferry schedule to suggest that might not be a good idea.

Taxi arrives, I quickly lock up the car and leap into the front seat as the vehicle roars back onto the highway, tires squealing.

The driver — another charming man — turns and asks me a question. Except it's not English and I have no clue what he's saying. So I give what is likely a completely unrelated response, and I can see two of the girls in the back seat choking back laughter, eyes watering, because they have no clue what he's saying either, and they're glad it's me who has to respond.

I can't see the car-sick child, but I'm guessing she's green, because when we get to the terminal, just minutes before 9 p.m., and start racing down to the dock, she is overcome again with heaves.

But she gets over it in time to look out the window and shout

that the gate is down, sending us all sprinting down the hallway.

Well, of course, the gate is down. The ferry is late. In fact, it's not even due in for another 20 minutes.

By this time, BCAA is on my cell phone, wanting to know where I've left the keys so they can release the steering column to tow my car.

"Ah. My keys. I guess you mean the ones that are here in my purse . . ."

So to the taxi bill, I can just add another \$25 for BCAA to set up dollies to tow my car, which I'm thinking probably needs a new engine (of course, I'll have to courier the keys to Sidney before the garage can even have a look).

The real nightmare occurs the next day, when the garage describes the \$1,500 head gasket job — but that sports parent demon is just too scary to face in a family newspaper.

Turns out Salt Spring has angels too: Richard Murakami, who offered to do the job for less than half the Sidney garage's price; and Ron Dewer, who kicked butt to get my car back as fast as possible in a pay-by-the-hour towing job.

Last call at Moby's



FINAL ACT: The last Wednesday Night Live at Moby's gets underway to a full house as Kevin Oneschuck works the bar (above) and Moby's cook Ruth Kirby takes the mic for a little stand up comedy.



BIDDING FAREWELL: At right, Barry Edwards, Sherry Macdonell, Denise Moxey and Jamie Macdonell are on hand to pour the last beer from the taps at Moby's Pub just before 4 p.m. last Monday. Below, Wendy Beatty joins the group, as a grimmer moment is captured. Below, at far right, Ritchie Bragg stands by the pub's closed doors.



Photos by Derrick Lundy



More letters

Bombing

People were rightly outraged and horrified when bombs went off in London

last week, killing innocent civilians, and the media offered widespread coverage and universal condemnation of the terrorist attack.

But attacking innocent civilians is not the work of terrorists alone, and the way those events are covered depends on who the victims are.

At the end of the first Gulf War, in 1991, American and British bombers deliberately targeted Iraqi civilian infrastructure, destroying water purification and sewage treatment plants, the electri-

cal system, medical facilities, and other operations. This destruction deprived the population of basic human needs and caused widespread disease, malnutrition and deaths among innocent people.

Afterward, the United States and Britain were the key players in enforcing a decade of sanctions on Iraq, which prevented the Iraqis from receiving necessary medical equipment, drugs, food, and many other kinds of humanitarian relief. According to UNICEF, the

sanctions were a major cause in the deaths of 600,000 infants during that time. (That would be every baby born in British Columbia in the past 15 years.)

All this, too, was outrageous and horrific, but the western media ignored it and people are still largely unaware of it. Except in Iraq.

Now it is well known, of course, that the US and Britain lied to their own people and to the world about the rationale for the most recent war against Iraq: no weap-

ons of mass destruction; no nuclear weapons capability; no involvement in the terrorist attacks of September 11. But once more, the media fell in with the official line. Ever since the war began there has been virtually no coverage of the thousands of Iraqi civilian casualties. Responsible estimates now range from 25,000 to 100,000 civilian fatalities, but you'd never know it here, and meanwhile the occupation and the killing continues.

We don't know for sure who set off those bombs in London, but we sure do

know who dropped them on Iraq. In both cases the murder of innocent civilians is criminal behaviour.

On the day of the London bombing, George Bush said: "The contrast couldn't be clearer between the intentions and the hearts of those who care deeply about human rights and human liberty, and those who kill, those who've got such evil in their hearts that they will take the lives of innocent folks."

For once, he's right.
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A Day in the Life
of Salt Spring Island

Where were you on June 29, 2005?

We know who you are
And we saw what you did

Authors to agents, Babies to bakers, Fishers to farmers, Gardens to gravesites, Llamas to lovers, Homeless to hobbyists, Seniors to shopkeepers, Beagles to Banana Joe, Workers to wanderers, Students to teachers, Pilots to poodles, Volunteers to vocalists, Eggs to emus, Milkers to musicians, Cooks to cows, Rowers to rowdies, Nurses to knitters, Crofton to Vesuvius, Fulford to Fernwood, Truckers to travellers, Tekkies to ticket sellers, Loggers to librarians, Seals to skaters, Golfers to Goldens, Mothers to daughters, Fathers to sons, Swingers to sailors, Painters to poets, Artists to auto mechanics, Carpenters to captains, Readers to realtors, Garbagemen to gazers.

You get the picture.

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More letters

Death of a romance

For those of you without a poetic beat in your heart, I invite you to skip to the next article. Wring your hands over the latest SVR concession or strap on a Peter Vincent tome as he pontificates over his own white collared soap box; please continue to enjoy your weekly pleasures.

For me, I am in mourning and look for the guilty comfort of fellow wallowers in grief.

I was in love with Salt Spring. I was the city boy turned Harrowsmith country, she the rural rainforest queen with quaint if not slightly off-the-wall courtiers and artisans.

We've soured. Our romance has reached its best before date. It's not just the inflated taxes, nor the inflatable pool only 20 per cent of her citified subjects will use; it's not the logs that continue to roll off her glorious hills, nor even the jelly-roll trustees that can't say 'no' to every gangster-developer or desperate mortgage owner that knuckles on their office door. It is more than filling in her shores and the closure of community gathering places.

It's even more than the price-jacking American dollar and the perma-smile of vendors and realtors. It's more intangible than that. It is a gut feeling twisted and pulled upon by all these symbols of progress and change. The forces of change demand we pay up and so we've become protective pimps for nature's posterity. I suppose she sees us as having lost our chivalry, the kind that would defend her at any cost. To her we must stand empty of any virility for which we may have once stood.

We avert our gaze from her stripped lands and realize to our own shame that

she has been forced to open her legs once too often to the zealots of greed. Warriors age but dislike being replaced. Campaign after campaign once fought, we now long for comfort, a sense of arrival, entitlement or retirement. And yet when the young, colourful nomadic warriorettes come along and set up camp we unceremoniously legislate them off our shores.

"Get a job or get lost! I pay taxes. I deserve my miserable, red wine soaked life of leisure!" we cry indignantly into our cups as the smog blows in from the cities, closing in on hill-topped, tree-cleared glass houses. Chain saws and dinner parties dull the songs of freedom and choice.

No longer stewards of a great trust, we micro-manage what is left and act as slaves to the almighty but fickle tourist dollar. We take their money and dine out on their envy. We have made what we love a whore to our way of life.

If we don't like what we see in the mirror, those old crow's feet of long lost laughter, we can now synthetically inject ourselves with glorious memories past. Let's pretend the times have not changed or changed us.

Culture and community were great ideals to champion then. Perhaps despite not being able to look one another

in the eyes we can meet on centre rink next summer, cappuccinos in hand and do a pirouette or two in honour of shattered dreams. We'll eye each other suspiciously and expectantly.

The "righteous" have always depended on the "conscious" to trip over their untied laces. Together we'll smile, hide our embarrassment, shake our heads and blow respectful kisses across the ice to one another.

Perhaps someday we can work out a plan, figure out how to describe what butterflies were to our grandchildren's children as our elders used to talk to us of the fairies and fairytale romances. But for now the romance is off.

May the smartest businessperson keep their head held high and may the best urban developer win what remains.

Our comforts bury the best in us. I'm not a pessimist. I am in mourning.

ROBERT BIRCH
Salt Spring

Seals thanks

On behalf of the Salt Spring Seals, I would like to thank our wonderful community of volunteers and enthusiasts who helped to make our recent fundraising swim a success. One of our major sponsors, NorskeCanada, has made a very generous donation to the cause, and

all of our individual sponsors have come through with great support.

The Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre is a registered charity dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals. Their facility is the only wildlife center in British Columbia offering year round rescue and treatment to marine mammals. As open water swimmers, the Salt Spring Seals enjoy the majesty of our ocean bays and wish to help raise awareness for water safety and the protection of our marine environment. We always welcome new swimmers and encourage anyone interested in learning more about the sport to get in touch with us.

We would also like to thank Judith Harrison and Terry Fetter, two of our kayakers in "The Crossing," for their eager participation despite wind and choppy seas, and to thank Janet Butler who so graciously tended to our thirst at the banquet! (Our sea gremlins omitted their names from last week's paper.)

We are already mapping our training program for next year's event and plan to take a different and hopeful-

ly longer route. We recently had the privilege of sharing an evening with Rob Dyke, the Victoria athlete who is currently swimming around Vancouver Island for the Red Cross Society's water safety programs. He gave us lots of tips about open water swimming and will be back to coach us once he has completed his incredible journey.

Thank you again, Salt Spring Islanders, for helping us with "The Crossing 2005". As Elly would say, "It was the best ever!"

DIANA HAYES
Salt Spring Seals

Support farmers

Yes, there is a way that you can help keep Salt Spring rural without attending a multitude of Trust meetings, writing to all levels of government to receive only a dismissive form letter in return, staging a protest or forming a committee. Are

you paying attention yet? It's really simple.

Support the Organic Growers Market, which is already underway at Fables Cottage on Hereford Avenue every Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Starting July 19, the Farmers Market is open to all local growers. It takes place in the meadow behind the United Church from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

If our growers can make a living, then ALR land will continue to be used as intended and in return we get healthy, fresh food and the rural character of our island will be maintained. One more important reason to support our local growers is that the less travelling our food has to do to reach us, the smaller our footprint on the earth.


So, hike, bike, walk, hitch-hike, or carpool to the market and I'll see you there!

SHARON BYWATER
Maliview Drive

MORE LETTERS A13

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Monthly Seniors Page



Salt Spring FOCUS ON SENIORS

Salt Spring Island is a great place to live for the young or the young at heart. With so much to do here it's no wonder more and more people in their golden years are choosing to move to Salt Spring and take advantage of everything the island has to offer.

Whether attending concerts at ArtSpring, volunteering at the library, or strolling along the seashore, Salt Spring seniors are active participants in the community.

The Driftwood is pleased to present Focus on Seniors, a new monthly feature in the paper. Over the coming months this space will offer informative stories that seniors will find of interest. We will

focus on a variety of issues: health and wellness, volunteerism, housing, and veterans' affairs, to name a few. This month, we introduce one of the many services available for seniors on Salt Spring. Salt Spring Community Services offers regular Community Wellness Programs. One such program, The Peer Connection, provides confidential support for those in need of someone to talk to.

Lay seniors help others out in individual visits. Another program, the Blood Pressure Clinic, is a relaxed environment in which to have blood pressure checks with volunteer nurses. The next clinic is scheduled for Monday, July

25 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at Salt Spring Seniors (across from Ganges Village Market). Each month the Wellness Program features a different speaker. Recent talks have included valuable information on physiotherapy and on heart medications. All of these programs run free of charge. Sharon Glover is the Community Wellness Program coordinator; she can be reached at 537-4607.

The next Focus on Seniors will run on August 10. If you have a story idea, please submit it by August 1 to the Driftwood at 328 Lower Ganges Road, by fax to 537-2613, or by email to kwaters@gulfislands.net.

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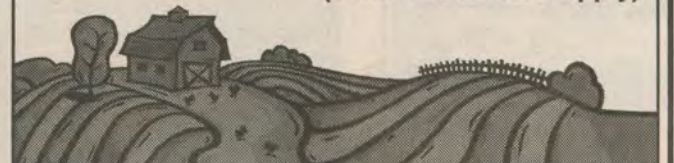
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Public participation process 101

By KIM LINEGER

There has been concern recently about the lack of opportunities for members of the community to respond to land use issues being considered by the Local Trust Committee (LTC). Reasonable and some not so reasonable attempts to explain the public input and participation process are still not understood.

The community has many opportunities to provide comment. All of these opportunities fall within a framework. This framework provides for both formal and informal opportunities for input and participation.

On the informal side, you have letters to the editor in the local newspaper; letters, emails and notes to the trustees or trust staff; individual meetings with trustees or staff; telephone calls to trustees or staff; and attending a LTC meeting and speaking during the town hall session on any topic.

On the formal side, the bylaw approval process sets the framework. Following first reading of a bylaw, the three opportunities are referrals from other agencies, the public information meeting and the public hearing.

As a requirement of the legislative process, the LTC is required to refer the bylaw to other government jurisdictions, agencies, and in some instances, community groups that might have an interest in the matter being considered. As part of this process, adjacent property owners are also provided formal notice (written and hand delivered) of the application and how they can provide their feedback.

The public information meeting is an opportunity to ask questions about the bylaw and raise community

IN DEPTH

concerns. The public hearing is the legislatively required opportunity for the community to speak about the specific bylaw before it is considered for further readings. Following the close of the public hearing, the LTC is sequestered and cannot receive further information on the bylaw being considered.

Another formal opportunity for input is the delegation. Any member of the community can request in writing to be a delegation at any LTC meeting. A delegation is given five minutes to make a presentation on any topic. This time can be extended by consensus of all three trustees.

Advisory committees seem to generate the most confusion regarding public input and participation. Advisory committees are just that — "advisory." They provide a second look at an application to see if there is anything the LTC missed prior to considering the application further. Their function is to advise the LTC — not undertake public information processes and public information gathering — by commenting on the application as submitted by the applicant and reviewed by the staff.

The applicant has one opportunity to speak to the advisory committee about his/her application and answer any questions the advisory committee might have (sometimes it may take several meetings with the applicant based on the nature and size of the application). Upon completion of their review, advisory committees

make recommendations to the LTC. The LTC is not bound by the recommendation of the advisory committee and can either accept or reject it in making their decision.

Public participation at advisory committees is limited to written correspondence. On rare occasions, delegations are approved by the LTC to an advisory committee.

The advisory committees will host public information meetings if so directed by the LTC. Again, this is rare. The avenue for community participation at the advisory committee level is by being a member of a committee.

Committees are made up of community volunteers representing diverse groups and interests in the community. Any member of the community can apply to participate on a committee.

The Local Government Act also sets out some conditions for public participation. These include notice requirements for applications, and open meetings (both where the community can participate actively and act as an observer). LTC meetings provide opportunities for full, active participation and the advisory committees are open for public observation. If members of the community are concerned by what they hear at an advisory committee meeting they can write to the advisory committee or address their concern directly to the LTC. The most effective approach is to address the concern directly to the LTC.

Due to the level of public input and participation on Salt Spring, it is sometimes difficult to indicate to the public how their contributions have been used specifically in making any decision.

Generally, decisions are made based on an aggregate of information provided — from staff, applicant, referral agencies, advisory committees and the public.

It is particularly difficult to respond to concerns about an application when a decision is made that is not supported by a particular community member or group. In these instances, the best approach is to have a meeting with each trustee and discuss his/her decision and to learn of the specific reasons the decision was made as it relates to their particular concern.

As a trustee, I have an open door policy. My door is always open to any member of the community who wants to speak about an application, concern or issue. I prefer a face-to-face meetings so we can engage in a two-way dialogue about the matter. I read every email (klineger@islandstrust.bc.ca) and letter sent, however I do not always respond to all correspondence due to the volume received. If the matter is urgent, I suggest a phone call (538-0042) to discuss the matter is the most effective approach.

In order for the public input and participation opportunities to be effective, they need to be used as they were designed. It is frustrating for all if there are continued efforts to engage in the public process at the wrong points.

A key point to remember, if your participation is to be effective and satisfying, is the most effective method of public participation is to talk to your local trustees directly. If you are not satisfied with our response, keep talking to us.

The writer is an Islands Trustee.

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More letters

Loss of Moby's Asset

My son has just finished his final shift at Moby's. He is just 16 years old so doesn't have a mortgage or children or even car payments yet, so although he is disappointed, his "bottom line" loss is minimal. He has under his belt an amazing first job experience, complete with terrific bosses, great co-workers, and a huge sense of achievement.

So I am sad on two levels. Moby's was the place to meet friends or take visitors to Salt Spring. We had meetings there, shared news there and celebrated there. I promised my sons it would be where we enjoyed their 19th birthdays. We will all miss it terribly.

Geoff will get another job — the skills he learned at Moby's will be an asset to him for the rest of his life. I hope the next place appreciates him as much. As for us, and our visitors, I'm not sure where we will convene.

If there was somewhere I could boycott I would, but I doubt my actions are of any interest to Mr. Parks and Ms. O'Connor. Salt Spring has lost one of its finest establishments!

CATHY CRONIN
Salt Spring

Asset

In your last edition there was much made of the closure of Moby's Pub. The loss of a meeting place and a venue for social interaction will indeed be missed by a certain segment of SS society.

Another meeting place for a different segment of island society is also being threatened with closure. That place is the little bookstore known as Starbooks. Starbooks is much more than a bookstore — it is a meeting place for a good many members of socially active and sometimes underprivileged members of our community. It is a venue for an exchange of ideas, some of them radical. In times of adverse weather it has been a shelter and home for some of the homeless people on this island. And, sometimes, a source of food, a source of information, and a source of emotional support.

Starbooks is not threatened because it was not making an adequate profit. As a bookstore it has never made a "profit". It has been supported and subsidized by its owner Ken Rouleau from income that he has made working holidays and night shifts as a home support worker. Now the rent for the

Starbooks space has been increased, and the care home that had employed Ken has been closed by our uncaring provincial government. Unless we, as a community, are prepared to support this important resource in our community, it may be lost.

This Saturday we will be having a table at the Art-Spring "treasure fair" where some books from the store will be for sale. We also

invite supporters to donate other items for sale, with all the proceeds going to support Starbooks. Such items could be left at Starbooks. For more information, drop in to talk to Ken, or phone me at 653-4630. Starbooks is an important asset for our community.

BRIAN I. FINNEMORE
Fulford Harbour

MORE LETTERS A16

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AN OPEN LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT OF BERKSHIRE INVESTMENT GROUP INC.:

In recent weeks, the media has reported legal proceedings against Ian Thow, a former Berkshire advisor from Victoria, B.C. These proceedings relate to business transactions allegedly entered into by Mr. Thow, for which he was not licensed. Berkshire was not involved in and was not aware of the alleged transactions.

Berkshire's Management wants to take this opportunity to share our position in this most serious matter and to correct any misperceptions and inaccurate reports.

It is therefore important to emphasize the following facts:

- Mr. Thow's business relationship with Berkshire was as a financial advisor, whose license was limited to the sale of Canadian mutual funds and Canadian insurance products only.
- Mr. Thow was not licensed by Berkshire to offer any of the transactions alleged in the legal proceedings.
- Mr. Thow had no other business relationship with Michael Lee-Chin, president of Berkshire Investment Group Inc., or with other senior management of Berkshire.
- Mr. Thow was not licensed to sell shares of National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited.
- Mr. Thow had no business relationship with Mr. Lee-Chin in relation to the National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited.
- Mr. Thow was not authorized by Mr. Lee-Chin or Berkshire to sell shares of National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited.
- When Berkshire learned of the allegations against Mr. Thow, Berkshire brought this matter to the attention of securities regulators and police authorities.
- Berkshire intends to continue to cooperate in the investigations into this matter and will pursue its position in legal proceedings.
- Berkshire would like to confirm that while the former Berkshire Branch Office on Erie Street is now closed, we have opened a new location and we welcome our clients at 463 Belleville Street, Victoria, in addition to our locations at:

202-1005 Broad Street
1594 Derby Road
1770 Fort Street
5-481 Head Street
760 Hillside Avenue
107-3550 Saanich Road
204-3550 Saanich Road
Suite 1102 – 115 Fulford-Ganges Road, Grace Point Square, Salt Spring Island

In closing, we are concerned about how these allegations may negatively impact on the reputation of Berkshire and its advisors. For almost 20 years, Berkshire has been committed to the principles of wealth creation and hundreds of Berkshire advisors across the country work tirelessly to ensure that their clients' financial investments through Berkshire are well-placed. The issues reported on by the media are in no way representative of the honesty, integrity and diligence demonstrated by the 1100 men and women who represent the Berkshire group of companies in 300 offices from coast to coast, individuals who strive to uphold our company's code of ethics and mission statement.

Sincerely,

*Executive Management
Berkshire Investment Group Inc.*

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- Ensure compliance with all regulatory and ethical rules
- Promote the time-tested principles of wealth creation and preservation
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BRK05-0100-E(07/05)

RANTS

A big rant to the person that left the full-sized electric stove on the porch by the Lady Minto Hospital Thrift Shop last Tuesday evening. This was after refusing to pay the \$25 drop-off fee at the recycling depot that afternoon. The majority of our volunteers are older and unable to deal with large items. We do not accept electrical items or appliances for the shop. We do not have room for them. Lady Minto Hospital Thrift Shop Staff.

Rants with an extra helping of karma to whomever stole my daughter's "new to her" black Raleigh bicycle off of our driveway on Horel Road. You know who you are — she doesn't have a spare and that was a gift she was excited to have. Do the right thing and return it so she has wheels this summer please. No questions asked! Erin McLeod

ROSES

A million wild roses for my li'l bird. I feel so blessed to have shared this time with you. Thank you for keeping my nest warm this past year and look — you did what you set out to do. Way to go, girl! Now, as you spread your wings and fly out into your own life, please remember that we are here, loving you, always and forever. LKS & JKLM

A bouquet of roses to Art Falardeau whose handcrafted swing, slide and seesaw bring delight to the entire neighbourhood. J&E

An armload of the finest roses to Gord, the ACE Courier driver, for reading the signs right and driving the extra mile. Ah! The blessings of an island community! CD

A dozen sunshine yellow, perfumed roses to Mr. Richard Cruikshanks for the generous gift of a gently used black Raleigh bike for my daughter. You are a golden gem of a person. EM

A big bunch of roses to Deanna and Gerry Marleau for taking the stove to recycling for us. Thrift Shop

For all of the paramedics working on Salt Spring Island — a huge bouquet of roses and gratitude for your dedication to our community and our station. Enjoy "Paramedic Appreciation Week" July 1-7. You are the

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RANTS & ROSES

best! Thank you. NP BCAS U/C

Armfuls of red roses to the many kind and helpful folk who attended me, my dog Mindy and my brakeless car Saturday afternoon: Kate who was first on the scene and summoned help, remaining a concerned soul in the wings; our great fire and rescue team who roped up

the car and eased me out; the paramedics who were so frustrated; those who looked after Mindy until I was freed; the commander who brought us home; and lastly my good neighbour Kathy, who indulged in a wild goose chase followed by calming supper. I am so lucky to be on Salt Spring. CJH

Many roses to the Grade

4 class of Ms. Weinert who sold many bags of popcorn to raise money for Mt. Erskine. The fairies thank you.

A rose for Herb Burnett who can still look you in the eye, take the time to listen, and shake his head at government bureaucracy while working for the B.C. Government Agency. He makes Salt Spring a worth-

while place to live. AC

A fragrant golden rose for Arlene Modderman who makes mortgage money seem simple when desperation sets in. Many thanks. YW

A bouquet of roses to Christine Copeland for all your help and kindness. You're "special." Thanks from my heart. M.

Bouquets of Nootka roses and many thanks from youth across Canada to John Dolman and Island Star Video for supporting the Youth Climate Change Conference at Royal Roads University last

week. You are helping us to change the world!

Island Star Video would like to thank all the people that helped us raise \$652 for the emergency food bank at the Salt Spring Community Centre: Pat and Herb, Scott and Bruce, Val, Margaret, Chris and Josh served over 300 hot dogs, 200 pieces of cake, 200 cans of pop, applied hundreds of Canada flag tattoos and blew up 250 helium balloons, but their best effort of all, used their lungs to inflate over 250 beach balls for the ball toss at the harbour before the fireworks. Rest up for next year. J&T



DERRICK'S
ISLAND PICS

Name: ANDREW CURRIE

Occupation(s): Stonemasonry/ agriculture.

Hobbies: History and quality horses.

Home finished/unfinished: Finished, kinda.

Favourite people: Beckie and Russ.

Favourite read: "The Secret Teachings of All Ages" by Manly P. Hall, and the poems of Robert Burns.

Best thing about SSI: Climate; hardly any major predators for livestock; the sea.

Worst thing about SSI: Watching the good manners and magic of my favourite place evaporate.

Best place to kiss on SSI?: Behind the barn.

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The Food Bank has outgrown the basement of the Community Services Building.

Members of the Admiral Lodge #170 have pledged \$20,000 and at this time we have raised about \$63,000.

An additional \$7000 must be raised before construction resumes.

Donations can be made to the Community Services Society and tax receipts will be issued.

For more information call:

- RANDY SLOAN 537-2975
- BEN MARTENS 537-9891
- COMM. SERVICES 537-9971



Alternatives?

Did you know that Quebec is the province doing the best job of protecting its forests... and that BC and Nova Scotia's forests are now most at risk? Or that Toronto has already cut its greenhouse gas emissions to meet Kyoto standards? That in its "RIO report card," the Sierra Club gave its lowest marks to two provinces: BC and Alberta — and also to the federal DFO, which is failing miserably to protect endangered salmon on both the east and west coasts, and continues to allow draggers to "strip mine" the oceans of

More letters

fish and other marine life such as corals?

I learned all this and more when Elizabeth May, currently executive director of the Sierra Club of Canada, came to speak here last Tuesday. It struck me that, although she has never accepted the requests of political parties to run for office, she does an excellent job of representing Canadians who care about protecting their own health and that of our environment.

If these are priorities, we

need to seriously rethink our energy policies. Canada is currently undermining its Kyoto and biodiversity commitments by working to develop the Mackenzie Gas Project, which would pipe huge amounts of natural gas to fuel the Athabasca tar sands petroleum extraction. These mega-projects and Bush's plan to open up the Arctic Refuge to petrodevelopment threaten northern wildlife such as the caribou herds and lock us into

creating ever more greenhouse gas emissions.

Are there alternatives? Some environmentalists urge us to invest in nuclear energy but Elizabeth argues convincingly that this would be pure folly. For starters, nuclear energy is hugely expensive and it can't replace our dependence on fossil fuels quickly enough. Conservation and renewables are where we need to focus our efforts; this is where we will make the best use of our limited resources.

Jean Gelwicks of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, which co-hosted Elizabeth's talk, urged Elizabeth to keep up her great work. But our support makes a big difference. Check out the Sierra Club website at www.sierraclub.ca or call Jan Slakov, at 537-5251, to become a member or for more information (sample letters, etc.).
JAN SLAKOV
Salt Spring

Questions

Trustee Lineger's questions regarding Ganges Marina were as follows:

1. Does the LTC/community want redevelopment of the Ganges Marina?

2. Does the LTC/community want the boardwalk to be completed?

3. What are the issues and concerns?

4. How important is fill in the harbour, preserving green space, and community benefit? Is one a higher priority than another?

5. What are the proposed alternatives (applicant/staff/APC)?

6. Are there other alternatives? Does the LTC have the jurisdiction/authority to implement them?

7. How does each alternative address the issues and concerns?

8. What happens if the LTC does nothing?

These were important questions not addressed before revised bylaw 404 went to first reading at the June 30 LTC meeting.

Trustee Booth said he is hearing nothing new from the delegations, the truth is he is not listening.

Think about these questions and ask the LTC to listen to your answers. For what it is worth my answer to #1 is no and #2 is no, the price is too high. #3 Issues and concerns? These have been presented to the LTC at every meeting that the Marina development has come up. Apparently, our Trustees pay little or scant attention to well thought out, well-presented opinions from many respected diverse delegations. A triumph for democratic process? I think not.

CATHERINE BENNETT
Salt Spring

Separation?

Your editorial of July 6th reminded me of a question I've had: Whatever happened to the separation of church and state?

Marriage has been around for hundreds of years as a religious entity — long before Canada was even a gleam in someone's eye. The Catholic Church even calls it a 'sacrament'. I'm sure other religions have similar attitudes with respect to 'marriage'.

Governments got into the act because they recognized the value of the relationships to society as a whole and the need to define and codify government's support of those relationships.

Homosexuality has been around forever but it is only relatively recently that such relationships have been recognized as having as much foundation as "regular" couples. And now governments are willing to give same sex relationships the same support as married couples have had. That support is a contract, no different than any other legal contract, that says, "You do this and we'll do that." It is not a religious document and shouldn't be so labelled, regardless of whether the couple involved is of opposite sexes or not.

Isn't it time that government live up to its stand on separation of church and state?

DON SLOTTEN
Salt Spring

Attitude adjustment

When Judy and I bought land here in 1988 I didn't know I had joined the Ugly American Club. From one to five times a day, depending on whether I leave the farm, I'll hear someone revile nasty Americans who buy property here.

I do understand why. A lot of islanders are feeling unease or despair about the rate and type of growth we're seeing, and newcomers who buy and build but don't join community life are part of the unwelcomed changes. And Bush's America isn't behaving well at all. Every really good cause needs a really evil enemy.

What I don't understand is this: a buyer can't buy if a seller won't sell. Why don't our real estate agents, good Canadians all, have signs in their windows: "Americans Need Not Apply?" Why don't landowners wait for good, wealthy Calgarians or Torontonians to show up? They will. Please don't tell me Americans will pay more. Canadians are fundamentally more principled than other people, I hear. Don't tell me they would trade public good for private greed.

I read Peter Vincent's July 6 "Head to Head" just as I was pushing the "send" button. Great comment. Maybe it doesn't matter if you think most Americans are terrible people who ought to stay in the ghetto called USA, as long as you have the civility to judge the real people who come here by their actions. Profiling, prejudice, and cynicism (often even despair), are evidence of a slovenly mind.

BOB WEEDEN
Salt Spring

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A Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island

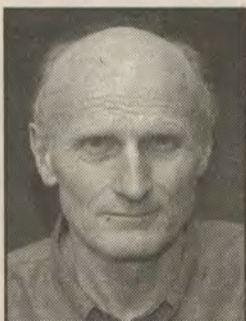
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We know who you are
And we saw what you did

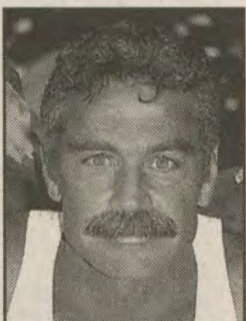
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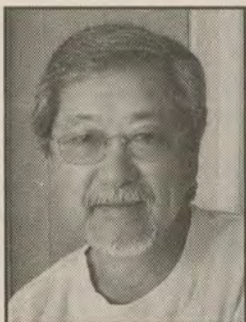
Shari Macdonald



Peter McCully



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Mitchell Sherrin

You get the picture.

The Driftwood presents its Second Annual Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island in a special souvenir section to be published July 27, 2005.

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Island soccer players nab silver

The Victoria United Blue Flames lost a "squeaker" in the gold medal game at the provincial A Cup finals held in Victoria last weekend, handing silver medals to the four Salt Spring girls who play on the select U12 team.

The Flames — which includes islanders Kai Fishleigh, Sierra Lundy, Grace Morgan and an injured Tilly Morgan (who cheered from the sidelines) — lost 1-0 to North Shore Avalanche in the final game Sunday, after beating the same team 1-0 in their first game Thursday.

The squad also played two scoreless games against Surrey and Kamloops in the tightly-matched series, which took place in Juan de Fuca.

Salt Spring's Meredith Raddysh also took a second-place finish with Lower Island Storm at the U14 provincial A Cup finals in Surrey the previous weekend. Raddysh's team placed second in the Coastal Cup and third in league play.

And island boys who play on the U12 Victoria United squad lost a provincial match for bronze, after a 3-3 tie against Kelowna went 10 minutes into overtime on Sunday.

Kevan Brown and Rhys Hardy both play defence on the Victoria United team.

Highlights for the U12 boys included winning gold at a tournament in Bellingham earlier this season.

Playing in the provincial B Cup finals in Williams Lake last weekend, Salt Spring U14 players Danica Lundy and Olivia Morgan's Peninsula gold soccer team took a disappointing fifth place finish, after tying the top team 1-1 in their first match on Friday.

Peninsula Gold Rush won the Vancouver Island championship and took second in Coastal Cup play.

BRIDGE TRICKS

Monday June 27 was Laundry night at the bridge club. George and Florence cleaned up with a first place win, while Ian Thomas and Isabelle Richardson were a close second, Nancy Arnold and Terry Wilkinson placed third and Joan Conlan and Blanche Poborsa took fourth place.

On July 4, Conlan and Poborsa took first place with Hilde Dieterich and Jeff Bell in second and Tilly Crawley and Lynn Thorburn in third.



TIME FOR TUBES: Swimmers at Shelby Pool enjoy some fun on inner tubes. The pool is open to the public Monday to Saturdays. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Solo sailing race circles island

A new sailing race saw 14 single- and double-handed crews head out for a two-day race around Salt Spring last weekend.

"We met the usual combination of good winds, no winds, strong currents, rain — the whole thing. It's sailing around Salt Spring," said fleet racing captain David Wood.

"It's probably the most spectacular scenery in the world for a race course, but some of the most unpredictable and fickle winds too. So it tests your patience."

Competitors spent the night at Maple Bay after going around the south end of the island in the first leg of the race Saturday.

After corrected time, winners among double-handed boats included young par-

ticipants Adrian and Megan Leitch in Tigger J with an overall time of approximately 14 hours.

Ole Anderson and his son Toke placed second overall in Westwind, close behind the Leitch crew.

Bob Jones and Tim Larson placed third in Alacrity.

Wood placed first among single-handed competitors in Final Dash and Roger Kibble placed second in Elektra.

Taking third was Keith Simpson in Soul Dancer.

Duncan Gladman of Vancouver caused a stir among local boaters when he placed 4th among single-handed competitors in his 21-foot Mini Transat, which is designed for solo trans Atlantic crossings.

"They've got as much room as a bread box inside," Wood said. "It's quite a machine to see it going around."

The Living Word Matthew 4 Verse 4

Jesus answered,

"It is written: man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

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Salt Spring Island Schedule			
VESUVIUS BAY - CROFTON			
CROSSING TIME: 20 MINUTES			
SUMMER SCHEDULE: JUNE 28 - SEPTEMBER 5			
LEAVE VESUVIUS BAY		LEAVE CROFTON	
• 6:00 am	3:00 pm	• 6:30 am	4:30 pm
■ 7:00 am	Wed + 4:00 pm	■ 7:30 am	5:30 pm
★ 8:00 am	5:00 pm	■ 8:30 am	6:30 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm	Mon, Wed, Thurs + 9:30 am	8:10 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm	11:10 am	9:10 pm
11:40 pm	8:40 pm	1:10 pm	◆ 10:05 pm
Mon, Thurs + 12:40 pm	◆ 9:40 pm	2:15 pm	▲ 11:05 pm
1:40 pm	▲ 10:35 pm	3:30 pm	
<p>▲ Additional sailings Saturday only ■ Except Saturday • Monday to Thursday only</p> <p>◆ Friday, Saturday, Sunday only ★ Except Sunday</p> <p>+ Some sailings Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays will be replaced by Dangerous Cargo sailings. Other passengers are not permitted on these sailings.</p>			

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IN EFFECT JUNE 28 - SEPT. 24/05		CROSSING TIME: 35 MINS	
CHECK WWW.BCFERRIES.CA FOR LATEST SCHEDULES			
Depart Fulford Harbour Sunday to Friday		Depart Swartz Bay Sunday to Friday	
6:15 am	1:50 pm	⑦ 7:00 am	3:00 pm
⑦ 7:50 am	3:50 pm	9:00 am	5:00 pm
9:50 am	5:50 pm	11:00 am	7:00 pm
11:50 am	7:50 pm	1:00 am	9:00 pm
⑧ Daily except Sundays		⑧ Daily except Sundays	
#Daily except Wednesdays		#Daily except Wednesdays	
Saturdays Only		Saturdays Only	
6:15 am	2:00 pm	7:00 am	3:00 pm
7:45 am	3:50 pm	8:30 am	5:00 pm
9:15 am	5:50 pm	10:00 am	7:00 pm
10:45 am	7:50 pm	11:30 am	9:00 pm
12:15 am		1:10 pm	

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Essential body time

Chantale came to Salt Spring Island in 1994. As years went by, her passion for exploration and the growing attitude to see change as an opportunity, brought her to study the fundamentals of Thai massage in Thailand, cranio-sacral work through the Osho Center in Hamburg, Esalen massage at Hollyhock and Hakomi, a body centered psychotherapy with Ron Kurtz, in Victoria. She has been registered in Jin Shin Do ~ acupressure since 1996. Chantale offered massage and bodywork at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga and different spas in the Gulf Islands.

She blends Ayurveda, an ancient holistic system of medicine developed in India, with the energy work of Jin Shin Do (based on Chinese medicine theory). Ayurveda and Chinese medicine recognize the imbalance resulting from poor internal organ functions. Both use a holistic approach to address the unique needs of the body, the balance of ones emotional states, the deepening of our connection with the inner spirit and our essential selves.

Chantale uses the Shamana body therapies of Panchakarma which are supportive methods of detoxification.

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- ~**Aroma-massage:** a blend of techniques to dissolve tensions and induce tranquillity through the senses.
- ~**Ubtan:** a rhythmic dry exfoliation of the whole body with herbal paste to cleanse the skin and make it glow.
- ~**Shirodhara:** is a treatment well known to release mental stress through a steady flow of warm oil continuously poured over the forehead.
- ~**Abhyanga:** is a gentle and rhythmic massage offering a continuous stream of warm herbalized oil massaged into the body to loosen the accumulations of toxins and enhance the immune system.
- ~**Dual Abhyanga:** this treatment is offered with two practitioners who massage the body with synchronicity. Chantale is assisted by experienced massage therapists Rainbow May and Kim Christie.

Contact Chantale Vachon
At 537-6335 (cellular)
Or 537-4701

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Blackburn hosts GVM tournament

Blackburn Meadows held the inaugural Junior/Adult Ganges Village Market Open event with a full field of junior and adult pairs playing a best-ball format on Sunday.

Out on top was the team of Vassa Drobyshev and Brian Watson, who shot a six under par 26. Nicholas Boyd and Melanie Iverson put up a strong second place (30), with Boyd rolling in the long putt for the juniors.

Third low gross went to Cam Johnson and Phil Gregson with a 31. Taking the long-drive competition for the juniors was Jackson Sweetnam, whose sharp shooting also rewarded him closest to the pin on #4 (KP).

Mel Topping took the long drive and long putt for the adults, and Watson's precision iron rewarded him the KP on #3.



ON THE HEWITSON GREENS: Sandy and Gordon English cruise over to hole #3 at the annual fundraising Hewitson Memorial golf tournament, held Saturday at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club. Organizers say a record number of golfers participated in the charity event — which raises money for the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation — and, although final numbers weren't available at press time, the total amount raised exceeded \$10,000. Organizers were also thrilled by the support shown by local businesses, which donated prizes and made donations.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Stingrays out on top at Courtenay meet

A school of Salt Spring Stingrays swam best times, and picked up medals and ribbons at a Courtenay swim meet last weekend.

Div. 4 swimmer Mack Rankin came out on top of the best times (BT) challenge, swimming personals bests in five out of six events, and taking seven seconds off his 200-metre individual medley (IM).

Three swimmers picked up three BTs (Nina Fletcher, Casey Fedberg and Adriane

Harkema), while several others swam one or two personal bests.

Medals were awarded to the top three swimmers and ribbons were handed out to 4th to 6th place-finishers in this timed finals swim meet, where athletes could compete in up to six events.

Top six finishes in Courtenay went to the following swimmers:

Div. 1: Connor Budd nailed 6th in 50-m breast (1:05.38).

Div. 2: Eryn Gix won gold in 50-m breast (time not available), bronze in 50-m fly (47.39) and 100-m IM (1:36.48), 4th in 40-m free (37.28) and 50-m back (47.56), and 5th in 100-m free (1:29.33).

Div. 4: Nina Fletcher won gold in 100-m back (1:20.21), silver in 50-m fly (35.36) and bronze in 50-m free (32.04); **Rankin** took 4th in 100-m back (1:25.86), 5th in 50-m free (34.29) and 6th in the IM (3:12.05).

Div. 5: Olivia Budd nailed bronze in 100-m back (1:25.86) and 5th in 50-m free (32.29); **James Cameron** took 5th in 50-m fly (37.03) and 6th in 100-m breast (1:28.13).

Div. 6: Victoria Budd grabbed 5th in 100-m breast (1:31.94).

This weekend, swimmers head to Saanich Commonwealth Place for a meet hosted by the Juan de Fuca team.

Salties steal one from the Midgets but suffer hamstring, arm injuries

The Salties baseball club managed to split a weekend series with the Sooke Midgets but paid a hefty price in the process.

Starting pitcher Blain Johnson left the first game with a pulled hamstring and pitcher Bob Akerman left midway through the second match with an injured arm.

Despite the damage, the team managed to sneak out with a 6-4 victory in game one, thanks to home runs by Aaron Little and Johnson.

"We had great offense throughout both games but just had too many injuries," said Johnson, who was forced to leave the game shortly after his home run. "We really pounded the ball."

Scoring 10 runs in the second game was not enough to keep the Midgets at bay as they came back to win the game by a final score of 13-10.

Aside from a disappointing end to game two, John-

son said the team managed to make a decent showing, and added he was pleased to take one game from the Midgets — a team he suspects will be the next Canadian National Champions.

Injuries leave the team without the duo's experience and have forced the team to shuffle around an already

injury-plagued squad.

The Salties are currently six games out of first place with a record of 11-7.

After a well-deserved break hoped to help nurse the team back to health, the Salties will take on the top ranked Upper Deck squad in Victoria on Tuesday, July 19.

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Fickle Fingers players triumph

Tough playing conditions, following a day and night of heavy rain, took their toll on Fickle Fingers golf scores in a recent nine-hole, four-man scramble tournament held at the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club.

Despite the challenging conditions, a triumphant winning team of John Lowther, Hugh McCullough, Lee Hurd and Randy Sloan posted a 40, or 4 over par, with 14 putts.

Closest to the pin on hole #2 was "Mr. Accuracy" Walt Swing, and the longest drive on hole #7 saw a return of the typical crushing drive delivered by Fred Lyhne.

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