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MORTGAGE QUESTIONS?
... ask Arlene

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Weather

Showers are forecast beginning today (Wednesday) and continuing through the weekend. Highs to 19 C (today); overnight lows to 11 C.

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SHEEP SHAPE: Salt Spring resident Duncan Hepburn feeds the hungry flock at his Beaver Point Road farm on a cloudy weekend day in May. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Local photographer killed at race

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

A high-powered motorcycle flew out of control and claimed the life of 50-year-old islander Gerry MacNutt while he was photographing a sand-drag race in Lake Cowichan on Sunday.

"He was a photographer and he liked to get the picture," said MacNutt's friend Marve Brimacombe, who witnessed the incident.

MacNutt was standing on the edge of a 100-metre sand track near the finish line and taking pictures of the race

when a rider lost control of his motorcycle, Brimacombe said.

"The bike was veering and instead of jumping one way, he jumped the wrong way."

According to a press release from the Lake Cowichan RCMP, MacNutt received immediate medical attention from first-aid attendants for numerous injuries after emergency services were called to Meades Creek Sand Drag Track at 12:38 p.m., but he succumbed at the scene.

Both MacNutt and the

motorcycle rider were members of Brimacombe's Mental Racing Team that participated in the sport of sand-drag racing with 350 horsepower-plus, nitro-methane fuelled Harley Davidson motorcycles.

"Gerry loved being around the nitro bikes and the filming of everything," Brimacombe said.

Motorcycle driver Sean Maloney of Cobble Hill was reported in stable condition at Victoria General Hospital on Monday after he received a concussion, two broken

ribs and a fractured wrist.

Sand-drag fans from around Vancouver Island were stunned by the fatal accident, Brimacombe said.

"It's a very small community of these individuals and we've all been hit pretty hard by this."

He knew MacNutt for 15 years and described him as an ambassador for the sport who drew international attention to local motorcycle events over the last decade.

"I have a hard time explain-

ACCIDENT A2

Meth night attracts community spectrum

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

What was initially planned as a brainstorming session for crystal meth prevention on Salt Spring turned into an emotionally charged standing-room-only plea to curtail the drug's impact on Gulf Islands youth.

"This drug will take over your life and will make you sacrifice everything you have," said participant Ken McLaren, a former meth user who candidly recounted

the drug's toll on both himself and his acquaintances in Victoria. "Crystal meth becomes your entire life and you cannot think of anything else."

Roughly 30 parents, youth and community outreach workers crammed into the Core Inn Youth Centre for a Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS)-sponsored crystal meth awareness night last Thursday.

Similar events held this summer will hopefully get

input from island youth on how to proceed with a drug forum scheduled for September, made possible thanks to \$3,000 in provincial government funding announced earlier this year.

"We need to provide things that are better alternatives to this drug, things that will prevent people like me from getting backed into a corner," said McLaren.

The two-and-a-half hour event offered audience members an account of the

drug's history, from its 19th-century origins to present-day impacts, a video presentation depicting addicts' experiences on the streets of Victoria and a lively discussion on how to educate island youth.

"So far the island has been doing a great job," said Carolyn Flam, an SSICS youth drug and alcohol counsellor. "Learning remains an important objective and we need to

METH MEETING A3

Fire claims artist's work

Jerry Ringrose loses studio to early Tuesday blaze

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Except for blackened ashes and twisted metal, little was left of Jerry Ringrose's Merchants Mews studio Tuesday morning, only hours after a fire completely destroyed the two-storey structure.

"What are you supposed to do?" asked the well-known Salt Spring-based glass artist and designer as he looked over the site. "Everything's gone and you just have to live with it... You just can't give up."

Firefighters called to the scene at 2:30 a.m. acted quickly to make sure flames from the wooden structure did not spread into nearby cedar trees or adjacent structures.

In addition to the studio, the fire destroyed Ringrose's van and heat from the blaze blew out windows and melted shingles on a nearby building.

"This could have been far worse," he said, pointing to a building located five metres from his studio. "The building codes are there for good reason."

The studio contained an office, showroom and production facility and, while insurance will likely replace the glassmaking equipment, computers and the building itself, Ringrose said, it is unlikely he will see any compensation for artwork lost in the fire.

Because the collection is constantly changing as new works are created and sold, insurance appraisals would have to be conducted on a daily basis, he explained.

More devastating, Ringrose said, was the loss of client and supplier contact

RINGROSE FIRE A2

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Islander in midst of Timor horror

By SUSAN LUNDY
Driftwood Staff

A Salt Spring man living in East Timor is devastated by human atrocities in the fledgling country that erupted into violence last week.

"My world is being turned upside-down and inside-out," said John Pottinger, United Nations chief of air operations for East Timor in a telephone interview from the UN compound in the capital of Dili.

The popping sound of machine guns and explosions could be heard in the background as a Timorese military faction attacked the national police headquarters beside the UN compound.

A few hours later he witnessed the massacre of 12 policemen and was horrified to learn a woman and her five children burned to death when a mob torched their home.

As other horror stories are revealed, Pottinger said, he is finding it hard to believe the violence.

"Though I've seen it, I'm having trouble comprehend-

ing that human beings can do these things to each other."

Pottinger said the situation deteriorated rapidly after calling home Thursday when the police force, which was under siege from a military faction, called for a UN-brokered ceasefire.

The military fired on the police as they attempted to walk from the police station to the UN compound.

Pottinger said "chaos reigned" as people fell to the ground injured or dead.

"I became part of one huddle, carrying a guy with two gruesome wounds. Shots and explosions could be heard from some new gun battle across the street."

He said they laid the man on the grass and held his head as a doctor examined him, but he died within a few minutes.

As many as 12 policemen were killed in the attack and 20 people were injured, including two UN personnel.

Since then, Pottinger has learned of the deaths of Timorese friends and spo-

ken to an employee whose husband and sons witnessed a youth killed inside their home.

He said the employee's family watched in horror as a youngster was chased onto their property and into their house by a gang of machete-carrying youths, who hacked him to death.

"The whole family is devastated," he said.

A retired air traffic controller, Pottinger left his home on Salt Spring almost two years ago to work for the UN in East Timor.

Until the last few weeks, the posting has been quiet with the UN downsizing the mission from a peacekeeping post to a political mission last May.

Pottinger said the recent violence, which is now mostly related to gangs of youths, is the result of simmering civil tensions, sparked by the firing of 600 striking soldiers in March.

The ethnic division is between east and west Timorese, who live separately in the country's interior villages, but have come

together in Dili.

For Pottinger, the civil warfare has resulted in the deaths of people he knows on both sides of the conflict.

"One of my Timorese friends lost his brother yesterday; he was in the police. Another lost her sister; she was in the army. Did they know each other? Did they fight each other?"

Pottinger said the situation quieted somewhat following the arrival of a huge Australian-led military force, which is now patrolling Dili and has secured the UN compound.

The biggest threat, he said Tuesday, continues to be the torching and looting of buildings, including areas near his home.

Most of the UN members remaining in Dili are sleeping at the UN compound. Evacuations of non-essential UN staff and their families has occurred for the last several days.

However, unless the situation deteriorates further, Pottinger will be among the 50 essential UN personnel to remain in East Timor.

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	06:05	2.8	9.2	SU	08:07	1.9	6.2	
	14:24	0.5	1.6		11:42	2.0	6.6	
	23:05	3.4	11.2		17:10	1.6	5.2	
JUNE 01	05:52	2.6	8.5	05	00:55	3.1	10.2	
	06:25	2.6	8.5	MO	08:27	1.6	5.2	
	15:04	0.7	2.3		14:13	2.1	6.9	
	23:40	3.3	10.8		18:04	1.9	6.2	
JUNE 02	15:44	1.0	3.3	06	01:14	3.1	10.2	
				TU	08:49	1.3	4.3	
	03	00:10	3.3	10.8		16:05	2.3	7.5
	07:53	2.1	6.9		19:10	2.2	7.2	
JUNE 03	08:54	2.1	6.9					
	16:25	1.3	4.3					

ACCIDENT

From Page A1

ing the importance of that man. He put films together and pictures that went all over the world promoting the sport in a wonderful way . . . He stood tall in those respects."

MacNutt was so dedicated to sand-drag racing that when he was cash-strapped in his younger days, he'd hitchhike to the track and borrow film to take pictures.

"It was a passion that he had. The long and the short of it is that he died doing what he loved to do. We want to remember him with fond memories."

And Brimacombe wants to see the sport evolve as a result of this event to prevent future tragedies.

"I hope we learn something from this and make things better. My heart goes out to his family."



Gerry MacNutt

Still in shock from news of the incident, Bruce MacNutt mourns the loss of his quiet older brother.

"It's a very tragic thing. In hindsight, you look back at this and say, 'There was an accident waiting to happen.'"

Bruce MacNutt believes the incident could've been prevented with improved safety precautions.

"You'd think there would be a barrier to prevent something like that from happening . . . We're not a happy family with what happened."

Gerry MacNutt grew up in Sidney and Victoria, and worked on oilrigs in Texas and Brazil before he settled on Salt Spring in the mid-1990s, where he managed the family business, Carley Spring Water.

In addition to his interests in photography and motorcycles, Gerry MacNutt liked to draw and had a talent with high-tech equipment.

"He didn't have a wife or kids. He pretty much kept to himself and just ran the business when he was over here."

But even though Gerry MacNutt lived a simple life, he made an impression on the community.

"He knew a lot of people on the island. A lot of people have called."

Now Bruce MacNutt will take over the water business.

"We're going to pick up the pieces where they fell and carry on with it."

And he feels compelled to make closer connections to the rest of his family.

"This will make me want to touch bases with my other brother and get together and spend a day with him doing things. No matter how busy people get, it's good to get a hold of family because they are not going to be around forever."

Memorial service arrangements for Gerry MacNutt had not been completed at press time.

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RINGROSE FIRE

From Page A1

lists he has accumulated over the years. Because he still has a number of ongoing commissions and many more scheduled for the summer, Ringrose is optimistic he will pull through. However, he added, the immediate priority is finding a replacement studio to begin rebuilding his collection.

"I'll need a second coffee before deciding what's next," he said.

Firefighters worked throughout the night to contain the fire. They remained on the scene until 7:30 Tuesday morning and continue to investigate the fire's cause. Ringrose suspects it originated in one of the studio's kilns.

There were no occupants in the building and no injuries were reported.

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BURNED OUT: Ian Marcotte works the excavator as the fire-demolished home of siblings Richard, Rose and Violet Murakami is removed Monday to make way for a new structure.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

Data mix-up confuses tax notice

Some Salt Spring residents may have noticed a discrepancy between Capital Regional District (CRD) figures and pie chart data in the Report to Taxpayers accompanying their tax notices received last week — and they're right.

Numbers are missing in the list of categories accompanying the pie chart and so the data and chart don't match.

The mix-up has no impact on the amount of taxes due.

"This was a case of miscommunication between myself and CRD staff on responsibility for proofreading a draft document," said Salt Spring regional director Gary Holman.

"On behalf of the CRD, I would like to apologize to taxpayers and to the many people who volunteer on various CRD committees and commissions for the errors in the tax notice."

As well, 2005 data was incorrectly used in summarizing requisition amounts for the various water and sewer utilities administered by the CRD.

A corrected letter will be sent out as soon as possible.

In the meantime, a detailed breakdown of the CRD requisition is available at the CRD Building Inspection office in Ganges, from Holman (directorssi@crd.bc.ca) or toll free (1-800-663-4425) from CRD Finance.

METH MEETING

From Page A1

find out about youth."

Recommendations included sporting events and concert presentations from outreach workers and former addicts, although some participants said successfully combatting drug abuse requires parents, teachers, political leaders and neighbours to rediscover the true meaning of community.

While crystal meth use has soared in cities and towns across the province in recent years, Salt Spring's relative isolation has minimized the drug's impact. According to Flam, that's no reason for island residents to sit back and do nothing.

Flam said crystal meth use has become prevalent in large part to its low cost. A single \$10 "point" is enough to keep a first-time user high for up to eight hours. The

drug's components are commonly available at pharmacies and drug stores, making it easier for dealers to create their own supply.

A partial list of ingredients includes highly toxic substances such as hydrochloric acid, ammonia and lithium. Users recount feeling alert, invulnerable and confident, though coming off the drug results in sleeplessness, wild mood swings and feelings of shame and hopelessness. Extended use can result in permanent brain damage, dental decay and even HIV/AIDS if users inject the drug.

According to Corey Paul, a former addict who's been clean for the past four years, kicking the meth habit is an incredibly difficult experience and addiction recovery centres and counselling

services have failed to keep pace with the rise in crystal meth use. Salt Spring Island, however, has a chance to learn from the mistakes of other communities.

"Salt Spring is resilient in the sense that it is proactive," he said. "A community that can be proactive is a community that stands a chance against the drug."

Paul said he doubts holding a concert or sports event will be enough to solve the problem, adding drug use will only get the attention it deserves when the boundary between users and non-users is taken down.

"There is no 'us and them' because crystal meth takes out everyone," he said during an interview following the meeting. "All kids party eventually, so it's important they get educated."

More awards for paper

The Gulf Islands Driftwood was honoured with six national awards and "blue-ribbon" status from the Canadian Community Newspapers Association (CCNA) at its Better Newspaper Competition awards night in Québec City on Saturday.

Those included four first-place awards in its circulation category for:

- Best photo essay (for the Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island publication, photographed by Derrick Lundy, Mitchell Sherrin, Sean McIntyre, Peter McCully, John Cameron, Ken Sakamoto, John Denniston and Shari Macdonald);

- Best Christmas edition (for November 2005 Aqua magazine);

- Best in-house ad campaign (for the Be Safe, Be Seen public service ad series);

- Best website design.

Third-place awards were granted for the paper's front page and newspaper promotion (for the Survivor contest).

The Driftwood's six awards were the most received by any other single publication in the CCNA. Next in line were the Haliburton County Echo in Ontario, earning five awards, and the Salmon Arm Observer (B.C.) with four.

Blue-ribbon awards are given to newspapers judged in the top third of their circulation category.

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Sea Capers sets sail on June 17

By STACY
CARDIGAN SMITH
Driftwood Contributor

After a brief hiatus, it's back by popular demand. Sea Capers returns to Salt Spring on Saturday, June 17.

This year the festival will be hosted by the Salt Spring Harbour Authority.

"We thought we would take the lead and revive the tradition," said Harbour Authority manager and event co-organizer Bart Terwiel.

Sea Capers was started in 1978. In recent years the festival was hosted by the Salt Spring Lions Club. However, last year the event went bust — although not for the first time in its lengthy history.

"We wanted to sponsor more events in the community... this was one that was missed and was connected to the harbour. We thought it would be nice because it's a festival that celebrates our sea-going heritage."

Lions Club members aren't directly involved in 2006, but Terwiel said they have been really helpful.

This year the event will take place in conjunction with another favourite that also sailed past the island last year — the Classic and

Wooden Boat Show.

The festival promises to be fun for all, but is more focussed on fun for children, said Terwiel.

"We really want it to be a lot of fun for visitors and locals alike."

Live entertainment, including sets by Valdy, Bill Henderson, Black Velvet Band and Donn Tarris, will run from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Centennial Park.

A knot-tying demonstration and educational and promotional displays will be set up in the Harbour Authority parking lot.

Local model boat enthusiasts will show off their remote-control handling skills, and Island Escapades Outdoor Adventure Gear and Clothing Co will give kayak demonstrations from 10 to 11 a.m. Later in the day people can try thermo-form kayaks, the latest in kayak technology.

Pies cooked by Salt Spring's own "Anglican pie ladies" will be available for purchase.

In addition, the local dragon boat team will be on hand to demonstrate their sport and answer questions about the club.

Team member Marit McBride said it will be one of the few times the public will be able to see the boat in action as the group normally practices and competes elsewhere. The children's Build-a-Boat event will give kids the opportunity to build a boat with supplied materials and then test it out in a big pool set up nearby.

Likewise, the youth and adult's Build-a-Boat contest will give big kids the chance to test their skills as carpenters and engineers.

Teams will have the opportunity to build a sea-worthy vessel in only two hours. Teams can be any size, but finished boats must carry at least three-quarters of the team. That means if a team of four designs a boat, the boat must be able to carry at least three of the team members. Each team will be given the same materials and tools, supplied by Windsor Plywood, with which to build their boat.

Windsor employee Mike Stefancsik said the contest is always a lot of fun.

"You still end up with a lot of creative, interesting crafts, even though the materials are all the same," Ste-

fancsik said.

Contestants will then have to launch their ship in the water and complete a designated relay course. Prizes supplied by local businesses are up for grabs in many categories, including most original looking and fastest boats. Youth pay no entrance fee and the cost is \$10 for adults.

Entry forms are available at Windsor Plywood and the Harbour Authority office. Deadline for entry is June 15. People should pick up forms soon as a maximum of 12 contestants is allowed.

Although Sea Capers has been scaled back a bit this year, Terwiel said everyone has been very receptive and supportive.

He said they will look to increase the festivities in future years, depending on the success of this year's festival.

Sea Capers runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 17.

For more information or to volunteer, contact the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island at 537-5711, or keep your eyes peeled for Sea Capers information posters coming soon.

Three Point picnic serves up farmland feast

A midweek picnic will give island residents the chance to feast on a south-end development proposal that could see the preservation of a 34-hectare (85-acre) piece of Fulford Valley farmland.

The Island Natural Growers-sponsored event at 2172 Fulford-Ganges Road will include an overview of Three Point Properties Limited's proposal to donate the former Hughes property in exchange for permission to build eight residences on eight hectares (20 acres) of vacant waterfront property it owns along Musgrave Road under amenity zoning conditions stipulated in the island's Official Community Plan (OCP).

The majority of the 50 participants attending a Three Point Property open house event at the Fulford Community Hall in early May supported the proposal on the basis the land could serve as a valuable community resource if managed by a Salt Spring-based non-profit association.

According to organic farmer and author Dan Jason, the property could support greenhouses, composting facilities, community gardens and programs aimed at restoring sustainable agriculture on the island.

Jason said he is also confident permaculture facilities for grape and berry production can be incorporated into the Musgrave Road site.

Three Point Properties Ltd. is a Victoria-based property management company with a 25-year history developing signature properties on Vancouver Island.

Area residents speaking at the Fulford Hall event expressed safety concerns over changes to the Musgrave Road-Isabella Point Road intersection.

Speaking at last week's Local Trust Committee meeting, south-end resident Harry Warner raised additional concerns over the project's impact on landscape.

"Would we really want eight monster homes along the seashore?" Warner asked trustees. "It just seems horrific for me to consider such an abomination."

Project manager Mark Wyatt said any final plan is contingent on the support of south-end residents and final plans will incorporate "smart growth" design concepts.

The Islands Trust has yet to receive an application from Three Point Properties Limited and, Wyatt said, the company is still assessing the public's reaction to the project.

"We are not a company that is interested in slapping in big monster homes with little consideration for the environmental impact," said Wyatt.

The picnic takes place Wednesday, June 7 at 6 p.m. Participants are asked to bring their own food. For more information, contact Dan Jason at 537-5269.

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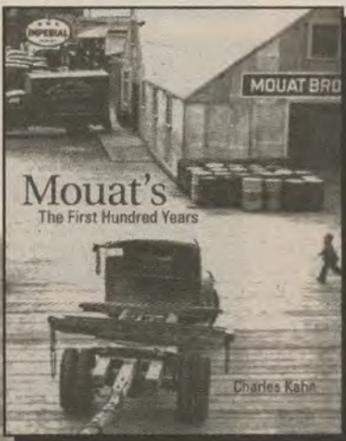
Creators of a directory of family services want to hear from groups and individuals who should be included.

The Coalition for Children and Families of Salt Spring Island is developing a directory to improve the awareness of services available to island children, parents and families.

Ardice McCrea hopes to hear from organizations, home businesses and individuals on Salt Spring and the Outer Gulf Islands who provide medical, educational, psychological, nutritional, recreational and/or spiritual services for families.

She also wants to include childcare providers.

McCrea can be reached at 250 537-4148 or recognitionexpress@saltspring.com.



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Draft soil bylaw digs for consensus

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

The Islands Trust is proceeding with creation of a bylaw aimed at breaking new ground in regulating soil removal from island properties.

Trustees hope the new rules will put an end to a three-year-long feud between lobbyists wanting to protect island neighbourhoods and gravel pit operators.

Speaking at a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting last week, trustee Peter Lamb said completing a workable plan remains a top priority.

"Let's get a draft bylaw together and get the process underway," he said. "I don't want to see this get stuck in a log jam."

Members of the Stewart Road Residents' Association

(SRRA) have spent years campaigning for regulations governing the amount of gravel property owners are legally permitted to remove from their land. The hauling of gravel from unregulated gravel pits on the island, SRRA members contend, destroys communities and causes irreparable environmental damage.

The push for a bylaw arose after an application for a gravel mining operation on Jasper Road was submitted to the provincial Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum in 2003. The application is still under consideration, but bylaw proponents say time is running out.

Former Sarah Way resident Rosey Brennan said it was nice to see progress on what is a truly island-wide

issue, but remained skeptical on both sides reaching a consensus.

"It is just not going to happen here," she said. "We are not going to have a consensus between people who want to blow up rock and people who want to preserve communities."

Brennan said no one is opposed to gravel operators and they merely want to see some thresholds in place to limit extraction and disturbance to neighbourhoods.

Though she's moved away from the area, Brennan has continued to push for a soil removal bylaw because, she said, her experience could be repeated elsewhere on the island as the demand for aggregate continues to rise.

"We as a community should decide what regula-

tions are required, not ask the industry itself what the regulations ought to be," she said, adding the current "gravel-friendly" provincial government is unlikely to impose any restrictions on operators.

A soil removal bylaw would cover the removal of sand, gravel and rock. On Salt Spring, most "soil" is used for driveways, infill, backfill and other construction uses.

Trustees made it clear any bylaw would seek to target a minority of operators, not people or companies moving smaller amounts of soil.

"Removing small amounts of gravel is not the real issue," said trustee George Ehring. "It becomes a real issue if a significant amount of blasting is involved."

District orders a rooster compromise

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Reporter

Capital Regional District (CRD) bylaw enforcement officials scratched a line in the chicken coop floor by ordering a Garner Road rooster breeder to keep her 30 prize-winning birds quiet by June 15 or face fines of up to \$100 per day and possible confiscation of her flock.

Salt Spring bylaw enforcement officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser described last Wednesday's meeting between two Garner Road neighbours as "pretty tense," but said he remains hopeful the two sides can work out a solution before the June deadline.

"As long as she is trying to improve the situation we are happy," Brunnwieser said, "but until we get it to the point where both parties can live with it, this situation will not be over."

The CRD became involved when Lucille Lamarche complained the incessant crowing of roosters kept by her neighbour made life unbearable.

After several failed attempts to work out a compromise, Brunnwieser elected to call in his supervisor Don Brown from Victoria to oversee last week's meeting.

Brown said the group came up with three actions Cooper must take: insulate the coop walls that face Lamarche's property; cover a window that lets the first morning light into one of the coops; and move the coop that is closest to Garner Road.

He suggested community members or groups might want to assist Cooper with the required labour, materials or finances.

But Lamarche is not convinced anything will change.

"It's become very difficult and I am very frustrated," she said.

"[Cooper] is trying to divide the island between the farmers and the newcomers. I'm not a newcomer and farmers don't usually raise 30 roosters."

Though opinion is far from unanimous, Lamarche said

she has also received support from island residents.

"I've heard from a lot of people who've had similar experiences with roosters or dogs and they can't imagine living beside 30 of them," she said.

According to Section 26 of the CRD's Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, no person may keep an animal that disturbs the "quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the neighbourhood in which the animal is kept."

Exemptions are only permitted on agriculturally zoned property. Cooper's five-acre Garner Road property is zoned Rural Residential.

"If this law isn't enforced, anybody living in Rural Residential zone could have an unlimited number of roosters," she said. "The law is very clear."

Cooper said she plans to make every effort to comply with the order despite the significant expense of renovations, but she is also prepared to pursue the matter

in court if the CRD levies any fines.

Last month Cooper moved several roosters away from the property line. Earlier this spring she killed more than a dozen of her loudest birds in hopes of reducing the noise level.

To ensure the survival and genetic diversity of her flock, Cooper added, she requires at least two roosters for each of her 15 breeds.

But she doesn't feel Lamarche will be satisfied until each and every rooster is removed from the property.

Cooper is scheduled to speak at the next Island Farmers Institute meeting where she will try to raise support for what, she said, is now a battle over Salt Spring's agricultural heritage.

"In a more isolated community there would be no problem, but as more and more people move in there will be issues," she said.

"It appears to me that the whole island is being threatened."



SENIORS' INDEPENDENT LIVING

Renting an apartment at Heritage Place make life easier and safer for Seniors. The rent includes everything but personal telephone. There is only one suite, a studio, left in Arbutus House. Elm House is under construction with a few studio and one bedroom suites available only. Dogwood and Cedar Houses are yet to be built. The village will be complete at the end of 2008. The waiting list grows.

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**WHAT'S ON
This Week?
See page B12**

Lady Minto Hospital earmarked for \$1 million makeover, upgrade

Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital is slated to receive more than \$1 million in upgrades to keep the facility running in top shape for the growing and aging Gulf Islands population.

"This is good news," said Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) spokesperson Suzanne Germain. "This will provide a bigger and better space with improved workflow."

Areas targeted for funding include a pharmacy expansion, refinishing inte-

rior surfaces and upholstery, and upgrading the hospital's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

VIHA supplied 60 per cent of the money and the Capital Regional District (CRD) provided the remaining funds.

A \$650,000 pharmacy expansion will triple the facility's current space and mechanical upgrades are needed to keep the hospital in top working order, Germain said.

Work is scheduled to begin later this year, with completion dates set for late 2007. Germain said patients wouldn't notice any disruptions to regular hospital services during the renovations.

In a separate funding announcement, Salt Spring Island CRD director Gary Holman announced the approval of \$52,000 in funding to assist in planning for the eventual replacement of the Greenwoods care facility.

STRAIT OF GEORGIA NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

Upcoming Workshops and Open Houses

You are invited to attend the upcoming Parks Canada consultation sessions. Participate in an afternoon workshop or drop-in to an evening open house. Workshop 1pm to 4pm RSVP required

Open House 6pm to 8pm Drop-in (presentation at 6:10pm)

Duncan: May 31
Quw'utsun Centre
200 Cowichan Way

Gallano: June 8
South End Community Hall
141 Sturdies Bay Road

SALT SPRING ISLAND: June 1
Harbour House Hotel
121 Upper Ganges Road

Mayne Island: June 14
Agricultural Hall
430 Fernhill Road

Victoria: June 6
Cadboro Commons Building
University of Victoria

Brentwood Bay: June 15
Saanich Fairgrounds
1528 Stellys X Road

Pender Island: June 7
Community Hall
4418 Bedwell Harbour Road

Saturna Island: June 20
Community Hall
104 East Point Road

To RSVP for a workshop, please e-mail straitofgeorgiamca@pc.gc.ca, phone 604.666.0285 or fax 604.666.7957. RSVPs will be accepted up to two days prior to the workshop. RSVPs are not required for the open houses.

Please contact us for details.

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Sunday, June 4, a great day to waste.



You are invited to a special free drop-off event for household hazardous waste from Salt Spring Island homes only. Safely dispose of your hazardous products and protect the environment.

What is household hazardous waste?

"Household hazardous waste" is any leftover household product that is marked with the symbols shown below or any waste from your home that you consider to be dangerous or of which you are unsure. Common examples are pesticides, varnishes, paints, cleaners, chemicals or batteries.

- ▶ These items should not go in the garbage or down a drain.
- ▶ They require safe, responsible handling.
- ▶ They should be transported in labeled, sealed containers.
- ▶ Residential waste only please (no industrial waste from commercial businesses).



Flammable



Corrosive



Explosive



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Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event:

Location: Salt Spring Island (SSI) Recycling Depot
349 Rainbow Road

Date: Sunday, June 4, 2006 only

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you are unable to attend this special event, you can still dispose of your household hazardous waste at no charge at the following locations:

- ▶ SSI Depot for paint, solvents, pesticides and flammables.
- ▶ Hartland Recycling Depot for all other household hazardous waste.

For more information:

CRD Hotline 1-800-663-4425 (local 3030)

hotline@crd.bc.ca www.crd.bc.ca/es





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GULF ISLANDS
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

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Island roots nurture

Gulf Islands Secondary School has produced another bright and vibrant class of artists, athletes, scholars and technicians who are ready to burst forth in full luxuriant leaf among the woodlands of the adult world.

Both the school and the islands as a whole are renowned for cultivating creative thinking, respectful relationships, community service, excellence in achievement and a reverence for diversity in culture and the natural world.

We can take pride in this particular grove of students. Many members of the class of 2006 have already shown generosity and depth of character through their fundraising and volunteer efforts, they've displayed talent in the performing arts, they've collected kudos for scholastic ability and they've earned accolades for sportsmanship and physical prowess.

From meeting several members of this grad class over the years, we know they possess a spirit of earthy courtesy, common-sense insight and a desire to understand differences that reflect the sensibility of islanders as a whole.

Undoubtedly, these confident young denizens of the Salish Sea will continue to branch out into new territory as they continue their studies, practise essential trades, serve the community or enter business.

Nurtured with such a firm foundation of beliefs, attitudes, knowledge and skills, this new crop of graduates offers the community tendrils of promise that will stretch to distant shores.

We can find inspiration in these striving young voices, learn lessons from their gleaned wisdom and feel the ease of their added strength.

As the collective island community has offered its best gifts to these youths, the fruit of their unfolding maturation will shelter, reinforce and enrich both younger and older generations in the days to come. This group of young adults will face challenges, just as all budding grad classes have faced challenges before them. But they can draw resilience from roots in the community that stands behind them.

As our beloved Nairn Howe told last year's graduating class: "While we can't be with you physically in your journeys, know that with all our hearts, every one of us is standing beside you!"

Police check rouses history of pained relationship

By EVELYN C. WHITE

I recently heard the six words that can strike terror in African-Americans: "You will need a police check."

Age 52, I'm a volunteer with the junior golf program at the Blackburn Meadows course on Salt Spring. Like every adult who volunteers to accompany a child on a weekly round of golf, I was compelled to submit to a criminal background check with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Painfully aware of the vulnerability of children and the abuse scores have suffered at the hands of parents, educators and clergy, I was heartened by the mandatory Blackburn policy.

"Whatever it takes to keep the kids safe," I thought to myself.

Besides, I had loving childhood memories of Dudley Do-Right, a cartoon character Mountie who, as a "lonely defender of justice,"

VIEW POINT

rescued people from the perils of speeding trains or the precipice of dangerous cliffs. Call it arrested development, but in a recent moment of nostalgia, I'd happily paid \$35 for an aluminum Dudley Do-Right lunch box. The vintage treasure now holds pride of place in my writing studio.

Hence, the surprise I felt when, 24 hours before my scheduled police check, my heart began to pound with anxiety. As I reviewed the form I'd dutifully completed for Blackburn — Consent for Disclosure of Criminal Record Information, I felt a rising sense of doom.

My palms began to sweat. I realized my looming panic was rooted in the pained relationship

between African-Americans and the police.

First brought to U.S. shores in 1619, enslaved blacks were stalked by bounty hunters who netted \$10 for the arrest of each runaway. During the civil rights era, sheriffs in the South turned police dogs and fire hoses on black children. Their tender skin bloodied and innocent psyches battered, kids with whom I might have practised putting at Blackburn were herded into police vans and jailed.

Their offence? Singing freedom songs and marching in peaceful protest against segregation. Small in stature but mighty in spirit, the children challenged the U.S., in the immortal words of Martin Luther King, Jr., to judge them by the content of their character, not the colour of their skin.

Of course, to conjure King is to remember that the martyred "dreamer" was subject to ille-

gal wiretaps (and worse) during the reign of J. Edgar Hoover, the notorious director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Hoover has now been dead for more than 30 years. Still, his legacy permeates law enforcement practices in the U.S. Take a stroll down (bad) memory lane and recall the videotaped Los Angeles police beating of motorist Rodney King; the O.J. Simpson trial; the abysmal performance of local police as Hurricane Katrina winds flattened New Orleans. The common denominator? Real or perceived police abuse of African-Americans.

Such is the fear of police among my people that I felt its paralyzing grip even though I've been a landed immigrant in Canada since 2002. As such, I'd already been fingerprinted and undergone a rigorous criminal background check. And yet, I arrived at the RCMP

office in Ganges with nerves rattled and confidence shaken. Was it possible, I wondered, that I'd once been arrested for, say, pilfering a pitching wedge and repressed the dastardly deed? I took a deep breath and walked in the door.

A cheery RCMP staffer greeted me warmly. Scanning my form, she entered my personal data into a computer and faster than I can shank a tee shot, I was approved to volunteer with the youngsters at Blackburn. Relieved, I took my freshly stamped form and headed to the links. En route, I reflected on the brave black children who'd been fire hosed in their quest for equality.

As the stress of the RCMP visit left my body, I began to sing, as tears cascaded down my cheeks, We Shall Overcome.

The writer is the author of *Alice Walker: A Life*.

Driftwood should play vital role in response to alarming realities

By CHRIS DIXON

I stopped buying the Driftwood in November of 1999 when it ran a full-page ad telling me who not to vote for as CRD director.

For me, at issue was a blatant and irresponsible misuse of power in a publication that has a wide potential to inform and influence the lives and decisions of its readers. I've got along just fine ever since, although I was saddened at the loss of The Barnacle and later, the Village Views.

It seems that there's not quite enough demand on Salt Spring for a second paper to survive and flourish, which gives the Driftwood, by default, both a monopoly and a significant responsibility.

By chance, a friend left last week's copy with me and this is what I found: on the front

IN DEPTH

page — soccer highlights and news of a shrinking labour pool. Inside: Ken Rouleau's good article on bad democracy, and many other mostly interesting, safe, non-invasive pieces on various feel-good happenings that celebrate the joys of living on Salt Spring Island.

The six-page "Island Wheels" feature was somewhat sobering as the lead article offered a 380-horsepower SUV (it's only \$60,000) — surely an appropriate response to dwindling world oil reserves, and a necessity that all of us should strive for.

And hidden at the very, very back of the B section I

found David Suzuki's column; poor old David, always ranting on about some God-awful thing like ozone depletion or mass extinction or some other dreary reality.

I remember when scientists in the 1970s and '80s were warning us about pollution, and how crackpot some of those warnings sounded back then. Today, we can travel to the most remote corner of the world and find a hundred carcinogenic compounds in a nursing mother's breastmilk. David Suzuki's article addresses the immediacy of global warming within the context of reckless political indifference, which is pretty compelling stuff, if we pause the feeding frenzy long enough to think about it. Bigger news, perhaps, than the soccer scores or the frustrations of running a restaurant empire in paradise and def-

nately not back-page material!

And so I ask myself, "Will you subscribe to the Driftwood now, having seen this latest issue?" Well, no I will not; I'd like to see more relevance and substance in the content — ideas about how our bar-coded microcosm fits into the bigger world picture.

So, getting back to the potential of a weekly paper for informing and influencing its readers, somewhere between the ads for very expensive houses and the weekly bowling scores, I wonder if you folks would, as a continuing policy, be willing to invest a significant chunk of space for some objective reporting on some pressing issues we and our children will face in the coming decades.

I'm not suggesting a litany

of doom-and-gloom reports, so much as factual reportage of the current state of the planet's ecology, its resources, its governments, and ways and movements that will encourage each of us to do some meaningful things to protect what's left of the nest. There is a lot of bad news out there — so much that many of us seem paralyzed by the gravity of the situation. Indeed, it's tempting to just ignore the whole overwhelming mess and attempt to spend our way to happiness.

The message in the pages of the Driftwood seems to be "don't worry, everything's just fine," but each and every one of us, from the dazed stoneheads in the park to the very wealthy few in their gated mansions know that something has fouled the air, and the quiet denial, the dis-

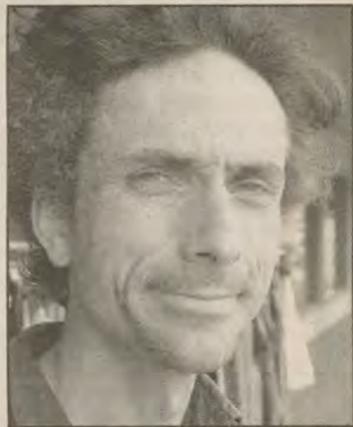
tracted silence is deafening. Without leadership, and without dialogue, how will we, as individuals and as a society, prepare to gracefully face an uncertain future?

The message on the back page says the sky is falling and yet the message woven throughout the rest of the paper suggests that it's just fine to pick up your groceries in a heavy-duty supercab 3/4-ton four-wheel-drive turbo-diesel pick-up truck, 'cause you deserve the very best. Somewhere between these extremes, there is fertile ground for a weekly newspaper to fulfill a vital and progressive role in shaping considered responses to some immediate and alarming realities. When you start doing that, I'll start reading your paper again. I promise.

The writer is a Mansell Road resident.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *How do you feel about Stephen Harper's Conservative government after five months in power?*



Terry Bieman

I'm not surprised generally, but am concerned about how he filled his cabinet, considering his attempt to fight corruption.



Norma Keech

I don't appreciate him reneging on his promises, but hopefully he will continue to do better. It's still much better than before.



Cathy Holt

He's not as bad as I thought, but that doesn't mean he's any good.



Anthony Winston

He's a child.



Judy Grundy

I don't like it. I think Canada is known around the world as a peaceful nation and I think we are heading the other way.

Letters to the Editor

Housing equality

In the excitement of subdividing 20 acres of Fulford Harbour waterfront property in yet another multi-million dollar real estate development, an important issue seems to be overlooked.

Unmentioned in the Driftwood article last week was the fact that until Three Properties Limited acquired the waterfront property it was one of Salt Spring Islands unofficial low-income housing projects.

As great a vision that community farmland is, the Island Natural Growers recent local produce study discovered that there is no shortage of unused farmland on the island. A shortage of farmers to do the real work of farming was more the missing piece of the local food production issue. Is there no link between the number of local farm workers and the availability of housing in today's market with current land use regulations?

This week the UN released a report condemning Canada for its treatment of the poor, which is troubling consid-

ering the robust Canadian economy. Here at home in our booming economy the poor are being displaced with this development.

As this community considers waterfront density transfers worth multi-millions of dollars, this is our chance to demand some equality in the issue of housing. Imagine, an affordable housing project on Fulford Harbour waterfront, a Fulford Valley organic farm, or both?

KJELL LIEM,
Salt Spring

Untold story

My mom died a few months ago from A.L.S. or Lou Gehrig's disease, and I will never be the same. It took her life so fast. This is a disease that basically kills the neurons (cells) in the brain that send messages to all of your voluntary muscles, which basically means your muscles die. All of them, including the ones that let you talk, walk, eat, swallow and breathe.

You become paralyzed. ALS does not affect the senses; only rarely does it affect the mind. Unfortunately my mom was one of the rare ones. She had frontal tempo-

ral dementia. We saw her not only lose her physical functions, but her mind as well. Some 90 per cent of people die within three to five years of diagnosis. Some just last a few months. My mom died after less than a year of diagnosis, but probably had it for a few years.

Many people have heard of ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, but don't know what it is. Probably because unlike cancer, or other diseases, the victims die so fast that their story goes untold.

June is ALS Awareness Month. This Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Harlan's Chocolates (Salt Spring Gelato) will give 25 per cent of all sales to the ALS Society of British Columbia. Your support will keep alive the hope of finding a cure for ALS through their research program and support their partner units in their provision of quality care for those affected by ALS.

If you can't get downtown, or aren't in the mood for a treat (what's wrong with you?), then please visit <http://www.alsbc.ca/> to learn about this horrible disease.
LAUREN SHIPLEY,
Salt Spring

Doomed

It is cancer fundraising time again — but are we being involved in a serious hoax?

There are two aspects in fighting cancer — prevention and cure — both equally important.

But when considering prevention we find our hands tied and, as a result, most of the money is poured into cure (95 per cent of it).

Prevention entails running headlong into the corporations, which produce the bulk of the carcinogens and their waste dumps. Their power effectively blocks prevention by hindering efforts to stop the flow to and the removal of carcinogens from the environment.

Corporations shiver at the cost of clean-up or of altering their products. They find it so much cheaper if we all just ignore prevention and contribute our money to finding cures.

As a result, we are doomed to have cancer rates continue their steady rise, no matter how much money we donate.

GORDON BARNES,
Salt Spring

Rabbits

The ads on rabbits in the newspaper every week lately have focussed on the problems of rabbits.

I felt that potential rabbit owners should be fully informed, rather than having only negative information.

The first thing to consider when you're getting a rabbit is whether or not you should be getting a rabbit at all. The commitment is as great as that of a cat and should not be taken lightly. Far too many rabbits, bought on the spur of the moment, are either neglected or released.

A number of 4-H members have worked to catch rabbits loose in their areas, and a couple of my friends and I spent quite a bit of time catching a number of pregnant rabbits in my area.

Rabbits can make very good pets if handled from a young age. They have lovable personalities and provide hours of enjoyment every day. Each rabbit is different, so with one rabbit you may cuddle up with a good book, and another, though it would not sit still to cuddle as it runs about, will come back to you every once in awhile

to check in on you.

If the rabbit was not handled when very young, however, it may not stand for any cuddling, may not come to the front of its cage to say hello, and, if it struggles out of your hands, may run.

Once you have decided yes, you do want a rabbit, you need to find a well socialized one. The 4-H rabbit project usually has rabbits for sale. The three main points to consider while looking at a rabbit you are interested in are:

- Is it healthy? Bright eyed, alert, clean genitals. Tiny yellow specks in the fur are lice.
- Does it bite?
- Does it mind being held? You should be able to flip the rabbit onto its back (get a 4-H member to show you how) without it struggling.

All in all, your new pet will delight you all eight to 12 years of its life. I write this as I watch one of my rabbits running about the pen I have for them, leaping into the air and kicking up her heels with the sheer joy of being alive.

BRIANNA HERBERT,
Reynolds Road

MORE LETTERS A10

Gloves come off in last days of Relay for Life fundraising

One of the things I like about my job is that I get to play a role in making wonderful things happen in our community without having to engage in truly odious tasks like shaving off my hair, posing semi-clothed for calendar photos or — worst of all — asking people to give me money for a worthy cause.

I simply transmit to thousands of people what's needed by others, whether it's funds, ideas, goods or an enthusiastic crowd, and hopefully in a way that yields results.

But when I heard from John Wakefield that Salt Spring was holding a Relay for Life event for the first time this June, I thought it sounded like a dandy idea and immediately suggested to my Driftwood colleagues that we lace up our sneakers and get on the team list. We're the Ink Spots and Claudia French is our much-valued team leader.

However, I've so far been pretty lax about the fundraising part. For weeks I've dutifully carried

OTHERWISE BY GAIL SJUBERG



around the official Relay for Life receipt book in my bag, but haven't once remembered it was there when I could have asked someone for a donation.

Then last week I heard Driftwood advertising sales rep/arts writer Andrea Rabinovitch brag about how much money she had raised, urging us to "get competitive" with her. Andrea has now recruited her sons Sam and Ari to help their family topple the Ink Spots website donation leader Derrick Lundy (who is reportedly trading photos for donations). She was even going to make them solicit car to car on the ferry! I'm sure glad she's not my mother.

"Start hitting up friends and acquaintances through the Relay for Life website e-mail scheme," she harangued. "It's easy. Look at the money rolling in to my cam-

paign!"

Reluctantly, I decided to heed her sage advice.

Unfortunately, the gods of technology must have been engrossed in an online poker game in my realm last week.

After wrestling with Internet, e-mail and network server problems at work on Thursday, and losing digital photos of Rita Dods' dedicated ALS taggers group because two of our regular cameras are in for repairs and the third was in use elsewhere, the last thing I wanted to do was thrash around with computers that same night.

But the pressure was on.

I managed to burn up about an hour trying to send a bulk e-mail through the Relay for Life website, with Andrea's taunting voice growing louder as the error message debris piled higher.

That's when I remembered this column space, which I've been magnanimously handing over to various people who send in their opinion pieces each week.

"I can beg for donations through my column!" I thought.

So, here goes: if anybody hasn't

yet made a donation to the Relay for Life campaign, dial up www.cancer.ca and follow the links to the Ink Spots team (under Team Rankings) on Salt Spring Island — and put it in Sam or Ari Neville's basket.

Let's help them beat their mother at her own game.

I also want to respond to Chris Dixon's piece on the opposite page. After his six and a half-year hiatus from reading the Driftwood, it's too bad Chris didn't stumble across the May 3 edition where David Suzuki's column ran in prime real estate on Page 8, or the eight-page April 5 Green Edition dealing with local endangered species, air quality, pesticides, greenhouse gas emissions and related topics; or past Wheels sections where Smart cars or hybrid cars have been written up. (The Yukon SUV was supposed to have been a hybrid Silverado, in fact, but was sold in the previous week.)

If Chris had seen one of those issues instead, I wonder if he would have written a letter

congratulating us and declaring his return to the fold. I doubt it, somehow.

Chris makes some interesting observations, and I agree that David Suzuki is a critically important voice in society today, but I don't believe his widely distributed Science Matters column should take priority over opinion pieces submitted by island residents or any amount of local content in a community newspaper.

Suzuki's column is on the web at www.davidsuzuki.org, while the Driftwood is the only place where people can regularly read about a full range of Salt Spring happenings or see their name or photo in print.

We've also raised local awareness through innumerable stories and editorials about the One-Tonne Challenge, water quality and other environmental and health issues written by ourselves and a host of informed and passionate islanders.

If Chris had read more than one issue of the Driftwood since the turn of the century, he would already know that.

Business Opportunity

Garden Faire on Salt Spring. Old forest Campground, Garden Gallery & Nursery. Beautifully situated on 2½ acres in the village core, bordering the majestic trails of 55 acre Mouat Park and across the street from the Community Swimming Pool. Home of the Island's largest eucalyptus tree and annual 'After Fair' music festival. Seeking investor and working partner(s) or franchise/lessee; also, one acre Landscape Supply Depot. Contact Shirley @ (250) 537-4346 or gardenfaire@saltspring.com.



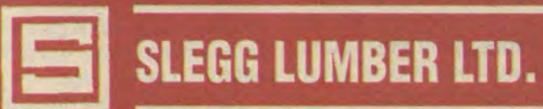
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More letters



SNAKES AND THINGS: Jewelia and Savannah Wilson reflect on some Cosmic Critters at the Saturday market in Ganges. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Don't miss it

We had the good fortune to see an incredible film presentation in Vancouver in December and we are delighted that it is being shown here at ArtSpring this Saturday.

Professional photographer and philanthropist Brian Harris travelled through India for five months creating this entertaining and inspirational presentation for SEVA — an organization devoted to restoring sight to the poor in India and Africa. Who better to assist SEVA, a charitable organization for the blind, than a photographer?

With a delightful indigenous music soundtrack, this documentary explores the provocative cultural and spiritual imagery that Brian captured. The exotic imagery weaves us through the telling of four remarkable stories from four unique geographical locations in India.

This is a must see presentation! Saturday, June 3 at

ArtSpring theatre.
DIANE THOMAS, JIM MEADOWS,
Salt Spring

Quality issues

It is encouraging that more residents are becoming aware of the quality concerns over the water we take and use from St. Mary Lake.

It does seem that our community has failed to recognize that we have a very sick lake and that immediate action is needed. The cost of recovery will be significant both in general taxes and to the individual owners in the watershed.

Dwight Jones in last week's In Response is in error, however, over the effect on the lake from both the existing homes and the future village on Channel Ridge. His position is that the water "pumping . . . into 500 Channel Ridge septic tanks only to run back down into the water table . . . should all go right into Stuart Channel."

In fact that is where it does

go now and will continue when the village is built. Many years ago all the St. Mary Lake watershed land was deeded to the Water Preservation Society and there will be no human or natural run-off from Channel Ridge into our drinking water supply.

I will agree with Dwight that we all missed a great opportunity in not purchasing the whole ridge when it was affordable. Sadly that solution is no longer viable.

JOHN MYERS,
Cormorant Crescent

Reversing time

The information notice concerning vacation rentals on Salt Spring Island has just landed in my mailbox.

What a perfect example of "newspeak" it is — heavy with sweeping statements and assumptions and very light on facts. Very 1984.

The two trustees and the

persistent and ill-informed lobby group they represent have very little idea of what damage they are doing to the economy of the island.

Most of my renters have been coming to Salt Spring for years. When given the news that vacation rentals are now forbidden, their reaction was that of universal disbelief.

I have now referred them to the websites of the other Gulf Islands where this civilized and "family friendly" form of vacationing can still occur. I have also referred them to the San Juan Islands Chamber of Commerce, which is apparently only too glad to welcome our rejected tourists. What sort of message is this sending to people who want to visit our island?

Vacation house rental is a fast-growing tourism sector and an increasingly popular way to spend a holiday worldwide. Except on Salt Spring.

I live in Alberta but I spend as much time as I can on the island. I have made friends, go to North End Fitness, have "make-up" meetings at the Rotary Club and rent videos from the wonderful selection at Island Star Video. I have buried my husband, mother, father and mother in law in the cemetery behind the cinema.

Fritz attended the service. I will have enough money to move here permanently in three or four years. Until then, I have to pay the mortgage. When I bought my house years ago, the bylaw was in place, but tacit permission was given by the Islands Trust to allow vacation rentals.

No warnings were given and no one was prosecuted. Simply put, if I do not rent my house, I will have difficulty paying the mortgage and taxes. If I rent it out full time, I will never be able to stay on island.

I feel that I am being punished. The trustees and their supporters are trying to reverse time and keep the island as it was 25 years ago. This is not possible. Let us stop making futile attempts to turn the clock back. This only causes harm and pits neighbour against neighbour. Common sense must prevail. It is time to start managing the future.

GILL TAYLOR,
Carvel, Alberta and Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A12

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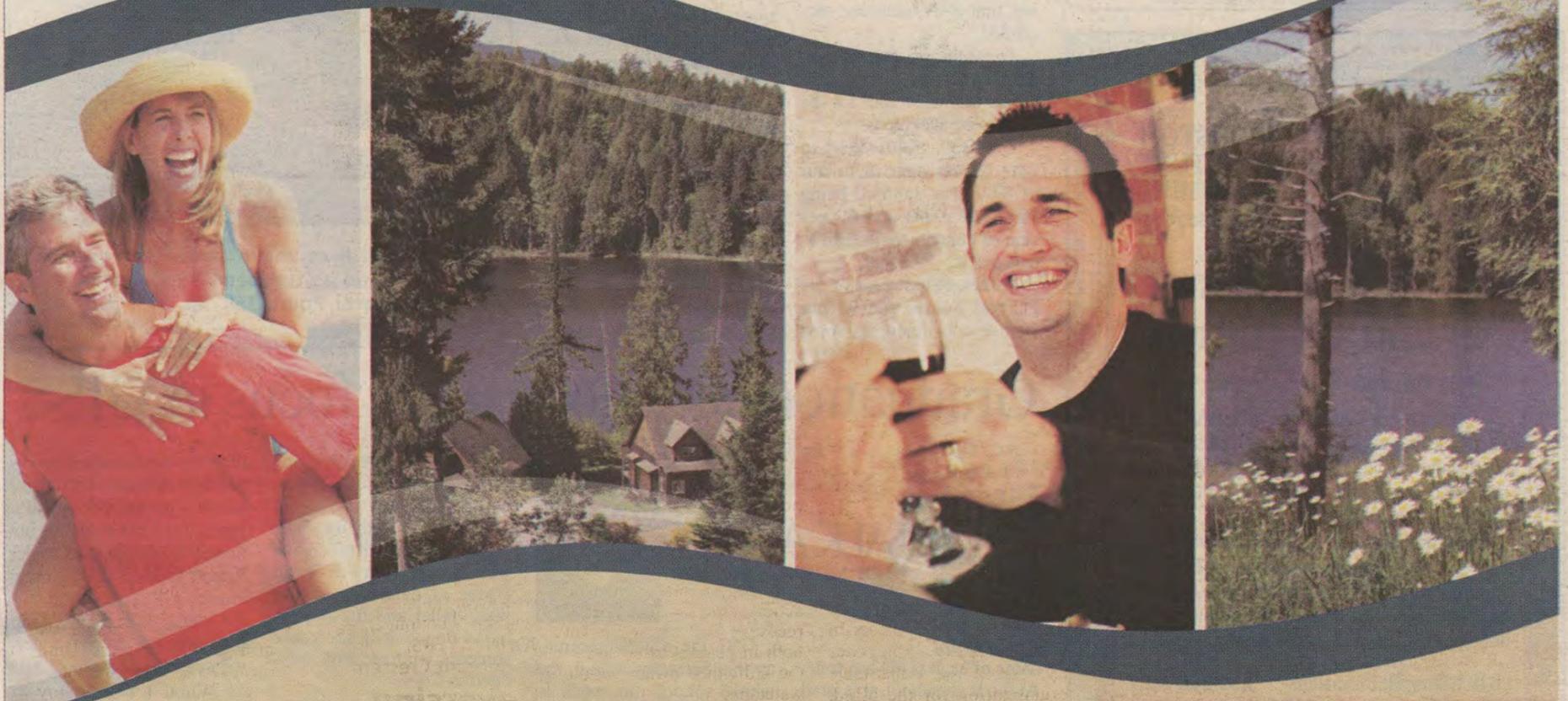
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Enjoy the Alberta and BC landscapes of Michael Hames (www.thunderbirdgallery.com). Everyone placing an order for custom framing in June will be eligible to win an original oil painting by this well known artist. We'd love to see you!

9848 Willow St., Chemainus 250-246-3427

More letters

Hungry hummers

We just bought our third bag of sugar in a month. Is anybody else feeding these hungry hummingbirds?

Just wondering.
THE KELLINGTONS,
Musgrave Road

STV won

As an addition to my article last week on STV and election reform, I am arguing that STV actually succeeded.

According to the referendum legislation, two requirements had to be met for the STV to be accepted.

The B.C. public had to vote 60 per cent in favour of STV (the standard being 50+1 per cent) and 60 per cent of constituencies had to approve it.

In fact, 58 per cent of the general public and 93 per cent of constituencies voted

Yes to STV.

Two requirements, not one.

Being two per cent under in one requirement should have been surpassed by 33 per cent over in the other requirement.

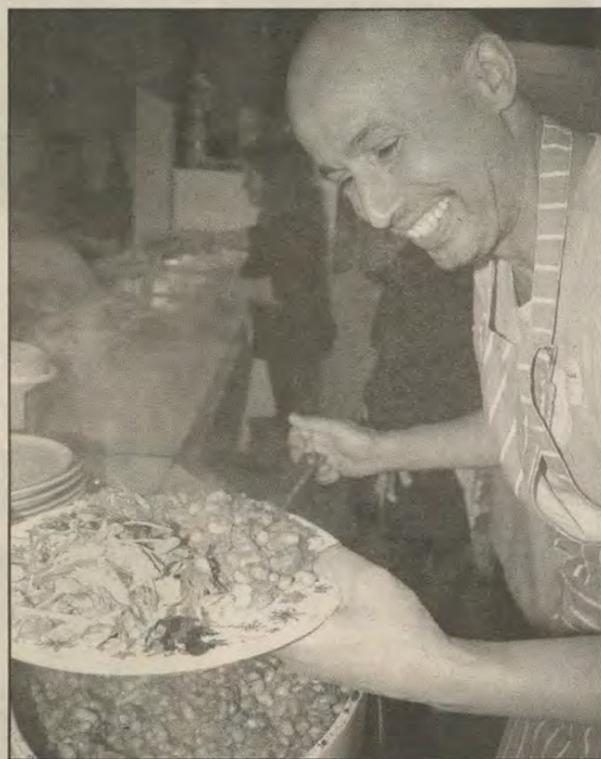
That almost all B.C. constituencies approved STV shows how widespread the support base is for a new election system.

The Liberal government stated STV failed based on one requirement (the general vote) and ignored the other requirement that succeeded.

When including both referendum requirements, STV was approved by the majority of B.C. voters.

The right and democratic thing to do is to change the next election to an STV system and see what proportional representation democracy looks like.

KEN ROULEAU,
Salt Spring



BEAN BASH: Ilyes Bouzri serves up a platter of beans and salad as the Bean Supper tradition is revived at Beaver Point Hall. At least 300 people attended.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

Graduation ceremony main focus at GISS

At Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS), the most special time of year has arrived once again... and for some of us, it is the last time. At the high school, it is grad time and the end-of-year buzz is spreading throughout the school.

TALK ABOUT WITH LAURA STEWART



With the official ceremony this Saturday, June 3, the whole school this week is busy with preparations for graduation.

Rehearsals for the grad class took place on Monday and Tuesday, May 29 and 30, and Grad Baby Posters — where Grads capture “life from birth to Graduation” — are now hanging in the school’s multi-purpose room.

With the end of the year, however, also comes the time for final concerts and performances.

• The GISS Dance depart-

ment is taking the ArtSpring stage this week on Wednesday and Thursday, May 31 and June 1, with its show Collage. The performance will feature many different styles of dance including jazz, ballet and hip-hop. A Salsa dance will showcase students who recently travelled to Cuba.

• The GISS Music department will also be holding its final concert, on June 7 and 8 at ArtSpring. Over eight groups will be performing, including the senior jazz band, chamber choir and chamber orchestra. Audiences will also find Cuban influences in this concert, as director Bruce Smith described the trip as an “invaluable experience” for his students.

• The Theatre Sports Slam Down, which has been taking place every day at lunch-

time for the last three weeks has now finished with team-Stone Carvers taking first place. Students Bonn Smith, Lowell Rockliffe and Zander Ritson formed the winning improvisation team.

• Media Arts teacher John Cameron has created a new website where his Media Arts 11 students can post their best pictures each week.

The link, accessible through the school website, www.gulfislandssecondary.ca, currently features photos by students including Elizabeth Cronin, Buffy Jones and Sascha Floercke. More images will be added weekly.

• The feeling around GISS is special at this time of year, as Grade 12s prepare to leave and the school year of 2005-2006 is coming to a close.

One-day Only Sale!

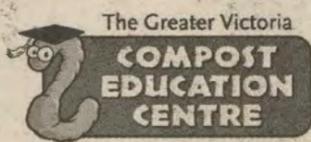
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Yard & garden waste isn't garbage — it's compost! Start composting with one of these large capacity bins, just \$35 each, plus tax (regular price \$63.95). Limit 2 bins per household, while quantities last, cash or cheque only.

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WINDSOR

Hydro line input sought

A June 5 open house event at ArtSpring offers the public's last chance to give input to B.C. Hydro's proposed new transmission line through the Gulf Islands.

While the plan has not yet been given the go-ahead by the B.C. Utilities Commission (BCUC), the B.C. Transmission Corporation (BCTC) has made a permit application to the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

"Although there is a strong possibility of appeal, your last chance to address any concerns you have regarding environmental, economic, social, heritage or health effects of the project may be now," says the lobby group Island Residents Against High Voltage Overhead Lines (IRAHVOL).

From 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, BCTC staff will be on hand to answer questions and accept written submissions. At 7 p.m., BCTC and the EAO will each make a presentation in the theatre to be followed by a question and answer period until 8:30 p.m.

If the BCUC approves the BCTC plan, it is expected to do so in July and would then need to comply with stipulations in an environmental permit, says IRAHVOL.

Written submissions can be made to the EAO until July 27.

SeaBreeze Corporation also has an application before the National Energy Board to build a transmission line from Port Angeles to Victoria.

"SeaBreeze proposes to use HVDC Light cables that would be buried for the entire route and have virtually no EMF effect," states IRAHVOL. "If the SeaBreeze proposal is approved, and if BCTC and BC Hydro can agree to cooperate, then it is quite possible that the overhead transmission lines as proposed by BCTC would not be necessary."

For more information, call Enid Turner at 537-9153 or Jackie Truscott at 537-5759.



STUDENT DEMO: A large crowd watches Dan Kilmer's demonstration in the new shop area as hundreds attend Gulf Islands Secondary School's Applied Skills Fair. The day-long event took place Friday at the high school. Photo by John Cameron

Island-loving Gwen Ruckle dies

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

After 74 years of community contributions as a local farmer, painter, environmentalist and volunteer, Gwen Ruckle died peacefully at Lady Minto Hospital on May 19.

Among her many gifts to Salt Spring, Gwen made numerous historical presentations about Ruckle Park, a 486-hectare pioneer farm including rich shoreline and forest land, which her family donated to the province with a provision for tenure in 1974.

"She loved the farm and everything connected with the farm, so much," said Gwen's mother Lotus, who is 95.

Consequently, Gwen enjoyed giving talks about the family homestead, even though she hated making presentations as a child in school, Lotus said.

"She always wanted to see the farm become a park."

Gwen was an ardent environmentalist, who advocated for the property and helped draw up the master plan for the provincial park.

"She thought it would be awfully nice to see some part of Salt Spring remain as it had been."

Gwen's father, Gordon



Gwen Ruckle

Ruckle, once said, "You can't own land, you can only preserve it for future generations," and Gwen seemed to take after her father, Lotus said.

She was also an artist who created oil paintings of Ruckle Park landscapes with storming seashores, snow-covered arbutus and farming scenes that cover the walls of Lotus' home.

"She went out with her cup of tea and a sketch pad and came back with that," Lotus said, gesturing toward a lush oil painting of plump apples with a background of freshly cut oat stacks.

Gwen also served on the board of the Greenwood's Eldercare Society for 10

years, helped with the Beaver Point Community Association and had a lifetime membership as a member of the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary.

"She loved her volunteer work."

Gwen was so attached to Salt Spring, she rarely left the island, Lotus said.

"One time she boasted that she hadn't been on the ferry in eight years."

And when Gwen's brother Henry was teaching in Germany, she refused his offers to fly over to see European art first hand.

"Never would she be shut up in one of those metal cylinders."

It was only health concerns that forced Gwen to move off the family farm at Ruckle Park, Lotus said.

"I'd like to say 'thank you' to all the caregivers who kept Gwen so comfortable for so long and all the people who sent cards," said Lotus.

No service is planned and donations may be made to Lady Minto Hospital Foundation in lieu of flowers.

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Yard & garden waste isn't garbage.

As of June 1, 2006 yard and garden waste is banned from the garbage.

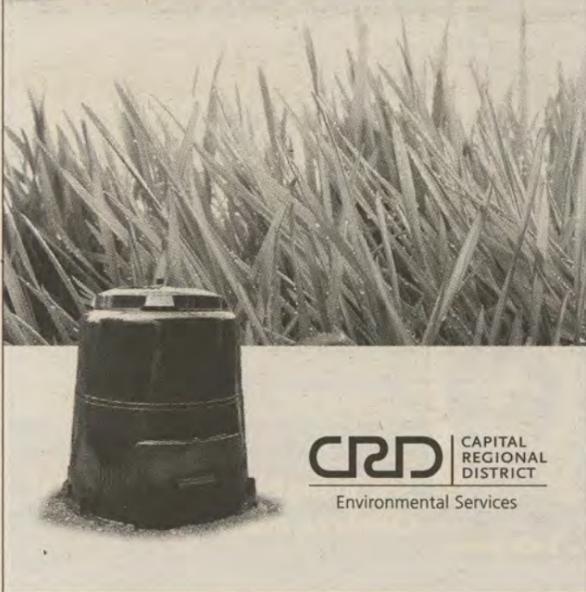
The ban includes lawn and hedge clippings, grass sod, flowers, weeds, leaves, shrubs and vegetable stalks. The ban does not include invasive, infectious and noxious plants.

There are several alternatives to dispose of yard and garden waste, including:

- > Compost it in a backyard compost bin
- > Take it to the Hartland yard waste facility or a local depot
- > Hire a collection service

The ban will benefit our environment and contribute to sustainability in our region.

For more information, contact the CRD Hotline: 1-800-663-4425 (local 3030) hotline@crd.bc.ca | www.crd.bc.ca/es



RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

Rants to whomever walks his/her dog at Duck Creek Park, picks up their dog's poo in a baggy just to leave it by the side of the trail. I'm a dog walker there, and that is not etiquette! There is no park poo collection service, so get over it and take responsibility yourself! We're fortunate to have that lovely park to let our dogs play freely, it's the least we can do. Tiffany Curran

ROSES

Armloads of fragrant roses to Rosemary Keough and her fabulous crew that put on such a great folk dance weekend at Fulford Hall. What a beautiful, colourful window into another culture. Everyone was delighted.

Susan Evans and her well-trained army of volunteers all deserve an afternoon of

relaxing in an organic rose garden sipping on a drink with their feet up. The Seeds for Malawi plant sale was a great success.

An overflowing armful of the sweetest-smelling roses to the kind-hearted person who gave such a generous donation; it was much appreciated and helped significantly. Thanks also to Judy, John and Bisbee for their great support in my time of grief and to Peter for his article and the promise of dinner to come. Roses also to GVM and to all who submit their tapes and cheques in the LC Huntington's Support box. L

A dozen dark red roses to Richard and his wife for helping me when I fell in the crosswalk near Sears and taking me to my husband. JT

Roses to Marty Lewis of Best Floors for turning my ugly duckling floors into

beautiful swans. The floors look great and were finished on time to open my new B&B. B

Big bouquet of roses for Mo and many dog bones for Jasper because after three nights out, they found Cherry. More roses to Caroline and treats to Lucy for daily accompanying me through the field of tall grass, even in the pouring rain, in search of the lost dog. Thanks Pat for your constant support; my apologies for being a high maintenance friend. Thanks to all for your calls of support and care. JD

A belated bouquet of flowers to the man who found my wallet in a phone booth and returned it to me (with all its contents). This is one of those "Salt Spring things" that reminds me why I live here.

All the fuzzy creatures at the SPCA wish to send Braiden Young buckets of roses and chocolates for donating all of his birthday money to the local SPCA.

A bouquet of flowers to the local library and the Friends of the Salt Spring Library for co-sponsoring the successful WRITE NOW! reading and benefit for the creative writing scholarship fund and the Clark Little

book prize for poetry for students. We raised \$1,000. Roses to all the businesses that made donations. Thanks to SS Cablevision for taping the event and bouquets to all the readers. Roses to the local writers who generously donated books for a silent auction.

Yellow friendship roses to the Unitarian Fellowship, Tom Mitchell and the Driftwood for providing me with financial and moral support so that I am able to travel on the 17th Caravan to Cuba this summer. Roses also to Michael Friedman. Your reactionary views always help me better define my revolutionary ones. TL

A huge garland of roses to the good folks who made Thursday evening's documentary on Vietnam such a moving and inspiring experience: Michelle Mason and Jeff Shutts, Vietnam Friendship Village, Bruce Logan and Elaine Head, Tours of Peace, and Carol and Richard Grier.

Roses to John and Gerarda (aka The Cute Couple) for the generous gift of the fig trees. J&E

An armload of the sweetest roses and catnip to Elfi Fiala who passed away recently. Elfi always helped a cat or dog in need. Feral cats were her special friends, and she is missed by them, in particular, Impy. Her many kindnesses will always be remembered. LM

COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS and Island Women Against Violence



present

Information and Awareness about Elder Abuse

Workshop Presenter: Karen Gregor, Hon BSW, M.Ed., Coordinator - Transitions House

when: Monday, June 5 or Wednesday, June 28
10:45 am - 3:45 pm (snack and lunch included)

where: Meadowbrook's Activity Room

for: Lady Minto, Greenwoods and Community Services staff and volunteers, home support workers, Meals on Wheels and Sendial volunteers, Friendly Visitors, and all those connected to seniors or interested in this helpful and FREE session

Please call Sharon Glover, Community Wellness Programs Coordinator at 537-4607 to register ASAP!

Woman hit by vehicle

A 20-year-old Salt Spring female is recovering from injuries sustained to her leg and foot after she was struck by a vehicle driven by a local male just before 10 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24 in the 100-block of Fulford-Ganges Road.

Police issued the driver a ticket for driving without a licence. Salt Spring RCMP advises pedestrians and drivers to exercise extra caution due to increased summer traffic volume.

RCMP REPORT

In other police news:

After issuing eight tickets to individuals discovered drinking in public areas, Salt Spring RCMP are reminding residents and visitors alike it is illegal to consume liquor in areas such as Centennial and Portlock parks, and school grounds.

Tickets carry a \$115 fine.

What's for Dinner?

Shopping list:

- Eggs
- Milk
- Salt
- Black pepper
- Paprika or cayenne pepper
- Sweet hot chili sauce
- Cooking oil
- 1 can shrimp
- Green onion
- Celery stalk
- Fresh bean sprouts



THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET EGG FOO YUNG Short cuts to cooking for one or two @ with Sarah Lynn

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

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

Come and try this wonderful dish at THE GANGES VILLAGE MARKET FOOD DEMONSTRATION

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• This Friday 11 am - 6 pm

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DOUBLE KITTY WHAMMY: A face-painted Nataya Smith-Valdivielso holds a stuffed cat that she won at the Salt Spring Co-op Preschool's annual carnival held Sunday at the Farmers Institute. Photo by Derrick Lundy

It's ArtSpring treasure time

The sixth annual Island Treasure Fair auctions are fast approaching and ArtSpring still needs community support through donated items for both the live and silent auctions, and the new Hidden Treasures Room.

"ArtSpring is our performing and visual arts organization dedicated to the needs of our community," states a press release.

"It is the heart of our cultural and artistic community. Now we have the opportunity to give back to our community arts centre, which has given so much pleasure and entertainment to us — by supporting this major fund-raising event."

Islanders are urged to check for items and consider services that could be donated to this year's silent and live auctions running July 13-15.

Tax receipts for the fully appraised value of the larger ticket items will be issued.

Enticing items such as a riding saddle and lessons, a vacation at Long Beach Lodge, a Salt Spring Air round trip to Vancouver, a whale-watching adventure and some beautiful antique glass windows that would make any home designer drool have already been donated. Call Judy at 537-3177 to arrange a donation.

This year the new Hidden Treasures Room will be filled with "cash and carry," whimsical and affordable items for people of all ages. Items will be accepted up to July 5.

Call Nancy at 537-2124 for more information about the Hidden Treasures Room.

A Community Flea Market organized by Island Savings will also be held in the ArtSpring meadow on Saturday, July 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Jennifer at 537-0611 for information.

Mother's Day Summer Wardrobe Winner



Mouat's Clothing Co. is pleased to announce Pat Webber (centre, shown with her mother June Burritt on the left and her mother-in-law Jean Webber on the right) as the winner of a \$300 gift certificate towards a French Dressing wardrobe.

Thanks to all those who entered



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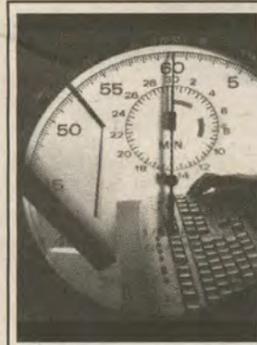
537-5551

Balance tips offered at Wednesday workshop

A free presentation on how to avoid potentially devastating falls runs at Meadowbrook today (May 31).

Hospital physiotherapist Lesley Nuk is presenting the event called Balancing Act, which will help keep people on two feet. Organized through Community Wellness Programs, it would be especially important for people with osteoporosis to attend, said coordinator Sharon Glover.

Balancing Act begins at 2 p.m. in Meadowbrook lounge. People can park in any unnumbered spots at the seniors residence on Atkins Road.



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ChamberNews

SALT SPRING ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2006

Let's Talk Business



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It's easy being green on Salt Spring

Recognizing the limited resources of living on an island and the awareness to tread lightly on our environment, we should all volunteer to operate our businesses and homes in a more environmentally responsible way. Many businesses already do their part to be environmentally friendly; however most of us could still do a little more.

The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce is launching a Green Hospitality Accommodations Initiative. The initiative will identify local accommodations that have met a number of criteria to make their accommodation more environmentally friendly through a logo. The Chamber of Commerce is also developing a series of annual awards to recognize businesses and accommodation providers that raise the bar to make their business greener. This award program will be launched this fall.

Beyond accommodation providers, all businesses on the island can do their part for the environment. You can begin by adopting a Green Business Pledge that shows



Photo by Sean McIntyre

A CLEAN CONSCIENCE: Harbour House chambermaid Charlotte Pinel shows off some of the hotel's eco-friendly cleaning supplies

your commitment to environmental responsibility that is visible to both your employees and customers. Designate a coordinator that is responsible for coordinating and maintaining this program. Implement green business measures in the areas of energy and water conservation, recycling and pollution prevention. Audit your business' energy and water use and try to reduce that by 15%. Take measures

to increase your recycling and decrease waste by 25% this year. Purchase supplies for your business that contain recycled products. Invest ethically. If we all actively do a little more to make our businesses a little greener, the Salt Spring Island business community can set an example for other communities in the Gulf Islands and on Vancouver Island that "It's easy being green!"

Fireworks for Canada Day - how the community can help

Fast forward to 9:30 pm on July 1st. People are leaving ArtSpring's Canada Day concert with the sound of O Canada on their minds, stopping for gelato at Harlan's as they make their way down to Rotary Park and find their spot along the boardwalk. Ganges Harbour is filled with boats as the Coast Guard works hard to keep them at a safe distance. The marinas are brimming with excitement as everyone waits for dusk to fall. On the Coast Guard dock the fire department is making the final touches to the evening's much anticipated show. Island Star Video is keeping the energy level high



as beach balls float down from above. Silence descends on the Harbour as the first firework whistles into the evening sky.

We all look forward to Canada Day and the opportunity to gather in our unique communities, proudly celebrate everything we have in com-

mon and remember that we live in the best country in the world. In past years, the high cost of the fireworks display was covered by a local grant that was never intended to fund the annual cost of fireworks. However in recent years this grant money has been used in

more appropriate ways for our community and the responsibility of raising the money now falls to the community. Each year the Coast Guard and Fire Department volunteer their time to ensure that the event is safe and a success. Without the generous support of the community, this much anticipated event is in danger of not happening. \$5 000 needs to be raised by the end of June. Please drop your donations off at the Visitor Centre and participating businesses. Thank you in advance for ensuring that we can all sit back and enjoy the fireworks on July 1st.

Calendar What's Up

June 8th
Business Breakfast Club
8 am
TBA

June 29
Women in Business
1130 am
Harbour House Hotel

July 8
Seattle Yacht Club BBQ
5-8 pm
Tickets \$30.00

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Tennis passion swapped for studies

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Driftwood Reporter

Visiting tennis phenom Hidemitsu Sawabe barely whetted his appetite during the brief tournament season while attending Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS).

But the 16-year-old Japanese exchange student expressed equanimity over the lack of competition.

"Tournaments put a lot of stress on me and I get so nervous," Sawabe said.

Ranked second in the Chiba Prefecture (a region of Japan with a population of 6 million), Sawabe handily beat opposition from Frances Kelsey Secondary School during a tourney last month. His team lost matches to Brentwood and Shawnigan on May 4.

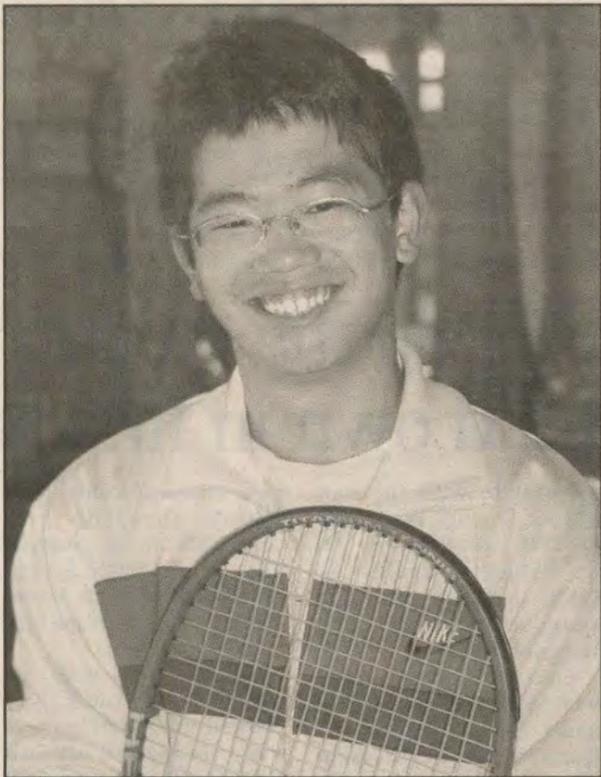
But he was looking forward to more tennis events around the islands and a shot at the regional championships last week.

Unfortunately, GISS was left out of the local schedule and few teams would arrange independent games in time for the deadline.

"If we could have played against the last school and won, we could have gone to the finals."

Sawabe has been playing tennis for eight years.

"I used to play for three hours every day," he said.



TENNIS EXCHANGE: Japanese student Hidemitsu Sawabe traded competitive tennis for his English studies when he came to Salt Spring to attend Gulf Islands Secondary School this year. Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

Since he came to Salt Spring, he hasn't been practising as seriously, but he still enjoys a game with friends one or two times a week, he said.

"I can't maintain the ener-

gy that I used to have when I played competitively."

Last year, he pushed through preliminary rounds to play in the top round within his prefecture.

His favourite player is

Maria Sharapova.

"I like everything about her and she's a good player too."

Previously, when he went to school in Florida for two years, he played tennis every day, but he found that the game was interfering with his English studies.

"When I went back to Japan, I realized how interesting English is."

And he discovered that he enjoys learning English more than playing tennis.

Consequently, he decided to continue his English studies by attending GISS (which he found by searching the Internet) and he's been living on the island with a homestay family for past three months.

Now he's thinking of staying on Salt Spring for the next two years to complete high school.

He likes the four-day week, he finds school easier than it is at home and he appreciates the friendly community.

"Usually we have 15 subjects in Japanese schools, which means 15 exams. I think that is the worst part of Japanese schools."

After graduation, he plans to study astronomy.

"In Japan, they don't have many schools for astronomy. If I want to study astronomy, I have to stay here."

June trail and nature club events scheduled

The annual strawberry festival will be on June 13 in Ruckle Park, with lunch from noon and the strawberry feast beginning at 12:30.

At this event we will ask members to vote on a donation towards a parks acquisition. Remember to bring a bowl and a spoon.

Club organized parking will be at the farthest parking lot in the park.

The fall trip to Shuswap Lake (Sept 11-14) is fully booked, but names for a waiting list will be taken. Please phone Ann King (537-2615) or Marjorie Radford (653-9370).

There will be no more club-organized hikes/walks/rambles until after the Shuswap Lake trip in mid-September, but you may meet at ArtSpring every Tuesday at 9:45 a.m. and choose your hike or walk leader or at 10

a.m. at Centennial Park for a ramble.

At <http://saltspring.gulfislands.com/lthompson> you will find more details on our activities.

Following is the June schedule:

HIKERS

JUNE 6: Join Linda Quiring for a moderate hike with some rough sections from Burgoyne Bay to Bold Bluff. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or south-enders can join at the Burgoyne Bay triangle junction at 10 a.m.

JUNE 13: Join us for a tour of Chris Hatfield's amazing museum of artifacts found on the Cusheon Cove property that was once the site of a large island sawmill and is now mostly a new addition to Ruckle Park.

Chris will also take us on a tour of the property he

recently sold to B.C. Parks. Meet to carpool at ArtSpring at 9:30 to arrive at the Dana Farms driveway at 107D Meyer Road (its southeast end — old fish farm) by 10 a.m. South-enders can carpool and go directly to the site.

Following the visit we will join the strawberry festival at 12:30 at the latest.

WALKERS

JUNE 6: Brian Radford will take us on the long-awaited walk into the Shepherd Hills. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

JUNE 13: Walkers are organizing the strawberries this year, starting at 12:30 p.m. in Ruckle Park, and a few volunteers are needed. Those not helping may carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. for a short walk before lunch and strawberries at 12:30.

What's On?
see page B12

The Living Word

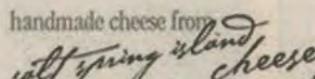
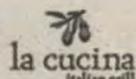
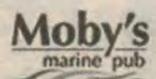
John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

WINSOME WHITE
Please Read: Romans 5:8 Isaiah 9:6
John 3:17 - 36

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WINTER SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 30 - JUNE 27

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8:00 am	5:00 pm	8:30 am	5:30 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm	9:30 am	6:30 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm	11:10 am	8:10 pm
11:40 am	8:40 pm	12:10 pm	9:10 pm
Mon, Thurs + 12:40 pm	9:40 pm	1:10 pm	10:05 pm
1:40 pm	▲ 10:35 pm	2:15 pm	▲ 11:05 pm
3:00 pm		3:30 pm	

▲ Additional sailings Saturday only ■ Except Saturday
* Monday to Thursday only ★ Except Sunday

+ Some sailings Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays will be replaced by Dangerous Cargo sailings. Other passengers are not permitted on these sailings.

Hard work pays off for gymnasts

Salt Spring gymnasts were busy flipping out on the May 20 long weekend.

Seven members of the Salt Spring Gymnastics Team competed at the Garden City Invitational May 20-21, all of them placing in the top 10 in at least one event.

The Saturday session began with a successful day for the Level 1 Novice girls, Rachel Drummond and Tess Eddington, and Level 1 Open competitor Katrina Villadsen.

Rachel Drummond

brought home the gold medal for a fabulous vault, as well as placing eighth on bars and beam and taking seventh place on floor exercise, giving her eighth place all around.

Tess Eddington took the bronze medal for vault, placed fifth on bars and sixth on beam and floor exercise, taking home the bronze all around.

Villadsen had an outstanding meet once again this season, taking home a few medals. She earned the

bronze medal for vault, gold on bars, silver on beam and the bronze for floor exercise, giving her the gold medal all around.

The second session of the day saw Jessica Fettis, in Level 2 Open, bring home a gold medal for vault, silver on beam and silver on floor exercise.

Unfortunately, Jessica was not able to compete in uneven bars due to a previous injury.

The Sunday session saw competitors Kristi Reynolds

and Sarah Robinson in the Provincial Beginner Tyro category and Samantha Brunt in the Level 1 Tyro.

Reynolds performed well, placing 10th on vault, eighth on uneven bars and ninth on floor exercise, giving her ninth place all around.

Robinson had a fantastic beam routine, taking fourth place.

Brunt pulled off a seventh place for vault, competing a new vault for the first time, and took eighth place on floor exercise.

Salt Spring dragon boat crew hold own in first race event

Paddlers with the Salt Spring Dragon Boat Club (SSDBC) got their feet wet by competing against 27 teams in windy, rainy and sunny conditions at the Gorge on Sunday.

Entered as a novice team, with fewer than 16 practices under its belt, the SSDBC team with its GVM-sponsored boat held its own among the other more experienced recreational teams, said local coach-drummer Mary Rowles.

The 48-foot dragon boats, each crewed by 20 paddlers, a drummer and steersperson, raced on a tight course of only 250 metres at the Gorge (half the length of usual races).

Despite a nervous start in the first heat, the SSDB team clocked in at 1 minute 19 seconds, said Rowles.

"The team was some-

what surprised to find itself already ahead of three other teams in the competition. This required a radical adjustment in our motto, "Someone has to come last; might as well be us."

Calmer wind and tide conditions, and better focus allowed the SSDB team to shave six seconds off their time for the second heat (1:13) to tie an established intermediate recreational team from Victoria called Gung Ho, she said.

"Both the steersperson and the drummer maintain that the dragon hats they wore, while ridiculous, were lucky and that screaming for a solid minute at the paddlers for 'More Power!' also helped," Rowles said.

The top competitive teams set a blistering pace all day, finishing seconds apart in times under a minute. But

competition in the recreational category was equally fierce, she said.

"SSDB set it's sights on beating Gung Ho, but the gods were not smiling. A strong shifting current in the Gorge waters overpowered steerspersons in three races in a row, including the SSDB final race."

The SSDB boat was dragged sideways just as the team closed on the finish line.

Salt Spring and the Island Breastrokers boats narrowly avoided a crash, but both boats were dragged out of the course and called to a halt by race officials.

Paddlers showed good sportsmanship, great effort and now they know who they have to beat in the Nanaimo Paddlefest at the end of June, she said.

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Stars stump team

Island Stars softball girls shone during a 14-2 win against an Esquimalt team at the Fulford ball park on Sunday.

Game highlights included solid defensive play (where Rosalie Baldwinson, Colleen Hillis and Carolyn Pomajzl showed prowess) that held Esquimalt #2 scoreless through the first four innings and was capped off with a double play in the sixth inning.

Salt Spring hitting from Baldwinson, Hillis, Devon Craig, Erin Foster, Katie Haydon, Asia Petis and Megan Robinson brought in loads of runners.

In other games over the weekend, the Stars had two losses against two Central Saanich teams on Saturday and another loss to Esquimalt #1 on Sunday.

Among Stars pitchers, Craig averaged five strike-outs per game while Haydon, Hillis, Robinson and Deven Miles also saw pitching action.

B.C. Basketball selects Grommé for provincial squad

Salt Spring basketball prodigy Kayla Grommé has been named to the provincial team for the third straight year.

She made the B.C. team after cuts brought applicants from over 300, to 50, to 24, to 18 and then the final 12 for the U17 Blues. Previously, Grommé played with the U15 squad in 2005 and 2004.

Almost equally remarkable, Grommé recovered from a knee injury just in time to play top-form exhibition games with B.C.'s U17 squad at the Vancouver Island Women's Basketball Showcase held at St. Margaret's School last weekend.

B.C.'s U17 girls played close games against UVic

Vikes (losing in overtime by one point) and the UBC T-Birds (loss by six) before they blew away alumni opponents from the Southern Vancouver Island Basketball Association.

"After coming back from an injury last year, it was quite an impressive show," said Grommé's father Lane.

As a highlight, she picked off four three-point shots during the game against UVic, he said.

Grommé tore her anterior-cruciate ligament 10 months ago during a tournament in Spokane and the exhibition tourney was her first play since then, he said.

"She's really proud of her

recovery."

Now Grommé will be practising every weekend in North Vancouver with UBC coach Shaun McGuinness until the B.C. team attends tournaments in Spokane, Portland and Seattle through July before they hit the nationals in Sherbrooke, Québec in August.



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Lease and finance offers are from Honda Canada Finance Inc., on approved credit. Based on a 2006 Honda CR-V SE, model RD7756EX. Lease for 48 months at \$288.00 per month plus applicable taxes with 96,000 km allowance (12¢/km exceeding allowance). \$5,421.56 down payment or equivalent trade acceptable to dealer (\$0 down on approved credit from Honda Canada Finance Inc.). Initiation payment of \$6,644.30 includes down payment, first monthly payment, registration, tire and battery levy, A/C tax, security deposit of \$0, freight and P.D.E. and taxes. Total freight and P.D.E. is \$1,455.00. Total lease payment is \$22,075.34. Option to purchase at lease end for \$13,771.00 and taxes. CR-V lease calculated with interest rate of 2.9%. 2.9% purchase financing is available on 2006 CR-Vs for up to 60 months. Representative finance example based on a 2006 CR-V SE, model RD7756EX: \$30,755.00 at 2.9% per annum equals \$551.26 per month based on a 60-month term. C.O.B. is \$2,320.60 for a total obligation of \$33,075.60. \$1,000 Honda Gift Certificate offer available on all 2006 CR-Vs. Offers valid from May 1st, 2006 through May 31st, 2006 at participating dealers only. See participating dealer for details. Offers subject to change by manufacturer at any time. May not be combined with any other promotion. MSRP includes freight and P.D.E. of \$1,455.00. Taxes extra. Based on the retail value of installed additional equipment and price difference of CR-V SE, model RD7756EX, versus 2005 CR-V LX, model RD7755E with accessories installed. Horsepower and torque calculations reflect new SAE J1349 procedures revised August 2004. See dealer for 2006 EnerGuide or visit vehicles.gc.ca.



1994 NISSAN MAXIMA
4 dr, auto, Fully equipped, p.seat, Climate control, low kms, Keyless entry. **\$8,995**



1999 FORD TAURUS
4 dr, V6, auto, air, tilt, cruise, power group, alloys, low kms. **\$6,888**



1995 HONDA ACCORD EX
4 dr, auto, pw, p.locks, p.mirrors, cruise, tilt, A/C. **\$8,995**



1997 BUICK REGAL GS
4 dr, auto, Loaded, P.Leather Seats, Alloys, CD / Cass. **\$9,995**



2000 FORD FOCUS
auto, fully equipped, a/c, CD, leather, alloys. **\$8,888**



1997 GMC YUKON SLT
4 dr, 4wd, 8 cyl, auto, Fully loaded incl p.leather seats, Alloy wheels, running boards & tow package. **\$13,995**



1999 FORD F-250 Supercab 4x4, 8 cyl, auto, leather, air, tilt, cruise, power group, tonneau cover, SRW, CD stereo, running boards. \$18,888



1999 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE Limited, 4 dr, auto, Fully Loaded, incl p.group, p.leather seat, CD, alloy wheels. \$15,995



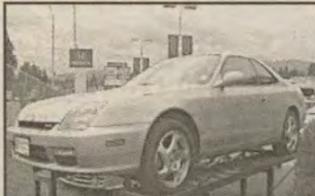
1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GTP, V6, fully equipped, lthr, alloys, 4whl disc's, supercharged. \$10,888



1999 PONTIAC TRANS SPORT, 4 dr, auto, 156000 kms pw, p.locks, p.mirrors, A/C, tilt, cruise, alloy wheels. \$8,995



2000 TOYOTA 4RUNNER Limited, 4 dr, 4wd, auto, Black w/ Tan leather, Fully loaded, Sunroof, Alloy wheels, cass/cd, tow pkg. \$23,995



2001 HONDA PRELUDE VTEC, 2 dr, 5 spd, pw, p.locks, tilt, cruise, A/C, CD, Alloy wheels, P.sunroof. \$20,995



2002 HONDA ACCORD SE, 4 dr, auto, p.group, A/C, Heated seats, CD/Cass, sunroof, spoiler, alloy wheels. \$18,995



2003 HYUNDAI TIBURON SE, 4 cyl, 5 spd, sunroof, air, tilt, cruise, pw, pdl, pm, CD stereo, alloy wheels, spoiler, rear wiper. \$13,888



2003 TOYOTA COROLLA CE, 4 dr, 5 spd, P.mirrors, CD, Clean, One owner. \$13,995



2003 TOYOTA MATRIX XRS, 4 dr, 4 cyl, H.O, auto, p.group, A/C, tilt, cruise, Alloy Wheels, privacy glass. \$20,995



2001 TOYOTA CAMRY CE, 4 dr, auto, 90000 kms pw, p.locks, p.mirrors, CD. \$17,995



2002 ACURA RSX Premium, 2 dr, auto, fully loaded, incl heated leather seats & alloy wheels. \$23,995



2005 CHEVROLET BLAZER, 2 dr, 4wd, V6, auto, CD, alloy wheels, a/c, roof rack, sporty, like new! \$19,995



2005 HONDA ACCORD EX, V6, auto, demo unit, fully loaded, fog lights, spoiler. \$33,995

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