

Driftwood Gulf Islands

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

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- Pharmasave
- Market
- Uncle Alberts
- Thrifty Foods
- Pinnacle Pizza
- Home Hardware

INSIDE



Top of her class

A Salt Spring mom-turned-mechanic aces her exam to top her apprenticeship program. Page 25

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Weather

Sunny skies will turn to clouds tomorrow (Thursday) with showers forecast right through the weekend. Highs to 13 C (today), overnight lows to 1 C.

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Island entry fee for 'tax equity'?

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

From imposing an Islands Trust area "entry fee" to redistributing Trust monies so the most populated islands receive more service for their tax money, Islands Trust Council will consider ways to address "tax equity" when trustees meet on Hornby Island this week.

Responding mainly to concerns of Salt Spring trustees Eric Booth and Kimberly Lineger that the Trust's taxation and wealth distribution system is not fair to islands with larger assessment rolls, the Trust's executive committee has come up with one plan.

Trust chair David Essig said the committee has put forward "a comprehensive

model that would see a more equitable distribution of resources amongst the islands."

It would create a ratio from each island's contribution to total revenue and receipt of expenditures, and "move towards making that ratio equal one."

That would be done by adjusting where the funds are spent, rather than where

they come from — "that is, we'd find the equity on the expenditure side rather than the tax side," said Essig.

Lineger is proposing creation of a separate subsidy fund, while Booth has suggested more dramatic shifts in the Trust funding system.

Those include collecting an "entry fee" from tourists and short-term residents coming to the

islands, along the same lines as national park fees.

"By having visitors each contribute a small amount, the benefits of the revenue could assist the islands in everything from affordable housing projects, park maintenance and road upgrades, to local planning,

ENTRY FEE 2

Crib champs off to nationals

Salt Spring's Anne Isbister and Dorothy Sloan are headed to the national cribbage finals after pegging a stunning provincial win last weekend.

"We didn't think we were winners," said Sloan. "We just thought we'd ask them how we did so we could report back how far down the list we were."

As members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92, Sloan and Isbister also won the Legion's Vancouver Island zone championships the previous week. But Sloan was modest about their recent winning streak.

"Crib is all in the cards," she said. "If you win, you win."

"Two weeks ago I got the 'booby prize' with a 21 and two 80s."

A score of less than 80 is a "skunk" or a double loss, she noted.

The islanders even had a poor start at the provincial championships in Port Coquitlam.

"We lost our first four games and lost another later on."

But they went on to sweep the 28-game challenge, she said.

Now Isbister and Sloan are flying off to Nova Scotia for a shot at the Legion's Dominion Trophy on April 23, compliments of B.C. Legions.

"We're both in our 80s," she noted.

Sloan expects Nova Scotia will have changed since her last visit in 1943. She's been playing crib since she was 20.

"My husband came from the Prairies where they played lots of cards and he taught me," she said.



APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE: Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Iona Campagnolo, right, and her honorary aide-de-camp Cpt. Corrine Sawden applaud SWOVA Youth Team members as about 200 people gather at Meaden Hall Monday night to celebrate International Women's Day. More photos, pages 3, 18.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Lieutenant Governor celebrates women, youth at SWOVA event

Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo celebrated the results of feminism and lamented atrocities still occurring against women as she took the podium at Meaden Hall Monday night, marking International Women's Day on Salt Spring.

Sponsored by Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse (SWOVA), the standing-room-only event honoured members of the SWOVA Youth Team and featured songs by Women of Note and the Honour Choir.

In her keynote speech,

Campagnolo said that although women may avoid the term "feminism" today, they can be proud of the feminist movement that forced a shift in prejudice based on gender.

In addition to giving women more rights and freedoms, she said, feminism has had the positive effect of allowing men to participate in bringing up children.

But she also took listeners on a "tour of the world," describing how millions of women in various countries continue to suffer atrocities

and discrimination.

Canadian women are not immune to this, she added, citing the "ghastly and dehumanizing" deaths of the women from downtown Vancouver's East Side; laws that continue to discriminate against First Nations women on reserves; and the "epidemic of violence" against seniors, in which elderly women are three times as likely to be abused as elderly men.

Appropriate to the occasion, Campagnolo was accompanied to the Meaden

Hall event by her mother Rosamund Hardy, who, she said, taught her "there are no other limits than those I impose on myself."

Born on Galiano Island, Campagnolo's public service began in Prince Rupert in 1966 when she was elected as a school trustee. She served in parliament during much of the 1970s, and was a member of Pierre Trudeau's cabinet. She was also the first woman president of her party.

In reflecting on her years

WOMEN'S DAY 3

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Driftwood wins 4 award nominations

The Gulf Islands Driftwood has again been judged one of the best newspapers in B.C.

Finalists in the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspaper Association (BCYCNA) annual Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards were announced last week.

The newspaper is in the top three of a circulation category between 4,000 and 13,000. The Whistler Question and Williams Lake Tribune are the other finalists.

Three other Driftwood entries received award nominations for best process colour ad design, newspaper promotion and website design awards. Honours and hardware will be doled out at an April 24 BCYCNA dinner in Vancouver.

The Driftwood placed second province-wide in its circulation category last year.

Property tax pain hits islands through tax-max, assessments double whammy

By GAIL SJUBERG
Staff Writer

Salt Spring property owners will be feeling more pain than anticipated when they get their tax bills this year, largely — but not entirely — due to the 20 per cent growth in the island's property value.

Before the end of March, the island's two primary local government bodies will finalize how much in tax funds they will need from island property owners.

According to budget documents which the Capital Regional District (CRD) board will review today (March 10), the average-assessed residential property on Salt Spring will pay \$60.97 more in taxes this year, with approximately \$40 of that going to the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) to help support the planned Rainbow Road pool facilities.

The CRD cost per \$100,000 of assessed property value on Salt Spring actually dropped by \$7.65 this year, since assessment increases are not necessarily matched by tax hikes for all services. But the 20 per cent jump in average-assessed residential property values did contribute to the \$60.97 in new costs for the average property, which is now pegged at \$314,926.

Overall, Salt Spring

will contribute \$397,634 more in taxes to CRD operations in 2004, for a total of \$2,731,713.

An agreement for PARC to "tax to the max" of the limit it is allowed has caused most of the CRD increase, with higher-than-expected assessment values translating into a boon for the PARC budget. Some \$227,270 more will flow into the PARC operating budget this year (to make a total of \$803,820).

The debt-servicing amount authorized by the 1999 parkland purchase referendum will jump by \$29,780 (to \$167,510). The latter funds can be used for Rainbow Road capital costs.

Salt Spring regional director Gary Holman reiterated Monday the extra operating funds have also been earmarked for running the Rainbow Road aquatic facility once it is complete. That is in accordance with islanders' willingness to pay more taxes for a new pool as indicated in the PARC-Splash aquatic centre survey done last November.

Holman has stated his position about the increased PARC taxes in director's reports and public meetings since last fall.

PARC will likely still require taxpayer approval through refer-

endum to borrow some of the funds for pool project capital costs, he noted.

Until this year, PARC has not requested all of the requisition it is entitled to.

Another significant part of the jump lies with contributions to the Capital Regional Hospital District, with Salt Spring contributing \$31,103 more this year than last (from \$563,415 to \$594,519).

Holman pointed out that Salt Spring benefited greatly from hospital district funds in the recent Lady Minto renovation.

With common pots of money shared throughout the CRD, he said, "Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose."

Mary Hawkins Memorial Library will also benefit from increased assessments. Holman had agreed the library association could tax to its legal limit, as requested by the library board, although that amount was estimated at about \$10,000, not the \$14,000 it could now receive.

Salt Spring will actually pay between \$400 and \$13,200 less for seven different items ranging from the CRD's regional planning service to the 911/telecommunications system.

The CRD is set to pass its budget bylaw March

24. Islands Trust Council will discuss and decide on its 2004-05 budget when it meets on Hornby Island this week.

The group's starting point from February is a budget with \$3,856,730 in revenue and some new programs on its wish list.

Council will also consider a handful of proposals that will either redistribute its resources or potentially increase revenue. (See front-page story in this issue.)

Southern Gulf Islands residents will see a slight tax decrease for CRD services. The average property on Saturna, Mayne, Galiano and the Penders will see a \$7.84 reduction, from \$231.56 to \$223.73.

The new tax figures also don't take into account CRD services such as the Maliview and Ganges sewer systems or Highland and Fernwood water.

Information on the provincial government's 2004 rural and school taxes — which takes by far the biggest chunk of funds from property owners in unincorporated areas — was not available from the provincial government at presstime.

If no adjustment is made to compensate for the 20 per cent assessment hikes, the biggest impact would be felt in those parts of the property tax total.

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ENTRY FEE: Trust to deal with tax equity issue

From Page 1

bicycle paths, transit and energy strategies," states Booth in his proposal.

"In other words, the fees would help the islands to continue to serve the needs of visitors and assist in the maintenance and servicing of the provincial 'preserve and protect' mandate."

Based on a \$1 per passenger charge, \$1 for bicycles and motorcycles and a \$10 annual vehicle fee (using a windshield sticker), Booth estimates the net revenue potential to Salt Spring at \$1,438,000.

Residents would be exempt from paying fees and would be issued "resident cards" and vehicle stickers.

"Longtime islanders will recollect that resident cards have been used in the past for ferry fare reductions," said Booth.

He has dubbed the entry fee scheme the Islands Trust Fiscal Preservation Plan.

A second Booth concept would see the Islands Trust fee structure changed so that development services

the Trust provides — rezonings, development permits, variances and such — would be done on a cost-recovery basis.

"It is estimated the Trust only recaptures 15-30 per cent of its actual costs of applications," said Booth. "This past year it is estimated it brought in about \$150,000. This would mean anywhere up to \$850,000 of the cost to process development applications Trust-wide was not recovered and therefore paid for by the taxpayers."

He added that the current system makes it appear "Salt Spring is actually subsidizing developers throughout the Trust area."

Booth is attending this week's Trust Council meeting despite stating after the last meeting in December that he would not return to the council table until trustees voted to accept tax equity.

Council will also vote on its 2004-2005 budget and discuss Trust governance renewal.

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	2155	9.2		1825	2.0
12 FR	0200	8.2	16	0310	10.8
	0735	10.5	TU	0855	9.2
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Beacon seekers buzz island

Military aircraft swarmed over Salt Spring for a search-and-rescue mission in response to a false alarm last week.

Now Salt Spring RCMP officers are hoping to learn more about the origin of the emergency radio beacon used to summon rescuers on March 2.

"Things like this put responders at undue risk," said Jim McAllister, a search and rescue specialist with the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP).

McAllister noted that rescuers could have been delayed from responding to real emergency incidents when they went searching for a signal from an emergency locator transmitter. The Canadian Armed Forces was even involved using Buffalo and Cormorant aircraft to locate the signal-emitting device.

It took approximately half a day for PEP to locate the beacon in Mout Park, McAllister said.

It was not connected to a marine vessel or aircraft, RCMP reported.

They identified the device as an Emergency Radio Beacon EPIRB, Model MTZ50, commonly used aboard a marine vessel or aircraft.

Anyone with information about the origin of this device is asked to call the Salt Spring RCMP.



"ROYAL" HUG: SWOVA Youth Team member Tammy Dean gets a hug from Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo as the island youth presents her with a bouquet of flowers at Monday night's International Women's Day celebration.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

WOMEN'S DAY

From Page 1

as a politician Monday night, she said that "women in public life do make a difference."

Campagnolo and SWOVA chair Lorna Cammaert applauded SWOVA Youth Team members as providers of leadership in the community by participating in the Respectful Relationships program.

Following Campagnolo's speech, the youth team members took the stage where they recited poetry, sang and bestowed gifts upon the Lieutenant Governor.

SWOVA Youth Team members honoured were: Tammy Dean, Amanda Noyes, Jenna McBride,

Nicola Temmel, Jessica Dollheiser, Brooke Shergold, Becky Acheson, Joel Eddington, Jasmin Dine, Eben Finer and Taylor Booth.

They were led to stage by Ahava Shira, who is the group's adult facilitator.

The evening began and ended with several pieces sung by Salt Spring's youth Honor Choir, led by Mitch Howard and the mostly a capella voices of Women of Note.

Campagnolo entered Meaden Hall with a flourish, accompanied by Salt Spring RCMP officers dressed in red serge, members of the SWOVA Youth Team and her

honorary aide-de-camp Cpt. Corrine Sawden.

Her speech, which she wrote herself, was met by a standing ovation.



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Committee names fall fair theme


Salt Spring's fall fair committee has selected the 2004 fair theme and has sent out the call for volunteers.

Marguerite Lee reported Tuesday the theme will be Agriculture — Our Island Tradition; Discover the Child In You.

This year's fair is on the September 18-19 weekend.

Helpers and volunteer coordinators are needed, and a meeting has been set for Tuesday, March 16, 7

p.m. at the Farmers Institute. Anyone wanting more information can call Lee at 537-5302.



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Fraser Institute grades high school

Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) earned high marks from the Fraser Institute's Report Card on B.C.'s secondary schools once again.

The Fraser Institute ranked GISS 43rd out of 279 schools to place in the top 15 per cent of the province.

"It's not telling me anything I don't already know," said GISS principal Nancy Macdonald.

"Instead of a ranking, I'd love to see a rating system that takes into consideration all other kinds of involve-

ment." She criticized the Report Card for focussing primarily on provincial exam results rather than a broader picture of the school community.

"I don't want to celebrate when we get a really good one and then make excuses for not getting a good one," she said.

The school received an overall mark of 7.7 out of 10 for 2003, down from 8.6 in 2002. GISS was awarded a 7.0 in 2001 and 6.0 in both 1999 and 2000.

According to the Fraser Institute, the average exam

mark at GISS in 2003 was 72.5 per cent (compared to 75.7 per cent in 2002). Only 4.7 per cent of students failed exams (4.5 in 2002).

Students at GISS had a 98.3 per cent graduation rate (99 per cent in 2002) and took an average of 3.4 exams (3.2 in 2002).

"The participation rate is a figure I really look at and I'm happy about."

Macdonald has seen a significant increase in exam participation by GISS students, which is an encouraging sign, she said.

"It continues to be unfor-

tunate there aren't other measures that can be added or another organization that's presenting data that's more significant."

While she's disappointed that the Fraser Institute's Report Card only focusses on simple data, she's concerned that data is presented in a convoluted way.

The Report Card shows a "composite drop-out rate" of 22 per cent for GISS (shown as 0 for the last three years) that Macdonald finds puzzling.

The Fraser Institute explains the figure as, "The

estimated number of students who will not complete Grade 12 within three years." But there is no explanation as to how this figure was derived.

"People will just see that as a drop-out rate and 22 per cent of the kids are dropping out. But wait a minute."

Though Report Card results might not reflect what's really happening in schools, Macdonald is certain of one thing.

"I do know this Fraser Institute report will not go away."

Forum uncovers pool survey mysteries

Some 40 Salt Springers came out to ArtSpring on Sunday to hear Bill Webster of Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd. (PERC) explain results of the aquatic centre survey conducted last November.

Webster was invited to the Splash forum by the indoor pool society, which sponsored the event.

He reported on figures ranging from the survey's high return and accuracy rates (525 completed surveys leading to a 95 per cent level of confidence) to the types of facilities desired by respondents.

A huge majority — 85 per cent — of respondents, said Webster, feel we need some kind of new pool, with 83 per cent wanting that pool to be an indoor facility.

Webster remarked that most pools built in the last 25 years include more than just swimming lanes, reported Splash member Jane Horsburgh.

"Added features attract a broader range of users, which brings in more revenue to offset an inevitable operating cost deficit," she said.

On the topic of taxes, Webster reported that 24 per cent of respondents are will-

ing to pay a tax increase of \$26 to \$50. Fifteen per cent would pay \$51 to \$75, and 21 per cent \$76 to \$100.

Nineteen per cent would be willing to pay more than \$100, and 22 per cent wanted no tax increase.

But turned around, he emphasized, the last statistic means that 78 per cent of respondents are willing to shoulder some cost to build and operate a pool.

In response to an audience question, Webster replied that six lanes are required to hold swim meets, although each lane adds about 18 per cent to the operating costs of a pool.

Horsburgh said one attendee asked whether the survey's tax increase question was related to the four pool facility options on the questionnaire. Webster said doing so would have been "too complex" and reduced the number of replies received.

Webster indicated that tax increase tied to a pool option must await firm choice of options presented to islanders by PARC, CRD and Splash.

Splash's next general meeting is set for tonight (Wednesday) at the Portlock Park portable.

RCMP REPORT

Salt Spring RCMP officers were alerted to vandalism of the Salt Spring Harbour Authority washroom in Ganges on Wednesday and Friday nights.

Approximately \$100 worth of damage, which included smashed floor tiles and a plugged, overflowing toilet, was discovered.

The incident required four hours of work to clean up.

Anyone with information concerning these acts is asked to contact the RCMP (537-5555) or Crime Stoppers (250-386-8477).

Appeal hearing pulls in islanders

Several Salt Spring residents ventured to Victoria for the Environmental Appeal Board hearing on the Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. waste management permit last week.

Penelakut Elders, residents group member Sharon Bywater, Bowen Island marine biologist Kathy Dunster, Canadian Sablefish Association executive director Eric Wickham and archaeologists were among those testifying at the Monday through Friday hearings.

Phil Vernon, who chairs the Salt Spring Islanders for Reconciliation and Justice group, witnessed the hear-

ings on Wednesday, when he said the room was "packed" with First Nations people there to hear testimony of Penelakut Elders Laura and August Sylvester. He said discussions surrounded the elders' long connection to Walker Hook, their beliefs on how the dead are treated and the events that occurred as Penelakut remains were dug up from the site last year.

Dunster spent almost three hours on the stand answering environment-related questions from all parties' lawyers.

Salt Spring resident Mike Wall watched proceedings on Friday when First Nations concerns were again on the table.

"Basically the counsel for the elders was trying to prove that an archaeological audit or assessment was a necessity and I think those on the government side were trying to say that they really didn't think it was necessary," said Wall.

Alan Andison chairs the three-member appeals board.

Islander Marilyn Marshall also attended on Friday.


She observed that "members of the board are asking some very thoughtful and probing questions. They are people who are educated about the subject matter and I am very thankful they decided to hear this appeal."

Marshall added that she felt Sablefin's work should stop until the environmental appeal board had given its decision.

The hearing continued this week at the Environmental Appeal Board office on Fort Street with company representatives and others scheduled to face the lawyers and appeal board. Closing arguments are scheduled for Thursday.

Bywater of the Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use group said a decision may not come down for another month.

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Chambers of Commerce all over British Columbia (including the provincial Chamber) are being forced to address issues raised by the Act. The Salt Spring Island Chamber will hold an information session and urges all business members to attend and to bring any information they have garnered to the information session at ArtSpring.
You can download a copy of PIPA at http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/37th4th/3rd_read/gov38-3.htm
The goal of the Salt Spring Chamber is to establish a uniform response to the Personal Information Protection Act from our community. We ask all members to attend this PIPA information session.
Tuesday, March 16, at ArtSpring.
The three-hour session will run from 6 pm to 9 pm.



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SEATBELT SURVEY: Off-island students Kim Salisbury and Jodi Webber set up near Central last week to conduct a survey on behalf of ICBC. The two were asked to check island drivers and passengers for seatbelt use as vehicles drove by them.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

20 per cent growth prediction is 'way way out,' says district

Figures provided by the Capital Regional District's (CRD's) director of finance call into question an islander's predictions for future tax hikes.

In a Driftwood letter last week, Michael Wheaton suggested Salt Spring's property assessments could rise by 20 per cent each year until 2011, ultimately resulting in a 358 per cent increase in the proposed arts service tax set for a referendum March 20.

The CRD, which is asking Salt Spring residents to approve separate CRD-administered tax funding for ArtSpring operations and a Gulf Islands Community Arts Council artists in the school program on Salt Spring, estimates the \$.025 per \$1,000 of assessed value tax to cost the average household \$6.13.

Using that basic figure, Wheaton projected that amount would be \$21.98 by 2011, assuming property assessments rise 20 per cent each year.

But Diana Lokken, the CRD's director of finance, said last week, "It is unrealistic to use the kind of growth he has used for assessments going up. I think he is way way out. Nowhere have assessments continued to go up

in the way he has projected."

Salt Spring's assessment roll grew by 20 per cent this year, which includes the value of newly developed properties. Last year the figure was 11.3 per cent and 8.2 per cent the year before.

Lokken said that in the 10 years from 1993 to 2003, "any maximum that was on a residential property would have gone up by 67 per cent. So the most the taxes could have gone up was by two-thirds over that 10-year period. In that 10-year period, assessments went up 87 per cent and the population grew by 26 per cent."

CRD director Gary

Holman also states in a Driftwood letter this week that "tax increases for the arts do not occur automatically with rising property values."

He also stressed that tax support for the arts will be at the same level in 2004 as it was last year — \$21,300 — except that the estimated \$15,000 in referendum costs will have to be covered as well.

"I may support an increase in 2005, but certainly not to the maximum level allowed by the bylaw. Tax requisitions for 2006 and following years will depend on the new CRD director and his or her position on arts funding," writes Holman.

Four seek fire positions

Four Salt Spring men will vie for two seats on the island's fire district board at the annual general meeting set for April 6.

Ken Lee, Doug Mitchell, Ted Hinds and Don Smith submitted nomination papers by the March 5 deadline. Fire board chairman Ben Martens, a trustee for 18 years, will not be seeking re-election. Smith is an incumbent trustee.

Voters' qualifications will be publicized in coming Driftwood issues.

First arts funding poll opens

Advance arts service referendum polls will be set up on Wednesday, March 10 and 17 at the Salt Spring United Church on Hereford Avenue, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Regular voting takes place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 20 at Fulford Hall, Community Gospel Church and the United Church.

Voters must be 18 years or older on voting day, be Canadian citizens, have lived in B.C. for six months and on Salt Spring for 30 days. People registering on voting day must provide two documents providing identity and residency, one of which must have a signature.

Non-resident property electors should contact the CRD at 1-800-663-4425, local 3129 for information on voting qualification.

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AT THE PUMPS

Gas pump prices as of Tuesday, March 9th, were as follows:

Salt Spring Payless	93.9
McCull's Shell	91.9
Patterson's Store	92.9
Save-On Gas	93.9
Chemainus Shell	82.9
Saanichton Payless	84.9
Mayne Island	92.9
Galiano Island	89.9
Pender Island	91.4



Roads, parks and oaks draw Ridge attention

Channel Ridge developments have kept various island bodies hopping in the past week as the development permit application was referred to various government agencies.

The Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) had its first look at the hefty full permit application when its parks planning committee met on Monday night.

Channel Ridge had requested PARC give its response by March 19, but PARC operations manager noted in his staff report to the commission that the Islands Trust usually allows 45 days for referral responses, and PARC does not meet in full until March 29 anyway.

PARC has various options when it comes to requesting Channel Ridge's fulfillment of the five per cent parkland dedication requirements connected with subdivision, stated Gibbon.

- Those include:
- accepting the total five per cent requirement as fee simple land;
 - accepting a cash contribu-

tion equivalent to five per cent of the applicable land area.

• accepting some other type of contribution, such as a physical amenity or some other form of land use such as "blanket use of undeveloped lands" offered by the developer in previous correspondence.

• accepting a combination of one or more of the above.

Gibbons said PARC must address the "matter of impact this development will have on the overall community in terms of parks and park amenities."

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) has also expressed its concern in writing to the Islands Trust with potential environmental impacts of the village development on Garry oak ecosystems and wetlands.

SSIC president Peter Lamb has asked for Trust assurance that development permit requirements will be determined prior to logging set to begin imminently.

Completion of a detailed study of the wetlands to ensure they do not provide critical habitat for red-legged frogs or other red-listed and blue-listed species was also requested.

On the route logging trucks may take, Deborah Folka of Channel Ridge Properties' community relations department said the company had tried hard to not use main roads such as Broadwell, Sunset and Vesuvius Bay Road, but that it had been unable to obtain the permission required to use the hoped-for emergency access road.

Agreement from eight homeowners in the area was required but not obtained, she said.

Surveyors have been "sorting out what improvements need to be made in advance of the roads being used for trucks," said Folka.

"That work will include improving the turns, expanded views for drivers, left-turn lanes and perhaps creating an additional left lane in some places. This is part of our work to mitigate the inconveniences of having to use the public roads and we are working with the Ministry of Transportation on it. Of course, all improvements, upgrades and repairs are paid for by us."

SHARP DISCOVERY: Zolena Weeks holds up part of a beaver jaw found at the Holly Farm on Salt Spring, during an after school visit last week.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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Gulf Islands
Driftwood



Poets Cove brings South Pender into vanguard of the resort world

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

An exclusive Gulf Islands resort will whisk visitors off to an unparalleled level of luxury and sophistication when it opens next week.

Poets Cove Seaside Resort and Spa opens March 15 on the site of the former Bedwell Harbour Inn on South Pender Island. "It's a very intimate full-service resort," said Poets Cove chief operating officer and general manager Susan Kelly.

"Normally you would have 300-400 rooms for this level of service."

This first-class resort includes a 110-slip deep-moorage marina, 15 seaside cottages, nine "country villas" and a 22-room resort lodge outfitted with a restaurant, lounge, fitness centre, ballroom and full-service 3,500-square-foot spa.

"It compares to resorts in Tofino and smaller U.S. resorts," Kelly said.

Sparsely populated South Pender only houses some 160 year-round residents and no other businesses. Consequently, islanders have been happy about the addition of grocery, laundry, restaurant and marina services in the community, she said.

"I see it as a gathering place. It's the local 'cracker barrel.'"

Once fully open, Poets Cove will have a staff numbering over 60, which would make it more than the largest employer and economic engine on the Penders; it could even be one of the biggest tourism draws in the Gulf Islands.

"We'll probably have more working people here than everyone else [on the Penders] collectively," said Kelly.

"The biggest challenge is to get enough of the right people."

Previously, she managed the Hotel Bel-Air in Los Angeles. She also launched prestigious resorts such as Shutters on the Beach, Casa Del Mar in Santa Monica and The Royal Palms in Phoenix.

"I've been fortunate to pick winners," she said.

During a brief tour of the resort last month, the majestic quality of construction and level of artistic detail in the luxurious get-away was impressive.

Anyone who has previously visited Bedwell Harbour would not likely recognize the 13.8-acre site. The nine "country villa" style townhouses are all



STANZA SETTING: General manager and COO Susan Kelly shows off Poets Cove Resort and Spa on South Pender Island during preparations for its grand opening this week.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

that remain of the original resort, and those have been completed renovated.

Even the bathrooms in the simplest rooms showed an impressive flair for design with tasteful cabinetry, old-fashioned-style (but refreshingly modern) plumbing and innovative touches like pocket doors above the bath that open for an expansive view of the Pacific.

All of this doesn't come cheap. Poets Cove is offering an "introductory rate" of \$195 per night based on double occupancy until April 30.

It would be quite a splurge for people who live in a thrift-store-hunting socio-economic bracket to stay at Poets Cove but the leap of credit might be well worth the expense for the right occasion.

A day-tripper might even like to try a meal at the lounge or restaurant just to enjoy the ambiance of the place.

Along with pool, tennis courts and numerous outdoor activity opportunities, Poets Cove boasts its own luxurious Susurru Spa (set to open in April) with seven treatment rooms. According to resort promotional material: "Health, wellness and pampering are what Susurru is all about."

"Presented upon arrival with warm gowns, slippers and hot scented neck packs, guests will give themselves over to an experienced relaxation therapist. An olfactory delight, the spa airs will be infused with the



MUSE AT WORK: Builders put intricate touches on Poets Cove Resort and Spa to prepare for next week's grand opening on South Pender Island.

photo by Mitchell Sherrin

scents of lavender, wild rose, Russian sage and eucalyptus."

Islanders used to living in comfort might even like to investigate options to invest in a quarter ownership plan at the resort.

"The owners who have come out here have been wildly enthusiastic," Kelly said.

Quarter ownership provides shareholders with at least 12 weeks of annual use of their vacation property. Poets Cove is also affiliated with The World's Finest Resorts organization, so owners can trade time-share opportunities all over the world.

For more information about the resort, check out the Poets Cove website (www.poetscove.com).

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O P I N I O N

Nervous times

All eyes are on Channel Ridge as the huge residential and commercial development takes big steps beyond planning mode.

Response to the Islands Trust development permit application from 14 government and other agencies is now being collected. The logging is set to begin. Trail and parkland dedication is being discussed in earnest.

The company has stated no environmentally sensitive areas will be damaged and the adjacent watershed lands owned by the Water Preservation Society will not be violated.

But as was recently shown with clearcutting at the Rainbow Grove subdivision, conditions of an Islands Trust rezoning, covenant process or parkland dedication do not guarantee what will happen on the ground once trees start to fall. The development permit will outline conditions, but that likely won't be ready for issuing until after the logging is done.

Without explicit instructions to logging contractors and some form of reliable on-site monitoring, those concerned about the watershed and the integrity of other areas will continue to be nervous.

The logging truck route is another area that needs to be addressed with concrete action — particularly when it comes to roads where school children are walking.

The Channel Ridge development must be viewed in its proper perspective: fully anticipated in our official community plan and land use bylaw — even if many thought it would never unfold in their lifetime; and with 800 acres of the total area owned by the company to be left in its natural state or as accessible green space, compared with about 87 developed acres.

Those involved appear sincere in trying to understand and heed the community's concerns, although how that will play out if push comes to shove remains to be seen.

Yet the company needs public support in significant measure for the bold project to succeed. Who wants to try selling homes in an area sporting a public relations shiner?

Watching Channel Ridge Properties' vision unfold on Salt Spring has the intrigue factor of a meteorological happening that dominates the skies for a prolonged period. It will be hard for islanders' attention to not keep straying northward to make sure nothing is falling.



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Compass profit goal in health care will affect everyone

By CLAIRE HEFFERNAN

The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) claimed it will save millions by laying off 1,000 Hospital Employee Union workers — mostly women — on southern Vancouver Island and hiring a private contractor to replace them.

Compass, the company being awarded these lucrative cleaning, dietary and personal care contracts in facilities from Victoria to Nanaimo, is a multinational corporation with operations in 72 countries, annual revenues of \$25 billion and a head office in London, England.

Compass' goal is to make a profit for its shareholders.

In order to do this, it currently pays cleaning staff in the lower mainland \$9.50 an hour with

VIEW POINT

minimal benefits, representing a 40 to 50 per cent cut in current pay levels.

The result . . . the people who clean the intensive care and burn units in those hospitals are now getting paid less than someone who cleans a hotel room.

Employees are encouraged not to take any sick days through such incentives as potential prizes for working six months without taking sick leave.

So if workers get the flu and come to work, they risk spreading that illness to other staff, patients and residents.

VIHA claims that the health authority will save \$10 million over five years by hiring Compass.

Sounds like a bargain until you find out they rejected a proposal from the workers that would have produced three-year savings of \$20 million.

Wait a minute . . . I thought this contracting out was supposed to save money!

You don't have to have much of an imagination to visualize how Compass' bottom line is going to impact the delivery of services like clean rooms, nutritious food and personal care in our hospitals and seniors' homes.

At the same time, Compass managers, whose numbers quadrupled over a 10-year peri-

od, were paying themselves \$40,000 a year. I think now we're getting the picture. In the end, the Scottish health care system did not save any money and everyone's health was put at risk by reduced services.

The privatization scheme will . . .

- Eliminate secure jobs that provide reasonable wages and benefits like sick leave.

- Reduce the tax base of a community by eliminating those jobs.

- Ensure the public will lose control over the cost and quality of health care.

- End up costing more in the long run through severance packages, increased infection rates and the creation of a costly management hierarchy in both

the private health care sector and VIHA, which will now need to hire people to monitor the contractor.

It is vital that we keep health care public, open, accountable, affordable and retain over 100 unionized jobs here in our community. The Salt Spring Coalition of Concerned Citizens is organizing a Health Care Forum on Friday, April 2.

Keep an eye on the local paper for details.

For more information, visit the Hospital Employees Union website at www.heu.org.

The writer has a B.A. in Political Science, works at Greenwoods and chairs the Lady Minto-Greenwoods local of the HEU.

A column

A Surrey street gang couldn't rough you up as thoroughly as a Salt Spring road.

There I was, slamming and banging and bouncing my way around and through the potholes of Salt Spring last week, getting more and more pissed off (and bruised).

Why — I asked myself — do we on this island have to put up with the despicable condition of our so-called roads? And I'm not simply talking about some little-used back lanes; a whole bunch of the major roads on this island are long past the point of being called poor.

I've walked, hiked and driven in parts of this world where there are no paved roads, no real government and the only cars one ever sees are being used as housing. Having said that,

Stewart, LePage, Bullman, Garner and Forest Ridge are

just a few examples of savage obstacle courses that serve dozens of residences. In the case of Stewart Road, it's more than that; it's an arterial route.

Last week, just as I was breaking out with a feverish case of pothole rage, and my car and I were climbing out of a crater, a miraculous sight greeted my vibrating eyeballs.

Two JJM dump trucks, a loader and a grader, along with some labourers and flagpeople. Finally! They were doing something about the area of rivers, lakes, val-

leys and mountains known as Bullman Road.

ISLE SAY! WITH JOHN POTTINGER



I didn't mind that few minutes' wait, several times a day for the next three days, as they brought in load upon load of gravel and dug a few hundred metres of ditch. Then one morning, there they were — gone. And Bullman Road was . . . worse. I couldn't believe my eyes, my back or my butt: the washboard was worse, the rivers meandering through it were worse, even the potholes were bigger.

I was in no hurry, so, to

calm myself down, I parked my car on one of the islands in the middle of the road and cast my line into the nearest pothole.

The more I thought about it the more I realized we need to take direct action on fixing up these poor excuses for roads. "Reliable sources" tell me that the biggest problem with Salt Spring Islanders is they don't complain in writing — or they don't follow up their complaints with action.

A big bird told me that the most effective action that Salt Spring drivers can take is to submit repair bills to JJM.

The bills for your flat tires, shocks, springs, engine mounts, exhaust systems — if they relate to the condition of a public road (or roads)

on this island, send them to JJM.

The more bills JJM has to pay, the more leverage they have to get more money to maintain our roads the way they should be maintained.

An Invitation

This coming Saturday evening there's an event taking place at the Fulford Hall that you should be part of. Two of Salt Spring's best-known characters — Bruce Patterson and Jeff Outerbridge — are the subjects (targets, if the MC has his way) of a "thank-you dinner." Between them, these two spent 30 years as volunteer firefighters on Salt Spring.

Over that time they were

first-responders to hundreds of car accidents, they fought dozens and dozens of fires and they taught new recruits the ropes and hoses.

In Bruce's case, he was carrying on the family tradition as a Salt Spring firefighter: his dad served for 23 years from the 1960s into the '80s.

The 5 p.m. dinner costs \$15 and includes great food, entertainment and a lot of fun. Get your tickets at the Fulford Post Office or call Mary at 653-0045 to reserve.

If you know these guys, you know they deserve even more thanks and support than we can give them. If you don't know them, you should — so either way, come along on Saturday evening. There'll be a cash bar and a whole load of fun.

If you're a Salt Springer, these guys have been there for you for years; be there for them this Saturday.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *Should ArtSpring get public funding?*



Pirjo Raitis

Yes, it's a public venue and it offers a lot to the whole community.



Bill Sorrell

No, I just feel like it's going to go up and up. If they get it, why shouldn't it go to the golf course and SSplash and everyone else?



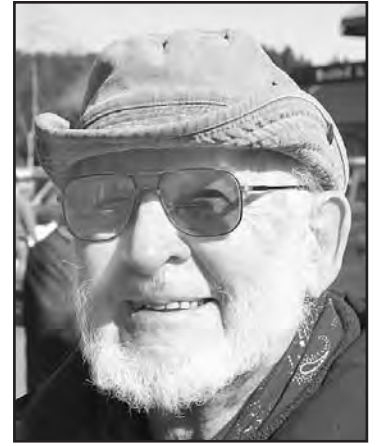
Pip Moore

Yes, because ArtSpring is giving more to the community than it asks for. No arts association ever survives on its own . . . I believe it deserves not only continued but improved support.



Robin Ferry

You bet, absolutely! It's one of the things that makes this place special.



George Harrower

It's probably a good idea. It's an asset to the community.

Letters to the Editor

Bargain

Reading last week's Driftwood, I went directly from reading about Grade 12 student Ed Perkins, who credited his love and knowledge of jazz as one of the factors that enabled him to earn a 98 per cent score on his provincial English exam, to reading a letter to the editor from someone who was protesting that by 2011 he would be forced to contribute nearly \$37 in taxes to subsidize art and culture on Salt Spring.

Think about it!

Three dollars per month to support creativity, art, music and beauty where we live, expensive?

Three dollars per month to support and encourage a well-rounded citizenry and give our youth the experience of some of the best that humans have to express — expensive?

Sounds like a bargain to me.

MELISSA SEARCY,
Salt Spring

No censorship

While I didn't particularly agree with the letter by Ian Abbott and his criticism of ArtSpring I do agree that he

has a right to his opinion and am willing to concede that he may even have a small group, somewhere, who would support his stance.

His complaints were ably answered by Paul Gravett's letter and that has given us two sides of the story.

More interesting to me than the original criticisms was the "defence" submitted by Dietrich Luth and Paul Marcano.

Obviously holding the view that it is better to be offensive than defensive, they have chosen not to present any discussion of Mr. Abbott's complaints and have decisively moved to the crux of the matter: to blame the Driftwood for publishing the original letter with the nefarious purpose of selling more newspapers.

It seems to be the rationale of these two gentlemen that some opinions should not be heard — and in particular any opinions that can incite readers like them to anger and vitriol.

I don't always agree with the Driftwood's editorial stance, but I do think our need to be informed of public opinion is better served by the Driftwood's approach than it would be by having

Mr. Luth and Mr. Marcano decide for us what opinions should or should not be published.

ROY RAJSIC,
Salt Spring

Arts essential

I am one of those who signed the counter-petition to have a referendum on tax-based funding of the arts.

I did this because of my cumulative frustrations and disagreement with PARC. Clearly, PARC is off-loading its arts support as a back door way to get more of our tax money for its own priorities without having to get voter approval for its choices. Naively, I hoped the counter-petition might prompt PARC to reconsider dumping its arts support.

I will vote YES to the arts on Salt Spring on March 20. The ArtSpring building has its flaws, but in the years since it opened, I have enjoyed so many wonderful events there.

I love no longer having to sit on those hard seats in the gymnasium, at performances that were often difficult to see and hear. I also want to support art in the schools.

I believe that music, drama and art are essential to us — physically soothing,

stimulating our creativity and intuition, and encouraging us to live in thoughtful and peaceful ways.

JANICE MCLEAN,
Walker Hook Road

CRD Taxes

Advance polls for establishment of separate tax funding of ArtSpring and the Community Arts Council (CAC) will be held March 10 and 17, with the referendum to be held on Saturday, March 20.

I hope that islanders will support this very modest, stand-alone requisition for the arts.

The maximum level of funding in the new bylaw, equivalent to the cost of four cups of coffee per household per year, is much smaller than provided by a number of other communities in the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Funding will go towards the operation and maintenance of the ArtSpring building, a community-owned facility, and for CAC programming.

While a successful referendum would establish more secure funding for the arts and the potential for increased tax support over

time, I would like to clarify that the actual requisition in any given year will require the support of Salt Spring's CRD director.

Contrary to information provided by Michael Wheaton in a Driftwood letter last week, tax increases for the arts, or for any other local CRD service, do not occur automatically with rising property values. For example, I supported the large budget increase for PARC in 2004 on the condition that the increase is earmarked for the aquatic facility, and is supported by the community in a statistically valid survey.

I have already stated publicly several times that net tax support for the arts will be the same in 2004 as in 2003, although as a result of the successful counter-petition, the additional costs of a referendum will now have to be taken into account.

I may support an increase in 2005, but certainly not to the maximum level allowed by the bylaw. Tax requisitions for 2006 and following years will depend on the new CRD director's position on arts funding.

GARY HOLMAN,
CRD director

Shaw history

Lest we forget — or do not know — the Shaw Family Estate that has facilitated the grant of \$250,000 for Mahon Memorial Hall was the culmination of over 140 years of farm labour and community service, the origins of which may have been James Shaw's pre-emption in the Fulford Valley in 1861 or earlier.

The family donated land for Fulford Community Hall, organized by the South Salt Spring Women's Institute. This was a south-end family who built our strong community.

So . . . lest we lose ourselves in the aisles of art for sale from May to October, or in debating how many angels dance on the head of a pin, or what colours we might use — let us not forget.

The small amount of money raised for Mahon Hall on a heritage day in the 1990s was for a community building, and perhaps now can be used for a suitable, visible historical tribute to the Mahon and Shaw families.

ANNE HUMPHRIES,
Bay Ridge Place

MORE LETTERS 10

Abandoning trillium protection leaves deep purple wound

Boy, were the leaders of our grandparents' and great-grandparents' generations ever naïve and dumb, right down to the plants you could pick in British Columbia.

Take, for example, Premier Simon Fraser Tolmie's 1931 edict that native dogwoods, rhododendrons and trilliums not be removed from private and public land without permission, on pain of a \$25 penalty.

What was he thinking, this veterinarian who'd been federal Minister of Agriculture in the 1920s, with a deep concern for present and future uses of all manner of plants, in field and in forest.

Really makes you scratch your head, when there was so much more wilderness in the province then than now, full of native

SPRINGBOARD

BY BRENDA GUILD



plants beyond counting. And how're ya gonna pick up and punish kids picking flowers in the woods anyway, eh?

Two years ago this month, MLA Kevin Falcon for Surrey-Cloverdale (obviously unaware that Tolmie had Cloverdale roots, inheriting his family's farm there), proudly introduced Bill 8 to sweep the province clean of such nonsense.

Falcon said, "Bill 8 is but one step towards meeting our new-era commitment to cut the regulatory burden and red tape within this province by one-third within the next three years.

We define red tape as those

non-essential procedures, forms, licences and regulations that add to the cost of dealing with government, and anything that is obsolete, redundant, wasteful or confusing and that diminishes our province's economic competitiveness and stands in the way of job creation or simply wastes taxpayers' time and money."

So, all those years of parents telling their children not to pick native dogwoods, rhodos and trilliums because it's illegal was stupid and had nothing to do with making money.

The deterrent value was apparently worthless. Six hundred other cluttering regulations went with Bill 8 too, of the 135,000 slated for vanishment by 2004, out of 404,000 total.

As the parade of flowers begins again this spring, I look with particular care at our western trillium, or wake robin. I've rescued dozens of them from

development sites, where they were being bulldozed without thought or penalty. What a shame.

If Campbell were really a businessman, he'd see the potential — as Tolmie doubtless did — in making land developers salvage native dogwoods, rhodos, and trilliums for a whole other market.

They sell for good money in nurseries. Aboriginals used trilliums for eye medicine, something worth investigating.

People who are permitted to gather protected plants from building sites could make their livings by developing and serving such trade.

The act could have been improved to give the government and business the teeth they need to enforce this small yet valuable industry. Instead, without thought or opposition, we just made three relatively rare native plants fair

game for anyone to pluck and plunder at will.

In this and many other ways, B.C.'s up for grabs now, as fast as the government can go.

Shakespeare said of trilliums in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, (Act 2: Oberon):

Yet mark'd I where the bolt of Cupid fell:

It fell upon a little western flower;

Before milk-white, now purple with love's wound.

Every trillium I see this spring — brave little beauties thrusting from the cold earth — will strike a little purple love's wound in my heart now that we've so callously declared them unworthy of protection and promotion.

Tolmie and his deputies may have been fools, but our leaders are besting them at breakneck speed.

mail@bguild.com

More letters

Mine own

I do have to agree with Ian Abbott (February 25 "Awful" letter to the editor) that the climate control in the ArtSpring building is horrible.

I have never exhibited there (having nothing to exhibit), but I think it's a great shame that his and his partner's work suffered from design and poor climate control.

I have, however, experienced the highly inadequate ventilation. On one occasion I left a performance at intermission because the heat made me so uncomfortable.

However, I have learned to adjust by dressing accordingly, knowing that having ArtSpring makes a huge difference to my life, and to that of many others. Judging from the variety of exhibits I've enjoyed there, I'd say that many artists of all ages have been given opportunities they would

not have otherwise had.

And, looking about me in the audience, interspersed with grey-haired, well-heeled retirees, I see a variety of people, including children and teenagers. And this is just performances — there are many activities and displays offered because Art Spring makes it possible to do so.

Mr. Abbott describes ArtSpring as "a huge, unworkable money sink, with little or no value to the vast majority of Salt Spring's citizens." This is an appalling untruth. It's certainly not huge; it has been working, so "unworkable" is an inappropriate adjective; and it has a lot of value to the vast majority of people living on Salt Spring.

If people choose not to take advantage of any of the wide range of experiences offered there, it is not the fault of ArtSpring, for many times there is no charge to enjoy the displays.

CBC Radio's taping

played to a full house early one morning a few years ago. High school students have an opportunity to perform on the stage. Don't these people count?

As for it being a money sink — well, there are commercial sinks, and then there are little ones. If it requires a small amount of tax money to help ArtSpring, let us remember that in a civilized society, a great deal of what we need, if we value the arts at all, requires a little injection — and ArtSpring is asking for very little.

Oh, one could say "Down with ArtSpring! Let's burn the whole thing and start again," as Ian Abbott recently suggested in the Driftwood, and I'd reply — "wonderful idea if you have the money, and let's have a ventilation system this time," but we don't have the money, and if we did, I'd think twice and more likely be saying "let's spend it on something we don't have yet, something

else that will provide benefits for a whole lot of people here."

So, I'd rather quote from Shakespeare: "A poor thing, but mine own" — and if it's poor, or poorly designed, we can give a very small amount of tax money to help it, because let's face it, life on Salt Spring is a whole lot better for a whole lot of people because we have ArtSpring.

And because we are blessed to have the superb management provided by Paul Gravett, it's more a jewel than a sink.

TOBY FOUKS,
Sandpiper Place

Icy hearts

With regard to Wayne Fraser's In Depth called "Taking pressure off lakes part of swimming discussion" (March 4), the fact remains that there are ample swimming opportunities on this island (hello?) all summer long.

Let's not haul water to Salt Spring. And when summer ends, a Canadian youngster's heart turns to ice sports. Let's not betray that trust.

Here is our inflection point — does the island build a spa for the old folks or a rink for the kids? The retirement vanguard will win this one, and all the succeeding ones, locked away in the new boutique village at Channel Ridge, all the while wintering in the sub-tropics.

The flat pool, the dark houses and the vanished kids will spare us their promised chaos.

DWIGHT JONES,
Langs Road

Respect and care

I find the recent debates about ArtSpring difficult to read, as they are so polarized.

We all really do care, and I know we all want to make the best choice possible in whatever we do.

I share the view that

ArtSpring is not perfect. But I'm also aware that we have something that we should take care of.

I have a favourite quote that I think of when things get down to the bone. It allows me to see what matters and allows me to be humble.

It makes me realize that all that I've been given is a blessing, and that I have an obligation to tend and nurture the gifts around me without constantly asking for more. I believe the quote is from Martha Washington, but I may be mistaken — and would gladly be corrected.

The quote goes like this: "We do what we can, with what we have, where we are."

I think we should be grateful for the riches this small island has, and respect and care for what we have with the best of our ability.

DIANA LYNN THOMPSON,
Salt Spring

Festive fun

There's only a week and a half left until the Global Day of Action Against War.

People in communities all over the globe will be gathering on March 20 to take a continued stand against the occupation in Iraq and war in general.

Here on Salt Spring we will be launching the Declaration to End All War, a document written on Salt Spring, which has currently been endorsed by over 50 groups and individuals, including the Council of Canadians, the International Peace Bureau, Helen Caldicott and Alexa McDonough.

March 20 will give Salt Springers an opportunity to sign on their support for the Declaration and join with people around the world in a rally for peace.

We will be meeting at the Kanaka Road skatepark at 11:30 and begin our walk at noon.

We hope to make this a fun

and festive event, so bring your drums and noisemakers and a spirit of celebration.

Program will include music by Derek Duffy, Phil Vernon, Cheryl Cohen, the Women of Note and, of course, the Salt Spring Ragin' Grannies.

Hope to see you there!
CHRISTINA PHIPPS,
Salt Spring

Law changed

I was visiting my parents and have read some of your articles on the housing situation here on Salt Spring Island.

For a young person the situation is very depressing. Recently, my landlord in Vancouver sold the condo that I rented. I was told that I would have to move out in two months. What they didn't tell me was that a new housing act (Bill 70) came into effect on January 1, 2004.

Since I have been looking for living accommodations, other landlords have told me the truth. Bill 70 provides that tenants are entitled to the equivalent of one month's rent when they are evicted for the landlord's use of the premises, whether it is for renovation, demolition, or simply because the landlord wants to move in or sell.

In addition, if the landlord does not follow the process laid out in the eviction notice for landlord use, the penalty is double one month's rent. This penalty should be a deterrent to prevent retaliatory evictions.

I wonder how many other renters out there were not aware that the law had changed. Will this deter landlords from asking people to leave during the summer months on Salt Spring Island so they can rent the premises out by the week? I guess we will just have to wait and see.

G. KING,
Vancouver

MORE LETTERS 11



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Name: WENDY DUKE
537/538/653: 537
Occupation(s): Pharmasave cashier.
Hobbies: Watching Canucks hockey, listening to Canucks hockey, working on my hockey room, collecting hockey memorabilia, talking about Canucks hockey, spending time with my sweetie and my grandchildren.
Home finished/unfinished: Is a home ever finished?
Favourite people: Bertuzzi, Nasalund, the Sedins . . . my honey and all the nice people of SSI.
Favourite read: The Canucks schedule.
Best thing about SSI: Being here, I love it.
Worst thing about SSI: Having a hard time getting to the games.
Best place to kiss on SSI?: My baby's lips, in between hockey periods, or after the game, if they win.



DERRICK'S ISLAND PICS

RANTS & ROSES

ROSES

- So many roses to the managers of Fields and Pharmasave, and the owners of the Dollar Store. Thank you so much for donating merchandise, which has been gratefully received by a little girl in Cuba.
- Some fragrant roses to the honest person who found my zip case containing driver's licence and credit cards in a buggy outside GVM, and took into the store for me.
- A lovely bouquet of late blooming roses to all the volunteers for Seedy Saturday and the Film Fest, especially George Laundry, Dan Jason, Harry Burton, Melanie Platz, Karen Hawbolt, Kim Hendess, Mark Whitear, Robb Zuk, Brandon and Patti Bauer, Ty Cameron, Jane Squier and Greg Watson. Thanks for all your time and dedication. EH
- Roses to all our wonderful Grannies for all their good support and for their dedication and commitment to preserve and protect the highest good.
- Roses to Shirley Smith who went out of her way to

- get me and my soccer-playing 10-year-old to the 7 a.m. Vesuvius ferry Sunday morning, after my car got a flat tire on Cusheon Lake Road. Your kindness got us out of a tricky situation.
- Roses to Dan Lee and Thrifty Foods for their generous donation towards SWOVA's International Women's Day celebration again this year. Roses as well to all the wonderful people involved in the event — it was a fantastic evening.
 - Roses to the people of Salt Spring — friends, family and customers — who have completely overwhelmed me with their response to the news of Winston's death. It makes it a little easier to know others loved him too and how much we'll all miss him. I'm getting a photo album together to keep at the bottle depot. People have told me "time will heal" and I agree with them. However, I'm not there yet.
 - To the kind and very gentlemanly stranger in GVM who approached me to suggest a remedy for a persistent (noisy) cough. It works extremely well. Thank you. LJ

RANTS

- Rants to all the dishonest, two-faced money grabbing people on the island. In particular, the people who outright lied, and knowingly sold me a car with a blown engine, and took the last of my money before Christmas, leaving me with no car to get to work and no money to get another car. Karma will take care of you.
- Rants to the Liberal government for underfunding our children's education and forcing our trustees to vote for a four-day school week — it's going to happen.
- To the person who finds it funny to regularly knock over the mail boxes at the corner of Rourke and Beddis roads. Since normal thinking people would not even contemplate this, alcohol consumption on Friday night must have induced this idiotic behaviour. Don't you have anything better to do?
- Hey you on the yellow crotch rocket! Here's to hoping the police will catch up to your racetrack mentality. Slow down!

Letters

Low priority

Ms. Faulkner — did you live on Salt Spring in the late 1980s when ArtSpring was created? (March 3 Driftwood "Get specific" letter.)

Do you not remember the storm of controversy over this then? I'm not going to explain why I didn't make it to the archives this week.

The entire premise of ArtSpring was that it was to be run by volunteers and not paid employees where the main motive is obviously revenues. They even charge the school kids to put plays on there.

This has turned into a business where islanders are not even privy to the salaries of the ArtSpring employees. ArtSpring calls this "private information" and I for one find it extremely offensive and arrogant when they are asking for community tax monies and will not even tell the public what they intend to pay their staff.

Again, why should islanders subsidize paid ArtSpring employees when schools are talking about opening for only four days a week? I hope that all these people who are writing letters in support of ArtSpring are doing volunteer work there but somehow I doubt that is the case.

This is an extremely low priority to say the least and I suggest that all the supporters of this tax do some volunteer work instead of taking cash away from my family. Renters will pay more, property owners will pay more and everyone will lose except the small clique that uses this facility.

ArtSpring is like a well-dressed beggar that would rather hold its hand out than do some actual (volunteer) work.

Say no to secret salaries! Say no to this unfair tax!
ALBERT C. KAYE (GUMP),
 Salt Spring

Happy to pay

As an average household, I will happily pay \$6.13 (or more) per year to help support ArtSpring and the Gulf Islands Community Arts Council.

That is only 51¢ per month per household — it sounds like a bargain to me!
PAT DUKE,
 Salt Spring

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Inside ArtSpring scoop finds no loose change

By LYNNE PATRIDGE

I had the privilege to work as ArtSpring's operations director for two years, and wish to share some personal

experience and observations from "inside" ArtSpring.

ArtSpring is what the community envisioned many, many years ago;

designed and built as envisioned. It has improved enormously over the past five years.

Paul Gravett has been adept at writing successful grant applications to foundations and arts funding sources, which have addressed specific items such as an in-house sound system, improved lighting in the theatre and gallery spaces, lobby furniture, hearing-enhancement, audio-visual equipment, etc. It's an ongoing process.

None of this assistance has come from local taxes. None of these sources address operational expenses.

We were (and I know it is still the case) very frugal. Always looking for the cheapest paper, supplies and equipment was the order of the day. No money is ever wasted by this organization. Heat and lights are turned off when space is not booked. Ink cartridges are re-filled. Scrap paper was

IN DEPTH

used on the other side.

There are only three modestly paid employees. They are not 9 to 5 jobs . . . the building is often in operation 15-plus hours per day and someone has to open and close the doors and be concerned about security. People rehearse shows or do workshops in the evening and on weekends.

Without the incredibly devoted volunteer board of directors, and the dozens of other volunteers who handle the box office, hospitality and mailings and are performance duty managers and ushers, the facility could not function.

I was shocked to see the staggering hydro bills and to know how much was going out on toilet paper, paper towels, garbage disposal and water. These are operational costs. Patching and painting

damaged walls, re-painting/repairing the stage on a regular basis, cleaning carpets and windows, keeping the grounds in good repair — these are operational costs.

The board, staff and our community's volunteers have spent countless hours with fundraisers such as Blues & Brews, the Birdathon, annual Treasure Fair and the Annual Appeal, again, due to the efforts of the tireless volunteers' efforts to keep things afloat. People work very hard and give freely of their valuable time to the ArtSpring effort.

ArtSpring-presented events are an extremely small part of what goes on in the building. These events only break even because of the generosity of local sponsors. The vast majority of events are presented by local and some off-island presenters, who rent the premises.

The off-island guests and presenters wax-poetic about the facility — the only nega-

tives seem to come from our locals. Shame on us!

The already low rents are often disputed by locals and hailed from those outside our region who say, "What a deal!"

Rental fees contribute a small portion of what it takes to keep the building operational.

So, how does ArtSpring continue to be one of our best places to enjoy eclectic artisan displays, theatre and music?

Perhaps a very few tax dollars would help. Incidentally, ArtSpring will not necessarily get most of the modest proposed tax dollars, and will have to apply every year and justify whatever share it might receive.

The fundraising efforts will, of course, have to continue. Trust me: from the "inside," I know not a penny is wasted!

The writer is the former operations director of ArtSpring.

Jean Elwell, Chartered Accountant

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More letters

Worth it

Digesting all the tax amounts Michael Wheaton kindly figured out for me in his letter of the March 3 Driftwood left me kind of . . . hmmm . . . breathless.

I mean, at first I thought it was the 30-40 degrees heat I had revelled in these past six weeks away "down under" in Western Australia, or a sort of temporary brain damage having had to wade through six Driftwood back issues while sorting out jet-lag and smelly summer clothes.

It's been a few days now. I keep re-reading his letter, and it still begs understand-

ing. So this bloke confesses publicly that he sits on \$404,000 worth of our "rock" and finds it a "burden" to share \$7.36 or \$10.10 per year with his community of Salt Spring Island, known and advertised proudly far and wide as the home of artists and crafters, musicians, actors, geologists, lawyers, biologists, librarians, movie stars.

My two bestest friends on Salt Spring are five and seven-year-old Mark and Tim. They are your regular wonderful kids.

They chop wood, swim, play soccer, and also piano, and they absolutely love it when they get to see a play

or hear a concert at ArtSpring. They learn things during their spring break at ArtSpring. At the free July 1 and Christmas community concerts at ArtSpring, Tim and Mark are there, clapping their appreciation for their favourite performers and their parents are thrilled to be able to contribute to this vibrant part of their family's life on Salt Spring.

Scrooge is their and ours all-out favourite show when they even see some of their friends shine on stage.

I, a humble pensioner, supporting the arts and children in any way I can, hereby publicly ask for a date, and I will buy Michael Wheaton the ticket when December rolls around and Scrooge suffers and triumphs on the ArtSpring stage once again.

Opening hearts, ears and eyes through the arts is worth every penny in my opinion.

ANKE SMEELE,
Salt Spring

Wait first

As an interested outsider to the rec centre process, I get the impression that sen-

sible decisions are being made, but the article in the March 3 Driftwood has me perplexed.

Dave Gibbon is quoted as saying: "There is a significant portion of site preparation and servicing that can be planned and implemented without knowing the final building specifications."

This is rarely the case. In fact the reverse is true, particularly when green building measures are to be incorporated. Even seemingly minor items such as temporary placement of fill and location of service trenches can be expensive to rectify. It will be an extreme disservice to the donating contractors, and to the community, if PARC has to ask for work to be done twice.

It is a good idea to consult with contractors, but please do not make the classic mistake of the do-it-yourselfer in thinking that time and money can be saved by starting before critical design decisions are made. Wait until the designs are complete!

ELIZABETH WHITE,
Vesuvius Bay Road

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Persons Nominated for Salt Spring Island Fire Department Trustees

Notice is hereby given to the homeowners of Salt Spring Island

That:

Ken Lee	147 Amblewood Drive
Doug Mitchell	123 Tern Road
Edward Hinds	165 Reid Road
Donald W. Smith (incumbent)	1280 Fulford Ganges Rd.

Have been nominated for trustee
(2 positions for a three year term)

Election to be held
Tuesday April 6, 2004
at Ganges Fire Hall from
2 P.M. to 7 P.M. in the training
room, regular meeting at 8 P.M.

Registered landowners are eligible to vote, for further information please leave a written inquiry at fire hall.
Tom David, Election Officer
Thursday, February 19, 2004



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GANGES VILLAGE MARKET

New federal grant targets house leaks, energy loss

By ELIZABETH WHITE
Special to the Driftwood

Those of us old enough to remember the 1980s may recall the Canadian Home Insulation Program, where homeowners received grants to upgrade the insulation in their attics.

The idea was good, and thousands of families benefited from cozier homes and lower fuel bills.

The problem was that some of the insulating contractors were, shall we say, less than thorough (it is not unheard of to climb into an attic today and find unopened bales of insulation that have been sitting in the dark for 20 years, waiting to be installed) and the program was abandoned.

Now a radically different program, based on the house-as-a-system concept, is available to homeowners seeking to upgrade their home's energy performance.

EnerGuide for Houses was developed by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and provides homeowners with independent energy advice and thermal analysis, including an assessment of ventilation needs.

If you have been thinking about upgrading your furnace, replacing your windows, or making energy improvements while renovating, EnerGuide for Houses assists with deci-

sion-making and provides a grant after the work has been completed and checked.

The EnerGuide for Houses process involves a two-to-three hour visit by a qualified, independent energy advisor — which is myself on Salt Spring.

Future plans for the house are discussed and existing insulation and mechanical systems inspected.

The house is measured and, the fun part, a depressurization test is conducted to find out exactly how leaky the old box is.

The test involves a very large fan installed in the front door. The fan is turned on, air is sucked out of the house and a series of gauges measure the airflow and pressure difference, from which the "equivalent leakage area," or sum total of all the little cracks in the house, is calculated.

All the data is then entered into a computer program which models the thermal performance of the house, calculates any needed ventilation, and rates the house on a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being perfect, i.e. no purchased energy required.

The advisor provides the homeowners with the rating and a report, which lists recommended upgrades, shows the areas of greatest heat loss and the potential savings.

After the initial visit

from the energy advisor, the homeowners have up to 18 months to complete as many of the upgrades as they wish.

The energy advisor then checks the improvements, performs a second depressurization test and runs the computer analysis again to establish the improved rating. The difference between the original rating and the improved rating is used to calculate the homeowner grant.

The EnerGuide for Houses energy advisor service is not free, although it is subsidized by NRCan. On Salt Spring the service is provided through the Victoria non-profit group City Green.

Homeowner's cost is \$149 for the first visit; the second visit is either free, or \$25 if re-measuring is required. The maximum grant is \$3,300, but the average is in the \$500 to \$1,000 range.

Homeowner grants are also available for specific upgrades to electrically heated homes from BC Hydro's Power Smart program.

But the grants are really just an incentive to get people motivated; the real benefits come from the reduced fuel bills and the increased comfort of an upgraded home.

For more information or to book a visit, call Elizabeth White at 537-2616, or contact City Green: www.citygreen.ca.



PRAYERS FOR PANAMA: From left, Rita Dods, Shirley Bunyan and Donna Flannery hold pottery from Panama as three island church groups gather for the annual World Day of Prayer held Friday at Salt Spring United Church. Panama was the theme country this year.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Ocean floor viewed up close with a March 20 ROV event

Islanders have a chance to explore the spectacular subtidal marine life of our region using a remote-operated-vehicle (ROV).

Part of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's Tourist In Our Own Backyard series, the ROV trip has been in the planning for a year.

"We are finally able to bring Dr. Bill Austin of the Khoyatan Marine Labs and the Sidney-based Marine Ecology Station, along with his ROV Seamore, here for an exciting four-hour trip aboard the M/V Graduate to

explore local waters around Salt Spring and Prevost islands," states a conservancy press release.

Leaving the Ganges dockside below Thrifty's at 10 a.m. on Saturday March 20, the Seamore will speed out to a rich marine area and be lowered to the ocean floor.

Using remote controls, Seamore will trace along the bottom, sending back live video signals. Several video monitors on board the Graduate will insure the explorations can be viewed, as Dr. Austin and local

marine biologist David Denning interpret the sea life being viewed.

"This is a unique opportunity to explore the ocean floor as a marine biologist does, at a time of the year when plankton levels should be fairly low."

Four-hour trip cost is \$55, and includes lunch. Space on the field trip is limited to 30 people, and is available on a first-register basis. Cut-off date for registration is March 16.

People should contact the Salt Spring Island Conservancy at 538-0318.

GVM gives Ssplash fundraising coffers a \$20,000 addition

Indoor pool association Ssplash is receiving a generous donation from Ganges Village Market (GVM).

Salt Spring grocery store personnel will present a \$20,000 cheque to the indoor pool society on Wednesday, March 17.

"We're excited to be able to participate with other businesses on the island in order to achieve this goal," said Mike

Tyson, a member of GVM's senior management group.

GVM has supported Ssplash since the association's beginning through selling T-shirts, sponsoring an on-site barbecue, donating chips and soda and other actions.

The donation's size caught Ssplash president Darlene Steele by surprise.

"This is the next major step along the way to raising the

million dollars we need to have in order to apply for matching grants to build an indoor pool," said Steele.

She estimated close to \$200,000 has been raised to date, but expected a confirmed figure to be discussed at the March 10 Ssplash general meeting.

For further information about Ssplash, contact Steele, at 537-8718 or visit www.splash.org.

BC FERRIES

Salt Spring Island Schedule
VESUVIUS BAY - CROFTON

CROSSING TIME: 20 MINUTES
YEAR-ROUND SCHEDULE

LEAVE VESUVIUS BAY		LEAVE CROFTON	
• 7:00 am	u 4:00 pm	*7:30 am	4:30 pm
x 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 noon	9:10 pm
n 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	

u Wed. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailing. No passengers.
n The Mon. & Thurs. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailings. No passengers.
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BC FERRIES Schedule

Salt Spring Island (Fulford Harbour) - Swartz Bay Departures

IN EFFECT OCT 10/03-MARCH 31/04 CROSSING TIME: 35 MINS

Depart Fulford Harbour		Depart Swartz Bay	
6:20 am	Daily *	7:10 am	Daily except Sunday*
8:00 am	Daily except Sun.	9:00 am	Daily
10:00 am	Daily	11:00 am	Daily
12:00 noon	Daily	1:00 pm	Daily
2:00 pm	Daily	3:00 pm	Daily
4:00 pm	Daily	5:00 pm	Daily
6:00 pm	Daily	7:00 pm	Daily
8:00 pm	Daily	9:00 pm	Daily

* Cancelled Dec 25, 2003 and Jan 1, 2004

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Mark 11: 14-27

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OPEN 8am - 9pm DAILY

Table with columns for time slots (8:00-3:30) and channels (CBC, MC, NewVI, KING, CH, CTVCB, GBLBC, KCTS, SRC, KNOW, CITY, BRAVO, HIST, TLC, FAM, A&E, TSN, RSP, KSTW, KVOs, KCPQ, NEWS, KIRO, KOMO, VISION). Rows list various TV programs like 'Rolie P.', 'Cyberch.', 'POV', 'Hero', 'Curling', etc.

Table with columns for time slots (4:00-11:30) and channels (CBC, MC, NewVI, KING, CH, CTVCB, GBLBC, KCTS, SRC, KNOW, CITY, BRAVO, HIST, TLC, FAM, A&E, TSN, RSP, KSTW, KVOs, KCPQ, NEWS, KIRO, KOMO, VISION). Rows list various TV programs like 'Hockey NHL Toronto Maple Leafs vs Montréal Canadiens', 'Hockey NHL Ottawa vs Vancouver', etc.

FRIDAY, MAR 12
8:00 PM
11 *** The Age of Innocence (1993,Romance) Set in the repressive 1870s New York, a man is sexually awakened by a beautiful woman. Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder (2h30)
12 *** Perry Mason: Case of the Fatal Fashion (1992,Mystery) A malicious fashion magazine editor is murdered and a lawyer must defend the accused. Raymond Burr, Barbara Hale (2h)
13 *** A Man Apart (2003,Action) A government agent seeks revenge upon the new leader of a powerful drug cartel. Vin Diesel, Juan Fernandez (2h)
14 *** Beyond the Mat (1999,Docu-Drama) A behind-the-scenes investigation into the world of pro-wrestling at various levels. Darren Drozov, Jake Roberts (2h)
15 *** Indian Summer (1993,Comedy/Drama) Several former campers return to their summer camp of youth for a reunion weekend. Alan Arkin, Matt Craven (1h40)
16 *** The Usual Suspects (1995,Crime Story) When a heist goes wrong, the sole survivor recounts the events that led to the disaster. Kevin Spacey, Gabriel Byrne (2h)
17 *** The Girl Next Door (1999,Erotica) An Oklahoma housewife leaves her husband and heads to Los Angeles to become a porn star. Jack Gallagher, Russell Hampshire (1h45)
18 *** The Man Who Knew Too Much (1934,Suspense) A man must rescue his daughter and a diplomat from sinister foreign agents. Leslie Banks, Edna Best (1h30)
19 *** Don't Say a Word (2001,Thriller) A doctor must unlock a catatonic patient's secret in order to save his kidnapped daughter. Michael Douglas, Famke Janssen (2h)
20 *** Benny and Joon (1993,Romance) A misfit who shelters his mentally ill sister stumbles onto the perfect companion for her. Johnny Depp, Mary Stuart Masterson (2h5)
21 *** Give Me Your Soul (2000) Includes an unusual cast of real-life characters who parade through the porn industry. Susan Bloch, Marilyn Chambers (2h50)
SATURDAY, MAR 13
6:00 PM
22 *** The Candidate (1972,Political) A political race between two men results in one feeling detached from his ideals. Robert Redford, Peter Boyle (2h30)
7:00 PM
23 *** Laurel Canyon (2002,Drama) A liberal mother clashes with her conservative son when he and his fiancée move in. Frances McDormand, Christian Bale (1h45)
8:00 PM
24 *** The Sicilian (1987,True) Salvatore Giuliano stole from the Mafia, and fought against both the church and the state. Joss Ackland, Richard Bauer (2h30)
25 *** Dr. Dolittle (1998,Comedy) When a man's ability to talk to animals is unleashed, his colleagues think he's gone mad. Eddie Murphy, Oliver Platt (2h)
8:45 PM
26 *** The Hunted (2003,Thriller) An FBI tracker pursues a former trainee who has made a sport of hunting humans. Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio Del Toro (1h45)
9:00 PM
27 *** Diagnosis Murder: Without Warning (2002,Drama) Dr. Sloan tries to avert panic when immigrant farm workers die of a mysterious ailment. Dick Van Dyke, Barry Van Dyke (2h)
28 *** The Candidate (1972,Political) A political race between two men results in one feeling detached from his ideals. Robert Redford, Peter Boyle (3h)
29 *** Aspen Extreme (1993,Drama) Two friends from Detroit leave for the Colorado Rockies to become ski instructors. Paul Gross, Peter Berg (1h55)
10:00 PM
30 *** Meurtre au 1600 (1997,Histoire policière) Un détective de la police de Washington mène l'enquête sur l'assassinat d'une secrétaire. Wesley Snipes, Diane Lane (2h35)
31 *** Empire (2002,Action) A dealer sees his chance to escape a life of crime when a stockbroker offers him a deal. John Leguizamo, Peter Sarsgaard (1h45)
11:15 PM
32 *** Moonstruck (1987,Romance) A woman falls for her fiancé's brother while trying to repair the siblings' relationship. Cher, Nicolas Cage (1h35)
SUNDAY, MAR 14
6:00 PM
33 *** What A Girl Wants (2003,Family) An American teenager learns that her estranged father is a wealthy British politician. Amanda Bynes, Colin Firth (2h)
34 *** The General's Daughter (1999,Suspense) Two officers, once lovers, investigate the bizarre sexual murder of a general's daughter. John Travolta, Madeleine Stowe (2h)
35 *** Jeremiah Johnson (1972,Western) When a hermit breaks an ancient Indian taboo, he must defend himself from rival trappers. Robert Redford, Will Geer (2h30)
36 *** Leprechaun 4: In Space (1996,Thriller) A leprechaun kidnaps an alien to gain her title, but the marines rush to her rescue. Warwick Davis, Debbe Dunning (2h)
7:30 PM
37 *** Return to Neverland (2002,Animated) Peter Pan comes to the rescue when Captain Hook kidnaps Wendy's daughter Jane. Voices of Harriet Owen, Blayne Weaver (2h)
38 *** Est-ouest (1999,Drame) En 1946, un exilé russe rentre dans son pays avec sa femme française. Serguei Bodrov, Oleg Menshikov (2h30)
8:00 PM
39 *** Urban Cowboy (1980,Drama) A young farmer travels to Houston to work in a refinery and learns about life at a bar. John Travolta, Debra Winger (3h)

GISS takes on 'edgy' modern play at ArtSpring



READY TO PERFORM: Gulf Islands Secondary School drama students Caitlin Bishop, Amanda Noyes and Jessica Bambrough rehearse for this weekend's *Talking With*. The show takes the stage at ArtSpring Thursday to Saturday, beginning at 7:30.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

By **MITCHELL SHERRIN**
Staff Writer

Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) drama students will perform a variety of contemporary monologues for an upcoming production of Jane Martin's play called *Talking With*.

"What we see is people's struggles in their world," said director and GISS teacher Christina Pittmann. "They range from very comedic to very serious."

Monologues are a good venue for teaching actors how to handle the stage by themselves, Pittmann said.

"Now we really have people coming into their own. Now is when the layering starts happening."

The student cast of three males and eight females includes a range of acting backgrounds, she said.

A corresponding number of monologues carries the full two-act play.

"One of the characters wants to live her whole life in a McDonald's and swears that she saw someone healed from cerebral palsy with a Big Mac."

There's also an old woman who rents a studio apartment just to fill it with lamps.

"It's because she likes the reflection and she likes the warmth and she likes the patterns."

Other characters are pursuing acting careers, giving birth and recovering from a personal tragedy. Another monologue depicts a woman from the southern U.S. who

handles deadly snakes as part of her faith.

"It's all people handling the challenges that their lives present in unique ways."

Author Jane Martin has been labelled "America's best-known unknown playwright."

Critics widely speculate that the name, Jane Martin, is a pseudonym.

She has never made a public appearance or spoken of her works publicly. She's never even granted an interview. No biographical details are known about Martin and no photographs of her have ever been published.

But Martin has penned seven major plays, including the Pulitzer-nominated *Keely and Du*, *Criminal Hearts*, *Middle-Aged White Guys* and, most recently, *Anton in Show Business*.

Since *Talking With* (1982) was written exclusively for a female cast, Pittmann added four monologues from another play to accommodate male students in the cast.

"Thematically they fit in with the female monologues. They're a little bit edgier though."

She used sections from Eric Bogosian's *Drinking in*

America (first performed in 1986).

"The male monologues are all about power and how people use and abuse power."

Bogosian's most recent work was *Wake Up and Smell the Coffee*. He's also received acclaim for *Talk Radio*, *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll*, *Pounding Nails in the Floor with My Forehead*. His

work was recently described as a "hellish slope of modern attitude into the swamps of hilarious, frothing rant."

The GISS production of *Talking With* shows at ArtSpring at 7:30 p.m. March 11-13 (Thursday-Saturday). Tickets are available at the ArtSpring box office and cost \$10 and \$8 for students and seniors.

TONIGHT!

SALT SPRING WRITES

2004 Reading Series

at ArtSpring
 March 10, 8 p.m. doors open 7:30
Admission \$5 at the door
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 Writers & Friends Scholarship

HOST: Pearl Luke
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ARTSPRING Info: 537-2102

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CELEBRATING WOMEN: Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo is surrounded by Honour Choir members from left, Helena Bryn-McLeod, Amy Zacharias, Arlo Bryn-Thorn, Kate Parker, Nicole Pal and Caitlyn Pal, as she joins a SWOVA-led celebration of International Women's Day at Meaden Hall Monday night.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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New Orleans Connection romps through swing era at last ArtSwings! series show

With horns blazing, the New Orleans Connection comes out of the starting gate with straight-from-the-heart Dixieland jazz and a healthy dose of swing.

Appearing at ArtSpring on Sunday, March 14, at 2:30 p.m., the New Orleans Connection brings the third annual jazz series ArtSwings! to a close.

According to press material, the New Orleans

Connection is an ensemble of virtuoso instrumentalists performing a highly accessible form of jazz firmly rooted in New Orleans.

"Dressed in white tie and tails, armed with droll humor and the gift of storytelling, the ensemble's elegant presentation of early American jazz is truly unique."

The ensemble appears in major concert halls, music

festivals, and on the community concert circuit all over the world.

New Orleans Connection performers have received wide acclaim for their high degree of professionalism and the rapport they quickly establish with the audience.

Joining band leader and clarinetist George Haden will be Ron Johnston, piano, Lon Williamson, drums,

Kim Stacey, bass, Don Clark, trumpet, and Dennis Esson on trombone.

Sponsored by Royal LePage Salt Spring Realty, the concert will be preceded by a complimentary wine-tasting for ticket holders, featuring the award-winning wines of Garry Oaks Vineyard.

Tickets are available at ArtSpring's box office, 537-2102.

Young soloists 'wow' off-island judges

Trombone player Daniel Millerd is the winner of the 2004 Salt Spring Concert Band (SSCB) Solo Competition.

Millerd was chosen by Duncan-area judges Margaret St. Cyr and Duncan Fraser from the field of four contestants

Sunday.

"They all performed very well and the adjudicators were very impressed with the high standard of playing of such young players," said concert band director Dawn Hage.

Millerd is in Grade 8, and the other brass-playing con-

testants were in grades 7 and 9.

Sunday's fifth annual competition was organized by SSCB member Joan Byrne.

Hage explained the rationale behind the event.

"My idea is to encourage music students of all ages

and instruments to work up a solo, have an audition experience and offer the opportunity for them to perform as a soloist in front of a big concert band," she said.

The soloist wins a \$100 gift certificate and the opportunity to perform at the band's spring concert.

"Over the years we have had both adult and young student applicants and have had a range of instruments such as clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, piano, voice and trombone."

Hage said the SSCB and competition organizers hope the event will continue to grow.

"We would love to see not only band instrumentalists take advantage of this opportunity but also more vocalists, pianists and string players."

The call for competitors goes out each winter.

For more information, call Hage at 537-1388.

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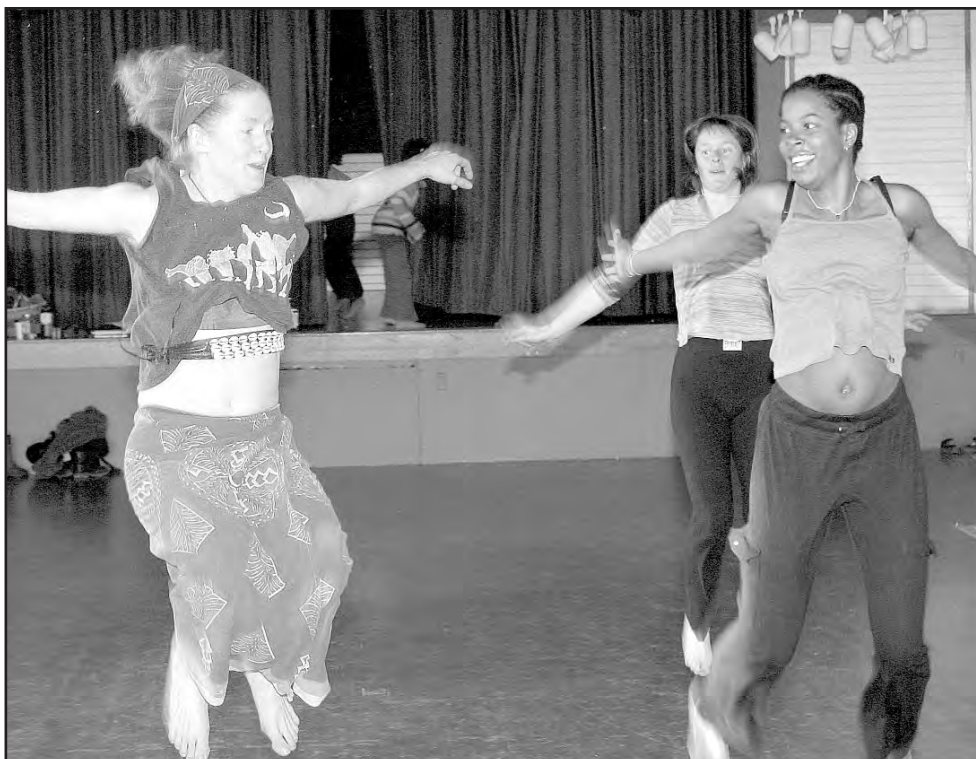
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JUMPING TO THE BEAT: West African Dance class leader Ilana Moon, left, leaps into the air alongside class participant Sharon Carroll. Classes take place Fridays at Mahon Hall.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Spring break classes set to go

Starting March 15, ArtSpring is all about children.

The third annual Spring Break at ArtSpring, an exciting and fun week of workshops for island children, features free classes for youth aged three and up.

"We have been doing this for three years and this year we have spaces for 300 students," said Paul Gravett, ArtSpring's executive director. "The place comes alive — there's nothing like it!"

Johanna Hoskins, the organizer for this year's event, has put together an unbeatable assortment of classes, with something for almost every interest. The 25 entertaining workshops include cartoon drawing, sewing, acting, songwriting, mask-making, poetry, photography and gumboot dancing.

A new feature this year is an end-of-week concert and art exhibition. "This way, the kids get to have more fun by showing off their creations to each other and their parents," said Gravett.

All classes are free, but registration is a must. Spaces fill up fast and waiting lists are not unusual.

Parents can pick up forms and information at the ArtSpring box office (537-2102).

Supported by the B.C. Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch and the Gulf Islands Driftwood, Spring Break at ArtSpring runs March 15-19.

'Daddies' group at Anise

Look forward to an evening of rhythmic tunes with the Undertakin' Daddies at Anise Restaurant on Monday, March 15.

Islanders can hear original music by the foursome who were recently nominated for a Juno award for their first recording, Post Atomic Hillbilly. Now touring in support of their second CD, Devil in the Rearview, the Undertakin' Daddies make their fame with a unique blend of country, folk, bluegrass and roots music.

Just coming into the music world, the four male musicians have already received rave reviews, with Larry Pynn of the Vancouver Sun giving the group a ****1/2 rating.

Kevin Barr leads the group in vocals, as well as playing the guitar and bass. Bob Hamilton (vocals, mandolin, bass), George McConkey (vocals, harmonica/guitar), and Nathan Tinkham (dobro and lap steel guitar) provide "great acoustic accompaniment," according to Larry Delaney of Country Music News.

Music begins at 8 p.m.

'Pieces of April' is adept at balancing tragedy, comedy

Another drama about families reconciling on a holiday, Pieces of

April gains extra punch from its low-budget style and superior cast.

April lives on the Lower East Side. In an attempt to connect with her mother, she has invited the family to drive in from some Pennsylvania suburb for Thanksgiving dinner.

She can't cook, and it doesn't help when the oven turns out not to work, so she spends most of the day wandering the apartment looking for help.

Meanwhile, the not-so-happy family makes its way slowly to the city. The daughter is obnoxious and controlling, the son meek and a little klutzy.

Grandma's got Alzheimer's. Dad is, well, pretty much a wuss. But it's mom on everyone's mind: Joy has cancer, and between bouts of throwing


up she manages to alienate everyone in the car.

The way I describe Pieces of April, it seems apparent that the family will arrive in New York and everything will end happily. But the film has an ambiguous tone, sometimes cheery and absurd, sometimes melodramatic, sometimes downright sobering. The ingredients for that happy ending are all there, but like April's poor turkey, the results could easily be a disaster.

It is a strategy that seems quite common in what might be called the "middlebrow" American film. Like recent successes Thirteen, All the Real Girls and Igby Goes Down, Pieces of April adeptly balances between tragedy and comedy in search of something approximating reality.

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S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice SUNDAY DAYTIME MARCH 14. Table with columns for time slots (8:00-3:30) and channels (CBC, MC, NewVI, KING, CH, CTVC, GBLBC, KCTS, SRC, KNOV, A&E, CITY, BRAVO, HIST, TLC, FAM, A&E, TSN, RSP, KSTW, KVOV, KCPQ, NEWS, KIRO, KOMO, VISION).

SUN, MAR 14. Table with columns for time slots (9:00-11:30) and channels (CBC, MC, NewVI, KING, CH, CTVC, GBLBC, KCTS, SRC, KNOV, A&E, CITY, BRAVO, HIST, TLC, FAM, A&E, TSN, RSP, KSTW, KVOV, KCPQ, NEWS, KIRO, KOMO, VISION).

S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice SUNDAY EVENING MARCH 14. Table with columns for time slots (4:00-11:30) and channels (CBC, MC, NewVI, KING, CH, CTVC, GBLBC, KCTS, SRC, KNOV, A&E, CITY, BRAVO, HIST, TLC, FAM, A&E, TSN, RSP, KSTW, KVOV, KCPQ, NEWS, KIRO, KOMO, VISION).

MONDAY, MAR 15. Table with columns for time slots (6:00-11:30) and channels (CBC, MC, NewVI, KING, CH, CTVC, GBLBC, KCTS, SRC, KNOV, A&E, CITY, BRAVO, HIST, TLC, FAM, A&E, TSN, RSP, KSTW, KVOV, KCPQ, NEWS, KIRO, KOMO, VISION).

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S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice MONDAY EVENING MARCH 15. Table with columns for time slots (4:00-11:30) and channels (CBC, MC, NewVI, KING, CH, CTVC, GBLBC, KCTS, SRC, KNOV, A&E, CITY, BRAVO, HIST, TLC, FAM, A&E, TSN, RSP, KSTW, KVOV, KCPQ, NEWS, KIRO, KOMO, VISION).

TUESDAY, MAR 16. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and channels (CBC, MC, NewVI, KING, CH, CTVC, GBLBC, KCTS, SRC, KNOV, A&E, CITY, BRAVO, HIST, TLC, FAM, A&E, TSN, RSP, KSTW, KVOV, KCPQ, NEWS, KIRO, KOMO, VISION).

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

WED. March 10	THURS. March 11	FRI. March 12	SAT. March 13	SUN. March 14	MON. March 15	TUES. March 16
Music Simply Organic. Free recital with organist Barry Valentine. All Saints, 10:10 a.m. Followed by coffee and muffin	Special Event Old Europe Documentary. StarHawk film about Marija Gimbutas. At StarBooks, 6:30 p.m.	Music Buck McDonald. Of Barley Bros. fame plays at The Local, 4-6 p.m.	Music Linda McCrae. Fmr. Spirit of the West performer. Anise, 9 p.m. Auntie Kate & the Uncles of Funk. w/ Gene Grooms & Old Dog New Tricks. Meaden Hall. Doors 8 p.m., dance at 9. GLOSSI dance. Put on by Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island. Lions Hall, 8 p.m.-midnight. House Party. With DJ Matt J at Moby's.	Music New Orleans Connection. Dixieland jazz and swing. ArtSpring, 2:30 p.m. Sue Newman. Sunday Dinner Jazz at Moby's, 7 p.m.	Music Undertakin' Daddies. At Anise, 8 p.m.	Meetings/Talks Salt Spring Healing Arts Circle. Tuesday StarBooks, 5:15. SS Prostate Cancer Support Group. Speaker Roger Middleton on his success with alternative treatment. Farmers Institute, 1 p.m. Personal Information & Privacy Act Info Session. At ArtSpring, 6-9 p.m. Central Hall Board of Directors. Meets at Central Hall, 7 p.m. Fulford Community Hall. AGM at the hall's OAPO room, 7:30 p.m. Fall Fair Committee. Volunteer meeting at Farmers Institute, 7 p.m.
Meetings/Talks Splash Indoor Pool Society. Monthly meeting at Portlock Portable, 8 p.m. CRD Arts Service Referendum. Advance poll at SS United Church, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Biodiesel Meeting. At StarBooks, 6 p.m. Gulf Islands School Board. Meets at SIMS, 1 p.m. SS Historical Society. Chris Arnett speaks on First Nations and colonization on Salt Spring, 1859-1863. Central Hall, 2 p.m.	Theatre Talking With. GISS drama department play. ArtSpring, 7:30 p.m.	Meetings/Talks Eagles. Talk by David Hancock. SS Conservancy event at Lions Hall, 7 p.m.	Theatre Talking With. GISS drama department play. ArtSpring, 7:30 p.m.	Activities SS Badminton Club. Drop-in Sundays, GISS gym, 8-10 p.m. info: 653-4613.	Meetings/Talks SEEDS EcoVillage Meeting. At StarBooks every Monday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Seniors Peer Counsellors. Meeting for people interested in becoming a volunteer counsellor. SS Seniors, 2:30 p.m. Call Sharon: 537-4607. Toastmasters Public Speaking Meeting. SS Seniors Centre, Mondays at 7 p.m. Info: Chuck, 653-2015.	Activities Welcome to Satsang. Ganges Yoga Studio, 7 p.m.
Classes/Workshops Salt Spring Writes. With authors Peter Levitt, Lorraine Gane and Christ Smart. Host Pearl Luke. ArtSpring, 8 p.m.	Meetings/Talks Save Our Ferries. Local community public forum. GISS multi-purpose room, 7 p.m. Business Breakfast Club. Meeting for business owners. The Local, 8 a.m. Chamber of Commerce Mixer. Networking event at Harbour House, 6 p.m. Naturopathic Help for Hayfever & Allergies. Teresa Strukoff lecture, 7-8:30 p.m. Call 537-3220 to reserve.	Theatre Talking With. GISS drama department play at ArtSpring, 7:30 p.m.	Activities Flea Market. Farmers Institute, 9-2. Thank-you Dinner. For Bruce Patterson & Jeff Outerbridge. Fulford Hall, 5-9 p.m. Nicaragua Project Aid Drop-off. Bring school supplies, small sports equipment and funds to Portlock Park for Daniel Fogarty's aid trip.	Activities SS Badminton Club. Drop-in Sundays, GISS gym, 8-10 p.m. info: 653-4613.	Activities Drop-in Floor Hockey. Fulford Hall, 6:30-9. Men's Pick-up Basketball. Mondays at GISS gym. 8-10 p.m. Info: Chris, 538-5534.	Classes/Workshops Website Design Class. Begins today. Call Andrea: 537-9935.
Family/Youth Drawing With Charcoal. Part II of two-part kids workshop at Fables Cottage, 3:30-4:30. Call 537-0028 to register.	Activities SS Badminton Club. Drop-in Thursdays, GISS gym, 8-10 p.m. info: 653-4613.	Theatre Talking With. GISS drama department play at ArtSpring, 7:30 p.m.	Classes/Workshops Paint Your Own Ceramics. Drop-in activity at Fables Cottage, 10-3.	Activities SS Badminton Club. Drop-in Sundays, GISS gym, 8-10 p.m. info: 653-4613.	Family/Youth South-end Drop-in. For parents and wee ones, Mondays at Fulford Hall, 10 a.m. to noon.	

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Cinema

- The Butterfly Effect** — Ashton Kutcher stars as a guilty man who attempts to change the past to heal his friend's misfortune, causing changes to be made in the present.
- Peter Pan** — A new big-screen adaptation about the classic flying boy who never grows up. J.M. Barrie's classic is fun for all ages.

Cable

SSTV Cable Channel 12 resumes broadcasts this Friday, March 12, with programming running continuously for 24 hours beginning at 5 p.m.

The Peacemakers: a documentary examining positive and powerful new voices devoted to making the world a safer place. The program talks to individuals ranging from ordinary citizens to celebrities to former military personnel who are striving to stop the senseless destruction of war. Produced by the Simons Foundation.

Next up watch **Rose Murakami**, who tells the story of her family's history. Rose's family came to Canada in 1896 and she talks about the large Japanese community that thrived on Salt Spring until the government interned the Japanese in 1942, the hard times during and after WWII and how her family returned to the island, the only Japanese family to do so. Program courtesy of the SS Historical Society.

Senior Peer Counsellors

Information meeting for people interested in becoming a senior peer counsellor.

Mon., March 15, 2:30pm at S.S. Seniors.

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Exhibitions

- Marg Threlfall** exhibits intuitive watercolour paintings — Taking one step into abstraction — in the ArtSpring lobby through March 31.
- Bob Masse** is displaying his poster art collection this month at Moby's Pub.
- Susan Haigh** is the featured artist at Island Savings.
- Stewart Katz** has a photo exhibit on March 7-April 4 at Barb's Buns.

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Tues. Mar. 16 vs. Nashville 7pm

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Advance poll:
March 10 & 17 (8am-8pm)

United Church, 111 Hereford Ave

General Voting Day:
March 20 (8am-8pm)

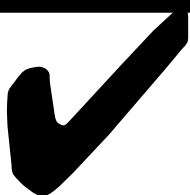
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Continuum, April 7-30

Celebrating our community's visual artists

SSIdol Preliminaries, April 12-15

(limited number of passes available)

SSIdol Finals, April 16 (\$5)

TNT and the SSIdol, April 17

Our exciting conclusion to week of incredible music-making features
Tal Bachman and Tom Hooper and Salt Spring's new superstar!
(\$12/\$7 or \$14/\$10 when you also purchase tickets to the SSIdol Finals)

A Musician's Roundtable, April 17 (10:00-12:00)

Here's your chance to learn from the pros. Get the inside scoop from our five
music industry experts.

Open House, April 17 (12:00-4:00)

A great afternoon with balloons, cake, entertainment and tours.

Parallels, June 2-21

Excellence predominates at our second community art exhibition.

Robert Bateman exhibition, June 4-20

The grand finale to our amazing 5th anniversary features 40 new paintings that
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Thank you Salt Spring for an incredible five years!
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FRIDAY, MAR. 12TH - 9PM
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SATURDAY, MAR. 13TH - 9PM
LINDA MCCRAE -
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COUNTRY FOLK
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MONDAY, MARCH 15TH - 8PM
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Fiddler design brings vision to life

By **PATSY SIEMENS**
 Driftwood Contributor

Almost every theatre production starts with a director having an idea, and a vision of that idea.

This was true for Rachel Jacobson and Fiddler on the Roof — the idea being to do the show; the vision was how it would look.

There was consultation with set designers Simon Henson and Leslie Corry. They went away, then came back with a revision of the vision that was more practical, more manageable but one that merged with Rachel's concept.

But set design does not stop there. Simon and Leslie researched Russian-Jewish architecture, made many sketches and finally a design emerged where through set dressing and lighting a 1900s Russian-Jewish vil-

FIDDLER FANCY

lage would be created; a barn becomes a shop; the addition of a few props creates the interior of a dwelling.

Then the model was made with all the moveable parts to show how the 19 different scene changes would be accomplished — something to watch for when you go to a performance of Fiddler.

Looking at this to-scale model of how the ArtSpring stage would be transformed, I began to wonder how they did it.

I asked a few questions and discovered that Simon Henson trained at the Leicester College of Art in England where he earned his

National Diploma in Design, and started in theatre because a professional theatre was next door to the college, where students were often asked to help paint scenery.

This led to a lifetime love of theatre, working with both professional and amateur companies, and teaching.

While Simon's students have, so far unsuccessfully, challenged him to take an acting role, a Henson-designed theatre set is a joy to see, and Fiddler is no exception.

Leslie Corry assisted Simon in the creation of the Fiddler on the Roof set design, bringing her expertise on and passion for Russian-Jewish architecture. An artist, Leslie has supported herself doing set design.

She has a diploma from the National Theatre School

in Montreal, trained with Jacques Le Coq in Paris, and studied scene painting at U.B.C.

As an integral part of the production crew, for both Simon and Leslie the Fiddler on the Roof design is strictly a labour of love. They have taken the director's vision and made it come alive with a warmth and simplicity that creates a microcosm of a Russian-Jewish village of 1905.

The show has been cast, the set has been designed. Rehearsals have started. Now we add the excitement of colour, costumes and music.

Where will it come from? Watch this space for the answers and more inside views of Fiddler on the Roof coming to ArtSpring the last three Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in May.

Bourne St. Pat's concert benefits Core Inn

Salt Spring can take in an intimate night with a Canadian "national treasure" while supporting Core Inn youth programs.

Master folk musician Bill Bourne and his current touring band perform at the Core Inn on Wednesday, March 17 at 8 p.m.

Trish Nobile, Core Inn coordinator and music pro-

ducer, is thrilled that Bourne is playing at the inn for the benefit of local youth.

Bourne will perform with Ghanian guitar player Pa Jo and percussionist Paul Carol.

Bourne is a Juno award-winning singer-songwriter and founder of Bourne & MacLeod.

Besides the duo earning a Juno for Dance & Celebrate

and a nomination for Moonlight Dancers, Bourne's other co-ventures include Dear Madonna and Victory Train with Edmonton violinist/fiddler Shannon Johnson, and the No Special Rider country blues project with Andreas Schuld and Hans Stamer.

Bourne last played on Salt Spring with Lester Quitzau

and Madascar Slim as part of their Tri-Continental act for the Festival of the Arts.

Food will also be available for purchase at the Core Inn concert, including baked stuff potatoes and greens for only \$5, to mark St. Patrick's Day.

Cost for the March 17 concert is only \$8 at the door.

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Blues dance gang at Meaden Hall

For Auntie Kate, Gene Grooms and all the musicians they perform with, winter's over and it's time to celebrate.

They're doing it in fine style this Saturday night at Meaden Hall with a blow-off-the-cobwebs end-of-winter dance.

Auntie Kate and the Uncles of Funk have been playing close to home in

Victoria in recent months, but are ready for a spring S a l t Spring fling.

"It's always fun to go back to the island," said Auntie Kate.



Auntie Kate

The Uncles of Funk include guitarist Tom Bowler, Doug Saunders on bass, drummer Lewry Rugg and Ron Bell on keyboards.

They'll be playing lots of cover tunes and originals, with an emphasis on making people dance.

"It just seems like we turn the switch on and don't stop until the night is over."

Her brother Dave Roland will also be on stage playing with Gene Grooms and Old Dog New Tricks.

Blues guitarist Paul Branscombe and Drop Radio drummer Fidel round out the island band.

"It was good last year," said Roland.

"It's a chance to raise your spirits and have some fun."

Doors for the licensed event open at 8 p.m., with music at 9.

Tickets are \$15 and on sale at Acoustic Planet, or from Moya at 653-4279.

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Tasting: 1:30-2:15
 Concert: 2:30

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Wednesday, March 17th Live at

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Mechanic mom tops Camosun class

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
 Staff Writer

An island mother who took up a trade after her kids began school has hit the top of her class in a mechanics apprenticeship program.

"It's one of those stupid girl-independence things," said local mechanic Vanessa Amodeo.

She just scored a 97 per cent in her fourth year at Camosun College.

Amodeo is also a mother to Crystal (13), Adrienne (10) and Nikolas (9). In her spare time, she practises martial arts with her children and husband Dave.

"I had all the kids and got them into school and thought I'd have my own life now," she said.

Her achievements in mechanics have not just been a one-shot job. In her last two years at Camosun, Amodeo scored 96 per cent to lead her class.

Her training has involved six weeks of theory study each year in addition to full-time work at a mechanic's shop.

She decided to pursue mechanics because she's inclined to tinker and likes to be self-sufficient.

"I've never been a girly girl. I don't like being helpless and having to ask for help for all my stuff.



TOP GUN: Vanessa Amodeo scored 97 per cent to top her mechanics apprenticeship class at Camosun College. The island mom started her new career after her kids went to school.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Anytime I had to do anything with any of my cars, I'd have to ask, 'Dave, can you do this? Dave, can you do that?' It irked me to no end."

She describes her husband as a "backyard project guy" who helped get her interested in mechanics.

Prior to the Camosun program and children, she took a 10-month pre-apprenticeship program and five months of electronics at BCIT, which gave her a one-year credit at Camosun.

Part of her desire to pursue mechanics was to develop useful skills.

"I wanted something that if I didn't pursue it, that's all fine and dandy. But at least I'd learn something out of it."

She actually started the program over 10 years ago but quit when she became pregnant.

Amodeo has enjoyed working at Tread Shed 2000 on Salt Spring much more than her previous work-experience placement at a dealership in Victoria

"Sure it's great [at a dealership] because everything's brand new and it just flies apart in your hands," she said.

But dealership shops work under heavy pressure

and high expense, she said.

"Everything's got to be done right now. It's pressure and hectic and you don't have time to talk to anybody. It's not much fun."

Apprentices at big shops are also stuck doing menial work but she's been allowed to work on all kinds of jobs at the Tread Shed.

"Basically they don't let you touch anything. All the big guys get the good stuff. You're stuck doing oil changes until your third or fourth year before they let you into anything."

She's been very pleased to have access to a variety of jobs under the tutelage of Per Svendsen at the Tread Shed. Previous to working at Svendsen's shop, Amodeo knew him when he taught mechanics at Camosun, she said.

"Working here, Per's let me muck into everything. It's been way better for learning."

Even though she likes the work, it's still got a few rough edges, she said.

"It's hard sometimes. My hands are all beat up and I'm bruised all over and scratched and nicked."

But she's still waiting keenly for her final paperwork to come in the mail so she can be fully certified.

RANTS

PAGE 12, DRIFTWOOD

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Privacy act details unmasked at March 16 chamber session

Secrets will not be on the agenda when the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce holds a session on the new Personal Information and Privacy Act (PIPA).

Chambers from across B.C. are being forced to address issues raised by the act, which governs the collection, use and disclosure of personal information by organizations, states a press release.

The Salt Spring session runs Tuesday, March 16 from 6-9 p.m.

"There is a need to draw up guidelines acceptable not only to member businesses but also for the Salt Spring Island Chamber itself," said chamber manager Perry Ruehlen.

In order to make Tuesday's gathering as fruitful as possible, all business members are advised to bring any relevant informa-

tion they have garnered to date.

Provincial government contact person on the topic is Charmaine Lowe of the Corporate Privacy and Information Access Branch.

She can be reached at (250) 356-7529, by fax at 953-0455, or by e-mail: charmaine.lowe@gems1.gov.bc.ca.

The appropriate website is www.msar.gov.bc.ca/foi_pop/privacy.

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2004

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beginning MARCH 23/04 - MAY 14/04

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on the alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District. Please contact the NSSWD at 537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.



FENCED IN: Students hamming it up for the camera at Fernwood Elementary School are, clockwise from left: Carson McCormick, Liam Simpson, Cody McCormick-Cox, Logan McCormick and Harrison Johnson.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

GISS student gathering aid for Nicaragua project

By SHOSHANA LUCICH
GISS Work Experience Student

Local Grade 12 student Daniel Fogarty leaves Salt Spring March 27 for a two-week stay on Ometepe Island in Nicaragua to help needy children.

Through the Ometepe Gulf Islands Friendship Association (OGIFA), Fogarty will connect with 46 American high-school students who will also be helping with community projects in Nicaragua.

According to a press release from Fogarty, the children he will be working with have been brought off the street through the efforts of the !Si A La Vida! (Yes To Life!) project.

Fogarty said the purpose of the project is to get Nicaraguan children off city streets and into stable, drug-free homes. Children who want to pursue their education are moved to



Daniel Fogarty

Casa José Maria, the project's centre on Ometepe Island, where they are provided with basic public schooling.

"During my short visit, I will be working with the children of Casa José Maria and helping with the daily chores on the project's 17-

acre plantain farm," said Fogarty.

As a part of the program, he must also bring two suitcases filled with as much material and financial aid as they can hold.

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the northern hemisphere, said Fogarty. Seventy per cent of its 4.6 million people live in poverty, with poverty defined as about \$4,600 annually for a family of six, or a little less than \$2 per person per day.

Should anyone wish to donate aid for Fogarty's trip, he can be contacted at 653-4692.

"Ultimately, we hope to cultivate a relationship between Gulf Islands schools and the children of Nicaragua," said Fogarty. "For now, our goal is to fill these two suitcases with as much material and financial aid as they will hold."

Organic farming at institute workshop

A March 20 agriculture workshop will explore how local food, organic farming and maintaining biodiversity can counter the threats of industrial farming.

Led by Samuel Godfrey and Tina Baynes of the Islands Organic Producer Association, and Dan Jason of Salt Spring Seeds and the Seed and Plant Sanctuary for Canada, it takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Farmers Institute.

In the morning, presenters will share information on starting an organic farm, and both the requirements for and value of organic certification.

Breakout sessions on organic livestock, field crops and value-added processing for small holders are also scheduled.

After a complimentary lunch, Jason will give a presentation and slide show about commonly grown Salt Spring crops and how to save their seeds.

For more information or to register, contact the Community Economic Development office at 537-4219, or send an e-mail message to cedproject@saltspring.com.

Listeners needed for seniors peer group

Seniors are invited to "align their time with their values" by becoming a seniors peer counsellor.

On Monday, March 15, at Salt Spring Seniors, Wellness Programs coordinator Sharon Glover and Salt Spring senior peer counsellors will host a meeting that will explain the local peer support program and answer questions that arise.

The meeting starts at 2:30 p.m.

"We are looking for people who care about people, can listen, be non-judgemental and who don't give advice," said Glover.

"Peer counsellors help other seniors, on a confidential basis, get through a "tough spot" in their lives by visiting in their home for about an hour a week," she explained.

Seniors peer counselling is a free service available to any senior on Salt Spring.

A new group of counsellors will be trained soon, with the 50 hours of required training set to take place in April and May.

The new peer counsellors will then join the experienced group already in place.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting or getting more information about the seniors peer counselling program should call Glover at 537-4607.


Award honours Bateman

Islander Robert Bateman was honoured with a Skies Above Canada Foundation Environmental Leadership Award on Saturday night.

Bateman was also keynote speaker at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn event, which was co-hosted by the Burns Bog Conservation Society.

Each year the Skies Above Canada Foundation honours individuals, organizations and businesses whose environmental practices protect the Earth's atmosphere, achieving real progress towards climate change reductions.

Other Environmental Leadership Award winners announced Saturday night are Mount Washington Alpine Resort, SED Technologies and Freybe's Gourmet Foods.



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Hannahs' business finds new Knotts Place home

The Grand Re-opening of **Salt Spring Medical Supply** was held a few weeks ago at their new location.

Pat and Richard Hannah have combined both of their businesses under one roof, in a brand new building at 125 Knott Place, off Rainbow Road.

Symmetric Designs manufactures medical products (devices and supports for the physically challenged) and sells them world-wide.

Salt Spring Medical Supply carries a wide array of home health care products. They are now offering 10 per cent off most items on Tuesdays with a friendly face and a free coffee.

• Congratulations to the members of **Curves**. It has taken a lot of work, but since the fitness centre opened last August, members had lost a total of 915 pounds by the end of February. In addition, they collectively lost a total of 2,644 inches.

During the month of March, **Curves** is collecting food and non-perishable items for the local food bank.

• **Wellness for Women in the Workplace** is a comprehensive, five-part workshop for women in any line of work — health care workers, lawyers, artists, any and all working women, self-employed or not, presented by **Eight Branches Holistic Health Centre**. The workshop contains five sections, specifically created for business and working women: Communication; Healthy Lifestyle; Stress Management; Credibility and Influence; and Balanced Living.

Facilitated by veteran international lecturers, businesswomen and life-path counsellors Chrystyanna and

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

WITH PETER McCULLY



Angelique Queensley, the workshop takes place at ArtSpring on Monday, March 29 and the following four Monday nights from 6 to 9 p.m.

Cost for the entire workshop series is \$290. The registration deadline is Monday, March 22.

For more information, or to register, stop by or call Eight Branches Holistic Health Centre at 538-1701.

• From the **Chamber of Commerce** a reminder that there is a mixer planned for Thursday, March 11, 6 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel, the same day of the Business Breakfast Club meeting at The Local. A free presentation on the Personal Information & Privacy Act

takes place Tuesday, March 16 at ArtSpring from 6-9 p.m.

• The **Tourism Vancouver Island Board Meeting** will be hosted by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce on March 22-23. For more information, contact Perry Reuhlen at 537-4223.

• At least three Salt Spring companies will be packing their bags in late April to participate in **EAT! Vancouver**, an extravaganza of food, cooking and all things kitchen to be held in B.C. Place on April 23-25.

In its second year, **EAT! Vancouver** is a delightful way to spend a day or two, tasting specialty foods, sampling the fare of various restaurants, judging cooking contests and browsing through new cookware and kitchen appliances.

Be sure to visit the Salt Spring contingent as you make your rounds! Look for the **Salt Spring Coffee Company** for a hit of fresh-

roasted fair-trade coffee, or visit **Island Gourmet Safaris** to learn about exciting gourmet tours now being offered on Salt Spring Island.

SeaChange Seafoods Ltd. will have two faces at the show. Visit the SeaChange booth for mouthwatering bites of maple smoked salmon and smoked salmon pâté, and look for the Cannery Bay kiosk, serving free tastes of steaming Salmon Chowders. By the way, Cannery Bay Chowders were recently voted one of the best five chowders on Vancouver Island in the Times Colonist "Best of the Island" survey.

For more information about **EAT! Vancouver**, go to www.eat-vancouver.com.

• If you have something you would like mentioned in this column, call me at 537-9933 or email sales@gulfislands.net.

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WELCOME WAGON
SINCE 1930

Parks, pools and parking prominent

40 years ago

• Seeds were sown to create Centennial Park when the Chamber of Commerce chose to locate the park adjacent to the Ganges boat basin. Plans called for a playground, boat launch and picnic area.

• Protesters objected to a 75-lot subdivision on Old Scott Road. The governing Chamber of Commerce recommended forming a local planning committee to control the subdividing process.

• Islander George Jensen scored a hole-in-one at the local golf course on the same day he received a new granddaughter.

35 years ago

• Helicopters helped construct transmission towers on Mount Erskine for a new power line. It was the first operation of its kind on the island.

• Several Gulf Islands roads collapsed after weeks of heavy rainfall. At least one major road was out of commission on each island.

• A minor earthquake cleared a long-plugged sink at the McDonald home on Beddis Road.

30 years ago

• Salt Spring Lions purchased 10 acres of level land kitty-corner to Central Hall for an island recreational centre (now Portlock Park). The Lions raised \$40,000 through bingos and a

DOWN THE YEARS

walkathon to purchase the land from the Millner family.

• Herring stocks fell around the island after the Department of Fisheries cut subsidies on the harvest of dogfish.

25 years ago

• West Coast Air Services said flights between Vancouver and Salt Spring formed their busiest route. Almost 3,200 passengers flew the route the previous year.

• The Galiano Fire Department Women's Auxiliary received a package from Hawaii after running an ad in the Driftwood for a book drive.

• Islanders were told that water quality in Ganges Harbour would improve by a factor of 100 with the proposed Ganges sewer.

20 years ago

• Government pressure forced the Centennial Park Committee to ban vendors from the park during the week. Only the Saturday Farmers' Market was allowed to remain.

• Local RCMP ticketed vehicles parked on Morningside Drive after Fulford residents complained of continued obstruction.

• New telephone lines in

Ganges were slated for underground installation.

15 years ago

• Gulf Islands' oldest resident Alice Maier turned 100 on Galiano. She celebrated with 150 people.

• Salt Spring writer Joe Garner topped B.C. book-sellers lists with his collection of logging biographies called *Never Chop Your Rope*.

• Pender trustee Gordon Wallace claimed there was "no water shortage" on the Gulf Islands. More water fell from the heavens than people could use, he said.

10 years ago

• An indoor pool headed a Driftwood "wish list" survey. But only 22 per cent of islanders wanted to increase property taxes to fund facilities; 46 per cent favoured "user pay" and 28 per cent suggested fundraising.

• Islanders disagreed over a proposed \$96,000 Capital Regional District grant-in-aid which regional director Dietrich Luth had proposed

for the ArtSpring building.

• Eight cases of meningitis in three months among Gulf Islands teens prompted a mass immunization of students between 13 and 19 years.

5 years ago

• A human skull was discovered on the beach at Drummond Park. Police believed the skull was part of a native burial.

• Islanders asked the attorney general to look into gas prices on Salt Spring. Island gas was about seven cents per litre more than regular fuel in Victoria and 17 cents a litre more than the Lower Mainland.

• B.C. Ferries considered appointing an Islands Trust representative to their board of directors. The Crown corporation and ferry workers' union had reached a collective agreement without incident. Ferries minister Gordon Wilson said he aimed to fund the ferry system on par with highways.

Are you a Woman in Business on Salt Spring Island?

The Driftwood is preparing our First Annual **Women In Business** edition. This section is a showcase for the spirit of women entrepreneurs, business owners, and employees. Don't miss the opportunity to have your story told in this advertising feature. Call Peter, Rick or Penny today.

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Salt Spring Island Community Services

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

SPCA Fundraiser



Local artist and SPCA supporter Julia Lucich has offered to do portraits for the first 10 people who donate \$500 to our local branch. Portraits can be people or animals. Tax receipts will be issued.

Thank you Julia!

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FACES TELL THE STORY: Fans, including a line of parents, watch the drama unfold on the soccer field as Salt Spring's U14 girls take on Langley Sting in Sunday's Coastal Cup semifinal. The match proved to be a tense one for Salt Spring spectators, who watched the local girls dominate much of the play but fall behind 2-0.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



GETTING SET: Members of the U14 girls team warm-up in two lines behind Elsbet Krayenhoff, left, and Kate Parker in preparation for the Coastal Cup semifinal against Langley Sting at Portlock Park last Sunday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Salt Spring pride shines in U14 semifinal sting

Salt Spring's U14 girls soccer team finally met their match in a 2-0 loss against Langley Sting for the Coastal Cup semifinal held at Portlock Park Sunday.

"The teams were equally matched and on another day we could have won," said Salt Spring coach Meror Krayenhoff.

"Although Salt Spring dominated the first half of the game, it ended with Langley getting the first goal. Once that happened, Langley went into a strong defensive mode, which made it difficult for Salt Spring."

In an e-mail to Krayenhoff, Langley Sting coach Greg Smith agreed the provincial semi-final game could have gone either way.

"I was very proud of my players for holding on, as your team dominated the first half. Even for much of the second half, your team applied pressure and had the balance of the play," Smith said.

The second Langley goal seemed to turn the tide, he said. But Smith felt the islanders remained dangerous and even had a close scoring opportunity with four minutes remaining.

"I was thinking, 'We did not want to face your team fired up after scoring a goal.'"

Smith noted that Langley dominated the top teams in the lower mainland.

"[Sunday] we controlled less of the play and faced more pressure than we have all year long," Smith said.

Salt Spring assistant coach Randolph Parker commended a number of individuals.

The teams' high scorer during league play, Kayla Gromme, fought hard to get shots away as Langley defence forced her outside, he said.

"Jessie Harkema did some great plays driving through the competition, blasting balls forward. Sam Bird did a booming kick over Langley's keeper for a breathtaking near goal."

Rock-solid sweeper Kate Parker was at the top of her game, striker Helena Bryn-Mcleod was a ball of energy, Caitlyn Pal showed great ball-handling skills and midfielder Elsbet Krayenhoff switched the play from one side to the other effectively, he said.

Keepers Jen Walls and Kristi Lee both saved many shots on net.

"The association is proud of what this team has achieved," said Salt Spring Soccer Association president Ken Byron.

SIMS defence drives win

Salt Spring's Grade 8 Tsunami boys swept to an unexpected tourney win at the mid-island basketball championships at Shawnigan Lake last weekend.

"The last two years we finished second," said coach Ken Cameron. "This is the year where we weren't expected to get to the finals."

The Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS) boys stuffed George Bonner Middle School with a 56-41 win Friday morning.

"Out of 12 players, all but one scored," said Cameron.

The island defence held George Bonner off the score board to claw an 18-2 lead at the first quarter, he said.

SIMS went on to slam Brentwood College 62-31 Friday afternoon with a similar 19-4 lead in the first quarter.

"The passing was tic-tac-toe and in the basket."

The Tsunami boys faced tough opposition against Quamichan for the final Saturday but they filled the hoops for a 55-28 win.

"The boys really put it together."

Previously, Quamichan beat SIMS by 30 points but the islanders lead 27-9 at the half during the mid-islands match.

"They could not stop Martin [Lannen] or Cardin [Davies] inside."

Davies collected almost every rebound and islanders Stephen Greenwood and Brenden Nickerson scored vital points when needed.

Quamichan even tried double and triple teaming guard Bob Byron without success.

"They were trying to press but they couldn't stop him."

Cameron also praised guard Luke Giefing, who kept his check under wraps on defence.

"He also played another outstanding game moving the ball up the court."

Cameron laughed that he owes part of the tourney win to a soccer schedule that allowed the whole team to assemble for the first time this season.

"Finally, all the players were there."

Ssplash dash training starts now

Local runners can take another dash for Ssplash at the indoor pool society's fundraising event set for May 30.

Some 200 runners helped raise over \$3,000 toward a new pool in Ssplash's inaugural race last year. Some 89 runners loped over a 10-kilometre (10K) jaunt, 86 joggers strode through a 21.1-kilometre half marathon and another 40 children ran in a one-kilometre fun run.

"Hopefully it will go as well again this year," said race organizer Ben Cooper.

"I don't know if we'll raise as much as we did last year but hopefully we'll increase the runners by 10 per cent."

The Ssplash website is now ready to take registrations (www.splash.org) for four different age-and-gender-based categories.

To build on the event from last year,

there will be more T-shirts, another post-run picnic and draw prizes. But this year, walkers can participate in either distance, there will be prizes for fundraising and Cooper hopes to polish the overall organization of the event.

"The search-and-rescue people will do marshalling again. They were a great help last year."

Cooper advises runners to start training now to get ready for the May event.

"But most people will probably wait till the last minute," he laughed.

Cooper recommends novice participants train for at least 12 weeks to build themselves up from walking to running for the 10-K run. Runners would need a similar amount of time to move from a 10-K to the half-marathon distance.



seniority

FOR ISLANDERS FIFTY PLUS

This special Senior's supplement will be published March 24th.

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Tsunami wave threatens at BCs

Tsunami girls took a valiant leap at the provincial basketball title in Pitt Meadows last weekend but the hoop was just out of reach.

Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIM) competed among 16 of B.C.'s best teams and made a good showing for themselves at the Grade 8 Girls Invitational B.C. Championships, said co-coach Sandy Harkema.

"For a small school, we did amazingly well."

A tough first draw on Thursday saw SIMS face Princess Margaret Secondary School from Surrey, home of the contentious 13-year-old-star Harleen Sidhu.

"She's totally awesome," said Harkema.

B.C. School Sports had previously banned Sidhu (6'1") from junior tournaments because she played briefly for her school's senior-girls team. The school challenged the decision and settled out of court on February 9.

"She got the tourney MVP [most valuable player award] for the second year in a row. The score was 33-19 and she got all but nine points for her team."

Salt Spring went on to lose their next two matches despite near ties in the third quarter of each game.

Rosedale Middle School of Chilliwack beat SIMS 43-27 and then the islanders fell 42-34 to St. Thomas More Collegiate of Burnaby.

"We felt like we were beat up."

The islanders' final game on Saturday allowed the girls a pleasant finish with a 48-23 win over Hazelton.

Kayla Gromme notched 30 points to lead scoring against Hazelton.

"She won game MVP for three out of four games we played. She also made the second all-star team," Harkema said.

Jess Harkema played well throughout the tourney and helped score points from outside during the team's first match against zone defence Thursday.

"She's a driver. She drives the ball to the basket."

Sam Bird and Kristi Lee moved the ball well and Ayla Lundy posted under the basket.

The co-coach wanted to thank her peers Jenny Gromme and Ken Cameron, along with a host of parents, who assisted during the four-day event.

"It was great having parent help."

Lane Gromme, Karen Hartley, Jill Simpson and bench-coach Val Harkema deserved special thanks, she noted.



MEDALIST: Salt Spring's Kristen Iverson brought home a silver medal from the B.C. Winter Games after her squash team took second place.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin.

Squash silver in winter games

Islander Kristen Iverson pegged a silver medal in squash at the B.C. Winter Games last week.

While 13-year-old Iverson was thrilled to win the medal, her biggest highlight was just getting together with the squash team, she said.

"We went to Tim Horton's a lot."

The six under-15 juniors representing the Vancouver Island region held a side competition where they could win bagels by playing perfect games, she said.

"When you win 9-0, that's a 'bagel.' The coach said, 'I'll buy you a bagel for every 9-0 game.'"

Iverson won six bagels and remained undefeated during her four matches between February 26-29.

Her team won silver with a combined team score of 119 points. Winning gold was a Vancouver team with 120 points.

Iverson has been competing in squash tournaments for the last three years and regularly goes to Victoria to practise with her parents, who are also avid players.

The Iversons also practise at home with their own variation involving a hybrid of squash and badminton, she said.

"Since we don't have squash on the island, we play badminton with a squash shot."

Eric Sigmund soars to a 6th place finish

Local skier Eric Sigmund took "big air" in aerials but landed heavily to place sixth at the B.C. Winter Games.

"I crashed on every run," Sigmund said.

He competed in the moguls and aerial (Big Air) events for 14 and 15-year-olds at Mount Washington as part of the Winter Games running February 26-29.

"The Big Air went well because me and my friends did tricks we've never done before and the weather was nice."

Big Air is a freestyle competition where competitors show tricks during jumps on twin-tipped skis, he said.

"You're taking tricks from in-line rollerblading and skateboarding and doing it on skis. People ride the rails now. You do different flips and spins. Basically anything goes."

He attempted a 90-degree-corkscrew turn for the Big Air event but over-rotated for a 180-degree turn and an awkward landing. He still placed sixth among 15 competitors in aerials with a score of 61:26. Justin Dorey of Vernon won gold with an 86:01.

"I had too much speed," said Sigmund.

While moguls is not one of his favourite events, he qualified for the Winter Games among 18 competitors.

"I'm not really into moguls that much but I'm a pretty good beginner, so that's why I went."

Unfortunately, he had another crash in the jump section of moguls to place 16th overall.

Sigmund was also hurt during the Big Air event so he couldn't compete in the dual moguls event.

He is next competing in the B.C. Championships at the end of March.

GARAGE SALE? Use the Driftwood garage sale kit 537-9933

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HIGH ROLLERS

High scores in bowling league play at Kings Lane Recreation last week were:

Circus League, March 1: Lance Leask, 308, 206; Harold Repen, 218; Ken Strike, 222.

Tuesday Morning Seniors, March 2: Stan Sage, 207; John Pringle, 231/203/624; Jim Glenn, 234.

Tuesday Afternoon Seniors, March 2: Rita

Dods, 210; Harold Repen, 234.

Special Olympics, March 3: Stuart Elliott, 143; Maggie Reddy, 149; Sharon Way, 155; Gloria Dale, 157; Carol Manzano, 165; Mahjor Bains, 189; Jason Newport 193.

Legion League, March 4: Brenda Akerman, 205; Ken Akerman, 208; Dan Bedford, 216,304/715; Lance Leask, 274, 215/648; Ken Ditlof, 256,232/655; Myles Wilson, 222; Paul Bedford, 223; Art Beaumont, 212, 225/602.

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Wouldn't you love to do all those routine edits yourself? —Easy, quick, no extra fees.

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HOT TUB Sales/Service

March Special!! HOT TUB COVERS

15% off

• New & Used Equipment
• Filters & Supplies

H. Hermann Pool & Spa
537-5147

See Our Ad in Lions Directory

Drive a clean vehicle!

Steam cleaning from \$60
Interior cleaning from \$110

SALT SPRING ISLAND CAR WASH & DETAILING

• Exterior Wax & Polish • Engine Shampooing
• Hand Washes • Paint Protection

Call Nathan for estimates and an appointment

537-1180
347 Upper Ganges Rd.
(at Salt Spring Mini Storage)

SAVE OUR FERRIES ADVOCACY GROUP SAVE OUR FERRIES!

Do you care about the future of your Ferry Service?
The future - higher fares, reduced service and less accountability.

Attend Your Local Public Community Forum on Ferry Privatization

Learn about the changes legislated for our ferry system and how you can oppose these massive changes, which have been imposed by Bill 18-The Coastal Ferry Act.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE:

**Salt Spring Island –
Thursday, March 11, 7pm
Gulf Islands
Secondary School,
Multi-purpose room**

Go to **www.saveourferries.com**
for updates and information.

**PUBLIC SERVICES
FOR PEOPLE, NOT PROFIT**

DEADLINE MONDAY 5 PM

Too Late To Classify Deadline: Noon Tuesday

Driftwood Classifieds

REGULAR CLASSIFIEDS

BARGAIN HUNTER CLASSIFIEDS
10 words or less
\$5.95

Value of goods must not exceed \$100. Private party, non-commercial ads only.

REGULAR CLASSIFIEDS
20 words or less
\$8.95

Additional words **26¢ each**
Run your ad for 2 weeks and get a third week FREE!

PRIVATE PARTY, MERCHANDISE ADS ONLY
Sorry, no refunds, no changes.

Deadline **MONDAY 5PM.**

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY
20 words or less
\$11.00

Additional words **36¢ each**
Deadline **TUESDAY NOON**

DISPLAY CLASSIFIEDS
\$11.25 per column inch
(minimum size one inch)
Border: Add \$2
Frequency discounts available

REGIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

BUY VANCOUVER ISLAND \$99

Your 25 word classified ad appears in the Gulf Islands Driftwood (Salt Spring & Pender Islands) and 15 community papers on V.I. Over 262,455 readers.

BUY LOWER MAINLAND \$99

Your 25 word classified ad appears in 15 community papers in the lower mainland. Over 525,455 readers.

BUY BC INTERIOR \$99

Your 25 word classified ad appears in 22 community papers in the interior. Over 208,856 readers.

BCYCN NETWORK CLASSIFIEDS \$349

Your 25 word classified will appear in more than 110 community newspapers in BC and the Yukon. Over 2.3 million readers.

PAYMENT

- We can accept payment by cash, direct debit, Mastercard or Visa.
- Classifieds are prepaid unless you have an advertising account.

PLACING AN AD

- In person at our office at 328 Lower Ganges Road, Ganges
- By telephone, 250-537-9933, or fax, 250-537-2613
- By email to classified@gulfislands.net (no attachments please)
- By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3.

POLICIES

Please check your ad after the first insertion. Should an error appear in an advertisement, Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is only liable for the amount paid for the space occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Driftwood Publishing Ltd. will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion.

Notices

6 DEATHS

MELLEN: JOHN (Burt) passed away quietly at Lady Minto Extended Care Unit on Sunday, February 29, 2004 with son and daughter at his side. Predeceased by his wife Dorothy (nee Storey) April 1986 and survived by sons Michael, Robert and Bruce, his daughter Diane and two sisters: Marjorie (George) in Regina and Jean (Shuttleworth) in Langley. Burt was born in 1931 and raised on a farm in Tyvan, Saskatchewan. He came to Vancouver in his teens and worked at Malkins Cannery. He was a lover of hockey and bingo (especially the calling) and his favourite pastime was talking to people. He moved to Saltspring in 2001 to be closer to his daughter. Burt will be remembered for his kind and thoughtful nature. He always wanted to know how everyone was doing and even toward the end, noticed if his caregiver friends were gone for any length of time. Thank you to all the staff of Lady Minto Extended Care. It's never just a job there. Thank you also to the hospice volunteers who sat with Dad on short notice. And to Doreen and Barb - words can't describe the comfort you've given. Burt will be remembered during the Sunday Service at Lady Minto ECU on March 14 at 1:30 p.m. "Death ends a life - not a relationship".

CHARLES WILMOT CROWELL

"Bicycle" Charlie Crowell passed away March 4, 2004, following a brief health setback. A solitary individual for most of his life, he was a grateful resident of Greenwoods for the past five years. To those fortunate enough to have known him, Charlie will be remembered for his unique outlook, curiosity, individualism and fundamental kindness and generosity. Born June 29, 1925, in North Vancouver, and a veteran of World War II, Charlie enjoyed a varied working life which took him from prospectors, tents in Canada, to projects in Australia and England. A man of convictions, he engaged in occasional correspondence with his government and his monarch, but never lost sight of the simple pleasures of a smoke and a glass of beer. His greatest love, however, were cats of all stripes and his commitment to their welfare will be his enduring legacy. A grave side service was held at Central Cemetery on March 9, 2004. Along with his friends at Greenwoods, Charlie leaves great-nephew, Dan Moore in Washington State and great-nieces elsewhere in the United States. A Memorial Service will be held at Meaden Hall, March 13 at 1:00 p.m. All welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salt Spring Island Branch of the S.P.C.A.

6 DEATHS

BYRNE, MABEL - died suddenly March 7, 2004 on Salt Spring Island. Born April 27, 1922 in N. Ireland, Mabel worked on Sterling bombers at RAF Crumlin where she met Mike (predeceased 1991) and married in 1941. They moved to Newfoundland in 1952 with daughter Avril & son Michael. They started their moves across Canada with second daughter, Colleen, arriving in BC in 1973. Mabel lived 6 years in Ontario before moving to Brinkworthy in 1998, where she has enjoyed Seniors Lunch & clubhouse activities with wonderful friends. Mabel was a loving & caring sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and aunt. She will be sadly missed by Ken (brother), Avril (Andy) daughter; Michael (Anne) son; & Colleen (George) daughter. Grandchildren Michael, Michelle, Derek, Shelley & Stacey, and great grandchildren Jessica, Tianna-Lee & Cole. Gathering of family & friends at the Brinkworthy Clubhouse, 2pm, Saturday, March 13, 2004.

FENNA (COOS) J. BIENTJES-SCHREUEL



June 9, 1921 - March 4, 2004
A loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend, Coos will be sadly missed by her husband Willem (Pim), sister Greet, sons John (Kim), Eric (Phillippa), daughters Dorine (Don), Elizabeth (Dean) and grandchildren Christina, Timothy, Christian, Robert and Travis. Born and raised in Malang, Indonesia, and the Netherlands, she immigrated to Canada in 1950. She raised four children while accompanying her husband on overseas postings to Pakistan, Malaysia (Borneo) and Turkey, providing the Bientjes family with rich and varied cultural experiences. She and Pim retired to Salt Spring Island in 1983, where she enjoyed many retirement activities, especially her membership in the Weaver's Guild and the Tennis Club. Following a brief illness, she passed away peacefully at the Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island. The family thanks the nursing staff and Drs. Woodley and Crossland for the excellent care they provided during Fenna's stay in hospital. We would like to extend special thanks to Lillian Graham for her support and care during the past few years. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (135 Crofton Road, Salt Spring Island, V8K 1T1). There will be no service by request. A celebration of Coos' life will be held on April 10th, 2004, from 3-5 p.m. at 120 Murrelet Place on Salt Spring Island.

6 DEATHS

JUDITH E. SHERIDAN (nee Kirk) We regret to announce the passing of Judy Sheridan on Friday, February 27, 2004. Judy died peacefully surrounded by family. Judy's vivacity and love of life are deeply missed. Friends are invited to celebrate Judy's life on Sat. Mar. 20 at the family home. The family is indebted to you all for your kindness and support. In lieu of flowers, please consider Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital Foundation, SSI, V8K 1T1.

HAYWARD'S FUNERAL SERVICE GANGES

PATRICK BEATTIE
Funeral Director
Box 315, Ganges P.O. SSI, V8K 2V9
Tel: (250) 537-1022
Fax: (250) 537-2012

7 IN MEMORIAM

Angels Among Us
Sebastian
Roxanne
Marial
Mariah
Levi
Lydia
Handel
March 11, 2002

8 CARD OF THANKS

LIONS PUBLICATIONS would like to thank everyone who submitted pictures for our Cover Contest. The winner has been notified and pictures can be picked up at 103 Bonnet Ave.

10 CELEBRATIONS

Salt Spring Concert Band

is pleased to announce the **WINNER** of our **2004 Solo Competition Daniel Millerd Trombone**
Daniel will repeat his winning solo performance at the **Spring Concert of the Band April 30 at ArtSpring May 1 at Beaver Pt Hall**

20 COMING EVENTS

FOR A complete calendar of coming events check the Driftwood Community Calendar, in our office in the Upper Ganges Centre, 328 Lower Ganges Road, or on our website at <http://www.gulfislands.net>. Use the calendar for event planning, to make sure your date doesn't conflict with someone else's.

SECOND ANNUAL Wim Krayenhoff Memorial Lunch and bridge. Friday, April 2, noon. \$20 includes lunch, bridge. Telephone 537-0897.

PAINTING CLASSES in water colour or acrylics in small group setting. April-June. Beginner to advanced. Call Val Konig to register 537-9531.

ACTORS WORKSHOP with Ron Max. All ages, limited seating. Call for more info 537-9738.

BOB WEEDEN reads poems, essays and letters at ArtSpring Multipurpose. March 31, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

20 COMING EVENTS

GLOSSI DANCE Saturday March 13, 8:00 p.m. - midnight. Lions Hall, 103 Bonnet. Tix at the door, \$7, \$10 non members. Great prizes & surprises.

NEW TIMES Spring Dance Class Series, 10 week sessions, starting Friday March 5th. Beginner African 5:30 - 7:00; Belly dance Fusion 4:15 - 5:30; West African drumming 7:00 - 8:30. Session fee \$10/class or Drop-in \$13 per class. Ania 653-2059.

BILL BOURNE and band in concert. Wed., March 17, at the Core Inn, 134 McPhillips. 8 p.m. \$8 at the door. Everyone welcome. Proceeds to support youth programs.

WATERCOLOUR classes. Beginner or intermediate, 6 weeks. Starting beginning of April. Max 5 students. Contact Libby 537-1952.

WRITING AS Witness:The Personal Narrative. A workshop with writer/poet Loraine Gane. Sat Mar 27, 10 - 5. \$65. 537-5294.

COME CELEBRATE Equinox with Jambanja Marimba, Mbira, & Dance Ensemble 8pm Friday, March 19th at Mahon Hall. Also featuring Taiya freespirt bellydancer, firefingers, and sword dance. Tickets \$10 at Acoustic Planet, \$12 at door.

STORYTIME RETURNS to Fables Cottage, Thursdays, 11 a.m. - noon. Drop-in, Free, all ages. 112 Hereford Ave., Ganges. 537-0028.

VIDEO PRODUCTION Workshop beginning, Sat. Mar. 20. Script, shoot & edit digital video. Professional gear. 537-0065. avlab@telus.net.

OPPORTUNITY EXISTS for a few qualified applicants to be trained to assist other seniors who need help with problems. Mid March 537-0678.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Business Breakfast Club meeting, Thursday, March 11, 8:00 a.m. @ The Local (new location).

MEXICAN FEAST for Guatemala, for Mayan Scholarship fund, Monday, March 22, 5:30 p.m. at Fulford Tree House Cafe. Advance tickets, \$25 available at Tree House Ganges & Fulford Tree House Cafe. Limited seating. Come and enjoy your meal while supporting a Mayan student. Music, door prizes.

EFFECTIVE PARENTING of Teens. Group program focusing on encouragement, communication skills, mutual respect. Seven Wednesdays, Mar. 24 - May 5, 7-9 pm., \$95. Dorothy 653-9253.

BEGINNERS SPINNING Classes with Karen Mazzei, starting late March. All equipment supplied. For more information call 537-4164.

SPRING BREAK at Fables Cottage. Spy vs. Spy plus Paper Arts. www.fables Cottage.com for details: 537-0028 for more info and registration.

TRANSFORMATION GAME Introductory Evening (inspired by Findhorn). Saturday, March 13, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. The Barn, 190 Reynolds Road, cost \$5. Info. Lorna Wood, 653-9881.

Camille Henderson
(Singer for Sarah McLachlan, 54-40, Delerium & more)
is coming to Salt Spring!
Singers of all levels are invited to attend a

Voice Workshop
Sunday, March 28
2:30 - 5:30
\$75

* Sign up a friend for 1/2 price!
Class size limited.
Private study also available
(604) 805-2358 (250) 537-2575

20 COMING EVENTS

Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society
Rock, Gem & Mineral Show & Sale 2004
Fri March 19, 1pm-9pm
Sat March 20, 10am-6pm
Sun March 21, 10am-5pm
• Adults \$4 • Family (4) \$8
• Students/Seniors \$3
195 Bay St., Victoria

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There will be an AGM of the **South Salt Spring Island Property Owners and Residents' Association**
7:30pm, March 18th
OAP Room, Fulford Hall
Main agenda items will include support of position statement for Fire Board candidates and discussion of the ArtSpring Referendum issues with Paul Gravett. All members and invited guests welcome. Others, please phone ahead **(653-0045)** and be prepared to give a donation at the door to cover the cost of the hall.

20 COMING EVENTS

Gulf Islands Community Arts Council Bursaries 2004
Visual and Performing Arts
This year the council is offering awards as follows:
1. Two bursaries, one in the visual arts and one in the performing arts, are available to students presently attending GISS and planning to attend a post-secondary institution this fall.
2. One bursary is available to G.I.S.S. graduates presently attending a post-secondary institute and continuing in 2004/5. Each award is worth \$1000
Deadline for GISS Bursary: March 31
Deadline for Post-secondary: April 30
Application information is available from GISS, from the GICAC, 114 Rainbow Road, SSI BC V8K 2V5, by eMail to gicac@saltspring.com, or call 537-5681.
www.gulfislands.com/artscouncil
Portfolios, tapes, videos, etc. will be required for jurying.

BACK FROM OUR WINTER BREAK

Artist's Bistro
Your place for fine dining.
Our cosy and unique Restaurant is now open with a new and exciting menu.
Ganges, Salt Spring island
Grace Point Square
Phone: (250) 537 1701
www.artistsbistro.com
Reservations Appreciated
Open for Dinner
Closed Sundays

SPRING BREAK AT ARTSPRING

ArtSpring has organized a week of **FREE** workshops to engage, inspire and showcase young artists. Workshop space is limited and filling up quickly, so you must registration in advance.

- Cartoon Drawing • Sewing Fun
 - Theatre Acting • Song-writing
 - Mask Making • Creating a Journal
 - Poetry Writing • Sculpting with FIMO
 - Printmaking • Photography
 - Gumboot Dancing • Mobiles
 - Dance Workshops • Collage
 - Shadow Puppet Workshop
 - Rhythm Workshop
- Celebrating the creativity of our youth at ArtSpring.**
537-2102
-

OUR BIGGEST USED CAR SALE EVER!

SELECT VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD BELOW COST*
(MARCH 11, 12, 13)



'98 SUBARU LEGACY GT WAGON*
Air, sunroof, cruise, alloys, was \$24,788
Below cost! Save \$5,500.

BLOWOUT
\$19,288



'95 ACURA LS SEDAN*
Air, cruise, cd, alloys, leather, sunroof.
Was \$19,288. Below cost! Save \$8,300.

BLOWOUT
\$10,988



'01 VW JETTA TDI*
Air, cruise, cd, alloys, auto.
Below cost! Was \$23,488.

BLOWOUT
\$19,900



'99 SUBARU OUTBACK SEDAN
AWD, leather, auto, sunroof.
Was \$23,600

BLOWOUT
\$21,200



'95 DODGE COLT*
2dr, manual trans., rear spoiler.
Below Cost! Was \$7,995,

BLOWOUT
\$5,488



'91 LEXUS ES250
1 owner, low kms, leather. Was \$11,995.

BLOWOUT
\$8,788



'92 SUBARU LOYALE WAGON
4WD, 5 speed, great condition.
Was \$11,995

BLOWOUT
\$8,688



'91 SUBARU LOYALE WAGON
4WD, only 69,000 kms, 5 speed.
Was \$12,888

BLOWOUT
\$9,888



'99 MERCEDES E55 AMG
Loaded, leather, sunroof & lots more!
Was \$67,995

BLOWOUT
\$63,788



'91 OLDS TORNADO TROFEO
Leather, air, cruise, sunroof, alloys - great
car! Was \$11,988

BLOWOUT
\$9,788



'97 JEEP TJ 4X4
Soundbar, 31" tires, 5 speed. Was
\$11,995

BLOWOUT
\$9,900



'02 SUBARU WRX SEDAN
17" ABS alloy wheels, air, cruise.
Was \$29,995

BLOWOUT
\$27,888



'93 TOYOTA CAMRY LE SEDAN
Air, cruise, ABS & more. Was \$11,995

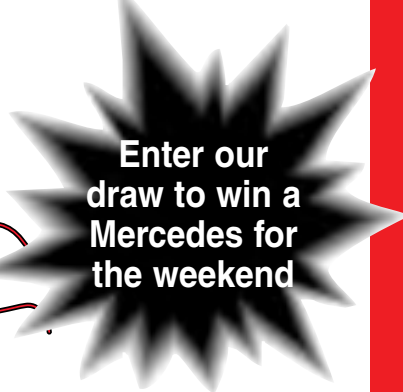
BLOWOUT
\$9,488

'97 BMW 328is
NOW ONLY
\$21,788

'90 VOLVO 740
TURBO SEDAN
NOW ONLY
\$10,995

'02 SUBARU WRX
SPORT WAGON.
NOW ONLY
\$27,888

'98 TOYOTA
CAMRY XLE V6
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