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Issue 52**

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S.S.I. HISTORICAL ARCHIVES
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12/31/03

Gulf Islands Driftwood

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- London Drugs
- Ganges
- Pharmasave
- Ganges Village Market
- Fields
- Thrifty Foods
- Driftwood Calendar

INSIDE

**Hockey
night in
Fulford**



A weekly tradition continues at Fulford Hall.
Page 29

Index

- Arts 25
- Classifieds 31
- Crosswords 33
- Editorials 8
- Horoscope 34
- Letters 9
- Sports 29
- TV Listings 15
- What's On 22

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Weather

It's going to be a grey Christmas according to this week's weather forecast which predicts cloudy skies and light rain right through the weekend. Highs to 9 C (Christmas); overnight lows to 2 C (Saturday).

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ALL WRAPPED UP FOR CHRISTMAS: Tangled in tinsel are, from left, Tim Camps, Mark Camps and Ronan Gunn. The three were among the many youths attending the annual Breakfast with Santa event, held Sunday morning at Fulford Hall.

GISS students deal with fatal-crash loss

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Grieving students, parents and staff at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) have found strong support from peers and fellow community members as they recover from the loss of Grade 12 student Clark Little who was killed in a car accident on December 9.

"I think we've coped pretty well under the circumstances," said GISS principal

Nancy Macdonald.

"This is the most difficult thing that can happen in your school."

Macdonald commended students, teachers, parents, counsellors and community members for helping the school to work through the difficult loss.

"People in this community are incredibly good at looking after their own. They are really amazing in how they jump in there and help one another."

She was particularly impressed by GISS students who created a support network.

"The kids were really really incredible. They came up with most of the ideas of what to do."

Students posted pictures of Little and his poems around the building, they insisted on a farewell message for the school sign and they requested permission to

TRAGEDY 2

Aquaculture application shut down

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

An island businessman is crying foul after the Salt Spring Harbour Authority (SSHA) denied his application to sell aquaculture products at the public dock in Ganges.

But harbour authority

board members contend they simply want to reel-in retail sales and limit congestion at the dock.

"The basic issue is that we would like some temporary space at the wharf to sell our seafood," said Salt Spring Aquafarms Ltd. president Chris

Hatfield.

"His application is as a commercial business retail venture and that's why it's not allowed. There's no room to expand retail sales," said SSHA board member Chris Acheson.

Hatfield applied to the

HARBOUR BOARD 4

Hampers grow to meet need

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Local donations and volunteer labour have provided many more bountiful Christmas hampers for families in need this year.

But growth in the number of island hampers is a "mixed blessing," said Salt Spring Community Services Society (SSCSS) executive director Lynne Brown.

"We're serving more people, but isn't it terrible that we need to serve more people?"

The SSCSS saw a 22 per cent increase in hamper registrations from 144 last year to 175 in 2003, Brown said.

"There's more need. More people need the service and more people are hungry."

Brown estimated the 175 hampers would serve at least 300 people. But many islanders don't request the service, even if they need it, she said.

"People don't register because they think it's a fun thing to get a hamper. Many people are too proud to accept charity."

SSCSS even had a practicum student notify islanders who receive services about the hamper program. Community Services is the only local organization that provides hampers, she noted.

"It's completely funded through community donations."

HAMPERS3

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HAMPERS

From Page 1

Brown offered "a big thank you" to everyone who helped support the hamper program.

"This community is very generous toward the food bank."

Brown had just seen the food bank receive an anonymous donation of \$1,500, another substantial donation from the Bank of Montreal and a trunk-load of food from Salt Spring Elementary, she said during an interview Friday.

The hamper also has an unusual feature in that people can also donate food-stuffs for needy pets as part of a separate program. Pet hampers have served 65 dogs, 137 cats, two birds and two horses this year, she said.

"For some of these people, a pet is their only friend."

Brown also expressed how important it is for food hampers to collect a stockpile through the giving season.

"What you get in the Christmas months helps you to carry through the lean months."

Hamper coordinator Cathy Stringer expected it would take some time to get all the hampers arranged into individual boxes. But she had plenty of help from fellow coordinators Melanie Morris and Sheila Sayer, along with tons of other



HELPING HANDS: Geoff Cue is among the volunteers who helped out with Christmas hampers at Meaden Hall on Sunday.

photo by Derrick Lundy

volunteers, she said.

"They're the coordinators. I'm their 'gopher,'" Stringer laughed.

Hampers would include fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts, hot chocolate, cookies and all the trimmings for Christmas dinner, along with a turkey, chicken or canned ham.

"Families with children are the priority."

Hampers would also include treats and ingredients for a couple of meals beyond Christmas, she said.

"The goodies are there to let them know it is Christmas and that we are

thinking of them."

Suppliers such as Ganges Village Market, Embe Bakery and Thrifty Foods have been very helpful. And thanks to help from local grocers, the food bank has even been able to provide fresh turkey and chicken for the first time in many years, said Stringer.

"Santa's helpers and elves have been wonderful."

Islanders also brought in many home-made foods that were beautifully presented, she said.

"This community has been extremely generous, as always."

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Fires extinguished at hospital, GISS

The Salt Spring Fire Department was aided by quick-thinking hospital staff during a fire at Lady Minto Hospital Saturday morning.

"Hospital staff did a hell of a job," said fire chief Dave Enfield.

Though the small electrical fire caused only limited smoke damage, hospital workers cut off power to the fire site, they relocated patients into unaffected areas of the building and offered excellent assistance to firefighters, Enfield said.

The small fire was reported at 6:45 a.m. and firefighters were clear of the scene within an hour of ventilating the building, he said.

FIRE CALLS

Though patients and staff may have had concerns about exits being blocked due to construction around the hospital, the building still had sufficient fire exits, he noted.

Another small fire was quickly extinguished when firefighters responded to a blazing garbage can at Gulf Islands Secondary School at 2:30 p.m. on Friday.

Firefighters ventilated the school and turned over the fire investigation to local RCMP, Enfield said.

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Sablefin hearing: February

An Environmental Appeal Board hearing on the waste management permit application for the Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. operation at Walker Hook has been set for February 9-13, 2004.

The Penelakut First Nation has requested a stay of the waste management application, said their lawyer Rene Racette Monday.

"They justly feel that they have not been consulted. They have not been accommodated, which is part of the consultation process," said Racette.

Remains of nine Penelakut individuals and some artifacts have been removed from the subject site, according to an affidavit sworn by Penelakut Elder August Syvester.

The Canadian Sablefish Association and Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use are co-appellants in the hearing against Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. and the permit-issuing Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP).

While MWLAP has maintained a neutral stance, Sablefin Hatcheries has opposed the application to stop work on the waste management site, Racette said.

"Let people know that it's up and coming because we would like to have some support out there," she said.

Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. waste-management permit applicant Gidon Minkoff declined comment. His lawyer, Rory Lambert, did not return calls to the Driftwood after he was contacted Thursday, Friday and Monday.

The Environmental Appeal Board hearing in February will likely be in Victoria, but the location has not yet been finalized, Racette said.



CHEQUE PASSING: Bob Rush, of the Salt Spring Foundation, hands over a cheque to the Salt Spring Island Transportation Society's Jane Squier and Mallory Pred for The Link, a ride share program that combines drivers and hitchhikers.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Minto survey fails to identify need for another local doctor

Hospital staff won't be advertising for a new physician on Salt Spring, following the "surprising" results of a recent survey.

Two separate ads in the Driftwood asked individuals and families to indicate their need for a family doctor.

The survey asked people to check either "I am in need of a family doctor," or "We are a family of (#) people in need of a family doctor."

Of the 58 forms returned, 30 individuals and 28 families (with a total of 74 family members) indicated need of a physician.

"We understood the survey would only give us the roughest indication," said Lady Minto Hospital chief of staff Dr. Don Shea. "But we expected a larger number to respond."

Shea added that 700 to 1,000 patients would be

required to support a new general practitioner (GP) here.

"It would be disastrous to bring in a new doctor and not have his practice flourish."

He had expected a response rate between 400 and 500 people.

Nine doctors currently have hospital privileges on Salt Spring, and three island-based locums fill in as needed.

While all the practices are closed to new patients, doctors often accept family members of existing patients, such as aging parents brought to the island or university students home for the holidays.

Shea said it appears many of the people in need of a physician are temporary residents or transients.

Those without a physician

and in need of medical attention usually go to the emergency ward at Lady Minto, where they are either seen or sent to the doctor on call.

Shea said the local emergency room often functions as a walk-in clinic, treating some patients who are not experiencing medical emergencies.

The idea of setting up an official walk-in medical clinic on Salt Spring has been discussed, he added.

"There are as-yet fledgling plans out there to do something like that," Shea said, "but whether or not any will come to fruition, I can't say."

In the meantime, the hospital will take a head count of people who come through emergency and don't have a family doctor.

"But until we can establish a firm need, we can't bring in another GP."

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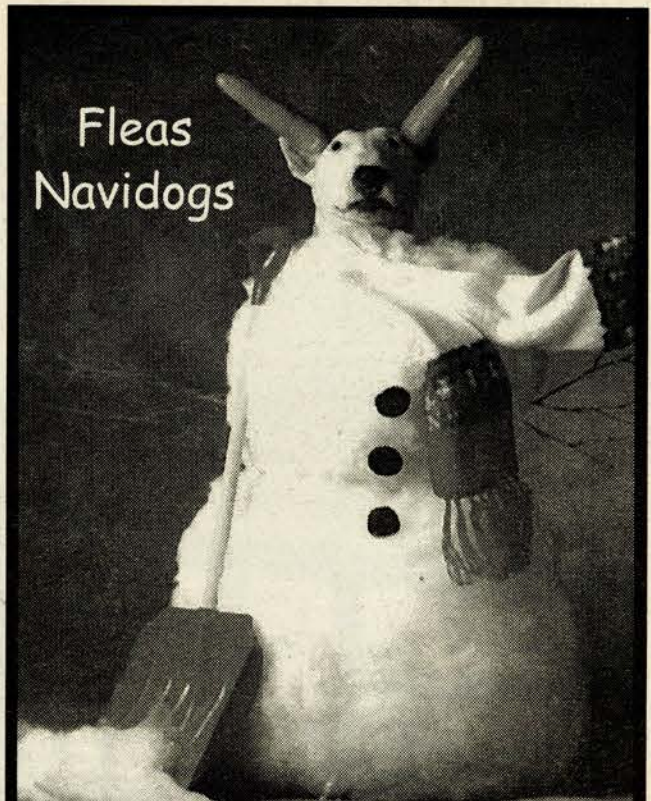


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Survey favours library in town

Response to a fall survey about Salt Spring's public library and its future location revealed islanders are anything but apathetic about the subject.

Undertaken by the library association as part of long-term plans to replace the current facility or build a brand new one, the survey conducted by Patricia Reichert of Salt Spring attracted 539 respondents between October 27 and November 4. Forms were distributed throughout the community and in the Driftwood.

When it came to choosing a future location, 69 per cent of respondents said they preferred a location in the Ganges village core, with the building being owned by the Salt Spring Library Association as is currently the case.

Forty-nine per cent rated the in-town location as "very important," while 26 per cent said it was "somewhat important." Twelve per cent indicated it was not very important, while it was "not at all important" to eight per cent and six per cent did not know.

The village location was chosen by a majority of all age groups and both females and males, notes Reichert's report.

Eighteen per cent indicated they preferred a facility built by the association but owned by the Capital Regional District (CRD) on its Rainbow Road recreation site property next to the high school.

Seven per cent had no preference and six per cent said they needed more information before making a decision.

Survey respondents were between 15 and 70 years old, with most falling in the 50-plus range. Sixty-one per cent were female, and 39 male, and a majority had lived on the island for a long time.

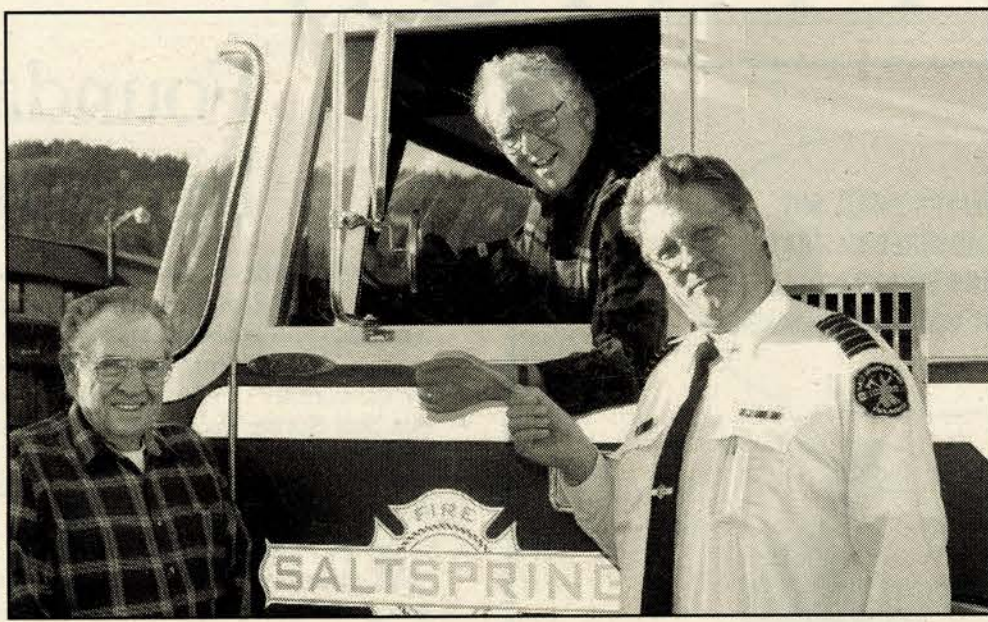
More than three-quarters said they use the library at least once a month.

Just over 80 per cent expressed satisfaction with current library services: 53 per cent were "very satisfied" and 30 per cent were "somewhat satisfied." Only two per cent were "very dissatisfied" and twice that number were "somewhat dissatisfied," while 12 per cent did not state an opinion.

Older respondents (over 60) were more pleased than their younger counterparts, with 75 per cent of that age group being "very satisfied" with library services compared to 46 per cent of the 19 to 59 year olds.

The survey also tried to determine what new services library users would like to see in a new facility. Quiet space and study carrels topped the list at 39 per cent, with better access to local archives noted at 29 per cent. A quarter of respondents requested expanded reference services and authors' readings and almost the same number (23 per cent) selected literacy programs.

Other choices were special collections (19 per cent); shared programs with other community groups (18); meeting rooms (17); more formats (16); children's programs (15) and writer-in-residence (10).



FIRE-FIGHTING CAMERA: Tom Toynbee, of the Salt Spring Foundation, enjoys sitting in the driver's seat of the fire department's newest acquisition. Toynbee was handing a cheque to Ben Martens and chief Dave Enfield to help the department purchase a heat sensor camera.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Santa Clarke collects \$1,700

Drew SALT SPRING SNIPPETS

Clarke was so moved by a theft of \$8,000 in Christmas hamper money raised by the White Rock Salvation Army that he decided to help recoup that community's loss with some Salt Spring generosity.

Clarke donned Santa garb and solicited funds in front of Thrifty Foods last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, raising \$1,700 for the cause.

Clarke thanked islanders for their generosity and for trusting him.

"It was a great deal of fun," he said, describing how little kids were thrilled to see Santa in town.

He also thanked the fire district and Mouat's Home Hardware for lending him the Santa suits, and especially Dan Lee of Thrifty Foods, who made a significant donation and arranged for the Tsawwassen Thrifty's branch to also donate.

According to the Peace Arch News, the funds were stolen after a b&e at the church.

Clarke took the \$1,700 to White Rock on Saturday, where his donation was recorded by a Peace Arch News photographer.

Ernie Wood won the gingerbread house raffle put on by islanders Ross Harvey, Gina McMahon, and Ron and Leanne Pachet as a fundraiser for the Salt Spring Food Bank.

The raffle earned \$468.05.

The builders thanked everyone who supported the effort by buying or selling tickets, and especially Mahjor Bains, who sold

about \$300 worth of tickets.

A National Geographic Traveler article about Salt Spring Island recently won its author a bronze medal from the Society of America Travel Writers Foundation.

Appearing in the May/June 2002 edition of the magazine, Mark Miller's article described an ideal vacation on the island and mentioned several businesses and individuals.

Karl Fuss, who with his wife Gerti runs Old Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast on North End Road, hosted Miller and learned about the award.

Salt Spring Dollars

coupons that transform \$20 Canadian into \$21 worth of Salt Spring money can be redeemed only until December 31, but the money they buy doesn't "expire" on that day. Salt Spring Dollars no longer carry expiry dates. Some people were confused by a December 17 Snippets reference to the coupons "expiring" on December 31, said Salt Spring Dollars promoter Jim Scott.

Leopard spots have been reported on Salt Spring! Andrea Le Borgne, the Driftwood's office manager, whose hair had finally starting to grow back after the Cops for Cancer Head shave in September, is having more follicle fun. She says her new "leopard spot" hair colour by Bevan Wrate is "purr-fectly playful!"



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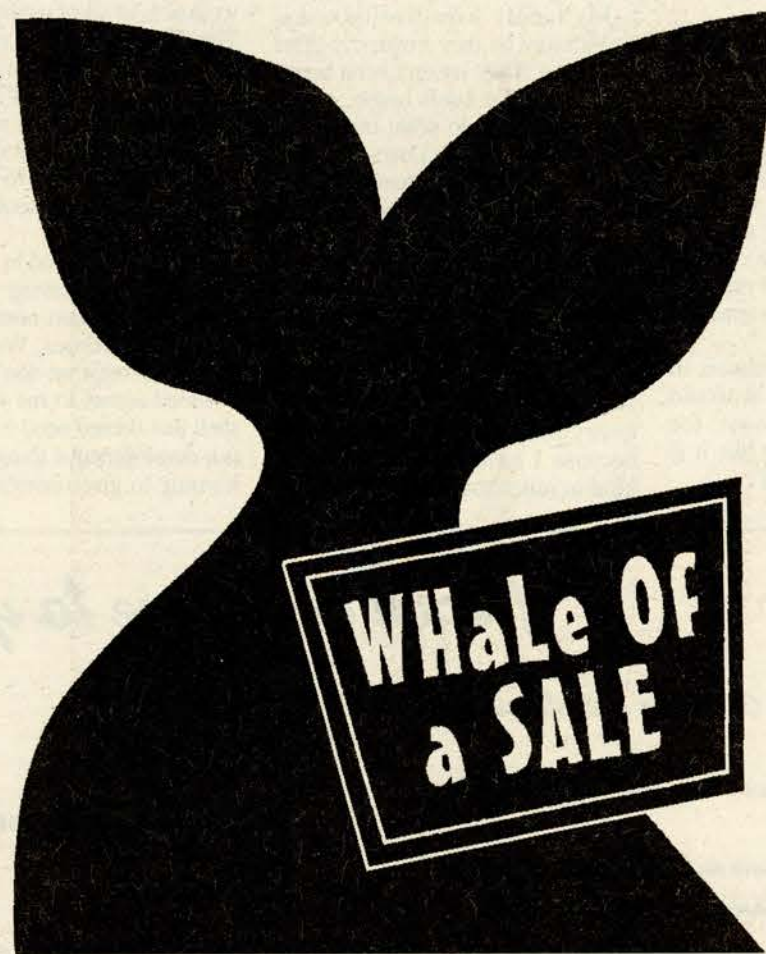


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Foundation light shines

When it comes to disseminating the spirit of giving in our community, the Salt Spring Island Foundation has found a tried and true method that should be supported and emulated. Some \$40,000 in grants was distributed in 2002, and judging by the number of cheques flying from Foundation hands to various Salt Spring groups in the past month, the 2003 figure will also be awe-inspiring. But what stands out more than the amount of money donated by the Foundation in any given year is the number and diversity of groups that benefit. It's clear from disbursement reports that no particular kind of group or segment of the community is favoured more than another. The foundation gives to seniors and youth projects; those benefiting the environment and islanders' health and safety; and groups enriching our artistic life. Several island schools, the SPCA and social service organizations were also able to improve their facilities and operations as a result of Salt Spring Island Foundation grants in 2002. While it is disappointing the substantial Shaw Family Legacy funds could not have been distributed this year as hoped, no one can complain about the way the foundation has run. The need for charitable donations has increased in the past year as agencies try to maintain budgets without the same level of government funding, and anyone who can afford to give to a group of their choosing will hopefully do so before the end of the year. All kinds of local choices exist for people still wanting to make a charitable donation before the end of the year — the United Way, Community Services, Greenwoods and Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital Foundation are among the groups feeling the pinch more than in the past, and all could use some help. For those unable to make a specific group choice at this point, a Salt Spring Island Foundation donation spreads its financial light around the island each year and in perpetuity.

designs on anything in return. It's myself. I don't know how it happened, but I think maybe I did forget a little bit what it is like to be a child. (How did that happen?) The pure sweetness of it has melted in me like a hundred opment of boundaries. And didn't God send Jesus so that we would know him better, his only begotten son, a failed human being who made mistakes and struggled within himself. I just want to say that I loved those stories. They have inspired, lifted and stirred. The whole point of writing, I suppose. And I needed it. What a wonderful gift to the readers, it was like having a family gathered around the tree. I've pinned your stories up on my mirror, for the winter season, to act as a sort of lighthouse to my heart while I bob around out here in the surf by

Peace and love to you and yours!

For others it's a stomachbark — and just as divine, Still others rejoice as it signals the time, That solstice arrives to lengthen the days, And create a rebirth from the sun's magic rays. Whether Christian or Muslim or Jew, Agnostic or Atheist, Baka? or Hindu, The common gold thread running through the above,

Is the notion of peace and the wonder of Love. So whatever it means, I wish joy to you all (For me it's a patch at Beaver Point off!!)

Wileyay @ saltsping.com



YULE SAYI
WITH JOHN POTTINGER

2-day was warning its Salt Spring callers, To stop bidding for items with \$5 dollars. GNN 790 to Gulfport flew in, They got it mixed up: a jolly All owns the fun. In the cafes and pubs people talked of the reason, Along with the meaning of the fine festive season. For some, of course, it's all about Christ, (And Santa's the source of their festival's zest.)

'Twas the week after Christmas and all round the Isle, The locals were coping in true Salt Spring style. Channel Ridge folks were out for their jog, Manacalans stayed home, drinking eggnog. Nessius bulged with short-term renters, While the woods in the south-end were plum full of tenters. At Greenwoods they watched Christmas films on the tube, While Gulfport folk gathered to share a fat duck.

VIEW POINT

By KATHRYN ROSE-EMERSON

I used to wonder how anybody could ever not like Christmas. Then I got all scooped up. Humbugged on the spike of life. It was not a gentle peak of mid-life crisis for me. No. There was nothing smooth about any of it. But life went on after a fashion. This year has not been all with me since I left home, which they don't have to point out to me. I'm 52. I've resigned myself to certain inconceivable situations in life let Christmas go by as if it were just another day. Things being all white-felted down and such. Maybe it would just go away if I squeezed my eyes real tight and spit thrice into the wind. Who would notice. Others have made comments in passing like they wished it would just be over. Can't wait for Christmas to end... feel like it is forced on us, blah blah blah...

My family lives five thousand miles away, as they frequently point out to me. They haven't been happy all recognize, the mum too tired to keep her head up off the kitchen table. (I thought that was funny. She noted that even in her exhaustion she took the time to try to redirect her child, and the child look it in pretty good spirits.) The greed cloaked in the wish for world peace and saving souls. We do know that children need to be a bit greedy sometimes. We are not so greedy around the tree. I've pinned your stories up on my mirror, for the winter season, to act as a sort of lighthouse to my heart while I bob around out here in the surf by

But those stories in last week's Drifter... those stories those kids wrote. My god, the sweetness of youth, even in their hunger... they are sweet. Even in the way they expose the weakness in all of us they are sweet. The failed parents, the greed we can all recognize, the mum too tired to keep her head up off the kitchen table. (I thought that was funny. She noted that even in her exhaustion she took the time to try to redirect her child, and the child look it in pretty good spirits.) The greed cloaked in the wish for world peace and saving souls. We do know that children need to be a bit greedy sometimes. We are not so greedy around the tree. I've pinned your stories up on my mirror, for the winter season, to act as a sort of lighthouse to my heart while I bob around out here in the surf by

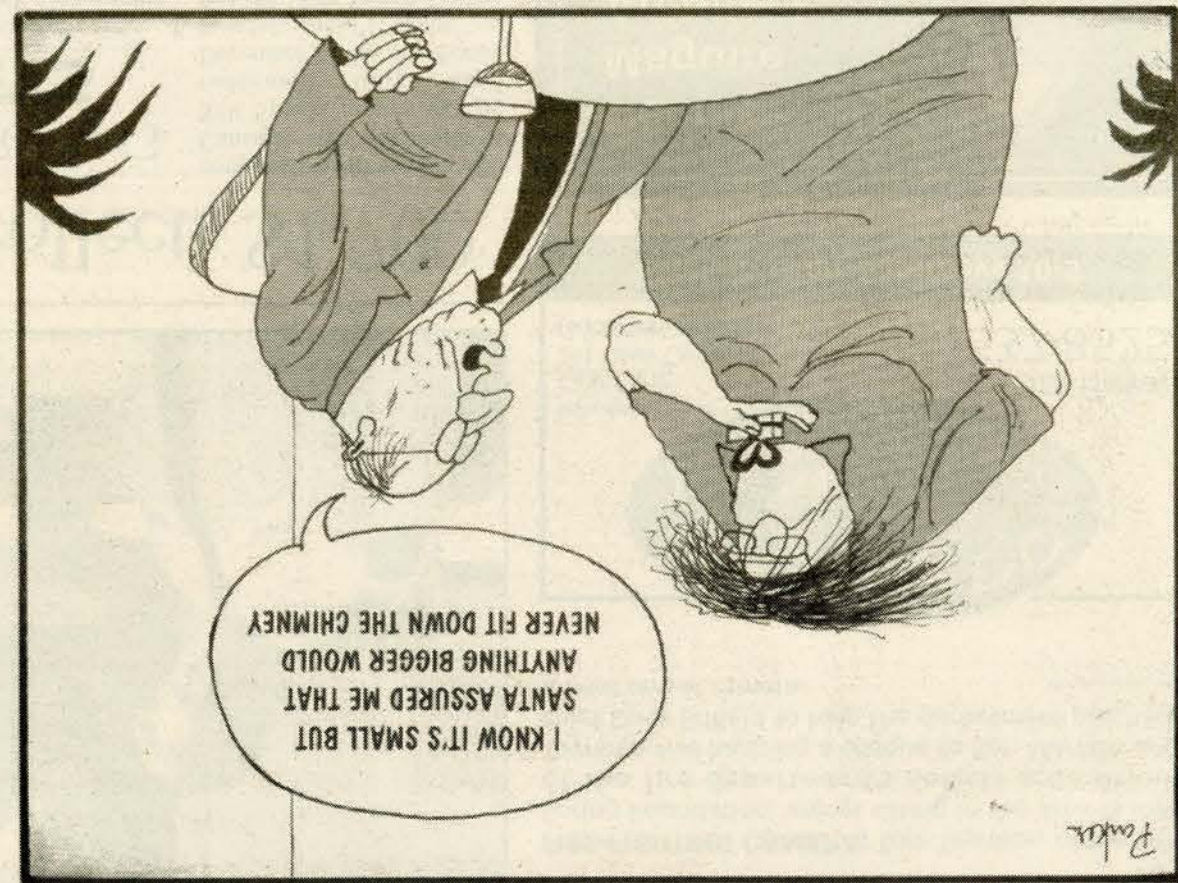
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Gulf Islands

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SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: *What does an island Christmas mean to you?*



Margaret Guzauskas

Peace. There's not the rat race here like there is in the city.



Bill Smith

Money, because you have to spend it.



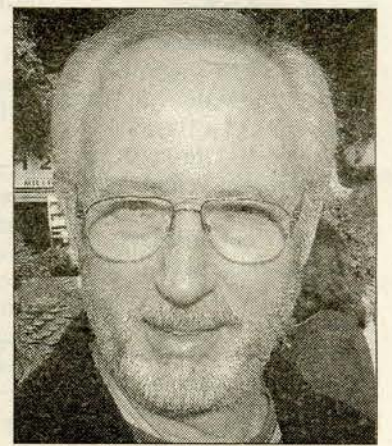
Netty Aptekmann

Why would it be different from Christmas anywhere else?



Pat Fraser

Family, looking back at the old year and ahead to a brand new chapter.



**Dennis Hayden
(Stratford, Ontario)**

It means time to visit with our son. That's what we're here for.

Letters to the Editor

Thumbs up

On behalf of the B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers' Union Local 7 & 20, we would like to express a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all the residents of Salt Spring Island for all of their support, donations, patience and time during the week of the job action.

We would like to thank the local businesses personally for their support — it has been outstanding! We are honoured to live in such a great community that is so gracious.

There are so many to thank and we apologize if we omitted any: Roasting Company, Rhonda Vine and staff at the bowling alley, Tree House Café (north and south), Patterson's Store, Kay Catlin, Alf from the Fulford Inn and Morningside Café.

Also, many thanks to the brothers and sisters of our fellow unions, who weathered the days supporting us out on the picket line.

Thank you for the moral

support. The honks, waves and thumbs up mean more than you could ever know.

GOODS and WELFARE COMMITTEE, BCFMU Salt Spring

Real costs

I happened to be sailing as master of the Howe Sound Queen when a letter in last week's Driftwood was brought to my attention.

It implied that my ship had been deliberately landed so slowly as to ensure overtime for all — to the reported laughter of the seamen. This is extremely insulting, if not defamatory.

Since the writer claimed to have witnessed the event, I went so far as to review the ship's logs, although I knew what the result would be. There has been no overtime due to late arrival on any evening this month or last.

It would seem that the writer was offended by a public display of levity.

He closes by stating that he cares about nothing but what it's going to cost, so I strongly suggest he read Bill

18 — the Coastal Ferry Act. Among other things the act stipulates the removal of both government and "cross" subsidization [i.e. from Route 1 profits] for all of our island ferries.

The ferries are NOT to be considered an extension of the highway system. Now they are each to turn a profit. The operator need only demonstrate that costs (exclusive of wages) warrant an increase in toll.

In other words, even if B.C. Ferry Services Inc. manages to beggar the crews, the fares will soar.

For details, check out www.saveourferries.com.

DAN CLEMENTS, Vesuvius

Bashing response

In response to Marit McBride's December 17 letter regarding false accusations against SWOVA, first, it's important to note that I was not condemning or criticizing the candlelight vigil, but rather once again trying to

expose SWOVA and its mandate for what it really is — a male bashing organization!

I would recommend that Ms. McBride make some time to read SWOVA's literature and the group's mandate. Their "together against violence" slogan is not defined as men and women against violence to BOTH genders, it's women and women together against violence perpetrated by men . . . ONLY.

I have never seen any kind of documentation in support of how valuable a role this organization has played on our island or any other place. On the contrary, I have heard a multitude of criticisms from both genders about their antics.

I would also suggest Ms. McBride spend even more time researching the reams of available statistics in support of my statement and should she fail to find any, she is quite welcome to contact me personally. I would be most happy to send her any requested information. It might just be somewhat of

an eye opener for her.
MIKE GLUSS, Salt Spring

Unjust laws

Much is being made of the need for the ferry workers to obey the law — and yet — the great nation to our south was born of the refusal of the citizens to obey an unjust law!

And in my own lifetime there have been occasions when, to our shame, we failed to disobey an unjust law — the law that allowed the despicable treatment of our people of Japanese descent; the law that allowed the seizure and incarceration of the Doukabour children; the law that allowed the seizure of the native children and their subsequent treatment in the residential schools.

A democracy must respect the rights and well being of its minorities much as it does the rights and well being of the majority. It must be as concerned with the well being of the poor and underprivileged as it is with the rich and affluent.

The provincial Liberal government has shown neither the understanding nor the willingness to abide by these precepts.

It has attacked the nurses and caregivers to the detriment of the sick and aged.

It has attacked the teachers and educators to the detriment of the school system.

And it has attacked the poorest of the poor — those on welfare — to the detriment and shame of us all.

And now they are attacking the ferry workers and the travelling public.

Yes, ferry strikes cause inconvenience to many and sacrifice to some, but I am a war veteran and sacrifice was not unknown to our generation and yet we stood up for those principles we believed in in — and I'm too old to change now.

This government must be opposed.

I stand squarely behind the ferry workers.

ART MORTON, Park Drive

MORE LETTERS 10

Hoard goods now before next ferry strike hits

The line-ups at the gas stations started around 1 p.m. Wednesday. By 2 p.m., the line-ups had grown to 30 cars in every direction from the pumps, snaking up McPhillips, past the Core Inn.

At the Payless, the line-up made its way past Windsor, past the high school. The strike was on. Gasoline was going fast. Friends were calling friends, advising them to get down to the pumps before the tanks were drained. The tension in the air was palpable. Drivers weren't giving an inch.

Driveways were blocked. Tempers were thin. The police were close at hand. A driver cut in line, and before blows were exchanged, the RCMP intervened.

The cop suggested she get out of line. She refused. The woman wasn't going to budge until she got some gas.

The parking lots at

Thrifty's and Ganges Village Market were completely

full — like a Saturday afternoon in July. Inside, shoppers with overflowing buggies vied for position, buying up huge quantities of canned goods, toilet paper, and meat.

Nobody was talking. Neighbours passed neighbours without a glance, intent on emptying the shelves of anything edible. There was a dull fear in the faces. The slightest confrontation could cause a complete meltdown.

All this in aid of a ferry strike that quickly ended the next day. But it was a bit of an eye opener, wasn't it? Scratch a usually mild mannered, take-one-day-at-a-time Salt Springer, and you will unleash a rabid, self-inter-

ested carnivore, ready to maim their neighbour for a bag of Dorritos. Like the rest of humanity. When push comes to shove, we all revert back to the Olduvai Gorge. You can't deny the gene pool.

We all need to take a lesson from this little vignette. This was only a ferry strike. Can you picture the scene in Ganges if there was a major earthquake? Or an act of terrorism in Vancouver or Victoria?

It's an increasingly dangerous world we live in, even on Salt Spring. I have always rejected the notion of an "emergency pack" — some cache of food and essentials that would see me through a week of sur-

vival without stores, gas, and god forbid, television.

After witnessing the scenes downtown, I have smelt the coffee, and believe me, it doesn't smell like coffee. Five gallons of potable water, five of gas, cans of soup, oatmeal, batteries, flashlights, radios — all tucked away just in case.

So bring'em on . . . Al-Qaeda, blackouts, Armageddon-like viruses, marauding bands of disgruntled ferry workers . . . it's loaded, and I ain't afraid to use it.

And I suspect I will be diving into the emergency rations soon enough, as the ferry workers' union does its best to keep the coals hot.

Most of the local and national media seem to be siding with management. Truckers and small businesses are pissed. Civil suits against the union are being prepared. It is increasingly difficult to

empathize with the union.

Every ferry worker I know is hanging on to their part-time job with both hands, clutching their pagers, waiting for the phone call that will mean a shift.

And after years and years of living on the bubble, they may make full time status, and the champagne corks fly. Full time seems better than retirement.

Here are some numbers I have read in the papers over the past few days: ferry workers start between \$19.50 and \$22 per hour; a ticket taker at the ferry terminal makes between \$38,000 and \$46,000 a year; after 7.5 hours . . . one minute after 7.5 hours . . . double time kicks in, at an average of \$42.95 per hour; each ferry employee gets 12 round-trip car rides a year. Is this true? Say it ain't so, Joe.

Over the years, the ferry

union executive has done a masterful job of grinding out huge wages and perks, to the point where, for years now, B.C. Ferries has been hemorrhaging red ink.

Nobody can be expected to sit idly back and watch their inflated incomes and over-the-top benefits get chipped away.

And nobody can expect management to publicly acquiesce to the bully, in-your-face tactics employed by the union executive.

Mark my words. Management will continue to attempt to run B.C. Ferries like a business, which means paying employees private sector wages.

The union will continue to man the barricades at every attempt to erode their enviable wage and benefit package. The war is far from over.

Stock up on canned soup.

pvincent@saltspring.com

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

BY PETER VINCENT



More letters

Sad state

This is in response to Dan Miller's "pro-paganism" opinion article in the December 17 Driftwood. First of all, through Mr. Miller's thinly veiled, virulent anti-Christian and Christmas commentary, he is nevertheless right in saying that "Christ" barely made it to the manger, since it was the Jewish King Herod at the time who had ordered the massacre of thousands of innocent male children under the age of two in the vicious attempt to "kill off the newborn baby Jesus."

However, the first attempt on Christ's life failed out of Christmas (i.e. X-mas) and substituted with a big fat, red and white lie, complete with all the pagan trimmings such as boozing, gluttony and commercialism, and then Santa Claus is marketed to innocent children as being the truth, until in short, if "Christ" had begun with, there never would have been a "Christmas" to celebrate in the first place.

Secondly, "Christ" has now been virtually aborted on Christ's life failed out of Christmas (i.e. X-mas) and substituted with a big fat, red and white lie, complete with all the pagan trimmings such as boozing, gluttony and commercialism, and then Santa Claus is marketed to innocent children as being the truth, until in short, if "Christ" had begun with, there never would have been a "Christmas" to celebrate in the first place.

Happy Holidays

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537-1919

OPINION

discover that "fantasy clause" is nothing but a big fat lie after all, and that Christmas is passed off as just another excuse to pig out and get drunk and/or drugged up.

Therefore, in view of these sad and pathetic state of affairs being such as they are, Christmas should be reclaimed and re-established as the true Christians' only sacred and holy day celebrating and holy day celebration of Christ's birthday, which has never had anything to do with any form of "heathen practices" so revered in the past or present.

A different day should be chosen (such as the 26th of December) and could be called Santa Claus Day or Father Yule-Log Day or Season's Greetings Day or Happy Whatever Holiday... and people can continue on with any form of paganism one so chooses to indulge in.

In conclusion, Mr. Miller, or anyone else for that matter, is more than welcome to their chosen form of Pagan lifestyles. However, I for one thank God for Christ and celebrate the true spirit of Christmas each and every day of the year.

In closing, for what it's worth, here is wishing everyone a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And an extra special Happy Father Yule-Log Day to Mr. Dan Miller, Isabella Point

Discussion

Ted Hinds' thoughtful letter titled Transparency, published in your December 10 Driftwood, raises more questions than it answers. Particularly in its mention of the yet unexplained mystery surrounding the recent fire captains from the force. Let us hope that the upcoming trustee by-election in January, and the regular elections at the AGM in March, will trigger a more open discussion and debate on a topic that is still of great concern to homeowners.

ers at the south end of Salt Spring.

Many people, like myself, are still feeling very vulnerable after the loss of first responder Captain Patterson.

KEN LEE
Beaver Point Road

Law-breaking
It's tempting to wonder if the government-owned "private" ferry company is a smoke-screen to exempt the selling of B.C. Ferries from the Freedom of Information Act.

Or how a new CEO making twice his predecessor's wage can call already paying his employees less than those on Alaska or Washington State ferries a "grave train contract."

Or about the "financial restraint" in spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to replace the B.C. Dogwood with the "two slugs naming" logo.

Or the government's dirty tricks campaign of blocking business owners should announce non-existent essential service sailings and sailing during the ensuing 46-hour strike, thus deliberately filling terminals with outraged passengers as an excuse to impose an 80-day cooling off period.

Let's stick to the issue of the ferry workers "breaking the law" by defying this newly passed and arguably invalid piece of legislation.

Imagine you park your car in a safe and legal spot to go shopping. You come back to find a freshly placed "no parking" sign, a ticket on your windshield and a boot services, and the list goes on. My god, we are sick of this government and the damage that has been inflicted on B.C. over the last two years!

It's extremely painful to see in government people who don't give a damn about anyone but themselves and their "friends" and to witness the fallout of their actions on B.C.'s most vulnerable citizens and our environment.

ROSEMARY
and **JOHN BAXTER**,
Courtenay, B.C.

Wrong party
Laura Sargent,
Long Harbour Road

This is where we ferry workers stood on December 9. Re the December 17 Driftwood article, "Ferry union may face class action."

We feel strongly that they've picked the wrong party to sue!

They should be suing the authors of the ferry fiasco... starting with Premier Campbell for his privatizing of a Crown corporation, knowing full well what chaos would follow.

His second mistake was naming an American CEO they (secretly) hoped would break the union.

Business owners should next target Labour Minister Graham Bruce, who imposed the 80-day "cooling off period" when he knew full well that the company and the union had just come to an agreement to run essential services which would have kept the ferries running while they talked.

We want the Liberal government to STOP privatizing what belongs to the citizens of British Columbia... our ferry corporation, our rail-parking sign, a ticket on your windshield and a boot services, and the list goes on.

My god, we are sick of this government and the damage that has been inflicted on B.C. over the last two years!

It's extremely painful to see in government people who don't give a damn about anyone but themselves and their "friends" and to witness the fallout of their actions on B.C.'s most vulnerable citizens and our environment.

ROSEMARY
and **JOHN BAXTER**,
Courtenay, B.C.

MORE LETTERS 11

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Open Daily 9am to 11pm
Large selection of Cold Beer, Wines, Ciders, Coolers & Spirits plus Domestic & Imported Cigars.

CRAZY 8 SPECIAL:
8 CANS OF 8% TNT FOR \$8.00
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CREDIT UNION CHEER: Santa and his elves were part of an Island Savings Credit Union "Merry Christmas" campaign where employees from other credit union branches came to Salt Spring to add cheer to the season.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

More letters

Re-examine values

Thank you to August Sylvester, Elder from the Penelakut First Nation, for forwarding to the Driftwood his affidavit regarding the desecration of ancestral gravesites at Walker Hook (Syuhe'mun) and thanks to the Driftwood editor for printing it.

The appearance of Mr. Sylvester's statement to the Environmental Appeal Board as an In Depth article in the December 17 issue marks a significant moment in the history of Salt Spring Island. It may be the first instance of the clear articulation by an aboriginal person in the mainstream public press of the laws, tradition and culture of the first peoples of this area.

I urge Driftwood readers to return to it, page A15, and read it again. On the issue of the impact of Sablefin Hatcheries' development on Penelakut gravesites, Mr. Sylvester presents us with a challenge of values, and we have to ask ourselves why our laws make it acceptable to disturb one group of people's graves but not another's.

The Walker Hook tombolo has been a known archeological site for years. Why, we must ask, did the developer's equipment operators "not stop once human remains were unearthed?"

Reading Mr. Sylvester's words, I am struck by the gulf that separates Coast Salish culture from our own. Does our lack of understanding absolve us from caring?

This past October I visited a burial ground outside a town

in Nova Scotia where my mother's ancestors were buried over 200 years ago. Though the headstones were barely readable, I found it meant something to me to see the graves still there, undisturbed by nearby industrial development. I wonder how I would have felt had I tracked down the cemetery's location through family records, only to discover it was now the site of a sewage plant?

In his description of the passing on from generation to generation of the laws of care and respect, August Sylvester presents us with a challenge to re-examine how we view the lands and waters of our shared home. Can we really say our community interests are well served by the notion of private property and the owner's assumed right to do with that property whatever he or she wants?

Isn't our local official community plan — imperfect though it may be — our attempt to balance the needs of individuals with the larger community of life, now and into the future?

Let us listen to August Sylvester and his people — we may be able to learn something. Just because we don't know how, just yet, to respond to him is no reason to not listen. After all, we're going to be here together for a while.

PHIL VERNON,
Salt Spring

Frith

I would like to extend our thanks and sincerest best wishes to the Driftwood on behalf of the Asatru Freehold of British Columbia.

Your support and coverage of our first annual Viking Yule, last year at this time, helped to make that event one of our most successful ever, and was much appreciated.

For those of us who are members of the Asatru Freehold society or adherents to the modern Germanic pagan religion called "Asatru" or "Heathenism," your coverage of Yule and the traditional roots of today's Yuletide traditions is heartening. Our numbers are few, but growing. In Denmark, Germany, Iceland, England, even Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, including Canada and the U.S.A., Germanic pagans or "Heathens" are making slow but steady progress towards re-establishing the tribal religion of their ancestors.

There is a spirit of trust, peace and fellowship, and goodwill towards one's fellows that is called "frith" in Old English. "Frith" is related to both the words "friend" and "free," and the God of Peace, Freyr.

Of all the holy-days, Yule is the time when peace and good will should abound. It is better a time to express one's love for one's own kith and kin, and reaffirm that despite whatever our differences, we stand united both as families and as a community on the whole.

So in that spirit, then, let me wish to all the staff of the Driftwood and their families, whatever their faiths, a joyous Yuletide and a happy New Year.

DAN RALPH MILLER,
Fulford Harbour



Congratulations to the following lucky people who won \$100 in Salt Spring Currency, and a special Merry Christmas to Shirley Smith who won \$500 in our Holiday Gift Guide Contest! Thank you to all the participating stores and a special thank-you to Robert Bateman who signed all of the 100 dollar bills!

Prize winners:

- \$500.00 – Shirley Smith – Mouats Trading Co.
- \$100.00 – Jaime Burgess – Pharmasave
- \$100.00 – Remy Dakin – Island Escapades
- \$100.00 – Elisa Van Ruiten – Apple Photo
- \$100.00 – Ken Strike – GVM
- \$100.00 – Jamie Akehurst – Thriftys



Gulf Islands
Driftwood

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RANTS & ROSES

RANTS

I really was looking forward to the performance of the Salt Spring Singers December 14 matinee, but had to leave at intermission because I had a headache! The reason for the headache was the takeover of my airspace by an overpowering intrusion of someone's perfume. Unhappily, no amount of fanning with my program could drive away the scent.

Rants to the person who hit my blue Kia van (Sunday p.m.) so hard with their door that they left a good-sized dent. Remember, fate happens!

ROSES

Roses to the two fellows at the Core Inn who came out in the pouring rain last Tuesday and helped me get my car out of a tight spot.

DS
Roses to Andrea at Bow Wow for clipping my puppy's face and showing recorder players from Salt Spring Elementary and the carolers from Fulford Elementary for filling the credit union with lovely music last Thursday. Also, roses to Joanne and all the wonderful people who organized the amazing organic food boxes. The help and kindness offered to my family and the thoughtful addition of gifts for our child helps our beliefs and our hearts during the season. Best wishes. TM

Roses to Tim Duke for leaving his gate open, enabling Brinkworthy walkers to get to the shops etc. away from the road traffic.

To Mitchell Sherrin — roses for being my soccer coach.

To all the coaches: thank you for being there and Program.

For our Sick and Visiting by providing chocolate bars supporting the local Legion "yours" to Thrifty Foods for a huge bunch of "thank-roses to Joanne and all the wonderful people who organized the amazing organic food boxes. The help and kindness offered to my family and the thoughtful addition of gifts for our child helps our beliefs and our hearts during the season. Best wishes. TM

More letters

Many years ago the London Times had this headline: "Fog In Channel — Europe Cut Off". What you should have run was: "Ferry Strike — Canada Cut Off". Save it for the next time. Andrew Okulitch, Salt Spring

Wonderful place
I would like to wish everybody at Tree Frog Daycare a very Merry Christmas.

For those who don't already know, these people are very special and I feel blessed to be able to send my child into their hands. When it first became necessary it first became necessary.

Tom Varzelli's, www.alcyonews.ca Please Read It

I know it was a special edition and you were no doubt in a hurry, but the headline — "Salt Spring severed by ferry action" — really hit a new low. What did that ferry do — cut the island into two halves?

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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

7:10 am	Daily except Sunday
9:00 am	Daily
11:00 am	Daily
1:00 pm	Daily
3:00 pm	Daily
5:00 pm	Daily
7:00 pm	Daily
9:00 pm	Daily

Cancelled Dec 25, 2003 and Jan 1, 2004

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DERICK'S ISLAND PICS



Name: CHRISTINA PENHALE
537/538/653: 537
Occupation(s): Barrista, lifeguard, coach, swim teacher.
Hobbies: Surfing, snowboarding, acting, singing, dancing, swimming.

Home finished/unfinished: Finished
Favourite people: My friends and family.
Favourite read: Harry Potter (all five).
Best thing about SSL: The community and activities.
Worst thing about SSL: Tourists.

Best place to kiss on SSL: Ruckle Park at sunset.

Fulford Hall
Many Thanks to all the vendors
The Culinary Experts, Upper Kitchen Team, Lower Kitchen Team, The Decadent Dessert Team, Those Countless Decorators and all the other participants who helped make the Christmas Craft Fair such a wonderful success!

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!
See you all next year
May you all have a Happy & Joyful Festive Season!

BC FERRIES
Salt Spring Island Schedule
VESUVIUS BAY - CROFTON
CROSSING TIME: 20 MINUTES

LEAVE VESUVIUS BAY

7:00 am	u 4:00 pm
x 8:00 am	5:00 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm
11:00 am	7:00 pm
1:40 am	8:40 pm
n 12:40 pm	9:40 pm
1:40 pm	+10:35 pm
1:40 pm	3:30 pm

LEAVE CROFTON

4:30 pm	7:30 am
5:30 pm	8:30 am
6:30 pm	# 9:30 am
8:10 pm	11:10 am
9:10 pm	12:10 noon
10:05 pm	1:10 pm
+11:05 pm	2:15 pm

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Salt Spring in danger of exceeding water supply

By MIKE LARMOUR
Special to the Driftwood
The following is based on my experience and knowledge gained as manager, North Salt Spring Waterworks District, as a trustee for the Islands Trust and as a long-term island resident.

The Global Water Perspective

Freshwater is renewable but finite. The annual renewable water supply per capita (average annual runoff in rivers and aquifers divided by population) decreases in direct proportion to population growth.

Globally, the renewable water supply has dropped 58 per cent since 1950 as the world population has mushroomed from 2.5 billion to 6 billion.

In many parts of the world, signs are evident that water use has already reached or exceeded the limits of the renewable water supply.

Depletion of aquifers is severe and widespread in central and northern China, northwest and southern India, parts of Pakistan, much of the western United States, North Africa, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula.

In addition to this unsustainable groundwater use, many major rivers are now running dry during the driest months of the year, when demands are typically greatest — the Colorado River in North America, the Ganges in South Asia, the Indus in Pakistan, the Yellow in China, and the Amu Darya and Syr Darya in the Aral Sea basin.

The Salt Spring Island Perspective

In a sense, Salt Spring's water supply, with its finite water resource and growing demand, is a microcosm of the worldwide problem.

All of our water supply

IN DEPTH

is derived from precipitation that falls on the island. Drier than most coastal areas, we live in the rain shadow of Vancouver Island. Relatively little precipitation falls during summer months, so we rely heavily on water stored during the winter in our lakes and aquifers.

A large amount of the annual precipitation (50 per cent or more) is returned to the air through evapotranspiration (evaporation from the land and vegetation surface, and transpiration from trees and other vegetation).

A further significant portion of the annual precipitation runs off into the ocean in creeks and drainage systems or evaporates from our lake surfaces.

The remaining water is stored in the island's lakes, surficial deposits, and in fractures in bedrock (groundwater aquifers). A portion of this is available for water supply.

Surface Water

The island's community water supply lakes, the only large, reliable source of water for much of the island's more developed areas, have hydrological limits because of storage capacity or watershed size.

Maxwell Lake, the only protected community water supply lake, is currently nearing the limit of its long-term safe yield (85 million gallons per year).

St. Mary Lake, by far the largest lake on the island, is estimated to be only able to supply the growth in demand projected under the current community plan for the area with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's boundary. It is estimated that its limit will be reached in 2020-2030.

Surficial Deposits

Surficial deposits occur in widely scattered areas of the island, and constitute a relatively minor source of water.

Groundwater

Groundwater is the source of water for much of the more rural areas of the island, where extension of water systems served by the lakes has been cost-prohibitive, and now, also limited by source capacity.

Salt Spring does not have a large, well-defined basin-like aquifer of porous material but instead relies on fractures in bedrock for water storage. It is estimated that one inch of rainfall is available for groundwater recharge, but the more limiting factor is the storage ability of the bedrock.

Most wells are low producing, with the median being an estimated two gallons per minute.

Accurate information on well productivity and quality is not available for most wells on the island, since they predate more thorough testing procedures, and do not fall under public health regulations.

A strong indication of the limitations of groundwater on the north end of the island is the fact that the North Salt Spring Waterworks District has over the years extended its work into many areas because of well failures — Sunset Drive, Southey Point, Price Road and Churchill Road being examples. Water shortages in other areas are still common in dry years.

Conservation

Most islanders are fairly conservative with their water use.

They are aware that water supplies are limited. Lawn watering, a major water consumer, is generally not practised.

Most water systems are metered, with charges based on consumption.

This is reflected in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's annual water consumption for single family dwellings (2.4 persons per household), which is about 57,000 imperial gallons compared to the Capital Region's use of 103,000 imperial gallons for the same size of family.

Community Planning

Community planning, and the resultant subdivision and zoning bylaws, sets the stage for the amount and location of future development and the resultant water demand and sewage disposal.

The first Salt Spring Official Community Plan envisioned strong commercial, institutional, industrial and higher-density residential development in or near the service centres, primarily Ganges, with most of the rest of the island as single family dwellings on larger average lot sizes, plus areas of farms and forests. This minimized water demand and sewage disposal in the rural areas.

More recently, the Islands Trust amended the permitted uses in residential zones to allow home-based businesses.

Most home-based businesses appear, so far, to have minimal impact on water supply, the exception being tourist accommodation.

B&B's have become very popular, and there is a strong economic incentive for houses intended for tourist accommodation to get larger, and in some cases more luxurious, leading to even greater water consumption.

A number of factors suggest that the water demand from tourist accommodation, and particularly short-term vacation rentals, could get very large in the future:

1) The island is a very desirable and easily acces-

sible destination for tourists, and the island's environment and amenities have been heavily promoted.

2) Short-term vacation rentals appear to be a lucrative investment.

3) The Islands Trust bylaws permit very large houses (up to 30 per cent site coverage, with a large number of bedrooms for relatives that are considered part of a single family.)

4) The Islands Trust does not enforce its bylaws consistently, nor is it legally required to do so. Enforcement, when it does occur, is complaint driven and intended to deal with nuisance to neighbours, not excessive water use, and its impact on the community as a whole. Enforcement of some aspects of control over vacation rentals will prove difficult, if not impossible, and this has a direct bear-

ing on water demand.

Conclusion

For the water utilities, the negative aspects of short-term vacation rentals include high water demand, high peak demand and increased liability. In watershed areas, vacation rentals will be a contributing factor to lake degradation.

For those using groundwater, the negative aspects include much higher competition for limited water supplies and increased risk of well contamination from sewage.

For the community as a whole, the negative aspect is that by approving vacation rentals, we are opening a Pandora's box which will be a contributing factor to the likelihood of the island eventually exceeding its water supply, with severe social, health and economic consequences for the islanders.



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ROYAL LEPAGE

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD PAGE 15 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2003

S - Salt Spring Island **WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 24**

S	Ch	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
240	CBC	A Christmas Story	Peter Billingsley	News	Frosty	Frosty	Scrooge (1951)	Alastair Sim	The National/Mag.	Going My Way							
600	MC	Antwone Fisher	How The Grinch Stole Christmas		Catch Me If You Can (2002)	Leonardo DiCaprio	Eight Crazy Nights	45 Pipe Dream									
4	NewVI	Star Trek: Voyager	VI Land News		Seinfeld	Million?	The Christmas Rush (2002)	Dean Cain	Home Videos	The Family Man							
330	379	KING	Oprah Winfrey	KING News	News	Magazine	Squares	It's a Wonderful Life (1946)	James Stewart	News	Backroad						
244	358	CH	Leaving Bountiful	CH News	Go! Mag.	'70s	'70s	A Gift for Katherine	The Christmas List (1997)	Mimi Rogers	Spirit	Mass					
243	321	CTVBC	Sharon Osbourne	CTV News at Five	News	Sue Thomas	Degrassi: Next Gen.	Stolen Miracle (2001)	Leslie Hope	News	News						
241	336	GBLBC	Oprah Winfrey	News	National	News	ET	Train 48	Silent Night (2002)	Linda Hamilton	News						
443	383	KCTS	Happy Holidays	An Irish Holiday	News	Sugarplum Dreams	Great Performances	Frontline									
101	SRC	Têtes...	Chick'n...	Ricardo	Affaires...	Ce soir	Hugo et le dragon	Mary Poppins (1964)	Julie Andrews	Journal	La Messe de la nuit						
445	354	KNOW	George	35 Babar	ThingWork	Kratts' C	CG Kids	Odysseys	D. Smith	Mozart	Sounds Like	Glory from Wales	In Search of Santa	History Teddy Bear			
242	359	CITY	John Walsh Show	Maury Povich Show	News	B.Date	5.Wheel	Enterprise	A Town Without Christmas	News	Speaker's						
454	523	BRAVO	Detective	Concert	Jose Carreras	A Christmas Carol	45 News	Law & Order	NYPD Blue	The Story of Ruth (1960)	Elana Eden						
441	506	HIST	Tour of Duty	Turning Points	Maverick (1994)	Mel Gibson											
436	560	TLC	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out
483	541	FAM	15Recess	40Possible	Proud F.	McGuire	All That	So Raven	Christmas	Jackson	Boy MW	Heartbeat	A Christmas Carol	Boy MW	Leonard	ALF	
450	520	A&E	Hol. White House	Biography	American Justice	American Justice											
400	400	TSN	Jr.Hockey	Football	Las Vegas Bowl/ NCAA	Oregon State vs New Mexico											
407	419	RSP	Drop In	Miller TV	SeeThis	NBA XL	Soccer C.	News	Volleyball	FIVB Teams	TBA	NBA XL	NHLPA	News	News	News	News
23	KSTW	Spin City	D.Carey	Frasier	Frasier	'70s	'70s	Enterprise	Jake 2.0								
24	KVOS	Ellen	Home Videos	Scrooge (1970)	Albert Finney	A Christmas Carol											
333	382	KCPQ	3rd Rock	J.Shoot	Dharma	Simpsons	King Hill	Simpsons	Friends	Friends	Anastasia (1997)	Voices of Meg Ryan	News	News Sp.	Scrooge		
511	390	NEWS	News: Canada Now	Close Up	The National/Mag.	Antiques Roadshow	Close Up	National	Business	Antiques Roadshow	Reporters Voice						
332	381	KIRO	J. Judy	J. Judy	KIRO News	News	News	ET	Access	60 Minutes II	K Queens	Becker	48 Hours	Spirit	Worship		
331	380	KOMO	Million?	Pyramid	KOMO 4 News	News	News	Fortune	Jeopardy	WifeKids	Relative	G. Lopez	Kellys	Home Videos	Jesus	35 News	
438	394	VISION	Touched By Angel	Soul Man	Last of..	Carols from Kings College	Quartet Plus Four	Highway	Midnight Mass	From St. Peter's Basilica	Paid	Paid					

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

- WEDNESDAY, DEC 24
- 6:00 PM
15 ★★ Maverick (1994,Western) A smooth-talking gambler, temptress and lawman enters a high-stakes poker tournament. *Mel Gibson, Jodie Foster (3h)*
- 8:30 PM
24 ★★ Scrooge (1970,Musical) Scrooge, a man soured on the meaning of Christmas, is visited by three spirits. *Albert Finney, Alec Guinness (2h)*
- 6:30 PM
14 ★★ A Christmas Carol (1938,Drama) Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge learns a lesson in charity after a visit from three spirits. *Reginald Owen, Gene Lockhart (1h15)*
- 7:00 PM
3 ★★ Catch Me If You Can (2002,Adventure) A forger attempts to stay one step ahead of the lawman determined to bring him to justice. *Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks (2h30)*
- 8:00 PM
2 ★★ Scrooge (1951,Drama) A miserable old man, soured on the meaning of Christmas, is visited by three ghosts. *Alastair Sim, Jack Warner (2h)*
- 8:30 PM
4 ★★ The Christmas Rush (2002,Action) Several people and a cop's wife are taken hostage on Christmas Eve while at the mall. *Dean Cain, Eric Roberts (2h)*
- 9:00 PM
5 ★★ It's a Wonderful Life (1946,Drama) An angel shows a suicidal banker how important he has been to the lives of others. *James Stewart, Donna Reed (3h)*
- 9:30 PM
24 ★★ A Christmas Carol (1997,Animated) An animated presentation of Charles Dickens classic holiday story, "A Christmas Carol." *Voices of Whoopi Goldberg, Tim Curry (2h)*
- 9:30 PM
25 ★★ Anastasia (1997,Animated) A woman with an unclear memory makes claims that she is the Russian princess, Anastasia. *Voices of Meg Ryan, John Cusack (2h)*
- 9:30 PM
6 ★★ The Christmas List (1997,Comedy) A woman's Christmas wishes come true, but they all have a slight twist to them. *Mimi Rogers, Rob Stewart (2h)*
- 10:00 PM
7 ★★ Stolen Miracle (2001,Drama) Based on the real-life story of the 1993 Christmas-time abduction of a new-born baby. *Leslie Hope, Hugh Thompson (2h)*
- 10:00 PM
8 ★★ Silent Night (2002,Drama) A German boy invites American and German soldiers to Christmas Eve dinner during WWII. *Linda Hamilton, Matthew Harbour (2h)*
- 10:00 PM
13 ★★ A Town Without Christmas (2001,Drama) A boy asks Santa if he may leave this world so he won't be a burden to his parents. *Patricia Heaton, Peter Falk (2h)*
- 10:00 PM
15 ★★ Maverick (1994,Western) A smooth-talking gambler, temptress and lawman enters a high-stakes poker tournament. *Mel Gibson, Jodie Foster (3h)*
- 10:00 PM
19 ★★ A Christmas Carol (1938,Drama) Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge learns a lesson in charity after a visit from three spirits. *Reginald Owen, Gene Lockhart (1h30)*
- 10:45 PM
3 ★★ Eight Crazy Nights (2002,Animated) A party animal gets a chance at redemption when he works with a youth basketball league. *Voices of Adam Sandler, Jackie Titone (1h15)*
- 10:45 PM
14 ★★ The Story of Ruth (1960,Religious) A woman renounces her faith for the God of Israel, but struggles for acceptance. *Elana Eden, Stuart Whitman (2h30)*
- 11:00 PM
3 ★★ Pipe Dream (2002,Comedy/Drama) A lonely plumber poses as a director in order to meet more women. *Martin Donovan, Kevin Carroll (1h45)*
- 11:00 PM
2 ★★ Going My Way (1944,Drama) The story of a young priest who wins over an aging pastor and some tough parish kids. *Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald (2h)*
- 11:00 PM
4 ★★ The Family Man (2001,Drama) A fast-lane money broker wakes up to find out how life could have been as a family man. *Nicolas Cage, Tea Leoni (3h)*
- 11:00 PM
25 ★★ Scrooge (1951,Fantasy) A miserable, old man, soured on the meaning of Christmas is visited by three ghosts. *Alastair Sim, Jack Warner (2h)*

Season's Greetings!

All Thrifty Foods' stores will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day in order to allow staff to be with their families.

- Holiday Hours -

- *Wednesday, December 24 - 7am-6pm
- *Thursday, December 25 - CLOSED
- *Friday, December 26 - CLOSED
- *December 27 - December 30 - regular hours 7:30am-8pm
- *Wednesday, December 31 - 7:30am-6pm
- *Thursday, January 1 - CLOSED
- *Friday, January 2 - regular hours 7:30am-8pm

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S - Salt Spring Island **WEEKDAY DAYTIME DEC. 24 TO DEC. 30**

S	Ch	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30
240	CBC	Snowman	Get Set	P. Bears	Christmas	Get Set For Life / TH	Christmas Parade	Various	R.Green	Various	Canada	Various	Various	Coron.St.	Emmerd.		
600	MC	Various	Movie	Movie	Various	M Spy Game/TU...	Movie	Various	TU	Antwone Fish...	F Movies	Various	TU	Riding in Cars...	Movie	Various	
4	NewVI	Various	Shepherd	CityLine/TH	Christma	Various	DataC.	Earth: Final Conflict	All My Children/T...	One Life to Live	Touched By Angel	Relic Hunter/TH	Xmas				
330	379	KING	7:00 Today Show			Martha Stewart	Ellen Degeneres	News	Days of Our Lives	Passions	Dr. Phil/TH	F.Skate					
244	358	CH	Gold Trail	BodyHlth	Oprah Winfrey/ Mass	The Price is Right	Young & Restless	Various	Starting Over	Travel M	Various	BodyHlth	Various				
243	321	CTVBC	PreGame	F Hockey	Regis & Kelly	Various	TH Elfkins	Various	Balance	Bold & B.	Various	Gabereau	General Hospital	Dr. Phil			
241	336	GBLBC	Various	F Taste	100 Huntley Street	Worldvis/TH	Solstice	Cross O.	Various	News/TH	Christ.	As the World Turns	Passions	Young & Restless			
443	383	KCTS	Various	DragonT	Various	Barney	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various
101	SRC	J. 15	Fils père Noël	Variées		J Messe de la nuit	Ricardo	Variées	Midi	Cinéma variées							
445	354	KNOW	Various	45 Fish	Lit. Bear	Various	15 Castle	35 Hoobs	Various	F Echoes							
242	359	CITY	F Cooks	F Cooks	Star Trek: DSN	The Lost World	CityLine	Cooks	45News	Various							
454	523	BRAVO	Karen K.	Various	Various	Law & Order	Various	Various	Various	Various							
441	506	HIST	Legends of Hockey	Turning Points	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Yesterday	FashionQ	China Beach	Legends of Hockey				
436	560	TLC	Various	DatingSt	Various	Proposal	Various	Wedding	Various	BabyStry	Trading S/ Were Out	While You Were Out	Various				
483	541	FAM	Various	Various	Various	45Stanley	Various	Various	50Recess	Various	35 ALF	Various	TH	Twice Upon C...	Various	Weekend	
450	520	A&E	Murder She Wrote	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	F Murder She Wrote	Murder She Wrote...	Murder She Wrote	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various
400	400	TSN	Various	Various	Various	Fishing	TU	Equestrian	Various	Various	Various	Various	X Games	Various	SportsC		
407	419	RSP	Various	News	Various	News	Various	News	Various	News	Various	News	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various
23	KSTW	700 Club	Ricki Lake	Rosean	Rosean	Cosby	Hughleys	The People's Court	Divorce	Divorce	Hughleys	Sabrina	Home I.	Home I.			
24	KVOS	Wild Things	Various	Various	Various	Nanny	Various	Pyramid	7th Heaven	Illusion	Montel Williams	Various					
333	382	KCPQ	8:00 Yule Log / News	Good Day Live	Sharon Osbourne/...	Jerry Springer	Maury Povich Show	Starting Over	Jerry Springer	Reporters Voice	News	Various					
511	390	NEWS	News	Various	News	Various	News	Various	News	Bold & B.	WorldTurn	Movie	The Guiding Light	J.Brown	Justice		
332	381	KIRO	M TU Early Show	Montel Williams	The Price is Right	Various	Movie	News	Less Per.	Various	With Her	Various	NBA/Hang	Northwest	Basketball		
331	380	KOMO	7:00 Morning Am.	John Walsh /Regis&K	The View/TH	Parade	KOMO 4 News	Various	Less Per.	Various	With Her	Various	NBA/Hang	Northwest	Basketball		
438	394	VISION	It's a New Day	Mass	Various	Neon Rider	Youngren	LifeToday	Various	Mentors	Various	Various	Seventh Heaven	Twice in a Lifetime			

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Table with 24 columns (time slots) and 24 rows (channel numbers). Includes programs like 'National Security', 'The Sound of Music', 'The Sound of Music II', 'The Sound of Music III', 'The Sound of Music IV', 'The Sound of Music V', 'The Sound of Music VI', 'The Sound of Music VII', 'The Sound of Music VIII', 'The Sound of Music IX', 'The Sound of Music X', 'The Sound of Music XI', 'The Sound of Music XII', 'The Sound of Music XIII', 'The Sound of Music XIV', 'The Sound of Music XV', 'The Sound of Music XVI', 'The Sound of Music XVII', 'The Sound of Music XVIII', 'The Sound of Music XIX', 'The Sound of Music XX', 'The Sound of Music XXI', 'The Sound of Music XXII', 'The Sound of Music XXIII', 'The Sound of Music XXIV'.

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S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice

Table with 24 columns (time slots) and 24 rows (channel numbers). Includes programs like 'The Sound of Music', 'The Sound of Music II', 'The Sound of Music III', 'The Sound of Music IV', 'The Sound of Music V', 'The Sound of Music VI', 'The Sound of Music VII', 'The Sound of Music VIII', 'The Sound of Music IX', 'The Sound of Music X', 'The Sound of Music XI', 'The Sound of Music XII', 'The Sound of Music XIII', 'The Sound of Music XIV', 'The Sound of Music XV', 'The Sound of Music XVI', 'The Sound of Music XVII', 'The Sound of Music XVIII', 'The Sound of Music XIX', 'The Sound of Music XX', 'The Sound of Music XXI', 'The Sound of Music XXII', 'The Sound of Music XXIII', 'The Sound of Music XXIV'.

Pepper Mint Sticks

By AIDAN BUCKLEY
Age 10
Second Place

One day, a striped elf named John was helping to put finishing touches on a giant gingerbread house for the Sick Children's Hospital. Once it was finished, the head elf said, "O.K. everyone, let's go and wrap some presents."

"Yeah!" everyone said. All of the elves started for the door and the head elf said, "Oh, by the way, John, can you stay here for a while and I'll come back for you?"

"OK," John said. After a while he realized that he had never had a peppermint stick before. He took one off the gingerbread house. The problem was that the house was held up on stilts and they were held up on peppermint sticks. So when he pulled off the peppermint stick the whole thing fell down. With a giant CRASH the whole thing fell down.

All the other elves came running in. They stared as John was munching a peppermint stick. Finally, John stopped the silence by saying, "These peppermint sticks are really good."

The head elf slowly pulled out his wand and said, "Adrsdhasastashers ajdraharashdrs," and there was a giant flash and Stripey John shrank to the size of a pea. The force of the flash knocked Stripey John off his feet and made him fall down a chute to where some elves were wrapping presents. He fell into a monopoly box right as they were putting the lid on.

He screamed and screamed and screamed.

We now join Stripey John sliding down a chimney with Santa. The next morning John realized that he was destined to be a monopoly game token.

Now, the moral of the story is: never, never, NEVER eat peppermint sticks, especially when a head elf can catch you.



ISLAND CAROLLERS: Shoppers in Ganges were treated to a sunny performance of singers from Salt Spring Elementary School on Thursday afternoon.

Photo by Mitchell Sherrin

The Mystery of the Missing Christmas Presents

By SOPHIE ST. JACQUES
Age 12
Second Place

The clock struck six and the alarm set off. "Time to count my presents, only one day till Christmas."

Still in my pyjamas, I ran down the stairs straight to the Christmas tree. Then I stopped dead at the sight of the crime scene. Muddy dog prints spotted the carpet along with a few clumps of fur.

The Christmas presents were gone.

There weren't that many in the first place, but what about my dog Kure, she must have had a hard night chasing away burglars.

"Kure, Kure," I called. I was unsuccessful in summoning her, but the sound of my wailing racket seemed to bring my parents down.

"What has happened here?" my mother questioned, her bony face paler than ever.

"Kure, she must have been taken by the burglar!"

Then, all of a sudden, I started crying. My tears flowed down my cheeks like the Nile River.

"Kure," I wailed. "Poor Kure."

My father patted me on the back, whispering, "Now, now, we'll get her back, don't you worry about that."

I smiled a bit, then

announced, "The search is on!"

I was halfway through the house when my mom called me for breakfast. I retreated from my search and came to the kitchen. On the table were my eggs, bacon and some toast on the side.

This was usually a treat, but today I couldn't stop thinking about Kure and my presents.

"Look at the bright side," said my dad, ending the long silence. "You never really liked unwrapping presents, and you'll still get some in your stocking."

This was true. I hated unwrapping presents. I gave him a small smile. I spent the rest of the day baking hot fudge cookies and writing a Christmas list, both for Santa.

I went to bed thinking of new toys I might be getting, but in the back of my mind I was still thinking of Kure.

In the morning I got up and continued my search for my dog. "Living room, no. Parents' bedroom, no. Kitchen, no. No, no no, no, and no."

I had looked everywhere in the house, so I gave up. I sat down in my grandfather's armchair, when I noticed a small piece of colourful paper by the open basement door.

I dived for the paper. "A clue!" I said.

"Why didn't I think of

looking in the basement earlier?"

I jolted down the stairs. There in front of me I saw Kure playing in a pile of wrapping paper.

All my presents were unwrapped.

"What a lovely Christmas present! I got my dog back, and I didn't have to unwrap presents!"

I jumped into the wrapping paper pile and held my dog tightly.

This was the best Christmas ever.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season to all our customers

Pam Ellacott, Sheila Twa and staff

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*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government shall
be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be
called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

— Isaiah 9:6

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island
Christmas Services for 2003

<p>December 24 - Christmas Eve</p> <p>4:30 pm Family Communion at St. Mary's 11:00 pm Midnight Mass at All Saints'</p>	<p>December 25 - Christmas Day</p> <p>10:00 am Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's</p>
<p>December 28</p> <p>10:00 am Corporate Eucharist & Baptism at All Saints' 4:30 pm Carols & Readings at All Saints'</p>	


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Boel aids trauma victims around the world

of need, such as low income and disaster areas. Her organization has done work in countries like Bosnia, Croatia, Northern Ireland, Indonesia and the Middle East. During the September 11 events in New York, over 400 EMDR-trained counsellors worked for free with the Disaster Mental Health Team. Boel sees the organization's work in disaster areas as crucial.



Judith Boel

By CAREY RUDISILL
 Judith Boel is no stranger to the idea of volunteer work. She is one of many local residents who donate their time to various organizations throughout the year. Boel's work, however, often takes her far from her Salt Spring home. She volunteers with the U.S.-based, non-profit organization EMDR Humanitarian Assistance Programs (EMDR-HAP), which is an international volunteer network of over 500 therapists who are trained in the Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) methodology.

On its website, EMDR-HAP states that it is "committed to relieving human suffering and breaking the cycle of violence by providing training to mental health professionals serving traumatized communities worldwide."

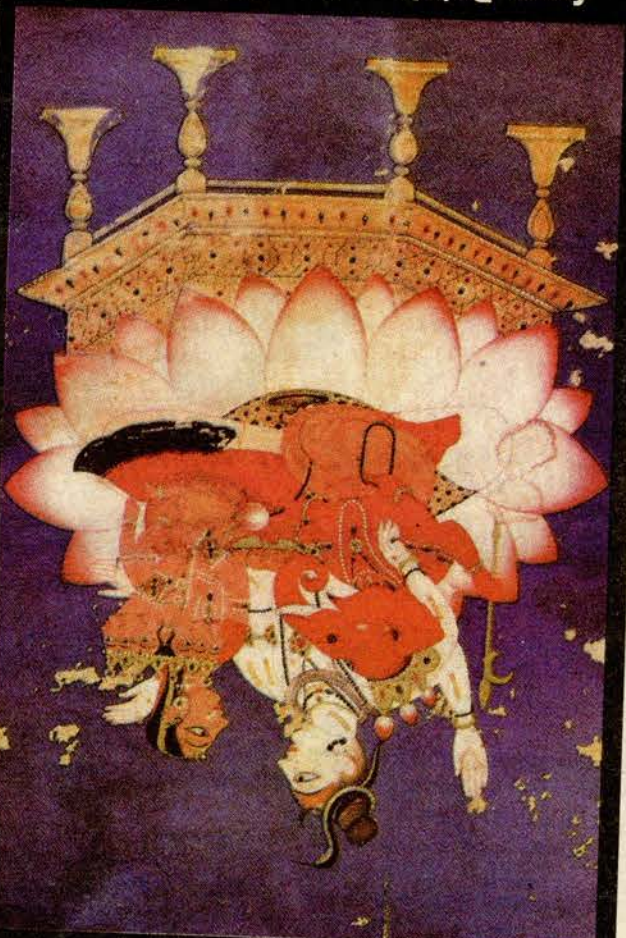
Boel is the President of EMDR-HAP and also sits on the EMDR International Association's Board of Directors. In both cases she's the only Canadian in the group.

On the EMDRIA website, EMDR is defined as a psychological methodology that originated in 1987 to help individuals process and heal from emotional distress caused by traumatic incidents.

"I've never found a method that works so well," she's one of many therapists who train local mental health practitioners in areas

Boel refers to her work with the organization as "a retirement job," and said she intends to continue aiding EMDR-HAP.

Merry Christmas!



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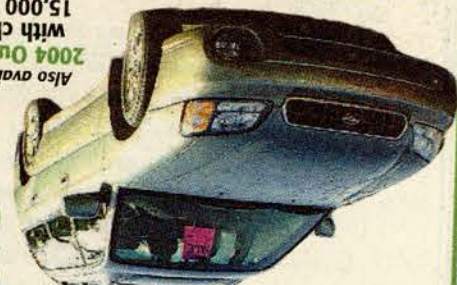
In her eighth year as a school board trustee, she believes the work has helped her as a volunteer. "This has helped tremendously for being a board member and president [of EMDR-HAP]. I've appreciated all I've learned as a school trustee — thinking strategically and learning conflict resolution helps with EMDR work." Boel said being Canadian has also given her a foot-up in her volunteer position. "Being Canadian gives me a different perspective on everything," she said. In 1993, she worked in Yugoslavia but wished she had been involved with the organization at the time. "I was helping to train people working with refugees. We were on the ground during a bombing. I wish I knew EMDR then," she said. Boel estimates that she volunteers 500 hours a year with EMDR-HAP and at least the same amount as an EMDR board member. But she's careful not to overdo it. "I've learned how not to let it consume me."

ON STAGE: Fernwood Elementary School children filled the auditorium with colour and seasonal cheer last Tuesday evening, entertaining parents and friends at the school's annual Christmas concert. Among the many Christmassy acts was a rousing rendition of We Three Kings shown here.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



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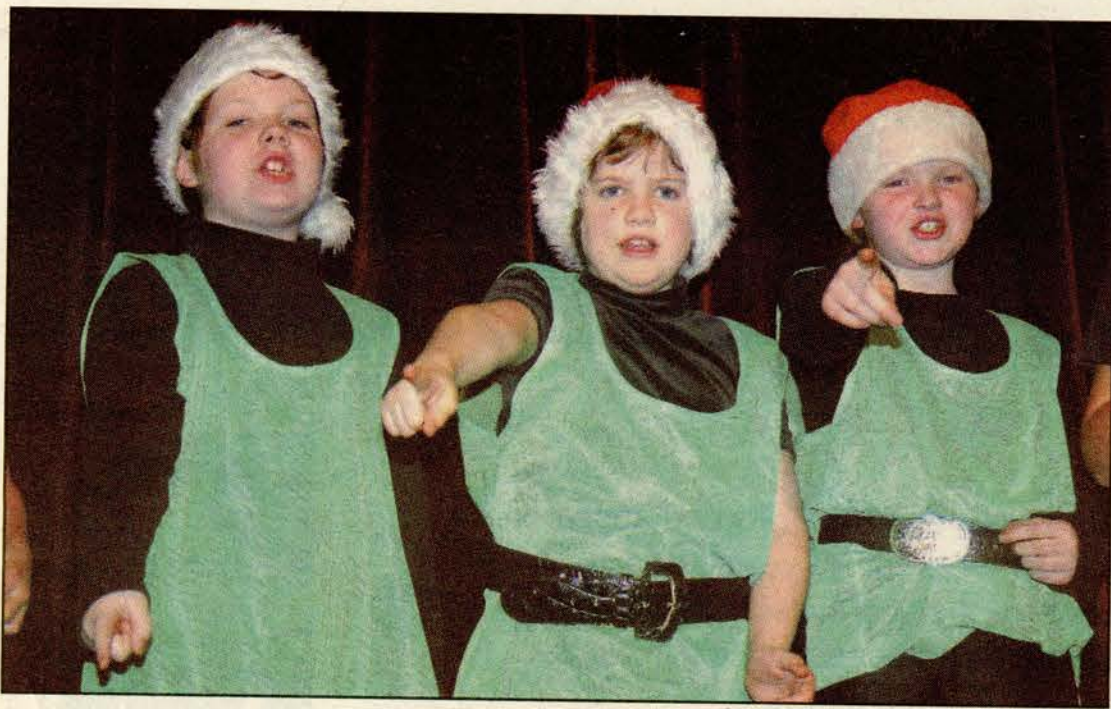


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CHRISTMAS AT SSE: On Wednesday night it was Salt Spring Elementary School students' turn to take the stage and sing a variety of comical and serious Christmas tunes, amusing a full-capacity audience in the Activity Centre.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Ferry action meant quiet week for most

Hopefully December retail and hospitality numbers returned to normal levels after the interruption in ferry service.

Most business owners I spoke with experienced a quiet week, with the obvious exception of the gas stations and grocery stores.

Another exception was the **Last Minute Christmas Craft Fair** held at Mahon Hall on the December 12-14 weekend.

Speaking of island-made goods, registration forms are now available at the **CED Project** office for registering island-made products in the "Simply Salt Spring" program.

The project is creating a marketing strategy around this new, unified brand to help promote Salt Spring Island products and services locally and off-island.

The main categories for promotion include Island Natural, Grown, Made, Cuisine, Hospitality, Adventures and Products. Logo kits are available at the CED Project office at the Chamber of Commerce.

• **et cetera** is still open for

business. **Dawn Luker** has retained the store's name

and phone number (537-5115) and still does a variety of custom orders — rubber stamps, engraved signs and name tags, address labels, other printing jobs, photocopies, laminating and can still special order any office/stationery items.

Dawn is as busy as ever but is not holding anything on the shelves. She is also still a Regal Catalogue sales agent. (Regal, a Canadian company, sells a variety of gift and household items, cards and wrap.) Dawn is presently upstairs in the same building as the "old" et cetera — Suite #201.

• **The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce's** first Business Breakfast was well attended with 30 business people meeting at **Calvin's Bistro** on December 11.

The second is planned for Thursday, January 8, 8 a.m.

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS WITH PETER McCULLY



at the **Harbour House Hotel**. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 537-4223.

• **Alex Kovatts** at **The Seabreeze Inne** tells us that he has just put the finishing touches on a renovated suite he calls the Entertainment Room. It's suited for small gatherings, and business or staff meetings of up to 16 people. The suite offers full kitchen, bathroom, living room and bar service area.

• **Eight Branches Holistic Health Centre and Tea Room** is the new name given to the former Eight Branches Institute of Classical Chinese Medicine by new owner Brandy Slovka.

The name change reflects the clinic's new direction as a centre for holistic healing. Slovka says the focus has shifted from Chinese healing arts to a broader vision incorporating not only phys-

ical health, but emotional and spiritual as well.

Along with acupuncture, massage, shiatsu and infrared sauna services, also offered are personal coaching techniques, spiritual consultation and meditation instruction. Eight Branches is located next to **Ganges Flooring**. Call 538-1701.

• Brochures are now being distributed by the **Salt Spring Community Housing and Land Trust Society**. This non-profit society and registered charity is actively looking for individuals and businesses to invest in the community loan fund, donate land, money, labour and building materials and/or tools.

The group's goal is to create affordable housing on Salt Spring.

The society will purchase land to hold for future use, provide long-term leases, build small single-family homes, establish a community loan fund and make land available on a long-term basis for agriculture, eco-forestry and other community uses. Contact **Ellen Garvie** at 653-9555.

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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

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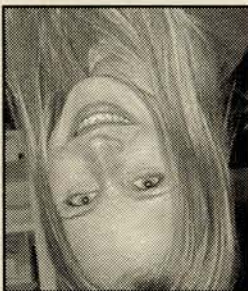
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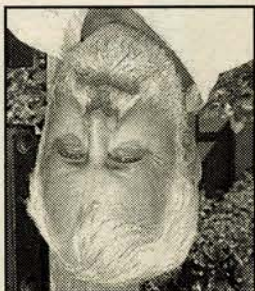
Tao Kimball



Jason Matthews



Tony Richards



John Pottinger



Susan Lundy



Deborah McNish



Peter McCully



Rick Mackinnon



Marit McBride



Andrea LeBorgne



Claudia French



As it has done every week for 45 years, the production staff celebrated, another deadline achieved. At the newspaper office, behind the scenes, Sandi and her staff, Andrea and Deb, Had built all the ads and put the paper to bed.

The process began the previous week, When sales staff went out, their clients to seek. Peter and Rick, they sell all the ads, Highlight the bargains, capture the fads.

While the sales people were busy, The reporters were too,

Tracking down stories, doing interviews, Gail and Mitchell, Carey and Susan, Their fingers are tapping; no time for snoozin', Derrick, meanwhile, is out snapping pictures, At every event he's sort of a fixture.

Back in the office, things are moving apace, As staff answer phones with their usual grace, There are classifieds to input, subscriptions to sell Andrea, Claudia and Marit, they do it so well.

And now comes Tuesday, the deadline is near, John's reading proofs, Wednesday's almost here, Tony's checking pages before they go to the press, Transmitted electronically to an Internet address.

When Wednesday arrives so does the van, And Tao begins deliveries, as only he can, In comes Jason, to help with the chores, And later comes Jenna, for tearsheets galore. Every week at the Driftwood, it is ever thus, Till we come round to another Christmas.



Merry Christmas!

Derrick Lundy



Gail Sjuberg



Mitchell Sherrin



Sandi Poystilla



Andrea Paltraman

S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice SUNDAY DAYTIME DECEMBER 28. 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).

(3h) 19 *** Corrina, Corrina (1994, Drama) A compassionate maid attempts to help a girl who has recently lost her mother to cancer. Whoopi Goldberg, Ray Liotta (1h55) 9:45 PM 20 *** Adaptation (2002, Drama) A screenwriter turns to his brother for help when he tries to adapt a non-fiction book. Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep (2h) SUNDAY, DEC 28 6:00 PM 21 *** I Was a Rat (2001, Drama) A kindly couple takes in a lost little boy who claims that he was previously a rat. Don McKellar, Calum Worthy (2h) 12 *** Nine Months (1995, Comedy) A single man panics when his girlfriend of five years announces that she's pregnant. Hugh Grant, Julianne Moore (2h) 15 *** Das Boot (1981, Drama) A realistic and meticulous story of a German U-boat on a mission during WWII. Jürgen Prochnow, Klaus Wennemann (4h30) 23 *** Delirious (1991, Comedy) A soap opera writer is knocked unconscious, and awakens as part of the fabricated world. John Candy, Mariel Hemingway (2h) 7:00 PM 3 *** A Guy Thing (2002, Comedy) A man trying to save his relationship with his fiancée finds himself in a web of lies. Jason Lee, Selma Blair (2h) 7:30 PM 13 25 *** Die Hard (1988, Action) A cop discovers that his wife has been taken by terrorists demanding \$600 million dollars. Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman (2h30) 8:00 PM 2 *** Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (1968, Musical) A struggling inventor and his family travel to a magical land in a revolutionary car. Dick Van Dyke, Sally Ann Howes (2h) 6 *** Voyage of the Unicorn (2002, Fantasy) A grief-stricken mythology scholar and his daughters are thrust into a fantasy world. Beau Bridges, Chantal Conlin (2h) 8 *** Mary Higgins Clark's Pretend You Don't See Her (2002, Mystery) The life of a real estate agent takes a dramatic turn when she witnesses a murder. Emma Samms, Beau Starr (2h) 14 *** Junior (1994, Comedy) A male doctor and his associate steal a frozen egg, fertilize it and hide it in a man. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Danny DeVito (2h) 23 *** Lambada (1990, Dance) A Beverly Hills math teacher tries to reach kids in an East Los Angeles lambada club. J. Eddie Peck, Melora Hardin (2h) 24 *** The Prince of Tides (1991, Drama) A man's relationship with his psychiatrist helps him to confront a childhood trauma. Nick Nolte, Barbara Streisand (3h) 8:30 PM 4 27 *** One True Thing (1998, Drama) A career woman reassesses her parents' lives while caring for her cancer-stricken mother. Meryl Streep, Renee Zellweger (2h30) 9:00 PM 3 *** The Guru (2002, Comedy) A dancer from India arrives in America and finds himself assuming the role of sex guru. Heather Graham, Marisa Tomei (1h45) 11 ***** A Man for All Seasons (1966, Drama) Sir Thomas More goes willingly to the chopping block rather than sacrifice his ideals. Paul Scofield, Leo McKenna (2h) 19 *** Labor of Love (2000, Drama) When Annie is swept off her feet by a rugged reporter, her plans are altered. Marcia Gay Harden, David Grant (2h) 23 Dreamkeeper (2003, Drama) A Native American man dazzles his grandson with tales passed down through generations. (2h) 10:00 PM 14 *** Puberty Blues (1983, Drama) A group of Australian girls strive to become surfer groupies. Nell Schofield, Jac Capelja (1h45) 15 *** Das Boot (1981, Drama) A realistic and meticulous story of a German U-boat on a mission during WWII. Jürgen Prochnow, Klaus Wennemann (4h30) 10:45 PM 3 *** Frida (2002, Drama) The life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, who channelled her personal pain into her work. Salma Hayek, Alfred Molina (2h15) MONDAY, DEC 29 6:00 PM 15 *** The Devil's Brigade (1968, War) During WWII, reckless U.S. and Canadian recruits form a cohesive fighting unit. William Holden, Cliff Robertson (3h) 7:00 PM 11 ***** Born Free (1966, True) A British couple in Kenya attempts to reintroduce a domesticated lioness to the wild. Virginia McKenna, Bill Travers (1h35) 8:00 PM 6 *** Voyage of the Unicorn (2002, Fantasy) A grief-stricken mythology scholar and his daughters are thrust into a fantasy world. Beau Bridges, Chantal Conlin (2h) 13 ***** X-Men (2000, Sci-Fi) A man leads a group of mutant heroes against his arch nemesis in order to save the world. Patrick Stewart, Famke Janssen (2h) 24 *** Bye Bye Love (1995, Comedy) Three divorced fathers struggle to bond with their children on weekends. Matthew Modine, Randy Quaid (2h) 9:00 PM 3 *** Miranda (2002, Romance) A librarian begins an affair with a mysterious woman who walks into his library. Christina Ricci, John Sinnamon (1h30) 19 *** Sommersby (1993, Drama) A man, presumed dead after the Civil War, returns home and attempts to start life anew. Richard Gere, Jodie Foster (2h) 23 Dreamkeeper (2003, Drama) A Native American man dazzles his grandson with tales passed down through generations. (2h) 10:00 PM 14 *** Marco (1973, Musical) Colourful and lively musical that chronicles the journey of Marco Polo to the Orient. Desi Arnaz, Zero Mostel (2h) 15 *** The Devil's Brigade (1968, War) During WWII, reckless U.S. and Canadian recruits form a cohesive fighting unit. William Holden, Cliff Robertson (3h) 10:30 PM 3 *** Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever (2002, Action) An FBI agent is forced to team up with his mortal enemy in order to defeat a common enemy. Antonio Banderas, Lucy Liu (1h30) TUESDAY, DEC 30 6:00 PM 15 ***** Spartacus (1960, Epic) In 73 B.C., a slave leads a crusade for freedom against the corrupt forces of Rome. Kirk Douglas, Laurence Olivier (4h) 8:00 PM 2 *** Chocolat (2000, Romance) A mother and daughter open a chocolate shop in a small conservative French village. Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp (2h) 24 *** Agatha (1979, Biography) The world's greatest mystery writer, Agatha Christie, vanished for eleven days. Vanessa Redgrave, Dustin Hoffman (2h) 9:00 PM 4 *** In His Father's Shoes (1997, Drama) A boy gets magic shoes, enabling him to travel back in time and possess his father's body. Louis Gossett Jr., Robert Richard (2h) 13 *** Chain Reaction (1996, Action) Scientists working on a hydrogen energy project are blamed for a lab partner's murder. Keanu Reeves, Morgan Freeman (2h) 19 *** Wide Awake (1996, Family) A boy embarks on a mission to find God, discovering much more than he thought possible. Joseph Cross, Rosie O'Donnell (1h30) 29 *** An Affair to Remember (1957, Romance) A nightclub singer and a wealthy bachelor fall in love and agree to meet six months later. Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr (2h) 10:00 PM 14 *** Mr. Rock 'N' Roll: The Alan Freed Story (1999, Drama) The story of legendary disc jockey Alan Freed, who introduced rock 'n' roll to the world. Judd Nelson, Paula Abdul (1h45) 3 *** Giving It Up (1999, Romance) A womanizer tries to stop his philandering ways in order to win over the woman he loves. Mark Feuerstein, Amy Redford (1h30)

S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 28. 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).

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S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 29. 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).

S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 30. 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).

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

<p>WED. December 24</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Candlelight Carols. SS Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m. Anglican Church, 4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, St. Mary's, 4 p.m. Holy Eucharist, St. Marks, 10 a.m. Midnight Mass, All Saints, 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m. Candlelight Service, 7 p.m. Community Gospel Chapel, 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 7 and 10 p.m.</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Open stage at Moby's Pub, 9 p.m. Wednesday Night Live! 1 p.m. Sponsored by the United Church. Christmas Day Mass. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 10 a.m. Service of Lessons and Christmas Eve Candlelight Carols, SS United Church, 7 p.m. Free At Meaden Hall, 11:30-1 p.m. Community Turkey Dinner, Vesuvius Pub, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m.</p>	<p>THURS. December 25</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Annual Boxing Day Bash. With Three Chord Sloth at Duck Golf Doubles Disc Golf Tournament, Private course at Mansell Farm. Register at 11 a.m. Info: Tanya 537-1965.</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Duck Golf Disc Golf Tournament, 6th annual event at Moutat Park. Registration at 10 a.m.</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Christmas Eve Eucharist & Baptism, All Saints, 10 a.m. Green Cat Cafe. Open event, open mike and talent show, Starbooks, 6-10 p.m.</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Children perform at a school Christmas concert. Photos by Derrick Lundy.</p>	<p>FRI. December 26</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Drop-in Floor Hockey, Fulford Hall, 6:30-9 p.m.</p>	<p>SAT. December 27</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Carols & Readings. All Saints, 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Corporate Eucharist & Baptism, All Saints, 10 a.m. Green Cat Cafe. Open event, open mike and talent show, Starbooks, 6-10 p.m.</p>	<p>SUN. December 28</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Special Events</p> <p>Drop-in Floor Hockey, Fulford Hall, 6:30-9 p.m.</p>	<p>MON. December 29</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>Drop-in Floor Hockey, Fulford Hall, 6:30-9 p.m.</p>	<p>TUES. December 30</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>Drop-in Floor Hockey, Fulford Hall, 6:30-9 p.m.</p>
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Cinema

• Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King — The final installment of the trilogy presents the ultimate battle for Middle Earth while Frodo and Sam (Elijah Wood and Sean Astin) attempt to destroy the one ring. Runs December 26-30, 7 p.m. daily plus a 2:30 matinee on Saturday and Sunday.

Cable

SSTV Cable Channel 12 programming takes a Boxing Day break. Tune in again on January 2 for exciting scenes of the Salt Spring Fair 2003. Salt Spring Cable will be at the January 1 Polar Bear Swim, weather permitting.

Exhibitions


Tony Copeland shows work at Island Savings through December. Adriane Enns' transcendental art is shown at Starbooks through December. Jamie Callum Macaulay shows paintings in an exhibition titled What is a Dwelling? at Moby's Marine Pub through December. Salt Spring Painters Guild members are exhibiting work in the Artspring lobby.

Richard Moses and Dawn Hage at Artspring.

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Dustin Little Trust Fund

Friends of Clark's brother Dustin have set up a trust account at Island Savings to help him continue his work and studies in Australia. Donations can be made to account number 1617356 for "Dustin in trust."

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Christmas time fire renews faith in community

By **JIM SCOTT**
Driftwood Contributor
"I will honour Christmas all the year," said a humbled Scrooge.

Thus nearly ends A Christmas Carol.

Reading Dickens' classic every year was a tradition in my family, but I never understood wholly Scrooge's compulsion until Christmas Eve, 2000. That night nearly ended me, yet it proved to be the wellspring of a new humility.

December 24 three years ago, I was rejoicing in the gift of a child (my first grandchild born the day before) and anticipating a family Christmas with my grown children.

All very comfortable and seasonal.

At approximately 8 p.m., my evening was shattered by an explosion, followed by a consuming fire.

In less than 20 minutes, all the tangibles of my comfortable life disappeared in a cataclysm of sound and flame.

In a state of shock, I remember sitting in the emergency ward at Lady Minto feeling helpless and distraught — too distressed even to give thanks for my only minor injuries.

I was told by the fire department that my survival was a miracle. I don't think so.

My survival was a lucky statistical anomaly. The real miracle came later.

The miracle was the support I received from our community.

I don't think of the fire today as a loss but as an enrichment — my great gift from strangers.

The giving of others could not replace the relics of a lifetime. But

the spirit of giving that flowed from the community changed my inner perspective. That spiritual gift has lasted and taken root.

One consequence is that I have been volunteering within our community more than ever before. I am seeking ways to join in and further the caring that is the heart of Salt Spring Island living.

I now know the value of small, sincere gestures. I now understand Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind.

To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

And in that spirit, for the next year, I will be working to create widespread acceptance of Salt Spring Dollars. Here is why.

We can keep the Christmas spirit alive year-round by spending Salt Spring Dollars at home. How? Because every Salt Spring Dollar in circulation is a Canadian dollar earning deposit interest, which will be spent back in the community where need exists.

Each necessary act of buying for ourselves becomes a voluntary act of giving to others.

My own experience teaches me that such a voluntary act — while seeming small — swells exponentially when it helps a neighbour.

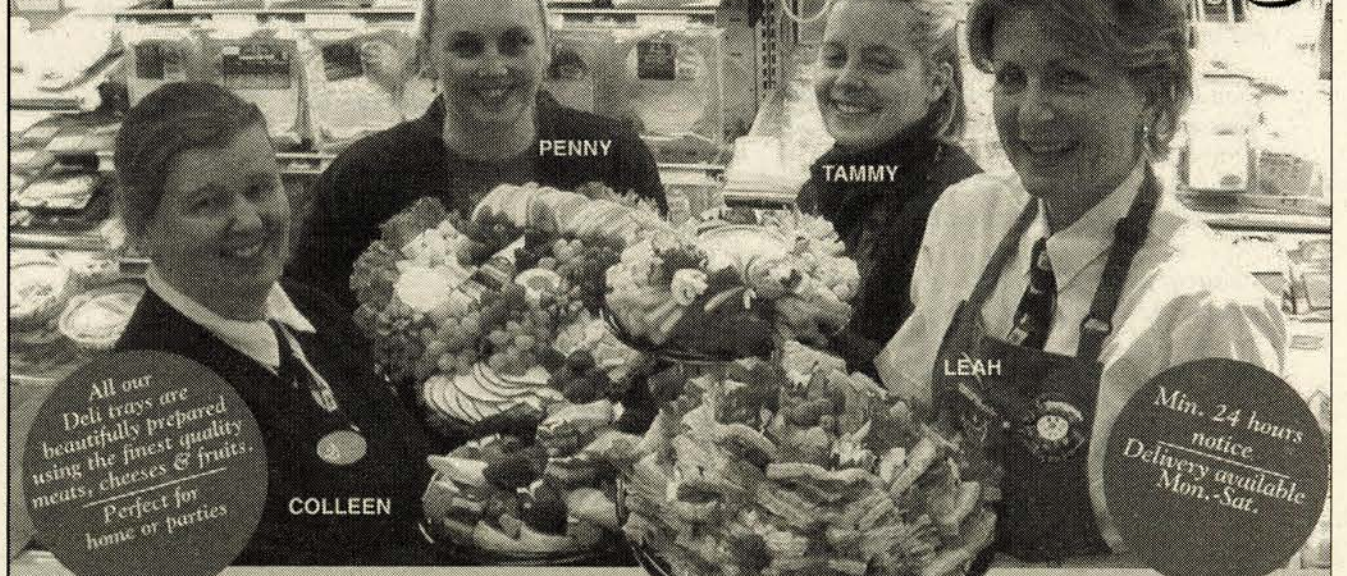
Editor's note: Jim Scott, who is working to promote Salt Spring Dollars through a Community Economic Development Project, will be keeping islanders up-to-date on his work through a regular spot in the Driftwood.



PIANO IN THE PARK: Marlene Cormack takes the piano while friends and fellow members of the Community Gospel Chapel gather in Centennial Park to sing carols Sunday evening. The sing-along took the place of a live nativity, which was cancelled as the church continues to grieve the death of youth member Clark Little two weeks ago.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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<p>FRUIT AND CHEESE from \$48.98</p> <p><i>Alex Campbell Signature Series aged white Cheddar, Boursin cheese, goat cheese, Brie cheese, and Danish smoked Gouda cheese surrounded by fresh seasonal fruits. Our "Going Crackers" tray pairs perfectly with this one.</i></p>	<p>EARLY RISER from \$36.98</p> <p><i>Fresh bagels topped with Winnipeg cream cheese, herb and spice cream cheese, raspberry jam, melons, strawberries, grapes & other assorted fruits. Ideal for those early morning meetings.</i></p>	<p>DELUXE SANDWICH from \$22.98</p> <p><i>A selection of popular sandwiches, including ham, turkey, roast beef, egg salad and vegetables on fresh whole wheat and white breads surrounded by a tub of crisp pickles and olives.</i></p>	<p>FRUIT DELIGHT from \$34.98</p> <p><i>A fresh assortment of our finest seasonal fruits make up this healthy, refreshing platter. Just add chocolate or your favourite fruit dip for an unforgettable party tray everyone will love.</i></p>
<p>IT'S A WRAP! \$36.98</p> <p><i>An assortment of ham and vegetarian wraps smothered with cheese spread, grated cheddar and lettuce, then rolled in fresh flour tortillas. Popular for any occasion.</i></p>	<p>BREAD AND CRACKER from \$16.98</p> <p><i>Freshly baked sourdough baguette slices with assorted crackers and other freshly baked breads. With our Boursin or Chardonnay tray, it makes an unbeatable combination.</i></p>	<p>MORE PLATTER VARIETIES AVAILABLE: Barbecue Burger Companion • Kaiser Bun • Sports Entertainer • Going Crackers • Supreme Sandwich Mediterranean • Devilled Eggs • Lavosh • Antipasto Deluxe Meat • Cocktail Party • Bordeaux • Chardonnay • 7 Layer Dip • Jumbo Basil and Tomato Dip</p> <p>NEW! SEAFOOD TRAYS See our Seafood Dept. for: Tiger Prawns, Seafood Hms'D'oeuvres, Smoked Salmon Sensation, Ultimate Seafood</p>	
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 from all the staff

A LITTLE BEFORE CHRISTMAS HERE ON SALT SPRING

The following piece was written by Susan Lundy for the annual single seniors luncheon held earlier this month. It is reprinted here by request.

"Twas a week before Christmas and down on Salt Spring,
Santa was doing his seasonal thing.

A small bit of shopping to get something rare,
that could only be found at an island craft fair.

He dashed down to Fulford to get some gumboots;
Stopped in at Patterson's and said "Hi" to Bruce.

"Ho! Ho! Young man, you're not at the hall!"
said Santa, his face a ruddy red ball.

"You're right St. Nick," Bruce quipped in a huff,
"They said me and Jeff were more than enough."

"Ho! I know naughty," Santa said with a wink,
"Those trustees should go and have a stiff drink."

Then he was off, heading north Salt Spring way,
with a plan to relax before his big day.

A quick stop he'd set at Saly Springs Spa
For a seaweed wrap bath and a soothing massage.

Then he set off to fill his sack up with stuff,
'Cause after the spa he was looking so buff.

Island things that just bordered on weird,
Aromatherapy creams and ties for his beard.

A haircut from Gary; some egg rolls from Sam;
A paper from Tony and a chat with Stan Lam.

His troubles they started as he boarded his sleigh,
And headed back home — Stewart Road way.

All of a sudden, he stopped with a jar:
Caught in a pothole, the sleigh was in far.

Can I make a connection, will it be too slow?"

"It depends on the number of engines this day,
As to whether you get there and leave from Swartz Bay."

"I had better get going, I really must.
Please," asked Santa, "where is the bus?"

"I'm sorry sir, it may seem sort of dumb . . .
You must walk over there and stick out your thumb."

So Santa waited below Ganges Hill,
Hitch-hiking — but without too much skill.

Then an old beaten truck shuddered to a stop.
"Hop in," called the driver, "I'll get you to the top."

"My name's Mike Byron," he said with a grin.
"I think I know the trouble you're in."

"I really need to get at my sleigh —
If only my reindeer were here today."

"They'd get me out of that damned pothole,
Fly me back to my home in the grand north pole."

"Baa!" said Byron, "we don't like deer!
Sheep are as good as anything here."

"I'll bet," he added, a smile on his face,
"My sheep could pull your sleigh with grace."

And so it happened over on Stewart Road,
Eight tiny sheep pulled Santa's load.

They leapt and pranced and kicked up their feet,
Lifted into the skies with a merry bleat.

And we heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Santa was doing his seasonal thing.

A small bit of shopping to get something rare,
that could only be found at an island craft fair.

He dashed down to Fulford to get some gumboots;
Stopped in at Patterson's and said "Hi" to Bruce.

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And headed back home — Stewart Road way.

All of a sudden, he stopped with a jar:
Caught in a pothole, the sleigh was in far.

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onion and green pepper.
Top with remaining
bread. Pour over with eggs
beaten with milk and sea-
sonings. Refrigerate 'til
next morning.
Top with lots of corn
flake crumbs and butter.
Bake at 350 degrees for
an hour.

cheddar cheese, grated
6 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. dry mustard
3 c. milk
1/4 c. onion, diced
1/4 c. green onion, diced
2 tsp. worcestershire
salt & pepper
1/2 c. butter, melted
corn flakes, crushed

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had the privilege to serve many new
and old friends.
Your thoughts and wishes, your
passions and delights are the
special sentiments we translate
into our floral designs.
Thank you and Feliz Navidad
Merry Christmas to you all!



Nothing ordinary about Christmas With Scrooge

By **ANDREA RABINOVITCH**
Driftwood Contributor

Funny, I don't remember a Schpiegalbaum in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

The Newman Family Productions' version, entitled Christmas With Scrooge, joined The Ghost of Hanukkah Past with a whole array of imaginative sorts to create a Salt Spring Christmas tradition. Misguided characters

as members of the ensemble.

By freezing in two-dimensional poses, we were reminded that this story came off the written page, an important nod to the source of the evening's festivities.

When co-creator and musical director Virginia Newman placed herself at the piano after warning the younger audience members that the scary characters are really just their family, friends and neighbours, Sue Newman, as the Christmas Fairy, entered.

A solid performer with serious singing and dancing chops, it's a shame that her directing duties pulled her away from walking the boards. Maybe next year.

Jacob Marley's ghost, campily played by Vaughn Fulford, was scary enough to warrant this comment from my six-year-old date: "You certainly don't see that everyday."

And off Scrooge went to see the errors of his ways led by the Ghost of Christmas Past (Sarah Penhale).

Boy Scrooge (Arlo Bryn-Thorn) as the lonely young Scrooge, sang Silent Night, indicating that Scrooge was not always the foul holiday spoil sport he became.

The Fezziwigs' party opens with the Fezziwig daughters, played by Halley Gilson-Fulford, Helena Bryn-McLeod and Elsbet Krayenhoff, charmingly singing Three Little Maids from London Town. As elegant gentlemen whirl the female chorus about, the Christmas Ball is led in by Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig (Murray Shoolbraid and Patsy Siemens), looking natty in their Victorian splendour.

The entertainment for



SCROOGE: Enthusiastic crowds were entertained by myriad sights as Christmas With Scrooge unfolded last weekend at ArtSpring. Seen here, clockwise from top left, were: Sarah Penhale as the Ghost of Christmas Past and Patrick Cassidy as Scrooge; Krista McKeachie as Belle Merriweather; the famous spotty dog scene; and actors Wendy Norton and Jane Goodall.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



"This convention . . . continued through the evening with actors coming through the audience, including them as members of the ensemble."

from Oliver Twist, spotted dogs and a potted waitress are some of the characters that aid Ebenezer Scrooge's (Patrick Cassidy) journey from miserable boss to the good-natured Bob Cratchit (Kevin Wilkie) to party animal with the Cratchit clan.

As the omni-aged sold-out crowd entered ArtSpring, characters beautifully costumed in Victorian garb were interacting with the audience and then freezing in place.

This convention of breaking the fourth wall of the stage continued through the evening with actors coming through the audience including them

the Christmas Ball follows the play within a play idea that one enjoys in the ballet The Nutcracker, another holiday classic.

Ode to the Cat by the teen members of the troupe led by a very saucy Puss in Boots (Thea Stone) led to the Spotty Dogs

sending the cute quotient through the roof.

One suspects that Spotty Dogs evolve into Fezziwig progeny as they grow.

An excellent scene with Belle Merriweather (Krista McKeachie) and Scrooge recounts Scrooge's loss of a beautiful and good young woman.

McKeachie showed real acting talent, and Scrooge's honest despair was a fitting close to Act One.

In Act Two, Rusty (Peter) Marshall as the Ghost of Christmas Present showed Scrooge Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim's poor but happy existence. Bryn-Thorn's Tiny Tim was a sweet-faced innocent whose lovely voice and simple acting was a mark of casting brilliance.

The family, led by Mater Cratchit (Lynda Jensen), was a loving example of a family poor of pocket but rich in heart.

After the Ghost of Christmas Future (Martin Thorn) shows him his cruel end, Scrooge sees the errors of his ways and proceeds to give the long-suffering Bob his due.

Scrooge is welcomed into the warmth of the family and we just know that his life will be permanently changed for the better, giving us a notion that it's never too late to become the human being that we wish to be.

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EVENT FAVOURITES: Members of the Lost Chords choir were a hit at ArtSpring's annual Christmas sing-along Sunday afternoon. The capacity-crowd event included guest appearances by island choirs and musicians intermingled with audience carolling.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Green Cat back Dec. 28

Following the success of the first Green Cat Café, attended by more than 50 people at StarBooks, the popular café returns on Sunday, December 28.

The second Green Cat will offer a similar flavour of open stage and open mike, a challenging trivia game and an "anything goes" talent show.

People are invited to bring their guitars, drums, violins, juggling skills, comedy or yogic flying acts, and share their talents with other Green Cat Café connoisseurs.

It runs from 6 to 10 p.m.



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Real-time Gerry film recommended for the brave and curious artsy types

The premise of Gus Van Sant's (*My Own Private Idaho*, *Good Will Hunting*) *Gerry* is simple: two friends (Matt Damon and Casey Affleck), go for a hike through the desert and quickly find themselves lost.

The majority of the film is the two of them wandering the hills and the dunes, searching for a way back to their car.

That is the whole story, but what makes *Gerry* so intriguing is Van Sant's daring take on the portrayal of time.

Most of the film is taken up by massively long takes of the two walking the desert, sometimes from extreme long shots, sometimes as close as you can

get. The effect of these long takes on the viewer is similar to the

effect on the characters: boredom, frustration, agony and wonder (usually in that order).

By depicting everything in real-time, Van Sant pulls us into the mindset of the two men — and it is not pretty. I felt how they felt, understood the utter futility of the situation, and wanted it to end. But the film has no easy solution.

This isn't to say that *Gerry* is a total downer of a movie. It's actually absurdly funny,

FLICK PICK WITH JASON TUDOR



as in a scene where one of the two gets stuck up on a rock and the other spends some 10 minutes (all one take) using a "shirt basket" to make a "dirt bed" for the guy to jump down on.

Ah, it's too hard to describe. You'll see.

The film had a fairly lukewarm critical response; it was found to be pretentious and not particularly meaningful.

The public, as expected, hated it.

Personally I found it utterly fascinating.

I was never bored during the long takes because my mind always found some tack to settle on — each shot seems to have an energy to speak for itself.

So can I recommend *Gerry*?

Only to the brave, perhaps. Those expecting a typical Matt Damon film should run for the hills (OK, bad joke).

"Artsy" types will find something curious, a film that is foreign in style but somehow distinctly American.

I'm in between, so maybe that's why I found it a powerful and emotional experience.

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Hockey night in Fulford keeps the tradition alive

By CAREY RUDISILL
Staff Writer

Vehicles lining Fulford Hall's parking lot on Tuesday nights signal a long-standing tradition of indoor hockey.

Normand Desrosiers and Don Sevigny were two of the organizers who brought indoor hockey back to the hall after an undetermined absence.

Fulford Hall has hosted games for over 50 years, said Desrosiers.

"There are trophies in the basement that date back to the '50s," he said.

Desrosiers reignited the tradition five years ago, and has kept it going since.

About 15 to 20 people come out to play each week.

All the current players are men, but women have come in the past.

"Women are always invited," he said. "They bring a nice flavour. The ones who came were good. I was impressed."

As 6:30 p.m. rolled around on December 9, Desrosiers unpacked extra sticks from the storage area in the hall's entrance and pulled out large pieces of wood, which prop open the doors so the air keeps circulating.

The wood also alleviates the problem of pucks getting caught in doorways.

Desrosiers said fresh air was essential, since the game's constant running is so physically demanding.

"It's not like [ice] hockey where you can glide."

Netting acts as an improvised Plexiglas behind one goalie to stop pucks from

flying back into the "bench" area.

Before the game, players streamed into the hall for their pre-game routine. Chris Barclay stretched leg muscles while Sevigny donned goalie gear. Jokes flew back and forth as the players realized they had an audience.

Mik Loverain kibitzed with Roben Doobenen, calling him Bobby Orr.

"We don't call him Bobby Orr just because he doesn't pass the puck," he said.

To divide teams, all the players threw their sticks down at "centre ice." Blake Gold tossed the sticks to two sides and where a player's stick landed determined what team he would play on.

Loverain said he comes out to play on as many Tuesdays as he can since starting three years ago.

Experience levels vary. Two new players even arrived last Tuesday night to check out what was going on.

Goalie Travis Guedes has been playing at Fulford Hall for five years and played ice hockey for a few seasons during high school.

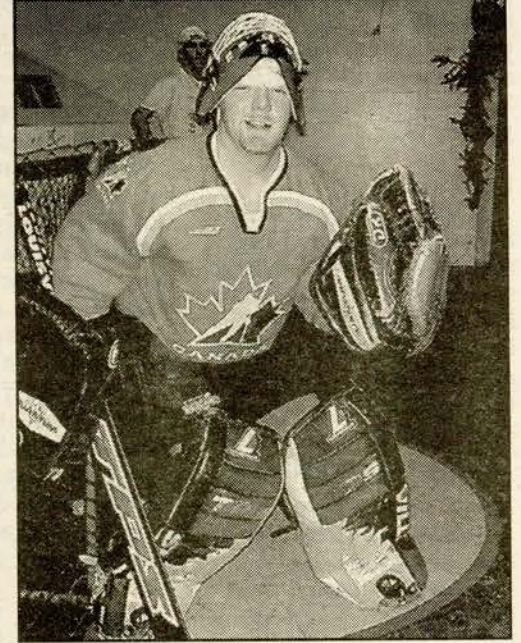
"It was too expensive. Floor hockey had to do for me," he said.

He finds the drop-in group covers a wide range of skill levels.

"We accept whatever skill level you're at but there's some guys who can really shoot the puck," he said.

Desrosiers adds that players rarely get hurt.

Doobenen said group



FIERCE FACE-OFFS: Above left, Normand Desrosiers prepares to drop the puck in front of players Blake Gold (left) and Mik Loverain (right), while at right, goalie Travis Guedes dons extra padding for his role in Tuesday night hockey.

Photos by Carey Rudisill

members also represent a wide range of occupations.

"We have a good cross-section of people here. There's someone from almost every trade on the island — carpenters, retail managers, farm workers, shop owners, artists, sea kayak guides."

Other participants at the December 9 game included Pierre Boies, Daemon Baker, Blake Gold, brothers Shaughn and Yannick Jensen, Peter McFarlane, John McGuire and Chris Seguin.

Hockey starts at 6:30 p.m. and runs in two sessions to 9 p.m. with a five-minute break between games.

Doobenen stressed that

the drop-in event isn't overly competitive.

"We have fun," he said.

The group has some extra gear and sticks stored at the hall but new players should bring their own.

The season ends in late April with the arrival of warm weather.

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Homeless Slugs find few games

The Salt Spring Slugs have struggled to find games since the local hockey team was frozen out of the Fuller Lake Arena this season.

"Since we lost our ice time, games have been few and far between," said Slugs player Derek Topping.

The Slugs were bumped from Fuller Lake rink because the players are not ratepayers in the Chemainus area, Topping said.

"We just all assumed we wouldn't play at all this year."

The islanders did play a game on Wednesday, December 17 but their preceding match was a month earlier, he said.

"Every time we get out there, it feels like our first game of the season."

He estimates that the Slugs lost by 11-2 in a rout against a Saanich team on Wednesday.

"We got our butts kicked."

Topping wasn't in net for the game but he said that the Slugs' rent-a-goalie actually played an impressive game.

"If it wasn't for him, it could have been a lot worse."

The local hockey team also missed two precious games during the ferry strike, leaving a total of only eight matches so far this season.

To the best of Topping's memory, the team has hit a balance with four wins and four losses in their eight contests, but they are not

the same powerhouse team Salt Spring put together last year, he said.

The loss of ice time has definitely had an impact on play and the team has also struggled to keep players, Topping said.

He hopes they can rally in January with more scheduled games.

Two to three games per month were scheduled from January to March and then tournaments in April. The team also has practice time scheduled at Fuller Lake one evening per week.

The team is also trying to join a league next year that will give them more opportunities to play.

"We're trying to get hold of teams who can give us more ice time."



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Soccer association holds fruitful pre-Christmas meeting

By MALCOLM LEGG

SOCCER ROUND-UP

With Christmas upon us and all our coaches/teams/referees resting on the successful raffle, which raised \$7,000 for our association. She added that the horizon in 2004 for the youth soccer program, something our association achieved with the coaches gathered together at the Legion needed to organize it.

A quick review of the evening of December 16. She also wanted to thank the many, many businesses and individuals who contributed to the raffle and made it so successful. Due to the amount of work, our association is looking for volunteers to run the raffle, under Francis' guidance, and in return those volunteer parents can receive a free entry fee to one of the soccer camps our association sponsors in the summer.

If interested, please contact Francis at 653-4501. If you have players that need new socks, Steven Stairs (537-5075) has them at his store, Coco Loco. You can get them from there or Francis Havelaar reported

Adopt-a-highway program

Bob Howe gave details of our club/teams can raise money through looking after sections of road on Salt Spring (by basically collecting garbage from the roadsides). If your team is interested, please contact Bob at 653-4542.

Raffle report

Francis Havelaar reported that the raffle, under Francis' guidance, and in return those volunteer parents can receive a free entry fee to one of the soccer camps our association sponsors in the summer. If interested, please contact Francis at 653-4501.

Socks

If you have players that need new socks, Steven Stairs (537-5075) has them at his store, Coco Loco. You can get them from there or Francis Havelaar reported

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and/or an assistant referee. Please contact me at 537-4970, after 6 p.m. or e-mail to mlegg@saltspringwireless.com.

Field closure

All fields, practice included, are closed to all teams and players from December 15 until January 5, and game fields until January 10 to allow the fields to recover from the fall schedule and the rain. Enquiries about field usage will be directed to Grant Eckberg at 537-1253 until January 11, after which Malcolm will again do the scheduling. Violators on these closures will receive suspensions of their field privileges.

Mini program

Dick Davidson reported that the minis will be in the high school gymnasium for their first two weeks, January 10 and 17. They will also discuss their options for season-ending tournaments and wrap-up. Off-island teams will have photos done in the

Photos

Off-island teams will have photos done in the

spring, which will be coordinated by Dick Davidson. He will contact the teams about dates and times. But most importantly they had learned as coaches, how they had developed, and particularly how much fun they were having with their respective age groups. Through what they were saying one could see the thrill they were getting teaching youths soccer unfold during games, which is what it is all about and what our association is trying to achieve — youths having fun and learning while playing the game of soccer. So to one and all, our association wishes every- one on Salt Spring a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to providing Salt Springers the best in soccer in the New Year.

Scorpions seek tougher action

The Scorpions junior girls basketball team at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) could use a league stiffer competition as a Christmas present for the new year. "There's no competition in the junior level, which is unfortunate for us who are building a junior program," said GISS physical education teacher Lyall Ruehlen. "We're stuck in a league with small teams from schools in the Duncan area. We win the Mid-Islands and go on to tough competition in the Islands." Salt Spring beat Mt. Prevost 70-6 during their last match at home on December 16. Molly Hosie led baskets with 15 points but baskets were spread thoroughly around the team. Coached by Jack Barclay, Jeff Savin and Karen Hosie, GISS held Mt. Prevost to one basket through the first half (27-2) and the visitors only picked up two foul shots and a basket in the second half, against the Scorpions' onslaught of 43 points. "They were running their offense but you don't learn anything when people don't play proper defence," Salt Spring's senior boys coach Ryan O'Donnell noted. One of the reasons for the boys team are all Grade 10 students, he noted. O'Donnell picked up nine points and Bryan Hunsberger led scoring with 15 points, including three baskets off three-point shots. The GISS senior boys will train over the Christmas break for a tourney in Qualicum on the first weekend after school resumes in January. "The GISS junior boys took a tough 60-36 loss to the Cowichan Thunderbirds during a home match Thursday. "Cowichan is a strong team. They're the only Scorpions' onslaught at the strong competition at the junior level," said Ruehlen. "They were running their offense but you don't learn anything when people don't play proper defence." Salt Spring's senior boys also continued their unbeaten streak with a 67-42 win over the visiting Frances Kelsey Secondary School Whales on December 16. "They came out of the blocks on fire. It was the best I've seen them play," said coach Ruehlen. The Scorpions have now won the first three games of the season in consecutive play, he said. He was impressed that the senior boys were able to muster a game, given the recent tragedy of losing Clark Little, who died on December 9. "They were still dealing with the tragedy. We only had one practice in a week and they still made them."

But Ruehlen is confident the Scorpions will create a powerful squad, once they have had some time together as a team. "There's some great talent on that team. Once they get rolling, they will get going on the scoreboard." Jordan Borth led scoring for GISS with 12 points. "They broke the press well and ran the offence that coach [John] Callas asked them to run." The junior boys are off to a tourney in early January, he said. "Senior girls results were not available at press time."

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Biggest Gain: 54. Villadsen Jeanne - 48

56. Lynch Trudy	139	240	379	28
57. Buckley Jim	139	240	379	21
58. Benni Mike	151	225	377	32
59. Tambolle Tina	160	214	375	36
60. Calberry R.	160	214	375	29
61. Lynch Seve	148	226	374	28
62. Spencer Peter	165	208	373	27
63. Miller Peter	159	212	371	29
64. Howe Scott	133	236	369	31
65. Althosose Sean	142	231	369	27
66. Reinhold Kim	142	226	368	29
67. Doerksen Hank	131	235	366	27
68. Tammei Max	160	205	365	40
69. Newman Keith	155	210	365	33
70. Rompan Kerry	152	212	364	23
71. Radford Brian	140	223	363	35
72. Misarichuk Tamara	168	194	362	33
73. Althosose Paul	153	209	362	21
74. Funk Rainer	154	208	362	21
75. Shantz Lorne	151	211	362	28
76. Mulian Erin	144	216	360	32
77. Mulian Paul	142	214	356	31
78. Forsyth Deb	147	209	356	20
79. Shantz Colleen	144	211	355	26
80. Mackinnon Bady	139	214	353	28
81. Anderson Caroline	137	216	353	27
82. Nolan Elizabeth	129	224	353	24
83. Tambolle Grant	146	205	351	28
84. Gillin Jeffrey	132	219	351	26
85. Reynolds Paul	142	203	345	32
86. Thomas Andrew	135	209	344	22
87. Cunningham Jean	140	203	343	29
88. Macdonald Bob	154	189	343	23
89. Charabois Jason	142	199	341	32
90. Rompan Sheldon	132	209	341	17
91. Leask Lance	152	187	339	29
92. Hitchcock Bill	138	200	338	29
93. Shaske Lucy	141	193	334	30
94. Aechtle Jeff	123	205	328	26
95. Courtney John	151	177	328	35
96. Cameron Lorna	133	192	325	21
97. Baker Brent	135	189	324	28
98. McEwan Lind-E	137	187	324	25
99. Sloan Randall	129	194	323	27
100. Forsyth Norm	126	193	319	24
101. Broadbent Fred	129	190	319	22
102. Christensen Nils	123	188	311	27
103. Snelinger Hannah	114	194	308	26
104. Tait Mary	120	185	305	27
105. Cottell Tracy	125	174	299	21
106. Marbeau Gerry	127	165	292	20
107. Marbeau Deanna	104	186	290	24

DRIFTERS
Restaurant & Lounge
121 Upper Ganges Rd. 537-4700
Watch all "Blackout" and Regular Vancouver Canucks
Next game Vancouver vs Chicago
December 31st - 5:30pm

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6	ASS TP DF	167	232	399	42
7	1. Byron Nicola	169	263	432	35
8	2. Mussell Corieley	173	253	431	43
9	3. McMahon Don	178	254	427	30
10	4. Sanderson Robert	165	262	427	33
11	5. Devereux Mark	150	275	426	47
12	6. Lynch Kevin	160	264	424	35
13	7. Geidie Jim	169	252	421	40
14	8. Smith Donald	171	248	419	42
15	9. Mara Kathy	163	255	418	32
16	10. Johnson Cam	185	232	417	34
17	11. Hardy Connie	167	249	416	24
18	12. Huser Angela	174	242	415	26
19	13. Steble Povere	141	242	413	38
20	14. Eves Tobin	158	253	411	37
21	15. Tambolle W	169	242	411	42
22	16. Tamboine Phillip	164	247	411	40
23	17. Morrison Joelle	168	242	410	36
24	18. Jason Chris	164	246	410	32
25	19. Macellan Gary	172	237	409	45
26	20. Eyles Evan	171	237	408	26
27	21. Laycock Robert	161	243	404	38
28	22. Hardy Mike	157	247	404	31
29	23. Anderson Dennis	159	245	404	34
30	24. Hoban Hyamw	156	247	403	39
31	25. Lam Huu	166	237	403	31
32	26. Althosose Jack	177	225	402	35
33	27. Jarvis Gordon	165	235	400	34
34	28. Hardie Madeline	167	232	399	42
35	29. Cummings Paul	146	253	399	32
36	30. McBride Richard	154	244	398	36
37	31. Gosnell Main	154	243	397	40
38	32. Newton Norma	161	236	397	33
39	33. Mussell Byron	159	237	396	43
40	34. Warrir Amanda	173	223	396	39
41	35. Radden Charlene	165	230	395	29
42	36. Burns Marie	153	241	394	37
43	37. Campbell Paedra	166	227	393	35
44	38. Langdon Jack	160	233	393	28
45	39. Morris Liam	168	225	393	45
46	40. Burns Lorne	146	247	393	27
47	41. Buckley Arnold	160	232	392	32
48	42. Byron Fegan	166	224	390	40
49	43. Strohmier Monica	157	232	389	28
50	44. Balerman John	158	229	387	19
51	45. Shaske Ed	160	229	389	34
52	46. Dunbar Bruce	153	234	387	24
53	47. Tammei Wolfgang	139	248	387	19
54	48. Smith Shirley	151	219	386	37
55	49. Misarichuk Terry	166	219	385	35
56	50. Guedes Doug	155	230	385	41
57	51. Ivin-Campbell Ar	165	220	385	42
58	52. Gillham Jerome	144	238	382	28
59	53. Mussell Patricia	158	222	380	39
60	54. Villadsen Jeanne	152	228	380	48
61	55. Hitchcock Dorothy	135	244	379	29

DEADLINE MONDAY 5 PM

Too Late To Classify Deadline: Noon Tuesday

Driftwood Classifieds

5 BIRTHS



Ray and Michelle Muir wish to announce the long-anticipated arrival of their son,

CHARLIE HUNTER, who weighed in at 8lbs., 3.5 ozs., at 2:18 am, Dec. 15. On hand for the big event were proud grandparents George and Glynnis Muir of Blackpool, England, and Paul and Loretta Minvielle of Saltspring. Heartfelt thanks to midwives Maggie and Michelle, Nurse Lindy and friend Lori for their terrific support.

6 DEATHS

BOTHAM: ARTHUR Douglas born April 27, 1921 died December 17, 2003 at Lady Minto Hospital on Saltspring Island, BC after a lengthy illness borne with dignity. Survived by his wife of 60 years, Eileen, daughters Nancy Burroughs, Holly (Peter) Horwood, Mary (Bob) Howard, grandchildren David, John, Lindsay, Christopher, Rebecca, Sarah, Megan, his sister Marion (Bill) Dunn and brother Harry (Shirley) Botham. Arthur was born in North Vancouver where he attended school, was a graduate of UBC, and a pilot with the RCAF during the war years. All his working years were in the lumber industry where he was involved mainly in the lumber export market. An active volunteer, Arthur was chairman of the Maple Ridge School Board, served on the Maple Ridge Hospital Board, the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board and alter on the Mary Hawkins Memorial Library. While on the Maple Ridge Golf Club executive he was instrumental in the planning and building of the Pitt Meadows Golf & Country Club. While Arthur thoroughly enjoyed his working years, his retirement to this very special island gave him so much pleasure. Along with his community commitments he had the time for tennis, golf, piano lessons, sailing, the Saltspring Singers, fishing from his little boat "The Tea Cup", and contemplative walks with his canine pal, Cleo. Whatever his pursuit, Arthur was always a gentleman in the real sense of the word. A memorial service will be held at the Anglican Church "All Saints by-the-Sea" on January 3, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. Flowers gratefully declined. If desired, donations may be made to Lady Minto Hospital, or the Parkinson's or Cancer Societies.

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

6 DEATHS



NAPPER, JAMES GEORGE (JIM)

Born September 03, 1919, in Hamilton Ontario. Jim passed away peacefully in Eagle Park Health Facility, Qualicum Beach, BC on December 15, 2003.

He leaves his loving wife Evelyn, of Parksville BC, son David (Esther) of Kelowna BC, daughters Sylvia (Frank) of Parksville BC, Lynda (Frans) of Qualicum Beach BC, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He also leaves his sister Gladys, and brother Donald, (Nellie), both of Hamilton Ontario, and nieces and nephews.

Jim worked for the Hamilton Street Railway of Hamilton Ontario and the Steel Company of Canada in his early years before moving to Victoria, BC in 1953, where he worked at Island Tug & Barge and started with the BC Ferries in 1962. Jim and Evelyn moved to Salt Spring Island in 1966, where he worked as a Chief Engineer for the BC Ferries until he retired in Parksville/Qualicum Beach in 1984. His hobbies were few, but included fishing, boating and fixing cars.

Jim was a member of the Gizeh Shrine Clubs, Admirals Lodge AF & AM, and the SIPS and Ballenas Canadian Power and Sail Squadron.

The family would like to express their thanks to the kind and thoughtful staff of the Eagle Park Health Facility and Drs. M & J Atherstone, and J Wagenaar, for their loving care during Jim's stay.

He will be sadly missed by those who knew him. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Shriners Hospital for Burned and Crippled Children or the Heart and Stroke Foundation. No Memorial Service by his request.

8 CARD OF THANKS

THE FAMILY of Ruth Barker would like to thank Doctors Benloulou, Slakov and Preshaw, the Home Care Nursing Staff, Gerry and the Bessie Dane volunteers, the Ladies of St. Mark's Church Guild and our friends in All Saints by-the-Sea Church and choir. Also our deep appreciation and thanks go to Noreen Davies, Hilda Lucas, John Pickering, Andrew McKeachie and Matt Byron, Right Reverend Barry Valentine and Reverend Canon Kim Murray, Adel Storm, Lainey and Mick McLellan, Margaret Haines and our other Friends in the community.

FICKLE FINGERS Gift Fund would like to thank the following for their support during the year, enabling us to help others in need: Pharmasave, Fields Stores, Foxglove, Mark's Work Warehouse, Radio Shack, Windsor Plywood, Ganges Garment Co., G.V.M., Buckerfields Duncan, Slegg Lumber, Manderlay Gardens, Centre Stage Tsawwassen, 19th Hole Restaurant, Island Savings Credit Union, Richard Murakami. Thank You.

8 CARDS OF THANKS

THE FAMILY of the late George Bryer are so thankful to the loving community of Saltspring, which Dad so loved for over 30 years. Our sincere thanks to Lorcan and his dedicated team of Home Support Workers, the Acute Care Nursing staff of Lady Minto for the excellent care Dad received. Our family is forever grateful for the compassionate team of Dr. Benloulou and Dr. Crossland, for granting Dad's wish to spend his final journey in the peace of his much loved home. To Dad's dear friends of Admiral Lodge, Salt Spring United, The Lost Chords Choir and his wonderful neighbors of Wildwood Cres. we shall always remember and cherish your support and love you had for our Dad/Grandpa. With much love & thanks: Dave Bryer, Wayne & Cathy Kaye, Jeremy (Janet) Kaye & Nicola Kaye.

Patrick, Brenda and the Akerman Family, would like to "Sincerely Thank" all our family, friends and acquaintances for their support, thoughts and prayers after the unfortunate accident in the Fulford Valley two weeks ago.

All your support has been incredible, much needed and very appreciated. This verse from a Rick Tippe song, is dedicated to all of you.

"Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery,
Today is a gift,
That's why its called the present.
As long as you can keep the faith,
Hope and love will lead the way,
To a new beginning
for now heaven can wait.
Keepin' the Faith."

Patrick, Brenda and the Akerman Family.

9 SEASONAL GREETINGS

MERRY CHRISTMAS from Ken & Opal. Ken Ackerman Piano Service. 250-382-4527 cel 217-0207.

BIGFOOT HERB FARM gives a big thank you to all our customers for your patronage. We wish everyone the greatest holiday season. 104 Eagle Ridge Dr. SSI, 537-4466.

MAY THIS coming year and your Holiday Season be overflowing with love, laughter, joy and more love! Christian Paul-Tatonetti.

10 CELEBRATIONS

IF FIFTY IS Nifty then Jan. 3 is your day! Happy Birthday Al (Smokey) Friesen. Love from your family.

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.

COMING IN January, 2004 - Ongoing Actors Scene Study class, all levels welcome, with Ron Max. Limited seating. Theatre writers and directors welcome. 537-9738.

GANGES YOGA Studio Nia, Pilates Style, Kids yoga, prenatal and regular yoga classes -- New Schedule Jan 5, 2004.

20 COMING EVENTS

TEEN YOGA! New class at Ganges Yoga Studio! Mondays 4 - 5 pm. January 12 - February 23. \$63 pre-reg. 537-2444.

GANGES YOGA Studio Beginners Special! 8 week session, Wed 5 - 6 pm or 6:30 - 7:45 pm. \$75 pre-reg. Jan 7 - Feb 25. 537-2444. Drop-ins welcome \$10 (if space allows).

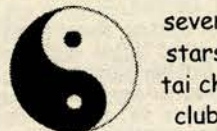
THAI MASSAGE Classes. Register now for upcoming classes. Taught by registered massage therapist with training from 2 schools in Thailand as well as by Thai master. Kristie Straarup, R.M. 537-1219.



seven stars tai chi club

QIGONG

A 12 week course for HEALTH AND MEDITATION. BEGINS JANUARY 8th. 5:15pm to 6:15pm
PHONE OSMAN 537-5667



seven stars tai chi club

EMPTY STEPS

A 12 week introduction to Tai Chi CH'UAN BEGINS JANUARY 5th FOR INFORMATION
PHONE OSMAN 537-5667



CHRISTMAS HOURS

CHRISTMAS EVE DEC 24TH
CLOSED 4PM
CHRISTMAS DAY DEC 25TH
CLOSED
BOXING DAY DEC 26TH
CLOSED
NEW YEAR'S EVE DEC 31ST
11AM-3AM
NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH
11AM-3PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY
11AM-12AM



Season's Greetings and Peace to All



HOLIDAY YOGA SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2003
MONDAY 22 9:00-10:30am
4:00-5:00pm
TUESDAY 23 9:00-10:30am
5:30-6:30pm
WEDNESDAY 24 9:00-10:30am
MONDAY 29 9:00-10:30am
4:00-5:00pm
TUESDAY 30 9:00-10:30am

Classes suitable for all levels. Focus is on centering and relaxing. Pilates Style, Nia, and Meditation resume January 5, 2004.
NEW SCHEDULE IN EFFECT JANUARY 5, 2004
Celeste Mallett, Director
537-2444 • Upper Level, Grace Point Square

20 COMING EVENTS

The WARDROBE
Quality New & Used Clothing
ALL USED ITEMS
1/2 PRICE
ALL NEW ITEMS
20% OFF
Clothing Accessories, Tie-Dye Silver & Beaded Jewelry
SALE ENDS JAN. 15
Open Daily 10-5
Fri, Sat, Sun 10-5:30
107 Morningside, Palford

Christmas

with The Community Gospel Chapel
147 Vesuvius Bay Road
537-2622

We extend an invitation for you to join us at these Christmas activities:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wed Dec 24, 7:00 pm at the Community Gospel Chapel
All are Welcome!

Salt Spring Concert Band SOLO Competition 2004

An opportunity to perform as a soloist at Artspring with the SSCB on April 30 & May 1! Winner receives \$100 Honorarium and a certificate. Info and application forms will be available by Dec. 22 at Acoustic Planet Music or online at: <http://www.saltspringconcertband.org/solo>
Registration deadline: Feb. 15 2004



Audition date: Feb. 29, 2004
All students of music, resident on S.S.I. are welcome (except previous competition winners) whether studying privately, attending a music class at school, or a member of an amateur music ensemble such as the Concert Band or an island choir.
All instruments including voice and piano are eligible!

20 COMING EVENTS

SSI United Church (111 Herford Ave) invites you to their

Christmas Events
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols 7:00PM

THURSDAY, DEC. 25
Christmas Day Service 10:00AM
Community Turkey Dinner at Meaden Hall 11:30AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 28
Worship Service with Rev. Allen Tysick 10:00AM
Phone 537-5812 for more info

25 EDUCATION

APARTMENT/CONDOMINIUM MANAGER. Train to be an apartment/condominium manager. Many jobs! Job placement assistance. All areas. Government registered program. Information/brochure: 604-681-5456 1-800-665-8339. www.RMT1.ca

26 LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

RE: THE ESTATE OF RICHARD JOHN JOSEPH DURANTE, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that creditors and others having claims against the Estate of RICHARD JOHN JOSEPH DURANTE, deceased, late of Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, are hereby required to send them duly verified to the undersigned executor at #1 - 105 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, B. C., V8K 2V5, on or before January 28, 2004, after which date the assets of the said estate will be distributed, having regard only to claims that have been received.

Ian H. Clement, Executor
#1 - 105 Rainbow Road,
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V5
250-537-5505

29 LOST AND FOUND

FOUND BLACK lop rabbit, domesticated, friendly, Park Drive area. 537-1764.

MISSING BLACK Norco All terrain unicycle with 20" wheel. A "Khris Holm" Signature edition. A birthday gift to my son. Reward offered for any information. 538-1720.

FOUND DOWNTOWN. Small gold ring. Claim by calling After Jan. 1 with description. 537-1037.

REWARD FOR lost rectangle earrings, gold color, imitation diamonds, in tiny box. Lost Upper Ganges Rd. or near GVM. Please return to 133 Blain Rd., or call 537-5561.

FOUND: SPECIAL ring left at Mahon Hall several weeks ago. To claim, leave message with description at 537-0899.

LOST: CANOE - missing from Booth Bay point. Grummond aluminum, 12'. Not new but sentimental value. 538-0108. Make our Christmas Merry!

LOST: GREEN electric guitar, Aria with black case. Reward \$50. 653-9148.

34 NOTICES

IF YOUR Driftwood subscription label has the date highlighted, now is the time to renew!

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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

REGIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

BUY VANCOUVER ISLAND \$89

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 \$89

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

BUY BC INTERIOR \$89

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

BCYCNA NETWORK CLASSIFIEDS \$309

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.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE: MONDAY 5PM

815 BOATS & MARINE SERVICE

ISLAND MARINE CONSTRUCTION

Ross Walker \$37-9710

FOR SALE: 1985 Chevy

825 CARS, SALES

FOR SALE: 1985 Chevy

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825 CARS, SALES

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We need consignments

1988 GMC JIMMY S10

1988 GMC JIMMY S10

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1987 FORD F250 DIESEL

1995 GMC JIMMY 4x4

1999 LEXUS RX 300

1998 FORD WINDSTAR van

855 TRUCKS/4X4S

1998 FORD F250 DIESEL

1995 GMC JIMMY 4x4

1999 LEXUS RX 300

1998 FORD WINDSTAR van

855 TRUCKS

PREMIUM USED TRUCKS

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900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

BEAUTIFUL FLOORS! made

1998 FORD WINDSTAR van

1997 FORD F250 DIESEL

1998 FORD WINDSTAR van

1997 FORD F250 DIESEL

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1998 FORD WINDSTAR van

1997 FORD F250 DIESEL

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE



FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2003

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sep 23)

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 21)

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 20)

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 21)

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sep 23)

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 21)

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 20)

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 21)

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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PAGE 33
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School board wanted road work for bus service

40 years ago

The Gulf Islands School District asked the Department of Highways for a special appropriation for reconstruction of the road to North Galiano for bus service. Galiano was the only island other than Salt Spring that had bus service at the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Wakelin prepared for their 50th wedding anniversary set for December 29.

35 years ago

The Shell service station was moved from its original 1931 location to the back of the lot by Heaney's of Victoria.

Over 100 authors gathered at a large banquet held at the Ingraham Hotel in Victoria. It included several Salt Spring residents such as Mr. and Mrs. Eric Roberts of the Salt Spring Saga.

30 years ago

The B.C. government ran an ad about its new Pharmacare program which would commence on January 1, 1974.

Mayne Islanders Peggy and Gordon McKenzie, who left the island for Nigeria in the fall, wrote back about their work with the Canadian Executive Service Overseas. The McKenzies planned to stay in Nigeria for two years.

25 years ago

Salt Spring Island Community Centre sponsored another successful Christmas Craft Faire.

Islands Trust met in Victoria for elections. Newly elected members included John Rich, Gordon Wallace and John Gaines as general trustees.

20 years ago

Some issues keep coming back, evident in the ongoing discussion over pool facilities. The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission voted a resounding no to funding an outdoor swimming pool in Mouat Park. A potential bill between \$650,000 and \$800,000 for the facility was the main reason for the rejection.

The Gulf Islands School District searched its budget for the funds to computerize its operations. The decision



to turn the district electronic board more than \$35,000, plus another \$5,000 for annual maintenance.

15 years ago

The Islands Trust started down a path that it hoped would end in all Salt Spring Crown land being under Islands Trust control. A majority of local residents were in favour of the plan to acquire about 1,900 acres from the government.

10 years ago

The local gift-buying season rolled into gear again, keeping island craftspeople busy. Several fairs raised money for causes such as the Friends of

Clayoquot Sound and local musical societies.

Country music on Salt Spring got an additional pat on the back when line dancers from the island returned from a national competition in Victoria with half a dozen medals.

5 years ago

B.C. Ferries placed a strike possibility on hold to undertake labour negotiations.

Singers and musicians shone at the Indian Summerstock Christmas Jamboree. The event was sponsored by the Salt Spring-based TSUNAMI — The Society for Unsung New Art and Music Innovators.

JAMMIN': Do you know the people in this photograph? The Salt Spring Archives has received some photos taken on Salt Spring by Shirley Green in the 1950s and would like to identify the people in them. Call the Driftwood (537-9933) or Sue Mouat (537-9445) if you have any information to share.

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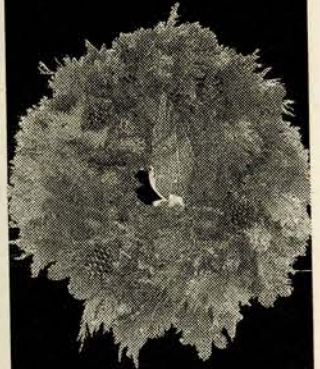
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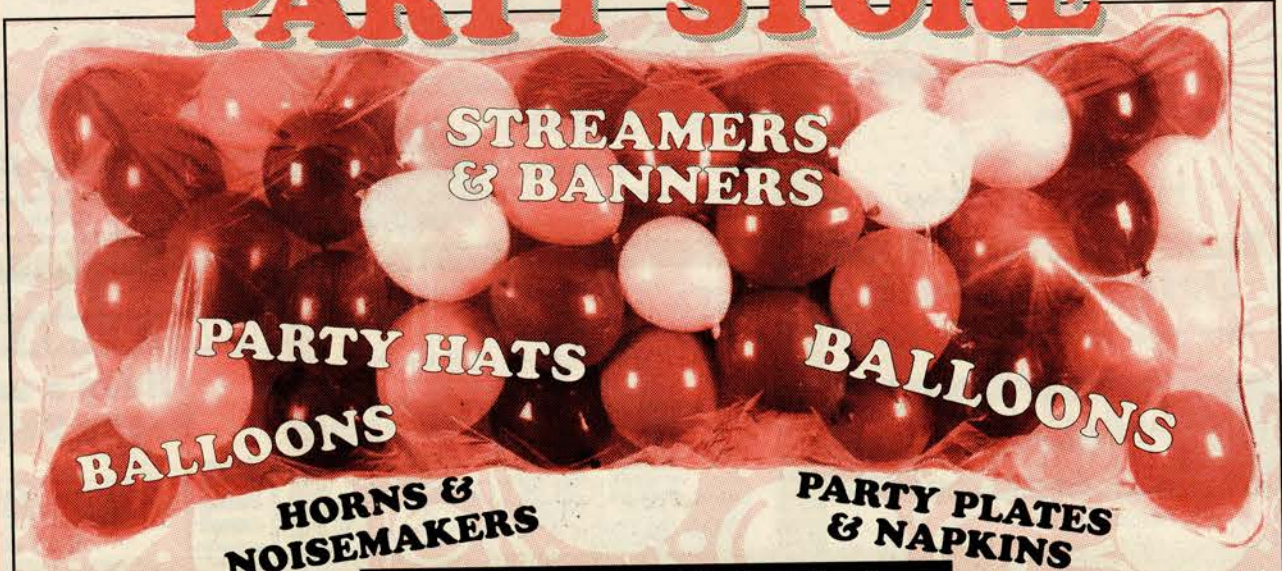
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