

ON STAGE: Gail Bryn-Jones and Martin Thorn dance at Christmas With Scrooge's Fezziwig ball, playing the part of guests Nathaniel and Georgina Brathwaites.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



At right, Lilith Bentley is the spotty dog trainer, while above, Eric Booth as Scrooge confronts his past.

Scrooge on Scrooge

By SUSAN LUNDY
Staff Writer

Bah. Humbug. A Salt Spring Christmas tradition. Bah. Forced out of the house, into the cold car and all the way to ArtSpring. In the rain.

Singing, I suppose, and theatrics. Sparkly costumes waltzing around the stage. Cherub children. Floor-to-ceiling Christmas tree all glittery with oh-so-happy-looking gifts underneath it. And ArtSpring dressed tinkle and twinkle for the season. Bah.

Marv up in the light room and Richard on the door. Then Eric with his whiskers and Patrick with his scarf. Spotty dogs moping about the stage. And applause and singing and happy kids in the aisles.

Not to mention the expense!

So here I am, centre audience waiting, waiting, waiting for the first bit of Christmas cheer to wash over all these happy Christmas With Scrooge-goers. Sure enough, someone behind me is humming a Christmas ditty. And the kids are all rosy-cheeked and sparkly-eyed.

Now the lights dim and here comes co-director Virginia to introduce the New-

man Family Production of Scrooge, which "has been an island musical Christmas tradition since 1971."

Bah. Well. It's hard not to like Virginia.

Now fellow co-director Sue Newman is singing and dancing as the Christmas Fairy with glitter on the heels of her shoes, and an emerald dress to die for. (I want that dress but it can't be worth the price.)

The prologue children sing and flit about the stage and soon all of ArtSpring is filled with Dickens characters, clowning and violining and puppeteering.

Two actors get completely messed up and discover they're in the wrong Dickens play — that makes me laugh! — and finally we get to the heart of the matter as Patrick Cassidy's Bob Cratchit arrives at the office and moans to a shedding dog about the need for some time off work at Christmas.

(Well, we'd all like that wouldn't we . . . but reviews still have to be written.)

Samuel Bentley gives a season-appropriate growl as the office dog and I'm pleased enough to feel like tossing him a bone. (A very small bone, mind you.)

Finally, Eric Booth's

Ebenezer Scrooge tells it like it is, bah humbugging about the stage, shutting down Christmas carollers, and keeping a tight hold on his purse. (Bet he didn't have to pay for the show.)

Soon he's heading home and tucking himself into bed. I catch myself smiling as Vaughn Fulford wails and moans in good Christmas form, playing the part of Marley's Ghost. (I can relate to the chains on his ankles — that's how I feel walking through a mall in December.)

Now here's something different: Shilo Zylbergold also seems to be in the wrong play as the Ghost of Hanukkah Past. The Newmans are really messed up this year.

But! Here's Sarah Penhale, back on track as the Ghost of Christmas Past. She's quite charming, I think reluctantly: good stage presence, nice singing (cool dress). Bah. Humbug. I'm getting soft.

Oh dear. Here's comes Arlo Bryn-Thorn as Boy Scrooge; he's singing a crystal-precise rendition of Silent Night and he sounds like an angel. I know Arlo; he's not an angel. Still, I get tears in my eyes on that high note and I swear my Christmas heart grows two sizes. (Oops, now I'm in the wrong show.)

SCROOGE B2

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MUSIC: Salt Spring Elementary School students sing and play the recorder as one of the acts at Island Savings Credit Union last week. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Comfort quilt support urged

Salt Spring's Darin Craig knows how it feels to live with a life-threatening illness. He's also learned that an unexpected gift and act of kindness can turn around a lousy day.

Craig, who has an inoperable brain tumour diagnosed a few years ago, said he always tries to maintain a positive attitude, but once in a while he lets it lapse.

"This [quilt] just happened to come in the mail on one of the rare occasions when I was feeling pretty down," he said, pulling a handmade cotton quilt from a plastic bag.

"I actually had tears in my eyes and my whole day changed. It was a fantastic feeling to know there are people out there who actually give a damn about what's going on beyond their own houses."

Craig's quilt came from an off-island organization,

whose members he did not know, before a similar Salt Spring group was formed.

Island Comfort Quilts (ICQ) is now ready to make quilts for islanders with a life-threatening illness or serious injury, and is gathering donated fabric and funds to purchase materials needed for a giant quilting bee set for March 12, 2005.

ICQ members have been pleased with islanders' support to date.

"The response has been wonderful," said Carol Simpson.

The group has box #120 in the GVM save-a-tape program, and the Thrifty community chest number is #108.

Curves has stepped up to act as another fabric collection depot, and Cottage Quilting has agreed to discount fabric purchased for ICQ to \$10 per metre. (It

can be ordered by phone at 538-1996 or through www.cottagequiltingonline.com.)

Stitches Quilt Shop, an original sponsor, will give 50 per cent off fabric purchased and left at the store for ICQ.

People also have the option of making a donation in someone else's name, with a card provided to acknowledge the gift — ideal for the Christmas season or birthdays.

Any colour of embroidery thread or small yarns is also needed, along with cash to buy basic quilting materials.

For more information on how to help, call Simpson at 653-2000 or Marguerite Lee at 537-5302.

"I think they need some support and we should try to give it to them," said Craig. "They're doing a wonderful thing. The people involved really have their heart in it."

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SCROOGE: Trying hard to stay cranky

From Page B1

Old Ebenezer is having similar heart problems and the two of us are going to have to stuff our tickers into a vice to get through the Fezziwig ball without a beat of Christmas cheer.

(Speaking of cheer, I could do with a little of whatever Pat O'Neill's Mrs. Thigsberry is serving up. Maybe a little shortbread on the side?)

Oh man! More rich, satiny dresses to die for as the Fezziwig daughters (Halley Fulford-Gilson, Thea Stone

and Lulu Fulford-Gilson) sing and dance and bicker (I like the bickering) in front of their Fezziwig parents (Murray Shoolbraid and Patsy Siemens).

Now Martin Thorn and Gail Bryn-Jones are kicking up their heels; Vaughn is back, trilling with Patrice Bowler (yes, yes, she sings beautifully); and Keith MacHattie is playing the violin.

Suddenly, the doors to ArtSpring fling open, and just

about everyone I know files on stage to join the party; I remind myself that Christmas parties are very costly and not THAT much fun.

Marv has come down from the lighting booth and, although the lights don't have the same magic without him, he's creating lots of mystery on stage; Roger Gilbert is blowing on bagpipes, Sue Newman is hitting some spectacular notes, and spotty dogs are leaping through a hoop.

Thankfully, the party is over — and although I find myself enjoying Joanne O'Connor's Belle Merriweather — I know intermission is just around the corner and I'll have to open my purse once again to feed the kids and, perhaps, have a small Nanaimo bar myself.

Bah! Only chocolate crumbs left, and Christmas is settling on my hips. Sure enough, all the audience is happy, happy at intermission, sugar plums dancing in their starry eyes.

Time for Act Two. Rusty Marshall is the Ghost of Christmas Present and I'm liking his cloak. It looks warm and, all right, yes, he's good in the part.

Now here comes the Cratchit family. Old Ebenezer and I are going to have to work hard at staying cranky.

Oh no! Arlo's back as a Cratchit child and James Twaites is really cute as Tiny Tim.

Look at Lilith Bentley's smile — it could melt a Scrooge heart — and Halley's got great stage presence. Quadra Boyle and Zoe Bentley have joined in the singing with mom, Jane Goodall, and Patrick simply glows as Bob.

Bah! Ah! I'm enjoying it. Ebenezer has had a change of heart as well. He's leaping around the stage and spending money like Barbara Amiel (oops, wrong show, again). Now he's going to surprise Cratchit with his newfound Christmas spirit, and I'm thinking maybe I can afford a new Christmas dress after all.

The musical finale washes through ArtSpring like a wave of Christmas cheer.

I leave ArtSpring — kind of enjoying the rain and admiring all the Christmassy lights on the way home. I fall into bed, sugar plums and satiny dresses dancing in my head.

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Speakers group moves

Salt Spring Toastmasters Club has outgrown its current location and will start out the New Year in a new home.

From January 10, Toastmasters will meet at Art-Spring in the Bateman Gallery.

With a Victoria spring conference and the international speech contest coming up, club members will make full use of their new facility with interesting and challenging programming.

Guests are always welcome at Toastmasters as of January 10, 7 p.m., at Art-Spring.



BARLEY SOUND: Salt Spring's Barley Brothers take the stage at Moby's Pub as the annual Christmas Music Faire gets underway with lots of local acts and non-stop entertainment Saturday night.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



FOOD FIGHTERS: Volunteers from the South Galiano Fire Department sing carols aboard the Queen of Nanaimo to raise money for the food bank. Seen here (from left to right) are Ron Taylor, Greg Gammon, Gerald Stel and Michael Sharp.

Photo contributed

Galiano fire singers bank cash for food

Singing firefighters from South Galiano crooned Christmas carols to ferry passengers as a fundraiser for a Galiano food bank.

"It was a huge success and a special thanks has to go to the Queen of Nanaimo crew and B.C. Ferries," said South Galiano fire chief Bill Jones.

The South Galiano Fire Choir raised \$558 dollars and two boxes of food for the St. Margaret's Church food bank by singing on the Friday evening ferry to and from Tsawwassen, Jones said.

"Even on our small populated island it takes \$15,000 and a lot of volunteer hours to help families through the year."

B.C. Ferries made a special stop to pick up the 11 firefighters wearing their bunker gear.

LET'S EAT WITH LINDA KOROSCIL



"Christmas morning wife saver" has been a tasty but boring traditional breakfast — here's a new twist on flavours! And it saves tons of time after the gifts have been opened.

Ham and Sausage Strata

2 baguettes, diced
2 tbsp. butter
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 onion, diced
2 celery ribs, diced
1/2 green or red pepper, diced
1 jalapeno, seeded and minced
4 sweet Italian sausages, casings removed
1 lb. smoky ham, diced
1 chorizo sausage, diced
1/2 lb. gruyere, diced
1 tbsp. thyme, fresh

1 tbsp. kosher salt
Pepper to taste
2 eggs
4 c. chicken stock
1 1/2 c. cream
1/2 c. parmesan

Bake bread at 375 degrees 10 minutes, until crisp. Melt butter and olive oil. Add vegetables, cook until soft. Add Italian sausage, cook 8 minutes. Then add ham, chorizo, spices. Transfer to a bowl and cool. Add cheeses and bread to meat mixture. Whisk eggs, stock, and cream and mix together with meat. Pour into buttered 4-qt. glass casserole, cover and chill overnight. Bake at 350 degrees, covered 30 min. Remove cover and bake another 45 min. until golden and crusty.



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Reach album bears folk fiddle fruit

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff WriterLocal fiddler Jaime Rokeby-Thomas has nurtured numerous music students and performed with a kettle full of bands, but it's taken until now to stretch her limbs to produce her first solo CD, titled *Reach*.

"A tree has roots and the roots of this album are without a doubt in traditional folk. And as it grows, it branches out and bears its own fruit," Rokeby-Thomas said.

"The weather, the West Coast and the people I've grown up with and those different influences have caused me to grow into the tree I am today."

Drawing on a background playing with Kettle of Fish, Song of the Isles and The Billy Goats Gruff, her own music is intensely personal and aims to weave the listener into the fabric of her life, she said.

"It feels good when music that means something to me can connect with other people."

And the title of her album is inspired by that intimate connective aspect of communication, she said.

"This is me reaching out. I'm offering something, I'm extending myself to people in a really personal way."

One piece on her album, titled *Twenty Seven*, was written on her 27th birthday and represents the moment of maturation like a musical journal entry.**"It feels good when music that means something to me can connect with other people." — Jaime Rokeby-Thomas**

"Somebody told me, 'When you're 27 you're truly an adult.' And I thought, 'Oh my God. Here it is.' I felt like I was looking behind and mourning my childhood and looking forward too and grasping this idea of being an adult."

Another track, titled *Leaving*, recounts a profound sense of loss from when a friend moved away after six months of living together on a sailboat.

"When she left, the emptiness was just there. I was so sad, I felt like I had to do something with this sadness and so I went and wrote this piece. Every time I play it, it brings me right back to that moment."

But the bulk of Rokeby-Thomas' music is hardly broody. Her fingers dance around jigs like nobody's business.

"I like all different genres of fiddle music. People often call me a Celtic fiddler — I'll live with that title, but it's never one I'd give myself."

Instead, she calls herself a West Coast fiddler to distinguish herself from counterparts in the east who have been straitjacketed by the Scottish tradition to the exclusion of other influences.

"On the West Coast it's much more of an open-minded approach to accepting

many different styles."

So while her music is infused with traditional folk elements, it's not confined by standard conventions, she said.

"We've put *Tabla* [by Niel Golden] as the main percussion instrument, which is not your main fiddle fair."

But Rokeby-Thomas admitted a soft spot for Irish music and a couple of her favourite traditional pieces are included on the CD.

"I didn't realize it until afterwards, but they are all slip jigs as well. So I obviously like slip jigs," she laughed.

In an example of her classical-friendly compositions, she added countermelodies to John Kirkpatrick's medley — *As the Sun Was Setting* — to create a unique arrangement.

"Most of the times when you're hearing folk music you don't hear a string quartet pop up in the middle of a fiddle tune."

Adding to Rokeby-Thomas' light-hearted romp, Calvin Cairns (once a fiddle teacher on Salt Spring) even provides musical feet for a medley of tunes written and/or inspired by Emile Benoit.

"I love Emile Benoit. He's a French Newfoundland fiddler and I love his music so I've got some pieces that he's

written and then I've written a piece as a tribute to him," said Rokeby-Thomas.

She's also been inspired by the innovative work of fiddler Oliver Schroer, who performs on her album. They're also connected through fiddle camps they teach together in the summers.

"I wouldn't say my music sounds a lot like his. But his approach to music, his philosophy, I really feel I've taken a hold of."

And Rokeby-Thomas expressed fondness for her friends Glen Manders (bass) and Adrian Dolan (accordion) of The Bills, who perform on several tracks.

"I just had to have [Dolan's] accordion. He's got this wacky sense of humour and it comes out in his music."

Acquiring mandolin accompaniment by John Reischman was a coup, she said.

"We thought, 'Why not start at the top and just ask the best person we know?' And we asked John and he said, 'Sure.'"

Cellist Paula Kiffner and guitarists Andy Hillhouse (of Mad Pudding) and Ken Hall (Kettle of Fish) round out the complement of supporting artists.

"It's kind of like fiddle fusion because it's got all these different elements in it," she said.

Reach is available through Acoustic Planet and the Rokeby-Thomas website (www.jaimert.com).

Charity rave one NYE option

Salt Spring's Copper Kettle Society will benefit from a final Last Minute Productions charity event set for New Year's Eve.

Held at Mahon Hall, the New Year's Eve Charity Rave for Peace will include DJs,

local bands and a VIP room beginning at about 8 p.m.

Cassidy Turner of Last Minute Productions said all proceeds will aid the Copper Kettle Society, which helps people with shelter needs on the island.

The event is an all-ages, no drugs and alcohol venture. Tickets are \$5 in advance

at StarBooks, or \$10 at the door. Turner said tickets are going fast.

Donations of sleeping bags, extra food, tents and tarps will also be accepted.

Turner said the evening will mark Last Minute Productions' final Salt Spring appearance before he moves to Victoria for a DJ job.

Thanks Salt Spring
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The Driftwood's annual Wedding Planner is being prepared and we are looking for interesting and historic original photographs from our readers. Hippy wedding in the 60s? Slicked back hair in the 50s? War time bride? We want your photo! Submit with pertinent information by January 21 to The Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V3. We cannot accept email submissions.

Gulf Islands
Driftwood
537-9933

Record number of Christmas stories keeps judges sharp

For the second year running, the Driftwood was happily buried in entries for the annual Christmas Story Contest.

A total of 212 entries were received and divided into six age categories, giving the five judges a hefty task.

Retired teacher and former Driftwood columnist Alex Mitchell coordinated the judges, as usual.

They were Dan Davies, Victoria Olchowecki, Audrey Isaacs and Betty Poole.

With so many stories submitted, Mitchell also took on judging of the extra-large category of nine-year-old writers.

Seventeen entries in the age 15-17 group were received; 39 in ages 11-12; 34 in the 10-year-old group; 56 in the age nine collection; 37 entries from eight year olds; and 29 in the four to seven age category.

No entries were received from writers aged 13 or 14.

Winners, including judg-



ON THE JOB: Driftwood Christmas Story Contest judges and retired teachers read more stories than ever this year. They were, from left, Betty Poole, Audrey Isaacs, Alex Mitchell, Victoria Olchowecki and Dan Davies.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

es' honourable mentions (in no particular order) are as follows:

Age 15-17

- First place, Caitlin Cun-

ningham;

- Second place, Laura Stewart;

- Honourable mentions: Alicia Coelho, Ben Chernyk,

Yoni Marmorstein, Neriko Shimoda, Josh Benlouou and Kelsey Keating-Sturgeon.

Age 11-12

- First place, Ben Hunter;

- Second place, Hayley Jackson;
- Honourable mentions: Jeremy Marchi, Ashley Kilbourn, Megan Jarman, Courtenay Bolton, Aren Ludlow, Rebecca Price, Keaton Giles, Alexis Bahry, Sugi Henson and Bayley-Anne Marion.

Age 10

- First place, Sarah Kennedy;
- Second place, Evan Pearson.

Judge Audrey Isaacs commented, "There were too many excellent entries to single out a few for honourable mentions, but I would offer special mention to Eartha Linell, Matthias Bachman and Eve Olynk, who all created poetic descriptive pictures of Christmas, and to Ian Savage, who offered his paraphrase of the 2000-year-old Nativity story."

Age 9

- First place, Owen Hooper;
- Second place, Melissa Roach;
- Honourable mentions: Lauren Utter, Logan Horel,

Jack Wiltshire, Maya Porebska Smith, James Twaite, Elijah Gold, Emmy Lyytikainen, Tim Camps, Nima McDuff, Bailey Dalton and Una Conradi.

Age 8

- First place, Benjamin Marion;
- Second place, Rebecca Steel;
- Honourable mentions: Jack Easthom, Ian MacPhail-Bartley, Zoe Hasenfratz, Jasmine Cooper and Carley Hunsberger.

Age 4-7

- First place, Kaleb Walker;
- Second place, Ella Fisher;
- Honourable mentions: Roxanne Dailly, Sebastian Howe, Catelyn Creswick, Arielle Middleditch, Nicholas Range, Norees Gasper.

Prizes can be picked up at the Driftwood on or after Thursday, December 23. First-place winners receive a \$50 prize and certificate, and second-place winners receive a certificate.

Six classes meet 100 % challenge

Stella Weinert's Grade 4-5 class at Salt Spring Elementary will have \$100 to give to a charity of their choice, following a December 20 draw for the second component of the Driftwood Christmas Story Contest.

Introduced last year, the contest now includes a challenge for teachers to have as many students as possible write a story for submission.

This year's contest saw six classes

achieve 100 per cent participation. They were Ann Marie Pearson's Grade 6-7 class at Salt Spring Island Middle School; Jim Lightfoot's Grade 4-5 class and Stacia Kennedy's Grade 3-4 class at Fulford; Roslyn Mustard's Intermediate class at Salt Spring Centre School; and, from Salt Spring Elementary, Deborah Nostdal and Rineke Jonker's Grade 3-4 class, and Weinert's group.

Delfer the Elf

By ELLA FISHER
Second place
Age 4-7 category

Once upon a time there was an elf named Delfer and that elf lived at the North Pole with Santa Claus.

Santa Claus was waiting for his lists to make his Christmas presents. Nine weeks later, the lists arrived.

"Finally," Santa Claus said, "now I can tell the elves what to make for the children," and off to work they went.

It was Christmas Eve and Santa set out to deliver the presents. A snow storm stuck Santa on the roof of his eighth delivery. He was stuck for good. So he sent Rudolph back to the North Pole to tell the elves.

The elves quickly put on

their warmest clothes and ran out to the herd of reindeer. Each elf rode a reindeer to Santa and all the gifts. The elves divided the

gifts and flew off to deliver them around the world. Santa returned to the North Pole with Delfer the elf. And Christmas was saved.

People say

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LADY MINTO

Gulf Islands Hospital

The Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop will be closed from December 23 until January 4.

We would like to thank everyone for their wonderful donations and support throughout 2004.

Please no more donations until January 4, 2005.

Our volunteers deserve a well-earned rest!

Happy holidays to all!

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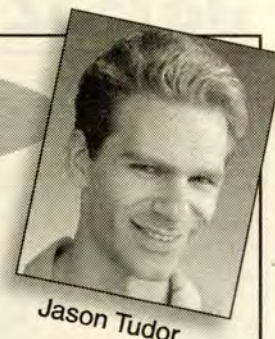
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Heartwarming Napoleon Dynamite strikes at small-town life



Jason Tudor

A deceptively simple movie and yet somehow a profound work of art, Napoleon Dynamite is just another example of how 2004 is proving to be a banner year for independent films.

It's the hilarious story of maybe the most awkward high school kid you've ever seen. Napoleon Dynamite (yep, that is his name) lives in a small Idaho town with his grandmother and thirtysomething brother Kip. When Grandma gets laid up in the hospital, their uncle Rico shows up to supposedly take care of them.

Napoleon is constantly mocked and bullied at school, and with his poofy hair, thick glasses, stunned stare and propensity for drawing made up animals (the "Liger") it's not hard to see why.

He meets similarly socially-

disabled Pedro, and the two of them set upon finding dates for the upcoming big dance.

The first thing that strikes you about Napoleon Dynamite is just how ugly and drab everything is: the buildings, the landscape, and of course, the clothes. It just isn't a pleasant existence, the kind of non-place that you find far in the depths of the American countryside.

Even the people seem ugly and annoying and not too bright, but once you get over this and begin to sympathize with their particular lives, it's hard not to get drawn into the film.

Napoleon Dynamite thus works because it manages to make the average truly charming, much like the efforts of the Coen brothers (Fargo, O Brother Where Art Thou) or Wes Anderson (Rushmore, The Royal Tenenbaums).

Sure, there's an element of "heh, check out that guy's lime green sweat pants" in Napoleon Dynamite. But in watching the film, you have to recognize just how much your surroundings influence you; do we really think that if we were raised in some tiny backwater town, we'd be the same people we are?

Probably not, and that's why this funny, heartwarming film succeeds. It speaks to universal concerns about fitting in, friendship, and happiness, and does so without an ounce of preachiness.

What did Napoleon Dynamite cost, maybe \$15,000? How many of these could be made in place of a Cold Mountain or some other tired Hollywood schlock?

Forget L.A.: the future of film can be found in Idaho.

This week's New Arrivals...

- DE-LOVELY
- THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
- TWO BROTHERS
- KING ARTHUR
- NAPOLEON DYNAMITE
- DANNY DECKCHAIR

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Santa and Kaleb

By KALEB WALKER
First place
Age 4-7 category

One Christmas Eve, in the North Pole, Santa was putting presents in the sleigh when suddenly appeared a great big abominable snowman. The snowman took the presents and ran away.

Santa was so sad he told his wife, Mrs. Claus, "The children are going to wake up and find they have no presents. What should I do?"

"I know!" said Mrs. Claus, "We have to find the abominable snowman's cave!"

"Okay," Santa said.

Santa found the cave but he was too afraid to go in. Santa went to Kaleb's house to see if he could help.

"I can help," said Kaleb.

"Gggooooodd! You see, I can't go in the cave because I'm afraid I will lose my magic!" cried Santa.

"Afraid?" asked Kaleb. "Yes!" said Santa.

"Why?" cried Kaleb.

"I just told you!" said Santa.

"Oh? I forgot," said Kaleb. "One second."

Suddenly Santa and Kaleb were in the cave.

"Hey! I didn't lose my magic!" said Santa.

"Of course you didn't!" said Kaleb.

"The cave is really a castle," Kaleb said. "Ssshh! Someone is watching us!"

"Who? Where?" asked Santa.

"In that picture," said Kaleb.

"It's one of the snowmen," said Santa. "I'll call my agent elves."

Suddenly a big army of elves came marching in.

"Whoa!" said Kaleb.

They ventured on. Booby traps were in their way but they were avoided. They had to fight an army of evil snowmen.

Finally, they found the abominable snowman (with the presents) so Santa delivered presents around the world in time for Christmas morning.



HALL ELVES: Father Yuletide (John Mainer) hangs out at Beaver Point Hall with the elves (daughters Catlyn, Kyra and Alyssa) during a festive celebration last Saturday evening.
Photo by Derrick Lundy

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The Ant and the Snow

By BEN HUNTER

First place
Age 11-12 category

Once upon a time in the realms of Salt Spring Island there was an ant named Ben.

Now, Ben wasn't a big ant, but he was a genius as far as ants go, and that enabled him to get one day a week off work. Today was Ben's day off, and little did he know it, but something very big was going to happen to him.

"Ahhhhhhh," Ben sighed, "what a day this is going to be! No work, no nothing, everything I ever wanted to do I can do today. What will I do?"

Suddenly Ben had an idea!

"I know what I'll do. I'll see what it's like outside."

Of course, being a genius, he had never left his warm cozy hole. So, he set out to brave all the elements and be known for his fearless deeds. Now, even though he was a genius, he still didn't know what the elements outside were, and how deadly they were to ants. Ben marched his way up the stairs and into white snow.

"What a strange material," Ben exclaimed, "and where are all the other ants?"

Ben took a quick glimpse around as the cold winter air blew in his face. When he felt the wind, he ran back

to his hole — not because he was afraid, but because he forgot his jacket! Once he was outside again (with his jacket) he heard the most peculiar thing.

"Ho ho ho, Christmas is here!"

Ben looked around and saw the strangest ant on earth. He looked fat and had a big white beard and even though he was covered in snow and sleet, he had the biggest smile Ben had ever seen on an ant.

He came slowly towards Ben with a big grin on his face, which made Ben grin too.

"What are you doing outside?" he asked Ben as he came near.

"Who are you?" Ben replied.

"My name is Santant and I'm here to give every ant presents."

"Presents?"

"Yes. By the way, could you give me a map? I don't want to get lost."

Reluctantly, Ben gave him a map.

"Thank you," said Santant, "for this I will give you your present."

Santant gave Ben his present and started walking to Ben's hole. Ben was hit by cold wind once again, except this time it was even stronger so he ran faster.

As soon as Ben was inside he ripped open the present. Inside he found an ant-sized microscope with a card that said, "Merry Christmas! Love Santant."

In 2006 Ben learned how to make food from sand. He was also nominated best ant. With his microscope he did many things for the queen and he also taught all ants how to celebrate Christmas.

Now Benjamin Beethoven Bartly is called "The Great Ben" and it's all because of

To all our friends on
Salt Spring

Have a happy holiday season!
From the gang at
Crofton Auto Service
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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 2004

December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's
11:00 pm Midnight Mass at All Saints'

December 25 - Christmas Day

10:00 am Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's

December 26

10:00 am Corporate Eucharist at All Saints'
4:00 pm Carols & Readings at All Saints'

January 2

10:00 am Corporate Eucharist at All Saints'
4:00 pm Readings at All Saints'

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Rusty's Return

By **BENJAMIN TOBIAS MARION**
First place
Age 8 category

Once upon a time, there was a little boy named Ben. He walked through the woods to the farm next door. He was going to feed the horses that lived there, and his little stuffed dog Rusty was riding along in his coat pocket.

By the time Ben and Rusty got to the stable, Rusty was so excited he couldn't help but jump right out of Ben's pocket and into the hay.

Meeting the two Shetland ponies, Classic and Galaxy, distracted Rusty so much that he didn't notice Ben was gone until the night stars came out.

That was September.

Although he missed Ben, his boy, Rusty had great fun in the stable. At night, he

slept with the warm sweet horses. By day, he shared carrots and kibbles with the goats. And when Tony the farmhand's shepherd came to visit, he and Rusty would share bones together, like dogs.

Rusty lived through a happy yellow fall with the stable animals.

But, as the Christmas season approached, Rusty missed Ben, his boy family, more than he had before.

On Christmas Eve, the animals had a big party get-together. The stable radio, which was left on all the time, to soothe the animals, played Christmas carols. Royal the stallion danced with Dancer, who, after all, could obviously dance.

The goats led a lively game of Pin-the-Tail-on Tony.

Rusty slipped through an open window into the farm

store, and brought back soft round cheeses and olives as gifts for his friends.

After Rusty had fallen asleep under the food dish in the goat pen, the other animals held a meeting in Royal's private paddock.

"Rusty's unhappy," said one of the goats in the crowd.

"It's time to get him home."

The animals made a plan.

In his mom's magical cottage, Ben was having a dream. He saw a long string of animals proceeding up the violet valley. Two goats led, carrying Rusty between them. They were followed by the horses and the shepherd, who herded the bunch from the back.

When they reached the rabbit hutches in Ben's blue backyard, Rusty clambered in with the month-old kits,

and called out thank-yous as his friends vanished into the green wet woods.

"Thank you for the best Christmas present of all!"

The next morning, Ben awoke hopeful but puzzled. He didn't think the chances were very good, but he thought he might check the rabbit's cage anyway.

Feeling foolish, he ran down the hill, opened the door, and stuck his hand into the hutch. He felt a patch of velour nuzzled up against soft fur. Pulling out the firm bundle, Ben was amazed to find that, yes, indeed, it was Rusty the missing stuffed dog returned.

Was it possible? Could his dream have been real? Ben wondered as he walked back up the hill clutching Rusty.

Then, just like in any story, Ben and Rusty lived happily ever after.

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					X	X
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1
X	X					X

X=Closed

Regular Hours:
Tues. - Sat. 10-5

The Great Escape

By **OWEN HOOPER**
First place
Age 9 category

"Get back to work, Puny," commanded Big Elf.

"Okay," said Puny.

Puny didn't know how to make toys and he didn't like the way he lived. You see, Santa only sees the elves at Christmas and he doesn't know where they go the rest of the year.

The Blue Patrol were a patrol of a bigger type of elf. After Christmas every year they would take Puny and the other elves to a sort of jail. Then they had to work in the mines for the rest of the year.

You see, the Blue Patrol were making them dig for gold so they could get rich. (Of course Santa had nothing to do with it.)

And that's why Puny (and the other elves) wanted to escape.

They once tried to send a letter to Santa. They did not

have a post office. They tried to sneak out in the night. There were night guards, so they gave up.

But one day, Puny was working in the mines when suddenly he saw a Gnome.

"Hi," said Puny.

"Hi," said Gnome.

They talked. Puny figured out that Gnome was a miner Gnome and he had lots of friends, so he thought of a plan. He told Gnome his plan and he agreed.

So the next day, the elves went to work.

Then they saw Gnome and Gnome had friends with him. Suddenly Gnome and his friends started to dig a tunnel. They dug and dug until they dug a passage to escape.

Then all the elves one by one marched into the tunnel and escaped. But at every Christmas Eve they return from wherever they are and go to the workshop to make toys.

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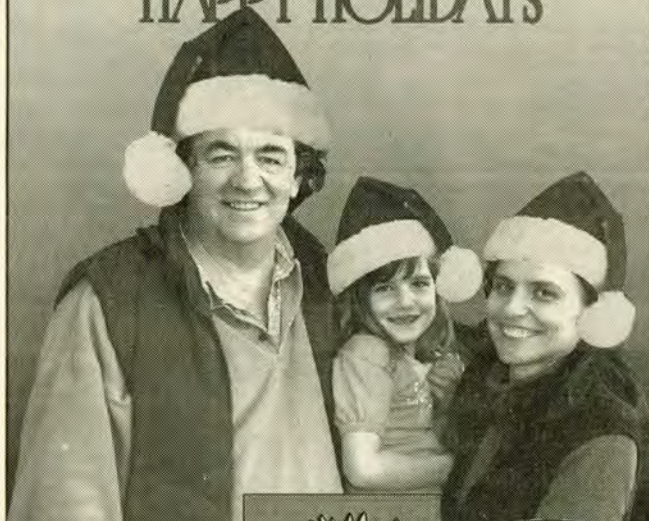
Seasons Greetings



from the staff of the
Gulf Islands

Driftwood

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FELIZ NAVIDAD
MERRY CHRISTMAS
SEASON'S GREETINGS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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December 24 to January 3

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Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

The office is closed December 23rd, and will re-open January 4th!

Imagine That
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CHRISTMAS COWGIRL: Sarah Robinson gets in the Christmas spirit as she helps set up decorations at one of Salt Spring's many Christmas craft fairs.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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How Santa Became

By REBECCA STEEL
Second place
Age 8 category

Once there was a little boy who lived in the land of the Jumbies.

In case you don't know who the Jumbies are, I'll give you a little poem that tells you about them: "Far and few, far and few, are the lands where the jumbies

live. Their heads are green and their hands are blue and they went the sea in a sieve."

You'll probably say, "What is this they went to the sea in a sieve bit?" Well, this story will answer your question.

Let's begin again. Once there was a boy who lived in the land of the Jumbies. His parents died when he was very young, but how he got to the land of the Jumbies, no one will ever know.

One day, after his chores, he found the Jumbies packing a sieve. He was astonished. The Jumbies had promised him they would never go away from him. Let alone, go in a sieve!

He asked them, "Where are you going?"

"To the lands of the world," answered the Jumbies.

"But what about me?" he asked.

"We will give you our reindeer, there are nine of them, and our sled," the Jumbies said.

"But you promised," he stubbornly said.

But the Jumbies were already out of sight, over the horizon.

He cried, but that didn't help. After a while, he said to himself, "Stop crying, it'll only make things worse."

So he found the reindeer and the sled. He had no toys, so he grabbed a bag of reindeer feed, but noticing he didn't know how long he was going to be there, so he grabbed six more.

It was winter, so he put on a long red coat, a toque with a pointy bit on the end, and he grabbed some red snow pants and put them on.

He also got the bag stuffed with cotton wool to sleep on and then he said, "Yeah," and the team of reindeer lifted into the sky.

The boy noticed one of the smaller reindeer.

"Oh my," he thought, "It has a red nose." And then he saw the problem, the reindeer with the red nose was slowing them down and if they were too slow, they could fall down and that would be the end.

So he decided to let that reindeer line out, but when he untied the rope that belonged to the red-nosed one, suddenly it put on a burst of speed and made its way to the front. He tried to pull it back, but he didn't succeed.

So he just tied the rope onto its stand. They flew, swooped and dived a lot. And after nine or ten hours,

the boy saw white below and nothing else. "Down boys," he shouted and the reindeer plunged toward the white like a child plunging his thumb into a heavily frosted Christmas cake.

When he got there, he studied the landscape with disappointment. He had hoped it would be soft, wooly and warm like his bag of cotton wool, but it was deep, cold and wet.

Did I mention cold? Then he realized this was what they called the great North Pole. He knew no one could survive there for long, so he fed the reindeer and found he hadn't packed anything for himself. After twenty minutes, he decided not to go, but when he yelled, "Mush!" they tried to lift up, but they couldn't fight up, not even the red-nosed one could do it, so he led them on a walk to a place in the trees. There he saw little people building a hut.

He asked, "Can I live with you?"

"Yes," they said, "As long as you promise to give presents to boys and girls all over the world."

He thought this was a good idea, so he said yes. And that's how Santa became.

From all of us at

Barnyard Grafix

MOOEY Christmas

PULL OUT & SAVE

what's on

YOUR TELEVISION GUIDE

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD PAGE B9 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2004

Wishing you all the best of the Holiday and a Happy New Year!

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S - Salt Spring Island										WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 22									
S	☆		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	
257	308	CBC	Shoobox	The X	Simpsons	Gags	News	Can. Now	Corrie St.	Corrie St.	Scrooge (1951)	Alastair Sim.			The National/Mag.	News	Movie		
600	621	MC	3:30 Star Trek: Nemesis		The Transporter				Gone Dark	Lauren Bacall.		Movies	Angels in America		15 Adaptation (2002)	Nicolas Cage.			
4		NewVI	Relic Hunter		VI Land News				B.Date	Million?	Missing		Too Cool for Christmas	Ryan Mcdonell.	News	35 J.Leno			
330	379	KING	Oprah Winfrey		KING News			News	News	Magazine	Inside Ed.	Will & Grace	The West Wing	Law & Order	News	35 J.Leno			
262	358	CH	Days of Our Lives		CH News				Go! Mag.	CaitlinW	Strange	Bad Faith (2000)	Tony Nardi.		Malcolm	Malcolm	Sp'nPage	CH News	
261	321	CTVBC	Frasier	Friends	CTV News at Five			News	eTalk	Degrassi	Lost		Lost		CSI: NY	News	News		
258	336	GBLBC	Oprah Winfrey		News	National	News		ET	Grow	70s	70s	Gilmore Girls		Queer Eye...Straight	News			
450	383	KCTS	Maya...	Postcard	Europe	Business	News		Minister	Steves	Great Performances			Great Performances				T Smiley	
102	702	SRC	McGuire	Têtes...	Mr. Bean	Union	Journal	Rétro...	Une vie de bestiole (1998)			En tournée M.B.			Téléjournal/Point	Journal	Découve		
452	354	KNOW	George	35 Babar	MagicBus	Piggley...	P Rabbit	P Rabbit	C.Wild	Moments	Industry	Science	Galileo's Sons	Growing Up	2 Opinion	MoveOn			
260	359	CITY	CityLine		Ellen DeGeneres			News	Sex&City	Friends	CineCity	Eve's Christmas (2004)			Cheryl Ladd.	News	Speaker's		
460	523	BRAVO	3:30 Detect	Bravo!	Comedic Genius			Mouvements du désir			Valérie Kaprisky.	Law & Order	NYPD Blue	The Closet			Daniel Auteuil.	Movie	
441	506	HIST	JAG		Antiques Roadshow			Treasure	Treasure	Turning Points	JAG	Antiques Roadshow			Treasure	Treasure	Tour of Duty		
442	560	TLC	In a Fix		Mostly True Stories			In a Fix	Extreme Surgery			Mostly True Stories			In a Fix	Extreme Surgery			In a Fix
483	541	FAM	15 Dave...	Possible	Proud F.	McGuire	So Raven	Stevens	Brotherly	Roscoe	Boy MW	Roscoe	The Christmas Star			Boy MW	Life	50Mentor	
459	520	A&E	American Justice		American Justice			Gotti	Gotti	Biography	Crossing Jordan	American Justice			Gotti	Gotti	Biography		
400	400	TSN	MolsonH.	NHL	Hockey			World Jr. Championships			IIHF Can/Swi	Sportscentre			NFL Film	CIS F'ball	Poker World Series	Sportscentre	
407	419	RSP	Soccer Central		NBA XL	Sports	Hockey AHL			Hamilton Bulldogs vs Edmonton			Road Runners			Skiing World Alpine	Sportsnet News	Sportsnet News	
23		KSTW	Dance	Home I.	Frasier	Frasier	Queens	Queens	70s	70s	Kevin Hill		Kevin Hill	News	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Becker		
24		KVOS	The People's Court		F.Feud	Funny!	Cheers	Shoot	Yes, Dear	Becker	The Beautician and the Beast				W&Grace	Queens	Eliminate	5.Wheel	
333	382	KCPQ	Shoot	Dharma	Dharma	KingHill	Simpsons	Malcolm	Simpsons	Malcolm	70s	Quints	Nanny 911		Q-13 News	Simpsons	KingHill		
511	390	NEWS	Can. Now	Can. Now	Danger Zone			The National/Mag.			Nature of Things	..Danger Zone	National	Business	Nature of Things	American Empire			
332	381	KIRO	Judy	Judy	KIRO News			News	News	ET	Access	Home Holiday	Queens	Universe	CSI: NY	News	LateShow		
331	380	KOMO	First News @ 4		KOMO 4 News			News	News	Fortune	Jeopardy	Lost		Lost	Wife Swap	News	35 News		
537	394	VISION	Touched By Angel		The Barra McNeils'			Quartet Plus Four	Friendship Village			Little Men	The Barra McNeils'			Quartet Plus Four	7th Heaven		

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

Salt Spring Driftwood: Main Movie Breakout for Dec 22, 2004 to Dec 28, 2004

WEDNESDAY, DEC 22

- 7:00 PM
3 ★ Gone Dark (2003, Thriller) A misplaced package causes a heroin-addicted officer to take an elderly woman hostage. *Lauren Bacall, Claire Forlani (1h30)*
- 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
3 ★★ Bad Faith (2000, Suspense) A reporter uncovers a police conspiracy that allows a serial killer to run rampant. *Tony Nardi, Michael Moriarty (2h)*
- 9:00 PM
2 ★ The Beautician and the Beast (1997, Comedy) A Queens beautician is mistakenly recruited to tutor a foreign dictator's children. *Fran Drescher, Timothy Dalton (2h)*

- 9:00 PM
3 ★★★★★ Angels in America (2003, Drama) A group of Americans confront different aspects of AIDS during the Reagan era. *Al Pacino, Meryl Streep*
- 10:00 PM
4 ★★ Too Cool for Christmas (2004, Comedy) A fashion enthusiast joins Santa on his rounds and learns the true meaning of Christmas. *Ryan McDonnell, Adrienne Carter (2h)*
- 10:00 PM
13 ★★ Eve's Christmas (2004, Drama) An executive about to become a partner in her firm, re-evaluates her life on Christmas Eve. *Cheryl Ladd, Elisa Donovan (2h)*
- 10:00 PM
19 ★★ The Christmas Star (1986, Drama) A escapee's holiday spirit is renewed when two kids believe him to be Santa Claus. *Ed Asner, Jim Metzler (1h35)*
- 10:00 PM
14 ★★ The Closet (2001, Comedy) A psychologist convinces his neighbour to pose as a gay man so he can keep his job. *Daniel Auteuil, 10:15 PM*
- 10:15 PM
3 ★★★★★ 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)*
- 11:30 PM
2 ★★ Christmas in Connecticut (1945, Comedy/Drama) A promotional stunt threatens to expose a columnist's fictitious housekeeping skills. *Barbara Stanwyck, Dennis Morgan (2h)*
- 11:30 PM
14 ★★ Dinner Game (1998, Comedy) A group of friends conduct a contest to see who can bring the stupidest person to dinner. *Thierry Lhermitte, Jacques Villeret (1h30)*

THURSDAY, DEC 23

- 7:00 PM
3 ★★ Kart Racer (2003, Comedy/Drama) A teenager tries to reach out to his estranged father by entering a karting championship. *Johnny Griffin*
- 8:00 PM
4 ★★ Jack Frost (1999, Fantasy) After his death, a father comes back as a snowman and must put things right with his son. *Michael Keaton, Kelly Preston (2h)*
- 7:00 PM
7 ★★★★★ The Sound of Music (1965, Musical) A woman leaves an Austrian convent to become governess to a captain's seven children. *Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer (3h)*
- 8:00 PM
8 ★★ Ice Bound: A Woman's Survival at the South Pole (2003, True) A 46-year-old Ohio doctor battles breast cancer while isolated at the South Pole. *Susan Sarandon, Aidan Devine (2h)*
- 8:00 PM
24 ★★ Toys (1992, Fantasy) A man tries to save a toy factory when it is turned into a miniature weapons factory. *Robin Williams, Michael Gambon (2h30)*
- 8:00 PM
23 ★★ The Santa Clause (1994, Comedy) A father mends his relationship with his son after he is transformed into Santa Claus. *Tim Allen*
- 8:30 PM
3 ★★ Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (2003, Adventure) Lara Croft pursues a Chinese crime boss in order to regain the mythical Pandora's Box. *Angelina Jolie, Gerard Butler (2h)*
- 9:00 PM
13 ★★ A Very Married Christmas (2004, Drama) A man's orderly life begins to fall apart when he learns that his wife wants a divorce. *Joe Mantegna, Jean Smart (2h)*
- 9:00 PM
19 ★★ A Mom for Christmas (1990, Drama) A lonely girl wishes a beautiful department store mannequin to life to replace her mom. *Olivia Newton-John, Doug Sheehan (1h30)*
- 10:00 PM
29 ★★ A Christmas Carol (1984, Drama) An old man who hates Christmas is taught its true meaning and spirit by three ghosts. *George C. Scott, 10:00 PM*
- 10:00 PM
14 ★★ Cape Fear (1991, Thriller) A hardened criminal threatens the family of the lawyer who deliberately put him in jail. *Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte (2h15)*
- 10:30 PM
3 ★★ The Matrix Revolutions (2003, Sci-Fi) While the human city of Zion comes under attack, Neo ventures into the mainframe. *Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne (2h30)*
- 11:30 PM
2 ★★ A Christmas Carol (1999, Drama) A film adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, featuring the infamous Ebenezer Scrooge. *Patrick Stewart, Richard E. Grant (2h)*

FRIDAY, DEC 24

- 6:30 PM
14 ★★ The Christmas Wife (1988, Romance) A lonely and aging widower hires a spouse to spend the Christmas holidays with him. *Jason Robards, Gwyneth Walsh (1h30)*
- 7:00 PM
2 ★★★★★ 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)*

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 -

- *Thursday, December 23 - 7am-8pm
- *Friday, December 24 - 7am-6pm
- *Saturday, December 25 - CLOSED
- *Sunday, December 26 - CLOSED
- December 27 - December 30 - regular hours 7:30am-8pm
- *Friday, December 31 - 7:00am-6pm
- *Saturday, January 1 - CLOSED
- *Sunday, January 2 - regular hours 7:30am-8pm

Happy Holidays to all our customers from everyone at:

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Island Comfort Quilts

— Islanders helping islanders by providing hand-made quilts to those with serious illness or injury —

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For more info, call Carol at 653-4305 or Marguerite at 537-5302.



THRIFTY FOODS™

OPEN 7:30AM TO 8PM

Fresh isn't all we're famous for!

S - Salt Spring Island										WEEKDAY DAYTIME DEC 22 TO DEC 28																							
S		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	
257	308	CBC	Clifford	DragonT.	Poko	Various	Nanalan'	Zoboo..	Dressup	Slim Pig	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Antiques	
600	621	MC	Various Movies			Various Movies			Various Movies			Various Movies			Various Movies			Various Movies			Various Movies			Various Movies			Various Movies			Various Movies			
4		NewVI	6:30 New Day		CityLine		Various		DataCafé		Ellen DeGeneres		All My Children		One Life to Live		Various		Star Trek: Voyager														
330	379	KING	7:00 Today Show		Today Show II		L.Elder		F.L.Elder		Ellen DeGeneres		News		Days of Our Lives		Passions		Dr. Phil														
262	358	CH	BodyHlth	Various	Oprah Winfrey	The Price is Right		Young & Restless		Various		Outer Limits		BodyHlth		Various		Fear Factor / F Doc															
261	321	CTVBC	7:00 Canada AM		Regis & Kelly		The View		Balance		Balance		Planet		Bold & B.		Gabereau/Gabereau		General Hospital		Dr. Phil												
258	336	GBLBC	6:00 News		100 Huntley Street		Worldvision		Insider		MoneyW.		News		As the World Turns		Passions		Young & Restless														
450	383	KCTS	Various	DragonT.	Caillou	Barney	Sesame Street/F Elmo		B.Lions		Rogers		Various		Paint		Various		Various		Tracks A.		Read R.		Various		Cyberch.						
102	702	SRC	7:00 Matin express		Cinéma variées		Ricardo		Journal		Cinéma variées		La loi et l'ordre		Calinours																		
452	354	KNOW	05 Hi-5		Various		Various		Big Blue		Various		Various		Various		MCANADA		Various		Gaslight		Various		Zoboo..		Various						
260	359	CITY	M Cooks	M Cooks	Cooks	Various	Various		CityLine		Cooks		Various		W I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Clau...		Maury																
460	523	BRAVO	Various		Various		Law & Order		Various		45B!News		Various		ThLife&T.		Blueberry		Videos		Various												
441	506	HIST	Various	Bordert'n	JAG	Various Movies		Various		Various		Various		Various		Hist.Land		Disasters		Various		Bordert'n											
442	560	TLC	Various	Chance	Various	Makeover		Various		Wedding		Various		Baby St		Various		Makeover		TradingS/ Overhaul		WhileOut/Overhaul		CleanSwp/ Overhaul									
483	541	FAM	15Henry's		Various		W.Pooh		Various		05Stanley		Various		150 Lilo&S.		Various		Various		Movies		Various		150Recess								
20	459	A&E	3rdWatch		City Confidential		American Justice		Various		F Gung Ho		1985		W M Tu SheWrote		3rdWatch		City Confidential														
21	400	400	TSN	Sportscentre	Various	Various	Various		Various		Various		Various		SnowTrx		Various		Various		TU Poker		Various		Various								
207	419	RSP	Sportsnet News		News/ Curling		Sportsnet News		MHockey/W THFNews		TUHockey/ News		Divorce		Divorce		The People's Court		Griffind		Sabrina												
23		KSTW	6:00 The Daily Buzz		Life & Style		Cosby		Cosby		Becker		Spin City		Montel Williams		I Spy		Cagney&L/ Hi-Tech		Diagnosis		Murder										
24		KVQS	Various	TU Paid	Paid Prog/Various		Various Movies		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various		Various										
333	382	KCPQ	5:30 Q13 Fox News		Good Day Live		Various		Makeover		Various		Moving In		Starting OJ/ Football		Home Delivery		Jerry Springer		Various		F Move In										
511	390	NEWS	Various	Various	News	News	Various		Your Call		News		Various		Various		News		Various		Various		News		Various		Various						
27	332	381	KIRO	The Early Show		Montel Williams		The Price is Right		Young & Restless		News		Bold & B.		As the World Turns		The Guiding Light		Brown		Various											
331	380	KOMO	7:00 Morning Am.		Regis & Kelly		The View		KOMO 4 News		All My Children		One Life to Live		General Hospital		Northwest																
29	537	394	VISION	It's a New Day		Mass		Various		Jawani		Youngren		Life Tod.		Various		Q.Places		Various		Mt African		7Heaven		Various							

S - Salt Spring Island										THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 23								
S	☆	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	
257	308	CBC	The X	Spy Net	Simpsons	Gags	News	Can. Now	Christmas Sing-In	Opening Night			The National/Mag.			News	Movie	
600	621	MC	3Legally Blonde ...		Peter Pan (2003) Jeremy Sumpter.			Kart Racer Johnny Griffin.			Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life			The Matrix Revolutions				
4		NewVI	Relic Hunter		VI Land News			Blind Date		Million?	Jack Frost (1999) Michael Keaton.		Primetime Live		News	35 J. Leno		
330	379	KING	Oprah Winfrey		KING News		News	News	Magazine	Inside Ed.	Joey	W&Grace	Will & Grace	ER	News	35 J. Leno		
262	358	CH	Days of Our Lives		CH News			Go! Mag.	CaitlinW.	Strange	Doc	Stargate: SG-1		Malcolm	Malcolm	Sp'tPage	CH News	
261	321	CTVBC	Frasier		Friends		CTV News at Five	News	eTalk	Degrassi	The Sound of Music (1965) Julie Andrews.			News	News			
258	336	GBLBC	Oprah Winfrey		News		National	News	ET	Diva	Ice Bound: Woman's Survival at So...		Without a Trace		News			
450	383	KCTS	Maya...	Postcard	Europe		Business	News	...Hollywood Palace		Churchill Pt. 2 of 3		Mystery! Pt. 2 of 4		Independent Lens	News	T Smiley	
102	702	SRC	McGuire	Têtes...	Mr. Bean	Union	Journal	bonheur	L'Ere de glace (2002)		C'était ça, le burlesque		Téléjournal/Point		Découve	Journal		
452	354	KNOW	George	35 Babar	MagicBus	Padding.	P Rabbit	P Rabbit	Walk On Wild Side		Growing Up	Adventure/ English		Life Of Mammals		Season of the Child		
260	359	CITY	CityLine		Ellen DeGeneres			News	Sex&City	Friends	Relic Hunter	A Very Married Christmas			News	35 Music		
460	523	BRAVO	330C Wild	Richler Ink	Saint Jack (1979) Ben Gazzara.			45BNews		Law & Order		NYPD Blue		Cape Fear (1991) Robert De Niro.				
441	506	HIST	JAG		Commando			Commando	Turning Points		JAG		Commando		Tour of Duty			
442	560	TLC	In a Fix		Noah's Ark: True			Mummy Detective	Mummy Detective		Noah's Ark: True		Mummy Detective	Mummy Detective		In a Fix		
483	541	FAM	15 Dave...	Possible	Proud F.	McGuire	So Raven	Stevens	Brotherly	Roscoe	Boy MW	Roscoe	A Mom for Christmas		Boy MW	Life	50Mentor	
20	459	520	A&E	American Justice	Cold Case Files			The First 48		Crossing Jordan		Cold Case Files			The First 48			
400	400	TSN	3:30 Football Fort Worth Bowl NCAA Cin./Mars.			45 Football			Las Vegas Bowl NCAA Wyoming vs UCLA			15Mart.Art			Corner	Sportscentre		
240	419	RSP	Miller TV	Skiing	Canucks	Prime Time Sports		News	Swedish	Plays	Hockey Classics NHL Van./Det.		Sportsnet News		Sportsnet News			
23		KSTW	Dance Home I.		Frasier	Winterfst	Queens	Queens	70s	70s	WWE's Holiday Tribute to the Troops			News	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Becker	
24		KVOS	The People's Court		F.Feud	Funny!	Cheers	Shoot	Yes, Dear	Becker	Toys (1992) Robin Williams.			Queens	Eliminate	5.Wheel		
333	382	KCPQ	Shoot	Dharma	Dharma	KingHill	Simpsons	Malcolm	Simpsons	Malcolm	The O.C.		The O.C.	Q-13 News		Simpsons	KingHill	
511	390	NEWS	Can. Now	I. Media	..Danger Zone		The National/Mag.		Rough Cuts		..Danger Zone		National	Business	Rough Cuts	American Empire		
332	381	KIRO	Judy	Judy	KIRO News		News	News	ET	Access	NCIS		CSI: Crime Scene		Without a Trace		News	LateShow
331	380	KOMO	First News @ 4		KOMO 4 News		News	News	Fortune	Jeopardy	The Santa Clause (1994) Tim Allen.		Primetime Live		News	35 News		
537	394	VISION	Touched By Angel		A Christmas Carol George C. Scott.			Origins of Christmas		Twice in a Lifetime		A Christmas Carol		George C. Scott.		7th Heaven		



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S - Salt Spring Island										ExpressVu - StarChoice										FRIDAY EVENING DECEMBER 24									
S	☆	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												
257	308	CBC	Must Be Santa (1999)		Arnold Pinnock		News	J. Frost	It's a Wonderful Life (1946) James Stewart				The National/Mag.		The Bishop's Wife														
600	621	MC	Torque (2004) Ice Cube		Christmas Carol: The Movie			Bad Santa Billy Bob Thornton				45 In America (2002) Paddy Considine		Die Another Day															
4		NewVI	Relic Hunter		VI Land News			B.Date		Million?	Home Videos	A Christmas Carol: The Musical		The Family Man															
330	379	KING	Oprah Winfrey		KING News			News	News	Magazine	Inside Ed	A Christmas Carol: The Musical		Law & Order: C.I.		News	Backroad												
262	358	CH	Days of Our Lives		CH News			Go! Mag.		CaitlinW.	Strange	Salvation Army		He Sees You When You're Sleeping		Yulin'	BabaH.												
261	321	CTVBC	Frasier Friends		CTV News at Five			News	Rent-a-Kid (1997) Leslie Nielsen				Stolen Miracle (2001) Leslie Hope		News		News												
258	336	GBLBC	Oprah Winfrey		News			National	News	ET	Design	Silent Night (2002) Linda Hamilton		Fiddler's Map		News													
450	383	KCTS	Maya...	Postcard	Europe	Business	News	McL'ghlin	WallSt.	Business	WeekR.	Great Performances				News	T Smiley												
102	702	SRC	McGuire	Têtes...	Groulx...	Union	Musica Intima	Féerie sur glace				Le Diner de cons		Journal		La Messe de la nuit													
452	354	KNOW	George	35 Babar	MagicBus		Piggley...	P Rabbit	ForgetT.	History Teddy Bear		In London	In Search of Santa	Our Favourite Toys		Gala Imperialis													
260	359	CITY	CityLine		Ellen DeGeneres			News	Sex&City		Friends	Movie TV	Speaker's	Smallville	Smallville	News	Movie TV												
460	523	BRAVO	330C LostW.		ScanMov.		The Producers	Machine	The Christmas Wife		Law & Order		Sex&City	45 Jesus	Christ Superstar		Ted Neeley	Movie											
441	506	HIST	JAG		The Sea Hunters			Disasters of Cent.		Turning Points		JAG		The Sea Hunters		Disasters of Cent.		Tour of Duty											
442	560	TLC	Overhaul'n		Overhaul'n			Overhaul'n		Overhaul'n		Overhaul'n		Overhaul'n		Overhaul'n		Overhaul'n											
483	541	FAM	15 Pinocchio C'mas		05 Santa Claus			Stingiest Man		Christm's		The Christmas Star		Ernest Saves Christmas		35 Mixed	Nuts Steve Martin.												
20	459	520	A&E		American Justice			Airline	Airline	Airline	Airline	Airline	Airline	Airline	Airline	Airline	Airline	Airline											
21	400	400	TSN		Football Hawaii Bowl		NCAA UAB vs Hawaii				Sportscentre		World Jr. Hockey		NHL		Hall of Fame Dinner		Sportscentre										
240	419		RSP		NBA XL		NBA Act	Bus.Sport	Prime Time Sports		News	Bus.Sport	Snapshot	Canucks	Plays		Skiing World Alpine		News	Reflections 2004	Plays								
23			KSTW		Dance		Home I.	Frasier	Frasier	Queens	Queens	70s	70s	The Best Man (1999) Taye Diggs				Taxe	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Becker								
24			KVOS		The People's Court		Superstars on Ice			Superstars on Ice			An All Dogs Christmas Carol		Funny!		Candles and Carols		Handel's Messiah										
333	382		KCPQ		Shoot		Dharma	Dharma	KingHill	Simpsons	Malcolm	Simpsons		Malcolm	The Adventures of Rocky & Bullwinkle				Q-13 News		Simpsons	KingHill							
26	511	390	NEWS		Can. Now		Hemisp.	Correspondent			The National/Mag.			Singing in the Shadows		National		Business		Singing in the Shadows									
27	332	381	KIRO		Judy		Judy	ET	News	News	News	News	ET	Access	Joan of Arcadia		JAG		48 Hours Mystery		Church of Brethren								
331	380		KOMO		First News @ 4		KOMO 4 News			News	News	News	Fortune	Jeopardy	Home Videos		I'll Be Home for Christmas				05 Jesus	35 News							
29	537	394	VISION		Touched By Angel		Gaither Gospel			The Barra McNeils'			Quartet Plus Four		Mysterious Island		Midnight Mass From St. Peter's Basilica				7th Heaven								



Wayne Will Keep You Warm This Winter.

Salt Spring Propane

537-2006



S - Salt Spring Island										- ExpressVu ☆ - StarChoice										SATURDAY DAYTIME DECEMBER 25																		
S	🔔	☆	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																				
257	308	CBC	Arthur	Dragon	Dragon	The X	Christmas Parade				Queen /10 A Christmas Story				Miracle on 34th Street																							
600	621	MC	15 The Wild Thornberrys Movie				Love Don't Cost A Thing			145 Bruce Almighty (2003) Jim Carrey.				I Spy (2002) Eddie Murphy.			15Dr. Seuss' Cat																					
4		NewVI	6:00 The Yule Log				Holiday		Speaker's		Richler Ink		RedBoots		Christm's		I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus		Stealing Christmas																			
330	379	KING	KING 5 News			KING 5 News			Sports		Garden.		Starskates Holiday			Celebration on Ice			Golf ADT Skills Challenge		Enduran. Strange																	
262	358	CH	FishCan.	Fishful	Fishing	Taste Life	Desi Doordarshan		Music		Music		Heart City		Taste Life		Taste!		Dating		Ins.Ent.		BodyHlth		Summit		P. Lives											
261	321	CTVBC	Mentors	Mentors	Eagle Commun.	Daily Planet		Pet Awards II		Rails		Jeff's..		Eagle Commun.		Rent-a-Kid (1997) Leslie Nielsen.																						
258	336	GBLBC	Christmas Tree		Bethlehem Journey			Up&Grow		Grow		Antique		G.Taste		Santa Parade		Skiing		Xtreme		Ride G.		Ent. Tonight		Simpsons												
450	383	KCTS	Arthur's Christmas		Christmas Festival			America's Choir		...Hollywood Palace		Breton Christmas		Great Performances			Keep Appearances																					
102	702	SRC	730BenJ..		Cadeau		Possible		Wheel..		La Messe de la nuit		L'Arbre		Journal		Annie (1999) Alicia Morton.		La légende de Cendrillon																			
452	354	KNOW	KoalaBro		55 George Shrinks			Zoboo..		Madeline		135 Bear		Dora		Sagwa		The Tangerine Bear		LostSnow		Forget.T		Madeline		Eddy&B.		Kratts' C		Arthur								
260	359	CITY	6:00 LOG: The Christmas Special				Punjabi Profile		SportKing		Tech		Ethnosonic		Back In		Hair Wars		..Movies		INSIDE		ColourTV															
460	523	BRAVO	7:Princess Bride				BT News /15 Taras Bulba (1962) Yul Brynner.				Spartacus (1960) Kirk Douglas.				ArtsMinds								Star TV															
441	506	HIST	7:Fishful of Dollars				Disasters of Cent.				Antiques Roadshow				Hang 'Em High (1968) Clint Eastwood.				Hist. Bite				Commando				Master..		Disasters									
442	560	TLC	Clean Sweep				Trading Spaces: 100 Grand				Trading Spaces				Trading Spaces				Trading Spaces				Trading Spaces															
483	541	FAM	15Roscoe&Amanda				15All That				140 Raven				10Steven				140BoyMW				05 Franklin C'mas				Snow (2004) Tom Cavanagh.				The Christmas Star				Christmas		50 Raven	
459	520	A&E	At Home With Brave				All Year				All Year				Find & Design				Biography				The Big House				Investigative Rep.				American Justice							
400	400	TSN	SnowTrx		M.Racing		Lumbrj'k		Squash		Squash		Sportscentre		World Jr. Hockey		NHL		PreGame		Hockey World Jr. Championships				IIHF													
407	419	RSP	Fish TV		Plays		NBA Act		Basketball		NBA Detroit Pistons vs Indiana Pacers				NBA XL		Skiing		World Alpine		Skiing		Miller TV		EPL		Soccer Match-Up											
23		KSTW	Littles		Littles		Gadget		Gadget		Home..		D.Buy		Poker Challenge		Walker.		The Black Stallion Returns				Kelly Reno.		Very Brady Chris..													
24		KVOS	Wild Things		Christm's		America		Paid Program		Paid Program		Paid Program		The First Noel		Christmas w/ Stars																					
333	382	KCPQ	F-Zero		Winx		Piece		Piece		Ninja		F-Zero		Kirby		S.King		NFL Und. Light..		Light..		Pregame		Paid Prog		Sports		Eddie									
511	390	NEWS	Canadian, So?				Canadian, So? 2/2				Queen's /10 Antiq.				Antiques Roadshow				Antiques Roadshow				SatRep				CountryC		News		Fashion							
332	381	KIRO	RedBoots		Shepherd		LazyTwn		Spider		Backyard		Dora		Color		Stage		Paid Program		Paid Prog		Today		Football		NFL Oakland vs Kansas City											
331	384	KOMO	C. Bowl Prev.				Lilo-Slitch				Fillmore		Proud F.		So Raven		Future		McGuire		Basketball NBA Christmas Day Special				NBA Mia/L.A. L.		Walt Disney Parade											
537	394	VISION	Watno Dur		Punjab Darpan				Dil Dil		Dil Dil		Pakistan TV		Pakistan				Message		P. Popoff		Minaret		Punjab		Mehfil		Hum Sab Ek Hain									



EYE ON SANTA: Koah Georger Faevan shares a special moment with Santa as he sits on his lap at Santa's Breakfast held Sunday at Fulford Hall.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

The Last Glittering X-mas Star

By **MELISSA ROACH**
Second place
Age 9 category

I stared out at the stars. Kloeie came over, sat beside me and looked at me with those adorable puppy eyes. She nodded her head towards the window as though she was referring to the stars.

I patted her head and said, "Those are Christmas stars, Kloeie." I answered her question.

I saw a plane cross the decorated sky. I kept on speaking.

"Christmas stars come out every Christmas Eve to help Santa find his way."

I smiled warmly at the dog. I continued to pat her and looked at the sky again.

Slowly but steadily the stars popped out of sight.

Out of nowhere a star started to fall down and down. It was falling dangerously close to Ganges now. It dropped with a silent, soft thud. Kloeie's ears poked right up. Alison lifted her head from rummaging through the fridge. Mum spun around from the computer, looking alert, and Dad stopped reading the paper and had a concerned expression on his face! Nobody knew what was going on!

Alison was first to investigate. Even the dog was a bit testy. Alison crept down the stairs. Her intention was to be as quiet as possible. Too bad for her that her earrings

jingled softly as she went. She slowly opened the door as the chimes at the top of the door chimed. Glitter was spread on the ground.

"Oh, that was a long fall!" said a lively, unfamiliar voice. We all spun around to see a small glittering star.

"Don't look so surprised. We all knew it would happen one year. Well, Santa didn't, but everyone else did!"

"Excuse me but who are you?" my Mum asked quietly.

"I am Gloria the Christmas Star! And I am here to tell you everything that is going on!"

"Why are you going to tell us?" Mom asked once more.

"Because you are the only ones who noticed! All the fake Santas are stealing the Christmas stars! Everyone knows the Christmas stars lay low on Christmas Eve so Santa can see his way! The fake Santas hate Christmas. They are flying around in a plane stealing all the Christmas stars. If Santa can't see his way, he'll let everybody down. If everybody is let down once, there's no more Christmas. Nobody except the fake Santas would be happy. You need to save Christmas!"

She started coughing up stardust when she finished. Nobody had questions. But Dad knew exactly what to do.

"I know a guy who knows a guy; well, I know that guy too. Who am I kidding; let's just say I know everyone!"

He told us to hop in the truck. He said there wasn't much time because Santa flew out at midnight. There was urgency in his voice so we all followed his directions. When we were on our way, he explained, "My buddy has this floatplane. I'm sure he'll do us a favour! From there we will do what we can."

The car pulled to a stop. We all got out.

"Hey Paul, what do you need?"

"Hey, do you mind if I borrow the plane for a while?"

The man had a friendly, go ahead look on his face. But I still didn't know what my Dad was going to attempt to do!

"By all means Paul, have fun!"

"Thanks a lot! See you later."

"Bye."

The dock was salted but I was still cautious. The winter air chilled us as we walked. The plane awaited us. As we moved forward, stars were popping out of sight as the other plane went by. We all went single file into the float plane. The engine slowly came to life. It was just like waiting for a computer to load. Slowly gliding across the water, then . . . acceleration and we were airborne! The sensation in my stomach was strong but it didn't last.

Gloria's voice rang out, "You better hurry up or I'll be the last glittering Christmas star!"

Mom sighted the other plane first. "Paul, over there!" she said.

"What. Where?"

"Over there!" Alison shouted, pointing to the south.

Dad took a sharp turn and Mum had to tell him not to do anything fancy.

"I'm a pilot. I can't really help it," he replied.

We overlapped them and saw an old grumpy looking Santa in the driver's seat. On the other side of the plane there was a sky diving Santa ushering all of the stars into a net out of sight.

Alison had an idea. She most definitely didn't want to, but she took her Swiss Army knife that Dad had given her and cut the net, causing all the stars to retreat to their natural placements as we sped by. Such a force caused the Santa to drop the net and shake his fists in rage. Alison watched her knife fall to the ground.

I smiled as we landed smoothly on the glassy sea. We all once again stepped on the salted dock. My eyes magnetically went to the moon. I saw a bright red light in front of a figure of a sleigh slowly making its way forward.

My heart jumped. "Santa," I murmured.

"Let's go home and have some hot chocolate!" said Mum.

Gloria glittered above us. I thought, "She was almost the last glittering Christmas star."

Santa's Plan for the reindeer saves Christmas

By **EVAN PEARSON**
Second place
Age 10 category

Cruising home and feeling tired after a long night of delivering presents, Santa was thinking about jumping into bed.

He was feeling sleepy, thinking he was done, when all of a sudden one of his reindeers yelled, "Santa, have we delivered presents to that island below us?"

Jerking awake, Santa called back to his reindeer, "No, I don't think so. Let the lead reindeer know we need to turn around and go back."

When the sleigh got closer

to the island, Santa noticed there wasn't too much snow and he could smell his favourite type of cookies, oatmeal chocolate chip, baking in the ovens below.

"What a cool place to live," thought Santa.

As soon as the holidays were over, Santa returned to buy an acreage on Salt Spring for himself, the elves and reindeer to live.

What a great year Santa and the elves had exploring around their new island home.

Almost one year after Santa moved to Salt Spring, he gave his usual warning to the reindeer to start getting

ready for Christmas.

But the reindeer didn't want to work this year. Instead they wanted to sit on the couch and watch their favourite Christmas shows.

They complained to Santa, "We don't want to pull your sleigh this year. We have to do it every year. It's too much work for free."

"If you don't help me deliver presents, who will?" Santa said, very worried.

The reindeer sat and thought. "How about some cows?" they said in a cheeky voice.

"Cows can't fly, only reindeer can. Please help me deliver gifts to the kids. We

don't want to disappoint everyone," pleaded Santa.

Sitting down in his big Lazy Boy chair Santa thought and thought and thought. "How about I'll give you extra eggnog and fresh new carrots?" asked Santa.

The reindeer quickly replied, "All that hard work and all we're going to get is a little bit more eggnog and a few extra carrots. Na, no deal!"

Santa became even more worried. With his head hanging down, feeling defeated, he slowly walked back to his comfy chair.

"I can't force the reindeer to work, so I guess the kids

will have to do without presents this year."

Though Santa had had many worries before with the reindeer, nothing this worrisome had ever come up before.

Once again Santa thought and thought and thought. He could hear loud voices coming from the reindeers' room where they liked to hang out and watch TV.

Suddenly Santa had an idea, a wonderful idea.

"We don't have much time left, but perhaps the elves could build a portable TV especially for the sleigh so the reindeer could watch their favourite programs on

Christmas Eve."

The elves thought Santa had an excellent idea and quickly went to work.

Every year after the presents were delivered, Santa always gave the reindeers presents, but this year he gave them their present a day early.

"Wow, what a cool idea Santa," said Cupid. "Let's get going so we're not late."

So the elves quickly got busy with their power tools and installed the new TV on Santa's sleigh. Now every year before starting deliveries, the reindeer drop into Island Star to pick their Christmas Eve movie.

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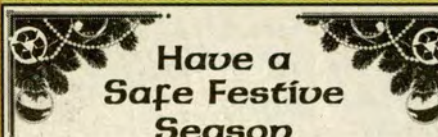
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CHRISTMAS CRACKERS: At top, Stephanie Ditloff dances while toy soldiers look on as Mary Frith's grade 1/2 class at Fernwood Elementary School performs at the school's Christmas concert. At right are students in Barry Bartlett's grade 3 class, performing Kitty Katz at Christmas.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



Winter Wonder Day

By HAYLEY JACKSON
Second place
Age 11-12 category

"Hurry up!" I yelled to my brother as we tumbled down the stairs.

It was finally Christmas morning! I felt the angels that hung among the tree watch us as we tore open the gifts. Wrapping paper flooded the floor and the dogs suddenly became moles as they tunneled through the mismatched coloured paper. Soon after, the snowmen's mouths dropped at all the toys and clothes that covered the couches. Tinsel in my hair from digging through presents, I trundled downstairs to breakfast.

After the delicious Christmas waffles which we had for breakfast, we pulled on our snow gear and started to walk to my grandma's house. Snow and slush covered the ground like a pancake in a frying pan as we walked. Frostbite and wind cut through our scarfs and

toques and left us cold with the bite of winter. Snowflakes danced through the trees like the birds once did in the spring.

Fresh ice lay on the intersection as we approached the gnarled trees that hung around the hill. The trees became icing sugared as the snow fell and rose. I thought of a Popsicle as we walked up the driveway to grandma's. I was one.

Once we were toasted with hot chocolate we ran outside and grabbed the sleds and waddled up to the tippy top of the driveway. The night before it had iced over and it was perfect to sled on. With our sleds in hand I lunged forward and belly flopped on the sled. I sped down the driveway as fast as a rocket! I reached my destination by falling on my back. Me and my brother did this about a million times before it got dark and the wind came back.

Finally it was dinner. It

consisted of creamy carrots, gravy drenched Yorkshire puddings, buttery mashed potatoes, delicious sweet cranberries, fresh peas, and a mouth-watering turkey! I was starving after sledding so this looked scrumptious! Once dinner was consumed it was dessert, which was the best apple pie I have ever set my eyes upon! It was made with fresh apples from the garden and was spiced with cinnamon. That was soon devoured in a matter of seconds.

And once everyone's bellies looked like Santa's, it was time to walk home. This was such a Winter Wonderful Day!

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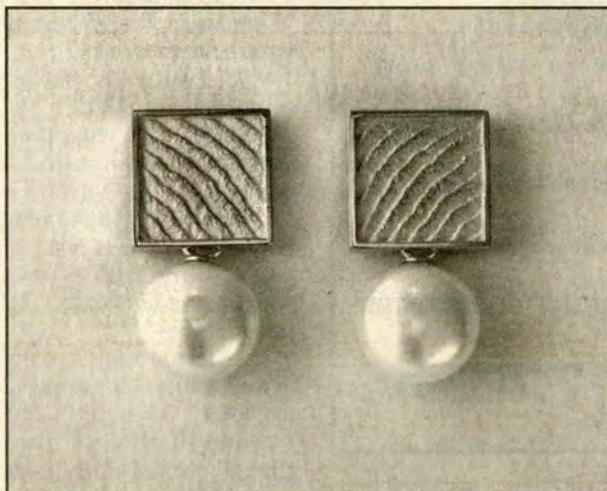


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By **LAURA STEWART**
Second place
Age 15-17 category

It was bitterly cold outside; the window was covered in frost and I could almost see the winter's chill.

I, opposite to the outdoors, was safe and warm in the living room bay window. It was my spot. I could see everything from that window: the ocean, the trees, our dock and no other houses.

As I looked down on at the ocean, I couldn't help but think of that Christmas when everything changed.

It was a Christmas Eve much like this one: cold, snowing but windy, really windy. That's what worried me. My Dad was a commercial fisherman based out of Halifax, and the day before there had been a cod opening.

My mom begged him not to go, but as he always said, "No fish, no money!"

So he set out from Lau-

renceton, where we call home, on the 23rd, hoping to be home for Boxing Day.

But that day, the wind had come up so suddenly we thought he might have come home early. I put on my heaviest coat and my biggest boots and walked down to the dock to look for his boat.

As I got closer to the beach, I could see waves hitting the rocks; the water would splash up at least 30 feet. I would never want to be out on the sea in that kind of wind.

I was suddenly worried about my Dad. I felt like something had happened to him.

I ran, against the blinding wind and snow, down to the boatshed where he kept his VHF radio. It was a special boaters' radio. He had one on his boat for contacting land and one in the boatshed so he could moni-

tor other boats' actions while he worked.

I turned it on, preparing myself for the worst and, sure enough, that's what I heard.

"Mayday. Mayday. Mayday." My Dad's voice rang out.

I knew Mayday was bad news; he had always told me that it meant that the boat was in immediate, life-threatening danger. I never thought it would actually come true.

I heard him say that he had been caught in a huge storm and before he could do anything, his boat had been thrown into an iceberg.

The Coast Guard said they were on their way, but I knew my Dad's fishing routes and I feared they wouldn't get to him. Where was he? Was he bobbing in the frozen sea like a buoy?

I stood there in shock, I couldn't move. I wanted to

do something, but I couldn't; my brain wouldn't think.

After that, Christmas went downhill. As I feared, they didn't find my Dad or his boat. From then on, nothing was the same. My family was mourning, my mom was depressed; it was like our lives had stopped.

As I sat in the bay window, three years later, I remember something about my Dad. He always said that if you're not happy, you're not living. That was his motto in life. So I got up and I went into the other room with my family and celebrated the way we would have four years ago: merrily.

I think my Dad was there too, in spirit, and I think that now he always watches over us all.

I'll never forget the Christmas when my Dad died, but equally important, the one when he came back, in spirit.

Back to Good Cheer

— Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa — it's the spirit of a collective mass holiday that makes the entire season so special.

Even as time passes and I find myself slowly losing my childlike sense of magic, I still maintain that spirit for the short dreary days of winter.

Laced with excitement and anticipation, I feel that there is no better holiday during the year than the one that falls in the winter season.

The essence of the season, the completely clichéd shout of "happy holidays!" and the warm feeling of giving and receiving, is slowly being distorted.

When Santa rolls by on the back of a bus, with a Coca-Cola in his hand, and holiday shopping is played up with marketing techniques

before the candles have burned themselves out in the still-fresh pumpkins of Halloween, Christmas becomes solely commercial.

The so-called joy of giving becomes a contest on who spends the most money, and the number of prettily wrapped packages that find their way under the tree.

Our objective is morphing from the joy of giving, to the greed of receiving. Everywhere we look beautiful and smiling people are telling us why our lives are not complete, and offer us the once-in-a-lifetime solution. The Christmas List gets longer and longer even as we are consumed with our own stress to buy, buy, buy.

All that I think, every single year, is that it is too bad that a holiday filled with the

incredible potential for real merriment and happiness is shadowed in a gray cloud of stress, money and time constraints.

The smiling and happy people that tell you they have the recipe for a happy holiday are the embodiment of our overdrawn credit cards and post-Christmas over-spent blues.

The holidays are supposed to be relaxing and full of that age-old good cheer, so take this potential in hand. It's time for Christmas to go back to its roots: of giving to those we love and those in need, instead of allowing holiday shopping to become a huge chore. The entire season has special meaning of family and good feeling; it's time to take up our good cheer and find ourselves happy during the winter holidays.

When Polly the Pig saved Christmas

By **SARAH KENNEDY**
First place

Age 10 category

Early one morning in December, a pig named Polly woke up. She jumped out of bed, and went to the

kitchen to eat some breakfast. It was only around 6:30 in the morning but she was wide awake.

It was too early to go shopping, so she just lounged around home for the morn-

ing. She was eager to go to the store to pick up any last minute things she may need for the Christmas celebration.

It was about 7 a.m. when the phone rang. She ran to answer it.

"Hello," said Polly "Who is this?"

"This is Santa Claus," said the voice.

"Sure," said Polly sarcastically, "and I'm the tooth fairy."

"Really," said the voice, "I am sorry, I must have the wrong number then."

"No! I am Polly, but seriously who are YOU!"

"I'm Santa Claus, didn't you hear me?" said the voice.

"Okay, but if you're really Santa Claus, then what did you give me for Christmas when I was five years old?" asked Polly.

"Oh, let me think ... oh yes it was a bicycle!" answered the voice.

"You really are Santa Claus!" yelled Polly excitedly. "Well, why did you call me?"

"Because I need your help!" said Santa.



Salt Spring Island Community Services

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Friday, Dec. 31 8am - 6pm
Saturday, Jan. 1 CLOSED

S - Salt Spring Island - ExpressVu - StarChoice

S	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
257 308	CBC	Corrie St.	Corrie St.	Corrie St.	Corrie St.	CBC News: Sunday			Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory	Pollyanna (2002) Georgina Terry.						
600 621	MC	Movie	White Oleander (2002) Michelle Pfeiffer.	Movies	Pirates of the Caribbean (2003) Johnny Depp.	Big Fish (2003) Ewan McGregor.										
4	NewVI	Snowmob	PwrBoat	Sportfish	News Fish	Real Fish	Outdoors	Richler Ink	World Vision	CityLine	Earth: Final Conflict	BeastMaster				
330 379	KING	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Festival On Ice	Snowboarding	PGA Tour 2004		Golf ADT Skills Challenge	PGA	Kenny Tuten				
262 358	CH	Ernest Angley	VanImpe	ListenUp	Football NFL Teams	TBA			Driving	BobMarg	Nikita	TechKO	Diva			
261 321	CTVBC	Eagle Commun.	Eagle C.	Eagle C.	Eagle C.	ChildFind	Eagle C.	Question Period	The Fifties	Figure Skating	Canada Gala					
258 336	GBLBC	Handel's Messiah				Driving	Pet Guys	The Hour of Power	News	Football NFL Teams	TBA					
450 383	KCTS	DragonT.	Piggley...	Arthur	Hour	WallSt	Business	McL'ghlin	ThinkTnk	Presidential..	2/3	Sesno Reports	Nova			
102 702	SRC	Teddy	Mickey	Noël neuf chiens	Le Jour du Seigneur	Mon ange			Journal	La Semaine verte	Regard	Peau d'âne (1970) Catherine Deneuve.				
452 354	KNOW	KoalaBro	55 George Shrinks	Zoboo...	Madeline	35 Bear	Worksh'p	Sportfish	Tech	Undersea	C.Wild	WGarden	Odysseys/ReachTp	Kratts' C	Arthur	
260 359	CITY	CityLine		Cooks	ArtsMinds	Negaraesh	Television	...Movies	Music	Ethnosonic	Story Of...	Listed	INSIDE	Fashion		
460 523	BRAVO	7:00 Mrs. Doubtfire			Naked Gun 2 1/2: Smell of ...	15 Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult			Antiques Ghost	Inside Actors Studio	The Definitive Elvis					
441 506	HIST	7:00 For a Few Dollars More			Tactical to Practical	Joe Kidd (1972) Clint Eastwood.			The Canadians	Battlefleet	Unlocking the Past					
442 560	TLC	While You Were Out	Trading Spaces	Clean Sweep	Biker Girls: Wild	Rides			Overhaul'n'	Mummy Detective	Mummy Detective					
483 541	FAM	15Roscoe	Amanda	15All That	40 Raven	10Steven	40BoyMW	SmartG.	Christm's	Bingo (1991) Cindy Williams.	MVP: Most Valuable Primate	SmartG.	40 Raven			
459 520	A&E	The Man in the Iron Mask (1998) Leonardo DiCaprio.				The Princess Bride (1987) Cary Elwes.			All Year	House	House	Cold Case Files				
400 400	TSN	NFL Countdown			Equest. Thunderbird	Hockey World Jr. IIHF Rus/USA			Golf ADT Skills Challenge	PGA	Sportscentre					
407 419	RSP	7Soccer FA EPL	Rally	Triathlon	Ironman Hawaii	Hockey Canada vs Russia			Canucks	Snapshot	Bus.Sport	Sportsnet News				
23	KSTW	Life	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Columbia Home...	The Long Walk Home	Sissy Spacek.	Major League (1989) Charlie Sheen.					
24	KVOS	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Hour of Power	Day Disc.	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Mehak	Diagnosis Murder	I Spy	Ripley's	Ripley's				
333 382	KCPQ	FOX News Sunday	NFL Pregame	Football NFL Teams	TBA				Football NFL Arizona Cardinals vs Seattle Seahawks							
511 390	NEWS	Antiques Roadshow	Antiques Roadshow	Antiques Roadshow	Antiques Roadshow	CBC News: Sunday			Nature of Things	News	CountryC					
332 381	KIRO	7:30 Sunday Morning	The NFL Today	Football NFL San Diego Chargers vs Indianapolis Colts					Paid Program	WildA.	Spider					
331 380	KOMO	8:00 KOMO 4 News	This Week	Animal R.	World Vision	Paid Prog	C. Bowl Prev.	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	NBA Ins	NBA Ins				
537 394	VISION	Islam	The Hour of Power	J. Meyer	Living Truth	TBA	Food Life	VanImpe	700 Club	Nations	Facts	Potter's	Tomor'w	R.Martin	Ministries	

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S	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
257 308	CBC	Be the Creature	Disney's Atlantis: The Lost Empire				Holiday Fest. On Ice	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang			CBC News: Sunday	Doctor Zhivago				
600 621	MC	3:45 Freaky Friday	My Baby's Daddy				The Last Samurai (2003) Tom Cruise.	45 Chasing Liberty	Mandy Moore.							
4	NewVI	Black Scorpion	Relic Hunter	Close-Up	Idea City	Home Videos	Monk	Twelve Days of Christmas Eve			Uncover	Skiing				
330 379	KING	Mathews	Upfront	KING 5 News	News	News	Dateline NBC	Law & Order: C.I.	Crossing Jordan	News	35 Sports					
262 358	CH	Myst.Ink	BodyHlth	CH Weekend News	Ins.Ent.	Go! Mag.	CaitlinW	Homes	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition	Doc	Yulin'	Ins.Ent.				
261 321	CTVBC	Hospital for Sick Kids	Holiday Special	News			Sue Thomas	100 Days in the Jungle	Michael Riley.	The Sopranos	News	News				
258 336	GBLBC	1Football	MoneyW.	Simpsons	Sunday	News	Malcolm	KingHill	Simpsons	Arrested	Every Song Tells	Lilith on Top	News	Christm's		
450 383	KCTS	2:00 Nova	Pioneer Quest 2/9	O.House	HomeT.	Antiques Rd. 2/3	Nature	Exxonmobil Masterpiece Theatre	Mystery! Pt. 2 of 4							
102 702	SRC	Adrenaline		Journal	Découverte	Laflaque	Prix du Gouverneur général	Journal	Cirque du Soleil							
452 354	KNOW	ArtAttack	CG Kids	105 Babar	P Rabbit	Voices of God	National Geographic	The Royal	Louis Armstrong	Industry	..Science	Comedic Genius				
260 359	CITY	World Poker Tour		News	ColourTV	Movie TV	Star TV	The Collector	Ocean's Eleven (2001) George Clooney.	Sex TV						
460 523	BRAVO	ArtsMinds	Muse	Infused With Light	Rushmore	45 The Cradle Will Rock (1999) Hank Azaria.	15 Where the Buffalo Roam									
441 506	HIST	Antiques Roadshow	Royal Deaths	Pale Rider (1985) Clint Eastwood.			Master...	Pale Rider (1985) Clint Eastwood.	Master...							
442 560	TLC	A Haunting in Connecticut		A Haunting in Georgia			A Haunting in Georgia	Paid Program								
483 541	FAM	20 Lilo&S.	45Proudf	Fillmore	Possible	05 Dave...	Mentors	Roscoe	50 Knock	15 Dark?	@Movies	Hook (1991) Robin Williams.	20 Flashdance			
459 520	A&E	Cold Case Files	Monster's Ball (2001) Halle Berry.	Bounty	CSI: Miami	Monster's Ball (2001) Halle Berry.	Bounty									
400 400	TSN	Fights	NFL PrimeTime	Football NFL Cleveland Browns vs Miami Dolphins			Sportscentre	NFL PrimeTime	SnowTrx	Sportscentre						
407 419	RSP	NBA XL	News	Basketball NBA Toronto Raptors vs Phoenix Suns	Hockey Canada vs Russia											
23	KSTW	Mysteries	Taxi	Frasier	Queens	Queens	70s	70s	CSI: Crime Scene	CSI: Crime Scene	News	Taxi	Walker, TR			
24	KVOS	Paid Prog	D.Chalk	5.Wheel	5.Wheel	Queens	Queens	Serve & Protect	Batman Forever (1995) Val Kilmer.	Becker	Cheers	D.Chalk				
333 382	KCPQ	1Football	Q It Up	Raymond	Simpsons	Friends	Behavior	KingHill	Simpsons	Arrested	Malcolm	Malcolm	News	Q It Up	Stargate: SG-1	
511 390	NEWS	the fifth estate	Face to Face	CBC News: Sunday	The Passionate Eye				CBC News: Sunday	The Passionate Eye						
332 381	KIRO	Go For It!	WildA.	News	News	News	60 Minutes	Cold Case	Ocean's Eleven (2001) George Clooney.	News						
331 380	KOMO	Garden	AutoTV	KOMO 4 News	News	News	Home Videos	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition	Housewives	News	35 Ebert					
537 394	VISION	Day Disc.	VanImpe	Jeremiah	Spirit	Songs	Voice of	Love	D.Hope	Youngren	Power	P. Popoff	Armor	Songs	Moral D.	Credo

SUNDAY, DEC 25

6:00 PM
15 ★★ Pale Rider (1985, Action) A stranger is caught in a feud between a mining syndicate and the town's prospectors. *Clint Eastwood* (2h30)

7:00 PM
3 ★★ The Last Samurai (2003, Drama) An American in 19th century Japan embraces the samurai culture he was hired to eliminate. *Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe* (2h45)

7:45 PM
14 ★★ The Cradle Will Rock (1999, Drama) Film director Orson Welles tries to stage a musical, but he runs into complications. *Hank Azaria, Aidan Devine* (2h)

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)

7 100 Days in the Jungle (2002, True) The incredible true story of Canadian oil workers who were kidnapped by Colombian rebels. *Michael Riley, Aidan Devine* (2h)

24 ★★ Batman Forever (1995, Action) Batman tries to resist a woman's charm as he and Robin battle Two-Face and the Riddler. *Val Kilmer, Jim Carrey* (2h30)

9:00 PM
13 27 ★★ Ocean's Eleven (2001, Crime Story) A thief devises a plan to rob an underground vault that serves three Las Vegas casinos. *George Clooney, Julia Roberts* (2h30)

15 ★★ Pale Rider (1985, Action) A stranger is caught in a feud between a mining syndicate and the town's prospectors. *Clint Eastwood, Michael Moriarty* (2h30)

19 ★★ Hook (1991, Fantasy) A grown-up Peter Pan must return to Neverland to rescue his kids from Captain Hook. *Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman* (2h20)

20 ★★ Monster's Ball (2001, Drama) A convict's wife falls for the prison guard responsible for her husband's execution. *Halle Berry, Heath Ledger* (2h30)

9:45 PM
3 ★★ Chasing Liberty (2004, Romance) The President's daughter eludes her entourage in Europe and falls for a British stranger. *Mandy Moore, Peter Boyle, Bill Murray* (2h)

10:15 PM
14 ★★ Where the Buffalo Roam (1980, Biography) Journalist Hunter S. Thompson embarks on a drunken, drug-laden journey across America. *Peter Boyle, Bill Murray* (2h)

11:00 PM
2 ★★ Doctor Zhivago (1965, Drama) The life of Yuri Zhivago unfolds against the backdrop of the Russian Revolution. *Omar Sharif, Julie Christie* (3h30)

11:20 PM
19 ★★ Flashdance (1983, Drama) A woman's dream of becoming a professional dancer proves more difficult than she thought. *Jennifer Beals, Geoffrey Rush, Charlize Theron* (2h)

11:45 PM
3 ★★ The Life and Death of Peter Sellers (2004, Biography) A portrayal of the personal and professional life of British actor Peter Sellers. *Geoffrey Rush, Charlize Theron* (2h)

MONDAY, DEC 27

6:00 PM
15 ★★ Enemy at the Gates (2001, Drama) A Russian sniper is hunted by a German adversary during the 1942 battle of Stalingrad. *Jude Law, Joseph Fiennes* (3h)

8:00 PM
2 ★★ Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001, Fantasy) A hobbit embarks on an epic quest to destroy the ancient ring that was entrusted to him. *Elijah Wood, Ian McKellan* (2h)

3 ★★ Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003, Adventure) A British captain pushes his ship and crew to their limits during the Napoleonic War. *Russell Crowe, Paul Bettany*

6 ★★ A Crime of Passion (1999, Drama) A medical student is forced to exonerate herself when she is the key suspect in a murder. *Tracey Gold, 24 ★★ There Goes My Baby (1994, Comedy)* A vaudeville comedian recalls the final days surrounding the graduation of the class of '65. *Dermot Mulroney, Rick Schroder* (2h)

9:00 PM
13 ★★ Moulin Rouge! (2001, Musical) A popular courtesan seduces a skeptical young poet in 19th-century Montmartre, Paris. *Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor* (2h30)

19 ★★ It Could Happen to You (1994, Romance) An honorable policeman shares his winning lottery ticket with an unlucky waitress. *Nicolas Cage, Bridget Fonda* (1h35)

10:30 PM
3 ★★ Club Dread (2004, Comedy) A serial killer interrupts the fun at an unusual island resort for swingers. *Elena Lyons, Dan Montgomery Jr.* (1h45)

11:00 PM
15 ★★ Enemy at the Gates (2001, Drama) A Russian sniper is hunted by a German adversary during the 1942 battle of Stalingrad. *Jude Law, Joseph Fiennes* (3h)

11:15 PM
14 ★★ Days of Heaven (1978, Drama) A trio of refugees try to survive on the plains of Texas after one commits a murder. *Richard Gere*

11:30 PM
2 ★★ Road to Singapore (1940, Comedy) A groom-to-be and his friend hide out in Singapore, where they both fall for a dancer. *Bing Crosby, Bob Hope* (2h)

TUESDAY, DEC 28

6:00 PM
15 ★★ Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970, War) The events of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, as told from different viewpoints. *Soh Yamamura* (3h)

7:00 PM
3 ★★ Mystic River (2003, Psycho-Drama) Three childhood friends are reunited for different reasons when one loses a daughter. *Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon* (2h30)

8:00 PM
2 ★★ Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001, Fantasy) A hobbit embarks on an epic quest to destroy the ancient ring that was entrusted to him. *Elijah Wood, Ian McKellan* (2h)

4 ★★ E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982, Sci-Fi) A lonely and bored young boy forms a strong bond with an alien left stranded on Earth. *Henry Thomas, Drew Barrymore* (2h30)

24 ★★ Chariots of Fire (1981, Sport) Two very different men are trained to represent their country in the 1924 Olympics. *Ben Cross, Ian Charleson*

9:00 PM
13 ★★ Die Hard 2: Die Harder (1990, Action) A detective battles terrorists at an airport when a plot threatens hundreds of passengers. *Bruce Willis, William Atherton* (2h30)

19 ★★ Arthur (1981, Comedy) A loveable millionaire risks it all when he falls in love with an irascible waitress. *Dudley Moore, Jill Eikenberry*

29 ★★ The Miracle Worker (1962, Biography) A determined woman struggles to teach the blind, mute and deaf Helen Keller. *Anne Bancroft, Patty Duke* (2h)

10:00 PM
14 ★★ Playing for Keeps (1986, Musical) Three high school graduates decide to fix up a hotel and turn it into a teen hangout. *Daniel Jordano, Matthew Penn* (2h)

10:45 PM
3 ★★ Spider (2002, Drama) A mentally-ill man in a halfway house recalls his traumatic childhood memories. *Ralph Fiennes, Miranda Richardson*

11:00 PM
15 ★★ Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970, War) The events of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, as told from different viewpoints. *Martin Balsam*

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Sunday, December 26CLOSED

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S	A	☆		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
2	257	308	CBC	Blobhead	Edible I.	Simpsons	St.Cents	News	U.Miners	WinterT.	Corrie St.	Lord of Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring	The National/Mag.	News	Movie				
3	600	621	MC	3:00 Adaptation	15 Face Value (2001)	Scott Baio.			HUFF			Master & Commander: The Far Side of the World	Club Dread	Elena Lyons.					
4			NewVI	Relic Hunter	VI Land News					B.Date	Million?	7th Heaven	Everwood	Starhunter	News	35 J.Leno			
5	330	379	KING	Oprah Winfrey	KING News		News	News	News	Magazine	Inside Ed.	Fear Factor	Crossing Jordan	Las Vegas	News	35 J.Leno			
6	262	358	CH	Days of Our Lives	CH News		Sports	Go! Mag.	CaitlinW.	Strange	A Crime of Passion (1999)	Tracey Gold.	Malcolm	Malcolm	Sp'rtPage	Sports			
7	261	321	CTVBC	Frasier	Friends	CTV News at Five	News		eTalk	Degrassi	Conversation P.M.	Sunday Night	CSI: Miami	News	News				
8	258	336	GBLBC	Oprah Winfrey	News	National	News		ET	G.Taste	Wings and Dreams	Las Vegas	Crossing Jordan	News					
9	450	383	KCTS	Maya..	Postcard	Europe	Business	News	Minister	O.House	Antiques Roadshow	American Exp. cont'd Jan 2	Niagara	News	T Smiley				
10	102	702	SRC	McGuire	Têtes...	Mr. Bean	Union	Journal	bonheur	Le Journal de Bridget Jones		Yvon au manoir	Téléjournal/Point	Journal	Découve				
11	452	354	KNOW	George	35 Babar	MagicBus	Piggley...	2 Opinion	MoveOn	Tech	ReachTp	Britain From the Air			Gwaii				
12	260	359	CITY	CityLine		Ellen DeGeneres	News	Speaker's	Sex&City	Friends	Stargate: SG-1	Moulin Rouge! (2001)	Nicole Kidman.		News				
13	460	523	BRAVO	3:30Avonl.	Words and Music (1948)	Mickey Rooney.			Mann	Strip.	Law & Order	Sex&City	145 Sex and the City	Sex&City	15 Days of Heaven				
14	441	506	HIST	JAG		Stalingrad		Enemy at the Gates (2001)	Jude Law.			JAG		Stalingrad	Enemy at Gates				
15	442	560	TLC	In a Fix		Plastic Surgery		Body Work	Younger	Younger	Plastic Surgery	Body Work		Younger	In a Fix				
16	483	541	FAM	15 Dave..	Possible	Proud F.	McGuire	So Raven	Stevens	Brotherly	Roscoe	Boy MW	Roscoe	It Could Happen to You	Boy MW	Life	50Mentor		
17	459	520	A&E	American Justice	Airline	Airline	Gotti	Gotti	Cold Case Files		Crossing Jordan	Airline	Airline	Gotti	Gotti	Cold Case Files			
18	400	400	TSN	SportsC	NFL Monday Night	Countdown		WWE Raw			Sportscentre	WWE Raw				Sportscentre			
19	407	419	RSP	Motoc's 125 Pro/Am	Hockey	Volleyball		Pro AVP	News	Basketball	NBA Philadelphia 76ers vs Portland Trail Blazers		Sportsnet News		Sportsnet News				
20			KSTW	Dance	Home I.	Frasier	Frasier	Queens	Queens	70s	70s	OneOne	Half&Half	Girlfriend	Second...	News	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Becker
21			KVOS	The People's Court		F.Feud	Funny!	Cheers	Shoot	Yes, Dear	Becker	There Goes My Baby	Demot Mulroney.			W&Grace	Queens	Elimdate	5.Wheel
22	333	382	KCPQ	Shoot	Dharma	Dharma	KingHill	Simpsons	Malcolm	Simpsons	Malcolm	House		House	Q-13 News		Simpsons	KingHill	
23	511	390	NEWS	Can. Now	Can. Now	Retro Reel: Planet		The National/Mag.		The Passionate Eye	Year in Politics	National	Business	The Passionate Eye	Retro Reel: Planet				
24	332	381	KIRO	Judy	Judy	KIRO News		News	News	ET	Access	Standing	Listen Up	Raymond	Half Men	CSI: Miami	News	LateShow	
25	331	380	KOMO	First News @ 4		KOMO 4 News		Football NFL	Philadelphia Eagles vs St. Louis Rams			KOMO 4 News		Blunderful Sports	News	35 News			
26	537	394	VISION	Touched By Angel		Life Begins		Wonderfalls		S. Parish	Credo	Hope Island		Wonderfalls		Life Begins		7th Heaven	

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What's On This Week

wed. december 22	thurs. december 23	fri. december 24	sat. december 25	sun. december 26	mon. december 27	tues. december 28
live entertainment	live entertainment	other activities	other activities	live entertainment	live entertainment	live entertainment
Carols for Christmastide. Special Simply Organic event at All Saints, 10:10 am Christmas With Scrooge. At ArtSpring, 7 pm other activities Argentine Tango Lessons. Wednesdays at Lions Hall, 7:30-8:30 pm. Info: Frank, 537-2524.	Christmas With Scrooge. At ArtSpring, 7 pm Jam Open Mike. Fulford Inn.	Rollerblading to Music. Fridays at Fulford Hall, 7:30-9 pm Christmas Eve Services. See island church ads for places and times.	Community Turkey Dinner. Free community dinner at Meaden Hall, 11:30 am. Sponsored by the SSI United Church.	Tom Hooper & the Angry Hippies. At Anise, 9 pm other activities Duck Golf Disc Golf. Annual Boxing Day tourney at Mouat Park. 10 am	Nothing scheduled at this time. other activities Nothing scheduled at this time.	Circle Dance Group. Drop-in. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: 538-0316.

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cinema

The Polar Express — **HELD OVER!** Tom Hanks and director Robert Zemeckis re-team in this computer-generated family film based on the story of a boy who takes a magical train ride to the North Pole.

Oceans 12 — The cool gang of thieves, including George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts and Matt Damon head to Paris for another impossible heist, this time with a French competitor (Vincent Cassel) to deal with as well. Steve Soderbergh directs.

CINEMA CLOSED Dec. 24-25.

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SSTV Cable Channel 12 runs continuously for 24 hours beginning at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 28. Note that during the month of December, programs will air on Tuesdays!

Featured this week is **The Holly and the Ivy** concert with Salt Spring Singers, Honour Choir and Island Brass Players.

Plus **Fall Fair 2004 (Pt. I)** Back to the warm golden days of late summer at the grounds of the Farmers Institute.

Ganges Lights: images of the village on a quiet night as it shines brightly with the spirit of the season.

exhibitions

- Salt Spring Painters Guild show portrait works and more in the lobby at ArtSpring.
- Michael Hames has monotypes and miniatures on display at Thunderbird Gallery through Dec. 23.
- Salt Spring Woodworks features Stefanie Denz paintings and fine woodwork by several artists. 125 Churchill Rd., Dec. 16-19.
- Copperwood Gallery is open for the Christmas season. 111 Morningside in Fulford.
- Martinus Gallery is now open in Ganges. 145 Seaview Avenue.
- Karen Reiss, sculptor in clay, is the featured artist at Waterfront Gallery.
- Nature Photography by Theresa Mackey is at Moby's Pub through January 15.

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First hair salon owner celebrates 90th

By MITCHELL SHERRIN
Staff Writer

Some 120 islanders celebrated the 90th birthday of local beauty monarch Nelly Gilman-Schwägly at the Harbour House Hotel on Sunday.

"She's still the queen of the family," said Nelly's eldest daughter Maryke Oudshoorn.

"Mom would like to thank her friends for coming out and making the day so memorable," Maryke said.

Nelly and her family opened the Dutch Beauty Salon along Park Drive, the first hairstyling salon on Salt Spring, back in 1960 when they were still living in Victoria.

"I couldn't leave those customers here. They didn't have a salon," Nelly said.

"I couldn't say 'no.'"

She left her daughters Maryke, Elly and Ansje to run her Blanshard Street salon while she commuted to the island aboard the Cy Peck until she moved over to the island in 1961.

"My son-in-law [Bram Oudshoorn] built a new business where the cablevision office is now [on Lower Ganges Road]," Nelly said.

Her son Frank Jr. also helped the business by shampooing hair, Nelly said.

"But he was a clown and put soap on the nose."

The Dutch Beauty Salon grew to three shops in Victoria and Salt Spring, and Nelly established a regal reputation after she provided services to Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

"They knew I had the best shop in Victoria so they asked if I would do the Queen's hair," Nelly smiled.

"A lot of the Dutch started coming to the shop more when the word got out," said her son Henry.

Nelly laughed that she couldn't speak a word of English when she first moved to Victoria in 1957 but she was already an accomplished hairdresser.

"I was working so I couldn't go to school," she said.

So her customers taught her the language, she laughed.



BIRTHDAY GIRL: "Queen of the family" Nelly Gilman-Schwägly is surrounded by four of her children — from left Henry, Maryke, Ansje and Elly — at her 90th birthday party, attended by 120 people Sunday afternoon.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

"She had a wonderful clientele," Maryke said.

Previous customers were among the guests at Sunday's surprise party, even though Nelly sold the business 30 years ago. She also saw friends she hasn't seen in 40 years.

"I would like to thank the Harbour House for cooperating with us. They bent over backwards," Henry said.

Guests at the party included Nelly's friends from the Lions, the Catholic Women's League, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Lost Chords choir.

Asked about her membership in so many groups, Nelly said, "After you work so hard in life, you can't sit still anymore."

Nelly also suffered more than her share of hardship during WWII. Her father was killed by an errant bomb from an Allied plane, her husband was captured by the Germans as a P.O.W. and she lost three of her own children to a rare illness related to diabetes.

But Nelly helped care for other newborns as a wet nurse at the hospital in Rotterdam.

One friend who came to Sunday's party, Jenny Locke, was nursed by Nelly during

the war, Maryke said.

"She came to thank my mom for being her mom."

Nelly says she owes her good health today to a fine family, a comfortable bed and one hour of exercises every morning.

"I need to stay alive because I've got lots of work to do with my kids."

Along with three daughters, two sons, 14 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren, Nelly was also blessed with two good husbands, Maryke said.

"We had a really sweet dad. He was tops," she said.

Though Nelly has always been vivacious by nature, she was sad and lonely after her first husband Frank died in 1974, the day after she sold her salon to stay home and take care of him, Maryke said.

But after 11 years of living as a widow, Nelly met Fred Gilman at a party for single seniors in 1985 and started a new chapter.

"I got everybody singing," she smiled.

After a period of dating, Fred and Nelly went to Hawaii together and she realized she was in love when they had a frightening mishap.

While they were swim-

ming, she became fraught with concern for Fred's safety and rushed out to save him when he dunked under the surface three times. She found that he wasn't drowning, but attempting to rescue his dentures.

"That's when I said, 'Ya, I'll marry you.'"

She even loved him while he waited for his new dentures to arrive and they remained together for eight years until he died, she said.

"They have both been beautiful husbands."

Asked how long she thinks she'll live, she said, "As long as my mind is good and my legs will go."



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Friday, Dec. 24, 7 pm
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Sunday, Dec. 26, 10:30 am
Boxing Day Service

Everyone Welcome

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for the Season*

SEASONAL FEAST:
John Fischer enjoys a
plate of goodies as he
joins about 80 seniors at
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Christmas tea, Wednes-
day at Lions Hall.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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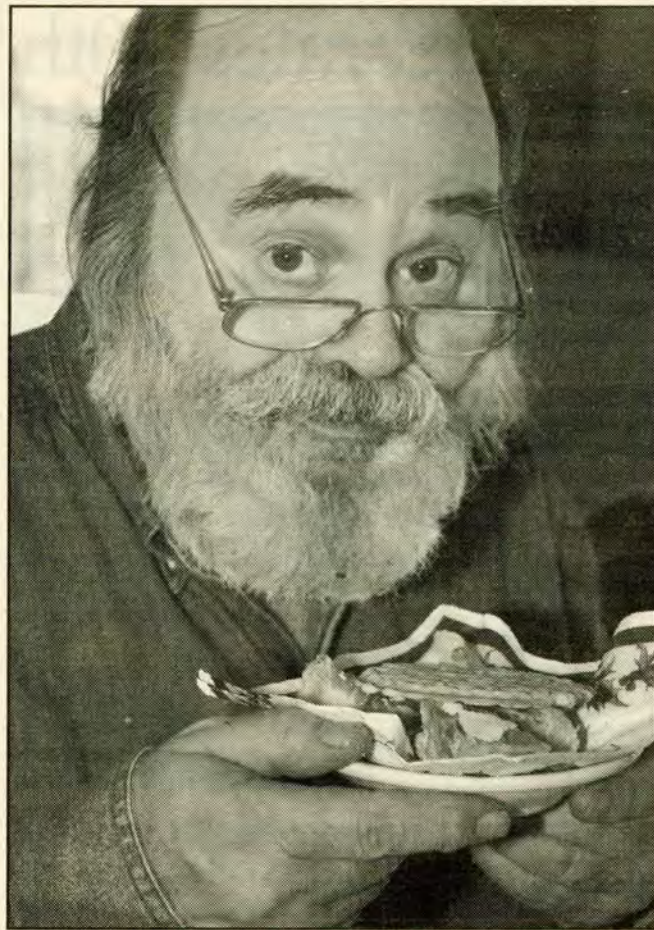
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POLLY THE PIG

From Page B14

"Someone wants Christmas all to themselves. They have been stealing all the presents that the elves are making and all the decorations. I have chosen you because you were the nicest animal this year!"

"Okay, What do I have to do?" asked Polly.

"I need you to go to the Himalayas for me. I don't know who they are but I know they live in the Himalayas," said Santa. "I can't because I have to take care of the reindeer."

"Okay, I'll do it!" giggled Polly.

The little pig hung up the phone, got dressed in her winter wear, jumped in her car and drove to the airport. She walked around the airport for a while until she found a plane that would take her to the Himalayas. The plane ride took one day and one night then... She had finally arrived in the Himalayas!

All of a sudden she realized she hadn't asked Santa where in the Himalayas she needed to be looking for the thieves! Luckily she had brought her cell phone so she pressed re-dial and phoned Santa back.

"Hi Santa, sorry for bothering you but you forgot to tell me where in the Himalayas it was!"

"Oh, I'm sorry, you need to travel to the tallest mountain and there at the top you will find a cave. I am sure that is where the thieves are hanging out. Okay, bye!"

said Santa.

"Well, now I sort of know where the bandits are," said Polly quietly to herself.

She drove around the Himalayas for one hour, then she finally found the tallest mountain there! She thought to herself, "This might take a while." And she was right! After climbing up the mountain for a while, she met a frog.

"Who are you?" asked the frog.

"I'm Polly the pig from Canada and I'm looking for the cave at the very top of the tallest mountain. It seems impossible!" sighed Polly.

"Hi, I'm Jim, and it's not impossible because I've been to the top many times," said the frog. "It was about 50 years ago, would you like me to come with you?" asked Jim.

"Sure, and I will carry you?" offered Polly.

"OK, thanks. Well, let's get going!" said Jim excitedly.

All of a sudden they came to a bridge. They were walking across the bridge when a horrific looking troll jumped up from under the bridge.

"Who are you?" sneered the troll.

"I'm Polly and this is Jim!" said the frightened pretty little pig. "We are going to the top of this mountain!"

"Oh no you're not! I'm going to eat you first," laughed the troll.

"Why?" asked Polly, like she was about to cry.

"Ummmm, well, let's AAAHHH," screamed the troll as Polly pushed him

Prizes galore at bridge gathering

The last Gulf Islands Bridge Club game of the year saw Joan Conlan and Blanche Poborsa come in first, followed by Irene Hawksworth and Jill Evans.

The Laundrys were third, and Ima Krayenhoff and Patricia MacFarlane were fourth.

The game before Christmas, we have a tradition that anyone taking a trick with a deuce gets a prize. This, of course, happens many times, and so the prizes (of which there are three) change hands frequently. It is only during the last few hands that it really matters having one (or more) deuces and that is when a combination of prevarication and deliberate procrastination comes into play. A certain player (who shall be nameless) announced before play start-

ed, not only that he would win a prize, but which one.

He almost did — but he snatched defeat out of the jaws of victory when I outfoxed him by waiting until he had claimed what I then relieved him of. Always a fun game. The other lucky (crafty?) winner was Irene Hawksworth, who claimed both the other prizes.

So now we — or some of us, anyway — will have to suffer through a three-week hiatus, while others spend money (possibly that "they don't got") on a thoroughly commercial credit-card Christmas, followed by a thoroughly sizzled New Year's eve. Pity.

Our next game will be held on January 3, 2005. Until then: "Merry Christmas to all, And to all a good fight" — at the card-table, of course.

onto the ice below.

"Thank goodness... Now that that's over," said Polly. "Let's get on with this journey!"

They had been climbing for quite a while when they finally come to the front of a cave.

"This must be it!" said Jim, trembling.

They walked inside quietly then suddenly stopped. There was some noise coming from deep inside the cave.

"Did you hear that?" asked Polly. She was quivering with fear. "It sounded like... music?"

They walked around the corner so they both could see. Then they saw really tall people dancing around a Christmas tree. Actually they didn't really look like people, they looked more like SASQUATCHES!

Polly ran out from behind cover and yelled, "STOP BY THE NAME OF THE LAW!"

Everything just stopped, then Polly walked up to the biggest Sasquatch there.

"Are you the king?"

He nodded, then Polly said, "May I have a word with you?"

They walked out of sight and she asked him, "Why did you destroy Christmas?"

"I didn't mean to," he said, "I just wanted everyone in my land to have a Christmas celebration this year!"

"You didn't have to steal everything!" exclaimed Polly, "All you need to do is just get yourself a tree,

decorate it, give each other gifts and most of all spend time with the ones you love. You didn't have to steal from Santa!"

"Oh, now I feel so bad for wrecking Christmas for the people in your town!" said the Sasquatch.

"It's okay, but we shouldn't rely on Santa to give us presents every year. What I mean is that that's not the most important thing. Spending time with family and friends you love is by far the most important part of Christmas!" said Polly.

"Okay," said the Sasquatch "I'll go get the presents I took and return them. Now that I know what Christmas is all about, we don't need them."

"Okay I'll give them back to Santa," said Polly "and then I better go."

"All right then," said the Sasquatch and he went back into the cave.

They both said good-bye and Polly set out to find her way back home.

"Well, a job well done. Jim, since you were so helpful and a good friend, do you want to come back to my house and live with me instead of on this mountain?" asked Polly.

"Really? Thank you so much!" said Jim, jumping up and down.

"Okay, well let's go home then!" announced Polly.

And the pretty little pig, Polly and her friend the frog, Jim, both lived happily ever after!

Take a Bow

Where The Driftwood salutes local business people and accomplishments.

Olde Town Christmas Stroll Winner!

On Sunday, December 12, eleven merchants created a "local shopping stroll" event. The eleven merchants, Coastal Currents, Aroma Crystal Therapy, Fables Cottage, Harlan's, Houseboat, Family Jewels, Love My Kitchen, Soapworks, Stitches, Windflower Moon and WearEverywear congratulate Vivian Davies on her Gift Basket winnings!



Linda Koroscil (right)
and winner Vivian Davies

Driftwood

Is your Salt Spring business celebrating a special event?
Call the Driftwood's Publisher, Penny Sakamoto, for information on this feature. 537-9933.

DEADLINE MONDAY 4PM

Too Late To Classify Deadline: Noon Tuesday

Driftwood Classifieds

REGULAR CLASSIFIEDS

BARGAIN HUNTER CLASSIFIEDS
10 words or less

\$6.95
Value of goods must not exceed \$100. Private party, non-commercial ads only.

REGULAR CLASSIFIEDS
20 words or less

\$9.25
Additional words
30¢ 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, 4PM.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

20 words or less

\$11.25
Additional words
36¢ each

Deadline TUESDAY NOON

DISPLAY CLASSIFIEDS
\$11.50
per column inch (minimum size one inch)

Border: Add \$2

Frequency discounts available

REGIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

BUY VANCOUVER ISLAND

\$99

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

BUY LOWER MAINLAND

\$99

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

BUY BC INTERIOR

\$99

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

BCYCA NETWORK CLASSIFIEDS

\$349

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

PAYMENT

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

PLACING AN AD

- In person at our office at 328 Lower Ganges Road, Ganges
- By telephone, 250-537-9933, or fax, 250-537-2613
- By email to classified@gulfislands.net (no attachments please)
- By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3.

POLICIES

Please check your ad after the first insertion. Should an error appear in an advertisement, Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is only liable for the amount paid for the space occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Driftwood Publishing Ltd. will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion.

Notices

See a great photo in the Driftwood?

Call today to order your reprint!

537-9933

6 DEATHS

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



COULTER, Cdr. James Robert Boardman (Jay), RCN ret'd
May 16, 1920 - December 17, 2004

In Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island after a 6 month battle with leukemia.

Jay Coulter was a vibrant, adventurous man of great intelligence, inquisitiveness and humour. Jay loved life: he used to say he had fun doing whatever came his way, both in his career and in his personal life.

Jay was born in Montreal. He entered the Royal Canadian Navy in 1941 and spent most of the war in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean carrying out the dangerous work of protecting convoys. He turned his wartime exposure to torpedo anti-submarine and mine warfare into his area of specialization after the war. Although some of his appointments were on land, Jay preferred being at sea and was proud that he had been given command of so many ships. This poem that he loved expresses his connection with the sea:

Why should I follow the tracks of man
When the trackless seas are free?
Why bind myself to a ribbon of dust
When the waters are calling me?

Jay retired from the navy in 1965 and embarked upon a completely different career. He held a number of senior positions in the federal government in areas as varied as Lester B Pearson's War on Poverty, regional and economic expansion (New Brunswick) and the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat). He ended his public service career in 1978 as the Associate Director of Heritage Canada.

Jay had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. He read voraciously and he loved to travel and experience different cultures. At last count he had visited 75 countries. Three years ago he went to China and Japan; the following year he was in Greece.

Jay knew a lot about wine too and in the 1980's, as head of the Vancouver Island branch of the Opium Society, he had the good fortune to go to wine tastings in several countries. When he was in his 70's, he took up sculpting and produced some fine figurative and abstract work.

Jay had a wonderful sense of humour. His daughter Marnie shared and will miss his love of whimsy. Jay loved to tell stories and his family and friends shared wonderful -- and often hilarious -- times with him discussing his experiences and insights. You could always count on being offered a "glass" when you visited him.

Above all Jay was an outdoor person. He loved working in the garden and tinkering with everything in sight that needed repair. His daughter Margot will always treasure the hours she and her father shared gardening and fixing up her house during his visits to Kingston. During winter months spent in Mexico with his travelling companion Louise, Jay was forever out and about exploring the countryside by foot and/or bus.

His son Mark once asked him what in his various careers had given him the most satisfaction. He replied, "being the captain of my own ship." Jay Coulter was the captain of his own ship right to the end and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Jay is predeceased by his wife Priscilla (née Wright). He is survived by his children, Marnie in Victoria, Mark on Salt Spring Island and Margot in Kingston, Ontario; in Ontario, by his sister Leslie who adored her big brother and on Salt Spring Island, by his loving friend Louise Woodward.

At Jay's request, there will be no funeral or memorial service. The family wishes to thank the doctors and nurses at the Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island for their compassion and care. Anyone wishing to mark Jay's passing may make a donation to the hospital's palliative care unit through the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation. The family would also welcome donations to Salt Spring's Hospice whose members were so helpful in Jay's final days.

9 SEASONAL GREETINGS

BIGFOOT HERB Farms, Barney, Ken and Pat and Big and Baby Foot wish each and every one the greatest of holiday seasons! 104 Eagle ridge Dr. 537-4466.

MAY ALL the precious angels of love caress your soul and bless your path. Happy new year and love. Christian Paul-Tatonetti.

PUMP PRIMERS wishing you all continued good health and joy this holiday season. Lift those feet. Ho, Ho, Ho. Catherine.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers and a happy New Year to you all. Ho, Ho, Ho.

To all my clients & friends,

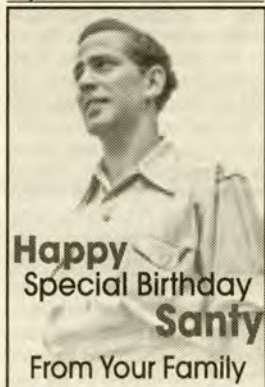
may you have a wonderful holiday season and most importantly, a safe one.

Greetings from Stanly Laing.

shakima@telus.net
537-8860

10 CELEBRATIONS

PLEASE WELCOME Louise Nye to the Septuagenarian Club. As of Dec. 21, Louise will be permitted to park where she wants (!), wear purple and pay double at the movies. All our love to you Grandma. Kathleen and the Boys.



Happy Special Birthday Sanfy
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.

SEAFOOD RECIPE calendars, made on Salt Spring. Drawings by Bly Kaye. Easy to mail, \$15, at GVM, SS Books, RR Trading, Vol. II Books, Love My Kitchen.

NUDGE SANTA - new session of painting classes (water colour or acrylics) starting in Jan. Beginners & intermediates welcome. Gift certificates available. Call Val Konig 537-9531.

NAIKAI GALLERY opening for the month of December only. Great Christmas gifts. Free Xmas ornament for purchase of \$25 & over. D. Campbell print with purchase of \$100 & over. Carol Haigh print with purchase of \$250 & over. Come see Don and Paint at the old growing circle co-op location in Gasoline alley. 537-6984.

SANSKRIT CLASSES, Introductory and Continuing, starts week of Jan. 10 at Jayrambath; Meditation Centre, Upper Sky Valley Rd. Lalita: 653-4084.

Letter to the editor?
Press release?
What's On calendar event?
Send it to
news@gulfislands.net.

20 COMING EVENTS

Community Gospel Chapel

147 Vesuvius Bay Rd.

Presents

Friday, Dec. 24

7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Information

Call 537-2622 or
info@communitygospelchapel.com

ISLAND ESCAPADES

Salt Spring's Outdoor Adventure, Gear & Clothing Co.

BOXING WEEK SALE!

25% OFF

ALL Fleece

20% OFF

ALL Skatboard Decks, Helmets & Hardware

25% OFF

ALL Hoodies & Jeans & T-shirts

20% OFF

ALL Backpacks, Duffle Bags & Travel Accessories

& More great deals throughout the store!

163 Fulford-Ganges Rd
537-2553 / 537-2571

OPEN Monday to Saturday 10 - 5

OUR LADY OF GRACE

Roman Catholic Church

135 Drake Road,

Salt Spring Island, V8K 2K8

PARISH PRIEST:

Father Jules Goulet O.M.I.
Phone: 250-537-2150

Welcomes you to

Christmas &



New Year

Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Friday, Dec. 24th:

Christmas Vigil Mass, 7pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, Dec. 25th:

Mass at 10am

(No 5pm mass)

(No mass at St. Paul's)

Sunday, Dec. 26th:

Mass at 10am

8am at St. Paul's

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Saturday, Jan. 1st:

Mass at 10am & 5pm

(No mass at St. Paul's)

Sunday, Jan. 2nd:

Mass at 10am

8am at St. Paul's

Everyone Welcome!

20 COMING EVENTS

Basketry Course with Joan Carrigan

Make 4 baskets, each an introduction to a different technique: *Wicker, Split Woven, Twining, Random.*

Runs 6 Thurs. evenings:

Jan. 6 - Feb. 10

7:00 - 9:30 pm

Cost: \$150.⁰⁰

includes materials.

To inquire or register:

538-1877

More Basketry Course with Joan Carrigan

Make 4 more baskets, each an introduction to a different technique. *Rib, Diagonal Plaiting, Coiling, Netting.*

Runs 6 Tues. evenings

Jan. 11 - Feb. 15

7:00 - 9:30 pm

Cost: \$150.⁰⁰

includes materials.

To inquire or register:

538-1877

2 for 1 SALE

At the Jill Louise Campbell Fine Art Gallery

ONLY 3 DAYS LEFT!

Dec. 22 - Dec. 23

10am - 5pm

Dec. 24 - Dec. 23

10am - 2pm

Give the gift of Fine Art this Christmas!

Please note the gallery will be closed for renovations for the month of January.

Happy Holidays from everyone at the gallery!

20 COMING EVENTS

Season's Greetings and Peace to All



GANGES YOGA STUDIO

HOLIDAY YOGA SCHEDULE

NEW SCHEDULE IN EFFECT JANUARY 10, 2005

TUES 21 - WED 22

Regular Schedule

THURS 23 - FRI 24

AM Schedule only

SAT 25 - MON 27

Closed

TUES 28

9:00-10:30am

4:00-5:00pm

5:30-7:00pm

WED 29

9:00-10:30am

6:30-7:45pm

THURS 30

9:00-10:30am

Prenatal/ Mom & Baby

11:00-12:00pm

FRI 31 - SUN 9

Closed

Classes suitable for all levels (beginners included). Restorative in nature, this is a good opportunity to center and relax.

537-2444 • Upper Level, Grace Point Square

www.gangesyogastudio.com

Vesuvius Bay Polar Bear Swim



New Year's Day

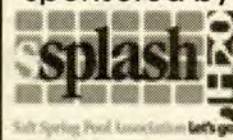
Sat. Jan. 1, 2005

Sssplash in time, 1pm

Hot Chocolate/ Muffins

Theme is: **The Incredibles**

Sponsored by



Starting Jan. 5 Youth Classes

DRAMA &

DANCE

Ballet • Jazz/Tap

Hip Hop • Modern

Creative

STAGECOACH

Drama 537-9709

Dance 537-4748

20 COMING EVENTS

SSI United Church
(111 Hereford Ave.)
invites you to their
Christmas Events

Fri. Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service of Lessons and Carols
7:00 pm

Sat. Dec. 25
Community Turkey Dinner
(at Meaden Hall)
11:30 am

Sun. Dec. 26
Worship Service
10:00 am

Phone 537-5812
for more info



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



25 EDUCATION

A NEW CAREER? 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.RMTI.ca.

TOURISM TRAINING: in a resort community. Certificates in: Outdoor Recreation & Ecotourism; Tourism Administration. Lots of job opportunities! College of New Caledonia, Valemount, BC. 1-888-690-4422; www.cnc.bc.ca/valemount.

26 LEGAL

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

RE: THE ESTATE OF MARY ROCKETT WHELAN, aka Mary R. Whelan or M.R. Whelan, Deceased, formerly of 2032-135 Brinkworthy Rd., Salt Spring Island, in the province of British Columbia.

Creditors and others having claims against the estate of MARY ROCKETT WHELAN, are hereby notified under section 38 of the Trustee Act that particulars of their claims should be sent to the Executor at 2032-135 Brinkworthy Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 1S3 on or before December 31, 2004, after which the Executor will distribute the estate among the parties entitled to it, having regard to the claims of which the Executor then has notice.

N. Nyte
Executor for the Estate of
MARY ROCKETT WHELAN

29 LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: GREEN cordless drill on Frazier Rd. Call to identify 653-4154.

29 LOST AND FOUND

FOUND CAT: near the end of Mansell road/Maracaibo area black and white male neutered cat, approx. 2-3 years old, very friendly, loud meow. He adopted us a few weeks ago but has been in the area for a few months. We can't keep him as we have a cat. Have had him checked at the vet and gave him his shots and is healthy; very nice cat, good with small children and very cuddly. Please call 537-4445 if you think he's yours or could give him a home.

MISSING DOG: Husky Nootka, Fulford area, 4 year old female. 537-3900.

FOUND: BOAT - floating on Cusheon Lake. Call 537-5197. Identify to claim.

FOUND: YAMAHA boat keys on McPhillips Ave., Sunday, Dec. 12. Owner may claim at Driftwood.

EXTRA LONG set of bright orange jumper cable with plug-in adapter on one end lost between Ganges and Beaver Point Hall. Return to McColl's Shell 537-2023.

34 NOTICES

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

THE DRIFTWOOD'S annual Wedding Planner is being prepared and we are looking for interesting and historic wedding photographs from our readers. This special issue is published in February and original photos will be returned. We are looking for original wedding photos of good quality from eras gone by. Hippy wedding in the 60s? Slicked back hair in the 50s? War time bride? Disco couple in the 80s? We want your photo! Please submit with pertinent information by January 21 to The Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V3.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all, & thank you to the kind and caring community that look out for the children & families that need a little extra help throughout the year. Please note Family Place will be closed Dec. 18 - Jan. 3. Rugg Huggers will now be on Mondays from 11-1 pm starting Jan. 3, 2005. Happy New Year. Ragnhild Flakstad, Family Place Coordinator, 537-9176.

PLEASE ORDER EARLY

For Your New
Year's Events.

We are open 10-5 every day 'til Christmas.
Also Open Dec. 28-31

Flowers by Arrangement & STONERIDGE POTTERY
520 Long Harbour Rd.
537-9252

See a great photo in the Driftwood?

Call today to
order your
reprint!

537-9933

25 EDUCATION

Friday Classes Starting in September

"I tried everything to help my son with school.
I wish we'd tried Sylvan first."



Why Wait? Call Today.

#213-80 Station St.
Duncan, B.C. V9L 1M4
Tel/Fax: (250) 746-0222

SYLVAN LEARNING CENTRE
Learning feels good.
www.educate.com

34 NOTICES



Islands Trust

NOTICE

The offices of the Islands Trust, Salt Spring Island, will be closed from Friday, December 24, 2004 through Monday, January 3, 2005 for the holiday season.

Regular office hours will resume at 10am, Tuesday January 4, 2005. We apologize for any inconvenience.

"We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season"

REGULAR ADVERTISING DEADLINES

DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Friday, 5 pm

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
Monday, 4 pm

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY
Tuesday, noon

PHONE: 537-9933
FAX: 537-2613

Driftwood

40 PERSONALS

LIFEMATES THE RELATIONSHIP PEOPLE. Single? Meet your mate, guaranteed! Call Canada's largest and leading relationship company today at: 1-888-54MATES (62837) or visit us at www.lifematescanada.com.

Employment

50 BUSINESS OPP

RUN YOUR OWN BUSINESS - Country Depot, TrueValue Hardware, V&S Options Dealerships available. New & existing locations. No franchise fees - receive yearly dividends. Call TruServ Canada today - 1-800-665-5085. www.truserv.ca.

55 HELP WANTED

BARRISTAS & SERVERS needed for Tree House Cafe. Apply in person or send resume to treehouse@saltspring.com.

CHAINSAW PERSON, preferably with a truck for clean-up. 537-5971.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY Security Guards, B.S.T. 1 & 2. Will train. Fax resume 250-286-3153.

34 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE CHANGE

FOR THE ISSUE OF WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29, 2004

DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
Noon, Thursday, December 23

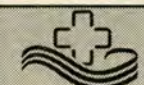
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINE
4pm, Thursday, December 23

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY DEADLINE
Noon, Tuesday, December 28

Please note our office will be closed
Friday, Dec. 24 and Monday Dec. 27

Driftwood **PHONE: 537-9933**
FAX: 537-2613

55 HELP WANTED



Lady Minto Hospital Foundation

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Flexible Hours / Flexible Days

Working from the Foundation office approx. 21/2 days a week the Development Coordinator will build the capital base of our endowment fund by developing and implementing a Planned Giving Program and coordinating other major gift-related fund-raising activities.

The candidate must have fund-raising experience, ideally in the area of Planned Giving, and be fully conversant with business computer programs.

This is a contract position.

Send your resume [no phone calls please] to:

President
The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation
135 Crofton Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 1T1

55 HELP WANTED

TECHNICIAN REQUIRED for GM dealership. Will consider qualified apprentice. Bonus plan for flat rate technicians. Relocation assistance may be provided. Health, dental, prescription plans. Please forward resume to Service Manager, c/o Western Chev Olds Pontiac Buick, Box 398, Drumheller, AB, T0J 0Y0. Fax 403-823-7237. Email: westernchev@gmcanada.com.

PHONE DISCONNECTED? Lowest rates only \$38/month (outside lower mainland). Get connected by Easy Reconnect and enjoy your savings. You'll thank us later. 1-877-446-5877.

RANCHER'S BEEF LTD. requires versatile, energetic individuals for their feedlot near Czar, Alberta. Positions include cattle induction, treating, feeding and other miscellaneous jobs as required. Wages starting no lower than \$13/hour. Fax resumes with references to 780-856-2656 or phone 780-209-0501.

DRILLING RIG PERSONNEL. Ensign Resource Service Group is currently seeking experienced drilling rig personnel. Preference will be given to applicants with recent drilling rig experience and reliable transportation. We offer competitive wages, an excellent benefits package and a safety incentive program. Please forward your resume to: Ensign Group Recruitment Center, 2000 - 4 St., Nisku, AB, T9E 7W6. Telephone 1-866-889-3774 (ERSG). Fax 780-955-6160. Email: hr@ensigngroup.com.

BUCHANAN LUMBER located in High Prairie, Alberta is looking for five axle, seven axle and hayrack log trucks for the upcoming log haul season. They are also looking for Class 1 log haul drivers with at least two years experience and a good drivers abstract. Contact Dan Bloomfield 780-523-4544, Fax 780-523-5422 or Donna 780-523-5288, Fax 780-523-5910. If faxing, include resume and updated drivers abstract.

ONLY THE BEST need apply! Bannister GM is actively searching for automotive technicians that consider themselves the top of their field. Experienced, highly qualified technicians that can excel at a flat shop rate will earn \$24 - \$30 per hour, plus our excellent benefit package, signing bonus and moving allowance. Contact Bannister GM, 214 - 58 St., Edmonton, AB, T7E 1T9. 780-723-3351. Attention: Ron Mackenzie, Service Manager. Fax 780-723-6553. **KELSEY TRAIL TRUCKING** flat decks Canada-wide needs Independent and Leased Operators, Company Drivers, Company Drivers also needed for log haul season in Alberta. All positions filled by January 5th. Top rates paid. Michael 1-800-465-8782. **WORK FROM HOME** on your computer. Full or Part-time. No experience required. Start today. Visit our website now. www.MyHomePCJob.com. Code: A1

55 HELP WANTED

PHONE DISCONNECTED? Need service? \$25 first month. Unlimited local calling, no credit checks, no deposit. Long distance: 4.5¢/minute anywhere in Canada & US. 1-866-709-0075.

NO CASH, NO CREDIT, no problem! Borrow up to \$800 until payday. We lend on child tax, employment, and pensions. Call Speedy Cash @ 1-866-813-5725 or www.speedycash.ca.

Greenwoods

6-12 Month Temp RN Position

Greenwoods Long Term Care facility is looking for RNs to fill a temporary position plus fill casual shifts. You must have active registration with RNABC and affiliation with BCNU.

If you would like to nurse in a small home-like environment on Salt Spring Island, respecting the dignity and individual needs of our seniors, we have a place for you on our team.

Please phone Andrew Brown at (250) 537-5561 or email your qualifications to andrew_b@telus.net

60 WORK WANTED

NEW EARTH Enterprises. Landscaping, gardening, yard maintenance, etc. Reasonable, negotiable rates. Island references. 653-4968.

IF IT NEEDS to be done and you don't want to do it - from reno to gardening. Call Shale @ 653-4726 of Productive Paws

GARBAGE GURU & Strong Woman Hauling Father & Daughter team. Total cleanup + demolition and hauling. Vanessa or David 537-1984.

Carpentry, House Repairs, Handyman Work. Small Jobs welcome. Residential and Commercial. Call Peter at 538-1952

Services

117 COMMUNITY SERVICES

ALANON/ALATEEN A program for family and friends of alcoholics. For further information call 537-2941, 653-4288 or 537-4909.

ADULT CHILDREN Anonymous. For healing from any dysfunctional family background. Saturday afternoons 537-4315 for information.

FAMILIES OF Schizophrenics meet in homes for mutual support. Call 537-2543.

CRISIS LINE for Salt Spring - toll-free 1-877-435-7544.

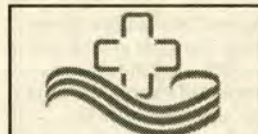
DRESSINGS FREE to cancer patients by the Order of the Eastern Star. Contact Ida McManus, 537-5423.

SALT SPRING Mood Disorder Association meets every 2 weeks on Tuesdays for family & patient support and education. Please call Pam 537-2186 for details.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS - 537-5664.

Alcoholics Anonymous Services Meetings

Salt Spring 537-7573
Galiano 539-2222
Pender 629-3631
Women's only - Thursday nights 5:30 p.m. - 537-7573



The aims and objectives of the LADY MINTO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION are to raise funds which will be used to expand and enhance the delivery of medical care by the Hospital to Gulf Islands residents. You can help the Foundation attain these goals by a gift of funds, real or personal property, memorial bequests, endowments, life insurance or securities. All donations will be recognized in the Hospital and receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued.

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127 EDUCATION

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127.1 GARBAGE

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142 MUSICAL SERVICES

HARD-DRIVING ROCK 'n' roll, tender ballads, sweet blues and upbeat reggae music for your birthday party, wedding reception or any excuse you may have to get friends together and dance. DNA is a six-piece Salt Spring band with lots of experience, good musical variety and professional sound, lights and effects. For bookings, call Dave: 538-0300.

148 PETS/LIVESTOCK

HORSE RIDING lessons, beginners thru advanced dressage. For more information call Ann 653-4184.

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from everyone at
The Driftwood

Home Sweet Home

A HANDY GUIDE TO SERVICES FOR HOME & GARDEN

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302 APPLIANCES

MAYTAG HEAVY duty, large capacity washer, works fine, almond, \$150. 537-1304.

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COMPUTER PROBLEMS? Set-ups, installing Software, Tutoring, Internet. Troubleshooting. Yes, we make house calls days/evenings/ weekends. \$25/hr. Over 20 years exp. Phone Robert. 537-2888. Arvana Consulting.

CALL BOB McIvor for: hardware, software and networking support. We do housecalls. 537-2827 or (cell) 701-8022. Please go and back-up your important data now!

APPLE POWERBOOK G4 15" 1.25GHz, 512MB, 80GB, Super-Drive, Backlit Keyboard, Airport Extreme. 1 Year+ warranty remaining. In excellent condition. \$2650 Jon @ 538-5503.

327 EQUIPMENT

COMPACT TRACTORS Mitsubishi, Yanmar, Kubota, 10-30 hp, call John 604-418-6854 or email hynes1@shaw.ca

330 FOOD PRODUCTS

BEEF, BORN and raised organically on Salt Spring. Cut, wrapped and frozen. Ready now by the side or quarter. 653-4352.

CALDWELL'S OAKSPRING FARM Since 1882

Currently available:
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537-5380 or 537-2152

335 FURNITURE

CHESTERFIELD & LOVE seat in pastel shades. Like new. Reduced to \$400 obo. 537-9583.

CANADIAN OAK teacher's desk, 3 drawers, 42 X 30, \$150 obo. 537-4767.

SINGLE CAPTAIN'S bed with mattress, headboard & 3 drawers. Excellent condition, \$225. 653-4154.

FARM HOUSE table with big chunky legs, 44 X 64" with leaf, \$500. Set of 4 oak dining chairs with rattan seats \$320. Set of 6 old oak dining chairs \$400. New hardboard bi-fold doors 4-24", 1-30", \$25 ea. Call Don at 537-0738.

340 GARAGE SALES

LIONS GARAGE Sale, closed for holidays, Dec. 17th - Jan. 6th. We will reopen on January 7th, 10 a.m. Thank you for your support. Happy Holidays to you all! Salt Spring Lions Club.

LIONS GARAGE Sale: Friday & Saturday's only 10-12. Many household items. Note: We do not accept appliances. Drop offs accepted only on Friday & Saturday morning. Please no garbage!! 103 Bonnet Ave.

GARAGE SALE All must go - house to be emptied. Unit 28, Croftonbrook, off Corbett Rd. Thurs., Dec. 30, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. only.

343 HEALTH SUPPLIES

DRUG / ALCOHOL Help a loved one who's losing everything to drugs or alcohol. 75% success rate, 100% natural. www.nar-conon.ca. 1-877-782-7409.

350 MISC. FOR SALE

EXPERT WATCH repairs by certified watchmaker. Located between Crofton and Duncan. Serving the Cowichan Valley over 25 years. Call L.D. Frank-Jeweller and Watchmaker 250-748-6058 (Duncan). Saturday pickup & delivery on Salt Spring.

VACUUMS! VACUUMS! Repairs, bags & belts, used vacuum bargains. Satisfaction guaranteed! Salt Spring Linen & Drycleaners, 116 Hereford Avenue, Ganges. 537-2241.

STORAGE TANKS: water, septic, sewage-holding (polyethylene). Ecological Systems: sewage-treatment plants, effluent filters. Visa, Mastercard, American Express accepted. GIS Sales & Rentals 653-4013.

SALT SPRING Vacuum - Large selection of bags and belts. On-island service work. New and used vacuums for sale. Also, sales & installation of built-in vacuums 537-0066.

REFLECTIVE DRIVEWAY Numbers. Any style, easy to read reflective numbers made to fit your existing carved wood or painted house sign. Reasonably priced & ideal for multi-property driveways. Also new driveway markers with large 4" letters. Call 537-1833.

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS posts made on Salt Spring to CRD standards. Call Dawn at et cetera 537-5115.

INGLIS WASHER & dryer, good condition. \$350. 537-2840.

350 MISC. FOR SALE

MERIT FURNITURE: Sofas \$499.99 +up, matt. & box \$199.99+up. Leather chair with ottoman \$199.99+up. Table & 4 chairs \$199.99+up. www.merit-furniture.com 1-250-746-5527.

STOCK UP your freezer for Christmas. Home made pies: meat pies (tortiere), turkey pies and fruit pies. Call Annette at 537-2208.

SLATE TILE, 12", china multi, \$4.75 ea., compare & save, lots available. 537-8560.

KENMORE EXTRA capacity dryer, \$100. 4 BF Goodridge tires P195 65 R115, \$100 all. 4 aluminum awnings \$50 ea. obo, 537-0061.

OSBORNWOODBURNING stove unit, excellent cond., includes 20' steel chimney, heats 1200 sq. ft., located on Salt Spring. \$475 obo. 604-916-1073 cell.

25% OFF on all chain saw chains. For all makes. Free installation 'til December 24. Ross the Boss Equipment, 248 Upper Ganges Rd. 537-9908.

50'S STYLE arborite folding table, four chrome chairs \$100, leather regular motorcycle helmets \$100/\$50, 6.5 kw kerosene heater, new \$75, 7 ft. hide-a-bed couch \$50, 5 drawer white dresser \$50, 120 volt green-house heater \$25, 10X12 pond liner \$25, 3/8 plywood \$15, 300 ft. 6 mil. poly \$10, 5 ft. snowshoes \$10. 537-8555 or 537-5662.

EXPERT CLOCK repair and restoration - antiques my specialty. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Free house calls for shut-ins and heavy clocks. Mark's Clockworks, 537-5061.

48" ROUND DINING room table, copper top with glass overlay and 4 chairs. 537-2732.

NIGHTGOWNS BY Gillian. Cozy flannelette, soft cotton, Granny gowns and night shirts. Call 653-9475.

REGAL CATALOGUE sales, photocopies, rubber stamps, address labels, nametags, laminating, customer office orders - call Dawn at et cetera 537-5115.

ONGOING GARAGE Sale, Mon. Dec. 20 - Jan. 2, gardening tools, patio furniture, teak table, tall dresser, chainsaw, antique lamps, queen size bed, futon bed, 1990 Nissan pickup, & other great stuff. 538-0313.

BEAUTIFUL TANNED Buffalo rug with thick winter fur \$850. Tanned Buffalo hide no fur \$250. 604-581-1613.

COLLECTORS - 42 VINYL Jazz records. Brubecker - Davis - Getz, etc. \$6/each or offers on all. Don 537-9517.

GIFT IDEA! The Plant Farm Gift Certificates make wonderful presents or stocking stuffers. 177 Vesuvius Bay Rd. Open most days from 11-4. 537-5995.

GET YOUR Kool Bandana and Kool Dog Bandana for Christmas. Available at Waterfront Gallery. Check us out at: www.koolerbandana.com

I HAVE some larger certified organic grass-fed chicken. Perfect for Christmas, \$3.75 lb. 653-9188.

AS SEEN ON TV! Get an MDG Horizon PC! Now only \$749 or 68 cents/day (OAC + S&H). Free Lexmark 3 in 1 printer, Free Digital Camera, Free CD Burner, Free Microsoft Word

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SSI ANTIQUES and Architectural Salvage now featuring second dealer on site. Fine porcelains and collectibles. New items every week. Fine antiques bought and sold. Now open every Saturday 10 - 3 or by appointment. Merchants Mews Unit 21-315 Upper Ganges Rd., 537-7861.

SSI ANTIQUES will be closed Saturday, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Open by appointment only until Saturday, Jan. 8. 537-7861.

Ridgid 10' belt-drive table saw. Never been used. \$1000. New microwave spacemaker & overhead fan/light \$50. Free single box spring mattress, 537-1010.

AVON INFLATABLE dinghy, model S300 sports boat, 13 ft, wood floor, oars, covers & foot pump. \$500 obo. 653-4639.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC lamb, whole or half, \$5/lb. Also frozen apple juice "unpasteurized" - 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5. Bright Farm 537-4319.

LIKE NEW, year old Samsung vacuum cleaner \$100. 537-5078.

FOUR WHEEL rims with studded Hankook tires, used, 185/65 R14. Suitable for Mazda Protege. \$40 each. What a bargain. Call 537-9554.

370 PETS/LIVESTOCK

WANTED: USED marine dock, 30 ft. plus, decent shape. Not using yours? Can tow away. 537-5994.

TWO NORCO Mountain Bikes and helmets. Great for 10-12 year olds. Need cleaning. Take one for best offer or two for a real deal. Phone 537-5978.

VANITY DRAWERS, 1940s style, \$75. Indian Head spinning wheel, treadle base with oak. \$80 obo. 653-9253.

ELECTRONIC GOLF Caddy for sale. \$350 obo. Call 537-5248 to view.

LIFE FITNESS T-Series treadmill & elliptical, bought 12/12/02. Still 3 yrs. warranty to go! Exc. condition. Both for \$4000 obo. Phone 537-2449.

COMPANY COMING? New 39" box & mattress sets \$199, queen sets \$299; luxury pillow-toppers, 39", \$289, queen sets \$399; gently used sets 39" \$59, queen sets from \$149; futons, sofa/beds from \$269; 5 pc. bridge sets \$69.95; new oval solid wood pedestal table w/ chairs \$379, extra chairs 4/\$188; oak large 9 pc. dining suite w/64" wide china cabinet \$1888; sofa/loveseat \$288; leather rocker/recliners \$688; all-leather 'nail-head' sofa/loveseat \$1998; black cobweb queen canopy bed, night table, vanity, mirror & bench \$299.95. Buy & Save, 9818 Fourth St., Sidney.

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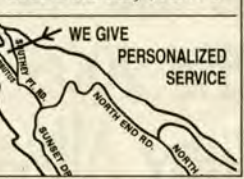
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SUNDAY, DEC. 26

MONDAY, DEC. 27

SATURDAY, JAN. 1



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351 MISC. WANTED

WANTED - USED aquarium.

537-5978.

360 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

APARTMENT SIZE upright piano, \$950 obo. Call Susan 537-8895.

370 PETS/LIVESTOCK

RIPLEES RANCH Super Premium pet foods, grooming products. Satisfaction guaranteed. Home delivery. Gulf Islands Pet Supplies, Authorized Distributor. Call Janine at 653-2095.

CLASSIFIED HOTLINE

537-9933

370 PETS/LIVESTOCK

FREE LEASE for fourteen year old Anglo-Arab gelding in exchange for cleaning 2 stalls 4 days a week. Need experienced rider - own equipment. 653-9206.

TWO TEEN kittens. Dark Tabby. One male and one female. Outside cats. 537-4405.

379 FREE/RECYCLABLES

THIS COLUMN is designed for free recyclable items only (no animals). There is no charge to place items in this column. Ads can be submitted in person at the Driftwood office (328 Lower Ganges Road) by normal deadline (Monday 5 pm.) or by phone 537-9933, fax 537-2613 or email driftwood@gulfislands.net.

SALT SPRING Island Recycle Depot is located at 349 Rainbow Rd. We are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. This service is operated by Salt Spring Island Community Services. Please call The Recycle Depot at 537-1200, or Community Services at 537-9971 for information on materials accepted for recycling.

DOUBLE FUTON, clean, zippered cover. 653-9631.

DOUBLE FUTON and frame, 653-2322.

2 PAIRS RUSTAD wooden X country skis, complete with poles, bindings and boots. 1 pr. men's size 8; 1 pr. ladies size 8. 537-1546.

FREE PACKING boxes, small sizes. 537-4739.

1986 NISSAN PULSAR broken tranny - free. Kitchen range,



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Your old prescription lenses can be a gift of sight. Boxes located at:

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- Bank of Montreal
- Bank of Commerce
- Island Savings Credit Union
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works, good condition - free. 537-1060.

390 WEBSITES

SALT SPRING Music is on the Internet at www.saltspingmusic.com. Hear song samples before you buy. Pay by cheque or credit card. More than 40 CDs available.

Real Estate

490 WEBSITES

REAL ESTATE listings for the Gulf Islands are viewable anywhere in the world with Internet access. www.gulfislands.net

Rentals

500 APT/SUITES FOR RENT

2 OR 3 BEDROOM suite, furnished, avail for rent immed. N/S, N/P, oceanview. \$900/mo. 537-4111.

VIEW APARTMENT for Dec. 1, 3 rooms, own entry, F/S, W/D. \$600/month, utilities included. Dave, 538-1985.

1 BEDROOM. NEW decor & flooring, 5 appliances, sunny Vesuvius, long term, \$675. 537-5662 or 537-8555.

DRAMATIC OCEANVIEW, sunny 2bdr, cedar logs, 2decks, vaulted ceiling w/skylights, fpl, D/W, W/D, garage/workshop possible. Excellent references. N/P, N/S. \$895+. Long term. 537-9897.

510 COMMERCIAL SPACE

UPPER GANGES CENTRE

- 2nd floor office
- 554 sq. ft. approx
- 2 pc. washroom
- Chair lift

For more information or to view, please call 537-2239

520 HOUSES FOR RENT

VERY NICE family home, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, tidal waterfront, close to town, lease, \$1300/mo. Available Feb. 1. 653-9206.

FULLY FURNISHED 1 & 2 bedroom cottages on St. Mary Lake, \$550 - \$650 plus hydro. N/S, N/P, Oct. 1 - March 31. 537-2585.

WALK TO town from this fabulous oceanview, 2 bedroom & den, with sunroom and large deck in a quiet neighbourhood setting. 6 appliances, N/S, pets OK, long term preferred. Available Jan. 1, references required. Call 537-2307 after 5 pm.

TWO BEDROOM house, close to town, long term rental, hot tub, shared w/d utilities, no dogs, non-smokers. \$750 p/m. Call 537-5930.

JANUARY 1ST - 3 bedroom, one bath, large living room. Five appliances. New home centrally located. \$975/mo. No dogs. Call 537-4996.

CHEAP RENTAL. 6 weeks only. Jan. 30 - Mar. 15. 2 bdrm. house. Nice dog, cat. References. 537-1677. Wanted: CD & Tape player. Speakers not necessary. Thank you.

LONG TERM, completely remodeled 3 bedroom, 1200 sq. ft., 1-1/2 baths, hardwood and ceramic flooring, 5 appliances, fireplace, wood and electric heat, deck. Large private lot. Kids and pets okay. \$1200 plus utilities per month. Call 538-0135.

BRIGHT HOUSE, near Vesuvius, English garden with fruit trees, sundecks; 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths up; rec room and bath down; wood stove, w/d, n/s, n/p; \$1200 month plus utilities, references required. Avail. immediately, call Vanc. 604-264-9732.

600 sq.ft. CABIN, on 12 acres ocean front farm, lots of windows-sunshine, \$600 /mo. plus utilities, n/s, n/p. 537-9880.

STUDIO WITH kitchen; suits one, near Beaver Point Hall, private ent./patio. furnished (opt.) \$500/month incl. hydro, n/s, n/p, 653-9888.

LAKE VIEW 2 bedroom house on Woodland Dr. New wood stove, four appliances, n/d, n/s please. Best suite for 2 adults, \$825/mo. Call Don or Noni at 537-9517.

RENT REDUCTION for the right tenant, 2 bedroom, 5 appliances, carport, garden courtyard, N/S, N/P, \$800 includes utilities. 226 Malview, available Jan. 1st. 537-5771.

2 BEDROOM COTTAGE, private setting, W/D, small pets o.k., \$750 plus utilities. References please. 537-1007.

CLEAN BRIGHT, 2 bdrm. new galley kitchen, on quiet acre, Vesuvius area, w/d, long term \$950. 537-8393.

BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT 3 bdrm. cottage or studio for rent. Boat, canoe, outside hot tub, fishing. 1/1 - 04/30. \$800 for 3 bdrm. cottage. \$450 for studio + utilities. 537-2450.

COZY 2 BEDROOM. mobile home, covered enclosed deck, small garden, cat o.k., in Cedarview Park. Avail. now. \$425. 537-2310 and 537-0612.

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- One bdrm apartment, 2 km from Ganges, hi-speed net, no children/pets, \$500/mo
- One bdrm cottage, w/d, hi speed net, close to Ganges, private, long term, \$800/mo
- Three bdrm family home, private, long term, w/d, hi speed net, available now, \$900/mo
- One bdrm, private 2 level home, wood stove, resident cat, Cusheon Lake view, long term, great for artist, available now, \$750/mo

Island Explorer is a fully licensed, bonded management company under the laws of the B.C. Govt.

520 HOUSES FOR RENT

SMALL, RUSTIC south end cabin, long term, wood heat, non smoker, cat negotiable. Single person only. Available immediately. References required, \$450/month incl. hydro. 653-9475.

WATERFRONT CABIN. Prime location, 10 mins. to Ganges. Suit one person. N/S, N/P. \$600/mo. includes phone, satellite TV, heat. 537-1383.

520 HOUSES FOR RENT

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• 689 Mid Island lower level walkout suite 1 bedroom 4 appl unfurn N/P N/S \$900

• 289 Mid Island Ocean view 2 bdrm no wood elect only 4 appl unfurn N/P N/S \$875

• 724 Mid Island 2 bdrm 2 appl new log cottage winter rental N/P N/S \$875

• 623 Mid Island 5 Appl fully furn 2 bdrm townhouse long term, pool privileges N/P N/S \$1725

• 388 Mid Island 3 bdrm upper level 5 appl unfurn Oceanfront N/S \$1300

• 511 Mid Island 5 Appl Panabode Oceanview, Pet (?) 2 bdrm long term N/S N/P \$1100

• 321 Mid Island 3 bdrm upper level 4 appl unfurn Oceanfront N/P N/S \$1250

• 444 Mid Island long term unfurn 1 bedroom + loft 2 appl elect heat N/S N/P \$825

• 066 Mid Island 3 bdrm 5 appl Ocean front furn winter rental N/P N/S \$1350

• 757 Mid Island 3 bdrm 5 appl exec home avail Jan 1 long term N/P N/S \$1950

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www.royalproperty.ca

530 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

ROOM FOR Rent: quiet adult, N/S, N/P, washer/dryer, one mile from town, \$400. 537-8455.

BROTHER & SISTER seeking fun loving, clean, responsible roommate. Master bedroom, satellite, garden, laundry, long term, \$400. 653-0023.

ROOM FOR rent, great shared house, close to Ganges. Private bath available. Quite grownups only, n/s, no party'ers. 537-4433.

540 WANTED/RENTALS

OUR RENTAL house has sold! 3 bdrm. sought by Feb. 1, long term, family incl. local professional, exc. island references, N/S, N/P, landscaping incl. 538-1907, Rosemary Kilmer.

PROFESSIONAL COUPLE with well behaved medium dog, wish to lease, long term house on Salt Spring Island. 2-3 bedrooms and two baths preferred, garage, and view of water or harbour. Furnished O.K. or we can furnish. Satellite TV and Internet access a plus. We are boaters so near water preferred. Please respond to: kandwrichards@earthlink.net

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1978 VOLKSWAGEN Super Beetle convertible. Fuel injected 1600 c.c. engine. 4sd. standard. Beautiful car inside & out. Must sell. \$8000. Jim 537-2637.

1987 VOLVO, 760 GLE, belongs to an elderly woman \$3000. In very good condition. For info. call Michel 538-0122.

1988 MERCEDES 300 SE, beautiful, shiny black, fully loaded, leather interior, low mileage, great condition, \$10,600 obo, 537-4608.

1989 DODGE CARAVAN, new tires, needs radiator, \$500 obo, 538-1694.

1998 PONTIAC SUNFIRE, one owner, auto, cd, power windows, sun roof, air, keyless entry, \$7500, 537-0061.

1990 HONDA CIVIC, 250,780 km., sunroof, recent engine work. \$3500. Please call 537-2789.

1988, 19' GMC Citation, excellent clean condition, spacious, 4 burner stove, oven, fridge, awning, Fantastic fan, 99,000kms, \$14,500, 537-9499.

1989 FORD MUSTANG LX, automatic, 4 cylinder, p/w, p/l, ac. Sunroof, 2-door, hatchback. 115,000 km. Original owner. Well taken car of. \$3000 obo. 537-2994.

TOYOTA TERCEL, 1989, \$1000. (Moving). 537-5967

1983 MERCEDES, 223,000 kms. on turbo-diesel. New Michelin tires, new 120 amp battery. Beautiful car, great condition, \$5299 obo. email: frontdesk@alfacom.ca.

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DRIVERS WANTED: CLASS 1 DRIVERS REQUIRED with reefer experience. Canada/US. 37c mile plus safety bonus, plus vacation pay, plus \$1,000 sign-on. Medical/dental benefits. 604-857-9709; fax: 604-607-7474. www.southcoasttrucking.com.

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1982 TOYOTA Landcruiser. 4WD, diesel, 4spd., new Michelin radials, batteries & exhaust. Excellent fuel mileage. Body is in v.g. shape. \$8000. Call 537-2637 Jim.

1999 SIERRA SLE Z71 4X4, 5.3L Vortec, ext. cab, 3rd door, 182K., liner, tool box, Like New Condition!! Great Price!! Only \$15,500. 537-8535.

1992 TAHOE BLAZER, 4 wheel drive, less than 100,000 kms., auto, power everything, air conditioned, \$7500. 537-9507.

1993 F250 4X4, extended cab, captain's seat, air cond. Cruise control, headache rack, new master cylinder, \$10,900. 537-0881.

1988 RED CHEVY Blazer, 4.3L V6, 4X4, air conditioning, good condition. Asking \$3500. 537-0818.

1986 F-150 XLT/Larriet EXTRA cab pick-up. New 302 engine and approx. \$4000 in recent work. Good solid truck asking \$2500 obo. Call Rob 537-4174 after 6pm.

1984 JEEP GRAND Cherokee 4 door. Two tone brown. Automatic. Good running condition. Power windows, seats and locks. \$600. Call Rob 537-4174 after 6pm.

\$0 DOWN OAC. Guaranteed credit approvals. Trucks, 4x4s, crew cabs, diesels, sport utilities, cars & vans. Repairs, broken leases, heavy duty equipment. Take over payments. Free delivery. Call Lawrence Siccio, BC's largest finance broker. 1-800-993-3673. Vancouver 604-327-6377.

WWW.CREDIT-KING.COM. Automobile loans - 400 vehicles on-line. Trucks/vans/cars/SUVs. Diesel/gas. Turned down? Rates too high? Trading in? Instant money available online. From 0-7% and complimentary delivery. Zero down financing. Apply online, call anytime 1-800-650-4829 (24/7).

856 BUSES, VANS

1994 MAZDA MPV 7-passenger mini van. \$5500. 220 km. V6, well maintained & good body; excellent condition. 537-4536.

1998 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER. New tires, new battery, new windshield. 110,000km. Very clean. \$8500 obo. 537-1856.

DODGE RAM Camper Van. Stove, fridge. View at Murakami's. Perfect Winter home. Phone Celeste 537-2444 and leave message.

900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

CHRISTMAS DINNER special, tables, chairs and place settings for 12 only \$50, "no dishes to wash." We also deliver. Book early at The Rental Stop 538-0388.

GOTTA SELL your car, truck, boat, RV, trailer or motorcycle? Advertise it in the Driftwood for 8 weeks at only \$29.95. (private party ads, 20 words, 1 vehicle per special, must be prepaid.) Call 537-9933 for details.

FALL 2 FOR 1 Sale now till end of December. (FOC selected frames). 537-2648.

PLEASE NOTE: Too Late to Classify ads are accepted until 12:00pm Tuesday at the rate of \$11.25 for 20 words or less and 36 cents for each additional word. The Driftwood cannot be responsible for errors or omissions as these ads may not be proof read because of time constraint.

LOCAL, DEPENDABLE Internet. Dial-up from \$11.95. Accelerated dial-up from \$14.95. Hosting from \$14.95. ADSL from \$29.95. Christmas Gift certificates available. www.saltspringinternet.com. Call Barb 538-0052.

SUMMERSIDE (FORMERLY Atkins Common) Adult pool memberships available to public, single/couple \$100/\$175. Payable in advance with 3 months minimum, call Royal Property Mgt 537-5577.

HEY GUYS! We've got all your Christmas shopping done for you! And...we are open every day until Christmas so you can come and pick it up. Cathy Ward and Samantha Bourdin. Family Jewels 161 Fulford-Ganges Road. 538-5560 P.S. Wrapping it up is always free.

CHRISTMAS PARTY special, tables, chairs and place settings for 24 only \$85, "it's sooo easy." We also deliver. Call for details at The Rental Stop 538-0388.

900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

A LAST MINUTE gift...the gorgeous 2005 SSI Daycare Fundraising Calendar, featuring work by local artists. Help us build a new daycare for SSI. Available at Volume II, Thrifty's & Windflower Moon. We also deliver (537-2114).

WIN A FREE Healthy Bedroom Consultation with a Certified Building Biologist. Complete the Oasis Questionnaire by Dec. 31 to qualify. For questionnaires and info. call 653-9691, Oasis Indoor Environmental Testing & Consulting, "Your healthy home specialist".

ISLAND GOURMET Safari's gift certificates available at Summer 2004 prices. 537-4118.

HOLIDAY HELP is here! House cleaning, light gardening/yard work. Set your VCR too! Acorn Home Cleaning Services. 2 hr. min. 537-1776.

NAIKAI GALLERY opening for the month of December only. Great Christmas gifts. Free Xmas ornament for purchase of \$25 & over. D. Campbell print with purchase of \$100 & over. Carol Haigh print with purchase of \$250 & over. Come see Don and Paint at the old growing circle co-op location in Gasoline alley. 537-6984.

FOOD BANK Donations can once again be dropped off at the Driftwood office, 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday to Friday from now to December 23.

GIFTS FOR hard-to-buy-for relatives? We can help! SSI Daycare Society's 2005 Gorgeous Fundraising Calendar is here! All proceeds towards building a new daycare. Photography by Salt Spring's most renowned artists. Available at Volume II Books, Thrifty's, West of the Moon, Ganges Stationery, Juliette's Hair Studio, Vesuvius Store and Windflower Moon... and SSI Daycare (537-2114). We'll even deliver!

PATTI AT Beauty over the Beach Hair Salon would like to wish every one a very merry Christmas season. May the year 2005 bring happiness to you all! I will be on holidays from Jan 4 until 17, 2005. 537-0798.

GARBAGE GURU & Strong Woman Hauling Father & Daughter team. Total cleanup & demolition and hauling. Vanessa or David 537-1984.

LIVE CRAB, Dec. 24 & 31, 12 - 3 pm. Wellbury Bay Too, Centennial dock or phone 537-9673, cell 537-6280. Free delivery.

RESTAURANT HOUSE Piccolo's gift certificate is a truly delightful Christmas gift! 537-1844.

XMAS STOCKING stuffer. Gourmet 5 course African dinner, fundraiser for Africa. SSI Sailing Club, Jan 7/8. Donation \$30 cash. Tickets at SS Books, 653-4969.

MISSING AT BLACKBURN, Cranberry and Maxwell area. Beautiful ginger cat, answers to "Simon" (aka James bond!). Very friendly adult male. No collar. Specific features: personality. Please phone Dan or Celeste 537-5269.

A LAST MINUTE gift...the gorgeous 2005 SSI Daycare Fundraising Calendar, featuring work by local artists. Help us build a new daycare for SSI. Available at West of the Moon, Island Video & GVM. We also deliver (537-2114).

HAVE A Rock'n'Roll Christmas. Salt Spring Sound has electric guitars, CDs, LPs, plus the largest collection of local music. 131 McPhillips. 537-0065.

ELECTRIC POTTERY kiln, 220v, 17-1/2" dia. x 22-1/2" tall inside, 2 new shelves & stilt, 2" extra insulation, cone 8, on stand, \$325. 537-4023 eves.

YOGA PROPS and gift certificates at Ganges Yoga Studio, 537-2444.

WANTED: BATHTUB 4-1/2 ft, metal or clawfoot, 653-4633.

EYEWEAR ACCESSORIES for Christmas. Gulf Islands Optical, Lancer Building. 537-2648.

LAST CHANCE! Collector plates: animal series, owls, Paris scenes. Great gifts, \$10 ea. 653-9631.

ROOM FOR rent, great shared house, close to Ganges. Private bath available. Quiet grownups only, n/s, no parties. 537-4433.

FOR RENT: January only, 3 bedroom house, North end, private, \$500 plus utilities. 537-4077.

ELECTRONIC GOLF Caddy for sale. \$350 obo. Call 537-5248 to view.

WANTED: RECLINER, must be in good condition. Call Bob at 537-2226.

DESIGNATED DRIVER Service. New Years Eve. Two girls with wheels fundraising for community projects want you to make it home safe. Call Teresa at 653-9888 to make arrangements.

900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

COMPUTER DESK \$20, skis, boots & poles \$100, crib mattress \$5, box of crib bedding \$5, boxes of 0-18 mon. boys clothes + 2 bags of shoes \$50. 537-2665.

2 - M&S WINTER STEEL radials, P225/70 R15, mounted on rims. One season use, like new. Set extension side mirrors. All off '00 Mazda B4000 P/U. 537-2274 after 5.

QUALITY HOMESTAYS needed for students from Switzerland, Germany, Korea and China for January or February to June 2005. Please contact Sheri Wakefield as soon as possible if you are able to host or would like more information. 537-9944 (218) or swakefield@saltspring.com.

SUNNY VALLEY by the sea, spacious partly furnished room in heritage home. Own entry and bath, share w/d, kitchen & garden. N/S, N/P, \$475 including hydro, 653-0005.

BARB'S BUNS hosts a New Year's Eve Tapas Extravaganza. 8 regions of the world-8 courses. Dinner by reservation only - limited seating! 537 4491 or 537 2812 for reservations.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

PRODUCTION CLUB members wish you all a wonderful time!

900 TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

CHEVRE FILO parcels on local organic greens...cumin lentil cakes...skewers of plantain with sweet & sour pineapple...cham-pagne zabaglione to name a few. Gourmet Tapas @ Barb's Buns - New Years Eve. 537-4491.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS to All and to All a Clean Tank wished for you by All Islands Septic, Rob Roodenburg Owner/Operator 538-7867. 538-(PUMP) www.all-islandsseptic.com

SOUL SHAKEDOWN @ Barb's Buns New Year's Eve. The party of the year. Music starts @ 10:30 - no cover charge. Full drink menu, champagne at midnight. 537-4491.



WHO LET THE DAWG OUT?

We'll miss you, Nate!
ps don't go!

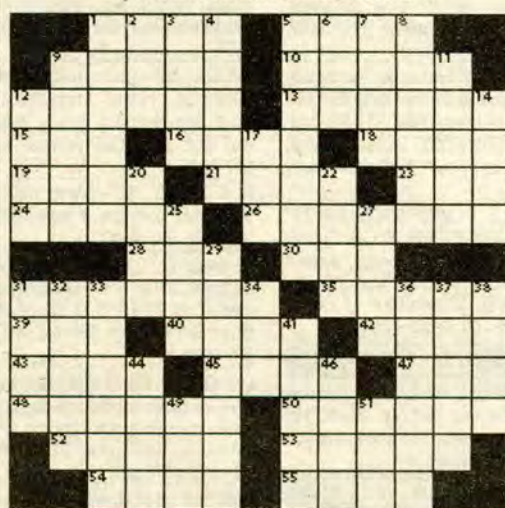
Answers to last week's

A	R	C	H		F	A	L	L		A	F	T	
B	E	A	U		I	N	T	O		V	I	E	
C	O	R	N		F	I	D	O		I	V	E	
				D	O	T	S		N	O	D	E	S
D	E	A	R	L	Y		T	E	N				
I	V	I	E	D		H	A	Y		A	L	B	
M	E	L	D		L	U	G		Q	U	A	Y	
E	N	S			N	A	E		A	U	D	I	T
				P	I	C		P	L	A	I	C	E
C	O	M	I	C		B	E	E	R				
R	O	E			K	E	E	N		T	A	P	E
A	P	E			E	L	A	N		E	X	A	M
G	S	T			L	A	D	Y		R	E	D	O

Canadiana Crossword

A Christmas Beginning

By Bernice Rosella and James Kilner



ACROSS

- Milled, in a way
- Word from the seven dwarfs marching song
- Japanese
- Decorate, in a way
- Possess a membership
- Hahn, for one
- Ms Merino
- Carpet genre
- Safecracker
- Mind
- Flooring material
- 17th Greek letter
- Church feature
- Abominates
- Witty remark
- Big Band instrument, for short
- Double-reed instrument
- Sign of the zodiac
- European mountain
- Sask. nurses' org
- Stepped
- Paris policeman
- Hide
- Drug retailing org.
- Ending
- Tarry
- Slaw
- Potato variety
- K to P string
- Autumn mo.

DOWN

- Word 1 of a Christmas classic
- Japanese volcano
- Cysts
- Word 2 of a Christmas classic
- Bargains
- Words often heard near 24
- Word 3 of a Christmas classic
- Commands
- Staircase part
- Word 4 of a Christmas classic
- 2nd Greek letter
- Personae
- Assist
- Mica and Tobin
- And the rest
- Aussie icons
- Depart
- Naval weapon
- Golfer's mishit
- Words 5 and 6 of a Christmas classic
- Dorsal
- Compass pt
- Word 10 of a Christmas classic
- Cowhand's competition
- Jewish calendar word
- Words 8 and 9 of a Christmas classic
- Word 7 of a Christmas classic
- Common detergent
- Computer net
- Take forty winks

Hey Everyone!
Today is the last day to
get into the 2004 Driftwood
Baby Album!

Mom, Dad! Grandma, Grandpa!

Show off your latest addition in a special keepsake supplement to The Driftwood. The 2004 Baby Album is open to all babies with a Gulf Islands connection. Parents and grandparents may enter and the baby does not have to be born locally. Fill out the coupon below, submit your favorite photo* and be sure to write the baby's name on the back. For only \$9.99 (plus gst = \$10.69) your baby's picture will be published in the Driftwood Baby Album, Wednesday, January 5, 2005.

HURRY! DEADLINE IS TODAY, DECEMBER 22ND.
ALL ENTRIES ELIGIBLE TO WIN A \$100 RESP
FROM ISLAND SAVINGS CREDIT UNION.

* to ensure good reproduction, close-up photos work best.

Please return this coupon with your baby's photo, along with \$10.69 by Dec. 22.
Print or type info below and mail or drop off to:

Baby's Name:

Date of Birth:

Parent's Name:

Address:

Phone:

Photo submitted by:

Phone:

Driftwood

328 Lower Ganges Rd.
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V3

* Pick up your photo at the Driftwood
after January 5, 2005.

no purchase necessary to enter

**BRING IN A PHOTO OF YOUR BABY
BORN IN 2004 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!**

The animals are revolting

One of my favourite poems is by an old white geezer name of Walt Whitman. It starts: *I think I could go and live with animals.*

They are so placid and self-contained...

They also forgive a lot, animals do.

We leash them and saddle them; harness and hobble them; we tether, corral and kennel them.

We also do things to them in scientific research labs that would make a Josef Mengele blush.

And do they revolt? They do not. They wordlessly forgive us. As Whitman says: *They do not sweat and whine about their condition*

They do not lie awake and weep for their sins.

Animals, alas for them, are beasts of infinite forgiveness.

Well, almost. Fact is, an increasing number of incidents seem to indicate that maybe, just maybe, our long-time beasts of burden are beginning to cotton on to the dirty tricks we two-legged co-tenants have been playing on them. And maybe, just maybe, they're getting fed up and unwilling to take it any more.

I refer you to the case of Jerry Allen Bradford, a Floridian moron who decided to get rid of a litter of unwanted puppies by shooting them with his .38.

"I couldn't find homes for them," he explained later. Fortunately, one of the puppies beat Bradford to the

WIT & WHIMSY

WITH ARTHUR BLACK



up areas. At least, that's the way it works when the moose is sober. Once they get into the sauce, moose

become monsters. Ask the Swedes. Sweden has a moose population of some 300,000.

Normally, these Nordic moose are law-abiding, even timid, but each autumn many of them get into windfalls — wild apples that fall from the trees, ferment on the ground and turn into a form of backwoods hootch. Moose gobble them up and that's when all hell breaks loose.

This past autumn, Swedish police were juggling reports of inebriated moose blundering into traffic, crashing into living room windows, staggering into empty swimming pools — even executing home invasions.

Kari Lindeman lives in a small town in central Sweden called Karlskoga. One evening he was watching television with his daughter when a half ton of stewed moose came through the patio door.

That's... through the patio door. It was closed and locked at the time.

The moose skidded across the living room floor, smashed the TV, tore the curtains off their rods, trashed some floor lamps and a chesterfield, then staggered out the shattered patio door again.

"It was terrifying," said Mr. Lindeman. "We don't live in the woods... we'd never seen a moose in the neighbourhood before."

Nothing uglier than a mean moose drunk.

Unless it's a larcenous beaver.

I refer you to the case of the Lucky Dollar Casino heist in Greensburgh, Louisiana last month.

Thieves got away with \$70,000 U.S., but Louisiana police, after some superb detective work, managed to track down more than half the loot.

In a beaver dam in the nearby Amite River.

Police theorize that the casino bandit panicked and threw the loot into the river, after which the beaver, delighted to encounter a source of free wallpaper, grabbed the bills and used them to line the inside of their dens.

That's the official theory. Me, I think Louisiana authorities have unwittingly uncovered just one underground cell of a sophisticated money laundering scheme designed to finance animal insurrection around the world.

Pistol-packing puppies in Louisiana? Unruly 'roos in Australia? Unglued ungulates in Sweden? Co-incidence? I don't think so.

My advice: go give Rover a dog bone right now.

Stroke your cat.

Make sure Polly has plenty of crackers.

We need to mend this rift before things get ugly.

FOR THE RECORD

Tamar Griggs should have received a photo credit for a picture of Randall Burke and Will Ellis in last week's paper.

HOT TUB COVERS
3 Yr. Warranty
20% off Sale
537-5147

ANOTHER WORLD IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, SHE IS ON HER WAY. ON A QUIET DAY, I CAN HEAR HER BREATHING. ARUNDHATI ROY

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fulford harbour, salt spring island
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BC Ferries Schedule	
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IN EFFECT TO MAR. 31/05 CHECK WWW.BCFERRIES.CA FOR LATEST SCHEDULES	
Depart Fulford Harbour Daily sailings	Depart Swartz Bay Daily sailings
6:20 am	7:10 am*
8:00 am*	9:00 am
10:00 am	11:00 am
12:00 noon	1:00 pm
2:00 pm	3:00 pm
4:00 pm	5:00 pm
6:00 pm	7:00 pm
8:00 pm	9:00 pm
*except Sun	*except Sun

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This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

As another year ends and a new one begins, one might hope that there would be time to reflect and contemplate to integrate all that has occurred and all that we have learned. However, right now the all important Nodes of the Moon are changing signs coinciding with the full moon in Cancer (Dec. 26, 2004 @ 12:46 am). Mythically, these Nodes are known as the Head and Tail of the Dragon and are factors in measuring the evolutionary past and future destiny of a person, a corporation or institution, a nation or any other body recognized as an entity in the eyes of the law. While the nodes were in the polar opposite sign pair of Taurus and Scorpio, our individual and collective challenge included letting go of the past and building upon a more stable foundation for the future. In our relatively shaky times, one wonders if we have been successful. Taurus does not like to make hasty decisions. Now, with the North Node in Aries, people will begin to express themselves both individually and collectively with more decisiveness and assertiveness. We can expect many new initiatives and deliberate actions. This week's Horoscope is a sneak preview of the Lunar Nodes - the North in Aries and the South in Libra - for each sign of the Zodiac.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

With the Lunar North Node in your sign you have the opportunity to make some important decisions. This marks a quest for identity. You will be more self-empowered, assertive and will take new initiatives. Decision based on too much consideration of the needs of others, being the pleaser, will fall away. Adjusting to this new rhythm will take time so be on the alert to pushy and aggressive tendencies. Intend to blaze some new trails.

Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

The North Node is shifting into your Solar 12th House. What this implies is that you will act upon your subconscious desires. Unless a person is enlightened, there is usually a strong gap between ones conscious and subconscious desires. This discrepancy can be and is often a source of confusion. Positively, you will connect with repressed inner needs and desires that the socially accepted self cannot access, leading to repression then depression. Go for authentic expression.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

The North Node in Aries will have a big impact on the quality of your friendships. People and events will help you to learn about what constitutes true, fair and equal associations. Acceptance and detachment without indifference is the subtle balance. Appreciation for the rights, freedoms and creative genius of individuals groups and your own that reflect authentic individuality. Expect things to take off right away in this regard. Acceptance of individuality is the key.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 21)

Assuming positions of authority and responsibility in the world will take on new implications while the North Node travels through Aries. Inner and outer maturity will grow during this time. Integrity and respect for the rights, freedoms and needs of others will take on new meaning. Developing loyalty to causes larger than those of your immediate family or circle of friend's, figures prominently. True justice for all will be a core motivation and challenge.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 22)

Making new commitments and living up to them will become central with this new transit of the Nodal axis in Aries and Libra. Developing a more holistic perception beyond dualistic thinking and understanding will be important. Looking to the big picture over the long term is the key. This may imply gaining education towards a new and more fulfilling career. At deeper levels, cultivating

a code of rules, ethics and laws that serve the greater good will prove to be a core theme.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 21)

While the North Node is in Aries you will learn more about the importance and necessity of change. Since this is a fundamental law of life you will learn that it is not personal. Learning to 'let go and let God' will become more obvious and meaningful to you. Developing a deeper understanding of creating true security as a point of center within your own being will be a key theme. This will help you flow with the natural rhythms of change and transformation with courage and presence of mind.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 21)

With the South Node in your sign and the North in your polar opposite sign of Aries, your next stage of growth will center on relationships. Leading others with a full recognition and appreciation of their unique and individual needs will be significant. Truly seeing and hearing others for who they are beyond personal values, opinions or projections, is the key. Handling the assertiveness and potential selfishness of others will require patience tact and diplomacy.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)

Making the beautiful dream a reality will be a central theme while the North Node is in Aries. Gaining new awareness and activating healthier habits in your overall lifestyle may become necessary as well as ideal. Exercising a detailed, intelligent and refined approach is in the spotlight. Taking independent initiative to learn new practical skills could prove exciting. Avoid getting lost in the dream and slip into denial and delusion. This is a good time to make a realistic plan and set goals.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 20)

Creating your own reality with passion and joy rather than with rebelliousness and indifference will be a main focus with the Aries North Node transit. Engaging your leadership and vision on behalf of a larger need is in the plot. A creative approach that reflects love and gratitude for the privilege of participation will make you shine. Independent and sustained action will bring success. Learn the value and importance of the truth that 'time is art'.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

Learning to feel what is important rather than leaning on social norms, conditioning and expectations is a key theme with the North Node in Aries. Letting go of rigid patterns of control and behaviour in order to nurture the authentic and subjective needs of your own soul, figures prominently. Getting closer to nature in its power and majesty will free you from merely social and economic motivations.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Translating your visions and philosophies through a variety of mediums will become a core motivation with the North Node in Aries. Determining fact from fantasy will be a part of the plot. Breaking free of limiting relationships and relationship patterns is in there. Expressing your self with clear, honest communication balanced with logic and sensitivity will be an important aspect of your growth. Recognizing the difference between the real and the ideal will awaken greater discernment.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Recognizing the abundance of life is a central theme for you while the North Node is in Aries. Learning to value what you have and do and what you can do with what you have will play a big part in your overall attitude and approach. Overcoming haunting fears of lack in any sense of the term will help liberate you from limiting conditioning. Learning to be practical based on a personal value system that supports both your needs and desires as well as those you love will prove motivating.

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BC FERRIES

Salt Spring Island Schedule VESUVIUS BAY - CROFTON

CROSSING TIME: 20 MINUTES
YEAR-ROUND SCHEDULE

FERRIES RUNNING ON CHRISTMAS DAY: C

LEAVE VESUVIUS BAY

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

LEAVE CROFTON

*7:30 am 4:30 pm C
8:30 am 5:30 pm C
9:30 am 6:30 pm C
11:10 am 8:10 pm C
12:10 noon C 9:10 pm
1:10 pm C 10:05 pm
2:15 pm C +11:05 pm
3:30 pm C

u Wed. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailing. No passengers.
n The Mon. & Thurs. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailings. No passengers.
Mon., Wed. & Thurs. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailings. No passengers.
* Daily except Saturdays. *Daily except Saturdays & Sundays. + Saturdays only. x Daily except Sundays



Ganges Village Market Has Something to Celebrate



20 Year Service Awards

This year we are proud to recognize 3 employees who have been serving our customers for 20 years! Their dedication and commitment to Ganges Village Market and the community of Salt Spring Island is unsurpassed!

Barb Ryan

Barb Ryan has lived on Salt Spring Island since 1966. For years she volunteered at Lady Minto and Greenwoods until the birth of her first child. Now a single mom, she devotes her free time to her children. Daughter Nina and son Gordy are involved in baseball, basketball, soccer, and swimming. Barb is a 'sports mom' attending most games and making her multi-passenger van available to drive teams around. She loves the time she shares with her children—whether sports, their camping trips, or returning home together after work and school. Still, she never forgets the community. When she can help, she does. It is not often, when help is requested, that Barb is not there.

Ken Smith

Ken Smith has been a resident of Salt Spring Island for 32 years. Ken graduated in 1981 from G.I.S.S. and came to work at Ganges Village Market three years later. Ken loves nearly everything about Island life. He is engaged in the voluntary Bible education work of Jehovah's Witnesses and is close to his friends at the Kingdom Hall. Most of all he cares deeply about his family: Sarah, wife of 15 years, sons Ethan and Haydn, and daughter Bethany. Appreciating all whom he works with—most closely the bakery staff—the highlight of his work experience is his interaction with community groups through the programs offered by the store, particularly the Village Market Bursary.

Greg Duke

Greg Duke moved to Salt Spring Island as child in 1973—not much younger than his daughter, Victoria, is today. Greg came to work for GVM immediately after leaving GISS. He cherishes his job and has never once considered working elsewhere. Always ready with a smile or a quip, Greg enjoys the social interaction with customers his job allows. A team player, he nonetheless never misses a chance to rib his fellow workers and never disdains a good practical joke. Greg is currently on long-term medical disability and is greatly missed by shoppers and staff alike. All anticipate his return.



Ganges Village Market management team and 20 year award winners.

Celebrating Excellence



Congratulations Kecia Brown.

Celebrating Excellence honours the outstanding achievements and behaviour of Ganges Village Market workers. Ganges Village Market initiated its "Celebrating Excellence" program in response to comments and suggestions from customers and staff. Management wanted to recognize employees who were providing outstanding customer service and sustaining a positive work environment. Four employees are acknowledged every month in four categories.

Commitment To Excellence: Providing excellent customer service
Winning With Teamwork: Helpful and courteous towards fellow staff members
Make It Happen: Using creativity for theme promotions
Attitude Is Everything: Positive, friendly attitude towards customers and staff

Each honoured staff member receives a solid brass lapel pin and a gift certificate from the store.

If you would like to recognize and reward a GVM employee, please fill out a form and drop it in the box. Preprinted forms and the drop box are located at the Lotto Centre.

Kecia Brown, two 2004 awards winner

Kecia Brown came to Ganges Village Market in April, 1996 from Vancouver Island's Country Grocer stores. She was hired to help upgrade GVM's dell. In 2004, Kecia follows Dale Dow, Sam Hannah, Mike Kitchen and Rob Holmes as winner of the annual grand prize for "Celebrating Excellence". This award recognizes the employee's contribution to the enterprise over the entire year. The recipient receives (besides praise at the annual staff Christmas party) \$2,500 cash toward travel or the equivalent value in computer equipment and/or software. Kecia—also this year—is the first winner of the GVMEA award for the fellow worker who most shows consideration, dedication and commitment over and above their work duties. Kecia and her partner will spend time this spring in Italy. Well deserved and justly recognized!

Ganges Village Market Annual Food Bank Drive



GVMEA and Food Bank Drive

Many Ganges Village Market employees volunteer their time to the community on an individual basis. They perform a myriad of activities vital to the functioning of Salt Spring Island as a livable, diverse community. Early in November, the Ganges Village Market Employees Association (GVMEA) decided they wanted the Association as a whole to become more active in the community. Recognizing their good fortune as employees of a strong, stable Island business, the GVMEA, with the full support of its 60-plus membership, determined to become more community involved as a group. Its first function as an association was to host a successful Christmas food bank drive December 11. This simple but important event was just the beginning. The GVMEA will organize and coordinate activities in the future it deems beneficial to the community. The Association welcomes public suggestions as to areas of community need.

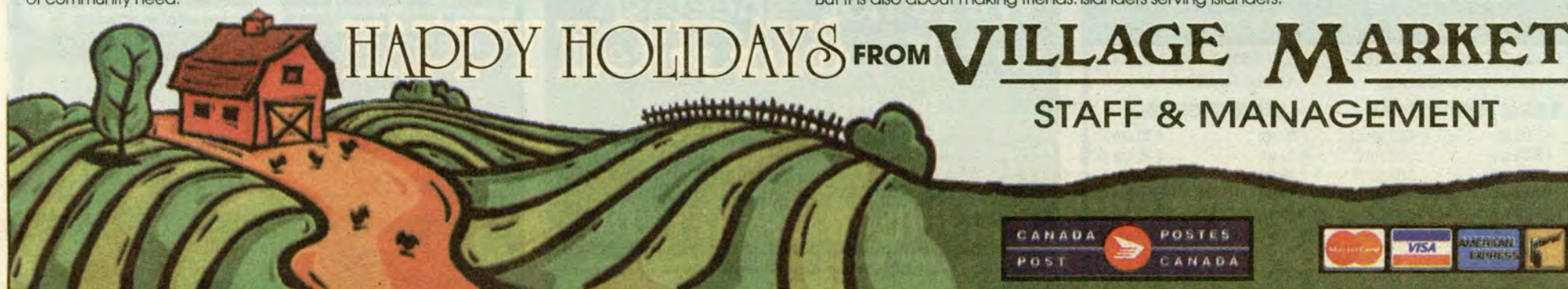
Welcome Wagon 20 Year Award presented to Ganges Village Market



GVM Management receiving award, pictured left to right: Marlie Kelsey, Dist. Mgr - Welcome Wagon, Bill Wilkinson, Melanie Morris - Welcome Wagon, Brent Cooper, Karen Hartley and Sharon Wilkinson

Friendly, knowledgeable and neighbourly: Welcome to the GVM spirit

Inspired by an old-time spirit of warm hospitality, Welcome Wagon was established in 1928 to greet new homeowners and familiarize them with their new communities. One of the first things, Ganges Village Market owners did (even before they opened their doors) was to contact the island's Welcome Wagon coordinator. Newcomers themselves, they expressed a desire to become a part of the island spirit of neighbourliness. Today, 20-years on, every Welcome Wagon beneficiary is guided on a personal tour of Ganges Village Market, introduced by name to on-duty staff, and given a wide selection of Salt Spring Island grown or produced products. Is it marketing? Of course. But it is also about making friends. Islanders serving Islanders.



Check the Driftwood every Wednesday for our full colour flyer full of savings!