

APRIL 25, 2007

THIRD ANNUAL

Women IN BUSINESS



**LOCAL BUSINESSWOMEN
AND STAFF**
profiled inside

**SALT SPRING SAYS
SPECIAL EDITION**
Islanders talk about
women at work



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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

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 Sean McIntyre, Susan Lundy, Stacy Cardigan Smith, Meghan Howcroft, Elizabeth Nolan
Photographer Derrick Lundy
Accounting/Circulation Claudia French, Eva Kuhn, Kim Young
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Production Kaye Segee, Stacy Cardigan Smith, Nick Sullivan

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 E-mail: driftwood@gulfislands.net, website: www.gulfislands.net

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Perry Ruehlen



Executive Director

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR INFO CENTRE
 121 Lower Ganges Road • 537-4223
 chamber@saltspring.com
 www.saltspringtourism.com



The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce has been active since 1948 and it continues to be a vibrant networking and advocacy organization in the community. The Chamber offers monthly educational breakfast meetings and women luncheons to give members the opportunity to share information and ideas. It also links local businesses to a variety of benefit plans, including group insurance, phone plans, payroll services, and fuel savings.

A-not-for-profit organization, the Chamber successfully runs the Visitor Info Centre in downtown Ganges. Under the leadership of Executive Director Perry Ruehlen, the Centre employs three summer students and 40 volunteers and sees over 45,000 visitors each year. It is an important hub that connects guests to the island with local businesses. It supports community endeavors such as Canada Day, the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay For Life, and many other committees.



Li Read, Realtor

Liane (Li) Read is enthusiastic about the many sides of her work as a realtor with Re/Max Salt Spring.

"I love my business," she says, "It calls forth many aspects of a person -mortgage/financing, law, promotion, people-skills and one is always learning."

She says she enjoys working with people, helping buyers connect to "their" property, and working with sellers to use the latest in marketing trends.

"My greatest satisfaction is a satisfied customer, and I always work with that goal in mind."

In business for 19 years, Li has been a consistent award winning realtor on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands (most recently: MLS Gold Award, 2006; Re/Max Platinum Award, 2006; and Re/Max Lifetime Achievement).

Li is pleased to support: Children's Miracle Network, SPCA, ArtSpring, IODE, Transition House, Ssplash, Lady Minto Hospital, GISS, and more. "We are all where we are due to the help of others, on our path and it's important to return the favour to the community".

"See Li for Successful Solutions!"

RE/MAX Salt Spring

1-800-731-7131

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Karen Shergold



The Colour Experts



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WE asked:

Why do women make good business people?



Leacy Freeman

Because they aren't lazy and disorganized. Of course, it depends on the person.



Carol Wright

Because they have to work twice as hard as men to make the same pay.



Kassandra Goodwin

Because we are very good multi-taskers, especially from dealing with children all the time.

Students see future with career advisor

Enthusiastic islander provides a bridge between GISS and business community

By **DAWN HAGE**

Driftwood Contributor Maggie Allison knows how to combine passion for her job as career advisor at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) with her love of business and the business community on Salt Spring.

She provides an important link from students to employers and often succeeds in finding the "perfect fit" for a student who will contribute to the community and learn valuable career and life lessons at the same time.

Allison has an extensive background in business, having purchased and run Parkside News with her then husband when they first moved to Salt Spring. At the time, it was the only news agent and bookstore on the island.

"My parents were both university head librarians," she said. "So I grew up surrounded by books and the business was an easy fit for me."

"I learned who the community players were and I got to know and remember people by what they read."

Allison and her husband worked the typical life-draining hours of business owners — 12 hours a day, six days a week.

"We took our first holiday after three years," she reminisced. "Harrison Hot Springs — we sat in the springs and stared at each other and thought . . . what have we done?"

After selling the business, Allison walked into the local high school. With her liberal arts degree from McGill, business and teaching experience, background in co-op education, previous jobs in career counselling, and the creation and running of a youth employment centre in New Westminster, school administrators were happy to see her.

They created a position with the school district that took advantage of her abilities and she became GISS career advisor in November 1991. She has not looked back since.

Allison has found that her links to the business com-



Gulf Islands Secondary School career advisor Maggie Allison works with students Eric Sigmund and Jenny Akerman.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

munity have been invaluable in her position at GISS. One of her responsibilities is finding work experience placements for Grade 10 students,

“Work experience is a great opportunity for kids to jump into the deep end of the swimming pool and come out and see what they think.”

~ GISS career advisor Maggie Allison

which can be an extremely important, often life-changing week for the kids.

"Work experience is a great opportunity for kids to jump into the deep end of the swimming pool and come out and see what they think," said Allison. "Basically, I am helping kids transition into the world."

The Grade 10 work experience week gives Allison the opportunity to get to know the students individually and learn about their hopes and dreams. She then follows their progress right through Grade 12, advising and providing

information, guidance and helping them to "fine tune their vision."

Career options can include fields that require post-secondary education, the trades, or jobs that students can transition into right from graduation.

Allison also coordinates all community-based scholarships (97 this year), provides one on one career counselling for all students and works specifically with Grade 12s to guide them in everything from scholarship and university applications to deciding whether or not to take a 'gap year' before continuing their education.

"It can be hard to know where to go," said Allison. "Students here have a really personal relationship with the teach-

ers and they can feel lost in a large, impersonal setting."

"It's possible to start small and then transfer later. It's also very clever to do a tour to consider which college/university you might want to go to."

If a student decided to take a "gap year" (time off between high school graduation and work or further education) there are amazing opportunities with a program called YouLead International Service Learning.

"Students can work with monkeys in Costa Rica, travel to Africa, India . . . basically they get a weekly stipend and room and board," described Allison. "It's a very cheap way for students to travel and learn about making their way in the world first hand."

Allison sees her role at GISS

as a "launching ramp" for students.

"My job is about developing partnerships in the community and the school," she said. "I love what I do. It's always fresh and it's always different."

In addition to her full time job at GISS, Allison also works with Monsoon Coast Spices, helping with craft shows and recipe development. She has worked with the company for over 10 years, satisfying her love of business and being out in the community at large.

For more information about career options, scholarships and education links, visit the GISS website at www.gulfislandssecondary.ca and follow the "Programs" link. For information on gap year options, go to www.youlead.org.

Into the trades

Two newer programs used by GISS help students who have chosen careers in the trades.

"The Excel Program is for kids that excel in the workplace but not in the classroom," said career advisor Maggie Allison. "These kids learn by doing and using their hands. The trades are a great career choice for these

students."

Students in the Excel program can work while they attend school a few days a week. They obtain apprenticeship and work experience and are often paid for their efforts.

The Accelerated Credit Enrollment in Industry Training (ACE IT) Program

is another recent addition to the options for GISS students. Government funded, it is free of charge to students.

"If a kid knows that they want to be a carpenter or a welder, for example, we can tailor an apprenticeship program from Grade 10 on that gives them a huge advantage by graduation."

Arlene Modderman



Mortgage Consultant/Broker
537-4090
arlene@mortgagecanada.com



Arlene Modderman opened her Salt Spring Island Mortgage Depot office in February of 1999. Her background as a Realtor in Victoria and Sidney for 12 years had identified her passion - working "one-on-one" with people to help them buy homes!

Now on the financial side of the transaction, Arlene has worked with hundreds of islanders in the purchase of their homes and investment properties, as well as building loans, mortgage renewals, refinances and equity take-outs. Since she has access to banks, credit unions, trust and insurance companies, she can custom-fit the mortgage to her client's specific needs. Always at no charge to the client!

A firm believer in giving back, she has supported many community projects including the Food Bank, ArtSpring, Ssplash and local children's athletic programs.

Arlene treats her clients like family, (she has a rather large one, including three young active grandsons), and each mortgage transaction is given the attention she would give to her own!

You are welcome to call for an appointment to discuss the many opportunities in the world of mortgages that are waiting for you! 204 - 149 Fulford-Ganges Road - by appointment.

Karen Hartley

GANGES VILLAGE MARKET
374 Lower Ganges Road
537-4144



Karen Hartley is one of the five owners of the popular family grocery store here on Salt Spring.

Karen's administrative duties are key to the day-to-day operation of this 22,000 square foot business. She and 80 plus other employees continue to offer residents and tourists the best service, selection and value possible. This 100 per cent locally-owned business is proud to play a role in supporting local non-profit organizations through their "Save-A-Tape" program. The store also supports the minor baseball association, youth soccer, Salt Spring FC, the Legion, local school programs, the Heart & Stroke Big Bike Ride, Relay for Life, and the SSI Dragon Boat Club, just to mention a few.

Karen and her husband Brian have been residents of Salt Spring Island for 15 years and both enjoy the outdoors. When she is not busy in the office you may see her with her regular walking and biking group exploring the island!

Sandra Smith

saltspringhomefinder.com

Sandra's motto is "helping you find your way home". Whether it is in her successful B&B "Angel Cottage" or selling real estate for Royal LePage, Salt Spring Realty, her love of Salt Spring Island has inspired all who come to visit or buy real estate. Being a mom to Tanner and Chase she believes youth are an important component to the island demographics. She is excited about assisting many young families make their move to the island. Providing professional service with honesty and integrity has brought Sandra to the forefront of meeting great people. Sandra supports School District 64 and Salt Spring Island Conservancy. She looks forward to "helping you find your way home".



SALT SPRING REALTY
1-888-537-5515

Mafalda Hoogerdyk

Insurance Broker



oceanswest@telus.net

1102-115 Fulford-Ganges Rd., 250-537-1730



As an independent Insurance Broker, Mafalda shops the market for the best insurance products available for your personal coverage. For example, some of the products she deals with are: life, disability, and mortgage protection. When shopping for a product for a client, she looks for the right product at the right price to suite the client's individual needs and budget. Mafalda's "no pressure" approach lets you decide in comfort what best suites your needs. Insurance is personal. You have to feel comfortable with your coverage and as your life changes, so do your insurance needs. They should be reviewed periodically to ensure they continue to cover your present situation. Mafalda has lived and worked on Salt Spring Island since 1992. She has raised her children here and has been involved with many community groups. Presently, Mafalda is a director on the Chamber of Commerce and a director on the Greenwoods Foundation Board.

"Protect your tomorrow ... today"

Claire Sigvaldason Carolyn Grayson

PEGASUS GALLERY

1-104 Fulford Ganges Rd
Seaside at Mouat's
ph: 537-2421

email: info@pegasusgallery.ca
website: www.pegasusgallery.ca



This year is a special year at Pegasus Gallery as it celebrates its 35th anniversary. Claire Sigvaldason and Carolyn Grayson are planning a special party for the August 4-6 long weekend and invite you to come along for the fun. Pegasus Gallery has long been known for its collection of North West Coast Native Art and Contemporary Art but has also expanded to showcase historical Canadian work by the Group of Seven, E.J. Hughes, Emily Carr and others. "I can't wait to go to work each day," said Carolyn. "Spending my day meeting and talking about art is a dream come true." Carolyn has a degree in art education, taught art and worked as an art consultant. Claire, a recent university graduate and co-owner of the gallery, focuses on the gallery website, art placement and administration. Both Claire and Carolyn have a passion for fine art and enjoy sharing their interest and knowledge with visitors to the gallery. Pegasus is pleased to support ArtSpring, Lady Minto Hospital and the SPCA.

Rocky Kinahan

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

537-1730

Grace Point Square

mhoogerdyk@berkshire.ca



BERKSHIRE
SECURITIES INC.



1954 was known as the "Marian" year and still the transition from Marian to Rocky remains a mystery to some.

Rocky was raised in the Kootenays. After a number of years in Victoria and 25 years on SSI she now calls the West Coast home. In 2002, Rocky encountered the first of many opportunities that would mark her personal and professional life. In May of that year she joined Martin Hoogerdyk CFP as his administrative assistant. Armed with the motivation to succeed, she is about to complete her studies in achieving her securities licence, enhancing the knowledge of the front office. Berkshire Securities Inc. is different from most brokerage office's in that we are independent and are not connected to a financial institution. Meaning, there is no bias placed on investment choices.

"I have really enjoyed my time working here. Our customers truly come first! We try hard to make our office welcoming and I think we have succeeded." Rocky is always ready to help in the community working with Rotary's Spooktacular in the fall, volunteering for the Terry Fox run & much more.

Rocky and Martin are a great team and offer years of experience in the securities industry. Martin provides investment decisions that suite your needs and Rocky provides the back up that ensures that client needs are met in a timely and efficient manner.

We invite you to visit our Berkshire Securities Inc. office at Grace Point Square where Martin & Rocky would be pleased to help you.

Women of Windsor



Nancy, Kylarra and Patricia

Windsor Plywood

166 Rainbow Rd, Ph: 537-5564 Fx: 537-1207
Open Mon.-Sat. 7-5

"At Windsor Plywood, I recognize the value our employees provide to our business. Kylarra and Patricia are all part of our success.

"With thanks to all our staff, we were presented with the 2006 Business of the Year Award for Salt Spring. In addition to that we were three time winners for the Windsor Plywood Store of the Year.

"As partners, Ken, Mike and I realize the importance of local youth sports, the arts and many other organizations on Salt Spring. We are proud to be sponsors and continue to support as our way of saying thank-you to our community.

"We enjoy seeing you in the store. Your business is important to us as well as the smiles and laughter you bring to our day."

"Coffee's On."

- NANCY STEFANCIK
co-owner



Oona McOuat, Roberta Temmel, Ayla McIninch,
Chris Bowen (NOT IN PHOTO), Gerry Munneke (NOT IN PHOTO)

"TRANSITIONS" THRIFT STORE

#1-144 McPhillips Ave. 537-0661 • transitions@iwav.org

This successful business, owned and operated by Island Women Against Violence (IWAV), is centrally located in downtown Ganges.

All profits from Transitions go to supporting the transition house, counselling and outreach services provided by IWAV to women and children affected by violence and abuse.

Transitions directly supports residents of the Transition House with shopping credits for merchandise.

An amazing group of volunteers, supported by the Store Manager Roberta Temmel are the key to the success of this community-based enterprise.

Caroline Rowley and Uma Meyers



Downtown Ganges
above TJ Beans
537-5217



When you mention "One Tonne Challenge" in a fitness centre, you might be thinking "sweat equity." Not so at North End Fitness. This year we have gone green, making the switch to a more energy efficient, organic operation. We are eliminating the old incandescent bulbs, ramped up our recycling program, and are using cleaning products made out of orange peels. Energy efficient shower heads have now improved to the point where there is very little difference in comfort between these and the old styles. Smaller changes, like paper towels and toilet paper made from recycled materials, all these things make a difference, and make for a healthier environment in which to exercise. Some of these changes cost a little more, but we think the trade off is well worth it.

So come up and take a look at the new "green" North End Fitness. Try out our Yoga classes. Try out the far infrared sauna (if you bring your own towels, we knock \$2.00 of the price, and it saves us massive loads of laundry.)

The Woods: Aluminum in the family

Bree, Billie and Tom Woods strengthen family bonds with metal work business

By ELIZABETH NOLAN
Driftwood Staff

Billie Woods is a slender young woman with rippling, long blond hair. A student of photography and classical guitar, you can easily imagine her softly playing Brazilian songs on a patio some summer night.

You may have more difficulty imagining her arriving at your house to install your new gutters, but anyone who's dealt with Gulf Islands Aluminum in the past three years has probably had to make that leap.

GI Aluminum is a family business, and Billie is

"It's wonderful working with my daughters. I've gotten to know them better, in a different way than I did before."

~ Tom Woods

not the first of Tom Woods' daughters to don the company hat. Billie's older sister Bree started helping out her father with the fieldwork over five years ago.

As Tom recalled, "I needed help, and Bree is very agile and responsible, and likeable and fun to work with. We had lots of fun until she eventually moved on to other interests."

While Bree's interests now centre around raising a baby daughter and studying commerce at UVic, she also has good things to say about working at GI Aluminum: "I thought it was great — I love any outdoor work.

I was really nervous at first with the high roofs and powerful tools and all that, but I learned really quickly."

When asked about how people reacted to seeing a young woman do the heavy work, she replied that homeowners were perhaps surprised, but supportive. "Some would even say, 'Wow, you're doing something I could never do.'"

After Bree came back from her last trip overseas and became pregnant, she still continued to go out and do quotes. "I think I was a bit of a sight walking around job sites nine months pregnant with a tape measure," she laughed.

Billie, 23, has been working with her dad now for three years on and off. Like her sister Bree, Billie enjoys the flexibility and the ability to take time off to travel that working in the family business affords her. When asked if she found it challenging to enter this field of work, though, she had to agree. "Oh, absolutely! I've always been kind of a tomboy, but yeah, it was tough in the beginning. I'm at a point now though, where, just in the past little while, I can totally do everything myself. The only thing I can't do is there's this one huge ladder I can't lift."

Like Bree, Billie has found her working environment largely supportive. "Sometimes I do a job by myself, and people are like, 'You're going to do that?' But people are mostly

good about it, I think."

Father Tom Woods has found working with both daughters a popular decision amongst clients and tradesmen alike. "People look forward to seeing my daughters on site, especially some of the construction dudes. There was one crew in particular that used to call Bree

"I think I was a bit of a sight walking around job sites nine months pregnant with a tape measure."

~Bree Woods

the Gutter Goddess."

"Everyone of course enjoys Billie," he added. "[On off-island work trips] she takes her guitar along



Billie Woods and her father Tom have fun while working together in the family business.

Photo by Billie Woods

on the ferry, writing and playing music. Folks enjoy that."

While neither woman would likely have ventured into the aluminum hardware business without their father, both have found it a rewarding experience in several respects. For example, both Woods sisters have noted a definite boost in confidence due to this unusual line of work.

As Bree explained, "It was an excellent learning experience — to realize myself that I could do [the job], plus more. I have my own power tools now and my own tool belt I use around the house."

Billie goes so far as to enthuse, "I love working with metal. It makes you feel so strong! It's really great because it keeps you in such strength." She's

recently joined a baseball team, and reports having had to pull out of arm wrestling contests with men to protect their feelings.

Billie is currently debating taking on more responsibility at the company, but also has definite plans to focus more on her photography and her music, with two trips to Europe planned for later this year. At 23, it seems early for her to fix a permanent future course, but whether to take on the family business is one decision she has ahead of her.

Regardless of whether or not Billie becomes more involved in the aluminum business, or like her sister moves on to other interests, all three Woods believe working together has been the ultimate bonding experience.

"My father is a really

clever man and it was really rewarding working for him," said Bree. "There's so many people who just

"I love working with metal. It makes you feel so strong! It's really great because it keeps you in such strength."

~Billie Woods

do a job to get it done, but he really takes time and pride in his work."

Tom is equally effusive. "It's wonderful working with my daughters. I've gotten to know them better, in a different way than I did before."

"I just wouldn't trade the time working with my daughters for anything."

Kim Young

MOUAT'S TRADING COMPANY LTD.

106 Fulford-Ganges Road
537-5551



Mouat's Trading Company Limited has been in business for nearly 100 years and employs 30 people. Over the years locals and visitors alike have been able to depend on us to do our best to have up to date quality products on our shelves. We pride ourselves on being a Home Hardware with a flavourable twist.

Kim Young, the store manager, has been with the company for 12 years. Lots of changes have been made over the years to ensure the best products and service for our community.

Welcome Home

We are here for you 7 days a week
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Linda Taylor



MOUAT'S
HOME
HARDWARE
537-5551



Visitors to the third floor of Mouat's Hardware will be pleased to meet a friendly face in the Merit Kitchens showroom. Linda Taylor is a kitchen designer who has been working in the industry for over 20 years, and she's uniquely qualified to make homeowners' dream kitchens become reality.

Working with clients who are building a new home or renovating an older one, Linda helps people clarify their ideas and realize the vision they want to articulate. Her years spent working first in the warehouse, and then in the showroom, mean she has a thorough knowledge of her products from the manufacturing stage and up. Linda's expertise makes choosing the right cabinets, appliances and colour schemes a fun experience instead of a stressful task.

"I enjoy when people come in with their plans and ideas and I can help them realize their dream kitchen," says Linda. "I love my job because I get to work with so many nice people."

Esther Evanik

owner
RE:DESIGN INTERIORS
 #1-315 Upper Ganges Road
 537-2275
 RedesignInteriors@telus.net



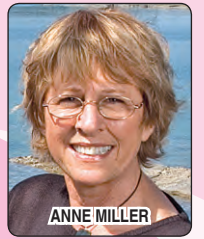
Re:Design Interiors has just celebrated its first anniversary on Salt Spring Island. Interior designer Esther Evanik had found that there was no design house on the island where she could introduce her clients to the wide ranges of products and new ideas available today. With Re:Design Interiors, Esther has created a resource centre, a one stop design shop, to help inspire you with decorating ideas without having to leave the island. Showroom staff Cindy Booth and Pat Fraser can help you choose from beautiful leather furniture, made in BC by Stylus and Van Gogh; Robert Allen, Aftex and Duralee fabric selections, cast-concrete fireplace surrounds; and Emtek and Baldwin hardware accents. Cindy is also our in-house seamstress and can help with all your drapery needs. There is a wide variety of beautiful imported gifts and accents for the home, as well as unique artwork by many local craftspeople and artisans. Having an on-site designer assists customers with their choice of fabric, texture, balance and style. Esther has been a resident of Salt Spring for 19 years, has 14 years' experience in marketing and commercial interior design, and has worked the past four years as a residential designer. She provides room settings and proposed layouts, colour consultations and supervises home renovations from inception to completion.

Re:Design Interiors can be found in Merchant Mews off Upper Ganges Road, just around the corner from Long Harbour Road. Open Tuesday through Friday 10 to 5, Saturday 12 to 5.

Phyllis Bolton and Anne Miller



Creek House Realty Ltd.
 164 Fulford Ganges Road
 Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T8
 Ph: 537-5553 / Toll Free: 1-888-608-5553
www.realestatesaltspring.ca



Phyllis and Anne have an excellent working partnership. As a team, their complementary skills and shared values allow them to allot extraordinary time and attention to finding the very best solutions for their clients requirements. A splendid match.

Anne's background in adult education and research and as a volunteer lay counsellor dovetails with Phyllis' experiences both as an RN and her previous responsibilities in many senior administrative positions.

While their major occupation and purpose is assisting their clients buying and selling real estate, both Phyllis and Anne take considerable time to contribute to community activities. Phyllis spent nine years on the board of the Greenwoods Eldercare Society before accepting the position of President of the Greenwoods Foundation. Anne is a member of the Salt Spring Society for Community Education of which she is a founding member and where she has played an integral part in the establishment of that society.

An incomparable skill set to meet your real estate needs.

Corinne Diachuk



STUDIO ONE
AVEDA CONCEPT SALON
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 537 2700



For the past few years we have been providing personalized, high quality hair and make up services in our relaxed, professional environment.

Together with my team, Darrell, Crystal, Estela and Katie, we strive for excellence in every guest's experience.

Our Earth Month fundraising has been a fabulous success for the past few years and this year is no different. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 to help support the Georgia Strait Alliance with cleaning up and protecting our coastal waters with the Toxic Smart program. We raised \$1,200 with our annual cut-a-thon, and our sold out event - Maedzik, will be happening on April 28th at Flying Dreams Studio. We are also be selling raffle tickets for \$10 each for the entire month of April for a cut and color with a gift basket of natural body care products valued at \$300. Please stop by for more information about how you can help us save the world.

Shinobu Verhagen



Owner - Manager - Chef
RAVEN STREET MARKET CAFE



Making her home in Fernwood since 2001, Shinobu Verhagen and her husband own and operate the Raven Street Market Café.

Shinobu emigrated to Canada in 1995 after a successful stint as stock broker for the Nomura Securities Company, then the largest securities company in Japan. Originally landing in Edmonton, Shinobu operated two pubs and a restaurant in Alberta and served as cultural liaison for the Japanese consulate there.

Ms. Verhagen is a classically trained calligrapher and holds degrees in both Japanese literature and education. In the summer and fall of this year, Shinobu will be self publishing books of poetry based on her own works, and on the translated works of some of Japan's most influential authors. She teaches Japanese immersion and calligraphy to islanders of all ages and still finds time to pursue her interest in photography, while playing her trumpet with both Swing Swift and the Salt Spring Island Concert Band.

Shinobu's love of the arts extends beyond the recreational. In 2003 she imported a theatrical troupe from Japan and in 2005 she hosted the islands first Jazz Festival.

Shinobu and her husband are currently planning a full day food and music festival to benefit Warchild Canada in May.



Ruth Taylor-Vangils
 (MANAGER)



Andrea Widdershoven
 (ASSISTANT MANAGER)



Ann McPhee
 (FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER)



Dawn Seymour
 (FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER)



116 Fulford-Ganges Road
 For personal banking please contact
 Dawn Seymour at 537-8610 • Ann McPhee at 537-8605
 For commercial banking please contact
 Marg Tames at (toll-free) 1-866-879-1577 Telebanking 1-800-363-9992

Founded in 1817 as Bank of Montreal, today BMO Financial Group is a highly diversified financial services provider. We offer clients a broad range of personal, commercial, corporate and institutional financial services across Canada and in the United States through BMO Bank of Montreal, BMO Nesbitt Burns, Harris Nesbitt and our Chicago-based subsidiary, Harris Bank.

BMO Bank of Montreal has been serving the Gulf Islands for over 50 years. Our team of professionals have a combined banking experience of over 100 years, and over 50 years experience on Salt Spring Island. We offer all personal and commercial financial services through our branch located on Salt Spring Island, giving you one stop for all your financial needs.

Maddy Tarris

Mercer Performance Gallery

Unit 2 - 111 Robinson Road
 537-5931 • maddy@tarrisimaging.ca



Maddy Tarris moved to Salt Spring five years ago with husband Donn and walking partner Toby. Two years ago, she started Tarris Imaging and is now set to open the Mercer Performance Gallery on Saturday, April 28th, showing clients' art and photography, and featuring music and theatrical performances by on and off island performers in an intimate listening room. Unique to this venue, all live performances are recorded for the performers' use.

Maddy assists artists and photographers in producing limited edition "giclée" reproductions of their works. Donn handles the colour work and printing, leaning on his 22 years in the computer graphics industry.

Since moving to the island, Maddy has devoted more time to music, playing mandolin, and djembe drum, and singing in Barbara Slater's Circle Community Choir. Over the past four years, Maddy has also cheerfully taken your tickets at the door for the Folk Club.

Judith Humphrys

Skin Sensations DAY SPA & WELLNESS CENTRE

2102 - 115 Grace Point Square 537-8807
 spa@ssisland.com • www.skisensations.com



At Skin Sensations, Judith Humphrys and her team of six certified health practitioners and aestheticians have created a peaceful ocean-side oasis, which is perfect for enjoying traditional spa treatments and receiving holistic health care. In business on Salt Spring for ten years, Judith's day spa enjoys a great reputation for all of its aesthetic services: facials, manicures, hydrotherapy treatments, and especially pedicures (called "the best" by happy clients). In addition to these services, her centre offers massage, reflexology and reiki.

Judith takes pride in the high quality products Skin Sensations uses and carries. Eminence Organic Skin Care, from Hungary, is natural beauty you can see and feel. Eminence offers a truly exquisite experience with products that are so natural you can see the fresh fruit pulp, seeds, and real herbs. The products contain no harsh chemical preservatives. The Spa also features Gehwol foot care products from Germany and Zoya nail polish which is free of thaluline, formaldehyde and debutyl phthalate. The latest addition to the spa is an Infrared light therapy sauna.

Judith and her staff take pleasure in their work. "We enjoy making people of all ages feel good about themselves," she says. The centre is committed to serving islanders' needs and offers many discounts, including senior foot care at a very reasonable rate. "Our biggest compliment," says Judith, "is when individuals return for our services time and time again."

Skin Sensations supports the SPCA, Rotary Club, and Community Services, among many other local charities.

WE asked:

Why do women make great leaders?



Claire Taylor

I don't know if they are better than anyone else, but any person with passion in business or society would possibly make a good leader.



Richard Moses

I have long felt women should be given the chance to rule the world. I think they are more preservative and cautious.

From the backwoods to the boardroom

Kim Benson, who chairs the Islands Trust, has made serving the islands a lifelong commitment

By SEAN MCINTYRE
Driftwood Staff

Kim Benson might just be the ultimate islander. She's determined, independent and not afraid to get her hands dirty.

Her roots in the Gulf Islands go back five generations, she lives off-the-grid in a home fuelled by renewable energy and it turns out her "island car" isn't a car at all, it's an ATV.

But driving an ATV isn't all that unusual on Keats Island, a relatively-isolated island in Howe Sound that's home to roughly 50 full-time residents.

"When you live on an island, especially a less developed one, you've got to be innovative," Benson said during a recent interview. "If your chainsaw can't start, you find out how to fix it."

It's little wonder electors recognized someone capable of representing them at the Islands Trust, an organization charged with preserving and protecting some 450 islands in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound from development pressure.

Benson's love of the region, dyed-in-the-wool do-it-yourself attitude and problem-solving skills were just too good to be true.

"I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly," Benson

said. "I like to improve things and see things work."

After completing a fine arts degree at Langara College in 1978, Benson decided to head "back to the homestead" full time. At 20 years old, Benson, her calico cat and her pet ferret left her parents' home in New Westminster for a quiet life of voluntary simplicity.

As a child vacationing on Keats and Gambier islands, Benson always dreamed of

"When you live on an island, especially a less developed one, you've got to be innovative. If your chainsaw can't start, you find out how to fix it."

~ Kim Benson,
Trust Council chair

living amongst the island's towering fog-shrouded trees. Her ideal was to someday live in a tree house overlooking Howe Sound with a rope swing as her only connection to the ground below.

At 20, it appeared her dreams were about to come true.

Benson set up a small studio where she produced paintings inspired by the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. She still paints whenever her schedule permits and her work can be viewed at

www.tolkien-art.net.

In true island style, Benson held a second, a third and even a fourth job landscaping, house painting and in the construction industry. She even started a small digital recording studio in North Vancouver.

Before long, however, a proposal to expand the Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Mill and concerns over logging in Clayoquot Sound transformed Benson's world.

Rising property taxes were also forcing more and more long-time islanders to log their land to pay the bills.

That's when Benson first heard about the Islands Trust, the local government body responsible for land use on Keats and other islands.

She saw in the Trust the perfect tool to protect the islands from widespread development occurring in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island.

"It was as though I'd come out of the wilderness," she said.

When voters elected Benson to the Gambier Local Trust Committee in 1993, she was one of the youngest



Kim Benson has been an islands trustee since 1993 and Islands Trust chair since December of 2005.

female trustees on council.

Fourteen years later, she's one of 11 women on the 26-member board, but, she jokes, certainly no longer the youngest.

Since emerging onto the political stage, Benson said, the number of women involved with the Islands Trust has paralleled a trend found in local politics across the country.

"I think there has been a shift," she said. "I think women are attracted to the local level because that's where they're closest to the communities they serve. My sense is that women want to be involved."

Just last year, after more than a decade of involvement, one of Benson's first projects finally came to fruition.

The Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program allows property owners to earn a tax rebate for setting aside portions of their land for conservation purposes.

As chair of Islands Trust Council, the Islands Trust Executive Committee, Salt Spring and Gabriola's local trust committees and the Governance Task Force, Benson oversees the day-to-day operations of the Trust at a political level.

"I usually attend about 100 meetings a year, only about three of which actually occur on Keats Island where I live," she said.

Needless to say, Benson's quiet life in the forest has come crashing down like the very trees that inspired her early political aspirations.

The early mornings, late nights and ferry line-ups have required a serious personal commitment and Benson questions whether her political career would have been possible if she'd chosen to have kids and a family.

Despite an arduous schedule, Benson has cultivated a loving relationship with her partner of 22 years, enjoys keeping in touch with members of her extended family and still has a trusty calico cat waiting for her on Keats Island.

"I appreciate the non-human co-inhabitants of the islands as well — the flora, fauna, and certain veteran trees and plants I have come to know," she said. "I like the islands. They are a very special part of my life."

from the beginning, it has always been women in business

Jane Mouat

§ 1907 §

§ 2007 §

From Jane Mouat mortgaging the farm to purchase the business, to Barb and Mary who have been "fashionably" leading the way on Salt Spring Island, women have played a key role in the growth of Mouat's Trading Co.



Their unique retail environment caters to women's and men's clothing, footwear and souvenirs for the family.

"Our fashion stylists, Trev, Carol, Nadine, Elaine, Michelle, Janet, Arletta and Jessica all know their business," say Barb and Mary. "They maintain the tradition set by Mouat's Trading Company in 1907, creative women serving the community."

WE asked: Love at work — taking a ‘Pace of Grace’

Why do women make good workers?



Rosalind Hope
We are conscientious and responsible.



Joan Dickenson
Because of their reliability and intelligence.

Connecting with people and caring the key to delivering excellence

By **LINDA KAVELIN POPOV**
Special to the Driftwood

I'll never forget my worst experience as a speaker, walking off stage feeling I had totally missed the mark.

The presentation had loomed large in my mind for weeks, because it was by invitation of a school superintendent I greatly admired, and I was utterly determined to please her and earn the high fee she was paying for my keynote. That was mistake #1.

As the audience of about 300 shifted in their seats looking bored, for the first time in my career, I felt utterly alone on stage. I rationalized that it was a Friday afternoon and these teachers were mandated to come, so the restlessness I detected wasn't all my fault. True, but still. I had never before had such a lacklustre reception, and it hurt!

Afterward, I reflected until I could identify the Teachable Moment in my failure to engage, much less inspire the crowd. It dawned on me what was missing.

Lesson #1: Make a Caring Connection

It's not about performing. It's about connecting. Giving a talk — or writing

an article, or selling a car, or doing business of any kind — is not about making an impression or pleasing someone to boost one's ego, it's about giving something to the customer, or the audience, that is of real value to them. True service comes from genuinely caring that clients or customers

“True service comes from genuinely caring that clients or customers receive what they need....”

receive what they need, even if it means referring them to another shop down the street.

I have often said in my talks, “People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

Somehow, in my desire to prove how much value I could deliver for the high fee I was receiving, I had lost the plot. I was caring more about my impression than my audience.

I was determined to receive the life lesson and make amends. At the next education conference keynote a few weeks later, I had the audience laughing within the first minute, and in tears by the end of my talk. This time I didn't go for effect. I chose to connect.

I asked teachers ahead of time about their challenges, and what they most needed from the conference. I put myself in their shoes. I gave them plenty of time to share in small groups, to hear their own voices instead of mine.

The first sentence of my talk was a question: “How many of you are wearing more than one hat? How many of you feel like Cat in the Hat?”

My talk offered practical ways to find balance and a pace of grace in the midst of juggling priorities. As I received their wild applause, I forgave myself and released the mistake, as well as the disease to please. Ironically, only when we focus on the customer are we able to deliver excellence.

Lesson #2: Be Compassionately Curious

Listen at least twice as much as you talk. There's a reason we have two ears and one mouth. If you're doing all the talking when someone is shopping for what



Linda Kavelin Popov of Salt Spring shares life lessons learned.

realtor actually asked what we wanted. “What are you looking for?” “What do you do?” “What matters most to you in a house?”

By the time we finished, we felt she knew us and actually cared about us. She quickly showed us the house that perfectly matched our heart's desire. We put in an offer that day.

Lesson #3: Create Customer Commitment

People are people. Genuine success in business is all about relationships. A loyal, committed relationship of any kind, including that between a service provider and our customers, is built of kind words and small acts of thoughtfulness. That ready smile, remembering a customer's name, calling them after they have purchased a big ticket item to find out how they are enjoying it and if there are any problems, goes a long way to bringing them back for more.

Some of my clients — fortunately including the school superintendent I felt I let down — have become real friends. We are mutually delighted by our connection.

The icing on the cake is that caring is really good for repeat business.

Linda Kavelin Popov is author of *A Pace of Grace*, co-founder of *The Virtues Project*, and an international speaker on personal and global transformation. www.virtuesproject.com www.paceofgrace.net



Morven Fraser and Donna Neish



174 Fulford-Ganges Road
537-5611

Here we are again, the women of Embe...from the small to the tall, we cover it all.

Morven and Donna arrive at 2:30 am, while Sam is here till 6:00 p.m. Sam is dressed as one of the bunnies! With combined years of experience, we total 47. We really care for this place - you can tell just by walking through the door.

Located at the foot of Ganges Hill, we offer smiles with our service and cheer with our treats. This is our family, we love what we do and have fun all day.

At Embe we are a team, employees to employers to customers. But don't take our word for it, come in and see...

Our hours are 4:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 6:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Sundays.

At Embe we support our community by helping the following charities and associations: Therapeutic Riding Association, youth sports, Ssplash, Grandma's House, Lady Minto Hospital, plus many more.



Carol Burbidge, Cynthia Anderson and Clare Cullen

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IS ENJOYABLE BUSINESS FOR THESE WOMEN.

At Island Savings, there's a saying ... I am of this island, in spirit, mind and heart. And no one takes those words more to heart than Carol Burbidge, Clare Cullen and Cynthia Anderson of Island Savings' Salt Spring Island branch.

For instance, when she isn't counseling families on accumulating wealth, Carol helps seniors manage theirs.

For Clare, it means working with businesses and non-profit organizations and running the Story-Time Program at the local library.

And for Cynthia, being involved with community crime prevention goes hand in hand with advising clients on insurance.

Because, above all, it's good to be here.



Christine Godlonton



DINNER'S READY

537-0867 • lastbite@telus.net
www.dinnerreadyonsaltspring.com

Christine Godlonton had been working in the food industry for 18 years when she saw a niche on Salt Spring she knew she could fill. The self-employed caterer noticed that there were a lot of seniors, singles, and busy people who would appreciate a nutritious, balanced meal that they didn't have to cook themselves. From this notion came the idea for Dinner's Ready, a business that prepares fully cooked, frozen meals.

Dinner's Ready offers a variety of different meals that customers can pick-up at local hotspots Jana's Bake Shop and Embe Bakery. The menus all contain meat, potatoes, rice or pasta, and vegetables, and all are delicious. There are single-sized servings of comfort food like mac and cheese, lasagna and cabbage rolls also available.

Christine graduated from the BCIT Chef's Program and has worked with food ever since. She likes the fact her work is flexible and there is something different to do every day. And she enjoys being her own boss. Another avenue of Christine's business is catering; she provides full-service catering for 2-200, as well as deli platters. At any time, she employs up to 15 people.

Christine supports youth soccer and Island Comfort Quilts.

Rita Gauld

DIRECTOR OF EVENTS & ARTISTS SERVICES

and Jackie Rieder

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



JACKIE

IRITA

ARTSPRING 100 Jackson Ave
TICKET CENTRE: 537-2101 FAX: 537-8310
ADMINISTRATION: 537-2125
info@artspring.ca www.artspring.ca

ArtSpring is Salt Spring Island's community-owned visual and performing arts centre. It is the most important home on the island for the presentation of music, theatre, dance, writing and a whole range of visual arts. Much of the task of coordinating the busy activities of the cultural season rests on the shoulders of Rita Gauld and Jackie Rieder.

As director of events and artists' services, Rita is the key administrator who ensures that event bookings flow without a hitch and that performing and exhibiting artists' needs are looked after.

Jackie is our volunteer coordinator, and looks after scheduling over 200 volunteers. Her goal is to ensure that the time volunteers donate to ArtSpring is rewarding and valued, and the many services ArtSpring is able to offer the community because of our volunteers run efficiently and happily.

Rita and Jackie encourage everyone in the community to take full part in what ArtSpring is all about, both as audience and as volunteers.

Judi Francis



SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Box 329 Ganges, 537-0037

www.ssicommunityed.com



For the past three-and-a-half-years, Salt Springers have eagerly supported the SSI Society for Community Education. Whether it's a language or computer course, native art history or car mechanics for women, the Community Education program offers something for everyone. Board chair Judi Francis is a strong component of the program's continued success.

This non-profit, charitable society is committed to offering, promoting and maintaining an array of "life-long learning" educational opportunities and experiences for the local community. A core of 13 dedicated volunteers, a creative program coordinator, and many "dynamite" instructors join Judi in this worthy activity.

More than 750 students have taken classes over seven terms to date. Judi says the best reason for volunteering with Community Ed. is the reaction of the students who have said: "The course was very valuable to my life. New approaches gave not only information but hope," and "In the pouring rain, [the teacher's] enthusiasm, examples, infectious laughter, and info lived up to my expectations."

Julia Hatchard Debbie Wrate

UNIGLOBE

Ph: 537-5523

Toll free: 1-877-274-4168

"Across from the Visitor Centre"



Julia Hatchard and Debbie Wrate have 23 years combined experience in the travel industry, a fact that is no surprise to anyone who's had the pleasure of dealing with them. The partners at Uniglobe Pacific Travel find it enjoyable and rewarding to help clients plan a vacation from start to finish - and their clients find it rewarding too!

"We cater to all aspects of international and domestic travel, from the budget to the discerning traveler. Both of us enjoy the attention to detail and the variety of planning each individual trip: some simple, some very complex and challenging."

Uniglobe employs two people on Salt Spring, Debbie and Julia, and supports the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation. With two such devoted and experienced planners at Uniglobe's helm, why would anyone go through the trouble of trying to do it themselves?

Stacy Wyatt



104 Harbour Sq.

537-1234



"I knew the store was taking off when I walked into Tree House South and the girl behind the counter recognized me and shouted over the lineup.... Hey I'm wearing your underwear today!" states Stacy Wyatt, owner of Red Ginger

Clothing in Ganges. Since opening in November, Stacy has created a blossoming fashion line and retail boutique featuring beautiful pieces from around the world, as well as styles by local independent designers. The stylish, funky shop carries Canadian lines such as Tigris (now called NiXXie), Alchemy, Hemp Sisters and Sweet Soul, as well as its own label called Red Ginger Naturals. Red Ginger is a wonderful addition to the thriving shopping area called Harbour Square, formerly known as Gasoline Alley.

After spending the past 11 years managing special events & conferences, Stacy was ready for a total change of pace. Working with hundreds of "busy" delegates on tight deadlines and traveling for ridiculously long periods of time, has given her a deep affection for life on Salt Spring. "I am very appreciative of what I have here and of the way the community has welcomed the boutique. We have already developed a wonderful clientele."

Red Ginger carries the latest inspiring fashions in intimates, shoes and clothing made from pure linens, hemp, soy, bamboo and organic cottons in sizes 2-16. Stacy looks forward to giving back to the community through event sponsorships and donations to the SPCA and local groups supporting women's needs.

Barbara McCully

salt spring internet

local, dependable internet

www.saltspringinternet.com 538-0052



Salt Spring Internet is a full service internet service provider (ISP) and offers dialup and high speed ADSL connections to the net as well as web design and web hosting services. Barbara McCully started the company in 2003, having been previously employed as an internet specialist for one of Canada's largest ISPs.

Barbara understands the frustrations many face here on the island with a slow connection to the internet. "I would like to see ADSL offered to all areas of Salt Spring," she says. As a small business owner herself, Barbara knows it is a necessity for the numerous people who work from their homes to be able to access and send information quickly through the internet. Salt Spring Internet offers personalized service at affordable prices.

On the way to becoming an internet specialist, Barbara has taught computer and internet-related skills to assist people seeking employment. Her previous volunteer work has included the SPCA, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, The Disabilities Coalition and the library. These days, Barbara supports the Arthritis Society and other local charities.

In Barbara's typically congenial style, she says, "Keeping up with technology can be difficult; hopefully we can make the journey a little easier."

Georgia Taylor



INTERIOR DESIGNER

537-1014

georgiataylor@telus.net

After completing her degree in Fine Arts, Georgia Taylor started working in interior design. "I fell into it and stayed in it!" she says enthusiastically. She trained at both the Ontario College of Art and the University of British Columbia before working in both Vancouver and England.

With a keen eye for what is possible in any given space and a great ability to turn her clients' wishes into reality, Georgia is a natural at interior design. She is passionate about her work: "It's a creative and people-oriented business," she says. She loves seeing how happy her clients are when they see her finished work, be they high-end corporate clients, international or Canadian clients.

Now, after having lived on Salt Spring for the past two-and-a-half years, she is excited about serving her local community full-time. Georgia Taylor supports the Salt Spring Conservancy and ArtSpring.

Beth Cherneff

Flowers by Arrangement

520 Long Harbour Rd.

537-9252



Beth Cherneff is passionate about flowers! Opening in 1993, Flowers by Arrangement has become an institution for those for whom flowers are one of life's necessities.

"My customers are inspired by colour, unusual flower varieties and contemporary design. They expect quality product and outstanding personal service," says Cherneff. Using fresh seasonal flowers or exotic imports, Beth's fine arts and design training have given her the tools to weave the colour and form of flowers into the spectacular and the sublime. Flowers by Arrangement offers a full range of floral designs personalized for your home, corporate events, holiday decor, and weddings. The studio/shop is nestled in a natural garden amphitheatre surrounded by flower beds and the forest beyond. As well as an outstanding collection of vases for arrangements, the rustic building is brimming with accents for the home and garden. Flowers by Arrangement is a proud supporter of ArtSpring and other local arts and community organizations.

Horsing around leads to new business

Young women follow their equine passions

By **TANYA LESTER**
Driftwood Contributor

They say you're never too old to begin making a living fuelled by your passion. Neighbours Kaya Hunter and Ashley Atkins prove you're never too young either.

Hunter, who is 14 years old, has partnered with Atkins, 22, to establish a horse care business. Included on their list of work offerings is exercising horses, feeding them, horse sitting, assisting beginners in learning appropriate ways to be around horses and mucking out barns and pastures.

Many of the island's most prominent horse owners are already very aware of these two young women's skills. Both of them are schooled in and proponents of natural horsemanship.

This means taking the opposite approach to forcing a horse to listen by beating it, Hunter said. It could mean starting to "train" a horse by going into a paddock and waiting until the horse comes up to you for a pat and a scratch.

Atkins added simply saying "hi" to the horse is giving the animal attention which it enjoys. Another way is to offer it variety, perhaps by taking it on a new trail or galloping down

an abandoned airstrip, which is what Atkins and Hunter recently did with their horses.

Hunter added that when a horse is entered into competition, it is important not to do it too often or the animal becomes "ring sour"-- just bored of riding in a circle.

It seems these young women's talents have emerged based on their love of the equine.

Hunter's and Atkins' words tumble over each

"I never feel more alive than when I'm on a horse."

~ Ashley Atkins

other when they talk about their favourite animal.

"I never feel more alive than when I'm on a horse," said Atkins.

"You're so big up there on the back of a horse," Hunter said, in reference to how it can buoy up someone's self-esteem.

"There's a special bond between a girl and a horse," said Atkins. "It brought me back to life." She is referring to being given her horse shortly after she recovered from rheumatic fever at the age of 15. Missing a year of school had isolated her, and caring for and riding her horse was therapeutic. It helped her find friends with

the same interest.

Although Hunter can't remember it, her mother Kim recalls her daughter bonded with horses at only one and a half years old. The young child unexpectedly went into a paddock housing a horse and her colt. A mare usually does not tolerate unfamiliar humans around her foal, but for reason the small child was allowed to remain unharmed close to the colt.

At three or four years old, Hunter does recall giving handfuls of grass to the horses on a farm near where they lived in Point Roberts, Washington.

A photograph shows Hunter, at five years old, riding bareback on a horse being led by her mother in Nelson, B.C.

Hunter, who is a home-schooled only child, has, in recent years, been able to add to her circle of friends due to her interest in horses.

"If you can communicate with horses then you can communicate with people," Atkins and Hunter agree.

Like people, horses have



A love of horses like Sheena spurred Ashley Atkins, left, 22, and 14-year-old Kaya Hunter to create their own equine care business.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

their individual personalities as well. Hunter said a horse named Miss Piggy, who "boards" with her two horses, has a "laid back la-de-da" attitude, while her horse Sheena seems to constantly ask, especially when newcomers appear, "Are you going to hurt me?"

Atkins points out that in the wild, horses have always been prey and people have been predators, so naturally, horses do not trust humans. It has to be earned.

Motivated by having to

contribute to the expense of owning horses, Atkins and Hunter have ample experience working in this field. Hunter has a couple of years under her belt "mucking out" the barn and pastures at a large horse farm. She and her mother pull broom and provide manure on their neighbour's property in exchange for being able to let their three horses graze there.

Atkins has worked at dozens of barns. She has trained, exercised and helped sell

people's horses. The latter entails informing potential buyers about the condition and challenges to expect from different animals.

The island has hundreds of horses on it. "Salt Spring is really a place where people move here and get animals," she said. Then, they realize horses need a lot of care. That is why services like the ones Atkins and Hunter provide are required.

Hunter can be contacted at 538-0246. Atkins can be reached at 537-1469.



Carolyn Maycock Margaret Mots

Offer expert advice on the right mortgage strategy

Since opening their office in Grace Point Square, Carolyn Maycock and Margaret Mots have seen their mortgage business grow beyond expectations. The Maycock & Mots Mortgage Team is part of Invis, B.C.'s largest mortgage brokerage firm. They can negotiate with over 50 lenders on your behalf to make sure you get the mortgage that meets your individual needs. Gord Dahlen, VP of Western Canada for Invis, says that "Carolyn and Margaret epitomize the core values of Invis mortgage brokers - integrity combined with professionalism. We are proud to have them on the Invis team."

Margaret and Carolyn will:

- ✓ Counsel you on credit and mortgage qualifications
- ✓ Provide maximum flexibility in financing choices
- ✓ Negotiate aggressively on your behalf
- ✓ Send you regular rate updates by e-mail
- ✓ Give you outstanding customer service

Carolyn and Margaret are proud to be part-time residents of the community and support a number of associations including Juvenile Diabetes, Cancer Society, Youth Sports and Recreation, education funds and Invis's own Angels in the Night program for the homeless, a unique program developed by Invis.

For professional advice on your best mortgage strategy, call Carolyn and Margaret to access all your financing options. They look forward to meeting you and assisting you with their special follow up service that sets Invis apart from the competition.

MAYCOCK AND MOTS MORTGAGE TEAM

invis 537-9810

Carolyn Maycock • Margaret Mots • Andrea Moniz
1206A Grace Point Square www.islandmortgage.ca
"our service is free"

Leah Woods



Choices
CLOTHING STORE

107 McPhillips Ave. • 537-1115



Leah Woods is the owner of Choices, an organization with seven employees. For the past 16 years, Choices has been providing services for adults with special needs.

These services include a day program funded by Community Living of B.C. This program provides support for community integration and life skills. Choices also operates a clothing store which acts as a job training centre for our clients, enabling them to develop important job skills. We sell great women's casual and business clothing to suit all ages.

We have some great new spring lines, such as Renuar and Mac & Jac. We also have the old favourites French Dressing, Louise and Ezze Wear.

Leah's business also supports local charities as well as special olympics.

Karen Hudson



ph: 538-0318
fax: 538-0319

ssiconservancy@saltspring.com
www.saltspringconservancy.ca



Salt Spring Island Conservancy is highly visible in the community, thanks to recent projects such as fundraising to protect Mount Erskine as a park, protecting Burgoyne Bay, and creating the Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve. Behind the scenes at the Conservancy office, Karen Hudson is the woman making sure everything in the organization runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Karen has been on Salt Spring since 1993, and has worked for the Conservancy since 2000. As Executive Director, she is the only full-time employee of the non-profit organization, which employs two part-time workers and boasts over 850 members.

During her time with the Conservancy so far, Karen has initiated two important and respected programs: the Species at Risk Stewardship program and the extremely popular Eco-Home Tour.

"I've really enjoyed working on these projects," the executive director says. Karen appreciates the many volunteers already helping the organization, but says there is room for more. "We have over a hundred volunteers, but always need more, especially for the School Program, and the Eco-Home Tour which is on June 17th this year."

The SSI Conservancy partners with many other local organizations, including SSI Water Preservation. It will partner with the Earth Festival Society and the Institute for Sustainability, Education and Action (I-SEA) for the Eco-Home Tour.

Kym Sheppard



BELLAVANCE WELDING LTD.

1229 Mt. Maxwell Road
shop: 537-4411 fax: 537-4988
cell: 537-6615
bellavancewelding@telus.net
www.bellavancewelding.com



Bellavance Welding is well-known on Salt Spring, having been around for 34 years and putting its name on many projects big and small. Kym and Greg Bellavance took over the company from Greg's father three years ago, and continue to provide the quality service islanders associate with the name.

While her husband does the design and fabrication, Kym is active in maintaining the business side of the operation. She is the organizing force behind seven employees, and in the past three years, her skills have grown to include accounting, advertising and web site development, in addition to the daily administrative tasks. This busy steel and aluminum fabrication shop keeps the pair on their toes with all sorts of projects -- while specializing in boat building and creating fast, efficient metal hulls, all types of fabrication are regularly done, from marine ramps and docks to driveway gates.

Kym is also self-employed within the film industry, where she has worked as a stunt performer for 17 years, including on recent films such as *Fantastic Four I and II*. Bellavance Welding has also designed and created special effect devices for films.

Bellavance supports All Saints Church, SS Fire Department and the soccer club.

Kirsty Oliveira

Easy Elegance Events

established in 1998
537-8747 • kirsty@saltspring.com
www.saltspring.gulfislands.com/Kirsty



Easy Elegance Events is in its ninth season. I started this business to feed my passion for organizing special occasions. I coordinate everything from the moment a client decides to host an event to the moment the last rental has been returned and the last little item is cleaned up. It is exciting to see an event take shape, as colours are chosen, music is organized, the menu is written, and each minute is planned out. My favourite moment is when I can see the hosts relax and begin to enjoy their party because they know that I have all the details under control. It is an essential part of my job to ensure that the hosts have nothing more to think of than enjoying their guests and the atmosphere we have worked so hard to create.

Marnée Bellavance



Parkside,
next to "The Local"
537-0033

Take-out comfort food...



Years working outdoors in the contracting business have taught Marnée Bellavance the value of a hot meal -- the operator of TLC Comfort Food may have traded her tool belt for an apron, but she still sympathizes with the worker.

In business in Gasoline Alley since December 2005, TLC's goal is "to provide healthy, filling, and inexpensive meals in a short time to allow the working person a comfortable lunch."

TLC customers know Marnée especially for her soups; she makes three types daily from scratch and serves them with homemade corn bread. With a menu that also includes thick homemade sandwiches and perogies with cabbage rolls, running TLC ensures that Marnée never misses her old work mates for long. "I used to work alongside many of the people I now feed on a regular basis," says Marnée, a fact she finds very satisfying. And as she jokingly adds, it's also warm and dry!

Marnée's son Jake works along side her when he is not in school. The business supports the Food Bank and the SPCA.

Jean Elwell, CA

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
1681 North Beach Road
Tel. 538-0371 • Fax 538-0372



Jean Elwell has been practicing accounting on Salt Spring Island for the last five years. Before moving to Salt Spring, Jean oversaw the internal audit division of Canada Trust for Western Canada, and prior to that she worked for Coopers & Lybrand in London, England. She passed her qualifying exam in 1989.

In September of 2005, Jean added Catherine Howe to her staff. Catherine is currently enrolled in the CGA program.

"We will address all Canadian tax issues," says Jean, "and that means personal tax, corporate tax, GST and PST." Another area of specialty is setting up new companies with accounting systems, whether they be manual or computerized. "To grow effectively as a company, it is essential to have an accounting system that provides relevant and timely information."

Jean co-owns the Salt Spring Home Design Centre. She is the Finance Committee Chair for the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation and the Treasurer for Stagecoach Theatre. She has 2 boys, Connor and Brendan.

Ganges Yoga Studio



GANGES YOGA STUDIO
Salt Spring Island

Grace Point Square 537-2444 gangesyogastudio.com

Back row (L-R): Sarah Allen, Cathy Valentine,
Nomi Lyonns, Patricia Galaczy

Middle row (L-R): Donna Orsi, Shelby Johnstone,
Celeste Mallett, Diana Bell

Bottom row (L-R): Lyndsay Savage, Leslie DeAthe,
Angie Jenkins

(MISSING FROM PHOTO): Cordula Vogt



CELESTE MALLET has been teaching yoga for 25 years, the past 14 of which has been full-time on SSI. She opened Ganges Yoga Studio in 2003 to create a central and neutral venue for the Island community to come together to practice wholistic healing modalities.

The studio is a rental facility for sacred ceremonies and corporate retreats and presently hosts Salt Spring's Stagecoach Theatre's ballet programme.

Studio space is sometimes donated to community programmes and some of the teachers volunteer in the community at large.

Free yoga classes are offered every Sunday at the studio by recent graduates of the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga's teacher training programme.

LESLIE DeATHE is a certified black belt Nia instructor. She first brought the Nia technique to Salt Spring in 2000, and has held regular classes here ever since. Coming to fitness in middle age, Leslie discovered that the body can adjust and adapt at any point in life. Her Nia practice inspired her to also become a certified personal trainer and a student of kinesiology. As studio manager, Leslie sees to the daily affairs of GYS.

CORDULA VOGT teaches extensively at GYS (Pre/Postnatal, Mixed Levels and Men's classes), SSCY and in the Island community. She volunteers her time, using sign language to facilitate a weekly class with the Choices group. A yoga practitioner for 15 years, she received her certification from the SSCY in 2002. She is a mother, sings with Women of Note and is a member of the SSI Conservancy.

DONNA ORSI received her yoga certification in 2002 at the SSCY and has been teaching at GYS since it opened in 2003. She is a certified bodyworker with 18 years of experience. She has managed the Ayurvedic health centre at SSCY for eight years and offers her expertise in Ayurveda at both the SSCY and GYS.

ANGIE JENKINS ("Oriana") is GYS's resident belly dance instructor and performer as well as the teacher of the Thursday evening Hatha Flow yoga class. Her Arabic name, "Oriana", means re-birth. Angie came to yoga 15 years ago in New Brunswick and has been teaching at GYS since 2003. She also teaches French at the Salt Spring Centre School and works as a herbalist/nutritional consultant.

DIANA BELL teaches both group and private Pilates classes at GYS. In her private work, Diana offers focussed sessions utilizing a Pilates 'Reformer'. Diana studied Pilates throughout the '90s and received her teaching certificate in '97. She taught Pilates in Toronto before moving to Salt Spring in 2005.

SARAH ALLEN is another SSCY graduate and has been teaching for two years at GYS. A busy mother, she subsidizes her working schedule by garden landscaping on the Island.

Grounded in the study and practice of yoga, insight meditation and the psychology of the human relationship at work, **PATRICIA GALACZY** is a facilitator and educator who brings groups together in meaningful dialogue. She is a SSCY graduate and has been teaching yoga for four years in Vancouver and now on SSI.

SHELBY JOHNSTONE received her certification in Hatha yoga at Moksana Yoga Studio in Victoria in 2001. She went on to become certified in prenatal in 2002 and children's yoga in 2006 at the SSCY. She is a busy mother, artist and student of Ayurveda and presently works as the office administrator at the Salt Spring Centre School.

CATHY VALENTINE, a philosophy graduate and dedicated yogini, lives with her husband and son at FoodForest Farm where they grow organic vegetables and seeds. A graduate of Gioia Irwin's in Vancouver, Cathy has been teaching for eight years. She teaches in the Vijnana tradition and offers classes and workshops here, on the Mainland, Vancouver Island and in the Gulf Islands.

LYNDSAY SAVAGE came to yoga in Grade 4, but has studied more formally for the past 12 years. She is a 2006 SSCY graduate and has been teaching at GYS for one year. A successful hairstylist and make-up artist, Lyndsay utilizes her experience in the healing arts of Reiki, reflexology, aromatherapy and chakra balancing in her approach to her work.

NOMI LYONNS' 25-year interest in natural healing methods led her to become a certified Kundalini yoga teacher in 1999. She holds a degree in Theatre Arts from Studio 58 in Vancouver, where she also studied the body techniques of Alexander and Feldenkrais. A certified fitness instructor and reflexologist, Nomi is presently studying for a degree in natural health at the Clayton College.



Donna Wrigley

SALT SPRING PROPANE
146 Oakspring Road
537-2006 (office) • 537-0064 (fax)



Local businesswoman Donna Wrigley appreciates the benefits of being self-employed on Salt Spring Island.

"I really enjoy our business because it is home-based and has flexible hours that enable me to play lots of tennis," says Donna, who has owned and operated Salt Spring Propane, along with her husband Wayne, for the past five years.

The business owners and their two employees, truck driver Chris Jason and receptionist Pauline Widner, provide fast and friendly propane delivery to local residences and businesses.

"We felt there was a need for a local propane delivery service. We secured an 18,000-litre storage facility and have the ability to deliver propane Monday to Friday," says Donna, who also owns a gas station in Nanaimo that she travels to once or twice a month.

"My husband Wayne and I have been business partners for 15 years and he is still my biggest challenge," she remarks with a smile.

Salt Spring Propane contributes to the island community through support for various sports teams, including youth soccer. Donna and her husband also support the Rotary Club, Core Inn, Comfort Quilts and the Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Laurel Hanley



store manager
MOVIE GALLERY

378 Lower Ganges Rd.
537-1428

Hours: Sun.-Thurs. 11-9 / Fri.-Sat. 11-10



Movie Gallery's store manager Laurel Hanley takes the rental business to a new level of professionalism.

Her friendly and knowledgeable staff excel at helping customers pick the right movie for themselves and their families, whatever their mood and taste.

Laurel says anyone on Salt Spring who enjoys videos, games and munchies is the right customer for Movie Gallery, and she and her staff always put the customer first. This includes having multiple copies of new releases on hand, and offering great promotions. New releases are moved to the gallery on a weekly basis, and there are always plenty of new and classic titles for sale.

Movie Gallery supports many local community groups and other charitable organizations, including the Helen Keller Foundation, Salt Spring's Japanese Garden Society, Greenwood's Senior Care's movie night, the soccer association, and others.

Mary Gillies

Salt Spring Linen & Drycleaners
116 Hereford Ave.
537-2241



Mary is the owner of Salt Spring's Commercial Laundry and Drycleaning business. She is an elected Salt Spring Fire District Trustee. A volunteer job that she finds equally challenging as running her own business!

Mary belongs to the International Fabricare Institute, which is a source of knowledge on all the latest techniques for cleaning clothes. Mary says, "We are finding more people are requesting expert and specialized cleaning than a few years ago. Laundering is often preferred over drycleaning, so we offer laundering options for stain removal and cleaning wherever possible. We also launder and dryclean special bulky items such as duvets, sleeping bags, drapes and quilts."

The commercial laundry supplies resorts and B&Bs with sheets and towels and restaurants with napkins.

Customers can save a trip to Victoria by using our weekly drop off and pick up service for sewing machine and vacuum cleaner repairs, as well as carpet, blinds and leather cleaning.

Salt Spring Linen & Drycleaners is open all year round and supports a staff of 6 part-time employees. The business donates to several groups on the island including, Coats for Kids, Canadian Federation of University Women, SSI Volunteer Fire Association, Comfort Quilts and Salt Spring Singers.

Rasma Bertz



www.quantumnorth.com
537-2825

rasma@quantumnorth.com



Quantum North's owner Rasma Bertz is Salt Spring's first qualified Quantum Biofeedback practitioner and Canada's first registered practitioner of Sekhem (an Egyptian spiritual healing technique).

Rasma brings five years experience in the UK and a unique skill set to our vibrant alternative healing community, where she has been practicing for the past six months. Although she is new to the island, she is already supporting several community groups, including SSI Conservancy, Coastguard, library and affordable housing. However, her caring nature is best demonstrated in her relationship with her clients. Along with full health reviews, Rasma makes several services available at the Arbutus Therapy Centre, including a mini health overview and fountain of youth "taster" sessions. Recipients of her specialized healing techniques can expect accurate health assessments, including allergy testing, pampering and healing time, and a plan for personal development. Rasma describes herself as an educator who leads clients through their own pathway to good health. "I love my work because I enable people of all ages regain responsibility for their health and wellness. Simple steps lead to great beneficial changes, and my clients leave with big smiles on their faces."



Trish Lundy Sheila Graham Laurie Poulsen

OPAL CARE PRODUCTS INC. - HAIRYKIDS
610 Rainbow Road 537-5274
hairykids@islandnet.com www.hairykids.ca

There are three great women behind Salt Spring's own Opal Care Products: Trish Lundy, Sheila Graham and Laurie Poulsen. After years of research and testing, the three friends launched their all-natural Hairykids line and have been open for business for the past seven months.

The chemical-free line combines Aryurvedic-quality essential oils and many organic plant ingredients, suitable for kids or anyone with sensitive skin or allergies. Hairykids' shampoos, conditioners, body wash, and styling agents were created with the women's own kids in mind, but children and adults alike have benefited from their products. The Opal Care team has even sent their body wash/bubble bath to kids suffering from AIDS in Ethiopia.

Trish, Sheila and Laurie are completely hands-on company owners, doing most of the mixing, bottling and labeling themselves here on Salt Spring. Opal's Hairykids line is currently available here at Rainbow Rd. Trading Co., in West Vancouver and North Vancouver at Whole Foods and in Vancouver at Finlandia and three Genesis stores. A recent distribution deal will see the line sold in health food stores across Canada.

Terri Bibby

BIBBY COMMUNICATIONS
www.bibbycommunications.ca

SAORI WEAVING
www.saltspringweaving.com

Ph: 537-8813 ~ Toll-Free: 1-866-576-3667
email: terri@bibbycommunications.ca



Drawing on her extensive background in business, computer consulting and management, Terri Bibby designs, develops and maintains websites for local businesses and artisans. She understands the importance of website marketing and includes these critical components in all sites. She sees website development as a collaboration with her clients and enjoys the process of making connections with them, understanding their businesses, and finding solutions. She takes pride in offering personal attention while providing a professional service.

Terri is also a weaver. She has a 20-year background in traditional weaving and has taken her weaving in a new direction with SAORI weaving. Terri has a certified SAORI coaching studio where she offers workshops, classes and retreats. She facilitated the weaving of a SAORI Peace Banner for the World Peace Forum in 2006 and now also collaborates with community groups to provide weaving outreach programs.

Terri volunteers with organizations such as the Our Island, Our World Film Festival, the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Task Force, the Salt Spring Weavers' Guild and others.

Patricia Fraser

Time2bSafe

SURVIVAL KITS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
537-1854
www.time2bsafe.com time2b@telus.net



Keep your family and pets safe! Stock basic essentials needed to cope with man-made or natural disasters which occur without warning. This island internet business is your one-stop shop for survival kits, tools and rations. Pre-packed kits for home, car or office contain blankets, light-sticks, personal care items and 72 hour supply of food and water (5 year shelf-life). Bulk orders can be custom packed to meet special requirements.

"Reliable, quality products is our foremost requirement," says Pat Fraser. "We've found reputable Canadian suppliers who keep up with industry standards and stand by their products. I'm looking forward to working with island families and community groups as well as emergency service providers in keeping our loved ones safe and secure."

EARLY ACTION = PEACE OF MIND

Marina Letendre



538-1806
toll free:
1-888-393-0007

E-mail: marina@alwaysgreen.ca
Website: www.alwaysgreen.ca



A love of gardening and the need for a non-existent product have turned former Canada Customs agent Marina Letendre into an inventor and entrepreneur. The plant lover was inspired by a common problem that most gardeners encounter - not knowing if her container plants had too little or more than enough water.

"Growing a large number of plants indoors and on my balcony, each week before returning to work I was always guessing if the soil was wet or dry, or which plants needed watering," Marina recalls. With no products available to help her with her problem, she took matters into her own hands. Three years of experimenting eventually led Marina to develop a water detector that works by extracting small samples of soil without damaging the plant. She also developed an aerator/seedler, which softens hard, compacted soil to permit the easy absorption of water, oxygen and nutrients, and Always Green was born.

Marina describes her water detectors as "eyes to the various levels of the pot". Over-watering and under-watering are the top plant killers, and with gardening reaching an unprecedented popularity, it's clear the time was right for her innovations.

Marina has based her Always Green company on Salt Spring for the last six months and currently employs two people. Her patented and trademarked products are available at Mouat's Home Hardware. You can also find her at the Saturday Market.

Leah McNinch

**SALT SPRING
REFUND CENTRE**
GVM Mall 537-8784



The Bottle Depot has been managed by Leah for seven years, taking in Salt Spring Island's bottles, cartons, plastic and glass. It provides a valuable resource for everyone concerned with keeping the global and local environment healthy.

"All ready-to-drink, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage containers, are welcome," says Leah, "The Bottle Depot business name is self-explanatory!"

The business has grown steadily as more and more people come to understand that they need to do something as individuals to help the environment.

"I like my job because it's humanitarian - it doesn't take anything away from the environment," she says, "Come in and we'll show you how it's done."

All milk containers now accepted - no deposit paid or received.

The business is also a benefit to 64 various charities, from AIDS Walk to Water for Africa. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friends Fitness Inc.

156 Kings Lane, 538-0006



Women across Salt Spring breathed a collective sigh of relief when they heard that an island operated alternatives to Curves would open to offer women's fitness services, but it took a special group to make Friends Fitness Inc. a reality.

Darlene Steele, the company's president, says the women's fitness business opened just a few weeks ago to offer a new and varied fitness facility for women. Motivated by their own appreciation of a friendly, non-competitive space, with Friends Fitness they are now fully immersed in offering the best women-centered programs possible.

"Our target is women of any age or fitness level," Steele claims. "Our goal is to offer a 30-minute exercise circuit or an individual resistance training program on sophisticated equipment. We love what we are doing and that we are able to provide this service."

The fitness-conscious group is proud to support appropriate causes such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Big Bike, and you may even see one or two of the members riding it. But for a better understanding of what Friends Fitness is all about, Steele recommends coming in to say hi.

"We hope everyone will drop by to see what we have to offer. We are thrilled with the positive feedback from our members," she concludes.

Andrea LeBorgne & Marlie Kelsey

Area Manager & Representative



www.welcomewagon.ca
Marlie 537-8845 or
Andrea 537-8464



Celebrating its 77th Anniversary in Canada this year, Welcome Wagon has been welcoming newcomers, new babies and newly engaged couples on Salt Spring Island for over 20 years.

Marlie Kelsey began her association with Welcome Wagon in the early 1990s as a basket sponsor and became the local representative in 1992. In 2003 Marlie became the area manager for the Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and Powell River.

Andrea LeBorgne joined Welcome Wagon as Salt Spring's Representative in February 2005. An Islander since 2001, Andrea enjoys meeting and greeting people and providing this valuable service for fellow Islanders.

Salt Spring won Welcome Wagon's "Community of the Year" award in 2002 and has maintained three of the most successful baskets in Canada. "We have terrific local business sponsors who are very dedicated and provide wonderful gifts for the basket recipients," reports Marlie. "People are thrilled to receive their Welcome Wagon Visit, which includes community information along with the greetings and gifts from the sponsors," adds Andrea. A variety of local charities are included with the community information provided by the representative. Andrea believes this is a great way to inform people about the groups and opportunities for getting involved with the community.

For information contact Andrea at 537-8464 or visit the website at www.welcomewagon.ca.

Sharon Brewer



CLAM BEACH COTTAGE
2331 North End Road
537-5456 1-866-537-5456



For many years, Sharon Brewer dreamed of operating the family's summer cottage as a bed and breakfast retreat. Her dream became a reality when she opened Clam Beach Cottage for business in 2003, and for the past five years she has been building her business and her reputation.

Clam Beach Cottage's primary clients are couples seeking a romantic, private getaway, a service that Sharon is adept at providing. Her attention to detail combines with a social flair that makes guests feel both pampered and at home.

"Meeting guests from near and far has enriched my life, and I love what I do!" she enthuses.

In addition to her knowledge of comfort and quality service, Sharon has a deep love of fine arts and local crafts. She supports ArtSpring and Island Comfort Quilts on Salt Spring.

Margo Greggains



**Access Care
Management**

www.accesscancercare.ca
537-8325



Almost everyone knows someone who has been touched by cancer, and each diagnosis brings fear and uncertainty. Margo Greggains has been unfortunate in that so many of her loved ones have had cancer diagnosed, including a grandfather, grandmother, mother, father and her husband. Knowing first-hand the importance of good support for patients and their families, Margo created Access Care Management in April 2006 to provide this assistance.

Through Access Care, Margo offers insight into what the cancer journey will look like, and the resources to overcome this overwhelming and confusing experience. Her Cancer Gift Kits contain information on everything a patient will need to know, including where to find support programs, how to navigate Royal Jubilee Hospital and the B.C. Cancer Agency, tips for chemotherapy and nutrition advice, and questions to ask the specialists, plus much more. The kits are the perfect gift for someone who has just been hit with the words: "You have cancer."

Margo is the coordinator of the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay For Life, held this year on June 22nd at Portlock Park, to honour those who have battled cancer. She is also the volunteer coordinator for the Terry Fox Run and SIMS PAC Chairman. Please contact her at 537-8325 or mgreggains@bc.cancer.ca if interested in these events.

THE HARBOUR HOUSE

121 Upper Ganges Road
537-5571

The Harbour House
is open daily from 7a.m.
until 11 p.m., year round.
We invite you to drop by for a
visit or a tour of our facilities.

Ann Ringheim

Ann Ringheim is the general manager of the Harbour House and has been part of the team for 15 years. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Accommodations Group, Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Vancouver Island.

She is very excited with the direction the hotel has taken since it was purchased by Jack Woodward two-and-a-half years ago. Winning the Chamber of Commerce's "Green Business of the Year Award" was one of the highlights of last year.

"We will continue our commitment of being a green accommodation, and will continuously look for new ideas that we can implement in our establishment."



Charlene Sharratt

Charlene Sharratt is the housekeeping manager for the Harbour House and has been with the hotel for over 12 years. She takes great pride in ensuring her department meets the highest standards and is always looking for new products for her department that are environmentally friendly. Charlene is also involved with some of the marketing aspects of the hotel.



Susan Cassidy

Susan Cassidy is the Harbour House's front desk manager, and has been a member of the team for six years. Susan's position entails making sure the front desk runs smoothly and that our valued customers receive both friendly and professional care during their stay at the hotel. Susan also covers for the general manager when she is away.



Colleen Bowen

SALT SPRING VINEYARDS

151 Lee Road, 653-9463
info@saltspringvineyards.com
www.saltspringwinerybandb.com



Colleen Bowen first met Jan and Bill Harkley, of Salt Spring Vineyards, at their one and only garage sale in 2003. Colleen was so delighted with their beautiful wine farm at the top of Lee Road that she is now a shareholder. Together, they produce wines that perfectly express the islands terroir and reflect the coastal climate. As the food and wine pairing expert, Colleen works in the tasting room pairing wines with local and regional foods and on the wine making team.

Salt Spring Vineyards is committed to sustainable practices in both the vineyard and the winery. Celebrating their 10th anniversary later this year, the business has prospered by paying attention to every detail and treating others as would want to be treated. Their ethical business practices and respect for their core staff of six have created a working environment that is both fun and rewarding.

SS Vineyards believes in supporting local agriculture, and plans their 2nd annual Grape Harvest Ball for 20th October. Proceeds again will benefit local children through the Salt Spring Island Community Services Society and children whose parents have died of AIDS in Mozambique.

"Our belief is that in business, we are responsible for our outcomes. We all need to look out for each other, whether we are the supplier or the customer. We do not believe in entitlement, and we are grateful for the support of our friends/community."

Anne Millerd

SEACHANGE SAVOURIES CANADA



334 Upper Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 1R7

Phone: 250 537-5641

Toll Free from Canada and the US: 1 888 747-5641

Fax: 250 537-0778



Anne Millerd has always had trouble describing her position at SeaChange, trying out job descriptions from "Hey You" to "Director of Sales," but recently she took a deep breath and claimed the title of CEO. Together with business partner and CFO Nicki Cameron (see next year's Women in Business!) and a core staff of five other people, Anne manages SeaChange Savouries Canada, providing retailers across this country with authentic Canadian gourmet gifts. Anne enjoys everything from meeting clients at trade shows to strategizing for new products. She got into business when her husband John Millerd started selling cedar boxes of smoked salmon at Expo '86, and Anne set about to keep track of the accounts. Over 20 years later, founder John Millerd has left SeaChange to start a new venture, but Anne still enjoys the daily challenges of running a small business. "Business is people," she says with a smile. "I love people, and I love managing. I have a great job."

SeaChange donates 5 per cent of net profits to food banks and soup kitchens.



148
Fulford-Ganges
Road
538-1889

www.windflowermoon.com

The Women of Windflower

Windflower Moon is a full range metaphysical boutique, which offers unique and beautiful gifts. The vision at the store is to offer items of beauty and tools to expand, heal and empower body, mind and spirit. Owner Laura Roveda's love of beauty is inherent in her choices for the store where she has created a cornucopia of offerings. Laura believes in nurturing and healing the heart through beauty and awareness. Using principles of gratitude, her vision is to help improve the quality of life for all in this world (and beyond.) If each person's light is nurtured to grow brighter, we can "create the world we wish for".

A staff of strong, creative women adds a wealth of knowledge and experience to Windflower Moon. Kaia is a certified Vinyasa Yoga teacher, aromatherapist, and a founder of Upala, an ayurvedic aromatherapy line.

Ceri is also a founder of the Upala line of products and is a director of Interchill Records here on the island. Joanne has a compassionate ear, is a longtime student of the Tarot and the I-Ching, and does readings in the community.

All of the Windflower women look forward to serving you!!

Cathie Cunningham



COTTAGE RESORT

on St. Mary Lake
537-2214

www.saltspringcottage.com



At Cottage Resort and Cranberry Ridge Lakeside B&B, a definite relationship exists between co-owners Cathie and Randy Cunningham: Queen Bee and worker bee. This true family business is run by the Cunninghams and any of their five children that may be available, but it's Cathie who is the business' heart and soul.

On Salt Spring for five years, but with a history and love affair with the island dating back 30 years, Cathie's vision has been to provide a restorative space for others. Her background in nursing and healing has led Cathie to create a "retreat, sanctuary and peaceful place for people to restore body, mind and spirit - and have a good time!"

As business owners, the Cunninghams reflect their love for the island in all of their decisions, from buying locally for almost all their needs, to enacting good stewardship of their property and the lake. Cathie describes herself as environmentally oriented, and says they try to leave as small a footprint as possible. They also support many local groups, including the Copper Kettle, Lions Club, SPCA, and school and sports events.

Cathie's desire to transform her happiness into happiness for others is summed up as follows: "I wake up every day in paradise, grateful to be part of this amazing and diverse community. I love Salt Spring!"

Elizabeth Lee

I can make a difference

SAFE RELIABLE HOME CARE

Office: 537-1023 or 538-7722 (cell)



Elizabeth Lee is a fourth-generation islander whose life work is to help others live more comfortably. A founding member of Island Comfort Quilts, Elizabeth has spent the past six years caring for the elderly.

Acting as a companion in the home or hospital, Elizabeth provides a range of services, including palliative care, meal preparation, shopping, and accompaniment to appointments. Her patient and compassionate nature has made her a reliable choice, and her excellent rapport with the elderly has made her a favorite one. She is also very conscious of their special needs for safety and well-being.

"My work is very rewarding," says Elizabeth. "I try to make a difference and improve the quality of life for people, and they are happier and calmer."

Beacon Employment Services

#206 - 343 Lower Ganges Road

(Across from Upper Ganges Centre)

Salt Spring Island, BC

Ph: 537 - 5979 Fx: 537 - 5976

www.beaconcs.ca



PENN GEORGE

SHARON SYKES

SUZANNE ARCHER

In the past, if you were unemployed on Salt Spring Island you would have had to travel to Sidney or Saanich for assistance in job seeking. Not any longer.

For the past two-and-a-half years, Beacon Employment Services has offered job search assistance, free of charge, out of its uptown Ganges office. Working under the umbrella of Beacon Community Services, this not-for-profit employment agency serves residents of the Southern Gulf Islands by providing a variety of resources and services:

- computers for resume and cover letter writing
- internet for job searches and post secondary training information
- local job board - newspapers and reference materials
- weekly Resume Writing Clinic plus other workshops, for example: Career Exploration Employment counsellors are available for one-on-one sessions.

Special employment and training programs for people between the ages of 15 and 30. The agency supports its own Thrift Shop as well as other community programs.

Penn, Suzanne and Sharon invite you to check out the resources and services offered at Beacon Employment Services between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Joanne Burns



CHOCOLATE BEACH

537-9333

chocolate-beach@shaw.ca



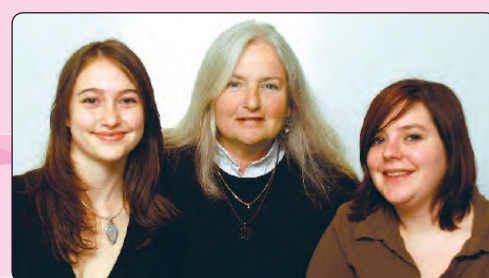
Joanne Burns is a graduate of the Barry Callebaut Chocolate Academy in Montreal and École Chocolat Professional Chocolatier Program in Vancouver. Since moving to Salt Spring with husband Rob in 2004, she has combined her training with a love of fine, locally made goods to help spur a revival in artisan chocolate-making.

"We had been market vendors before and knew we wanted to be involved with the Market in the Park on Salt Spring," said Joanne. "We love the energy and the people at the market; it's been a great way to make new friends." Supporting local groups such as Greenwoods, the SPCA and Seeds for Malawi have placed the Burns firmly within the community.

Fans of Chocolate Beach are those who are passionate about freshness, quality and flavour. Most of the chocolates are 58 per cent to 75 per cent cacao, plus lots of choices for the milk chocolate lovers. Joanne uses organic and fair trade ingredients as much as possible.

Chocolate Beach fresh chocolates and fudge are available at the Saturday and Tuesday markets, as well as by special order.

Tessa Young-Serra, Deborah Lauzon, and Nova Kodaly,



537-9651

soyanova@saltspring.com

1200 Beddis Road

Soya Nova Tofu Shop Ltd. produces fresh tofu daily that is available at their shop at 1200 Beddis Road. In that location for 22 years in July, you can also find their products at most food stores on Salt Spring Island. Their Smoked Tofu, developed on SSI, is available across North America. "We put energized enthusiasm into every bite" is their motto. Their products are also available at the Food Bank.

Heather Howard



FEET FIRST

#5 - 241 Lower Ganges Road

Gulf Clinic Building

537-0715



Heather Howard's gentle touch, along with her 30 years of health care experience, brings great benefits to the clients of her foot-focused business, Feet First.

"I get great satisfaction from the gratitude people show for my care in helping them walk in comfort," says Heather, the owner and sole operator of the four-year-old local business.

As a licensed practical nurse and a British Columbia certified foot care nurse, Heather uses her expertise to cater to the specific needs of her clients, who include seniors and diabetics. She also provides professional foot care services to people with thickened nails, calluses, heel fissures, and ingrown nails.

"I have been working with the elderly for over 26 years, and I saw a need in the community for foot nursing care," said the local businesswoman, who was born on Salt Spring and married a fellow Salt Spring Islander.

In addition to providing high-quality foot care to island residents, Heather also contributes to cancer charities and to education initiatives for children in underprivileged countries.

Tisha Boulter & Donna Orsi



355
Blackburn
Road
537-8443



DONNA ORSI
(manager)

TISHA BOULTER
(assist. manager)

Chikitsa Shala Wellness Centre is the healing heart within the internationally renowned Salt Spring Centre of Yoga, a local establishment since 1981. Manager Donna Orsi and assistant manager Tisha Boulter have been with the Salt Spring Centre for eight and four years respectively. Their combined experience, learning and skills have made the Wellness Centre a real oasis of restoration for both body and spirit.

Chikitsa Shala is operated in support of the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga, a non-profit, non-denominational learning space. A portion of the centre's proceeds support the Sri Ram Orphanage in India; local community organizations include SSI Conservancy, SVOVA and the SSI Buddhist community. Above all, a mandate to help grow and heal motivates Donna and Tisha's work.

"Our interest is in supporting individuals who are open to health and healing. We feel passionate about the journey into wellness, and the wisdom of Ayurvede. We are honoured to offer a sanctuary where holistic touch can enhance one's own healing energies, and where peace is attained."

Interested individuals are welcome to call Donna or Tisha with inquiries, or to check out the web site at www.saltspringcentre.com.

Christina Heinemann



653-4764 cdesign.chris@gmail.com
www.christinaheinemanndesign.ca



Graphic/web designer Christina Heinemann has 26 years experience and has been in business on Salt Spring for 20 years. Her slogan is "The Fine Art of Advertising," demonstrating a perfect blend of smart professional design qualities combined with an exceptional artistic intuition.

Christina's target market is anyone who is looking for quality design with a professional approach in print or web media, whether it is a 'facelift' of existing material or the development of a new visual identity. Christina displays a vast creativity and flexibility in various styles, working with the newest technology with strong attention to detail in design, layout, text, and photography.

"I take my clients step by step through the process of developing printed promotional materials or websites and with my experience I will help the client through this sometimes confusing and overwhelming task," Christina explains. "As a good designer I have to be flexible, be able to listen to and work with my client. Thus together we will find the style which is perfect for the project." Her passion for quality design means she won't rest until her design is perfect and the client is satisfied, while her reliable nature means deadlines are never an issue.

For more information and to see her portfolio, please visit her website.

Pam Miskey

No Surprises Housecleaning LA CONCIERGE

OWNER/OPERATOR 537-2186
www.laconciergerie.net
www.nosurpriseshousecleaning.net



La Conciergerie is a service created to provide you with the ultimate personal assistant. A concierge is someone who facilitates and organizes your affairs. This type of service has been around since the 1800s although most people think of a concierge as someone in a five star hotel who offers their local knowledge to guests. There has been a shift in the last five years towards making a concierge an affordable and accessible assistant who works with you on a one-to-one basis; La Conciergerie will be your personal contact for home or business.

Pam strives to save you valuable time and remove the hassles and stresses of managing everyday tasks. In this day and age running our personal lives is becoming as hectic as running a business so Pam, who owns and operates No Surprises Housecleaning, decided to expand into the concierge service. La Conciergerie will clean your home, arrange service people, send a gift basket, provide a caterer, or run an errand, to name a few of their personal services. They are the fixers and handlers; they are the people with the contacts to get walls moved, doors opened, and tasks accomplished.

La Conciergerie will provide the resources for management and maintenance of your property in your absence, providing competent care and peace of mind. Some of their clients include Microsoft, Shinto-Shine, and many TV producers. "Our continuous commitment to quality and timely service has earned the trust and confidence of our clients," says Pam. Make a good life even better with La Conciergerie.

Dr. Libby Barlow, B.A., D.C.

SALT SPRING CHIROPRACTIC
Lancer Building,
323 Lower Ganges Rd
537-4142



A desire to assist people striving towards greater health in a natural, holistic way is what drew Libby to the study and practise of chiropractic. "Chiropractic,"

she says, "is aligned with such professions as naturopathy, osteopathy, acupuncture and homeopathy in that it respects and works with, not against, the body's own recuperative abilities. There is a tremendous impetus towards health and well-being in each of us. Chiropractic, by virtue of removing interferences from the nervous system, supports this impetus by allowing proper bodily function."

Libby has been living on Salt Spring for 13 years and practising here for 12. In that time people of all ages and walks of life have utilized her office. She says it is a privilege to cross paths with and be involved in so many people's reclaiming of their health. "Far too often," she says, "people 'sell themselves short' by attributing a decline in their general well-being to 'getting old' - and this sometimes from those yet in their twenties!" When people return after treatment stating "they haven't felt this good in years," says Libby, "it is tremendously rewarding and a real testament to the power and effectiveness of chiropractic."

Edie Foster

Sales Manager
SAUNDERS SUBARU
1784 Island Hwy., Victoria
1-888-898-9911



Edie Foster came into the family business at Saunders Subaru when she was 19. She started as a lot person, and for her first five years with the company she washed, moved and transported cars, and assisted the mechanics. She went on to become service manager, assistant sales manager, and now is sales manager at Saunders, a position she's held for the past 12 years.

What's it like working for a family business? "I love it when people think I'm Ruth's much younger sister," says Edie.

Edie's biggest challenge has been people accepting her position as a female sales manager. "Gender should have no reflection on who is the best person for the job," is Edie's philosophy. Her greatest reward is meeting people and helping them make decisions about the largest investment they are likely to make next to buying a home.

Edie enjoys spending time with her husband, her daughter (16) and her son (19), and especially spending time at the family cabin on the ocean, fishing and crabbing. She is also back playing hockey after a 15 year break.

SAUNDERS SUBARU

Norma Saunders

Controller
SAUNDERS SUBARU
1784 Island Hwy., Victoria
1-888-898-9911



Norma Saunders began her professional career as a banker and then as a realtor before joining her husband at Saunders Subaru. The company has been in business for 27 years now, and Norma works as its controller.

"I enjoy paperwork!" she says. "I like to keep up on laws governing all aspects of running a car dealership like ours - one that's a leader in best practice - whether it's employment law, tax law or environmental legislation." Attention to matters like these mean that Norma feels she contributes to a great working environment for the Saunders Subaru team of 25 employees, and to the business and local community through meeting the highest standards.

Her work hours are flexible, which is important because it means Norma can spend time with her children and grandchildren. She also loves to travel. Salt Spring Singers, the Salt Spring RCMP, the Chamber of Commerce and the Salvation Army all benefit from the support of Norma and her team.

"I'm retirement age," says Norma, "but I'm not going to retire - I hate housework!"

SAUNDERS SUBARU

Ruth Michaud

Service Manager
SAUNDERS SUBARU
1784 Island Hwy., Victoria
1-888-898-9911



As the service manager at Saunders Subaru, Ruth oversees all aspects of vehicle needs, from the clean-up crew and the mechanics, to the delivery of new vehicles through the sales department. She works with the Subaru technical departments and stays on top of the vehicle warranties and maintenance schedules. She's received training on all aspects of the service department and frequently attends courses provided by the manufacturer.

"I started in the family business and learned from the examples that were set by my parents and by my much older sister, Edie."

Saunders strives to provide excellence in service for all its customers. "Helping people is important to me," says Ruth, "so being able to provide a great customer service each time someone brings a vehicle into Saunders Subaru means a lot to me."

In her spare time, Ruth coaches girls' ice hockey, ages 8 - 12. Her children's activities and sports keep her on the go, too, and she enjoys being a part of their busy lives as well as her husband's.

SAUNDERS SUBARU

Louise Page



Salt Spring (250) 537-8322
 Vancouver (604) 736-0573
 www.lpdesign.ca lpdesign@telus.net



Louise Page is the owner and principal of LP Design, an award-winning design firm based in Vancouver and on Salt Spring for the past eight years. Louise's creative vision has been responsible for LP Design receiving nine awards of excellence for projects completed throughout Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Salt Spring and Galiano islands, and Calgary.

Louise's qualifications as a registered interior designer, and her membership in the professional organizations Interior Designers of B.C. and Interior Designers of Canada, reveal a strong commitment to the highest quality work. LP Design clients are generally undertaking a major renovation or constructing a custom-built house, and rely on Louise's special skills to best reflect their personal taste in their new surroundings.

"I enjoy the many facets of this process," Louise says, including especially "the interaction with the clients and tradespeople and the creative and technical aspects."

Louise and LP Design are also a strong presence in community, supporting organizations and causes such as the Portlock Park Relay for Life, Run for the Cure, and the Single Parent Food Bank.

Joy Howell Linda Koroscil



Online: www.partytimerentals.ca

E-mail: partytimerentals@telus.net

Rental inquiries:
537.4577

Pick-ups & returns at Love My Kitchen



Love My Kitchen
FINE COOKWARE & ACCESSORIES
537-5882

Two businesses...working together for the past seven years, and it's a very successful relationship. "We are dedicated to offering the best service, whether selecting gifts, kitchenware, or renting supplies for special events," says the expert team.

At Love My Kitchen, shoppers can find a wide selection of superior quality products to take home to their own kitchens and prepare that special dinner.

Party Time Rentals, meanwhile, rents everything from tents to utensils. The rental business provides a personalized service tailored to customers' needs and offers a 10 per cent discount to all non-profit organizations. Their e-mail is partytimerentals@telus.net. "Come see us at 140 Fulford-Ganges Road!," invite Linda and Joy.

Deirdre Rowland PRINCIPAL



653-9387
 media@cmepublicity.com
 www.cmecommunications.ca



Deirdre Rowland is an ethical publicist with a strong reputation for her messaging expertise. The principal and founder of C Me Communications, she has been in business on Salt Spring since May 2005.

C Me Communications is a full-service communications house dedicated to working with clients who are savvy about making a difference in the world. Deirdre's clients are engaged in an endless variety of projects but all share in a common mission: to make the planet a better place for all. Communication services include message development, strategic planning, media campaigns, re-brand evaluations, and media training.

Whether featured in the Globe and Mail, the Gulf Islands Driftwood or on Oprah & Friends Radio, C Me excels at getting their client's message out. Local clients include The Virtues Project and Steffich Fine Art.

C Me Communications is a member of the Values Based Business Network in Victoria, BC, and works in affiliation with Floating World Web Development on Salt Spring.

Janice Dodd
DIRECTORY VOLUNTEER
 Dorothy Adrain
DIRECTORY VOLUNTEER
 Gayle LeBlanc
PRODUCTION EDITOR



LIONS PUBLICATIONS
 105 Bonnet Ave.
 ph: 537-2000 fx: 537-2099
 e-mail: sslions@telus.net

No Salt Spring home or business is complete without at least one copy of the SS Directory, a must-have comprehensive volume of all information important for island life. Gayle LeBlanc has been the production editor with Lions Publications for the past five years. Working with two volunteers and one employee, they try and make the book as fully up to date as possible.

Gayle and her team, Anne Flieger, Dorothy Adrian and Janice Dodds, have great fun during the production process meeting all the new people and businesses on the island. Gayle is in the office 12 months a year working on the directory, hall rentals and doing other business for the Lions Club.

The Lions support many island causes including scholarships, the Santa Ship, seniors' Christmas dinner...and they have contributed to many parts of the community from the development of Portlock Park and the Kanada Skate Park, to the running of Pioneer Village, as well as Croftonbrook, handicapped buses, and of course their popular garage sales. These are just a few of their many activities.

Lorraine Sullivan

PRODUCTION MANAGER



Lorraine Sullivan, production manager began working at The Driftwood 15 years ago, and with a two year hiatus designing at Monday Magazine in Victoria, she is back leading the production team. Lorraine organises the weekly paper and subsequent supplements so that the process from concept to creation to publication is as smooth as possible.



Andrea Rabinovitch

DRIFTWOOD ADVERTISING
SALES REPRESENTATIVES



Since moving to laid back Salt Spring three and a half years ago from Edmonton, Alberta, Andrea has found full time employment that totally suits her type-A driven, goal oriented personality.



Gail Sjuberg

MANAGING EDITOR

Gail Sjuberg has been the managing editor of the Driftwood since October of 2003, after spending the previous 13 years as a member of the newspaper's editorial department.

She is responsible for all Driftwood content, except the advertisements, and the editorial innards of the company's various supplements.



Tracy Stibbards

Tracy Stibbards has always been one to take risks and step up to a challenge.

This dynamic career path suits her outgoing personality perfectly and has given Tracy a whole new set of skills. Her job includes assisting local businesses market their goods and services in the newspaper plus the special pages and supplements The Driftwood produces.



Eva Kuhn

OFFICE MANAGER

Office manager Eva joined The Driftwood in 2004 and has been a welcome addition with her fine-tuned organisation skills and attention to detail. Before moving to Salt Spring with her husband and young daughter, Eva worked in Germany as a computer programmer and later as an office administrator for an electronic wholesale company.



Brett MacLean

Brett MacLean joined the Driftwood almost a year ago as part of the administrative team, and recently accepted a position with the Driftwood Sales Department. Brett and her husband Allan moved to Salt Spring from Ottawa and are enjoying the pace and diversity of the people who live here. Brett especially enjoys marketing Gulf Islands On-line (www.gulfislands.net) to those who advertise their businesses on the internet.

