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Tons of ideas! PAGES A13-16

Calendar

INSIDE



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

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C-Comp

Wednesday, December 17, 2008 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 48TH YEAR — ISSUE 51 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



DECKING THE HALL: Josephine Duffy decorates Mahon Hall as the annual WinterCraft art show and sale gets underway. It runs until Dec. 21.

WEATHER EFFECTS

Roads and ferries freeze up in big chill

Over 75 in ditches; islanders search for hot chocolate

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Sub-zero temperatures made armfuls of powdery snow available at the doorstep of every Gulf Islander over the weekend.

But once anyone ventured beyond their backyard, the picturesque snowfall and subsequent ice proved to be a menace on roadways.

As of Tuesday at noon, over 75 vehicles were towed by Johnson's Automotive and Me & Ron's Towing alone. The towing companies worked around the clock pulling vehicles of all kinds, including a five-ton moving truck, out of ditches since late Friday afternoon when the snow first began to fall.

"People are going places where they shouldn't," said towing company owner Ron Dewar of the icy

conditions that top anything seen by islanders last year due to the colder-than-usual temperatures. (See separate weather story in this issue.)

Many drivers, he said, have the misconception that all-season tires are suitable for snow.

"People need to drive with snow tires," he said, adding islanders need to buy snow tires with "a mud and snow rating with an aggressive style of tread."

Despite a large number of vehicles sliding off roadsides, the RCMP reported no collisions or major vehicle accidents caused by ice or snow.

Ferry ridership was down 50 per cent on Sunday on both Long Harbour-Swartz Bay and Vesuvius Bay-Crofton routes, indicating people opted to stay home rather than brave slippery roads.

While a few cars crept down frozen roads to and from Ganges on Sunday, gumboot-wearing islanders could be seen at roadsides, making their way into town on foot.

From outside TJ Beans, with patio chairs unusually stacked and covered in snow, the coffee shop appeared closed.

But it was one of only a few gathering places open in Ganges on Sunday. Inside, the coffee shop buzzed with previously cooped-up residents eager to get out of their homes and stretch their legs.

TJ Beans baristas report hot chocolate was the drink of choice for customers looking for a seasonal warm-up.

When the work week started up again on Monday and Tuesday, islanders on their way to work made use of Salt Spring public transit, **FREEZE** continued on A2

COURT McIvor found guilty

Man awaits sentencing for fatal Salt Spring crash

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A provincial court judge has found a Campbell River man, charged following a car collision that resulted in the death of Salt Spring's Katherine Chorney, guilty of dangerous driving causing death.

Noting a lack of evidence, Justice Brian MacKenzie issued a stay of proceedings on an associated charge of impaired driving causing death when delivering his judgment in a Victoria courtroom on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

According to Crown prosecutor Steve Fudge, the short period of time between when Brian McIvor reportedly consumed his last alcoholic beverage and the collision made obtaining accurate blood-alcohol readings problematic for RCMP officers attending the scene.

Court heard that McIvor finished drinking a bottle of cider approximately five minutes before the collision, Fudge said.

Despite Crown's failure to convict McIvor on the impaired driving charge, Fudge said he is still pursuing a jail sentence.

"I'll be looking for some real jail time, but the sentencing in these cases is all over the map," Fudge added. "The low end is around four to six months."

Justice MacKenzie is expected to deliver McIvor's sentence in early January.

McIvor, 58, was behind the wheel when his north-bound Dodge pick-up truck crossed over the centre line and hit an oncoming vehicle on North End Road near St. Mark's Anglican Church on Oct. 24, 2007, killing the vehicle's lone occupant.

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DEC	TIME	HEIGHT m	HEIGHT ft	TIME	HEIGHT m	HEIGHT ft	
17	01:29	0.6	2.0	21	02:14	2.5	8.2
WE	09:33	3.7	12.1	SU	04:46	2.4	7.9
	16:08	2.3	7.5		11:24	3.4	11.2
	19:25	2.5	8.2		19:24	0.9	3.0
18	02:13	1.0	3.3	22	03:45	2.9	9.5
	10:05	3.6	11.8	MO	06:16	2.8	9.2
	17:11	1.9	6.2		11:47	3.3	10.8
	21:26	2.2	7.2		19:59	0.7	2.3
19	02:57	1.5	4.9	23	04:37	3.1	10.2
	10:34	3.6	11.8	TU	07:59	3.0	9.8
	18:03	1.5	4.9		12:11	3.2	10.5
	23:53	2.2	7.2		20:33	0.6	2.0
20	03:44	2.0	6.6				
	11:01	3.5	11.5				
	18:46	1.2	3.9				

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY
CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: This group of people, trying to keep warm outside of Ganges Gas Saturday night, were visited by a "Good Samaritan," who gave each of them a \$50 bill.

WEATHER

Odds pointing to a white Christmas

Freezing temperatures grip region and linger

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Springers may not have to settle with dreams of a white Christmas this year as cold temperatures and more flurries are in the forecast with just over a week to go before the big day.

According to the Driftwood's archives, the last time Salt Spring had anything close to a white Christmas was in 1996. That's the year many may remember as one of the snowiest on record and though much of the record-breaking level of precipitation fell after Christmas, a storm earlier in the week left some of the white stuff lingering on Christmas Day.

According to Anne McCarthy, a meteorologist with Environment Canada based in Victoria, Salt Spring Island has a 10 per cent probability of having a white Christmas in any given year.

"That's among the lowest in the country, but, with snow already on the ground, the odds are getting more likely," she said in an interview on Tuesday.



This overturned car slipped off Ganges Hill and into the Seabreeze parking lot, a victim of icy roads.

McCarthy said Salt Spring Island and the rest of the region is being subjected to "screaming northerly winds" heading to the coast from the continent's interior.

The phenomenon is made possible by a strong high pressure system over much of central-northern North America and a low-pressure system just off the continent's west coast.

She said weather watchers may notice irregular wind patterns and a lack of the usual marine moistness in the air.

"It's of interest because weather in

this part of the country is usually pretty benign," McCarthy said.

Though the current weather situation is not an anomaly for this time of year, she said its duration and seasonal timing make it noteworthy.

McCarthy took the opportunity to warn travellers to keep a close watch on the forecast as winter weather is expected to last for at least another week.

The outflow of Arctic air is responsible for cold temperatures that included a low of -8 C overnight on Dec. 15 and daytime highs that are struggling to reach the freezing point, according to data recorded at a University of Victoria weather station placed on the roof of Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Following the weekend's dump, "Banana Joe" Clemente recorded 19.05 centimetres (7.5 inches) of snow near his home on North End Road.

Island weather observer Robert Aston said he's not seen anything like this in quite some time.

"It'll be the first time we've had a daytime temperature this low in 25 years," he said. "We normally get down there, but by the middle of the day it's gone up."

Islanders using the buses, but not the ferries

FREEZE
continued from A1

rather than driving on roads that became progressively

icier over the past four or five days.

While recent ridership records were not available, transit operator Ineke

DeJong said, "We've definitely had good use and people are very appreciative that we're still running."

Local transit buses main-

tained their regular schedules throughout the unfavourable weather, only slightly modifying some routes serving particularly icy side-roads.

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BUSINESS

Christmas 'ferries' may have cast a spell on shoppers

"Winter Super Sale" could be taking shoppers off-island

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Shopping off-island is always a trade-off between how much it costs to travel and how much can be saved by potential box-store discounts.

B.C. Ferries fares slashed by a third since Dec. 1 will make off-island Christmas shopping slightly more affordable than last year. But whether cheap travel will prompt islanders to join big city box store line-ups the week before Christmas remains to be seen.

Popular off-island shopping destinations include Duncan, Nanaimo and Victoria. For some looking for a greater diversity of clothing, toys, board games and electronics than what is available in Salt Spring stores, paying the \$28.35 fare for two adults in a small vehicle, plus gas, parking and meal costs to shop in Victoria could seem like a drop in the bucket of Christmas expenses.

... travel from Salt Spring to Victoria is only \$7.92 cheaper for two adults in a small car than it was in December last year...

There is evidence that Canadian consumers are being more thrifty with their Christmas spending this year due to a shaky economy.

After the index of consumer confidence plunged nearly 12 points in October, it continued to slide in November, falling another 2.9 points to 71, the lowest it's seen since the recession of the early 1980s.

Media have reported that Canadian shoppers are looking for the best bargains and stores are offering deep discounts in attempts to make sales.

Local stores like Old Salty and Mouat's Hardware have been forced to similarly follow suit and offer sales as well to keep up

with off-island competitors. Some local gas stations have been offering special inducements to their customers as well.

Despite the island being known for its local shopping ethics, sales at Mouat's stores are down "significantly" this Christmas season compared to last, according to Mouat's co-owner Kevin Bell.

"There's no doubt we're selling far less than we have in previous years," he said, speculating more shoppers may be buying less due to economic uncertainty or going off-island to take advantage of BC Ferries' Winter Super Sale.

The 33 per cent reduced fare and fuel surcharge drop may have indeed spurred December ferry travel.

Between Dec. 1-14 this year, 778 more people took the ferry from Fulford Harbour to Swartz Bay than during the same time period last year, according to BC Ferries.

But for those who are quick to think they are getting a big deal on the ferries, in fact, travel from Salt Spring to Victoria is only \$7.92 cheaper for two adults in a small car than it was in December last year — the price of two lattes — without fuel charges in the calculating mix.

Bell hopes sales at Mouat's will pick up soon, following this past weekend when snow may have kept many shoppers at home.

"We're hoping for a brisk last week before Christmas," he said.

When it comes to gauging Christmas shopping habits, and whether or not Salt Springers are shopping more or less, on- or off-island, Salt Spring shoppers may not be your "average animal."

Shopping local is a celebrated tradition on Salt Spring.

"You can go to your neighbour to buy a Christmas gift because so many people are artisans," said Cody Conner at Winterfest at the Salt Spring Centre on Saturday — one of several local Christmas shopping extravaganzas on the island.

Whether the pride many Salt Springers take in shopping local and supporting their community is being outweighed by other concerns will be difficult to say until after all the till receipts are counted at the end of the month.

FERRY TRAVEL ONLY SLIGHTLY CHEAPER NOW VERSUS LAST CHRISTMAS



FULFORD-SWARTZ BAY AND VESUVIUS BAY-CROFTON	DEC. 1'07 LAST CHRISTMAS	NOV. 30 '08	DEC. 1 '08 THIS CHRISTMAS WINTER SUPER SALE
Adult	\$7.45	\$8.70	\$5.85
Car	\$21.45	\$24.85	\$16.65
LONG HARBOUR-TSAWASSEN ONE WAY	DEC. 1'07 LAST CHRISTMAS	NOV. 30 '08	DEC. 1 '08 THIS CHRISTMAS WINTER SUPER SALE
Adult	\$5.50	\$6.95	\$4.65
Car	\$23.40 WEEKEND \$14.00 WEEKDAY	\$28.60 / \$18.85	\$19.15 / \$12.65

*ALL CAR FARES ARE FOR UNDERHEIGHT VEHICLES

CHRISTMAS SEASON FERRY TRAVEL UP THIS YEAR. BUT FEWER TAKE VEHICLES ON FULFORD-SWARTZ BAY ROUTE.

FULFORD-SWARTZ BAY	DEC. 1 - 14 '07	DEC. 1 - 14 '08
Foot & vehicle passengers	19,521	20,299
Vehicles	10,052	10,017
VESUVIUS - CROFTON	DEC. 1 - 14 '07	DEC. 1 - 14 '08
Foot & vehicle passengers	15,083	16,076
Vehicles	7,120	7,685

*RIDERSHIP DATA UNAVAILABLE FOR LONG HARBOUR-TSAWASSEN

News briefs

PARC adds four members

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) is back up to a full complement of members following appointments confirmed by the Capital Regional District (CRD) board at its Dec. 10 meeting in Victoria.

Ron Chamney, Jon Suk, Gregg Dow and Stanley Shapiro are the four new volunteer members appointed for two-year terms.

They will join existing members Rob Wiltzen, Gayle Baker, Brenda Guiled

and Ben Goodman, along with Salt Spring's new CRD director, Garth Hendren, on the commission.

Only Wiltzen, who has been a PARC member for a number of years, has experience on the board prior to July 2008.

A new chair, vice-chair and treasurer will be elected by PARC members at their first public meeting in January.

The commission will hold its annual retreat in January, and will be involved in the development of a new "strategic plan" for parks and recreation on the island.

The document will replace the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Master Plan from 1992, in order to determine PARC's priorities in coming years.

An elaborate public input process is among the first steps in the new plan's creation.

In other PARC news, a Christmas party was held on Dec. 10, where former commission members were thanked for their contributions over the last several years. Those who resigned from the commission during 2008 or will not be returning in 2009 are Steve Peter-

son (chair), Derek Topping, Margery Moore, Brian Little, Carol Dodd, Bob Brewer, Fraser Hope and former CRD director Holman.

Shelter open

Cold weather has kept volunteers at Salt Spring's only extreme weather shelter working steadily since temperatures took a dive on Friday evening.

The shelter, operated by Salt Spring Community Services Society, is in the basement of the United Church on Hereford Avenue.

Tom Mitchell, chair of the church's outreach com-

mittee, said the number of people using the shelter has been rising as the cold temperatures persist.

"It's increasing as more people give up [on staying outside]," Mitchell said on Tuesday.

He added that the shelter has received anywhere between three and six people per night.

With inclement weather expected to continue into next week, the shelter will remain open between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

The largely volunteer-run project offers people a warm meal and dry place to sleep

whenever temperatures drop below freezing or as long as snow remains on the ground.

People wanting to offer support can contact Community Services at 250-537-9971.

For the record

The Driftwood's correction process sliced a crucial numeral "3" off the date of a Copper Kettle fundraiser in a story last week. Copper Kettle reps will be outside Country Grocer on Tuesday, Dec. 23 to collect funds to support the island's most needy residents and families.



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1 Ganges Local
Monday - Friday

(A)	(H)	(C)	(D)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Hospital	Lv. Brimworthy Place	Lv. Rec. Centre	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
8:05	8:08	8:12	8:20	8:22
10:05	10:08	10:12	10:20	10:22
12:00	12:03	12:07	12:15	12:17
2:00	2:03	2:07	2:15	2:17
4:05	4:08	4:12	4:20	4:22
6:05v	6:08v	6:12v		

Saturday

8:05	8:08	8:12	8:20	8:22
10:05	10:08	10:12	10:20	10:22
12:00	12:03	12:07	12:15	12:17
2:00	2:03	2:07	2:15	2:17
4:05	4:08	4:12	4:20	4:22
6:05v	6:08v	6:12v		

v-Trip continues as Route 3 Vesuvius

4 Long Harbour
Monday - Friday

(A)	(L)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. Lv. Long Harbour	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
1:20	1:30	1:40
2:55	3:05	3:15

Saturday

1:40	1:50	2:00
2:55	3:05	3:15

5 Fernwood
Monday - Friday

(A)	(M)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. Lv. Fernwood Dock	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
10:30	10:45	11:00
2:20	2:35	2:50
6:05	6:35	6:50

Saturday

10:30	10:45	11:00
2:20	2:35	2:50
6:05	6:35	6:50

3 Vesuvius
Monday - Friday

(A)	(F)	(G)	(B)	(F)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Vesuvius	Lv. Vesuvius	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
6:30	6:37	6:45	6:57	7:04	7:10
8:30	8:37	8:45	8:57	9:04	9:10
12:20	12:27	12:35	12:40	12:47	12:53
3:30	3:37	3:45	3:57	4:04	4:10
4:30	4:37	4:45	4:57	5:04	5:10
6:05v	6:16v	6:22v			

Saturday

8:30	8:37	8:45	8:57	9:04	9:10
12:20	12:27	12:35	12:40	12:47	12:53
3:30	3:37	3:45	3:57	4:04	4:10
4:30	4:37	4:45	4:57	5:04	5:10
6:05v	6:16v	6:22v			

F-Trip continues as Route 5 Fernwood

2 Fulford Harbour
Monday - Friday

(A)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(E)	(E)	(K)	(J)	(I)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Cushoon Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Fulford Hall	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Hall	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cushoon Lake Rd.	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
7:10	7:16	7:23	7:27	7:30	7:40	7:43	7:47	7:54	8:00
9:10	9:16	9:23	9:27	9:30	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
11:10	11:16	11:23	11:27	11:30	11:40	11:43	11:47	11:54	12:00
3:10	3:16	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
5:10	5:16	5:23	5:27	5:30	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00

Saturday

9:10	9:16	9:23	9:27	9:30	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
11:10	11:16	11:23	11:27	11:30	11:40	11:43	11:47	11:54	12:00
3:10	3:16	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
5:10	5:16	5:23	5:27	5:30	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00

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NEWSBEAT

ISLANDS TRUST

Petition organizer seeks coffee company supporters in advance of next meeting

White urges serious discussion of rezoning plan

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local environmentalist Elizabeth White is rallying islanders to support Salt Spring Coffee Company's (SSCC) proposed new production facility.

White has placed petitions that support a rezoning of land at 1501 Fulford-Ganges Road at Salt Spring Books and the SSCC cafe.

She aims to collect as many signatures as possible before the Jan. 8, 2009 Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting.

According to White, the 12-year-old company is an established island business with a proven track record of providing fair-trade, environmentally conscious products.

"It would be so sad if we didn't at least seriously discuss the issue," said White, "because this seems to be a model we'd like all businesses on the island to follow."

As of late last week, 50 people had signed the petition.

Since the coffee company submitted a rezoning application to the Islands Trust in early 2008, many residents living near the 1.09-hectare (2.69-acre) property have expressed concerns about the proposed coffee roasting facility's impact on the area.

Opponents have established a website at www.fordlake.org, where they accuse the company of waging "a slick corporate attack on our quiet, rural neighbourhood."

"Many of us who live near the proposed development are very worried," reads a statement on the website, "not only by the immediate prospect of a large industrial scale development, but also by the future potential for environmental harm."

"We are also concerned about the precedent created for additional spot-zoning changes in this area to accommodate other island businesses seeking commercial and industrially zoned land."

According to an Islands Trust staff report dated Oct. 28, the company's owners want to replace current facilities with a centrally located research, production, education and distribution centre.

Information provided at a summer open house emphasized the new facility's use of green technology and its low-impact design.

"It would be so sad if we didn't at least seriously discuss the issue."

ELIZABETH WHITE
Environmentalist

"Salt Spring Coffee Company has a fundamental wish to continue to base their business on Salt Spring Island," reads the rezoning application report. "The lot location, size and nature seem eminently suitable to meet current and future administrative and operational needs without unduly conflicting with the comfort or lifestyle of conterminous proprietors."

For more information about the proposal, follow links online at www.saltspringcoffee.com.

ISLANDS TRUST

Islanders urged to protect Hope Hill trails

Road proposal could destroy well-used trail

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring resident is calling on islanders to ramp up their efforts to sway the province's Integrated Land Management Bureau to deny an application to construct

a road through a series of hiking trails near Hope Hill on the island's south end.

Avid hiker Charles Kahn said the portion of Crown land through which Bearsden Enterprises Ltd. seeks to build an access road for a proposed 11-lot subdivision contains some of the island's most beautiful and extensive examples of endangered plant ecosystems made up of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and grey rock-moss.

As evidence of the area's environmental significance, Kahn said, land around the Hope Hill area has been identified as potential parkland within the Capital Regional District's Regional Parks Master Plan.

"The environmental integrity and recreational value of this land is currently threatened by this development proposal," Kahn said.

Kahn and other members of the Friends of Salt Spring Parks group argue that approving the application

is not necessary and would set a dangerous precedent, encouraging other landowners to seek access through public land.

... the current LTC remains opposed to the proposed road, but the final decision is up to the province.

According to an Islands Trust memorandum reviewed at a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting in August, the proposed road would begin on Musgrave Road, roughly 1.5 kilometres from the Dubois Road intersection. It would require the dedication of 1.89 hectares (4.6 acres) of Crown land.

The memorandum indicates that the applicant contends a road through the

area would increase public access to the existing trail network and enhance access to lands for the local fire protection district.

Based on the discussions with the province's Ministry of Transportation, the company believes this proposal is "the most viable option," the document states.

George Ehring said the current LTC remains opposed to the proposed road, but the final decision is up to the province.

"The local Trust committee has not changed its mind on this," Ehring said.

A meeting with the developer, provincial government representatives and neighbouring land owners held following the August Trust meeting turned up a "shortage of alternatives," Ehring added.

The application may return to the LTC for referral in January, he said.

Kahn asks anybody wanting more information on the matter to call him at 250-537-1899.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FUNDS FOR FOOD: Cooking up burgers to raise funds for the local food bank are, from left: Darin Craig, Josh Bedford, Barbara Robinson and Clay Johnston. They were seen recently in the Country Grocer parking lot.

HOSPITAL

New hospital group holds first meeting

Save Our Surgery (SOS) takes next step

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The newly formed Ad Hoc Save Our Surgery (SOS) committee will host its first public meeting on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel.

Eight core members who came together after a Nov. 27 meeting called by the B.C. Nurses' Union (BCNU) now seek public input on their SOS campaign.

The group has taken on the role of a Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) watchdog aimed at getting concrete details about VIHA's ongoing recruitment for a Lady Minto Hospital surgeon.

"Why is it taking so long?" asked one committee member who did not wish to be named in a telephone interview Tuesday.

"...the lack of surgical services at Lady Minto Hospital has now become a concern for the citizens of the Southern Gulf Islands," reads a letter from the committee to VIHA chair Jac Kreut dated Dec. 5.

"...although assurances have been received to the effect that surgical services will be maintained here, the lack of progress has become unacceptable to the community."

The committee asked that VIHA respond by Dec. 15. As of Tuesday afternoon, no official response was received.

The public will be asked to vote at Thursday's SOS meeting on the ad hoc committee's mandate to act on their behalf.

In related news, Lady Minto Hospital Foundation president Gil Schultz has met twice in the past two months with VIHA executives and hospital chief of staff Dr. Shane Barclay about the operating room matter.

He said the foundation has agreed to pay for training courses required to certify nurses in current surgical equipment sterilization procedures. Streamlined sterilization procedures are expected to help attract a surgeon to the hospital.

The foundation will also fund a scope sterilizer and spare surgical equipment to enable the new surgeon to do multiple procedures in a row, without having to wait for the equipment to be sterilized.

HEALTH

Private space created for dying residents

Foundation funds palliative suite makeover for ECU patients

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Privacy is paramount for a person in the last hours of his or her life.

But for Lady Minto Hospital extended care patients who receive visiting family members in a four-bed ward, getting time alone isn't always easy.

"[The wards] make it difficult for the family to come in on a continual basis because it disturbs other residents in the room," said Pat Desbottes, a Bessie Dane Hospice volunteer who has sat with dying hospital patients on Salt Spring for the past 25 years.

To provide a more private and "homey" space for both the dying patient, family members and friends, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) board of directors has agreed to put \$56,000 towards a palliative care suite in the hospital's extended care unit (ECU).

The target date for completion is February 2009.

Construction is underway, with an existing ECU room being renovated.

The plan includes new furniture, an entertainment unit with television and radio, and a private patio directly accessed from the room.

"The whole emphasis is to take away the medical atmosphere and create a positive, restful environment for people," said Diana Hayes, the hospital's administrative assistant, on Friday.

Hayes explained that although the foundation had helped fund a similar palliative care suite in the acute care wing in 2005, it is difficult and disruptive to move extended care patients to acute care — located at the other end of the hospital.

The new suite, right in the ECU, will mean extended care patients will have a palliative suite of their own and will not have to be transferred to the acute care palliative unit where their surroundings are entirely unfamiliar.

"Having this dedicated space . . . will also ensure that our residents will experience continuity of care on the same unit that has been their home with familiar staff, including nurses and nurse aides who have known them and cared for them for some time," states a LMHF press release.

Desbottes said she supports the new suite "100 per cent."

Based on comments she's received

from family members about the existing suite in the acute care wing, she believes the new suite will be well received.

"The whole emphasis is to take away the medical atmosphere and to create a positive, restful environment for people."

DIANA HAYES
Administrative assistant,
Lady Minto Hospital

They tell her that while they could not have had their loved one at home, the suite is "the next best thing."

Lady Minto Hospital has approximately 31 ECU residents at all times.

Hayes says there has been a need for a renovated suite for some time, since every month at least one person in extended care requires palliative care.

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NEWSBEAT

Judge commends assault victim

Dangerous drivers suffer the consequences

A provincial court judge commended the efforts of a Salt Spring Island woman who reported and followed through with a charge stemming from her partner's abusive behaviour, following an incident dating to Jan. 23, 2008.

"You did the right thing," said Justice J. Wood in Ganges court last Tuesday. "There is no reason you, or any other women for that matter, should have to put up with this kind of behaviour."

The accused, a 40-some-

COURTDOCKET

thing male, received a conditional discharge and a nine-month probation order after he pleaded guilty to a single charge of assault.

Court heard that the accused stopped his car along North End Road and proceeded to throw his partner into St. Mary Lake after an argument broke out during the couple's drive home.

"I don't know where you learned that this is an appropriate way to deal with a conflict," the judge said.

The accused told the court he was trying to diffuse what he thought was a dangerous situation.

"If I had a bucket of water, I would have started with that," he said. "Hopefully this is the last time I see the inside of a courthouse."

The accused will have to attend relationship counselling sessions to fulfill conditions of his probation.

Names of those involved have been omitted out of respect for the victim's privacy.

In other court news:

- A woman stopped by Salt Spring RCMP following a near collision with a police cruiser on Lower Ganges Road was fined \$600 after pleading guilty to driving without due care and attention.

Laurie Little acknowledged that she had "a few drinks" before she failed a roadside alcohol screening device conducted by RCMP officers on Jan. 28, 2008.

Speaking on Little's behalf, defence lawyer Tybring Hemphill argued that his client's ability to "sustain a safe lifestyle may be unduly impacted by a suspended licence."

Hemphill submitted letters of recommendation speaking to his client's "good character and previous years

of good driving."

Whether or not Little will lose her driving privileges is now the decision of the province's superintendent of motor vehicles.

"Almost driving into a marked police vehicle is certainly evidence of driving without due care and attention," said Justice Wood.

- A former Salt Spring resident now living in Victoria received a \$600 fine and a one-year driving prohibition after he pleaded guilty to driving with a blood alcohol level above .08.

Jonah Fisher told the court he has taken major steps to clean up his life since RCMP officers charged him after a single-vehicle accident near the intersection of Fulford-Ganges and Cranberry roads on April 1, 2008.

Fisher admitted that he "had been drinking all day at the beach" when emergency crews arrived on the scene to free him from his vehicle. He later provided blood-alcohol readings of 0.240, three times the legal limit, at the RCMP detachment.

Fisher said he attends Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every two days, has completed a 28-day residential treatment program and has not had a drink since the accident.

"I recognize the severity of the problem I have and I recognize that I jeopardized the public's safety and I never want to do that again," Fisher told the court. "I recognize that I can never touch a drop of alcohol for the rest of my living days."

- Justice Wood issued a \$500 fine and a one-year driving prohibition to a former Salt Springer now residing in Port Alberni after hearing the accused's guilty plea to driving on a suspended licence.

Kenneth Howe was observed driving onto the ferry at Crofton on Aug. 28,

2008 by an off-duty police officer who recognized him from a prior incident.

The officer notified the Salt Spring detachment and informed Howe that the vehicle he was driving would be impounded.

"I slipped up and am willing to deal with the consequences," Howe said. "I got ambitious and just wanted to drive the truck onto the ferry."

Justice Wood gave Howe until August 2009 to pay the fine.

"Given your circumstances and that you are able to work, I suggest you go out, find a job and get this paid off," he said.

- An island youth received an absolute discharge after he pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana in an incident dating to March 29, 2008.

"In this case you deserve an absolute discharge and you'll get one," said Justice Wood. "Don't sin again."

Salt Spring RCMP stopped the youth as he was walking by the side of the road following reports his black pick-up truck was spotted "doing donuts" and driving erratically near Ganges.

Though the accused denied that he had driven his vehicle that evening, police discovered a pipe and a small bag containing an undisclosed amount of marijuana in the youth's pockets during the interrogation process.

Defence lawyer Michael Coleman told the court the young man was exceedingly co-operative during the incident. He also presented the judge with a letter of support written by the accused's mother.

"He seems to have made some real progress to become a solid member of society," Coleman told the court. "He has learned from this experience and has no intention of getting himself in this position again."



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ISLANDS TRUST

Trust Council names new chair

Sheila Malcolmson to oversee Salt Spring LTC

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of Islands Trust Council elected a new executive committee during their quarterly meeting held in Victoria from Dec. 10 to 12.

Gabriola trustee Sheila Malcolmson will chair the committee while North Pender Island trustee Gary Steeves, Denman Island trustee Louise Bell and trustee Peter Luckham of Thetis Island will serve as vice chairs.

Malcolmson will also sit as chair of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC).

As chair of Salt Spring's LTC, Malcolmson will act as the tie breaker in the event of a deadlock between trustees George Ehring and Christine Torgrimson.

"I'm pleased with the representation on our executive committee this term," Malcolmson said in a press release issued on Dec. 11.

"I think it's going to be a strong, focussed team well suited to address the opportunities and challenges we will face."

Malcolmson has served as a local trustee on Gabriola for six years, and been a member of the Islands Trust Local Planning Committee, Financial Planning and Audit Committee, and Trust Programs Committee.

Ehring said trustees were in the fortunate position of selecting from several qualified and experienced candidates.

"It's nice to have to choose between two good people," he said, noting that it was he who nominated Malcolmson for the position.

Trust Council also nominated Salt Spring trustee Christine Torgrimson to the Trust Fund Board.

Council also discussed preliminary details regarding the Islands Trust 2009 operating budget.

Ehring said staffing will remain the major component of the 2009 budget. He said trustees are aware of a need to reduce pressures on taxpayers, given the ongoing economic slowdown.

"Local and global economic instability has also influenced the choice of special topics, which range from affordable housing, food security, climate change and improved communications with constituents," reads the press release.

ENVIRONMENT

Airline charts carbon neutral course

Tree-planting program balances out emissions

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Air is following through with a pledge to remain a carbon-neutral airline by handing out 150 yellow cedar saplings to customers beginning last week.

"We hope to do this every year," said Phillip Reece, the Salt Spring Air employee who oversees the program. "Hopefully we can hand out even more next year because we'll have more customers."

The airline's staff have also arranged for the planting of 250 larger trees at Seven Ravens Tree Nursery on the island's south end.

That's how many trees Salt Spring Air must plant in order to balance the company's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

The company chose to hand out yellow cedar seedlings because they are deer resistant, fast growing and native to the region. The trees are expected to capture and store carbon dioxide for up to 200 years.

After that, Reece said, it's hoped that the world will have developed a permanent solution to mitigating



Pauline "Fifi" Doucette, left, and Lynn Dowhaniuk receive a yellow cedar sapling from Salt Spring Air's Lisa Cherneff as part of the airline's carbon-neutrality program.

the effects of greenhouse gases on climate change.

According to Reece, a mature tree will absorb approximately 22 kilograms (48 pounds) of carbon dioxide per year.

As of Monday, the airline had given out roughly 90 trees to frequent flyers and other customers who promised to plant and care for their sapling. Reece said he hopes the remaining trees, lining the walls and windowsills of the airline's head office in Ganges, will be handed out by Christmas.

"We want to make sure [the recipients] are committed to this," he said. "It's like a puppy, it's for life."

Unlike a puppy, however, all people have to do with their young cedar is find a nice moist spot in the yard, plant it and let nature do most of the work.

The tree-planting initiative coincides with the airline's attempts to foster renewable energy projects and promote alternatives to fossil-fuel-based transportation on the island.



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CRD

Geoff Young takes helm of CRD board

First meeting of new term held

A longtime Victoria-area politician is the new chair of the Capital Regional District (CRD) board.

Victoria City Council member Geoff Young was elected the new CRD board chair at last Wednesday's inaugural meeting of the board. Young has served on Victoria council since 2005 and was CRD board chair from 1997-1999. He has also served on several local boards and commissions, including the Greater Victoria Water District Board and on the B.C. Financial Institutions Commission. Having earned a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard, Young has worked as an economics lecturer at UVic and the University of Alberta

and as an economic consultant with the B.C. Ministry of Finance.

Joining the CRD as vice chair is View Royal Mayor Graham Hill. First elected in 2002, Hill has held senior positions in computing in the public and private sectors for the last 35 years. Hill was also elected Chair of the Capital Regional Hospital District Board, and he has held positions on several charitable and sports organizations in B.C. Gulf Islands representatives on the board are Garth Hendren for the Salt Spring electoral area and Ken Hancock for the southern Gulf Islands electoral area.

The CRD is comprised of 13 municipalities and three electoral areas and provides regional governance and services for the entire Capital Region.



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FERRY SCHEDULE PAGE A19

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The Gift of Music has arrived early for the residents of Braehaven Assisted Living Residence, their families and guests this holiday season with the recent delivery of a much welcomed new piano.

The pre-Christmas delivery of this lovely new piano was arranged through a partnership effort of the Greenwoods' community of volunteers, staff, residents and family - plus the generous help of Keith Allison of Allison Pianos in Victoria to arrange for the piano to be here on a loan for use while we complete the fundraising.

To help make this lovely piano a permanent Braehaven fixture, we are seeking help with donations from the many friends and partners of Braehaven and the Greenwoods' community.

We are seeking a sponsor for each one of the 88 new keys. Help us support this gift of music this holiday season. The cost of Sponsorship is only \$50 for each key.

Donations should be made to the Greenwoods Foundation and a charitable tax receipt will be issued for your contribution.

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 Best Front Page, 4,000-6,499 circ., SILVER
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EDITORIAL

A welcome winter lesson

As if this time of year wasn't stressful enough already.

Just as so many of us finally found a way to balance the Christmas plays, the holiday sing-a-longs, the tree trimming, the baking and the shopping, along comes Old Man Winter to transform the island into a gigantic skating rink.

Unless you're reading this from an Internet café somewhere in Mexico, you'll have undoubtedly been witness to the annual display of snow-laden vehicles slip-sliding their way around the island as crews work around the clock (we hope) to clear, sand and salt the island's main roadways.

Aside from offering a flurry of last-minute shopping possibilities — now is the time to replace that spatula with one of those real ice scraper things — and an opportunity for all those last-minute types to complete their holiday cards, Sunday's snowfall offered the chance for many Salt Spring residents' true spirit to shine.

THE ISSUE:

The weather

WE SAY:

Deep freeze can't hinder island spirit

One need only look as far as this week's "Roses" column to get an idea of what's been going on.

There are people who helped others dig vehicles out of snowbanks or pull them out of ditches.

Emergency crews and neighbours helped get a Salt Spring family to the hospital in time for the birth of the island's newest citizen.

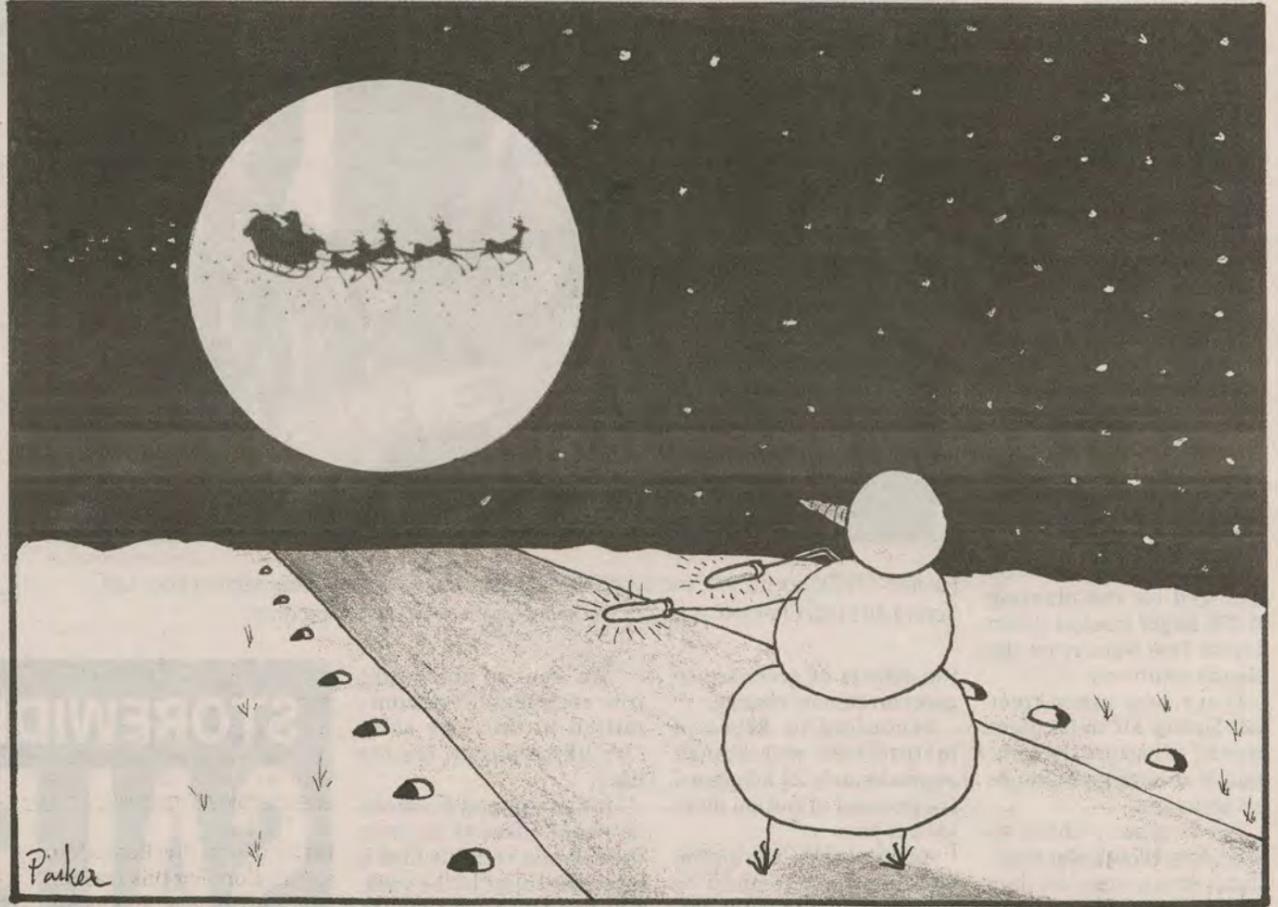
Then there are all the folks stepping up to assist residents stranded by snowy roads and impenetrable driveways.

Of course, we mustn't forget the volunteers who left the comfort of their own homes to jump into action at the extreme weather shelter when flakes began to fly on Friday afternoon.

With the business of the pre-holiday rush bearing down upon us all, there's nothing better than a winter storm (or two or three) to remind us of what it's all about.

Given the state of our icy, weather-beaten island, this is an opportunity people can hopefully use to finally just chill out and enjoy the best that the holiday season has to offer.

Based on the way things have been going, there will soon be a stack of thank-you cards destined to all those who have helped family, friends, neighbours and perfect strangers out of a jam over the past week.



Rural lifestyle threatened by spot zoning

BY CAROL IANYK

Anyone interested in preserving Salt Spring Island's rural lifestyle now and into the future must become knowledgeable around the issue of the Islands Trust using its authority to rezone residential or agricultural land to industrial or commercial zoning when expedient. I first became aware of the Islands Trust's authority to make changes to zoning when it was learned Salt Spring Coffee Company planned to enlarge and relocate its coffee roasting factory to our rural neighbourhood at 1501 Fulford-Ganges Road.

The 2.6-acre property bought by Salt Spring Coffee Company (SSCC) is zoned Rural and in the Rural Neighbourhoods designation of the OCP. The relocation plan includes an application to the Islands Trust to amend the OCP, changing the property from the Rural Neighbourhoods designation to Industrial and Commercial Services.

This small acreage (now owned by SSCC) is within the Ford Lake watershed, which includes a large and ecologically sensitive bird sanctuary owned by Ducks Unlimited and additionally is confirmed by Province of B.C. environmental reports to be an important ecological area.

When SSCC revealed its massive growth plan and relocation strategy to our community the following details emerged:

- 1) Proposed floor space expansion at this time will be several times its current size, growing to approximately 13,000 square feet of industrial and commercial space. More importantly, I believe the rezoning bylaw is so open to growth possibilities it is staggering!
- 2) Roasting activities will require frequent services to and from the coffee factory, significantly impacting traffic patterns and road safety on Fulford-Ganges Road. Traffic safety has yet to be considered.
- 3) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has docu-

VIEWPOINT

mented and reported on the toxic emissions resulting from the coffee roasting process, including aldehydes that are carcinogenic at 10 ppm. While air pollution control equipment can never be entirely eliminated by more than 85 per cent with current means.

4) SSCC's expansion plans clearly reveal their desire to develop their company into a big business with goals that have grown far beyond their original cottage industry origins. SSCC intends to sell its coffee at Costco as part of its current business growth plan.

5) It is not possible to allow a coffee factory of the size planned by SSCC into a sensitive rural watershed area and not have the ground water and air polluted some. Please inform yourself of the facts and get acquainted with the real environmental issues here. It is foolish to think there are none. Check out www.fordlake.org.

Salt Spring Islanders, please watch trustees George Ehring and Christine Torgrimson carefully at the next January Islands Trust meeting as this particular rezoning plan, in favour of the coffee factory relocation and expansion, may set a dangerous precedent for future industrial rezoning in any part of our island. Is this what we want?

Are George and Christine representing the mandate to preserve and protect if they vote in favour of this rezoning and industrial expansion plan?

Without question, spot rezoning for immediate expediency will erode the rural lifestyle we all cherish so very much. Salt Spring Islanders, stand up now and say no to spot rezoning and say no to Salt Spring Coffee Company's expansion plans, which now appear far too big for our small rural island.

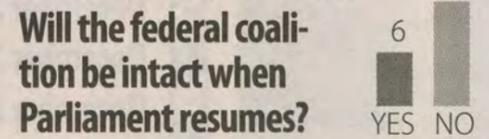
The writer lives on Kitchen Road.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is the bulk of your Christmas shopping done on island? Yes No

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:



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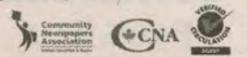


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SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What is unique about Christmas on Salt Spring?



CODY CONNER

You can go to your neighbour to buy a Christmas gift because so many people are artisans.



PARAM DAS

It's really communal and people are definitely into their crafts.



MOLLY DIVERS

I enjoy being around lots of trees on Christmas. It makes it feel Christmasier.



LAURA ROVEDA

It's a place that has great diversity. The meaning of Christmas stretches far beyond the word "Christmas."



AUBREY POMEROY

Winterfest. As far as I know it's only on Salt Spring.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. **Read and reply to letters online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com under the Opinion tab.**

Keep Hope Hill pristine

Recently, a private company named Bearsden Enterprises applied to the provincial government's Crown Land Resources for permission to build an access road from its property just north of Mount Tuam Estates through the Hope Hill Crown land to reach Musgrave Road.

This road would destroy a popular hiking trail (locally known as the Tipi Trail), would diminish the land's wilderness qualities and would encourage further development in the area.

As it turns out, Bearsden already has road access to Musgrave Road, which runs through a corner of its property. As well, Bearsden has a right of way on its land title through the Mount Tuam Estates strata road. Mount

Tuam Estates is right beside the Bearsden property. Thus, Bearsden has two possible accesses to its property and does not need to put a road through the Crown land.

Many islanders have enjoyed the natural beauty of the Hope Hill Crown land at the southwest end of Salt Spring. According to the Island Trust's Vacant Crown Land Profiles, this land contains some of the most beautiful and extensive examples of the endangered plant ecosystem made up of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine and grey rock-moss, and is the only area on Salt Spring that combines Western white pine stands, some geologically important sites and numerous knolls covered with moss, ferns, second-growth fir and hemlock.

The Hope Hill Crown land is also an area that the Capital Regional District wants

to acquire as part of its Regional Parks Master Plan. The land is currently zoned Parks and Reserve (PR5).

The environmental integrity and recreational value of this beautiful piece of land is currently threatened by this development proposal.

Friends of Salt Spring Parks (FOSP), an organization that seeks to enhance community awareness about issues related to park and Crown lands, is deeply concerned about the Bearsden application for a number of reasons.

First, the use of the Crown land is unnecessary. Second, if the application is approved, it would set a precedent, encouraging other landowners to seek easier access to their properties through public land that is currently used for recreational purposes.

We must ensure that Crown Land Resources

turns down the Bearsden application. For this reason, FOSP urges you to oppose the application by writing to Gord Smaill, senior land officer, Crown Lands and Resources, 142-2080 Labieux Road, Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 6J9 or at Gord.Smaill@gov.bc.ca.

For further information, call me at 250-537-1899.
CHARLES KAHN,
 CHANNEL RIDGE

Other reasons

Re: Gary Lunn's "Coalition of self interest damaging" Viewpoint of Dec. 3.

I have to disagree with Gary Lunn's characterization of efforts to establish a coalition government on Parliament Hill as nothing but "ambition for power."

The clearest example of raw ambition for power was displayed by Stephen Harper himself, when he asked the Governor General

to prorogue the House only weeks after the election. The House is ordinarily prorogued when a government has completed the budget process, and has passed all the legislation it introduced — not when the ruling party is trying to dodge a non-confidence vote it will surely lose.

The real reason a coalition of parties — representing 62 per cent of Canadian votes cast — has come forward is that Stephen Harper is determined to govern the country as if he won by a landslide, and has a mandate to do absolutely nothing about the loss of hundreds of thousands of Canadian manufacturing and forestry jobs and the spill-over effects of the U.S. sub-prime mortgage crisis.

Canadians expected federal action to deal with Canada's structural economic problems; Harper

responded with gratuitous swipes at his political opponents and at working people. He announced he'll sell off some public assets, cut public spending, roll-back negotiated wage increases for federal public service workers, eliminate federal subsidies for political parties and close off the pay equity process for some women workers. How this offsets the economic downturn is anyone's guess.

It's said people get the government they deserve, but don't we deserve a government that will help Canadians weather the economic storm, will build a strong economy and will take action on climate change? A coalition of other parties in the House is the only way to ensure this happens.

MARY ROWLES,
 FURNESS ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on A10

No way this bum will ever settle on a bus seat

I have a love/hate relationship with public transit: I hate riding the bus and love driving my car.

I come by this bourgeois attitude honestly and without apology through a number of mishaps that occurred during my formative years. Most of these will remain between me and my therapist, but allow me to describe a single life-altering experience.

I enrolled in the University of Alberta in Edmonton for one short unhappy year before discovering the University of Victoria.

My daily commute put me on an early morning city bus that made its way through downtown to the southside campus. In the dead of winter, we were jammed in there like cattle.

The windows were shut tight to ward off the 30 below temperatures, resulting in a steamy olfactory stew of cheap perfume and cheaper after shave, commingled with bacon and egg burps, wheezes and body odour.

After two weeks of enduring the unendurable, I began hiking the two miles across the 9th Street Bridge before sunrise, in that numbing cold, with the wind blowing down the Saskatchewan River. Anything was preferable to dropping another token in a transit box.

I told my English prof of my ordeal. He shrugged and said, "Well, that's why you are going to university . . . to rise up above the masses, to afford the finer things in life, like

a BMW." He was right. It has always been that way.

When I visited Cuba a few years ago, the public buses were converted semitrailers with holes cut out of the sides for ventilation, no seats and jammed to the gunnels with working stiffs making their way across the city. In this most communist

of states, the doctors, the bureaucrats and the power brokers rode in cars.

Everyone was equal, some were just more equal than others.

Of course, tourists plied the highways in a Viazul, a beautiful air conditioned bus, with a Cuban driver, a guy with a clipboard watching the driver and another guy with a clipboard watching the first guy with a clipboard.

The price was dirt cheap by western standards, but a king's ransom for the locals, who were "discouraged" from using it even if they could afford it. They might sully the experience for the tourists riding the bus. That is the way it is. That is the way it has always been.

Here in Canada during the recent federal election, I saw the "man of the people," NDP-er Jack Layton, stumping in a poor working neighbourhood in Toronto. Finished with the speech and the glad handing, he hopped into a limo with dark windows and was whisked away into the night.



Peter Vincent

HEAD TO HEAD

Recently, we all witnessed the CEOs of the big three auto makers flying into Washington on private jets, looking for billions in aid money to keep their factories open . . . flying in on private jets with a tin cup in hand. That is the way it is. That is the way it has always been.

I know that some will wave their Mao finger at me about the ideal, utopian classless society.

Some will wave their Dr. Suzuki finger, chastising me for contributing to global warming and carbon footprints and the like. To those I offer up this hypothetical: If you were lucky enough to win, say, \$10 million in the provincial lottery, would you be taking the bus down to pick up your cheque? Of course, some would. Some would give the entire sum to famine relief. I tip my hat to you. You are more evolved than I. I suspect the vast majority would buy shiny new cars and fill them with premium gas.

We have enjoyed a public transit system on Salt Spring Island for just about a year now, funded by the province, taxpayers (isn't that the same thing?) and the actual riders. Routes have expanded to the point where I now see the bus chugging up the hill past my house on Maliview daily. I see lots of people stoically waiting for the bus outside the Chamber of Commerce and I see the bus stoically awaiting foot passengers

disembarking the ferry from Swartz Bay.

In the interests of journalistic accuracy, I promised myself that I would ride the bus to Fulford and back. I have been promising myself this trip since July, but something always came up. In retrospect, it appears to be a deep-seeded resistance. It's the same resistance I feel about vasectomies. Ouch. Why would anyone voluntarily submit?

And so (although I still haven't warmed a local bus seat), I would like to thank the great work done by the Salt Spring Transportation Commission and to all those responsible for making this one of the success stories of 2008. I will have to assuage my feelings of guilt, knowing that I contribute some of my taxes toward the ongoing viability of the system.

Once a year, around Christmas time, I vacuum all the dog hair out of my SUV, fill it up with standard gas and drive around Salt Spring, offering rides and chocolates to any and all I see with their thumbs out. I hope this small act earns me a few eternity points in God's Grand Scheme.

I am afraid I am permanently woven into the car culture, and unless my fortunes take a serious turn for the worse, the only way I am giving up my car is (to paraphrase Charleton Heston) if you pry my cold dead fingers from the steering wheel.

Peter Vincent's website/blog is at <http://web.mac.com/republicofsaltspring>. Or e-mail him at republicofsaltspring@mac.com.



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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

Four for more food

On Friday, Dec. 5, four friends attending a holiday party had a discussion concerning the present and future state of the economy, homelessness, winter weather and the food bank. As a result it was decided each of them, when attending a social gathering over

the holiday season (and beyond?), would in addition to the normal gift for the hosts, take a non-perishable donation for the Salt Spring Food Bank. Any donation made would be in addition to any gifts regularly made to the food bank. Their hope is to increase donations by notifying their friends by e-mail and having those friends pass the idea along.

Wouldn't it be nice to have many of our generous Salt Springers take up the challenge to help less fortunate members of our community over the coming months?

Donations can be dropped off at Country Grocer, Thrifty's or Community Services at 268 Fulford-Ganges Road.

JENNIFER QUICK,
SALT SPRING

Quebec part of Canada

Re: Michael Friedman's letter in last week's issue.

Michael Friedman's argument that the coalition of opposition parties are an illegitimate alternative to the Harper government suggests that he doesn't understand how our system works. Without a majority, the Conservatives are the government as long as they have the confidence of parliament; should they lose it, the Governor General has the option of calling another election, or asking the opposition to form government. With Governor General Michaëlle Jean's decision to accept Harper's request to suspend parliament, we have a new third option that hopefully will not set a precedent for every prime minister wishing to cling to power after they've lost the confidence of parliament.

He also says that the coalition is antithetical to "peace, order and good government," as though Harper's highly divisive governing style, dubious economic policies and disregard for the environment promoted those ideals. Harper devoted his efforts to attacking the opposition parties and spending down the surplus to try to buy support rather than taking the steps to prepare the country for the economic and environmental challenges we face. This was irresponsible.

Two-thirds of Canadians recognized this and so Harper failed to gain a majority in the last election. As an incumbent, running against a fractured Liberal party with a leader who doesn't speak English well, and introducing a new tax at a time of economic uncertainty, he was only able to increase his percentage of the popular vote by 1.3 per cent. Gary Lunn calls this a strong mandate, but then he also thought the Iraq War was a good idea.

But perhaps Harper's most divisive actions have been in the area of national unity. By suggesting that Bloc MPs have no right to be a part of government despite having won their seats in parliament as fairly as other candidates, he has shown that he is prepared to alienate Quebecers to try to stay in power. Friedman also goes so far as to suggest that Quebec should separate and that Canada cannot have

good government as long as Quebec is a part of it.

Having failed to win over Quebec, the Conservatives may want it to separate, but I want Mr. Friedman and his party to know that my Canada includes Quebec, and I want a government that leads through cooperation, not guile and intimidation.

BRIAN SMALLSHAW,
SALT SPRING

Bravo!

On Dec. 9, Radio-Canada aired a 30-minute show featuring a group of Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) students on their weekly program Ados-Radio, a talk show for teens broadcasted across Canada.

The format of the show was more of a conversation rather than a Q and A format and the topic was the lifestyle of teenagers on Salt Spring. The host of the show wanted spontaneity and did not want the students to prepare for this.

The end result is very impressive. The students talk about their values, their activities, the school, the strong cultural identity of the community, their family in a very articulate and passionate way. Of course, all of this is done in French and the students (from grades 10-12) demonstrate their fluency in their second language.

The host opens the show by stating how impressed she is by our island, our community, our students and the ease with which these teens can converse in French. She describes Salt Spring as a community where the environment and the arts are highly valued.

But her question is, how do teenagers fit in this type of environment? And this is how she opens the discussion with our students. The kids lead her through the cafeteria where Al Irving, the innovative chef at GISS talks about his commitment in using more and more local organic products.

The kids talk about various green initiatives they are involved in, like the school's EAGER club, and Sara Anstis mentions her green art project with younger kids. They talk about their family's involvement in the community and how some of them grow their own food. They also mention how this community supports local businesses and the fact that we do not have fast food chains. They talk about their involvement in sports and music. We also hear the trio of Ryder Bergerund, Sarah Lundy and Rylan Gajek-Leonard play the piece that Rylan composed for Remembrance Day. Rylan describes his creative process and explains the different sections of his piece (all in French, of course).

When the students are led into talking about the negative aspects of a teenager's life on Salt Spring, they mention the fact that there isn't as much available as in a city but that the kids make up for it by creating their own entertainment/activities. Shanti Amal-Hill wraps up the students' conversation by stating that when she talks to kids from other areas of Canada or other countries and compares

their lifestyles, she realizes that they (Salt Spring kids) are truly very, very lucky.

The host closes the show stating that the Salt Spring students she met, although living on an island, are far from being isolated but, on the contrary, are very open to the rest of the world. She also mentions the international program at GISS that integrates students from all over the world into our community. And, finally, she states how genuinely impressed she is by our students.

Please help me in congratulating the group of students who acted as great ambassadors for our Salt Spring youth community: Shanti Amal-Hill, Silken Conradi, Elizabeth Woods, Sara Anstis, Jess Harkema, Erica Rimmer, Ele Brouard-John, Sonja Kornelsen, Rylan Gajek-Leonard, Ryder Bergerund and Sarah Lundy.

If you are interested in hearing this show, it is available on the Internet at:

www.radio-canada.ca/radio/adosradio/reportage/
ANN DONAHUE,
TEACHER, GISS

Hawaiian fact checking

I love Arthur Black's Wit & Whimsy column and as a Salt Springer who lived in Hawaii for 14 years (and had oh so many blessed encounters with whales), I feel a need to clarify a few things he mentioned in "Of Hawaii and Humpbacks" in the Dec. 5 Weekender.

First — poetic licence excused, but you won't find a mango on a tree in Hawaii in December. Mango season there is primarily June and July. I always thought of them as "tropical peaches" as they ripen at about the same time.

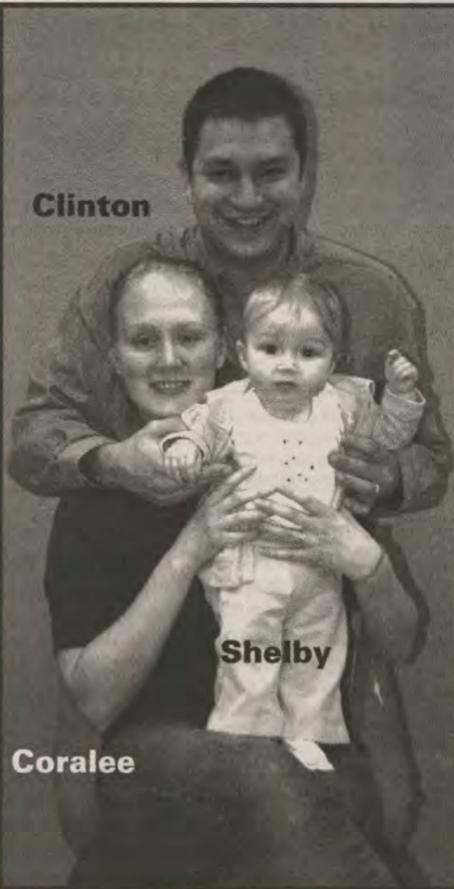
Secondly, yes, humpbacks have made a bit of a comeback but they are still an endangered species. Pre-whaling, the global humpback whale population size was about 750,000 to 2 million. The current global population is about 30 to 40 thousand.

Next, you won't find whales from "the ends of the earth" off the shores of the Hawaiian Islands. It's the North Pacific population that migrates there — the same whales we see off the West coast of Vancouver Island in the spring as they make their way back to their northern feeding grounds.

And yes, whales travel to Hawaii to mate, but the females also journey there to give birth. The gestation period for a humpback is 12 months so both mating and birthing happen in the same warm coastal waters of Hawaii. Watching the adult whales breach and dance is fantastic. Watching the babies do the same is utter delight!

Lastly, you won't see molten lava or snow on Maui. You'll find those on my beloved Big Island. And they aren't both dripping down the same mountainside.

The snow is on Mauna Kea (White Mountain) — a dormant volcano for now. The lava is flowing from the Kilauea volcano on Maua Loa (Long Mountain).
OONA MCOUAT,
SALT SPRING



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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

WANTING WARMTH: Carol Fowles (at left) and other Lions Club members hand out hot chocolate to the crowd of people waiting for the arrival of the annual Bellingham Santa Ship, Saturday night at the coast guard dock in Ganges.



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Smart planning needed

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) has received an application from the Salt Spring Coffee Company (SSCC) to rezone a parcel on Fulford-Ganges Road between Mereside and Garner Roads from residential to industrial or commercial so they can relocate their operations there. These well meaning folks are probably not aware that such "spot rezoning" begins an insidious process that has destroyed the beauty and charm of rural roads across North America.

Here is how it works. A business needs a new location. Property in town is expensive. Cheaper properties are available on main streets outside of town near existing commercial uses left over from before zoning was in place. These properties are cheaper because they are near noisy traffic and near businesses.

The owner buys such a property and gets it rezoned. Now the neighbourhood is even less desirable for homes. Nearby properties are purchased by investors who recognize the signs of this process. They rent properties out and have little incentive to maintain them. As the neighbourhood deteriorates, the likelihood of further rezoning increases and eventually property values rise. At this point, requests for rezoning are rarely turned down because the property is expensive, undesirable for homes and commercial, industrial or multi-family are the only practical uses.

A few lots down from the SSCC property, there are already one and one half parcels zoned industrial. Two nearby properties are renter

occupied. This section of road may be at the tipping point where this one rezoning could initiate this sequence, especially sad in this case since the Ford Lake reserve is just behind. That is, unless the LTC denies the request. If you are concerned, let them know.

Industrial zoning should be created through a process that utilizes sound land use planning principles which give prime consideration to protection of the island as a whole (rather than the needs of an individual business) and places industrial zoning in contained locations near town.

MAXINE LEICHTER,
MOUNT BELCHER

More from other islands

I enjoyed the piece titled Do You Hear What I Hear? in the last edition of Aqua. As a relatively recent convert to choral singing, I was very interested to read what choir directors on Salt Spring and Pender feel about Christmas repertoire.

However, this article reinforces my sense that although your magazine advertises itself as "Gulf Islands Living," it does seem that the Gulf Islands stop at Salt Spring and Pender. For example, I know that there is a choir on Mayne Island and it would be nice to read more information about that ensemble.

Here on Galiano Island I sing in Coro Galiano, a choral ensemble performing serious choral music. Last year we performed the Charpentier, Messe de Minuit accompanied by a professional string orchestra. This year our Christmas program includes an SATB arrangement of Britten's Ceremony of Carols performed with harp. (This work was mentioned as the favourite of Jennifer and Mitch Howard interviewed for your piece.)

One of our directors, Peter Dent, is a choral composer who runs two international choral travel and performance programs yearly — one in central Europe and one in the Caribbean. See his website www.peterdent.com for the many and varied things which he does. Our co-conductor, Dave Clothier, is leading a group of singers to Tuscany this summer. Both of these gentlemen are accomplished musicians who contribute much to the musical life on this island and the larger community.

I enjoy the articles in Aqua about Salt Spring. I think that other Gulf Islands would be interested in the creative vitality in the outer islands, too.

JOHN COULTHARD,
GALIANO

Coalition definition

Re: "Coalition support strong at local level," I am writing to take the Driftwood to task for not correctly describing the role of the Bloc Quebecois in the Liberal-NDP coalition.

The Bloc is not a partner in the coalition. The Accord on a Cooperative Government to Address the Present Economic Crisis (http://www.liberal.ca/pdf/docs/081201_Accord_en_signed.pdf) signed by the Hon. Stephane Dion on behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada and the Hon. Jack Layton on behalf of the New Democratic Party includes an agreement to put into place a mechanism for consulting with the Bloc Quebecois. The Bloc is not a signatory to this document. Thus, the coalition is a "Liberal-NDP Coalition, supported by the Bloc Quebecois."

LESLIE WALLACE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on A12

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11:30 p.m. Choral Eucharist at All Saints

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10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's

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OPINION

Some troubling events on the national scene

BY JACK HALLAM

So our hapless MP, the small-minded Gary Lunn, has weighed in on recent events with the same pejorative language uttered by other Harperites ("Coalition of self-interest" Viewpoint piece, Dec. 3 Driftwood).

Gary, demoted from Minister of Natural Resources to Secretary of State for Sport, including the 2010 Olympics (heaven help VANOC), has not surprisingly had calls from Conservatives supporting Harper's position. On TV I never felt such disgust and contempt for a politician as when Bob Dechert, the Conservative MP for Mississauga Erindale, a western suburb of Toronto, voiced the terms "seditious" and "treasonous" to describe the Liberal-NDP coalition. What the coalition was attempting to do was pro-democratic, something that most of the democracies of western Europe have done for decades.

Gary and other neo-cons write or talk about the Bloc Quebecois having a veto. Nonsense, all they agreed to was to not vote non confidence in the coalition of the two parties for 18 months. The agreement signed between the Liberals and New Democrats was to last for 30 months.

The Conservatives refer to the Bloc as being capable of destroying the country. More nonsense. If the Bloc ever

INRESPONSE

achieved its goal of sovereignty-association (Harper to francophones uses "sovereignty," to anglophones, "separation"), it would be far from the end of Canada. Close trade, historic ties and many shared institutions would remain.

In late 2008 support for sovereignty is at its lowest, about 37 per cent. Who is it who has encouraged the sovereigntists?

Certainly not Stephane Dion, who was responsible for the Clarity Act, which states that any new arrangement between Quebec and the rest of Canada must require a clear majority and an unambiguous question. It was Harper who proclaimed the political entity that is Quebec, not French Canadians, to be a nation and gave Quebec its own seat on a UN body, Unesco.

I am troubled by the Governor General's decision to grant prorogation of parliament only weeks after the election and not a single bill passed. Prorogation normally occurs at the end of a session that should have lasted many months not a few weeks. This decision is a dangerous precedent. It means that any prime minister in the future facing certain defeat on a confidence

motion could expect to be granted a request for prorogation.

I am mystified why the political pundits have not questioned why the meeting between Harper and the Governor General lasted two hours. Did Harper first act for dissolution of parliament and a new election costing another \$300 million, but was turned down, just asking? What would Harper's next phony fixed election date be?

Nonsense, all they agreed to was to not vote non confidence in the coalition of the two parties for 18 months.

Finally, in the hundreds of thousands of New Democrats there may be a few socialists (less than one per cent) and no known communists, just as I hope but am afraid that in the Conservative party among the old Reform/Alliance group there would be a no greater percentage of fascists.

The writer is a retired teacher.

MORE LETTERS

continued from A11

Keep it up

I congratulate the NDP-Liberal coalition for getting rid of Stephane Dion. Go ahead, you can dump Jack Layton too.

Keep this up and we might get rid of Quebec too. Fan the flames of dissent and we can ruin our economy like the Americans (and their sub-prime mortgages).

Well done, my separatist friends.

PETER RAMSEY, SALT SPRING

Driving the coalition

Re: Recent comments in the Driftwood about the coalition and driving on Salt Spring:

In the years to come, our grandchildren, researching this period in the history of Canadian politics, will no doubt view Stephane Dion as the Tommy Douglas of climate change action. Almost.

Until the U.S.-fostered economic turn of events during the last weeks of the election, according to polls, the environment was the top concern for Canadians. Fearing threats to investments, real estate and pension funds, Canadians voted with their pocket books, believing Stephen Harper, the economist, would save them. A carbon tax would be an extra cost when the price

Canadians whining. Somehow, voters could not see the environment and the economy as intertwined.

Without trees we have no forestry. Without bees we have no fruit. With a severe drought we have no crops.

Cars and cell phones are much more important than a few humble vegetables, right?

Enter the recession and the era of bailouts. Last week the U.S. was putting out an initial \$15 billion to the prestigious U.S. automakers. These big three spend \$25 billion just on advertising alone in a 2.5-year period. Every newspaper and magazine is padded with ads for automobiles, including our beloved Driftwood. Bread and butter for journalists, right?

Global reported that one in seven jobs are related to the auto industry in Canada. I don't know if that figure took in workers at fast food drive-in joints and Tim Horton's morning coffee drive throughs.

All done while their vehicles are patiently idling. Another contribution to Canadian culture from the U.S. auto industry.

Last week's Montreal Gazette reported that Montreal delegates at the climate change talks in Poland are reporting back that Canada is an embarrassment for them there and several countries have been urging them to get that coalition happening.

This past week what we have mostly heard from the

those two dirty words: "separatists and socialists."

Western Canada has rallied like never before and everyone has been singing "O Canada!" louder than Christmas carols.

Not a peep about all the millions of birds expected to die in the tarsands ponds from Mr. Harper and the Conservatives, but then the environment is not their bag, is it?

Meanwhile Stephane Dion has walked back home to Outremont, backpack still filled with the Greenshift Plan.

Canada is awaiting a new revised budget from the Conservatives, probably newly padded with programs shoplifted from the coalition signers. Harper and company will be able to shout about how unreasonable those three stooges are if they don't accept. It may again be time for tea with the Governor General.

The ghost of Tommy Douglas is saying the important question you are not asking: "How many of those darn automobiles are you going to permit on your planet, anyways?" The medical care is getting very expensive from all those accidents. They are taking up too many hospital beds.

Meanwhile, on Salt Spring, it's driving as usual. Ho! Ho! Ho! Until the next major injury or fatality.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

MAKERS OF THE GATE: From left, John Herda, Gordon Keel and Michael Dragland work on this yellow cedar gate, which opens onto the new Japanese garden at Heiwa Peace Park, across from ArtSpring.

MORE LETTERS

continued from A12

Colossal fossil award winner

Last February there was a reception on Parliament Hill to celebrate the Nobel peace prize won by scientists (including several Canadians) for their plan to fight climate change. Prime Minister Harper and his cabinet shocked the scientific community by refusing to attend.

The most recent snub to science happened earlier this month, when a senior Environment Canada scientist, Don MacIvor, found out on his way to the airport to the UN climate summit in Poland that his trip had been cancelled.

Environment Canada cited financial considerations as the reason for the cancellation, even though MacIvor's travel expenses were being paid by the World Meteorological Organization. Environment Minister Jim Prentice said he had not made the decision to refuse permission for MacIvor's

participation as chair of an organizing committee, but he added that he had "reviewed MacIvor's presentation and didn't believe it was a critical part of the government's participation at the UN climate summit," according to a Canwest article.

An international coalition of environmental groups, the Climate Action Network, "awarded" Canada the "Colossal Fossil" award for the second year in a row, for having done more than any other country to block progress on international efforts to reach a renewed climate action agreement.

Is it any wonder that so many people support a coalition to replace the Harper government? In the name of security, Harper commits Canada to more military build-up (which actually undermines true security in many ways), while blocking climate change action that could prevent entire countries from being lost to rising sea levels, and huge loss of life from extreme weather events.

JAN SLAKOV,
DEER PARK ROAD

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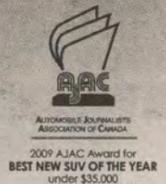
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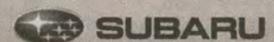
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OPINION

RANTS and Roses

Rants

If you bashed your light-coloured truck into my Echo in the parking lot beside Island Savings on Tuesday, Dec 9 at 5:30, it is not too late to show guts and integrity by phoning Therin at 250-537-2609. If you don't, your wizened little heart will look (and respond) just like the Grinch's "before" picture. Therin Gower

Roses

Three peach-coloured roses, one each, to the ambulance attendants who helped rescue my head and feet that had dissembled during a hypoglycemic episode last Wednesday evening. They left me secure at home with my head and feet intact and working properly. They left me feeling peachy.

A long overdue courtyard of roses is due to Greg Bellavance of Bellavance Welding Ltd. for donating so much time and material to the four basketball uprights at the Nairn Howe Multipurpose Court. Your generosity is sincerely and deeply appreciated by Nairn's family, the Nairn Howe Memorial Foundation, the school district and the entire community.

Bouquets of solid "white gold" roses to the ambulance staff and all the firemen for their incredible care and compassion for our residents at Heritage Place every time we need help. Thank you SO much! Management and staff of Heritage Place for seniors

Buckets of roses to the Salt Spring Folk Club for providing a guest table for the Salt Spring Island Abbeyfield Housing Society at the club's concert on Dec. 8. Roses should also find their way to Ron Cooke, who generously donated his winnings from our 50-50 draw back to the society. Bruce Logan, president, SSI Abbeyfield Housing Society

Milkbone-shaped roses to the anonymous donor to our veterinary bill. Our mummy cried in gratitude at your generosity. Odie, Albert and Katie

A big bouquet of snow-dusted roses to Mary Harke-ma. On our snowy Sunday I was forced to take Lees Hill to get home from my overnight trip off-island. Stuck behind another vehicle I had to take refuge in Mary's driveway. She helped dig me out and let me use her phone. As well, she arranged a tow truck for the other vehicle. Many thanks for your kindness. Diane T.

Dozens of roses to Janet Butler for her dedication to

Croftonbrook. She always has a smile and good word for everyone. Thanks, Janet, for all your volunteer work; you are a very special lady. MY

It's sure nice to know there is "room at the inn" here on Salt Spring Island. Big bunches of fluffy, snow white roses, blue ribbons and baby's breath to everyone who helped get the family of Salt Spring's newest citizen safely to the hospital during Saturday night's snowstorm! Thanks to Ken Akerman and the Fulford fire department, the ambulance crew (great driving!) and the staff at Lady Minto Hospital. Chains of 4x4 tire-sized roses to Demetri Stevens and Jack Peebles for getting me mobile again! Thanks and Happy Holidays, Maggie Ramsey

A bouquet of roses to Lorne and Shirley Bunyan. Your encouragement and enthusiasm for the kids you are teaching to drive is greatly appreciated. You help give our kids their wings. Thank you.

A swimming pool of sweet-smelling roses to PARC. Thank you for your ongoing support. Island Women Against Violence

Big thanks to Alan Coombes for getting me out of the ditch on Musgrave Road on Monday morning and helping to keep the mail going through. Also, kudos to the hard-working crew at the Ganges post office, who manage to stay cheerful under the most challenging of circumstances. Michael M.

Ten thousand roses of warmth and gratitude to the Murakami family, to Brent and Lizzy, and to all those who worked on or donated to Murakami Gardens. It is safe and warm and there's no mould! Home not only feels like home, it acts like it too. Also, a single red rose offered to all my neighbours living here. Thanks for making it work. Emily McIvor

Ice crystal roses to all who helped us when I rolled my car: unknown woman first at the scene, Seabreeze Inne, the fire department and Const. Emery, who kindly drove us all the way back home. Also thanks to Me n' Ron's Towing for wrangling it out of the bushes. Karen

A bunch of snow white roses to rescuers Jonathan Dinsdale and Kerry Walker, who managed to retrieve Salt Spring Air's pick-up truck from our driveway while it was impersonating an ice rink.

Roses to all the cooks and volunteers who do the seniors lunch on Thursdays. Well done, see you on Jan. 8. JC

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Sports & Recreation

GISS BASKETBALL

Basketball boys dominate Sooke

Preparations underway for alumni event

The season ahead looks promising for the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) senior boys basketball team after it trounced visitors from Sooke's Edward Milne Community School 100-38 in an exhibition game on Saturday.

"It was a really good game," said player Jake Upex. "It was a beat down."

Despite losing their opening match against Shawnigan Lake earlier this month, assistant coach Lee-Anne Gordon is optimistic the GISS boys have what it takes for another successful year on the courts.

"We've got a big and enthusiastic team this year," Gordon said.

Many of this year's players have already proven their athletic prowess as members of the high school's senior volleyball squad, she added.

With volleyball just wrapping up, the team is just now beginning to gel and play as a solid unit.

"I think we need a bit of time to get our team going," she said.

People will get the opportunity to see the senior boys and girls basketball teams in action on Saturday when the school hosts its annual alumni weekend.

Gordon said response to the event has proven extremely strong from participants and fans alike.

"It seems like there is going to be a big turnout," Gordon said. "I don't even know how everybody's going to get on the floor so I encourage people to arrive early."

GISS alumni will take to the court against the senior girls at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20. The senior boys begin play at 7 p.m.

Admission to the games is free, but participants are asked to bring along a donation to the island's food bank.

SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Volleyballers net encore performance

Four named to island all-star squad

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A contingent of four players from the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) senior boys volleyball team have been named to a Vancouver Island all-star volleyball event in Nanaimo.

Cole Wrigley, Casey Knight, James Cameron and Chris Howe were among 25 players selected from single-, double-

and triple-A schools in the Vancouver Island zone.

"This is a large representation from our small public school," said head coach Kellie Booth in an e-mail following the announcement. "I am very proud of the boys and their hard work."

The event will bring together the best volleyball players on the island to participate in a full day of clinics and matches in mid-January.

Howe, 17, suspects the GISS squad received special recognition from coaches on



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON
Evan Henshall dazzles under the net as GISS dominates Sooke 100 to 38 in season home opener.

Vancouver Island due to the team's recent success. Earlier this fall, the team claimed top spot in the "AA" Vancouver Island volleyball championships, hosted right here on Salt Spring.

"Getting to see all the guys I played against will be great," Howe said.

Wrigley, also 17 years of age, said getting named to the all-star team is "pretty cool" considering the scope and talent of players from across Vancouver Island.

That the team was assem-

bled by one of the island's top volleyball coaches, Chris Densmore of Vancouver Island University (formerly Malaspina University-College), makes the occasion all the more special, Wrigley added.

"It'll be a great experience to play with all these talented players," he said. "It's going to be a high level of volleyball."

Players said the event is a great chance to get some court time now that the regular season has wrapped up for the year.

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Gulf Islands Secondary School

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SCORPIONS SR. BOYS VS MEN'S ALUMNI
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SPORTS & RECREATION

YOGA

Yoga special shines light on community

It's annual Solstice Soother time at Ganges Yoga Studio

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Visitors are often impressed by their surroundings when first entering Ganges Yoga Studio.

Though situated overlooking a busy area of shops and galleries, the elegant décor and calm atmosphere of the outer

rooms immediately place one on a higher level, ready to surrender to the benefits to both mind and body that the centre offers.

The blond wood set off with raw silk cushions, flower vases and statues of deities belonging to the yogic tradition serves to immediately establish the necessary mood, but as owner Celeste Mallett explained, it can also be misleading.

Because despite its status as a registered business and its upscale look, Ganges Yoga Studio runs more like a nonprofit society and its heart is centred directly in the community.

"The space is very important as a sacred space," Mallett said.

"We try to maintain a sophisticated, elegant tone so people can enter into a higher consciousness. But the aim is around integration, not about exclusivity."

Accordingly, people from all walks of life have appreciated classes at the studio over its six years in business, including seniors, pregnant women, moms with new babies and men with sensitive back issues. You're just as likely to see baggy sweats as designer fitness wear, and you won't find a lot of retail goods cluttering up the lobby.

Class prices are reasonable given that all the instructors are paid and not volunteers. The studio has also been known to donate classes to deserving groups, or even to slip a single mother a monthly pass. There's also a free class held every Sunday.

Now an annual tradition, one way the studio gives back to the community is with its Solstice Soother package.

For just \$28, people are welcome to take unlimited classes between Dec. 16 and 31.

Holiday shopping getting you down?

Why not take off Dec. 23, for example? Beginning at 7:30 a.m. with a Sunrise Stretch, you can continue to relax with Move to Mozart and then get more physical with Chair Yoga.

That same evening enjoy a passive restorative class of Yoga Nigra and then finish off with Level 2 Yoga.

Even with a less committed approach, sampling some of the different classes over the special period is a great chance to get acquainted with what's currently on offer and the instructors.

"There's a highly qualified group of professionals here that take health very seriously. We're a very motivated bunch," Mallett reported.

Many of the studio instructors are already well known in the community.

Veterans like Cordula Vogt have experience reaching back 20 years and meets many specialty groups. Beside mixed levels, Vogt teaches classes for prenatal women, seniors and men and volunteers with the Choices group teaching yoga with sign language.

Shelby Johnstone teaches yoga to kids of all ages.

Other experienced practitioners at the studio specialize in related health and fitness techniques.

Catherine Bennett offers integrated fitness and movement classes, Dee Bell uses Pilates to rehabilitate back problems and other issues related to core strength and Lesley DeAthe is a black-belt in Nia, a synthesis of yoga,

dance and martial arts.

Newly certified teachers also share their special interests, such as Rupert Adams, who is teaching Yoga Nigra, a restorative technique focussing on strengthening the immune system through the deep relaxation of the nervous system. Other newbies include Lee Mason, Jenny Collver and Lyndsay Savage.

"The space is very important as a sacred space."

CELESTE MALLETT
 Owner, Ganges Yoga Studio

"They're all passionate, dynamic and good communicators," Mallett promised.

Despite its high-rent location, so far Ganges Yoga Studio has managed to thrive for its six years in business, attracting high-quality instructors and an average of 400 students a month. However, as Mallett points out, continued community support is vital for the studio's continuing presence.

"We're not here for profit, we're here for the energy," Mallett said.

"We want to get more people in here so we can bring the prices down, and more and more people can benefit."

The studio will try to stay open during the snowy weather, but if that is not possible, the Solstice Soother special will be extended into January.

Call the studio at 250-537-2444 for updates.

Goodyear Michelin BF Goodrich Uniroyal Bridgestone Toyo Yokohama

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COMING SOON!

Contractor's DIRECTORY

WHO'S WHO IN CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

New for 2009 - A special supplement containing listings, advertisements and complementary editorial for Island contractors. You'll get lots of exposure in this directory - in print and on-line, when you purchase an ad - you will receive a free listing. The Contractor's Directory will also be on-line - connected to both Driftwood Websites.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION CONTACT:

 Rick MacKinnon rmackinnon@gulfislands.net	 Kimberly Young kyoung@gulfislands.net	 Tracy Stibbards tstibbards@gulfislands.net	 Karen Hepp khepp@gulfislands.net
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DEADLINE: JANUARY 15 | PUBLICATION: FEBRUARY 4

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Bach on the Rock
 invites you to come celebrate
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J.S. BACH'S

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

Jim Stubbs
 Musical Director

Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7 p.m. | Tickets \$30 / \$20
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In person at 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Ganges
By telephone 310-3535 or 250-537-9933
 or fax 250-537-2613
By email to classified@gulfislands.net
By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.,
 Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

Payment
 By cash, debit,
 Mastercard or Visa.
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 unless you have
 an advertising account.



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Driftwood

Published WEDNESDAYS
 Display deadline: **Monday 4 pm**
 Word ad deadline: **Tuesday 10 am**

Driftwood WEEKENDER

Published FRIDAYS
 Display deadline:
Wednesday 10 am
 Word ad deadline:
Wednesday 4 pm



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 \$12.95 - additional lines 92¢ ea
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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

DEATHS

FUNERAL HOMES

DEATHS

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

Doreen May Young passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 13, 2008 at Victoria General Hospital with her daughter and son-in-law by her side. Doreen is survived by her son Michael, daughter Marti and son-in-law Brian. The family would like to acknowledge the thoughtful and compassionate care provided by both Lady Minto and Victoria General Hospitals. Doreen enjoyed 29 years of her life on Salt Spring Island, having lived the past 3 years with her friends at Heritage Place For Seniors. Doreen greatly enjoyed living at Heritage Place, and the family would like to acknowledge the wonderful staff there. Doreen will be remembered for her kindness, her independent spirit, and her great determination. As her family, we are very proud of her. Doreen did not want a service of any kind, but a gathering of family and friends will be held at Heritage Place For Seniors (Balsam House) on Saturday, December 20, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Doreen's name to Lady Minto Hospital or the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

HAYWARD'S FUNERAL SERVICE



PATRICK BEATTIE

Licensed Funeral Director

#22 Merchant Mews
 Box 315, Ganges P.O.
 SSI, V8K 2V9
 Tel: (250) 537-1022
 Fax: (250) 537-2012

Letter to the editor?
 Press release?
 What's On calendar?

Send it to
news@gulfislands.net



DEATHS

A celebration
 of the life of
Ron Dickson
 will be held on
 Saturday,
December 27, 2008
 2:00 pm at the
 Salt Spring Island Golf
 and Country Club

Everybody who misses
 Ron is invited to attend

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARDS OF THANKS

CUDMORE CONSTRUCTION would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You and to wish you all a Happy Holiday and a Healthy, Prosperous New Year! We look forward to helping you with any of your construction projects in 2009. Season's Greetings from Cudmore Construction.
cudmoreconstruction@saltspring.com

DEATHS

Oriana
 BELLY DANCE

Now taking bookings
 for Christmas and
 New Year's parties.
250-653-0028
oriana@orianabellydance.com

CALL FOR ENTRIES
 The new
HERITAGE RUG HOOKING GALLERY
 on Saltspring Island
 invites B.C. Artists to submit their
 work for upcoming juried show.
 For information email:
bee.present@shaw.ca
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CARDS OF THANKS

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING made easy. Custom made jewelry; necklaces, bracelets and earrings using pearls and semi precious stones. Gorgeous water colours. Reasonable prices. One night only Calvin's Restaurant (no food service) Dec. 21 at 3:00 - 6:00pm

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHAPEL'S EVENTS. Community Christmas Celebration & Live Nativity, Dec. 21 drop in from 6:30pm - 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service Dec 24 @ 7pm.

FOR A complete calendar of coming events check the Driftwood Community Calendar, in our office in the Upper Ganges Centre, 328 Lower Ganges Road, or on our website at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com. Use the calendar for event planning and to make sure your date doesn't conflict with someone else's.

GANGSTER'S BALL: Sat. Dec. 20th. Costume and dance party at Beaver Point Hall. Old-school meets new-school, as the DJ's mix up jazz, funk, soul and hip-hop. Entertainment by the Kalamazoo Burlesque, plus poker tables, cigarette girls, and prizes for best dressed and sexiest couple. Doors 9:30. Tickets \$20 at the door. Dress code: Gangsters, floozies, flappers and vintage.

SPRING PAINTING classes: sign up now for Watercolour or Acrylics. Beginners & Intermediates welcome. Call Val Konig 250-537-4660. Gift Certificates of any amount available.

CARDS OF THANKS

The Canadian Federation of University Women SSI

Wishes To Thank Donors
 For Their Generous Contributions
 To Our Christmas Auction 2008

- | | |
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| Aroma Crystal Therapy | Robert Lesch |
| Auntie Pesto's Café | Love My Kitchen |
| B. Mitchell Interior Design | Magic Touch |
| Meg Buckley Pottery | Mark's Wearhouse |
| Countrywide Garden | Martinus Jewellery Studio |
| Ornaments | Jack and Dawn Morrell |
| Wendy Slyter & David Courtney | North End Fitness |
| Ken Deaton | Oystercatcher |
| Randy Dolliver - Property Maintenance | Payless Service Station |
| Esthetics by Penny | Pharmasave Ganges |
| Falconhead Grill and Lounge | Rainbow Trading Co. |
| Feet First | Raven St. Market Cafe |
| Melissa Fisher - Bemused School of Music | Lynne Raymond |
| The Fishery | Rock Salt Cafe |
| Frankly Scarlet Jewellery | Salt Spring Books |
| Fulford Inn | Salt Spring Dry Cleaners |
| Ganges Floor Coverings | Salt Spring Air |
| Ganges Garment Company | Shaw Cable |
| Gulf Island Veterinary Clinic | Greg Spendjian & Donna Cochran |
| Harlan's Chocolates | SSI Gulf Golf and Country Club |
| Dr. Richard Hayden | SSI Landscaping Supplies |
| David and Donna Mae Hogarth | Star Barks Pet & Livestock Supply |
| Masayo Hora, RMT | Steffich Fine Art |
| House Piccolo Restaurant | Stone Walrus Gallery |
| Houseboat | Stuff & Nonsense |
| Island Escapades | The Village Cobbler |
| Jana's Bakery | Volume II Bookstore |
| Jill Louise Campbell Gallery | Pat Webber Pottery Studio |
| Darlene Jones | West of the Moon |
| Juliette's Hair Studio | Windflower Moon |
| Val Konig | Yorkshire Designs |

Proceeds fund the Hope Project which sponsors girls of potential in developing countries who would not otherwise complete secondary education.

Stewart, Margaret Glynne

March 9, 1921 - November 22, 2008

Born in Bexhill-on-Sea, England, Margaret passed away peacefully, her daughters at her side, after a very brief battle with lung cancer. Margaret is once again with her beloved husband, Norman Stewart (died April 1, 2001). The strength of their love for each other is a bond for all time and an inspiration to all who knew them.

Margaret is survived by her brother John Bowen, children Briony Goddard (Jim), Gail Harcombe (Andrew), and David Stewart, grandchildren Kim, Karen, Jessica, Toby, Ashley and Katelyn, great grandson Stephen, and many friends.

Her life took her from England to East Africa, to the U.S. and then to Canada. The family emigrated from Kenya to California in 1953, and moved to Pendleton, Oregon, in 1954, where Margaret's husband was a psychiatrist at the Eastern Oregon State Hospital. In 1976, they moved to the house they built near Ganges on Salt Spring Island, B.C., and in 1996 moved to Sidney, B.C.

In each place, Margaret was always happy to be in the company of friends and family. She travelled widely, through school, through her career in nursing with the British Army Medical Corps during and after WW II, and with her husband and family. We never tired of hearing stories of when she lived in Africa, and about trips to Egypt, Israel, Africa, Greece, Turkey and Europe. We will remember her love of the sea, music, dry British humour, green grapes, the colour blue...

She was interested in many things, and encouraged all of us to do as she and our father did - continue learning all our lives. She was a nurse, a musician, a creative and talented seamstress/tailor (amazing ballet costumes, her daughters' wedding dresses), a great cook (THE world's best brownies), a teacher (of so many things in life), a staunch supporter of all her family's endeavors, and most of all, a kind and loving mother (grandmother) and friend.

The family wishes to express our gratitude to the nurses and volunteers of the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Palliative Care Unit. The care and support Mum and the family received while she was there is much appreciated. A tea in celebration of her life will be held at the Peninsula in Sidney, where Mum spent several very happy years.

A private family memorial will be held when family can gather in Victoria. While her request is for no funeral or flowers, as you listen to music or walk by the sea, remember how much she enjoyed these things. Donations in her memory may be made to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Society and to the Canadian Institute for the Blind. To contact the family, please email her daughter Gail at g.harcombe@shaw.ca.



Murakami

MURAKAMI, Yorihide Bruce

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Bruce. He leaves to mourn two daughters, Kimiko and Sachiko, grandson Judah, sisters Alice (Ted) Tanaka, Violet, Mary (Tosh) Kitagawa and Rose, brother Richard, business partner Jim Kalsi, one niece, three nephews and their families. He was predeceased by his parents, Katsuyori and Kimiko, and a brother, Riyoichi. Bruce was born October 1, 1944 in New Denver, BC, the site of one of many prison camps set

up for Japanese Canadians by the Government of Canada in 1942. At the age of five he was freed and given citizenship. Bruce's schooling began in Cardston, Alberta, continued on Salt Spring Island and ended at UBC.

After determining he had a knack for business, Bruce took a job as a traveling salesman with Hitachi Canada. Soon thereafter, he had opened his own store, Tom Tom Sound, on Logan Avenue in Langley, BC, which evolved into Beamriders on Fraser Highway; Bruce would eventually grow this business to six stores across the lower mainland. He sent his daughters around the world for a year after high school graduation and then through university.

Bruce was a generous, compassionate, caring person. He was always ready with a good joke, had a natural green thumb, was a natural musician, and held a deep love for animals. His family, friends, and those who came again and again to Beamriders to share a tall tale and a loud laugh with Bruce will miss this long-standing member of the Langley community.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at Henderson's Funeral Home, 20786 Fraser Highway, Langley. Reception followed at Beamriders, 20202 Fraser Highway, Langley.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Katsuyori and Kimiko Murakami Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o School District #64, 112 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2K3.

we're online at
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com



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TUESDAY 10 AM

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS



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Enrichment in:
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Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary's
THRIFT SHOP
will be open Mon, Dec 22, and
Tues, Dec 23, 10am to 4pm
All goods will be on sale
at half price!
The shop will then close for the
holidays and will reopen
Tues. Jan 6, at 10am

THE WALL is offering FREE
CLIMBING during the month of
January! Thursdays and Sundays
from 6:30 to 9:30, and Sundays from
3:00 to 5:30. Info: 250-537-8970 or
ahasenfratz@gmail.com. The Wall is
Closed from Dec. 22 to Jan 3.
Happy Holidays!

CHRISTMAS CORNER



The SMILEY DOG GROOMING SPA
wishes all our customers, two-legged and
four-legged, old and new, a very Merry
Christmas and a happy healthy New Year.

It's been a great first year in business.
Thanks for your support and
also for your sympathy over the
recent loss of Jed.

See you in the new year.
Michelle & Brian

COMING EVENTS

Winter Solstice Workshop

Mother Daughter Intuition

- Sacred Doll Making
- The Baba Yaga Tale
- Intuition Stones
- Sharing stories and skills

Winter Solstice Sunday Dec. 21st (9 to 4)
Cost: \$70.00 adults (Aunts, Grandmothers, Friends welcome)
\$30.00 for each child Deposit: \$50.00 to hold your spots

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Christmas Events**

Sunday, Dec. 21 Advent 4 Worship Service 10 am
Burgoyne Carol Service 2 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of
Lessons & Carols 7 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25 Gary's Christmas Day Community Dinner
(Meaden Hall) 12 pm

Sunday, Dec. 28 Worship Service with Rev. Al Tysick 10 am

111 Hereford Ave. 250-537-5812 for more info.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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Christmas Celebration
& Living Nativity
Dec. 21 at 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candle
Light Service
Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm

147 Vesuvius Bay Rd.
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CHRISTMAS CORNER

**SACRED SOUND
Christmas Concert**

Dec. 19 & 20, 7:30pm
All Saints by-the-Sea

tickets \$15 at Acoustic Planet

COMING EVENTS

WINTERCRAFT
Dec. 5-21
10 am - 5 pm

Heartwarming stocking
stuffers + dazzling presents.

Mahon Hall
114 Rainbow Rd.
250.537.0899

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP, Dec. 21,
11 a.m. at SS Senior's Society.
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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Mahon Hall Dec 5 - 21 or Call 250-
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SAVE OUR SURGERY

Community meeting at
the Community Gospel
Chapel (Central) 7:00 pm,
Thursday Dec. 18

- What has happened
- Response to our
communications
- What's next

SOLSTICE SOOTHER
\$28 for
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Dec. 16-31

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Dec. 5-21
10 am - 5 pm

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EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Russell with a red collar and tags lost
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Possibly traveling with Tilly, a blue
heeler. Please call 250-653-4207.

LOST: HEARING aid, digital behind
ear. Lost in Ganges on Thursday. Call
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OUR DOG needs a new home. Deuter is a young, handsome, neutered rotti-lab cross. He is big, good natured, likes to fetch and go for walks, and loves to be around people. Makes a great non-aggressive watch dog. He is good with other animals and is used to being outside. Free to anyone who can help. Contact Tom and Linda at 250-653-4511 or email tommy12@telus.net

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FREE DOUBLE bed, Serta mattress and metal springs. 250-537-2672.

THIS COLUMN is designed for free recyclable items only (no animals). There is no charge to place items in this column. Ads can be submitted in person at the Driftwood office (328 Lower Ganges Road) by normal deadline (Tuesday 10am) or by phone 537-9933, fax 537-2613 or e-mail driftwood@gulfislands.net.

FUEL/FIREWOOD

DRY SEASONED Firewood for sale, ready to burn! Call 250-537-1816 to leave a message or try me on my cell 250-537-0239. \$250/cord split and delivered.

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SPEEDO SWIMSUITS, caps, goggles and accessories for men, women and youth at Island Escapades at 163 Fulford Ganges Road, 250-537-2553. Open 7 days a week.

STEEL BUILDINGS. All sizes welcome. Steel prices are down! Will help with design. Additional discounts available. www.greylensteel.com 1-866-802-8573.

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WOODEN BUNKBEDS (Jusk) \$100; computer desk (Costco) \$100, lift chair \$300, electric Nordic track \$50; child's Ikea wardrobe \$40. 250-537-9309

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

OLD GUITARS, Banjos, Mandolins, and other instruments bought & sold. Also records, cds, stereo equipment, books. Salt Spring Sound, 131 McPhillips (next to the library). Email: bill@rainbownorth.com 250-537-0065.

WANTED: USED 40' shipping container for storage on Salt Spring. Please call 778-840-2390 or email: ephannah@shaw.ca

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WASHBURN OSCAR Schmidt Delta blues semi-hollow electric guitar, looks like a Gibson ES-335. Cherry red, with case, both in excellent condition. \$300 obo 250-537-2728

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700+ SQ FT One level corner unit at Merchant Mews: Unit 17 fully finished with 3 piece washroom. Quality display showroom. \$198,000. Call 250-537-1408 Duart Campbell

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

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REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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

REPOSESSED PRE-FAB HOMES!! Save 50%+!!!! Canada manufacturer's USA order cancellations. Brand new 1260SF pre-engineered package originally \$29,950.00, liquidation \$14,975.00! Other sizes - sacrifice prices! Green-R-Panel Building Systems: 1-800-871-7089. FALL/SPRING DELIVERY AVAILABLE!

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550 SQ. FT. office/studio at Merchant Mews near Ganges. Skylights, wood paneling, extras. Richard 537-1669.

970SF SHOP for lease avail. now at Merchant Mews, nr. Ganges. Insulated, heated, skylights, bathroom. Ideal as warehouse or construction shop. Richard 250-537-1669.

IN GOVERNMENT bldg, 1357 sq. ft. for lease. Can accommodate variety of uses. Ample parking, wheel chair accessible. Richard, 537-2239.

COTTAGES

AVAIL. JAN 15: nice cottage with sleeping loft, mid-island for one NS person. \$625/mo. hydro incl. 250-653-4190

ST. MARY LAKE 2 BDRM furnished cottages from \$700/mo. N/P, N/S, avail Nov 1- Apr 1. 250-537-2585.

HOUSE SITTING

HOUSE SITTER WANTED for Jan. 24 to Feb. 27. South end home. Wood heat, free rent in exchange for looking after 2 cats. 250-653-9475.

HOMES FOR RENT

1 BDRM. shared property, ground level, wheelchair accessible, open plan. 3 pce. bath, 2 appl., w/d, hardwood floors, electric & wood heat, covered decks. Quiet neighbourhood. Close to town & bus route. Cable, wireless int. & water included \$1000 + hydro/mo. Suits single, NP, NS, Ref's. Avail. Jan 1/09. 250-537-6130.

2 BEDROOM trailer. New washer/dryer, 2 decks, \$650/ month. Avail. Jan. 1/09. Call 250-537-6860.

3 BDRM., 1.5 bath, just renovated, 5 new appliances, above Mahon Hall, spectacular view of harbour, 5 min. to village, NS, NP, \$1600/mo + utilities. Call Richard 250-537-2239.

3 BDRM top floor, \$1150 + util's. W/D, yard, NS, NP. Jan. 1 or 15. 250-537-2692.

3 BEDROOM, 1 1/2 bath duplex, ocean view, W & D, close to Fernwood School, NS, \$975. Avail. Jan 1/09 Long term. 250-537-4413.

3 BEDROOM, high end town-home/house. Avail. Jan. 15/09. Partially furnished, \$1850 per mth. Ref. req. 250-537-9253.

924 SQFT mobile home, 2BDRM, 1 bath, DW, S/F, W/D, skylight, modern kitchen. NS, NP, \$850. 250-537-9990

AVAILABLE JANUARY 1st: Lovely cozy cottage with sleeping loft suitable for ONE QUIET mature responsible person. Wood floors, skylights, walk to town (10min.), N/S, Washer, Hydro incl. No dogs. Long term only. Ref's. Shared driveway. \$750/month. Evenings only between 6:30-8:30 pm. 250-537-4155

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RENTALS

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DOUBLE WIDE trailer across from high school, 4 appliances, NS, NP, \$900/mo + utilities. Call Richard 250-537-2239.

GANGES HARBOUR, ocean view, 2 bdrm, NS, NP, \$1500/mo. includes internet, tv and utilities. Suitable for single or couple only. 250-537-5519.

HOUSE SUBLET: Jan. - March incl. Quiet, NE 2 bdrm, 2 bath, W/D, wood heat, cat. \$500/mo. & approx. \$200/mo. util's. N/S, no partying. Ref's & damage dep. 250-537-4077

LARGE 2 bdrm. house, gas f/p, gardens, large living/ dining room, storage. Available Jan 1. NS, \$900/month. 250-538-1909.

LEASE-TO-PURCHASE properties available in all price ranges throughout the Greater Victoria Area. Contact janwall@oakgrove.ca.

LOG CABIN home for rent. Cozy, wood & electric heat, W/D, close 2 town, private, Maxwell water, clean & comfortable, 900 sqft. Open plan. Long Term. \$1000/mo. 250-537-4156 lv msg.

OCEANVIEW RANCHER in Crofton, 3 BDRM, 2 full bath, 5 appls., large fenced yard, garage, 3 mins. from ferry. Avail. Jan 1 or 15, \$1400/mo. Call 250-537-1517

SMALL RUSTIC south end cabin, near Ruckle Park. Long term, wood heat, NS, cat negotiable, 1 person only. Available Jan. 1, \$500/mo. incl Hydro. Ref. required. 250-653-9475.

SWEET SUITE! 2-3 bdrm, washer & dryer. Close to town. Available Jan. 1. \$950 + util. 250-537-9840.

TWO SMALL trailers for rent on acreage. Private, non-partiers. Trailers have power, water, outhouse \$400 & \$350. Call 538-8858.

VESUVIUS AREA, 2 bdrm house, \$950 month, avail immed, 250-598-2762.

RENTALS

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ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION for the Gulf Islands is a mouse-click away. www.gulfislands.net.

VICTORIA 1 bdrm: fully furnished, South Fairfield, NS, NP, suits single or couple, Jan 8 to Apr 8, 250-539-3177 or email: atom@pacificcoast.net

SUITES, LOWER

1 BDRM suite on Cusheon Lake, NS, NP, W/D. Long term renter wanted, references req'd. \$750/month. plus hydro. 250-653-4868.

SUNSET AREA - Seeking quiet professional pseudo vegetarian to share custom Sunset area home. Secluded ridge top, spectacular views, separate wing/entry, en suite bath, private deck, share gourmet kitchen, sat hookup, furnished/unfurnished, NS/NP, month to month, \$800 incl. utils. 250-537-5760

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600 SQ. FT., new, bright & beautiful, walking distance to town, suitable for quiet, single person. Fully furn, bachelor suite, hi-speed wireless, private entrance. NS, NP, Avail. immed. until March 31/09. \$650. 250-537-2838.

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1991 CHEV, S-10 Blazer, V6, std., 4 x 4, \$1300 obo. 250-537-7355.

1994 SAFARI 8 passenger van, AWD, great for skiing and winter driving. \$2800. 250-537-2571.

2001 DODGE Dakota Quad Cab/14200km, 4-dr, auto, V8 4.7L, 4X4, A/C. Dark blue with matching canopy & towing pkg. \$16,000.00 open to offers. 250 653 9230

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"Fritz the Cinema Cat" and "Fritz the Cinema Cat Gets His Wings" are available for \$14.95 each at bookshops in Ganges and Fulford, or from Louise Nye at 250-537-2928.

GOTTA SELL your car, truck, boat, RV, trailer or motorcycle? Advertise it in the Driftwood for 8 insertions at only \$49.95. (Private party ads, 3 lines, 1 vehicle per special, must be prepaid.) Your ad will appear in 8 consecutive issues of the Driftwood and the Driftwood Weekender. Your ad will also be posted to bclassified.com and bcautocentral.com. Call 537-9933 for details.

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PHOTO BY AMY GEDDES

THANKS FOR BARRY: Mia Kerrigan from Salt Spring Co-op Preschool brings Oystercatcher owner Barry Kazakoff a special thank-you card made by the school kids to thank the Kazakoff family for many years of fundraising support through generous contributions to food booths at the Salt Spring Fall Fair and the preschool's annual spring carnival.

This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

Tip of the Week:

Well, Pluto in Capricorn did not take too long to kick in. Pluto entered Capricorn, the Sign of Governments on November 26th. The recent uprising and coalition in Canadian politics is a synchronicity. The new realities brewing in the U.S. are all indicative of this powerful and important cycle. Other transits active now are contributing their own 'influences' as well. (The influence of planets is more intrinsic than external.) Anyway, Uranus in close opposition to Saturn is the other major factor. We are feeling the first major waves of this revolutionary surge. Instability in the government and in the economy is the most obvious signs. Thinking that this storm will blow by us and prove to be a false alarm is wishful thinking. By spring anyway, everyone will be aware that the birth pangs of the birth of a new era will not stop until the new baby is born. 'Everybody knows...' this time was coming and here it is. The Dawning of the Age of Aquarius has truly begun. The time is ripe to be aware and to keep an open mind. Flexibility and adaptability will prove to be essential, let alone a good idea. Astrology offers insights and guidance that assists people to make sense of changing times and to move forward with affirmation, inspiration, vision and strategy. The path of least resistance now is to accept that deep changes have begun and will continue and to work with the process cooperatively. Expanded awareness and practical insight like that which a good map offers can prove to be an invaluable asset.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

A steady climb to the top might feel right now. Once step at a time, patience and perseverance. You may feel the desire to push yourself and others, but a more sensible side knows that will not work or will cause resentments. Calculated risk and practical measures backed by enthusiasm and willpower is best. Lead by example, yet also be open to new knowledge, skills, tools and techniques. Affirm: "I love to learn!"

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

"You gotta get in to get out..." These famous

words speak to current cycles for you. Do you know where "in" is? How can you find out or how can you actually get in? You must find this answer. Others who are skilled this way or have experience may be able to assist you. Is it a group or organization, a class or school, a retreat or psycho/spiritual work or to the gym or shop in preparation for a season of sport? Get in to get out!

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Who are your best friends? Is it your family or local birds of the same feather, or your colleagues? Ideally, your answer includes or even begins with I... am my own best friend. Our relationships can change and even our own self regard can shift with the times. Meanwhile, fulfilling wishes and realizing dreams or dealing with the returns of daydreams is probably keeping you busy. See the wider rings around what is drawing your attention now.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Introducing new rhythms and patterns to your daily routine is in focus now. Big changes are making you look hard at things. You may feel a powerful urge to escape. Ideally, you are tending to your health and seeing the advantage in your situation. If you have any misgivings about important choices you made recently and you can still back out... act now! Otherwise, saddle in at work to establish a sound and healthy momentum.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

A creative power cycle continues. In order to meet its challenge and opportunity you must be disciplined. Starting new projects is likely. The time is ripe to initiate and establish a flow. Set your goals, exercise patience and trust that it will all prove worthwhile soon. Play hard and work easy - a balance of champions when life is seen as a game. Enjoy the journey!

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

Home means different things at different times and to different people. Where is home and with whom do you feel at home? Maybe you

want to renovate or decorate or move away. It is said home is where the heart is. For some it spells family, for others it is about the heart chakra; Heaven or Nirvana is the home they yearn for. Connecting to your core, physically, or in terms of deep truths is another way. To go big, go home!

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Exploring and leaning about new people, places, things, realities, rules, laws and/or customs is a central theme now. Your confidence about how things were, what you once considered important and secure is changing. Your confidences are mixed. Exercise adaptability now. Be open to new perspectives and ways. Trust the flow and be willing to cooperate. An open attitude and a will to change will win big returns!

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Taking stock of what you have, want and need is now in the spotlight. Security will come from knowing you have reserves, savings, multiple streams, contingency plans, and multiple skills and so on. Be willing to learn now, gather facts and get creative. Mobilize your energies, resources and focus. Be careful not to take on too much, or too little.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

A creative, bold and pioneering cycle continues to guide your focus and actions. Practical considerations are a top priority. This is a good time to be covering all your bases in terms of finances especially. However, simply pursuing hobbies or exploring new prospects or people and places will prove inspiring. Within it all, stay sober yet mingle with new friends.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Drawing inward to get away from the maddening crown may be the call now. A retreat of any kind will prove fulfilling. You could still be busy, behind the scenes. Facing

inner doubts, fears and demons to vanquish them altogether sounds like a plan. Be open to new knowledge, the old ways may no longer suffice. Pointed, practical steps and measures will be on your mind. Enter the lab to re-invent yourself.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Sharing and enjoying arts and cultural activities continues to guide your outer focus. Yet, you may also feel drawn inward to escape, dream and plan for the future. You may wish you felt more confident. To do so, become aware of doubts and find ways to dismiss them. On the other hand, find reasons to be enthusiastic. Break free and clear of any blues and blahs; celebrate people and culture!

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Pushing ahead to realize a bigger and better future should be keeping you busy now. Things you have wanted to accomplish for a long time may seem easier than ever to achieve. This is how it is when you are on a roll. Deepening commitments is likely and necessary. You may feel the need to meet the future with a more sober and realistic approach. Keeping it simple; aim to do what you love and love what you do, with realism in mind!

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FOOTBALL HONOUR: Tanner Smith (above) and Bradley Hoffman shared the Unsung Hero award, presented at last week's football awards evening.

MEN'S SOCCER

Gremio players feast on adversity

Competitive spirit remains in blizzard

Winter conditions may have suspended last week-end's soccer matches for most teams across Vancouver Island, but the storm wasn't enough to quell the competitive spirit of players from the Ganges Gremio soccer club.

In lieu of what had been billed one of the season's most important games, players spent Saturday evening participating in what Jesse Hlady called "a feast of epic proportions."

Following an initial weigh-in, 11 competitors devoted 90 minutes to devouring some fine home cooking provided by Hlady's wife, My Phung.

Prior to the first bites, all members weighed in and documented their mass. At 9:15 p.m., one hour and 45 minutes later, "time" was announced and weigh-ins were redone, Hlady said.

The final tally reveals participants consumed a grand total of 21.7 kilograms (47.8 pounds) of food, an average of nearly two kilograms (4.3

pounds) per person. The champion, taking home the coveted "silver spoon" and the title of "most gluttonous Gremio," was Jesse Hranckuk, who registered a gut-busting weight gain of just more than three kilograms (6.8 pounds).

Second place went to Jesse Hlady with a total weight gain of 2.8 kilograms (6.2 pounds). Marlow Goodhall-Hart finished the event in third position with a total weight gain of 2.7 kilograms (5.8 pounds).

Colin McDougall received a dishonourable mention for his last place finish, weighing in at what Hlady called a "childish weight gain of little more than 800 grams (1.8 pounds).

"Although the game against first place team Maynard West was cancelled, the Gremio still enjoyed their best game of the year in the backyard on a field of snow," Hlady added.

Gremio's next game is against Bays United FC on Jan. 25.

Hlady did not offer prediction as to what players' post-holiday weights might be.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

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PHOTOS BY JOHN CAMERON

Students at Salt Spring Elementary had a fun-filled lesson in gravity on some snowy slopes Monday.



GISS BASKETBALL

Juniors battle giants

Team takes 10th

BY SUSAN LUNDY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After trouncing two teams in the mid-island league, the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) junior girls basketball team faced sleeker competition at a Victoria tournament last weekend.

Although it overpowered both Brentwood and Frances Kelsey schools by more than 30 points in two season-openers, the team and coach Rob Griffiths knew the Victoria Christmas Tournament — featuring schools from all over Victoria and the Lower Mainland — would mark a tougher match-up.

Ultimately, the girls finished 10th out of 16 teams, “which is good considering almost all the schools were big AAA schools,” Griffiths said Monday.

The eight-member team's first draw pitted them against AAA Elgin Park, whose senior girls team won gold at the provincial championships last year.

“We led at the end of the first quarter (5-4),” said Griffiths, noting the opponent's “size and depth” gave it the lead in the second half “despite our very effective full-court press.”

“We are a very speedy, tenacious team,” he added, noting the final score of 36-18 was a “significant accomplishment” for the junior squad.

In the second game, the girls faced top-ranked Claremont, just 90 minutes after their first game.

“Again, not too bad a result, considering,” Griffiths said of the 46-21 score.

In the third game, the squad, now down to seven players, took on North Island rivals Woodlands, “a school far more representative of our AA league.” With an “excellent team effort,” the girls landed a 42-32 win.

The battle for ninth place pitted GISS against Semiahmoo, a 1,600-student school from South Surrey. Down to six players, the Salt Spring girls hung in for a 10-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.

“The Semiahmoo pressure was eventually too much for us as they won 44-28,” Griffiths said. “Our girls pressed until the end. It was an incredible effort for a team that was severely outmanned and out-matched in height.”

He added: “Over the course of the tournament the girls improved their outside shooting, team play and ‘help defence’ against much bigger opponents — they never gave up and worked incredibly hard.”

He said the team included point leaders Sierra Lundy and Kai Fishleigh; “rebound machine” Megan Jarman; “tenacious” Kayley Kray and Prairie Moat; “unflappable” Alana Hillis; “poised” Jessica Hatchard; and fast-improving novice Hana Mulder.

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